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For weather details see Page 2

City Commission, PEDC, meet Tuesday

A City Commission work session that will end with a meeting with the Pampa Economic Development Corporation board is set for Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the second floor City Hall Conference room. The meeting is open to the public.

No action will be taken at the meeting. The following items are on the agenda:

- Discuss city compensation plan and allocation of budgeted funds
- Discuss options concerning reduction in debt service tax rate for 2002/03
- Discuss objectives, goals and time frame for fire department analysis
- Discuss possible future annexation
- Discuss possible changes to Commission meeting rules and policies
- Hold joint work session (at 5 p.m.) with PEDC board to discuss goals, objectives and time frame for dissolution.

El Paso doctor sued over Medicaid claims

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The U.S. government filed a civil lawsuit against an El Paso doctor and his practice administrator Friday seeking \$4.1 million in damages and civil penalties, alleging they failed to conduct blood tests on children receiving physical examinations under the Texas Medicaid program.

The suit claims that Dr. Rafael Armendariz and his practice administrator presented false claims for reimbursement by Medicaid on behalf of Armendariz's practice, which at the time included 14 clinics.

• Crystal Tucker, 83, homemaker.

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Group to study swine regulations

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

A committee to study areas of concern regarding the swine industry locating in Gray County is going to be established by the Commissioners Court.

Gray County Commissioners approved appointing a committee of county residents as well as people outside the county to a committee to determine if more stringent regulations are needed.

In recent meetings commissioners court members have considered a resolution to be sent to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation and the Texas Legislature to

strengthen the present guidelines.

Precinct Two County Commissioner Jim Greene presented a rough draft of a resolution at an October meeting for consideration by the commissioners court. He told the commission he has talked to judges and commissioners in 11 counties who are also interested in such a resolution.

The decision to establish a committee comes four and one-half months after National Pig Development of Raleigh, North Carolina, announced plans to build a farrow-to-finish hog research facility in Gray County.

Many residents expressed concerns about the environment if hogs and the

resulting hog waste are located in the area. Possible water pollution as well as air and soil damage is a concern as is the odor of the hog waste lagoons.

Guidelines regarding the lagoon systems and method of waste disposal have also been an issue.

County Judge Richard Peet told the Commissioners Court that he had not consulted Commissioner Greene, but recommended Greene chair the committee. Peet asked to be put on the committee also.

He proposed that pro-pig people, anti-pig people, agriculture leaders and scientific experts, all be included. He said non-residents of Gray County could be impor-

tant to the committee in making a well thought out resolution recommending the legislature strengthen guidelines if needed.

Peet said he had talked to several area county judges regarding the issue and said all he spoke with indicated an interest in working with Gray County in supporting such a resolution.

He said he asked both Hansford County Judge Brown and Ochiltree County Judge Donahue if they would encourage the hogs industry to come into their counties if they had it to do over.

Peet related that Brown said he would not, but Donahue said he would.



Thanksgiving was truly a day to give thanks for Cliff Reyes, Michelle Reyes McCall, and Brian Reyes as they reunited after many years.

Reunited siblings have a special Thanksgiving

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Thanksgiving 2001 was the best Thanksgiving Brian Reyes has ever had. Family and family life often isn't appreciated by those who have it. But for those who have been without family for many years, it is precious.

Reyes, the 30-year-old manager of Pampa's Rent-to-Own on North Hobart, is very appreciative of his family and wants to locate the rest of the family members.

On the day before Thanksgiving, Brian and his brother, Cliff, 32, were visiting about their holiday plans. Cliff, who lives in Arkansas, came to Texas to spend Thanksgiving with Brian and his wife, Stacy, in Pampa.

It's only been during the past three years the

brothers have had the opportunity to spend holidays together as adults.

In 1975 when Brian was only five years of age, he and Cliff were separated from their three sisters. The boys remained in Amarillo with their mother for the next five years.

In 1980, Cliff was adopted, but Brian, the youngest of the family, remained with his mother. Details of what occurred in those early days of his life are sketchy in Brian's memory.

The brothers, who have a strong family resemblance, were reunited in 1998 after 18 years, but neither knew where their sisters were living.

As the two brothers were visiting, Stacy went into the store and made a phone call. Brian said he and Cliff were talking to each other as Stacy said she had someone on the phone wanting to

(See REUNITED, Page 3)

Six objectives highlight PISD budgeting plan

By DEE DLE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

Pampa Independent School District Board of Education members have narrowed their budget guidelines to six objectives.

The action came last week during a regular session in which Superintendent Dawson Orr warned that, in some ways, the directives conflict with each other.

Next year's budget process has already begun as the school officials wrestle with falling revenues versus higher costs. Officials predict next year's revenues will be at least \$650,000 less than the current school year.

Anticipating the looming revenue crisis, PISD board members last night defined these guidelines for school administrators in preparing the 2002-2003 budget:

- Control costs but maintain quality;
- Balance the budget;
- Downsize programs if needed;
- Maintain competitive salary effort;
- Keep facilities/renovation budget; and
- Find more cost-efficient programs.

Orr said he would put the board's guidelines into sentence-form and present them to the board at the December meeting.

(See SIX, Page 3)

Curfman announces JP2 re-election plans

Kurt R. Curfman is announcing he is seeking re-election to the Precinct Two Justice of the Peace position in the Republican Primary on March 12, 2002.

He is completing his first four-year term in the office.

A 1971 graduate of Pampa High School, Curfman has been a long time city resident.

Curfman received an Associate in Applied Science Degree from Amarillo College and also has completed many classes in law and business. He continuously enrolls in classes to expand his knowledge.

He is currently a council member of the Pampa Crisis Coordinating Council of the Tralee Crisis Center of Pampa and a member of the Gray County Local Emergency Planning Committee. He also serves on committees of both the sheriff and police departments to assist with grant applications.

He and his wife, Teresa, are both natives of Pampa. She is currently employed at the Rufe-Joran Unit as a registered nurse.

They are the parents of two married children: Laura and Eli Stark as well as Michael and Mona Curfman. The couple has three grandchildren, Tyler, Ashley and Jordan.



Curfman

Senior snapshot



Name: Phyllis Laramore (maiden name Followell).
Birth Date & Place: March 17, 1924, Creek County, Okla. (fifth

child).
Family: Bob and Lesta Followell.
Favorite Childhood Memory: Being with two older sisters (one died in 1928) and a brother and walking to Letors, Skellytown or White Deer.
When I Grew Up I Wanted To Be: Able to do what my family had done.
My Best Friend was: I had lots of them.
People Remember Me As Being: I'm not sure what.
My Favorite Toy: Jump rope and my brother's bicycle.
My Favorite Game: Any of them.
My Favorite Radio Show: I didn't take time for that.

The First Movie I Ever Saw & The Cost: I worked at the movies — no cost.
The First Phone I Ever Used Belonged To: My folks — 1049 was the number.
The Person That Most Influenced My Life: Carl Benefiel and Jerry Boston.
The Historical Event That Most Affected My Life & Why: The bombing of Pearl Harbor. I had just graduated from Pampa High School after 11 years.
The Thing I Remember Most About The Depression Was: Actually we didn't have much "hard times." We were very economical.
The Biggest Honor I've Ever Received Is: Being an instructor

for 55 Alive.
If I Could Change One Thing About My Past It Would Be: I really can't think of anything.
My Whole Family Enjoyed: Being together as often as possible.
The Person From My Childhood I Wish I Could Visit With Today Is: My mother and dad.
My First Job Was: At the local movie theater as an operator.
Year & Make of The First Vehicle I Drove: 1932 Model A Ford.
Cost of Gasoline When I First Drove: 10-cents a gallon. I was 12.
On My First Date I Went To: A movie.

My Favorite Hang Out Spot Was: The confectionery by the show.
The Fashion Trend Was: Anything comfortable.
My Favorite Saying Was: "Take care."
My Favorite Song Was: "Danny Boy."
Another Memory I Want To Share Is: I moved to Pampa in June 1926. I've moved away two times and moved back, both times in less than a year. I remember Pampa had no trees. A teacher gave me three branches and wanted them planted. I did, and they are big ones in the 1200 block of South Wilcox. I remember how long it took them to grow big.



Chamber Prayer Breakfast Dec. 4, 6:45 a.m.

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

TUCKER, Crystal — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

CRYSTAL TUCKER

Crystal Tucker, 83, of Pampa, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2001. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m., Monday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with Arvia Willingham, retired Church of Christ minister, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Tucker was born March 13, 1918, at Durham, Okla., and moved to Pampa in 1939. She was a homemaker and a member of Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ.

She married Denver Tucker in 1939 at Pampa. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Villetta Faye Snider, in 1998.

Survivors include her husband, Denver, of the home; a son, Travis Tucker of Houston; a sister, Zela Cole of Rapid City, S.D.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, 1342 Mary Ellen, Pampa, TX 79065.

Emergency numbers

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Ambulance..... | 911 |
| Crime Stoppers..... | 669-2222 |
| Energas..... | 1-888-Energas |
| Fire..... | 911 |
| Police (emergency)..... | 911 |

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period that ended at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Nov. 30

Daniel Jackson Curry, 17, 313 S. Gray, was arrested at Pampa High School and charged with criminal trespass and minor in possession of tobacco.

Richard H. Leger, 20, 2131 Nelson, charged with minor in possession and driving while intoxicated.

Saturday, Dec. 1

David Price Farrar, 39, 520 Yeager, charged with assault by threat.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriffs Department reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Nov. 30

Desmond Parnell Jackson, 38, 1216 E. Kingsmill, violation of probation/theft by check, and arrested on a blue warrant charging burglary in Donley County.

Danetta Pennington, 21, 533 N. Sumner, charged with theft by check/Randall County, no driver's license and unsecured child in vehicle. This arrest was on Nov. 2 and due to a clerical error was not listed at that time.

Roberto Anguiana, 59, 126 S. Sumner, serving weekends on a driving while intoxicated conviction.

Johnny Duane Williams, 45, McLean, arrested by the DPS for driving while intoxicated/first offense.

Longtime suspect arrested in '80s Green River killer case

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — The women's bodies began turning up in the early 1980s, dozens of prostitutes found strangled near a seedy strip along the Green River south of Seattle.

For over a decade, the case remained one of the nation's deadliest unsolved serial killings; 49 women were either dead or missing, and officials had no solid proof linking anyone to the killings. Then on Friday, 17 years after the first victim's death, police announced a break in the case.

Gary Leon Ridgway, 52, a long-time suspect, was arrested as he left work at a Seattle-area truck company for investigation of homicide in the deaths of four of the women.

"I cannot say with certainty that Gary Ridgway is responsible for all of those deaths ... but boy, have we made one giant step forward," King County Sheriff Dave Reichert said Friday.

Using new DNA technology, detectives had matched saliva samples taken from Ridgway back in 1987 to three victims of the Green River killer, and other evidence had been found linking Ridgway to the fourth killing, Reichert said.

Late Friday, detectives were searching Ridgway's home in a middle-class neighborhood about 20 miles south of Seattle, and they were re-searching a house in Kent where he had lived in the 1980s.

A message left at a phone number listed for a Gary Ridgway was not returned Friday.

An initial court appearance was scheduled for Saturday, though a prosecutor's spokesman said no decision on charges would be made until early next week. A public

defender was appointed, said lawyer Todd Gruenhagen.

Ridgway is being investigated in the deaths of Opal Mills, Marcia Chapman and Cynthia Hinds, whose bodies were found in the river on Aug. 15, 1982, and Carol Christensen, found May 8, 1983, in woods in nearby Maple Valley. Hinds and Mills were both teen-agers. Christensen was 21 and Chapman was 31.

"We're just glad that after 17 years they caught him," Robert Christensen, Carol's brother-in-law, told KOMO-TV. "We miss her."

The break came this spring when forensic scientists were able to link Ridgway's DNA to Mills, Chapman and Hinds, the sheriff said.

Ridgway had been identified as a suspect as early as 1984. He had been questioned after witnesses identified his pickup truck and said he had been seen with two of the victims, according to a 1987 court document.

During a 1987 interview with investigators, Ridgway complied with a court order to chew on a piece of gauze to collect a saliva sample.

"At that point, we just sat back and hoped the technology would get better — and it has," Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. John Urquhart said.

In March, the department decided to test the saliva again. The successful results came back two months ago, and detectives put Ridgway under surveillance.

Ridgway, who is married and has an adult son, has worked for Kenworth Truck Co. as a truck painter for 32 years. He also has been the subject of intensive background investigation for over a decade. And investigators said Friday that they are looking into potential connections to other unsolved killings.

In 1987, when detectives

removed boxes of evidence from Ridgway's home, the search warrant affidavit was largely blacked out on the order of a judge, but the remaining information details two eyewitness accounts linking Ridgway to two Green River victims.

In one case, the affidavit said, one of the women got into a dark-colored pickup truck. The Seattle Times reported in 1987 that the woman was Marie Malvar, and that her boyfriend had tried to follow the pickup. He provided police with the license plate number, but an investigator who knew Ridgway cleared him as a suspect. Later, King County detectives began to focus on him again.

Reichert was one of the original detectives on the Green River killer task force and has made it a priority for almost 20 years.

"I always felt that Gary Ridgway was one of the top five suspects," Reichert said Friday. "This has got to be one of the most exciting days in my entire career."

Ridgway has been arrested twice in the past 19 years, Reichert said — in 1982 for soliciting prostitution and earlier this month, when he was arrested for loitering for the purpose of soliciting prostitution. He pleaded guilty in the recent case and was convicted in the earlier case, Urquhart said.

The victims whose deaths were attributed to the Green River killer — mainly young prostitutes and runaways taken from a red-light district south of the city — disappeared or were found dead from 1982 through 1984.

While authorities have questioned other suspects and made at least one arrest, in 1982, no one has ever been charged in the slayings.

City Briefs

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

14 KT. Gold, Cubic Zirconia, Silver Jewelry 50% off at VJS Fashions & Gifts, Downtown Pampa, 669-6323.

25% OFF on all Costume Jewelry & X-mas Wear at Beauty 2000, 329 N. Hobart.

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MARY KAY Cosmetics and Gifts, Pat Johnson, 665-2826.

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USED 20 inch remote control color tvs for sale, \$75 & \$85. Northgate Inn. Sorry-No Checks.

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People in the news ...

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Singer **LeAnn Rimes** has ended her yearlong legal standoff with Curb Records and signed a new contract, a spokeswoman for the record company said.

Rimes released a statement saying she is "looking forward to continuing to evolve creatively and professionally as an artist."

"But more important, I am really excited to be able to share my new music with the fans," she said.

Rimes claimed she didn't understand the original contract that she signed when she was 12. In 1996 at 13, she scored the hit "Blue" and became a star.

She sued Curb a year ago, shortly after turning 18. In March, a chancery judge ruled against her request to be released from the contract.

Curb released the Rimes album "I Need You" in January against the singer's wishes. She apologized to her fans for the album on her Web site, calling it "largely unfinished material and songs that

didn't make other albums."

Terms of the new deal reached with Rimes were not released, Curb's Liz Cavanaugh said Friday.

A lawsuit against Rimes' father, **Wilbur Rimes**, claiming he cheated her out of \$7 million is unresolved, as is his countersuit

against her.

On the Net
Official LeAnn Rimes site:
www.rimestimes.com/
Official Curb Records site:
www.curb.com/

Weather focus

Today, partly sunny. Highs around 65. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows 40 to 45.

Monday, mostly clear and breezy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday evening, partly

cloudy and breezy. Tuesday, partly cloudy and windy. A slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows 45 to 50. Highs around 70.

Wednesday, mostly clear and very windy. Lows around 35. Highs 45 to 50.

Thursday and Friday, partly cloudy. Lows 25 to 30. Highs around 50.

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665-1211

Come See Santa!



We Know You've Been *Good!*

Dec 8, 15, & 22 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm.
Dec. 10-14 & 17-21 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm.
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"At that time, I would ask that you narrow them down to the top two or three," he said, adding, "I'll tell you, right now, that some of these go against each other."

He explained the difficulty of balancing the budget while maintaining a competitive salary scale. At the same time, he said, it's hard to downsize programs and still provide quality educational programs.

Business Manager Mark McVay said the school district did not receive a grant to help pay for the extensive repairs needed to the brick at Pampa Middle School, recommending that the board begin planning for how the district will pay for the project.

Orr said the current budget allows \$300,000 for facility management and renovation.

While school officials will continue to seek possible funding for the renovation, McVay said, "It's safe to presume we're not going to have any outside money for facilities for awhile. We may have a chance for grant money later on."

When Nancy Coffee, board member, emphasized that staff be reduced through attrition, Orr responded, "This will be fine if we have the 20-to-30 percent turnover per year that we've had historically. If we don't, then we'll have a \$500,000 deficit right there."

"We may have to look at administrative positions," Bill Jones added. "We may have to eliminate or consolidate some of those."

"Are we committed to maintaining competitive salaries for teachers?" McVay asked.

"If we're not, that will get the attrition right there," John Curry joked.

"We are not competitive now, but we're trying to make progress," McVay added.

Orr gave the board a list of cost centers in the district that school officials plan to review, including Pampa High School (PHS), Pampa Middle School (PMS), Early Literacy program, Career and Technology, facilities transportation, Prekindergarten and Headstart, extra and co-curricular activities, administration, Pampa Learning Center, contracted services, training and staff

development, energy costs and special education.

Jay Johnson asked if school officials could compile a five-year budget comparison for the board. "I'd like to look at it from the top down instead of the bottom up," he explained. "I'd like to get the numbers from the start and say, this is how much we'll spend on this item. It's a way to see what's important to us."

These persons were selected to serve as the Textbook Selection Committee: Paulette Noble, Sue Cree, and Debbie Brown, all PMS instructors; and Beth Shannon, Dale Hodge, and Diana McEwen, PHS instructors.

Committee Chair Richard Dunham explained no elementary-level books are up for adoption. He said adoption procedures have been changed with books in only one subject to be considered each year. Next year's books will all be science and science-related topics, he said.

"The state did not approve any books that are not on the 'conforming list,'" Dunham added.

A textbook hearing has been set for 4:30 p.m., Jan. 15, at Pampa High School, he said, adding that 28 outlying school districts have been invited to the hearing.

He said the textbook committee plans to present a list of proposed textbooks for 2002-2003 at the February school board meeting.

Board members approved a bid by Larry Baker Plumbing to complete concrete work at Pampa High School. The bid for \$28,795 was the only one received by the board for the project.

"The bid is competitive," Orr said, adding that school officials had received some estimates that were "in line" with the bid. However, no other business submitted a bid.

The concrete work includes an ADA-approved ramp from the high school cafeteria to McNeely Field House, more handicapped parking, and various curb cut-outs to allow wheelchair access to the field house and to the IMPACT building, Orr said.

In other action board members approved the following:

- 2001 Tax Roll
- Texas Association of School Board (TASB) Update 66;
- October cash receipts and expenditures and monthly financial report.

Study: 'Extremely unlikely' mad cow disease would take hold in U.S. herds

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's a small chance that mad cow disease has reached the United States undetected — brought by British cattle during the 1980s — but government prevention measures would have stopped it from spreading, researchers said Friday.

The Harvard University study said it is "extremely unlikely" that the disease will ever take hold in U.S. herds, mainly because of a 1997 ban on the use of meat and bone meal in cattle feed. But there are additional steps that would significantly reduce the risk even more, including new restrictions on animal feed and meat processing, the researchers said.

Federal officials said they were considering those measures and announced plans to increase testing of cattle.

Mad cow, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is linked to a human brain-wasting disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, that has killed about 100 people in Europe. The disease is believed to spread through eating brain or nerve tissue from infected animals.

"As far as we know it's not here, but if it does get in, it can't become established," said George Gray, acting director of Harvard's Center for Risk Analysis.

Neither mad cow nor its human version has ever been reported in the United States.

But the Harvard study, which is based on complex mathematical models, said there is an 18 percent chance that mad cow was introduced into the country before imports of British cattle were banned in 1989. It's unlikely that those cattle could have spread the disease, and it would be even more remote that a human was exposed, the researchers said.

Some 334 cattle were imported from Britain before the 1989 ban. The Department of Agriculture was unable to find out what happened to about half of those cattle, but few if any would have been exposed to the disease before shipping, the study said. None of the cattle was known to have been on an infected British farm.

"There is no need to change any eating habits for consumers, but there is a clear need for the government to take better action now that the (study) has found that it may already be here," said

Caroline Smith DeWaal of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group.

The 1997 prohibition on feeding meat or bone meal to cattle was intended to prevent material from infected animals from being fed to other cattle. Meat and bone meal has long been added to animal feed as a protein supplement.

The study assumed there are some violations of the ban and estimated that the import of 10 infected cattle would cause three additional cases of mad cow. The Food and Drug Administration has found numerous violations of rules associated with the ban,

including requirements for record keeping and labeling of feed bags.

About 1 million cattle in Britain are thought to have been infected with BSE caught from feed made from the carcasses of sheep infected with scrapie, an ovine form of the disease.

On Friday, USDA announced it would more than double the number of U.S. cattle being tested for mad cow, from 5,000 this year to 12,500 in 2002, and ban the use of air-injected stun guns for knocking cattle unconscious in slaughterhouses. Those devices can drive brain tissue into other parts of the animal.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

REUNITED

talk to them. As Stacy spoke into the phone, she had it on speaker.

Soon the brothers heard a female voice begin to cry. After considerable searching, Stacy had located the brothers' sister, Michelle, now 37, in Showlow, Ariz.

"It was so emotional," said Brian. "I don't know exactly what happened to split us up," said Brian, "but we were split up."

During the conversation, the boys asked their sister what she was going to do for Thanksgiving. She told them she and her husband, Mike, were planning on going to a nearby lake, but asked if they like to come to Arizona to spend the holiday with them.

Soon Stacy, Brian and Cliff had embarked on a 624-mile trip to get reacquainted with their older sister.

"She is just beautiful," said Brian of Michelle.

Brian and Cliff learned Michelle, along with Jackie, now 40, and Kim, now 35, lived in Showlow when they were younger. Michelle spent a brief amount of time in the Washington, D.C. area before returning to Showlow.

"It was the most wonderful Thanksgiving I ever had," said Brian. "Now, we're trying to find Jackie and Kim so we can all have Christmas together."

He said his brother-in-law, Mikè, looks just like

Chuck Norris. In fact, he and Cliff wound up calling him Chuck because of the strong resemblance.

Brian said they are concentrating their search for Jackie in Flagstaff while he said Michelle thinks Kim is in the San Bernardino, Calif., area.

At one time, Jackie was married to a man named Castro. Stacy has contacted all the people listed in the Flagstaff phone directory with the surname of Castro.

As she explained her plight to each of the people she contacted, she had at least one person offer to help her. She has remained in contact with him hoping that her search will be successful.

When Stacy found Michelle, she was searching for Jackie. After she contacted the school district in Showlow on a lead about Jackie, an employee of the school district contacted some family of her husband. The family members contacted a friend of Jackie's who contacted Michelle.

Stacy is working extremely hard to give all five of the brothers and sisters the best Christmas present they've ever had—Christmas together.

Already, Brian is feeling some family connections. He and Stacy traveled to Canyon a couple of days ago to get a 6-week-old Rottweiler puppy. They named him Showlow.

Brian would like to locate his sisters by his 31st birthday on Dec. 12, but he will settle for Christmas. He believes they will be found.

"We all have had some rough times," he said, "but we've all made good things out of our lives."

Neurologist featured speaker at Dec. 6 MS dinner program

Colorado neurologist Dr. Karl Gross is to be featured speaker at a dinner program, sponsored by the Panhandle Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis and an educational grant from Berlex Laboratories. The event begins at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6, in the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1342 Mary Ellen.

Dr. Gross earned his medical degree from the University of Vienna Medical School. He completed residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver in 1984. In 1987 he opened his practice in neurology in Aurora, Colo. In 1999 he was diagnosed with

multiple sclerosis. Reservations are requested for the dinner program catered by R&R Catering. For more information or to make reservations, call Sharon Strickland at 669-9875 after 5 p.m. or Gail Lindsey at the Amarillo MS office, 806-468-7500. Reservation deadline is Dec. 3.

Letters to the Editor are published on Sundays. The deadline to submit one is noon on Wednesdays.

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THE Pampa NEWS

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VIEWPOINTS

Countdown to Christmas is under way



Kate B. Dickson

associate publisher/editor

Do you have your Christmas shopping done? While it's fun to go to Amarillo to the mall or movies and other places, I hope you did or will do a good bit of your buying right here in Pampa.

Because it has been publicized quite often — at least once a month with the sales tax receipt report — I think we're all pretty savvy as to just how important it is to spend most of our dollars here.

I'm one of the first to say that I enjoy going to "town." But I'm certainly not going to spend all my money there when we need it to stay here. And, I've found there's very little, if anything, in the Christmas gift department — or just about any other purchase — that I can't find right here.

Most of my shopping is complete though I still need to get Angela, my nephew's wife and the mother of my three great-nieces, a gift or two.

But the ball is in her court as she hasn't sent me her "wish list." I can't imagine why not. She

only has a full-time job as a forester working for the State of Louisiana, not to mention caring for "the girls."

Besides my shopping, I'm doing my mother's shopping for her and I got the girls each an outfit from their great-great-uncle, Bubba. Every good Southern family needs at least one Bubba in the bunch.

We don't go overboard for the holidays and I don't like to charge anything anymore and run up the plastic. I know, I've done that before. But with it paid off, I haven't done a

repeat. And hope my resolve sticks. When talking with my brother and sister-in-law about their gifts, Eunice said not to do much of anything except "play tickets." So that answered one gift question.

For the last few years my mother, Sugah, and I have gone in to buy Dick and Eunice tickets for the play of their choice at the restored Orpheum Theater in Memphis, Tenn. It's close to Beale Street and around the corner from the Peabody Hotel. A neat area if you ever go to Memphis. I think they'd go to see "Phantom of the Opera" every year if it came around that often. Can't say as I blame them, it's great.

The Phantom music can be found in what my brother calls my "weird" music collection. It's rather eclectic. A mix of everything from classical to Van Halen, a good bit of Jimmy Buffet from my Parrothead days, bluegrass, Motown, some Frank you know who, and, of course, The Beatles.

What a bummer to lose George Harrison last week.

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily the opinions of The Pampa News.

Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: El Paso Times on border law-enforcement resources: El Paso and the rest of the Southwest border form a conduit for illegal drugs entering the country, yet the region does not have the resources necessary to stem the flow. Fortunately, Asa Hutchinson, newly appointed administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, realizes that and intends to do something about it. "This is a principal point of entry for drugs in the United States," Hutchinson said while visiting El Paso. "Clearly, the DEA needs more resources in the Southwest border. We have a great investment in the Caribbean area. We've beefed up in the Southwest border, but I don't think we've done it sufficiently."

Hutchinson needs to take this awareness and attitude to the halls of Congress and into the White House. It is to be hoped, especially with a Texan as president, that leaders in Washington will be more prone to hear and understand this special border-related problem.

Law enforcement has done a relatively effective job of cutting down on drugs entering the country through the Caribbean. Now, Hutchinson said, 70 percent of illegal drugs enter the country over the southern border. El Paso lags only Laredo as the main gateway for illegal-drug smugglers in Texas.

Successful law enforcements in the Caribbean pushed drug-smuggling efforts to the west, and now this area is due for some federal help.

Shutting down smuggling operations has taken on a new urgency since Sept. 11. It's known that some smuggling profits go to finance terrorists and their activities. Shutting down the terrorist money pipeline is a major part of the Bush administration's war on terrorism and should be pushed to its limits.

One thing vital to the war on drugs is Mexico's cooperation. Hutchinson said the level of binational cooperation is increasing, but there's still some concern about corruption at various levels of government. Mexico must clean up its act and purge corruption from its governmental ranks if the war on drugs is to succeed.

As Hutchinson indicated, improvements are being made in the war on drugs. But a lot remains to be done.

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Formation of an 'Anaerobic Digester'

In the last column, I presented a simplified version of a sewage lagoon or cesspool and wrote about the variables. This time we will discuss the temperature variable. To complicate the operation, a new variable will be added.

The point I tried to make is that however well designed a system may be there are variables which will displace the best laid plans of man. Aerobic (with oxygen) and Anaerobic (without oxygen) systems can work very efficiently if properly designed and controls are put in place. Aerobic systems should follow the Anaerobic digestion.

The last column, we left with a system that was not in control because of the temperature. Now we will heat the effluent going into the system. We have some control and can keep the bugs happy so they will work for us. We raise the temperature to a range between 80 degrees and 105 degrees F. Testing will determine the temperature that is optimum. The acid-producing bugs are happy, the methane-producing bugs are happy. We are producing record amounts of methane, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and other compounds in gaseous form.

The aerobic bugs are in the top strata and are trying to digest the gas the other bugs are producing. The residue will sink to the bottom. The present system is now as near to optimum as we can make it. Odors are significantly reduced, but the holding vessel is starting to overflow. We must pump some of the liquid out. The liquid will come from some level in the vessel. In order to keep the residue from accumulating and filling the vessel, we will put the intake near the bottom.

Now we have an operating system! Oops, the intake for the pump is in the active zone where the bugs are working or in the residue at the bottom and when we apply the liquid to the land it creates a strong odor. We can not raise the pump intake because that would increase the zone allowed for the residue and



Dale Roth

Guest columnist

cut down on the space where the anaerobic bugs work. Now another variable shows up.

The wind starts to blow. This cools the top of our lagoon (that dirty word again). The wind will create turbulence on the top of the lagoon, reduce the temperature, and it will help to disperse the gasses by blowing them away. Oops, we have some health hazards to contend with and the neighbors do not like that, plus the odor, what can we do? We can not raise the temperature, that will kill the bugs.

Let's put a cover over the lagoon. That will reduce the heat loss and enable us to capture the gasses we are creating. It will also eliminate the aerobic bugs because we are not allowing any oxygen under the cover. The anaerobic bugs will have more space in the upper zone to do their work. We have just created an anaerobic digester. We can now collect the gasses, and burn some of them to heat the incoming effluent. We need to flare the rest of the gas not used for heating the effluent. This will reduce the health hazards and odors.

Let's look at some other considerations: —We will need less space for the anaerobic digester than the lagoon design, but we will need a pond to store the processed waste water. It should have surface aerators to put air into the treated water, (aerobic treatment), as a polishing step to kill the carry-over anaerobic bugs and prevent future pond "turnovers." (Note: Aerobic treatment alone can accomplish the effluent treatment but it does take a lot of pond space.)

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2001. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harper's Ferry the previous October.

On this date:

In 1804, Napoleon was crowned emperor of France.

In 1816, the first savings bank in the United States, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opened for business.

In 1823, President Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the

Western Hemisphere.

In 1939, New York's La Guardia Airport began operations as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1942, a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the Senate voted to condemn Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., for "conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist who would lead Cuba to communism.

In 1969, the Boeing 747 jumbo jet

got its first public preview as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, flew from Seattle to New York City.

In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency began operating under director William Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped, murdered and buried outside San Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

Ten years ago: American hostage Joseph Cicippio, held captive in Lebanon for more than five years, was released. Testimony began in West Palm Beach, Fla., in the trial of William Kennedy Smith,

accused of raping Patricia Bowman at his family's estate.

Five years ago: Financier Charles Keating Jr., a central figure in the savings-and-loan debacle of the 1980s, won a new federal trial because jurors had learned of his prior fraud conviction in state court before convicting him of fraud and racketeering.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-playwright Adolph Green is 86. Former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig is 77. Actress Julie Harris is 76. Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 70. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 62. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 57. Movie director Penelope Spheeris ("Wayne's World") is 56.

The father of modern economics ...

Adam Smith, the father of modern economics, published "The Wealth of Nations" in 1776. His laissez faire economics played a significant role in the libertarian market philosophy surrounding the founding of our nation.

Leftist professors have taught generations of students that Adam Smith was an apologist for businessmen. I challenge anyone to read "The Wealth of Nations" and find one complimentary statement about businessmen. Smith wasn't anti-business; he understood human nature.

Run this question by anyone you know: Is deregulation pro-big business or is it pro-consumer? Five will get you 10 that the response will be: pro-big business. Let's look at it.

During the 1980s, a major U.S. textile manufacturer launched a "Buy American" campaign, maintaining that foreign manufacturers were driving U.S. textile companies out of business with cheaper imports. These businessmen descended on Washington demanding that Congress regulate textile imports through tariffs, quotas and other restrictions. This is hardly a story of businessmen advocating laissez faire policy; it's more akin to the mercantilism that Adam Smith protested.

Their arguments appeal to emotion but are otherwise vacuous. They claim that foreign manufacturers are running them out of business. That's balderdash. Have you seen a foreign manufacturer forcibly stopping an American manufacturer from doing business? If you did, the persons acting for the foreign



Walter Williams

Syndicated columnist

manufacturer should be arrested and jailed.

You say, "Williams, we don't mean literally, but figuratively driving American companies out of business with cheap prices." I'm going to insist on being literal so we can get at the heart of the matter.

Say there's a foreign-made pair of jeans selling for \$23 and an American made pair of jeans selling for \$39. The American consumer has a clear choice. He can purchase the \$23 pair or the \$39 pair. Say most consumers prefer the \$23 pair. The manufacturer of the \$39 pair might go out of business. Had consumers chosen to buy the \$39 pair, the outcome would be different.

Now comes the big question: If the American jean manufacturer goes out of business, who is directly responsible? Surely it's not the foreign jean manufacturer; he has no power to force consumers to do anything. The villain is the American consumer, who could have purchased the \$39 pair of jeans but didn't. Thus, the challenge for American manufacturers, and

their workers, is to find ways to protect themselves against not foreign manufacturers, but American consumers who prefer cheaper prices to higher prices. One way manufacturers can do that is to lobby Congress to use their powers to deny Americans, through tariffs and quotas, the choice to purchase \$23 jeans.

I'd be remiss if I didn't identify another part of the problem. Congress imposes a huge regulatory burden on American businesses, such as environmental, health and safety regulations, tax compliance, and endless bureaucracy and litigation costs. While Congress has the power to impose these costs on U.S. businesses, it has no such jurisdiction in other countries. That puts American businesses at a cost disadvantage.

The bottom line is that consumers benefit from deregulation, open competition and choice. Many businessmen benefit from regulation, monopoly and restricted consumer choice. Most often, Congress comes down on the side of business and against consumers.

Some years ago, I was visiting a textile mill of one of the founders of "Buy American." I couldn't help but notice foreign-made textile machinery. When I queried my guide about the obvious contradiction, he replied, "We try to get the cheapest prices." I wasn't that surprised. Businessmen are enthusiastic supporters for a modified form of laissez faire: free markets in what they buy, and a monopoly in what they sell.

Letters to the editor

Would you want a pig farm next door?

To the editor,
Dr. William J. Weida, nationally known rural economist states: "Since the motivation of a hog CAFO such as the one proposed for Gray County is to create profit, and not to control pollution or engage in any of the other social benefits for the region, the CAFO can only be trusted to act in its own self interest. CAFOs transfer to the residents of a region the cost of increased health problems, social problems and pollution (odors, chemical, pathogen and particular air and water pollution). The short life span of a hog CAFO is only 11 to 12 years."

What about the people who live near this proposed hog site and that have been doing business in Pampa for years? Do the people who advocate hog factories realize what they are doing to our country neighbors? If the advocates of hog factories would talk to the people who will have to live close to a hog factory, and realize what they are helping create, they would apologize for their blunder in judgment.

Our country neighbors have spent their lives being good stewards of the land and water; some families have been here for a 100 years. How will a hog factory affect their lives? They will not be able to enjoy a clean breath of air because of the hog waste stink, and according to national statistics, their property values will plummet, because nobody wants to live close to a hog factory with open waste pits.

Our country neighbors are generally the descendants of the people that started this community. They have supported Pampa businesses for years, buying trucks, cars, groceries, building materials, gas and oil supplies, tractors, combines, using health facilities, attorneys, banks, CPAs, and have been leaders in our churches and educational system. Each year they pay a large amount of the county taxes.

Our rural neighbors are taxed on purchases in Pampa, but they are not allowed to voice any opinion about hog factories being next door. This is taxation without representation. It appears we have people in town that want to destroy their way of life for a few dollars. Do we want to penalize our country neighbors and cause them to spend thousands of dollars for expensive lawyers from Austin trying to protect their way of life? That's what is happening. Some people in town can only say, "It's a done deal" and "Look, we can have another payroll."

At present our unemployment in Pampa is low and there are very few in our city who will work in a hog factory for any length of time, so low-paid employees will have to be brought in from elsewhere. Are you listening, business owners?

Let's look at the proposed hog factory and their misinformation: (1) They first said it was 3,700 animals; now it is 50,000; (2) they said they were not connected to any other operation in the area, but the Murphy hog factories around Follett, Texas, Shattuck and Laverne, Okla., are owned by Smithfield (with National Pig Development so close, it will be much easier to supply these operations with feeder pigs); (3) the head of NPD told Dale Roth they knew nothing about the new environmentally superior technologies, when Smithfield is presently being compelled to change to the new no-lagoon systems in North Carolina; (4) NPD states it will have 45 employees and a \$1,500,000 payroll.

According to national statistics, they will have three- to four-employees per 1,000 sows. With 3,700 sows, that is a maximum of 16 plus, perhaps eight management employees, which adds up to 24 employees, not 45. And the payroll should be about \$600,000 to \$700,000 per year.

It has been said by some, that "Those people (NPD) have been 100 percent truthful with us." How do they know what the truth is? A Slick Willie, con man or spin doctor will always spin you.

What would be your thoughts if you lived in the country and someone wanted to build a hog factory waste pit near your home and business?

Dr. Louis W. Haydon
Pampa

Parole board may not be aware of all the facts ...

To the editor,
The Texas Parole Division is in a sorry state of affairs. In support of this factional findings, I will present the following information: The board members arbitrarily base their decisions on information found in the inmate's file, without investigating his record accurately to detect any possible mistakes. They only look at the inmate's file instead of having a personal face-to-face interview with the inmate being reviewed by board members.

The incompetence runs rampant due to inefficient personnel working at the main parole office in Austin, Texas. They spend too much time drinking coffee and eating donuts at taxpayer expense.

It is time for a change of the present status of the parole board policies that does create the effect of a thorn in the side of the working class people of Texas.

Inmates are being held in prison longer than necessary and this contributes to over-crowding in prison, state jails and county jails. These men need to be supporting their family, instead of putting undue stress on their family.

An inmate's approval or disapproval for release may solely rest on the "board members" attitude in their decision-making process.

Larry Williams
Jordan Unit

There are many kind people in Pampa ...

To the editor,
With all the negative feelings and publicity about Pampa recently, you know how nice the people of Pampa and the people of Wal-Mart are for being so kind to my mother and myself.

My mother is 81-years-old, and we went Christmas shopping on Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving. My mother requires a wheelchair due to her age and declining health.

I push her in a wheelchair and pull a shopping cart behind us to do her shopping. I have never had so many people be kind and helpful to me and her (other shoppers and employees).

Each year, I never know if Mama will be here. So to other shoppers and the people at Wal-Mart, I want all to know there are kind people in Pampa.

Mama is our rock, and Christmas means so much to her and our family.
Paula Clendennen
Pampa

The term 'lagoon' may be misleading ...

To the editor,
I have looked up the word lagoon in three dictionaries, and not once did I see the definition as open air hog cesspool! So why is National Pig Development referring to their open air hog cesspools as lagoons? Of course, we all know why, it certainly sounds better than what it truly is — an open air hog cesspool!

A lagoon is "an area of shallow water, a small pondlike body of water, one communicating with a larger body of water." A thing of beauty! Does an open air hog cesspool qualify to be called a lagoon? You decide.

I am not trying to "kill" Pampa or be negative. I am trying to save Pampa from air and water pollution. Yes, National Pig Development will bring jobs in, but are a few jobs worth contaminating our air and water?

Let's concentrate on turning Pampa into a tourist-oriented city. With this in mind, I cannot imagine any tourist ever saying "the first thing on my 'to do list' is to go on a grand tour of a hog facility."

In a more serious vein, I commend all those responsible for the annual Chautauqua and Celebration of Lights, as they both bring in numerous visitors to Pampa, and I know both projects involve a lot of hard work.

Joyce Davis
Pampa

We must safeguard our natural resources

To the editor,
The City of Pampa, Texas, with a population of 17,000 is being required to spend \$2 million on upgrading its waste water treatment plant because ammonia escaping into the atmosphere is slightly above the limit set by the TNRCC.

National Pig Development has requested a permit to establish a 50,000-head hog factory about 10 miles from the Pampa Waste Water Treatment Plant. Each hog produces three times the fecal waste of a human. This proposed hog factory's fecal waste would be equal to the fecal waste of a city of 150,000 people. According to the permit request, NPD would not be required to have any type of waste water treatment plant and would run this fecal waste equal to a city of 150,000 into an open 45-acre cesspool, 35-feet deep. Where would the

ammonia from this cesspool go? Into the atmosphere!
It seems unreal there would be such concern for a city of 17,000 to control its ammonia and let the equivalent to a city of 150,000 people turn its ammonia loose into the atmosphere, with no effort for control.

The slogan on the TNRCC letterhead reads, "Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution." When giving permits for hog CAFOs, the TNRCC is actually promoting pollution of the air, water and soil of our great state of Texas.

Citizens of Pampa please write to the TNRCC asking them to refrain from approving the permit for the Hog CAFO in Gray County, Texas, or anywhere in Texas, until more stringent laws for handling the fecal waste of the hogs can be put into effect. Write to: Mr. Blas Coy, TNRCC Office of Public Interest Council, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dalton Lewis
Pampa

Museum not really in charge of Memorial Bricks

To the editor,
This is a letter in response to the letter to the editor in last week's paper (Nov. 18) entitled "Purchasers of Memorial Bricks get no satisfaction."

The curator of Freedom Museum USA tried to call the woman who wrote the letter to the editor and her mother at the number that was given to him several times and never got any one. The museum person had informed the monument coordinator of the situation earlier. The monument coordinator checked numerous times on all the bricks to see where they were. Her and her mother were told last November, 2000 that the VFW had to have 12 bricks sold before the order could be sent in.

When they came back in to the Museum (which is just the place that the order forms are being distributed out of courtesy to the VFW) in August, 2001, they asked why their bricks had not come in yet. They were informed that they only had 11 bricks sold, so they bought another brick to make 12 bricks. The order was sent in. The company that makes the bricks do the bricks in order of when they get it.

(See, LETTERS, Page 7)

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Merry Christmas
We Can Help Take The Hassle Out Of The Holidays


- ? Meat, Cheese, Vegetable or Ham Trays
- ? Honey Glazed Spiral Hams
- ? Register To Win A Spiral Ham
- ? Meat Gift Packs
- ? Gift Certificates
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Sarah Fr

The 2001 Sweethearts November and Robbins.

Sarah Fraser Mike and D granddaught Nell Fraser a Her honors, plishments i of Speech ar tary of Conce for D-FY-IT;

LETT

On Nov. 7, 2 my dad, the cu his home. He w daughter, to a woman was bl taking their mo ting anything in that my dad v someone had t Monday or Tu the bricks wouk week (Nov. 9) 16. I told her t USA had nothin other than bein order blanks th It was and is the

The bricks ar um ready to be the Lord sent ever since the and because it brick layer ha them yet. He is until it really warmer som Thanksgiving

It is regret pened, but th woman went faction was ru

To clarify, v chased, there bricks sold bef the cutter. As (the cutter) fill are sent back t bricks are laid brick-layer as s

This is a wor your loved ones now or in the pa USA does not this, no profit at helping the VFW tesy to have th museum. All th the VFW and F also served in th USA free. We s these men and v veteran we see tary for our Un the greatest cou

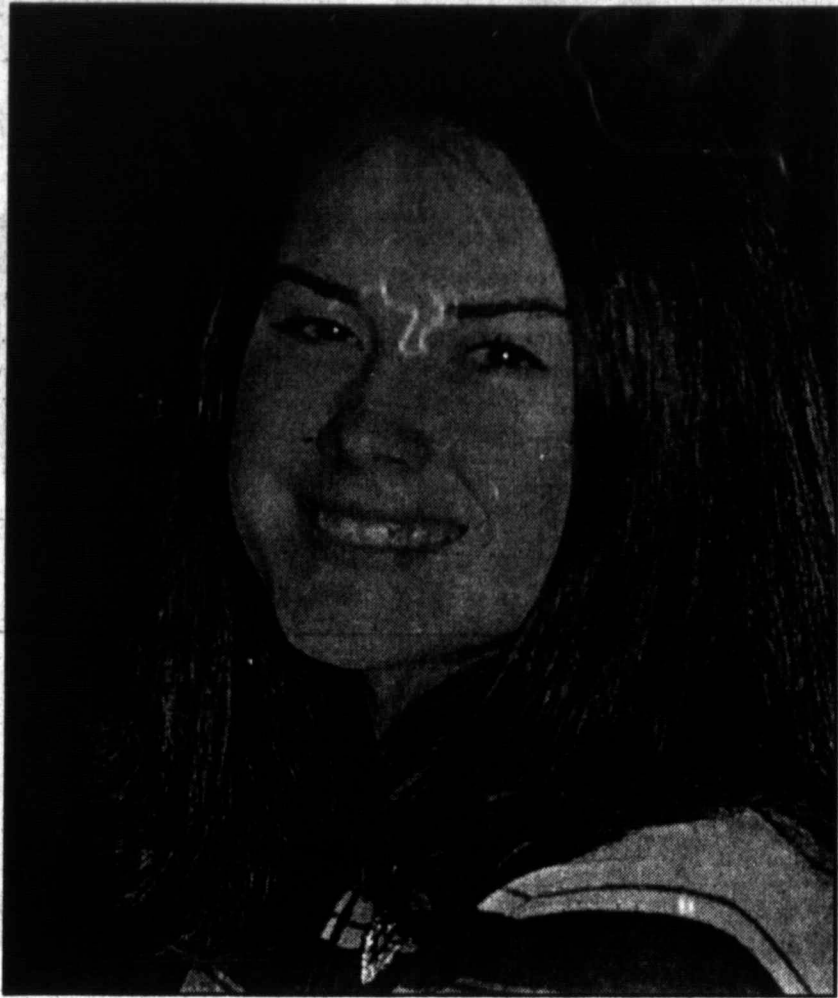
Freedom M derful military items from the present. Th Tuesdays-Satur The museum Blocks that y honor anyone you enter the work at the m (they receive States of Amer to their hearts, to help out an

**DIDN'T BEE
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**23 s
days to**

Lions Club Sweethearts



Sarah Fraser

The 2001 Pampa Lions Club Sweethearts of the Month for November are Sarah Fraser and Amy Robbins.

Sarah Fraser is the daughter of Mike and Dottie Fraser and is the granddaughter of Lee and Gaye Nell Fraser and Dorothy Johnston. Her honors, activities and accomplishments include: Vice president of Speech and Debate Team; secretary of Concert Choir; spokesperson for D-FY-IT; vice president of the

National Honor Society; board member of the Multicultural Advisory Council; lead in the drama club's performance of "Blackout"; lead in the choir musical "Grease"; National Merit Scholar semi-finalist; and Principal's Leadership Award nominee.

Sara attends Trinity Fellowship Church where she is a youth leader and member of the worship team. Future plans are to study finance at either Duke



Amy Robbins

University, Notre Dame or Wheaton.

Amy Robbins is the daughter of Lonny and Gloria Robbins and is the granddaughter of Deryl and June Robbins and George and Arlene Kirchoff. Her honors, activities and accomplishments include: Secretary of D-FY-IT Advisory Board; Multicultural Council board member; treasurer for Speech and Debate Team;

Student Body reporter; Choir president; lead in choir musical "Grease"; 2001-02 Homecoming Queen; National Honor Society; top 5 percent of her PHS graduating class; basketball (three years); and choir (four years).

Amy attends Trinity Fellowship Church and is an active youth leader there. Future plans are to attend Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and major in organizational interpersonal communications.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

LETTERS

On Nov. 7, 2001, the woman called my dad, the curator of the museum, at his home. He wasn't there but I was, his daughter, to answer the phone. The woman was blaming the museum of taking their money falsely without getting anything in return. I informed her that my dad was not there but that someone had talked to the company on Monday or Tuesday (Nov. 5 or 6) and the bricks would be in by the end of that week (Nov. 9) or the next week (Nov. 16). I told her that Freedom Museum USA had nothing to do with this project other than being nice by having the order blanks there for people to fill out. It was and is the VFW's project.

The bricks are already at the museum ready to be put in place but since the Lord sent us much needed rain ever since the bricks have been in and because it has been too cold, the brick layer has been unable to lay them yet. He is going to have to wait until it really dries out and gets warmer sometime after the Thanksgiving Holiday to lay them.

It is regrettable that this happened, but the way in which the woman went about finding satisfaction was rude.

To clarify, when a brick is purchased, there must be at least 12 bricks sold before the order is sent to the cutter. As soon as the company (the cutter) fills the order, the bricks are sent back to Pampa and then the bricks are laid at the Monument by a brick-layer as soon as possible.

This is a wonderful way to honor your loved ones (serving in the military now or in the past). Freedom Museum USA does not make anything off of this, no profit at all. The museum is only helping the VFW out of Christian courtesy to have the order forms in the museum. All the men and women in the VFW and Freedom Museum USA also served in the military to make the USA free. We should all be thanking these men and women as well as every veteran we see for serving in the military for our United States of America, the greatest country in the world.

Freedom Museum USA is a wonderful military museum that shows items from the Revolutionary War to the present. The museum hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. The museum does sell Memorial Blocks that you can purchase to honor anyone. They are located as you enter the museum. All who work at the museum are volunteers (they receive no pay). The United States of America is so close and dear to their hearts, they want to be there to help out and be able to share with

the people that come into the museum what a great nation we have.

Deanna Polasek
Pampa

Mother Goose versus reality

To the editor,

To better understand the Arab world and the problems we are now having with them, a good place to start is with Merle Millers' book about President Truman.

As a young kid, Harry Truman read all the time and even studied Latin. He was very fond of the Gospels found in the New Testament, King James Version. Truman never cared for "fairy stories," Mother Goose, (Goldilocks). "The stories from the Bible were about real people ... I felt I knew them ... they were actual people I knew!" He always looked at any problem from all points of view like Solomon from The Old Testament — very wise!

In the Palestine area, the Jewish people wanted a homeland where the Jewish victims of Hitler's wrath could flee Europe. They wanted a Jewish state — Israel! The Arabs in the area had always claimed it as their own. However, the Arabs had never shown any great interest in this region, and only when the Jewish people started to settle did they become alarmed.

This is the kind of problem that

causes wars. The Jewish leadership sought the blessing of the most powerful nation on this earth, The United States and our president, Harry Truman ...

All the experts warned against it. But to Truman an expert was someone that didn't want to learn anything new because then he would no longer be an expert. This problem

then is not of President Bush's making! Many say it was the most important thing President Truman did. He officially recognized Israel!

I like to think of it as "Truman's finest hour" and thank you Winston Churchill, as I know you were in favor of a Jewish State!

John D. Seaman
Perryton

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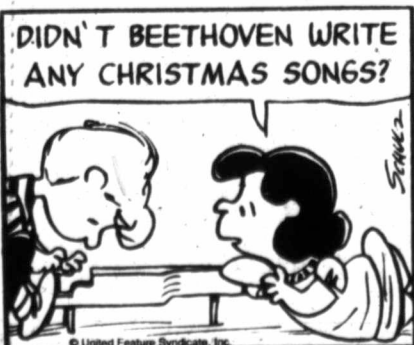
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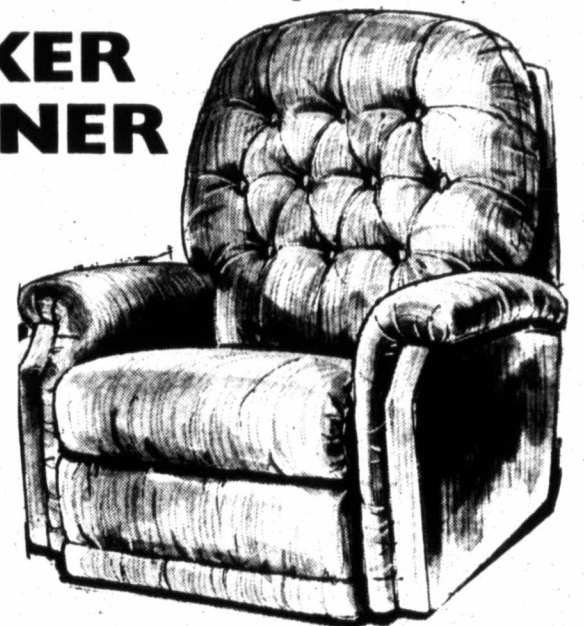
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TWC tele-centers offer UI assistance

■ TWC uses an innovative service method that allows claimants to conduct UI and other related business by telephone. Since UI claims are no longer handled in local offices, instead of driving up to 50 miles to an office and then having to wait in line ...

viduals based on their previous earnings while they are looking for work.

TWC uses an innovative service method that allows claimants to conduct UI and other related business by telephone. Since UI claims are no longer handled in local offices, instead of driving up to 50 miles to an office and then having to wait in line, a more efficient system now handles claims and UI business with a local or toll-free telephone call to one of the seven Tele-Centers.

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has made filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) easier than ever before. Although unemployed Texans have been filing their claims by phone since 1999, new enhancements have made the system even more efficient and convenient.

Enhancements, such as additional assigned filing days, allow customers more convenience and relieve call congestion during peak filing days.

"It's crucial for customers to know their options when coping with a layoff," said TWC Executive Director Cassie Carlsson Reed. "The ability to do business by phone provides valuable relief for workers in such a stressful time."

UI is an employer-paid insurance that helps workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own. It provides temporary financial help to qualified indi-

To talk with a representative or file a claim, customers should call the nearest Tele-Center number or the toll-free number for calls outside local areas. Customer service representatives are available in most areas from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday. The Houston and Dallas area Tele-Centers recently extended their hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as an added convenience — Austin: (512) 340-4300; Dallas: (214) 252-1200; El Paso: (915) 832-6400; Fort Worth: (817) 420-1600; Houston: (713) 982-7400; McAllen: (956) 984-4700; San Antonio (210) 258-6600; 1-800-939-6631 (outside seven the local areas only.)

Telecommunications devices for hearing impaired can communicate with TWC offices by using Relay Texas, 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) or 1-800-735-2988 (voice).



(Photo by Judy Elliott)

Winners at the Gray County Food Show who will advance to district competition in Amarillo on Dec. 1 are: (Back row, left-right) Sarah Schwab, Cory Jackson, Emily Elliott, Drake Jackson; (middle row, l-r) Amanda Fricks, Nicholas Odom, Jessica Baggerman; (front row, l-r) Anna Shackelford, Tammy Syfrett and Gabriel Miller. Not pictured: Emily Jackson.

Area 4-Hers compete in county food show

Twenty-three youth representing four area 4-H clubs recently participated in the Texas Cooperative Extension - Gray County 4-H Food Show. For competition, 4-H members completed a Foods and Nutrition Project; Project Record Form; prepared a nutritious dish, and participated in an interview answering questions about their project and dish.

The "Rookie Of The Year" Award went to Lysie Guyer of Pampa. "Best Display" was awarded Caleb Crawford of McLean.

Those 4-H members receiving top honors and representing Gray County at the District Food Show scheduled for Dec. 1 include:

JUNIOR. Tammy Syfrett (Main Dish), McLean 4-Clover 4-H Club; Jessica Baggerman (Fruits and Vegetables), Prime Time 4-H Club; and Gabriel Miller (Breads), Lefors 5-H 4-H Club.

Other competitors: (Main Dish) Caleb Crawford, McLean 4-Clover; Dustin Forsyth, Lefors 4-H; and Zachary Odom, McLean 4-Clover; (Fruits and Vegetables) Emory Crawford, McLean 4-Clover; (Breads) Lysie Guyer, Super Clover; Rebecca Lawrence, Lefors 5-H; and Sarah Shackelford, McLean 4-Clover.

INTERMEDIATE. Nicholas Odom (Main Dish), McLean 4-Clover 4-H Club; Drake Jackson

(Fruits and Vegetables), Lefors 5-H 4-H Club; Amanda Fricks (Breads and Cereals), McLean 4-Clover 4-H Club; and Anna Shackelford (Nutritious Snacks), McLean 4-Clover 4-H Club.

Other competitors: (Main Dish) Travis Fish, McLean 4-Clover; Amanda Lawrence, Lefors 5-H; and Tori Meeks, Lefors 5-H; (Fruits and Vegetables) Kristin Odom; (Nutritious Snacks) Claire Boyd, Super Clover 4-H Club.

SENIOR. Cory Jackson (Main Dish), Lefors 5-H 4-H Club; Sarah Schwab (Breads and Cereals), Super Clover 4-H Club; and Emily Elliott (Nutritious Snacks), Super Clover 4-H Club.

The objectives of the Foods and Nutrition Project are to help the youth:

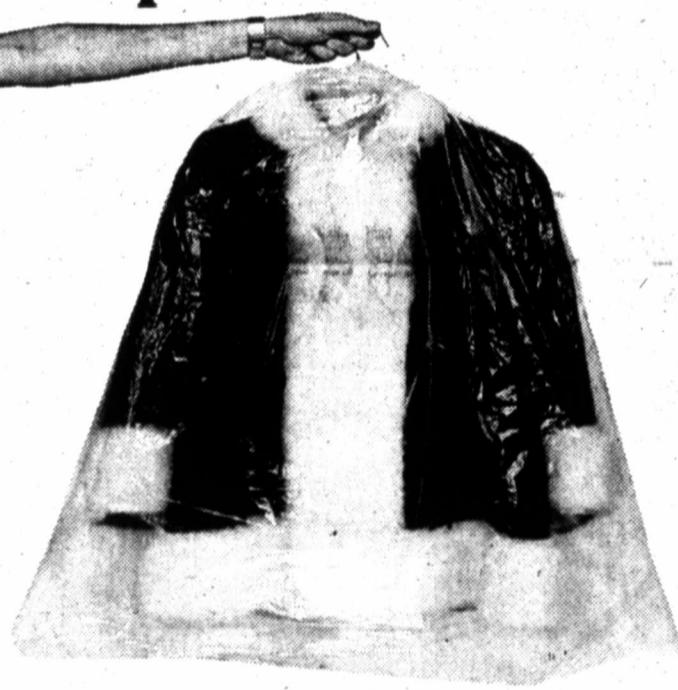
- Understand the interrelationships between food preparation, science and nutrition.
- Understand all individuals need the same foods, but in varying amounts, depending on age, sex, and lifestyle.
- Develop appropriate eating habits.
- Learn to select and purchase food in order to get the most nutrition for money spent.
- Develop management skills to plan, prepare and serve nutritious and safe meals and snacks.
- Understand the social and

cultural roles of food in daily living.

- Develop leadership and work skills to enhance person growth and citizenship.

For more information about this project or other projects conducted through 4-H, contact the county Extension office at 669-8033.

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The Eastland Family

Central Baptist Church Presents

A Christmas Spectacular



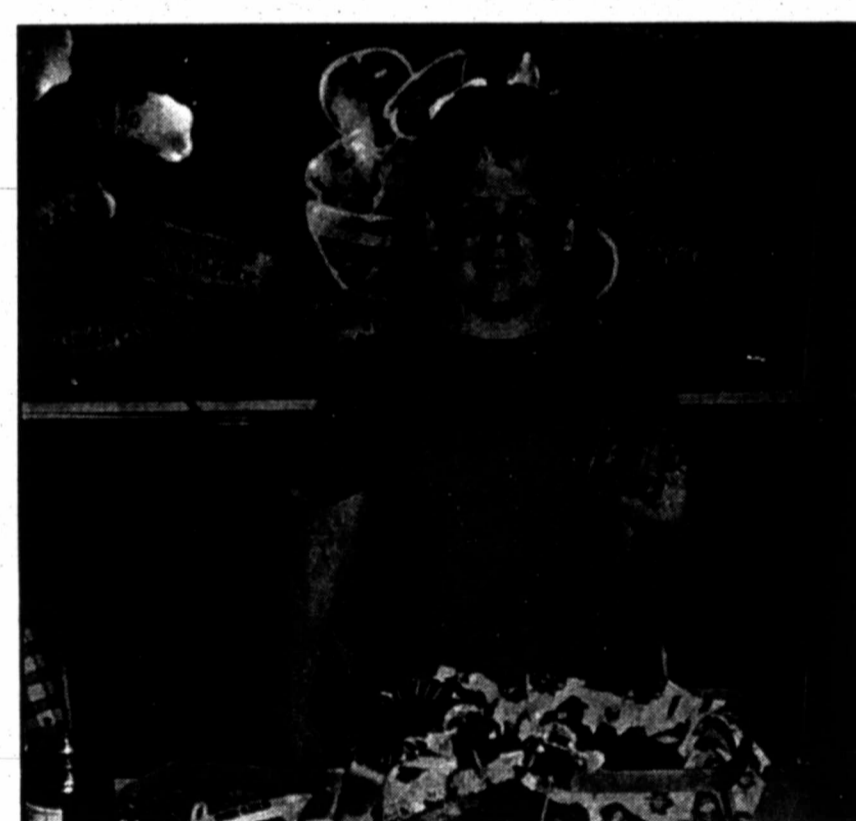
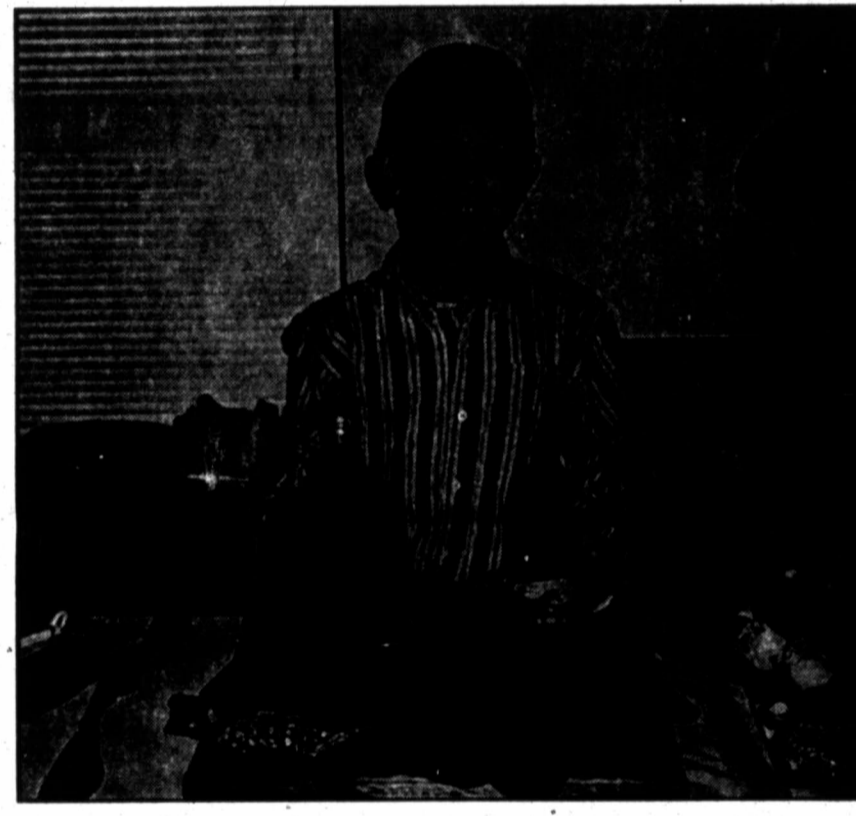
That Night

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(Photos by Drake Jackson)

Top: Caleb Crawford of McLean recently won "Best Display" at the Gray County 4-H Food Show. Bottom: "Rookie of the Year" went to Lysie Guyer of Pampa.

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CANY effort by partners coalition Amarillo, Texas A& Health Pr contribute their hard Dr. Reb professor of Nursing the final one on Eva by Tobacc prehensiv gram that \$400,000 Amarillo the hos the progr ment fun "free" A associated The six to be util Evaluation already pu multiple tion and employ to process at nents of th "I've n such a Robinson appropriate Nursing th thing he Smoking area, and that the through money." Among Tobacco F of Amari Society, Foundatio Independ Amarillo Harringt 16 Educ McCormi Potter a Sheriff's partners resources target are County — can be bat program Commu Based P Enforcem Objecti which con 2002, are

AUTO • Sta Jeff 19 Like a go State F stat State Farm Home Office

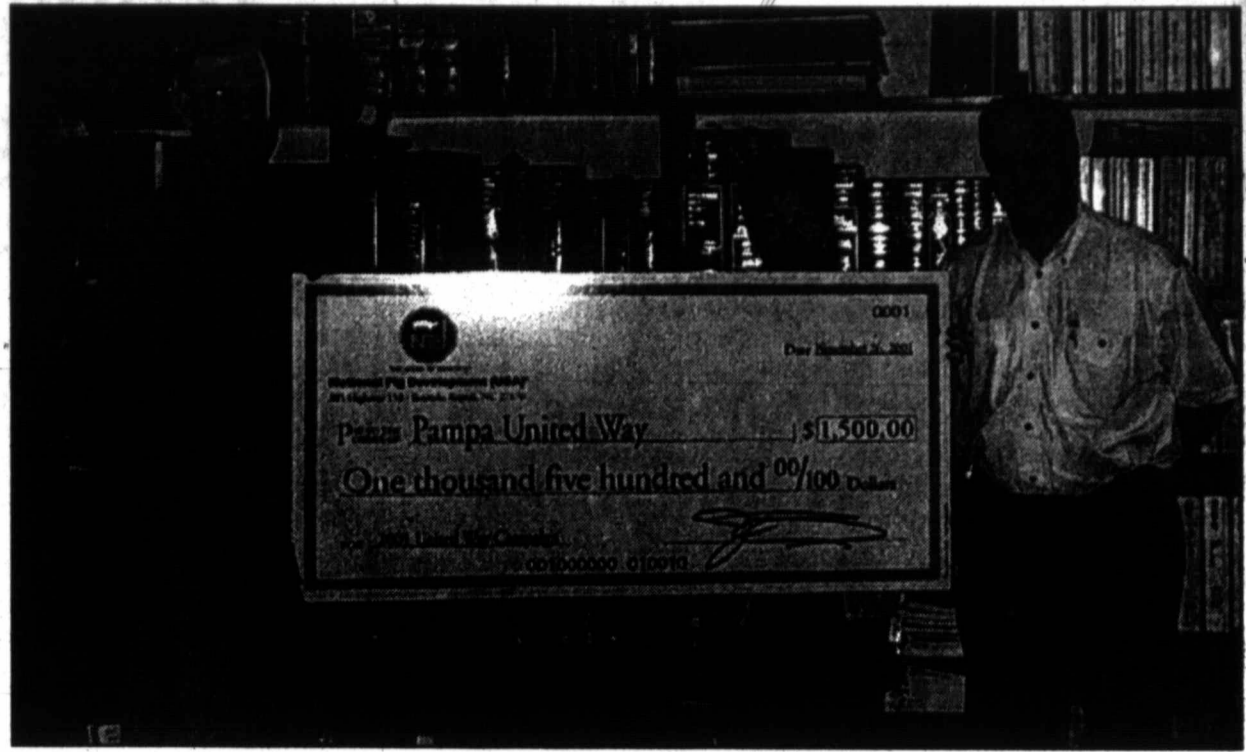
Santa helpers



(Courtesy photo)

Don't have your Christmas lights up yet? PHS Theater Department will put up your decorations for a donation. For more information, call 669-4800, ext. 333 or 669-3058. Above: Kaylie Brewer, A.J. Swope, Justin Lemmons and Amber Bowers.

NPD donation



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa United Way recently received a donation from National Pig Development for \$1,500. Presenting the check to Katrina Bigham, UW director, is Matt Mehlenbacher, left, Nucleus Operation manager, and John Carter, general manager.

West Texas A&M to evaluate tobacco-free Amarillo

CANYON — After a year-long effort by more than two dozen partners in a community-wide coalition called Tobacco Free Amarillo, it will be up to West Texas A&M University's Office of Health Program Evaluation to let contributors know to what extent their hard work paid off.

Dr. Rebecca Robinson, associate professor of nursing in the Division of Nursing at WTAMU, will direct the final of six components — the one on Evaluation — being utilized by Tobacco Free Amarillo, a comprehensive tobacco-control program that kicked off Oct. 1 behind \$400,000 in funding from the Amarillo Hospital District.

The hospital district is funding the program with tobacco settlement funds, and the goal is to "free" Amarillo from diseases associated with tobacco use.

The sixth and final component to be utilized in the program is Evaluation, and Robinson has already put in motion many of the multiple methods of data collection and analysis WTAMU will employ to evaluate the context, process and impact of the components of the program.

"I've never been involved in such a wide collaboration," Robinson said. "I think it is very appropriate for the Division of Nursing to be involved in something health-related like this. Smoking rates are very high in this area, and I also think it is fitting that the project is being funded through tobacco settlement money."

Among the many partners in Tobacco Free Amarillo are the City of Amarillo, American Cancer Society, Amarillo Area Foundation, Amarillo Independent School District, Amarillo Police Department, Harrington Cancer Center, Region 16 Education Service Center, McCormick Advertising and the Potter and Randall County Sheriff's Departments. In all, 27 partners have committed resources to reach throughout the target area — Amarillo and Potter County — wherever tobacco use can be battled through the first five program components: Community Programs, School-Based Programs, Media, Law Enforcement and Cessation.

Objectives of the program, which continues through Sept. 30, 2002, are to prevent youth from

initiation of tobacco use and to encourage adults to quit using tobacco.

WTAMU faculty outside the Division of Nursing — in mass communications, history and political science and criminal justice — will pitch in to assist with surveys of adult tobacco users, health-care providers, community leaders, law enforcement officers and health educators, Robinson said. Some surveys have already been conducted or begun, and surveys will continue during and after the first five program components have been undertaken.

"One of the primary goals will be to let the partnership know if the program is being delivered as planned," Robinson said. "We'll do a process study midway through

the project to make sure things are being implemented the way they were intended. Our impact evaluation will determine the effect of the program."

More than 11,000 school-age kids will be surveyed by the time Tobacco Free Amarillo ends as researchers attempt to determine their knowledge, behavior and attitudes regarding tobacco use," Robinson said. Adult surveys — before and after — will be done by phone to assess attitudes and possible behavioral changes regarding tobacco.

"We designed the evaluation plan and are implementing it, and we're getting good support from other faculty within the University," Robinson. "We're honored to be in on this."

BSA Hospice to offer holiday grief workshop

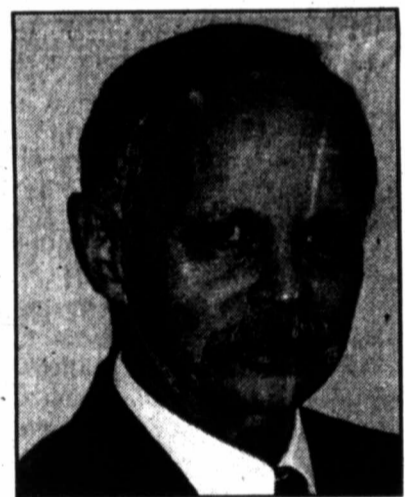
BSA Hospice will offer helpful ways to cope with grief during the upcoming holiday season by presenting a "Grief and the Holidays Workshop."

The workshop will be conducted from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6, at the BSA Hospice Pampa facility, 800 N. Sumner.

Workshop presenter, John Southern, M.Ed and Licensed Professional Counselor with BSA Hospice will help participants better understand the grieving process.

He says, "for some, grief can devastate the Holidays, physically, emotionally and socially. The objective of the workshop is to help individuals deal with their grief in a healthy manner while preparing for the demands of the holiday season."

There is no charge to attend



John Southern

the workshop. It is open to the entire community as well as BSA Hospice patients and their families. To register for the workshop, call BSA Hospice Pampa, 665-6677 or toll-free 1-800-658-6985.



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AGRICULTURE

Boom year for Christmas tree producers

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas Christmas tree producers are ringing up sales this year with healthy, big trees, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

Retail and wholesale cutting of trees has already begun, said Tom LeRoy, extension horticulturist in Conroe.

"The trees are in fair to good shape, and definitely bigger than last year's," LeRoy said.

Kathy Enzerink of Gholson, marketing committee chairman for the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, said every grower she has talked to has said their sales are up this year, in spite of or perhaps because of the Sept. 11 attacks on America.

"The family values we've heard of for so many years have come home and hit us directly in the heart," said Enzerink.

Going to a Christmas tree farm is a multigenerational activity, she said. Parents are coming with their children and their own parents in tow. "Grandmother is leaving her fake tree in the attic and buying a small tree, because that's what we used to do," she said.

Sales at her farm, located 10 miles west of West, are up 20 percent, she said, and other growers are reporting increased sales.

"Our trees are in fabulous shape," she said. "In North Texas and Waco, we had fabulous growth."

Normally, growers in her area have to "shear" their Virginia pines in the spring and late summer to ensure a conical shape. A third fall shearing was added this year because of good growth of limbs, she said.

John Ross, resource/reforestation forester with the Texas Forest Service in Conroe, said consumers should know about the safety, care and the differences of their Christmas trees this season.

"Most of the trees that are found in supermarket parking lots and makeshift dealers are shipped in from out of state," Ross said. "Because they are transported in, they are normally about a week old, and they are going to dry out much quicker.

The longer they dry out before they are submerged back into water, the shorter their life is going to be."

In addition, pre-cut trees should be purchased as quickly as possible because the longer they are on asphalt, the quicker they will dry out, Enzerink said. Even if the tree is not going to be set up and decorated until later, the tree should be trimmed to fresh wood and kept in water and out of the sun.

The four main types of trees not grown in this state are the Douglas fir, Fraser fir, Scotch pine and Noble fir. Most trees are shipped in from Washington, Oregon and North Carolina.

"An average price for a 6-foot tree will be between \$20 and \$60 (for a pre-cut tree), depending on the species," Ross said. "Look for trees that are well-pruned, have good shape and have deep color. Whether a tree is full or not does not matter when considering the health of the tree. It is just personal opinion about what looks good."

The best thing to do when buying a pre-cut tree is to cut slices off of the bottom until fresh wood is reached, and water it instantly, he said. Keep it well-watered the entire time it is in your home, and never let the tree run out of water.

Clean the tree stand with a mild mixture of chlorine and water before using it each season. Ross also warns not to believe in the common myth of mixing water with sugar in order to prolong the life of the tree. This only increases the possibility of mold. Use only clean water with no other chemicals, he said.

Periodically check the tree for dryness. If needles begin falling off easily when they are pulled, the tree is drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Christmas tree farms, where consumers can cut their own trees, abound in Texas, with about 20 to 25 in the Houston area alone, Ross said.

"The main advantage to one's cutting his or her own tree is the freshness of the tree. It will be able to stay in the home longer without drying out," Ross said.

Another benefit is the family togetherness, Enzerink said.

In Southeast Texas, growers prefer the Virginia pine, which requires more moisture. Arid climates of West and Southwest Texas make the Eldarica (Afghan) pine the preferred choice. And the Leyland pine grows well in Central Texas.

Enzerink is looking for a great season, in spite of the arctic front that is sweeping across the state this week.

"The cold does not hurt farm sales, but the wet soil may," she said. Still, "The adventuresome always come out."

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

PANHANDLE: soil moisture is very short to adequate. Recent rains have improved wheat conditions. Cotton, sorghum and peanut harvest resumed after fields have dried. Cattle in good condition with supplemental feeding continuing. Rangeland conditions improving.

SOUTH PLAINS: soil moisture is adequate. Cotton and grain sorghum has advanced rapidly as producers have tried to get all crops harvested before the cold, wet weather arrives. Peanut harvest is virtually complete. Pastures and ranges in poor to fair condition.

ROLLING PLAINS: soil moisture is adequate. Pecan harvest delayed due to wet orchard conditions. Some cotton producers waiting for a freeze to begin harvest, but fields will have to dry first. Supplemental feeding of cattle continues, but pastures are improving.

NORTH TEXAS: soil moisture is very short to adequate. Moisture has become limited even with recent showers. Pastures are suffering due to livestock supplementation. Summer grasses very mature, winter grasses still short. Wheat is 100 percent planted.

EAST TEXAS: soil moisture is short to very short. Winter pasture growth hampered with

moisture shortage. Cattle conditions generally good. Vegetable garden preparations continue. Pecan harvest in progress.

FAR WEST TEXAS: soil moisture is short to adequate. Fall onions third true leaves on, with no pest problems. Red chile harvest in progress. A lot of weed growth in pastures will benefit the sheep and goat herds. Pecan crop is expected to be good, despite some wind erosion.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture is short to adequate. Cotton harvest continuing, but is winding down. Harvest has been delayed in some areas due to wet conditions. Oat planting almost complete. Wheat planting continues with green bug problems in some areas.

CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate. Most of the district had a frost, which may kill some early planted oat crops. Low pecan prices. No new planting reported.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS: soil moisture is very short to short. Cold front during week lowered temperatures. Most producers supplemental feeding cattle. Hay being made, and commercial vegetables being harvested. Winter annuals showing good emergence and growth.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: soil moisture is adequate. Small grains, pastures and ranges are making good progress. Rainfall delayed the harvesting of carrots, cabbage, spinach and other winter vegetables. Most of the spring onion crop has been planted.

COASTAL BEND: soil moisture is mostly surplus. Most fall field work is completed. Oats are making good progress and will respond to soil moisture. Pastures are improving, and livestock are in good condition. Pecan crop being harvested.

SOUTH TEXAS: soil moisture is short. Irrigated corn is maturing well but has some worm damage. Harvesting of tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers continues. Onions are still being planted. Sugarcane and citrus harvests continue. Livestock in fair condition.

Genetically modified corn DNA has spread into Mexican maize

DNA from genetically modified corn has found its way into native corn varieties growing in remote southern Mexico, heightening fears about the dangers of bioengineered crops.

Scientists fear the accidental spread of laboratory-inserted genes could give some plants an advantage that would allow them to crowd out other varieties, reducing the world's biological diversity.

"The benefits of these crops don't outweigh the enormous risks to food security," said David Quist of the University of California at Berkeley, one of the researchers who reported the findings in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Diversity is prized by scientists as a hedge against diseases, pests and climate change. While some plant strains may be vulnerable to one disease, for example, others may have natural immunity that enables them to survive.

"We can't afford to lose that resource," said Ignacio Chapela, a co-author of the study.

Four of six samples of native criollo corn taken last year from fields in Mexico's mountainous Oaxaca region were found to contain a genetic "switch" commonly used in genetically engineered plants, the researchers reported.

In addition, two of the samples were found to have another DNA segment commonly inserted by genetic engineers. And one sample contained a commonly inserted gene that prompts the plant to

produce a poison effective against the European corn borer, a pest that can harm crops.

The researchers said the discovery was surprising because Mexico imposed a moratorium on genetically engineered corn in 1998. Before that, the closest government-approved plantings of such corn were at least 60 miles from the sample sites.

Scientists could not determine exactly where the foreign DNA came from. But Quist said the researchers suspect imported genetically modified corn was handed out by a government agency as food and may have been planted by recipients near their traditional crops.

They do not believe cross-pollination happened over long distances because corn pollen is heavy, does not travel far and is short-lived.

The unintended DNA mixing is not the first involving a genetically engineered plant.

Still, it highlights the need to carefully control an emerging field in which plants are being equipped with new genes to let them produce medicines and other compounds, the researchers said.

Quist said, for example, that plants are now being developed to produce compounds that act as spermicides.

"Just think if that gets out into the environment and has a negative impact on people's fertility," he said. "It's obvious there are reasons to be concerned — until

we have greater information on what the impact will be — about the release of this technology."

Rebecca Goldberg of the Environmental Defense Fund said the findings show that decisions on whether to approve genetically modified plants should not be made lightly.

"I think the primary message of this article is that large-scale production of genetically engineered crops is going to have an irreversible effect because it is impossible, or virtually impossible, to contain genetic material once it is put into crops that are planted on a wide scale," she said.

Dr. Val Giddings of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, a trade association, said the foreign DNA in the criollo corn was not a threat to biodiversity because it would only help the strains survive. Bioengineered corn strains also help improve crop yields, lessening the need for acreage and slowing the conversion of wild areas into farmland.

"Biotechnology is alleviating the threat on biodiversity by lessening the need for land," Giddings said. "This argument that has been advanced just doesn't hold water."

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Combs reminds pesticide dealers, applicators to practice more safety

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs reminds pesticide dealers and applicators across Texas to review their safety procedures and be extra vigilant during this time of continued terrorist threat.

"Agricultural dealers and producers make a regular practice of following safety procedures," Combs said. "But in light of recent events, I encourage all pesticide dealers and applicators to evaluate their storage practices and pesticide use procedures."

Dealers should follow normal precautions about keeping products and equipment secured. Inventory should be monitored often, and any missing product should be reported to the authorities. Anyone attempting to buy product either in large quantities, off season or in some other way that is suspicious, should be reported. Here are some other tips for dealers:

- Increase your security presence and/or ask local law enforcement to do "drive-by" at night;
- Make sure all installed security features, including lights, are working and are being used;
- Do not sell potentially dangerous ag chemicals to unknown customers and report any suspicious activities or requests immediately to the local authorities;
- Inform your customers of what is happening and ask them to secure their own areas of control;
- Report any thefts, break-ins, disappearances or inventory shortages; and
- Take measures to secure chemicals during shipment by your employees.

Combs urges farmers, aerial applicators, lawn care operators, exterminators and others who regularly store and use pesticides to review management practices. Here are some steps to review:

- Ensure pesticide storage is secure and locked as appropriate;
- Be aware of who has keys and access to pesticide storage areas;
- Post all storage areas (i.e., "Pesticides - Keep Out")

—Post names, addresses and telephone numbers for contact persons such as property owners and local authorities at the primary entrance to the storage area (list at least two people, if possible);

—Regularly inspect storage facilities and maintain an inspection log;

—Commercial pesticide applicators should be aware of who has access to pesticide storage areas during business hours;

—Keep inventory records of pesticide products current and readily available;

—Secure pesticide application equipment to prevent unauthorized access;

—Ensure pesticide label and Material Data Safety Sheets are available on all stored pesticides; and

—Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers readily available, including fire, law enforcement and medical contacts.

Aerial applicators should be especially vigilant about securing equipment and chemicals. Pilots should report any suspicious activity relative to use, training or acquisition of dangerous chemicals or equipment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Any threats or unusual inquiries should also be reported.

Grain warehouse operators and other producers who use fumigants should take extra precautions to keep their pesticides secure.

"Texas pesticide dealers and applicators have a strong record of safety," Combs said. "But in these unusual times, everyone needs to review safety practices and emergency plans. Proper planning and strong emergency procedures help prevent problems down the road. Texas agriculture needs to do our part to ensure that our normal lives continue, and that we have put the appropriate safeguards in place."

More information may be found in on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publication "A Chemical Accident Prevention: Site Security" available on the EPA web site [www.epa.gov/swercepp/p-small.htm#alerts]

Applicator CEU deadlines approach

AUSTIN — As the deadline approaches, Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs reminds pesticide applicators to obtain the necessary continuing education units to renew their license. Many private applicators, as well as all commercial

and noncommercial applicators, face a Feb. 28, 2002, renewal date. Private certificate holders face a Dec. 31, 2001, deadline.

Applicators should be sure TDA has their correct address to avoid a delay in receiving their renewal on time and keeping

their license current. Call 1-800-TELL-TDA or e-mail changes to randy.rivera@agr.state.tx.us.

"There are many options for obtaining the required CEUs," Combs said. "Applicators can attend CEU courses, complete a self-study course at home, or even obtain CEUs over the Internet."

"The information provided in the CEU classes helps applicators stay informed of changing regulations as well as new products and new application methods. Education is vital for proper and safe pesticide use," Combs said.

Applicators will receive a certificate of completion at the end of each course. They should hold on to these for a year after they have renewed their license. The certificate contains the course number and CEU hours completed. The applicator transfers this information to the renewal form he or she receives in the mail in December or January.

Private applicators must renew their license every five years and obtain 15 CEUs during that period. Two credits must be in integrated pest management and two in laws and regulations.

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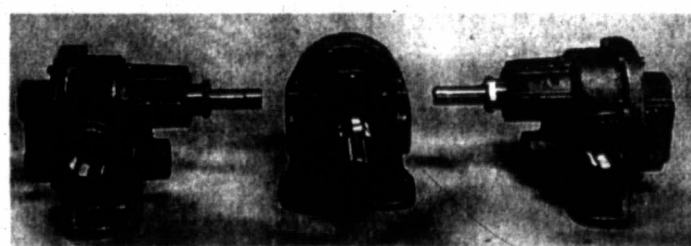


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Calendar of events

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. For more information, call 665-6898.

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.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES/WIC
Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

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.

CLASS OF 1961
Pampa High School Class of 1961 will hold its 40th class reunion this year. Anyone interested in helping plan and organize the event should contact Zip Swamy at 665-5532.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers from the community to respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. As well as personal satisfaction, volunteers learn how to protect themselves and cope with disaster by planning ahead, particularly essential during tornado season. In addition, ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

AMARILLO RAILROAD MUSEUM
Amarillo Railroad Museum will present a model train display during the Christmas holidays at Western Plaza. The display will open from 12 noon-7 p.m., Nov. 23-25, Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, and from 12 noon-4 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. A drawing will be held Christmas Eve for a hand-built HO-scale model railroad and a demonstration on digital command control is slated Dec. 15. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50-cents for children under 12. All proceeds will benefit the museum, a non-profit educational charity.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS DISPLAY
Celebration of Lights will be open Dec. 1 through Dec. 31 every evening after dark at Recreation Park.

ACCORD MEETING
Pampa Chapter of Accord, Inc., will meet at 7 p.m., Dec. 3 and 18 at Lovett Memorial Library.

CHAMBER BREAKFAST
Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce will host its fourth and last quarterly Prayer Breakfast of the year at 6:45 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4 in M.K. Brown Room of Pampa Community Building. Peggy's Place will cater. A special program is slated at 7 a.m., and PHS Show Choir will be on hand to sing Christmas carols. The event is open to the public at a cost of \$5 per person. For more information or to make reservations, call the Chamber at 669-3241 by 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 3.

LAKE MEREDITH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Christmas Bazaar is in the offing Dec. 6-9 at 104 N. Robey, Fritch. The event will include a bake sale as well as craft items. Donations in the form of cash, crafts or baked goods are currently being accepted through Dec. 1 (baked goods Dec. 5.) For more information, call (806) 857-2458.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
"Breakfast with Santa" will be held at 9:30 a.m. and at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8 at St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning. Cost is \$8 per child and covers breakfast, picture with Santa and a goodie bag. Reservations are recommended as space is limited. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Shepherd's Helping Hands at 665-9750 (if no answer, leave a message.)

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE
The Stokes Ranch near Pampa will be the site of a Harmony Outreach Christmas Jubilee slated at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8 at the ranch located 2 1/4 miles east on Loop 171/Hwy 60 (turn south at Schwan's and look for the little lit up church.) Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 669-3535 or 665-2738.

TOUR OF HOMES
Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club will host its annual "Tour of Homes" Dec. 9 in Pampa. All proceeds will benefit "Opportunity Plans, Inc."

WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS
Writers' League of Texas, in cooperation with Texas Commission on the Arts, is accepting applications for grants and fellowships in literature for 2002-03 through Dec. 10. For more information or to request an application, call (512) 499-8914; e-mail awl@writersleague.org; or write the League at 1501, W. 5th St., Suite E-2, Austin, TX 78703.

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING TOUR
Volunteers are needed for the annual Children's Shopping Tour scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15. The volunteers will meet at the Optimist Club, 601 E. Craven, at 7:45 a.m. For more information, call 665-4051.

ACS PROGRAM
The American Cancer Society will present the program "Look Good... Feel Better" from 1-3 p.m. Dec. 15 at the ACS office at 3915 Bel Street in Amarillo. The program is aimed at helping cancer patient cope with the unpleasant side effects of cancer treatments. Cosmetology professionals will demonstrate techniques how to compensate for hair loss through the use of turbans and scarves. To register or for more information, call the ACS at (806) 353-4306.

TWU SCHOLARSHIPS
Texas Woman's University is offering scholarships to women and minorities interested in degrees in computer science, engineering or mathematics. For more information, contact Melinda Miller Holt at (940) 898-2168 or (940) 898-2166 or mholt@twu.edu.

MIRACLE EAR
Miracle-Ear Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization, work in cooperation with Miracle-Ear Centers nationwide to provide free hearing aids and services to children 16 and under whose families do not qualify for public assistance, yet cannot afford the expense of hearing aids for their children. For more information, contact the local Miracle-Ear Center at (806) 795-0188 or 1-800-808-0188.


DIALOGUE
The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

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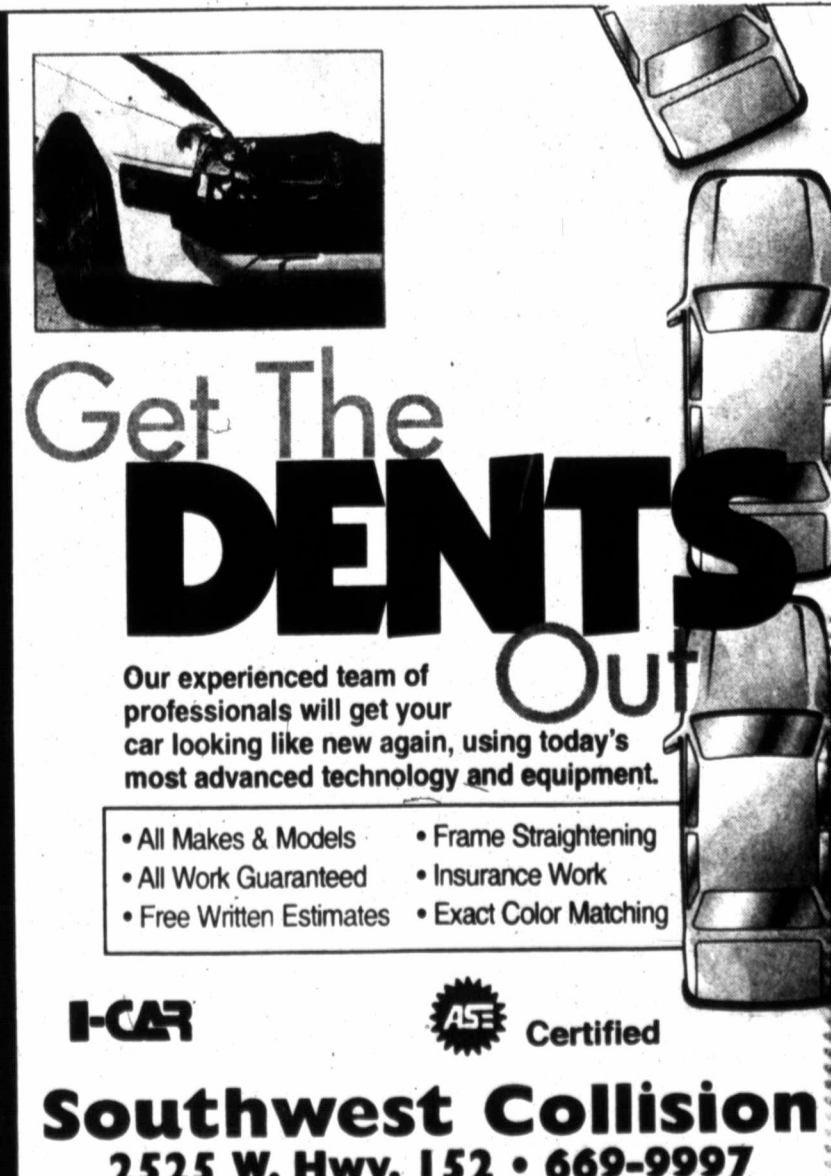
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SPORTS

Pampa 3-0 in Classic

AMARILLO — Pampa won its third straight game Friday in the Cal Farley Tip-Off Classic, defeating Trinity Christian of Lubbock 69-59 at the AHS Activity Center.

The Harvesters lifted their overall record above the .500 mark at 4-3.

Three Harvesters — Ryan Zemanek, Chadd Platt and Max Simon — each had 13 points to lead the team in scoring. Kyle Francis chipped in 10.

Pampa started pulling away from Trinity after leading by three (48-45) going into the fourth quarter.

Others scoring for Pampa were Adam Rodgers, with 8, Dustin Johnson 4, James Silva 3, Seidrick Drew 2, Jon East 2, and Erik Brown 1.

Matt Martin had 11 points and Hunter Ward 10 to lead the Lions in scoring.

In an earlier game, Pampa rolled to a 40-24 win over District 3-4A rival Caprock 40-24.

Rodgers topped Pampa in scoring with 16 points. East and Simon followed with 6 points each, while Zemanek had 4, Silva 3, Francis 2, Crow 2, and Drew 1.

Cassius Carter had 10 points for Caprock.

FRITCH — At the Lake Meredith Classic, Pampa's Lady Harvesters defeated Canadian 51-41 in Friday's consolation bracket.

Ashley Derington had 20 points and Jennifer Lindsey 14 to lead Pampa in scoring.

Halftime score was 24-22, Pampa's favor.

Jana Francis paced Canadian with 17 points. Sandra Reyes followed with 10.

Easy basket



Fort Elliott's Kade Zybach (23) slips inside for an easy basket against Hedley in a winner's bracket game Friday at the Tomahawk Classic in Miami. Moving in for a possible rebound are teammates Larry Lee Horn (25) and Aaron Hartline. Fort Elliott won 51-44.

(Pampa News photo)

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Jordan takes control in Wizards win

By The Associated Press

Watching Michael Jordan take control of games is nothing new for Pat Riley. However, the Miami Heat coach isn't used to losing like this.

Jordan had 22 points, seven rebounds and five assists as the Washington Wizards beat Miami 84-75 on Friday night, handing the Heat their 11th consecutive loss. The slide is the longest in Riley's coaching career.

"Is there anything I can do that I haven't done? I'll keep looking," said Riley, whose New York Knicks teams and Jordan's Chicago Bulls created one of the NBA's top rivalries in the 1990s.

Jordan scored eight points in the decisive fourth quarter and led the Wizards in scoring for the 13th time in 15 games. He hit four jump shots in the final period. The first one tied the game at 70, the next two came during an 8-0 run, and the final one put the game out of reach.

"Michael made some huge shots for us," Washington coach Doug Collins said. "I'm sure Pat Riley hates to see him because through the years he's made such big shots. He was simply awesome."

Miami lost the first 17 games of

its inaugural season in 1988, then dropped 13 in a row the following year.

"I'll probably tweak the lineup as best I can and move in another direction," said Riley, who has used 12 different starting lineups in 15 games.

Richard Hamilton added 19 points, and the Wizards ended an 11-game losing streak to the Heat.

In other games, it was Memphis 102, Houston 85; Detroit 110, Charlotte 105; Sacramento 109, San Antonio 106 in overtime; Phoenix 98, Utah 76; Denver 96, the Los Angeles Clippers 93; the Los Angeles Lakers 107, Seattle 92; and Portland 101, Milwaukee 95.

In what has become routine for the Heat, they struggled to score down the stretch. Alonzo Mourning had just four points on 2-of-7 shooting, while LaPhonso Ellis led the team with 24 points.

"You just can't keep guarding and guarding and guarding and never get any sugar at the other end," Riley said. "It just deflates everything. The major problem is that we just can't score when it counts."

Grizzlies 102, Rockets 85

Jason Williams scored a career-high 38 points and had 11 assists to lead Memphis to a victory over

Houston. Williams, who shot 16-of-28 from the field including 6-of-13 from 3-point range, scored 18 points in the third quarter as the Grizzlies took control. He shot 7-of-9, including 4-for-4 on 3-pointers in the period.

Shane Battier added 18, and Pau Gasol 17 for the Grizzlies, who won for the third time this season — all at home.

Reserve Walt Williams scored 15 points, and Kevin Willis and Kenny Thomas each added 14 for the Rockets, who lost their fourth straight.

Pistons 110, Hornets 105

Jerry Stackhouse scored 31 points, and Chucky Atkins added 24 to lead Detroit over Charlotte.

Ben Wallace made two free throws to break a 103-all tie with 1:04 left, and Stackhouse hit a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left to seal the victory.

Baron Davis had 23 points for the Hornets, who have lost five straight at home.

Kings 109, Spurs 106, OT

Hedo Turkoglu scored a career-high 24 points to lead Sacramento to an overtime victory at San Antonio.

Mike Bibby added 22 points, and Lawrence Funderburke a sea-

son-high 16 for Sacramento, which won its third straight.

Tim Duncan scored a season-high 38 points for San Antonio, which fell to 7-1 at the Alamodome.

Suns 98, Jazz 76

Rodney Rogers scored a season-high 23 points, including eight during a 31-point third quarter, in the Suns' victory over Utah.

Penny Hardaway had 17 points and Shawn Marion 16 for the Suns, who won their third straight for the first time this season.

Basketball

Pampa Middle School Boys

8th Grade Division
Canyon A 57, Pampa A 21
Pampa top scorers: Braydon Barker 12, Weston Teichmann 4.
Canyon B 61, Pampa B 25
Pampa top scorers: Jared Moler 11, Colby Scott 8.

7th Grade Division
Canyon A 54, Pampa A 43
Pampa top scorers: Brett Ferrell 18, Devan Shultz 11.
Canyon B 48, Pampa 12
Pampa top scorers: Ryan Goldsmith 5, Jarron Clark 5.

Groom ousted from six-man playoffs

SEAGRAVES — Sanderson went on a first-half scoring surge and held off Groom in the second half for a 49-35 win Friday night in the six-man quarterfinals.

Groom finished the season with a 12-1 record. Sanderson improves to 13-0.

The Tigers trailed 36-7 at halftime, but rallied to make a game of it in the second half. Groom cut the deficit to 19 points at the end of the third quarter and scored the last two touchdowns of the game on a pair of Clay Britten passes to Clay Ritter of 33 and 14 yards. However, with 5:51 to play, there would be no more scoring.

Cody Bivens scored twice for the Tigers on 65 and 7-yard runs.

The Tigers' other score came

on Britten's 66-yard pass to Hugh Weinheimer.

John Benavidez led Sanderson's offense with scoring runs of 45, 14 and 5 yards.

This was the third time in the past four years that Groom had been eliminated in the quarterfinal round.

Six-Man Pairings

Quarterfinals
Whitharral 51, Sands 20
Sanderson 49, Groom 35

Semifinals
Whitharral (13-0) vs. Sanderson (13-0)

Quarterfinals
Richland Springs (11-1) vs. Blanket (8-4), 7 p.m. Thursday in May

Semifinals
Woodson 45, Calvert 26

Semifinals
Richland Springs (11-1) or Blanket (8-4) vs. Woodson (12-1)

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D-Day Museum's new Pacific wing one of U.S. focal points on Dec. 7

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The National D-Day Museum opens its new Pacific wing on Dec. 7, and against a backdrop of the war in Afghanistan, organizers expect the ceremonies to be more of a spectacle than the opening of the museum itself was.

The Pacific wing's opening comes on the 60th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, which has drawn many comparisons with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

"The Sept. 11 attacks have heightened Americans' awareness of Dec. 7 in a way no one could have anticipated last summer," museum President Nick Mueller said.

"There's a sense of unity and coming together we probably haven't seen since 1941," he said.

The \$33 million museum, founded by author Stephen E. Ambrose, initially was meant to showcase artifacts sent to Ambrose by veterans he interviewed for his best-selling book about the D-Day invasion. But as

his reputation grew, so did his collection of war souvenirs and his interest in celebrating the heroism of common soldiers throughout the war.

The museum grew into a national project. Ambrose insisted it be built in New Orleans in part because a featured exhibit is a working replica of the landing crafts used for beach invasions, which were built and tested in New Orleans. Ambrose also wanted the museum to benefit from the city's high number of tourists.

It opened with tremendous fanfare on June 6, 2000. Attendance — more than 465,000 visitors in just the past year and a half — has far exceeded expectations.

"I've been to see the European exhibits and I thought they were extremely well done," said Brig.

Gen. Paul Tibbetts, pilot of the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. "I don't know of any place that will highlight the war in the Pacific as well as that museum in New Orleans."

Tibbetts plans to take part in the weekend-long ceremonies at the museum.

"People say, 'When you dropped that bomb on Hiroshima, it was a form of terrorism,'" Tibbetts said. "It was not. We were at war with the Japanese and warned their leaders we would hit them with a powerful weapon if they didn't stop. Revisionist historians say the Japanese were ready to surrender, but that's a terrible statement because I've seen no credible evidence of that."

Ambrose, now writing a book

focusing on Pacific battles, expects his opening line to read: "This was the worst war there ever was."

"The biggest single reason was the hatred of Japanese for Americans and Americans for Japanese," Ambrose said. "The hatred the Japanese felt for Americans was unparalleled in human history, and Japanese boys were brought up to believe the most glorious thing was to die for the emperor. The amazing thing is how quickly we shook hands after war and became allies."

The museum's new wing is meant to review such lessons, using exhibits ranging from displays of soldiers' war-worn gear to films, photos and interactive touch-screens.

Tibbetts and Ambrose say it will go a long way to make up for the

relative lack of coverage World War II's Pacific theater has received compared with the war in Europe and north Africa.

Thousands of veterans have notified museum officials they want to be in New Orleans on Dec. 7, when they'll be honored in a parade that will include a convoy of World War II soldiers who fought in the Pacific. In the mix will be military bands and World War II re-enactors.

Joe Foss, a Marine fighter pilot who shot down 26 enemy aircraft in missions that included Guadalcanal, is one of at least 12 Medal of Honor recipients who plan to be there. For Foss, now 86 and living in Scottsdale, Ariz., the ceremonies will be as much about current battles in Afghanistan as the ones he fought nearly five decades ago.

"This is about remembering all the people who give their lives for this country," he said. "This country was based on people who had guts enough to get out and fight for the principles we live by."

Also on hand will be several Japanese-Americans who served in the war as interpreters; dignitaries from Australia and the Philippines, whose soldiers fought alongside the Americans in Pacific battles; and former President George Bush, a bomber pilot in the Pacific.

Fewer than 5.5 million of more than 16 million people who served in the military during World War II are alive now. Their average age is 78.

"This is their day in the sun and for many it's their last hurrah," Mueller said.

Lamar Elementary honor roll

Lamar Elementary School recently announced its honor roll for the first and second six-weeks grading period of the 2001-02 school year.

FIRST SIX-WEEKS

A Honor Roll

SECOND GRADE. Jordain Bass, Andra Cortez, John Angel Cota, Brandon Cox, Dakota Davis, Lovteisha Dunn, Danny Estep, Jose Granados, Khale Guthrie, Aaron Lopez, Angela Perez, Ernesto Ramirez, Kaitlynn Ramirez, Jazmine Rose, Isaac Silva, Sarai Soria, Iris Wheat, Danielle Williams.

THIRD GRADE. Emily Barrett, Mercedes Cota, Bianca Hernandez, Ramon Jimenez, Sissy Palmer, Angela Rendon.

FOURTH GRADE. Ashley Akins, Margarita Cervantes, Mikaela Flores, Christina Garcia.

FIFTH GRADE. Codi Guthrie, Andrew Hatcher, Oscar Retana.

AB Honor Roll

SECOND GRADE. Regina Applegate, Kayla Brown, Octavia Jernigan, Marshall McGrath, Vianey Melendez, Michael Rossiter, Gabriela Rubio, Victoria Saiz, Lindsey Saxour, Tremel Session, Ian Thorp, Elizabeth Willis-Fagg.

THIRD GRADE. Reba Bailey, Orlando Castillo, Daniela Doiguez, Aubrei Dowdy, Roscoe Keys.

FOURTH GRADE. Steven Botello, Jessica Brown, Katzen Hernandez, Marticka Jackson, Alexis Johnson, Justin Kenney, Jessica Ramirez, Rianne Smith, Fabiola Soria, Tracy Torres, Tessa Walker.

FIFTH GRADE. Selena Duarte, Celeste Gonzales, Tyler Jones, Atziri Murgado, Callie Preston, Mayra Salazar, Hayden Skinner, Heath Skinner, Richard Terry.

SECOND SIX-WEEKS

A Honor Roll

SECOND GRADE. Jordain Bass, Orlando Castillo, Andra Cortez, John Angel Cota, Mercedes Cota, Brandon Cox, Dakota Davis, Lovteisha Dunn, Danny Estep, Khale Guthrie, Ramon Jimenez, Aaron Lopez, Ernesto Ramirez, Kaitlynn Ramirez, Jazmine Rose, Michael Rossiter, Lindsey Saxour, Isaac Silva, Sarai Soria, Ian Thorp, Iris Wheat, Danielle Williams.

THIRD GRADE. Emily Barrett, James Hathaway, Bianca Hernandez, Sissy Palmer, Angela Rendon, Chelsey Sides.

FOURTH GRADE. Ashley Akins, Mikaela Flores, Cristina Garcia, Laura McGrath, Fabiola Soria.

FIFTH GRADE. Codi Guthrie, Andrew Hatcher, Oscar Retana, Tyler Jones.

AB Honor Roll

SECOND GRADE. Jose Granados, Kortney Hawthorne, Angela Perez, Elizabeth Willis-Fagg.

THIRD GRADE. Monique Miles.

FOURTH GRADE. Steven Botello, Jessica Brown, Kristie Davis, Marticka Jackson, Justin Kenney, Jessica Ramirez, Andrew Regalado, Rianne Smith, Tracy Torres, Tessa Walker.

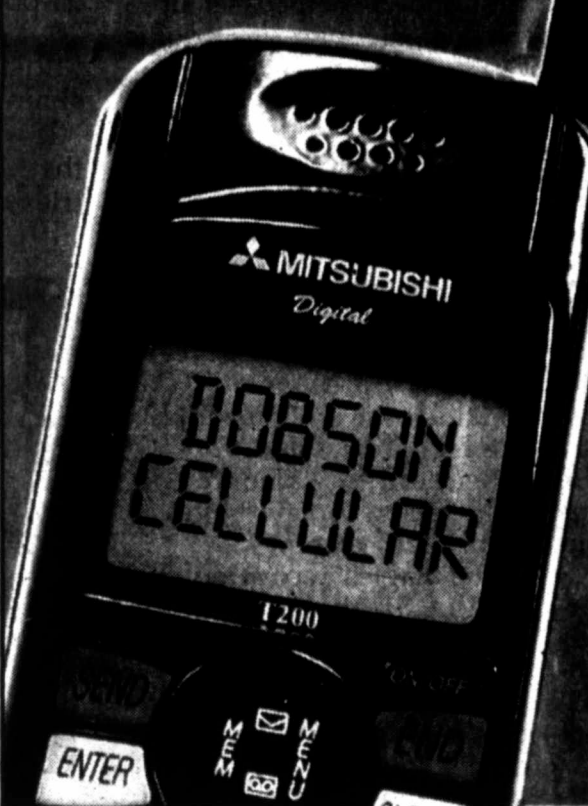
FIFTH GRADE. Selena Duarte, Tyree Johnson, Celeste Gonzales, Callie Preston, Tristin Reeves, Hayden Skinner, Heath Skinner.

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2001 Christmas Home Tour

The Hobart House

The White Deer Land Company approved the plat for the townsite of Pampa in 1902. The following year, Timothy Dwight Hobart succeeded George Tyng as principal agent for the land company and that same year he moved his family from their ranch on the Washita Creek in Hemphill County into a four room house located near what is now the northeast corner at the intersection of Foster and Starkweather.

Hobart and his wife, Minnie, their sons Warren and Fred and their daughters Laura and Mary all lived in that house for the next eleven years.

In 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Hobart purchased plans from a St. Louis architect and engaged local carpenters to begin construction of a house in the middle of an alfalfa field just west of town and north of the Santa Fe railroad tracks.

At the time, there were approximately 400 people living in Pampa and neither oil nor gas had yet been discovered in the Panhandle of Texas.

The primary industry was cattle ranching, but that was already giving way to dry land wheat farming as large steam tractors pulling moldboard plows had begun to turn the plains upside down around the town of Pampa.

The tractors moved slowly, and so did the carpenters. First off, wooden forms were built above ground for a poured concrete structure that subsequently supported a large cypress-stave barrel tank fed by a windmill powered water well. Initially, water was hauled from the railroad water tower.

Next, a deep hole equal in size to the length and breadth of the planned house was painstakingly hacked and carved out of the tight soil with picks, shovels and horse-drawn scrapers known as "fresnos." Great quantities of concrete were mixed by hand and a foundation was poured. Then the carpenters put up a two story wood frame house with a full third story attic, a small kitchen porch and a large veranda front and side porch. They covered the interior walls with wood lath and plastered them. All of which was time consuming; mainly because it was done by hand without benefit of power tools, but also because every



time the carpenters ran out of wood they were forced to wait until the next shipment of lumber arrived on the train. Since no one had any idea how long this would all take, the carpenters simply kept track of their actual working hours. Eventually, it took two years to build the house. The cost was \$10,000, time and materials, more or less.

Once the main house was finished, a barn was built to the south and a stucco garage put up to the west. Juniper trees were planted on either side of a circular drive; a desert willow tree, a vitex shrub, lilacs and several ash trees were planted inside the yard. A coal-fired furnace was installed in the cellar and steam radiators heated every room except the attic. Acetylene bottles in the concrete tank house supplied gas for the light fixtures as there was no electricity. A clever system of gutters and drain pipes collected rainwater.

The Hobarts moved into the house in 1914. Laura and Mary Hobart were, respectively, 14 and 12 years old. All the bedrooms were on the second floor and the two girls shared a room. In the early morning hours of the first night in their strange new home a window shade ratchet slipped and the shade shot to the top of the window; both girls screamed and fell weeping into one another's arms. When their mother came to comfort them they plaintively begged to return to the little house on Foster Street, but in the morning reluctantly conceded they might stay.

Eleven years later Laura married Clyde Fatheree in the parlor of the new house and two years after that she gave birth to her first child, Warren, in the bedroom she and her sister had begged to leave.

One other child has been born in the house. Marilyn, daughter of Fred and Minerva Hobart,

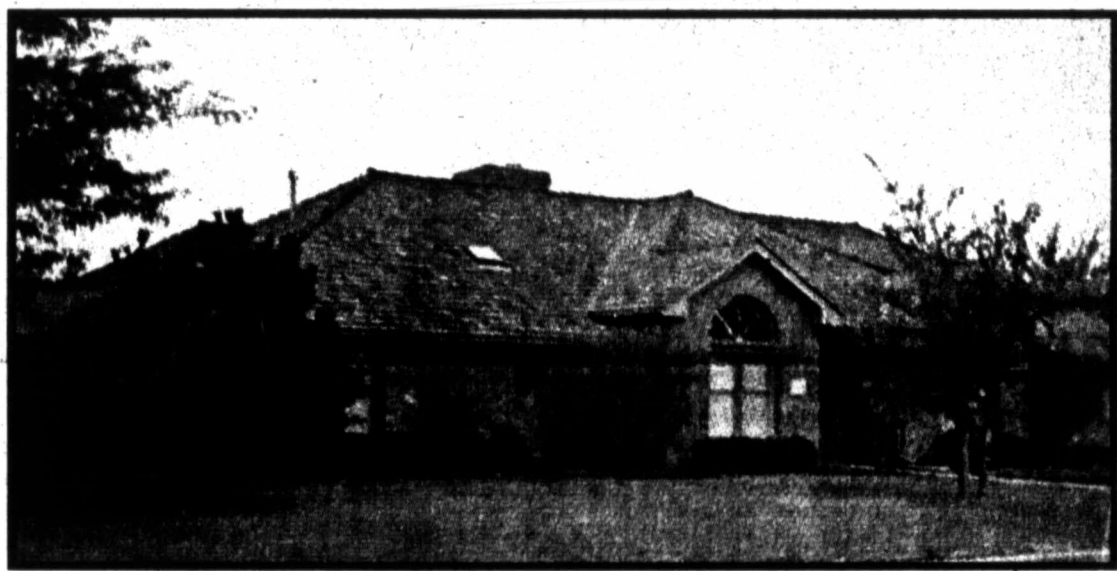
was also born in the girls' bedroom later the same year in August, 1927. The following month Mary Hobart wed Guy Hutchinson in the same parlor where her sister, Laura, had been married.

The year of 1927 was a busy year. Later that winter a young French immigrant (who had already contributed to the history of the place by digging a rather large cistern by hand and lining it with brick for water storage) attempted suicide by slashing his wrists in the attic. He failed. It was very cold that winter.

In the dry spring of 1935 T. D. Hobart passed away in his upstairs bedroom. His last words were, "It's raining?...well, for Heaven's sakes, don't stop it." Minnie Hobart died in the same room during a dust storm in March of 1949. During her final illness she said nothing but did frown in the absence of her son, Fred. She smiled sweetly in his presence and occasionally glared at her granddaughter "Tiny" Minerva Hobart. Her son expired on a long slow still November afternoon in 1972 in the same room where his sisters had once been frightened and where his daughter had been born. Fred's final words were, looking at his son, "You...don't...have sense enough...to pour it out of a boot!"

Fred's wife, Minerva, lived in the house longer than anybody, from 1949 till her death in 1995, spending the last seventeen years in the dining room. She slipped away at dawn in the month of May. The last thing she said was, "I'm not young enough to wait for you to bring me that Dr. Pepper!"

The house has changed some over the years. All of the windows have been covered with storm windows which has reduced the dust problem dramatically and rendered the high ceilinged rooms much easier to heat and keep warm. The kitchen has been reconstructed and the pantry is now a bathroom. Some doors and windows have been moved. The screened-in kitchen porch has been enclosed as a sun porch. And the coal-fired furnace now burns natural gas. But for the most part, mutatis mutandis, the old house continues as it has since 1914 — a reference point in Pampa and a home to the Hobarts.



The Lowe Home

Built in 1948, the modern sprawling ranch style home was originally owned by Bob and Vira Lee Andus. It was built for their daughters, Linda and Bobby Lee. The family ranched in Carson County and really wanted their girls to go to Pampa schools. The home is located at 1710 Mary Ellen.

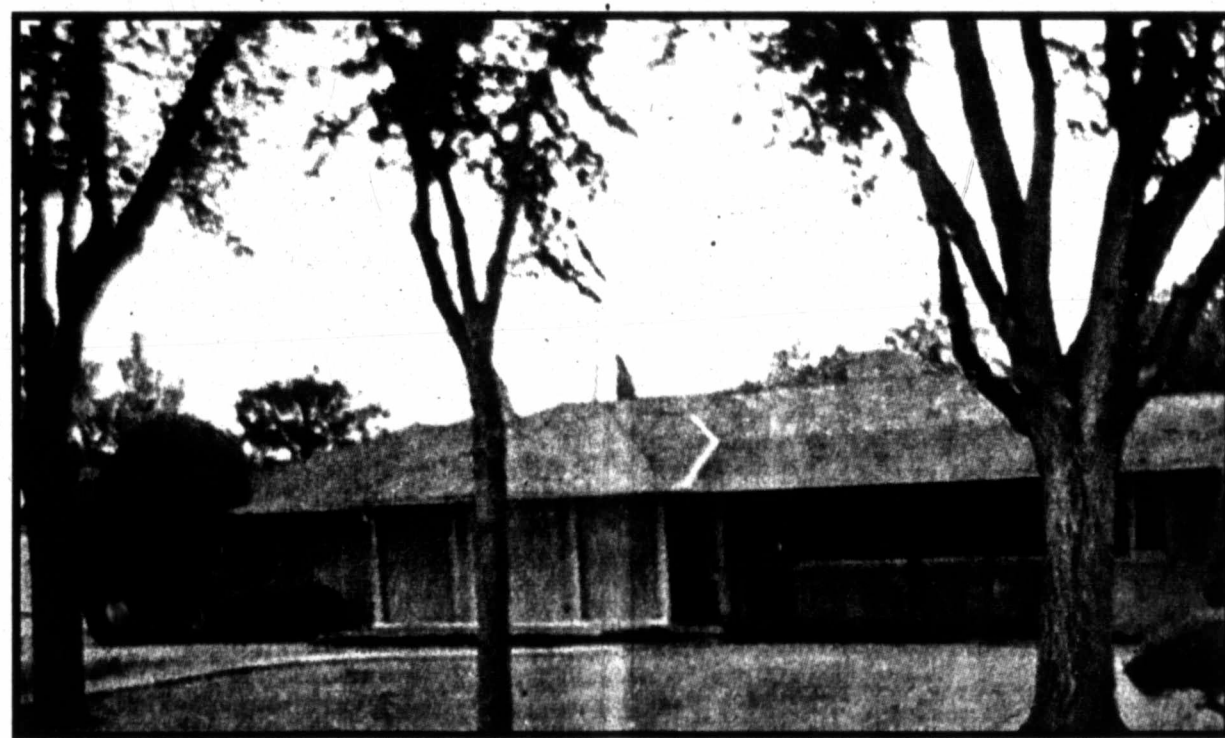
Master carpenters were Bob Childers and Les Davis while Walden Moore was architect and Bob Andus was a contractor.

Vira says Bob supervised everything that went on with the building and that she and the girls designed the home.

Ideas were obtained from magazines and books, and even the Dr. Von Bruno home in California which had fresh air vents along walls of glass. She said she wanted to keep out dirt, and admitted that even though she and the girls had some great ideas, it was Bob who had the ideal for the dining room floor.

When the house was in the early stages, large modern ear-moving equipment was there to dig the basement and rumors spread that they were putting a swimming pool in for the high school, she said.

Vira said that Bob wanted the entire block ini-



tially, but Mr. Frasier helped change his mind. Vira loved to play tennis and wanted a tennis court.

The family brought bear grass in from the ranch to add a ranch-like feel to the landscape. The large storage room off the game room in

The Smith Home

This home at 2629 Chestnut, is located on a spacious lot near the end of Chestnut. Since the completion of the home in the early 1990s it has had several owners and decorating styles. Duane and Evan Smith purchased the home in 1998 and have continued the trend of decorating changes and small home projects. This spacious ranch style home is well suited for a family with three active children, Shelley, Steven and Sarah.

A Louisiana theme is evident throughout the home with prints and artwork from many festivals, plantations, and musical events. These were collected during the years the Smith's lived in the New Orleans area before coming to Pampa. Furnishings are a combina-

tion of traditional to contemporary. You will also find evidence of family with great musical appreciation.

As you enter the home you are welcomed into the formal living and dining rooms. This area has high ceilings, many wood accents, and a beautiful fireplace, setting a relaxing mood. Oriental rugs accent the wood flooring which cover the entry area, hallway, and the family rooms. The kitchen and breakfast areas have been given generous space in the home and many windows offer great natural light. Each of the four bedrooms are decorated and furnished for comfort and reflects the personality of each family member. The master bedroom is complimented with a wonderful sitting area, bookshelves, and a fireplace.

The Curry Home

Located at 721 N. Russell, the home dates back to the early 1930s. The original home was a five-room house built out of Alibates flint on a hill overlooking Central Park.

C. L. Stine bought the property from the C.P. Bucklers on the new part of North Russell Street. The property has over 100 trees, some by legend dating back to before the turn of the century.

Thirty-year owner Jessie Hart started the gardens that now surround the house. Some of the original plants still bloom each year.

Faustina and John Curry have owned the property for over 20 years. The Curry's have completely transformed the house with additions in 1983 and 1994. While keeping the rustic look of alibates flint and rough

cedar, the house is accented on the outside by expansive decks and balconies.

Starting with the custom designed leaded and stained glass front door, the house is full of unique features gathered from homes and buildings in Pampa, Victoria, Washington, D.C., and other parts of the country.

Faustina's flare for decorating and particularly for vivid color abounds throughout the home. Solid rock dining room, historic staircase, gingerbread trim, marble hearths, numerous sky lights, are but a few of the features to see.

During this special time of Christmas, guests will enjoy the Curry's elaborate Christmas decorations, including a 10-foot freshly cut tree with traditional family decorations.



The Sixth Holiday Home Tour will be held Sunday, Dec. 9. Sponsored by the Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club, proceeds go to the Opportunity Plan. Inc. OPI offers low interest loans and scholarships to help area college students meet their education expenses.

The local study club has been raising money for the OPI since the early 1950s.

The Home Tour will be from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9. Tickets are \$10 each.

They are available from any club member prior to the tour or at any home the day of the tour.

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LIFESTYLE

Menus

December 3-7

Pampa Schools
MONDAY
 Breakfast: Waffle sticks.
 Lunch: Chicken strips or pizza, whipped potatoes, English peas, pears, rolls.

TUESDAY
 Breakfast: Oatmeal, toast.
 Lunch: Ravioli or burritos, green beans, salad, cookies, garlic toast.

WEDNESDAY
 Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, toast.
 Lunch: Frito pie or chicken nuggets, western beans, corn, fresh fruit, cornbread.

THURSDAY
 Breakfast: Biscuits.
 Lunch: Pigs in a blanket or cheese nachos, blackeyed peas, salad, mixed fruit.

FRIDAY
 Breakfast: Cereal, toast.
 Lunch: Chicken fajitas or hot dogs/chili, refried beans, Spanish rice, onions and peppers, tortillas, apple slices.

Lefors Schools
MONDAY-FRIDAY
 Not available.

Senior Citizens
MONDAY
 Chicken fried steak or chicken breast/rice, mashed potatoes, spinach, cream corn, navy beans, strawberry cake or blueberry cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

TUESDAY
 Beef enchiladas or sauerkraut and sausage, cheese potatoes, Spanish rice, California blend, beans, cherry cobbler or pumpkin rolls, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY
 Roast beef brisket, brown gravy, or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, baby carrots, green beans, butter pecan cake or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

THURSDAY
 Chicken strips or meatloaf, rosemary potatoes, English peas, beets, beans, pineapple upsidedown cake or chocolate sundae cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

FRIDAY
 Catfish and hushpuppies or or chili rellenos/cheese sauce, potato wedges, winter blend, beans, brownies or banana pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls, garlic toast or cornbread.

Meals On Wheels
MONDAY
 Roast, sweet potatoes, green beans, cake.

TUESDAY
 Stew, cornbread, jello.

WEDNESDAY
 Chicken/rice casserole, corn, broccoli, oatmeal cookies.

THURSDAY
 Salisbury steak, mushroom gravy, fried okra, mixed vegetables, applesauce.

FRIDAY
 Tuna casserole, English peas, carrots, peaches.



Alecia Kay Hall and Thorban Bradley Weaver

Hall-Weaver

Alecia Kay Hall of Pampa and Thorban Bradley Weaver of Amarillo plan to wed March 2, 2002, at First Christian Church in Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Kenneth and Carolyn Hall of Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1997 and is due to receive her bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies from West Texas A&M University this December. Her future plans are to teach elementary math. She is currently student teaching at Austin Elementary School in Pampa.

The prospective groom is the son of Robert and Debra Weaver of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1997 and holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from West Texas A&M University (August 2000). He is currently employed as a chemist at BWXT Pantex.

The couple plan to make their home in Amarillo.

Tips on caring for live Christmas trees

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The holiday bird, plump and roasted golden brown, elegantly carved, its juicy slices laid on the ceremonial platter is but a delicious memory now. With perfect timing, a hint of winter chill arrived in time for pie.

Bundled up in hooded sweat-shirts, my brother, nephews, the toddling great-niece and I walked to a Christmas tree farm. Just beyond a great strip of magnificent pines, a cozy house and a barbed wire fence, I stood in amazement.

Hundreds of trees, in rows straight as a stick, lined the plot. Black landscape fabric sheltered the trees from heat and weeds ... as if a towering seamstress rolled out huge bolts of material on a gigantic cutting table.



Kathy Davis
 GARDEN WISE

I am no stranger to landscape material. It is great stuff in small doses. Putting in 10-feet of the stuff is a major project for me. The sheer logistics of measuring, cutting, laying and pinning hundreds of yards of fabric gave me a headache. How had these industrious people done this and were they really related to me?

There are two kinds of people in the world. The Hares and the Tortoises. The Hare, true to the fable, is quick off the starting line. Speeding along, something always distracts the Hare. This won't take but a minute, she

(See, TREES, Page 17)

Newsmakers



Brandy Crow

Brandy Crow of Troy, Mo., formerly of Pampa, recently competed in the Missouri State Cheerleading Championships. Her squad from Troy Buchanan High School took first place in the 4A Large Co-Ed Division.

Brandy is the daughter of

Floyd W. Crow and is the granddaughter of Effie Crow, both of Pampa.

WACO — Larry Lee Horn of Wheeler, Texas, will be among Farm Bureau youth to take the spotlight on Dec. 2, as scholarships will be awarded to winners of the state's largest general farm organization's Free Enterprise Speech, Miss TFB and Talent Find competitions at the 68th annual convention Dec. 2-5 in Waco.

Participants qualified for the state competition by winning their district contests earlier this year. The finals will be held Dec. 2 at the Waco Convention Center.

The Free Enterprise Speech winner will receive a \$4,000 scholarship. The runner-up will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. The other four finalists will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship. The remaining district winners receive \$1,000 scholarships.

The Talent Find and Miss TFB winners will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. The runner-up in each contest will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Other district winners in each contest have been assured a \$1,000 scholarship.

Horn will be competing in the Free Enterprise Speech contest.

Educational Communications, Inc., publishers of "Who's Who Among American High School Students" recently announced area students named to the 2000-01 edition of the annual publication, the largest recognition publication in the nation honoring high-achieving high school students.

Students are nominated by school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches and educational organizations based upon academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Traditionally, 99 percent of "Who's Who" students have a grade point average of 'B' or better and 97 percent are college-bound. The 35th Annual Edition of Who's Who features over 750,000 students or just 5 percent of the nation's 15,000,000 high schoolers. They represent approximately 20,000 of the 24,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the country.

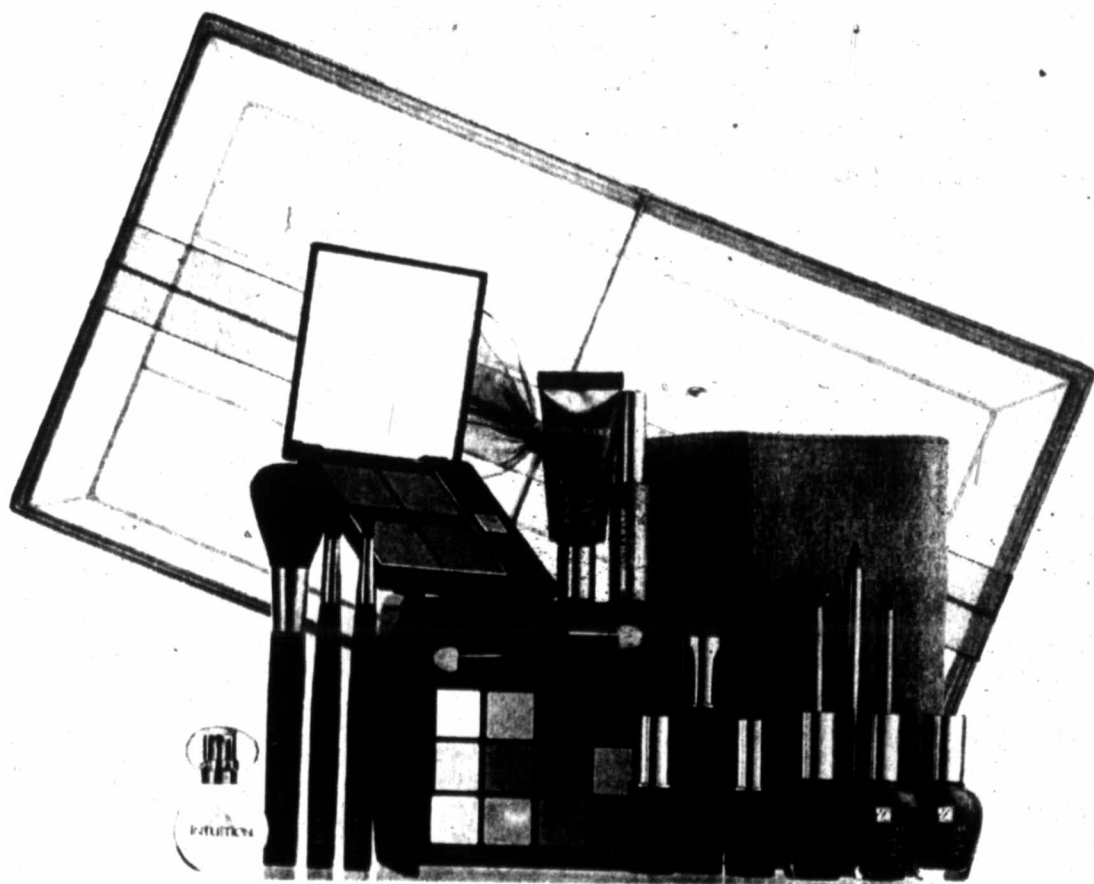
Sara Albracht, Tosha A Anderson, Dirk William Archer, Margaret Ayers, Katrina S. Bell, Cory Bigham, Jessica Blandford, Chandler Bowers, Susar Brackey, Jonathan Brooks, Apri R. Anderson, Rhianna Anglin, Alan M. Arzola, Ryan Barnes, Heath Bentley, Ryan W. Black, Amber B. Bowers, Tiffany Boyd, Abby Bradley, Brooke J. Brown, Sara Bruce, Shanna Buck, Luke Jurton, Stacie Carter.

(See, NEWSMAKERS, Page 17)

ESTÉE LAUDER

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

LET ESTÉE LAUDER COLOR HER WORLD.

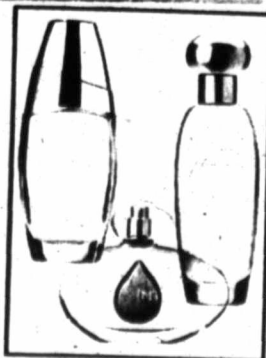


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Good-Davis

Angel Colleen Good and Jerry Don Davis, both of Pampa, plan to wed Dec. 31, 2001, in Central Church of Christ in Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jerry and Brenda Good of Champaign, Ill. She graduated from Central High School in 1994 and from York College in 1996. She is currently manager of C&C Cattle Company Steakhouse.

The prospective groom is the son of Larry and Joy Davis of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1997 and is currently meat market manager at Frank's Thriftway.

Our Bridal Registry

- Dana Wood ~ Greg Maciek
- Melissa Wingart ~ Scott Houston
- Erin Reeder ~ Jason Williams
- Susan Thornton ~ Brad Redwine
- Britany Kempf ~ Tristan Perry
- Mandy Tyrrell ~ Chris Archibald
- Tiffany Olsen ~ Aaron Allen
- Kalei Vanderburg ~ Corey Prichard
- Alecia Hall ~ Thorban Weaver

On Eagle's Wings

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Children in Bryan learning in two languages

By LAURA HIPPI
Bryan-College Station Eagle

BRYAN, Texas — Cheryl Munoz wants her twin sons to learn Spanish so they can help others in a society that is becoming increasingly Hispanic. Her husband, Pete, wants the boys to have strong connection to their Mexican-American heritage.

So when the Bryan couple learned of a new program in which students are taught in English and Spanish in the same class, they abandoned their plans to send 5-year-olds Gabriel and Michael to a private school. Instead, the couple enrolled the boys in the new dual-language program at Milam Elementary School.

"I've seen the need to be able to speak both languages," said Cheryl Munoz, a registrar at St. Joseph Regional Health Center. "I want my children to be able to help anyone."

The program is in its first year in Bryan, although the dual language concept has been around for decades.

In dual-language programs, Spanish-speaking students learn English and are able to keep the fundamentals of their native tongue. In most bilingual programs, those students may retain conversational Spanish but lose technical aspects of the language.

English-speaking students gain proficiency of the Spanish language, which is becoming more common in Texas.

In typical bilingual classes, Spanish-speaking students are taught both languages with English becoming more dominant in instruction as the child moves to a higher grade level. Eventually all teaching is in English.

A \$1.2 million federal grant and \$2 million from the district helps fund the dual-language classes, which are part of a larger bilingual program that includes intervention for troubled students and classes in which adult Spanish speakers learn English.

"It's the marriage of the best bilingual program and the best foreign language program," said Frances McArthur, principal of Milam and Jones elementaries. "The traditional bilingual program that we have ... while we may be providing excellent instruction for the children, were segregating them for part of the day from English-speaking children."

Mixing the languages in one class builds relationships among children of Anglo, Hispanic and African-American backgrounds, she said. The program at Milam is open to children throughout the Bryan district.

In the Classroom
The kindergarten class of 20 students begins its day divided into two classrooms. Spanish speakers and English speakers are taught language arts in their native tongue. Then five children from each class change rooms for the remainder of the day, creating two classes that are each comprised of five Spanish speakers and five English speakers.

In those groups, the students are taught science, social studies and math in Spanish, and physical education, music and art in English.

"The whole idea of how this is taught is language is learned through content," McArthur said. "The kids are merely learning content. Language is just a vehicle of instruction."

Two bilingual teachers work with students at Milam. Julia Norsworthy teaches Spanish-speaking children their language fundamentals, and Amy Wilder instructs the English-speaking students.

Wilder said the class has taught students the value of both cultures, and they were able to understand new words within a month.

"The first three weeks, the English speakers were the most frustrated," Wilder said. "Spanish speakers are used to not being understood. The English speakers had the biggest adjustment. Then all of the sudden,

about the third week, it all clicked for them."

Norsworthy said she stresses the importance of knowing two languages in a merging society. She tells the children future generations will need bilingual lawyers or even bilingual cashiers at stores.

"It is taking Texas into the future because the Hispanics are growing so much," Norsworthy said. "The barriers have been broken. There's no longer the African-American population over here, the Hispanic population over here."

The federal grant allows for the class to be taught until the kindergarten students reach fifth grade. Each year, a new kindergarten class will begin the pattern.

After the fifth year, the district can reapply for the grant or fund the program itself.

"We begin these programs typically from the bottom up, and you start in kindergarten," McArthur said. "The idea is as those children move up through the grades levels you still keep providing Spanish language instruction for 50 percent of their day."

The program is similar to one McArthur implemented in 1994 in the Houston Independent School District while working as a bilingual and ESL teacher.

McArthur learned of dual language instruction while pursuing her masters degree program at Houston Baptist University. The Houston school board was in favor of the program, so McArthur tried for a federal grant and got it.

"I knew that as a mother, that's the program I wanted my own five children to be in," she said. "What we know is that being bilingual is important in our society today. When you place the two groups of children together it becomes a reciprocal relationship where they're helping each other acquire language as they're learning content."

Programs across Texas
School districts throughout the state are embracing

the dual language concept. Large districts such as San Antonio, Fort Worth, El Paso and Houston and smaller districts such as Jacksonville, Lufkin and Richardson have implemented such programs.

Rafael Lara, a director of the bilingual education program at Texas A&M University, said dual-language programs encourage inclusiveness among students.

"The kids, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to learn a new language as well as a new culture," Lara said. "Both languages have value. Both cultures have value. In terms of bilingual education, dual-language programs are having tremendous acceptance by the whole community."

Students typically take two to three years to become conversationally proficient in a language, he said. It requires four to five additional years to become academically adept at a language when, for example, a student can fully understand a scientific concept in a new tongue.

In Jacksonville, the dual-language program is for kindergarten through fifth grade. Sixth grade students are taught one subject in Spanish, said Maria Sheffield, special languages coordinator for the district.

The biggest challenge to the continuation of the program is finding bilingual teachers, Sheffield said. There is a statewide shortage of bilingual teachers. The sixth-grade students only receive one 45-minute Spanish lesson because Jacksonville cannot find enough teachers to fill the necessary slots for a full program.

But community interest in the program is strong, she said.

"We really have seen that this model has worked well for us," she said. "We just opened up to the community and they responded, and it went on from there."

Distributed by The Associated Press

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Ashleigh Beth McWilliams

director. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."



Christopher Sean Stowers

Ashleigh Beth McWilliams and Christopher Sean Stowers, both of Pampa, recently accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society. Stowers was also invited to join The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) of which McWilliams is already a member. "It is only fitting that high academic achievers like Ashleigh and Christopher be recognized by Golden Key," said Kali Boatright, Golden Key assistant executive

leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships. The Society has more than 300 chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and New Zealand. Membership, open to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study, is by invitation only. McWilliams is currently a junior pre-medical major at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She

is an active member of Gamma Beta Phi Society, is historian for Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Medical Honor Society, a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, HOSA (Health Occupations Student Association), Texas Tech Marching Band and Concert Band. In addition, she has been named to the President's and Dean's Lists at TTU. She is the daughter of Betty and Dwayne Meadows of Pampa and Jim and Martha McWilliams of Amarillo and is the granddaughter of Georgia Lee of Tulia and Cecil and Jean Meadows of Wheeler. The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, a highly selective, national, non-profit honors organization, was founded in 1994. NSCS recognizes first and second year undergraduate students who excel academically. "NSCS provides the opportunity for students, like Sean, (and Ashleigh) to be recognized for their outstanding academic accomplishments early in their college experience," said Steve Loflin, NSCS executive director. "Sean will also have the opportunity to join other high achieving college students in developing leadership skills and a sense of civic responsibility." Stowers is currently attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He is the son of Richard and Janet Stowers of Pampa and is the grandson of Dick and Dot Stowers of Pampa and Guy Leach of Amarillo.

TREES

Even the elms refused to shed. Huge roses bloomed on my sister-in-law's bushes. Long purple spires still blossomed on the Mexican sage. This was a fall to remember. In a few short years, I shall sharpen my hatchet, visit my family on Thanksgiving Day, eat too much pie and cut my own Christmas tree. This astounding tree farm is only a 10-minute drive. Oh, what anticipation! Caring for a fresh-cut tree is not difficult. Before bringing the tree indoors, saw off about an inch of the lower trunk. Place in a stand and fill with water. Cut trees are powerfully thirsty. Large trees will absorb up to a gallon of water a day. Did you know there are self-watering, siphoning tree stands? Will wonders ever cease? ♦♦♦ "What does he plant who plants a tree? He plants a friend of sun and sky ... The shaft of beauty, towering high ..." —Henry Cuyler Brunner, "The Heart of the Tree"

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MEDICAL

Gene map of Black Death offers clues to fighting epidemics, bioterror

By JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA
AP Science Writer

British scientists have deciphered the genetic blueprint of bubonic plague, the fearsome microbe that killed one-third of medieval Europe and could still be a frightening biological weapon in the hands of modern-day terrorists.

The new gene map could offer clues to vaccines and other drugs that could keep the disease in check and perhaps even neutralize its use as a weapon.

Antibiotics have all but eliminated plague as a naturally recurring killer. Worldwide, only about 2,000 cases are reported annually,

including a dozen or so in the American Southwest.

But scientists warn that plague probably is triggered by a particularly crafty bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*. Already, it has mutated into at least one drug-resistant version since 1997.

The gene map for *Y. pestis* is published in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

"The genome sequence we have produced contains every possible drug or vaccine target for the organism," said the leader of the research team, Julian Parkhill of the Sanger Center in Cambridge, England.

Plague was known as the Black Death in the Middle Ages because symptoms included liquefying of the organs and hemorrhaging, which caused dark splotches under the skin.

The microbe can be transmitted to humans by fleas that have fed on the blood of an infected rat. It also is spread in airborne droplets when infected people cough. Both forms can be treated with antibiotics, but the airborne version develops so rapidly that it is almost always fatal within a few days.

"These properties make *Y. pestis* one of the most feared agents of biological warfare or bioterrorism," said microbiologist Stewart Cole of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. "The information provided by the genome sequence should be applied to ensure that plague does not re-emerge, and that one of the potential weapons of bioterrorism can be neutralized."

Normally, a gene map for an all-but-vanquished disease would interest only microbiologists and medical historians. But fears of biological warfare have increased since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The U.S. government grounded crop-dusting airplanes for several days after the attacks. Spreading plague bacteria in the air could mimic the effects of the inhaled version of the disease.

Biological agents can be unstable and have been difficult to "weaponize." During the Cold War, U.S. and Soviet laboratories assigned thousands of researchers to put plague and other biological agents in aerosol form.

Stocks of *Y. pestis* are kept in several microbe banks around the world. In 1997, an Ohio man pleaded guilty to illegally obtaining plague germs from a Maryland commercial laboratory.

Like most genetic discoveries, the new plague gene map is widely available to scientists. Officials said it would not be helpful to terrorists. "The problems that they would need to overcome, such as large-scale growth and dispersal, would not be assisted by the sort of molecular information we have produced," Parkhill said.

The gene map shows that *Y. pestis* adapts quickly and adroitly. As civilization concentrated in crowded, dirty cities, *Y. pestis* became harder and more infectious. It changed from a gut-dwelling microbe to a blood-borne source of disease, using fleas to leap from rats to humans. *Y. pestis* continues to remodel itself quickly, Parkhill said.

At least three major plague outbreaks claimed 200 million lives in the past 1,500 years.

In 541 A.D., the first outbreak swept through the Roman Empire. Europe's Black Death started in 1347, killing 25 million in Europe and 13 million in the Middle East and China within five years.

The third major outbreak started in China in 1894. By 1900, it had spread worldwide, killing 12.5 million in India alone. A large outbreak was contained in Los Angeles in 1924-25.

On the Net:
<http://www.nature.com>
<http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/pages/agents/agent-plague.html>
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/Agent/Plague/Plague.asp>

Study: European anti-depressant seems to counter brain shrinkage associated with depression

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major depression makes an important part of the brain actually shrink. Stress seems to be a suspect, but no one knows how to stop or reverse the atrophy.

Now a new study of primates' brains says a European anti-depressant seems to counter the shrinkage — raising calls for more research to see if other medications might help people, too.

"These are impressive and important findings," said Dr. Robert Sapolsky of Stanford University, who reviewed the new research, published in Tuesday's *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

But, "mind you, this is one anti-depressant and this is a fairly atypical one" compared to the antidepressants most Americans use, Sapolsky cautioned.

German researchers tested a new anti-depressant sold only in Europe called tianeptine. The antidepressants most popular in the United States — Prozac and similar medications — work by blocking the dissipation of a neurotransmitter called serotonin that's important for mood.

Tianeptine does exactly the opposite, enhancing serotonin uptake.

Major, long-term depression can cause a brain region called the hippocampus to shrink, in some cases nearly 20 percent. The hippocampus is important for learning and memory, so that probably explains why memory loss often accompanies depression. And the region doesn't seem to bounce back after the depression is cured.

Nobody knows exactly why this atrophy occurs: Neurons may die or shrink, or ones that should, have been born to replenish the region may not be. Whichever, it does seem linked to a stress hormone called cortisol, because about half of seriously depressed patients secrete too much cortisol.

To see if tianeptine could help, neurobiologist Eberhard Fuchs and colleagues at the German Primate Center tested tree shrews, who exhibit a classic model for human depression when exposed to social stress.

Over the 35-day study period, depressed shrews experienced excess cortisol, decreased amounts of brain chemicals important for healthy cells, a 38 percent decrease in new cell

growth and a 7 percent decline in hippocampal volume. But shrews that were given oral tianeptine saw their brain chemical concentrations return to normal, cell growth restart and the hippocampus return to its pre-depression size.

"This increase produced by tianeptine suggests that hippocampal volume loss in depressed humans could possibly be prevented by antidepressants," Fuchs concluded.

Most intriguing, tianeptine worked without lowering the amount of stress-caused cortisol, said Dr. Jeffrey Barker of the National Institutes of Health, whose laboratory studies how neurotransmitters and other chemicals create brain tissue. That suggests the drug blocked cortisol's bad effects downstream.

"It's extremely well-done" research, Barker said. But he cautioned that much more research is needed to tell if

tianeptine, let alone different-acting antidepressants, might offer similar protection to people.

Indeed, the studies that discovered hippocampal shrinkage were done on people who had recovered from depression after the use of older medications, Sapolsky said. No one has yet studied newer antidepressants. Nor has tianeptine prompted much excitement among U.S. psychiatrists, because reports from Europe suggest it's not super-effective, he said.

"It would be a boon ... if any antidepressants can prevent some of the neurobiological correlates of depression, in addition to alleviating the affective symptoms," he wrote in an article accompanying the research. Still, the findings "support the frequent uphill battle" for patients, "namely, convincing others that this is a real biological disorder, rather than some sort of failure of fortitude or spirit."

Kids Q&A ...

Q. Will green tea help me lose weight?

A. It's possible that compounds called catechins in green tea have some calorie-burning benefits — but don't expect a dramatic weight loss, says Mary Pat Bolton, lead nutritionist for the Women's Health Initiative at Baylor College of Medicine. Adult volunteers burned an extra 78 calories a day when given a green tea extract in a recent Swiss study.

Although more research is needed to confirm the apparent metabolism-boosting effect of green tea, Bolton says this ancient brew definitely deserves a place on your table for its other health benefits, including lowering the risk of heart disease and some cancers.

If weight loss is your main concern, watching your diet and burning calories through exercise are still your best bets. As for adding green tea to your diet, since tea is calorie-free, it won't hurt. Just avoid sweetening your brew with calorie-heavy sugars.

Q. My 10-year-old son used to be thin, but now has rolls of fat around his middle and chest, which are making him quite self-conscious. He is very active, watches very little television, and eats fast food only on occasion. What else can we do?

A. Most children grow very quickly during adolescence and rapid growth requires plenty of extra calories. What may appear to be excessive weight gain in a pre-teen actually may be their body's way of preparing for a major growth spurt, said Joan Carter, a registered dietitian with the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Barring any major changes in your son's diet or activity level, this is most likely what he is experiencing.

The best advice is to see your health care professional. He or she can help your son better understand developmental stages and anticipate future growth. Even if your son is overweight for his height and age, dieting is not recommended. Restrictive diets can deprive a child of the calories, vitamins, and minerals needed for proper growth and development. Instead, encourage your son to continue his good habits: stay physically active, eat a healthy well-balanced diet that includes at least five servings of fruits and vegetables per day, and avoid high-fat, high-calorie foods.

Q. Can soy milk lower my cholesterol, and is it safe to give it to my 5-year-old daughter instead of regular milk? And does soy sauce have the same benefit?

A. There is growing evidence that soy protein might help lower blood cholesterol levels in some individuals, says Dr. William Wong, a scientist studying the benefits of soy at the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

However, while soy milk is rich in beneficial soy protein, soy sauce is not. Soy sauce is a high-sodium condiment made from fermented soybeans generally used only as a flavoring. Because it is used in such small amounts, soy sauce provides little, if any, cholesterol-lowering benefits.

According to Wong, it is perfectly safe and nutritionally sound to offer your daughter soy milk instead of regular milk. But keep in mind that soy milk is not naturally a good source of calcium. When checking the Nutrition Facts label, look for a fortified soy milk with a percent daily value for calcium of at least 30 percent, which is the same amount of calcium in cow's milk. A good choice will also provide at least 6 to 8 grams

of protein per cup, less than 3 percent fat and also be fortified with vitamins D and A.

You might also want to consider adding oats to your shopping list, which also has been shown to have cholesterol-lowering benefits. Yet, although both soy and oats may help lower your cholesterol, remember there is no quick fix for cholesterol problems. Eating a well balanced, low-fat diet based on the USDA Food Guide Pyramid, exercising and maintaining your weight are still the most important things you can do for your overall health.

Q: My 3-month-old daughter is not nursing well because she has a cold. Is there anything I can do?

A: It's natural for babies who don't feel well to nurse a bit less, said Dr. Judy Hopkinson, a lactation physiologist with the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. But, because congestion can contribute to nursing woes by making it harder for babies to suck, swallow and breathe, a small change in your technique could make a big difference.

To help make it easier for your daughter to nurse, hold her a bit more upright, at an angle that keeps her head well above her tummy and lets her head move freely. If she's very congested, holding her in a "straddle" position over your leg, like a horse rider, could also help. But, keep in mind that a young baby held in this position requires plenty of support.

If your daughter pulls back from the breast, don't worry. It's important to read your baby's cues that signal she is uncomfortable or no longer hungry.

If your baby's appetite remains poor for more than a few days, see your primary care provider.



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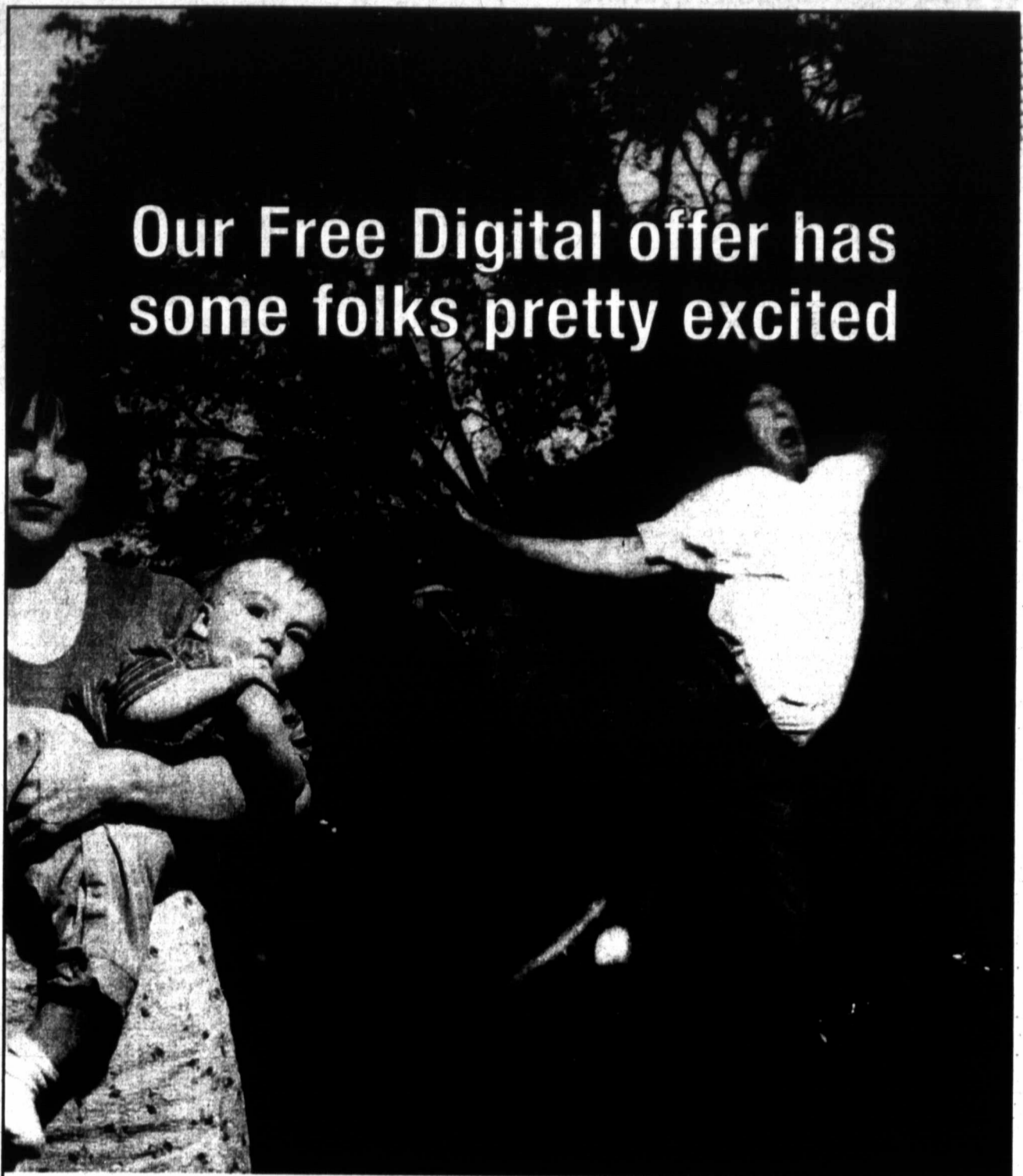
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Struggling Couple Tries to Opt Out of Family Gift Exchange

DEAR ABBY: It may seem early for holiday squabbles, but they have already begun in our family. My brother, "Arlen," and his wife, "Lurline," are hosting the Christmas get-together. I took my brother aside after church last week and told him that due to the weakened economy, our business is struggling and we are barely keeping our heads above water. I said we couldn't participate in the family's annual gift exchange and he seemed to understand.

A couple of days later, my mother called and raised Cain. She said since Arlen and Lurline are hosting the party, we must go along with the gift exchange. Mom said the expense they were going to for the party — although it is to be a potluck — obligated us to exchange gifts with everyone. She added that my four sisters and their husbands were participating, and it would look "funny" if we didn't.

Abby, it angers me that we're being pressured to exchange gifts when our budget is already stretched to the max. Why can't Mother understand our predicament? This is turning into a sour holiday season, and I don't know if we should go in debt for gifts or not. We live in a community less than 30 minutes away from the family, so skipping the party isn't an option. What's the answer?

DEE DEE IN COLORADO

Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

The true meaning of Christmas is the love you share for each other, not the presents. You can write a short letter to each of your siblings explaining the circumstances, telling them that you love them, but a gift is not possible this year.

However, keep in mind that there are alternatives to expensive gifts — home-baked goodies, coupons for raking leaves or shoveling snow, even an IOU for hosting a family dinner at your house sometime next year when your finances have improved.

The most important "gift" is the fact that you're all healthy and able to celebrate the holiday together. Many families aren't that fortunate.

DEAR ABBY: I'm hoping you can reprint a letter that was previously printed in your column. It was about a child who had two grandmothers with very different interests.

At the time, our son was dating a wonderful young lady. Her mother and I had both seen your column and remarked that if our children were ever to marry, our situation would be similar.

Much to our delight, they did marry, and now they are expecting their first child. I have thought of the letter in your column many times. I would love to read it again.

CHARLOTTE IN RICHFIELD, MINN.

DEAR CHARLOTTE: And I would love to print it again. It carries an important message. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You often hear from people who feel trapped into "competitive grandparenting," feeling they must match the in-laws gift for gift. The same sort of comparison can develop between parents and stepparents. The kids encourage it because of all the goodies they get.

I recently heard my mother deal with the issue in a wonderful way. My sister's 5-year-old was visiting my mother and asked, "Are you going to take me to the toy store? Grandma Johnson always does."

I was horrified because my parents are nowhere near as well off as the "Johnsons." But Mother didn't get defensive. She just said, "Different grandmas are good at different things. Grandma Johnson is your shopping grandma, and I am your cooking grandma." And they went into the kitchen and made brownies!

Isn't that beautiful? I don't have any grandkids yet, but I have already decided to be their "reading grandma."

AUNTIE M IN SAN DIEGO

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

DEAR DEE DEE: Your mother may have meant well, but she should have stayed out of it. Under no circumstances should anyone with a business that's struggling to stay above water go into debt for Christmas gifts in order to keep up appearances.

Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

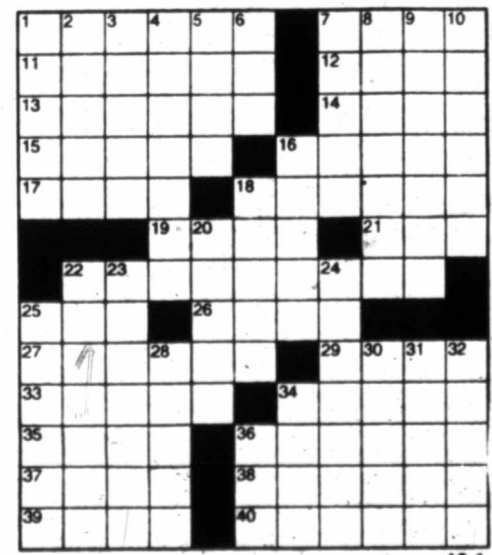
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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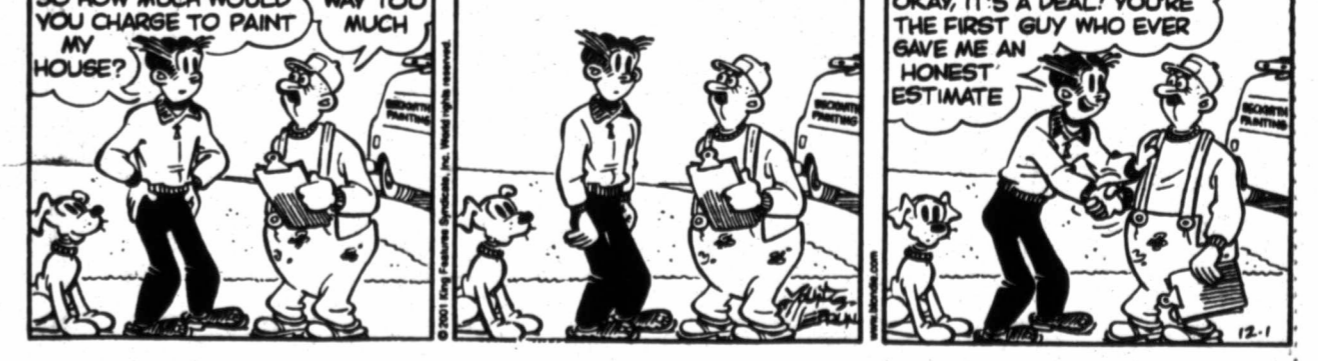
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For answer to today's crossword call 1-900-454-7377. 99¢ per minute, 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



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By MAR AP Natio

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By BONN San Ant

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Singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen breaking out of Texas

By MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

FREEDOM, Calif. (AP) — Texas is a mighty big state, and Robert Earl Keen is a mighty big star there. His fans include President Bush and the former Texas governor's twin daughters.

Outside Texas, though, almost no one has heard of him. The 45-year-old singer-songwriter packs stadiums, rodeos, dance halls and fairgrounds with rowdy fans who shout along with his lyrics and spill beer on each other in his home state.

But at, say, the Minnesota state fair, he doesn't fare as well. "I'm up there and we're playing to all these people," he recalls, "and they're staring at us as if we're a bunch of monkeys in the zoo and openly saying things like, 'That guy can't sing,' and 'This ain't country music.'"

Now Keen is trying to break out nationally with a new release (his ninth) on a new label (independent Lost Highway Records) and with a tour taking him through 10 states.

So, for the first time in his career, he ventured beyond Texas to pro-

mote the release of a CD, traveling here to Freedom, Calif., home of KPIG radio, an eccentric and popular alternative music station with a big Internet following.

It paid off. "Gravitational Forces" reached No. 10 on Billboard's country chart.

"He's been a well-kept secret in the overall world of music, but in Texas he's got this huge cult following. His fans are like ... disciples," said Chad Raney, president of the online Texas music store lonestar.com. "It's just a matter of time before he's a national name."

"I think the genuineness of his writing works everywhere," KPIG program director Laura Ellen Hopper says.

Keen's foremost strength as a lyricist has always been his economical use of language — while managing to deliver a wealth of information.

As always, Keen shows excellent taste in covers. His voice is well-suited for a mournful version of Johnny Cash's "I Still Miss Someone," and Keen mines every drop of the loneliness that pervades Townes Van Zandt's "Snowin' on Raton."

Texas Music Office director Casey Monahan concedes Keen's flat,

drawing voice is not choir material, and Keen himself says he thought he had a good voice — "before I heard my voice on tape."

"But it's, you know, less than remarkable," Keen says. "I'd love to be a great singer, just for one hour, to know what it's like. I fight with it, I get frustrated sometimes. The real plus about it though is that my voice is unique. People don't recognize me at all because I don't have a look gimmick, but when I open my mouth they go, 'Oh my God, it's Robert Earl Keen.'"

He's quiet for a moment, then slowly adds: "I think sometimes the reason my career has had such slow growth is because the first time people hear my voice they just kind of wonder what's that all about. There's a lot of people who are really judgmental about how people sing."

Outside Texas, Keen — who lives in Bandera, Texas, with his wife and two young daughters — is best known for his songs "The Road Goes On Forever (and the Party Never Ends)" and "Merry Christmas From the Family," a song made popular by the Dixie Chicks for Rosie O'Donnell's Christmas album.

In-state fans scream for "The Front Porch Song," which Keen wrote with friend Lyle Lovett when they were roommates at Texas A&M University.

After college, Lovett became a big star. Keen roughnecked in the oil fields, worked in warehouses and hospitals, and dug ditches.

"I can't think of something I haven't done if it comes under the category of unskilled labor," Keen says.

On the Net:
Official Robert Earl Keen Web site:
<http://www.robertearlkeen.com/>

Peyote central to Native Americans' practices

By BONNIE PFISTER
San Antonio Express-News

MIRANDO CITY, Texas — To tens of thousands of Native Americans, this little dot on the map south of Texas 359 is holy land.

And here, unique in the United States, lives a deity.

It is peyote, an ancient hallucinogenic root that grows only in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico and north of the border between Laredo and Rio Grande City. Bitter-tasting peyote is both savior and sacrament in the Native American Church.

But who may purchase it is increasingly a matter subject to debate. Various state laws are in conflict, and localities' attempts to harmonize their rules with federal regulations have raised further questions.

In Texas, new enforcement procedures by the Department of Public Safety have, unintentionally, left Canadian indigenous groups uncertain of whether they can continue to buy the cactus.

And in Utah, the state Supreme Court is considering whether to take up a case that pits constitutionally protected freedom of religion for all Americans against the congressional mandate that peyote only be available to members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

James Mooney, founder and leader of a 4-year-old Oklevueha EarthWalks Native American Church, faces 12 felony counts for distributing peyote from his Spanish Fork, Utah, home. State prosecutors say Mooney's claims of more than one-quarter Indian blood are irrelevant because he is not a member of one of the 550 federally recognized tribes. By distributing peyote — often for a price — at weekend ceremonies, prosecutors say Mooney is running an enterprise akin to Mafia racketeering.

In Mirando City, about 30 miles east of Laredo, peyote harvesters and distributors have stopped shipping their goods to Mooney

until the legal battle plays itself out.

Salvador Johnson, a peyotero for 30 years, is one of six distributors in the nation licensed by the Texas Department of Public Safety and registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

"I've seen Mooney help a lot of people — people with drug addictions, alcohol problems. But it gets controversial when you start giving peyote to white people," Johnson said.

Lophophora Williamsii was first revered by Huichol Indians of Mexico perhaps as early as 200 A.D., according to Jay Fikes, writing about the Native American Church for the Council on Spiritual Practices. The mesquite-like cactus was considered the "heart, soul and memory of their creator." Ingesting it, like taking communion in the Catholic Church, was a way of getting closer to, and understanding, the supreme spirit.

Spanish missionaries document peyote's use in rituals by the Carrizo Indians near Laredo as early as 1649. But it wasn't until the late 19th century that a Smithsonian Institution ethnologist began studying the cactus' use among the Kiowa in Oklahoma, as well as the Tarahumara in Mexico. In 1918, Fikes wrote, the ethnologist testified in favor of Native American peyotists before Congress, and went on to help Oklahoma tribes charter the first Native American Church to protect their religious freedom.

Today there are three "umbrella" Native American Churches: the original Church of Oklahoma; the Church of Navajoland in the Four Corners region, and the Church of North America, which is run by board members based in Arizona, New Mexico and Wisconsin.

Perhaps 100 other loosely affiliated and independent churches exist in the United States, said Jerry Patchen, a Houston lawyer who has represented the Oklahoma church for 20 years.

"It's not a monolith," Patchen

said.

And the question of who is or is not a Native American — and who, in turn, may partake of the sacrament that became a counter-cultural icon for hippies in the 1960s — has long been interpreted differently, depending on the state.

In Texas, Patchen said, the law until recently held that one must either be 25 percent Native American or a member of a federally recognized tribe to ingest peyote legally.

Confusion has sprung up in recent months as the DPS tried to more closely align its enforcement with the provisions of the 1993 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which state that only members of a federally recognized tribe may partake of peyote.

"The Canadian tribes are now trying to figure out how they fit into that definition," said Jody Patterson, DPS supervisor of controlled substances registration. "We didn't realize the rules would have this impact. We're looking into the issue."

Such a definition excludes many, including Utah's James Mooney, Johnson and Patchen himself.

Patchen, whose wife grew up near Mirando City, said he never held himself out to be a Native American. Rather, he has taken the sacrament at the invitation of members of the Native American Church of Oklahoma.

"Every religion has the right to educate the dominant culture of their religious practices and level of sincerity. Do Indians have a right to invite me in? As part of the law dealing with religious freedom, I'd say they do," he said. Johnson said he, too, has been invited to join in the church's ceremonies.

"Peyote is only a small factor of what goes into the ceremony. But I believe in the medicine," he said.

On a recent October morning, Navajo Lewis Peshlakai drove 32 hours straight from Window Rock, Ariz., to purchase 5,000 pey-

ote buttons with his own money. A "roadman," or priest, Peshlakai, 44, refers to the harvest peyote buttons as medicine.

Before driving back to Arizona, he visited a backyard shrine to the cactus in Mirando City.

"I'm going to tell the medicine, 'You're mine now. You're going to belong to me,'" Peshlakai said.

He will use the plant in ceremonies to heal the sick, without asking for payment, he said.

While he usually makes the pilgrimage once a year, this trip is special: in celebration of winning back his job at a coal mine after being fired two months ago. After 17 years on the job, Peshlakai said that development made him feel "as if I didn't exist."

"With my first paycheck, I promised I would come here to gather peyote. With this good blessing, I am going to give it back to my community, to say 'thank you' for getting my job back," he said.

Johnson, who generally charges about \$180 for 1,000 fresh peyote buttons, loaded his customer's cargo into burlap potato sacks. Smaller, dried peyote buttons sat in his side yard, drying on rough, wooden pallets in the still-strong October sun. A fence and locked gate surround the area, as DEA requires.

"The Indians who come here are not on vacation, or to sight-see," Johnson said. "It's a pilgrimage for the Indians to make the sacrifice to come here."



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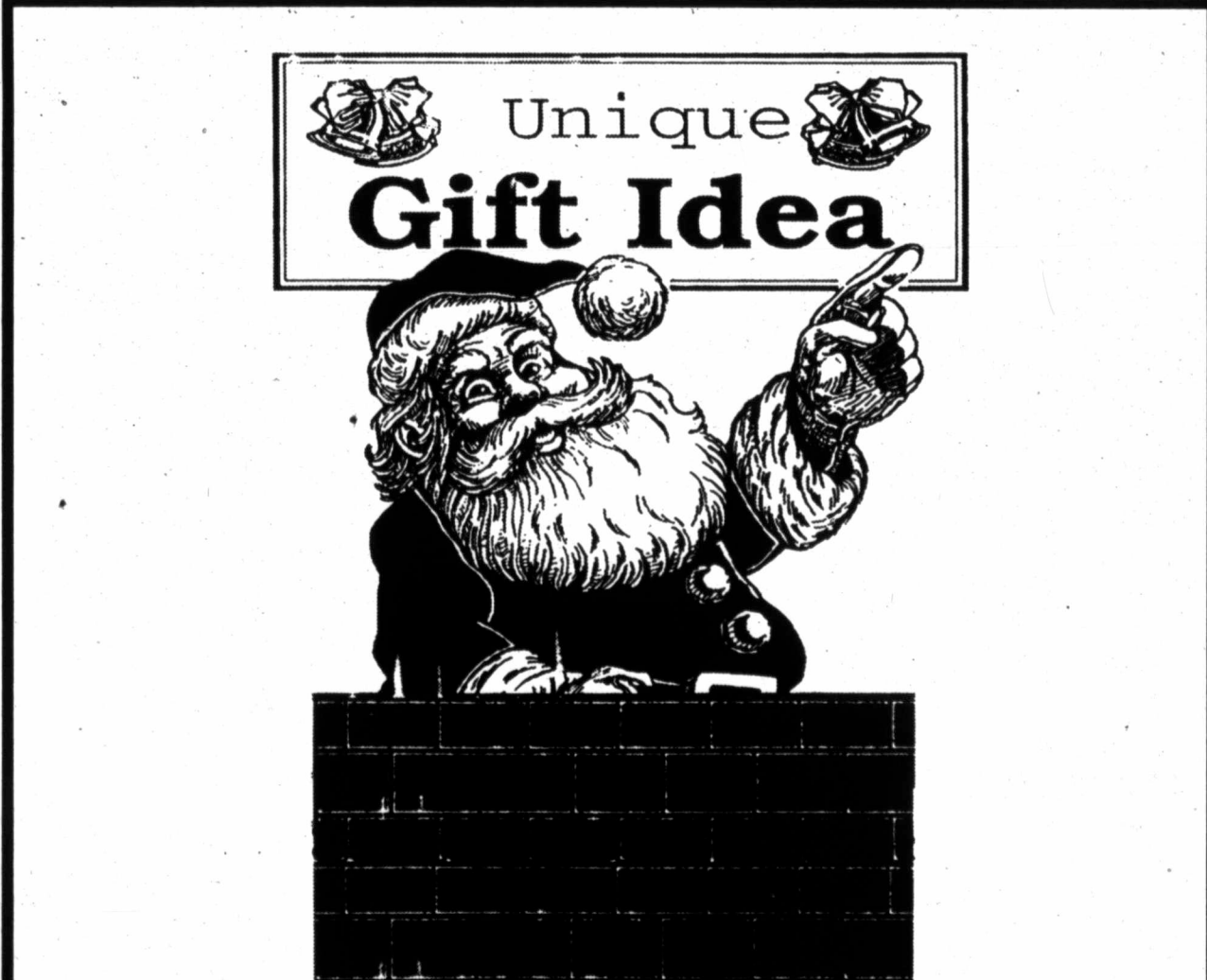
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(Community Camera photos)

Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center in Pampa recently competed in Dance Masters of America Chapter #35 Groups, Lines and Solo Competition. Above, group photo: Myca Vinson, Tatum Brown, Heather Wiley, Danielle Zuniga, Jenna Munsell, Allison Cooper and Caylee Stewart. Above, single photo: Rachel Wilker. Not pictured: Jacklyn Cargill, Kylin Sinclair and Abbey Rios.

M.G. students participate in Dance Masters competition

Students from Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center in Pampa recently competed in Dance Masters of America Chapter #35 Groups, Lines and Solo Competition. Results are as follows:
Solo competition. Danielle Zuniga placed fifth runner-up and Jenna Munsell sixth runner-up. In the Junior Miss Division, Myca Vinson placed third runner-up; in Senior Miss, Tatum Brown was awarded a trophy for Novice Winner, receiving the highest talent score in the novice division.

The solo performers competed in a group of 67 entrants.
Groups and Lines division. "Ease on Down" won a silver medal; "Ballin the Jack" tap number won a bronze medal (petite division); and "It's Today," a musical theater dance, earned a bronze medal.
 Jenna Munsell and Danielle Zuniga won a silver medal for their duet to "Conga" and Allison Cooper and Abbey Rios won a silver medal while performing to the music of "Make 'em Laugh."
 The dance students will attend their next contest in January.



Civil Air Patrol volunteers ready to do their part

By SIDNEY SCHUHMAN
 Abilene Reporter-News

ABILENE, Texas — Jean-Andre Parmiter was 13 when he bet his mother \$5 that he'd never join the Air Force.

A year later, he joined a civilian aviation group called the Civil Air Patrol. After helping with search-and-rescue missions and learning about aviation and the military, Parmiter knew he was going to lose the wager.

His love of aviation was too strong.

A love for flying bonds most members of the Civil Air Patrol. The volunteer group, which has an Abilene squadron, is a civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. Its mission is to teach youth about aviation and help with emergencies.

Civil Air Patrol volunteers snapped the first aerial pictures of the World Trade Center damage for the New York Emergency Management Office. For the first three days after the attacks, Civil Air Patrol aircraft were the only nonmilitary planes allowed in the sky.

After the disaster, Civil Air Patrol volunteers transported blood, government officials, medical supplies and listening devices to rescue workers searching for survivors at the World Trade Center. They also monitored airports and provided communication support for emergency agencies.

"To be a Civil Air Patrol volunteer is to stand ready to jump into action in the instance of any scale disaster," said Brig. Gen. Richard Bowling, the Civil Air Patrols national commander.

In Abilene, Civil Air Patrol volunteers watch for brush fires during summer droughts, transport Forest Service officials, look for lost or damaged aircraft and take part in anti-drug missions.

The drug missions are classified, said Brian Bauries, commander of the Abilene Composite Squadron. The squadron is considered composite because it includes about 20 adult Civil Air Patrol members and six teen-age cadets. During the drug missions, the volunteers search for secret airfields or aircraft that drug smugglers might be using.

Finding emergency locator transmitters is probably the most mundane job the Abilene group performs.

The transmitters are located in every plane. They are activated if a plane crashes or makes a hard landing so the aircraft can be easily located. However, sometimes pilots forget to turn them off after difficult landings and the

Civil Air Patrol must locate them usually in a plane sitting in an airport hangar.

"You don't know it's not an emergency until you get out there," said James McCormick, a 17-year-old cadet commander.

Recruiting tool
 Like many cadets, McCormick is the son of an Air Force officer. The Wylie High School student joined the Civil Air Patrol three years ago to learn about aviation and the military. He's already earned a private pilot's license.

"I'm interested in joining the Air Force," he said. "I want to be a fighter pilot."

Although the Civil Air Patrol doesn't provide the flight hours for cadets to become pilots - 50 to 60 hours of flight hours can cost \$4,500 - the organization does offer orientation flights. Cadets can ride in up to nine orientation flights in the Abilene groups Cessna aircraft.

The flights are a recruiting tool for the military.

The Civil Air Patrol has offered orientation flights for cadets and potential recruits since the group began in 1941 as part of the U.S. Office of Civilian Defense. During World War II, Civil Air Patrol volunteers flew orientation flights, summoned help for ships in distress, spotted enemy submarines, dropped bombs on submarines, transported military personnel and patrolled the U.S. border.

After the war, the Civil Air Patrol was made a permanent peacetime addition to the Air Force.

The group has three missions emergency services such as radio communication, aviation education and training. Nationwide, the organization has 53,000 members - 34,000 adults and 19,000 teen-agers. Texas has 2,500 members.

The Civil Air Patrol operates the world's largest fleet of civil aircraft. The group owns 535 light aircraft and members own another 9,000.

Parmiter, now 30, is a navigator for C-130 cargo planes at Dyes Air Force Base. He's also deputy commander of the Abilene Composite Squadron. Besides helping with Civil Air Patrol missions, he's encouraging cadets with their Air Force dreams.

He's also hoping to increase the group's membership.

"I had such a positive experience as a young person," he said. "It had such a positive impact on my life."

Distributed by The Associated Press

Secretary of State's office announces new on-line business service

AUSTIN — The Office of the Secretary of State has moved to a new computer system that converts Direct Access into a newly designed and enhanced web access known as SOSDirect. The new system will provide subscribers with up-to-date on-line computer access to a variety of information maintained by the Secretary of State's Office.

The new SOSDirect will do the following:

- Enhance search capabilities for business organizations including searching by entity name, name of person listed as a registered agent, officer or director of a corporation.
- Provide for electronic filing of

UCC documents for as low as \$5 per document.

- Provide for electronic filing of name reservations with the Corporate Section. Future enhancements will include electronic filing of other business organization documents.

- Expand records available on-line and include records filed with the SOS relating to corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, assumed names, trademarks, registered limited liability partnerships, foreign and state financial institutions, uniform unincorporated nonprofit associations, probate code filings by foreign corporate fiduciaries, UCC

financing statements or federal liens.

- Allow users to order copies and certificates relating to business and UCC records over the Internet.

- Allow users to view copies (when images are available) of filed documents over the Internet, print

copies of those documents on computers in their office, and generate certificates relating to those documents in their office.

SOSDirect is available to users 24-hours a day. To find out more about SOSDirect, visit www.sos.state.tx.us on-line.

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