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my name will humble themselves and
pray and seek my face and turn from
their wicked ways, I will hear from
heaven and will forgive their sins and
will heal their land.
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A Gray County Sheriff's Office official watches as employees and representatives of United Medicorps leave the building for what may be the last time. The company owes back taxes for the past two years.
staff photo by Betsy Phillips

County locks UMC's doors

by Betsy Phillips and Rachel Stennett
Just after noon Monday, Dec. 29, Gray County Sheriff's officials locked the doors on United Medicorps, Inc., 200 N Cuyler. Those officials were executing a tax warrant issued by 223rd District Court Judge Lee Waters.
The warrant was requested by attorneys for the Gray County Tax Office county in an effort to collect taxes owed by UMC for 2007 and 2008. The total, if paid off in December is \$24,248.61.
According to Lt. Joe B Hoard of the Gray County Sheriff's Office, the county had, "made every effort to collect" the funds owed it.
Tax Collector Gaye Whitehead said Monday that there is still time for the company to pay. "I so hoped that they would pay and that it wouldn't come to this," Whitehead said. "I am an elected official and I took an oath to do this job. The people (UMC employees still on the job) we encountered today were so loyal."
Employees were allowed to gather their personal belongings under the supervision of Gray County deputies, the building was then locked. The sheriff's Office will maintain control of the keys. If the money is not paid, the county can auction off the assets in the building to attempt to satisfy the tax lien.
See UMC, Page 3

2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

City manager, police chief resign; Celenese out, Babcock and Brown in

Editor's note: This is the fourth edition in a series that will take a look back at issues that affected our readers in 2008. Today we are focusing on the third quarter of the year. Tomorrow we will bring you the remainder, as well as the news that made headlines in Texas and the top stories of the year from across the nation.

by Daivid Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
October in Pampa opened with the Friends of the Library's sixth annual paperback book sale and a visit to Pampa by Woody Guthrie's granddaughters.
Donna Conley Pierce, Pampa High School Class of 1952 and Eddie Rand Southard, Class of 1971, were inducted into the PHS Hall of Fame in October.
The Gray County Commission approved a tax reinvestment zone for Babcock and Brown, which bought the Pampa Celanese plant and will take it over as a coal-fired power plant after the first of the year.
The White Deer Land Museum opened its newly remodeled annex building to the public on Oct. 12, with several new exhibits, including artifacts from the Red River Indian War of 1874, which was fought in this area. Many of



POWs, MIAs, and Gold and Blue star mothers were honored in the opening ceremony to welcome the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) wall to Pampa. The wall is a replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for more than twenty years.
staff photo by Rachel Stennett

Standoff result saddens officers, Pampa man dies trying to break up fight

compiled by Rachel Stennett
October
Accident-Law enforcement officials said Lewis W. Burns III, 36, was apparently killed when his Dodge pickup went off Farm-to-Market Road 2857 about a mile north of Farm-to-Market Road 1321 south of Pampa.
Officials think the acci-




dent happened Sunday night, when he last contacted his family on his way home from shopping around 8 p.m. Burns and his pickup were found shortly before 8 a.m. Monday.
Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman ordered an autopsy.
Burns lived about two

miles from the site of the accident in rural Gray County Road 28.
Standoff- A Pampa man was pronounced dead last night at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo following a seven hour standoff with police. According to police, Shane Francis "Catfish" Kennedy, 34, died as a result of a self-inflicted gun shot wound to the head.
The situation began around 11 a.m. yesterday morning when Pampa police attempted to stop Kennedy for a minor traffic violation.
"We were about a mile and a half from his residence," Police Chief Logan Stout said. "He had a rifle and ammunition in his vehicle and we had about a 15 minute standoff at his vehicle before he ran inside."
Stout said that Kennedy was "defiant and showed little respect for law enforcement." He ran into
See Crime, Page 8

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We hope you have a Prosperous New Year in PAMPA
-From the Director and Staff of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
High 48 Low 31	High 51 Low 27	High 49 Low 33

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 23 and 33 early. South southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. Wind chill values between 23 and 28. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

New Year's Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

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- Do I take annuity or rollover IRA?
- What about taxes and age 59 1/2?
- Do I have other choices?

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 24 and 7 a.m. Dec. 25.

Dec. 24
 Officers conducted four traffic stops.

A total of eight calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of South Miami, where the front window on a 1992 Mazda was reported broken; and at Tyng and Starkweather, where the window of a 1952 International pickup was reportedly shot.

Found property was reported in the 2600 block of North Dogwood Lane.

A domestic disturbance with minor injuries was reported in the 400 block of Louisiana.

Traffic accidents were reported at the PD and in the 300 block of North Hobart.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of East Foster. It is unknown if anything was taken. A glass window was broken to gain access.

Harassment was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Seneca Lane and the 600 block of North Dwight.

Civil matters were reported in the 1600 block of North Christine and the 1100 block of West Gwendolyn.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 2400 block of North Duncan.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1600 block of North Holly Lane.

An assault was reported in the 1300 block of North Garland.

Theft was reported in the 1900 block of North Wells.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 800 block of East Browning.

An alarm was reported in the 2400 block of North Fir.

Driving while intoxicated was reported on Highway 60 West.

A domestic disturbance with no injuries was reported in the 200 block of South Henry.

A domestic disturbance with minor injuries was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Dec. 25
 Officers conducted seven traffic stops. A stop at Brown and Gillespie streets resulted in at least one arrest.

One call and/or stop concerning animals was reported.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of East Browning, the 2300 block of North Rosewood Lane and the 1900 block of North Nelson.

Pampa Police Department reported the

following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 25 and 7 a.m. Dec. 26.

Dec. 25
 Officers conducted three traffic stops.

A total of three calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

Burglary was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

An assault with minor injuries was reported in the 1100 block of South Banks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of South Barnes and the 500 block of North Dwight.

A traffic complaint was reported at 23rd and Price Road.

A domestic disturbance with minor injuries was reported in the 700 block of Lefors.

A civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 800 block of West 23rd.

Dec. 26
 Officers conducted 10 traffic stops. A stop in the 400 block of East Craven resulted in at least one arrest.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of East Frederic.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of South Hobart.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today, Monday, Dec. 29

6:58 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of South Hobart and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:37 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:03 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2400 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:24 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 12000 block of East Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:25 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of South Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:54 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:02 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of South Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:34 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo.

8:15 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

3:15 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No patients were transported.

Wood collection open Jan. 10-25

FRITCH — In recent months, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area has undertaken a fire fuels project to reduce the density of mesquite growing in the North Canyon area of the park.

The project opened up wood collecting to the public in November. Park officials will again authorize free permits for limited collection of downed mesquite by individuals

for personal use beginning Jan. 2. Wood collection will be permitted between Jan. 10 and 25 during daylight hours.

According to a news release from Lake Meredith NRA, the conditions of the permit include the following:

- All permits must be visible on the dashboard of participating vehicles;
- All participating vehicles must

stay on established roads;

- Participants may collect up to the equivalent of one cord of wood (two pickup truck beds); and
- No chainsaws will be allowed.

For more information, contact park headquarters at (806) 857-3151.

25 starving roosters rescued

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Twenty-five fighting roosters who authorities said were dying and malnourished in cages when they were rescued stand a good chance of all being euthanized, according to officials.

A report of fighting roosters abandoned on private property in West Odessa led officers to the animals Dec. 15, according to the Odessa Police Department. When Animal Control officers arrived, 20 of the game birds were already dead and the living birds had no food or water.

Animal Control officers and deputies with the Ector County Sheriff's Office took the living birds to the Odessa Police Department's Animal Control Shelter where veterinarian Henry Lide examined them.

Justice of the Peace Terry Lange gave Animal Control custody of the birds during a hearing Monday morning. The owner of the roosters is missing.

"We can't find him to get that information. We have two years to file a warrant," said Animal Control manager Cheryl Brom in a story for Monday's online edition of the Odessa American.

Brom said she thinks she can prove at least 13 counts of animal cruelty.

If the owner remains unknown, Animal Control will decide the fate of the roosters. If the owner were to come forth, the punishment could be severe, Brom said. Animal cruelty is a Class A misdemeanor, which includes punishment up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine, Brom has said.

She said the case was still under investigation.

CITY BRIEFS

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ANDERSON APPLIANCE DRAIN STOPPED up? Service, Cody 806-662-1841. Why Wait? Call Ingram & Son Plumbing M12466, 665-8317.

AS OF Jan. 2, 2009, City Brief deadline for Mon. thru Fri. will be 9am.

CHRISTMAS TREES can be disposed of behind the Recycling Center in the area marked with cones. The Recycling Center is located on the East side of Hobart Street on Municipal Drive.

DANCE, NEW YEARS Eve Dance, McLean Dance Club. Public Welcome 8-12. "The Texas Country Band," Earl Whitt & Tiny Duncan.

LIFESTYLES & Church Page Early Deadline for notices in the Jan. 2, 3 & 4th (weekend edition), deadline is Tues. Dec. 30th, at noon for anniversary, engagement, cradle call, etc. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!

MINIATURE DACHSHUND Puppies. Mom & Dad on property. Males \$250. Females \$300. 898-0390.

NEW YEAR'S Dance, Pampa Moose Lodge, 9pm-12, Dec. 31st. R.C. & Rusty Cooper Band. Members & guests

NEW YEARS Eve St. Vincents lock in Fundraiser. Come to Cinema 4 theatre for an outside dance 10p-12a & watch movies from 12a-6a. \$15 all ages.

PAMPA NEWS will close at noon on New Year's Eve, and there will not be a newspaper New Year's Day, so that employees may spend time with their family & friends. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!!

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2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

Year

Continued from Page 1

those artifacts were found by Gray County Commissioner Gerald Wright and his amateur archeology partners Richard Mackie and Kelly Baker.

Jessica Miner and Justin Neef were crowned 2008 Homecoming King and Queen on Oct. 3.

The Tralee Crisis Center sponsored the "Honorable Man March" from City Hall to the Knights of Columbus Hall in observance of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Pampa Fine Arts Association held their 42 annual Arts and Crafts Festival and Members' Art Show Oct. 11 and 12.

Sunday's art show coincided with an earthquake centered nine miles northeast of Mobeetie. It measured 3.0 on the Richter scale. A second quake was recorded on Monday, seven miles northwest of Miami. No damage was reported from either quake.

As the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority continues to draw on more on its well field north of Pampa, rather than dropping water levels at Lake Meredith, Kent Satterwhite, the water authority's general manager, said the water authority in October was completing transactions that will give it 212,154 acres of water rights in Roberts County, valued at \$76,125,365.

The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees approved a fund-raising project for Students

Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) that will allow them to put collection boxes out for donations to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a group that feeds hungry children around the world.

The school board also approved increased prices in the school cafeterias. This is the first time cafeteria prices have been raised since 1984.

As October progressed the worldwide economic slowdown began to affect Pampa.

City Manager Trevlyn Pitner said at least two major projects — the Mesa wind farm and Hampton Village — were on hold until the national economic situation improved.

The Little Red School House was the site of an arts and craft show.

Pampa churches and businesses hosted a number of Halloween-themed events as October drew to a close.

Hobart Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church held "Trunk or Treat" nights where church members parked their cars and opened their trunks to offer candy to trick-or-treaters. Trinity Fellowship held a "Harvest Fest." Calvary Baptist Church had "Hallowed House" with a dramatic performance of the battle between Jesus and Satan. First Assembly of God Church teamed up with the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department to offer a Halloween alternative. Pampa Nursing Center had a free Halloween Carnival.

NOVEMBER Pampa Meals on Wheels hosted "Music and a Meal" beginning Nov. 4. It was a three

week long fundraiser that offered a meal and musical entertainment for five dollars.

On Election Day, Gray County went strongly for Republicans with 4,037 voting a straight Republican Party ticket. Only 655 voted a straight Democratic Party ticket. The Libertarian Party garnered 37 votes.

The McCain-Palin ticket received 6,924 votes. The Obama-Biden ticket got 1,153.

Incumbent Mac Thornberry got 6,869 votes to Roger Waun's 1,172 in the U.S. House of Representative race.

Incumbent Robert Duncan got 6,732 votes while his opponent M.J. "Smitty" Smith got 538 in the State Senate race.

Running unopposed, State Representative Warren Chisum got 6,981 out of 8,305 total votes cast.

District Attorney Lynn Switzer, Gray County Attorney Josh Seabourn, Sheriff Don Copeland, Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead, Gray County Commissioner Joe Wheeley, Constable James Lewis, Constable Chris Lockridge and Constable Don Fletcher all ran unopposed.

John Mark Baggerman ran unopposed for the commission seat previously held by Gerald Wright. Wright announced earlier in the year that he would not run for reelection after 24 years.

The Pampa City Commission committed themselves to floating a bond issue after the first of the year to raise \$10 million for various infrastructure projects, including landfill expansion and new water wells. The commission also won a settlement with Atmos

Energy, which wanted a \$9.5 million rate hike in its service area. Atmos settled for \$3.9 million.

Betsy Phillips took over as editor of The Pampa News in November. She came from Taos News in Taos, N.M., and has worked at newspapers in Montana and Missouri. She also spent two years as Marketing and Services Director for the Taos Convention Center.

In November, the school board officially named the new school they planned to build north of town Pampa Junior High School and decided that its mascot will be the Reapers.

In December, they accepted a maximum bid of \$22.6 million to build the facility.

In an unanticipated moment, the Gray County Commissioners Court signed two oil and gas leases on school lands in Gaines County south of Lubbock that brought in almost a million dollars to school districts in the county.

Pampa got a special present from its VFW post on Veteran's Day. The VFW brought a replica of the Vietnam memorial wall in Washington D.C.

Volunteers erected the Celebration of Lights displays at Recreation Park leading up to the Nov. 22 to Dec. 31 event.

On Nov. 22, Pampa Junior High School theater arts students performed "Still life with Iris" at a dinner theater setting in their school auditorium.

The Pampa High School Choir performed "Once Upon a Mattress" Nov. 22 and 23.

For Thanksgiving, the Ministerial Alliance organized a Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Worship Service at the First Christian Church. The day after

Thanksgiving, the Lion's Club and VFW teamed up for their annual Invitational Basketball Tournament.

In November, the city commission approved the PEDC's \$350,000 matching grant to install synthetic turf on the high school football field. The synthetic turf will enable the field to be used longer in the season and host playoff games. It will also lower maintenance costs for the school district.

The Pampa Independent School District approved the move to synthetic turf in December, although the money came from private donations and the PEDC grant.

The Pampa City Commission joined the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority in a bond issue to raise \$21.6 million for expanding the water authority's well field in Roberts County.

In a year end report to the city commission, Ken May, president of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation admitted that while the EDC has made progress on a number of goals they set forth last January, such as finding a new office and hiring an assistant administrator, forming any kind of strategic plan for PEDC was not one of them.

According to their most recent agenda, however, that is in the process of being rectified.

DECEMBER

Lovett Memorial Library launched a new program to get more adults reading as December began.

With December came Pampa's 20th Century Cotillion Study Club's annual Christmas Tour of Homes to benefit The Opportunity Plan, Inc., which provides scholarships to area students.

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Christmas parade on Dec. 6.

As the year draws to a close, the city commission appointed Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris as interim city manager. Police Sgt. Donny Brown was appointed temporary interim police chief.

Mark Buzzard was named the new City Attorney. He will assume the office Jan. 1.

The former city attorney, Franklin McDonough, resigned to take an assistant district attorney job in Hutchinson County.

Pampa's VFW post, Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 1657, gave \$600 to about 10 families in December for Christmas shopping. In the past, they had sponsored shopping trips for children, giving them \$100 to spend on themselves and \$25 to spend on their parents.

The city commission appointed Bill Bridges and Caye Warner to vacancies on the PEDC.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, in its year end report, said it spent less than \$200,000 on its rain enhancement, cloud-seeding program, but figured the additional precipitation added more than \$50 million to the district's agricultural economy.

As the year ends, Pampa High School cheerleaders found themselves as featured performers at the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on Dec. 29.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the girls to get to be a part of this performance and we know they will take away with them a wonderful experience," Cheerleading Sponsor Sandee Stokes said.

Year

Continued from Page 1

building to attempt to satisfy the tax lien.

Earlier this month employees came to The Pampa News saying they had not been paid at the middle of the month and wages owed to them the first of December were paid late.

According to Nathan Porterfield, manager of operating services, he and other employees at UMC have filed wage claims against UMC with the state. Other employees confirmed at that time they had not been paid.

UMC was brought in by the former PEDC about eight years ago and

agreed upon financial grants in exchange for jobs that were created.

Another part of the company's financial issues is debt to the city of Pampa from not fulfilling their grant criteria, according to Robin Bailey, City of Pampa financial secretary. Bailey said, UMC was given grant money on an annual basis. Porterfield said that the company agreed to hire 20-30 full-time employees from Pampa. Staff had dropped to seven or eight, according to Porterfield.

Daniel Stevens, a Chicago financier, approached the City Commission for help in the first part of March, 2008. Stevens asked that \$24,000 the company

owed the city be erased. He also asked for an additional sum of \$35,000 to help the company turn around.

At the end of the month in March, the Pampa City Commission voted not to forgive the \$24,000 owed. The contract expires on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The company was required by that contract to stay open until that day.

CEO and majority stockholder Daniel Stevens did not return multiple calls from The Pampa News before the story was published Dec. 22.

According to Interim City manager Richard Morris, the city will just have to wait and see what unfolds in the new year.

Former Houston gang member deported, again

HOUSTON (AP) — A former member of the "Houstone" street gang has been deported to Mexico to face murder charges for the deaths of two women, according U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

Carlos Garcia-Hernandez, a native of Mexico, was turned over Monday to Mexican officials on the Brownsville International Bridge. ICE officials took the 19-year-old into custody Dec. 11 after they learned he was being sought for the deaths.

The women were killed during a robbery in

Cuernavaca, Mexico, in March. Three other people are already serving prison sentences in Mexico in connection to the case, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday for an online story.

Garcia-Hernandez was convicted in Houston for possessing — marijuana, escaping from law enforcement custody and driving with a counterfeit driver's license, according to ICE which previously deported him in November 2007.

Garcia-Hernandez's deportation is among a 20 percent increase in people being removed from the

U.S. in 2008. ICE said in the latest fiscal year, it removed or returned 349,041 illegal immigrants to their native countries, compared with 288,663 in fiscal year 2007.

A third of those deported in 2008 had other criminal convictions besides being in the country illegally, according to the agency.

STORES CLOSE WEDNESDAY AT 6PM!

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2008. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase. (The area covered by the agreement is located in present-day southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.)

On this date:

In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1907, the Mills Commission issued its final report concluding that Abner Doubleday invented baseball, a finding that few sports historians embrace.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin

proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees and wounding five other people. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

One year ago: Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner of an election that opponents and observers alleged was rigged; violence flared in Nairobi slums and coastal resort towns, killing scores in the following days. The 19-year-old son of assassinated opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, Bilawal Zardari, was named symbolic leader of her Pakistan Peoples Party, while Bhutto's widower took effective control.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 74. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 74. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 73. Actor Jack Riley is 73. Folk singer Paul Stookey is 71. TV director James Burrows is 68. Actor Fred Ward is 66. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 66. Singer Davy Jones is 63. Singer Patti Smith is 62. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 61. "Today Show" co-host Meredith Vieira is 55. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 53. Actress Patricia Kalember is 52. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 52. "Today Show" newscaster Matt Lauer is 51. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 49. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 48. Golfer Tiger Woods is 33. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 31. Singer Tyrese is 30. Actress Eliza Dushku is 28.

Opinion from The Houston Chronicle

Houston Chronicle on border safety:

Guns don't kill people. Gangsters kill people. But Mexican narcotraffickers buy Texas guns, and thousands of people die as a result.

No turn of phrase can hide the link between gun sales in Texas and the violence just over the border. If we want Mexico's cartels under control for our own security, we need to halt their incredibly easy access to military-grade weapons on this side of the border.

Last year alone, Mexican authorities confiscated 1,131 Texas guns from drug cartels or their killing fields. Houston was the No. 1 source of these arms. Using "straw buyers" U.S. citizens without criminal records narcotraffickers buy weapons, often in bulk, then have them smuggled south to equip private armies.

According to a Houston Chronicle story by Dane Schiller and Dudley Althaus, the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agency traced in 2007 alone at least 328 firearms bought in Houston to weapons suppliers for the Gulf drug cartel.

While buying guns is close to impossible in Mexico, consumers in Texas can purchase unlimited quantities of cheap imported assault

weapons, or .50-caliber sniper rifles strong enough to shoot down helicopters. The stores peddling these weapons rarely break the law. The problem is there are few laws for them to break.

For most gun buyers, the one hurdle before walking out with a weapon is the federal background check launched in 1994. The Bush administration weakened that system, requiring all records of approved purchases to be purged within 24 hours. This means authorities have no database to find guns that shouldn't have been sold. It also means that the most effective way to trace suspected straw buyers is to wait until a crime is committed.

If Mexican authorities share serial numbers from weapons recovered at crime sites, ATF can track these guns back to the licensed dealers. This limited, passive approach has proven deadly. The agency should be more rigorously identifying those dealers who supply one client with dozens or hundreds of weapons. And the ATF should monitor even more closely retailers whose weapons turn up, again and again, next to corpses in Mexico and Central America.

The narcotraffickers, after all, also supply the drugs to our country and

they control the networks smuggling illegal workers, including slaves, across our border.

So it is in Americans' interest to upgrade our regulation of gun sales. Sensible restrictions on military-grade weapons is not punishment it's self-preservation.

Smart regulation of a potentially dangerous consumer product isn't going to hamper law-abiding citizens' constitutional rights. In fact, imported assault rifles were effectively banned (independent of the now-expired federal assault weapons ban) with no ill effects, from 1989 until just eight years ago. But in 2000, the Bush administration began allowing foreign manufacturers to circumvent the law.

The import ban embodied the spirit of the Second Amendment, which cites regulation, as well as the right to bear arms, as part of public security. And Americans still managed to pursue their favorite sports and protect their families from intruders.

With the stroke of a pen, President George W. Bush can restore the ban on imported assault weapons. Using his executive authority, he can instruct ATF to halt the import of these arms as his father, President George H.W. Bush, did in 1989. This would instant-

ly cut off narcotraffickers' access to their preferred weapon of terror. With a similar goal in mind, Congress can pass pending legislation outlawing deadly .50-caliber sniper rifles.

In the end, only federal laws can choke off narcotraffickers' gun purchases on U.S. soil. But Texas a first stop for drug smugglers, illegal migrants and other illicit activity has good reason to make itself a less attractive magnet for criminal gun-buyers.

We can do that by limiting our easy access to assault weapons and other military hardware. Though the right to buy such arms seems an emblem of Texas liberty, in fact it exposes us, our law enforcers and our children to the region's most vicious elements.

Tony Garza, Bush's ambassador to Mexico, was blunt about the connection last week in a speech.

Mexico, Garza said, "would not be the center of cartel activity or experiencing this level of violence, were the United States not the largest consumer of illegal drugs and the main supplier of weapons to the cartels."

Texas is the center of that arms trade. Do we really want to be the place gangsters go when they're planning to kill?



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Letters to the editor

To the editor,
 Reading the front page of Dec. 18th Pampa News brought back memories of my dad telling tales about my granddad when I was growing up on Antelope Flat and the J.A. Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon on Red River and finally Clarendon, Texas.

My granddad, John Heckman, served in the civil war and came to Texas in the early 1870's from Pennsylvania. One of his first jobs was to transport art supplies to Fort Elliot near Mobeetie by horse or mule team.

My granddad later worked for Charles Goodnight after traveling to Colorado, meeting him and turning with him to work he is beginning to start the J.A. Ranch.

He later became a settler near the ranch after a suggestion by Mr. Goodnight and then married a young lady he had met in East Texas and lived in a covered wagon and underground dugout.

He was one of the first or maybe the first settlers in Briscoe County south of Donley County near Red River and broke the first ground in Briscoe County according to my dad, George Heckman.

After other settlers started coming in and there were school-age youngsters, they built a little red brick one room school house called the Heckman School, which stayed in use until the early 1930's.

My granddad in 1921 and my dad in 1956 passed away.

Lowell Heckman
 Pampa

To the editor,
 I have enjoyed minute, every time I attended. I'm talking about the patriotic performances put on by the children of the Travis elementary school on Veterans Day. I've attended several. The children did a spectac-

ular job. I also want to give credit to the teachers who put so much of their time and talent into it. If you haven't been to one, I recommend that you do. They do it every Veterans Day. I have had grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend Travis School and it makes me proud that they make the effort to say thank you to the veterans.

I signed up for service of my country in 1941 and served four years and five months. Almost three years of that on the front lines in North Africa and Italy until the end of the war (World War II). Some people call us heroes, but I don't feel like one. I just did what I was there for.

Alvin Cornelison
 Pampa

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

• Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

• All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

• Defamatory comments will not be published.

• E-mail submissions are welcome.

BUSINESS REVIEW

SHEPARD'S CROOK NURSING AGENCY

THE OLDEST HOME HEALTH AGENCY IN PAMPA



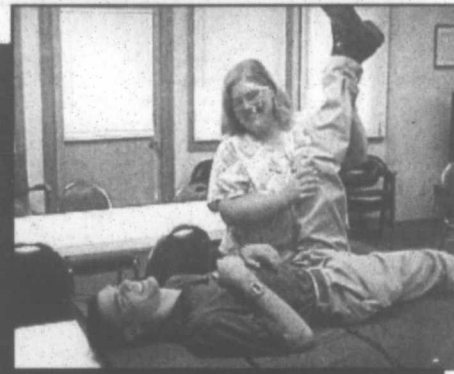
Linda Ellison



Teresa Henson and Michael Kirkpatrick



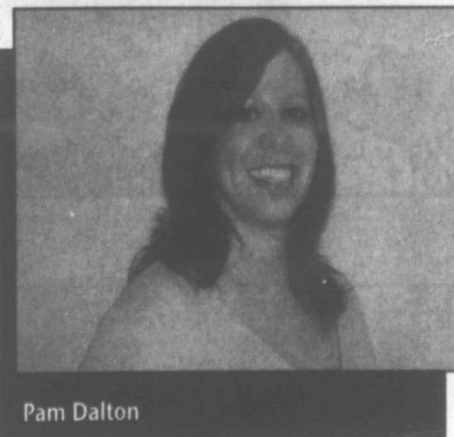
Barbara Kidd and Ronna Smith



LaGayla Wheat and Matthew Kirkpatrick



Dauna Wilkinson



Pam Dalton



Suzanne Wilkinson

Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest Road, has its heart in Pampa, but strives to provide quality in-home health care to the entire locality. The agency is symbolic of the care of a shepherd's staff (crook) guiding those in his care to a better path and safety. So are the goals of the Shepard's staff in assisting our clients to a healthier life.

Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 20 years. They are members and ministers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Suzie and Ernie have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

"Our nurses are board certified in home health, pediatrics and wound care," Suzie said.

The agency currently employees 75 skilled workers including licensed RNs and LVNs, a Licensed Occupational Therapist, a Licensed Physical Therapist, a Licensed Speech Therapist, a Physical Therapy Assistant and a number of Texas Certified Home Health Aides.

Michael Kirkpatrick acts as administrator and director of nursing. Teresa Henson is office operations manager. Both have been with Shepard's Crook since its inception.

Shepard's Crook currently serves all counties in the Texas Panhandle and has offices in Pampa, Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon and Shamrock.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.

Don't trust your in-home health care to just any agency. Give Shepard's Crook a try. The number for the Pampa office is 806-665-0356.

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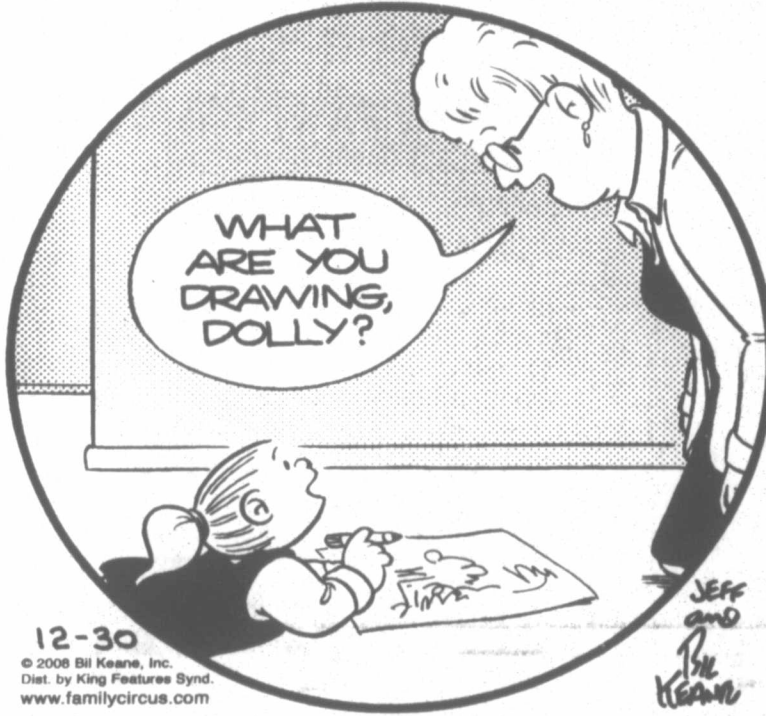
Marmaduke



"He likes it better than his dog collar."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-30

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"I don't know. I'll decide after I'm finished."

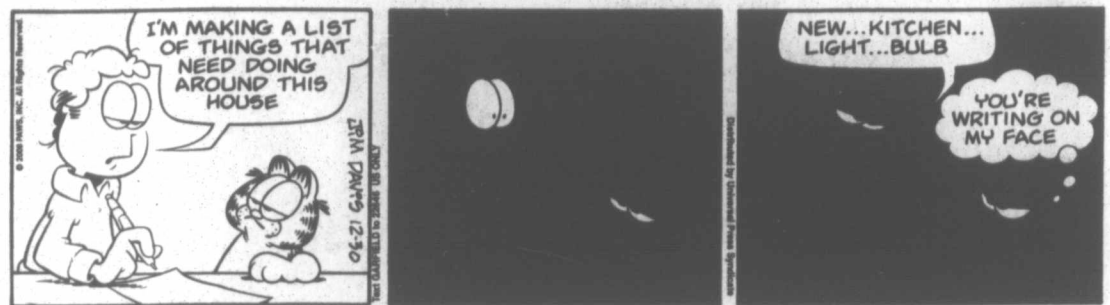
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



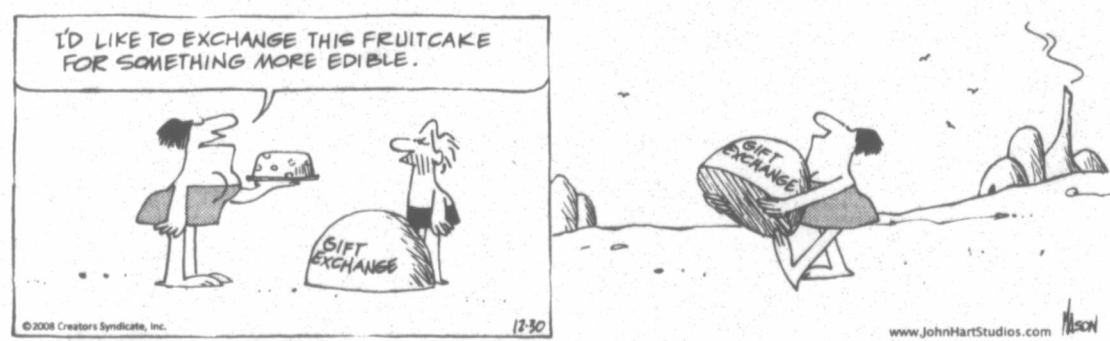
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 2 "— we there yet?"
 - 1 Multihued cat
 - 7 Pennsylvania port
 - 11 Out of bed
 - 12 Watch part
 - 13 Mutinies
 - 15 Trouble
 - 16 Beach crawler
 - 18 Obliterate
 - 21 Uncloudy
 - 22 Bent out of shape
 - 24 Tavern
 - 25 Desk set item
 - 26 Neptune's realm
 - 27 Tiger or lion
 - 29 1969 Series champs
 - 30 Bath need
 - 31 Fluttery flier
 - 32 Esau's twin
 - 34 New Year's pledges
 - 40 Wicked
 - 41 Bit of shot
 - 42 Hamlet, for one
 - 43 Like winter weather
- DOWN**
- 1 Train part

B	A	T	H	S	T	A	C	K	S			
A	X	I	O	M	U	B	O	A	T			
G	E	N	R	E	B	E	N	N	Y			
S	A	G	E	S	S	E	X					
B	A	B	E	R	U	T	H					
A	L	E	S	T	O	O	T	E	D			
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A	B	A	B	A	S	H	E	B	A			
T	E	X	A	N	T	O	W	I	T			
S	T	I	R	S	S	W	E	D	E			

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Comb parts
- 21 Little lie
- 22 Dripping
- 23 "— Kapital"
- 25 Vatican-based
- 28 Sweet-talk
- 29 Dangling art
- 31 Tourist stop
- 33 Water-cooler stack
- 34 Scarlet
- 35 Juan Perón's wife
- 36 Sermon subject
- 37 Bullfight cry
- 38 Court divider
- 39 Pig's place

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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42								43		

12-30

2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

Crime

Continued from Page 1

his residence in the 2100 block of Hamilton carrying the rifle and ammunition and told the police that he would shoot anyone who came inside.

"Our reaction was that this is the time that we need to help this man," Stout said. "We weren't angry with him and we really didn't have any intention of trying to arrest him for any of this. We just wanted to get him help. Not to say he was crazy, but you know, you spray paint your house and you do all these things, you're not in your right frame of mind. You need some help."

Kennedy had been having family problems, according to Stout. He had spray painted the words "I love my wife" and "Until death do us part" on the side of his house, encircled by a large red heart. He has had several traffic violations and arrests within the last month and Stout said that the police department had received calls concerning Kennedy's behavior during the last week.

Police negotiators, with the assistance of the Texas Rangers, had an open line of communication with Kennedy throughout the standoff. They also had two of Kennedy's relatives as well as friends on hand to assist with the negotiation.

"Through tactics in negotiation, it's not always good to have family or friends speak to someone, because they might get more emotional. It's usually better if they're talking to a professional and you keep it on that level," Stout said. "I don't think it would have mattered who was talking to him. He wanted to do what he wanted to

do." Stout confirmed that Kennedy had several high powered weapons in his home as well as several hand guns. With that knowledge, the Amarillo Police Department SWAT team was called in to assist. The neighborhood was evacuated in a one to two block radius around the house. At least one family was temporarily housed in Trinity Fellowship Church. Parents of Pampa Junior High students were asked to pick up their children on the north side of the school.

The Amarillo Bomb Squad arrived and assembled a robot to approach the house. Before the robot was sent in, two large dump trucks were positioned in front of Chicken Express to shield onlookers from the potential threat of any gunfire.

"He (Kennedy) was talking about things he could see," Stout said. "With all the ammunition he had, basically anywhere he could see was a dangerous place to be. Our first priority is to protect him and to protect the citizens."

After seven hours of negotiations, the robot approached the residence at approximately 6:25 p.m. in an attempt to end the ordeal peacefully.

"He was so upset, it was almost like he was enjoying talking to us," Stout said. "But after hours and hours we weren't making any ground. He wouldn't do anything to help himself and once it starts to get dark the situation becomes more dangerous."

Police used the robot to inject a chemical agent (Oleoresin Capsicum gas) into the Kennedy residence, a non-harmful agent Stout said is used to flush people out. The gas doesn't hinder the subject's ability to see or act, but it is uncomfortable and it makes it difficult to



The Amarillo SWAT team was one of the agencies that assisted in handling the October standoff between law enforcement and Shane Kennedy.

breath.

"When that gas went in, he still didn't want to come out and that left him one option," Stout said. "I felt bad for him. No matter how bad your problems are nothing is worth your life. Nothing is worth that."

Witnesses near the scene reported hearing seven to 10 shots fired, but Stout said what they heard was the gas being deployed. The only shot fired was from Kennedy's .223 caliber rifle. Amarillo SWAT then entered the residence in gas masks and cleared the house room by room.

"At that point he was still breathing so he was transferred to Pampa Regional Medical Center and then was flown by Lifestar helicopter to Northwest Texas Hospital," Stout said.

Fight-A Pampa man died as the result of a fight which occurred at a rural Gray County location.

Jeremy Allen Klink, 20, died Friday, Oct. 17, at Northwest Texas Hospital.

Gray County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Joe Hoard said two of his deputies were in the Pampa Regional Medical Center parking lot shortly before 1 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, when a private vehicle brought Klink to the emergency room.

Witnesses said Klink had apparently tried to break up a fight in rural Gray County west of Pampa when he was hit and knocked down. He reportedly struck his head on some concrete in the fall.

Hoard said Klink suffered a fractured skull and bleeding in the brain. Klink was airlifted Oct. 11, by LifeStar helicopter from Pampa Regional Medical Center to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Geraldo Dominguez, 17, is free on \$100,000 bond today after being charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury in connection with a fight early Saturday morning, Oct. 11. Dominguez was arrested that morning at his home in the 2100

block of Christine on a warrant charging him with aggravated assault.

Switzer said that she had received the sheriff's report on Klink's death late Friday and was studying it.

She indicated that she would probably take it to a grand jury.

Mr. Klink was born in Rockford, Ill., and had lived in Pampa since 1997.

November Accident—A truck carrying 35 cattle was involved in a roll over accident, which left four cows dead and authorities were able to save the other 31 animals in the accident.

At about 9 a.m., Antonio Martinez-Cano, 25, from Dumas was pulling a cattle truck for Pancholine Express out of Stratford, when he rolled over.

"He was distracted inside his vehicle and lost control," Pampa State Trooper Jessie Cerda explained.

Martinez-Cano was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center, where he was treated for minor

scrapes and then released.

Most of the cattle were safe after the accident, but Gray County Sheriff's Office had to euthanize four cattle on the scene.

"The rest of the cattle were collected and placed in a near by field owned by someone who was at the accident. The cattle will be collected at a later date by the company," Cerda said.

The accident happened on Farm to Market road 1474, which is 4.4 miles North of Lefors, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The cattle truck was picked up by Bob Douthit Autos out of Pampa for repairs. Three reflective markers on the road were also damaged during the accident, which belong to the Texas Department of Transportation and will cost an estimated \$100 to replace.

The speed Martinez-Cano was traveling is unsure, but Cerda said the speed limit on the Farm to Market road is 55 miles per hour.

Soldiers find ways to mark holidays far from home

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — As millions of Americans take trains, planes and automobiles to spend Christmas with family and friends, tens of thousands of military personnel will remain overseas, sharing the holiday briefly with loved ones back home via cell phone or video camera.

An organizer who works closely with military families in the Texas Panhandle says there are roughly 1,500 residents of the region serving abroad. It's difficult to gauge just how many are in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere, but Jack Barnes, chairman of America Supports You-Texas, says anecdotal observations and an informal survey he conducted indicate that the number is more than 1,000.

"Of course the war has downsized," said Barnes, an Amarillo resident. "But I would say it's close to it

because (soldiers) deploy once year and those kids come home, and a year later they go back. I'd say (1,500) is ballpark. We've got a bunch over there, and we've got a bunch that are fixin' to go."

A few soldiers said via e-mail that it doesn't feel a lot like Christmas in places like the Iraqi cities of Al Hillah and Najaf. But they've introduced their own festive touches - Santa hats and Christmas lights, for instance - to bring the holiday spirit to the sand and arid climate of the Middle East.

Staff Sgt. Veronica M. Barela's team in Al Hillah will have a gift exchange Thursday, a 5K fun run and special lunch and dinner to celebrate.

"On Thanksgiving, the cafeteria was decorated really nice and even had a couple of ice sculptures," she said. "I can't wait to see what is planned for Christmas. It reminds soldiers that we can still have a good time, even though we are way from home, and also lets us know that people care enough to take the effort to do those things."

Barela, 28, a nine-year Army veteran, is a single mother whose 3-year-old daughter remains behind in Tulia while she's deployed. She'll be calling her daughter and her parents on Christmas.

"It's not the ideal situation (serving overseas during the holidays), but we plan to make the best of what we got," she said. "We hope to celebrate Christmas when I go home on leave. It makes it easy to know that we are not alone and that many families are going through the same situation."

Sgt. Maj. Kevin Rutledge, of Amarillo, is a 27-year veteran of the Army. The 45-year-old, who works at Pantex, is responsible for the health, welfare and morale of the enlisted soldiers in his company, which supports the Department of State Provincial Reconstruction at the Regional Embassy Office in Al Hillah.

While the soldiers in his company won't have the day off, he plans to make sure Christmas is a limited-duty day.

"We will still have various duties to attend to based on the mission, but for the most part, I will try to ensure the soldiers have plenty of time to enjoy the holiday," he said. Rutledge said he's looking forward to the "great meals" provided by the dining facilities, the 5K run and calling his family using government phones.

Rutledge said his wife, Ginger, and his two boys, Gavin, 9, and Kegan, 7, will celebrate the holiday without him but will get to spend it with family in Denton County near the Metroplex and also in Oklahoma.

This is the first Christmas that Amarillo resident Staff Sgt. Clinton Unger, 22, will spend away from his wife, Shanna, and sons, Luke, who turns 2 on Sunday, and Coda, 5.

Unger, stationed in Najaf, said Lt. Col. Fred Harmon, also of Amarillo, is planning a Christmas party for his unit, but otherwise it will just "be another day at the office."

However, he plans to take time to contact his family, his mother, Paula Edwards, of Amarillo, grandparents and maybe his mother-in-law using the Internet video service Skype or an Internet messaging service.

"It is hard on everyone (with my being away), especially my wife and the boys," he said. "I think they are able to still continue on. They are able to have more (gifts) this year, though. ... I miss being able to jump in a car with my wife and the boys and drive them all crazy, as I want to drive around looking at all of the Christmas lights that I can."

Luis "Carlos" Pena, 32, of Amarillo, is stationed in Babylon, Iraq, with the Army. He vividly recalls the holidays during a 2004 tour of duty in Fallujah while serving as a Marine.

He said troops spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with their "adoptive family" - the Marines of Fallujah. On Christmas Day, they distributed toys and candy to Iraqi children.

"We drove around the city handing things out," he said. "It was our way of giving Christmas to them."

He's the father of four boys - Carlos Pena Jr. and Jeremiah Pena, both 10, Mathew, 8, and Elijah, 4 - and is married to Amanda, a teacher's assistant at Sunrise Elementary School in Amarillo. His parents, Carlos and Maruca, live in Amarillo, as do his in-laws.

"What I miss the most about home is the Christmas atmosphere," he said. "The trees are glowing with lights and the presents are piled up underneath. Showing the Christmas spirit. I always like to place lights on my house to see the smile on my kids' face. You can't leave out the big Christmas meal. My mom fixes a big meal for the whole family. The smell of food runs all through the house."

The staff of The Pampa News wishes all our readers a safe, prosperous and happy New Year!

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old male who has been in a relationship with a great woman, "Hayley," for three years. She has excellent qualities, a good job, she's super loving and would be a wonderful wife someday.

My family loves Hayley -- but my buddies don't, and it is causing me to have mixed feelings. Some days I love her, but on others I want to break up. Then I think of how fantastic our lives would be together. It's weird, because Hayley doesn't change her personality -- it's totally my issue. I'm scared that if I break up with her it could be the worst mistake of my life, and I'll regret it.

Please give me some guidance and point me in the right direction to find the love I

have for her. -- SENSITIVE GUY, MILWAUKEE

DEAR SENSITIVE GUY: Hayley may make a wonderful wife someday, but from your letter, YOU are nowhere near ready for marriage. Mature love doesn't blow hot and cold, and the feelings you finally experience for the woman you marry won't be dictated by the impression she makes on your buddies. If you need me to point you in the right direction to "find" the love you have for Hayley, then I don't think it is there to begin with. And the honorable thing to do is to level with her.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 6, my stepfather molested me repeatedly. He served seven years in prison, got lots of therapy and came out a much better

man. I am now 20, and he recently e-mailed me and apologized for everything.

I forgave him a long time ago and let him know. We are now on speaking terms via e-mail only, but my boyfriend, my best friend and my mother all think I'm stupid for forgiving him. Abby, what should I tell these people? -- FORGIVING IN SEATTLE

DEAR FORGIVING: Tell them that carrying a load of hatred and resentment toward your abuser was more of a burden than forgiving him. HOWEVER, forgiving your molester doesn't mean that you must have a continuing dialogue with him.

I find it extremely inappropriate that he's trying to insinuate himself into your life now. If you have any intention

of allowing it, I urge you to first discuss it with a psychotherapist who specializes in sexual impulse disorders. Although you are no longer a child, one day you might have one. Forewarned is forearmed.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are expecting our first child in a few weeks. While we couldn't be more excited, one thing is really eating at me. When discussing what our parents should be called -- like "Grandma," "Nanny," "Gramps," etc. -- my father-in-law said he wants to be called "Pop."

I think the name "Pop" is for a dad, not a grandfather -- like in "a Mom and Pop business." I recommended "Pop-Pop," but they told me that name was already being used in

the family.

Other than on this issue, my in-laws and I get along great. I know it seems petty, but are there any grandfathers out there who are called "Pop"? Do you have any suggestions for any other names? Or should I not make a big deal of this? -- CALL ME DADDY, PORT JERVIS, N.Y.

DEAR DADDY: Congratulations on your pending paternity, but please don't do too much preplanning regarding the name game. These things have a way of working themselves out, so don't sweat the small stuff. When your little one reaches the talking stage, it's very possible that he or she will call the grandfather by a name that he or she invents.

1 Public Notice 5 Special Notices 10 Lost/Found 13 Bus. Opp. 14h Gen. Serv. 21 Help Wanted 21 Help Wanted 69 Misc. 96 Unfurn. Apts.

PUBLIC AUCTION, of 6 abandoned vehicles. Wed. Dec. 31st, 10am., 1432 S. Barnes, Pampa, TX. vsf#0573044.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

REWARD. Lost male off-white Terrier type dog Dec. 20th. Neutered. Hard of hearing. "Sparky." 1800 bl. of Coffee. 440-1010.

GREAT Investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14d Carpentry. Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

REMODELING all types. Concrete, doors, tile, drywall. Brian, 806-664-9613.

14e Carpet Serv. NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 669-3541.

14h Gen. Serv. HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message. Jesus Barraza.

GOOCH'S Bathroom Renovations. Complete Remodels. 848-2820. Free Estimates.

JH Concrete Work. Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, patios. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

14s Plumbing/Heat. BROWNING'S Heating & Air, a name you have trusted for over 44 yrs. Call Bill 665-1212

CIRCLE M Plumbing. Repair, Remodel. Resi. Comm. Over 30 yrs. as a Master Plumber. Mike J. McBride, M12260. Call 806-626-5204.

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

19 Situations. WILL Clean Houses. Have References. Call 440-4902

21 Help Wanted. CHEMICAL Delivery Driver. Oil field experience helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL with hazmat and air brake endorsement will be required during employment. Good benefits - 401k after 1st year of employment. Pampa - Canadian area. 1-806-228-5463 for application. 1-888-881-3248 (ask for Roger, Mike, or Chris)

NOTICE. Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

\$1500.00 SIGN ON BONUS PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring a RN / LVN For Mon. thru Fri 6am to 2pm Shift
Please apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE

\$1500.00 SIGN ON BONUS PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring a NURSE AIDES For All Shifts
Please apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE

LARGE Feedyard in Hedley, TX is looking for a Night Watchman. Benefits avail. Please apply in person at 3900 CR 23 in Hedley, between 7am-5pm.

VIBRA-WHIRL SPORTS. Seeking Construction Superintendent. Full time position. Travel req. Good benefits. Salary based on exp. For more info, please call 806-537-3526.

CDL Drivers wanted with tanker endorsement. Drug test required. Call Brad 216-0960, 256-5188

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has immediate opening for Certified Nurse Aides. Come by McLean Care Center or call 806-779-2469 for more information.

NEED Reliable, Experienced, maintenance man. Some plumbing knowledge needed. Must have tools & transportation. 665-1875.

OPPORTUNITY for a person who loves babies. The First Baptist Church Child Development Center is looking for a loving teacher for a new baby class. Benefits available. Great work environment. Experience Preferred. Apply in person at 203 N West.

49 Pools/Hot Tubs. DEMO SPA SPECIAL. 50% OFF. Delivery. Call 806-358-9597.

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

69 Misc.

ALERT:

*Please be aware of scam artists that may respond to your ad through email.
*Be cautious of emails asking you to ship your animals to them or of the other person shipping animals to you.
*Watch out for fraudulent checks, cashier's checks or money orders.
*Deal with people you can meet in person or by a local or area phone number. This will help avoid scam artists that exploit the internet.
*Never give out financial information (bank acct. number, social security number, eBay / PayPal info., etc.)
*Be cautious of Relay Calls. Trust your instincts!

PAMPA NEWS will close at noon on New Year's Eve, and there will not be a newspaper New Year's Day, so that employees may spend time with their family & friends. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!!

96 Unfurn. Apts. LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. Call for availability. Ref. & deposit req. 669-4386

LARGEST in Pampa. Spacious 1&2 bdr. apts. Friendly neighbors. Reas. rates. 665-1875.

RED Barn will be closed Christmas & New Year's weekends.

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FINISHED OFFICE. Quick Delivery. call 806-358-4559.

80 Pets & Suppl. AKC Min. Schnauzer puppies for sale. 1 ma. 1 fe. Shots started. Ready now! Please call 662-4940 after 3pm.

FOR Sale: Reg. Bichon Frise. Male. 3 male & 3 female puppies. Call 662-2735.

BOXER PUPS for sale. \$200. 806-382-8413

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99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rental. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT NBC PLAZA 806-665-4100

103 Homes For Sale. FOR all your Real Estate needs, call John Goddard, at Century 21! Where knowledge & expertise matter. 806-595-1234.

Happy New Year!! Rod Donaldson Agent 663-2800 Quentin Williams Realtors
Contract Pending! 1515 Hamilton MLS #08-8002
New Listing 1128 Terry 3 bdr., \$59,900 MLS #08-8182
Make Good Rental 720 & 722 E. Browning 2617 sq. ft. duplex \$99,900 MLS #08-8100
Commercial Lot 2200 Coffee MLS #08-7980
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SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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.

12-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

CJNW WBIS KQN CBFS Q TRO
BO Q NWJEFBOD. BW QCKQAN
DJW KJTNS. — QOOS IJTTJK

C B O P M S T D G
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: RESOLVED: NEVER TO DO ANYTHING WHICH I SHOULD BE AFRAID TO DO IF IT WERE THE LAST HOUR OF MY LIFE. — JONATHAN EDWARDS

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For more information contact Ed Brooks, 806-664-3583

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008:
You often weave between two different attitudes this year. Sometimes you are the traditional Goat who wants what he or she wants, with an eye to material issues. Other times, the quality of communication evolves to a new high, so much so that you might sign up for a class in communicating. You easily could make a major life decision this year, which will determine a good part of the next few years. If you are single, you meet people with ease; however, get to know the apple of your eye well before making a commitment. If you are attached, the two of you create a new venue for sharing what you both enjoy. PISCES draws you out and likes to hang with you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
**** Use the daylight hours to the max. A sense of fatigue or a need to reflect heads in late in the afternoon. Consider what is happening openly. You could have a second thought about a job or community appearance. Tonight: If you want to stay home, do. So what if you made plans?
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Step up to the plate. You might want to handle last-minute details and problems. Once you have completed what is needed, kick back with friends or those who surround you. Share resolutions and help others make them. Tonight: Be sure where the action is.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** If you need to make New Year calls, get a head start on them. You can also send e-cards to others. Starting the year with this type of exchange can only make people feel good, you included. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** A partner finally could be direct. You might need to shake your head at what you hear. You could decide not to react. In fact, that would be a great idea. Detach rather than react. Tonight: Where there is music.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Be on top of your game, especially with a partner. You could be surprised by what might emerge out of the blue. Know that you don't need to react immediately, because realization after realization could occur. Tonight: With that special person.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Once more, are you wondering why you are left holding the bag? Can you stop this pattern? A child or potential loved one reveals a lot. Remember to matter what you are hearing. Tonight: The more people, the merrier.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Let your creativity flow. What might have been a hassle with a family member or a domestic matter finally seems to move — only you might not be instantly happy. Make that OK, and relax with the situation. Tonight: Take it easy.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Stay close to home, and if you must work, try to work from home. Do only what you must. Where communication has been stilted, things finally open up. Let it happen. Tonight: Celebrate as

only you can!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Keep communication flowing. A hard realization might encourage a change of plans, but on your terms. Remember, no one can take better care of yourself than you. Give someone the benefit of the doubt. Tonight: Entertain from home.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Expenses might have you concerned. Before you do anything else, stop and decide what needs to happen. You are on top of your game; explain where you are coming from. Keep communication flowing. Tonight: Share good wishes.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Use the daylight hours, when you are on top of your game. An issue that you have been holding in finally opens up. You might not want to deal with the problem immediately, but you will ultimately. Tonight: Your treat.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Perhaps it's time to clear out the negativity that is coloring your thinking. Knowing your limits could be more important than you realize. A friendship or relationship takes a fast twist. Suddenly you are on a different road. Tonight: Make this night yours.

BORN TODAY
Painter Henri Matisse (1869), singer John Denver (1943), actor Anthony Hopkins (1937)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Baugh, Haskins pass on; Knight says goodbye in '08

By JEFF CARLTON
Associated Press Writer

It was a year of bitter-sweet passings in Texas sports. The state lost two icons when trailblazing UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins and TCU gridiron great Sammy Baugh died. But their deaths, at the least, permitted us a pause to celebrate their accomplishments.

Baugh was a Texan through and through — born in Temple, attended TCU and bought a ranch in West Texas that he returned to just as soon as he could. But his retirement to ranching came only after establishing himself as one of the best pro football players in the game's history.

Haskins was so much a Texan that he's forgiven for being born in Oklahoma. He was an old-school coach whose team toiled in anonymity until 1966, when Haskins started five black players and won the NCAA title. That was a first and it was a game-changer, creating previously denied opportunities for African-American players everywhere.

Here's a look at Slingin' Sammy, "The Bear" and some of the other top sports stories in Texas in 2008:

DON HASKINS: The Bear has always insisted he wasn't trying to make a social statement; he was simply starting his best players — and they happened to be black. But when Haskins and Texas Western (now UTEP) won the 1966 NCAA championship with an all-black starting five, doors that had always been closed to black athletes began opening. Haskins died in September at age 78 in his beloved El Paso.

SAMMY BAUGH: Slingin' Sammy Baugh was a cowboy and a quarterback, probably in that order. Perhaps the best all-around player in pro football history, Baugh once led the league in passing, punting and defensive interceptions in the same season. After winning a national title at TCU and two pro championships with the Washington Redskins, Baugh retired to his West Texas ranch. He died in December in Rotan at the age of 94.

BOB KNIGHT: The Indiana and then Texas Tech coach did everything loud in his memorable career. He coached loud, argued loud, berated loud,

lived loud. But he retired quietly, on a weekday in the middle of the season with almost no notice. He won three national titles and more games than any other Division I men's coach. He'll be remembered as a flawed genius.

NASTIA LIUKIN: It took an amazing effort to steal some of the spotlight from Olympic star Michael Phelps, but Liukin did it. The North Texas gymnast won the coveted all-around gold, helped the U.S. team win silver and picked up three more medals. She was graceful, elegant and — apparently unlike some of her Chinese rivals — of age.

BIG 12 FOOTBALL: It was a season to remember in the Big 12, and not without considerable controversy. Texas beat Oklahoma, Texas Tech knocked off Texas and Oklahoma shellacked Texas Tech. Each team finished with a single loss. How'd it shake out? With Oklahoma playing for a national title, Longhorn fans outraged and the Red Raiders demoted to the Cotton Bowl.

JOSH HAMILTON: It was a breakthrough season for Hamilton, who returned to a sober life of crushing baseballs after years of addiction to drugs and alcohol that included eight stints in rehab. The crowning moment came on national TV during the All-Star Home Run Derby. With the Yankee Stadium crowd chanting his name, Hamilton hit a record 28 homers in the first round, including 13 in a row and three that traveled at least 500 feet. "I got chills," he said.

HIGH SCHOOL STEROIDS: It was the nation's largest steroids testing program, and it was supposed to root out the cheats among Texas high school athletes. The good news: After testing more than 10,000 students, the program rooted out just two steroids users. The bad news: The testing cost \$6 million — or about \$3 million per cheater.

ROGER CLEMENS-STEROIDS: The pitcher's trainer outed Clemens to baseball investigators last year as a steroid cheat. Trainer Brian McNamee even claims he has proof because he saved gauze, tissue and needles — which everyone can agree is just gross. The story got

some, ahem, juice in 2008 because of ongoing developments in Clemens' defamation lawsuit against McNamee. Stay tuned.

PACMAN JONES: Call it the saga of the would-be Cowboys cornerback. He's traded to Dallas but still suspended. He's reinstated. He fights with his bodyguard. Oops, suspended again. Then reinstated. Then injured, maybe for the season. No wait, he's back! That's perhaps too much drama for a player with zero interceptions and a 4.8

punt return average.

TRACK STAR: Bonnie Richardson was the only athlete from Class 1A Rochelle to qualify for the state track and field meet. So she won the team title by herself. She won the high jump and the 200, took second in the long jump and the 100 and finished third in the discus. Richardson earned 42 team points for Rochelle, enough to edge team runner-up Chilton's 36 points. The UIL says it's the first time they can remember a single athlete winning a girl's team title.

JASON KIDD TRADE: Kidd's return to Dallas was supposed to energize the Mavericks. Instead, Kidd was outplayed in the playoffs by the new best point guard in the league, New Orleans' Chris Paul. Kidd is still one of the top floor leaders in the world, but his best days appear behind him.

JUNE COMETH: The ubiquitous billboards in the Dallas area heralded the arrival of new SMU football coach June Jones, fresh off a historic turn-

around at Hawaii. The truth, however, was that June Loseth — a lot, as it turned out. The Mustangs went 1-11, no better than the previous season.

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