

Daily Record

Services

Services Tuesday
HARDIN, Archie Gene — 2 p.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.
MATICE, Rosa Norma — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

ARCHIE GENE HARDIN
 Archie Gene Hardin, 63, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2000, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Central Baptist Church with Dr. Derrell Monday, pastor, and the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Hardin was born Aug. 16, 1937, in Beckham County, Okla. He married June Beesley on Nov. 29, 1956, at Wheeler.

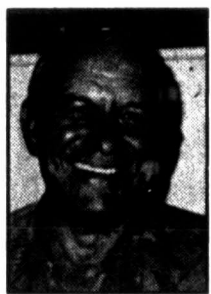
He had been a Pampa resident for 38 years, moving from Wheeler, and was an operator at Skelly-Getty-Texaco Schaffer Plant, retiring in 1995 after 27 years of service.

He was a member of Central Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, June, of the home; a daughter, Tina Gentry of Duncanville; a son, Todd Hardin of Lubbock; a brother, Steve Hardin of Amarillo; a step-sister, Deborah Hanks of Skellytown; and four grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065; or to American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Rd., Lubbock, TX 79424.

LLOYD EUGENE 'GENE' HORTON
 Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Horton, 70, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2000. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

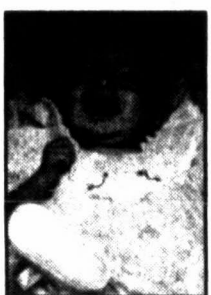
Mr. Horton was born Aug. 16, 1930, at Pampa. He was a lifelong resident of Pampa. He married Shannon Morgan on Jan. 17, 1960, at Miami. He worked for Cabot Corporation as a machinist, retiring after 17 years of service.



He was a Baptist. Survivors include his wife, Shannon, of the home; four daughters and a son-in-law, Cynthia Vargas and Sherry and Gary Bolch, all of Pampa, Cherry Hill of Waggoner, La., and Carla Laiche of New Orleans, La.; two sons, Jerry Horton of Panhandle and Michael Horton of Pampa; three sisters, Mabel Oakes of Grand Junction, Colo., Evelyn Henry of Letors and Alma Wade of Edmond, Okla.; two brothers, Robert "Red" Horton of Pampa and Ora Horton of Albuquerque, N.M.; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; or to Pampa Sheltered Workshop, 1301 W. Somerville, Pampa, TX 79065.

ROSA NORMA MATICE
 Rosa Norma Matice, 3-month-old infant of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2000, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Francisco Perez, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Rosa was born Aug. 28, 2000, at Amarillo, to Connie Lerma and David Matice.

Survivors include her parents of the home; her grandparents, Nora and Ruben Lerma of Pampa; and her great-grandfathers, Adam Lerma of Tulia and Ramon L. Davilla of Asherton.

The family will be at 837 Bradley Drive.

WILLIAM G. 'BILL' PUCKETT
 William G. "Bill" Puckett, 78, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2000. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Puckett was born Oct. 29, 1922, at Coffeetown, Kan. He had been a Pampa resident most of his life. He married Joyce Lemons on Sept. 7, 1943, at Panhandle. He retired after 45 years as a self-employed pipeline worker and was a U.S. Army veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart, serving during World War II.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Brad Puckett, in 1990.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce, of the home; a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Nancy Puckett of Anchorage, Alaska; and a sister, Betty Neugent of Stinnett.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls and arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 22
 Kelly Jo Peercy, 42, 425 Starkweather, forgery of a financial instrument.

Sergio Gamos Salazar, 38, 400 Louisiana, no driver's license.

Donald D. Johnson, 51, no address, public intoxication.

Saturday, Dec. 23
 Pierre Macelo Lopez, 17, 1204 Willow Road, minor in possession/consuming alcohol.

A criminal mischief report was taken in the 1100 block of North Frost.

Minor in possession was taken into custody in the 700 block of North Dwight and vehicle impounded.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday. Following those calls is a listing of previous calls not published due to a lack of space.

Friday, Dec. 22
 12:19 p.m. - One unit and two personnel responded to a grass fire at Harvester and Evergreen.

2:11 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to a minor accident at 1420 N. Hobart.

5:03 p.m. - One unit and two personnel responded to a grass fire at Harvester and Evergreen.

6:36 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to an accident on Highway 60 west of Price Road.

6:51 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to a medical assist in the 1000 block of North Hobart.

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Dec. 20
 6:40 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a vehicle fire in the 300 block of North Hobart. The fire was confined to the van's engine.

6:43 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1400 block of East Browning.

10:35 p.m. - Three units and seven firefighters responded to a report of a structure fire in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive. An electrical short caused a small fire that burned approximately a two-foot area in the wall. Damage was estimated at \$200.

10:59 p.m. - One unit and one firefighter investigated a sack of burning manure left in front of a residence in the 700 block of Mora. Fire Marshall Gary Stevens was continuing the investigation at press time today. Fire Chief Kim Powell said the incident appeared to be a prank.

Thursday, Dec. 21
 One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1400 block of North Dwight.

Court report

MARRIAGE LICENSES
Nov. 28 - Dec. 21, 2000

Robert Harold Taylor and Anna Carol Roberts Gregory Dale Houghton and DiDi Kirkland Emeterio Grandados Lopez and Anna Marie Ramirez

James G. Garner and Ada Louise McHenry Ashley Ragan and Gwendolyn Sue Nolte Orville Bert Craig Jr. and Nancy Lanora Anderton

Clair Charles Wagner and Betty Sue DeMille Kelly Dale Everson and Sonya Mekai Mitchell Michael Kelly Hughes and Tami Lynn Akins Justin Dewayne Whitehead and Bonnie Kay Hauck

Sammy Ray Doyle and Theresa Hailey Wilson Bobby Dewayne Lacher and Marisol Resendiz

Christopher Robert Harrison and Melissa Kay Gindorf Jason Todd Price and Dana Renee Gage Floyd Wayne Huddleston and Carla Gay Coffman

DIVORCES
Nov. 21-Dec. 19, 2000

Richard Cole Giles and Sheila Marie Giles Armina Matilda Hawthorne and Kenneth James Hawthorne Sr.

Tonya Jo Howe and Michael Todd Howe Kirk Water Keener and Pamela Ann Keener Hector Leal Jr. and Mary Ellen Leal Janice Lynette Mackie and Jerry Don Mackie Clifton Duane Norris and Corrine Lea Norris Anna Maria Villarreal and Rick Villarreal

SKINNER

died in a car wreck in 1977. According to affidavits by Sara and Howard Mitchell filed Dec. 28, 1994, almost a year after the murders, Donnell had stalked Twila Busby at a New Year's Eve party the night she was killed.

Mann said that Donnell had been a suspect for the first several days of the investigation, but there

was no physical evidence placing Donnell at the scene of the murder.

"In all the sampling," Mann said Friday, "there has been no DNA from a third person."

Skinner remains on death row. He is expected to file his final appeal at the state level after the first of the year.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has twice upheld Skinner's conviction.

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TREE

able landfill space, eliminate fire hazards by prompt removal, enable the solid waste department of the city to concentrate on increased residential refuse and reduce solid waste operational costs," he said. "The city side-loader trucks only are able to pick up dumpsters and are not designed to pick up the leftover Christmas trees."

Clean Pampa first began the "Chipping of the Greens" in 1991. Clean Pampa hired contractors to chip the trees into mulch until three years ago. Hildebrand said Clean Pampa decided to hire and pay the City of Pampa to do the chipping of the

trees instead of hiring a contractor.

Clean Pampa Inc. will be at Warner-Horton parking lot at 9 a.m. Jan. 20, 2001, to help with the project. Christmas trees may be taken to the parking lot until that date.

The mulch will be available and free at the Warner-Horton parking lot. Other locations and times where the mulch may be obtained will be announced at a later date, according to Hildebrand.

He also reminds residents it is illegal to put the trees in alley dumpsters.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Jacy Padgett at Clean Pampa Inc., at 665-2514.

Voting machines failed early test at polls, still used

MIAMI (AP) — A test conducted minutes before the polls opened on Election Day showed that 13 of 20 voting machines were faulty at the two Miami-Dade County precincts with the highest rates of discarded ballots, The Miami Herald reported Friday.

But poll workers did not take the machines out of service as rules required, perhaps causing more than 200 ballots to be improperly marked, according to the newspaper.

Supporters of Vice President Al Gore argued unsuccessfully after the Nov. 7 election that thousands of ballots in Miami-Dade and statewide were improperly marked because of faulty voting machines, perhaps costing him the presidency. President-elect Bush won the state by 537 votes out of 6 million cast, and Florida's 25 electoral votes proved to be decisive.

County election officials said the machines were fine, and that the tests were flawed. They said the machines performed properly in earlier tests.

The testers probably didn't press hard enough or failed to make punches at the proper positions on the ballots, officials said.

The machines require voters to slip a cardboard ballot into the machine and mark their candidates by punching out premarked holes, or chads. If the chads are not dislodged, the votes are not counted by the tabulation computers. The vote also is not counted if two or more candidates for that office

are selected. During the test before Election Day, "We punch through every single position just to make sure everything is OK," said John Clouser, assistant director for the supervisor of elections. "If it's OK, we send (the machine) out."

But poll workers deny that they tested the machines improperly. Sherrill Blue, who initiated three test ballots, said she did not know why the documents show the machines failed the test, but that workers "always make sure the holes go through."

Larry Williams, who worked at the same precinct, said he had trouble punching one of the ballots he tested. "I had to work it a little, but it went through," he said.

Yet, one of the test ballots he handled was missing punches, including one at Gore's position.

The two precincts in question had the highest rates — about 13 percent — of discarded presidential ballots in the county. That was more than double the discard rate in the 1996 presidential election.

Ballots are rejected when counting machines don't read punched holes or a voter marks too many candidates.

The Herald's review of election documents showed missed punches on six of the 10 machines at one of the precincts and on seven of the 10 machines at the other.

People in the news ...

LONDON (AP) — Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones have won a favorable court ruling stemming from the unauthorized publication of photos from their wedding.

The Court of Appeal released a ruling that affirms the Hollywood stars' right to privacy, which they could assert if they sue a British celebrity magazine over the photos.

Lord Justice Sedley said Thursday that Douglas and Zeta-Jones had "a powerfully arguable case" on the privacy issue.

Douglas and Zeta-Jones had signed a \$1.5 million deal with OK! magazine for exclusive photos of their lavish Nov. 18 wedding at The Plaza hotel in New York City.

But rival magazine Hello! beat OK! by three days with its own wedding photographs.

The couple then won an injunction at London's High Court that stopped distribution of the Hello! issue, but the Court of Appeal later overturned the injunction.

The wedding of Douglas, 56, and Zeta-Jones, 31, was said to cost \$2 million.

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft Corp.'s tumbling stock price has caused Bill Gates' portfolio to shrink dramatically in recent months.

His estimated holdings were down to about

\$31.2 billion on Thursday before rising to about \$33.7 billion Friday thanks to the company's 33-percent share jump.

Gates topped the most recent Forbes magazine listing of the world's working rich, issued in June. He had \$60 billion then, down from \$90 billion the year before.

Microsoft closed at \$46.44 Friday. It hit a 52-week high of \$119.94 last Dec. 30.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Country music pioneer Kitty Wells and husband Johnny Wright will take the stage for the last time on New Year's Eve, culminating 63 years of shared performances.

The couple announced their retirement earlier this year.

They began singing together in the late 1930s, along with fellow singer Jack Anglin. The trio appeared together on the stage show the Louisiana Hayride and the Grand Ole Opry in the years following World War II.

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Wells, 81, is known as the "Queen of Country Music" for her role in breaking down industry barriers for women. Her 1952 recording of "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels" was the first No. 1 country hit by a female singer.

City Briefs

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

BRENDA'S ALTERATIONS: Let me help! Mary Denham, 806-665-5630. Candelabra rentals, wedding decorating, silk flower creations and receptions.

CALIFORNIA EXTRA large oranges 3-\$1, California tangerines-4 for \$1, California lemons & limes-10 for \$1, Turkey Texas sweet potatoes 3 lbs. for \$1. Franks, 300 E. Brown.

CHANEY'S CAFE, 716 W. Foster, Sun. 11-2p.m., chicken fried steak, chicken spaghetti, roast, meat loaf.

COMET CLEANERS, coats 20% off (leather not included).

DEPT. STORE in Pampa needs exp. cosmetic person for established line. Hourly plus commission. Send resume to Box 7 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198

Weather focus
PAMPA — Today, cloudy with highs in the upper 30s. Light and variable winds

GETTING MARRIED? Let me help! Mary Denham, 806-665-5630. Candelabra rentals, wedding decorating, silk flower creations and receptions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from all of us at Clint & Sons Smokehouse, we will be closed Dec. 25, 26. 1421 N. Hobart, 665-2825.

"MOVING SALE" king bed, ref., electric stove. Call 665-2187.

NEED THAT one last special Christmas Gift for the stocking. We have that special person the greatest gift—a two hour relaxing massage. Special prices starting at \$45.00. Diamond/Furs/Cars will only be second to the Golden Touch. Call 806-665-6850.

QUADRA FIRE December Special, Model 3100 SR, \$1259 for \$825, while they last, Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy. 60

becoming southeast around 10 mph. Sunday night, cloudy with a 30 percent chance of sleet or light snow. Lows in the mid 20s.

REMEMBER EARLY advertising deadlines for New Year's holiday, in the Pampa News. Happy New Year!! 669-2525.

SEE US for in-car video. Custom overhead monitors, in dash, headrest or visor mountings. DVD, VCR, video games & wireless head phones. Halls Auto Sound.

START YOUR business off right in the New Year, in a high impact location. Office spaces available, reasonable rates, leases tailored to your business. For more information contact Blake or Les Howard 669-1287. E-mail us: bahoward@nts-online.net, or lihoward@centramedia.net.

WATKINS PRODUCTS, Betty Ridgway, 665-8806.

WE WILL be closed Tues., Dec. 26th in order to spend time with our families. Merry Christmas, Twice Is Nice.

Christmas day, cloudy with a chance of sleet or snow. Highs around 30. Tuesday, cloudy with a chance of snow. Lows near 15. Highs in the lower 20s.

Princess Anne's daughter escapes serious injury

LONDON (AP) — Zara Phillips, the 19-year-old daughter of Princess Anne, escaped serious injury Friday when the Land Rover she was driving overturned on a country road.

The young royal was traveling alone, and no other vehicle was involved in the accident, which happened just before 7 a.m., police said.

Phillips reportedly suffered minor injuries when the car flipped over on a road between Bourton-on-the-Water and Ford in Gloucestershire, south

west England, some 20 miles from her mother's Gatcombe Park estate.

Gloucestershire police required the princess's daughter to take a routine breath test for alcohol, which was negative.

"The royal family have been informed," Buckingham Palace said. "Thankfully, Zara escaped without any serious injury."

Zara is the daughter of Mark Phillips, Princess Anne's first husband. They also had a son, Peter Phillips, who is 23.

Train accident causes mix-ups for gifts

DENVER (AP) — Christmas might not be so merry for people whose gifts never made it to their destinations after a train carrying 37,000 packages derailed in Iowa this month.

The accident resulted in mix-ups for more than 1,000 gifts, sent from Denver. United Parcel Service collected the goods and attempted to deliver them, but some ripped-open packages apparently were refilled with the contents of other packages and

sent on their way.

No one was injured in the accident, but "it wasn't a happy sight," said Jackie Larson of UPS.

Eighty-year-old Gwen York of Michigan received fake leather pants and a size 6 jean jacket that were addressed to someone named Alicia from her Aunt Celly and Uncle Todd.

"What on earth?" York remembers asking as she examined the package.

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A seriously injured Texas Panhandle woman represented by Amarillo Attorney Jack Hazlewood and his Dallas Co-Counsel awarded \$8.2 million Jury Verdict in Products Liability lawsuit against major automobile manufacturer (Case No. 93-10141, 116th District Court, Dallas County). Results obtained depend on the facts of each case.

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OF
Slipp's Yellow Pages

Critical dates loom for 200,000 Medicare HMO members

AUSTIN — It is essential for the approximately 200,000 Texans losing Medicare HMO coverage on Jan. 1, 2001, to know about their special — but temporary — right to buy Medicare supplement insurance even if they are in poor health, according to Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor.

The Texas Department of Insurance sent letters urging each of the 11 HMOs to make sure they have complied with state and federal laws requiring them to inform their members of their rights and options. Montemayor said TDI will closely monitor the HMOs' compliance and will take enforcement action where appropriate.

Montemayor noted that this was the second consecutive year of Medicare HMO withdrawals and many members won't have the option of joining another HMO. No Medicare HMOs will remain in some counties. In some other areas, the remaining Medicare HMOs may have stopped accepting new members because their health care provider networks have reached capacity.

"It is easy, then, to understand the difficulties faced by (Medicare HMO) enrollees losing their coverage at year's end," Montemayor said. "This is particularly true because many of them

are having to repeat this process for the second consecutive year. This situation justifies additional effort to inform enrollees of their options once your plan ceases to cover them."

People who lose Medicare HMO coverage on Jan. 1 and who do not join another HMO or other "Medicare + Choice" plan will automatically return to original Medicare for their basic health care coverage.

Original Medicare, however, has coverage "gaps," such as the deductible (\$792 in 2001) for a hospital stay, the \$100 Medicare Part B deductible and the 20 percent co-payment for each doctor visit. Medicare supplement ("Medigap") insurance exists to fill some of these gaps. An individual who loses Medicare HMO coverage is responsible for these gaps until he or she obtains a Medigap policy.

Federal law gives members of the Medicare HMOs withdrawing on Jan. 1 a very important right to *guaranteed issue* when buying Medigap policies. However, this is a temporary right that must be exercised by March 4, 2001.

Guaranteed issue means an insurance company cannot deny Medigap coverage because of an individual's medical condition or health history. Moreover, an insurance company cannot

impose a waiting period for coverage of pre-existing medical conditions or charge a higher premium because of an individual's health history.

To take advantage of this right to guaranteed issue, people who lose Medicare HMO coverage on New Year's Day must apply for Medigap insurance by March 4, 2001. After that date, an insurance company can reject a Medigap application because of health problems even if the applicant had recently lost Medicare HMO coverage.

"I hope people will remember that they lose their right to guaranteed issue if they miss the March 4, 2001, deadline," Montemayor said. "Choosing a company and a Medigap plan takes time. So, people who aren't joining another Medicare HMO should start shopping as soon as possible."

TDI will monitor Medicare supplement carriers to assure compliance with the guaranteed issue requirement and will take enforcement action as necessary.

The guaranteed issue rights of people 65 or older are slightly

different from those of younger people who receive Medicare because of disabilities.

For people 65 or older, guaranteed issue applies to Medigap Plan A and to Plans B, C and F if a company sells them in Texas. (All companies must sell Plan A.)

For individuals under 65 who receive Medicare because of a disability, guaranteed issue applies to Plan A. Guaranteed issue also applies to Plans B, C and F only if a company routinely offers those plans to people with disabilities who are under 65. (Companies selling Medigap policies are required to offer at least Plan A to people with disabilities.)

Montemayor said it is important for people losing Medicare HMO coverage to save the withdrawal letters ("final notification" letters) they received from their HMOs. Insurance companies will require them to submit copies of these letters with their Medigap applications to prove they are entitled to guaranteed issue.

He said it also is important for consumers to keep dated copies

of their Medigap policy applications to prove they met the March 4, 2001, deadline for applying.

People 65 and over who are still in their six-month "open enrollment" period have more choices than Plans A, B, C or F when buying Medigap insurance after losing Medicare HMO coverage. They are entitled to guaranteed issue of any Medigap policy a particular insurer offers. This right lasts for six months after an individual first enrolls in Medicare Part B. Therefore, the right to guaranteed issue may extend beyond March 4 for people who joined Medicare after early September 2000.

Individuals needing Medigap insurance should start their search by getting the Texas

Department of Insurance's "Medicare Supplement Insurance Handbook and Rate Guide." The guide lists all companies that sell Medigap insurance in Texas, along with their phone numbers and their rates for each of the 10 standard Medigap plans. People can obtain free copies of the guide by calling TDI at 1-800-599-7467. The guide also is available on the TDI website, www.tdi.state.tx.us.

The state's Health Information, Counseling and Advocacy Program provides free one-on-one counseling on options available to cover costs not paid by Medicare. For the location and phone number of the nearest HICAP counselor, call 1-800-252-9240.

PPHM announces new director of Development

CANYON — The Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon recently announced the addition of Bruce Burnett to its staff. Burnett will fill the position of Development director. In that capacity, he will be responsible for coordinating a full range of planning and fund-raising activities for the museum.

Burnett holds a bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, as designated by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives' CFRE Professional Certification Board.

He currently serves as president of the Texas Plains Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives and is a past-president of the Texas Baptist Officers Association.

Additional affiliations and training include the National Committee on Planned Giving; Southwest Institute of Fund Raising; Southern Baptist Development Officers Association; Gordon Caswell and Associates Estate Planning Workshops; Doug Lawson and Associates Fund Raising Workshops; University of Texas Law School Farm and Ranch Estate Planning Seminar and the SMU Law School Estate Planning Symposium.

In addition to his professional affiliations, Burnett has been active in many community service organizations including United Way of Amarillo and



Bruce Burnett

Canyon; High Plains Epilepsy Association; High Plains Handicapped Housing, Int.; Golden Spread Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation; Rape Crisis/Domestic Violence Center of Amarillo; Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services of Amarillo and Amarillo West Rotary Club.

"We are very happy to have a person with Bruce's qualifications as a member of our staff. His contacts with the people of this area make him particularly valuable in this capacity. I feel confident that he will be able to help us secure the resources we need — to preserve the heritage of our area," stated Museum Director Walt Davis.



Sounds of Christmas

Wishing you a Christmas rich in peace and blessings.
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For more information phone 665-0701

Come join us!
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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Want to know more about us? Visit us at: www.stmatt.pampa.com

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Reg. 40.00

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VIEWPOINTS

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"A LAWYER?! ... WON'T YOU AT LEAST THINK ABOUT BEING A BASEBALL PLAYER?..."

Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: The Longview News-Journal on the Texas Railroad Commission:

From time to time, it has been suggested that the Texas Railroad Commission be abolished and its functions merged with other state agencies. Perhaps that day will come, but not for now if the Texas Legislature adopts the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission report issued recently.

The commission criticized TRC because it does not ensure the financial assurance of oil and gas operators and producers, potentially leaving the state liable for pollution and abandoned wells. The report said that TRC also is limited in its ability to plug abandoned wells and clean oil field sites because money going into the Oil Field Cleanup Fund is capped. The report then suggested that TRC stop creating abandoned wells and identify a way to devote more resources to deal with existing abandoned wells.

The report also said that the state regulation of pipelines does not adequately protect the public and recommended, among other things, that the commission be authorized to require a pipeline operator to submit a testing plan to the Sunset Commission for approval.

Actually, the Railroad Commission has been working on these problems. Michael Williams, the commission chairman, has been working aggressively on a pipeline safety program that meshes with a federal program in the Caddo Lake region. He also is continuing the program to develop an inventory of pipelines that can affect the states vital water resources, similar to the Sabine River study done by former Railroad Commissioner Carole Keeton Rylander.

The Railroad Commission also has become more focused on the abandoned well problem, with plans to increase the responsibility for plugging to the owner and by setting time limits on how long the wells can remain uncapped. These are important to public safety.

That said, the report raises the issue of putting TRCs functions in other agencies. For example, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission could assume TRCs responsibilities for natural resources protection for the oil and gas production industry. TNRC is the states primary environmental regulatory agency. The drawback is that TNRC does not have experience regulating oil and gas activities and their associated wastes.

The regulation of utilities is currently split between TRC and the Public Utility Commission (PUC). But the timing is inappropriate to consider merging those functions because of recent electric deregulation. The PUC has its plate full with that and telecommunications problems.

Then there is the problem of rail crossing safety, pipeline safety and surface mining. There is no appropriate state agency to assume these functions.

For those reasons, the Sunset Commission has recommended continuance of the Railroad Commission for another 12 years. That's appropriate because the commission continues to provide useful functions that benefit Texas.

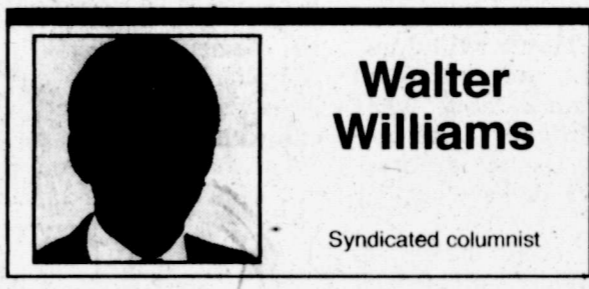
Lawyers can learn from economics

Rather than my usual fall schedule of teaching in the Economics Department at George Mason University, I taught "The Economic Foundations of Legal Studies" at the university's School of Law to first-year law students.

Economics is no stranger at George Mason's Law School. It's home to the Law and Economics Center directed by Frank Buckley. Under the leadership of Dean Mark Grady, the study of economics is a required integral part of the law program. In fact, GMU Law School has a national and international reputation for excellence in the relatively new field of law and economics.

It's important for legal practitioners to have at least a working knowledge of economics. Why? Because most of what lawyers and judges do has economic implications and can be informed by economics. In their jobs as attorney generals, judges, and sometimes legislators, an understanding of economics might help them avoid grossly uninformed pronouncements and harmful policy. Let's look at just a couple of cases where a bit of economic understanding might help.

When there's a natural disaster, prices tend to skyrocket. That's what we saw in the wake of hurricanes Andrew and Floyd. States' attorney generals threatened to prosecute businesses for "price-gouging." They simply didn't understand the role of prices. What kind of behavior serves the social interests in the wake of a disaster?



Walter Williams
 Syndicated columnist

At least two: People should conserve on the use of suddenly scarce resources (food, plywood, gas and so on), and producers should produce more. Rising prices create incentives for consumers to abandon reckless consumption and for producers to produce more. Rising prices not only accomplish those two goals, but they do so voluntarily.

Another important concept for legal practitioners is opportunity cost — there's no free lunch. Say you've been selling coffee to me from your large inventory for \$6 a pound. Crop disaster in Brazil spikes the world coffee price to \$10 a pound. What will you charge me now? If you said at least \$10, go to the head of the class. Why? Because the opportunity cost of coffee is now \$10. What coffee cost before the disaster is irrelevant. That's no different from the fact that even though you might have paid only \$40,000 for your home 30 years ago has nothing to do with its price today. What it costs to buy a similar home

helps determine today's selling price.

What's the relevance? When OPEC actions led to a surge in gasoline prices, some of our lawmakers talked about investigations and possible prosecution of U.S. oil companies for price-gouging. They could understand how prices of gasoline might rise after the OPEC action, but couldn't understand why oil companies were charging higher prices for oil products already in the pipeline, purchased long before the OPEC action. That's just like the coffee or house example. Historical costs, or what was paid in the past, do not determine today's price. My law students would be able to inform these lawmakers about the concept of opportunity costs.

At the risk of appearing to be self-serving, I contend that any law school graduate bereft of basic economics cannot possibly understand the law as well as his counterpart who knows some economics.

The good news is that an increasing number of law schools have made economics a mandatory part of their curriculum. Better news is that through the auspices of George Mason's Law and Economics Center, workshops and seminars are conducted for federal judges so they can learn about the important connections between law and economics. In the spirit of equal opportunity, the center also conducts workshops and seminars where economists get to learn something about law.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2000. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

On this date:

In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to broadcast a music program over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halem's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as

part of Operation "Overlord."

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC-TV.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

Ten years ago: With three weeks left before the United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops marked Christmas Eve with muted celebrations and a heightened state of alert.

Five years ago: In a Christmas message to U.S. troops in Bosnia, President Clinton praised their peace mission to a land exhausted by war.

Fire broke out at the Philadelphia Zoo, killing 23 rare gorillas, orangutans, gibbons and lemurs.

One year ago: Five hijackers seized an Indian Airlines jet with 189 people aboard, forcing the aircraft on a journey across South Asia and into the Middle East. (The eight-day ordeal resulted in the death of one passenger and India's release of three jailed pro-Kashmir militants in exchange for the rest of the hostages.)

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 80. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 60. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 56. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 55. Actress Sharon Farrell is 54. Actor Clarence Gilyard ("Walker, Texas Ranger") is 45.

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Standardized voting isn't a good idea

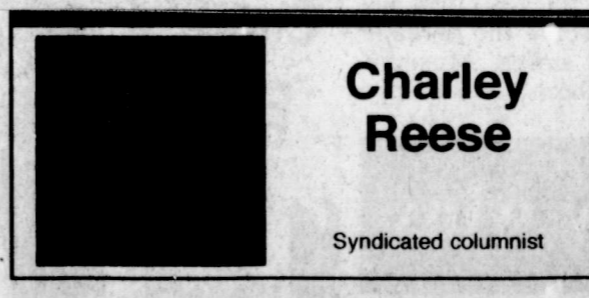
One of the dumbest suggestions that has arisen from our recent presidential election is that voting machines or methods should be standardized throughout the nation.

Now that's sure enough a dumb idea. Think about it. Every single American votes in only one precinct in one county. Therefore, the only voting machine a person has to figure out is the one in his or her own precinct. What difference does it make to me what kind of machinery is used someplace else where I'm not eligible to vote there?

Furthermore, there is no such thing as a complicated voting machine anywhere in the United States. Marking a ballot isn't advanced physics, no matter what method is used. You have to remember that all this hoopla about Florida ballots is just a smoke screen put out by the Gore people.

If Al Gore had won the state, Florida's election would have been hailed as perfect. There still would have been ballots that were rejected because they were improperly marked. There still would have been ballots where no one voted for the president. There still would have been slight differences in the count every time the ballots were counted. The difference would have been that nobody would have cared.

There is only one thing different about this election and that is the closeness of the vote. Whoever loses the biggest prize on earth will



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

lose it by a statistically insignificant number of votes. I know that will shivel poor Al Gore's soul. To lose what he's lusted after for at least 20 years by 500 or so votes will surely put him into deep depression. Personally, I don't care, as it will put me into deep depression if Gore wins by 500 votes.

I suppose I owe it to folks to explain why I don't like Mr. Gore. Well, he annoys me. He tells lies. And some years ago, when he was in Congress, he sat like a lump while some rock star insulted his wife. I wrote him off then. A man who won't defend his wife's honor has no business being a commander in chief. I thought at the time that if Frank Zappa (he was the rocker) had said about Bess Truman what he said about Tipper Gore, Harry Truman would have dived over that table and punched his lights out right there on live national TV. Andy Jackson simply would have killed Zappa, as he had killed other men who

made the mistake of insulting his beloved Rachel.

But one thing is certain: We have to figure out some way to divide less equally. Some folks on one side or another are going to have to defect to the other, or we'll have to put up with this nonsense at the next election.

One of my colleagues loves this mess because he says that it's historic. Well, it might be, but I'm not that fond of historic events. Dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was a historic event, but I'm glad I missed it, and I'm sure the survivors wish they could have missed it, too. And I already wish I could have missed this historic event.

The only advice I can give you is to keep your television turned off until this is over. This is one of those deals where facts are few and spaced out so the TV folks have to fill in the time jawing and bulling with their Rolodex talking heads. That's even more annoying than listening to Snake Eyes Al or Whiny Joe. And please don't complain that I'm being disrespectful. I know that. It's on purpose.

I'm one of those old-fashioned Americans who believes in reciprocity. When public officials lie and resort to demagoguery, they are, as the saying goes, "dissing" us. They are telling us in the plainest language that they have no respect for our intelligence. They deserve no respect from any citizen.

Weather no small talk for meteorologists

By BRAD PIERCE
The Brownsville Herald

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — A group of men in Brownsville does nothing but sit around and talk about the weather.

Actually, their jobs are a little more complicated, but for the guys at the National Weather Service Station, nothing could be more interesting than discussions of meteorological activity.

Working out of a small, fortress-like facility on the northeast corner of Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport, the weathermen are devoted to ensuring public safety through relaying crucial information about the elements.

The National Weather Service station in Brownsville has a staff of more than 20, with 13 forecasters manning stations that are on duty around the clock.

Shawn Bennett, the science and operations officer, is responsible for training the staff and making sure everyone stays up to date on the latest tools and equipment.

"It's a great job," Bennett said. "We're just trying to do it the best we can."

The facility they work in is nothing less than state of the art, he said. Its high tech equipment is designed to keep a close eye on every aspect of the weather.

Covering the eight lower counties in South Texas, the stations radar knows everything that's going on in a 250-mile radius, Meteorologist in Charge Richard Hagen said.

With the addition of satellite technology, forecasters can watch the entire world, including the most remote areas in the middle of oceans, he said.

Twice a day meteorologists release hydrogen-

filled weather balloons to measure atmospheric conditions, but they are constantly monitoring weather data around the globe to make sure the public stays well-informed of rainfall, clouds, thunderstorms and hurricanes.

The building they work out of is equally designed for dealing with the weather. In addition to a steel beam design and protective shutters on the windows, the facility has a "safe room" that consists of 10-inch thick concrete walls and one very heavy door, Hagen said.

The building is constructed to withstand hurricane conditions, because in an emergency, these guys don't evacuate with the masses. They stick around to make sure information is recorded properly and that weather data is provided to a variety of news agencies.

Tony Abbot, who is the station's hydrometeorological technician, reads and interprets radar information while composing weather summaries for the public.

He said the industry has changed quite a bit in the last couple of decades, but the commitment to understanding weather conditions is as strong as it was following World War II.

In addition to providing the latest weather information, the meteorologists are committed to community education programs in an effort to get school children interested in math and science.

"It's something that I always wanted to do," Hagen said about being a meteorologist. He added that the job never gets old because the weather is always changing.

Tim Speece, the station's lead forecaster, agreed. "Even on the fairly quiet days, there's usually something interesting to look at," he said.

Harvest House



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Harvest House volunteers Bill and Sherry King along with Nick Robbins and Sena Shore delivered sacks of food to local residents to help with Christmas Dinner. Over 400 sacks of food were delivered by the organization.

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Bush's presidential run kept focus on Texas this year

By MATT CURRY
Associated Press Writer

George W. Bush began the year at the statehouse and ended it by packing for the White House.

In between, the Texas governor's hard-fought presidential contest and the aftermath dominated the year in state news.

It wasn't until December and a lingering, post-election legal battle in Florida that Bush's travel plans were finally secured.

The Republican's eventual victory over Democratic Vice President Al Gore shook up state politics. Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, who served alongside Bush for two years, prepared to move into the top post.

The narrowly Republican Texas Senate must replace Perry with a new leader who will preside during the redrawing of congressional and legislative voting districts, the hot political battle of 2001.

Under the glare of the presidential campaign spotlight, Texans found themselves defending many aspects of life in the Lone Star State: education, welfare, environmental quality. Among the most scrutinized was the regular pace of executions, as Texas handily retained the title as the nation's most active capital-punishment state.

Garry Dean Miller's Dec. 5 execution for the rape-slaying of a 7-year-old West Texas girl was the 38th this year, surpassing the record 37 set in 1997. By the end of 2000, 40 people had been put to death.

Gary Graham, 36, drew worldwide attention with his claims of innocence and an unfair trial before his June 22 execution for killing Bobby Lambert in a Houston holdup. But the state parole board and appeals courts rejected his contention that he was convicted on shaky evidence from a single eyewitness.

Several supporters, including the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, witnessed his execution.

Bush, meanwhile, noted that 33 state and federal judges had reviewed Graham's case. "After considering all of the facts I am convinced justice is being done," he said after the final appeals were exhausted.

Reverberations from the 1993 raid on the Branch Davidian compound continued well into 2000 as a \$675 million wrongful-death lawsuit filed by surviving sect members and the victims' families went to trial.

The lawsuit arose from the standoff that started Feb. 28, 1993, when federal agents attempted to search the compound near Waco for illegal weapons and arrest sect leader David Koresh. Four agents and six Davidians were killed in a gun battle that initiated the sect's standoff with the government.

About 80 followers and Koresh perished in the April 19, 1993, blaze that destroyed the structure hours after FBI agents began a tear-gassing operation designed to end the ordeal.

An advisory jury in Waco in the wrongful-death case absolved the government of wrongdoing in both the initial raid and fire. A separate investigation by Special Counsel John Danforth did the same.

The healing process continued for family and friends of the 12 people who were killed in the November 1999 collapse of the Texas A&M University bonfire stack, which was being prepared for the school's annual pep rally before its football game against rival Texas.

Meanwhile, debate centered on the tradition's future.

A study commission ultimately blamed the accident on flawed construction techniques and lack of adequate supervision of students assembling the stack.

University president Ray Bowen announced in June that the bonfire would continue, but not until at least 2002 and with major changes in supervision and safety.

More than 10,000 people gathered for the anniversary, huddling on the campus polo fields for a memorial ceremony at 2:42 a.m. on a rainy Nov. 18 — the exact place and time of the tragedy.

On March 28, tornadoes tore through Tarrant County, killing five people and injuring dozens more. More than 1,500 homes were damaged and much of downtown Fort Worth was ripped apart.

The weather also made headlines during the summer, when the

Under the glare of the presidential campaign spotlight, Texans found themselves defending many aspects of life in the Lone Star State: education, welfare, environmental quality. Among the most scrutinized was the regular pace of executions, as Texas handily retained the title as the nation's most active capital-punishment state.

her Sarasota, Fla., home. Blackthorne was the last of four men to be convicted or plead guilty in Bellush's death.

A Del Rio jury sentenced former carnival worker Tommy Lynn Sells to death for the slaying of 13-year-old Kaylene Harris. The drifter has confessed to murders in seven states dating to the 1980s.

A Brownsville jury made South Texas history when it sided with the Ballis, a storied border family that complained for decades of land loss to Anglo settlers.

After three months of testimony, the all-Hispanic panel awarded the Balli heirs \$1.1 million in lost Padre Island oil royalties,

along with \$1.5 million in attorney's fees.

The Balli heirs sold their stake in the tropical island to New York lawyer Gilbert Kerlin in 1938. In exchange, the Harvard lawyer agreed to share the island's oil riches with the family. They never heard from him again.

The jury decided not to make the 90-year-old Kerlin pay punitive damages.

A former Playboy Playmate of the Year's attempt to gain a slice of the oil fortune of her late husband inched along in a Houston court. Anna Nicole Smith, along with J. Howard Marshall III, are suing for part of the late J.

Howard Marshall II's estate.

The elder Marshall met Smith while she was working in a topless bar in the early 1990s. They married in 1994, when she was 26 and he was 89; he died the following year.

Both Smith and Howard Marshall III claim the multimillionaire's other son, E. Pierce Marshall, is blocking their rightful inheritance claim.

Texas lost one of its more colorful political leaders in November when former U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez died at the age of 84.

The unpredictable San Antonio Democrat was sometimes criticized for his unwillingness to work within the system. In his

hometown, the unabashed populist who pushed for affordable housing was celebrated as a hero and defender of the downtrodden.

And in October, former Texas Instruments engineer Jack Kilby was awarded a share of the Nobel Prize for co-inventing the integrated circuit — the minute brains powering everything from cell phones to the Space Shuttle.

Described by colleagues as a "humble giant," Kilby was his customary self after learning he would be honored.

"It is gratifying," Kilby said, "to see what people have done with that simple idea."



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SANTA LETTERS

To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I want a hop scotch Heather. A dancing debbie. Some clothes.
Thank you.
—Jazmyn Hair

Dear Santa,
I want a blue see through razer scooter, chariot, spakle nail salon, Twister, Silly 6 pens, Poo Chi the Interactive puppy, new roller sskates, Diva Starz doll, Bop It, inflatable furniture.

Please wake me up.
I want to see your reindeer.
Thak you.
—Sydney Minchin, 7 1/2

Dear Santa,
I love you, Santa Claus! How many times do you check your list? Can I have an Amazing Baby, please, Santa? Also, Magical Mermaid Barbie, an ice cream factory and a foldable tent. I will leave you a special cookie from me. How do you go up in the sky?

Thank you for my toys.
—Madison Minchin, 4 1/2

Dear Santa,
I want a computer for christmas. to Santa from Erick Lewis.
—Erick Lewis

Dear Santa,
I would like for Christmas a hamster (girl) in a hamster ball, a cross necklace or cross ring, a bear beanie baby in beanie baby clothes, silky P.J.s and anything else that you think would be nice. The code on the garage door is 1229. It stands for my birthday. I have one more request, it's to find one or two of our gifts going on a treasure hunt.

Thanks!
—Ashlyn F. McNeely

Dear Santa,
How is everyone at the north pole? Tell the elves and reindeer hy for me. I have been a good girl this year. I would like the computer game Where in Time is Carmin SanDiego?, an outfit, Christina Hgulara CD, a head board for my bed. Merry Christmas to everyone at the north pole.
—Diana Mechelay
P.S. Have a safe trip!

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing good! I'm fine. Say hi to the reindeer and elves for me. I've been a good girl this year. I would like a camera, "NSYNC (no strings attached) CD, outfits, and a CD case. Have a good flight on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

—Angela Mechelay
P.S. Could you bring something for Grandma?

Dear Santa,
How are you? I'm great! I've been a good boy this year. For Christmas, I would like some Texas A&M golf balls, Techno, Pajamas, and a Star Wars toy. Say hi to the reindeer for me. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.
—Joseph Mechelay

The following letters were submitted by students of St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School:

Dear Santa,
I went to Whitewater before. Mrs. Lyles is moving. I have some antlers. My name is Bailey Wichert. I am five.

For Christmas, I would like one waterbed, a real scooter and a hand scooter.

I already have a trampoline. I would really like a real elf hat.
Merry Christmas.
—Bailey Ann Wichert

Dear Santa,
I like my doggie. I love my family. Trey is my friend. I love you. My name is Aaron. I am five. I would like a soldier, a drum, a teddy bear, a choo-choo train and a ball. I want you to come to my house. You can wake me up. I would like to come up on the roof and pet your reindeer.
—Aaron Sackett

Dear Santa,
I like to make cookies with my mom. I have a horse named Elvis. I am good and I mind my mom. For Christmas, I would like a twin Barbie and a baby doll. My sister lost two teeth and she has another loose one. I would like a Barbie camera. My other one is broken.
Merry Christmas.
—Emily Kay Terry

Dear Santa,
I ride my motorcycle sometimes. I also like to ride scooters. I have a dog named Budda. I like you because you bring toys. Would you bring me a CD player? My house is the brick one with a swing in the tree.
—Casey Martindale

Dear Santa,
I was in the Nutcracker. I was an angel.

I have a baby sister named Bailey. Do you have any children? How do your reindeer fly? I just can't figure that out. I would like a twin doll for Christmas.

I have been good all the time. My name is Madison McKenna Joyce and I am four.
—Madison McKenna Joyce

Dear Santa,
My name is Kelly Marina Silva. I am 4-years-old.

I like to play games with my friends. I want some toys (a Barbie Radio Shack and clothes and shoes.) I saw your sleigh at the North Pole one time. You were putting toys in a bag. My house is the one with a dog in the yard named Blanco.
—Kelly Marina Silva

Dear Santa,
I like to go to school and color with markers.

I am really good at computers. For Christmas, I would like a Make-Up Mindy Doll. I like Rudolph because he has that shiny nose. Please come to my house on Christmas Eve. My name is Susie Michelle Joiner. I am 5-years-old.
—Susie Michelle Joiner

Dear Santa,
My name is Blayne Troxell. I am four. I like to eat candy canes. I would like to ride Rudolph. I don't know what I want for Christmas, so you can bring me whatever you want. I know you live at the North Pole.
Merry Christmas.
—Blayne Troxell

Dear Santa,
My name is Savanna Victoria Mertz. I am 5-years-old. I am going to be in a Christmas program at my church. I would like for you to bring my brother a little Christmas tree toy. He just loves Christmas trees. You don't have to bring me toys. I just want to be your friend!
—Savanna Victoria Mertz

Dear Santa,
I am going to try so hard to be nice to my friends. When it's Christmas, please bring me a wreath that has rainbow lights.

I like your snowy white beard. I like my teachers, friends and myself. Have a party Christmas. I might move someday but I will let you know!
—Taylor Ann Smith, 4

Dear Santa,
I like your elves. I like your cherry red nose. I like you because you give us presents. I like my cat named Chip. He's sorta mean but I still like him. I want a scooter for Christmas. I have been a good boy this year! My house is green with red and green lights.
Merry Christmas.
—Hondo Schaeffer, 5

Dear Santa,
I like to play Rescue Heroes. My favorite is Jake Justice and Billy Blazes.

How do your elves make all those toys? I always wonder about that.

I want a Rescue Heroes jet and talking truck for Christmas. You can go to Rescue Heroes dot com to find them. I am Trey Austin Miller. I am a big, 4-year-old boy!
—Trey Austin Miller

Dear Santa,
I am being very nice today. I even helped my teacher clean up. I share toys all the time. I love my mother and everybody. For Christmas, I would like that stroller with the blanket on the top that's big enough for two babies. You know where my house is! Remember my mom told you at the mall.
—Casey Sark, 4

The following letters were submitted by first graders at Wilson Elementary School:
Dear Santa,
I wat a bik.
Dear Santa Claus I wat a dog. I lov you.
—Oscar Sanchez

Dear Santa,
Drum set I bin gd(good).
—Andrew Masias

Dear Santa,
I wont a puppy and a kitn How are you I bin a good grlle
—Cassandra Ramirez

Dear Santa,
I wond(want) a cat four cisms(Christmas)
—Jacob Bowers
Dear Santa,
I wont a skooddr

I am good
—Carmen Marin

Dear Santa,
I want a kitten. And a pear of boots oh I forgot to tell you something How are you.
Bey!
—Brienne Moyer

Dear Santa,
I wate(want) a Nitoe(Ninento)
—Ryan Damron

Dear Santa,
I have bein vaer good. I want a nwe(new) baek(back) paek(pack).
—Nicole Brashears

Dear Santa,
I have bin a good boy. Wut are you givinge a toys wot a toy man.
—Luis Romero

Dear Santa,
I wot a puppy and a kitn and I bin god(good) h(how) ar you.
—Karen Perez

Dear Santa,
I lik u cran ben(bring) we(me) vthe(the) game nthe(n)eno(Nintendo) fr(fr) curmesmes(Christmas) I em(am) u(a) gluv(good)
—Aaron Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I wot a skoob(scooter) Love Kizer Wo(how) aer(are) you I ben goob(good)
—Kizer Williams

Dear Santa,
I want a pokemon tradr.
—Jesus Solis

Energas: Gas prices most likely to continue to climb

LUBBOCK — Energas Co. is warning its customers to be aware of the continuing increase in natural gas prices this winter. Wholesale natural gas prices nationwide are continuing to increase, along with the wholesale costs of heating oil, propane and other energy sources. This increase combined with colder than normal weather, mean customers' heating bills will be significantly higher than 1999. Based on current gas price projections, the average residential customer's peak winter bill may increase 50 to 100 percent or more over last winter, based on the same units of consumption.

Gas prices have increased for a number of reasons including: —Greater demand for natural gas. Summer demand for natural gas due to its use in gas-fired electric generating plants. Industrial growth has also increased the demand for natural gas.

—Colder than normal weather.

—Higher energy prices. Gasoline, home heating oil and crude oil prices are also contributing to the rise in natural gas prices. Compared to last year at this time, natural gas prices are approximately 50 percent higher.

—Less exploration and production. Natural gas exploration and production declined in 1998 and 1999 due to mild winter weather and low prices at the wellhead. While current levels of exploration and production are high, forecasters

have factored this into current and future gas prices.

Energas President Tom Hawkins, "We want our customers to be aware of the higher gas prices so that they can plan for higher gas bills, especially with the weather colder than 1999, and adjust their budgets accordingly."

Hawkins continued, "We also want our customers to know that the sale of natural gas is not a source of income for our company. Changes in natural gas prices — either up or down — are passed through to customers on their monthly gas bill."

Hawkins added that the company's revenues are derived from the cost of providing service, and state regulators through rate filings set these rates. "We also share our customers hope that natural gas prices will soon return to lower levels in the near future."

Customers are advised to conserve energy and take necessary steps to lower their heating bills. Thermostat settings and energy efficiency of customers' homes and heating equipment can affect gas consumption and the impact of higher gas prices. Setting a natural gas water heater temperature to 120 degrees or medium for example can lower a customer's gas bill without sacrificing comfort.

To offset the impact of higher gas prices and cold winter weather, Energas customers may choose to enroll in the company's Budget Billing program which offers a way to even out monthly gas bill payments.

In addition, many states offer energy assistance through state and local funding agencies. To learn more about Budget Billing or to ask about alternative payment arrangements, customers may call toll-free 1-888-363-7427, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Due to extremely high call volumes related to the current high natural gas cost situation, customers may wish to call after five and on weekends to avoid extended handling time.

Days 'til Christmas

On Christmas Eve, fax last-minute requests to North Pole.

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Main Bank
100 S. Main • Miami, TX • 806-868-2771
Pampa Branch
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THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS
Best wishes for the holiday season.

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Happy Holidays...

As Christmas draws near, we wish you a season with heart warming memories. We hope you take the time to enjoy the many holiday events Pampa has to offer this year with family and friends.

H PAMPA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Holiday gathering ...



Ogden & Son recently held a holiday customer appreciation Open House where the Christmas focal point was the company's unusual tree — it's made from stacked tires of different sizes. From left are Stacy Hamilton, Vicki Merrick, Ray Belcher and Chilly Bradshaw.

People in the news ...

MONTICELLO, N.Y. (AP) — Donald Trump publicly apologized Friday for a series of advertisements last spring which claimed drug dealing and violence would follow if an Indian casino is built here.

"(We) apologize if anyone was misled concerning the production and funding of the lobbying effort paid for by Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts," Trump said in a follow-up ad placed in a local newspaper.

The ad campaign targeted the St. Regis Mohawks, who have proposed opening a Catskills casino that could draw New York City-area gamblers away from the Trump resort and other casinos in Atlantic City, N.J.

State lobbying regulators ordered the apology and settled on a \$250,000 fine against Trump, his lobbyist and the Trump-backed Institute for Law and Society.

Mohawks say the apology sounded bland.

"It doesn't take away the pain or money we spent countering the ads," Tribal Chief Alma Ransom said. "They still hurt."

NEW YORK (AP) — Jaid Barrymore says she has reconciled with her famous daughter Drew.

Barrymore told New York's Daily News that she recently sent the "Charlie's Angels" star a book of spiritual guidance. She said Drew Barrymore was so touched by the gesture that she called and the two talked for hours.

Barrymore also said she's been invited to her daughter's summer wedding to comedian Tom Green.

In May, Jaid Barrymore was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, criminal mischief and illegal posting for distributing promotional pictures of a rock band. At the time, Barrymore said she hadn't spoken to her daughter in "a couple of years" and that they were "a bit estranged."

Her daughter declined to comment about their relationship.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George "Meadowlark" Lemon, the former clown prince of the Harlem Globetrotters, has retired from basketball to pursue his religious calling.

The full-time minister and founder of the Meadowlark

Lemon Ministries in Arizona was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in October.

But Lemon said his real work has just begun: "I was called to the ministry. It's not something I really wanted to do, but now I don't want to do anything else."

Lemon joins his old teammates Jan. 5 in Chicago for a 75th anniversary celebration.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Hootie and the Blowfish is hoping to move its charity golf tournament to the Kiawah Island resort to lure more golfers following The Masters tournament in nearby Georgia.

Since 1995, the band has staged a charity event in Columbia on the Monday in April that follows the prestigious golf tournament in Augusta, Ga. A "Hootie and friends" concert usually follows the tournament, with proceeds going to state charities.

The event has bounced from country club to golf course, and Columbia Mayor Bob Coble said he understands why band members are negotiating with the resort.

"The bottom line for them is to make money for their charities, and a place like Kiawah will entice more of the golfers to come over from The Masters," he said.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (AP) — An Arnold Palmer-designed golf

course will use environmentally friendly ideas the golf legend hopes will spread like this town's claim to fame — Arbor Day.

Palmer Course Design Co. is designing an 18-hole championship golf course on 300 acres northwest of Arbor Day Farm. The National Arbor Day Foundation, dedicated to tree planting and environmental stewardship, is teaming with the builder on the project.

Palmer said Thursday that the project will "allow us to take a proactive step to contribute sound business and environmental principles to the world of golf course design."

J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day in 1872, and the tree-planting holiday spread nationally. His former home in Nebraska City is a state historical park.

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — If it's Christmas, former President Ford must be in the neighborhood.

Ford, 87, has a home in Rancho Mirage, Calif., but lives part of the year in Beaver Creek near Vail since 1968. His annual President Ford Tree-Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday.

"The tree-lighting ceremony has become a great tradition for President Ford and Vail," said Joel Heath, vice president of the Vail Valley Tourism and Convention Bureau.

Gore wins popular vote by more than 500,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Gore won the nation's popular vote in the presidential election by more than 500,000 votes, according to official totals made available Thursday to the Associated Press.

An AP survey of all 50 states' final election numbers showed that Democrat Gore led President-elect Bush, the former GOP governor of Texas, by 539,947 votes.

Final numbers show Gore with 50,996,116 votes and Bush with 50,456,169. Bush won the White House by capturing 271 electoral votes, one more than the Constitution requires.

The popular vote total includes all absentee ballots that were counted in the weeks following the Nov. 7 election.

Teenager dies while trying to save brother in freezing pond

BETHEL, Pa. (AP) — A teenager tried to save his 10-year-old brother after the boy fell through the ice into a backyard pond, but both died in the freezing, murky water.

Jay Paul Oberholtzer, 19, and Timothy Oberholtzer died at a hospital late Thursday after being removed from the pond.

Timothy Oberholtzer had ventured onto the ice with his 6-year-old brother, Jonathan, to see if it was safe to skate, state police said. Jonathan was not hurt.

Their father, 42-year-old Clinton Oberholtzer, went into the frigid water after Timothy and got stuck until 15-year-old David rescued him, police said.

"I saw my father in the water, and I got some cardboard tubes, which are about 8 feet long, and I put them on either side of him," David Oberholtzer told the

Reading Eagle. "My father was able to lift himself up."

Jay Oberholtzer then made his unsuccessful attempt to save Timothy.

"I was telling them to kick if they could hear me," David Oberholtzer said. "Dad told me to keep talking so they could hear and know which way to go to get out. But I didn't see any sign of movement in the water."

Scuba divers using infrared equipment located Timothy three hours after the accident, police said.

"The conditions down there — zero. There was no visibility down there," said police diver Mike Margavage, 52, who found the child.

The pond, 12 feet at its deepest, is in a township of about 4,000 residents about 35 miles north-east of Harrisburg.

The Pampa News staff wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

FROM THE WHOLE GANG!

Wishing you a season that's merry and bright, filled with laughter, love and much delight!
It's been a privilege and pleasure serving you this past year. Thanks, friends!

"We'll Be There"

"Do One Thing. Do It Well"

"The Power of 8. The Fusion of Design and Technology"

"Start Something"

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Holiday Greetings

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all through this joyous season.

Thanks to our many friends and neighbors for
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SPORTS

Shaq wins first title; U.S. nearly blew the gold

Notebook

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Katrissa O'Neal and Plenette Pierson each scored 20 points as No. 11 Texas Tech beat Southern California 85-59 on Friday night to improve to 8-1.

Texas Tech's missed shots and turnovers allowed USC (5-4) to pull within nine points at 60-51 with 9:21 left to play. But Tech held USC scoreless for three minutes and built a 22-point lead.

Southern Cal managed only eight points in the final six minutes.

Amber Tarr and Jia Perkins each had 15 points for Tech. Aisha Hollans led USC with 17 points. Denise Woods added 12.

USC hit 11-of-20 free throws while Tech shot 20-of-26. USC from the field, Tech shot 31-of-60 and had 22 turnovers. USC shot 22-of-57 and committed 30 turnovers.

FOOTBALL

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — When Green Bay Packers kicker Ryan Longwell was snubbed for the Pro Bowl in favor of Tampa Bay's Martin Gramatica, he didn't hide his displeasure.

"I think we rated ahead of him in a more difficult place to kick," Longwell said. "Like I've said many times, I don't think it's a mere coincidence that a Pro Bowl kicker and punter are from Florida and Arizona, the two best places to kick."

So, isn't Longwell relishing the thought of seeing the colorful Gramatica kick in the swirling winds, scattered snow and single digits Sunday at Lambeau Field when the Buccaneers (10-5) visit the Packers (8-7)?

Actually, no. "I think he'll do fine," Longwell said. "I think he's had a great year and will finish out the year strong. The ball just doesn't go as far. That's something he'll have to get used to. But I expect him to do very well."

Longwell might not be as flamboyant as Gramatica, but his numbers are a bit flashier.

Longwell, a fourth-year pro, has made 32 of 35 attempts this season (91.4 percent). Gramatica, a second-year pro, has made 26 of 31 (83.8 percent).

Longwell's 126 points are the most by a kicker in the NFC, six ahead of Gramatica.

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer

Shaquille O'Neal became "The Big Champion," then stayed stateside as the U.S. men's basketball team almost became "The Big Disaster" at the Sydney Games.

O'Neal loomed large in the world of professional basketball in 2000 — when he was around and when he wasn't.

After finishing just one vote shy of becoming the first unanimous MVP in NBA history, O'Neal finally got the championship that had been eluding him throughout his career.

It wasn't easy. The Lakers had to stage an improbable fourth-quarter comeback to get past Portland in Game 7 of the Western Conference finals. They then outlasted the pesky, Hack-a-Shaq-minded Indiana Pacers in six games in the NBA Finals.

When O'Neal's quest finally ended on a June night in Los Angeles, he ran to his family, hugged them and started spilling tears.

"I've waited eight years of my life for this to happen, and it

Basketball Review

finally happened," O'Neal said before disappearing for the rest of a summer that turned out to be a lot more exciting than people expected.

All it took was a U.S. Olympic team that could have used someone with O'Neal's 7-foot-1 body.

The team of NBA players nearly suffered one of the most humiliating defeats in the history of the sport. It happened in the semifinal round when a young team from Lithuania kept matching the Americans shot for shot and stop for stop.

For the final 15 minutes, no more than three points separated the two teams. All around Sydney, people dropped what they were doing and turned to the television to see whether a monumental upset was in the making.

Only after Sarunas Jasikevicius missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer did the U.S. team escape with a two-point victory.

"As a coach, this has been the most difficult thing I've done," Rudy Tomjanovich said. "I won two world championships, one

from the sixth seed, which no one else has ever done, and this was more difficult. The weight of the world is on you, everybody is expecting these teams to roll over for you, and that's just not the way it is."

The Americans might not have had such a difficult time if O'Neal or his Lakers teammate, Kobe Bryant, had agreed to play for the national team.

O'Neal, who won gold with the '96 team in Atlanta, said it was time for someone else to lead the Olympians, while Bryant also begged off, saying he needed to plan for his upcoming wedding.

Without them, no one stepped up to assume the leadership role, to do what Michael Jordan might have done — assert his will, fire up the team and refuse to allow any opponent even to believe it had a chance.

None of the 12 players on the U.S. roster had won an NBA or NCAA championship. Only two, Gary Payton and Allan Houston, had played in the league finals, and another, Vince Carter, was harshly criticized for his aggres-

sive antics Down Under.

It was quite a change from the adulation Carter received back in February when he turned All-Star weekend into three days of Vinsanity.

Carter won the slam-dunk contest with a phenomenal performance highlighted by his very first dunk, which included a 360-degree midair spin that increased the degree of difficulty by going to his right instead of his left.

When he made the dunk, he turned to the television cameras and mouthed the words, "It's over!"

Unfortunately for Carter, his brightest moment of the year was over, too.

Carter's team, the Toronto Raptors, was swept from the playoffs in the first round by the New York Knicks to set up yet another Eastern Conference death match between the Knicks and the Miami Heat.

Like the three previous Miami-New York series, this one lived up to its billing. It went down to the final seconds of Game 7, the Knicks winning with the help of a disputed call.

New York didn't have much left for the Pacers, who knocked

them out in six games and made it to the finals for Larry Bird's last games as a coach.

But with a lineup that didn't have the bulk to handle O'Neal or the late-game heroics to match Bryant, the Pacers couldn't keep the Lakers from winning the franchise's first title since the Showtime days of the '80s.

The 2000-01 season began with a downer when Alonzo Mourning, who had helped the U.S. team win gold in Sydney, announced that a rare kidney disorder would force him to miss the season.

His absence further weakened an Eastern Conference that was depleted of big-man talent by the offseason trades of longtime Knick Patrick Ewing to Seattle and Shawn Kemp and Dale Davis to Portland.

Almost two full months into the season, nobody is expecting whatever team comes out of the East to have much of a chance against the champion from the West.

Then again, a year ago there weren't many people predicting a championship for O'Neal and a near-disaster for the Olympic team.

Piersall listed among the best

Golf

PAMPA — If you're trying the golf game for the first time, or just trying to correct a bad slice, the man to see just might be Mickey Piersall.

Piersall, the head professional at Pampa Country Club, was selected as one of the top instructors in the state by *Golf Digest* magazine this year. Listed at No. 22 in the state, the Perryton native has been giving individual lessons and conducting golf schools and junior clinics the past 20 years at PCC.

"I give clinics where I might divide up into three classes: the full swing, putting and pitching. People can take just one class or all three," he said.

Before taking a look at a student's technique, Piersall will first take a good look at the student.

"It's different with everybody," Piersall pointed out. "I try and find out what their expectations are. Are they going to put in a lot of practice is one thing. If a golfer is just playing bad and he wants to get back to where he was is another thing."

Studying the ball's flight is one of the first items on Piersall's teaching agenda.

Golf Ranch in McKinney was selected as the No. 1 instructor.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Instead of the bringing together the best in the world, the field for the Match Play Championship in Australia looks more like the rest of the world.

Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, David Duval, Davis Love III and defending champion Darren Clarke were among 38 top players who shunned a trip around the world during the holidays, leaving the weakest field of any World Golf Championship since it began two years ago.

The \$5 million tournament was designed for the top 64 in the world ranking, but only four of the top 10 are playing.

Ernie Els, No. 2 in the world, will be the top seed when play begins Jan. 3 at Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne. His first-round opponent will be Kevin Sutherland, who has never won on the PGA Tour or even finished in the top 50 on the money list.

Hal Sutton (No. 8), Masters champion Vijay Singh (No. 9) and Tom Lehman (No. 10) will be top seeds in their brackets.



(Pampa News photo)

PCC Club Pro Mickey Piersall (left) gives a trophy to former Pampa High golf coach Frank McCullough at this year's Top O' Texas Tournament.

Basketball Summaries

Boys

Booker 66, Lefors 40
B-Rogers 29, Babbitzke 7; L-Keiser 20, Hathaway 18.

Girls

Booker 42, Lefors 21
B-Lane 12, Simpson 6; L-Woodward 8, Barnes 4.

Boys

Wheeler 56, Hedley 33
W-Frame 15, Ledbetter 14; H-Holland 12, Collins 11.

Girls

Hedley 43, Wheeler 33
H-Hill 20, Howard 12; W-McWhorter 12, Finsterwald 10.

Second-ranked Tennessee turns back Lady Raiders, 67-59

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When a team can't shoot on its home floor, there's little hope of knocking off an opponent like Tennessee.

No. 15 Texas shot a miserable 28 percent (22-of-80) from the floor and broke down defensively with late foul trouble as No. 2 Tennessee pulled away for a 67-59 victory Friday night.

Tennessee (10-0) has a 13-game winning streak against Texas (11-2) dating to 1989.

"This has to be one of the best Texas teams we have gone up against in recent years," said Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, whose 738 career wins are second only to Texas' Jody Conradt (757). "We were especially worried about Tracy Cook, but she had an off night."

Cook, Texas' leading scorer this season, had a miserable night. She grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds but finished with just three points and was 0-of-15 from the floor.

"We're not a great shooting team," Conradt said. "Tonight we weren't even a good shooting team. But I know we can make some of the shots that we missed."

And when foul trouble

forced Texas (11-2) to match up Cook against the Volunteers' swift Tamika Catchings, it was no contest.

Catchings had 19 points and 18 rebounds to lead Tennessee (10-0). She scored 11 of Tennessee's final 17 points. Gwen Jackson added 18 points for the Vols.

The stat sheet suggested a blowout. Besides the Longhorns' poor shooting, the Vols outrebounded Texas 59-45.

But Tennessee struggled to find any kind of rhythm. Twelve first-half turnovers led to 12 Texas points and Tennessee trailed 31-29 at halftime.

"After the halftime talk, and a little excitement in the lockerroom, I think we came out in the second half and brought more intensity to the game," Catchings said.

"I didn't talk, I screamed,"

Summitt said. "I thought Texas was much more physical and quicker to the ball," in the first half.

Texas freshman forward Stacy Stephens scored 13 points and generally kept Tennessee's more athletic lineup from dominating near the basket — when she was in the game.

Stephens picked up her third foul with the Longhorns leading 33-30 in the second half. She went to the bench and Tennessee immediately exploited the Longhorns' softer interior for an 8-2 run.

Jackson and Ashley Robinson combined for six points on layups in the run that put Tennessee ahead 38-35 with 16:11 left to play.

After Catchings' jumper made it 52-48, Stephens gave Texas a boost with a putback layup and free throw that brought the crowd of 10,858

to its feet.

But she fouled out two minutes later, leaving the less physical Cook to try to defend Catchings near the basket. Catchings burned her badly for easy buckets three times down the stretch.

"You knew Catchings was going to make a play or two. She's not an All-American for nothing," Conradt said. "They know how to make plays and they know how to close out — close games. Somehow we've got to finish it."

Flashback

1977: Sherry Kimbell of Pampa set a new meet record in the high jump (5-1) at the Top O' Texas Girls Invitational. The only other Pampa winner was half-miler Sue Smith.

The Lady Harvesters were third in the team standings.

The Pampa News Will Be Closed Christmas Day And No Papers Will Be Published

We Will Reopen & Resume Publishing December 26th

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Holmes Sports team



(Special photo)

Holmes Sports won a share of the Fall Amarillo YMCA 12 and under Pee Wee Reese Division with the Amarillo Braves. Both teams finished with a 9-3 record. Team members are (front row, from left) Shane Davis, Colden Fortenberry, Jake Diggs, Cory Anderson, Jarron Clark and Tim Watson; (middle row, from left) Brady Eakin, Robbie Dixon, Tyson Hickman, Blake Nusser, Brett Ferrell and Jonathan Carr; (back row, from left) Coaches Ed Ferrell, Robert Dixon and Rodney Fortenberry.

La Grange beats Forney in finals

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tye Gunn rushed for 119 yards and two touchdowns, leading La Grange to a 20-17 win over Forney in the Class 3A Division II state title game Friday night at Texas Stadium.

Gunn's 1-yard score with 2:23 to play capped a 94-yard scoring drive and gave the Leopards the lead for good. The senior quarterback, who also passed for 108 yards, registered 74 yards on the scoring drive.

Forney then drove to the Leopards' 16-yard line after C.J. Tomlinson's 42-yard pass to T.J. Gilmer. But running back DaBryan Blanton fumbled on the next play. The ball was recovered by La Grange's Seth Anderie with 1:42 remaining.

After Gunn ran for a first down, the Leopards ran out the clock to claim the victory.

The Jackrabbits fell behind 14-0 late in the second half, but scored 17 unanswered points, including 10 in the third quarter. Blanton, who picked up 234 total yards, kept Forney in the game. His 2-yard touchdown with 11:05 remaining in the game gave the Jackrabbits their first lead at 17-14.

Forney got the ball back on the next series when cornerback Matt Adams intercepted Gunn's pass at the Jackrabbits' 30-yard line. Although they failed to pick up a first down, Pete Cuva booted a 64-yard punt to pin the La Grange down to its 6-yard line before the game-winning drive.

The Leopards' out-gained Forney 308-291. The first half had

the showing of a defensive battle. Both teams failed to score on their first two possessions, ending the first quarter in a scoreless tie.

But once La Grange got the ball in the second half, Gunn led the way on a 14-play, 80-yard drive, ending with Gunn's first score of the game, a 1-yard run around the right end. Late in the first half, the Leopards appeared to take total control after fullback Kevin Kelina broke three tackles at the line of scrimmage and rambled for a 61-yard touchdown with just 54 seconds remaining.

But Forney had an answer and needed just one play to give it. Tomlinson fired a bomb down the middle of the field, which landed perfectly in Blanton's hands for a 76-yard touchdown to cut the Leopards' lead in half.

Moon ends remarkable career

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — After passing for more than 70,000 yards, Warren Moon is ending his remarkable 23-year career.

Moon, 44, never played on a Super Bowl team — his biggest disappointment in an odyssey that spanned two countries and five franchises.

Moon's playing career will end Sunday, perhaps without him even getting into the game. The man known for his quick release and beautiful tight spirals will be the third-string quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs against the Falcons at Atlanta.

"At every stage, people had doubts about whether I could play, and I've had to prove them wrong," he said. "I wasn't even invited to the (NFL scouting) combine (and) no one gave me an individual workout to see if I had the arm strength or whatever it was they said I was lacking. So I took the best opportunity I had in the CFL."

"I'm disappointed I never got to play in the Super Bowl. But I have no regrets about anything in my career. I think I've handled things well."

He's hardly played the past two years after signing to be Elvis Grbac's backup. But the record book will show that in the history of the NFL, only Dan Marino (61,361) and John Elway (51,475) have thrown for more yards than Moon's 49,325. His 291 NFL touchdowns rank fourth behind Marino, Elway and Fran Tarkenton.

Add his six years in the CFL, where he led Edmonton to five league championships, and Moon is the most productive passer in professional football

history with 435 touchdowns and more than 70,000 yards.

"I've been thinking about it all week," he said of his final game. "I think as I walk off the field Sunday is when it will hit me."

An articulate speaker, Moon likely will have opportunities in television and radio. He might also become an investor in an NFL franchise.

He could become associated with the new team in Houston, where he went in 1984, accompanied by his CFL coach Hugh Campbell, to the NFL.

The Oilers lost their first 10 games that year and Moon took a lot of the blame. He then became one of Houston's most popular players after the Oilers reached the playoffs seven straight years beginning in 1987.

From there he went to Minnesota for three years, then came two years in Seattle before his final two years with the Chiefs.

When the time comes to bring the grandkids around the fire and talk about the old days, grandpa will have much to say.

On a cold, overcast day in Kansas City in 1990, he experienced one of the greatest NFL games, throwing for 527 yards in Houston's 23-7 victory over the Chiefs, coming within 27 yards of the league record Bob Waterfield set in 1951.

"It was just one of those rare days when everything you do is right," Moon said. "I seemed to put the ball in the perfect spot with every throw."

"But," he added with a grin, "that was many moons ago."

Two years later, he endured a terribly disappointing loss. The Oilers were beating

Buffalo 35-3 in a wild card playoff game, but the Bills rallied and won 41-38 in the biggest comeback in NFL history.

"It was unbelievable," Moon said.

His greatest thrill? A tie, between leading Washington to a Rose Bowl victory over Michigan and quarterbacking the Oilers to their first playoff win.

Favorite receiver? Cris Carter.

Toughest cornerback? Another tie, between Mike Haynes and Charles Woodson.

Last man he'd want to be sacked by again? Lawrence Taylor.

Biggest Regret? None.

About a half-dozen young black quarterbacks in the league have a chance of being in the Super Bowl next month — and many have sought out Moon to thank him for showing the way.

Tampa Bay took Doug Williams of Grambling in the first round of the NFL draft in 1978, the year Moon graduated from Washington. Much skepticism remained, especially regarding black quarterbacks who scrambled and threw on the run, like Moon.

"I think I had a hand in the change," said Moon, who spent the first six years of his pro career in Canada.

"I only feel that way because those guys have told me that. It's good to know I can take a little credit for that. You're seeing the emergence of the black quarterback today because teams want a more athletic guy who can move around against zone blitzes and the speed of defensive guys."

Scoreboard

SOCCER		FOOTBALL	
Pampa High Soccer Schedules		National Football League	
Boys		At A Glance	
Jan.		By The Associated Press	
3-Alumni scrimmage, 4:15 home; 4-Wichita Falls Shootout; 9-Amarillo High, 4:15 home; 11-Ector County Tournament; 16-Lubbock High, 6:15 away; 23-Tascosa, 6:15 away; 27-Lubbock Coronado, 2 home; 30-Lubbock Monterey, 6:15 away.		All Times EST	
Feb.		AMERICAN CONFERENCE	
3-Randall, 12 away; 6-Caprock, 4:15 home; 10-Canyon, 2 away; 13-Borger, away; 17-Palo Duro, 12 home; 24-Randall, 12 home; 27-Caprock, 6:15 away.		East	
March		West	
3-Canyon, 12 home; 6-Borger, 4:15 home; 10-Palo Duro, 6:15 away.		Central	
Girls		South	
Jan.		West	
9-Amarillo High, 4:15 home; 11-Midland Tournament; 16-Lubbock High, 4:15 away; 18-San Angelo Tournament; 23-Tascosa, 4:15 away; 25-Lubbock Coronado, 12 home; 30-Lubbock Monterey, 4:15 away.		East	
Feb.		Central	
3-Randall, 12 away; 6-Caprock, 4:15 home; 10-Canyon, 2 away; 13-Borger, 4:15 away; 17-Palo Duro, 12 home; 24-Randall, 12 home; 27-Caprock, 4:15 away.		South	
March		North	
3-Canyon, 12 home; 6-Borger, 4:15 home; 9-Palo Duro, 4:15 away.		East	
x-Minnesota	W L T Pct PF PA	11 4 0 .733 387 340	
x-Tampa Bay	10 5 0 .667 374 252		
Detroit	9 6 0 .600 287 284		
Green Bay	8 7 0 .533 336 309		
Chicago	4 11 0 .267 193 335		
y-New Orleans	10 5 0 .667 333 278		
St. Louis	9 6 0 .600 514 450		
Carolina	7 8 0 .467 301 258		
San Francisco	6 9 0 .400 379 384		
Atlanta	3 12 0 .200 223 400		
x-cinched playoff spot			
y-cinched division			
Saturday's Games			
Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants, 12:30 p.m.			
San Francisco at Denver, 4:15 p.m.			
Buffalo at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.			
Sunday's Games			
Kansas City at Atlanta, 1 p.m.			
Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.			
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.			
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore, 1 p.m.			
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.			
St. Louis at New Orleans, 1 p.m.			
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 1 p.m.			
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.			
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.			
Monday's Game			
Minnesota at Houston, 4:15 p.m.			
Carolina at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.			
Open: Cleveland			
Monday's Game			
Dallas at Tennessee, 9 p.m.			
End Regular Season			

Tickets miscounted for Tech's bowl game

HOUSTON (AP) — Ticket sales for the first Gallery Furniture.com Bowl, set for next week at the Astrodome, didn't get off to as good a start as first believed.

Bowl president Jerry Ippoliti announced Dec. 7 that 28,000 tickets had been sold. A recount showed only 4,200 tickets were purchased.

"I'm sorry that we made a mistake or that Jerry made the mistake in the ticket count," said Jim McIngvale, whose Houston furniture company is sponsor of the game.

"But I think if we hustle and promote in the next (few days) we can still have a great attendance between 30,000 and 40,000, get off to a good start and make sure everybody has a good time."

On Friday, game officials had no new ticket sales estimate.

The game will match Texas Tech (7-5) against East Carolina (7-4). Each team was allotted 9,000 tickets but East

Carolina asked for and received 11,000.

Tech officials said they expect to sell about 10,000 tickets.

"I was a little bit upset

about it (miscount)," McIngvale said. "I asked Jerry where he came up with that rather outlandish figure. He said he'd gotten it from the ticket people, that he'd gotten some bad information."

HOPE IT'S A Hit!! Wishing you a Christmas that's a perfect "10."

This past year has been great fun, thanks to you!

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Spurs win 10th game in a row

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After a slow start this season, the San Antonio Spurs have started to hit their stride.

Tim Duncan registered his NBA-leading 21st double-double Friday night with 18 points and 13 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Warriors 105-87 for their 10th straight victory over Golden State.

San Antonio, which won its fourth straight game, placed four players in double figures as David Robinson added 15 points, Antonio Daniels 13 and Derek Anderson 12.

"Winning four straight is great for us, especially since we're going out on the road where we really haven't played all that well," said Duncan, who shot 8-of-13 from the floor. "We feel real confident right now that we are playing good."

The Spurs moved from sixth to fourth place in the Western Conference with the win.

Golden State, which has lost six of its last seven, was paced by Antawn Jamison with 23 points. Rookie Marc Jackson added 14.

After leading 54-42 at halftime, San Antonio opened the third quarter with an 8-2 run and led 62-46 on a dunk by Duncan with 5:40 to play in the period.

The Warriors trailed 71-59 at the end of the third quarter as Jamison kept Golden State in tie game with eight of his team's 17 points in the period.

ENJOY THE SEASON

Although the weather's getting colder, we're warmed by thoughts of the many good friends we've made this year.

With gratitude and warm wishes for a fun-filled holiday season

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Dunlaps.....10:00 - 5:00 PM
Joy's Unlimited.....1:00 - 4:00 PM
Rheams Diamond Shop. Noon - 4:00 PM
Tarpley Music.....Noon - 4:00 PM

Letters to the editor

Tribute to Stribling a class act

To the editor,
It was a wonderful thing the City of Pampa did recently, to

support a very fine man, Wayne Stribling. I was glad to be a part of it. More importantly, I was glad to see it.

It was nice to see a lot of people who cared and wanted to help out in some small way. It was

nice to see a great town like Pampa take care of its own. It was a class act to watch all of the people involved give so much joy for one night to one person and all of his family.

The Rodeo Association, the Pampa Chamber of Commerce and Wayne's church family did an outstanding job to make this event possible. It meant a lot to some very special people.

Lastly, I'm thankful to the photographer of the Pampa News who gave me a wonderful gift — a last photo with me and my best friend, Wayne Stribling.

Talley O. Timmons
Pampa

Meredith House



(Special photo)

Becky Jackson, cook at Meredith House, serves special treats to Pauline Adams, Mary Graham, Margaret Dial and Jennie Hinkley.

Downtown lights sight to behold!

To the editor,
Recently as we drove into Pampa from White Deer to enjoy the wonderful performance of "That Night," we were amazed and thrilled when we turned off of Hwy 60 on Cuyler Street. What beauty to behold!

Our hats are off to those responsible for the outstanding job they did with downtown Cuyler Street ... made us have happy hearts filled with a sense of pride. I just got back from Houston and Pampa is just as pretty only on a smaller scale! Ya'll "did good"!

Joe and Sara Wheeley
White Deer

Display for pay: Many homeowners hire pros to deck their halls

By Paula Caballero
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

COLLEYVILLE — White holiday lights are the fashion in Colleyville, Jan Hinckley says. But her family has bucked convention for the sake of the children, who asked three years ago for colored lights.

The lights outline the Hinckleys' house and driveway, elegant enough for the adults but sparkly and magical enough for the children. The front door and interior are adorned with fresh flowers and greenery, the sharp evergreen smell a reminder that 'tis the season.

But decorating for the holidays does not come cheap. The Hinckleys' house, like many in Northeast Tarrant County, is professionally decorated. Convenience and safety top the list of reasons why residents are willing to pay someone from \$70 to \$10,000 to turn their houses into illuminated wonderlands.

"Some people probably think it's crazy. Some people probably think that it's frivolous and unnecessary," said Hinckley, who declined to reveal the price tag for decorating her 5,000-square-foot house.

"I just happen to think it's important. I love the smell of fresh greenery. And in Texas, you don't know whether it's going to be warm or cold at Christmas. Anything we can have around us to make us feel like it's Christmastime — even if it's 70 degrees outside — it adds to our Christmas spirit."

Those who hire professionals are plentiful enough to keep many holiday decorators in business. Some residents want only roof lights, while others want lights on trees and bushes, too. Some get their doors or windows decorated, and others also want interior decorations.

Most area decorating services are specialized. C.C.'s Touch of Nature in Fort Worth offers fresh greenery in garlands, swags and wreaths for interiors and exteriors. Employees will place lights in the greenery but will not hang lights on the roof — that is someone else's job.

"It's really like building a house, because you have separate crews come in," designer Mary K. Griffith said.

In most cases, homeowners provide the lights, but they often hire someone to hang them because they find it easier and faster, decorators said. Most of the hired hands do it as part-time, seasonal work.

Shane Skarke, a Fort Worth firefighter who lives in Watauga, started his decorating business this year and is managing three crews of firefighters hanging lights. They charge \$70 per hour, and work is plentiful. One of Skarke's crews recently spent eight hours decorating an 8,000-square-foot house in Southlake, but he said that most of their jobs do not involve large, fancy houses.

"We do a lot of work for senior citizens who may just have a little-bitty house but can't go out and do it anymore use some of the skills they have learned at the Fire Department to scale steep roofs.

"With the newer homes, the roofs are entirely too high, too steep and too dangerous," he said. "You

have to have a ladder tall enough to get up there, and it's dangerous to stand on the top rung and be reaching and stretching, hanging lights."

Vince Cook of Richland Hills says he thinks most people are afraid of heights. He is not. He is in construction. He hangs lights after work.

"I get up on roofs most people wouldn't dream about walking on, and I walk on 'em," said Cook, who has been hanging lights professionally for more than five years. "I hang over edges of houses all the time. It's a lot of fun."

Cook says he enjoys hanging lights and sees it as a challenge. He also likes the creativity of the work, and has his own special "ray effect," in which strings of lights fan out from the edge of a house.

He recommends the use of plastic clips to attach lights to roofs. Every year, he says, he gets new clients whose lights are unsafe because the cords were damaged by staples.

Lights that resemble icicles have been the most popular in recent years, Cook and Skarke said. Cook says he likes net lights too, which can be draped over bushes or tree trunks.

"If you've got a tree and you wrap a net light around the trunk, it's a miracle. Oh man, it's easy," he said. "Try running a couple 150-light strings around a tree trunk. You get kind of dizzy."

Cook said his biggest decorating job a few years ago paid \$3,500. The cost was for labor only, and the job took four days to complete. Griffith said she once had a \$10,000 house-decorating job that included decorating all the rooms and the exterior with fresh greenery. Most jobs, she said, bring in \$150 to \$800.

Cook said that children's reactions to the Christmas lights and decorations make his work worthwhile.

"The biggest, bestest part of the whole thing is if I do lights for a family that has little kids, and I get done just as it's getting dark, before they go to bed," he said. "They come outside and Mommy and Daddy show them the lights, and the kids get a big ol' smile. That's the best part."

Some people still do their own decorating, including Colleyville Mayor Donna Arp, a neighbor of the Hinckleys.

"Goodness no, I'm too cheap," Arp said of hiring someone. "My husband does it on a ladder. I'm a farm girl. I'm used to doing my own decoration."

For the first time, the Hinckleys chose this year to perform one part of the decorating themselves. The children, ages 10 and 12, wanted to decorate the tree, so the family bought their first live tree and let the kids have at it.

Jan Hinckley, an admitted perfectionist, said she thought she might have a difficult time letting go of her vision of the flawless, professionally designed artificial tree of years past.

But she said she liked the kids' funky design.

"There are lights on the bottom three-quarters of the tree," she said, "and the ornaments are all on the lower part of the tree, but that's OK."

Distributed by The Associated Press

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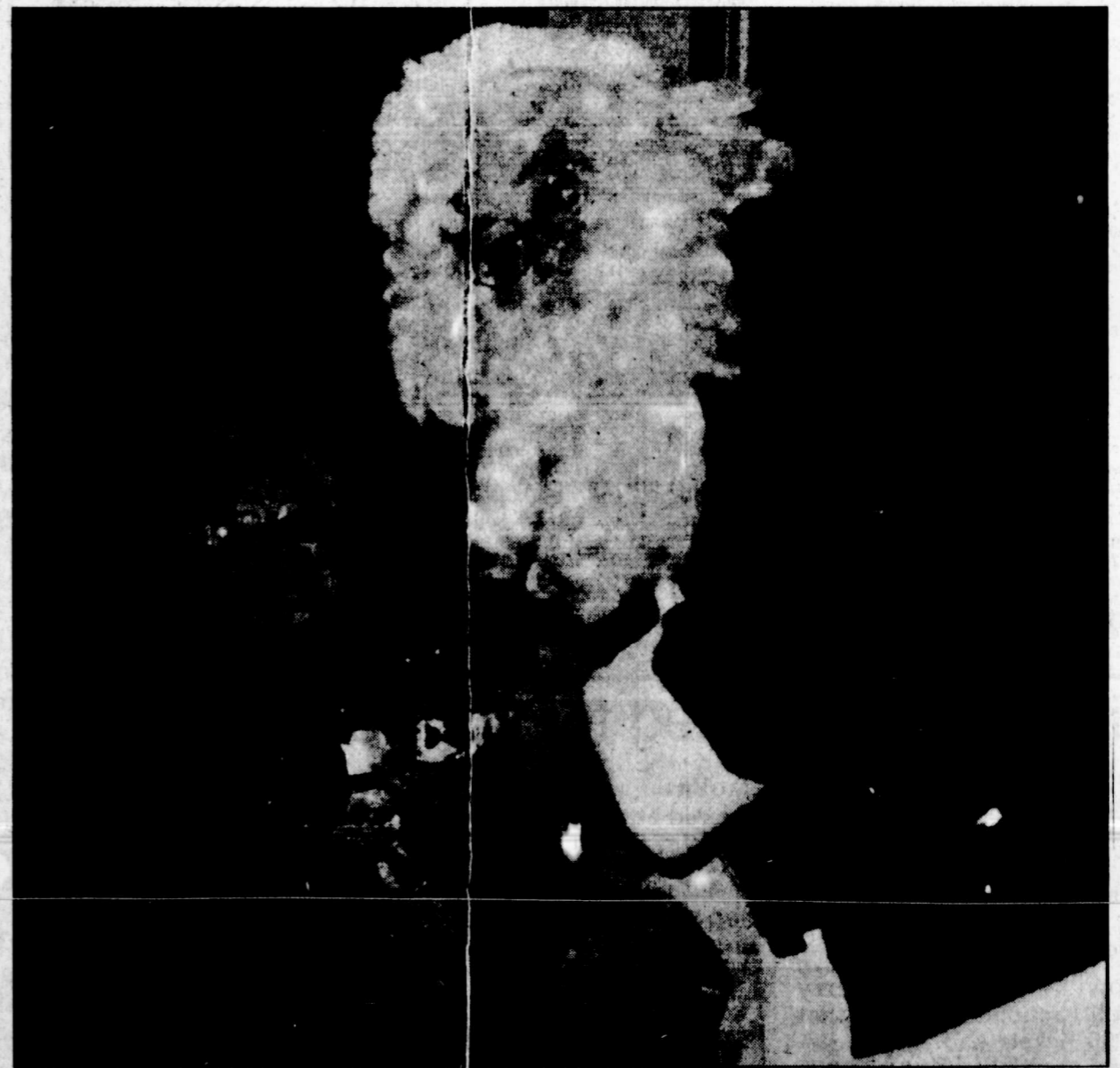
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Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!



(Special photo)

Pauline Adams, Meredith house resident, gets a special visit from Santa.

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- * Enough friends to give you comfort
- * Enough wealth to meet your needs
- * Enough enthusiasm to look forward
- * Enough faith to banish depression
- * Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday

This message was a favorite of founder H.D. "Jack" Snell Jr., and sharing it with you has been a United Christmas tradition since 1976.

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AGRICULTURE

Cold, rain putting a damper on Texas wheat crops

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Although much of the state's wheat crop is doing well, a large part of it is suffering because of cold weather and rain, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reports. District Extension Director Dr. Bob Robinson of Amarillo said a recent arctic cold front dropped temperatures to their lowest levels of the season.

"We had single digit temperatures and some snow," he said. "The smaller wheat likely suffered some freeze damage from the cold weather."

Robinson said although some of the district's wheat stands are not doing well, others are withstanding the weather.

"Not all of our crop was hit hard," he said, "and the irrigated stands are beneficial because they are providing excellent grazing."

Extension agronomist Dr. Travis Miller said the state's crop is a mixed bag ranging from poor to good and there are two main reasons some stands are doing poorly.

"We had late planting dates this year," he said. "Wheat is usually planted during September and October, but the rain kept the ground very wet, so producers had to wait to plant."

Miller said soil has been so wet from Central Texas to the Oklahoma border that much of the crop still hasn't been planted.

"Counties in that area are reporting that they only have 20 to 50 percent of the crop planted," he said. "Now it is getting too late for those producers to really successfully plant."

Miller said this year's cold winter is also a factor in why there is a reduced growth rate in wheat.

"The last several years we've had mild winter weather," he said. "We've had cold weather so far this year and it has reduced growth. The wheat is growing, but not up."

Miller said although the growth rate is being affected by adverse

conditions, he doesn't think it will be reflective in poor yield conditions as far as grain is concerned.

"Wheat is quite tolerant of cold weather," he said. "It has the ability to go dormant when it gets extremely cold."

Miller said when soil and air temperatures drop below 40 degrees, wheat usually goes dormant.

"The tops of the wheat might look frosted, but the plant is still alive," he said. "It is possible to have winter kill, but that usually only happens when temperatures drop below zero and there is no snow cover."

Miller said there may be some stand loss in the state, but probably only to young stands that haven't been established.

The harvest isn't expected to be affected much due to the weather, Miller said.

"It's a little too early to tell," he said. "Last season harvest began about two weeks early because of mild weather. It may be a little later this year, but probably no more than a week or two."

According to the Texas Agricultural Statistics service, 6.2 million acres of wheat were planted in Texas in 1999, but only 3.4 million acres were harvested due to drought and lack of moisture. Yields were approximately 36 bushels per acre with a total value production of more than \$287 million.

District Extension Director Galen Chandler said the wheat crop has received more moisture but growth has slowed extremely due to cold temperatures.

"Many acres were sown before the freezing rain occurred and farmers are optimistic about spring growth," he said.

Chandler said the cotton harvest has stopped again due to wet field conditions.

"The harvest is 90 to 95 percent complete," he said. "There may be a few fields stripped after the first of the year."

District Extension Director Terry Lockamy of Welasco said cold weather has halted and minimized work in the fields.

"We've also had to increase supplemental feeding in livestock due to low temperatures," he said.

Lockamy said pasture and range conditions remain fair to poor and harvest is continuing on peppers, greens and onions.

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors:

PANHANDLE: soil moisture is short to adequate. Temperatures are lowest of season due to cold front. Some land preparations under way

for spring planting. Wheat is very poor to good; smaller wheat suffered freeze damage. Cattle stressed from extreme cold.

SOUTH PLAINS: soil moisture is adequate. Pasture and ranges in fair to good condition. Harvest of cotton, grain, sorghum and peanuts nearing completion; yields and quality are low due to dry growing conditions and wet fall. Wheat in fair condition.

ROLLING PLAINS: soil moisture is adequate. Ice and light snow created more moisture than usual. Cotton harvest halted due to wet conditions. Wheat growth slowed due to cold temperatures. Pecan quality fair; yield is 1/4 of last year's crop.

NORTH TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Ice storm limited grazing; supplemental feeding in full swing; some producers hauling water. Cattle doing well. Ice storm damaged trees which were weakened from drought. Moisture halted wheat planting.

EAST TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Excess rainfall creating muddy conditions for grazing and feeding. Cold temperatures stressing poultry and cattle. Cattle prices holding steady. Much ice damage to trees in northern counties.

FAR WEST TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate. Wheat need additional moisture; winter wheat doing well. Rainfall has not increased pasture growth enough to bring in replacement cattle. Some icy rain; more moisture needed to avoid drought conditions.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture is short to adequate. Arctic front brought temperatures below freezing. Cotton harvest continued and almost complete. Oat planting continues. Wheat fields dried enough to finish planting. Sorghum harvest complete with low yields.

CENTRAL TEXAS: No information available

SOUTHEAST TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Ice storm caused damage in some areas. Permanent pasture dormant; ryegrass looking good. Oat acreage looking good with recent rains. Soil samples being taken and equipment being repaired.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate. Forage availability above average. Harvesting of cabbage, southern greens, spinach and carrots continue with excellent yields and prices. No major disease problems. Onion planting delayed by rain.

COASTAL BEND: No information available

SOUTH TEXAS: soil moisture is short. Cold weather has halted field work. Pasture and range conditions fair to poor. Supplemental feeding of livestock increased due to low temperatures. Harvest of peppers, greens and cabbage continues. Onions doing well.

Texas cattle on feed - 2.97 million head

AUSTIN — Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.97 million head on Dec. 1, down slightly from a year ago.

According to the monthly report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the estimate was down 2 percent from the Nov. 1 level. Producers placed 440,000 head in commercial feedlots during November, down 16 percent from a year ago and down 34 percent from the October, 2000, total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 480,000 head during

November, up 4 percent from a year ago. Monthly marketings were down 9 percent from the October, 2000, total.

On Dec. 1, there were 2.41 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 81 percent of the state's total. The number on feed across the area was up 2 percent from last year and down 2 percent from the November total.

November placements in the Northern High Plains totaled 363,000 head, down 33 percent from the October total. Marketings were down 10 percent from last month to 389,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 11.9 million head on Dec. 1, 2000. This inventory was 2 percent above Dec. 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.01 million head, 7 percent below November 1999. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 757,000 million head; 600-699 pounds totaled 559,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 405,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 293,000 head. Marketings of fed

cattle during November, totaled 1.83 million 1 percent above November 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

Feeders in the historical seven monthly states with feedlots having a capacity of 1,000 head or more reported 10.2 million head on feed on Dec. 1, up 2 percent from last year and 9 percent above Dec. 1, 1998.

November placements totaled 1.68 million head, 8 percent below 1999 and 3 percent below 1998. Marketings during November, at 1.57 million head, were 2 percent above 1999 and 8 percent above 1998.

State milk production down

AUSTIN — Texas milk production totaled 423 million pounds during November, down 5.8 percent from last year. Revised production for October 2000 totaled 440 million pounds.

The number of milk cows during November averaged 345,000 head, down 3,000 head from last year and unchanged from October 2000. Production per cow averaged 1,225 pounds during November, down 5 percent from last year and down 4 percent from the 1,275 pounds during October 2000.

Milk production in the 20 states participating in

the monthly survey totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from production in these same states in November 1999. October revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from October 1999.

Production per cow during November averaged 1,463 pounds, 4 pounds above a year ago. The average number of milk cows in the 20 states was 7.85 million head, 95,000 head more than last year and 1,000 head more than in October 2000.


Glickman declares Texas an agriculture disaster

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has declared the entire State of Texas an agriculture disaster area, making producers eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of losses caused by drought, excessive heat and other disasters that occurred during 2000.

"The excessive heat and drought have made a devastating year for farmers in Texas and all over

the south," said Glickman.

This designation makes all qualified family-sized farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the dates of this declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses.




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To our friends and customers:

Each year during the holiday season, we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and sending a heartfelt message to all our best friends and customers.

How joyful we are that this time has come again to extend to you sincere gratitude because it is good friends and customers like you that make our business possible.

May your holiday be filled with joy and the coming year be overflowing with all the good things in life.

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Pampa Jan. 10 a cuss "E Visitors

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Calendar of events

T.O.P.S. #149

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #149 meets at 6 p.m. Monday at 513 E. Francis. Call 669-2389 for more information.

T.O.P.S. #41

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #41 meets at noon Monday at 511 N. Hobart. For more information, call 665-3024.

AL-ANON

Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky.

VFW CHARITY BINGO

The Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, will be having Charity Bingo every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. The public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at 822 E. Foster. Anyone wishing to help with the project is invited to attend any work session.

PAMPA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Marie Jamieson at 669-2945.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING

First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

PHS SCHOLARSHIPS

Pampa High School is seeking clubs, organizations, individuals or groups interested in establishing scholarships for high school seniors. The scholarships can be for any amount. The high school will make the scholarships available to senior students at the end of February. For more information, contact Starla Kindle or Billie Lowrey at 669-4800.

GRAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Gray County Genealogical Society will not meet in the month of December. The January meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at Lovett Memorial Library and will feature a hands-on orientation to the Internet.

PAMPA BOOK CLUB

Pampa Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Lovett Memorial Library. The group will discuss "East of the Mountain" by David Guterson. Visitors are welcome.

SANTA HELPERS

In an effort to raise funds for its Summer Educational Student Exchange trip to Germany, the German Club at Pampa High is organizing a volunteer program

during the Christmas season. The volunteers are calling themselves "Santa's Little Helpers" and are available to help wrap presents, decorate homes (indoors and outdoors), remove decorations and much more. For more information or to schedule "Santa's Little Helpers," contact Jamie Greene, PHS German Club sponsor, at 669-4800 (PHS) or at 665-8850 (home). Donations are accepted.

FIRST ASSEMBLY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

First Assembly of God Church, 500 S. Cuyler, will present its annual "Home for Christmas" program at 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 24 in the sanctuary of the church. Pastor Mike Moss will share the Christmas story, Christmas carols will be sung by candlelight and refreshments will be served. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Moss at 665-5941 or 665-6060.

3D PROGRAM

Free weekly classes for the Christ-centered 3D program featuring the three Ds — Diet, Discipline and Discipleship — will begin soon. The program will tailor an eating plan to suit the individual tastes and lifestyles of each participant. For more information, contact Judith Loyd, 665-6127; Jamee McCarty, 669-7869; or Frankie Hildenbrand, 669-3713.

TRAIN SHOW

Amarillo Model Railroad Association will hold its annual Magic of Christmas Past Train Show beginning Nov. 24 in Western Plaza. Show hours are, 12 noon-8 p.m., Nov. 24-26 and Dec. 25-31 as well as 5-8 p.m., every Friday in December. The association will raffle off a 4' x 8' HO-scale model railroad at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50-cents for children. Raffle tickets are \$1 a chance or six for \$5.

ADOPT-A-SEA TURTLE

Adopt a sea turtle for some one you love this holiday season. For a tax-deductible \$25, the Sea Turtle Survival League, an educational, outreach program of the nonprofit Caribbean Conservation Corp., will send participants a personalized color sea turtle adoption certificate, a sea turtle fact sheet, colorful decal and magnet and a subscription to the organization's quarterly newsletter, all in a special folder. For more information, call 1-800-678-7853 or visit www.ccturtle.org on the Internet.

DISCOVERY CENTER

The Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo is introducing the exhibit "Air Discovery: Soar to New Heights" this month. For more information, call the center at (806) 355-9547.

AYUSA

Academic Year in the U.S.A. International, a non-profit student exchange program, invites high school students to apply for the Congress-Bundestag scholarship, a full scholarship for one year to study in Germany. Deadline for application is Dec. 1. For more information, call 1-800-727-4540, ext. 567 or visit www.ayusa.org/usagermanyscholarship on the World Wide Web.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Wesley United Methodist Church will host its 20th Annual Festival of Arts and Crafts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 2 in the Community Center in Hereford. A limited number of booths are currently available for a \$10 rental fee. Applications may be obtained by writing:

Ellen Collins, 801 Miles St., Hereford, TX 79045 or by calling (806) 364-0774.

MS. TEXAS SENIOR PAGEANT

Ms. Texas Senior Pageant officials are currently seeking participants and corporate sponsorships for the 14th annual Ms. Texas Senior pageant scheduled March 23-24 at the Ramada Market Center in Dallas. For more information, contact Nell Coleman, state director, at (972) 239-3342, or Red Walker, executive director, (972) 270-5944.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The local Alzheimer's Support Group will conduct a four-part series this fall. The series will kick-off Sept. 7 with Dr. Bruce Harrow presenting an overview of the disease. Topics will include Communication and Activities of Daily Living, Oct. 5; and Community Resources and Caregiving Planning, Nov. 2. The series will conclude Dec. 7 with a panel discussion. The group meets regularly at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson, 665-0356.

TEXAS VACATION PACKAGES

The Musical Drama "TEXAS" is continuing its fall, winter and spring vacation packages showcasing area attractions such as Amarillo Rattlers, Amarillo Opera, Amarillo Symphony, Lone Star Ballet, American Quarter Horse Association and much more. The packages include hotel/motel accommodations, dining in the best western tradition and one-stop shopping. For more information, call 1-800-655-2181 or visit www.texasmusicaldrama.com on the Internet.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, is currently accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Proceeds will benefit Heifer Project International, an Arkansas-based service organization which provides livestock (chickens, pigs, sheep, cattle) along with training and support services to families and communities worldwide. For a limited time, donations will be matched 3-1 by a private foundation. HPI is a non-denominational not-for-profit agency. For more information, call the church office at 665-1031. Office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Friday and before 10:45 a.m. Sunday. For more information about HPI, call 1-800-422-0474 or visit <http://www.heifer.org> on the Internet.

UM ART CONTEST

The University of Mobile, Ala., is calling for entries in its 10th annual Art With a Southern Drawn contest which is open to artists working in any media who currently reside in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee or Texas. Only original artwork will be accepted. Entry deadline is Jan. 10, 2001. To obtain an application form or for more information, call (334) 442-2283 or 1-800-946-7267, ext. 2283, or e-mail UMdrawl@yahoo.com.

ACT

ACT, Inc., education and career planning organization has announced the following do-it-yourself college planning resources on the Internet: www.act.org, www.c3apply.org, www.collegenet.com, www.finaid.org, www.ed.gov/finaid.html and www.fafsa.ed.gov (financial aid sites), and www.bls.gov/ocohome.hum (career planning).

STUTTERING FOUNDATION

Stuttering Foundation of America is offering a free copy of its brochure "The Child Who Stutters at School: Notes to the Teacher." For more information, contact the non-profit foundation by mail: Stuttering Foundation of America, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111; or phone 1-800-992-9392. The brochure is also available at www.stutteringhelp.org on the World Wide Web.

JAGER MP3 CONTEST

Jagermusic.com is currently sponsoring Jager MP3 Song Contest. Deadline for entry is 9 a.m. Dec. 30. For more information or for contest rules, call (914) 633-5630 or visit alechner@sidneyfranko.com on the Internet.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

American Cancer Society and Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor a four-week "Life After Loss" seminar for those who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at Crown of Texas Hospice, 10000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo. To register or for more information, call (806) 353-4306.

TWC WEBSITE

The Texas Workforce Commission recently unveiled its new website located at www.texasworkforce.org on the Internet. The new site is designed to meet the needs of five customer groups — businesses and employers; job seekers and employees; service providers; boards and network partners; and researchers and policy-makers.

ARTS AND KIDS

Arts and Kids will hold its Annual Art Competition. The contest is free and open to all youth 17 and younger. The deadline for entry is Dec. 31. To participate, send one original work, any style and medium, to: Arts and Kids, Suite 101-2112, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Be sure and include name, address and age on the back of the artwork. For more information, visit www.ArtsandKids.com on the Internet. A total of \$38,000 in prizes and scholarships will be awarded.

STUDENT LEADER COMPETITION

Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I., is sponsoring its Fourth Annual Outstanding Student Leader Competition for high school seniors. Prizes include a tuition scholarship to the university in the amount of \$20,000 and an opportunity to learn one-on-one from one of America's foremost business executives. Deadline for nominations is Jan. 25, 2001. To obtain an entry form or for more information, call 1-800-342-5598.

COLGATE YOUTH SERVICE CONTEST

Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Camp Fire and 4-H organizations are invited to enter their best community service projects in the 28th annual "Colgate Youth for America" campaign. Cash grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to the most creative and best executed projects from local clubs and troops. Entry forms are available through regional offices of the national organizations or by sending a SASE to: Colgate Youth for America Campaign, P.O. Box 1058, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-1058. Deadline for entry into this year's program is March 15. Forms are also available on-line at www.colgate.com.

Christmas is a celebration both of the birth of Christ and the way He taught us to live.

CHRISTMAS IS A CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S LOVE

In this season we see His love more clearly in warm smiles, small acts of charity, and in the gentleness that settles over our world.

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Motorized decoys stirring up ducks and hunters

By JAY HUGHES
Associated Press Writer

BANNER, Ill. (AP) — Mike McLuckie blows his duck call a lot less these days. He relies instead on his favorite decoy to seduce ducks into shotgun range over the camouflaged blinds at Banner Marsh.

And seduce it does. His motorized "roboduck" has wings that whirl at 470-520 revolutions per minute, the exact speed of a real duck's wings as it takes off or lands. The natural motion has proven highly effective at lulling ducks into dropping some of their natural caution.

"It gets their attention," McLuckie says. "It's telling that duck that there's some real ducks down there. It creates a more natural situation."

Roboduck is the generic name for the battery-operated decoys that have swept the waterfowling world in the last two years.

Purists loathe them because they allow hunters to bag birds without learning to read the wind, spread decoys and

blow a call well enough to fool ducks — an apprenticeship waterfowl hunters have served for ages.

Fans say the decoys are a boon to hunters who don't have the time to learn such skills or can't afford private memberships to the best hunting grounds.

But some waterfowl experts have a bigger worry — that the decoys make hunting too easy and too deadly. They say their effectiveness rivals that of live decoys and baiting — methods outlawed in the 1930s out of fear duck populations would be decimated.

"It becomes an ethical question. It's not something that requires a great deal of skill on the hunter's part," says Ray Marshall, a waterfowl biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Roboducks were introduced in California about three years ago and their popularity quickly spread eastward. Mounted on poles inches or feet above water or land, the roboducks' twirling wings —

dark on top, white on bottom — are so realistic they have fooled aerial observers who help monitor duck migrations.

The decoys go by many brand names — RoboDuk, Perfection, Deception, RotoDuck and Hovering 2000 are just a few — and range in price from \$100 to \$250 apiece. In comparison, a dozen premium floating decoys usually cost less than \$80. Hunters typically combine one or two roboducks with a number of nonmoving decoys.

The decoys' sudden success prompted the Mississippi Flyway Council, which supervises management of migratory waterfowl in 14 states, to consider a three-year moratorium so the council could study their impact.

Scott Yaich, assistant director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and that state's representative on the council, says a ban was rejected partly because members felt it was already too late.

"There's a sense that the horse is already out of the barn," he says. "There are literally tens of thousands of these that have already been purchased."

Marshall, one of the waterfowl biologists who advises the council, says it also doesn't make sense to ban the devices in one state when they aren't banned in others.

Marshall and others fear that roboducks could undo results of the last several decades of waterfowl management, which emphasized preserving habitat to increase the number of ducks. That in turn has allowed states to lengthen duck seasons and raise limits. This year, many Mississippi Flyway states are holding 60-day seasons with six-duck daily limits.

Yet while anecdotal information indicates roboducks are increasing duck kills, no hard figures back up the experts' worried suspicions.

John Eadie, a biologist and professor at the University of California at Davis, participated in a short check on roboduck effectiveness last season — the only scientific study to date. Observers joined hunters

on about 40 trips and used the motorized decoys half the time they were in the blinds.

Initial results seemed to indicate that ducks became a little more wary of the motorized movement as the season progressed, Eadie says.

"The bottom line is we found a very strong effect from the device early in the year. By the end of the season, that effect had declined," he explains.

Marshall said biologists eagerly await next July's federal harvest statistics because this is the first season to see widespread use of roboducks.

"If we do see our harvest rate increased, we are faced with a fundamental question," Yaich says. "We can either outlaw them and make them illegal like we did live decoys, or the alternative would be to have shorter seasons and smaller bag limits."

Marshall says surveys by his agency indicate hunters would rather keep longer seasons. McLuckie agrees, saying he would willingly forgo his roboduck — and the full limits it often helps him bag.

"I don't have to get six ducks every day," he says.

Marshall, who has hunted with roboducks for pleasure and for research, says he is torn.

"On the one hand, I've hunted enough to truly love it when the ducks come in like they do to this decoy," he says. "But I hate the fact it's getting to the point where it seems too easy."

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Toys for Tots



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Bob Burkett, manager of Sonic, accepted a certificate from 1st Sgt. Allen Seger of the U.S. Marines commending the local Sonic and the people of Pampa for their response to the Toys for Tots request. A full box of donated toys was obtained by Sgt. Seger for distribution by the Marines. The local Sonic will accept toys through the end of December for next year's Christmas.

UIT rates decrease for Texas employers

AUSTIN — Texas employers are receiving Unemployment Insurance tax rate notices in the mail this month, and the news is good — the rate is going down.

The 2001 average tax rate that the Texas Workforce Commission will assess employers is 0.94 percent, down from 1.02 percent in 2000. The rate reduction results from fewer UI benefits payments in 2000 than in 1999. Further, the amount of UI benefits paid but not charged to a particular employer declined from 1999 to 2000.

"This is great news for everyone," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "The economy, employers and Texans will benefit as businesses reinvest their savings in our state."

The average experience tax rate for 2001 also has dropped — to 0.75 percent from 0.85 percent in 2000. The experience tax rate is based on benefits paid to former employees and charges to the employer's account. These charges are called chargebacks.

Nearly 75 percent of Texas employers will have a minimum tax rate of 0.24 percent.

"Texas is a great place to do business," said T.P.

O'Mahoney, commissioner representing labor. "Both employers and workers benefit from the decreased tax obligation."

TWC administers UI taxes and benefits under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Qualifying claimants who are terminated from their jobs through no fault of their own receive weekly payments that are a portion of their salary for a specified period of time. In the meantime, recipients are required to actively seek re-employment. Benefits expire when the claimant re-enters suitable employment or when the specified payment period lapses, whichever occurs first.

Because of the drop in claims from 1999 to 2000, Texas employers will save a total of \$62.3 million in 2001.

"We in Texas have consistently kept Unemployment Insurance taxes as low as possible," said Ron Lehman, TWC's commissioner for employers. "Lower taxes allow more dollars to circulate in the economy and give employers the flexibility to spend more on their needs."

More information about UI taxes is available at www.texasworkforce.org on the Internet.

Rylander announces first on-line auction for safe deposits

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently announced the completion of the first on-line auction of state deposits for financial institutions that want to compete for state funds.

Rylander said \$70 million in certificates of deposit were awarded to 42 banks, credit unions and savings and loans at an average

interest rate of 6.19 percent.

The electronic bidding auction, called BidTX, is a new process that uses the latest Internet technology to invest state funds with institutions that offer the highest interest rates to maximize earnings on state revenue.

"Technology has revolutionized the way Texans do business," Rylander said. "Since tak-

ing office, I have worked to modernize the investment practices of my agency with new technology as part of my e-Texas initiative to help state government meet the challenges of the Information Age...."

The Comptroller's Office will conduct on-line auctions for state deposits on the first Wednesday of each month through MuniAuction, an auction hosting service. Approved Texas depositories are eligible to participate after they have been registered and approved by the comptroller. Minimum bids are \$100,000 and may increase in \$100,000 increments to a maximum of \$7 million per institution.

More information on BidTX is available at www.bidtx.com or by calling the Comptroller's Office toll-free at 1-800-252-5555, ext. 3-5907.

PAMPA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2000						
Data Control Codes	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			TOTALS		
	100-199 General Fund	200-499 Special Revenue Funds	500-599 Debt Service Fund	98 August 31, 2000	97 August 31, 1999	
REVENUES:						
	\$ 255,942	\$ 13,943	\$ 20,433	\$ 290,318	\$ 213,211	
Investment Income						
Other Local and Intermediate Sources	10,214,730	461,747	374,775	11,051,252	11,588,729	
Total Local and Intermediate Source	10,470,672	475,690	395,208	11,341,570	11,801,940	
5700 State Program Revenues	8,796,312	259,933	249,436	9,305,681	8,388,847	
5800 Federal Program Revenues	102,442	2,428,099	-	2,530,541	2,081,775	
5900 Total Revenues	19,369,426	3,163,722	644,644	23,177,792	22,272,562	
5020						
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0010 Instructional and Instructional-Related Services	12,293,001	1,354,383	-	13,647,384	12,871,091	
0020 Instructional and School Leadership	1,244,408	36,892	-	1,281,300	1,233,142	
0030 Support Services - Student (Pupil)	2,086,755	1,134,157	-	3,220,912	3,241,497	
0040 Administrative Support Services	902,747	-	-	902,747	833,300	
0050 Support Services - Nonstudent Based	1,883,483	18,236	-	1,901,719	1,911,102	
0060 Ancillary Services	18,921	136,047	-	154,968	184,916	
0070 Debt Service	495,084	-	620,225	1,115,309	1,117,211	
0080 Capital Outlay	120,904	-	-	120,904	583,164	
0090 Intergovernmental Charges	-	360,055	-	360,055	247,089	
6030 Total Expenditures	19,045,303	3,039,770	620,225	22,705,298	22,222,512	
1100 Excess of revenues Over Expenditures	324,123	123,952	24,419	472,494	50,050	
7020 Other Resources	-	-	4,735	4,735	126,757	
8030 Other (Uses)	(4,735)	-	-	(4,735)	(124,902)	
120 Excess of Revenues and Other Resources Over Expenditures and Other Uses	319,388	123,952	29,154	472,494	51,905	
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	712,616	128,550	23,846	865,012	813,107	
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,032,004	\$ 252,502	\$ 53,000	\$ 1,337,506	\$ 865,012	
H-7				December 24, 2000		

LEFORS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2000						
Data Control Codes	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			TOTALS		
	100-199 General Fund	200-499 Special Revenue Funds	500-599 Debt Service Fund	98 August 31, 2000	97 August 31, 1999	
REVENUES:						
	\$ 51,149	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,149	\$ 48,118	
Investment Income						
Other Local and Intermediate Sources	762,826	17,480	58,520	838,826	1,259,658	
Total Local and Intermediate Source	813,975	17,480	58,520	889,975	1,307,776	
5700 State Program Revenues	487,760	28,162	-	515,922	172,747	
5800 Federal Program Revenues	-	57,688	-	57,688	57,848	
5900 Total Revenues	1,301,735	103,330	58,520	1,463,585	1,538,371	
5020						
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0010 Instructional and Instructional-Related Services	795,267	47,662	-	842,929	768,574	
0020 Instructional and School Leadership	71,588	-	-	71,588	84,562	
0030 Support Services - Student (Pupil)	145,289	74,303	-	219,592	206,692	
0040 Administrative Support Services	100,141	-	-	100,141	103,077	
0050 Support Services - Nonstudent Based	217,922	-	-	217,922	311,662	
0070 Debt Service	-	-	82,715	82,715	85,700	
0080 Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	177,327	
0090 Intergovernmental Charges	14,813	-	-	14,813	14,293	
6030 Total Expenditures	1,345,020	121,965	82,715	1,549,700	1,751,887	
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(42,285)	(18,635)	(24,195)	(86,115)	(213,516)	
7020 Other Resources	-	20,993	20,791	41,784	12,570	
8030 Other (Uses)	(41,784)	-	-	(41,784)	(12,570)	
1200 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	(85,069)	2,358	(3,404)	(86,115)	(213,516)	
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	838,600	-	3,404	842,004	1,055,520	
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 753,531	\$ 2,358	\$ -	\$ 755,889	\$ 842,004	
H-8				December 24, 2000		

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
To Our Friends & Neighbors

Wishing you an old-fashioned Christmas in the company of loved ones, good fortune and peace.
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Nation's only college quilting program studies hobby-turned-art

By MARGERY BECK
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Hints of her academic passion are scattered among the usual clutter of papers and files in Carolyn Ducey's tiny office — an array of fabric swatches, antique quilting needles, a small Japanese quilt hanging on the far wall.

Hidden in a corner of the University of Nebraska's home economics building, this is where Ducey works as curator of the International Quilt Study Center, the nation's only university-backed quilt scholarship program.

Down the hall is a climate-controlled, dimly lit storage room that houses one of the world's largest quilt collections — almost 1,200 items, each folded in acid-free paper and tucked into archive-quality boxes by graduate students wearing white cotton gloves.

This is where students wanting to become antique dealers, auction house experts or museum curators can study the designs and history of quilts.

"It is the quilt epicenter in terms of quilt study," says Dr. Patricia Crews, chairwoman of the university's School of Textiles, Clothing and Design.

Ducey is used to the inevitable questions when quilting novices first learn of the university's little-known center.

Why quilts? Why Nebraska?

The quick answer is a remarkable donation of 950 quilts by two Nebraska natives that anchored the center's birth in 1997. Quilt lovers Robert and Ardis James of Chappaqua, N.Y., knew of Crews' scholarship into quilts and donated not only their collection, valued at \$6 million, but also an additional \$1 million to fund the center and build its storage room.

And Nebraska's strong quilting history makes it as likely a place as any for a center to focus study of the hobby-turned-art, Ducey and Crews say. They brand as a misconception the idea that quilting is tethered to New England.

"That's just one of the myths that got started in the 1930s, this idea of Colonial quilting," Ducey says. "There were very few quilts made in Colonial times, because fabric was entirely too expensive for that kind of luxury."

It wasn't until after the Civil War, when cotton fabric could be mass-produced and was more affordable, that quilting became a popular hobby, she explains.

Ducey also mentions more recent reasons for the center.

"Comfort, love, care, grandma ... these are what quilts impart

RRC announces January allowables

AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission has set January natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 35,655,582 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

For these fields, the January 2001 allowable represents an increase of 296,765 mcf when compared to actual production of 35,358,817 mcf in January 1999. In setting the January 2001 allowable, the RRC used historical production figures from January 2000 and producer forecasts for the January 2001 demand, and then adjusted the figures to account for such factors as well capacity, new wells in a field, etc.

Gas well gas from prorated fields accounts for 10 percent of total gas well production in Texas.

Texas natural gas in storage reported the Commission for the month of November 2000 compares 222,379,803 mcf to 323,073,432 mcf in November 1999. The December 2000 gas storage estimate is 212,281,212 mcf.

Preliminary statewide production reported for October is 32,131,047 barrels of crude oil and 375,014,055 mcf of gas well gas.

The RRC's estimated final production for this month can be obtained by multiplying these preliminary production totals by a production adjustment factor of 1.0321 for crude oil and 1.0698 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

The next statewide hearing has been scheduled Jan. 23.

with viewers," she says. "It doesn't matter who comes through here, they always seem to have some connection to quilts. Even with men, they always have a memory of a quilt they had as a child or one their mother or grandmother made for them."

"I don't think I would say there was surprise that it was set up in Nebraska," says quilt historian Karey Bresenhan of Houston. "There was surprise that it was set up, period. The James collection is famous in the quilt world. It's a real treasure for any one institution to have in their possession."

The Jameses' Nebraska heritage made the University of Nebraska a logical home for their collection, says Bresenhan, a fifth-generation Texas quilter.

"You might think, logically, that a collection like that would go to a museum in New York or Washington," she says. "I don't think it would have ever been given the proper attention at a museum in New York or Washington. The university is doing great things with it ... they're not keeping those quilts hidden."

A dozen quilts celebrating human rights were recently displayed in the university's textile gallery, while 30 to 50 others regularly tour Nebraska in museums, galleries and libraries.

Bresenhan spent years studying textile books and antique fabrics to teach herself how to date quilts based on their fabric content and patterns. What took her years of trial-and-error now can be learned through a few courses at Nebraska's center.

"I didn't really learn about quilts and their history until I got here. Now I'm in love with it," says Marin Hanson, 27, of Chicago, who is enrolled in the university's graduate textile program, with an emphasis in quilt studies. She hopes to become curator of a quilt museum.

The center's roots go back more than two decades when Crews was recruited by the Lincoln Quilters Guild, a group of hobbyists, to serve as adviser for a survey to determine how many Nebraska quilts were in private hands.

"They were really concerned that those quilts ... were going to be sold out of family hands, and much of the information about the history of those quilts would be lost," Crews says.

The group then persuaded her to edit a book based on the survey, "Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers." The book received the Smithsonian Institution's Robert Frost prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American crafts.

That distinction attracted the attention of Robert James, originally from Ord in central Nebraska, and his wife, Ardis, a native of Lincoln. They had been looking for a home for their quilt collection, which had occupied an entire wing of their house.

"We spent two years looking for a place, and then got discouraged," Mrs. James said. "You can't give a thousand of anything away. Just at the very last minute when we were about to give up, we talked to Dr. Crews."

On the Net:
The International Quilt Study Center
<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/quilt-study/>

Conoco donation



The Conoco Corp., Pampa office, recently donated \$500 to Pampa High School Senior Development Class. The corporation allows its Pampa employees to play Santa each year. The money goes to buy Christmas for the students who are in need. Above: Ed Costilow (presenting the check), Steve Jean, Samantha Price, Shawn King (receiving the check), Ashley Derington, Tabitha Price, Arriott Manning, Howard Eblin, and Brandy Hood.

West Texas A&M receives rare book donation

CANYON — Dr. Jenny Lind Porter, a Texas Poet Laureate and inductee to the Texas Womens Hall of Fame, has donated more than 1,800 rare books to West Texas A&M University's Cornette Library.

The first shipment of rare books, which has all ready arrived, includes a first edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" published in 1850, Emily Dickinson's "Poems, Second Series" published in 1891 and Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Poems" published in 1847.

"I know that Dr. Porter had been looking for somewhere to donate these books," Paul Coleman, university librarian, said. "I'm just glad she thought of us and decided to send them here. We have some very rare items, even some one-of-a-kind things."

The donation also includes a collection of writings by Roman philosopher Seneca published in 1605, the original manuscript of O. Henry's "A Fog In Santone" and a collection of poems by Francis Scott Key, which is thought to include the first appearance of the "Star Spangled Banner."

"A lot of these books will just knock your socks off," Coleman said. "They have been well taken care of for, in some cases, hundreds of years, and it's a privilege to have them in our library."

Porter earned her bachelor's and master's degree from Texas Christian University. In 1955, at age 27, she became the youngest woman to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1959, she moved to Canyon to teach English at the university.

"I have close feelings for WT," she said. Isabel Robinson, head of the art department at that time, painted my portrait, and I became very close friends with Mary Liz and James Cornette (University president and his wife). They were sweet and wonderful to me when I lost my mother. I'll never forget her."

"I have loved these books and have used them in my writing," she said. "To me, the bindings and the leather covers are beautiful."

Porter translated "Verses on Death" by Helinand Froimont, which won the "Best Book of Translation" by the Texas Institute of Letters. She is the author of "The Lantern of Diogenes," "Azle and the Attic Room" and "The Siege of the Alamo." In 1963, she was named

one of the six outstanding women of Austin and she was awarded the nation's most prestigious poetry award, the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award of the Poetry Society of America in 1970. In addition, she taught English at Huston-Tillotson College in Austin for more than 20 years.

The university will receive two additional shipments of approximately 600 books each including a collection of Texana, Texas history and literature, and one of British-American literature. Cornette Library staff will incorporate displays and special programs that draw on these materials as the focus.

The university is cataloging the books and is in the process of preparing them for special schol-

arly and research endeavors. According to Coleman, the books will be open to the public with special guidelines for use and care.

"These books will provide a wonderful opportunity for scholarship related to the authors and encouraging student appreciation of books as artifacts," Coleman said.

Porter also plans to donate her personal desk taken from the American Embassy in London and two chairs from the original Texas capital building.

Coleman said plans are to expand the special collections area and create a new reading room.

"WTAMU has a rich heritage and has a future where these books will help," Porter said.

ACT college financial aid resources help families

'Tis the season to be jolly ... and for many families with seniors in high school it's also the season to get busy with financial aid applications for college.

Experts at ACT offer the following information to help families find the resources they need to complete their financial aid paperwork.

The most important form is the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid." The FAFSA determines eligibility for student financial aid from federal programs. Colleges and universities also use the FAFSA, but may also require students to fill out additional forms.

Families can begin submitting FAFSA forms any time after Jan. 1 when they have the necessary income statements from the previous year to complete the form.

Available from high school counselors, the FAFSA may also be downloaded at www.fafsa.ed.gov on the Internet. The FAFSA is

used to determine how much the family is expected to contribute toward the student's education (Expected Family Contribution or EFC).

Families usually receive a Student Aid Report three- to four-weeks after submitting the form. The Student Aid Report will summarize the data reported on the application. Families can get estimates of what their EFC may be and the costs of attending specific institutions by utilizing ACT's Financial Aid Need Estimator at www.act.org/fane.

Families can find information on more than 600,000 scholarships totaling more than \$1.6 billion at www.collegenet.com. This website provides a broad search of scholarships or a list of scholarships by category such as age, academics, ethnicity, interests, nationality or sports. Students also can apply on-line for the scholarships.

For additional opportunities, including local scholarships, see your school counselor.

Gene W. Lewis

June 29, 1933 - June 21, 2000

IS HOME

THIS CHRISTMAS

II Corinthians 5:1

How We Loved You!

Jannie - Jill - Jay - Meghan - Melissa

Hebrews 12:1-2



Remembrance of Things Past

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

M&H LEASING

1945 N. HOBART

806-665-1841

Frustrated Dad Feels Pressed Raising Son Who's Not His Own

DEAR ABBY: I'm 27 years old. When I was 18, I got married because my girlfriend was pregnant. We're now divorced, and my son lives with me because my ex refused to be responsible for him. She ran off with her new boyfriend.

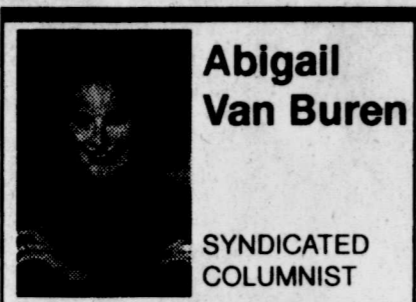
I have just learned that my son isn't really my son after all. My ex finally admitted to me that she had always known he wasn't mine, and that his real father died of a drug overdose in 1996. A DNA test will prove it this week.

I'm extremely frustrated because I don't feel I should have to take care of a child who isn't even mine. I love the boy, but I don't feel he's my responsibility anymore. I was tricked into being his father. I wouldn't have taken the job had I known eight years ago that he was someone else's.

We have a very close relationship and I take good care of him, but I would like to live my life for myself and do what I want when I want — like his mother does. I can't do that because he's my responsibility.

I know he needs me and loves me, and I'm afraid of what it would do to him if I sent him to live with his mother so I could live my life. I'm so confused, Abby. Can you give me any advice so I can compromise my desires and his needs?

USED IN NORTH CAROLINA



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

already proven she's an unfit mother.

You are young, and you're feeling overwhelmed with responsibility. However, quitting is not an option, and I doubt you could live with yourself if you tried it.

You need time for yourself — every single parent does. If at all possible, arrange for relatives or close friends with children to invite your son to stay with them for an evening or a weekend once or twice a month.

Another alternative would be to find a single-parent support group in your area. Parents Without Partners is a good one. You can contact the organization by calling (800) 637-7974 or visiting the Web site: www.parentswithoutpartners.org.

DEAR ABBY: When my beloved transferred pictures and cards to a new wallet, he found a clipping from an old Dear Abby column. He'd carried it for ages. Unfortun-

nately, it is tattered, frayed and worn away around the folds.

Abby, please reprint it. We would like to share this philosophy with others in our crowd. We celebrated our 80th birthdays this year. Sign us ...

STILL IN LOVE IN TEXAS

DEAR STILL: I've received several requests to reprint that letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Please explain the difference between "making love" and "having sex." A lot of people confuse these two very different acts. Will you please define each one?

JUST PLAIN BILL

DEAR BILL: In "having sex," the name of the game is sexual gratification. It's a selfish, physical exercise in which the partner can be a faceless object. (Anyone will do.)

In "making love," one is motivated by a desire to give pleasure, express deep affection and communicate one's feelings of caring. It's the ultimate in sharing. In "making love," the partner must be a very special person. (No one else will do.)

Love is a metropolis. Sex is a whistle-stop.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Have a Merry Christmas, but keep in mind: If you're drinking, don't drive; if you're driving, don't drink.

your expectations. As a result, your perspective changes substantially. Tonight: Playtime.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** You might need to do more than your share today. Be optimistic and positive, but make decisions that will allow changes in the near future. You can't always be the Rock of Gibraltar. Ask for help if you need it. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Talk with a child or loved one. Though this person could shut down and not be talkative right now, he decides to open up. New beginnings are possible with this person. For single Virgos, an acquaintance made in this period could develop into a significant relationship. Tonight: Express your caring to those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Express what you feel to family and those close to you. New beginnings involving your domestic life become a distinct possibility. Remember that there is nothing you have to accept. Share a long-term vision. Talking about it only makes it more real. Tonight: Homeward bound.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Make that extra effort. Reach out for those close to you. Your calls and cheery voice can make all the difference. A gift might change how you live your day-to-day life. New beginnings now become possible. Talk with children about the true meaning of the holiday. Tonight: Remember a friend who might be blue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You feel as if all the efforts you

have made recently are well worth it. Another expresses his gratitude for how you pulled this holiday together. Still, make a personal resolution about spending. Honor the true meaning of the holidays and move away from the materialism. Tonight: Indulging doesn't have to mean spending.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Others respond to your strong personality. Express your feelings more clearly. Others need to understand where you are coming from. You might be instrumental to those who are not in the holiday spirit. Make calls and reach out to others. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Sit back rather than being a player. You make many personal decisions now. What seemed like a difficult situation could change with time. Discuss your feelings about a personal matter. Not everyone needs to see things as you do. Tonight: Start writing thank-you notes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Aim for what you want. Don't forget a family member who could be a bit blue. Understand what is happening with a loved one. You might make a major decision about what you want to do on future holidays. Reach out for others. Spread good news. Make calls. Tonight: Touch base with friends.

BORN TODAY

Musician Jimmy Buffet (1946), actor Humphrey Bogart (1899), baseball player Rickey Henderson (1958)

Horoscope

MONDAY, DEC. 25, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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)

***** What happens today drops in your lap. You might want to question why others hold you responsible for what is happening. New beginnings are possible during the next few weeks, especially with someone you put on a pedestal. Tonight: A must show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Do something special for someone at a distance. Though it might be nice to be with loved ones, you can't always be with them. Make resolutions about holiday plans for 2001. Talk about the real meaning of the holidays with a child. Your caring evolves to a new level. Tonight: Play holiday music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Your touch and special attention can make all the difference in what happens. Someone needs your caring. A decision you make about a long-term relationship will stick. Take your time, and stay confident. Finances play into this. Tonight: Speak your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Others speak their minds. Though you could be jolted by the reaction, keep communication flowing. You're on the verge of making important decisions about your relationship and

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Dogpatch

1 Ale

5 Drains of

9 Sired

10 Pumped up on

12 Boot in the atlas

13 Carroll heroine

14 Tackles, e.g.

16 Weather map symbol

17 Sack

18 Briefly

20 Made address-

22 Adding column

23 Pueblo material

25 Close up

28 Lot transaction

32 Curved sword

34 Lair

35 Spanish gold

36 "Scram!"

38 Grammar concern

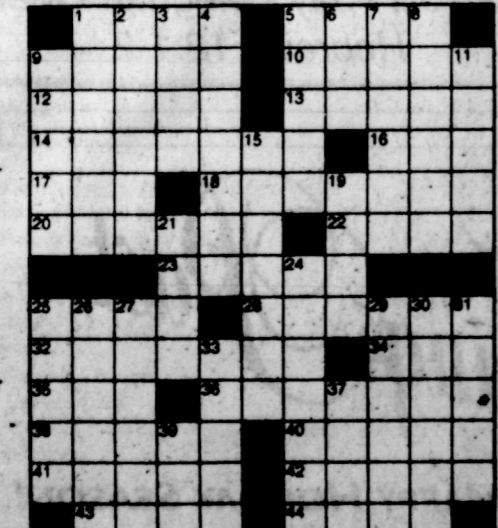
40 Code system

41 Length of yarn

CAGE HAGS
AREAS ELECT
SETTO METRO
TNT INASTEW
SAHARAN HEN
SEVEN PENS
PIE HUM
LAID POLES
ARC BALLSUP
PITFALL SIR
USUAL ELATE
PERSE RAGES
NETS BEDS

Yesterday's answer

11 Car's discovery
4 Thwarted scars
5 Gracelul 15 Back 27 Makes
swimmers 19 Weed 29 amends
21 Stat- attackers 30 Tenant
uesque 31 Computer
7 Pen key
8 Fasten 24 Groom's 33 Spy
down attendant 37 Gray
9 "The 25 Highlan- wolf
Hobbit" ders 39 Bro's
hero 26 Cry of sibling



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7377. 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18-only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Bobby and I think Santa would like milk and cookies, but Marmaduke thinks he would like a bone."

The Family Circus



"If I think of anything else I'll e-mail you."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



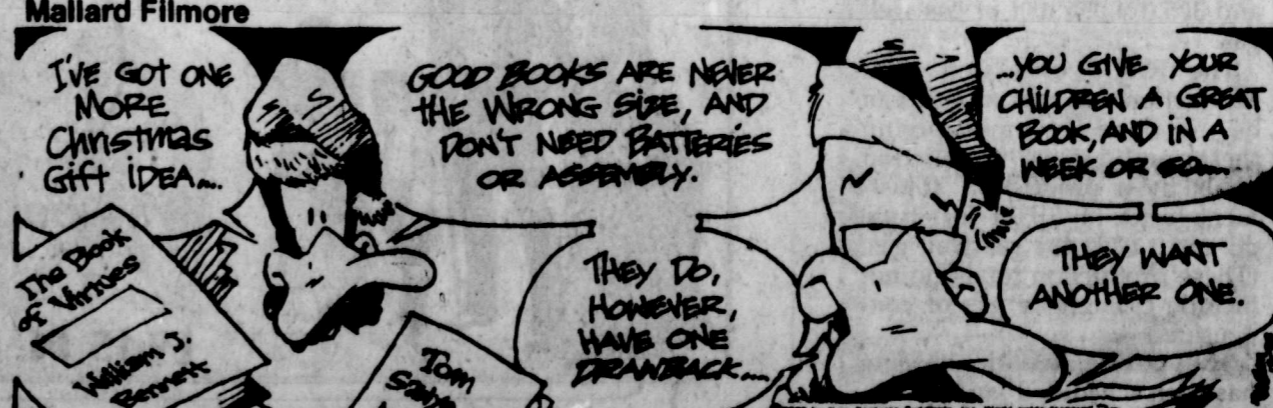
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Despite Their Appearance Teens Are Up to Much Good

DEAR ABBY: I would like to share an experience that proves the truth of two facts: 1. Don't judge a book by its cover. 2. Young people are great human beings.

Driving home from the hospital after undergoing several cardiovascular tests, I found myself on the freeway in the middle of rush hour. The traffic was terrible. A car in the next lane began honking its horn. I looked over and saw three young women pointing at me. They yelled that my right rear tire was flat. I was a bit suspicious because the girls were wearing earrings in all sorts of places where one doesn't normally wear them, and one girl had bleached "spiked" hair. They appeared rather unsavory.

With some apprehension, I moved to the right lane and exited the freeway. The young women followed me to a nearby gas station. Once I saw my tire was indeed flat, I knew I needed help. I looked around for a pay phone, but couldn't find one. The three young women checked my tire and determined that there were no obvious holes or punctures. They refilled it with air, tested it, and assured me it would probably be OK until I could get to the dealership where the tire had been purchased.

Throughout the entire scenario, they were friendly, courteous and extremely helpful. I was dumbfounded, feeling more than a little guilty for my preconceived ideas about them. They said they had followed me from the time I had got-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

ten on the freeway, trying to catch up to me so they could warn me about my tire. I offered them money; they wouldn't hear of it.

We often hear about the misdeeds of a few disturbed young people. It's time more people spoke up about the good things young people do.

BARBARA P.,
DANA POINT, CALIF.

DEAR BARBARA: I agree. The majority of today's teens are intelligent, motivated to succeed and concerned about their future. Anyone who is tempted to put them down as a group should read the following quote, attributed to Socrates, from the fifth century B.C. It shows that complaining about the younger generation is nothing new:

"Our youth now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders, and love chatter in places of exercise. They no longer rise when

elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food and tyrannize their teachers."

It proves the truth of another saying: "The more things change, the more they remain the same."

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for two years. Prior to our marriage we both agreed not to have children. I have changed my mind and would like to have a child. However, my husband has not changed his mind and feels very strongly about his decision. He believes he would be a good father, but he does not want the stress of raising a child.

I feel that if I do not have a child because he doesn't want one, I'll always feel resentful. A friend of mine told me to go off birth control, get pregnant, and he would be fine once the baby was here. I feel that would be dishonest and unfair — but what about my feelings and needs?

EXTREMELY CONFUSED,
WHITEHALL, PA.

DEAR CONFUSED: I couldn't disagree more strongly with your friend's advice. (And what would happen to your marriage if your husband wasn't "fine" once the baby was born?)

You and your husband are overdue for some serious marital counseling. If he refuses to come around, you may be married to the wrong man.

Horoscope

TUESDAY, DEC. 26, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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)

***** Continue to bring others together in the different sectors of your life. You might not agree with another about the hows and whys of a situation. Discuss different financial options, and make sure you are comfortable with these ideas. Tonight: A comfort to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Your solidity, combined with your vision, gets you far. Not everyone has to agree with you about what is right. Carefully review a decision that involves loved ones and long-term decisions. Make calls, answer e-mail and write thank-you notes. Tonight: Understand rather than criticize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Your dynamic thinking breaks precedent and helps clear your path. Creativity emerges within partnerships. Get down to basics. Talk facts rather than ideas. Express practical concerns. You might be limiting yourself in some odd or unconscious way. Tonight: Listen to a partner's feedback.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Others are in the director's seat. You might not be sure about what

you want to say or do. Lighten up about what you need or want. Think before you act. Stay in sync with your long-term needs. Your sense of humor emerges with others. Tonight: Accept another's invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Remain loose and easy. You might not agree with someone, but you are capable of making him feel good. Resist juggling this person's feelings, and be straightforward. Act responsibly with an older relative. Start clearing out calls and write to loved ones. Tonight: Go for a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Let your playfulness come out with a child or loved one. Your easy pace makes a difference not only to you but also to others. Infuse your work and projects with a sense of fun. Cheer up someone who is too serious. Tonight: Play the night away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Stay close to home. Others appreciate your feedback and interest. Let friends, family and loved ones find you. Popularity soars. A partner could be touchy. He frequently shuts down. Relax and understand what is happening with a loved one. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Conversations surround you. You have many decisions to make. Decide how much or how little you want to join in. Make calls and clear out thank-yous. Verbalize what you are thinking. Start talking New Year's resolutions. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Indulge another and get down to basics. Think carefully about your

finances. Make an important resolution about spending and security. Think in terms of success. If you haven't been happy with your work, now is the time to consider a different course. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Your personality draws others. Still, you could find a loved one difficult or testy. Discuss what is on your mind. Don't hold back. Get down to basics. Creativity might plummet because of fatigue. Take a break — even you need one. Tonight: Beam in more of what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Take a step backward. You might need to get a new perspective and see someone differently. You have pushed yourself to the max. You are tired and perhaps drained. Another could be a lot more testy than you realize. Refuse to lock horns over nothing. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Where your friends are is where you want to be. Celebrating your special friends and loved ones does not have to be limited to one day a year. Touch base with others. Be spontaneous. Timing works here. Ask for what you really want. Tonight: Where your friends are.

BORN TODAY

Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung (1893), baseball player Carlton Fisk (1947), baseball player Ozzie Smith (1954)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. © 2000 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Singer

1 Trades Young

6 Mooneye's 45 Blue, as cousin language

10 Custom

11 Uniform jacket

13 Make amends

14 To any extent

15 Crimson ones

16 Battle

18 Earthy prefix

19 Military command

22 Be a snoop

23 Weak, as an excuse

24 Does some programming

27 Lose it

28 Hymn finish

29 In addition

30 Ready for exchanging, perhaps

35 Rink material

36 Theatrical success

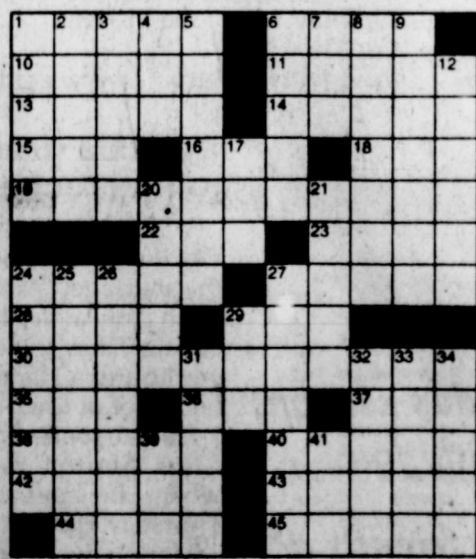
37 Inventor Whitney

38 Bert's pal

40 Diner patron

42 First name in TV talk

43 Make law



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! \$99 per minute, with long-distance phone rates. (IL only) A King Features Syndicate Inc. offering.

Marmaduke



"Marmaduke thinks talking dolls are kind of spooky."

The Family Circus



"Santa always brings me something I wanted but forgot to ask for!"

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



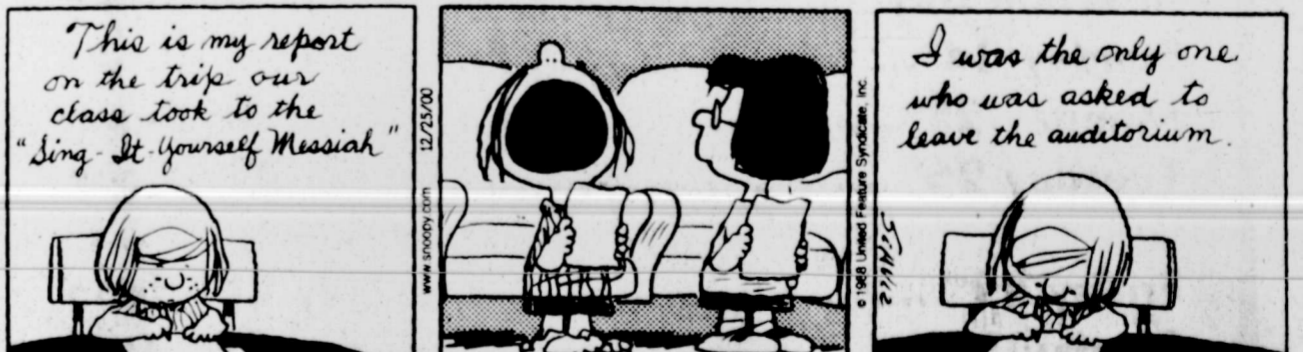
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Ex-offenders get a second chance at Christmas

NEW YORK (AP) — Up the river at Sing-Sing, Christmas is a reminder of what might have been. Some men try to make the day festive — they cook up cans of rice and beans on heating coils in their cells, or thrust their hands through steel bars to say "Merry Christmas."

Late at night, it's tough not to think of friends who stopped visiting and parents who died while their sons counted days.

After Christmas No. 9 in prison, Julio Medina wrote in his journal: "As always the holidays are really depressing."

"Last night in A block, a man was stabbed in the heart and died," he continued. "Well, let me not complain because the man who was killed ... will not have the possibility of spending Christmas with his family."

Today Medina is celebrating Christmas on the outside with his own family: his mother, his fiancée, and a slew of nephews and nieces. And he's sending Christmas cards to 200 men still in New York state prisons to tell them they have a friend when they get out.

At 40, he has a ministry degree earned in prison and is the director of the Exodus Transitional Community, an East Harlem-based program to help ex-offenders adjust to society. He and 11 staff members, mostly ex-offenders, counsel clients in finding jobs and housing and help them deal with losses, from the death of relatives to partners who didn't wait.

The aim is to help former inmates survive their newfound freedom so they don't join the 43 percent who end up back in prison.

Given Medina's boyish face and gentle manner, even his new friends at Sing-Sing Correctional Facility had a hard time believing he was the leader of a South Bronx drug gang with a seven-year-to-life sentence. But Sing-Sing was his fifth prison in nine years.

"By 15, my life of crime had begun," he says. He spent his youth in the South Bronx projects. His mother, a factory worker, sent her children to Roman Catholic school, "but I was tired of being poor so on a small scale I began drug dealing," he says. At 16, he was arrested with a gun and placed on five years' probation.

A good student nonetheless, he finished high school and was accepted to the State University of New York at Albany. "Talk about transitions," he says. "I was a street guy, and I was totally lost." He left college for a time, then returned and was caught dealing drugs. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison.

Contacts made inside with other drug dealers helped him expand his operations when he got out — until the state's Organized Crime Task Force charged him with 12 counts of conspiracy.

Behind bars again, he recalls, "I turned off any feelings I may have had. Some guy would get stabbed, and I'd just be hoping no blood would get on me. Compassion is a not a strength in prison. It's kill or be killed."

Not until five years into his sentence, he says, did he feel any desire to change.

"There was no thunderbolt," he says, "no breaking out in a sweat." Certain incidents stood

out, like the visit from a favorite niece, who told him she wanted him to meet her boyfriend because he, too, was a big-time drug dealer.

"I thought, 'That's what she thinks of me.'" He didn't want to be that person.

At the Eastern Correctional Facility in upstate New York, he heard about a program leading to a certificate in Christian ministry.

One of the instructors, Lonnie McLeod, was a big, approachable man who would later become an ordained United Church of Christ minister.

"Julio was a tough guy in the vein of Jimmy Cagney," McLeod recalls, "small but lethal. He was a leader who had the power to tell others to destroy you. Still, I understood that ... he could lead people up a positive path."

In Bible class, says Medina, "Lonnie sparked my interest. He made God human somehow. Jesus was so contemporary, like a cool guy. I'd been a doubter for so long. Now I thought, if there is a God, let me find out what he's about."

"It wasn't one of those 'Hallelujah-I-was-talking-to-the-Holy-Ghost' things. It was a gradual process."

So was praying. "In prison there's a lot of prayer going on. 'Shorten my sentence,'" Medina says. "I started saying, 'God, I will no longer destroy what you created.'"

In 1993, Medina was transferred to Sing-Sing to attend the master's degree program in ministry that had been offered by New York Theological Seminary at the prison since 1982. For the next year, Medina and more than a dozen men studied world religions, the Bible, the history of Christianity, theology and ethics in a program that focused on urban ministry and the biblical injunction to work with the poor and forgotten.

"I was a sponge," Medina says. "Within two months I was waking up at 4 a.m. to read church history. I'd found my calling." He wanted to be a healing force in the communities where he'd done so much damage.

Medina was luckier than most when he was released in September 1996. He had family

members to come home to, and he found a job as a drug treatment counselor.

He saw too many parolees left homeless and jobless, too many who'd found God in prison but lost God when faced with countless rejections, too many who returned to prison for violating terms of parole.

Medina talked with his mentor, now the Rev. Lonnie McLeod, who offered him space in the Church of the Living Hope in East Harlem to start a program for ex-offenders. He received grants from a Presbyterian church and an anonymous donor. And Exodus opened its doors in March 1999.

The staff, which includes five seminary graduates, encourages ex-offenders to volunteer with churches, synagogues and mosques so they can learn work skills while they're giving back to the community.

On a recent weekday morning, a 50-year-old man who served 16 years for murder is sitting at a table while two Exodus staff members look for rooms and apartments that accept former prisoners.

"I'm going to find you a place," housing specialist Dawn Hurd, 38, assures the man, who is in treatment for heroin addiction.

"You know he's been out five years," another staff member tells her.

"His life's not together," she says, determined not to turn him away. "He's still in transition."

The staff receives about 500 cards a year from people in

prison, mostly men, asking for help when they get out. They've seen 220 clients since they opened, and experience has taught them not to judge a person by his worst moment.

On rare occasions even Medina finds a story troubling.

"We had a client who committed six child molestations," he says. "A bunch of feelings were running through me. Should I throw him out the window? But the more he talked, the more I saw I had to listen. He was abused by men for three years. In a group home he became a prostitute. You begin to say: 'If only he had had help.' As I sat there, God was present. Here you had a drug dealer and a child molester in one room, and God was present."

Although some programs won't accept convicted child molesters, the Exodus staff referred him to an organization that helped him find city housing.

Staff members also listen to each other, at weekly meetings to talk about business as well as their own problems with housing, kids, spouses and ex-spouses.

"They're my counselors," says Amanda Jimenez, 27, the office manager.

At a recent meeting, the subject is Christmas.

Hurd says she's spending the holiday with parolees determined to keep out of prison. "The lonely hearts club," she says, smiling.

A former inmate visiting the community remarks that he

"killed off" Christmas during his 30 years in prison, and now he has to learn how to celebrate.

Jose Louis Reyes, 44, Exodus' assistant director, says he will be hanging out with "my extended family" — the Exodus staff. He is also helping with the program's second annual fund-raising drive for families in need and people with HIV/AIDS.

Medina and the others will carry beepers on the holiday in case their clients need them.

First Christmases on the outside can be particularly tough for parolees without family and activities to distract them from loneliness. "Holidays become like long weekends," says Reyes, when ex-offenders have too much time on their hands and can be particularly vulnerable to temptations like alcohol and drugs.

One man will be released just before the holidays, and the Exodus staff hopes to find him a place to stay so he doesn't have to sleep in a shelter.

In his office at the Church of the Living Hope, Medina finishes his Christmas cards to men like Sadiq Najee, 40, an Exodus board member still serving time in Sing-Sing for second-degree murder.

Christmas cards from friends who got out might be depressing for some prisoners. Not for Najee, who says that just thinking about Exodus brings him comfort.

"It's a blessing," he says. "It shows I'm getting closer to the door."

'Gladiator,' 'Traffic' lead Golden Globe nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The Roman epic "Gladiator" and the drug-war drama "Traffic" were each nominated for five Golden Globes Thursday, but the season's first big awards announcement left the Oscar race as murky as ever.

The Golden Globes, which often indicate Oscar frontrunners, will be presented Jan. 21.

Four movies received four nominations each: the 1970s rock 'n' roll reminiscence "Almost Famous," the French provincial romance "Chocolat," the legal saga "Erin Brockovich" and the offbeat campus drama "Wonder Boys."

With no film dominating the Globe nominations, as eventual top Oscar winner "American Beauty" did last year, the Academy Awards race remains wide open.

"Gladiator" and "Traffic" were nominated for best dramatic movie, along with "Billy Elliot," "Erin Brockovich," "Sunshine" and "Wonder Boys." The comedy film nominees were "Almost Famous," "Best in Show," "Chicken Run," "Chocolat" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

Steven Soderbergh, best known previously for "sex, lies and videotape," scored two best-director nods for "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic," which opens next week.

Soderbergh faces a potential handicap for the Oscars. Since nominators are sometimes reluctant to vote for the same person twice in a category, Soderbergh's nomination votes could be split between the two movies, meaning he could get shut out.

Besides boosting Oscar hopes, Golden Globe nominations also draw movie-goers to smaller films such as the sibling-reunion drama "You Can Count On Me," which received nods for its screenplay by Kenneth Lonergan and best dramatic actress for Laura Linney.

"I hope it gets more people in to see the movie," Linney said. "For those who worked so hard and care about it so much, that's really the most important thing."

The nominations for "Wonder

Boys" also include best actor for Michael Douglas, best song for "Things Have Changed" by Bob Dylan, and best screenplay for Steve Kloves. Director Curtis Hanson said the attention was gratifying considering the movie failed at the box office last February.

"Wonder Boys" returned to theaters this fall to help boost its awards prospects.

"It got a lot of people talking about it again," Hanson said. As for the movie's Oscar chances, he laughed and said, "One step at a time. One step at a time."

"Traffic" also received nominations for supporting actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, supporting actor Benicio Del Toro and the screenplay by Stephen Gaghan.

"Gladiator" got nominations for best dramatic actor for Russell Crowe, supporting actor Joaquin Phoenix, director Ridley Scott and its musical score.

Besides Linney, nominees for best actress in a dramatic movie were Joan Allen for "The Contender," Bjork for "Dancer in the Dark," Ellen Burstyn for "Requiem for a Dream" and Julia Roberts for "Erin Brockovich."

Besides Crowe and Douglas, the dramatic actor nominees were Javier Bardem for "Before Night Falls," Tom Hanks for "Cast Away" and Geoffrey Rush for "Quills."

In Melbourne, Australia, Rush was preparing a late-night feast of sage-and-onion stuffing when he learned of his nomination from a television broadcast.

"It was a very domestic, home-spun scene," Rush joked. "My family is in bed, and that's where I'll be going soon — tired, but happy."

Best actress nominees for a musical or comedy were Juliette Binoche for "Chocolat," Brenda Blethyn for "Saving Grace," Sandra Bullock for "Miss Congeniality," Tracey Ullman for "Small Time Crooks" and Renee Zellweger for "Nurse Betty."

Best musical or comedy actor nominees were Jim Carrey for "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," George Clooney for "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," John Cusack for "High Fidelity,"

Robert De Niro for "Meet the Parents" and Mel Gibson for "What Women Want."

In addition to Scott and Soderbergh, the best movie director nominees were Ang Lee for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and Istvan Szabo for "Sunshine."

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" received two other nominations including best foreign-language film.

Acting nominee Bjork also received a nomination for best original song, "I've Seen it All," for which she wrote the music. "Chocolat" nominee Dench also got a TV nod for best actress in a miniseries or TV movie for "Last of the Blonde Bombshells."

NBC led television nominees with 15, followed by HBO with 12, then CBS, Fox and Showtime with seven each.

The best dramatic TV series nominees were "CSI," "ER," "The Practice," "The Sopranos" and "The West Wing." The best musical or comedy series nominees were "Ally McBeal," "Frasier," "Malcolm in the Middle," "Sex in the City" and "Will & Grace."

Actor Robert Downey Jr. received a supporting actor nod for "Ally McBeal." Downey came to the show after his release from prison in a drug case, but has since been arrested again.

Nominees are chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's roughly 90 members, who cover Hollywood for overseas publications. The association hands out 13 movie and 11 television awards.

In the past 57 years, one of the two best-picture winners at the Golden Globes has taken the same honor at the Oscars 41 times.

The 1999 Golden Globes correctly predicted Oscar wins for "American Beauty" and director Sam Mendes, "Boys Don't Cry" star Hilary Swank and "Girl, Interrupted" supporting actress Angelina Jolie.

On the Net:
<http://www.goldenglobes.org>

Solstice greeting joins creche, menorah

YORKTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — A fanciful picture of the sun with the message "American Athiests Wish You a Very Merry Winter Solstice" has joined a Christmas creche and a Hanukkah menorah on a slice of town property.

He misspelled "atheists," but Chris Morton made his point when he put up the sign Thursday, the first day of winter.

Morton won permission from Yorktown officials, who cited a freedom of speech clause in the town code. He erected the sign on a slice of lawn traditionally used for religious displays.

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Calif. electricity rate hikes loom by early next month

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Regulators have voted for rate increases that would affect millions of customers across the state starting next month in an effort to rescue two shaky electric companies tangled in a deepening power crisis.

The unanimous action by the Public Utilities Commission on Thursday means that hikes likely would take effect beginning Jan. 4, affecting 10 million customers of Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co. The level of increase has yet to be determined.

"Retail rates in California must begin to rise," the Public Utilities Commission ordered Thursday. "This is crucial in light of the extraordinarily serious financial difficulties the dysfunctional wholesale markets have imposed on the utilities."

However, the commission promised an independent audit of the utilities' books before ratifying its decision on Jan. 4.

The two privately held utilities have said they were squeezed by deregulation in the state. PG&E and SoCal Edison blame \$8 billion in losses since May on soaring wholesale costs and frozen customer rates.

Commission President Loretta Lynch said wholesale electricity costs had increased fivefold over three weeks.

"We are operating on an emergency basis," she said.

Consumer groups balked at the commission's decision, saying it paved the way for a bailout to appease investors.

"This is regulation by Wall Street. The commission has prejudged the case and decided, before any evidence has been presented, that the utilities will be granted a rate increase," said Nettie Hoge, head of the utility watchdog group TURN.

But Dan Richard, of PG&E, said Wall Street's approval was vital to fiscal health and that the losses had wrecked the utilities' credit.

Richard said PG&E would set up a rate-stabilization plan to spread the spikes over time. The company earlier proposed a 17 percent hike, which would have raised the average \$54 monthly bill to about \$63.

Both PG&E and SoCal Edison complained about the commission's delay in responding to the crisis.

"The good part is, they're doing something. The bad part is, they didn't act in October," Richard said.

Barring dramatic action by the commission, Standard & Poor's this week threatened to relegate the credit ratings of PG&E and SoCal Edison to "junk" status, a move that would make borrowing money difficult, if not impossible. S&P planned to update its views on the utilities' finances Friday afternoon.

The commission made no guarantees, but the whiff of future rate increases seemed to be enough to allay investor fears of imminent bankruptcy at the utilities.

In afternoon trading Friday, PG&E's stock had gained 87 1/2 cents to \$19.12. Shares in Edison International, SoCal Edison's holding company, dipped 31 cents to \$14.62.

The stocks of both utilities had both plunged by nearly \$3 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, with electricity imports slowing to a trickle, managers of the state's power grid declared another Stage 2 alert Thursday, meaning that power reserves fell below 5 percent.

Consumers were asked to cut back and some commercial customers were warned they might have to cut power in places. There have been nearly three dozen power alerts since June.

On The Net:
<http://www.standardandpoors.com/ratings>
<http://www.ratepayerrevolt.org>

Teen dies while trying to save brother in freezing pond

BETHEL, Pa. (AP) — A teen-ager tried to save his 10-year-old brother after the boy fell through the ice into a backyard pond, but both died in the freezing, murky water.

Jay Paul Oberholtzer, 19, and Timothy Oberholtzer died at a hospital late Thursday after being removed from the pond.

Timothy Oberholtzer had ventured onto the ice with his 6-year-old brother, Jonathan, to see if it was safe to skate, state police said. Jonathan was not hurt.

Their father, 42-year-old Clinton Oberholtzer, went into the frigid water after Timothy and got stuck until 15-year-old David rescued him, police said.

"I saw my father in the water, and I got some cardboard tubes, which are about 8 feet long, and I put them on either side of him," David Oberholtzer told the Reading Eagle. "My father was able to lift himself up."

Jay Oberholtzer then made his unsuccessful attempt to save Timothy.

"I was telling them to kick if they could hear

me," David Oberholtzer said. "Dad told me to keep talking so they could hear and know which way to go to get out. But I didn't see any sign of movement in the water."

Scuba divers using infrared equipment located Timothy three hours after the accident, police said.

"The conditions down there — zero. There was no visibility down there," said police diver Mike Margavage, 52, who found the child.

The pond, 12 feet at its deepest, is in a township of about 4,000 residents about 35 miles northeast of Harrisburg.

The accident was the second time in two days that two Pennsylvania brothers were killed after falling through ice. On Wednesday, two young brothers from Jersey Shore, ages 6 and 3, died after their sled broke through a frozen pond where they had been playing.

The Oberholtzer family are Mennonites who sell flowers grown in a greenhouse on their property. David Oberholtzer said his father and brother Jay had just seeded the first plants this week.

Memoirs: Will Hillary follow Nancy Reagan's example?

NEW YORK (AP) — Once Hillary Rodham Clinton begins her \$8 million memoirs, she might follow any number of paths.

She could write a confessional book, like Betty Ford's "The Times of My Life." She could settle scores, like Nancy Reagan or Edith Bolt Wilson. She could tell a comprehensive story, like Rosalynn Carter's "First Lady From Plains," or attempt a serious, instructive memoir, like "The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt."

Whatever she does, Mrs. Clinton will continue a genre few could have imagined a century ago. First ladies were once expected to keep their stories to themselves. Now, their memoirs are so popular they often outsell their husbands'.

"Until the 20th century, there was a certain degree of ambivalence about whether first ladies should reveal their roles in the administration and the degree they exercised power," said Carl Sierrazza Anthony, whose books include "America's First Families" and a two-volume history on first ladies.

"But now their memoirs are greatly valued for at least two reasons. They're probably the most revealing published documents on the personalities and characters of the presidents. Secondly, they give you the fullest perspective on the president in the context of a family."

Since Betty Ford, every first lady has told her story. Mrs. Clinton's immediate predecessors, Barbara Bush and Nancy Reagan, each reportedly got \$2 million advances and their memoirs sold better than any book by their husbands.

Julia Dent Grant, widow of the 18th president, is believed to be the first presidential spouse to attempt a memoir. But her price proved far too high. Inspired by the great commercial success of Ulysses Grant's autobiography, she wanted \$125,000, a figure too rich even for her friend Andrew Carnegie. Mrs. Grant's book did not come out until the 1970s.

The first to publish in her lifetime was Helen Herron Taft, whose "Recollections of a Full Life" came out in 1914, two years after William Howard Taft was voted out of office. Eleanor Roosevelt is the only first lady to tell her story while her husband was still president.

Just how much Mrs. Clinton will have to say about her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky is not clear. The book is due in 2003.

Like most memoirs by those in power, books by first ladies tend to conceal more than confess. Mistresses, political scandals and other matters of discomfort are often ignored or briefly referred to.

Betty Ford's "The Times of My Life" was the first first-lady memoir to discuss truly personal details, from breast cancer to drug and alcohol addiction.

Should Mrs. Clinton really want to sell some books, she could take a look at Nancy Reagan's memoir, aptly named "My Turn." Mrs. Reagan called her husband's first secretary of state, Alexander M. Haig Jr., "belligerent" and "obsessed with matters of status." Of Raisa Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's first lady, she wrote, "From the moment we met, she talked and talked. I could barely get a word in."

Wendy's agrees to ban smoking at company-owned restaurants

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Wendy's International Inc. agreed Thursday with a shareholder group to ban smoking at all company-owned restaurants in the United States by March 31.

The company, based Dublin, Ohio, also said in the agreement with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility that it would encourage adoption of a non-smoking policy at franchised restaurants by that date.

Wendy's spokesman Denny Lynch said about

1,000 of the company's 5,000 restaurants in the U.S. are company-owned. Eighty-five percent of that number and one-third of franchises already are smoke-free, he said.

The interfaith group represents about 275 Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations which have investments totaling \$80 billion in various corporations. It coordinates resolutions member groups offer at corporate meetings on matters ranging from smoking, the environment, Third World debt and nuclear power.

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PET Patch, 866 W. Foster, 665-5504. Grooming by Mona, fresh, salt fish, sm. animals, supplies. Beef N' More dog & cat food.

ABOUT Town Dog Grooming. Pick up & Delivery Service. Kelly Culyer, 665-5959

2 yr. old full blood miniature Doberman Pincher (no papers) for sale. Call 665-8411 aft. 5 p.m.

FREE to good home-Blue Heeler / Lab mix. Call 669-6218.

FOR Sale German Sheppard puppies \$100. Call 665-1797.

95 Furn. Apts.

BEAUTIFULLY furnished 1 bedroom starting at \$335. All utilities included available. 3 & 6 mo. leases. Pool, laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149. Open Mo-Fr 8:30-5:30, Sa 10-4, Su 1-4.

Corporate Units New furniture, W.D. Bills pd. Lakeview Apts. 2600 N. Hobart 669-7682

EFFICIENCY apt. \$225 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$20 day, \$80 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

ONE/TWO bdrm. furn./unfurn. All utilities paid, starting at \$250, \$100 dep. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712.

REMODELED eff. furn., \$195 mo., all bills paid. 669-3221.

96 Furn. Apts.

1 bdr. apt., 1336 N. Coffey, \$225 mo. elec. & \$100 dep. 662-3040, 883-2461.

2 bdr., \$400 mo., \$150 dep., built-ins, cov. parking. Ref. req. Coronado Apts., 665-0219.

Bent Creek Apartments

Under New Management

Vacancy *Featuring lovely 2 & 3 bedroom apts. *All single story units *Electric range *Frost-free refrig. *Blinds & carpet *Washer/dryer connections *CHA Walk-in closets *Exterior storage *Front porches HUD Accepted 1400 W. Somerville Pampa 806-665-3292

CAPROCK Apts., 1,2,3 bdrm starting at \$249. All utilities included available. 3 & 6 mo. leases. Pool, washer/dryer hook-ups in 2 & 3 bdrm, fireplaces. No application fee. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149. Open Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

OFFICE Space for rent, 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

95 Furn. Apts.

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96 Unfurn. Apts.

\$299 MOVE IN 2600 N. Hobart Lakeview Apts 669-7682

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts. 1 & 2 bdr., gas, heat & water incl., 3-6 mo. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

LRG. 2 bdr. Newly re-decorated, appli. Water & gas paid. References. Call 665-1346.

PAM Apts.-Seniors or disabled. Rent based on income. 1200 N. Wells, 669-2594, 9-2 p.m.

Schneider House Apts. Seniors or Disabled Rent Based On Income 120 S. Russell 665-0415

97 Furn. Houses

3 bdr. \$275 + deposit 2 bdr. \$225 + deposit 665-8781, 665-1193

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Red Box on front porch of Action Realty, 707 N. Hobart. Update each Friday.

2 bd. duplex, 1311 N. Coffee. \$225 mo. + \$150 dep. 662-3040, 883-2461.

1 bdr., stove, refrigerator, all bills pd. \$250 mo. 1116 S. Hobart. 662-9520.

CONDO available Jan. 1st-2 bdr 2 bath, car, & pool. Contact 665-3788 or 665-6936.

NICE brick 1 bdr., w/ lrg. study or 2 bdr., new carpet, garage. 665-4842.

3 bdr., 905 Twiford 3 bdr., 1214 E. Francis 665-2254

99 Stor. Bldgs.

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

OFFICE Space for rent, 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

103 Homes For Sale

1509 N. Dwight New 4-2-2, WB, Appl Cent. h&a; 665-5158

2 bedroom, inside remodeled, nice yard. 728 Le-fors. OWC w/ small down. 665-4842.

4 bdr. br., 1 3/4 ba., lrg. bdr.s. & util. w/comp. rm., Chestnut. C-21 Marie, 665-4180, 665-5436.

BY Owner 412 Jupiter. 669-3000. Will consider any & all bids.

CORNER lot, compl. fenced backyard, 2 bdr., 1 ba., lrg. livingroom, lrg. kitchen nook area for sm. dining table. House comes complete w/ brand new washer & dryer, refrigerator, oven, stove, micro. Has floor heater & 1 window cooling unit, 1 car gar. w/ att. canning / stor. room. VERY CLEAN. Asking \$25,000. 319 4th St., McLean, Tx. 806-779-2550 aft. 5 p.m.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

3 bdr., 2 ba. 2 car gar. w/ shop Owner to pay closing cost Price Reduced to \$65,000 Make An Offer 2219 Evergreen 665-8340 669-2563

104 Lots

1/2 acre town lot w/ un-useable bldgs. 621 N. Gray, Pampa. 940-8772 5123 or 817-281-8803.

103 Homes For Sale

608 Sloan, 2 bedroom, attached garage. new cent. h&a; \$12,000. 806-665-1393.

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty. 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

FSBO 2/1/1, cent. h/a, 601 N. Wells, \$3500 down, assume note. 665-3649.

Need Some Help??? Linda C. Daniels Keller Williams Realty 669-2799 or 662-3456

REDUCED WHITE Deer. By Owner 3/22 & office. Brick, 1925 sq. ft., remodeled kitchen & bath, c. h/a, dbl. garage, fenced yard w/stor. bldg., basement. 883-2310.

104 Lots

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104 Lots

Oldsmobile
"Start Something"

2001 Aurora Sedan
Sale Price **\$27,192**
List \$31,635 - Discount \$4,443
STK #02003 White Diamond

2000 Intrigue GL Sedan
Sale Price **\$20,401**
List \$24,280 - Discount \$3,879
STK #09025 Forest Green

2001 Alero GL 2 Sedan
Only **\$17,221**
List \$20,250 - Discount \$3,029
STK #02007 White

1999 Cutlass GL Sedan
Now **\$15,642**
List \$19,860 - Discount \$4,218
STK #09007 Cherry

2001 Silhouette GLS Van
Sale Price **\$27,774**
List \$31,635 - Discount \$3,861
STK #02008 Arctic White

***0.9% APR Available**
On Selected Models. Check With Dealership For Details.

GMC
"Do One Thing Do It Well"

2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab
Now Only **\$23,399**
MSRP - \$27,401
2 WD, 4 Door Fire Red STK #G2007

Chevrolet
"Most Dependable, longest-Lasting, Trucks on the Road"

2000 Silverado LS 4 Door
Now **\$22,213**
List \$26,713 - Discount \$4,500
STK #C2115 Indigo Blue

2000 Silverado Z71
Sale Price **\$26,763**
List \$31,238 - Discount \$4,475
STK # C2106 Carmine Red

***1.9% Apr Available**
Select Model. W.A.C. See Dealership For Details.

All 2001 Extended Cabs Discounted For Clearance

Cadillac
"The Power of &: The Fusion of Design and Technology"

2000 Grand DeVille DTS
STK #CA2009 Cabernet
List - \$48,500
Now Only **\$41,285** **Discount 7,215**

PONTIAC
"Driving Excitement"

2001 Grand AM Coupe
Sale Price **\$15,831**
List \$18,105 - Discount \$2,274
STK #P2026 Navy Blue

2001 Grand AM Sedan
Sale Price **\$17,911**
List \$20,385 - Discount \$2,474
STK #P2025 Silver

2001 Grand AM Coupe
Now **\$17,458**
List \$19,885 - Discount \$2,427
STK #P2023 Black

2001 Grand AM Sedan
Sale Price **\$17,733**
List \$20,185 - Discount \$2,452
STK #P2020 Champagne Beige

ALL NEW
2001 Aztec
\$21,710
STK #P2017 Maple Red

2001 Firebird
Sale Price **\$19,375**
List \$22,240 - Discount \$2,865
STK #P2019 Navy Blue

BUICK
"Isn't it time for a real car?"

2001 Park Avenue Ultra
Now Only **\$34,024**
MSRP \$38,210 - Discount \$4,186
STK #B2037 Light Bronze Mist

2001 Park Avenue Sedan
Sale Price **\$32,112**
MSRP \$35,672 - Discount \$3,860
STK #B2036 White

2001 Park Avenue Sedan
Only **\$33,100**
MSRP \$36,807 - Discount \$3,707
STK #B2033 Red Pearl

2001 Park Avenue Sedan
Now Only **\$33,387**
MSRP \$37,137 - Discount \$3,750
STK #B2027 Blue Pearl

BUICK
"Isn't it time for a real car?"

2001 LeSabre
Price **\$23,665**
MSRP \$25,867 - Save \$2,202
STK #B2043 Light Bronze Mist

2001 LeSabre
Now **\$23,840**
MSRP \$26,067 - Save \$2,227
STK #B2038 Blue Pearl

2001 Le Sabre
Priced At **\$22,704**
List \$24,762 - Discount \$2,058
STK #B2042 Light Bronze Mist

2001 LeSabre Limited
Now **\$27,885**
List \$30,421 - Save \$2,536
STK #B2046 Black

2001 LeSabre
Sale Price **\$22,704**
List \$24,762 - Discount \$2,058
STK #B2039 White

2001 LeSabre
Now **\$25,774**
List \$28,291 - Save \$2,517
STK #B2035 Dark Chestnut

***Additional \$500 Rebate To Qualified AARP Members**
See Dealership For Details. Applies To Purchase Of Buick Century, LeSabre Or Park Avenue.

Chevrolet "We Be There"

2000 Cavalier LS Sedan
Discounted **\$2,983**
STK #C2071 White

2001 Cavalier Coupe
Only **\$13,092**
STK #C2266 Silver

2001 Cavalier Sedan
Sale Price **\$14,449**
STK #C2257 Red

2001 Cavalier Sedan
***\$299** A Month
* W.A.C. 12,000 Mile Or Year Balloon, \$500 Down Chase Auto Finance
STK #C2251 Indigo Blue

2000 Camero
Now **\$19,430**
List \$23,230 - Discount \$3,800
STK #C2016 Arctic White

2000 Camero Z28
Now **\$21,599**
5.7V8 Ebony Leather
STK #C9296 Light Pewter

PREVIOUSLY OWNED VEHICLES

'93 Olds 98 Regency Elite.....	\$4,995	2000 Pontiac Grand Prix SE.....	\$15,900
'96 Buick LeSabre Limited.....	\$11,995	'99 Chevrolet C1500 Pickup 4x4.....	\$16,900
'97 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Z34.....	\$11,995	2000 Buick Regal LS.....	\$17,500
'98 Olds Intrigue.....	\$12,900	2000 Toyota Camry LE.....	\$17,500
2000 Pontiac Grand AM Sedan.....	\$13,900	'98 Chevrolet Camaro Z28.....	\$18,900
'97 Honda Accord SE.....	\$13,900	2000 Buick LeSabre With Leather.....	\$18,900
'99 Honda Accord LX.....	\$14,900	'97 GMC Ext. Cab Z71 4x4.....	\$18,900
'94 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4 LT.....	\$14,900	'98 Toyota Sienna Van XLE.....	\$22,900
2000 Pontiac Grand AM Coupe.....	\$14,900	'99 Cadillac Deville.....	\$24,900
2000 Olds Alero.....	\$15,900		

MORE TO CHOOSE FROM!

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PAMPA, TEXAS

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665-1665

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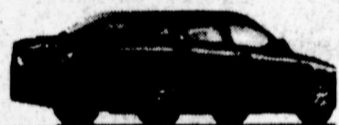
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With Best Wishes For a Happy Holiday

May the meaning of Christmas be deeper, its friendships stronger, and its hopes brighter, as you and your loved ones revel in the magic of the holiday season.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year.

We're really grateful for your kind support and look forward to your continued friendship.

RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP
111 N. CUYLER
665-2831

To The Patients Of Dr. Gregory T. Kelly

In lieu of sending Christmas cards this year
a donation will be made in your behalf to

Genesis House of Pampa
Have A Happy Holiday Season!



I want for Christmas



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Grandchildren and children of *The Pampa News* employees gave their Christmas wish lists to Santa Claus a few days ago. Above: (front row, left-right) Taylor Heiskell, Xavier Rohrbacher, Christian Young and Paige Young; (back, l-r) Peyton Young, Santa, Jazmyn Hair and Johnathen Rowell. The children are apprehensive as to what Santa Claus leaves under their Christmas Tree tonight.

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Mr. and Mrs. Leo Tyrrell

Tyrrell anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Tyrrell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 23, 2000. Children of the couple hosted the reception which was held at 2112 Christine in Pampa.

Leo Tyrrell and Jean Treat were married Dec. 23, 1950, in Country Church. The couple has been Pampa residents since 1957 and has belonged to Bible Church for the past 25 years.

Mr. Tyrrell worked part-time at Texas Furniture and was a full-time employee of Pampa Fire Department, retiring in 1989.

Mrs. Tyrrell is a homemaker. Children of the couple are Bob and Mona Milam of Midland, Craig and Kathy Harvey of Woodward, Okla., and Gary and Sherry Tyrrell, Kent and Jo Karbo and Kevin and Terri Cree, all of Pampa. They have 11 grandchildren.



Gina Barnett and David B. Gilmore

Barnett-Gilmore

Gina Barnett of Pampa and David B. Gilmore of Katy were wed Sept. 23 in Dallas Woman's Forum in Dallas with Austin College Chaplain and Associate Professor of Humanities Dr. Henry Bucher of Sherman officiating.

The matron of honor was RaNita Barnett-Cook, sister of the bride of Amarillo. The bridesmaids were Emily Lehane and Julia Johnson, both of Austin, Sally Nichols of Fort Worth and Terri Beltre' of Houston.

The best man was Michael Gilmore, brother of the groom. The groomsmen were Ray Colon, Brad Beauchamp, Brian Holt, Micah Kerber and Bal Beltre', all of Houston, and Scott Bellamy of Dallas. The ring bearer was Balbino Beltre'.

The ushers were Tom Cook, brother-in-law of the bride, and Lance Hadley, both of Amarillo, Patrick Callahan and David Smades, both of Dallas, and Justin Vitosky of Houston.

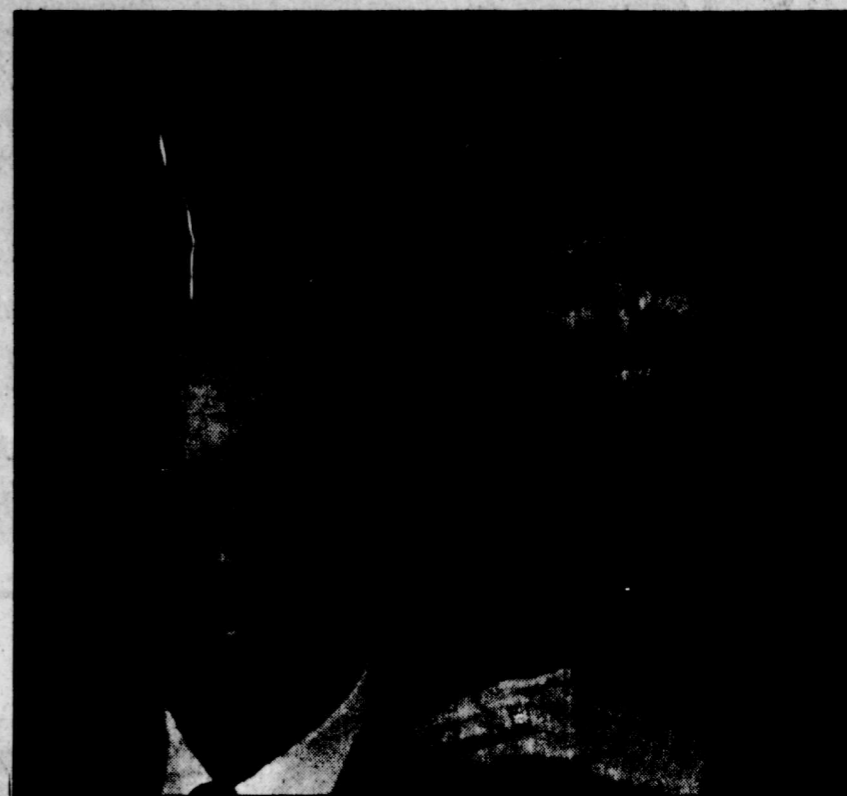
Registering the guests was Tom Cook of Amarillo. Music was provided by pianist Peter Zhu of Dallas and Monte Slaver of Dallas.

A reception was held following the service at Dallas Woman's Forum with a caterer serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Eddie and Helen Barnett of Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1991, Austin College in 1995 and Caruth School of Dental Hygiene in 1998. She is currently employed by Bal Beltre' D.D.S.

The groom is the son of Paul and Carole Gilmore of Katy. He graduated from Katy High School in 1992 and attended Sam Houston State University. He is currently self-employed as manager of operations of Lawn Star, a landscaping company.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Maui, Hawaii and intend to make their home in Katy.



Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Fenno

Fenno anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Fenno celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 23, 2000, at their home in Pampa. Children of the couple hosted the reception.

C.E. Fenno and JoAnn Wall were married Dec. 17, 1950, at Lefors and are former Lefors residents, moving to Pampa 10 years ago.

Mr. Fenno is retired from Titan Specialties, Inc., of Pampa. Mrs. Fenno, a retired educator, taught at Lefors High School. Children of the couple are Wyatt and Thu Fenno of Edmond, Okla. They have three grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bell

Bell anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bell of Pampa will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 27, 2000.

Kenneth Edward Bell and Michele Lou Parker were married Dec. 27, 1975, in United Methodist Church of McLean.

Mr. Bell is currently employed with Cabot Corporation. Mrs. Bell is a homemaker.

The couple belongs to St. Paul United Methodist Church. Children of the couple are Matthew and Amber Bell of Amarillo and Kristen Bell of Pampa.

Lifestyles Policies

1. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.

2. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.

3. Engagement announcements will be published the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.

4. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in *The Pampa News* office later than one month past the date of the wedding.

5. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published after the anniversary date.

6. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to *The Pampa News*, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

Menus Dec. 25-29

<p>Pampa Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.</p> <p>Lefors Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.</p> <p>Senior Citizens MONDAY Holiday.</p> <p>TUESDAY Chicken fried steak or chicken and broccoli casserole, rosemary potatoes, succotash, beets, beans, cherry chip cake or butterscotch pudding cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Roast beef brisket with brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, beans, fried squash, baked cabbage, black forest cake or bread pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.</p>	<p>THURSDAY Chicken strips or ham salad, tater tots, turnip greens, yams, beans, carrot cake or lemon ice-box pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.</p> <p>FRIDAY Catfish and hush puppies or spaghetti and meatballs, potato wedges, broccoli casserole, beans, confetti cake or tapioca, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls, garlic toast or cornbread.</p> <p>Meals On Wheels MONDAY-TUESDAY Holiday.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Hamburgers, tater tots, applesauce.</p> <p>THURSDAY Pork roast, hominy casserole, mixed vegetables, pears.</p> <p>FRIDAY Steakfingers, mashed potatoes, Italian blend, sliced apples.</p>
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Turner

Turner anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Turner will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary from 5-8 p.m., Dec. 31, 2000, with a New Year's Eve Open House at their residence in Pampa. Children and grandchildren of the couple will host the event.

Paul Turner and Minelle Baird were married Dec. 22, 1940, in the parlor of the parsonage of First Baptist Church.

They have been Pampa residents for the past 60 years and belong to First Baptist Church.

Mr. Turner worked for Grayco Machine Company for 23 years and was president of Panhandle Industrial Company for 18 years, retiring in 1993.

Mrs. Turner worked for Southwestern Bell for seven years. She is a homemaker and is a member of Twentieth Century Culture Club.

Children of the couple are Dan and Terrie Turner of Dumas and David Turner of Bristow, Okla. They have four grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

OTONIEL HUERTAS, M.D.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Laparoscopy Surgery	Gynecological Surgery
Pregnancy and Childbirth	High Risk Obstetrics
Cesarean Delivery	Vaginal Birth After Cesarean
Infertility	Sterility
Tubal Reversals	Ob/Gyn Ultrasound
Antenatal Testing/	Menopause Management
Genetic Amniocentesis	PMS
Incontinence Therapy	Family Planning
Weight Reduction	Osteoporosis Treatment
Adolescent Gynecologic	Colposcopy/Cryotherapy
Annual Gym Exams	

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Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication. Thank you.

20th Century Club

Twentieth Century Club met Dec. 12 at the home of Phyllis White with President Vonna Wolf presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Mary Wilson led the club collect and roll was answered with "a family tradition."

—Chleo Worley read the Christmas story "Tilley's Christmas," from the newly published book "The Quiet Woman" by Louisa Mae Alcock.

—Members participated in a gift exchange and caroling was led by Myrna Orr and Nancy Coffee.

The hostesses were White and Mildred Laycock.

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the home of June McGahey, 1901 Evergreen.

Progressive Club

Progressive Extension Club met Dec. 14 at the home of Beulah Terrell with President Juré Rowan presiding. Nine members were present.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Helene Baumgardner read minutes from the previous meeting in addition to all recent correspondence.

—Mary Ann Bailey gave the treasurer's report.

—Lenny Howard reported on a recent Council meeting during which by-laws were updated.

—A workshop for the four local Extension clubs is planned with the date to be announced at a later time.

—Nine members attended District meeting in Hartley, participating in an officers training.

—Members met Dec. 17 at the home of Joan Gray, County Extension agent, for their annual Christmas party and gift exchange. Everyone was to bring books for donation to Child Protective Services to the party.

—Terrell presented the program "Christmas Remembrances."

—Rowan won the door prize.

The next meeting will be with Mary Ann Bailey Jan. 11 at 2221 N. Russell.

Up-to-date cancer website

HOUSTON — A website providing Texans with accurate and reliable information on cancer-related resources, publications and information is available on the Internet.

The Cancer Gateway of Texas was launched this year in response to concerns about a lack of easily accessed, reliable cancer information on the Internet. Located at www.cancergateway.org, the Cancer Gateway of Texas provides links to reputable, non-commercial websites offering current information relating to cancer and the cancer experience free of charge.

The Cancer Gateway differs from other Internet health sites in that each link has been reviewed for quality and usefulness by the site's Texas Link Evaluation Committee. These members are drawn from the steering committee of the Physician Oncology Education Program of the Texas Medical Association.

Blue ribbon Festival of Trees winners

Pampa Garden Club recently sponsored the annual Festival of Trees at Lovett Memorial Library. Winners from the event are as follows:

—Small Tree Division. Women of the Moose (organization); Bonnie Wood, first place, Ruth Barrett, second place, and Dale Grayum, third place (individual).

—Large Tree Division. Church of God Youth Group; Small Fry Gardeners, second place, and Garden Club, third place (organization); Harvester Lanes (commercial); Jennifer Helsley, first place, Linda Wilson, second place, Cathy Reed, third place, and Eva Dennis, honorable mention (individual).



Mr. and Mrs. John Morehart

Morehart anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. John Morehart of Claude will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 25 in Pampa.

John K. Morehart and D. June McCloskey were married Dec. 25, 1950, at Van Dyke Baptist Church in Van Dyke, Mich., with the Rev. Benken officiating. They renewed their vows in 1975 in Victory Baptist Church of Battle Creek, Mich., with the Rev. Eric Berg officiating and again in 1993 in Sovereign Baptist Church of Battle Creek with the Rev. Richard Collins officiating. Both were born in Williamsport, Pa., and are members of First Baptist Church of Claude.

Mr. Morehart was employed with Battle Creek Public Schools in maintenance and supply and was a truck driver for 24 years, retiring in 1993 due to ill health.

Mrs. Morehart was also employed with Battle Creek Public Schools as extra duty manager of the school cafeteria, retiring in 1993.

Children of the couple are Doris Morehart of Claude, Frances and Daniel Finnis of Marshall, Mich., Geri and Kenneth Wright and Daniel and Patti Morehart, all of Battle Creek, Rhonda Morehart of Pampa and Douglas and Millissa Morehart of Ohio. They have 21 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Longan

Longan anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Longan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 17, 2000, at First United Methodist Church in Pampa. Linda and Marlin Gee of Pampa and family of the couple hosted the reception.

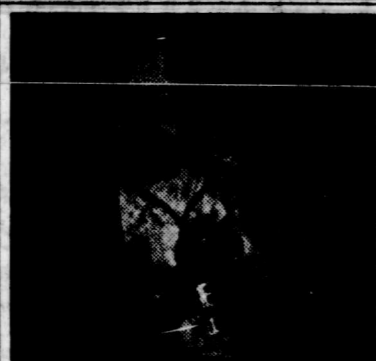
Wesley Longan and Barbara Stepp were married Dec. 22, 1950, at Morrison, Okla. They have been Pampa residents for the past 27 years and are charter members of Hunt United Methodist Church in Dumas.

Mr. Longan worked for Phillips Petroleum for 37 years. Mrs. Longan sold Tupperware for 25 years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Longan are currently involved in their own candy business, "Barbara's Munchies."

Children of the couple are Linda Porter of Amarillo and the late Robert Longan. They have two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Community Camera 669-2525



CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below. With tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear. For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear. But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring. For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far away. We really aren't apart. So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all Love is the gift more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or love He has for each of you. So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear. Remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year. I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place. Can you just imagine Christmas with our Savior face to face? I'll ask Him to light our spirit as I tell Him of your love. Then pray for one another as you lift your eyes above.

So please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing. For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven and I'm walking with the KING!

In memory of Ethan Wayne Anderson. We love you and we miss you. Mom, Dad, Miranda, Ashton, Bryan, Melodie & Genelle King.

Newsmakers



Angie Davenport



Kyle Zybach



Tawana Garrison

WEATHERFORD, Okla. — Sixty-three Southwestern Oklahoma State University students have been named to the 2001 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The students were selected

from among some 1,000 seniors on the Weatherford campus.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory chose the students based on the following criteria: academic achievement, community service, leadership in

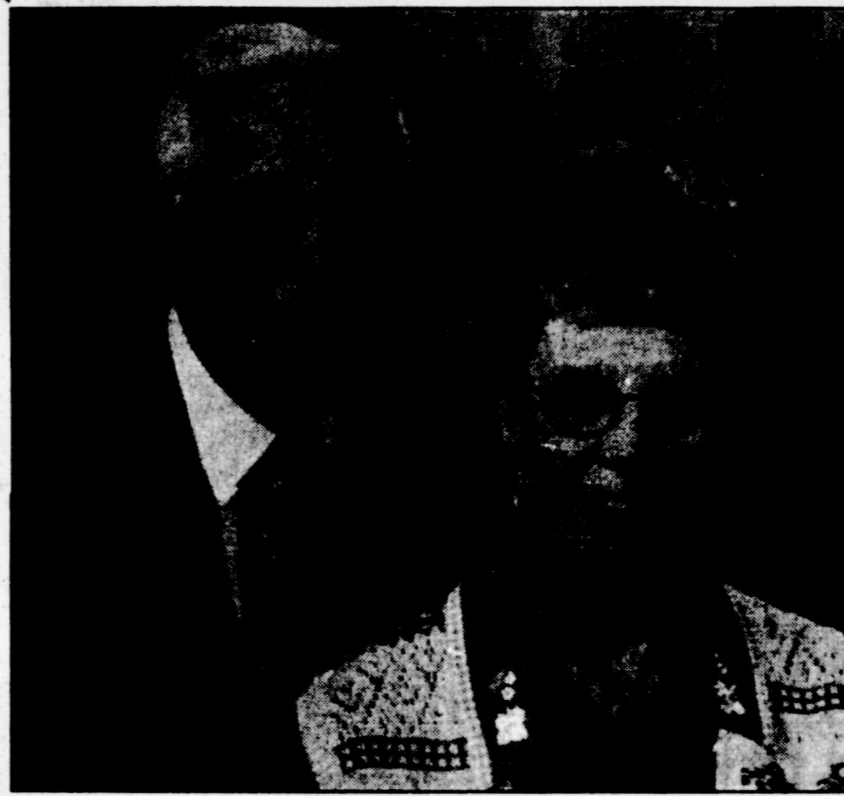
extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

The SWOSU students will be honored with a reception at 2 p.m. Feb. 4 in the Student Union Ballroom at SWOSU.

Students named to Who's Who include: Angie Davenport of Pampa and Kyle Zybach of Wheeler.

YNSN Tawana Garrison, daughter of Wanda Riggie of Skellytown, recently graduated from Naval Basic Training Center at Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill. Garrison went on to rank third in her class in Yeoman "A" School at NITC in Meridian, Miss.

She is presently stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Mitchell

Mitchell anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Mitchell of Amarillo will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary from 7-9 p.m., Dec. 26, 2000, at their residence in Amarillo. Children of the couple will host the reception.

J.L. "Jay" Mitchell and Mary Kuehl were married Dec. 26, 1950, in Pampa. They have been Amarillo residents for 29 years and belong to Paramount Terrace Christian Church of Amarillo.

Mr. Mitchell retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1971, after 21 years of service.

Mrs. Mitchell retired from Amarillo College in 1991, after 19 years of service.

Children of the couple are Sue Thomas of Brownwood and Brian Mitchell of Jacksonville, Fla. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Holiday Feast

Monday, Dec. 25th

11:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ Fellowship Hall

(across from the High School)

1342 Mary Ellen ~ Pampa, Texas

A holiday meal will be served in our Fellowship Hall from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM for you & your family. Please come and be our guests (no takeouts please).

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MARQUEE


**Sunday, Dec. 17
through
Saturday, Dec. 23**



Pet of the Week



Daisy...
This Red Bone Coon Hound is 5 years old. She's a sweet and gentle family pet. Hurry in... her breed is rare to a shelter!



For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park. Office hours are Monday-Friday 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., Sun. & Holidays 11 a.m.-12 noon and 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Sponsored By The Pampa News

Lost Your Pet? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

Editorial

May the holiday season bring you and your family much joy and happiness!

Composing

Season's Greetings! May the holidays find you happy and healthy.

Front Office

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good things.

EXTRA, EXTRA...

Special Holiday Wishes from All of Us!

Thanks for making us your number-one source for news! We appreciate your readership.

Pampa News

Press Room

Glad tidings at Christmastime. We hope yours is a merry holiday filled with love and laughter!

Circulation

Hope this holiday season exceeds all of your expectations!

Advertising

Hoping your Christmas is filled with hope, harmony and happiness!

PRENATAL AND POSTPARTUM EXERCISE PROGRAM

Did you know that women who exercise during and after their pregnancy generally have shorter labors, fewer complications and quicker recoveries?

Pampa Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation Team is providing a comprehensive educational and exercise program for mother, partner and child by a licensed therapist.

What are the benefits of exercise during pregnancy for mothers?

- * Promotes muscle tone, strength and endurance through exercises
- * Helps you to carry the weight you gain during pregnancy
- * Makes it easier to get back into shape after the baby is born
- * Improves mood and self image
- * Improves sleeping patterns
- * Decreases fewer pregnancy-related discomforts
- * Lowers weight gain and fat accumulation
- * Increases speed of recovery after delivery

What are the benefits of exercise during pregnancy for the baby?

- * Studies have shown that women who exercised strenuously during pregnancy had babies approximately 8 ounces lighter than fit mothers who stopped exercising during pregnancy.
- * Studies show that children of mothers who exercised during pregnancy tended to be leaner and scored significantly higher on intelligence and language skill, test, than children whose mothers did not exercise during pregnancy.
- * Recreational exercise may actually decrease the chances of both premature labor and the birth of a very small baby.
- * Continuing regular, vigorous exercise throughout pregnancy decreases fetal fat without decreasing overall growth.

Does exercise hurt the baby?

- * According to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, there is **NO** evidence that shows that exercise during pregnancy has any harmful effects on the baby or increases the risk of a miscarriage or birth defects.
- * Exercise does not increase the chance of premature labor or membrane rupture.

The program is held for a total of twelve (12) sessions and will meet bi-weekly. PRMC will also be offering a postpartum exercise program that consists of four (4) sessions and will meet bi-weekly. Exercise sessions will begin January 2, 2001. For more information, Contact Pampa Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation team at (806) 663-5566. Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



DECEMBER 28, 2000

THURSDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING

Channel	12pm	12:30	1pm	1:30	2pm	2:30	3pm	3:30	4pm	4:30	5pm	5:30	6pm	6:30	7pm	7:30	8pm	8:30	9pm	9:30	10pm	10:30	11pm	11:30	
KACV	Body Elec.	Sewing	Painting	Fine Art	Chaco Canyon	Wishbone	Reading	Clifford	Dragon	Arthur	Lions	News-Lehrer	Wash. Wk.	Wall St.	Served	Wait God	Time Goes	Keeping Up	Charlie Rose	News-Lehrer					
KAMR	Days of Our Lives	Passions	Montel Williams	Men Are From Mars	Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News	News	Entertain	Providence	"The Storm"	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	
KVII	News	Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Mauri	News	ABC News	News	Fortune	Two Guys	Norm	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	
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A&E	Law & Order	Northern Exposure	L.A. Law	Murder, She Wrote	Magnum, P.I.	"Laura"	Night Court	Newsradio	Law & Order	Biography	Charles	Behind Closed Doors	Investigative Reports	Law & Order	"Blood"	Biography	Charles								
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DISC	Home Matters	Design	Christopher Lowell	Epicurious	Epicurious	Your New House	Giant	Lizards	Explore	Real LAPD	Motorcycle Mania	Deadliest Job	Justice Files	Real LAPD											
DISN	Madeline	Rupert	Movie	"Model Behavior"	MusicVids	Totally	Jersey	Even	Famous	BoyWorld	Heartbeat	Movie	"Rent-a-Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"
ESPN	College Football Liberty Bowl	Colorado State vs. Louisville	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	
ESPN2	Strongman	Strongman	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	
FAM	Movie	"Passport to Paris"	Ed, Edd, Eddy	Powerpuff	Powerpuff	Ronin War	Sailor Moon	Dragon-Z	Tenchi	Dead Zone	Cartoon	Bravo	Dexter	Powerpuff	Courage	Sheep	Courage	Ed, Edd	ToonHeads	Clampett	Dragon-Z	Teachi			
FSSW	Coach Houston	Collect	Cowboys	TBA	Tennis	MLB/PAA	Big 12	Sport	Bluetorch TV	Challenge	NBA Action	Football	Last Word	SW Sports	NHL Hockey	Los Angeles Kings at Dallas Stars	Live	SW Sports	NHL Hockey	Los Angeles Kings at Dallas Stars	Live	Sports	Sports	Last Word	
HGTV	AI-Auction	Collect	Carol D.	Decorating	Home	Decorating	Home	Decorating	Home	Dream	Help	Old House	Before/After	Appraise It!	Appraisal	Kitchen	Homes	Dream	Home	Appraise It!	Appraisal	Kitchen	Homes		
HIST	Black Sheep Squadron	History	History IQ	20th Century	Cuban Missile Crisis	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	
LIFE	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie
NICK	Franklin	Franklin	Doug	Doug	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Rocket	U Pick	Pinky	Thornton	Hey Arnold!	Rugrats	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel
SCIFI	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	
TBS	Behind	Casey	Life Today	Benny Hill	700 Club	Hagee	Parsley	Praise the Lord	TBN Special	Behind	Christian	Price	Praise the Lord	Movie	"Harlem Nights"	Movie	"Harlem Nights"	Movie	"Harlem Nights"	Movie	"Harlem Nights"	Movie	"Harlem Nights"	Movie	"Harlem Nights"
TBS	Hunter	"Turning Point"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie	"Two Mules for Sister Sara"	Movie
TCM	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie	"The Belles of St. Mary's"	Movie
TLC	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	Makeover	
TNN	Waltons	"The Gypsies"	Bloopers-Jokes	McCoy's	Alice	Due South	Pai Factor	Chronicles	Pensacola-Wing	ER	U Pick	Pretender	"Stolen"	Movie	"Moonstruck"	Movie	"Moonstruck"	Movie	"Moonstruck"	Movie	"Moonstruck"	Movie	"Moonstruck"	Movie	"Moonstruck"
TOON	"Land Before Time V"	Ed, Edd, Eddy	Powerpuff	Powerpuff	Ronin War	Sailor Moon	Dragon-Z	Tenchi	Dead Zone	Cartoon	Bravo	Dexter	Powerpuff	Courage	Sheep	Courage	Ed, Edd	ToonHeads	Clampett	Dragon-Z	Teachi				
TVLAND	Gunsmoke	Emergency!	Adam-12	Pragmat	Charlie's Angels	UFS Winner	Griffith	Griffith	Emergency!	Barney	Hogan	50 Great	Van Dyke	Griffith	Leave	Charles	Angels	Griffith	Leave	Charles	Angels	Griffith	Leave	Charles	
UNI	Siempre Te Amaré	La Casa en la Playa	El Gordo y la Flaca	Cristina	Primer Impacto	El Biazazo	Noticiero	Locura de Amor	Mujeres Engañadas	Nash Bridges	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	Movie	"Nightwatch"	
USA	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie	"Heathers"	Movie
WGN	News	Buzz	Caroline	Change	Street	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	7th Heaven	Full House	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	
HBO	"Star Trek Generations"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"	Movie	"Home Alone"
MAX	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie	"Never Say Nvr"	Movie
SHOW	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie	"Murdercycle"	Movie
TMC	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie	"A Merry War"	Movie

DECEMBER 29, 2000

Channel	12pm	12:30	1pm	1:30	2pm	2:30	3pm	3:30	4pm	4:30	5pm	5:30	6pm	6:30	7pm	7:30	8pm	8:30	9pm	9:30	10pm	10:30	11pm	11:30	
KACV	Body Elec.	Sewing	Painting	Fine Art	Chaco Canyon	Wishbone	Reading	Clifford	Dragon	Arthur	Lions	News-Lehrer	Wash. Wk.	Wall St.	Served	Wait God	Time Goes	Keeping Up	Charlie Rose	News-Lehrer					
KAMR	Days of Our Lives	Passions	Montel Williams	Men Are From Mars	Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News	News	Entertain	Providence	"The Storm"	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	
KVII	News	Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Mauri	News	ABC News	News	Fortune	Two Guys	Norm	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	Whoa?	
KFDA	News	Bold & B.	College Football Sun Bowl	UCLA vs. Wisconsin	UCLA vs. Wisconsin	News	CBS News	News	Home Imp.	Fugitive	CSI: Crime Son	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	
KCTD	Divorce	Attorney	Roseanne	Mad	Grace	Nanny	Digimon	Rangers	X-Men	Digimon	Simpsons	3rd Rock	Spin City	Real TV	Movie	"Beethoven"	CSI: Crime Son	MPA'S'H	MPA'S'H	Frasier	Cops	Star Trek: Voyager			
A&E	Law & Order	Northern Exposure	L.A. Law	Murder, She Wrote	Magnum, P.I.	"Laura"	Night Court	Newsradio	Law & Order	Biography	Charles	Behind Closed Doors	Investigative Reports	Law & Order	"Blood"	Biography	Charles								
AMC	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	"The Mountain"	
ANPL	Amazing	Amazing	Animal Cr.	Animal Cr.	Breed	Breed	Pet Story	Emergency	Rescues	Animal	Croc Files	Pet Project	You Lie	Animals	Baboons	Cats	Jeff Corwin Experience	Shark	PartLife	Baboons	Cats	Jeff Corwin Experience			
BET	BET: NY	Cla's World	Hits From the Street	Rap City: The Basement	Chefs	Chefs	Your New House	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	Wild Discovery: Grizzlies	
DISC	Home Matters	Design	Christopher Lowell	Epicurious	Epicurious	Your New House	Giant	Lizards	Explore	Real LAPD	Motorcycle Mania	Deadliest Job	Justice Files	Real LAPD											
DISN	Madeline	Rupert	Movie	"Model Behavior"	MusicVids	Totally	Jersey	Even	Famous	BoyWorld	Heartbeat	Movie	"Rent-a-Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	"The Next Karate Kid"	Movie	
ESPN	College Football Liberty Bowl	Colorado State vs. Louisville	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	College Football Holiday Bowl	Oregon vs. Texas	
ESPN2	Strongman	Strongman	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	Winter X-Games Classic	
FAM	Movie	"Passport to Paris"	Ed, Edd, Eddy	Powerpuff	Powerpuff	Ronin War	Sailor Moon	Dragon-Z	Tenchi	Dead Zone	Cartoon	Bravo	Dexter	Powerpuff	Courage	Sheep	Courage	Ed, Edd	ToonHeads	Clampett	Dragon-Z	Teachi			
FSSW	Coach Houston	Collect	Cowboys	TBA	Tennis	MLB/PAA	Big 12	Sport	Bluetorch TV	Challenge	NBA Action	Football	Last Word	SW Sports	NHL Hockey	Los Angeles Kings at Dallas Stars	Live	SW Sports	NHL Hockey	Los Angeles Kings at Dallas Stars	Live	Sports	Sports	Last Word	
HGTV	AI-Auction	Collect	Carol D.	Decorating	Home	Decorating	Home	Decorating	Home	Dream	Help	Old House	Before/After	Appraise It!	Appraisal	Kitchen	Homes	Dream	Home	Appraise It!	Appraisal	Kitchen	Homes		
HIST	Black Sheep Squadron	History	History IQ	20th Century	Cuban Missile Crisis	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	Weddings of a Lifetime	
LIFE	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie	"Turn Back the Clock"	Movie
NICK	Franklin	Franklin	Doug	Doug	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	Rocket	U Pick	Pinky	Thornton	Hey Arnold!	Rugrats	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel	Canan-Kel
SCIFI	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek																					

ENTERTAINMENT

At the movies: 'Miss Congeniality' film review

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP Entertainment Writer

Truly, we have mined the beauty pageant satire to death, have we not? Just a few months ago, Minnie Driver starred as a cutthroat pageant queen in "Beautiful," Sally Field's unfortunate directing debut. "Scary Movie," which spoofed pretty much everything this summer, even found time to poke fun at pageants.

Denise Richards and Kirsten Dunst duked it out for the crown in last year's "Drop Dead Gorgeous." And we could spend all day talking about the TV movies made after JonBenet Ramsey's 1996 murder, condemning the parade of tiny beauty queens.

Now, here she is, "Miss Congeniality," with Sandra Bullock as a clumsy FBI agent who goes undercover at the Miss United States contest to track down a terrorist.

Nothing is terribly innovative: The pageant world is shallow, the hair big, the smiles plastic.

But "Miss Congeniality"

But "Miss Congeniality" isn't nearly as excruciating as it may sound, simply because Bullock is so likable. Saccharine, feel-good moments that would be pure torture in anyone else's hands are merely tolerable here.

isn't nearly as excruciating as it may sound, simply because Bullock is so likable. Saccharine, feel-good moments that would be pure torture in anyone else's hands are merely tolerable here.

How's that for a ringing endorsement?

As the unrefined Special Agent Gracie Hart, Bullock undergoes a makeover because she's the only woman in the bureau young enough to pose as a pageant contestant. Of course, she's Miss New Jersey, which allows room for lots of hackneyed Garden State zingers. And the pageant itself takes place in San Antonio, so there are stereotypical Texas jokes, too.

Although turning Bullock into a gorgeous creature is hardly difficult, Michael Caine gets the task as the foppish, condescending pageant consultant Victor Melling. He is Henry Higgins to Gracie's Eliza Doolittle. Caine is working below his element here, but after playing serious roles in "Quills" and "The Cider House Rules," he said he wanted a change of pace.

Victor brags that his clients have won the Miss United States pageant 10 of the past 11 years. "The year we lost," he deadpans, "the winner was a deaf-mute. You can't beat that."

There are other small, funny moments.

During the show's interview portion, when all the other contestants wish for world peace, Gracie responds with a perfect smile that she wants "harsher punishment for parole violators."

William Shatner brings his quirky energy to the role of Stan Field, the pageant's longtime master of ceremonies. Just seeing him the first time he appears on screen is good for a laugh.

And Heather Burns steals nearly every scene she's in as a goofy, sweet contestant from Rhode Island.

Candace Bergen seems out of place and tries too hard as the obsessive head of the pageant and a former beauty queen herself. Benjamin Bratt, as a fellow FBI agent, just gets to look good — there's a gratuitous scene of him in a swimming pool.

Toward the end, the film, directed by Donald Petrie ("Grumpy Old Men") and credited to three screenwriters, missteps by shifting its tone. "Beautiful" made this mistake, too. After skewering pageants all along, the film ultimately embraces them as a way for young women to meet each other and make something of their lives. You can't have it both ways.

"Miss Congeniality," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for sexual references and a scene of violence. Running time: 110 minutes.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

G — General audiences. All ages admitted.

PG — Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 — Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

R — Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 — No one under 17 admitted.

Celebrity birthdays

By The Associated Press

Celebrity birthdays for the week of Dec. 24-30:

Dec. 24: Actor Clarence Gilyard ("Walker, Texas Ranger") is 45. Musician Ian Burden of Human League is 43. Actor Diedrich Bader ("The Drew Carey Show") is 34. Singer Ricky Martin is 29.

Dec. 25: Singer Jimmy Buffett is 54. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 52. Actress Sissy Spacek is 51. Singer Annie Lennox is 46. Singer Steve Wariner is 46. Musician Noel Hogan of the Cranberries is 29.

Dec. 26: Comedian Alan King is 73. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 55. Musician Lars Ulrich of Metallica is 37. Actor Jared Leto is 29.

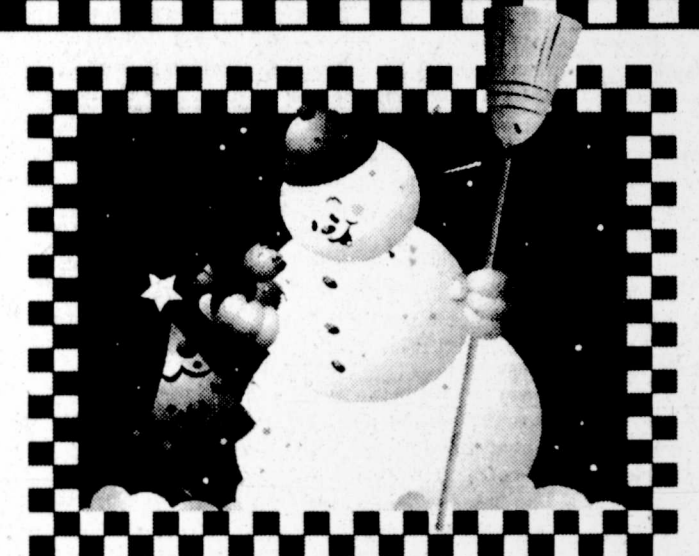
Dec. 27: Actor John Amos is 59. Singer Tracy Nelson is 56. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 52. Musician Matt Slocum of Sixpence None The Richer is 28.

Dec. 28: Actress Maggie Smith is 66. Actor Denzel Washington is 46. Actress Mackenzie Rosman ("7th Heaven") is 11.

Dec. 29: Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 63. Actor Jon Voight is 62. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 54. Actor Ted Danson is 53.

Comedian Paula Poundstone is 41. Actor Jude Law ("The Talented Mr. Ripley") is 28. Actor Shawn Hatosy ("Anywhere but Here") is 25.

Dec. 30: Actor Joseph Bologna is 62. Singer Mike Nesmith of the Monkees is 58. Singer Davy Jones of the Monkees is 55. Singer Patti Smith is 54. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph ("Moesha") is 45. Actress Patricia Kalembar ("Sisters") is 44. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 41. Actor Jason Behr ("Roswell") is 27. Actress Meredith Monroe ("Dawson's Creek") is 24. Singer Tyrese is 22.



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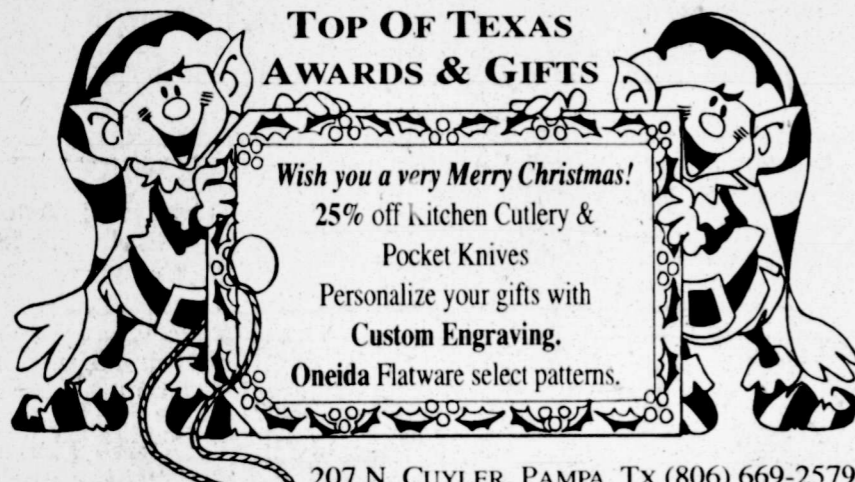
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Town scribes answer letters to Santa Claus

By **KIMBERLY HEFLING**
Associated Press Writer

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. (AP) — Nonbelievers, beware: That whole Santa-Claus-is-a-myth theory doesn't fly in this town where elves have answered Christmas letters for nearly a century.



PAMPA TAKEDOWN CLUB WRESTLING open to youth five to 15 years of age. Practice is held at 900 N. Frost. Season ends in February 2001. For more information, contact Coach Rick Urguhart, 665-8321.

MAGIC PLAINS CHAPTER of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Furr's Cafeteria. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

FREEDOM MUSEUM, USA, 600 N. Hobart is open from 12-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Revolutionary War to Kosovo. All branches of service are represented. For more information, call 669-6066.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS meet the fourth Saturday of each month at the Clyde Carruth Livestock Pavilion, 6:30 p.m. Pot luck supper. For more information contact Kevin Romines, 665-8547 or Jim Greene, 665-8067.

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION meets at 2 p.m. the third Monday of every month at the Senior Citizens Center. For more information, contact Willie Mae Mangold, 669-7259.

FIRST PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH hosts "Second Sunday Singing" from 2-4 p.m. the second Sunday of each month. Singers and musicians from all over perform congregational singing. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Mina Towey, 665-8529.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM winter visiting hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Admission is free, elevator provided.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER support groups for victims of family violence — both women and children — meet every Thursday evening. For more information about adult support groups, call 669-1788, and to inquire about children's support groups, 669-1131.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER Coordinating Council meets once a month. For more information, call 669-1131.

MEALS ON WHEELS Garage Sale, 900 N. Frost, will be every Monday throughout February and April. For more information, call Cindy Gindorf, 669-1007.

PAMPA YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTER Water Aerobics class will be from 6-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call Frankie Hildenbrand, 669-3713, or Lee, Betty or Liz at Pampa Youth Center, 665-0748.

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL office will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. PALC volunteers work with people who need basic reading/writing skills as well as English as a second language. For more information, call 665-2331.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL will meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. For more information call Sharon King, 665-2818.

AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 669-7501.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-7501.

CLEAN AIR AL-ATEEN will hold weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, contact 669-3988.

VFW POST #1657, 105 S. Cuyler. Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

THE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP will have regularly scheduled meetings the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, Inc. For more information contact Chrys Smith at 665-0356.

Dozens of town scribes, from the veterans of the American Legion to the women of the garden club, pen replies in red ink to believers young and old. Bilingual monks and nuns from local monasteries answer letters from foreign lands.

The letter writers, who see themselves as Santa's elves, follow two rules: "We never promise anything to kids and we keep the spiritual part of Christmas in it," says the head elf, Patricia Koch.

Some of the 10,000 annual letters addressed to the town's namesake are downright funny.

"I just want to tell you that my chimney is full of glass," writes young Victoria. "I will leave the keys out for you to come in the door."

Others require a tissue.

"My mom got fired from her job in November," writes Alfred, 13. "We are using an electric heater to heat up the apt. Dear Santa, I was hoping that you will send us something for we will have a Merry Christmas."

The holiday spirit is taken seriously in this rural southern Indiana community of 2,000 people. They rent movies at Ho Ho Ho Video, offer prayers at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church, buy groceries at Holiday Foods and golf at Christmas Lake Village.

"I think someone who doesn't like Christmas would go live in another town," says Paul Werne, spokeswoman for Holiday World Theme Park in Santa Claus.

The town's post office offers a special red decorative postmark — available upon request. An estimated 100,000 cards from across the United States come through the post office each December, just to get it, postmaster Sandra Collignon says.

Without the special candy cane-conjuring name, Santa Claus "would be like the little town down the road," Collignon says.

Santa Claus originally was a settlement named Santa Fe (pronounced Fee). Residents couldn't open a post office in the mid-1800s until the town's name was changed, because there was already a Santa Fe, in northern Indiana.

Legend has it there was much dissension over what to call it until the Christmas spirit came over the townspeople at a December party.

It's unclear when kids started addressing letters to Santa Claus, Ind., in addition to the North Pole. But it's believed postmaster Jim Martin started sending replies to children's letters in 1914. A few years later, the town was highlighted in Ripley's Believe or Not,

and letters started arriving by the bundle.

Martin later teamed with Koch's father, Jim Yellig, who was Santa Claus at the Holiday World Theme Park and is still remembered around town as the "real Santa Claus."

Like the town, Yellig has his own story. He is said to have played Santa Claus for the first time for underprivileged children in Brooklyn during World War I.

"He made a vow, if you get me through this war, I'll be Santa Claus forever," Werne says.

The children's letters have always told a lot about their lives, says Bette Rice, a member of the town's garden club.

Some letters tell Santa where he can buy an endless list of toys, and include the price. Others "just want food," Rice says.

Even as a child, the 69-year-old Koch helped her father answer the letters. He took the letter writing seriously, and his notes with messages like "needs to quit sucking thumb" can still be found on letters mailed into Santa Claus decades ago.

Children used to ask for Shirley Temple dolls, but today they're more likely to request high-tech gadgets and games.

The tone of the letters has changed as well. In recent years, kids seem more desperate, sometimes telling Santa Claus their parents are taking drugs or abusing them, Koch says.

"That's new and that's sad," says Koch, who will contact a charity in the child's hometown if a child is clearly in need.

"Our goal is to answer letters and that's what we're really doing," Koch says. "We can't do something for everybody. We understand that."

Like many of the townspeople, Koch believes that receiving a letter from Santa can make a difference in a child's life. She helped set up a nonprofit corporation in 1974 to pay for postage that costs thousands each year.

Each December, Koch drops off letters, picks up fresh bundles and recruits new elves. This year, she talked some residents from a nursing home into helping.

"People call to help and it gets done," Koch said. "It always gets done."

Koch jokes about the time a television reporter had the "audacity" to ask her if she felt right perpetuating the myth of Santa Claus. Her answer: "What myth?"

On the Net: <http://holidayworld.com>

Presbyterian recycling cans for HPI

For the past several months, First Presbyterian Church of Pampa (525 N. Gray) has been collecting aluminum cans to recycle, and placing the money from the recycling in a special account to contribute to Heifer Project International, a non-sectarian service organization which provides livestock — along with training and support services — to families and communities worldwide.

This project has been especially important recently, because a private foundation is providing a 3-1 match for all donations.

First Presbyterian has collected \$500 from the recycling project and monetary contributions. This amount will actually provide an additional \$1,500 through the 3-1 match. This makes a total of \$2000 to help the efforts of HPI.

All contributions are tax deductible.

The people of Pampa have been very supportive of this recycling project and are now invited to add more funds to increase the total amount to be matched by this grant.

The funds will be forwarded to



(Community Camera photo by Lorelee Cooley)

(left-right) Ed Cooley, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Pampa, stands with Ally Garner and Ann Watson, church elder, before a bulletin board at First Presbyterian devoted to the "Heifer Project International." Watson spearheads the local HPI effort.

HPI, based in Little Rock, Ark., before the end of the year. Contributions will be accepted through Dec. 29 toward this end.

The church will continue, 3-1 match will no longer be available, all funds will still be used to support the efforts of the following year. Although the Heifer Project International.

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NEWSMAKERS

combat training at Fort Knox. During the training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid and Army history and traditions.

FORT KNOX, Ky. — Army Private Jeffery S. McElroy, 2000 Pampa High School graduate and son of Kathey Y. Clark of Pampa, recently graduated from basic



BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS 2000

Below and on the following page you will find all the "Little Ones" that will be enjoying their First Christmas

Briana Rae Harris
Born... February 28, 2000

Parents... Jason & Rhonda Harris
Grandparents... Nancy Garry Too Too MeMe
Aunt... Lisa

Caleb Joshua Parsley
Born... July 19, 2000

Home... Yuma, Arizona
Parents... Rodney & Elaine Parsley
Grandparents... Ronnie & Betty Parsley Phil & Sue Ann Ducker

Brooke Taylor Hancox
Born... April 3, 2000

Parents... Clint & Vangie Hancox
Big Sister... McKinley Blake Hancox
Grandparents... Ronnie & Betty Parsley Rhea Hancox

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS 2000



Justin Tyler Norwood
Born... January 3, 2000

Parents... Jason & Amy Norwood
Grandparents... Elizabeth Alexander Steve & Pam Norwood Ronnie Gallagher
Great-Grandparents... Evelyn Pundt Orval & Rhonda Watts Herb & Bettye Gallagher

Braydon Shae Oxley
Born... February 7, 2000

Parents... Whitney & Candi Oxley
Big Sister... Lacie Oxley
Big Brother... Ethan Oxley
Grandparents... Rickey & Hattie Atwood Ed & Christy Robinson John & Karen Oxley

Kelly Thomas Burke
Born... February 23, 2000

Parents... Brian & Shari Burke
Grandparents... L.W. & Sherry McCall Monty & Sue Smith Gary & Jane Burke
Great-Grandparents... Richard & Sherwynn Callaway Norris & Ethel Burke

C'aire Lane Porter
Born... May 24, 2000

Parents... Melissa & Bobby Porter
Grandparents... Kenneth & Judy Cox Kelly Porter
Great-Grandparents... Freda & Cliff Martin Norman & Margarette Knox Jack & Cathryn Porter
Aunt & Uncle... Kris Cox & Curry Porter

Jacob Michel Honeycutt
Born... August 1, 2000

Parents... Starla & Brian
Grandparents... Wendell & Kathy Honeycutt Joe Akins Diane Akins
Uncle... Lee Akins
Aunt... Belinda Brown

Avery Suzanne Hoganson
Born... October 22, 2000

Parents... Chris and Tara Hoganson
Grandparents... Harlan & Christy Hoganson Jerry and Suzanne Nave
Aunts & Uncles... Rodney and Tori Kelley Holly Hoganson Matt Hoganson

Dalton Blain Riggs
Born... August 21, 2000

Parents... Ronnie & Kerri Riggs
Big Sister... Delaney Brienne Riggs
Grandparents... Justin & Phyllis Beckham Edna Mae Riggs

Sterling Dylan Adams
Born... June 26, 2000

Parents... Kerry & Carrie Adams
Big Sister... Alyssa Dawn Wilson
Grandparents... Linda & Bobby Adams Cordy & Jerry Partin
Great-Grandparents... Margie & Will Sterling Mable & Floyd Adams Edith & Gilbert Chacon Betty Smith

Matthew Braydon Weatherly
Born... September 11, 2000

Parents... Matt & Stephanie Weatherly
Grandparents... Les & Billie Weatherly Wayne & Pam Moler the late Leonard Lock
"Many Great-Grandparents"
God Parents... David & Michelle Courtney

Hunter Cheyenne Winkler
Born... August 28, 2000

Parents... Jeremy & Tabitha Winkler
Big Brother... Kade Winkler
Grandparents... Keith & Patricia Winkler Joann Harvey
Uncle... Tanner Winkler
Aunt... Valarie McCall

Andrew Dean Birkes
Born... April 26, 2000

Parents... Dean & Johnna Birkes
Siblings... Lexi & Jake
Grandparents... Wallace & Darlene Birkes
Aunt & Uncle... Sue and Tom Baker

Cole Allan Davis
Born... March 6, 2000

Parents... Eric & Amy Davis
Grandparents... Chuck & Marti Houseman Rick & Teresa Davis

Mikaela Nicole Clark
Born... November 27, 2000

Parents... Jason & Mandy Clark
Grandparents... Mike & Leigh Ann Crain Dan & Brenda Tucker Jimmie & Carol Clark
Great-Grandparents... Gene & Leta Jeffers Dean & Mary Ann Crain Bill & Betty Tucker Billy & Bobbie Waggoner
Great-Great-Grandparent... Ann Halford

Jessica Lee Hall
Born... May 7, 2000

Parents... Marcus & Lesa Hall
Grandparents... Jim & Janice Schnoover Dwayne & Cindy Hall Debbie Hoover Bill Lewis
Great-Grandparent... Lee Hoover
Uncle & Aunt... Keith & ReDonn Woods

Brittney Nicole Towles & Brennan Shae Towles
Born... March 24, 2000

Parents... Pete & Julie Towles
Big Brother... Bradley Towles
Grandparents... Scott & Karen Towles Kevin & Jan Hucks Lee & Nita French
Great-Grandparents... Jack & Juanita Towles Frances French Robert & Doris Young Allen & Ruth Fields

William Evan Read
Born... April 15, 2000

Parents... Scott & Jennifer Read
Big Sister... Bailey Read
Grandparents... Kathy Topper Mark Topper Doug & Suzanne Emery
Great-Grandparents... John & Joy Potts June Topper Dean Padgett

Sean Aaron Mitchell
Born... September 12, 2000

Parents... Brian & Michelle (Harpster) Mitchell
Big Sister... Ashleigh Rene Mitchell
Grandparents... Gene & Sylvia Goss Brian & Sylvia Mitchell
Great-Grandmother... Annie Ivy

Christen Passini
Born... January 4, 2000

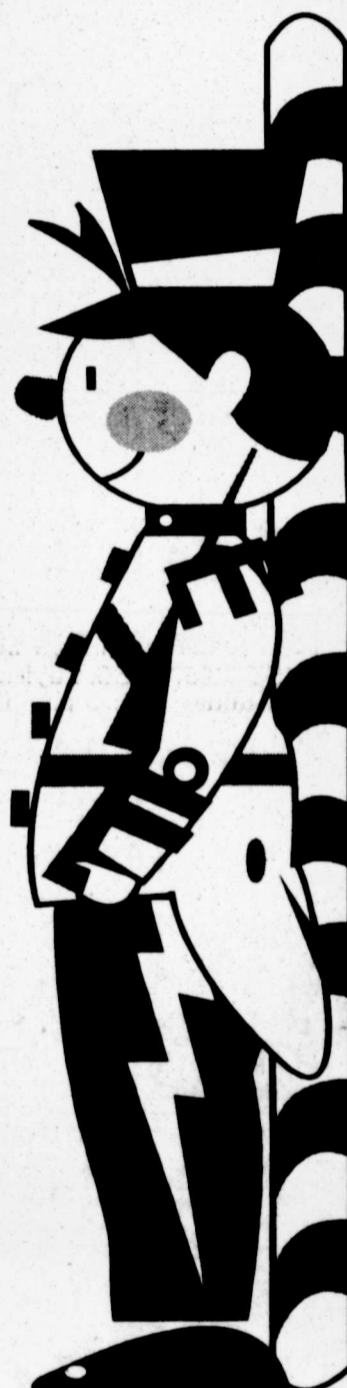
Parents... Misty & Patrick Passini
Grandparents... Linda & Rick McMullen Kathy & Steve Passini

Brennan Wayne Lee Brogdin
Born... March 29, 2000

Parents... Heather & Brady Brogdin
Big Sister... Tristen Brogdin
Grandparents... Tammy & Ken Morgan Nancy & Robert Brogdin
Uncle... Austin Morgan

Lucas Aaron & Tyler Ethan Hutchinson
Born... June 24, 2000

Parents... Ethan & Monica Hutchinson
Big Brother... Reece Hutchinson
Grandparents... Suzan & Richard Anderson Shirley & Dewey Hutchinson
Great-Grandparents... Jean & OB Elkins Melba Leshar



Jace Michael Clark
Born... September 21, 2000

Parents... Jon & Jennifer Clark
Grandparents... Jack & Jerry Clark Jim & Lisa Crossman
Great-Grandparents... Doyce Shelton Hazel Clark Carroll & Virginia Pettit George & Nancy Crossman

Rayleigh Bichsel
Born... May 17, 2000

Parents... Timmy & Lori Bichsel
Big Sister... Andrew
Grandparents... Bonnie & Walt Bailey Margie & Robert Bichsel Charles Meador
Great-Grandparents... Jean Burch Suzie Long

Justin & Jared Thomas
Born... April 10, 2000

Parents... Joe & Jerrie Thomas
Big Brothers... Brandon - 5 Christian - 3

Kelsey Shea Cowan
Born... June 19, 2000

Parents... Shey & Ashley Cowan
Grandparents... Tim & Jolene Cowan Larry & Holly Garner
Great-Grandparents... Sherman & Dorothy Cowan
Great Aunt & Uncle... Bob & Mandy Cummings

Raegan Thomas Whitehead
Born... July 18, 2000

Parents... Todd & Gerri Whitehead
Big Brother... Ryan
Grandparents... Gerald & Betty Anderson Larry & Tina Brandon John & Rose Whitehead
Great-Grandparents... Granny Moose Anderson Nanny Claire Brandon

Jared Bradley Minyard
Born... February 28, 2000

Parents... Jimmy & Gina Minyard
Big Sister... Callie Meshele
Grandparents... J.B. & Maud Minyard J.N. & Opal Hamlin the late Susie Hamlin
Great-Grandparent... A.C. Pendergrass

Justin Case Lyman
Born... August 27, 2000

Parents... Scott & Tamra Lyman
Big Sister... Briana Sue Stephens
Grandparents... David & Linda Sickler Ken & Betty Lyman
Great-Grandparents... Carlos & Pat Whinery James & Joyce Lyman

Emily Danielle Burks
Born... November 30, 2000

Parents... JD Burks & Cindy Velasquez
Grandparents... David & Linda Sickler Jesus & Linda Velasquez

Jacey Ray Steel
Born... January 29, 2000

Parents... Dale & Rose Steel
Big Sisters... Lacey Steel Shaley Steel
Grandparents... Mary Dwyer Mr. & Mrs. Bud Steel Mr. & Mrs. Bill Byars

Molly Beck Manhart
Born... August 9, 2000

Parents... Mel and Trudy Manhart
Big Sister... Destinee Joy Manhart
Grandparents... Don & Nancy Snider Bob & Donna Manhart
Aunt... Becky Snider
Cousin... Rusty Snider

Rylan Ray Hathcoat
Born... February 28, 2000

Parents... Pam & Koby Hathcoat
Big Brothers... Roper & RoDee Barr
Grandparents... Danny & Nelda Martin Beverly & Jewell Snider Mary Hathcoat
Great-Grandma... Dorothy Gallimore

Dallas Wade Ragan
Born... September 21, 2000

Parents... Nicole Terry & Larry Ragan
Big Brothers... Larry & Gordon Ragan
Grandparents... Kim & Geoff Terry Sandra & Bobbie Ragan
Great-Grandmother... Ruby Terry

Happy Holidays

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