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The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS


Cats scratched
 Harvesters escape Panthers to end skid
 Page 7

on the web:
Kid of the Week

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Tuesday, December 21, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 219 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

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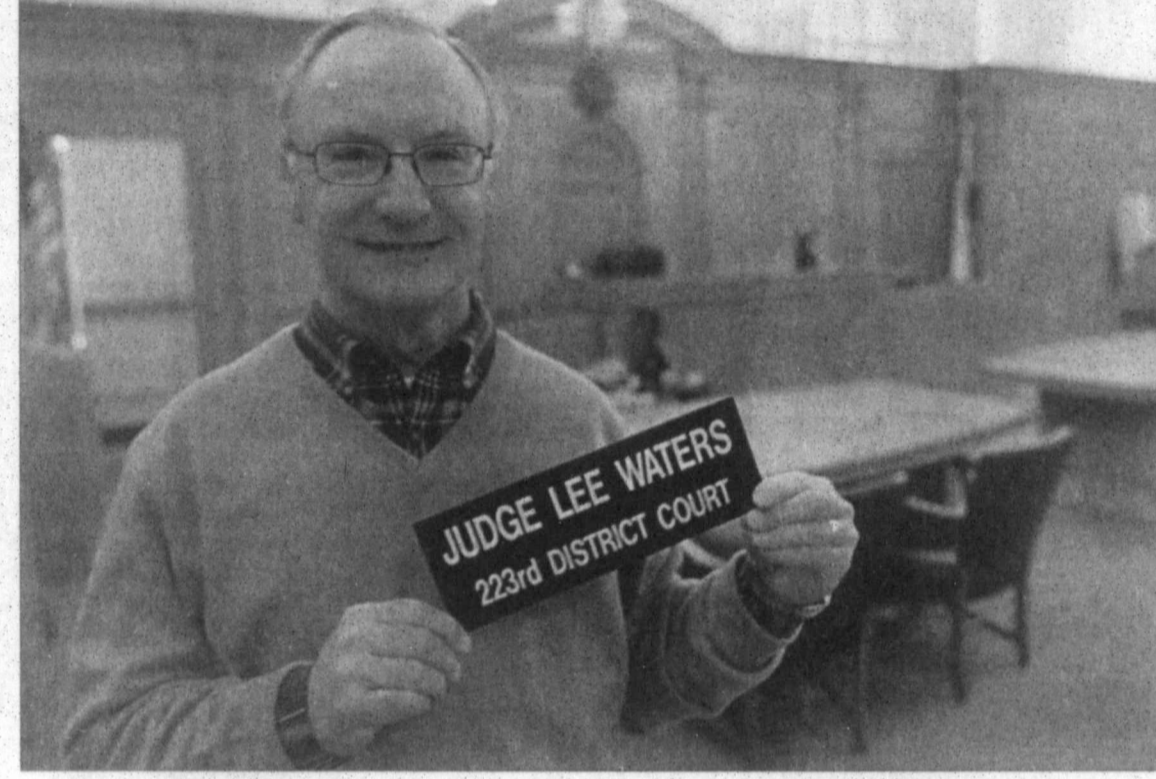
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MOVING FORWARD



staff photo by David Bowser

Judge Lee Waters, who will retire at the end of the month as 223rd District Judge, holds up his name plate in the courtroom that he has used for the past two decades. Waters will continue to work as a visiting judge and recently accepted the position of Pampa City Attorney.

Waters reflects on long bench career

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Having finished up his last courtroom session, Judge Lee Waters now retires to his chambers to finish the paperwork his job entails.
 Waters, 223rd District Judge,

is finishing his work, not only for the year, but for his career on the bench.
 He retires Jan. 1, and will swear his replacement, Judge Phil Vanderpool, into office on New Year's Day.
 But that doesn't mean that Waters will lie around the house,

taking long afternoon naps.
 Born in Pampa at what was then Highland General Hospital at Hobart and Kentucky, Waters grew up here and graduated from Pampa High School in 1969.
 "I was born in the hospital when it was new," Waters said.
WATERS cont. on page 6

Gray County jury indicts nine people

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

A Gray County grand jury has indicted nine people on 32 charges ranging from burglary charges and drug accusations to sexual assault charges.

Scott Casey Smith, 18; Jonathan Paul McAnear, 19; Tyler Garrett Giffin, 18, and William Thomas Eldridge, 18, were indicted by a 223rd District Court grand jury on charges of burglary.

Officers accuse Smith, McAnear, Giffin and Eldridge of stealing laptop computers and cash from six different individuals in November, 2009.

Rebecca Jane Carpenter, 38, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance and tamper or fabricating physical evidence with the intent to impair. Officers accuse her of trying to destroy a coffee filter and clear plastic bag containing a white powdery substance during the execution of a search warrant by law enforcement officers in April, 2009. She is free on bond.

Corey Graham, 18, was indicted on one count of sexual assault of a child in connection with a May, 2010, incident. He is free on bond.

Jesus Manuel Santacruz, 57, was indicted on one count of possession of a controlled substance and one count of count of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Santacruz had been convicted of manslaughter in September, 2000. He is in Gray County jail.

Jesus Manuel Santacruz Jr., 25, was indicted on one count of possession of a controlled substance and one count of possession a prohibited weapon. He is free on bond.

Officers accused him of possessing methamphetamines and possessing a sawed off shotgun.

Andrew Manuel Santacruz, 23, was indicted on one count of **INDICTMENTS** cont. on page 5

'Seeds' organization sets out to aid needy

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

Among the many local organizations working to help the needy in Pampa is one that is relatively new. "Seeds for Needs: Helping People Help Themselves" is the brainchild of Pampan Tony Doyle and his Amarillo buddy John Rogers.

For the past five years, the pair has been quietly helping a few families make Christmas a little brighter.

"Our slogan is 'Plant the seed, water it and watch it grow,'" Doyle said. Doyle and Rogers, along with a couple of friends who want to remain anonymous, find needy families largely through word of mouth.

"My sister told me about one of the families we are helping this year," Doyle said. "The husband is disabled, but can't get disability. The wife is working three jobs trying to make ends meet. They adopted their grandchildren and my sister told me they didn't even have coats for the kids. They have light jackets, **SEEDS** cont. on page 6

Author chronicles Panhandle accounts in 'Texas Stories'

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

The back of the book pretty much says it all. "They're stories about an era quickly passing," it reads. "Lore of cowpunchers and cattlemen, ropers and riders... assorted only-in-Texas characters."

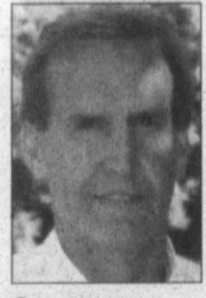
Those were the kinds of people that lured educator-turned-author Craig Savoye to the Texas Panhandle, and when he got here, he wasn't disappointed in the least.

"I tell you," said Savoye with a smile, "you can't ever get enough of these guys."

Fresh off self-publishing a collection of stories centered around Nebraska, Savoye looked to the Lone Star State for his sophomore effort. "Texas Stories," a collection of 20 firsthand accounts of the cowboy way of life, was the product of his Texas two-step.

"I wanted to hear from these people firsthand," Savoye said. "I wanted to talk to them myself so I could really relate. I wanted to know what they sounded like."

"My original plan was to get stories from all over Texas, but I pretty much stayed in the

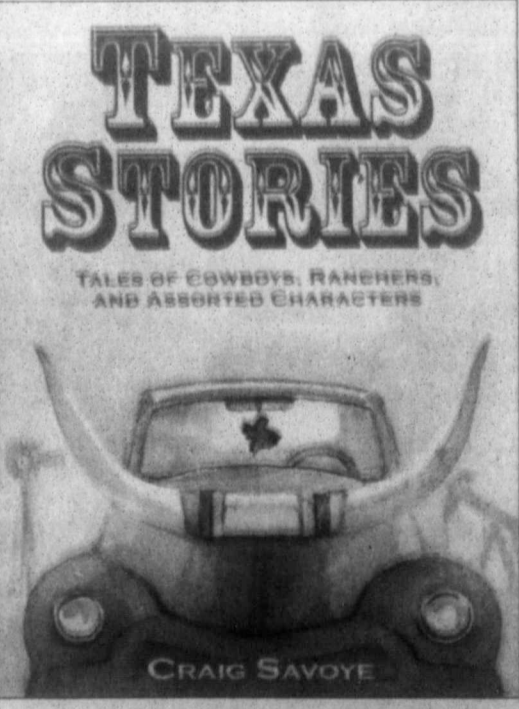


Savoye

Panhandle. I just kept getting stories. It was cool."

Savoye, a mass communications professor at Illinois' Principia College before turning to writing, said that he was lucky to find so many interesting characters concentrated in one area. One, Button Criswell of White Deer, especially caught his fancy.
 "I knew a guy from college who grew up in Bovina," Savoye said. "He knew a guy who was a lawyer in Amarillo. His buddy came to lunch with us, Joe Bob McCart, who was the mayor's husband, and the two of them opened their Rolodexes up on their phones."
 "Next thing you know, I was interviewing all sorts of people. I really wanted to go out **STORIES** cont. on page 6

Craig Savoye's "Texas Stories" focuses on firsthand accounts of Panhandle cowboys and ranchers. >

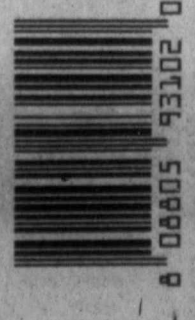


cover art courtesy of Nobadeer Press

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 Deadline: December 31
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For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday Thursday Friday



High 42 High 50 High 39
Low 31 Low 25 Low 17

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. Wind chill values between 19 and 29. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Wind chill values between 24 and 29. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of rain after noon. Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 50. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A chance of rain before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and snow between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., then a chance of snow after 5 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

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

Level: Beginner

LAST MINUTE ADS
The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement.

EARLY CLASSIFIED & Last Minute Ad (on pg. 2) Deadlines due to Christmas Holiday! For Fri. 12-24-10/Weekend combined edition deadline is Wed. Dec. 22 at noon. Merry Christmas from the Pampa News to all of you!!

MASSAGE THERAPY Special Christmas Gift Certificates NBC Plaza Ste. #9, 669-0013 Cathy Potter.

QUALITY CLEANERS will be closed Wed. Dec. 22 thru Dec. 26, due to a death in the family and the Christmas holidays.

END OF Year Liquidation Sale!! Holmes Sport Center.

PACK-N-MAIL NOW 25% off all gift items except Lakeshore Candles & Miche Bags.

OPEN LATE Dec. 20 thru Dec. 24th. Rheams Diamond Shop.

RAYMOND BARRETT'S grandson, Brian Anderson & Family performing at the Woody Guthrie Center, 320 S. Cuyler, Tues., Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy! Public invited.

Eleanor L. "Ellie" Wesbrooks, 90

Eleanor L. "Ellie" Wesbrooks, 90

Eleanor L. "Ellie" Wesbrooks, 90, died December 18, 2010, in Middletown, Conn.



Wesbrooks

Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Wesbrooks was born January 30, 1920, in Towanda, Kan. She moved from Grove, Okla. to Pampa in 1997, and had resided in Oakdale, Conn. since 2008 to be with her daughter. She married C.W. "Wally" Wesbrooks on April 25, 1942, in Meade, Kan. He preceded her in death on November 23, 2005. Eleanor was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church. She was a homemaker and a loving and giving lady. She was an avid reader and historian.

Survivors include two sons, Michael Wesbrooks and wife Alice of Pampa, and Ronald Wesbrooks and wife Pat of Beaumont; a daughter, Kathleen Wilson and husband Quentin of Oakdale, Conn.; seven grandchildren, Jason Wesbrooks and wife Rebecca and Justin Wesbrooks and wife Tera, all of Canyon, Lance Wesbrooks and wife Renee of Katy, Michael Wesbrooks and wife Claudia of McKinney, Allison Termini and husband Mark of Deep River, Conn., Dana Martin and husband Kyle, and Jared Wilson and wife Ashley all of Oakdale, Conn.; nine great-grandchildren. Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Lula Keevert, one brother, one sister, two half brothers, and two half sisters.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, TX 79101. *Please sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.*

Janet Lynn Rankin Voss, 60

Janet Lynn Rankin Voss, 60, died December 20, 2010, in Amarillo.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at First United Methodist Church of Miami, with Jeff Booth, minister of Christian Church of God of Amarillo, officiating.

Private family burial will be at Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Voss was born May 27, 1950, in Pampa, and was a graduate of Miami High School. She had been a lifelong resident of the Pampa and Miami areas. She was a member of the Christian Church of God in Amarillo. She was a loving mother, and grandmother, and enjoyed antique shopping and watching PBR.

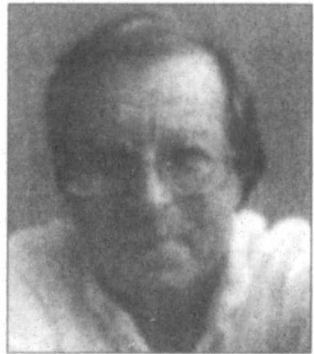
Survivors include her daughter, Candace Sellers and husband James of Pampa; son, Brandon Voss of Pampa; father, Rudolph Rankin and wife Linda of Miami; two brothers, Newell Rankin and wife Toni, and Ted Rankin and wife Connie, all of Miami; four grandchildren, Jacey Sellers, Savannah Sellers, Chase Voss and Maciee Voss. Janet was preceded in death by her mother, Fern Rankin; and grandparents, Arthur and Eunice Rankin and John and Dena Talley.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79105.

Please sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Gene Havenhill, 68

TYLER—Gene Havenhill, 68, died December 19, 2010, in Tyler.



Havenhill

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at Highland Baptist Church in Pampa, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, officiating.

Burial will be at Wheeler Cemetery in Wheeler, under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Havenhill was born July 19, 1942, in Wheeler. Gene was a resident of Tyler since 1980. He was a freelance court reporter in Tyler.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Cont. from Monday

Police Department

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the 1100 block of E. Kingsmill.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of N. Christy.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the 1200 block of Oklahoma. Criminal mischief was re-

ported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

An information call was reported in the 2100 block of N. Nelson.

An agency assist was provided at Frederic and Hughes.

An information call was reported in the 2200 block of N. Christine.

A suspicious person was reported in the 200 block of S. Cuyler.

A runaway was reported in

the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation at Finley and Hwy. 60.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of W. 30th.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2200 block of N. Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of E. Tyng.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of S. Cuyler.

Monday, Dec. 20

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of S. Somerville.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of N. Starkweather.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of W. Wilks.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of Sirroco Pl.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of

Cliff W. Martin, 81

Cliff W. Martin, 81, died December 20, 2010, in Pampa.



Martin

Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Martin was born November 22, 1929, in Wichita, Kansas. He married Freda Perry on December 30, 1950, in El Dorado, Kan. She preceded him in death on February 11, 2009. Cliff had been a resident of Pampa since 1954. He was a backhoe operator and pipe liner, and later formed his own fencing business. He enjoyed playing cards as well as his guitar. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors include six daughters, Alice Hall and husband Jim of Goodwell, Okla., Joanne Willoughby and husband Gary, Mary Atchley, Shirley Ledford, and Judy Cox and husband Kenneth, all of Pampa, and Joyce Penny and husband Dan of Alamogordo, N.M.; 17 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Hazel McGoyne and Nita Moore, both of El Dorado, Kan.; two brothers, Vernon Martin of Longton, Kan., and Pete Martin of El Dorado, Kan. He was preceded in death by three sisters, Agnes McIntire, Betty Moore and Grace Wiltshire; and two brothers, Phillip Martin and Virgil Martin.

Memorials may be made to National Kidney Foundation - Amarillo District, 801 S. Fillmore, Amarillo, TX 79101.

Please sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Ronald J. Brookshire, 72

ANDERSON, S.C.—Ronald J. Brookshire, 72, died December 18, 2010, in Amarillo.

Services are pending.

Mr. Brookshire was born October 28, 1938 in Ulysses, Kan. He graduated from high school in Satanta, Kan. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He spent a year in the conservatory of music in Washington, D.C., and played the tuba in the U.S. Navy Band. After his discharge, he attended Columbia Bible College, the Dallas Theological Seminary, and graduated from Lander University. Ronald was a registered nurse and was employed by Am Med Hospital for 18 years, and Patrick B. Harris Hospital for 20 years. He married Ann Rice on August 19, 1965 in Anderson, S. C. He was a member of New Spring Church in Anderson. Ronald loved to play the piano and guitar, as well as sing. He was a ham radio operator.

The family wishes to thank the compassionate staff of Northwest Texas Hospital for their loving care during this tragic time of the loss of our beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather. Thank you to Dr. Roger Hubbard, pastor of Lake Tanglewood Community Church of Amarillo for helping with thoughts and prayers during the last few days.

Survivors include his wife, Ann R. Brookshire of Starr, S.C.; two granddaughters, Victoria Brookshire and Maria Brookshire, both of Anderson, S.C.; a grandson, Jacob Brookshire of Anderson, S.C.; one sister, Joyce McNeely and husband Ed of Clarendon; four brothers, Richard V. Brookshire and wife Pat of Ulysses, Kan., Larry D. Brookshire and wife Barbara of Hoxie, Kan., Don R. Brookshire and wife Linda of Frisco, and Terry L. Brookshire and wife Laine of Pampa. Ronald was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ruth Brookshire; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rice; a brother-in-law, Buddy Rice; a sister-in-law, Mary Rice; and daughter-in-law, Christy Brookshire.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2010. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 6:38 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date:

In 1860, American Zionist leader Henrietta Szold, founder of the Jewish women's group Hadassah, was born in Baltimore.

In 1910, 344 coal miners were killed in Britain's Pretoria Pit Disaster

In 1940, author F. Scott Fitzgerald died in Hollywood, Calif., at age 44.

In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

In 1948, the state of Eire, or Ireland, passed an act declaring itself a republic.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected to a seven-year term as the first president of the Fifth Republic of France.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.

In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant broke apart near Nantucket Island, off Massachusetts, almost a week after running aground, spilling 7.5 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

Ten years ago: President-elect George W. Bush resigned as governor of Texas; Lt. Gov. Rick Perry was sworn in to replace him.

Five years ago: The Senate approved a six-month extension of the USA Patriot Act to keep the anti-terror law from expiring on Dec. 31, 2005.

One year ago: President Barack Obama hailed a crucial, early-morning test vote in the Senate on his health care overhaul, in which all 58 Democrats and two independents held together against unanimous Republican opposition.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Freddie Hart is 84. College Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno is 84. Actor Ed Nelson is 82. Talk show host Phil Donahue is 75. Movie director John Avildsen is 75. Actress Jane Fonda is 73. Singer Carla Thomas is 68. Musician Albert Lee is 67. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 66. Actor Josh Mostel is 64. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 62. Movie producer Jeffrey Katzenberg is 60. Singer Betty Wright is 57. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Chris Evert is 56. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 54. Entertainer Jim Rose is 54. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 53. Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 48. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 45. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 45. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 44. Actress Karri Turner is 44. Actress Khrystyne Haje is 42. Actress Julie Delpy is 41. Country singer-musician Rhea (rehn) Boyer (Carolina Rain) is 40. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 39. Actor Glenn Fitzgerald is 39. Singer-musician Brett Scallions is 39. Rock singer Lukas Rossi (Rock Star Supernova) is 34. Country singer Luke Stricklin is 28.

Thought for Today: "Winter comes but once a year. And when it comes it brings the doctor good cheer." - Ogden Nash, American humorist (1902-1971)



Why Christmas has become better every year

I still wish I hadn't peeked in the attic that year.

It was Christmas 1972 and I was 10. It was the first year when I no longer believed in Santa Claus.

Until that point, Christmas had been a magical time for me.

A few weeks after Thanksgiving, I would join with my father to pick out our tree. He'd wear his rattiest coat and work his mastery on the helpless Christmas-tree guy to knock the price down two or three bucks.

Soon, my father and I would have our giant platform in place and the tree perfectly positioned. We'd string the lights — thick old bulbs that burned fingers when touched — and head to the attic to bring down boxes of Christmas decorations.

My sisters would be called and our whole family would decorate the tree. As our stack of scratchy old Christmas records would play — as Mitch Miller, Bing Crosby and the Chipmunks would sing — our mother would make special note of old orna-

ments handed down from family members long gone and my sisters would show me how to hang the tinsel expertly, one strand at a time.

The sun soon would go down and the light of our Christmas-tree bulbs reflecting off the tinsel would transform our living room into a kaleidoscope — a brilliant glow of colors dancing on the walls and ceiling.

My mother, a master at building up suspense, would talk about the days ahead — church, family and the gifts Santa might bring.

We would have the sense that a real event was about to happen. And it was.

The next few weeks would take forever to pass. Finally, Christmas Eve would arrive. There would be no harder night, then or now, for a kid to sleep.

But as Bing Crosby would sing "White Christmas" on the old stereo console — as our father would grumble to our mother, "For gods-sakes, Betty, I'll never get this thing together by morning ..." — we'd finally fall asleep, only to wake

3 hours later to the glorious surprise awaiting us downstairs.

All that magic left me in 1972. What a fraud it all seemed to be.

Yet there was my mother, as cheerful and hopeful as ever. She whistled along with our Christmas albums as she decorated the house. She did everything she could to build up mystery and suspense, but I wanted none of it that year.

I had become a cynic. All I cared about was that my gifts were hidden in the attic. I had pulled down the attic stairs and snuck up inside with a flashlight. I had been surprised to see one gift I really wanted but didn't think my parents could afford: a table-top hockey game!

My excitement had quickly turned to sadness. I had cheated my mother. I

had robbed her of the mystery and suspense she put so much effort into building.

I had to fake my surprise on Christmas morning. I felt like a rat.

That happened 38 years ago. Here's what also happened: Every Christmas got better after that. They're getting better still.

My mother and father are doing well in their 70s. My mother is whistling along with old Christmas records as you read this.

Despite all the noise our country faces every year — materialism and arguing over public Christmas displays — Christmas is very simple to me.

In addition to its spiritual origin, it is a celebration of the abundance of love and security my parents gave my sisters and me so many years ago — the love and security we give each other still.

I don't peek into attics anymore.



TOM PURCELL

Tom Purcell is a freelance writer and a humor columnist for the *Pittsburgher Tribune-Review*.

The PAMPA NEWS

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- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

New Iraqi government finally sworn in

BAGHDAD (AP) — Parliament swore in a new Iraqi government Tuesday after nine months of bitter political haggling, solidifying the grip that Shiites have held on political power since Saddam Hussein's ouster while leaving open the question of whether the country's disgruntled Sunni minority will play a meaningful role.

The new government led by incumbent Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki got off to a shaky start as disagreements among coalition partners prevented al-Maliki from naming some of his more than 40 Cabinet ministers. And this fragile coalition must address enormous and pressing challenges such as the heavy cost of rebuilding from the devastation seven years of war has wrought and lingering sectarian tensions that periodically explode into violence.

Another urgent priority will be leading the country through the withdrawal of American troops, scheduled for the end of next year. More than 4,400 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis died in a war that has yet to bring stability and prosperity to this oil-rich Middle Eastern nation.

Lawmakers approved about 30 ministers including al-Maliki to form the new government. The remainder of the 42-member Cabinet is made up of acting ministers who will be replaced at a later date because of ongoing disputes between coalition partners.

"The most difficult task in the world is forming a national unity government in a country where there is a diversity of ethnic, sectarian and political backgrounds," al-Maliki said speaking before the vote.

He vowed to create a government that would combat terrorism, address the still-festering sectarian divisions and repair relations with neighboring, Sunni-dominated Arab countries, who are largely suspicious of the Shiited government.

The new Cabinet members were immediately sworn in following the nationally televised vote that approved them.

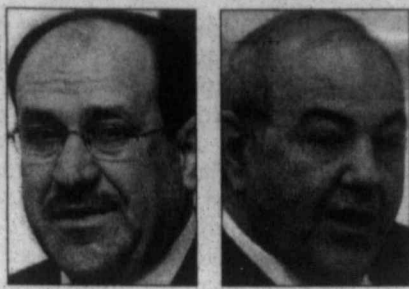
President Barack Obama called the government formation a "significant moment" in the country's history and a "major step forward." Obama also said it was a "clear rejection" of sectarian extremism.

A spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described it as "a major step forward in Iraq's democratic progress" while calling on the new government to now get to work on national reconciliation, reconstruction and long-term stability.

Iraqis elections on March 7 did not give any single bloc a majority in the 325-member parliament, leading to nine months of political jockeying to form the new government. Although al-Maliki's coalition came in a close second to a Sunni-backed coalition led by former prime minister Ayad Allawi, it was al-Maliki who was able to eventually patch together the necessary support needed to keep his office.

The new government includes members of all of Iraq's major political and sectarian factions, including Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

The vote Tuesday was largely a display of unity that belies the still festering problems between the Shiite



al-Maliki

Allawi

majority and the Sunni minority that used to make up the backbone of the insurgency. Sunnis dominated the regime under Saddam.

Allawi, who at one point had vowed to never join an al-Maliki-led government, told lawmakers ahead of the vote that his bloc of 91 lawmakers would support and cooperate with the new government.

One of the key questions leading up to the government formation was the role that the Sunni-backed Iraqiya coalition would play. U.S. officials had lobbied heavily for Allawi to be included in some fashion, fearing that leaving him and the Iraqiya coalition out of the government entirely or excluding them from meaningful roles would incite a return to the type of sectarian violence that at one point almost tore the country apart.

Allawi is slated to head a new council overseeing foreign policy and security related issues but there are already disagreements between his coalition and al-Maliki's about how much power the council will have.

Iraqiya only recently dropped its long-standing demand that Allawi should have the first shot at forming the government. Allawi's concession came after he was assured that Sunnis will not be excluded from the government.

Other members of Iraqiya to garner top Cabinet posts were Saleh al-Mutlaq, who will be deputy prime minister and Rafia al-Issawi, who will be finance minister.

Kurdish lawmaker Hoshiyar Zebari will hold onto the influential foreign ministry post.

But some of the ministries are still to be decided, reflecting the challenges al-Maliki faces including all the country's sects and political affiliations in the new government. He has named acting ministers to fill those ministries after disputes with his erstwhile Sadrist allies about who among the Sadrists would get Cabinet posts.

It was al-Sadr's support — in a deal brokered by Iran — that largely enabled al-Maliki to build the framework for a majority coalition.

The Sadrist alliance holds 40 of parliament's 325 seats. Their partnership with al-Maliki has always been tenuous, and came as a surprise because the two had been enemies since 2008 when the prime minister launched an offensive crushing al-Sadr's militia in eastern Baghdad and the southern city of Basra.

The ministries still to be decided include the critical defense, interior and national security posts. Those positions are closely watched in Iraq for any sign that they are being abused by one side or another across the sectarian divide.

The role of the those positions will become even more important as Iraq takes over more security responsibilities from American troops who are scheduled to leave the country by the end of next year.

In addition to his role as prime minister, al-Maliki will also serve as acting defense, interior and national security minister.

The Iraqiya alliance narrowly defeated al-Maliki at the March election, garnering 91 seats to al-Maliki's 89 seats. But after months of wrangling, Iraqiya could never find enough support to form a majority government.

All-Maliki has served as prime minister since May 2006.

U.S. gas demand in stable decline

NEW YORK — The world's biggest gas-guzzling nation has limits after all.

After seven decades of mostly uninterrupted growth, U.S. gasoline demand is at the start of a long-term decline. By 2030, Americans will burn at least 20 percent less gasoline than today, experts say, even as millions of more cars clog the roads.

The country's thirst for gasoline is shrinking as cars and trucks become more fuel-efficient, the government mandates the use of more ethanol and people drive less.

"A combination of demographic change and policy change means the heady days of gasoline growing in the U.S. are over," says Daniel Yergin, chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates and author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the oil industry.

This isn't the first time in U.S. history that gasoline demand has fallen, at least temporarily. Drivers typically cut back during recessions, then hit the road again when the economy picks up. Indeed, the Great Recession was the chief reason demand fell sharply in 2008.

But this time looks different. Government and industry officials — including the CEO of Exxon Mobil — say U.S. gasoline demand has peaked for good. It has declined four years in a row and will not reach the 2006 level again, even when the economy fully recovers.

In fact, the ground was shifting before the recession. The 2001 terrorist attacks, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and pump prices rising to a nationwide average of \$3 a gallon for the first time in a generation reignited public debates about the political and economic effects of oil imports and climate change. Also, the popularity of SUVs began to wane, and the government started requiring refiners to blend corn-based ethanol into every gallon of gasoline.

Americans are burning an average of 8.2 million barrels — 344 million gallons — of gasoline per day in 2010, a figure that excludes the ethanol blended into gasoline. That's 8 percent less than at the 2006 peak, according to government data.

The decline is expected to accelerate for several reasons.

For one, starting with the 2012 model year, cars will have to hit a higher fuel economy target for the first time since 1990. Each carmaker's fleet must average 30.1 mpg, up from 27.5. By the 2016 model year, that number must rise to 35.5 mpg. And, starting next year, SUVs and minivans, once classified as trucks, will count toward passenger vehicle targets.

Indictments

cont. from page 1

possession of a controlled substance in connection with an incident in April, 2009. He is free on bond.

City raises green, cart fees at Hidden Hills

By Betty Phillips
betty@pampanews.com

During the first city meeting of the year Pampa commissioners signed two resolutions approving great applications and raised the fees at the golf course.

The new green and cart fees at Hidden Hills Golf Course are expected to bring in an additional \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year. Fees have not been raised at the course since 2007.

Green fees for adult rounds played Monday-Friday will go up \$1 to \$13. Weekend and holidays, the course will charge \$16 per round. Senior citizens (62 years of age and older) will pay \$10 on week days and junior golfers (18 years of age and under, and enrolled as a full-time student) will pay \$9. Green fees for junior golfers on weekends and holidays are \$11. Golf carts will be rented to a single rider for \$6.50 if playing nine holes, or \$12.50 for 18 holes. For two riders in a cart, the fees are \$12 and \$24 respectively.

Yearly Greens - Four remain, Single - \$225, Couple - \$400, Family - \$600, Seniors - \$425.

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POYC Ooops

POYC sign-ups begin today

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club has an exciting year coming up according to Chris Porter, Vice President of the Club. The Boys Basketball season is starting, with games January 14, and 15 and the season starting on the 25. This league is for all boys, third through sixth grade.

"We'll be having our baseball and softball leagues, the week before Spring Break," said Porter. "There is a lot of excitement this year for our baseball programs, being that we will be hosting the Regional Cat Fights Tournament for our side and 10 year olds and the 11 and 12 Regional will be at Randall."

The 11 and 12 year old teams in the defuncting West Texas State Champions, and the 9 and 10 year old teams are the runner up West Texas

VFW hoists flag

The Stars and Stripes flew proudly today from the flagpole in front of Meredith House.

In a ceremony Wednesday afternoon, members of VFW Post 1457 hoisted the United States flag in front of the restored living facility. The Pampa VFW post hoisted the flag and flag pole today, according to George Collingsworth, a life member of the organization.

Dennis Miller and Alvin Johnson, both life members of the facility.

ATMOS offers help with home heating bills

Latlock - With extremely cold temperatures covering much of the United States, Atmos Energy Corporation offers to consumers help energy assistance funds are available for those who need help paying for home heating.

"Like last winter, this heating season will be challenging for our customers, and Atmos Energy is ready to help meet our customers in need with energy assistance programs," said Gary Gregory, president of Atmos Energy's West Texas Division. "Some agencies have a sure supply of federal or state funds to help people pay their utility bills."

ATMOS care on page 3

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Sports

Harvesters escape Panthers, halt losing streak at 3

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters entered Monday's game at Panhandle needing a victory after a three-game losing streak. The Harvesters got just that as they beat the Panhandle Panthers 66-58.

Head coach Dustin Miller said they just wanted to leave with a win.

"We knew it was going to be physical," Miller said. "With the smaller schools, that's kind of their hope against us, to rough us up. I think we are more finesse. We were prepared for it and just came out with a win."

The first quarter started very competitive as both teams held leads. Pampa held a couple of two point leads and a three point lead. Panhandle held a 6-5 lead. The

Harvesters went on a 5-0 run, only to have the Panthers respond with a four point run. Pampa would start pulling away towards the end of the quarter and led 14-10 after one. Junior guard Latigo Collins led the Harvesters offensive attack with 11 points.

Senior Brandon Chairez said Panhandle was very physical.

"They were hard to block out," Chairez said. "We just had to play aggressive."

The Harvesters (7-5) continued their run in the second quarter and expanded the lead to 22-12. Junior Cole Engle led Pampa's offense with two three pointers. Trey Hill paced the Panthers scoring with 10 first half points. Pampa led 29-22 at halftime.

The third quarter was very offensive as both teams combined for 39 points. The Harvesters led by double digits most of

the quarter. Pampa had balanced scoring with senior Garrett Ericson scoring six, Chairez scored five, Collins scored five and senior Jonathan Polasek scored five. The Harvesters led 52-38 after three.

Junior center Reid Miller said they made adjustments on defense.

"We were running a zone and were supposed to pack the paint," Miller said. "In the first half we weren't really doing that. In the second half we packed the paint more and didn't give up as many free layups."

The Panthers (7-7) started the fourth quarter with a rally, outscoring the Harvesters 11-6 to cut their lead to nine. Pampa was clutch at the free throw line though, making 10 of 12. Collins made six of eight free throws and led the team in scoring with 26 points. Hill led the

Panthers in scoring with 20. Austin Whitt scored 11 points and Zach Berry scored 10 points.

The junior varsity lost 54-43. Coach Matt Embry said free throws and turnovers cost them.

"That's the type of basketball we have to get away from," Embry said. "We got to play four quarters of basketball and not to or three like we've been playing."

Pampa plays in the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock December 28-30. Miller said he is confident about his team going in.

"We're playing in a small school bracket this year, due to our reclassification," Miller said. "That helps. There's no reason that we don't win three or four games in that thing and come home with a championship."



photo courtesy of Joe Murray

Latigo Collins attempts a three pointer with Panhandle's Austin Whitt putting a hand in his face. Collins made three threes and lead the Harvesters in scoring with 26 points. Pampa beat Panhandle 66-58 Monday in Panhandle. This was the last game before Christmas and the Harvesters' season resumes December 28-30 in the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock.

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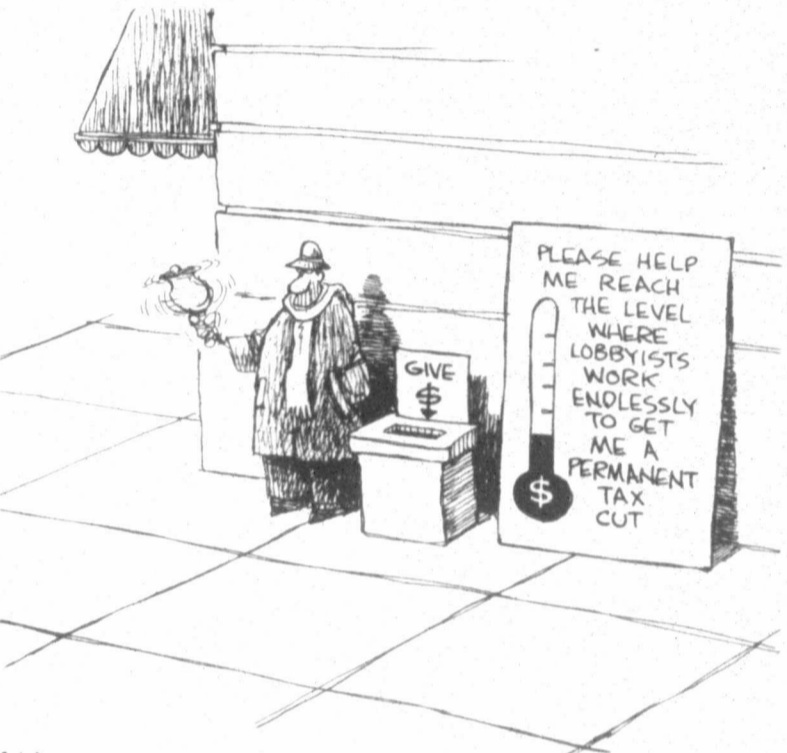
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“... 'cause then everybody'll ask for it and Santa might run out.”

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010:

This year, dealing with two different forces or situations helps you perfect the art of juggling. Use your creativity to create a middle ground. You also can allow opposite issues to just flow, deciding you don't need to do anything. Your view has a uniqueness that is much in demand. If you are single, separate your personal and professional lives. Don't let one take root in the other. Everyone will be happier that way — above all, you. If you are attached, the two of you need to respect your differences. Often, if you detach, you can see the validity of your sweetie's ideas. Encourage differences. Life as a couple could be more exciting that way. **CANCER** has a way of testing your limits.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You move quickly, mentally and physically. You know what you are doing. Careful! Fatigue could mark a decision at work. You want to get going and start the holiday. Give yourself space and time — you are just about there. Tonight: Happily heading home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep communicating exactly what you are thinking. Your verbal style appeals to many people, yet present fatigue in your voice might be misread. Be clear with friends how happy you are to see them! Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ A last-minute crisis forcing unanticipated spending could put the kibosh on this holiday. Slow down. Move from automatic to reflective and thoughtful. The results can only be better. Tonight: Your treat, and don't forget yourself!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You make a special effort toward a child or loved one. Though this person might not realize what you have done immediately, he or she will eventually. Schedule time for some early Christmas sharing. Tonight: What you want counts too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Everyone knows that the Lion doesn't want to step out of the limelight. Just wait a little while longer, and the spotlight will be on you. Know that this is only a passage.

Use this quiet time to complete a project. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Meetings are strategic. You seem to relate to the crowd rather than the individual. Be willing to say “no” to another person's request. Following through might stretch you too far. Tonight: Where others are celebrating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Count on last-minute requests wherever you are, no matter what you are doing. Your softer side emerges, and you just might overcommit yourself. You have energy, but you need to indulge yourself. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Make sure you touch base with those at a distance while you still have time. You could become more and more spread thin in the next few days. Detach and try to solve an issue unrelated to the holidays. Tonight: Follow your dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Relate to people directly. Sending a message might not have the same quality as a phone call. Others are unusually gracious and ready to share. Make time to open up and share more. Tonight: Find mistletoe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You don't defer easily, unless it is part of the plan, and it must be your plan as well! Still, with so much pressure on your shoulders, you might have little choice. Communication flourishes. Engage in more open dialoguing. Tonight: Listen to suggestions, but do what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Focus on one task at a time. You'll accomplish a lot very quickly, ultimately creating more free time. Be careful not to overcommit yourself. Your plate looks full. Be helpful, but not at the cost of damaging your holiday. Tonight: Know when to stop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Pull out the stopper and allow your imagination to fill in the gaps with work, people and perhaps with a gift or two. You might not be able to shut off your creativity. Tonight: Take a walk to relax, or join a friend for some Christmas cheer.

BORN TODAY
Singer Robin Gibb (1949), singer Maurice Gibb (1949), TV journalist Diane Sawyer (1945)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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- _____ **Thomas Automotive**
(Randy)
- _____ **Prestige**
(Casey)
- _____ **Sonic**
(Jose)
- _____ **Rheams**
(Ken)
- _____ **Holmes**
(Ronnie)

- _____ **Brandon's**
(Misty)
- _____ **Culberson-Stowers**
(George)
- _____ **Franks**
(Miguel)
- _____ **Keys**
(Merlin)
- _____ **Roberta's**
(Crystal)

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