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Pampa Cyber News
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Deputies bust two 'meth' labs

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Gray County deputies put two methamphetamine labs out of business last week landing three men in jail in one instance and in the other case charges are pending.

In the wake of these and other events, Sheriff Don Copeland urged citizens to be aware that clandestine drug labs, besides being illegal, are extremely dangerous. He asks that anyone with any information about such labs call the sheriff's department at 669-8022 or

Crimestoppers at 669-2222.

To destroy the two latest labs, Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said a DEA Hazardous Materials handling team from Oklahoma City had to be summoned. Also assisting was the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force.

The first lab was discovered Tuesday in a house in Lefors when Deputies Brad Bengé and Derek Peters went there to serve an arrest warrant to one of the occupants, Rushing said. Charges are pending in that case.

On Thursday, Deputies Beverly Chase

and Peters broke the second drug case while patrolling in the central part of the county as a follow-up to trespassing complaints from landowners.

Rushing said the two came upon three people at an outbuilding who were trespassing on posted property. When the deputies got out to check, they discovered the clandestine lab.

Originally charged with criminal trespassing and Friday also charged with organized criminal activity are Christopher John Bybee, 21, of McLean, Max Beatty Floyd, 22, of McLean, and Delton Eugene McCormick, 35, of

Pampa, Rushing said.

Asked about how the drug is produced, Rushing said the labs are portable and are used for one "cook" producing batches of various sizes.

Materials used include ether or starting fluid, pseudo-ephedrine that can be taken from common over-the-counter medicines and other common ingredients including anhydrous ammonia.

"The components are readily available and the processing for cooking is widely known," Rushing said. "What we are talking about is a dangerous mixture that is highly volatile and explosive."



High today 40-45
Low tonight 20-25
For weather details see
Page 2

Trucker killed by bullet through windshield

WILLIS, Texas (AP) — A truck driver hauling a mobile home was shot and killed Friday when a bullet went through his windshield on Interstate 45 in Montgomery County. Authorities believe the large-caliber bullet came from another vehicle.

The driver, whose name was not released pending notification of relatives, was struck in the chest and died at Conroe Regional Medical Center.

Montgomery County authorities are investigating the death of the 22-year-old Houston-area man as a homicide.

Officers believe, based on the apparent angle of the bullet, that the shot was fired from another northbound vehicle.

The trucker was hauling half of a double-wide trailer. A driver with the other half followed him.

The second driver, Fabian Dugie of Manville, said he saw the trucker's rig drifting onto the shoulder of the road. He thought the driver would pull back onto the highway, but he eased farther into the grass instead. The truck came to a stop in a ditch.

Dugie pulled over to check on the driver. He found the man slumped over and bleeding from the chest.

- **Beatrice Bullard, 75**, former Pak-a-Burger owner.
- **Betty Patterson Farmer, 83**, homemaker.
- **John Benjamin Horton Jr., 84**, former Merchant Marine, retailer.
- **Alta L. Morris, 87**, homemaker.
- **Eddie O. 'Grane' Woolsey Reed, 89**, homemaker.
- **Dorothy Sikes, 80**, homemaker.

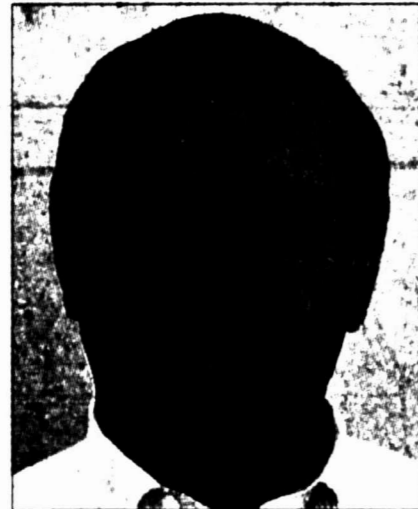
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Chisum begins campaign work for speaker job

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Sitting at his desk in his Pampa office, Warren Chisum talked of the changes which have taken place in the redistricting across Texas. He announced earlier this week he will make a bid for one of the most powerful positions in Texas government—Speaker of the House.



State Rep. Warren Chisum

"We don't know exactly what the makeup (political parties) of the House is going to be. It looks like with the redrawing of the legislative districts that we will have a significant Republican majority," said Chisum. "When I say that, I'm talking about around 85 Republicans in the House."

He thinks current Speaker of the House Pete Laney of Hale Center realizes that a Republican should be speaker.

In his sixth term as District 88 State Representative, Chisum has gained considerable experience in Austin the past 12 years. He is Chairman of the House Committee on Environmental Regulations. He is a member of the House Administration Committee and the House Committee on County Affairs.

However, Chisum will first have to be selected as the nominee of the Republican Party to retain his state representative position in the primary, to be held in March, 2002.

After the November 2002
(See CHISUM, Page 3)

County attorney says eight liners must shut down

Gray County Attorney Todd Alvey Friday issued a warning to eight-liner operators within the county — get rid of them by Jan. 15 or face the consequences. "I've been watching the law for four or five years now, and each case has been upheld in the appellate courts for illegal use of slot machines," Alvey said.

He said that since officials in counties surrounding Gray County have recently closed eight-liner businesses, he felt it is important to let local business owners know that Gray County plans to do this also.

"I don't want the eight-liner industry to feel like it can come to Gray County to operate," he said.

"I'm going to give (local business owners) 30 days to get rid of their machines. I don't want to make it hard on these little stores, the 'Mom and Pop' businesses who use them to make a little profit. I want to give everybody the opportunity to comply."

Alvey said he will not be sending notices to local businesses that have eight-liner machines, adding, "This is my way of notifying the public."

He said that operating an eight-liner machine business illegally basically means that the business operators are "giving money or money equivalent for a chance. That's gambling. That said.

(See COUNTY, Page 3)



(Pampa News photos by Dee Dee Laramore)
Jared Spearman, left, and Ashley Hunt, Pampa High School advanced Latin students, teach the ancient Roman language to English as a Second Language students.

Students as Latin teachers bring children language link



Travis Elementary ESL students, from left, Aaron Rodriguez, 7, Janet Barraza, 9, and Alex Barraza, 6, show Pampa school board members how Latin can help teach English to Spanish-speaking students.
(See STUDENTS, Page 3)

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

A Pampa High School Latin teacher has introduced a unique way of teaching students "English as a Second Language" by associating the link between Latin, English and Spanish.

"I had read articles on the connection between Spanish and English," said Susan Burden, PHS Latin instructor. "I thought teaching Latin (to ESL students) made a bridge between Spanish and English."

She said Latin, the ancient Roman language, gives the students a grammar-base. Because Latin forms the basis of many languages spoken around the world including Spanish and English, knowing Latin helps students see the similarities between Spanish and English.

Although Burden had entertained the idea for some time, Pampa school board members how Latin can help teach Pampa Independent School English to Spanish-speaking students.
(See STUDENTS, Page 3)

Charities feel economic pinch; experts offer tips

By RENEE C. LEE
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The Salvation Army of Greater Dallas had a bit of scare last week. For the first time in many years, the organization's Angel Tree program fell short of its expectations.

Thousands of wish lists were left unfulfilled from Christmas trees at local malls, leaving the charity scrambling for

There are still some 'Angels' on the Angel Tree at The Pampa News office. The staff hopes some of you will come by Monday and pick one off the tree.

7,000 gifts to give to needy children. "We've whittled it down to 3,200," said Patrick Patey, public relations director for The Salvation Army. "We had to do an

emergency appeal. We called 34 of our top corporate donors. Some of them have stepped up with monetary donations."

At a time when charities need dona-

tions more than ever, philanthropy experts are encouraging people to give — but only after doing their homework.

"Give, but give wisely," said Jeannette Kopko, senior vice president of the Better Business Bureau serving Dallas and northeastern Texas. "Investigate before you donate."

"If you feel overwhelmed, remember needs won't go away," she said. "You can
(See CHARITIES, Page 3)



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Speaker - Jerry Schaeffer, PHS Basketball Coach • Sponsored By Texas Workforce Center

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Daily Record

Obituaries

BEATRICE BULLARD

Beatrice Bullard, 75, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 14, 2001. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m., Monday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Nachtigall, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Bullard was born on May 23, 1926, in Eaglestown, Okla. She lived in Pampa most of her life. She married Calvin Bullard in 1980; he passed away in 1988. She owned Pak-a-Burger from 1982 until 1990 before retiring. She was a Methodist.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Betty and Jim Dooley of Sunray and Doris Watkins of Pampa; a son and daughter-in-law, Marion and Diane Johnson of Durcan, Okla.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

BETTY PATTERSON FARMER

Betty Patterson Farmer, 83, of Pampa, died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2001. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Monday at Wheeler Cemetery in Wheeler. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Farmer was born Sept. 13, 1918, at Clovis, N.M. She married Paul Farmer on June 2, 1951, at Clovis, N.M.; he died in 1971.

She had been a Pampa resident since 1983, moving from Borger, and was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Martha Vann; and by two brothers, Tom Ingram and Finn Ingram.

Survivors include a sister, Loraine Adcox of Flagstaff, Ariz., and several nieces and nephews.

JOHN BENJAMIN HORTON JR.

John Benjamin Horton Jr., 84, also known as John, Ben, Grandpops and Dad, died Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, in Pampa, Texas. Services are pending and will be held in Portsmouth, Va. Local arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

A long-time resident of Portsmouth, Va., Mr. Horton moved to Pampa in September of 1998 and lived with his son, Benny and daughter-in-law Kerrick Horton until his death. He was born in Cove Creek, N.C., on Nov. 22, 1917. He moved to Portsmouth, Va., in 1940 and served in the Merchant Marines.

After his discharge, he worked as a welder in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard from 1942 until the end of World War II. After the end of the war, he worked for Sears and Roebuck in Norfolk, Va., for 20 years. He then opened the Wayside Hardware Store and operated it until 1986. He retired and worked part-time at Portsmouth Bowl and Portsmouth Airport until moving to Pampa.

John married Helen Palmer in Boone, N.C., in 1939. Two children were born of the marriage, JoAnne Horton Dickens of Charlotte, N.C., and John Benjamin Horton III, "Benny," of Pampa, Texas. He was preceded in death by Helen in 1996 and a granddaughter, Dana Marie Dickens in 1983.

Survivors include his children, Benny and his wife Kerrick of the home in Pampa, JoAnne and her husband Reggie Dickens of Charlotte, N.C. He has three grandchildren, J.B. Horton IV of Washington, D.C., Meredith Horton Bagwell and her husband Jason of Amarillo, Texas, and Jerry Bryant Dickens and his wife Stephanie of Portsmouth, Va.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Book of Remembrance of the First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX 79065.

John was a member of Aldersgate Methodist Church, the Moose Lodge, Men's Bowling Association, and Pilots Association of Portsmouth, Va. He also belonged to the Pampa Senior Citizens, Pampa Men's Bowling Association and First Presbyterian Church of Pampa.

The family will be at the home in Pampa at 2533 Duncan.

ALTA L. MORRIS

Alta L. Morris, 87, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2001. Services will be at 2 p.m., Monday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Bob Thomas, chaplain for Crown of Texas Hospice, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Heights Cemetery at Lefors under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Morris, a longtime Gray County resident, was born March 15, 1914, at Mobeetie. She married Joe Morris on Dec. 11, 1938, at Sayre, Okla.; he died in 1978. She moved to Lefors in 1965 from Arkansas. She was a homemaker and a Methodist.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Era Laverne Morris, in 1952; and a son, Alvie Lee Morris, in 1996.

Survivors include two sons, Zeldon Truman Morris and Orbie Noel Morris, both of Elfrida, Ariz.; three daughters, Sidney Marie Griesman of Grand Island, Neb., Annette Julia Butcher of Pampa and Barbara Nell Wiseman of Arcadia, Fla.; a sister, Estelle Hodges of Mobeetie; three brothers, Monroe Seitz and Fate Seitz, both of Mobeetie, and J.W. Seitz of Wellington; 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

EDDIE O. 'GRANE' WOOLSEY REED
Eddie O. "Grane" Woolsey Reed, 89, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, at Pampa, Texas. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Monday at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Doug Yates, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Reed was born Aug. 5, 1912, in Wilbarger County, Texas. She married Oda Rheuben Reed on July 3, 1930, at Portales, N.M. He preceded her in death on Dec. 14, 1994. She moved to Pampa in 1949 from Montana. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by a son, Truman W. Reed, in 1972.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law, Delilah C. and Carl Flippen and Mary O. Harrison, all of Pampa, and Deloris C. and Donald Coffey of Chester, Va.; a son, Danny Ray Reed, Sr., of Pottsboro; 16 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m., today at the funeral home and requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

DOROTHY SIKES
Dorothy Sikes, 80, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2001, at Amarillo. Services will be at 10 a.m., Monday in Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Sikes was born April 14, 1921, at Grandfield, Okla. She married A.L. Sikes on Sept. 17, 1938, at Vernon. She had been a Pampa resident since 1943 and was a member of Central Baptist Church and Pampa Senior Citizens. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, A.L., of Amarillo; two sons, Gerald Wayne Sikes of Edmondton, Alberta, Canada, and Gary Doyle Sikes of Houston; a daughter, Sherilan Ketchersid of Pampa; a sister, Judy Landes of Houston; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 2214 N. Russell in Pampa and requests memorials be to Alzheimer's Association, 2200 W. 7th St., Amarillo, TX 79106.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance.....	911
Crime Stoppers.....	609-2222
Energas.....	1-888-Energas
Fire.....	911
Police (emergency).....	911
Police (non-emergency).....	669-5700
SPS.....	1-800-750-2520

People in the news ...

NEW YORK (AP) — Tight clothes can be a working hazard — just ask Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott.

The rapper-producer needed help jumping on and off the stage at Thursday's Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden, which also featured Jay-Z, Enrique Iglesias, Pink, O-Town, Alicia Keys and others.

"My pants are too tight," a laughing Elliott told fans during a medley of her hits, including "Get Ur Freak On." "I needed help to walk on!"

Elliott also revealed that she had recently been hospitalized, and asked the audience to pray for her. She did not reveal the reason, but a representative for the show later said she had been suffering from high blood pressure.

Mariah Carey, wearing a revealing red dress that barely covered her thighs, was the evening's special hostess, though she only made a few brief appearances. Carey did not perform, except for one line from her holiday hit, "All I Want for Christmas Is You."

Iglesias got the evening's loudest screams when he plucked a fan from the audience and serenaded her with his hit "Hero." When he found out she was only 14, he yelped and joked, "OK, we're going to have to do the clean version!"

By the time he finished singing, the giddy fan grabbed him tight for a big bear hug.

The concert was sponsored by New York radio station Z-100. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House and the Clear Channel Relief Fund, set up after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

NEW YORK (AP) — It seems as if Quincy Jones

has worked with everyone in the recording business — Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Ray Charles represent a tiny fraction of his collaborators.

Still, Jones laments the one great he never got a chance to work with: Marvin Gaye.

"Marvin and I talked about doing an album a long time ago," Jones told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "He always thought he had plenty of time, I always thought he had plenty of time. The last thing I thought was that he would go before me."

Gaye's father shot him to death in 1984. Jones said one reason they didn't work together sooner was because Gaye feared the pressures of recording might strain their friendship. But the two were always very close, he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Timberlake has to admit it: He's a "mama's boy."

"We're best friends," the 'N Sync singer says in the January issue of YM magazine. "I've done some stupid things, but there wasn't anything that I couldn't talk to my mom about. She told me, 'You're gonna do dumb things and you're gonna do great things. As long as you learn from them, that's all that matters.'"

But Timberlake is growing up; he turns 21 on Jan. 31. And he has a list of things he'd like to do before then, including getting his girlfriend, Britney Spears, to say the words "I'm sorry" first.

"She is one of the most hardheaded people I know ... in a good way," he said. "It's funny how when you're with someone the things that you find attractive are also the things that drive you up the wall."

City Briefs

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

1974 SUPERBEETLE VW, clean, good paint, pink. Runs good. \$3350.00, 1200 E. Harvester, 806-669-6007.

665-1245 GIFT Wrap by Sue, Art Emporium, 115 N. Cuyler.

A&T YARD Service has firewood and trees for sale!! (Oak, Mesquite & Pinon) call for prices, 663-0662 or 663-0663.

ANNUAL ABWA Pecan Sale, \$5.50/lb. Call 669-7277, 669-9614

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS Dinner, Fri. Dec. 21st, 10:45-12:45 p.m., members & guests, \$5. Pampa Senior Citizens, 500 W. Francis.

ASST. FRESH cut Christmas Trees 4ft-10ft, \$5-\$10 each! Available at Franks Thriftway, 300 E. Brown and Franks True Value, 401 N. Ballard. Happy Holidays!

BABY'S FIRST Christmas!! Show off your new "Little One!" Deadline Dec. 19th-noon, \$25 (paid in advance). Pampa News

BRENDA'S ALTERATIONS Holiday Special 10% off. 665-4737

CHRISTMAS MASSAGE specials 1 massage \$50, 2 massages \$95, 3 massages \$145, 4 massages \$195. Each massage or gift certificate is eligible for the Dec. drawing worth \$35 plus second drawing worth \$10 off the next massage. Danny Degner - The Golden Touch 806-665-6850

ANGELS, ANGELS, we have Salvation Army Angels on our tree!! Come get an Angel & make a child's Christmas happier this year!! Deadline to return gifts is Dec. 18th. The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, 669-2525.

FLAG POLES, Flags, American Flag, Rugby Shirts available, T-Shirts & More.

FOR SALE 1988 Ford Taurus Model LX, good cond., 1 owner. Storm door 36 in. width, good cond. 669-7931 days, 665-8779 evenings.

GIFT CERTIFICATES & Holiday Specials, 100% odorless acrylic, 100% guarantee on acrylics. Tammy's Cut-ups, 665-6558

GOLF EQUIPMENT & Merchandise Sale @ David's Golf Shop. Don't go anywhere else if you can buy it here. Buy your golfer a gift certificate & let them get what they want after Christmas. Call 669-5866 if we can help you. Last minute items, we have them!!

JEWELRY SALE-Most jewelry 40% off at Carousel Expression 113 N Cuyler

LOOKING FOR Experienced Presser. Contact Dorothy at Vogue Cleaners.

MASSAGE THERAPY, Special Gift Certificates, Massage with hot stones, Raindrop Therapy with pure essential oils & body wraps. Call Cathy Potter 806-669-0013.

MARY ELLEN & Harvester Church of Christ is sponsoring the annual X-Mas Dinner, Dec. 25th from 11-2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join us!

NEED A Career Change? Call Nancy 806-886-1887.

ONEIDA SALE- 50% off Open Stock Sale at On Eagles Wings 109 N Cuyler

OPEN TILL 8PM Monday thru Friday! Register for a Free Diamond Ring only between 6PM and 8PM nightly. Rheams Diamond Shop - Downtown Pampa!

PAMCEL FEDERAL Credit Union is accepting sealed bids through noon Dec. 20, 2001, on a black 2000 Mitsubishi Montero Sport XLS. The vehicle is 4WD with 39,000 miles, excellent cond. Pamcel FCU reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. For more info call 663-4949.

PARTY TRAYS for the Holidays, Hoagies Deli, 665-0292. We Deliver!

SONIC IS accepting Toys for Tots for the Tralce Crisis Center, drop toys off 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

WATKINS PRODUCTS, Betty Stribling, 665-8806.

WHITE TAIL Buck Raffle Tickets for Canadian River Hunt. Proceeds benefit Pampa Youth Bowlers. Drawing to be held Dec. 20th. Contact Carolyn Hess at 835-2313.

Police report

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

Friday, Dec. 14
Michael Charles Burkholder, 42, 117 S. Wells, possession of drug paraphernalia, public intoxication.
Cecil Dowdy, 36, 1113 Campanello, organized criminal activity.
Michael Lynn Ward, 51, 805 N. Dwight, driving while intoxicated/first offense.
Michael Lee, 43, 717 N. Nelson, forgery by making.
Felipo Ramirez, 51, 518 N. Faulkner, engaging in criminal activity.

Services tomorrow

BULLARD, Beatrice — Graveside services, 4 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
FARMER, Betty Patterson — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Wheeler Cemetery, Wheeler.
MORRIS, Alta L. — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
REED, Eddie O. "Grane" Woolsey — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
SIKES, Dorothy — 10 a.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

Weather focus

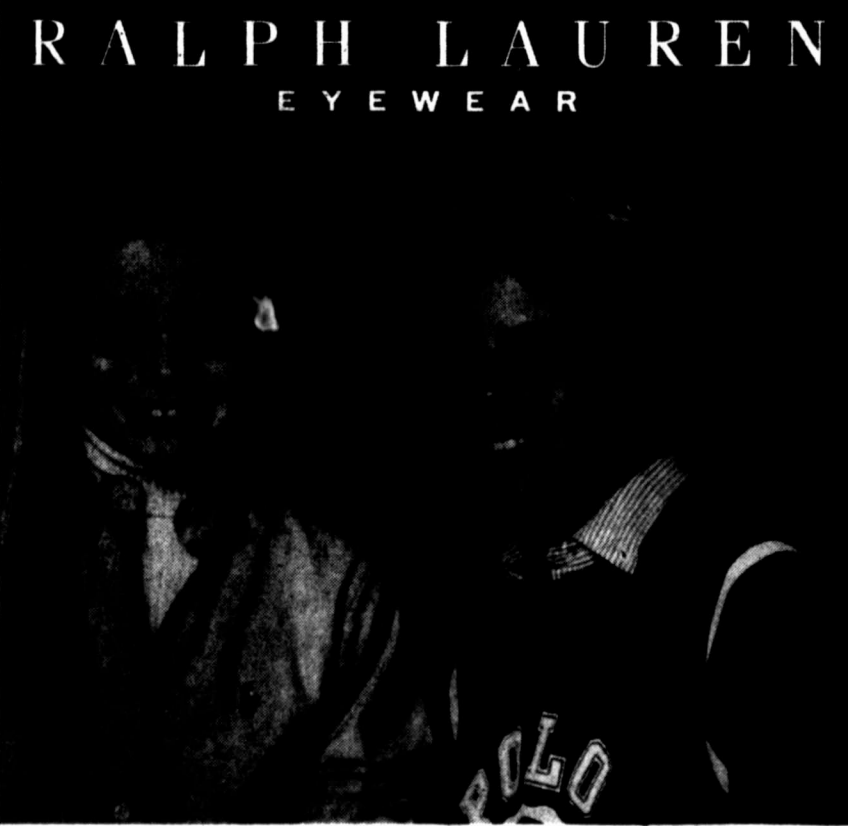
Today, cloudy in the morning with a slight chance of light snow. Decreasing cloudiness in the afternoon. Breezy with highs 40 to 45. North winds 15 to 25 mph with higher gusts diminishing to 10 to 20 mph by late afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.
Tonight, clear. Lows 20 to 25.
Monday, sunny. Highs 55 to 60.
Monday evening, clear.
Tuesday, clear. Lows near 30. Highs around 60.
Wednesday, mostly clear.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CHISUM

General Election Chisum said he will make personal contact with each of the state representatives to ask for support.

The Speaker of the House is selected by the 150 state representatives from all over Texas.

Chisum said five Republicans have all announced for Speaker of the House, and all are from metropolitan areas. He said several of the members of the House delegation have asked him to run for the Speaker of the House position.

Announcing prior to Chisum that they are interested in the Speaker of the House position are Republicans Tom Craddock of Midland, Brian McCall of Plano, Edmond Kemple of Seguin, Kim Brymer of Ft. Worth and Buddy West of Odessa.

Laney is the only Democrat to announce.

"The State of Texas is just being virtually overrun in the metropolitan areas—30,000 people are moving into Texas a month," he said. Chisum said the 30,000 new Texans are tending to settle in eight metropolitan counties, including Dallas, Harris, Bexar, Tarrant and Travis counties.

"Metropolitan Texas is growing by leaps and bounds," he said. "Rural Texas is kind of holding its own in population, but it's certainly not growing at the same rate as the rest of the state."

He said he has written a letter to each of the state representatives and will continue to contact all 150 representatives to secure their support.

Speaker of the House is chief officer of the house, said Chisum. The Texas governor's office is one of the weakest of any of the 50 states due to the constitution. His duties are mostly limited to appointments and signing bills into law.

The Speaker of the House and Lt. Governor make up the budget, said Chisum. "It is one of the most responsible jobs in the state government, according to many people," said Chisum. Special study groups are also assigned by the governor.

Born in Miami, Chisum graduated from Lefors High School in 1957. He and his wife, Omega are parents of two married children and have four grandchildren.

He and his supporters will be charting a new 'Chisum Trail' as they travel Texas and seek support of all the House members.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

includes Pampa Bucks or a certificate that can be used as cash.

Alvey said he has contacted local law enforcement officials of his intentions. He said he will not take official action until after Jan. 15.

Operating an illegal eight-liner machine is a Class A misdemeanor, the county attorney said, with a punishment of up to one year in jail and/or a fine up to \$4,000.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CHARITIES

take your time to figure it out. Pick a cause important to you, learn a little bit about those groups, then pick one to donate to."

Texas is one of the few states without a comprehensive statute that requires charities to register with a state agency or to disclose certain information.

That means donors should do their own research, first by studying the organization's Web site or visiting the local office to get information about its mission and how contributions are used, Kopko said. People also can check with the Texas attorney general's office.

Residents who want to make a sizable or continuous donation should ask for copies of annual reports and Internal Revenue Service Form 990 tax filings, she said. The groups are required by law to make them available.

The 990 form lists the organization's officers, directors, trustees and key employees. It also provides information on revenue, expenses, assets and program activities.

The Philanthropic Research Inc. has a Web site that will do much of the homework for donors. It provides information on 850,000 charities nationwide and has the latest 990 forms for each charity available online.

"The important thing to look at is the program expense ratio," said Michelle Monse, associate director of The Dallas Foundation. "How much money is coming in and is actually going to programs?"

At least 50 percent should go to programs, Monse said. If the percentage is smaller, it doesn't necessarily mean there's a problem. The organi-

zation may be new and just getting started, she said.

Potential donors also should ask for a copy of the charity's "determination letter" from the IRS, which says the agency recognizes the organization as tax-exempt.

And residents should remember to ask if the donation will be tax deductible, because not all donations to tax-exempt groups are, Monse said.

Other basic tips include:
— Don't give cash; always make contributions by check and make the check payable to the charity.

— Keep records of donations for documentation of charitable giving at tax time.

— Make sure it's the right charity. Many agencies have names similar to well-known charities. Double check.

— And most importantly, know the charity. Check out the agency with the local Better Business Bureau or an organization that keeps data on charities.

"What I say to people is: The fact that charities have a charitable status is like having a driving license to drive," Kopko said. "It doesn't necessarily mean you're a good driver or a good driver all the time. You still have to evaluate them on your own."

On the Net:
Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance: <http://www.give.org>
Philanthropic Research Inc.: <http://www.guidestar>
Chronicle of Philanthropy: <http://www.philanthropy.com>
Texas Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us>

Customer appreciation



(Pampa News photo by Redonn Woods)
National Bank of Commerce Vice President Gladys Vanderpool serves punch to customer, Jeff Holman, during the bank's customer appreciation day festivities Friday.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

STUDENTS

District was the first place she had been where she could implement it.

Also, Burden's thought of a way to broaden the educational value of the program. Instead of teaching the ESL classes herself, she has chosen two of her Latin II students to teach them. Ashley Hunt and Jared Spearman, both PHS seniors, teach Latin to the ESL programs the local elementaries.

"I've been most pleased with them," Burden told the Pampa ISD board of education recently. "They've taken it and run. In fact, I think it has turned one of them into a teacher."

She said the students get credit for their teaching efforts.

"We've worked it out so the students get credit (for teaching ESL) as a Latin class," she said, explaining that she sits down with them once a week to discuss what will be taught to the ESL students that week.

"Then they go over to the elementaries and teach during (the Latin II) class period," she said.

Hunt and Spearman presented a demonstration

of how the program works at the November school board meeting. The two high school students and three Travis Elementary ESL students showed how the links between certain words, using the teaching technique developed by Burden.

The students, Aaron Rodriguez, 7; Janet Barraza, 9; and Alex Barraza, 6, attend ESL classes at Travis Elementary four days a week.

Prompted by the Hunt and Spearman, they readily connected English and Spanish words with the Latin root in an impressive display for the school board.

Burden said she stops by and observes the program in progress occasionally, adding that her proteges presently teach nine ESL students in the school district.

"It's interesting to watch them work with the kindergarten through fifth graders," she said.

"One of the things that hit me... One day I asked a little kindergarten student, 'How are you today?' He said, 'Bene.' I asked him to think of an English word with that in it and he immediately said, 'benediction.'

"Coming from a kindergarten student, I thought that's pretty interesting."

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Judge: Dallas school trustees violated Texas Open Meetings Act

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas School Board violated the state Open Meetings Act by discussing redistricting behind closed doors on multiple occasions, a judge has ruled.

Civil District Judge Catharina Haynes said the school trustees also failed to properly alert the public to the meeting on Oct. 1 at which the official vote took place.

The judge has not said whether she will allow the board to simply vote again on a redistricting map that was approved 5-4. Hispanics, who oppose the map because it would not expand Hispanic representation, have asked that the process be started over.

Even if a simple revote were ordered, the outcome is in question. The Dallas Morning News reported that at least one trustee has said she would change her vote in support of the map. Five other trustees were noncommittal, the newspaper reported.

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From our files

40 years ago
SUNDAY, Dec. 17, 1961. The axe fell on the Hobbs Eagles' 49 game winning streak Friday night as the Pampa Shockers carved out an exciting 67-62 triumph over the visitors.
MONDAY, Dec. 18, 1961. Directors of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce voted today to go on record in opposition to the proposed \$555 million canal which the federal government would construct between Houston and Fort Worth.

25 years ago
FRIDAY, Dec. 16, 1976. The Pampa Motor Co. Inc. at 833 W. Foster has been sold by Ed Myatt and Fred Neslaga to J.L. Marcum who has moved to Pampa from Hereford.

FRIDAY, Dec. 17, 1976. An estimated one-mile strip of grassland along the Canadian River burned Thursday as firemen and volunteers fought for about three hours to bring the blaze under control.

SUNDAY, Dec. 19, 1976. Grocery prices in Pampa compared very favorably to those in other Texas cities during the month of November, according to a Texas Department of Agriculture market basket survey.

10 years ago
MONDAY, Dec. 16, 1991. Representatives from the Festival of Trees and Gift Boutique committee recently presented the Pampa Sheltered Workshop with a donation of \$1,300 from proceeds of the Festival.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18, 1991. Grand opening of the Recycling Buy-Back Center is set for noon Thursday at 707 Municipal Drive in Hobart Street Park.

THURSDAY, Dec. 19, 1991. Pampa Harvesters Zach Thomas and Phil Sexton were named to the first team of The Associated Press Sports Editors' Class 4A All-State team it was announced Wednesday.

12-step program targets 'forwarders'

This is one message I didn't delete from my e-mail before reading it. And I'm glad I didn't. I think I'll send it to all those 'friends' out there who send this kinda stuff all the time.

I know many of you out there can identify. Enjoy.

THE "FORWARDER'S" 12 STEP PROGRAM - EVERYONE SAY IT WITH ME ...

- 1) I will NOT get bad luck, lose my friends, or lose my mailing lists if I DON'T forward an email!
- 2) I will NOT hear any music or see a taco dog, if I do forward an e-mail.
- 3) Bill Gates is NOT going to send me money, Victoria Secret doesn't know anything about a gift certificate they're supposed to send me.
- 4) Ford will NOT give me a 50% discount even if I forward my e-mail to more than 50 people!
- 5) I will NEVER receive gift certificates, coupons, or freebies from Coca Cola, Cracker Barrel, Old Navy, or anyone else if I send an e-mail to 10 people.



Kate B. Dickson
associate publisher

- 6) I will NEVER see a pop-up window if I forward an e-mail ... NEVER — NEVER !!
- 7) There is NO SUCH THING as an e-mail tracking program, and I am not STUPID enough to think that someone will send me \$100 for forwarding an e-mail to 10 or more people!
- 8) There is NO kid with cancer through the Make-a-Wish program in England collecting anything! He did when he was 7 years old. He is now cancer free and 35 years old and DOESN'T WANT ANY MORE POST CARDS, or GETWELL CARDS.
- 9) The government does not have a bill in

Congress called 901B (or whatever they named it this week) that, if passed, will enable them to charge us 5 cents for every e-mail we send.

10) There will be NO cool dancing, singing, waving, colorful flowers, characters, or program that I will receive immediately after I forward an e-mail. NONE, ZIP, ZERO, NADA!!

11) The American Red Cross will NOT donate 50 cents to certain individual dying of some never-heard-of disease for every e-mail address I send this to. The American Red Cross RECEIVES donations.

12) And finally, I WILL NOT let others guilt me into sending things by telling me I am not their friend, or that I don't believe in Jesus Christ. If God wants to send me a message, I believe the bushes in my yard will burn before He picks up a PC to pass it on!

Now, repeat this to yourself until you have it memorized, and send it along to at least 5 of your friends before the next full moon or you will surely have regularity problems for the next three months and all of your hair will fall out!

Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Sunday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2001. There are 15 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes.
On this date:
In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.
In 1770, composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany.
In 1809, Napoleon Bonaparte was divorced from the Empress

Josephine by an act of the French Senate.
In 1905, the entertainment trade publication Variety came out with its first weekly issue.
In 1916, Gregory Rasputin, the monk who had wielded powerful influence over the Russian court, was murdered by a group of noblemen.
In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise counterattack against Allied forces in Belgium.
In 1950, President Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "Communist imperialism."
In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a

TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.
In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.
In 1985, reputed organized-crime chief Paul Castellano was shot to death outside a New York City restaurant.
Ten years ago: The U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111 to 25. Russian President Boris Yeltsin met for four hours with visiting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, after which Yeltsin said the new Commonwealth of Independent States would begin operating by the end of the year.

Five years ago: Underscoring the importance of parents' rights to their children, the Supreme Court said that states must let parents appeal orders terminating such rights even when they cannot afford court fees. Former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan, condemned to death for a 1979 coup and a deadly military crackdown, had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment.
One year ago: President-elect Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.
Today's Birthdays: Author Sir Arthur C. Clarke is 84. Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 65. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 64.

Thought for today
"It is not true that nice guys finish last. Nice guys are winners before the game even starts."
— Addison Walker

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Pampa Phone: 665-3552
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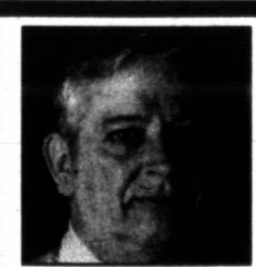
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Government jeopardizing our liberty

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have been consenting to government gaining more power and spending more money. That just proves that Americans have a difficult time learning from experience.
The Sept. 11 attacks were a failure of government. No country in the world — probably no five countries in the world — spends as much on intelligence as the United States. But did this nearly \$40 billion string of intelligence agencies protect the people in the twin towers? No. It failed completely to detect the coming attack. Did our \$268 billion defense budget protect us? No.
Why then do people think that if you give them more money and more power, they will succeed? It's exactly the same process we see in government education. Year after year, government education fails to educate. Year after year, it is given more money. Year after year, the extra money seems to have no effect at all.
When the children of the world's "last remaining superpower" rank 14th among industrial nations in general cultural literacy, then something is obviously wrong. When increasingly you see people holding important posts in government who are obviously first-generation immigrants, that should tell you that too many Americans are avoiding the tough subjects like engineering and science in college.
Toward the end of the Roman Empire, slaves were doing practically all of the important work. We are beginning to resemble them. Instead of



Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist

slaves, however, it is our immigrants who are doing all the hard work, whether it's meatpacking or earning advanced degrees in computer engineering. American Muslims, by the way, on a per capita basis hold more advanced degrees than any other group.
Look again at Sept. 11. Who were the heroes? The FBI? The CIA? The Defense Department? Congress? The president? No, the heroes were city cops and city firefighters and private citizens, and the mayor and the governor. Local folks. Local officials. That's always where America's great strength has resided — in the people, not the federal government. And America's great strength has always been located in the states and cities and communities, not in Washington.
Remember that in New York City, police officers, firefighters, the mayor and private-citizen volunteers were running toward the danger, while in Washington, the president, the vice president and Congress were running away from it.

It is not a case, as liberals often try to claim it is, of being for or against government. Government is a necessity. We cannot have a free society and orderly communities without government. It is simply a case that one must assess government realistically, recognizing its weaknesses as well as its strengths.
One of the primary duties of the federal government is to protect our borders. It failed. Not only regarding the terrorists, but also hundreds of thousands of other illegal immigrants who pour through every year. Another primary duty is conducting a foreign policy that will serve the interests of the American people. Our foreign policy got nearly 4,000 Americans killed, and unless it is changed, it will result in many more American deaths.
George Washington likened government to fire. It was, he said, a useful servant but a fearful master. We should support our government when it does the right thing and criticize it when it goes astray. But we should never give it sheep-like blind faith.
Before you say, "Let the government do whatever it wants as long as it protects me," you'd better remember the dead at the twin towers. The government was doing whatever it wanted to do, but it was not effective in safeguarding American lives.
And now, as it always does, the government is overreacting to its own failure. It is jeopardizing our civil liberties, busting the budget and vastly expanding its ability to pry into private lives.

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Letters to the editor

Letter addresses county official's concerns ...

To the editor,
(This is an open letter addressed to Gray County Commissioner Jim Greene.)
Dear Commissioner Greene,
I appreciated the time you allowed for us to meet in my previous visit to Pampa (mid November). I chose to send this response to a wider audience, the other Gray County Commissioners, State Rep. Warren Chisum and the people of Pampa and Gray Co. because I know you have presented many of the same questions to them.
In our visit, you presented some questions of which I would like to respond. The first issue you raised was in reference to Texas farms truck wash in Perryton. You can be assured that a very detailed investigation of the site was undertaken a few years ago and produced nothing. The issue is not a current issue as you were lead to believe. If you still have questions, Mr. Don Cliff would be glad to discuss this with you at any time. His telephone number is (806) 435-5935.
Secondly, you asked about monitoring wells; we have given consideration to the usefulness and effectiveness of monitoring wells and have yet to determine the added value of these wells. We are considering existing down gradient wells as a monitoring system and have discussed this possibility with the Panhandle Groundwater District office.
Third, the integrity of clay liners as compared to synthetic liners is not a technical concern. The clay liners will be certified by an engineering firm throughout the process and have been proven to be a very effective liner and meet all of the TNRCC requirements.
Fourth, the concrete holding pits in all buildings will be engineered and reinforced to contain the effluent. Fifth, your information as to the swine population in Ochiltree County is incorrect; it is far less than 800,000 pigs with the main producer, Texas Farms, having no more than 317,000 pigs on its five permitted locations. Sixth, as to your concern for more stringent state regulations of CAFOs. Let the Texas record stand on its own merit. The process is very clear, effective and allows livestock agriculture to exist while protecting the environment.
As you have heard in the past, Texas has a tremendous record of protecting its environment while encouraging responsible livestock agriculture. I am sure that Rep. Chisum would be pleased to further elaborate if you choose to call his office.
Finally, the closure of lagoons is the responsibility of the individual permit-holder in Texas, as well as in North Carolina (you ask the question in reference to North Carolina). You can be assured that when the time comes for lagoons to be closed in Texas, they will be done properly and in order as required by law, which is the case in North Carolina.
Jim, I have addressed the questions you directed toward me, and I hope this is helpful to you. If I can be of further help, please contact me. As I have stated many times over the last six months, we look for-

ward to the opportunity to move to Pampa and become contributors to the well-being of the area.
John A. Carter, Jr.
General Manager, NPD (USA)

It's your future, protect water, resources

To the editor,
In a recent guest column, Dale Roth voiced his concerns about the Ogallala Aquifer. He's no "Chicken Little." The United States Geological Survey published a study entitled, "Rapid Recharge of Parts of the High Plains Aquifer Indicated by a Reconnaissance Study in Oklahoma, 1999."
Research showed that, out of 12 wells, half of the water samples were impacted by surface activities in recent times. Dating methods used by USGS indicate that contamination has taken place in little over a decade — not hundreds of years.
Nitrate was above natural background levels in two-thirds of the wells, with two wells showing clear contamination from animal wastes. Nine others had nitrogen isotopes indicative of mixtures of animal wastes and fertilizers.
This report may be downloaded from the website of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at <http://www.state.ok.us/~owrb/reports/publications.html> or from the United States Geological Survey at <http://www.usgs.gov/>.
But, that's not all. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture sampled monitoring wells at licensed swine sites. Data show that two-thirds of more than 400 wells containing fluid are nitrate polluted above the 3 mg/liter deemed background by USGS. Half of those are contaminated above the 10 mg/liter threshold of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
Your water is too precious to risk. Learn from us in Oklahoma and turn away swine producers who use offensive and environmentally unsound lagoons and sprayfields. It's your future.
Suzette Hatfield, coordinator
Oklahoma Family Farm Alliance
322 NW 17th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Early Pampan tree advocate

To the editor,
The controversy regarding the library trees has caused me to remember with affection my old uncle, J.S. Silcott II, who spent 60-plus years in the Pampa area.
A self-educated man, he came to this area in 1915 with his parents from beautiful West Virginia. He fell in love with this country — "this high treeless plain" that was predicted in the 1860s "to never be inhabited by man."
He was a tree lover (but not in the modern sense) and a tree defend-

er. On seeing a tree (or trees) being cut down in Pampa, his classic comment was always, "I think we should cut down all the trees in Pampa that we can, since we have such an abundance of them."
Jannie Lewis
Pampa

City government could perhaps be more efficient

To the editor,
At a City Council work session, the subject of the purchase of a new front-end loader, at the cost of approximately \$110,000 was discussed. Jeff Andrews suggested that the taxpayers' money would be better spent to purchase the necessary part and have the old front-end loader repaired for an estimated \$5,000.
When that did not meet the approval of the rest of the Council, he suggested that instead of purchasing a new front-end loader, we could purchase a completely rebuilt front-end loader for a fraction of the cost of a new one. Not only did that not meet the approval of the Council, but someone even asked "What do other cities do?" We do not live in, or pay taxes in, "other cities." We elect our officials to do what is best for Pampa.
In the Council meeting, it was voted 4-to-1 to purchase the new \$110,000 front-end loader, with Jeff Andrews as the only dissenting vote.
If a taxpayer's car has a transmission problem, he or she usually has the transmission rebuilt or a new one installed. We usually do not just buy a new car, because we realize that it is a waste of money that could be used for something else. The city could, and should, operate the same way.
Why buy a new piece of equipment at the cost of \$110,000 when the old one could be repaired for \$5,000? Why buy new vehicles every year when we could have the old ones refurbished for a fraction of the cost? Our much lauded "Hummer" was repaired in-house. Why could our equipment and vehicles not also be repaired in-house? Under the current business philosophy we will always have a huge indebtedness. With a declining population, we can only expect to have to pay higher taxes.
Large companies buy reconditioned and refurbished equipment, and have equipment repaired because they have to show a profit. Why can't the City of Pampa operate as efficiently as major companies?
I appreciate Mr. Andrews for being conscientious in regard to the taxpayers, the taxpayers' money and the finances of the city. He has listened to my concerns and answered my questions openly. I am happy to have him for a city commissioner. If we had more commissioners like him, we would have less debt and lower taxes.
Shirley Nicholson
Pampa
(See, LETTERS, Page 6)

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TDH: Holidays often rife with food-borne illnesses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

AUSTIN — Light the candles, set the music, pour the beverages, lay out the tableware and by all means use extreme care when preparing holiday edibles.

"Entertaining during the holiday season is stressful enough without having to worry about someone getting sick," says Lone Wenzel of the Retail Foods Division at the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "For most healthy people, food-borne illnesses are just uncomfortable, but for the very young, the elderly or those with weakened immune systems, the consequences can be severe."

Each year, up to 76 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses that occur when they eat food that contains a bacteria or a toxin produced by bacteria growing in the food. Holiday buffets and party trays left at room temperature for long periods of time often fall prey to bacteria. Given sufficient time, bacteria in food can grow and multiply depending on the type of food, the temperature at which it was held, its moisture content and its acidity level.

"You cannot tell from the way food looks, smells or tastes if it is safe," Wenzel said. "But you can take a few simple steps to keep your food from being contaminated."

TDH offers these suggestions to help prevent foodborne illnesses:

—Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods in your grocery shopping cart and

Each year, up to 76 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses that occur when they eat food that contains a bacteria or a toxin produced by bacteria growing in the food. Holiday buffets and party trays left at room temperature for long periods of time often fall prey to bacteria....

in your refrigerator.

—Always wash hands before any contact with foods.

—Never defrost or marinate food on the kitchen counter. Use the refrigerator, cold running water or the microwave.

—Use a clean food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry, casseroles and other foods are cooked all the way through. Cook roasts and steaks to at least 145 degrees F. Whole poultry should be cooked to 180 degrees F. Ground beef should be cooked to at least 160 degrees F.

—If possible, use one cutting board for raw meat products and another for raw fruits and vegetables. If you have only one, wash it between uses.

—Never put cooked food on an unwashed plate that previously

held raw meat, poultry or seafood. TDH food safety experts also advise consumers to refrigerate cooked foods quickly. "Get those leftovers to the refrigerator fast," Wenzel says.

Some more tips from TDH for keeping food safe and good to eat:

—Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food and leftovers within two hours.

—Divide large amounts of leftovers into small, shallow containers for quick cooling in the refrigerator.

—With poultry and other stuffed meats, remove the stuffing and refrigerate it in a separate container.

—Don't pack the refrigerator with too much food. Cool air must circulate to keep food safe at 41 degrees F.

BWXT Pantex establishes technical scholarships

AMARILLO — BWXT Pantex recently initiated a new \$300,000 Technical Scholarship Program open to students throughout the Texas Panhandle.

Over a number of years, BWXT Pantex Technical Scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing technical education at technical schools, community colleges and universities in the State of Texas. The Opportunity Plan in Canyon will administer the scholarship program for Pantex.

Students residing in the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle will be eligible for the undergraduate scholarships. Students pursuing graduate work at a Texas university will be eligible for graduate scholarships.

BWXT Pantex anticipates awarding 20 scholarships, each ranging between \$500-\$2,000, for the fall 2002 semester. Students will be eligible to renew the scholarships if academic requirements are met.

"BWXT Pantex is extremely proud to offer these scholarships," said Dennis Ruddy, BWXT Pantex, president and general manager. "Our company believes in investing in the technical education needs of the Texas Panhandle, which will benefit the community and Pantex."

The intent of the scholarship program is to encourage students to pursue technical education programs and enter technical occupations in the panhandle. Pantex will regularly communicate with the recipients and consider them

for a variety of technical employment opportunities at the plant.

Ruddy added, "This scholarship program is an important complement to our recent announcement of a new Engineering Graduate Studies Program."

Initiated by BWXT Pantex, the graduate engineering program is a collaboration with Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M University and Amarillo Economic Development Corp. It provides local engineers an opportunity to earn a graduate engineering degree.

Students interested in applying for the technical scholarships can contact their high school counselors or college financial aid representatives beginning in January. Students may also contact The Opportunity Plan at (806) 655-2528.

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
<http://news.pampa.com>

LETTERS

Strong-arm tactics deplorable

To the editor,
Personally, I find it very believable that city employees were threatened with their jobs concerning the PEDC voting issue. I find it very believable indeed.

I remember well how those of us who "dared" to sue Celanese were treated. We were told our names were put on a black list. I heard a first-hand story of a woman, a city employee, who was told she would be fired if she joined the toxic tort suit.

I remember hearing numerous stories of downtown businesses that were threatened with "ruination" if they did not close their businesses the afternoon of the pro-Celanese Rebuilding Rally.

Oh, yes, I remember these things. Now, who these people are, I am not sure.

All I know is, that Pampa has a reputation of strong-arming people and businesses, and it is long overdue for this to come to a halt and be exposed for what it is. If it is illegal and can be proven, I hope these people are punished whoever they are. It just should not be allowed to continue.

Karen Son
Pampa

Flag-burners must receive fair and equal treatment

To the editor,
It is my prayerful hope that those who stand accused of stealing and burning American flags in Pampa are given the full legal and Constitutional protections and rights they are entitled to as American citizens.

Federal law protects the burning of the U.S. flag, no matter how distasteful it may be to some of us, under our First Amendment, as freedom of speech, this law is as it should be! I hope that no event or events or law will ever change this protection.

If this happens, we will be trampling our Constitution as well as our rights! Our flag — any country's flag — can mean different values or oppression, depending on one's experiences.

If we allow super-patriotism or super-patriots to deny or punish those who burn the U.S. flag, those rights given and re-affirmed by our Constitution and Supreme Court, then the danger to us is far greater than those super-patriots than those who stand accused.

Our DA's and prosecutors are not elected or hired to dispense justice on emotions. They must follow our laws or they too can become a dangerous obstruction to the dispensing of fair justice.

We must not let the events of Sept. 11, whom those accused had no part in, now be used in the dispensing of justice against them. We cannot be a "nation under God" as we proclaim repeatedly, unless we "practice what we preach."

Ray Velasquez
Amarillo

P.S. The punishment for stealing is based on the value of those items or services taken.

WT, AC teacher

CANYON — undergraduate teacher of a class.

West Texas A&M and Amarillo College hand-in-hand the transition from college to university preparation course. Community College Scholars Program funded by a \$4 million from The House of Representatives, is being implemented by community college with institution A&M University.

Tana Gunter, director of education advisement of Education at Mindy Adams, Community College Center at AC, and Community College Scholars Program AC/WTAMU co-

"Some of the haven't even heard yet," Adams said ahead of the ball.

The program will start money for start their education at Amarillo College their final two years Scholarship and with each year much as \$1,000 time a student r

To qualify for students at AC of the high-needs fields: mathematical education or tion and carry a hours a semester also maintain a average and age their final two years Scholarships at college level st

semester per student. Education ma from AC to W around 100 stud

"We have a great with education Amarillo College "And this program for an easier tran

to here."

On the community Adams is working students to prepare teacher preparation. She's helping the right track as far as has organized a that will follow to WTAMU. She students aware areas and focus top-notch people

gram.

The Community Teaching Scholars expected to introduce 350 teachers in education fields into education pipeline period.

For more information, contact 651-2610, or Adams 6188.

4-H, FFA

HOUSTON — in 4-H and FFA Texas will have to apply for Ho Show and Rode due to a change in November, eliminated the profession on agricultural field of study, all to major in any of study leading degree.

The Show's scholarship program and attention to graduating seniors each year policy not only scholarship recipients effective for students attending Texas universities on FFA scholarship may change choose some students, them to take the and life science into their future.

The Houston and Rodeo is a 501(c)(3) charity. V commitment of \$ Show has committed \$85 million to educational program 1957.

The stockings by the chimney

Dec. 9 shop days to C

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The stockings by the chimney

Dec. 9 shop days to C

**WT, AC launch
teacher program**

CANYON — Going from undergraduate student to the teacher of a classroom just got easier.

West Texas A&M University and Amarillo College are working hand-in-hand to streamline the transition from community college to university teacher preparation courses through the Community College Teaching Scholars Program. The program, funded by a \$4.6 million grant from The Houston Endowment, Inc., is being implemented at nine community colleges in collaboration with institutions in The Texas A&M University System.

Tana Gunter, director of education advisement in the Division of Education at WTAMU, and Mindy Adams, director of the Community College Teacher Center at AC, are overseeing the Community College Teaching Scholars Program for the AC/WTAMU collaboration.

"Some of the other schools haven't even hired their people yet," Adams said. "We are way ahead of the ballgame."

The program provides scholarship money for students who start their education degree path at Amarillo College and finish up their final two years at WTAMU. Scholarship amounts increase with each year and can total as much as \$1,000 per year by the time a student reaches WTAMU. To qualify for the scholarship, students at AC must major in one of the high-need certification fields: mathematics, science, special education or bilingual education and carry a minimum of 12 hours a semester. Students must also maintain a 3.0 grade point average and agree to complete their final two years at WTAMU. Scholarships at the community college level start at \$300 per semester per student.

Education majors transferring from AC to WTAMU average around 100 students per year.

"We have a good success rate with education majors from Amarillo College," Gunter said. "And this program will just make for an easier transition from there to here."

On the community college end, Adams is working with AC students to prepare them for their teacher preparation courses. She's helping them get on the right track as far as courses and has organized an education club that will follow the AC students to WTAMU. She is making the students aware of the high-need areas and focusing on getting top-notch people into the program.

The Community College Teaching Scholars Program is expected to introduce more than 250 teachers in high-need certification fields into the teacher education pipeline over a five-year period.

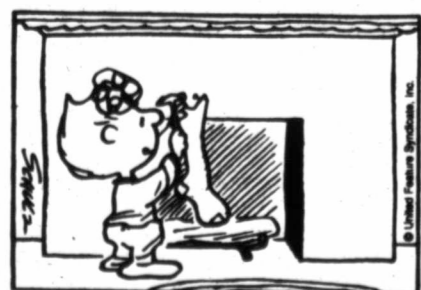
For more information about the program, contact Gunter at (806) 651-2610, or Adams at (806) 371-1188.

4-H, FFA scholarships

HOUSTON — More students in 4-H and FFA programs across Texas will have the opportunity to apply for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarships due to a change in the program. In November, Show officials eliminated the program's restriction on agriculture or life science field of study, allowing students to major in any authorized field of study leading to a bachelor's degree.

The Show's 4-H and FFA scholarship program is its oldest program and awards \$1.4 million to graduating high school seniors each year. This change in policy not only affects future scholarship recipients, but also is effective for students currently attending Texas colleges and universities on Show 4-H and FFA scholarships. While this may change choice of major for some students, it will still allow them to take their agriculture and life science backgrounds into their future careers.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a 501 (c)(3) educational charity. With its current commitment of \$8.5 million, the Show has committed more than \$85 million to scholarships and educational programs since 1957.



"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care..."

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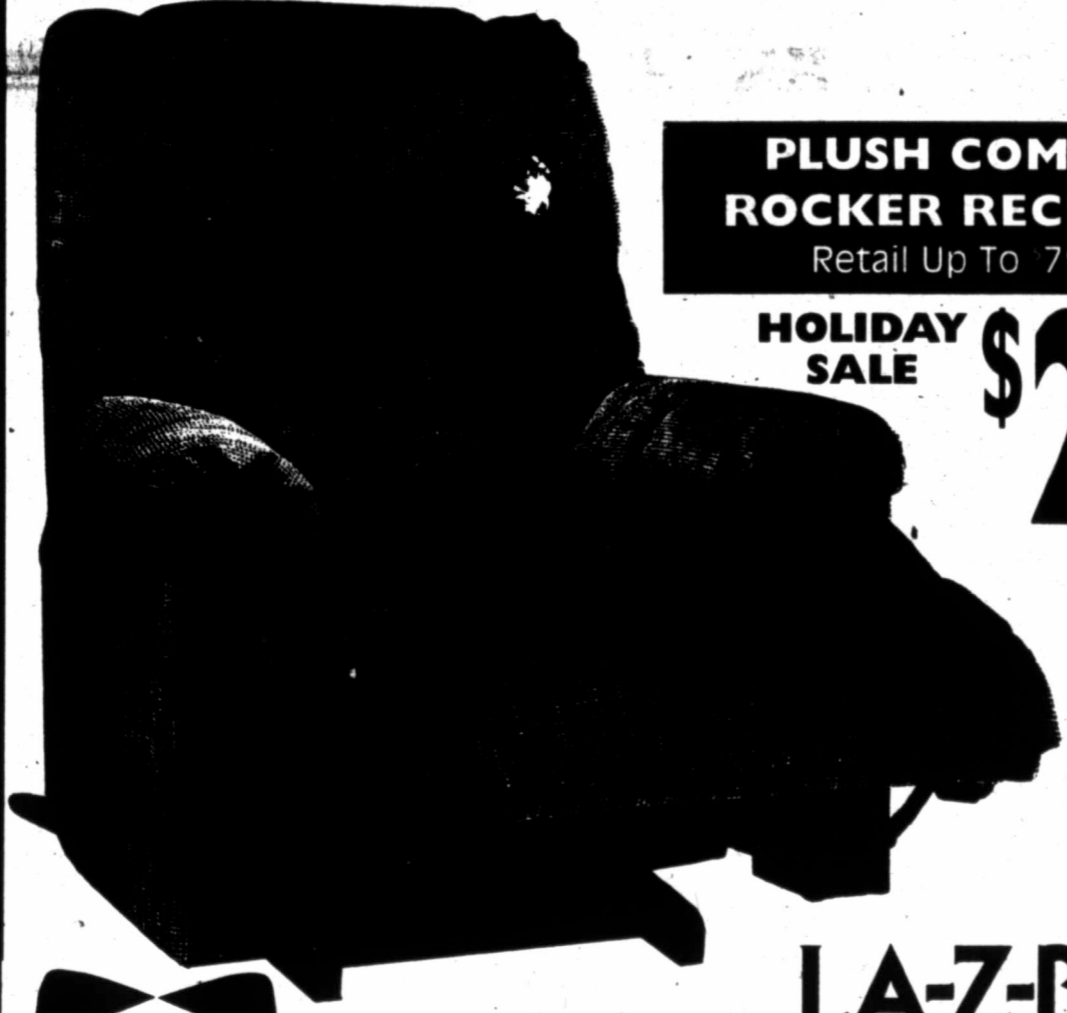
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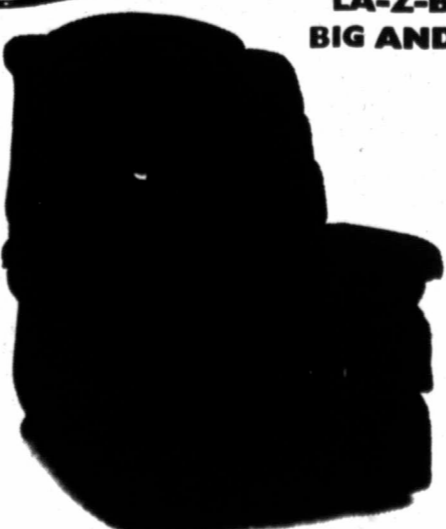
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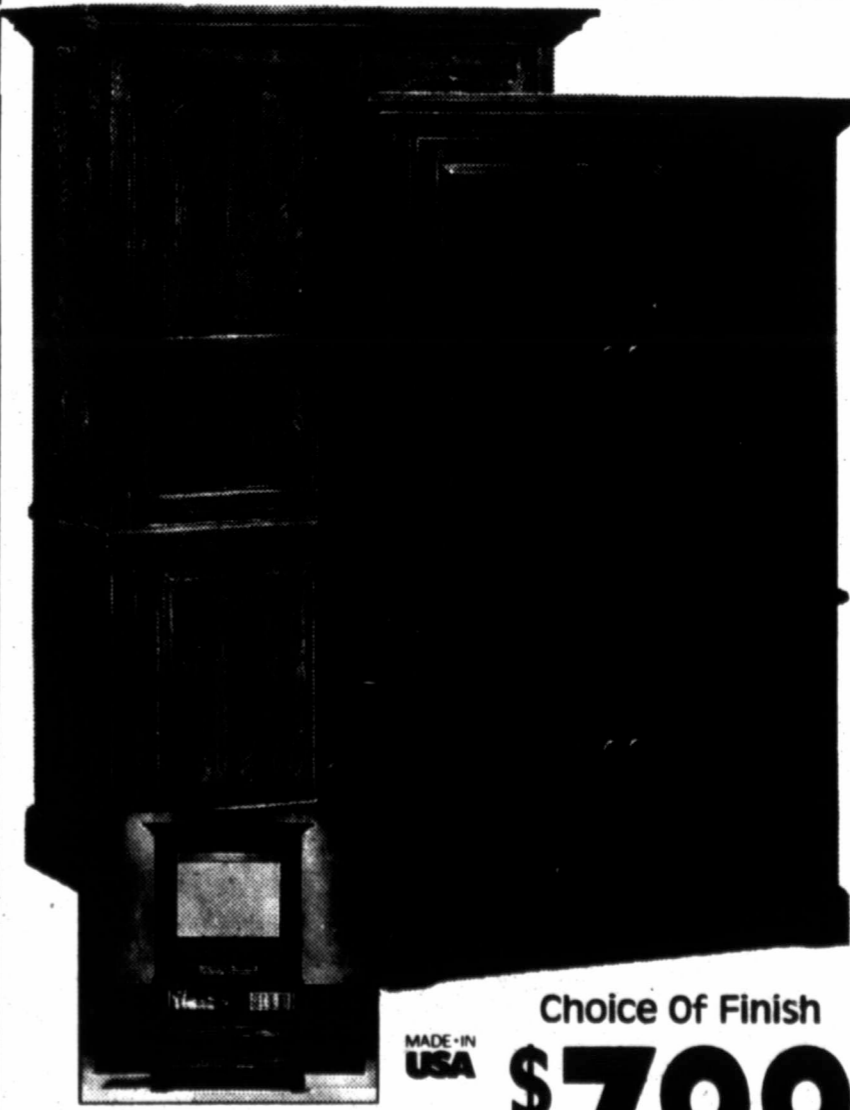
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Sometimes better *not* to listen to too many market forecasts, predictions

By JOHN CUNNIFF
AP Business Analyst

NEW YORK (AP) — We are at the time of year when financial celebrities who were wrong all year long present their market forecasts for the year to come, free of charge, no less.

Such offerings should trigger childhood memories about not accepting goodies from strangers, but there is a difference in this instance. The recipients will be adults, and they'll forget their own advice.

In the past two decades or more, Americans have been professionally trained not to think for themselves about investments, but to accept the advice of others.

Not to be forgotten is that the advice givers are, one and the same, those who told you that Enron was the stock of the year and who advised you to buy various other shares all the way down from, say, \$90 to \$10.

In short, the biggest financial mistakes are made (1) by some of the very people and institutions who now seek to advise you, and (2) by those small investors who abandon their own reasoning for that of an "expert."

A study released last week by the National Center for Policy Analysis put it bluntly: "People who want to invest your money are

doing a lousy job of investing their own." Studying the performance of five financial services firms that either invest retirement funds or offer investment advice for corporations and their employees, it found none even matched the stock market.

It found, for example, that a mixed portfolio of 60 percent stocks, 40 percent bonds would have earned an annual rate of return of 21 percent for a four-year period ending in 1998.

For the same period, the latest year for which public figures are available, Citigroup earned 17.8 percent, Morningstar 13.1, Hewitt Associated 12.6, Merrill Lynch 11, and Prudential 10.5 percent.

Based partly on such data, John Goodman, NCPA president, states that if changes aren't made, many workers will be shocked by a major decline in their standard of living during their golden years.

He and his researchers, consultant Brooks Hamilton and writer Scott Burns, say part of the problem lies in the limited categories that financial adviser-managers offer to corporate employees.

Typically, employee choices are limited to high, medium and low risk plans. They would like to see more options offered to workers, many of whom now fail to make choices and whose con-

tributions fall by default into the lowest risk category, where the returns are equally low.

They would like to see more options offered to workers, so-called premixed efficient portfolios that would explain the maximum rate of return at different risk levels. And have employers pick up all fees and expenses in return for immunity to suits for alleged fiduciary failings.


Given more advice and more choices, they say, the less sophisticated employees would be less apt to default to the lowest-return category. And as a

consequence, their retirements would be more adequately funded.

Their idea goes at least part way to a solution: It would provide a flow of information, enhance understanding, and allow workers to make better choices. It would provide legal protection for employers.

In all likelihood, they suggest, you would see not just more educated, responsible, motivated investors, but the returns on corporate 401(k) plans rise near to or even above the market averages.

St. Nicholas Day



(Community Camera photo)

April Nolte, Braden Watson and Echo Barnett, students at St. Vincent's de Paul Catholic School, recently enjoyed a visit with "St. Nicholas" (Kenny Hathcoat) during St. Nicholas Day at the school.

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COMMUNITY REVIEW

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Douglas Paint & Body Raymond & Debbie Douglas, Owners

"Quality" is more than just a word at Douglas Paint & Body, located in Pampa at 317 East Brown Avenue, phone 665-3546. They are proud of their superior craftsmen and the quality work they produce. From small dents in your car's door to "nearly totaled" vehicles requiring repair or replacement of major body sections, their skilled personnel apply experience, knowledge and judgment to expertly restore your car's body to pre-crash condition. Special attention to details during the repair process assures you of the highest quality finished product.

Automotive painting and refinishing is truly an art. The professionals at Douglas Paint & Body combine the latest techniques, highest quality materials and an expert's keen eye to create showroom quality finishes. Every precaution is taken to ensure the final finish matches your original paint as closely as possible in both appearance and quality, to protect and preserve the value of your vehicle.

Properly restoring your vehicle requires the unique combination of experience, technical knowledge, judgment and the professional touch of skilled craftsmen. Douglas Paint & Body's professional repair techniques allow them to get your car back on the road quickly, safely and at a fair price. The craftsmen at Douglas Paint & Body take this opportunity to wish all their patrons a safe and happy holiday season.

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The cost for a pre-closing title check is nominal, and the peace of mind it provides is priceless. Contact Guaranty Abstract & Title today in Pampa at 1224 North Hobart, phone 669-2899, or visit them on the Internet at www.guarantyabstractandtitle.com. Phil Vanderpool and Jim Shelton of Guaranty Abstract & Title wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Golden Spread Hearing Aid Center

Gary Wormsbaker, Hearing Aid Specialist

In America, there are more people with hearing impairments than any other handicap. Some people are born with hearing defects, others sustain hearing damage and many suffer hearing loss with age. Of the five senses, hearing is the most easily damaged. Loud music, noise in the workplace and high volume sounds such as gunfire, auto racing, fireworks and power tools can damage your hearing.

If you or a loved one feels you should have your hearing checked, contact Golden Spread Hearing Aid Center, located in Pampa at 621 North Hobart, phone 665-3451. They are open Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. These specialists can give you a free electronic hearing test to determine the extent of your hearing loss. They offer both in-the-ear and behind-the-ear hearing instruments and will work with you to help you adjust to your new hearing device. They also offer repair, batteries and accessories for hearing aids.

The professionals at Golden Spread Hearing Aid Center have been working closely with the hearing problems of children, adults and senior citizens for many years throughout the area. They have a special interest in the effect of age on hearing and will recommend medical treatment when needed. Once you are fitted with the proper hearing instrument, you will realize your old hearing problem was much more noticeable than your new hearing aid. Season's greetings and happy New Year from Golden Spread Hearing Aid Center.

Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service

Locally Owned & Operated For 25 Years

With tax time upon us, many business owners and individuals are turning their thoughts toward reviewing their finances. Well versed in all aspects of tax laws, tax forms and the filing of income tax returns, the professionals at Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service are ready to serve you. Their office is located in Pampa at 825 West Francis and may be reached by calling 665-3471.

The tax analysts at Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service provide a wide range of services to their clientele and recognize the importance of staying on top of the ever-changing field of taxes. Through the use of the latest in computerized technology and up-to-date accounting techniques, they can handle the most complex returns quickly. Their totally confidential services can actually save you money in the long run since they may be able to find valid deductions that would normally not occur to most individuals or business owners. With over 800 changes in the Tax Reform Act starting in 1997, Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service has the knowledge to make these changes work for you. Their electronic filing system enables their clients to receive their refunds in a much shorter time than normal.

In this day and age, when every penny counts, most of us realize the importance and value of conserving our hard-earned dollars whenever we can. Don't you owe it to yourself or your business to let Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service put their years of experience and training to work for you? Fellers Bookkeeping & Tax Service wishes you all the wonder, joy and peace the holidays bring.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating And Air Conditioning

Serving The Area With 35 Years Of Experience

Are you looking for a heating, cooling and plumbing specialist? Well, local businesses and residents know that the only call they need to make is to Larry Baker Plumbing Heating And Air Conditioning, the area's leading plumbing, heating and air conditioning experts. They are located in Pampa at 2711 Alcock-Borger Highway, phone 665-4392. They have many years of valuable experience and specialize in central air conditioning, heat pumps, energy management, water and gas heaters, and complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating And Air Conditioning offers fast, reliable service, and all work is performed quickly and efficiently by their skilled mechanics. These experts have been serving the heating, cooling and plumbing needs of the commercial, industrial and residential community for 35 years. Larry Baker Plumbing Heating And Air Conditioning takes pride in their work and truly appreciates your business. MasterCard and VISA are also accepted for your convenience.

Whether your company needs a new heat pump or a repair on a central air conditioning unit, or if you are remodeling your bathroom, call the company for all seasons. One call can do it all! The craftsmen at Larry Baker Plumbing Heating And Air Conditioning take this opportunity to wish all their patrons a safe and happy holiday season.

Comet Cleaners Barbara Shepard, Manager

Clothing, like everything else, is becoming more expensive. However, by proper cleaning, your clothing will not only last longer, but will look, feel and smell its best. If you want only the best in dry cleaning, bring your clothes to the place so many other satisfied people do!

Comet Cleaners, conveniently located in Pampa at 726 North Hobart Street, phone 669-0207, offers the most professional dry cleaning service. By using the latest dry cleaning processes and special chemicals on those tough stains, these professionals are able to help your clothes maintain that "just new" look for many years to come. While specializing in the dry cleaning of bridal gowns, leather, suede, draperies and fire- and smoke-damaged clothing, Comet Cleaners also offers the entire family the finest in dry cleaning. They also feature a fast and efficient shirt service, and same-day service is available in most cases.

Remember, if you want to look your best, take your clothes to the best. Comet Cleaners is open Monday through Saturday for your convenience. They invite you to visit them soon. The friendly folks at Comet Cleaners wish you and yours peace, love and joy this holiday season.

Safari Tan & Day Spa Pam Canniff, Owner

Think about it. How many, times a year does your wife, husband, best friend or mom really get time to care for themselves? How many times do they get pampered? This Christmas, surprise them with a gift certificate from Safari Tan & Day Spa for a full or half day of pampering. These professionals will shampoo and cut your hair, give you a relaxing facial, do your nails and pamper your feet with a pedicure. They will help with makeup and a hairstyle that will let you leave the spa looking and feeling like a "new" person.

The staff at Safari Tan & Day Spa consists of professionals. They understand that when someone arrives at Safari Tan & Day Spa with a gift certificate in hand, that they deserve special treatment. They will do everything they can to make sure your Christmas present is one that will be long remembered and truly appreciated. The stylists and manicurists there stay on top of the latest hairstyles and methods of skin care, nail care, makeup and relaxation techniques. They also offer body wraps that are slimming, a detox wrap with seaweed, salt scrubs, tanning and other combinations for your comfort and pleasure.

The shop is located in Pampa at 308 West Foster Avenue and may be reached at 669-7660 for an appointment. They welcome everyone to stop in to purchase one of their spa packages for that special someone. The entire staff extends their warmest wishes for a glorious holiday season.

Pampa Dialysis Center

It is an unfortunate fact that renal failure is becoming more and more prevalent in today's society. Many diseases damage the kidneys, impairing their ability to filter waste effectively and, ultimately, producing a life-threatening situation. Renal dialysis is a medical modality utilized to filter waste products from the body when the kidneys are not functioning properly. Chronic dialysis is necessary for patients with irreversible kidney damage, while acute dialysis is often used to counteract overdoses and treat those whose kidney function has been impaired by trauma.

Pampa Dialysis Center, located in Pampa at 2545 Perryton Parkway, phone 665-8200, is well-known to local dialysis patients and highly respected throughout the area. Their caring, professional staff is highly trained in chronic and acute dialysis procedures. They also counsel patients on appropriate dietary and fluid restrictions, helping them to better understand their illness while taking an active part in their own care.

If you or a loved one has been told that dialysis may be required or has been referred to a dialysis treatment facility, you are invited to contact Pampa Dialysis Center. They will gladly answer your questions and do everything possible to make the transition easier for you. Happy holidays to you and those you love, from Pampa Dialysis Center.

Black Gold Restaurant Sue Hinds, Owner

Delicious food, friendly faces, reasonable prices and a whole lot more await you when you stop in at Black Gold Restaurant. Conveniently located in Pampa at 1100 East Frederic Street, phone 669-6237, they feature fabulous home cooking in an informal atmosphere, serving freshly prepared food from scratch.

Try their widely acclaimed dinners of a menu that really gives you a choice. They have something for everyone including an extensive selection of homemade soups, delicious main dishes, salads and tantalizing desserts. For your dining pleasure, they also feature daily luncheon specials. Their homemade desserts are sure to please at Black Gold Restaurant and are a delightful end to an enjoyable meal.

A pleasant atmosphere, consistently fine quality and warm, friendly service have made this restaurant a favorite of people in-the-know. But don't just sit there—find out for yourself why Black Gold Restaurant has pleased so many other people in the area. Stop in soon and sample one of the area's favorite dining spots. Their courteous service and fine food will bring you back time and time again. The owner and management of Black Gold Restaurant take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas and invites you to stop in during the holidays.

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Cathy Potter - Massage Therapy 9 Years Of Experience

Almost every aspect of modern life can cause stress and stress-related physiological symptoms. In the work place, critical delays from supplies, equipment breakdowns or a difference of opinion with a coworker can cause neck and shoulder muscles to knot and back muscles to bind. Even without stressful circumstances, muscles tire from everyday activities or movements such as long hours before a computer terminal, assembly line repetition or long-haul driving. These muscular stresses generate other problems including stress headaches, general physical discomfort and, in some cases, carpal tunnel syndrome.

The therapeutic use of massage to manipulate and ease strain in major muscles or muscle groups was known to the ancient Egyptians and is still in use today. Cathy Potter, located in Pampa at 1224 North Hobart Street, Suite 9, in NBC Plaza II, phone 669-0013, is a registered massage therapist. Her training and certification allow her to use massage therapy techniques to relax, invigorate or stimulate tired or over-stressed muscles or soft tissue injuries. Massage therapy can help ease aches and pains, and help restore usefulness and capacity of movement. Body wraps, massage therapy with hot coals and pure essential oils are also provided for your comfort.

The professional massage therapy techniques used by Cathy Potter are available by appointment at reasonable rates. Contact her at 669-0013 for further information on the benefits of massage therapy. Gift certificates for all services are available for the holidays. Massage Therapist Cathy Potter wishes you all the wonder, joy and peace the holidays bring.

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Festival of Trees



(Community Camera photos)

Cynthia Mann, left, admires "The Butterfly Tree," one of the entries in the recent Festival of Trees while JoAnn West, right, of Harvester Lane shows off the "Patriotic Bowling" tree.

Year-end tactics help consumers pay less, save more

By PAMELA YIP
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Now's your chance to make some last-minute

moves that could save you money on your 2001 taxes. And this year is going to present some special opportunities for taxpayers to save not only on

their 2001 returns, but also for 2002.

"Extraordinary circumstances overshadow tax and financial planning for the balance of 2001," says Bob Trinz, an editor at RIA, a New York-based provider of tax information and software to accountants and professionals. "The nation was hit hard by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, which had a severe, negative impact on an already weakened stock market and the economy in general."

"On the plus side of the ledger, the 2001 Tax Act ushered in lower tax rates for 2001 and even lower rates in 2002 and in the years to come." What's more, the new tax law is packed with a more generous tax credits, exclusions and other expanded tax breaks that will take effect in 2002.

"To take advantage of these new breaks, it may make sense

for some taxpayers to defer some types of expenses until next year," Trinz says.

The first thing to do in your year-end tax planning is to get a big-picture perspective of where you stand.

"Get involved in the process," says Richard Joyner, a partner in personal financial counseling at Ernst & Young in Dallas. "Make sure you take time to look at your tax situation and estimate where you might be. Use pay stubs, investment statements and the like to estimate your current tax situation."

"Only by doing that can you know what needs to be done to improve the situation. You might also avoid a nasty surprise like an unexpected tax liability."

Good tax moves

Many of the time-tested tax-planning moves still apply. If you can afford to, defer income, such as a bonus, to 2002.

"Specifically, deferring taxable income from 2001 to 2002 will turn out to be the best move for those who will benefit from reduced tax rates next year, as well as those who will be taxed at a lower bracket in 2002 because of reduced investment or compensation income," Trinz says.

The new tax law created a 10 percent tax rate and lowered the top tax bracket for 2001 to 39.1 percent.

The individual tax rates will slowly drop until 2006, when the top rate will be 35 percent.

One way of deferring income is to participate in your employer's deferred compensation program

or by buying tax-deferred U.S. Treasury securities.

If you've got investment losses as many investors do this year turn those lemons into lemonade.

"The many taxpayers who have paper or realized losses in the stock market and other investments must plan their year-end selling carefully to make the best tax use of capital losses," Trinz says.

Capital gains, losses

Here's how handling of capital gains and losses works:

If you incur losses from the sale of investments, you may deduct those losses to the extent they equal your capital gains.

Long-term capital losses on the sale of investments held for more than a year are used to offset long-term capital gains before they're used to offset short-term capital gains on the sale of investments held for a year or less. Similarly, short-term capital losses must be used to offset short-term capital gains before they're used to offset long-term capital gains.

If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, you can only deduct up to \$3,000 of those losses in a tax year against ordinary income. Any excess will be carried over until it can be offset against future capital gains or be deducted as a loss against ordinary income, with a limit of \$3,000 a year.

"Be extra diligent about looking at your investments this year," Joyner says. "Many mutual funds lost money, but this sometimes leads them to distribute built-in capital gains accumulated

inside the fund. If you are getting capital gains distributions from a fund, they can be offset by selling mutual funds that might have lost their value in this year's market turmoil. The capital gain distributions and losses from the sale will offset and can help you avoid paying an unexpected tax."

If you do sell mutual funds to generate a capital loss but want to buy the fund back, be careful of "wash sale" rules.

"If you buy and sell substantially identical securities within a 30-day period, and the sales generate a loss, it may be nondeductible," Joyner says.

There are two ways to get around this.

You can wait 31 days after the sale to repurchase the fund or you can buy a similar but not identical fund, Joyner says.

One crucial piece of advice: Don't let tax issues influence your investment decisions.

"You make your investment decisions first and you try to do the best tax planning you can around your investment decisions," says William J. Goldberg, Southwest partner in charge of personal financial planning at KPMG LLP in Houston. "You don't want to get out of an investment position when you're on the verge of a big move upward."

Beware the AMT

Consult with your tax adviser to ensure that you won't owe the dreaded alternative minimum tax or AMT. The AMT is a tax system with its own tax brackets that's parallel to the regular federal income tax system.

(See, TACTICS, Page 11)

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Kelly, Lana Miller & Family of Jiffy Cleaners

New website tracks pollution in state

AUSTIN — Offering a wealth of easy-to-understand information on the Texas environment, Environmental Defense in conjunction with the Texas Center for Policy Studies (TCPS) has established the Texas Environmental Profiles website at www.texasep.org. The site is an interactive tool that allows users

to access current data regarding such issues as hazardous waste and air quality right down to the county level.

"Texas Environmental Profiles uses the power of the Internet to put a clear picture of the Texas environment just a point and click away," said Molly Stevens of Environmental Defense Texas.

"The site is a useful resource for journalists or activists and provides access to important everyday information, such as local air pollution levels updated hourly."

The site's County Profiles section shows information from state or federal agencies on water quantity, water quality, land use, wildlife/biodiversity, air quality, waste and energy.

The site includes State Summaries, which details the issues and discusses Texas and federal environmental policy and law. Users can also create customized maps of the state that display many of these indicators.

The site's Take Action page allows Texans to enter discussion forums, report local pollution problems, volunteer in their communities, contact elected officials and obtain access to public records.

"The Texas Environmental Profiles website has two major objectives," said TCPS project director Cyrus Reed. "One is to provide residents throughout Texas, including journalists, teachers, environmental activists, and decision-makers with access to on-line information on the environment and the other is to give those same residents the tools to participate in decisions about the environment."

Texas Environmental Profiles is a joint project of Environmental Defense and the Texas Center for Policy Studies.

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Production director brings Ballet Austin to life

By JEANNE CLAIRE VAN RYZIN
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Lisa Byrd relishes arriving at the theater just before the rest of the crew and the cast are due. She likes to stand solo on the stage and savor the enormous quiet that envelops her.

For Byrd, that quiet is potent with a certain spirit — the "performance ghost," as she calls it. Or maybe it's "the magic of theater," she says, relishing the use of a cliché.

Whatever it's called, it's that moment for Byrd — the production director for Ballet Austin — when all the hard work over six months of time comes together.

Saturday at 5 p.m. is a strange time to have a meeting. But on Dec. 1 it is the only time Byrd has to assemble the production staff. Most have just landed back in Austin after "The Nutcracker" performance in College Station the night before. In fact, in the past several weeks, the company also has taken "The Nutcracker" — the sets and costumes in three semi-trucks, the cast and crew in two buses — to Waco and Marshall.

"We were a hit in College Station," Byrd tells the group as they settle around a cutting table in the wardrobe workshop, the only available space in the ballet's production offices on Guadalupe Street just north of the University of Texas campus that is large enough — real-

ly, uncluttered enough — to accommodate them. "They want us back next year."

A wave of happy noises ripples around the room. Ballet Austin is spending an increasing amount of time on the road these days.

Byrd announces that they are already scheduled to take "The Nutcracker" to Paris, Texas, next year, though they'll have to be back in Austin the next day.

"But let's not get into that now," she says. Her voice is calm and reassuring. No one will worry about Paris yet. On this rainy Saturday afternoon, the production crew must settle the logistics for this year's "The Nutcracker" production in Bass Concert Hall then two weeks away.

"Everybody have their agendas?" she says.

The 10 technical staffers all have three-ring notebooks thick with pages. Byrd begins to lead them through the exhaustive production schedule. They're responsible for the arduous process of turning the empty Bass stage into a winter wonderland of sugarplum fairies and princely nutcrackers. Costumes, lights, sets, sound and all the goings-on backstage.

"I have a question about the cannon," she asks. "Is it still that little confetti puff?"

Next, Alexei Koriaguine, the costume master, says he needs five changing rooms, including one especially for the celebrity

Mother Gingers. Master electrician Holly Broadbent brings up the issue of hiring a licensed pyrotechnics technician to supervise the special effects.

How the props for the party scene — the dolls, the toys, the settee that must move on and then off the stage — are to be managed is reviewed. Lighting designer Tony Tucci confirms that he'll spend all day Tuesday focusing the 300 lighting instruments.

Oh, yes — and there's also auxiliary events. Byrd reminds everyone that the ballet's marketing team has scheduled several early morning onstage television interviews for Ballet Austin artistic director Stephen Mills and several of the principal dancers.

"That means on Thursday we'll need to be here at 5:45 — a.m.," she says. "And also that following Monday, and then on the next Thursday ..."

Rather than groan, everyone remains silent. This is part of the job.

Though the 47-year-old Byrd just started this fall as the production director for Ballet Austin, this is certainly not the first theater season she has staged a show at Bass in the more than 20 years she's spent in the theater profession. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she holds an undergraduate degree in philosophy, a certificate in sound design and a master's degree in theater history.

Years back, she was Ballet Austin's sound director. Then she was sound designer for Austin Lyric Opera for several years, then managing director of Dance Umbrella. She created fully functioning theaters out of such offbeat places as the old Covert Buick showroom on Fifth Street and the warehouse that is now home to the Mexican American Cultural Center.

She left Austin a couple of years ago when Broadway beckoned and headed for a production job with the Do Jump Physical Theatre show at New York's Victory Theatre. When that gig ended, she took a position as an arts administrator in Philadelphia. But the theater proved a siren song for her. Something happened when, as an administrator, she was arranging for a special event at a theater.

"The minute I stepped into that theater, my heart started beating faster and faster," she recalls. "It was electric."

It's about halfway into the first day of a week of 18-hour days and Byrd is feeling electric. Or maybe not.

"I don't actually do that much during tech week," she says. "The prep for a show the size of 'The Nutcracker' really begins in the spring."

Which means the planning, the designing, the scheduling, the budgeting — Byrd has that all wrapped up before so much as a fairy tutu is unpacked. "But I do spend a lot of time during tech week standing around and worrying," she laughs.

The stage is crowded with about 20 stagehands. Some climb scaffolding and tinker with the lekos, the long, barrel-shaped lights, and fresnels, the round, squat lights, that make up the bulk of most stage-lighting arrangements.

Others hammer together the painted wood pieces that form the main portal, or scene frame, for the stage. One stagehand pushes a red, white and gold cannon — yes, the one that pops confetti during the show — over to the place in the wings where Broadbent, the electrician, has set up her command central. A couple of the costume staff

members fiddle with the oversized red hoop skirt that the celebrity Mother Gingers literally climb into before they're wheeled out on stage.

Byrd will spend all week wandering around the stage checking on things. Her days will start as early as 6 a.m. and go to midnight. Sometimes she'll hole up in a tiny windowless room off the front of stage and work on her laptop planning the January production, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Out on stage, "The Nutcracker" might be Byrd's most immediate concern, but it's like she said: The preparation months in advance. Though the goal of this first day of tech week is to hang all the scenery and sets, Byrd also needs to finalize the production schedule for Ballet

Austin's upcoming performance of "Midsummer" at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and by the end of the day

she'll have to e-mail that schedule to center staff. Then there's a budget for a production next year to finalize, and then ...

Back out on stage, Byrd watches as the crew hoists the first of the large framing portals. There is a problem with a few of the pieces that don't line up neatly. "We'll have to square those up," she says. "Plus, touch up the paint in a few places."

Standing on a dolly offstage is the five-foot painted wood nutcracker. Right next to it sits a light blue plastic trash can. "Snow only," a sign taped to the lid reads.

Snow only? "It's stage snow — paper snow," Byrd explains popping the lid off to reveal a trash can full of inch-square bits of sheer white paper. "We recycle it and use it again," she shrugs.

Yeah, that's right. The magic of theater.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

TACTICS

Congress created it about three decades ago to ensure that the wealthy pay at least some tax.

But because the AMT isn't inflation-adjusted, it's been ensnaring more and more average-income taxpayers. The AMT ensures that people who take many deductions and credits still pay a minimum amount of taxes.

"Before you make any tax moves, check your status under the AMT," Joyner says. "If you have exercised and held incentive stock options during 2001, have nontraditional investments that generate AMT preference items (income and expense items that receive special treatment under the tax laws) or anticipate that long-term capital gains will be a substantial portion of your total income, evaluate your exposure to AMT."

There's a good reason to stay far away from the AMT.

"The big issue that arises is once you're in the alternative minimum tax, you are losing the benefits of some of your deductions," Goldberg says.

Consider "bunching" itemized deductions in alternating years if you're close to claiming the standard deduction. For example, you can make charitable contributions this year, but not again until 2003.

"That way, you can itemize in alternating years and still get the benefit of the standard deduction in others," Joyner says.

For charitable deductions, consider gifting a stock held for more than a year instead of giving cash.

You'll get a charitable-contribution deduction based on the stock's fair-market value and avoid taxes on the accumulated gain.

"If you have a stock purchased for \$10 and you hold for more than one year and give it away when it's worth \$100, you get a charitable deduction for \$100 and never pay the tax on the \$90 gain," Joyner says.

Consider accelerating tax-deductible expenses in order to take deductions this year, when tax rates are higher, instead of in future years, when rates will be lower.

"You can accelerate expenses by making earlier payments of some investment expenses, mortgage interest, real estate taxes, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions," Joyner says.

529 and 401(k) plans
If you have a child, consider funding a 529 plan.

A 529 plan is an investment plan operated by a state to help families save for college.

The new tax law greatly increased the benefits of 529 plans. Now, anyone can establish an account for a beneficiary, regardless of income levels.

Beginning in 2002, assets in a 529 plan will grow tax-free instead of only tax-deferred if used for qualified education expenses.

Finally, don't forget to max out contributions to your 401(k) retirement plan.

"Sometimes if you have a year-end bonus, you can put more of that into the 401(k)," Joyner says. "Not only do you get the tax deferral, but you may also get a company match on some or all of the funds."

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A cop's tale of the World Trade Center

By JERRY SCHWARTZ
AP National Writer

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — David LeClaire was outside, taking a break from his job training Port Authority police officers. To the east, he could see the New Jersey entrance to the Holland Tunnel, and in the distance, across the Hudson River, the World Trade Center.

The 51-year-old officer looked up in time to see the first plane hit.

His cell phone didn't work, so he ran into the lobby and used one of the house phones to call his partner, Michael Edwards. A plane ... the trade center ... a crash.

"Come on, Dave," Edwards said.

"Mike, I'm telling you, come downstairs," LeClaire insisted.

Within minutes the partners grabbed their bulletproof vests and flashlights and set out for the disaster.

But first, there was something LeClaire had to do. His 21-year-old daughter, Brianna, was a student at Pace University in lower Manhattan, and he wanted desperately to reach her. He called home. No answer. He called her cell phone. Nothing. Had she already gotten on the bus? He tried again, and this time, Brianna picked up. She had overslept.

"Don't get on that bus, don't come into the city," he told her. "There's a terrorist attack going on, and I'm going there."

She was frightened. "Do you have to go there?" she pleaded. "Don't go there. Come home."

"I can't," he said. "I gotta go there. Iton realized, the sounds of plummeting human bodies."

Despite their pledge, LeClaire and Edwards soon were separated in the chaos. LeClaire went to the underground concourse.

"Get out, get out, quick!" he cried.

"People were actually stopping to use the phones," LeClaire recalled. "We had to go over there, drag them away from the phone, throw them out of the building."

And then he heard the sound, an almost

indescribable roar that grew louder, louder, louder, until it seemed like the loudest sound in all the world.

Everything went black — the kind of black where it doesn't matter if your eyes are open or closed, you see the same thing.

A wind blasted through the concourse. In the darkness, LeClaire felt his back, his legs, his arms being pelted by debris. He knew that his body was protected by his bulletproof vest, so he turned his head away from the wind.

And then: BOOM!

He was picked up, propelled across the concourse and slammed against a wall.

He did not know it, but from his subterranean vantage point LeClaire had just witnessed — or experienced — the collapse of Two World Trade Center. The debris in the air was bits and pieces among the millions of pounds of steel and concrete and glass, hurtled through the underground passageways of the concourse by the force of the collapse.

Lying on the floor, LeClaire reached for his flashlight. He turned it on, but all he saw was a glowing halo — the air was dense with dust and ash, blocking the beam almost completely.

The noise was gone. No moans, nothing.

"If there's anybody there," LeClaire shouted, "if you can hear me, come to my voice. I've got a flashlight."

Out of the darkness, a city police detective appeared. And then, a captain. And then others. He would never know how many — he could not see them. LeClaire grabbed the detective's coat, the detective grabbed the captain, and on and on.

Suspended in darkness, he did not know if the floor was safe, if the walls were there or if the ceiling was hanging above him by a thread. So slowly, gingerly, he moved away from the direction of the explosion. He reached out and felt a wall, and started to follow it, his human chain following behind him.

What did he think about, in the darkness? He thought about his daughter and her tears. He thought about his 23 years on the

force, and how he could have retired three years before. He thought about his partner. Had he survived?

He took a step, and felt himself tumble downward. But he did not fall — the detective behind him held on. Then he realized: This was not a hole. These were steps that would take him down into a subway station.

They made their way to an exit, and climbed the steps, to daylight.

On the street, LeClaire found a city police officer, unable to move because there was something wrong with his knee. He carried the man down Broadway, to a medical station.

LeClaire tried to rinse the gray ash out of his eyes. He spit black gunk from his lungs. He couldn't hear well, either, his ears packed with the dust. Nonetheless, he heard the cry: "Run north! Run north!"

He looked back toward the trade center. He saw the antenna on the surviving tower begin to move, and the top of the building come down.

LeClaire took off.

He reached Park Row, south of City Hall, when the earth buckled. He turned around to see a cloud of debris fast advancing. He dove for the street and covered his head. The cloud turned day into night for 10 minutes, and when the sun cut through, LeClaire was still alive.

His first impulse was to walk toward the World Trade Center, to look for Edwards. But an officer turned him away, so he went looking for the Port Authority police command center. He found it at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

A bunch of cops brought him into the gym. There, a room full of police officers stood and cheered; LeClaire looked around to see who had come through the door. Then, he understood: This was for him. He had been listed as missing.

On the way in, he found Edwards.

Edwards had ducked into a building when the first tower went down. "I got out a second before it was gone, and he's in there. I thought he was gone — my goofy partner," Edwards said.

Englishman retraces ancestor's Civil War journey in South Texas

By KEVIN GARCIA
The Brownsville Herald

James Longstreet and Sam Houston."

BROWNSVILLE — Step by step, Tom Fremantle intends to retrace the American journey of one of his ancestors, an obstinate mule by his side.

The British adventurer, author and journalist is walking 2,500 to 3,000 miles in the footsteps of Lt. Col. Arthur James Lyon Fremantle, who served with the British military in 1863.

That year, Arthur Fremantle requested leave to visit the United States and observe the U.S. Civil War. He spent three months traveling through the divided nation and kept a diary of his experiences.

"I want to walk my ancestor's route, but not exactly as he did, I'm going to do it as the crow flies," Fremantle said. "I'm also going to try to take a mule with me the whole way, but it may not work out that way."

Fremantle began his journey in Mexico, traveled through Brownsville, met up with Brownie the mule near Edinburg, and is currently in Mississippi. He plans to continue walking until he reaches New York City, next spring.

The diary kept by Arthur Fremantle during his tour of the United States in 1863 was published that same year, and has been reprinted several times over the last century and a half.

"The diary was described as one of the most lively, but not necessarily the most intelligent, which I think was about right," Fremantle said. "It was published in 1863 when my ancestor got back and it was quite a big hit on both sides of the Atlantic because it was written from a very different perspective. He was an observer, rather than a combatant."

Arthur Fremantle served with the Coldstream Guards in Europe as the Civil War was coming to a climax.

"In Gibraltar he had been reading up about the American Civil War and became very fascinated by it," Fremantle said of his ancestor. "He decided he would like to go and see a bit of the action."

To that end, Arthur Fremantle requested permission to take a sabbatical for three months so he could tour the United States. He landed in Mexico near Playa Bagdad and crossed the border into Brownsville.

"He was here for a week or so in April of 1863," Fremantle said.

While in the Rio Grande Valley, Arthur Fremantle met important figures such as Francisco Yturria, a prominent Brownsville businessman and great-grandfather of Texas Historical Commissioner Frank Yturria, and Edmund J. Davis, who would later become an important Reconstructionist governor of Texas. Arthur Fremantle continued his journey north to San Antonio by buggy.

"He basically followed the Confederate Army from San Antonio to Houston and from Houston to Nachos and then Atlanta, Charleston," Fremantle added. "He witnessed the battle of Gettysburg in 1863 and he met a lot of the key players. He met Jeff Davis and Robert E. Lee,

This is not the first cross-continent trek-in-an-ancestors-footsteps that Fremantle has undertaken.

In 1996 Fremantle biked the same path his great-great-uncle Capt. Charles Fremantle, who traveled to Australia in 1829.

There Fremantle visited Fremantle, Australia, named for his uncle, and Swanburne, Australia, named in honor of Fremantle's hometown in England.

"My family has actually lived there 200 years," Fremantle said of Swanburne, England. "There are only 300 people there. It had its own church, school and pub, but now it hasn't even got the pub."

It was because of that small-town environment that Fremantle yearned to explore the world.

"Reading about my ancestors in the past, who were adventurers in their day, I suppose that probably sparked the bug," Fremantle said. "I am probably the family traveler."

The diary Fremantle kept of his Australian adventure was published last year.

"It's got a very unusual name, Johnny Ginger's Last Ride," Fremantle explained. "Johnny Ginger was a very unique character in the village who died about three years ago."

Ginger was an older Swanburne citizen that bicycled all over the small town and had never spent a night outside the community.

"He made a little world within Swanburne," Fremantle continued.

When he was about 11-years-old, Fremantle asked Ginger why he had never bought a car or left the village.

"He said, why do I need to? I've got everything I need here in Swanburne," Fremantle related. "He said I looked at Swanburne through the wrong eyes, because I always wanted to go off to all of these far-flung places."

Still, it was those eyes that encouraged Fremantle to embark on his world travels.

"The reason for this trip was partly to reach out to my ancestor through his footsteps and partly because I'm fascinated by travel, and I wanted to have an extensive and focused travel adventure," Fremantle said. "Basically it was for adventure."

After completing "Last Ride," Fremantle assumed he would settle down, buy a house and raise a family, but after he immersed himself in the diary of Col. Arthur Fremantle, the dream of a new mission sparked in his mind.

"Initially I was thinking of hitchhiking the route, because that is essentially what my ancestor did," Fremantle explained. "He took a mule ambulance, steamboats up the Mississippi, he took trains, all sorts of things."

Hitchhiking had the sense of danger necessary for any adventure, but Fremantle felt that would make the trip too simple.

Next Fremantle considered riding by wagon or horse, but he wasn't familiar enough with either mode of travel to do so on his own, and either would be more expensive than he could afford.

Fort Worth museum opens exhibit on cattle trails

FORT WORTH (AP) — George W. Saunders made the trek on dusty cattle trails nine times in the mid-19th century, often encountering Comanche Indians who let his herd pass only after he paid them in beef.

He and other Texas cowboys faced numerous hardships, from deadly cattle fever ticks to stampedes when the herd of 2,500 longhorns got spooked by lightning.

"They had to brave swollen streams and border gangs that tried to steal cattle," said Tom Saunders, a fifth-generation Texas rancher whose great-great-uncle was George W. Saunders. "They were on the lookout for trouble all the time."

A new exhibit at the Cattle Raisers Museum, called "Heroic Journeys: Up the Great Cattle Trails," tells the story of cowboys who moved herds through the

state from 1865-90.

The 1,000-square-foot temporary exhibit features a chuck wagon, cookware and other artifacts, as well as maps, historic photographs and live ticks. It includes several paintings on loan from members of the Cowboy Artists of America.

The Fort Worth museum, which opened in 1980, now has 8,000 square feet of permanent exhibits telling the story of the

cattle industry and ranching heritage. About 15,000 school children, tourists and residents tour the museum each year.

The cattle trails exhibit, which runs through May 31, sheds light on some little-known facts about the cowboys, whose jobs were more grueling than glamorous, said Rachel Donahue, the museum's marketing director.

"A cowboy would have to work four months just before he could buy a hat," Donahue said.

The exhibit doesn't address the controversy over whether the Chisholm Trail runs through Texas. More than a dozen Texas cities insist it does, but some historians say what they're referring to is actually the Eastern Trail, that the Chisholm doesn't start until the Oklahoma side of the Red River.

Last month the Texas-Historical Commission hired a Houston firm to gather data and settle the matter.

Tom Saunders, 67, lives near Weatherford, about 40 miles west of Fort Worth. He grew up hearing stories about his relatives, who were among thousands of cowboys driving cattle herds into Kansas and Missouri because there was no market in Texas after the Civil War.

His great-grandfather, W.D.H. "Billy" Saunders, was only 17 when he contracted with a Confederate officer to drive 800 steers to New Orleans.

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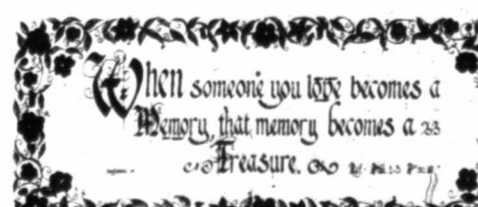
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AGRICULTURE

Texas dairy producers to join study

AUSTIN — One hundred seventy-eight Texas dairy producers will soon be contacted for the initial phase of the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Dairy 2002 study.

Dairy 2002 is the continuation of an ongoing series of studies designed to provide critical information to improve knowledge of animal health and herd management.

Dairy operations have been sampled at random for the study, and selected Texas operations will be contacted by a Texas Agricultural Statistics Service interviewer sometime after Jan. 1, 2002.

The study will provide factual information to address many issues of importance to the industry. Dairy 2002 will:

—Identify management strategies that prevent or reduce the prevalence of Johne's Disease, and identify how these strategies have changed since 1996.

—Evaluate management factors associated with key food safety pathogens in U.S. dairy cattle.

—Determine the level of understanding and preparedness of U.S. dairy producers to respond to threats of foreign animal diseases.

—Identify biosecurity practices and trends on U.S. dairy operations.

—Provide benchmarks of dairy cattle health and management practices used on U.S. dairies and the changes in these practices since 1996.

Dairy operations have been sampled at random for the study. Selected Texas operations will be contacted by a Texas Agricultural Statistics Service interviewer sometime after Jan. 1, 2002.

—Describe animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairies.

—Provide indicators of U.S. dairy producers' attitudes towards, and uses of, animal identification.

About 4,000 dairy producers in 21 states have been sampled for this study. These 21 states represent 83 percent of U.S. dairy herds and 85 percent of U.S. dairy cows. The data collected will be summarized and used in regional and national estimates.

Interviewers will visit dairies in January to conduct the initial survey for Dairy 2002. Preliminary data will be published by NAHMS in August 2002. Participation in the Dairy 2002 study is strictly voluntary. NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are always confidential and not included in national databases.

Texas producers sampled for this survey will be notified by letter in December and

will then be contacted by an interviewer sometime between Dec. 31, 2001, and Feb. 6, 2002, for an interview. All information provided to TASS is kept confidential and is protected by law.

In 1991, NAHMS conducted the Dairy Heifer Evaluation Project (DHEP), leading to baseline information on heifer health, illness and management practices, and prevalence estimates for Cryptosporidium, Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella.

The NAHMS Dairy 1996 study built on the DHEP. Objectives of the Dairy 1996 study included acquiring national prevalence estimates of Mycobacterium paratuberculosis (Johne's disease), bovine leukosis virus, and fecal shedding of E.coli O157 and Salmonella in adult dairy cows.

Baseline dairy cattle health and management practices were also studied to examine changes since the DHEP. Levels of participation in quality assurance programs, the incidence of digital dermatitis, and a profile of animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairy operations were also examined. The Dairy 2002 study will continue to address these important issues.

Selected producers may choose to receive an additional contact by a Veterinary Medical Officer from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Veterinary Services (APHIS:VS), who will explain the second phase of the study.

GCAD accepting orders for tree seedlings, shrubs

Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District is now accepting orders for windbreak and wildlife tree seedlings and shrubs. The conservation tree program is designed to offer tree seedlings at a nominal cost with the aim being to protect cropland, feedlots and buildings as well as control erosion and enhance wildlife.

A wide variety of trees will be available this year.

Several species of potted conifers are being offered including: Austrian Pine, Pinyon Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Red Cedar, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Scotch Pine and Spruce.

Hardwoods available include: American Plum, Aromatic Sumac, Bur Oak, Caragana, Catalpa, Cotoneaster, European Sage, Flameleaf Sumac, Fourwing Saltbush, Green Ash, Golden Willow, Hackberry, Honeylocust, Honeysuckle, Hybrid Cottonwood, Lacebark Elm, Lilac, Lombardy Poplar, Nanking Cherry, Native Plum, Russian Olive, Sand Cherry, Sand Plum, Siberian Elm, Skunkbush Sumac and Shumard Oak.

Wildlife packets will also be available. The packets include 25 seedlings each of four different species and are designed to enhance quail, pheasant, turkey, deer and squirrel populations.

The seedlings will arrive at the District Office at the end of March. District representatives suggest tree orders be placed early as many species sell out very quickly.

The deadline for ordering is March 13, 2002. Anyone interested may obtain an order form at Gray County SWCD office located in the County Courthouse Annex on East Frederic or by calling the District Office at 665-1751, ext. 102.

Redevelopment uproots Christmas tree farms under power lines

By EUGENE TONG
Associated Press Writer

PICO RIVERA, Calif. (AP) — Visitors to Lyon-Christmas Tree Farm come with saws in hand, looking for the perfect tree among rows of molded pines and cypresses growing under massive electric towers.

"The smell just makes it Christmas," said Berta Henning, 55, whose family has been cutting fresh trees for about 30 years. "We just got to have that Christmas smell."

But time is running out for cut-your-own-tree operations like this one, where

6,500 trees are grown in the narrow public utility plot between a housing tract and a creek in this suburb 12 miles east of Los Angeles.

For nearly 40 years, urban Christmas tree farms flourished in California in the open spaces under power lines. Over the last decade, many have been forced out of business because of rising rents and aggressive redevelopment.

"It's a tradition that's going away," Lyon farm owner Bud Lyon said. "It's economics."

Lyon has rented power line properties from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern

California Edison. "When we first started leasing, we got our land and we kept the weeds down for them."

But real estate prices caught up with growers in the 1990s. As the state's population increased, development encroached and rents skyrocketed.

"You couldn't grow enough trees to make a decent profit off it," said Sam Minturn, executive director of the California Christmas Tree Association.

Home-grown Christmas tree farms in the state gross about \$140 million per year — a pittance compared to producers like Oregon, which supplies more than a quarter of the trees sold nation-

wide, Minturn said.

Tree farming under power lines started in the 1960s, when enterprising growers searching for cheap land close to customers found an ideal landlord in the local power companies.

When the industry peaked in the late 1980s, more than half of Southern California's 200 tree farms were located under power lines. They averaged about 6 acres. Lyon may have one of the last ones in the state now, Minturn said.

When Lyon started in 1966, he leased 5 acres from the Department of Water and Power for \$50 an acre a year. Now the land rents for about \$1,200 an acre a year,

and some experts say it could nearly triple to \$3,500 by 2004.

For utilities, higher rents meant getting fair market value for land they once gave away at bargain prices.

"They've been underpaying for a long, long time," said Craig Luna, a real estate manager for the department. "We're not interested in making a killing. We're trying to get them to pay fair rent."

Only three more growing seasons remain for Lyon, 65, who has decided to retire when his lease expires in 2004.

Pointing to several cartons of unplanted saplings, Lyon said, "When those trees go into the ground, that's it."

Federal court defends pork-checkoff, setting stage for another showdown

By JAMES PRICHARD
Associated Press Writer

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — The federal government's pork-checkoff program will continue — at least for now — after withstanding a legal challenge by critics.

A coalition of pork producers had sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture after thousands of the nation's hog farmers voted to end the government's \$54 million program.

The program, which started in 1986 and is supervised by the USDA, is financed through a mandatory fee, called a "checkoff," of 45 cents for every \$100 of a pig's value when it is sold.

The program is best known for its promotion of pork as "the other white meat." The fees collected from U.S. hog farmers are also used for financing research and consumer information.

Last year, then-Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman ordered a referendum and in January announced that hog farmers had voted 15,951 to 14,396 to eliminate the program.

The National Pork Producers Council, which got checkoff payments, challenged the referendum in court. Settling the lawsuit in late February, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said the program would continue.

The Campaign for Family Farms, a Columbia, Mo.-based group critical of the checkoff, then challenged the settlement's legality and the pro-

gram's constitutionality.

In his decision released Dec. 4, U.S. District Judge Richard Enslin wrote that "the referendum rule and announced vote did not require program termination."

Defenders of the checkoff said they were pleased by the decision.

"Pork producers large and small throughout the nation who benefit from the programs funded by the pork checkoff will be pleased with this ruling," Barb Determan, president of the National Pork Producers Council, said in a news release.

The court on Monday, however, set a trial date for next November for a claim by the Campaign for Family Farms that the checkoff program violates the First Amendment's protection of free speech.

"The campaign vows to continue to fight to ensure that the producers' vote is honored and the checkoff program is ended," Lynn Hayes, an attorney for the group, said Monday.

Under the settlement, it was determined that funds from the pork-checkoff program would be administered by the National Pork Board — whose members are appointed by the agriculture secretary — instead of the National Pork Producers Council.

On the Net: U.S. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.usda.gov>
<http://www.landstewardshipproject.org>

Sunflower growers meeting set Dec. 19 in Pampa

Texas Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting a "Sunflower Listening Meeting" with Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension agronomist of Lubbock, from 9-11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19, at the Gray County Extension Office,

U.S. Highway 60, east of Pampa.

The meeting is open to all sunflower producers or producers interested in growing sunflowers in the eastern panhandle and is worth 10 CEUs. Dr. Trostle will be on hand to

Texas farmers forge water alliance with New Mexico

HARLINGEN (AP) — Farmers in the Rio Grande Valley and their northern Mexico counterparts have forged an unlikely alliance.

At a meeting this week in the border city of Matamoros, all agreed they share a common foe: leaders in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, where crops are growing lush.

Farmers say Chihuahua can

release water down the Rio Grande and meet the terms of the binational water sharing treaty signed in 1944, but have refused to do so while crops in the Valley wither.

There was even mention of sending Mexican armed forces to pressure Chihuahua Governor Patricio Martinez to release the water.

learn, listen and answer questions.

This information will be used to shape and to plan educational and research programs for the coming year.

Sunflower production literature will be available.

For more information, contact Danny Nusser at the Gray County Extension Office, 669-8033.

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Legislators recommend agroterrorism laws

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas legislators recommended that the state expand its agroterrorism laws to include the intentional exposure of plants to disease.

Rep. Sharon Schwartz, a member of the Special Committee on

Agriculture, said Wednesday that the state should give crops the same protection afforded to livestock. And state Sen. Derek Schmidt said plants were a logical extension of the law, given the state's reliance on wheat and corn production.

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SPORTS

Notebook

WRESTLING

PAMPA — An organizational meeting to start a Pampa Wrestling Booster Club will be held at 7 Monday night in the high school library.

The booster club will be for both high school and middle school wrestling teams.

All interested persons, not just parents, are urged to attend the meeting and help form a club.

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's 3 on 3 basketball leagues for ages 16 and up. Three on three is played "half-court" style with three players on each team.

Entry deadline is Jan. 18 at 5 p.m., and the season will begin Jan. 29.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is \$100 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of five players on each team roster.

Roster forms, fact sheets and league by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart. For more information, call 669-5770 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOOTBALL

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech ended Wednesday with a total of 21,238 tickets sold to the Sylvania Alamo Bowl on Dec 29 against Iowa, breaking the bowl's record of sales in one school's allotment. The most ever sold by one school's athletic department was 20,000 by Oklahoma State in 1997, according to Alamo Bowl officials.

Tech's goal is to account for up to 35,000 fans, whether they buy through the school, other outlets of the Alamo Bowl.

College Bowl Glance

Tuesday, Dec. 18
New Orleans Bowl
North Texas (5-6) vs. Colorado State (6-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)
Wednesday, Dec. 19
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Marshall (10-2) vs. East Carolina (6-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)
Thursday, Dec. 20
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
N.C. State (7-4) vs. Pittsburgh (6-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue vs. Gray, Noon (ABC) Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Southern California (6-5) vs. Utah (7-4), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Thursday, Dec. 27
Seattle Bowl
Georgia Tech (7-5) vs. Stanford (9-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Iowa State (7-4) vs. Alabama (6-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 28
Gallerymart.com Bowl
At Houston
\$750,000
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. TCU (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Boston College (7-4) vs. Georgia (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas (10-2) vs. Washington (8-3), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 29
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Toledo (9-2) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), Noon (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Iowa (6-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
Kansas State (6-5) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Monday, Dec. 31
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Washington State (9-2) vs. Purdue (6-5), Noon (CBS)
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Louisiana Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 3 p.m. (FOXSN)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Brigham Young (12-1) vs. Louisville (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Ohio State (7-4) vs. South Carolina (8-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Arkansas (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Florida State (7-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Michigan (8-3) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Illinois (10-1) vs. Louisiana State (9-3), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)
Thursday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
\$11-13 million
Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Hot Shot winners



Second-grade winners (above) in the annual Lamar Hot Shot Contest this year were (front, l-r) Pshard Smith, Callie Coleman, Kaitlyn Ramirez and Elizabeth Terry; (back, l-r) Farmer Schaeffer and Brandon Cox.



Fourth-grade winners in the Lamar Hot Shot Contest were (front, l-r) Dakota Whinery, Shelbie Watson, Amisha Mitchell and Kelli Fields; (back, l-r) Eric Lewis and Jessi Jimenez. Hot Shot is a basketball shooting contest for Pampa grade school youngsters.

Hereford holds off Pampa girls

PAMPA — In a District 3-4A girls' clash that featured aggressive defense by both teams, Hereford was able to hold off Pampa for a 53-47 win Friday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The win gave Hereford a 2-0 district mark, while overall the Lady Whitefaces are 7-6. Pampa is 0-2 in district and 2-10 for the season.

Hereford jumped out to a 9-0 lead and never trailed, but the Lady Harvesters rallied to stay close to the visitors. Pampa cut the lead to two points in the third quarter and three in the fourth quarter. Hereford had led 16-8 at the end of the first quarter and 22-14 at halftime.

Hereford led by as much as 13 points in the final quarter, but Pampa launched a comeback that made it close at the end. A pair of foul shots by Ashley Derington trimmed the Hereford lead to 46-43 with a 1:19 to go. After Hereford went back on top by six, Cali Covalt's 3-point goal with 31 seconds left would trim the margin to three again 49-46. However, Hereford's Sara Griffin, who led all scorers with 17 points, put the game out of reach by hitting four straight foul shots down the stretch.

Jennifer Lindsey led Pampa in scoring with 11 points and Kali Gerber added 14 for Hereford.

Others scoring for the Lady Harvesters were Derington with 9 points, Cali Covalt 8, Lindsey Narron 8, Stacey Johnson 5, Abbi Covalt 3, Valerie Velez 2, and Randa Morris 1.

In rebounding, Johnson, Abbi Covalt, Derington, Narron and Morgan White all had 3 rebounds each.

The Lady Harvesters play next Friday against Dumas. Tipoff is 6 p.m. in McNeely Fieldhouse. The Pampa-Dumas boys' tilt starts at 7:30.

LEFORS — Lefors opened the Lefors Tournament with a 50-22 win over San Jacinto Junior Varsity Thursday night.

The Lady Pirates had three players who scored 10 points or more in the game.

Savannah Smith scored 16 points while Samantha Ceniceros had 12 and Katie Barnes 10.

Amanda Daugherty added 8 points and Jennifer Sprouse 4.

In the boys' division, Lefors posted a 58-35 win over Holy Cross.

Andrew Johnson and Ricky Vaughn had 17 and 16 points respectively to lead the Pirates.

Solomon had 17 points for Holy Cross.

CANADIAN — Canadian defeated West Texas 62-49 Friday night in a District 6-2A game.

Kristin Robinson had 19 points and Jana Francis 18 to lead the Lady Wildcats in scoring.

Kristen Fisher had 17 points for West Texas.

The Wildcats played San Jacinto in a non-district boys' game and came away with a 51-49 victory.

Hunter Landers topped Canadian in scoring with 20 points while Cade Culver chipped in 12.

Kevin Cooper was high scorer for the losers with 16. Kyle McKinney added 12.

Texas Tech downs Houston, 71-64

HOUSTON (AP) — Andy Ellis scored eight of his 17 points in a second half charge as Texas Tech rallied to beat Houston 71-64 Friday night.

Trailing 44-43 with 10:22 left in the game, the Red Raiders (7-1) went on a 22-9 run led by Ellis and Will Chavis, who hit eight straight Tech points during the run and finished with 14 points. Andre Emmett also had 14 points for Tech.

Chavis' eight-point run extended Tech's lead to 61-50 with 4:33 to play. The Raiders moved on to a 65-53 lead to complete their decisive run and weren't challenged again by the Cougars (4-3).

Patrick Okafor led the Cougars with 15 points and Louis Truscott added 14.

Houston led by as many as seven points in the first half and had a 33-31 lead at the half.

Okafor had eight points in the first half, including a basket with 11:39 left that put the Cougars into the lead for good in the first half, 13-12. Moments later, Jereme McGuire hit eight straight Cougar points giving Houston a 26-19 lead for its biggest lead of the half.



Savannah Smith gets set to shoot a foul shot for Lefors against San Jacinto Junior Varsity. Teammates are Katie Barnes (34) and Shayla Smith (far right at foul line).

9th graders take third in tourney

DUMAS — Pampa defeated Texline 50-29 last weekend to take third place in the Dumas 9th Grade Tournament.

Seth Foster had 15 points and Brandon Johnston 12 to lead Pampa in scoring.

Pampa opened the tournament with a 53-38 win over Spearman.

Heath Miller and Mark Williams had 10 points each for Pampa, while Michael Pergerson and Foster had 6 each.

Pampa lost to Hereford 47-23 in the next game.

Johnston topped Pampa in scoring with 11 points, followed by Tyler Doughty 5.

In a regular-season game, Pampa fell to Amarillo High 51-47.

Scoring leaders for Pampa were Foster with 10, Johnston 8 and Cam Segar 6.

Flashback

1972: Pampa's 440-yard relay team set a meet record at the Perryton Sports Festival with a time of 42.4. Team members are Chuck Reeves, Garvin McCarrell, Rick McGuire and Richard McCampbell.

Holiday Greetings

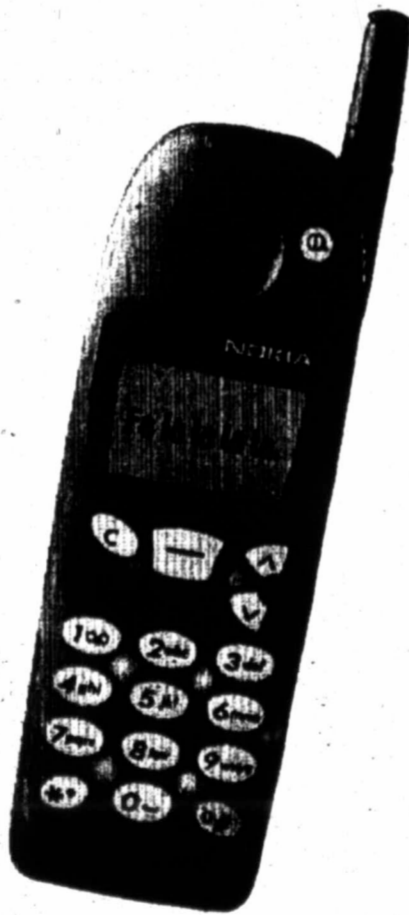
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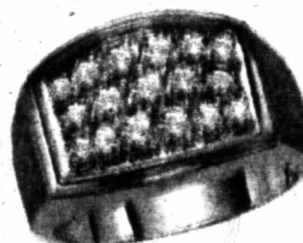
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LIFESTYLE



Tiffany Dawn Olson and Aaron Anthony Allen

Olson-Allen

Tiffany Dawn Olson and Aaron Anthony Allen, both of Del City, Okla., plan to wed Feb. 23, 2002, at Graceway Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Paul and Deliose Olson of Oklahoma City. She graduated from high school in 1995 and plans to enroll in Oklahoma School of Photography next summer. She is currently employed as a client service representative at UroCor, Inc., and is a member of Graceway Baptist Church.

The prospective groom is the son of Jan and Guen Allen of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1998 and from Texas State Technical College in 2000. He is currently employed at Shirley's J&B Supply and is a member of Graceway Baptist Church. His future plans are to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and major in physical education.



Constance Goram and Jimmie Stanton

Goram-Stanton

Constance Goram and Jimmie Stanton were wed Oct. 13, 2001, at the Historic Round Grove Church in Lewisville, Texas. The ceremony was officiated by Minister Randy Templin of Eagle Heights Baptist Church in Flower Mound, Texas.

Alisha Goram, sister of the bride of Coppell, was the maid of honor and Steven Kiefer of Little Elm was the best man. The ushers included Scott Juarez of Plano and Derek Rogers of Carrollton.

A reception was held following the service in the reception hall of the church.

The bride is the daughter of Steven and Cathy Goram of Coppell, Texas. She is a 1997 Coppell ISD graduate and a recent University of North Texas graduate. She graduated making The National Deans Honor List and is currently teaching third grade at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School for the city of Highland Village, Texas.

The groom is the son of Troy and Suzanne Stanton of White Deer. He is a 1994 White Deer High School graduate and is also a graduate from the University of North Texas. He is a multi-media producer for Video Access in Dallas, Texas.

The couple met at the Coppell YMCA where they both worked while attending college. They planned a honeymoon trip to the Caribbean and intend to make their home in Flower Mound.



Melissa Wingert and Scott Houston

Wingert-Houston

Melissa Wingert and Scott Houston, both of Pampa, were wed Nov. 10, 2001, at First United Methodist Church in Pampa with the Rev. Todd Dyess, of the church, officiating.

The matron of honor was Marcy Palsma of Lawton, Iowa, Molly Wingert of Merville, Iowa, Laura Schock of Pampa and Anna Blessing of Omaha, Neb.

The best man was Seth Houston of Amarillo. The groomsmen were Joe Downey of Amarillo, Joe Wallender of Midland and Ryan Pipkin of Allen.

The ushers were Wade Hood of Canadian and Jim Wingert of Ames, Iowa.

A reception was held following the service at Pampa Country Club.

The bride is the daughter of Barbara and Loren Wingert of Merville. She holds a degree from Iowa State University and is currently employed at Celanese.

The groom is the son of Sandra and Sammy Houston of Friona. He holds a degree from Texas Tech University and is also employed at Celanese.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to San Antonio and intend to make their home in Pampa.

Lifestyles Policies

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.
2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.
3. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.
4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.
5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.
6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.
7. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.
8. Two anniversary pictures may be placed for a \$25 charge or four extra lines may be added to announcements for \$25 (\$50 for both).

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication. Thank you.

Highland Hobby Club

Highland Hobby Club met recently at the home of Jewel Holmes.

A short business meeting was held during which Mairlyn Kirkwood and Holmes were chosen to shop for the individual's whose name was selected from the Christmas tree.

After the business meeting, dinner was served to members who were present and their husbands. Gloria Norris won the door prize. Kirkwood will hostess the January meeting.

Altrusa

Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met Dec. 11 at Pampa Country Club with President DeLynn Gordzeliik presiding. Darlene Birkes and Cathy Shearer served as greeters.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

- The Accent was presented by Gaye Honderich who read the poem, "Introspection." The poem, written by Altrusan Linda Kinnert of New Castle, Ind., described the ideal Altrusan.
- Diann Birdsell was recognized for hosting the Christmas Reception this month.

Salvation Army on Dec. 19 and 20.

- Lamar Health Fair, which will serve as a program meeting.
- Members were asked to volunteer to wrap gifts for the

is set for Jan. 22, 2002.

- The resignation of Tina Holt was regrettably accepted.
- Joan Gray will chair the Salvation Army Angel Tree project.

(See, CLUB, Page 19)

Buckle up — it's the law

Menus

December 17-21

Pampa Schools MONDAY
Breakfast: French toast sticks.
Lunch: Fish strips or pizza, corn English peas, pears.

TUESDAY
Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, tortillas.
Lunch: Spaghetti/meat sauce or burritos, green beans, salad, fresh fruit, garlic toast.

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Mini pancakes.
Lunch: Submarine sandwiches or chicken nuggets, tomato soup, potato wedges, lettuce/tomatoes, peaches.

THURSDAY
Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy.
Lunch: Chicken fried steak or cheese nachos, whipped potatoes, salad, rolls, chocolate pudding.

FRIDAY
Breakfast: Cereal, toast.
Lunch: Cheeseburgers or hot dogs/chili, French fries, vegetarian beans, applesauce.

Lefors Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY
Cook's choice.

Senior Citizens MONDAY
Chicken fried steak or parmesan chicken, mashed potatoes, zucchini squash, beets, beans, chocolate marble cake or coconut cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

TUESDAY
Salisbury steak or mushroom chicken/pasta, onion potatoes, English peas,

carrots, beans, French vanilla cake or chocolate icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY
Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, cream corn, broccoli casserole, beans, strawberry cake or bread pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad hot rolls or cornbread.

THURSDAY
Chicken strips or barbecue beef/onion rings, sour cream potatoes, California blend, beans, red velvet cake or lemon pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

FRIDAY
Baked turkey, dressing/giblet gravy, candied yams, green beans, tossed or jello salad, pumpkin rolls, cherry cobbler or fruit cups, cranberry sauce, deviled eggs, stuffed celery, olives/pickles, rolls. (Order carry-outs Thursday or early Friday morning.)

Meals On Wheels MONDAY
Chicken/rice casserole, tomatoes, mixed vegetables, pears.

TUESDAY
Ham, dressing, sweet potatoes, apricots.

WEDNESDAY
Shepherd's pie, lima beans, candied carrots, pineapple.

THURSDAY
Oven-fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, zucchini/tomatoes, vanilla wafers.

FRIDAY
Chopped sirloin, sliced potatoes, peas, fruit cocktail.

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Britany Kempf ~ Tristan Perry
Mandy Tyrrell ~ Chris Archibald
Tiffany Olsen ~ Aaron Allen
Kalei Vanderburg ~ Corey Prichard
Alecia Hall ~ Thorban Weaver

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Traditions: Fluff and fun of holiday season



Angela Harvey and Clark Overman

Harvey-Overman

Angela Harvey and Clark Overman, both of Dallas, were wed Nov. 3, 2001, at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas with the Rev. Bob Manry of Dallas and John Curry and Dr. Larry Heard of Pampa officiating.

The matron of honor was Stephanie Linder of Dallas. The bridesmaids were Amy Steele of Tyler, Jenny Buckley of Dallas, Allyson Harvey of Pittsburgh, Pa., Jennifer Harvey of Ruidoso, N.M., Vonda Hellner of Clear Lake and Meredith Phillips of Washington, D.C. The flower girls were Bailey and Whitney Bryan of Stanton.

The best man was John Overman of Leawood, Kan. The groomsmen were Jimmie Bechtel, Mike Houston, Mark Nicholson, Perry Stuffer and Brian Shultz, all of Dallas, and Rankin Harvey of Ruidoso. The ring bearer was Nicholas Myers of Dallas.

Registering the guests was Erica Jensen, Meredith Fain and Jonna Matus, all of Dallas.

Music was provided by organist-soloist Chris Brunt, soloist Janelle Tinnell and trumpeter Tom Booth, all of Dallas.

The bride is the daughter of Lloyd and Kay Harvey of Pampa. She holds a master of science degree from Baylor University and is a speech pathologist.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John William Overman III of Leawood. He holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Kansas and is vice president of Operations at Nationwide Inc. in Dallas.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Paris, France, and intend to make their home in Dallas.

Traditions are sticky wickets. Subtle or gaudy, elegant or whimsical, they abound in our lives, especially at Christmas. The rituals established by our grandparents affect our grandchildren.

Christmas traditions, firmly entrenched in our hearts and minds, are the fluff and fun of the season. Some Christmas trees are purchased on a specific day and decorated in a specific way. Others find their homes on a whim and are decorated with gleeful abandon.

Santa arrives at some houses on Christmas Eve; others know that he arrives on Christmas Day. The celebratory meal could be a tasty glazed ham, a plump roasted turkey or a huge slab of thinly sliced corned beef.

We decorated our tree on December 8th. That tradition began as a part of my youngest brother's birthday celebration. Blowing out the candles and wolfing down cake was but a precursor for an evening of glittery tinsel, shiny glass ornaments and laughing children.

When we were little, Santa visited on Christmas Eve. Early in the evening, my parents, brothers and I piled into the station wagon. Mother always forgot to turn off the teapot. She would run back to the house. Then Daddy forgot to get his gloves. He ran back to the house.

After several trips for the parents' forgotten items and an eternity of waiting in the car, we drove into town to see the Christmas lights and eat a hamburger. Eating at the Pak-A-Burger generated as much excitement as seeing the lights.

Soon sleepy little children and exhausted parents arrived home from the evening's excursions. OH! NO! Someone had been in our house!

It was Santa! Toys, jammies, bicycles, wagons, dolls or tractors nestled under the tree. Fruit, nuts and peppermints filled our stockings. I was nearly grown before I understood the interminable wait in the station wagon before we left for town. Though I string lights and put up the tree after Thanksgiving, the ornaments are hung on December 8th.

Candy evokes lovely memories. Chocolate. Peppermint. Fudge. Divinity. Christmas tastes like my mother's burnt sugar candy, a melt-in-your-mouth, creamy caramel. Her candy making is a delicious art form.

I miss peppermint smashing. A huge peppermint stick — or parts thereof — sat on the fireplace hearth. My father wrapped

Kathy Davis GARDEN WISE



the peppermint stick in newspaper. Hammers were issued to the boys and me. Unwrapping the newspaper, the giant pepper-

mint laid crumbled into delicious, crunchy slivers.

While many traditions have practical beginnings, the warm, sweet memories last a lifetime. The old worn angel who celebrated her first Christmas in 1949 is the last ornament lovingly placed on my tree. She is a fine testament of lasting traditions.

Someone I know is the BIG SIX O! Nameless he shall stay, but Happy Birthday!

Make potluck seasonal meals risk-free



Joan Gray Extension Agent

When participating in a holiday meal, like a potluck dinner, it is important to eliminate risks of food-borne illness. Don't leave perishable foods in the danger zone (between 40- and 140

Make sure everything that comes into contact with the foods is clean. Wash hands often and keep raw meat separate from foods that will not be cooked. Experts stress the importance of the temperature zone and recommend, "if in doubt, throw it out."

degrees) for more than two hours. Perishable foods include meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, cooked vegetables and dairy products.

Also, perishable foods prepared ahead of time should be kept refrigerated until time to leave and reheated at the event.

Use food thermometers to make sure internal temperatures have reached 160 degrees

when reheating and keep cold foods below 40 degrees until serving time.

Make sure everything that comes into contact with the foods is clean. Wash hands often and keep raw meat separate from foods that will not be cooked.

Experts stress the importance of the temperature zone and recommend, "if in doubt, throw it out."

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Message from the publisher

Beginning immediately, *The Pampa News* policy concerning photographs that appear in the newspaper.

• Anyone bringing photographs that bears a photographer's name, a studio name or a copyright must have a signed publication release from the studio or professional photographer.

• The release must accompany the photo to the newspaper or the photo will not be accepted.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

CLUB

Birthday wishes went to Geneva Tidwell, Kadda Schale, Judy Warner, Mattie Norton, Karen Bridges and Anne Stobbe.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon Jan. 8 at Pampa Country Club.

Las Pampas DAR

The Las Pampas Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution met recently for Christmas luncheon followed by a tour of Freedom Museum.

The business meeting included reports by Mary Cantrell, Betty White, Fran Gross and Regent

Nancy Coffee. A memorial was planned for Lillian Skelly.

Pampa Garden Club

Pampa Garden Club met Dec. 10 at the home of hostess Geraldine Lovinggood with Edie Hudson assisting.

During the business portion of the meeting, members discussed election of officers, the scholarship fund and Festival of Trees.

Hudson read "The Reason for the Season" and everyone participated in a gift exchange.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m., Jan. 14 at the home of Mary Ann Bailey, 2221 N. Russell.

Newsmakers

PETERSBURG, Va. — Army Reserve Private Francisco J. Solis recently graduated from the laundry and bath specialist advanced individual training course at Fort Lee, Petersburg.

The course provided training in the operation and preventive maintenance on laundry and bath units, delousing equipment, and decontamination; and training on the use of washing formulas and materials cleansing procedures.

Solis, a 2001 graduate of Pampa High School, is the son of Consuelo and the stepson of Benjamin Blanco of Pampa.

Bridal Registry...

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Mandy Tyrrell ~ Chris Archibald
Kalei Vanderburg ~ Corey Prichard
Angela Harvey ~ Clark Overman

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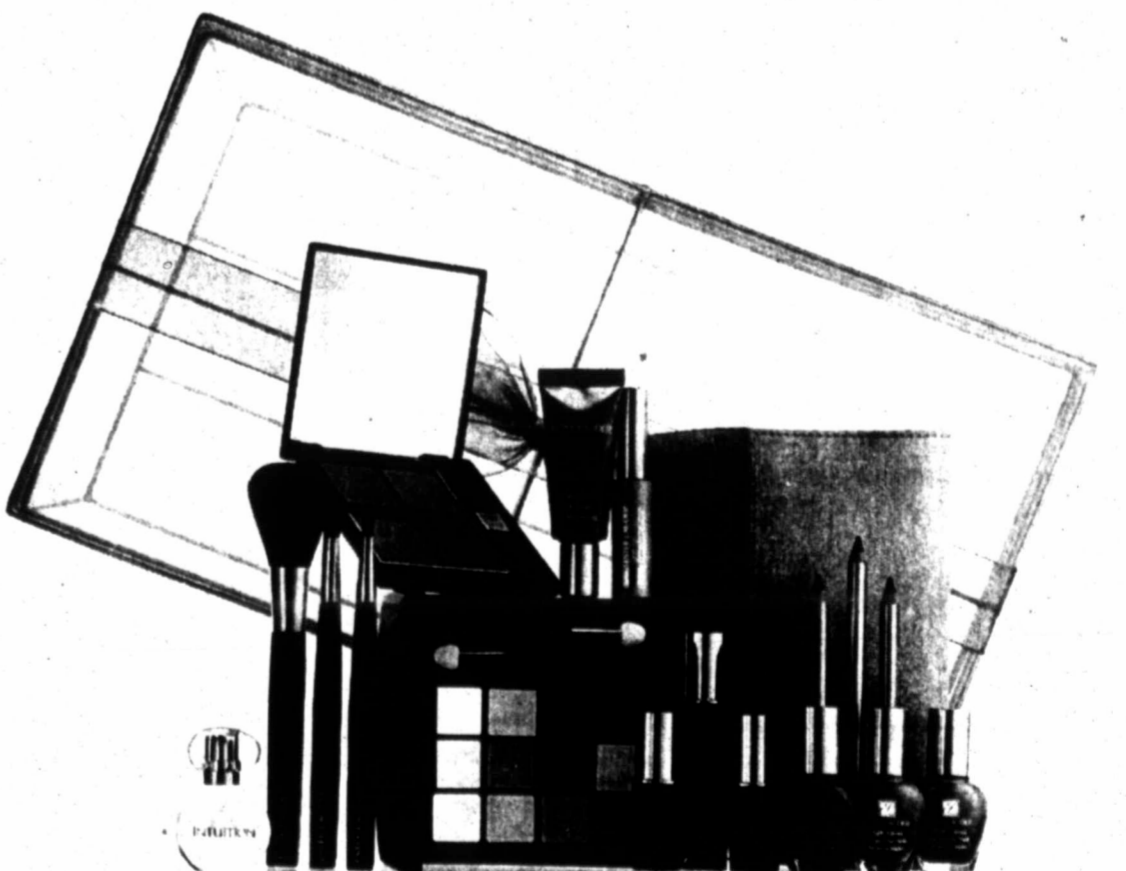
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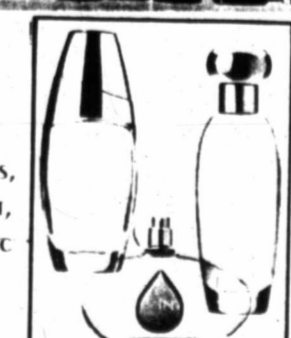
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MEDICAL

Peanut allergies spark food bans at some schools

By JANETTE RODRIGUES
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Lauren Redmond has never eaten a peanut, but the legume has sent the 6-year-old to emergency rooms six times.

She is severely allergic and sensitive to peanuts, so much so that a whiff of a Jif-and-jelly sandwich can trigger anaphylactic shock, which annually kills about 125 people nationwide.

"I never planned on being a home-school mom," said Molly Redmond, her mother. She said the school district did not offer any acceptable option for her child.

Peanuts and peanut butter may be as American as Mom and apple pie, but they are also one of the most common — and unpredictable — food allergies found in children. Unlike other childhood allergies, some children do not outgrow this one.

More often than not, children with this allergy suffer from a

milder version of the condition. But the number of children who can go into anaphylactic shock seems to be increasing nationwide.

More parents are asking educators to ban peanut products in schools. In some cases, school officials have implemented districtwide restrictions on peanut products.

Researchers estimate about 30,000 people a year end up in emergency rooms with anaphylactic shock caused by allergies to peanuts, shellfish, nuts and other foods.

Jokes about killer peanuts aside, school districts are choosing safety and caution over potential litigation.

That means no more deep frying with peanut oil.

Earlier this year, the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District's food production center stopped cooking or baking with peanuts, peanut oil or anything else that contained them.

"We don't serve peanut butter or peanut items in the elementary

schools except for a peanut butter-flavored ice cream bar from Blue Bell," said Matt Morgan, the district's food services director.

Sometimes even the ice cream treat is pulled out of Cy-Fair cafeterias.

"Two schools asked us to do that, Fiest Elementary School and Yeager Elementary School," Morgan said. "There were some students there with severe peanut allergies."

A reaction may occur after inadvertently ingesting something with peanuts, or with the more sensitive, breathing peanut dust in an airplane. The Redmonds stopped flying after such an incident caused Lauren to have difficulty breathing when she was a baby.

Peanut allergy symptoms may start with a tickling in the throat, a stinging sensation to the tongue and itching and hives. In severe

cases, it can progress to difficulty breathing, unconsciousness and a fatal drop in blood pressure.

Houston ISD doesn't have a districtwide policy prohibiting peanut products, but allows restrictions on a school-by-school basis, and provides peanut-free meals to students who request them. Fort Bend ISD is letting a new elementary school create a "peanut-free zone" to protect four students who are extremely allergic to the legume.

"This is not a mandate," said Mary Ann Simpson, Fort Bend school district spokeswoman. "We can't force a parent to do it, but we want to protect these children as we would their child if they had this particular allergy."

Four children attending Fort Bend's Drabek Elementary School are sensitive to peanuts. There are signs on the school's front doors with the international symbol for

banned and a peanut in the center. On the first day of school, the principal sent a memo to parents asking them to prevent their children from bringing peanut products to school.

A few parents didn't take kindly to the request, which is often greeted with incredulity, laughter and anger.

"I can understand some parents' reaction," Simpson said. "This seems kind of strange or a funny kind of allergy to have. But it isn't funny to people who are living with it."

She said some parents complained about the voluntary ban. Once they were given a clearer understanding of the severity of the allergy, they accepted it, she added.

Nobody is quite sure why so many people have become so allergic to peanuts, or why the negative

reaction to the legume is more extreme than other food allergies.

In June, a British researcher suggested that peanut allergies in children may be inadvertently triggered by skin creams that contain peanut oil.

Other theories link it to a mother's diet. Some researchers say eating peanuts during pregnancy increases the babies' chances of being allergic. Others argue that it is caused by avoiding them while pregnant.

Dr. Jack B. Mazow, a Baylor College of Medicine pediatric allergist and associate professor, believes peanut allergy is being affected by environmental and biochemical reasons. Asthma may also play a part.

"Asthma is a predictor," he said. "If a person has asthma, that person is more likely to have an anaphylactic reaction to peanuts than someone who doesn't have asthma."

Allergies in general seem to be increasing for unknown reasons, Mazow said.

Most allergists have had an experience with having a patient die of anaphylactic shock, he said. He has heard of fatal cases in the Houston area.

Mazow suggested that parents with allergic children read food labels carefully, learn to recognize the early signs of anaphylactic shock and carry shots of epinephrine to treat the condition.

Redmond keeps shots of epinephrine on hand as well as other medications for Lauren, who has several food and environmental allergies.

"I had to fight a pediatrician to get the epinephrine," Redmond said. "He said I didn't need it because I probably wouldn't have to use it."

Distributed by The Associated Press

Colorado researchers finger gene they say increases risk of lupus

By JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA
AP Science Writer

Colorado researchers working with bioengineered mice say they have identified the first gene that increases the risk of developing lupus, a crippling and sometimes fatal inflammatory disease.

The researchers said that while problems with gene Ifi202 are specifically associated with lupus, many other subtle gene abnormalities are believed to be involved in the complex disorder.

The research, published in a recent issue of the journal *Immunity*, is confined to mice bred to be susceptible to the disease. The finding still needs to be duplicated by other labs and new studies must be conducted to see if the gene is found in humans with lupus.

"We believe this is one piece of the puzzle," said the study's senior investigator, Brian Kotzin of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver.

Other researchers said the gene's discovery, if confirmed, would be "very, very exciting."

"If it turns out to be true, it would be an enormous advance," said Dr. John Klippel, medical director for the Arthritis Foundation and formerly a lupus expert at the National Institutes of Health. "It should not take them very much time at all to move into human genetic research."

Lupus is an autoimmune disease, meaning the body's own defenses attack its healthy tissues. Many people with lupus also develop arthritis. In serious cases, it can attack the DNA and proteins in the healthy cells of kidneys and other vital organs.

It mostly strikes women of childbearing age. Genetic factors are believed to predispose some people to lupus, although environmental factors such as infection, drug reactions, hormones and stress may trigger it. Steroids and chemotherapy are used to treat its symptoms, but there is no cure.

Study: Sustained-release fluoride may reduce vertebral fractures

DALLAS — Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas have found that using sustained-release sodium fluoride with calcium citrate and vitamin D safely reduces the risk for vertebral fractures while increasing spinal bone mass in older women with osteoporosis.

The 42-month study, published in today's *Archives of Internal Medicine*, followed 85 women who were 65 years and older and had one or more nontraumatic vertebral fractures.

The researchers sought to determine the safety and effectiveness of treating established osteoporosis in older women by using a bone-forming agent. "The efficacy of sodium fluoride therapy has been debated in a previous study, which promulgated the thought that fluoride only makes weaker bone but not strong bone," said Dr. Craig Rubin, director of the Mildred Wyatt and Ivor P. Wold Center for Geriatric Care at UT Southwestern.

"Our study showed that this combination of therapy safely reduces the risk for vertebral fractures by stimulating new bone formation by fluoride-mediated increased osteoblastic (bone-forming cell) activity. In addition, the adequate provision of calcium and vitamin D reduces bone resorption."

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by the loss of bone mass and poor bone quality. According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, more than 28 million Americans suffer from this disease, which causes bones to become fragile and susceptible to fractures, especially in the hip, spine and wrist. Eighty percent of those afflicted are women.

"Since age-related bone loss is caused by decreased bone formation and altered calcium metabolism, we incorporated an anabolic agent to stimulate osteoblastic activity and adequate calcium and vitamin D to blunt secondary hyperparathyroidism and reduce mobilization of calcium from the skeleton," said Rubin.

A group of women with multiple medical problems were specifically selected to mimic a typical

outpatient population of older women with osteoporosis. Women who were taking estrogen were also allowed in the study but were stratified to ensure equal distribution between groups.

"This study raises questions on current therapies, which all contain anti-resorptive agents," Rubin said. "Previously it was thought that the only way to reduce fractures was to reduce bone turnover. We showed that using a bone-forming agent, like fluoride, doesn't reduce bone turnover but can reduce risk of fractures."

The study group was treated with sustained-release sodium fluoride combined with calcium citrate and vitamin D while the control group received calcium citrate and vitamin D alone. After three treatment cycles, bone-mineral density increased by 5.4 percent in the study group and by 3.2 percent in the control group. The analysis of spinal fracture data showed a 68 percent reduction in new or recurrent fractures in the study group compared with the control group.

Complaints reported in earlier sodium-fluoride studies using a different dose and formulation than used in this study noted gastrointestinal problems, such as gastritis, and acute lower extremity pain. Patients in Rubin's study were evaluated for adverse side effects every three months; there were no significant differences between groups.

Dr. Charles Pak, director of the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, has developed a sustained-release sodium fluoride medication, which is awaiting Food and Drug Administration approval, and calcium citrate, a calcium supplement that is readily absorbed by the body and is sold over-the-counter as Citracal.

In addition to Rubin and Pak, Beverly Adams-Huet, a faculty associate of internal medicine at UT Southwestern, participated in the study, as well as researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

The study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Billboard music charts

By The Associated Press
Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission. (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.)

Billboard Hot 100: Top 10

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
 2. "U Got It Bad," Usher. Arista.
 3. "Family Affair," Mary J. Blige. MCA.
 4. "Hero," Enrique Iglesias. Interscope.
 5. "Get The Party Started," Pink. Arista.
 6. "Differences," Ginuwine. Epic.
 7. "Whenever, Wherever," Shakira. Epic.
 8. "Livin' It Up," Ja Rule (feat. Case). Murder Inc.
 9. "Always On Time," Ja Rule (feat. Ashanti). Murder Inc.
 10. "Turn Off The Light," Nelly Furtado. DreamWorks.
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The Billboard 200 Top Albums: Top 10

(Compiled from a national

sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Weathered," Creed. Wind-up.
 2. "Now 8," Various Artists. EMI/Universal/Sony/Zomba/Virgin.
 3. "Now That's What I Call Christmas!" Various Artists. EMI.
 4. "Britney," Britney Spears. Jive.
 5. "Christmas Extraordinaire," Mannheim Steamroller. American Gramophone.
 6. "Scarecrow," Garth Brooks. Capitol Nashville. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
 7. "A Day Without Rain," Enya. Reprise. (Platinum)
 8. "Word Of Mouf," Ludacris. Disturbing Tha Peace.
 9. "Silver Side Up," Nickelback. Roadrunner. (Platinum)
 10. "Missundazstood," Pink. Arista.
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Hot Adult Contemporary

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "Hero," Enrique Iglesias. Interscope.
 2. "Only Time," Enya. Warner Sunset.
 3. "Simple Things," Jim Brickman (feat. Rebecca Lynn Howard). Windham Hill.

Hot Country Singles and Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "I Wanna Talk About Me," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 2. "Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)," Alan Jackson. Arista Nashville.
 3. "Run," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
 4. "Where The Stars And Stripes And The Eagle Fly," Aaron Tippin. Lyric Street.
 5. "Riding With Private Malone," David Ball. Dualtone.
 6. "I'm Tryin'," Trace Adkins. Capitol.
 7. "Good Morning Beautiful," Steve Holy. Curb.
 8. "Wrapped Up in You," Garth Brooks. Capitol.
 9. "Wrapped Around," Brad Paisley. Arista Nashville.
 10. "With Me," Lonestar. BNA.
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Mainstream Rock Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "My Sacrifice," Creed. Wind-up.
 2. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
 3. "Fade," Staind. Flip.
 4. "Alive," P.O.D. Atlantic.
 5. "In The End," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
 6. "Wish You Were Here," Incubus. Immortal.
 7. "Control," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless.
 8. "Blurry," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless.
 9. "Wasting My Time," Default.TVT.
 10. "Down With The Sickness," Disturbed. Giant.

Modern Rock Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "In The End," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
 2. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
 3. "Alive," P.O.D. Atlantic.
 4. "My Sacrifice," Creed. Wind-up.
 5. "Wish You Were Here," Incubus. Immortal.
 6. "Blurry," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless.
 7. "Fade," Staind. Flip.
 8. "Chop Suey," System Of A Down. American.
 9. "Wasting My Time," Default.TVT.
 10. "Crawling In The Dark," Hoobastank. Island.

Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "Word Of Mouf," Ludacris. Disturbing Tha Peace.
 2. "Genesis," Busta Rhymes. J.
 3. "Muisic & Me," Nate Dogg. Desert Storm.
 4. "Bang Or Ball," Mack 10. Cash Money.
 5. "Invincible," Michael Jackson. Epic. (Platinum)
 6. "J.O.S.E.: Jealous Ones Still Envy," Fat Joe. Terror Squad.
 7. "Believe," Yolanda Adams. Elektra.
 8. "Big Boi & Dre Present... OutKast," OutKast. Arista.
 9. "Pain Is Love," Ja Rule. Murder Inc. (Platinum)
 10. "8701," Usher. Arista. (Platinum)
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Hot Rap Singles

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Dave Koz & Friends. Capitol.
 2. "Ride," Boney James. Warner Bros.
 3. "Hidden Beach: Recordings Presents: Unwrapped Vol. 1," Various Artists. Hidden Beach.
 4. "Glow," Peter White. Columbia.
 5. "Night Sessions," Chis Botti. Columbia.
 6. "Deep Into It," Larry Carlton, Warner Bros.
 7. "Crush," Richard Elliot. Verve.
 8. "Soul Purpose," Alex Bugnon. Narada Jazz.
 9. "Making Spirits Bright — A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Various Artists. GRP.
 10. "AART," Acoustic Alchemy. Higher Octave.
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Hot Country Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "Scarecrow," Garth Brooks. Capitol Nashville. (Platinum)
 2. Soundtrack: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Mercury. (Platinum)
 3. "Pull My Chain," Toby Keith. DreamWorks. (Platinum)
 4. "The Road Less Traveled," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
 5. "Greatest Hits," Martina McBride. RCA (Nashville). (Gold)
 6. "Set This Circus Down," Tim McGraw. Curb. (Platinum)
 7. "What A Wonderful Christmas," Anne Murray. StraightWay.
 8. "The Magic Of Christmas — Songs From Call Me Clause," Garth Brooks. Capitol.
 9. Soundtrack: "Coyote Ugly" Curb. (Platinum)
 10. "Greatest Hits Volume III — I'm A Survivor," Reba McEntire. MCA Nashville.
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Hot Dance Music — Club Play

- (Compiled from a national sample of dance club playlists)
1. "Turn Off The Light," Nelly Furtado. DreamWorks.
 2. "Come On Down," Crystal Waters. Strictly Rhythm.
 3. "Can Heaven Wait," Luther Vandross. J.
 4. "Runnin'," Mark Picchiotti Presents Basstoy (feat. Dana). Groovilicious.
 5. "Be Free," Live Element. Strictly Rhythm.
 6. "Guitarra G," G Club Presents Banda Sonora. Tommy Boy Silver Label.
 7. "In Stereo (The Superchumbo Mixes)," Flip Flop (feat. Faith Trent). Nervous.
 8. "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger," Daft Punk. Virgin.
 9. "Bring It To Me," Soluna DreamWorks.
 10. "I'm A Slave 4 U," Britney Spears. Jive.

Hot Latin Tracks

- (Compiled from national Latin radio airplay reports)
1. "Dejame Entrar," Carlos Vives. EMI Latin.

Top Contemporary Jazz Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Dave Koz & Friends. Capitol.
 2. "Ride," Boney James. Warner Bros.
 3. "Hidden Beach: Recordings Presents: Unwrapped Vol. 1," Various Artists. Hidden Beach.
 4. "Glow," Peter White. Columbia.
 5. "Night Sessions," Chis Botti. Columbia.
 6. "Deep Into It," Larry Carlton, Warner Bros.
 7. "Crush," Richard Elliot. Verve.
 8. "Soul Purpose," Alex Bugnon. Narada Jazz.
 9. "Making Spirits Bright — A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Various Artists. GRP.
 10. "AART," Acoustic Alchemy. Higher Octave.
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Top Classical Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "Billy Joel: Fantasies & Delusions," Richard Joo. Columbia.
 2. "Classic Yo-Yo," Yo-Yo Ma. Sony Classical.
 3. "Verdi," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Gold)
 4. "Christmas With Chanticleer," Chanticleer. Teldec.
 5. "Bach: Morimur," Ensemble/Christoph Poppen. ECM.
 6. "Mythodea," Vangelis. Sony Classical.
 7. "Appalachian Journey," Ma/Meyer/O'Connor. Sony Classical.
 8. "KDFC 102.1 Classical Christmas," Various Artists. Radio Projects.
 9. "Dreams & Fables," Cecilia Bartoli. Decca.
 10. "Renee Fleming," Renee Fleming. Decca.
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Hot Rap Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "Word Of Mouf," Ludacris. Disturbing Tha Peace.
 2. "Genesis," Busta Rhymes. J.
 3. "Muisic & Me," Nate Dogg. Desert Storm.
 4. "Bang Or Ball," Mack 10. Cash Money.
 5. "Invincible," Michael Jackson. Epic. (Platinum)
 6. "J.O.S.E.: Jealous Ones Still Envy," Fat Joe. Terror Squad.
 7. "Believe," Yolanda Adams. Elektra.
 8. "Big Boi & Dre Present... OutKast," OutKast. Arista.
 9. "Pain Is Love," Ja Rule. Murder Inc. (Platinum)
 10. "8701," Usher. Arista. (Platinum)
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Hot Rap Singles

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Dave Koz & Friends. Capitol.
 2. "Ride," Boney James. Warner Bros.
 3. "Hidden Beach: Recordings Presents: Unwrapped Vol. 1," Various Artists. Hidden Beach.
 4. "Glow," Peter White. Columbia.
 5. "Night Sessions," Chis Botti. Columbia.
 6. "Deep Into It," Larry Carlton, Warner Bros.
 7. "Crush," Richard Elliot. Verve.
 8. "Soul Purpose," Alex Bugnon. Narada Jazz.
 9. "Making Spirits Bright — A Smooth Jazz Christmas," Various Artists. GRP.
 10. "AART," Acoustic Alchemy. Higher Octave.
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Hot Latin Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. "Billy Joel: Fantasies & Delusions," Richard Joo. Columbia.
 2. "Classic Yo-Yo," Yo-Yo Ma. Sony Classical.
 3. "Verdi," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Gold)
 4. "Christmas With Chanticleer," Chanticleer. Teldec.
 5. "Bach: Morimur," Ensemble/Christoph Poppen. ECM.
 6. "Mythodea," Vangelis. Sony Classical.
 7. "Appalachian Journey," Ma/Meyer/O'Connor. Sony Classical.
 8. "KDFC 102.1 Classical Christmas," Various Artists. Radio Projects.
 9. "Dreams & Fables," Cecilia Bartoli. Decca.
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- Further information is available at Billboard Online on the World Wide Web at <http://www.billboard.com>.

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CALENDAR

PALC

Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

ST. MARK CME CHURCH
St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST
Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, will hold daily prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. for the citizens of Pampa — churches, schools, etc. The prayer services are open to everyone. For more information, call 665-4926.

CHRISTIAN COWBOYS
The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Keven Romines at 665-8547 or Jim Greene at 665-8067.

PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION
Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building.

SHRINE CLUB
Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 7 p.m. every third Friday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

PAMPA TAKE-DOWN CLUB WRESTLING
Pampa Take-down Club Wrestling for youth 5-15 years of age. Practice is at 900 N. Frost. Season starts Sept. 25 through February. For more information, call Rick Urganhart at 665-8321.

MAGIC PLAINS ABWA CHAPTER
Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at The Coffee Shop, 220 N. Cuyler. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR
Lovett Memorial Library will offer a story hour at 10 a.m. every Tuesday. The free program is open to children 18 months to 6 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

CPF
Cerebral Palsy Foundation is seeking families with children (birth to age 12) affected by cerebral palsy in an effort to establish a chapter in the area. CPF offers financial and emotional support as well as many free services. For more information, call 1-888-872-7966 toll-free.

GRAY COUNTY ARC
Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs (with pot) and hospital beds for its Loan Closet. For more information or to make a donation, contact the local Red Cross office at 669-7121.

HOSPICE HOPE SERIES
Crown of Texas Hospice is offering HOPE (Healing Our Parental Emptiness) bereavement series for those grieving the death of a child (pregnancy to 18 years) from 10-11:30 a.m. the first Saturday of each month at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365.

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

VFW CHARITY BINGO
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON
Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 2004 Williston. For more information, call 665-6898.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Women's Support Group for victims of domestic violence offers peer counseling, group support and education on issues resulting from family violence and/or sexual assault from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 669-1131.

GRAY CO. EXTENSION EDUCATION CLUB
Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.

GCGS
Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is now open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #173-A, in Pampa. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS
Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

PFAA
Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson at 6650 0356.

CLARENDON VFW CHARITY BINGO
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7782, Hwy 287 east, Clarendon, hosts charity bingo every Saturday. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. Ten games are played per session. For more information, call 874-VETS.

PPHM STORY TIME
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will present "Story Time" at 2:30 p.m. every second Saturday of each month except December and January on the second floor of the museum. For more information, contact PPHM at (806) 651-2244.

SKY TEENS
Crown of Texas Hospice is offering SKY Teens, a monthly bereavement series for teens grades 9-12 who are grieving the

death of a loved one, from 5:30-7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at its office at 1000 S. Jefferson in Amarillo. There is no charge for the series. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365.

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.

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.

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.

VETERANS NOTICE
To recognize the contributions Texas veterans have made to the liberty we enjoy, Memory Gardens Cemetery is assigning grave spaces to honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. If you are a veteran, you may be qualified for free burial space. However, you must register to obtain the free plot and you must show proof of honorable discharge. A number of veterans' spaces are available. Certificates will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call (806) 665-8921.

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.

WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY
Las Pampas Water Garden and

Koi Society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Building in the Pampa Mall. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Loyd Waters 665-6466.

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.

PAMPA MASONIC LODGE #966
Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 420 W. Kingsmill.

OPEN DOOR AA

Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

PAMPA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Pampa Area Ministerial Alliance meets the first Monday of every month. Location changes monthly.

Coming events ...

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS DISPLAY
Through Dec. 31, Celebration of Lights will be open from 6-10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday and from 6-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday at Recreation Park. Several new displays have been added — a Wizard of Oz, an American flag and stars, a hippo and elephant playing tennis and a reindeer playing football. Donations will be accepted at the gate or by mail. The address is: Celebration of Lights, Box 1012, Pampa, TX 79065.

LEGACY
The M.K. Brown "Legacy" book is currently on sale at White Deer Land Museum, Hastings and the Chamber of Commerce.

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

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.

ILP COMPETITION
The International Library of Photography is currently sponsoring a free International Open Amateur Photography Contest. To enter, send one photo to: The International Library of

Photography, Suite 101-2612, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Categories are: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture or Other. Deadline to enter is Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.picture.com on-line.

'ART WITH A SOUTHERN DRAWL'

The University of Mobile, Alabama, is currently seeking entries for its annual "Art With a Southern Drawl" art contest. Application forms, slides and juror fees must be postmarked by Jan. 11, 2002. For more information, log onto www.umobile.edu/awsd.htm, call (251) 442-2283 or 1-800-946-7267, ext. 2283 or e-mail UMdrawl@yahoo.com. Artists must either be born or currently reside in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee or Texas.

DANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dance Council and TITAS has initiated a new scholarship for Dallas and North Texas youth to attend the 2002 American Dance Festival. The scholarship is in honor of Tom Adam's and will include full tuition, room and board for the annual American Dance Festival studies at Duke University. For more information, call the Dance Council at (214) 219-2290 or visit www.thedance-council.org on the Internet.

AAA PROGRAM

American Angus Association will offer three summer internships to college students who want to learn more about breed association work. The paid internships begin approximately June 1, 2002, and conclude in mid-August. Application deadline is Feb. 15, 2002. For more information, call (816) 383-5100.

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We would like to thank everyone that showed up for Pampa's 1st Annual Toy Run and business's for their donations and support which all proceeds went to Tralee Crisis Center. Thank you to

United Supermarket, Albertson's, Dyer's Barbecue, Peggy's Place, Outback Cycles, Finish Line, Ted's Place, KGRO-KOMX, James and LaGayla Wheat, Sadie Hawkins, Parkway Package Store, Hi-Way Package Store, GT Mini-Mart, Hasting's, Clifton Supply, CarQuest, Auto Zone, Advanced Auto Parts, Easy's Pop Shop, "Closurize" (band), Triangle Well Service and Snappy Services.

Thank You,
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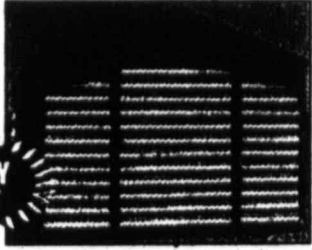


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Sunday, December 16

Page 26

Invalid Husband's Friends Flee From Carping Wife

DEAR ABBY: As a 65-year-old, I am no youngster. I have a big problem. I have a friend, "Manny," who is 74; his wife, "Alice," is 73. Every time I visit their home, Alice beats up on Manny. Not physically, but mentally. She cusses and yells and puts him down. I am considered a family friend, so she does not ask me to leave or step out of the room. She just starts in on poor Manny.

This is a terrible situation. Alice has driven away every friend Manny's ever had. I could go on and on. It makes me sick. I feel caught in the middle, and I don't want to be in the middle of a man-and-wife problem.

I don't want to tell Manny I can no longer be his friend because of his wife's behavior, and I also don't feel it's my place to protect him from his wife.

Manny has a lot of medical problems. He has emphysema and is on oxygen 24 hours a day. He also recently got a pacemaker. For obvious reasons, he's no longer handy around the house. I try to help, but sometimes I feel what's the point in visiting them? Any suggestions?

BILL IN PALM SPRINGS

DEAR BILL: Take Alice aside and tell her you are worried about her. She seems to be experiencing caregiver burnout. Perhaps if she gets additional help and some time for herself, she'll be more tolerant. If she refuses, tell her you have no choice but to report her to adult protective services for elder abuse.

Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I separated three years ago, right after the birth of our second daughter. He said he didn't love me anymore and was no longer attracted to me.

We are now divorced. Abby, he never comes around to see the girls. He won't even call once in a while to find out how they're doing. The only time he sees them is the rare occasion when I call upon him to babysit.

As a single mom with a demanding career that takes me out of town on a regular basis, I am blessed to have two devoted baby-sitters. One is my mother, and the other is a good friend and neighbor who happens to be male. His name is "Anthony." In the last year, the girls have grown very fond of Anthony and have started calling him "Daddy," since they spend far more time with him than with their own father. Anthony doesn't seem to mind. In fact, he says he's proud to be part of their lives, and has talked to me more than once about becoming a permanent part of all our lives.

Anthony is divorced with two children of his own. Would it be inappropriate for me to start something romantic with him, or should our friendship be left alone? Above all, I want what's best for my little girls.

CONFUSED BUT HOPEFUL, SANTA MARIA, CALIF.

DEAR CONFUSED BUT HOPEFUL: There's nothing inappropriate about two single people dating. Start slow — dinner, movies, walks. Plan activities that include your children and his. Find out how you all relate to one another. If you have a romantic future with Anthony, you will know it soon enough. If there is no romantic spark, maintain your friendship and a good-neighbor policy.

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

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Goof feature
- 5 Flooded
- 10 Beeper
- 12 Bucca- neer's home
- 13 Special jargon
- 14 Skunks' weapons
- 15 Merger agreement?
- 16 Exclamation from Emeril
- 18 Try the tea
- 19 Flatfish
- 21 Decays
- 22 First beard, facetiously
- 24 Pitcher Ryan
- 25 Rumor source
- 29 Schnitzel base
- 30 Get in shape
- 32 French friend
- 33 A pop
- 34 Bother
- 35 Spotted steed
- 37 Goof
- 38 Actor Ryan
- 40 Plow pioneer

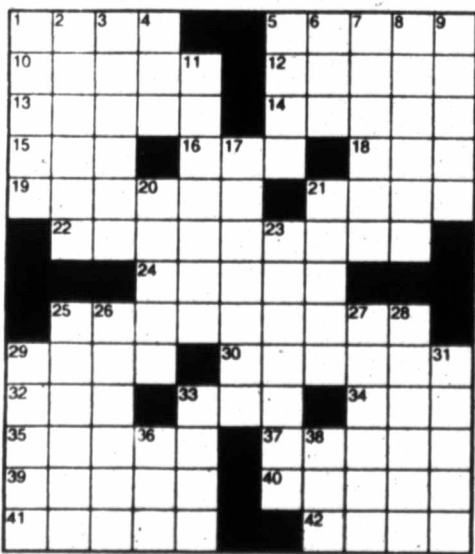
DOWN

- 1 Bowling challenge
- 2 Incapacitated
- 3 Pay no heed to
- 4 Cribbage need
- 5 Molecule part
- 6 Hunt of gum
- 7 "My Michael" author
- 8 Use a mister on
- 9 Fasteners
- 11 Peter Weller role
- 17 Match participant
- 20 Inspid gum
- 21 Arrest
- 23 Pet
- 25 Zodiac sign
- 8 Use a mister on
- 26 Poured game
- 27 More
- 38 Yank's foe

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ANGLE RANGE
LASER OTTER

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Peter Weller role
- 17 Match participant
- 20 Inspid gum
- 21 Arrest
- 23 Pet
- 25 Zodiac sign
- 26 Poured game
- 27 More
- 38 Yank's foe
- 28 Writer Welty
- 29 Mist
- 31 Studied (over)
- 33 Gondolier's need
- 36 Play-ground game



STUMPED?

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



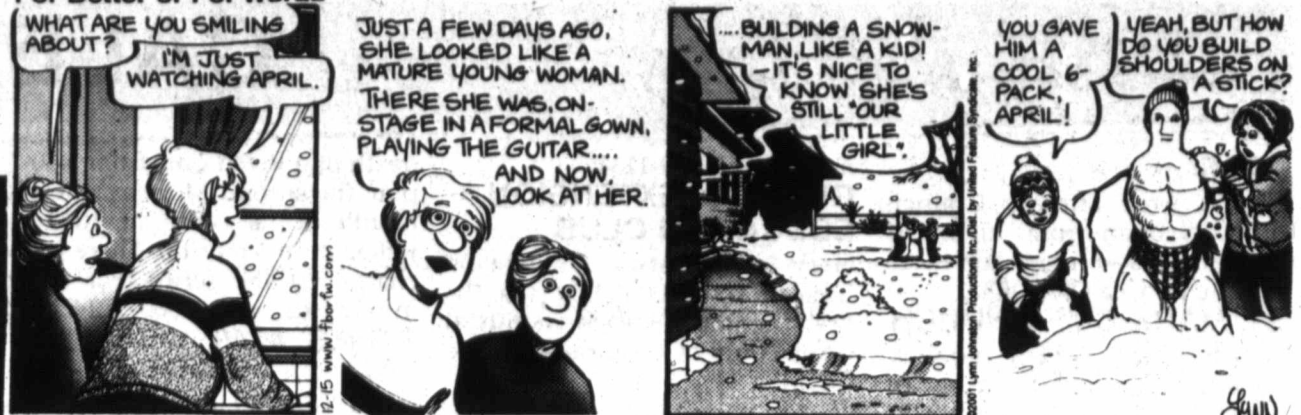
"JOY TO THE WORLD ..."

The Family Circus



"Planting or harvesting?"

For Better or For Worse



Zits



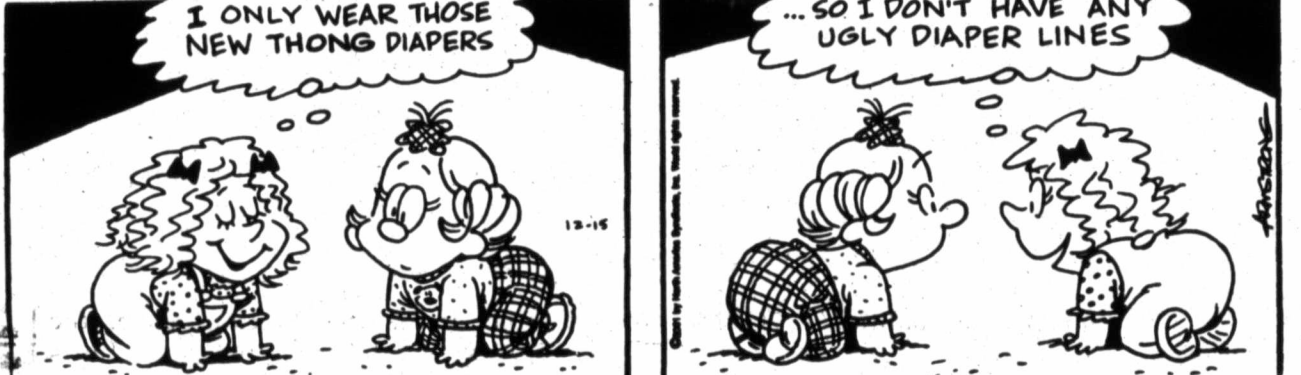
Garfield



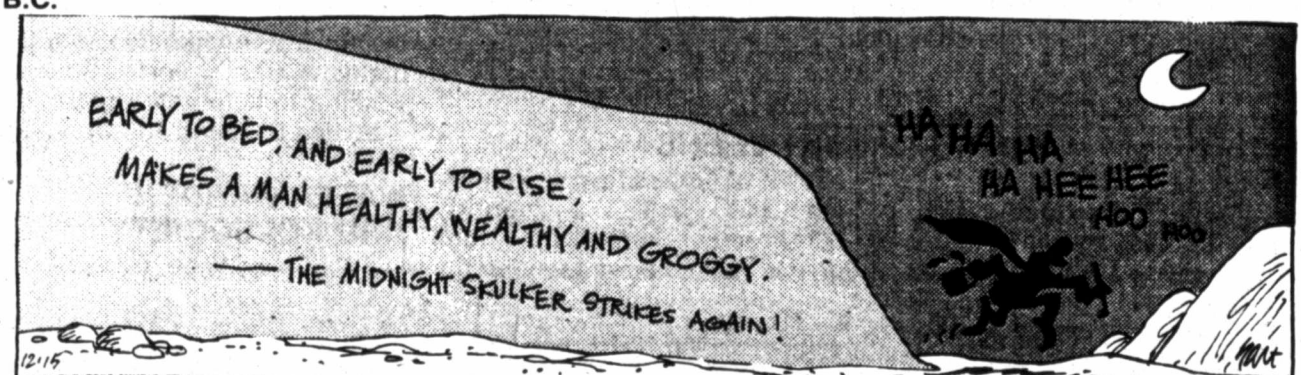
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



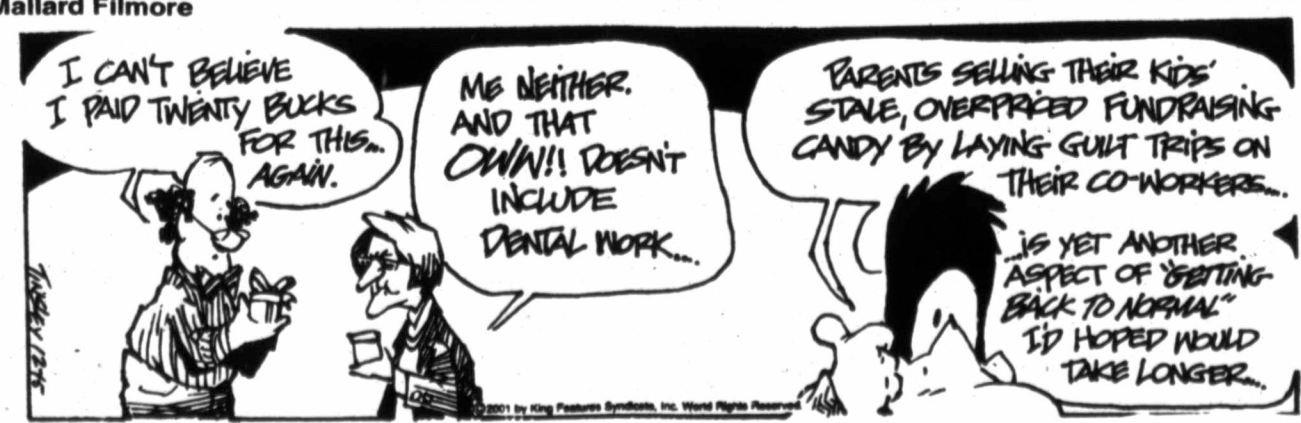
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Mallard Filmore



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Santa Letters

To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,
My name is Keenan Hughes. I am 5 years old. I live in Pampa, TX. I want a bike, metal dector and a Rescue Hero. I will leave you milk and cookies.
—Keenan Hughes

Dear Santa,
My name is Tyler Roberts. I am seven years old. I am wanting a pokmon and a stereo for Christmas. Thank you.
—Tyler Roberts

The following letters were submitted by St. Matthew's Day School:
Dear Santa,
My name is Erika. I am 5-years-old. Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like Barbie jeep, Barbie bike, Barbie scooter.
Thank you for the presents, the candy canes. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
—Erika DeWitt

Dear Santa,
My name is Maddie. I am 5-years-old. Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like Barbie shoes, Barbie helmet, Barbie jeep for me, Power Puff Girls toy. Thank you for cookies, and a cake, presents. I hope you have a good Christmas.
—Maddie Smith

Dear Santa,
My name is Larami. I am 4-years-old (fixin' to be five). Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like scooter, a baby.

Thank you for the toys.
I hope you fill up my stocking.
—Larami Lancaster

Dear Santa,
My name is Aaron. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been to see Santa Clause, good, made new friends.
For Christmas, I would like a little cattle car, football, a big bike, candy.
Thank you for Santa.
I hope you bless my mom, bless my dad.
—Aaron McKinney

Dear Santa,
My name is Zach. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like a Spider Man.
Thank you for my Santa Clause suit you brought me last year.
I hope you come to my house!
—Zach Stout

Dear Santa,
My name is J.T. I am 5-years-old. Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like a Gameboy Advance in white or blue.
Thank you for all the presents!
I hope you can get all my presents.
—J.T. Skinner

Dear Santa,
My name is Dacie. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been good, and I love you!
For Christmas, I would like a Princess Barbie.
Thank you for bringing me presents last year.
I hope you bring me presents again. I love you!
—Dacie McGill

Dear Santa,
My name is Shattner. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been making angels.
For Christmas, I would like a monster truck.
Thank you for my train.
I hope you bring me a monster truck, and Sheldon the same thing.
—Shattner Reeve

Dear Santa,
My name is Caragan. I am 5-years-old. Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like Barbie jeep, toothbrush that lights up in the dark, Barbie.

Thank you for my presents.
I hope you come to my house safe.
—Caragan Niccum

Dear Santa,
My name is Jaycee. I am 4-years-old but almost five! Since last year, I have been good but sometimes bad but they were just teases.
For Christmas, I would like more water and finger paints.
Thank you for bringing me Soft Baby.
I hope you bring me lots of presents that I circled for Christmas. I love you and you wife!
—Jaycee Devoll

Baby's Coming Shop opens at new home in Coalition of Health Services building

■ The new shop is open to anyone in the public who has an interest in the program. The shop welcomes donations of new infant merchandise and clothing, as well as cash contributions.

AMARILLO — The Baby's Coming Shop has a new location at 301 S. Polk in downtown Amarillo. For the first time, the shop will be located in the same building as the Coalition of Health Services, streamlining operations for staff and volunteers who operate the shop to benefit participants in the Coalition's "2CARE for MOMS" program.

The "2CARE for MOMS" incentive program encourages pregnant women to visit a participating doctor or nurse practitioner within the first 12-weeks of pregnancy. Participants earn points for completing a schedule of prenatal and postpartum medical appointments, making healthy choices and for attending educational classes related to pregnancy, birth, child-care and more. When fathers participate, even more points are earned. Participants visit the Baby's Coming Shop after their baby is born to redeem points for gifts of baby merchandise.

The Baby's Coming Shop was developed as a joint project of the Coalition of Health Services and the Northwest Texas Division of the March of Dimes. Since opening in 1998, the shop has provided baby gifts to more than 750 mothers and babies. In September 2001, a satellite location of the shop was opened in Borger through the support of the Hutchinson County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies.

"The March of Dimes graciously housed the Baby's Coming Shop since it opened in 1998,"

said Carolyn Witherspoon, executive director of the Coalition of Health Services. "We will continue our successful partnership on this project with the March of Dimes, and the Coalition will work to provide greater volunteer and staff support with all of our programs under one roof."

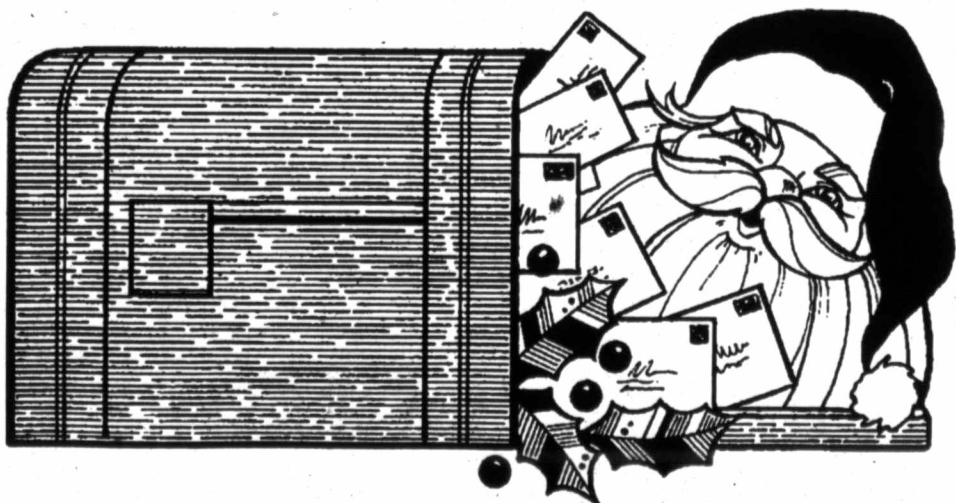
"This has been a wonderful partnership," said Vicki Brooks, division director for the March of Dimes. "2CARE for MOMS has done a tremendous job with outreach so that this program benefits women from many communities. We developed the program together and they ran with it. The new location will make the shop easier for women to access."

The Baby's Coming Shop serves eligible women from across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. According to Texas Department of Health statistics, only 79 percent of pregnant women in the Texas Panhandle receive prenatal care within the first 12-weeks of pregnancy. The goal is to increase the rate of early prenatal care to 90 percent by 2010.

The new shop is open to anyone in the public who has an interest in the program. The shop welcomes donations of new infant merchandise and clothing, as well as cash contributions.

The Coalition of Health Services is a non-profit alliance of area hospitals and providers working to enhance community health. Baptist's Saint Anthony's Health System and Northwest Texas Health Care System are affiliates of the Coalition, along with 15 additional hospitals and other providers in 26 area counties in Texas.

For more information about the "2CARE for MOMS" incentive program or the Coalition of Health Services, contact Holly Hancock toll-free at (888) 89-2CARE.



Send Your Letter To Santa!

Make your little ones' Christmas merry this year with a letter to Santa Claus! Send your Santa letters to the address below, and we'll forward them to the North Pole. Letters must be at the news office by December 19 and will be printed as space is available.

Mail To:

Santa Claus

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FURN., Unfurn. 1-2 bdr. apts. All bills paid. Starting \$250. Courtyard Apts. 1031 N. Sumner 669-9712.

CAPROCK Apts., 1, 2, 3 bdrn starting at \$275. We pay water & gas, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool, washer / dryer hookups in 2 & 3 bdrn, fireplaces. No application fee. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149. Open Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4.

EFFICIENCY. apt. \$225 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$20 day, \$80 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

PICK UP rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

3 Bedroom 1214 E. Francis \$250 mo. + deposit 665-2254

3 bdr., dining & utility rm., stor. basement. HUD approved, 333 Sunset. Call 886-1920.

3 bdr., gar. Spacious. New dish., extra storage. Lrg. shop w/ elec. & gas. C-21 665-4180, 665-5436

OFFICE Space for rent, 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it: **AXYDLBAAXR** is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.



Baby's First Christmas 2001

The First Christmas Is A Special One

On December 24th, The Pampa News will have a special space just for babies celebrating their first Christmas. The cost to have a picture and brief information about your little one is \$25 paid in advance. The Pampa News must have picture and information by noon, December 19th

Example...

Triston Gage Kennedy
Born... June 28, 2001
Parents... Shane "Catfish & Laci Kennedy"

Merry Christmas...
Love Aunt TauTau

CABOT
Job Opportunity
Capital/Maintenance Project Engineer

Cabot Corporation, the world's leading carbon black manufacturer, is seeking a Capital/Maintenance Project Engineer for its Pampa Facility west of Pampa, Texas.

This Engineer would develop scopes, estimates and execute Pampa Facility projects. Specific duties include, but are not limited to: Work with various departments to implement projects to maintain and improve plant equipment and infrastructure. Assist project owners in development of project scopes and estimates. Prepare documentation and submit projects for funding approval. Work with financial department and project owners to develop project economics. Requisition material for maintenance and capital projects. Assist planner/scheduler, maintenance chief foreman and contract supervisor with construction issues.

The applicant must have the ability to communicate through verbal and written correspondence with a wide range of individuals at both the management and hourly levels. Must be able to work effectively with other individuals and in a team environment.

Minimum requirement: BS in Civil/Structural Engineering preferred. Applicant must have the ability to become proficient in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Project) and JDEdwards software. Minimum 3-5 years experience in project work and/or construction.

Accepting resumes only through December 21, 2001.

If interested, please send or fax your resume to:

Cabot Corporation
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 5001
Pampa, Texas 79065
Fax: 806-661-3134

No agencies. No phone calls. Only applicants under consideration will be contacted.

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2234 Lynn	\$135,000	4/3/2	309 SF/GCAD
1513 N. Dwight	\$95,000	3 or 4/2/2	1598 SF/GCAD
1517 N. Nelson	\$78,500	3/1.75/2	1729 SF/GCAD
2113 1/2 W. 1st	\$75,000	4/1.75/1	2007 SF/GCAD
1019 Sierra	\$69,900	3/2/2	1536 SF/GCAD
1947 N. Nelson	\$63,900	4/1.75/1	1656 SF/GCAD
510 Perry	\$57,500	3/2/2 cp	1680 SF/GCAD
1128 Willow	\$55,000	3/2/2	1367 SF/GCAD
113 N. Rider	\$52,500	3/2/none	1500 SF/GCAD
2131 N. Nelson	\$43,000	3 or 4/1/2	1725 SF/GCAD
801 N. Dwight	\$42,500	3/2/2 cp	1464 SF/GCAD
1101 Sirocco	\$42,500	3/1.75/1	1258 SF/GCAD
2231 N. Nelson	\$42,500	3/1/1	1000 SF/GCAD
2400 Rosewood	\$39,500	3/1.75/none	1487 SF/GCAD
1113 Sierra	\$39,500	2/1/1	856 SF/GCAD
2116 N. Dwight	\$38,500	3/1/1 gar.	1 cp - 1107 SF/GCAD
1141 S. Christy	\$38,500	4/1.75/1	1520 SF/GCAD
2119 N. Nelson	\$32,500	3/1/1	1092 SF/GCAD
1914 N. Faulkner	\$29,900	2 or 3/1/1	1198 SF/GCAD
2213 N. Wells	\$29,500	3/1/1	1284 SF/GCAD
1124 Sandlewood	\$27,500	3/1/1 cp	943 SF/GCAD
217 N. Faulkner	\$26,200	3/1/1	1020 SF/GCAD
2613 Rosewood	\$25,000	4/1/1	1331 SF/GCAD
2321 Rosewood	\$25,000	3/1.75/1	1229 SF/GCAD
1117 Willow Rd.	\$24,000	3/1.5/1	1112 SF/GCAD
1144 Rider	\$19,000	3/2/none	1092 SF/GCAD
1125 Terry Rd.	\$18,000	2/1/1 cp	945 SF/GCAD
736 N. Dwight	\$16,900	2/1/1 det.	808 SF/GCAD
1008 S. Nelson	\$16,500	3/1/1	1290 SF/GCAD

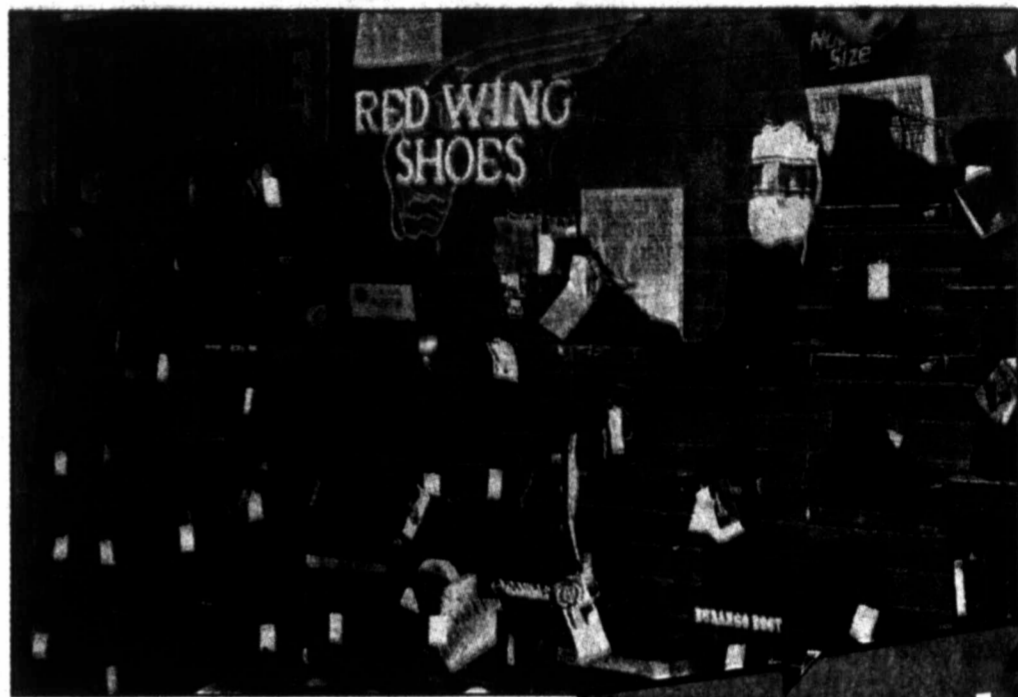
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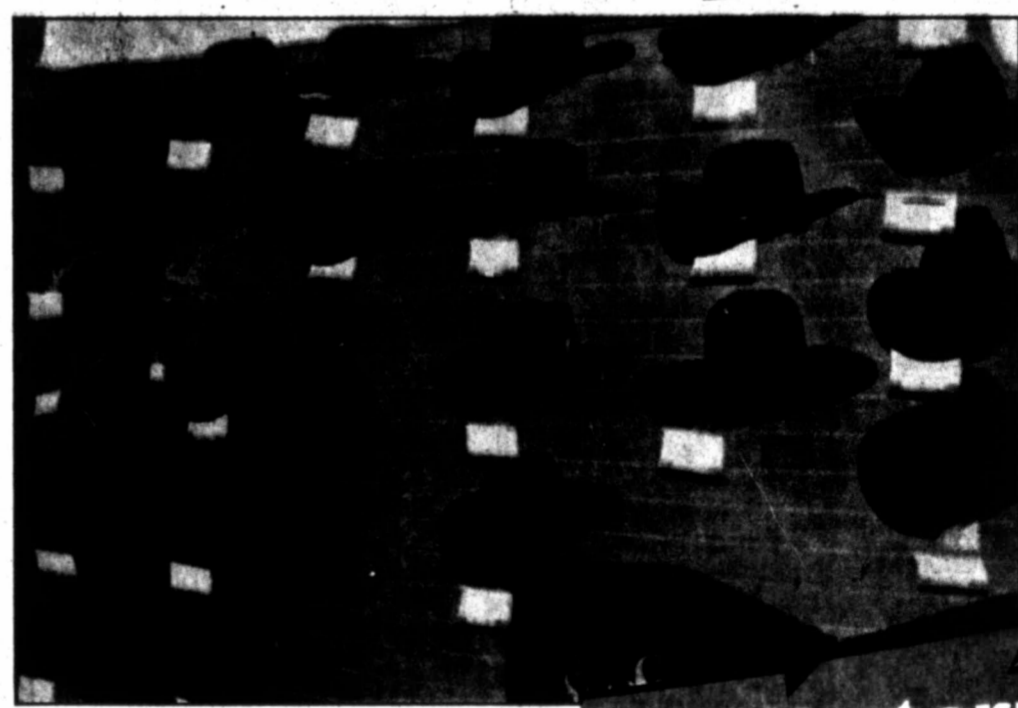
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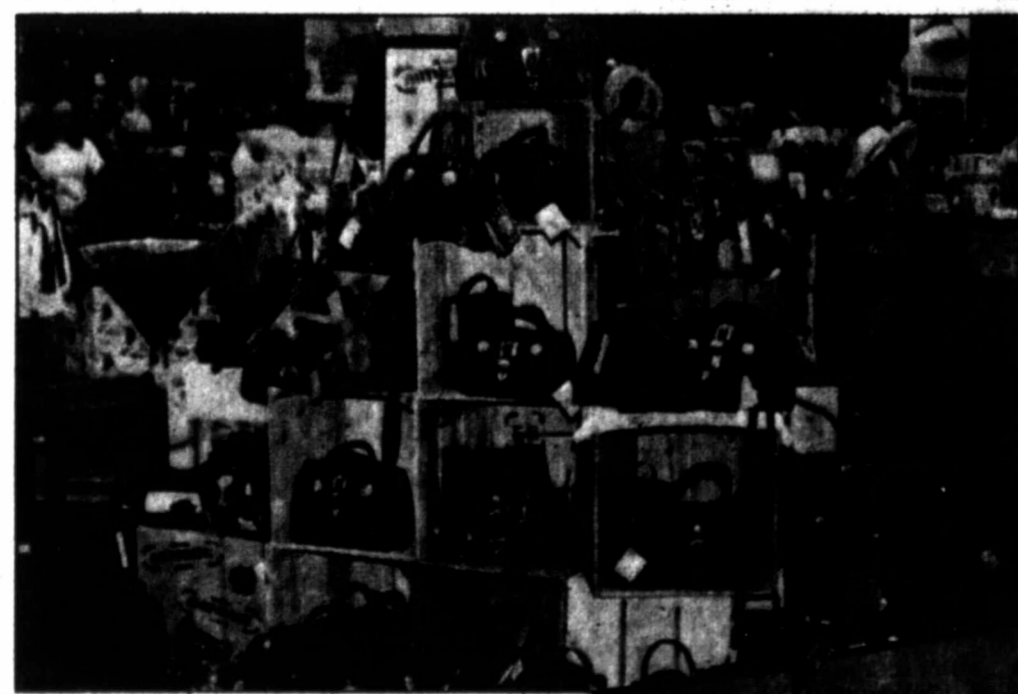
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