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The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS
 Rice-a-roni
 Pampa product Rice nets 1,000th point at Denver U.
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 Chamber Music
 by Joe Weaver
 Viewpoints,
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Volume 106 • No. 222 Special Issue 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50
 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 24-26, 2010

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'THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME'
 Readers share favorite Christmas memories

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

Christmas, as the song goes, is the "most wonderful time of the year."
 At its core is the birth of Christ, celebrated by Christians around the world.
 For most of us, it has also come to mean a season filled with family traditions and a hopeful attitude.
 Each of us have our special Christmas memories. We've asked a few of our neighbors to share theirs in the spirit of the season.

Della Moyer:
 "From my earliest remembered childhood Christmas was always a grand affair. Mother would bake for days and family would come from near and far to be together. Daddy would cook the ham and turkey and then sit back in his chair with his legs crossed over the arm, a cigar in his hand, watching all the festivities with a slight smile on his face.
 "It was not unusual for more than 30 people to be gathered together in Mother and Daddy's home — brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins filled the house. On Christmas Eve, Mother would read the Christmas story, we would exchange presents and sing around the piano. Papa (Mother's daddy) would then play the Boogie Woogie on the pump organ. That was always good for a laugh. Christmas Day would find us eating together way more than we needed and then simply relaxing to visit or play games.
 "One year in particular, Mother had been making her Christmas candy and if anything could go wrong it did. She made the best divinity; however, that year it would not "make". We had to eat it with a spoon, but I recall the divinity that year as being the best she ever made.
 "Then, as we grew into adults, married, and moved away, many years brought us all back home to add to the group our children and then grandchildren. But, one by one many of the older generations went to be with our Lord and our group has dwindled. "We all seem to be going our separate ways. This year it will be just my Dad, my husband, daughter and two granddaughters. However, I look forward to the days when they will return home bringing their children and grandchildren (but not too soon, girls) and we will again grow into that large group just to be together and know that we love each other and Christ loves us."

Pat Johnson:
 "When both sons lived in California, we flew out to spend Christmas with them. **MEMORIES** cont. on page 2

Second mail-in rebate program under way

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS
 Texas wants to reward its residents for slimming down their energy consumption. The program began on Monday, and the applications are available at www.texaspowerfulsmart.org or at comptroller field offices.
 The program will end when the \$18.5 million fund runs out, the comptroller's office has said. A calculator will appear online to show how much funding remains.
 "If you look at it in terms of the savings you can get, the energy efficiency appliance and the rebate part of it gives **REBATES** cont. on page 3

LAST MINUTE SHOPPING BEAR MARKET

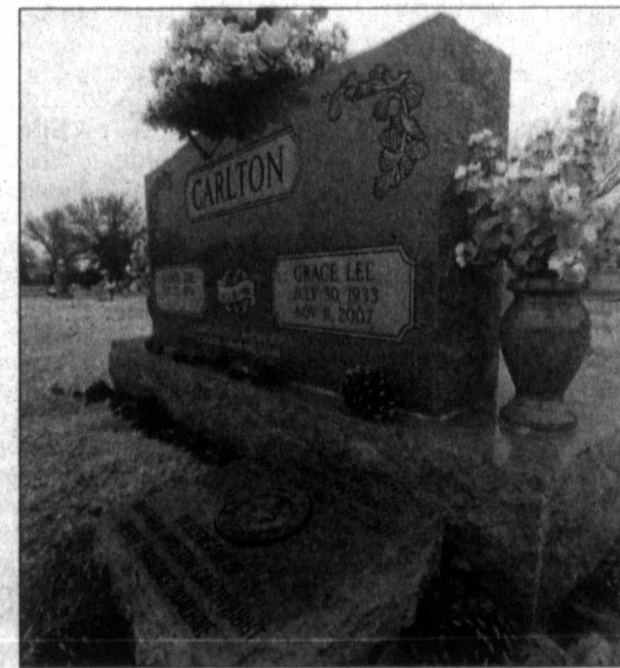


staff photo by David Bowser
Josline Madrid, 10, finds a Christmas bear while her father and brother were working on hamburgers at Heard and Jones during a last minute shopping trip in downtown Pampa.

Plaque honors Pampa's Carlton

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

A bit of Texas history was noted in Pampa this month. An historical plaque was placed at a grave in Fairview Cemetery in recognition of a descendant of at least two men that fought in the war for Texas independence in 1836. The plaque is only the second of its kind to be placed at Fairview Cemetery, and the first to honor a woman.
 Earlier this month, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas placed a marble stone embedded with a bronze plaque at the gravesite of Grace Lee Welborn Carlton as Mrs. Carlton's family members looked on. Mrs. Carlton died Nov. 11, 2007. She was born July 30, 1933, in Archer County, and lived in Lefors before moving to Pampa in 1967, but the story of the plaque honoring her reaches back well before that.
 Her daughter Mollie Weber of Conroe had become interested in the family history, according to Sarah Hollis of Pampa, another of Mrs. Carlton's daughters.
 Joined by the other daughters, Joyce Hollenshead of Grand Saline, Martha Walker of Colleyville and Doris Ross of Columbia, Mo., they took up a quest that their grandmother, Esther Rose Oualline Welborn, began years ago. **CARLTON** cont. on page 3



Merry Christmas
 from Joe, Erica & Grady at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce!

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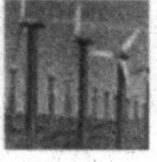

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For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
High 41 Low 19	High 43 Low 18	High 37 Low 24
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21. Wind chill values between 14 and 19. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.	Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. North northwest wind around 5 mph.	Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 19. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.	Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 18. Breezy, with a south southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.	Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 37. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.		

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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

- BLESS THE Season and Bless You and Your Loved Ones.** National Home Health Care, 1521 N. Hobart.
- CERAMIC TILE:** Showers, Counter-tops, Floors, Tub Surrounds, Back Splashes. Call Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.
- EARLY CLASSIFIED & Last Minute Ad** (on pg. 2) Deadlines due to New Year Holiday! For Thurs. Dec. 30 deadline is Wed. Dec. 29 at noon, for Fri. Dec. 31-Jan. 1 Weekend combined edition deadline is Wed. Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. Happy New Year from the Pampa News to all of you!!
- MADISON'S CLOSET** Winter Mark Down 40% Off selected apparel, leggings \$8. Dec. 28 - 31st. 329 N. Hobart.
- NEW YEAR'S Eve Dance.** McLean Dance Club featuring western swing band, Blue Denim II, 8 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. \$20 per person. BYOB. 323-8515, 256-5317.
- OPEN LATE** Dec. 20 thru Dec. 24th. Rheams Diamond Shop.
- PAMPA NEWS** Weekend Edition will not be delivered Sat. Dec. 25th. A combined edition of Fri. Dec. 24th and Weekend edition 12-25/26th will be delivered on Fri. Dec. 24th. Merry Christmas!
- PAMPA SHRINE** Club We Cater!! 50-200 people (approx. 3000 sq. ft.) available for rent. Weddings, Banquets, Company Parties or Family Reunions. Kitchen facilities avail. at no extra chrg. Call Ben Watson 669-3359 to reserve!

D. Grace Garner Futch, 87

ALLEN—D. Grace Garner Futch, 87, died December 20, 2010, in Frisco. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, December 27, 2010, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Pastor Jimmie Cole of First Church of the Nazarene of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Futch

Mrs. Futch was born February 20, 1923, in the Gray Community of Beaver County, Okla., the daughter of the late Bertha and Edgar Garner. She joined her late husband, James David Futch, when she passed away on Monday. Grace, as she was known to her family, left Oklahoma as a young girl to settle in the Kelton community, located in the Texas panhandle. She moved to Pampa in 1949 and lived there until 1998 when she relocated to Plano to be closer to her daughters. She graduated from Kelton High School in 1940 where she was a star basketball player. She was an avid basketball fan who loved sewing, cooking and spending time with her family and being a part of her church. Grace was the fifth of eight children. She is survived by three of her siblings, Pauline Holland, Juanita Smith and Joe Garner. Grace was blessed with three children of her own, two daughters, Sandra Franks and husband Dennis Wayne of Plano, and Donna Larson and husband Jerry of Allen; a son, J. D. Futch of Houston; five grandchildren, Dennis Franks and wife Elyce of Flower Mound, David Franks of Plano, Bobby Burrows of Allen, Dack Franks and wife Alica of Stafford, and August Larson of Dallas; four great-grandchildren, Brant Burrows, Caitlyn Franks, Taylor Burrows, and Andrew Franks. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, December 26, 2010, at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home in Pampa. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Bobby Carlton Wilhelm, 74

Bobby Carlton Wilhelm of Lubbock and formerly of Pampa went home Sunday, Dec. 19. He was born April 22, 1936, in DeLeon, to Ollie and Faye Wilhelm. A 1954 graduate of Pampa High School, Bob attended the University of Wisconsin, Oklahoma University and the University of Corpus Christi on athletic scholarships, earning graduate and post graduate degrees. He is remembered for regional, state and national Golden Gloves championships. A teacher and coach, he



Wilhelm

later invested in real estate.

He was preceded in death by his father in 2008, his mother in 1971, and his brother, Gary in 2003. Survivors include sons, Kevin Wilhelm and family of El Paso, Buddy Wilhelm of Lubbock, Jim Bob Smithson of Houston; daughters, Tammy Madding of Lubbock and Kim Mode of Canyon; a sister, Lynda Queen of Amarillo; a brother, Rocky Wilhelm and wife Mary of Katy; 14 grandchildren; his "family" at The Plaza in Lubbock; and many friends. A private, family gravesite service and scattering of ashes is planned later in Las Cruces, N.M. Memorials may be sent to Redbud Baptist Church in Lubbock or to Gideons International.

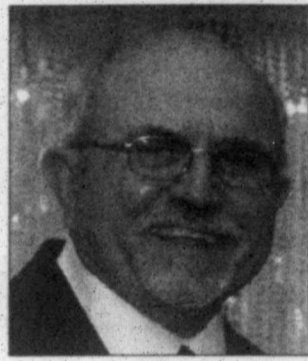
Robert "Bob" Frank White, 63

Robert "Bob" Frank White, 63 year old Edmond resident, passed away Tuesday, December 22, 2010 at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 27 at Matthews Funeral Home with Jerry Moore officiating.



White

Bob was born on October 30, 1947 in Canadian, to Mansel and Marguerite White. He was raised in Woodward, Okla. and graduated from Woodward High School in 1965. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1967 and served during the Vietnam War receiving a Purple Heart Medal. He attended trade school in Amarillo, Texas before becoming a welder and later in life he became a health and safety specialist. On July 3, 1969, he married the love of his life, Jane Elaine Langston. They were blessed with two children, Whit Robert and Mindy Kay. Bob worked as a welder for Celanese Chemical in Pampa, Texas and later became a safety manager for Zachry Corporation of San Antonio, Texas. Presently he worked for Burns McDonnell of Kansas City, Mo. as a health and safety specialist. He was preceded in death by his father, Mansel White.



White

Bob enjoyed playing golf and working in the yard. He particularly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was a good guy. He is survived by his wife, Jane of the home, a son, Whit of Amarillo, and Mindy Simon and husband R. K. of Oklahoma City, his mother Marguerite of Ft Supply, Okla., two sisters Sandra Kay and husband Earl of Gillette, Wyo. and Lynda Harris and husband Brent of Woodward and a brother Todd White and wife Tonda of Vici, Okla.; one grandchild, Cailynn Renee White, other relatives and many friends. Memorials may be made to the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, 35 Country Club Drive, Angel Fire, NM 87710.

Memories

which was very different from the Texas Panhandle. "We saw poinsettias growing abundantly and the warm climate seemed more like Easter than Christmas. It was the first time we had spent Christmas away from home, but we were with two of our children and three grandchildren including a 3-month old so it was a very special Christmas!"

Kerrick Horton:

"In 1991-1992, we hosted a foreign exchange student, Hanne Zevenbergen, from Holland. "For Christmas, my sister Karen Kleiboeker and my brother John Warner and their families presented us with a trip for five to Disney World. They had arranged for a hotel on the grounds and airline tickets for us. "It was such a surprise and a trip that none of us will ever forget."

Rochelle Smith Lacey:

"When I was growing up, nothing said "Christmas" more than the annual performance by the combined Pampa churches of Handel's Messiah. "My earliest memories consist of sitting on the front row at the First Methodist Church while my mother and father, Irl and Irene Smith, rehearsed this glorious music. The director/organist was Mrs. Mae Foreman Carr, a local piano teacher who turned out some fine musicians, including Phoebe Osborne Reynolds and the late Tracy Cary. She never turned me into a good pianist, but

she gave me a love for great music. "From an early age I began begging her to let me sing in the chorus for The Messiah. She informed me that I couldn't possibly be allowed to sing with them until I was at least fourteen years old or I would ruin my voice. The spring I turned 14, I gleefully told Mrs. Carr that I was going to sing with them that Christmas. I'm sure she groaned and wondered what monster she had created, but I was allowed to sing. "I continued to sing with them throughout high school and one year we even had a combined chorus of singers from Pampa, Borger and Amarillo, and part of the Amarillo Symphony to play. We sang in all three towns. "Since then, I have also sung, both as a chorus member and as a soloist with various groups, including the Austin Civic Chorus, Amarillo Civic Chorus, Taos Civic Chorus and recently with the new Pampa Civic Chorus. I look forward to the time the local churches will again come together for a Community sing-along of Handel's Messiah. We certainly have enough talented musicians in Pampa to do this."

Rochelle Smith Lacey:

"My Christmas memory goes back to 2006. I was dating a friend here in Pampa and he asked me to go to Eagle Nest and Red River, New Mexico. I jumped at the chance to go and loved every minute of it - the sights, the snow - it was beautiful. "Then he asked me if I wanted to go and see my brother in Los Ala-

mos, whom I had not seen since my late husband had died in 1998 (Dave Smith). "It was so wonderful to be there for the Christmas dinner that my sister-in-law prepared for her family and us. She made a rib roast and it was so tender it would melt in your mouth. Then we sat down to watch some of the Cowboys play before we headed back to Eagle Nest. "I hated to leave as I love my brothers and sisters so much, but only got to spend that Christmas with him and the rest of his family. "My nephew was home for the holidays from Iraq, so got to see him too. But there will be more Christmases to come as he is moving back to Texas and we will get together with the rest of the family, hopefully next Christmas."

Ellen Tyre:

The very best Christmas my son Vincent and I ever had was in 1999 when we headed south, WAY south, to Australia for the holidays. "December is the middle of summer in the Southern hemisphere and on Christmas Day we were snorkeling along the Great Barrier Reef. In the evening we were back at the resort in Cairns, eating fresh fruits we had never heard of and enjoying the Christmas lights in the palm trees with carols playing over the speakers. "Forget "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" and "...let it snow, let it snow, let it snow." A summertime Christmas can't be beat!! "Merry Christmas, Mate!"

cont. from page 1



Cops' Corner

Christmas is finally here! It is a time for gathering with family and friends and enjoying one another. That's why the Pampa Police Department wants everyone to be safe and not have to experience a tragedy this Christmas. During this time of year lots of families will be traveling all over the Country. As we all know the weather can sometimes be unpredictable, so the Pampa Police Department wants you to be safe on and off the roads during this holiday season. We want to encourage citizens to be more careful, prepared and aware during this time of year. We ask that you take a few moments and read the following safety precautions when traveling:

1. If you are traveling a long distance, pack extra food, water and blankets.
2. If you do experience a break down call the local Law Enforcement for help. If you do not have a cell phone, lift your hood up and tie a streamer around your antenna. If a stranger approaches, keep your doors locked and roll your window down slightly and ask if they could call the Police for assistance.
3. NEVER pick up hitchhikers.
4. Always, devote your full attention to your driving.

Remember, there are more states that are going to "no cell phones" when driving. If you have to place a call to someone have a passenger in the vehicle make the call for you. If you are alone, pull to the side of the road and make the call. If you need more information on this Cops Corner contact Officer McCullar at 806-669-5700.

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AFTERNOONRUSH Fewer people apply for unemployment

Expedia, American at odds

NEW YORK (AP) - Expedia is making American Airlines flights and fares harder to find on its website after the airline pulled its fares off rival Orbitz.

The online travel site on Thursday said of American's action that it "cannot support efforts that we believe are fundamentally bad for travelers."

The changes on Expedia include moving American's flight options out of their prime spot on the first page of results. Instead of seeing prices immediately when searching, American's fares are now visible only after choosing both a departure and return flight.

Appeals court upholds fine

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - A federal appeals court has upheld a conviction and \$18 million penalty against Texas-based Southern Union Co., a natural gas company, for illegally storing mercury at a rundown and mostly abandoned building in Pawtucket, R.I.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said in its opinion that the penalty - a \$6 million fine and \$12 million in charitable contributions - imposed by a judge last year was reasonable, and the panel rejected the company's arguments that it did not need a permit to store the mercury.

NM County rules on wind farms

LAS VEGAS, N.M. (AP) - San Miguel County commissioners have approved a regulation that allows wind farms as close as a half-mile from a home, bringing objections from some citizens who wanted wind farms kept three miles away.

The distance issue was the largest in a proposed wind ordinance in the northern New Mexico county.

Commissioners rejected the three-mile setback on Monday, bringing shouts of "shame, shame" from several people in the audience.

Commissioner Nicolas Leger proposed cutting the setback to a half mile between wind farms and homes, churches, businesses and schools.

The commission approved his proposal without discussion.

The county formed a task force last year to develop rules for wind turbines after Chicago-based Invenery expressed interest in a 50-turbine wind farm on Bernal Mesa.

Invenery wanted a setback of 1,500 feet.

Gas prices high across Texas

IRVING, Texas (AP) - A spike in crude oil prices has pushed Texas retail gasoline prices to their highest point in nearly two years.

The weekly AAA Texas gasoline price survey released Thursday shows the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded is selling for \$2.85 across the state, 3 cents higher than it was last week. The national average rose 3 cents to \$3.01 this week.

The cheapest gasoline in Texas was once again found in El Paso and San Antonio at \$2.80 a gallon.

The state's most expensive gasoline is \$2.89 a gallon in Texarkana, where it soared 8 cents from last week.

Oil prices closed at \$91.50 a barrel Thursday, a \$3.80-a-barrel jump in three days of trading.

OK company adds 667 jobs

CLAREMORE, Okla. (AP) - State economic officials say plans by Baker Hughes to add 667 jobs in northeast Oklahoma is the biggest economic development announcement in the state this year.

Houston-based Baker Hughes announced Wednesday that it has a 10-year expansion plan for its manufacturing and research facilities in Claremore, Broken Arrow, Sand Springs and Barksdale. The Tulsa World reports that most of the new jobs will be at the Claremore and Broken Arrow plants.

Submersible pump systems for oilfields are built at the Claremore plant while safety valves and other safety systems are produced at the Broken Arrow plant.

Company officials said the jobs will be in manufacturing and engineering and will pay \$30,000 a year and above.

Boeing resumes 787 flights

NEW YORK (AP) - Boeing will resume flight tests of its long-delayed 787 jet on Thursday, six weeks after they were suspended because of an in-flight electrical fire in the plane's power distribution system.

The company says it installed an updated, interim version of the software that controls the system in the first of six test flight aircraft.

The fire that broke out on a Nov. 9 test flight to Laredo, Texas, was among the most recent of a string of problems that have plagued the 787 over the past two years. Earlier this month Boeing said it was in the middle of a three-week hold on assembling pieces of the plane. Problems with parts supplied by a variety of manufacturers around the world have added to delays.

Japan's All Nippon Airways is still scheduled to receive the first 787 early next year, although many analysts expect deliveries will be pushed back.

Continental Airlines, now part of United-Continental Holdings Inc., was to be the first U.S. carrier to fly a 787 and planned to begin flights between Houston and Auckland, New Zealand, in November 2011. Those are now set for 2012.

Robertson questions pot laws

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson told his "700 Club" audience that harsh penalties for marijuana possession are costly for the nation and damaging to young people, but a spokesman said Thursday he was not calling for decriminalizing pot.

Robertson, 80, made the comments on the Christian Broadcasting Network in the context of faith-based approaches to treating offenders, the spokesman said.

"Dr. Robertson unequivocally stated that he is against the use of illegal drugs," Chris Roslan wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Robertson said mandatory drug sentences are promoted by candidates for political office who want to appear tough on crime, compelling judges to sentence offenders to long prison terms.

While Robertson said, "I'm not exactly for the use of drugs," he added that criminalizing the possession of a few ounces of pot is "costing us a fortune and it's ruining young people. Young people go into prisons, they go in as youths and come out as hardened criminals. That's not a good thing."

WASHINGTON (AP) - Economic reports Thursday suggest employers are laying off fewer workers, businesses are ordering more computers and appliances, and consumers are spending with more confidence.

The latest data confirm that the economy is improving, even though too few jobs are being created to lower the 9.8 percent unemployment rate.

The number of people seeking benefits edged down by 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 420,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That was the second drop in three weeks.

Weekly unemployment applications at around 425,000 signal modest job growth. But economists say applications would need to dip consistently to 375,000 or below to indicate a significant decline in unemployment. Weekly applications peaked during the recession at 651,000 in March 2009.

The four-week average, a

less volatile measure, rose slightly to 426,000. The average had fallen for six straight weeks to the lowest level in more than two years.

Orders for long-lasting manufactured goods, excluding the volatile transportation category, rose by the most in eight months in November, the Commerce Department said. Factories saw demand increase for computers, appliances and heavy machinery.

Total orders for durable goods dropped 1.3 percent, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. That decline reflected sagging demand for aircraft and autos. But excluding transportation, orders rose 2.4 percent, the best showing since last March.

Personal spending rose modestly last month, giving the economy a lift before the holidays. Spending increased 0.4 percent in November, the fifth straight monthly increase.

Consumers' incomes grew 0.3 percent last month, lifted by gains in stock portfolios. Wages and salaries barely budged. Hiring slowed to a crawl in November and paychecks got thinner.

The economy is expected to pick up next year as consumers spend more freely. But growth probably won't be fast enough to rapidly reduce unemployment. Most Americans will have more cash to spend because of a cut in Social Security taxes, which was approved by

Congress earlier this month. Many analysts are predicting that the economy will grow at a 3.5 percent to 4 percent annual pace next year. That would be up from an expected 2.8 percent pace this year.

Still, by one estimate, the economy needs to grow by 5 percent for a full year to bring down the unemployment rate by one percentage point. Many economists expect the unemployment rate to be near 9 percent by the end of next year.

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 18 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed in each grid, and the BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the 18 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

LEVEL

N M U I N U
E U A N A M
E U M G M R

U A U U U
M U U
U E

BANANA BITE: One word is an element.

BANANA BITE: One word is a season.

Yesterday's Answer: ACTOR, FARMER, TEACHER, MAID, DOCTOR, AGENT, DRIVER, PILOT.

Rebates

additional savings," DeSilva said.

The federal government set aside \$300 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, DeSilva said.

"The ARRA appliance rebate funds were allocated to the states on a population basis," said Christina Kielich, a spokeswoman with the Department of Energy.

"The recovery act was a high priority of President Obama's effort to jumpstart the failing economy when he took office. States had the option of choosing which appliances would get rebates, and how much, according to the energy needs of the state."

Texas got more than \$23 million for a similar program in April, and the new program uses \$10 million left over plus another \$8.5 million from "unused public sector energy efficiency funds," the comptroller's office said.

Those who buy Energy Star appliances must include proof in their application that they have disposed of their old appliances, and they may be eligible for a \$75 rebate if they recycle their old appliance, the comptroller's office said.

Carlton

cont. from page 1

Aware of part of the family history that dated to The Republic of Texas, Mrs. Welborn began an historical journey that her grandchildren would finish.

The girls found that two of their descendants, Matthew Winston Cartwright and Pierre Francois Oualline, has fought in the Battle of Jacinto, the 18-minute battle in 1836 that brought Texas its independence from Mexico.

Oualline was born in France. Cartwright was born in Alabama.

Cartwright joined the Texas Army in La Bahia, between present day Austin and Houston, and was almost sent to the Alamo before being assigned to a group that would go on to fight at San Jacinto, Hollis said.

Oualline died at age 76, in 1867. Cartwright died at age 71, in 1884. Both are buried in Montgomery County, north of Houston.

Hollis said there is evidence that others in the historic battle for Texas independence are related to the family, but the sisters are still working on that.

Mrs. Carlton's husband, Aubrey Joe Carlton, 80, is in poor health, but the five girls and their brother Marvin Carlton of Pampa said their father was aware of the discoveries of the family's past.

"They know a lot more about it than I do," Marvin Carlton said of his sisters.

cont. from page 1

ler's office said. Energy Star is a rating provided in a joint effort by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy.

Merry Christmas!

Duane Harp
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MARKING THE BEGINNING OF INVESTING

Season's Greetings
From all of us to you

We hope your holiday is filled with tidings of joy, good fortune, and good health.
Merry Christmas!

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2010. There are 7 days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

On this date:

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

In 1809, legendary American frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson was born in Madison County, Ky.

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

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

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

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

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

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

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds (7:00 one second for each day of captivity). Karl Doenitz, the last leader of the Third Reich following the suicides of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels, died in West Germany at age 89.

In 1990, Canadian teenager Tammy Homolka died after being drugged and sexually abused by her older sister, Karla, and Karla's fiance, Paul Bernardo.

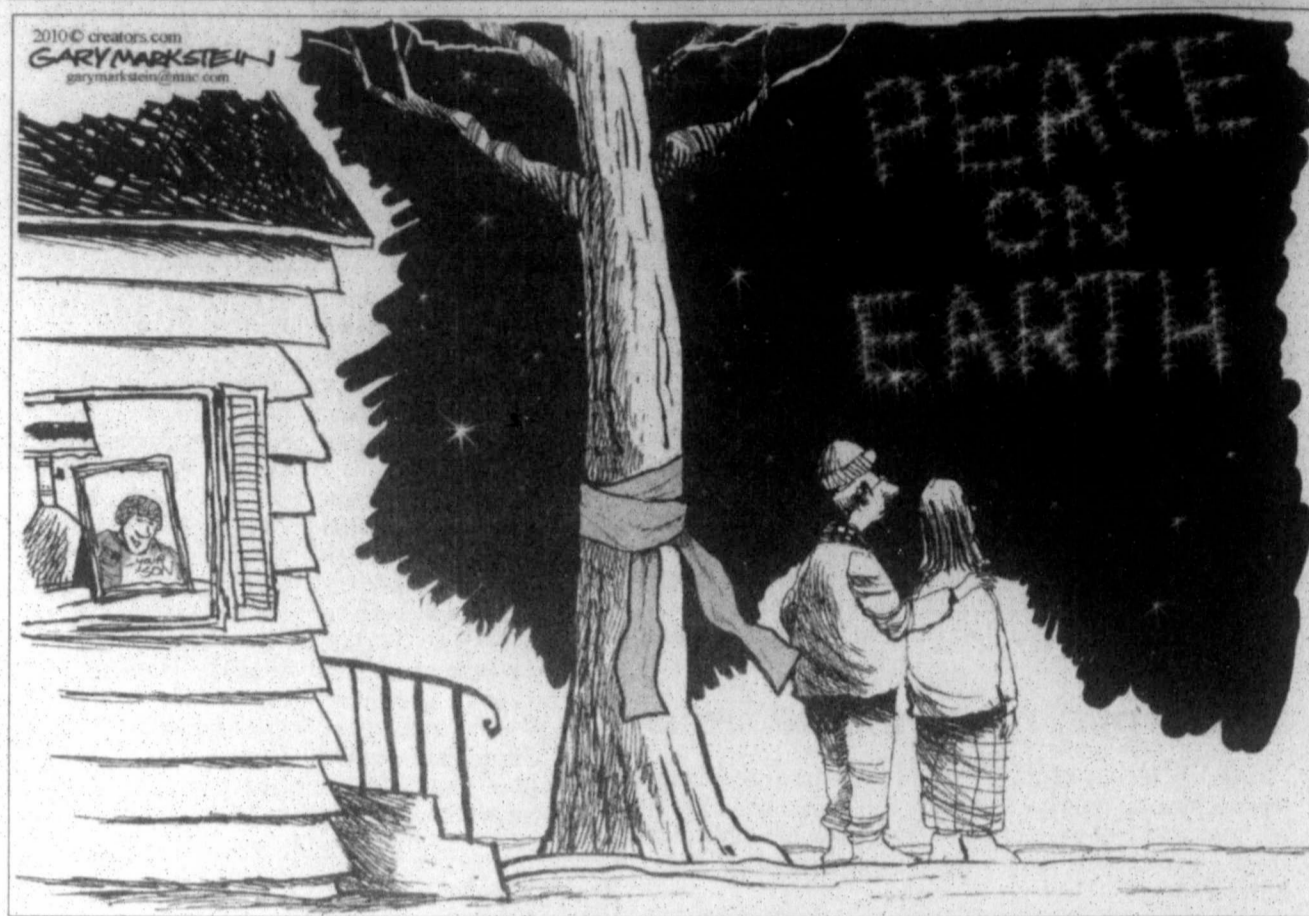
Ten years ago: A group of escaped convicts robbed a sporting goods store in Irving, Texas; a police officer, Aubrey Hawkins, was killed during the robbery.

Five years ago: Iraq's governing Shiite coalition called on Iraqis to accept results showing the religious bloc leading in parliamentary elections and moved ahead with efforts to form a "national unity" government.

One year ago: The Senate passed health care legislation, 60-39, in the chamber's first Christmas Eve vote since 1895. A woman jumped barriers in St. Peter's Basilica and knocked down Pope Benedict XVI as he was walking down the main aisle to begin Christmas Eve Mass; the pope was unhurt.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 90. Author Mary Higgins Clark is 83. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 66. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 65. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., is 64. Actor Grand L. Bush is 55. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 55. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 54. The president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, is 53. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 53. Actor Anil Kapoor is 51. Actor Wade Williams is 49. Designer Kate Spade is 48. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 47. Actor Mark Valley is 46. Actor Diedrich Bader is 44. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 40. Singer Ricky Martin is 39. Author Stephenie Meyer ("Twilight") is 37. "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest is 36.

Thought for Today: "To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year." - E.B. White, American author and journalist



These stories are just for pun

The stories you are about to read are not true. The names of the people involved, however, are real. I thought it was more interesting that way.

I'm Dreaming of a Red Christmas

Several years ago, when Germany was still divided, John and Faustina Curry visited Communist East Germany. Their guide, a devout party man named Rudolf, was expounding on the glories of Socialism, and what had been achieved through that system.

"We haif even learned to control ze weather," the guide proclaimed.

Neither of the Currys were taken in by this, especially since as soon as Rudolf said it, the skies began to unload downy white flakes.

"So," Faustina said, "I guess you ordered this snow."

"Nein!" exclaimed the guide. "Ziss is not snow. It is merely a gentle East German rain."

"Ha! You can't fool me," Mrs. Curry shot back. "This is snow!"

The guide grew red-faced and once again exclaimed, "Ziss is NOT snow. It IS rain!"

Faustina was not going to back down, but John, ever the voice of reason and realizing that he didn't want to be hauled off to a Communist prison, laid his hand on his wife's arm and said:

"Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear."

On the sauce

Dr. Greg Kelly was examining Clay Rice several years ago and noted a serious problem.

"The enamel on your teeth is start-

Chamber Music



JOE WEAVER

ing to disintegrate. This is usually indicative of a highly acidic diet. What do you eat?"

At first Clay couldn't think of anything unusual, but stated, "I do love hollandaise sauce—I eat it on everything. Eggs, steak, potatoes, fish."

"Well that's your problem, Clay. The lemon juice in the sauce is corroding your teeth. You're going to have to cut it out."

"But doc," Clay protested, "I LOVE it! Nothing tastes right without it. I CAN'T give it up. Can't you do SOMETHING? Maybe you could plate my teeth with something?"

Dr. Kelly promised to research the subject and get back with his patient. A few days later Clay got a call. "Clay, this is Greg, I've been doing some research. If you're serious about this..."

"I am, Greg. I don't care what I look like as long as I can continue eating hollandaise sauce. What have you got?"

"We can plate your teeth with chromium. It will be resistant to the acid...and give you a dazzling, if

somewhat unorthodox, smile."

"Chromium? Really?" Clay queried. "Yep, Dr. Kelly replied. "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!"

The Knight Before Christmas

It was little promoted, but a few weeks ago a chess tournament was held at the AmericInn Event Center. It drew players from hundreds of miles away, most of them taking lodging at the AmericInn. I dropped by before any play started, as many of the participants were congregating in the hotel's large lobby. There was lots of talk about Knights and Queens and Bishops and Castles—and a lot of bragging about who would win.

At first, I thought it might be some of those people who organize Renaissance festivals, but when I asked Marquette Carruth at the front desk, she clarified it for me.

"Oh, it's just chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

(Side note: Where do you find replacement parts for your chess set? At a "pawn" shop!)

A quick one

Why is a cat at the beach like Christmas? Because it has sandy claws!

And I will exclaim ere I write til I drop

Merry Christmas to all—it's time that I stop!

Joe Weaver is the Executive Director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

The PAMPA NEWS

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

Saturday in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2010. There are 6 days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 25, 1990, the World Wide Web, the system providing quick access to websites over the Internet, was born in Geneva, Switzerland, as computer scientists Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau created the world's first hyperlinked webpage.

On this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned king of England.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, N.J.

In 1818, "Silent Night," written by Franz Gruber and Father Joseph Mohr, was performed for the first time, at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito. (Hirohito was formally enthroned almost two years later.)

In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time, "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1941, during World War II, Japan announced the surrender of the British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising.

In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In 1995, singer Dean Martin died at his Beverly Hills home at age 78.

In 2006, James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," died of heart failure in Atlanta at age 73.

Ten years ago: A fire in central China killed 309 people inside an unlicensed disco.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI marked his first Christmas as pontiff, calling for concrete actions to back up "signs of hope" in the Middle East and urging peace in Darfur, Sudan and the Korean peninsula.

One year ago: Passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an apparent attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing suspect Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian accused of trying to set off explosives in his underwear.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Tony Martin is 97. Actor Dick Miller is 82. Author Anne Roiphe is 75. Actress Hanna Schygulla is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 66. Actor Gary Sandy is 65. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 64. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 64. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 62. Actress Sissy Spacek is 61. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 60. Actress CCH Pounder is 58. Singer Annie Lennox is 56. Reggae singer-musician Robin Campbell (UB40) is 56. Country singer Steve Wariner is 56. Singer Shane MacGowan (The Pogues, The Popes) is 53. Baseball Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson is 52. The former Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Christina Romer, is 52. Actress Klea Scott is 42. Rock musician Noel Hogan (The Cranberries) is 39. Singer Dido is 39. Rock singer Mac Powell (Third Day) is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ryan Shaw is 30. Country singer Alecia Elliott is 28. Pop sing-

ers Lisa and Jess Origliasso (The Veronicas) are 26.

Thought for Today: "Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive." - Robert Lynd, British essayist (1879-1949).

Sunday in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2010. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 26, 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

On this date:

In 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Mo., at age 88.

In 1980, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In 1990, Nancy Cruzan, the young woman in an irreversible vegetative state whose case led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the right to die, died at a Missouri hospital.

In 2004, some 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a tsunami triggered by the world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years beneath the Indian Ocean.

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 93.

Ten years ago: Michael McDermott, an employee at an Internet firm in Wakefield, Mass., shot and killed seven co-workers. (McDermott was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

Five years ago: Survivors wept and prayed beside mass

graves and at beachside memorials in Indonesia, marking one year since earthquake-churned walls of water crashed ashore in a dozen nations, sweeping away hundreds of thousands of lives.

One year ago: A 23-year-old Nigerian man (Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab) who claimed to have ties to al-Qaida was charged with trying to destroy a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day. Buddhist monks chanted on white-sanded beaches in Thailand and thousands prayed at mosques in Indonesia to mark the fifth anniversary of the Asian tsunami.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Donald Moffat is 80. Actor Carol Spinney (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 75. Record producer Phil Spector is 71. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 65. Country musician Bob Carpenter (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 64. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 63. Retired MLB All-Star Chris Chambliss is 62. Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is 56. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., is 55. Humorist David Sedaris is 54. Rock musician James Kottak (The Scorpions) is 48. Country musician Brian Westrum (Sons of the Desert) is 48. Rock musician Lars Ulrich (Metallica) is 47. Actress Nadia Dajani is 45. Rock musician J is 43. Country singer Audrey Wiggins is 43. Rock musician Peter Klett (Candlebox) is 41. Rock singer James Mercer (The Shins; Flake) is 40. Actor-singer Jared Leto is 39. Rock singer Chris Daughtry is 31. Actress Eden Sher is 19. Actor Zach Mills is 15.

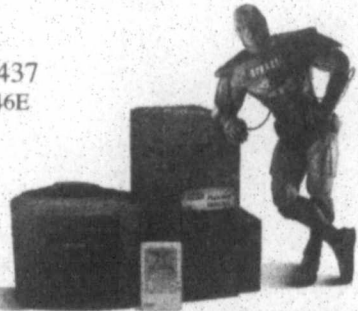
Thought for Today: "Why must all the churches be closed at night? How often has the wanderer groaned in front of those closed doors?" - Paul Claudel, French author (1868-1955).

May the true gifts of
Christmas be yours
this year -
love, peace,
joy and
the
wonder
of this
season
of magic
reflected
in the eyes
of a child.

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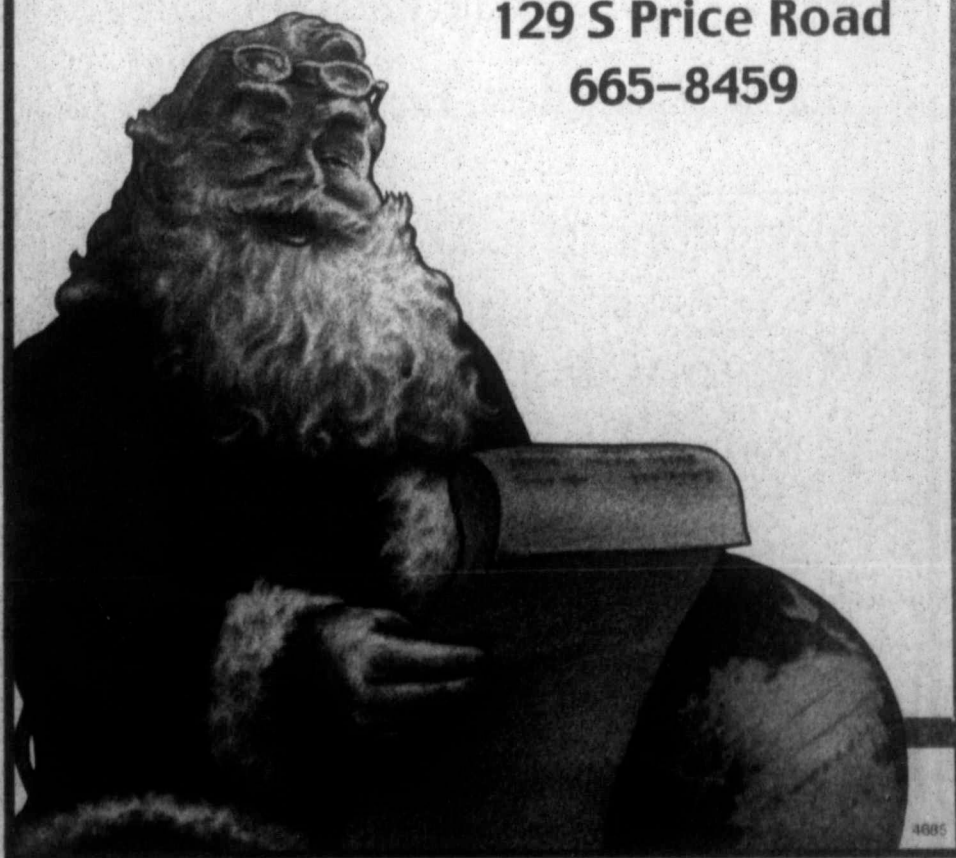
THINKING
OF YOU

We're making a list of all the people
we'd like to send a big thanks to this
year and your name is on it!

With best wishes for a very joyous
and merry season from
all of us to all of you.

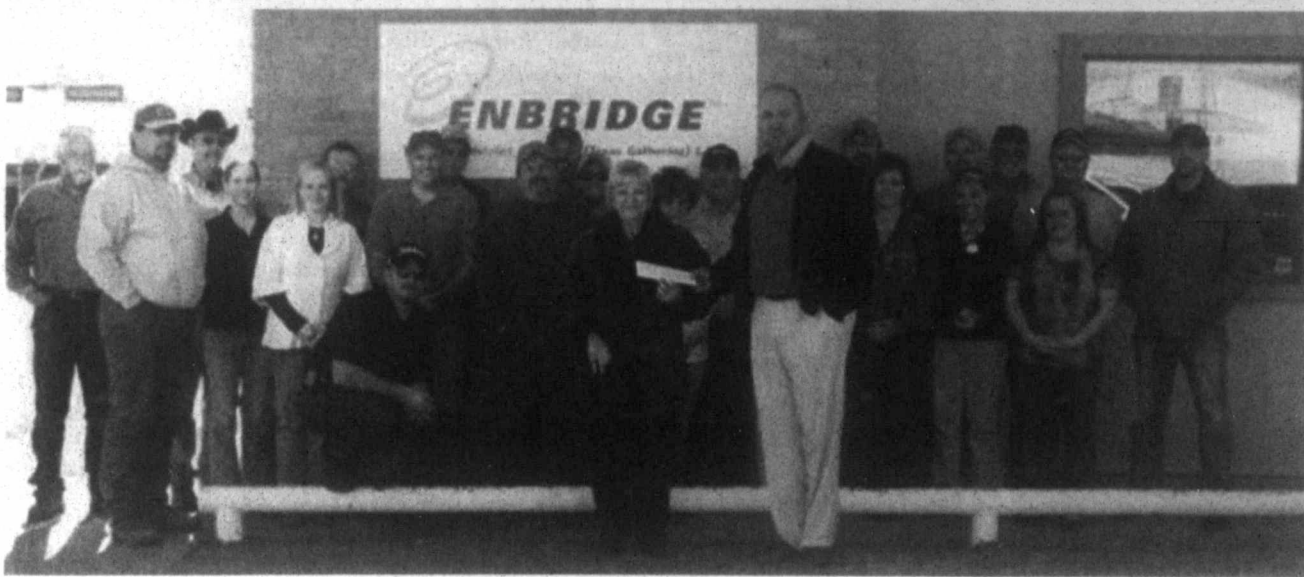
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Community

OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY



Enbridge Pipelines of Pampa recently made a donation \$7,500 to Pampa United Way. Front row, front left: Katrina Bigham, executive administrator for Pampa United Way accepts the check from Bill Terry, Enbridge manager. Second row, from left: Terry Wheeler, Ashley Shaw, Gena Smith, Charlie Sackett, Richard Qualls, Dondi Johnson, Brenda Baxter, Mary Niccum, Cherisse Voiron, Jackie Lane. Back row, from left: Kurt Davis, Neil Sparks, Joseph Campa, Garry Pierce, Clint McAnally, Barry Robison, Wendel Winkleblack, Leonard Norrid, Chip Watson, Terry Gardner, Tom Gosselin. Not present for the photo: Misty Baten, Lanette Miller, Leslie Flores, Brent Baten, Randall Wynn, Jim Benton.

submitted photo by Misty Baten



staff photo by Sue Pribble

Altrusa International, Inc. of Pampa recently donated \$250 dollars to Good Samaritan Christian Services for the purchase of warm blankets. Front left are Kitty Hall, Altrusa member and volunteer with Good Sam's; Joy Bivens, director of Good Samaritan Christian Services; and Allison Watson, Altrusa president.

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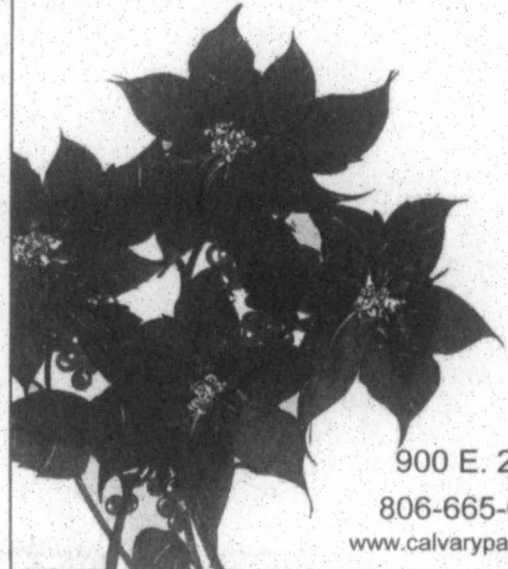


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Merry Christmas



As we count our blessings this holiday season and reflect on the miracle of life, we realize how much our blessings have grown by knowing and serving all of you.

May you and your loved ones revel in the joy of the season, and please accept our best wishes and gratitude.

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Community

WEDDING BELLS



Erica Munoz and Jason Klaus

Munoz, Klaus to wed

Erica Munoz and Jason Klaus, both of Edmond, OK, are pleased to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. The couple plan to wed Jan. 9, 2011 at Rancho Las Lomas in Silverado, CA.

Erica is currently pursuing pre-medical studies at the University of Oklahoma. Her parents are Debi and Jim Sugden of Cypress, CA

and Elsa and Marco Munoz of Cerritos, CA.

Jason has a degree in Marketing and Advertising from the University of Oklahoma and a degree in Screenwriting and Directing from the Los Angeles Film School. His parents are Jan and David Cory of Pampa and Terry Klaus of Oklahoma City, OK.

ENDURING LOVE

Smiths celebrate 50th anniversary

Warren G. Smith and Clara M. Smith of Pampa are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 24, 2010. They are planning a spring trip to North and South Dakota.

Clara M. Snyder married Warren G. Smith on Dec. 24, 1960 in Monaltans, TX.

Warren worked 14 1/2 years at Cabot in the Machinery Division of the Pampa Plant. He also worked 30 years in Metal

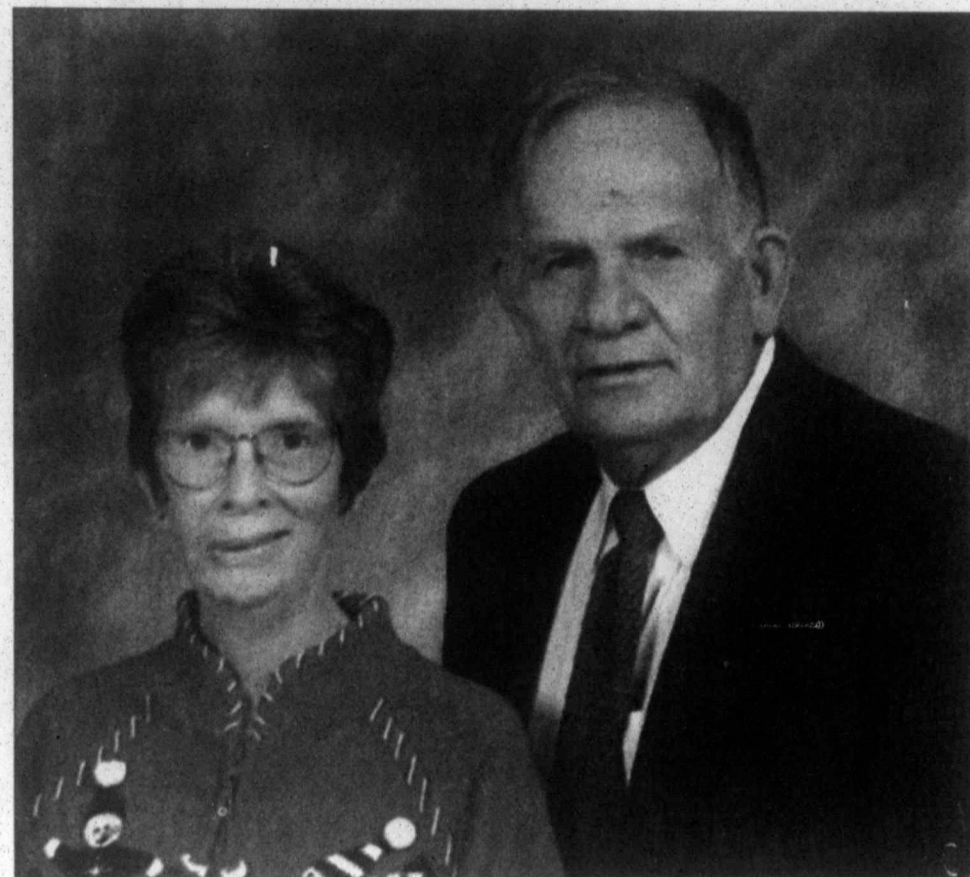
Trades at Pampa High School until his retirement in May of 2003.

Clara worked in retail at K-Mart for 6 years, Anthony's for 1 year, and

Alco for 9 years. Both are members of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Their children are Michael and Jamie Smith of Pampa, Lisa and Brad

Love of Wichita Falls, and Kenneth and Lynn Smith of Benbrook, TX. They also have nine grandchildren.



Clara and Warren Smith

Weekly Menu

Pampa Senior Citizens Center

MONDAY, Dec. 27
Chicken Fried Steak or Mushroom Chicken/ Pasta, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Beets, Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad or Jello, Spice Cake, Cherry Creme Pie or Fruit Cup, Hot Roll or Cornbread.

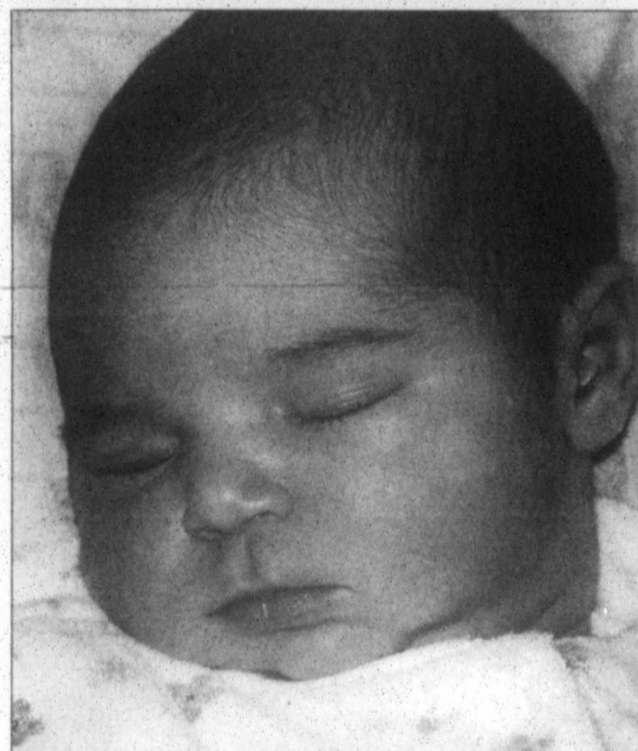
TUESDAY, Dec. 28
Swiss Steak or Ham & Fruit Sauce, Tater Tots, Fried Okra, California Blend, Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad or Jello, Cherry Chocolate Cake, Vanilla Pudding or Fruit Cup, Hot Roll or Cornbread.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 29
Roast Beef Brisket/ Brown Gravy or Cook's Choice, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Peas, Butter Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad or Jello Salad, Ugly Duckling Cake, Chocolate Pie or Fruit Cup, Hot Roll or Cornbread.

THURSDAY, Dec. 30
Chicken Strips or Liver N' Onions, Curly Fries, Mac & Tomatoes, Corn, Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad or Jello, Spice Cake, Lemon Icebox Pie or Fruit Cup, Hot Roll or Cornbread.

FRIDAY, Dec. 31
Cod Fish Filet/ Hushpuppies or Swedish Meatballs/ Noodles, Potato Wedges, Squash Casserole, Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad or Jello, Red Velvet Cake, Tapioca Cup or Fruit Cup, Garlic Breadsticks, Hot Roll or Cornbread.

BUNDLES OF JOY



Eden Faith Whatley

Girl for Whatley's

Eden Faith Whatley was born at 5:06 p.m. on Nov. 17, 2010 at BSA Hospital in Amarillo. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Proud parents are Paxton and Kari Whatley of Pampa. Eden was also welcomed by

her brother Easton Whatley and sister Ella Whatley. Her grandparents are Bob and Linda Whatley of Pampa, Terry and Geneva Gifford and great-grandmother Jean Armstrong, all of Borger.

Home SWEET Home For The Holidays!

How sweet it is, to find ourselves right here at the holidays, amongst good friends and neighbors like you.

It's been a real treat for us to serve you, and we wish you all the trimmings of a truly spectacular holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Linda Laycock
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Be Joyful



*Rejoice in the true spirit of the
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Merry Christmas from

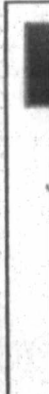


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Sports

Former Lady Harvester Rice reaches milestone point

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Former Pampa Lady Harvester Britteni Rice has always loved basketball.

As early as third grade, her goal was to play Division I college basketball. In 2006, nine years later, she graduated from Pampa as the all-time leading scorer for the Lady Harvesters.

Today, Rice is in her senior season at Division I Denver University, having recently scored her 1,000th collegiate point.

Rice accomplished her milestone on December 11, in a 64-27 home victory over San Jose State.

The senior said it was a great thing for her and her team.



Rice

As of press time, Rice has 1,020 points in her career, 15th on the Lady Pioneer all-time scoring list. Earlier in the season, Rice earned another honor, when she was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week on November 23. She earned the award by hitting the game-tying and winning free throws against Colorado on November 16.

"There's a lot of really good players that have reached that," Rice said. "It wasn't one of our toughest games, but it was nice to get it at home, and in front of my basketball family."

Rice said it was a huge honor. "There are a lot of good players in my conference and on my team," Rice said. "It was really outstanding to earn that."

Rice said that though she earned Player of the Week in that game, she has another that's more memorable.

"The most memorable to me was when we played Vanderbilt," Rice said. "They were a good Top 25 team, and we beat them."

Rice's college honors only add to her impressive basketball resume, which already included starting four years for the Lady Harvesters. At PHS, she was named district MVP twice, named All-District four times, Academic All-State and MVP of the Superteam. She led the district in scoring four years in a row and set the Pampa High School record

with 2097 points in her career. She also owns the PHS record for most points in a season, with 707.

She also played varsity volleyball for three years and ran four years of varsity track.

Rice said it's been bittersweet entering her final season of college basketball.

"It's been a long road and feels good to be a senior and lead my team," Rice said. "It's sad that it's my last year."

Rice and her senior teammate Brianna Cuberson hope their careers end in the NCAA Tournament.

"We've had this goal since we were freshmen," Rice said. "Now we are seniors, and have one of our best teams."

The Lady Pioneers are 7-5 as of press time.

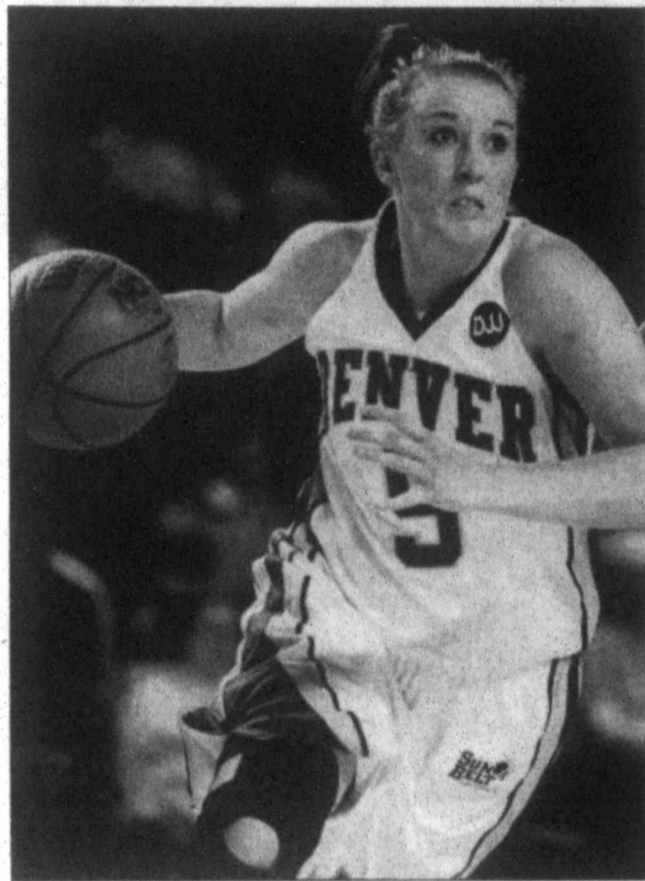


photo courtesy Denver University Athletics

Pampa's Britteni Rice recently scored her 1,000th point as a Denver University Lady Pioneer. She has 1,020 points for her career, good for 15th on the school's career scoring list.

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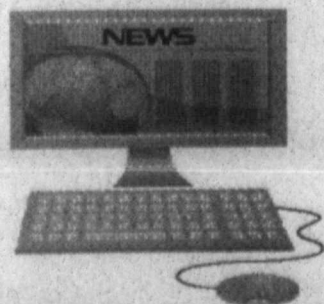
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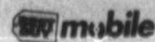


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Worship

What would you change in the new year?

"I would like to change my bedtime on New Year's Eve," says Tyler, 11. "I usually go to bed at 10 p.m., but I would like to stay up all night. I would have a great time because we would first party, second play video games and third eat a lot!"

Tyler, if you ever get your way, you may wish you had gone to bed at 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Sabrina, 10, has a better idea: "At midnight, everyone would yell 'Happy New Year' and then go to bed. In the morning, everyone would open a present and have a slice of apple pie and hot cocoa."

The roads would be a lot safer with the apple pie and hot cocoa plan.

"I would change my room and my hope in God to make it stronger, and my love for God to make it stronger," says Jenna, 11.

Jenna, I wonder whether changing your room is connected to your hope in and love for God. I've noticed that when my living area gets cluttered, it's harder to focus my mind on God. On the other hand, if your house looks like a museum, and that's all you ever think about, you may have organized God out of your life.

"I would like to change my attitude toward my parents," says Cassidy, 11.

Aside from driving under the influence of alcohol on New Year's Eve, few things in life can set one back as quickly as a bad attitude toward parents. On the positive side, the Bible promises a long life to those who honor their parents (Deuteronomy 5:16).

I once attended a seminar taught by Dr. Neil T. Anderson, professor and author of "Victory Over the Darkness." Anderson showed a video of a woman in a counseling session with a host of problems. Her words, face and body language conveyed distress, anguish and suffering. When Anderson asked the woman about her mother, her stress level increased. He hit a nerve.

After the woman admitted she needed to forgive her mother, Anderson asked her to say it out loud. Watching her try to



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

she spoke was like going to the dentist to see a root canal. She struggled to get loose as if someone had bound her with rope and duct tape. Her appearance changed immediately after she spoke words of forgive-

ness.

"I would like to change my attitude toward chores and homework," says Emma, 11. "I hope in the new year, my attitude will change."

I once met Pastor Chuck Swindoll, one of the best-known radio Bible teachers and authors of this generation. After giving him my business card, he reached into his pocket and gave me a card entitled "Attitudes." Here's how it reads:

"Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live, the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.

"I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my success or failures, fame or pain, what other people think of me or say about me, my circumstances, or my position.

"Attitude keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier, too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me."

Cary Kinsolving is a syndicated newspaper columnist and seasoned religion reporter. Many of Kinsolving's feature articles have appeared in The Washington Post and other major newspapers.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Cornerstone gets new pastor

Cornerstone Baptist Church has a new head pastor, Micah Meurer, who has been the pastor at River Road Baptist Church for seven years. Rev. Meurer will take over sometime at the beginning of next year.

Meurer replaces Doug Hixon, who left to plant a church in South Dakota last summer. The church put together a team to look for a pastor since then. Meurer is excited about taking over.

"It's a good church," Meurer said. "They have a lot of great people and a

great reputation. I'm looking forward to serving."

Though this is Meurer's first time living in Pampa, he is no stranger to the town.

"I do like the town," Meurer said. "I have some friends here and come quite often."

Meurer is targeting Jan. 16 for his first Sunday as pastor. Cornerstone is located on the 2400 block of 23rd Street.

First Baptist gives out baskets

First Baptist Church reached out to families in need this holiday season by giving out Christmas baskets on Dec. 19.

Youth Pastor Jeremy Buck headed the project and said the baskets contained canned goods, non-perishables like sugar, flour, a meat pack, milk, eggs and an assortment of odds and ends like jello and cornbread mixes. Buck said they gave out 40 baskets, but did things different this year than previous years.

"Instead of delivering on Wednesday nights we want to allow more of the

church to be aware of the ministry and be involved," Buck said. "So we did it after the Sunday morning services."

Families were chosen from referrals by members of the church. Buck said the changes they made definitely increased involvement.

"In the past we have had several people take multiple baskets, but this year we had people who wanted to deliver one who didn't get to because so many got involved."

Buck said that it was a great outreach for the church.

Pampa Church Directory

Assemblies Of God

- **Calvary Assembly of God Church**
806-669-7207
1030 Love Street
- **First Assembly of God**
806-665-5941
500 South Cuyler
- **New Life Assembly of God**
806-665-0804
1435 N. Sumner

Baptist

- **Bible Baptist Church**
806-669-7830
500 East Kingsmill Avenue
- **Calvary Baptist Church**
806-665-0842
900 East 23rd
- **Central Baptist Church**
806-665-1631
513 East Francis Avenue
- **Cornerstone Baptist Church**
(806) 669-6509
2410 W. 23rd Ave.
- **Crosspointe**
665-2480
711 E. Harvester
- **Fellowship Baptist Church**
806-665-5976
622 East Francis Avenue
- **First Baptist Church**
806-669-1155
203 North West Street
- **First Free Will Baptist Church**
806-665-2545
731 Sloan Street
- **Grace Baptist Church**
806-669-7967
824 South Barnes
- **Harvest Fellowship Church**
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2100 W. Kentucky
- **Highland Baptist Church**
806-665-3300
1301 North Banks Street
- **Hobart Baptist Church**
806-669-3212
1100 Crawford Street
- **Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel**
806-665-4330
1021 S. Barnes
- **Lighthouse Baptist Church**
806-665-0262
725 West Brown
- **Macedonia Baptist Church**
806-665-4926
441 Elm Avenue
- **New Hope Baptist Church**
806-665-4044
404 Harlem Street

Catholic

- **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**
806-665-8933
810 West 23rd Ave

Christian

- **First Christian Church**
806-669-3225
1833 North Nelson Street
- **Hi-Land Christian Church**
806-669-6700
1615 North Banks Street

Church of Christ

- **Church of Christ**
806-665-0031
1342 Mary Ellen Street
- **Church of Christ**
806-665-0004
500 N. Somerville
- **Southside Church of Christ**
806-669-3912
11927 McCullough Street
- **Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ**
806-665-2572
1612 W. Kentucky

Church of God

- **Church of God**
806-669-6372
1123 Gwendolyn Avenue
- **Open Door Church of God in Christ**
806-665-6132
402 Oklahoma Street

Priest Park Church of God

- 669-6372
1123 Gwendolen

Episcopal

- **Saint Matthews Episcopal Church**
806-665-0701
727 West Browning Avenue
- **Saint Mark CME Church**
806-665-6743
406 Elm Ave.

Fellowship of Christian Ministries

- **Trinity Fellowship Church**
806-665-3255
2225 N. Hobart

Full Gospel

- **Briarwood Full Gospel Church**
806-665-7201
1800 West Harvester Avenue

Independent

- **Harvest Bible Church**
806-669-2923
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- **Body of Christ Church**
806-669-9599
210 N. Ward St.
- **Frost Street Missions**
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600 North Frost Street
- **Iglesia Casa Dei Alfarero**
806-665-5898
500 N. Duncan
- **Iglesia Cristiana Canaan**
806-669-3330
905 E. Beryl St.
- **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**
806-665-4044
912 S. Gray St.
- **The Carpenter's Church**
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639 South Barnes St.

Jehovah's Witnesses

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**
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1701 Coffee

Latter-Day Saints

- **Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints**
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411 East 29th Ave.

Lutheran

- **Zion Lutheran Church**
806-669-2774
1200 Duncan Street

Methodist

- **First United Methodist Church**
806-669-7411
201 East Foster Avenue
- **St. Paul United Methodist Church**
806-665-8951
511 N. Hobart

Nazarene

- **Church of the Nazarene**
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500 North West Street

Pentecostal

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- **Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship**
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1733 N. Banks
- **United Pentecostal Church**
806-665-3676
610 Naida

Presbyterian

- **First Presbyterian Church**
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Last minute rush caps great 2010 for U.S. retailers

NEW YORK (AP) — It's Black Friday. The Sequel. Stores are rolling out deals and expect to be swimming in shoppers on Christmas Eve as stragglers take advantage of a day off work. For retailers, the last-minute rush caps the best year since 2007, and possibly ever.

With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, Friday is a holiday for most U.S. workers. That lets shoppers hit the stores first thing in the morning.

"I'm calling it Fantastic Friday, because I really do think it's going to be one of the busiest days of the year," said Marshal Cohen, chief fashion industry analyst with researcher NPD Group.

A strong Christmas Eve would round out a surprisingly successful holiday season for retailers. The National Retail Federation predicts that holiday spending will reach \$451.5 billion this year, up 3.3 percent over last year. That would be the biggest year-over-year increase since 2006, and the largest total since spending hit a record \$452.8 billion in 2007. A strong finish could even give 2010 the crown.

While both are heavy shopping days, Christmas Eve draws a different breed of buyer than Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and the unofficial start to the holiday shopping season.

"Those who get up and brave the cold on Black Friday are usually looking for hot items, not only to buy gifts but to score something for themselves," said Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation. "They're planners, and they map out what they want to buy."

Shoppers who come out on Christmas Eve, on the other hand, were either waiting for the biggest discounts or they didn't have the money to spend earlier, she said. Or they just tend to dilly-dally.

While many Black Friday shoppers relish the hunt, last-minute buyers are harried and focused on getting things done.

And true to stereotype, they are mostly men, said Dan Jasper, spokesman for Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

Accordingly, stores push men's and women's sweaters in their circulars, while shoes and children's apparel take a back seat. Jewelry also tends to be a top last-minute gift item, though that category has been strong throughout the season.

E-commerce has driven much of the holiday's spending growth. For the season to-date, \$28.36 billion has been spent online, a 12 percent increase over last year, according to research firm comScore. Online shoppers spent \$900 million last weekend alone.

Many people who postponed their shopping this year blame busy schedules. The number of hours U.S. workers are putting in at the office each week has been on the upswing since the official end of the recession in June 2009, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That leaves less time for shopping during the week.

Vivian Lowe, 34, works for an ad agency in Atlanta and didn't start her shopping until Wednesday. "It just caught up with me this year," she said.

She spent Thursday at the Lenox Square Mall in Atlanta and plans to hit

The National Retail Federation predicts that holiday spending will reach \$451.5 billion this year, up 3.3 percent over last year. That would be the biggest year-over-year increase since 2006, and the largest total since spending hit a record \$452.8 billion in 2007.

Target on Christmas Eve because she sees it as a one-stop shop.

Procrastinators like Lowe shouldn't hit too many snags. Store inventories are not as depleted as last year, when merchants scared about having too many leftovers saw some empty shelves near the end of the season. But shoppers are not seeing the 75-percent-off-everything fire sales that characterized the 2008 holiday.

Still, many stores are offering discounts this week. Express's store at the Manhattan Mall in midtown had a huge yellow sign in its storefront window promoting an "end of the season 50 percent sale" on selected items.

Macy's is offering 30 percent off some bags and jewelry, while the Gap is applying that markdown to everything in the store. At CVS, there are buy-two-get-one free deals on bath-and-body gift sets and discounts on a 7-inch LCD TV and DVD player combo.

Ron and Lisa Johnson of Indianapolis came to Circle Center Mall Thursday morning just to buy boots for their 20-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn Shirar.

Nearly four hours later, they sat on a bench with a pile of bags from Nine West, H&M and Forever 21.

"We haven't found anything that wasn't on sale," Lisa said.

Retailers say shoppers have mostly stuck to a big lesson taught by the recession: using cash, not credit. Toward the end of the season, they pulled out the plastic a little more often, but that's normal. Overall, analysts consider the increased spending a sign more consumers have paid down debt and have cash to spend.

Besides sales, retailers are finding other ways to accommodate procrastinators.

Many stores, including Best Buy Co., let shoppers order online and then pick up the merchandise at the store. Best Buy's deadline to order on its website is 3 p.m. Christmas Eve, and most stores close at 6 p.m.

Amy Adoniz, the store manager at Best Buy's store in Union Square in Manhattan, said that as of midday Thursday, 16 people were in line to pick up items ordered on its website.

7-Eleven convenience

stores, always handy in a pinch, will be open all day on Christmas and are expanding their gift-worthy offerings by stocking a broader selection of wines, hand-held games and stuffed animals.

Toys R Us plans to keep its doors open until 10 p.m. Friday, but is taking a different tack from the discounters, raising prices on some popular toys to take advantage of shoppers' desperation. It bumped up the prices of the Leapster Explorer hand-held learning device by \$20 and the Nerf Stampede Blaster by \$5, said Gerrick Johnson, a toy analyst at BMO Capital Markets.

"Retailers are realizing that rather than give these toys away, they can actually make a profit on them," Johnson said.

If all else fails, shoppers will fall back on gift cards.

Spending on the plastic vouchers is expected to reach nearly \$25 billion this holiday season, 5 percent more than last year, according to the National Retail Federation. Michelle Jose, marketing manager for White Marsh Mall in White Marsh, Md., says that more than half of the mall's gift card sales for the entire year are made in the last three days before Christmas and she expects "strong sales to finish up the holiday."

Ian McCarty, 26, who lives in Atlanta and works for Emory Healthcare, was finding good deals at Lenox Square Mall on Thursday, but had trouble finding the right sizes. He picked up a gift card at Gap and was on his way to Talbot's to pick another one up for his mother.

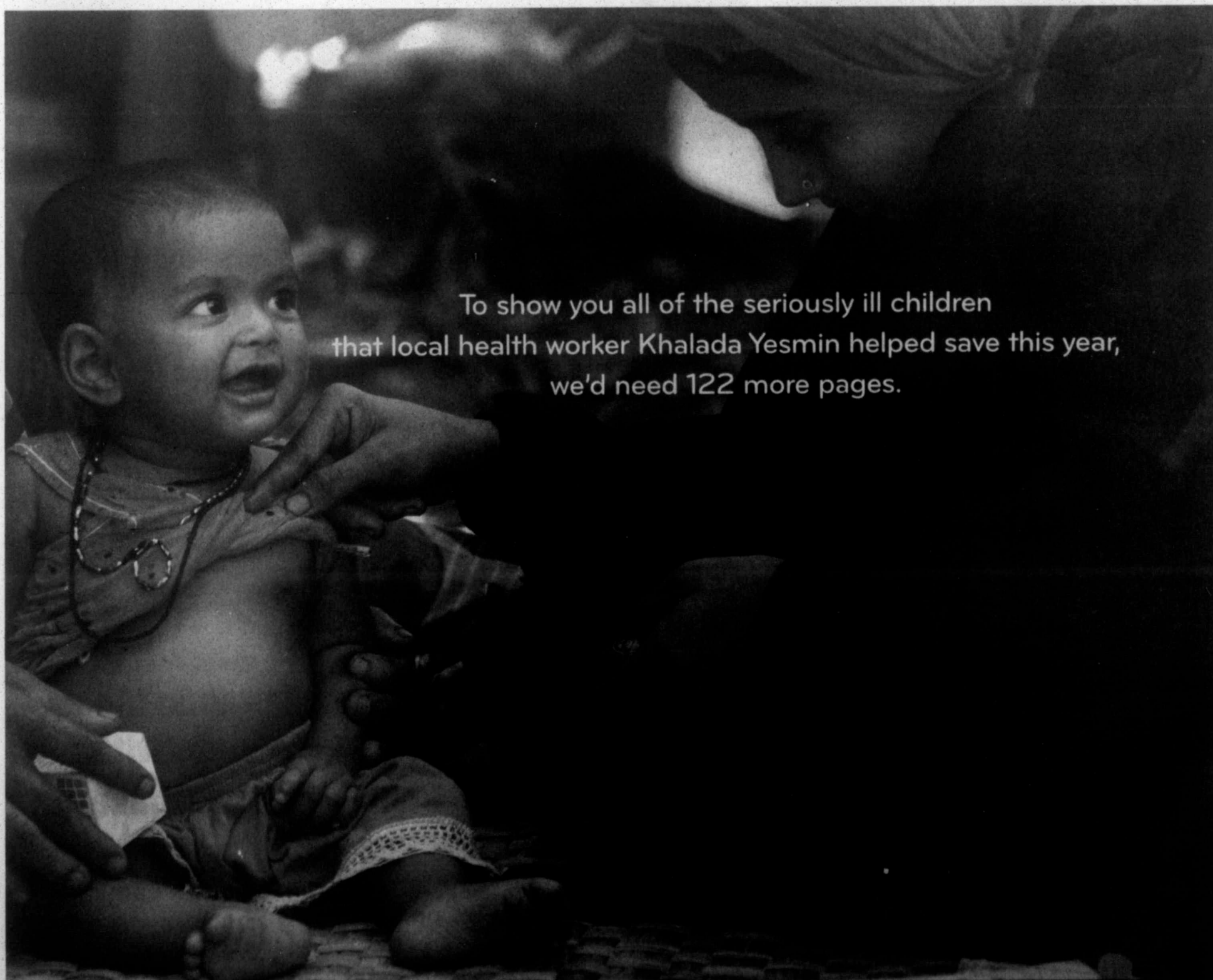
"It's the easiest thing to do," he said.



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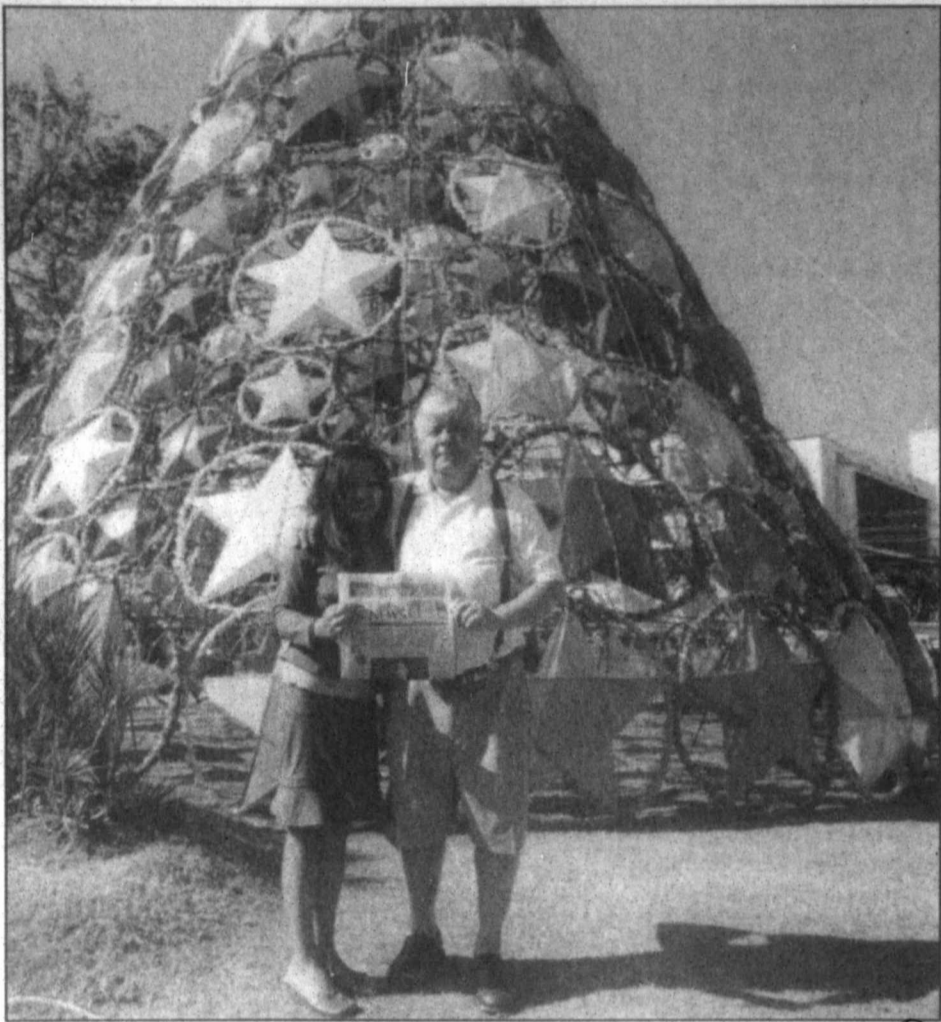
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Maritess and Johnny Baird of Pampa pose in front of a colorful Christmas tree at the Plaza of San Fernando City, Philippines. The Bairds recently visited the city (Maritess' hometown) on a vacation. The trip also included their dog, Mercedes.

Wishing You Well At The Holidays

From our entire staff to all our patients, associates and their families go our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season. For the gift of your trust, we are deeply grateful.



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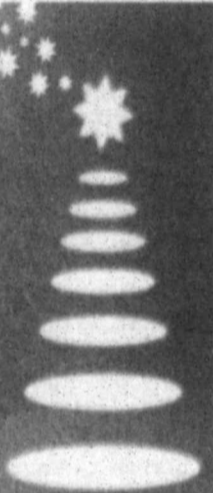
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Tips on removing old adhesives

Dear Pat: I am trying to do some remodeling myself and I am having trouble getting the plastic tile adhesives off the wall and floor. It is very hard. What is the best way to get the adhesive loose? — Amy B.

Dear Amy: Preparing the wall for the new tiles is always the most difficult part of the project, especially when the old tiles have been up for many years. Don't give up and just put the new tile over some old adhesive. It might not adhere well nor lay evenly. It will definitely look like a do-it-yourself job.

Since they are cheap old plastic tiles, don't worry about breaking them as you remove them. The edges may be sharp, so wear heavy gloves. As you pry them up, they may first bend and then shatter. Also wear safety glasses so none of the small flying pieces get into your eyes.

Once you have all the tiles removed, use a stiff hand scrapper to remove any of the large loose pieces of adhesive. Unfortunately, as you have found, most of it will be too hard to even dent with the scrapper.

There are several different types of adhesive removers you may try. These soften the adhesive so it "easily" (so the packaging states) can be scrapped off the walls and floor. Realistically, you can still expect to do some serious, arm-tiring scrapping, but you will be able to get it off.

Citric acid-based adhesive removers (liquid or paste) are the easiest and safest to use. The liquid type is easy to spread on the floor, and the paste is most effective on vertical surfaces. It would be wise to have some ventilation when using any chemicals, but the vapors and odor are not strong. Cleanup is usually done with water.

If you gave the citric acid remover time to do its job, and the adhesive is still too hard to scrape off, try a soy-based remover. Since you do not know what type of adhesive was used, you may find the soy-based remover is more effective. As with citric acid removers, soy-based ones clean up with water.

You may have to try some stron-

HOME HOW-TO

ger solvent-based adhesive removers if the other types did not work well. There are more hazards when using these, so pay very careful attention to the safety precautions. Most of these will not clean up with water, so make sure to purchase some of the cleanup chemicals at the same time.

Providing proper ventilation is important when using these solvent-based removers. If you are working in a small room such as a bathroom or kitchen, the vapor concentration can build up quickly. Don't just spread the remover on

and walk away because the adhesive may soften and then get hard again when the solvents evaporate. Follow the timing described in the product instructions.

When you finally get the adhesive removed from the walls and floors, select a new adhesive that is consistent with the type of new tile and the floor and wall substrates. When you are finished with the project, save the old can of adhesive even if it is empty. The clean-up and removal instructions on the old can label will come in handy many years from now when you or a new owner decide to replace the tiles.

Send your questions to *Here's How*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Adhesive Removal

Floor replacement requires the removal of old flooring materials. Leftover glue residue makes reflooring difficult and it will take a good deal of elbow grease and dedicated work to remove.

STEP 1 TILE REMOVAL

Use a small sledgehammer and chisel to break the tile up into pieces. Use a hand-scraper to remove any remaining pieces.

STEP 2 SURFACE PREP

With a broom and shop vacuum, remove all loose particles. The remaining adhesive and residue must be cleared with an adhesive removal product.

STEP 3 ADHESIVE REMOVAL

Start with a manageable area, applying the remover according to the manufacturer's instructions. Allow time for the adhesive to soften, remove with a hand-scraper. Tough adhesives sometimes require a solvent-based adhesive remover.

STEP 4 CLEANUP

Clean the floor with soap and water thoroughly once the adhesive is removed. Allow the floor sufficient time to dry.

STEP 5 FLOOR REPAIR

If necessary, fill in any deep gouges with compound before installing new flooring.

Source: www.askthebuilder.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Dear Santa...

(Editor's Note: A few letters arrived too late to be included in the special section.)

Dear Santa,
I please want a Ipod, a phone, Nintendo DSi, Playstation 3, that's it I hope you come visit my house. I live in Hereford I am visiting my grandma and grandpa.
Gabriel

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas A BIG Dinosaur, Transformer, Sper Heros, Four Wheeler, Horses, baby sister, cell phone
Jessie Chavez

Dear Santa,
I like going to school please bring me gameboard wii psp playstation, ice cream maker, dolls, clothes, shoes, my very own kitchen set, hide a way tent, sleeping bag, basketball, cotton candy, doll nursey set, stroller.
Thank you love santa
India Garson

Dear Santa,
I asked for a baby and you gave me a baby kitten. I want a human baby. Please! more than anything!
T. Woodward

Dear Santa,
I want a x box 360 and halo and a real iphone.
Jayton Whittington

Dear Santa,
I want that pony thing from Heard & Jones and unicorns.
Analiene Whittington

Dear Santa,
I want iea sell mark, white and paper, some new DS games, morieis Rook and Roll guitar
Thank you.
Marcus

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I whoud like a three floors barrel house. A mlople game and a bell form one of the raders colors. And a fish.
Wendy

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Wishing you & your family a Merry Christmas!

May the magic of the season make all your dreams come true. Thank you for helping us to realize ours.

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312 N. Gray • (806) 669-0007

And the angel said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10,11

May the peace and joy of this holiday season be in your heart now and throughout the coming year.

Texas FURNITURE

1415 N. Hobart
Pampa, Texas
665-1623

Merry Christmas!

From All Of Us

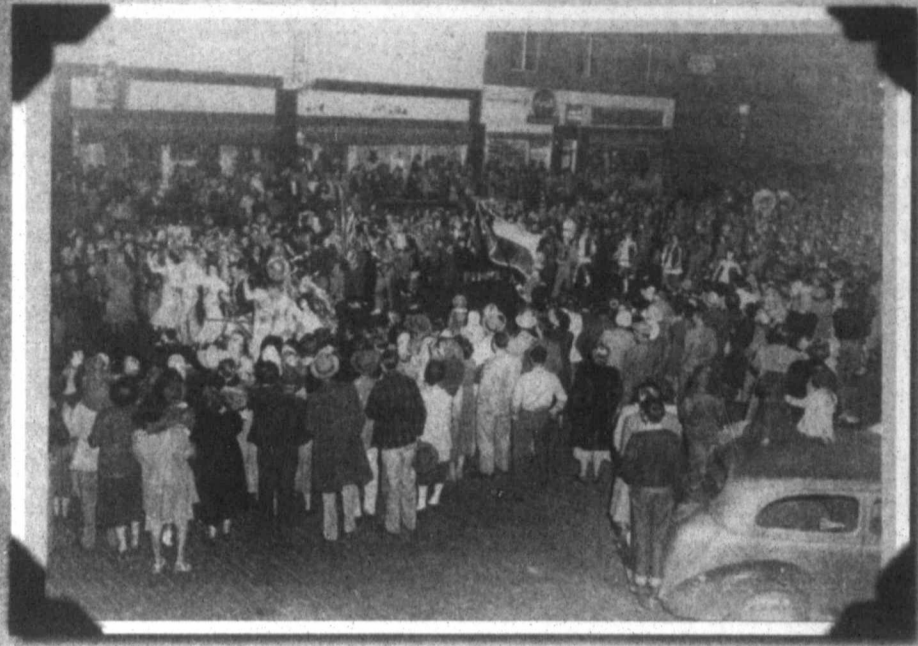
We extend our sincere gratitude For your trust and confidence in us, And wish you and your family a Wonderful, blessed holiday season.

DUNCAN, FRASER & BRIDGES INSURANCE AGENCY INC.
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"Jesus is the reason for the season"

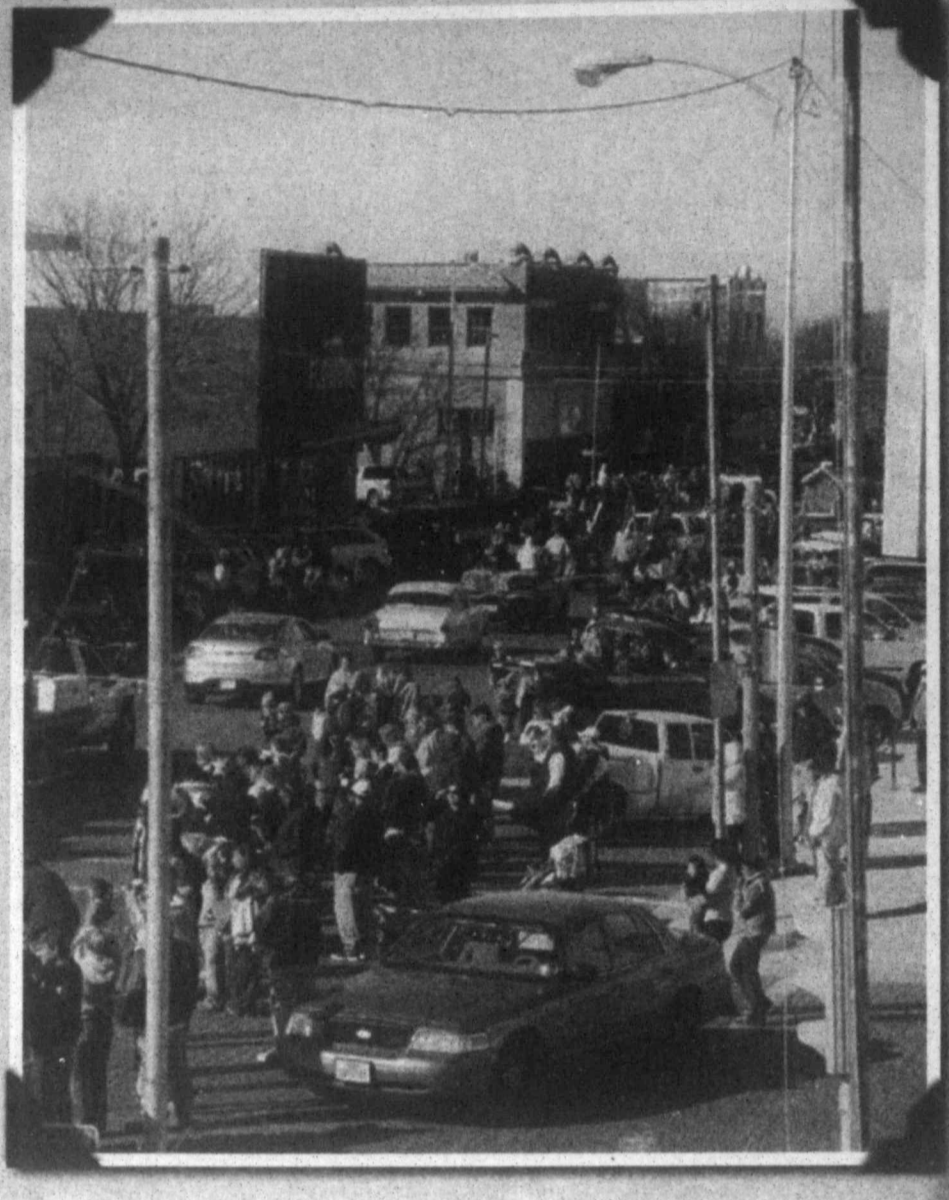
Gray County Album

Christmas Parades in Pampa 2010 and 1950



Della Meyer submitted both of these photos. The top photo was taken during the Pampa Christmas Parade in 1950. It was taken "probably the top or in front of the First National Bank Building (now Bank of America) because the building in shadow at the far right is the Rose Building which would make the others now Brandon Flowers and what was Tarpley's Music Store (Livia's Imports today). The photo at right was taken during this year's Christmas parade from the top of the VFW building looking North toward the same buildings. Della says she was trying to recreate some of those old photographs: "My granddaughter, Brienne Meyer, actually took this photo while I was catching closeups with the other camera."

(If you have photos of events in Gray County that are of historical interest, we would like to share them with our readers. Send your id's or photos to rpribble@thepampanews.com)



After artillery exchanges, war rhetoric rises in Koreas

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — One month after a deadly exchange of artillery fire, the two Koreas ramped up their rhetoric Thursday, with South Korea's president pledging unsparing retaliation if attacked again and a top North Korean official threatening a "sacred" nuclear war if provoked.

South Korean troops, tanks and fighter jets put on a thundering display of force as President Lee Myung-bak visited with soldiers at a base near the border, while North Korea's elite marked a key military anniversary by lashing out at the South for encouraging war.

For both countries, the rallying cries and military maneuvers mainly seemed designed to build support at home. But they raised fears anew of all-out war on a peninsula that New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson called a "tinderbox" after returning from a visit to the North Korean capital this week.

The two Koreas and their allies called a truce in 1953 to end three years of devastating war, but violence has flared up from time to time, most recently in the disputed waters off their west coast. North Korea does not recognize the maritime line drawn by U.N. forces, and the territorial dispute in the Yellow Sea has erupted into deadly naval skirmishes.

In March, a South Korean warship went down in the western waters, killing 46 sailors. And a month ago, South Korean live-fire drills in nearby waters triggered a North Korean artillery shower on Yeonpyeong Island that killed four South Koreans, the first attack on a civilian area since the Korean War.

Caught by surprise, Seoul since has beefed up its rules of engagement and has staged military drills, including joint exercises with U.S. troops, meant to remind the North of its superior firepower. The South even carried out provocative artillery drills from Yeonpyeong Island on Monday in a bold dare to the North to retaliate.

On Wednesday, rifle-toting marines ringed a hillside near the border where a Christian group lit a steel tower dressed up as a twinkling Christmas tree — a structure easily visible from atheist North Korea. Notes left on participants' chairs advised them to take cover and seek shelter if attacked.

The drills continued Thursday, with tanks firing artillery and fighter jets dropping bombs at training grounds in Pocheon, some 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the North. The boom of cannons echoed throughout the valley and the hills erupted in smoke during the brief but dramatic exercise.

There was a theatrical quality to the exercises: dozens of schoolchildren in bright yellow jackets were shuttled to the site to watch from bleachers.

President Lee Myung-bak met with troops manning a front-line army base in the east on the type of morale-boosting visit more commonly seen in the North. He vowed to retaliate if attacked again.

"I had thought that we could safeguard peace if we had patience, but that wasn't the case," he told the troops, according to his office. Any surprise attack will be met with an "unsparing" response, he warned.

After days of showing restraint, North Korea condemned the drills as a "grave military provocation." Defense chief Kim Yong Chun said North Korea was prepared to launch a "sacred war" and poised to use its nuclear capabilities to defend itself.

Kim said in Pyongyang that the military would deal "more devastating physical blows" if its rivals violate North Korean territory by even a millimeter. He also threatened to "wipe out" South Korea and the U.S. if they start a war, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

North Korea is believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least a half-dozen atomic bombs, and also has revealed a uranium enrichment program that would give it a second way to make nuclear weapons.

After negotiating for years with its neighbors and the U.S. on dismantling its nuclear program in exchange for aid and concessions, Pyongyang walked away from the talks in 2009.

China, North Korea's only major ally and the impoverished nation's main benefactor, has pushed for a resumption of the disarmament talks as a vehicle for dialogue.

"The current situation remains highly complicated and sensitive," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told report-

ers. "We appeal to the relevant parties to keep calm, exercise restraint, and adopt responsible attitudes and do more to ease the situation and safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula."

Richardson warned in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday that violence could flare anew if the South continues its drills and the North abandons its stated intention of refraining from retaliation.

"The situation is still a tinderbox. There's still enormous tension, enormous mistrust

and I believe diplomacy is what is needed to get us out of this tinderbox," he said in New Mexico after returning from a private trip to Pyongyang.

But he said the North Koreans "realize they went too far," and appear willing to reach out and change.

"This isolation that they've imposed upon themselves, this bunker mentality is not working," he said. "Their people need food, their people need jobs, they need to get out of sanctions and I believe they realize this and



Season's Greetings

To our friends and customers:

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

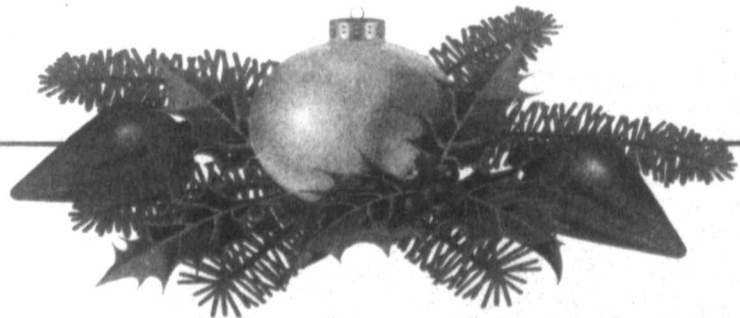
How joyful we are that this has come again to extend to you our sincere gratitude because it is good friends and customers like you that make our business possible.

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

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Dalhart, TX 806-244-5608	Guymon, OK 580-338-8511	Boise City, OK 580-544-2542	



With Thoughts of You at Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, our hearts are warmed by thoughts of the many good people we've had the opportunity to serve this year. You've certainly brightened our year! Thank you for your support and loyalty. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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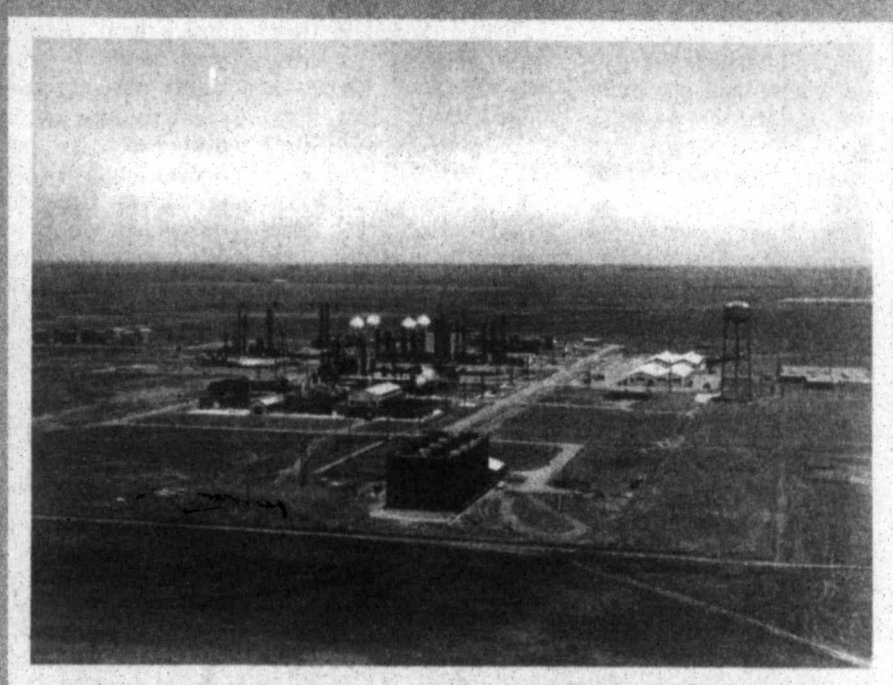
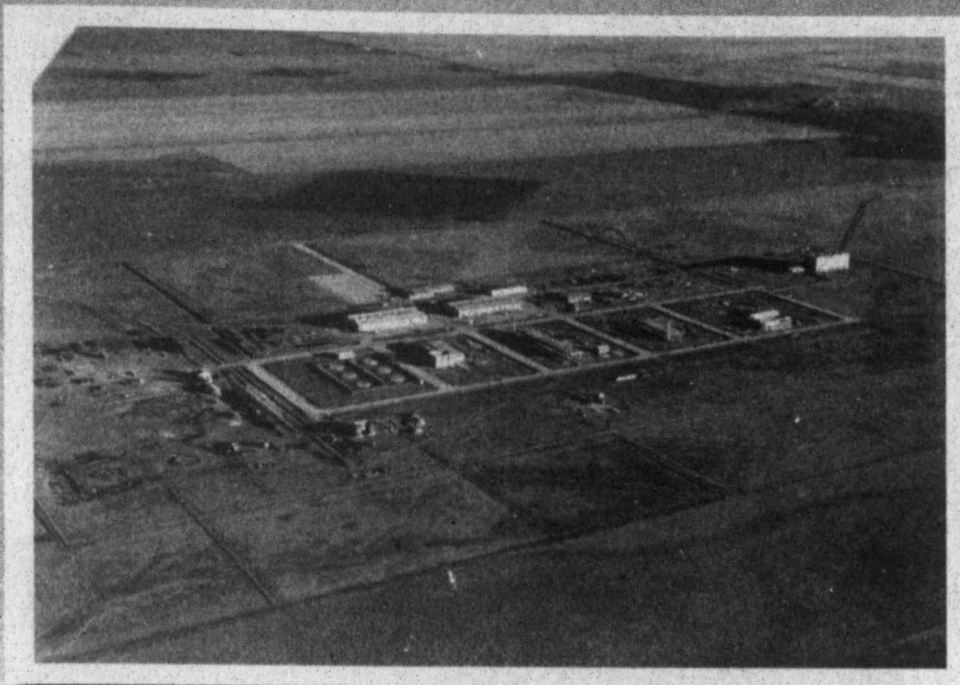
Season's Greetings
from our family to yours

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PO BOX 2354 • PAMPA, TEXAS

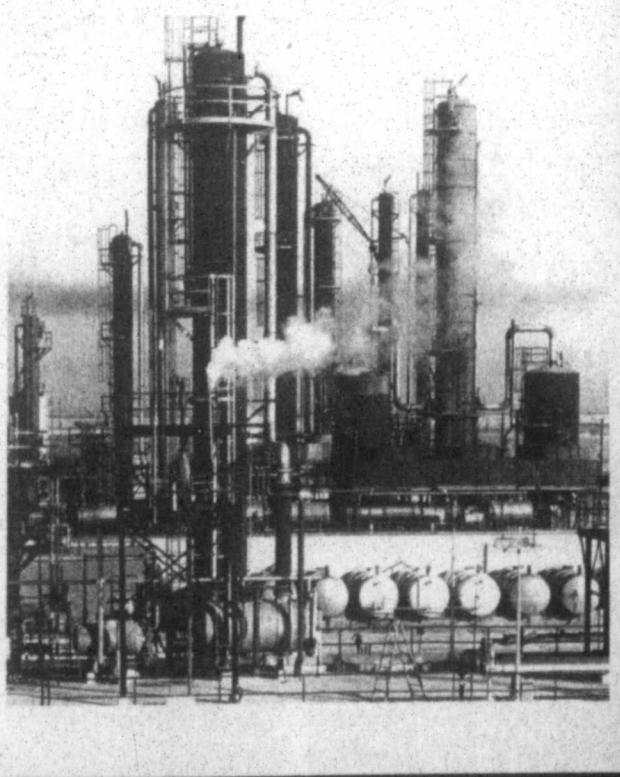
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Thank You



This is a holiday message of appreciation for many years of community support, and a sad yet fond farewell to Celanese after fifty plus years of chemical production, employment opportunities, community involvement and being a large part in our collective hearts, history and heritage.

Pampa was a strong, positive and active supporter of Celanese and witnessed growth from the start of construction in 1951 to chemical production in October of 1952. Major expansion occurred throughout the plant in years to come, notably in 1964, 1975 and 1979. Pampa was termed the "can do plant" because of its good workforce willing to do what it took to maintain safe, reliable, continuous operations.

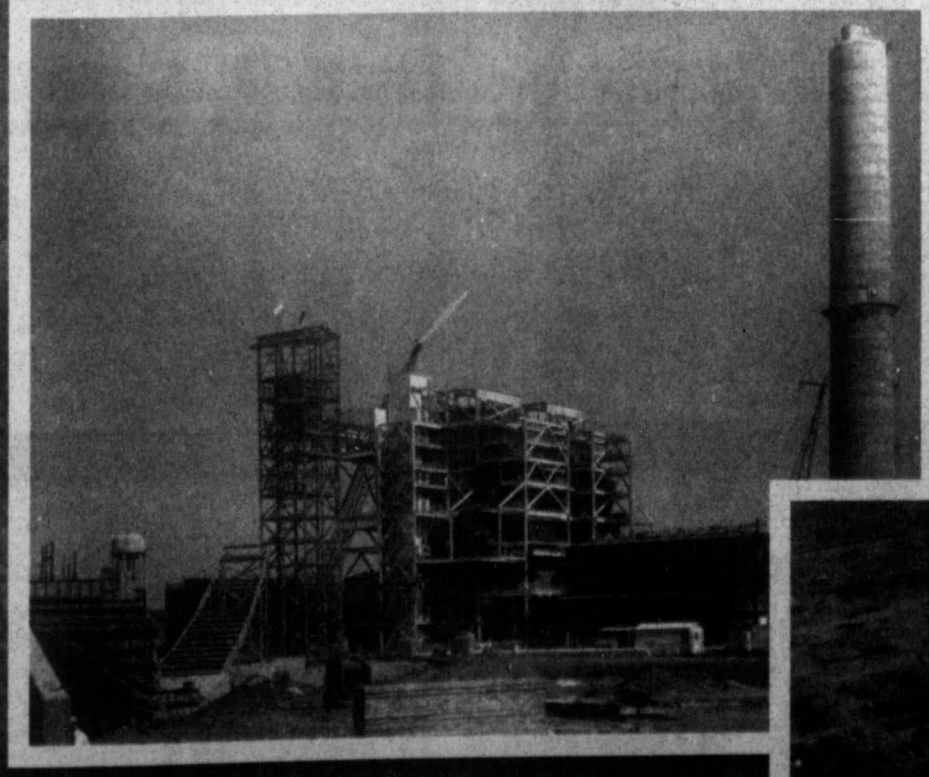


The biggest challenge and saddest chapter of the Pampa Celanese plant occurred in the form of a devastating explosion on November 14, 1987, and the loss of three lives: Gene Turner, Joe Barnett and Richard Wilson — valued friends, co-workers and people. Great damage to much of the plant, many people injured, and an unsure status of the site's future loomed. Once again Pampa and surrounding communities rallied to the plant's support. Many corporate executives were extremely impressed and taken with the level of admiration and backing the community displayed. Rebuilding efforts soon began in tremendous fashion and chemical production began again March of 1989. Celanese Pampa went from the cloak of darkness to computer control, and production enhancements led to efficiency gains and record product sales. Pampa's support did not waver in upcoming economic hard times.

The end for the Celanese Pampa plant happened with little attention or fanfare on Monday, October 4, 2010, as the two remaining employees left the site for the last time, just three weeks short of the plant's 58th anniversary. Yet as corporate stewards and good neighbor, Celanese maintains, monitors and continues an environmental effort at the site for future years to come. Pampa is certainly a better place for having hosted this plant with its profit, payroll, production, diverse and well-educated workforce, and the continued positive ripple effect created by ex-employees and pensioners who remain as good members of our community. Please give a handshake or a pat on the back to some of these men and women who have enhanced our community by their association with Celanese and who have stayed and continue to be positive members of our city.

Once again, thank you, Celanese, and thank you, Pampa and Texas Panhandle communities!

God bless Texas!



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Sunday Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010:

This year, you have passion, and others want some of it! Whatever you do, you do 100 percent. You will find that there is little remorse, even if everything doesn't work out as planned. You will land on your feet if you don't allow insecurity to flow through. Your commitments count and will be a test of your endurance. Ultimately, your follow-through pays off. If you are single, romance knocks on your door. This person could be a foreigner or very different. He or she also could live at a distance. If you are attached, the less you trigger and the more you accept your sweetie, the happier you will be as a couple. TAURUS tends to be intense.

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)
 ★★ Make it OK to indulge someone in a meaningful way. Knowing

when to fudge on the budget can be equally as important as being disciplined. Feelings intensify with a partner. Tonight: Make dinner special.

This Week: Take a hard look at your budget before saying "yes."
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Others seem to support you, when in the past they might not have. One holdout could be vocal. Realize that your choices are yours and yours alone. The amount of anger that erupts reflects the amount of caring that exists. Tonight: It is your call.

This Week: Roll into Monday smiling. Everything will happen as it needs to.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Make it a point to go on retreat, try another approach and/or do something very differently. Your inner sense points to taking off and spending some quality time, perhaps with one other person. Could this be just what the doctor ordered? Tonight: Vanish early.

This Week: Reach out for a key associate or friend Monday. If you can vanish from Tuesday on, do!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★ You could be caught between a rock and a hard place. Try as you might, finding the right answer could be challenging. A family member becomes demanding when you focus on others. Peace resumes only when you divert your attention. Tonight: Divert!

This Week: Stand up for what you feel is right. Keep your integrity.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Attempt to look at the big picture. You could be distracted

This Week: If you must (or want to), take off Monday. Color the remainder of the week as hectic.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ You could be distracted, as friends and loved ones consume a lot of your attention. You might not be sure what to do. Let someone know how much you care. Tonight: Live it up. Forget tomorrow.

This Week: Listen to another person's needs, then find the solution. You can, you know.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ Stop deferring, especially if you don't like the results. Your sense of humor comes out as sarcasm -- be careful. Others could be more difficult than necessary as a result. Tonight: Sugar works better than vinegar.

This Week: Accomplish as much as you can Monday. Otherwise, consider it a week for networking.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ Remain playful. You cannot be the perfect authority figure or a model of decorum. Why not just relax and let your hair down? Many people absolutely flip over the more natural and changed you. Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.

This Week: Funnel your creativity into whatever you do. Someone might be quite taken aback by the results.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This Week: Others will do whatever they must to gain control. Do your thing.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ Stay centered, and don't accept more than you can handle. Allow yourself more mellow, feeling time. You could feel angry out of the blue. Are you dealing with someone who hurt your feelings a while ago? Tonight: Put your feet up.

This Week: Working might not be your choice of activity and could frustrate you on some level. It feels as if everyone needs your attention. Pull back later on, and make choices for you! Tonight: Dinner for two.

This Week: Listen to another person's needs, then find the solution. You can, you know.
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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Give yourself some much-needed downtime. You also could be upset with a loved one. If you calm down and center yourself, your feelings will change. Make sure to have an open, nonjudgmental talk with this person soon. Tonight: Say "no" to complications.

Imagine what is going on with a child or loved one. Use the unusual to help someone open up.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Keep conversations moving. At first you could be irritated with someone at a distance, but call this person back later in the day. This conversation has an easy quality. Tonight: Visit with a friend or friends.

Return calls quickly on Monday. You need the lay of the land.

BORN TODAY

Dancer, choreographer Lawrence Leritz (1962), poet T.S. Eliot (1888), tennis champ Serena Williams (1981)

New home sales rise 5.5 percent in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — More people purchased new homes in November, though not enough to signal better times are ahead for the battered housing industry.

Sales of new homes rose 5.5 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 290,000 units, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. That's less than half the rate that economists consider healthy. And the increase follows a dismal October sales pace that nearly matched the lowest level in 47 years.

Economists believe it could take three years to get back to a more normal rate of 600,000 sales per year given a continued glut of unsold homes and falling prices.

The median price for a home sold in November fell to \$213,000, 2.7 per-

cent lower than a year ago. Sluggish sales mean fewer jobs in the construction industry, which normally helps power economic recoveries. On average, each new home built creates the equivalent of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

High unemployment, tighter bank lending standards and uncertainty about home prices have kept people from buying homes. Government tax credits propped up sales earlier this year but those credits expired in April. The National Association of Realtors reported Wednesday that sales in the far larger market for previously owned homes rose to an annual rate of 4.68 million units in November. Still econo-

mists expect 2010 will finish as the worst year that market since 1997. It could be two years or more, economists say, for enough buyers to return to bring sales of previously occupied homes back to the more healthy level of 6 million in sales annually. One major problem facing the entire housing market is the record number of foreclosed properties. Economists say a large "shadow inventory" of such homes is waiting to come on the market as banks continue to clear out a huge backlog of properties they are in the process of taking back.

The new-home sales report showed a downward revision to activity in October. That month was revised to a rate of 275,000. The all-time low of 274,000 units was hit in August.

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Most of Texas to have wet Christmas Eve

A wet and cooler Christmas Eve was in store for most of Texas, according to the National Weather Service.

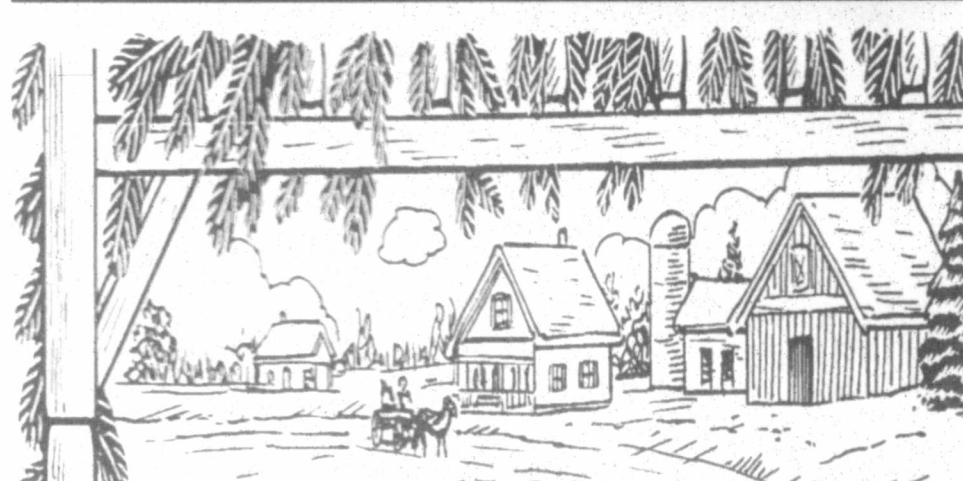
A low-pressure system was to move over the state from New Mexico on Friday, bringing a 100 chance of rain to North and Central Texas, a 50 to 70 percent chance of rain to eastern and south central Texas and the West Texas rolling plains. A 30 percent chance of light morning snow was expected for the Panhandle before skies clear across the High Plains. Skies will be partly cloudy in the Trans-Pecos section of West Texas. Otherwise, Texas skies will be overcast.

Friday highs will be in the mid-to-upper 40s in the Panhandle, South Plains and

North Texas; mid 50s in Central and West Texas east of the Pecos; low-to-mid-60s in the rest of West Texas and Southeast Texas; and upper 70s in South Texas. Winds will be from the north at 10 to 15 mph with some gusts to 20 mph, except for southerly breezes at 5 to 10 mph in South Texas.

Skies will be cloudy over the eastern half of the state on Christmas Eve night and early Christmas Day as the rain moves into East and Southeast Texas, leaving clearing skies across the western half. Lows will be in the low 20s in the Panhandle and South Plains, upper 20s in the rest of the West Texas plains.

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

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

John A., John H., Jack C., Betty J., Chrise, Stitch, Patches & Pork Chop

JOHN T. KING & SONS

HANDY HOLIDAY Greetings

At this busy time of year, when everyone is sprucing up for Christmas, goodwill and gratitude would certainly come in handy, and we've got plenty to spread around!

To all those who've passed through our doors this year, we offer our best wishes and thanks. It's always a pleasure serving you.

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401 N. Ballard St., Pampa • 665-4995

HOPE IT'S MERRY

SOUTHWEST COLLISION & SOUTHWEST ALIGNMENT

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Here's hoping everything runs smoothly for you this holiday season. We're always at your service and are grateful for your business.

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Chastened, unpopular Congress rallies despite lame duck session

Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the middle of a House debate, Democratic Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky handed the woman in charge of the rules a paper bag. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., peered inside, saw the bottle of Maker's Mark bourbon and laughed.

Indeed, a shot of something strong might help make sense of a prolific Congress that seemed to break the rules of political physics. Democrats were punished by voters for a long list of accomplishments, then rallied with a post-election session that was anything but lame.

Among the lessons of 2010: Being the opposite of a "do-nothing Congress" can produce just as much loathing and election losses for the party in control of government. And bipartisanship in President Barack Obama's Washington is possible, if fleeting.

"Congress and the administration simply failed to listen to the American people," incoming House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a statement as lawmakers left town. "Beginning on Jan. 5, the American people are going to watch their Congress do something differently."

"I'm not naive," Obama told reporters this week. "I know there will be tough fights in the months ahead."

Among the fiercest will be over the fate of Obama's signature, but deeply unpopular, health care overhaul that passed in March and proved a major factor in the Democrats' midterm rout. Republicans have vowed to try denying funds for parts of the nearly \$1 trillion overhaul. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she decided to stay in the House as minority leader in part to stand in the way of any such rollback.

Long before the 112th Congress opens in January, Washington's fiscal experts began girding for battle over reining in federal spending and the deficit. That's the stated goal of all parties, but how to do

it gets into complex policy issues and deeply rooted philosophical differences over the government's proper size and role.

Election politics in what essentially is a two-year campaign season will steer congressional business from the get-go.

With those battles to come, Democrats in their final days of power adjourned the 111th Congress on Wednesday night atop what historians say is the biggest collection of sweeping new laws in nearly half a century.

It may have felt like gridlock for the fierce posturing and name-calling. But not since the civil rights movement and the difficult birth of taxpayer-supported health care for the elderly and poor have government leaders made so many big changes — love them or hate them — so quickly.

Under Obama, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., Congress reshaped a recession economy, health care policy and Wall Street regulation. Both the costs and the government's reach were mind-boggling, alienating voters reeling under a near 10 percent unemployment rate and raising their distrust of Congress.

That was before the Nov. 2 elections that gave Republicans control of the House next year with 63 more seats, plus six more seats in the Senate.

Post-election, the workflow in Washington changed significantly. Shaken by an angry electorate, lawmakers of both parties and President Barack Obama tried something new: They consulted each other. They cooperated. And finally, they compromised.

From tax cuts to a nuclear arms treaty and the repeal of the ban on openly serving gay soldiers, Congress and the Obama White House closed up their respective shops and headed out for the holidays with an uncommonly full bag of accomplishments in a head-spinning 3 1/2 weeks.

Getting it all done required precise management of Congress' rules.

After watching 81-year-old Slaughter on her feet pulling the strings for several hours one day last week, Yarmuth made his way over to her bearing some holiday cheer.

"I knew Chairwoman Slaughter had a long day," Yarmuth, D-Ky., said. "It was my responsibility to keep her in good spirits."

The bipartisanship, however, was more evident in the Senate.

At Obama's direction, Vice President Joe Biden negotiated a deal with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell on extending tax cuts for all Americans — a Republican priority — along with significant federal help for the unemployed.

Giving struggling voters an \$858 billion Christmas gift was a political no-brainer. But the compromise produced a deal and a visual that would have been hard to imagine only a few weeks earlier.

A stern-faced McConnell was at Obama's elbow as the president signed the tax cut deal into law. Absent were the leaders of Obama's own party — Pelosi and Reid — as well as the gleeful exhortations of bill signings-past.

"I wasn't going to go to my caucus and tell them that I was part of a deal that we were giving tax cuts to people making more than \$1 million a year," Reid said this week, adding that he had excused himself from the negotiations.

On Dec. 18, the Senate joined the House in voting to repeal the military's "don't ask-don't tell" policy against openly gay personnel. The repeal pleased liberals who had been left on the sidelines with the tax cut deal, and it won support among rank-and-file Republicans.

And finally, the Senate on Wednesday ratified the New START nuclear arms treaty with Russia, 71-26. This time, McConnell and his second-in-command, Republican Whip Jon Kyl of Arizona, were left out of the deal-making as Obama, Reid and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., negotiated with

like-minded Republicans.

There were also some failures in the Democrats' last days of congressional control.

Obama and Reid both chafed at the Republicans' defeat of the DREAM Act, legislation that would have provided a path to citizenship for millions of young illegal immigrants. And McConnell persuaded enough Republicans to block a \$1.3 trillion spending bill filled with home-state pet projects for lawmakers. In its place, Congress approved just enough money to keep the government running until March, when Republicans say they'll start slashing spending.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

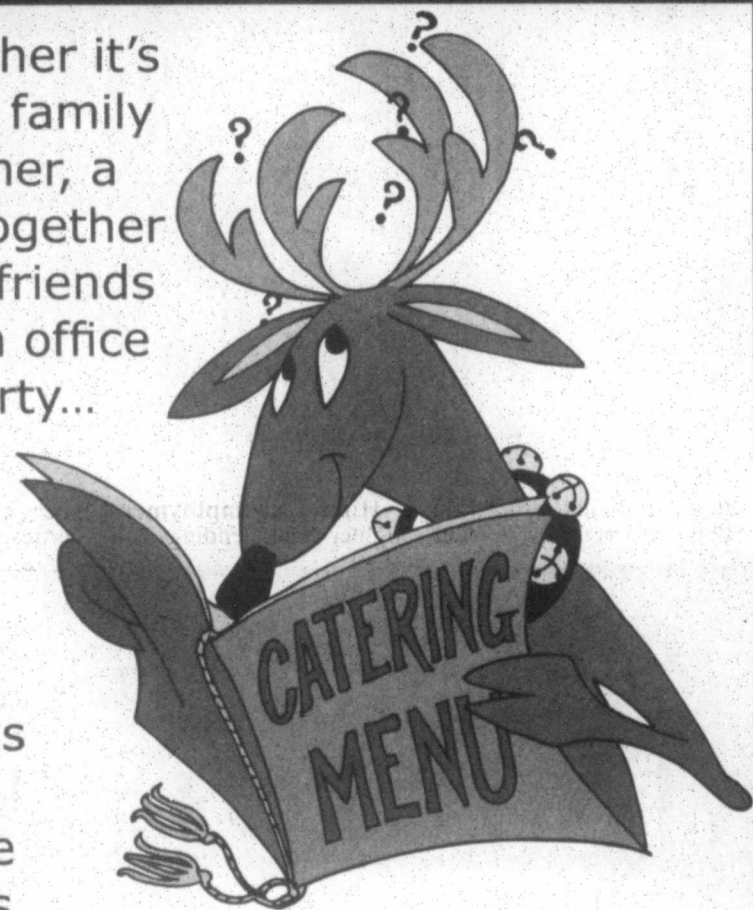
5	6	4	8	1	3	7	2	9
3	7	9	5	2	6	4	8	1
2	8	1	9	4	7	6	3	5
1	2	6	3	5	8	9	7	4
7	5	3	4	9	2	1	6	8
9	4	8	6	7	1	3	5	2
8	1	2	7	3	9	5	4	6
4	9	7	2	6	5	8	1	3
6	3	5	1	8	4	2	9	7

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

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Also, don't forget:



House GOP to keep ethics office

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans, who take control of the House next month, pledged Thursday to retain a controversial ethics office, post legislation on the Internet prior to votes and require that bills requiring an increase in spending be balanced with cuts elsewhere.

The House Office of Congressional Ethics has irritated several members who were subject to lengthy investigations that criticized their conduct. The office, established by Democrats, is run by a board of people from outside Congress. It has no disciplinary powers, and it can only recommend further investigation by the House-run ethics committee.

Many Republicans originally opposed the office. There could be attempts, after the new Congress convenes, to weaken the office, but they are now unlikely to pass.

The GOP also will continue a rule that prohibits its former members of Congress who are registered lobbyists from using the House gym, where they once could lobby lawmakers.

The rules propose that no legislation receive a House vote until it's on the Internet for at least three days. In the past, members have complained that major bills came up for

votes while few had a chance to read the legislation — or changes inserted at the last minute.

House committees would have a requirement to post online any conflicts of interest with witnesses to appear at hearings. Also to be posted: which members showed up for a committee hearing or business meeting.

The rules include a number of proposals on spending and taxes.

They would repeal a rule that authorized an automatic increase in the nation's debt limit when the House approved a budget resolution — the initial step in congressional procedures for financing the government.

If a bill requires increased spending, money would be cut by an equal or greater amount elsewhere.

Tax increases could not be used to pay for new mandatory spending.

Highway funding, with some exceptions, would be treated as other spending bills — subject to any member's attempt to reduce the amounts. Current House rules prohibit amendments to eliminate spending for most highway or mass transit programs. There would be an exemption to protect the Highway Trust Fund, to ensure revenues continue for road and mass transit projects.

Three committees will have name changes.

The Committee on Education and Labor will get back its prior name, the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct will be known by its current nickname, the Committee on Ethics.

The Committee on Science and Technology will be referred to as the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

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Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

Local Church Offering Financial Peace

Faith Bible Church, at the corner of Cuyler and Kingsmill, will be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) beginning Sunday, January 9th. This 13-week, life-changing program is led by best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio host, Dave Ramsey on DVD. Ramsey authored the books "Financial Peace," "More Than Enough" and "The Total Money Makeover."

FPU is designed to teach families how to get out of debt and stay out of debt and includes small group discussions for accountability and discipleship. Topics such as cash flow planning, budgeting, dumping debt, saving, giving, understanding insurance, and much more will be covered. Everyone truly benefits from this program regardless of your age, income, financial position, or whether you are single, married, divorced, with children or without everyone benefits from FPU! Join us Sunday, January 9th at 5:00 p.m. for the FREE "Super Saver" Lesson and get signed up. Classes will be offered on Sundays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning January 9th. Childcare and food will be provided. Membership kits can be purchased through Faith Bible Church at a discount and include a lifetime membership. If you have taken FPU at another location and already have a membership kit, there is no cost to take the course again.

Learn more about Faith Bible Church at [faithbiblechurch.com](#). For more information about this course visit Dave Ramsey online at [daveramsey.com](#). To sign up today contact Clint Curtis, the FPU coordinator for this event, at 806-663-0083.

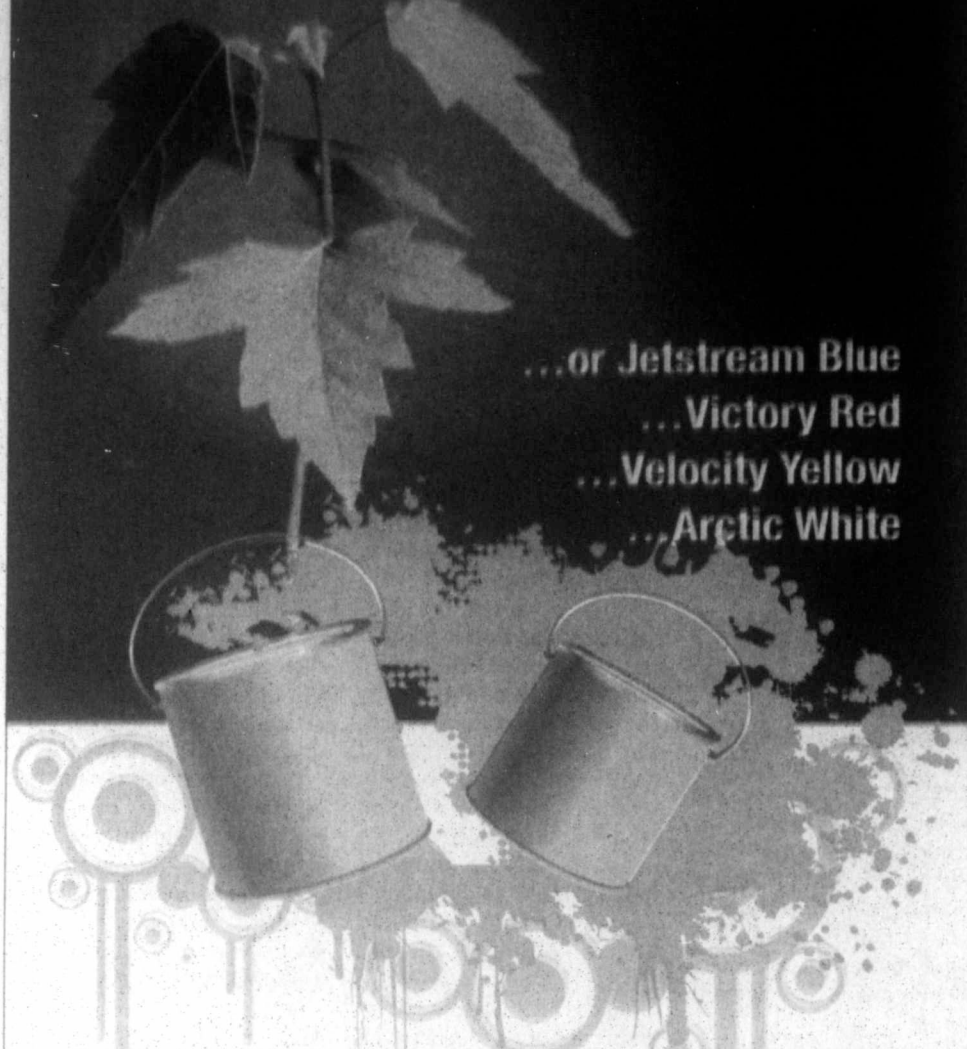


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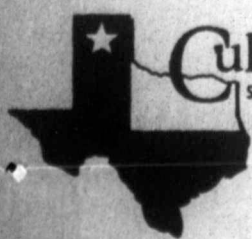
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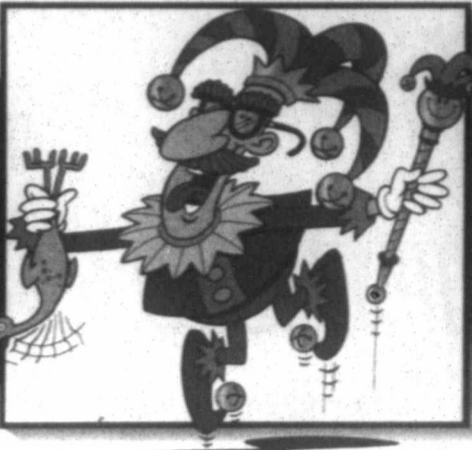
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kicks kids

GAMES AND PUZZLES



Answers: A. missing arm 2, bigger hat 3, no mouth on middle snowman 4, extra buttons on left snowman 5, snow is falling

Did you know?



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS MAY BE SHARP OR HAVE SMALL PIECES THAT CAN BE A HAZARD TO YOUNG CHILDREN. HANG THEM OUT OF REACH OF CURIOUS KIDS.



WHAT HOLIDAY FOOD GIFT IS OFTEN THE TOPIC OF JOKES AROUND CHRISTMAS?

ANSWER: FRUITCAKE

New word

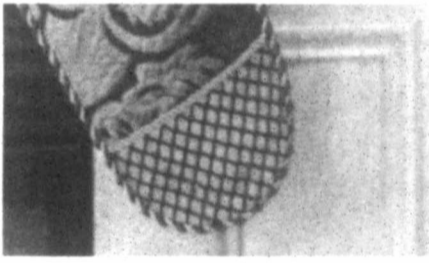
mistletoe

parasitic plant that grows on broadleaf trees

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH: Holy
- SPANISH: Santo
- ITALIAN: Santo
- FRENCH: Saint
- GERMAN: Heilig

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

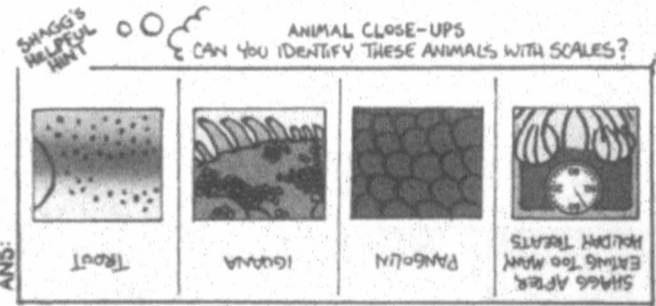
ANSWER: CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Dear Shagg, What sounds do giraffes make?

Kate Doughty
Whitman, MA

FEEL SHAGG FOR US! USE YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMALS! SEND TO: ASK SHAGG, THE ANIMALS, P.O. BOX 1000, SHAGGED@AOL.COM



adult addlers

ZIG-ZAG

THE ORIGINAL WORD MAZE PUZZLE

SALT WATER FISH

ALL WORDS TO BE CONSTRUCTED PERTAIN TO THE ABOVE TOPIC. TO YOUR ADVANTAGE ONE WORD HAS ALREADY BEEN TRACED. YOU MUST TRACE THE THREE REMAINING WORDS, USING ONLY THE LETTERS DESIGNATED BY THE DARKENED CIRCLES. WORDS MAY BEGIN AND END FROM EITHER COLUMN BUT EACH LETTER CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE.



EACH PUZZLE HAS A DIFFICULTY RATING (ABOVE). FOUR STARS SIGNIFY THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY.

GIVEN BELOW ARE THE POINT VALUES FOR EACH WORD. YOUR WORDS MUST CORRECTLY MATCH THESE POINT VALUES.

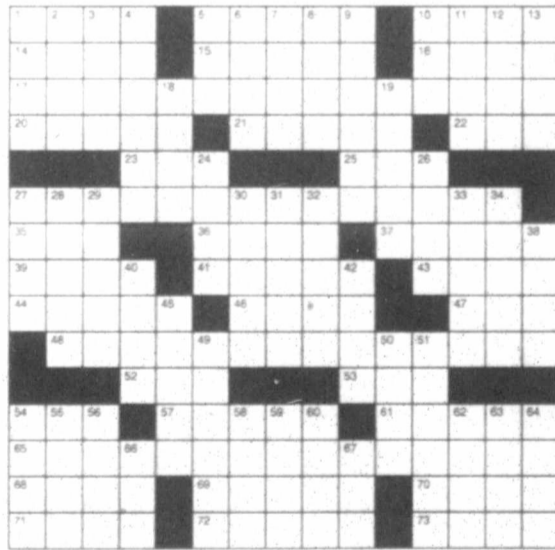
- 10 GRUNT
- 12
- 20
- 24

ANSWER ON PAGE:

BY STEVE RYAN
2010 Ryan Game Company
Creators News Service

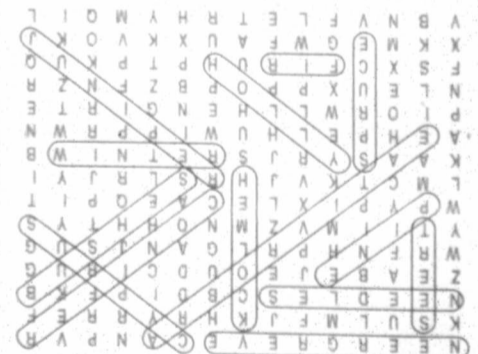
Word maze grid with letters A-Z and numbers 1-10. A path is traced through the grid.

PLAYGROUNDS



- CREATORS NEWS SERVICE
- ACROSS
- 1 Sothen and Todd
 - 5 Greek letter
 - 10 Temporary gift
 - 14 Robber's take
 - 15 Gent's gent
 - 16 Pond scum, e.g.
 - 17 Playground of the Philadelphia Eagles
 - 26 Kicking partner
 - 21 Web lycoon
 - 22 Carolyn Kennedy, Beaslette
 - 23 Harris and Bradley
 - 25 Web site
 - 27 Playground of the St. Louis Rams
 - 35 Judge's title, abbr.
 - 36 Irish Rose lover
 - 37 Jennings and Ludwig
 - 39 Commedia dell'arte
 - 41 Hungarian dollar, once
 - 43 Advantage
 - 44 Very unusual
 - 45 American journalist
 - 47 Los Angeles district attorney Garcetti
 - 48 Playground of the Denver Nuggets
 - 52 Slow character
 - 53 Palm frond
 - 54 Stomach muscles, in brief
 - 57 Emulate Romeo and Juliet
 - 61 cantata, sung mass
 - 65 Playground of the Baltimore Ravens
 - 68 North Carolina college
 - 69 Snapshot
 - 70 Old Testament book
 - 71 Tantrum
 - 72 California Indians
 - 73 Hero of 18 Down
- DOWN
- 1 Thomas Edison
 - 2 Yuletide
 - 3 "Little Red Hen" retort
 - 4 Webster, of "Wings"
 - 5 New Deal org.
 - 6 Suspense
 - 7 "Born Free" heroine
 - 8 Trial
 - 9 Go to
 - 10 Stripping
 - 11 Lens, of "Heaven"
 - 12 Fever, of yore
 - 13 Enumerate
 - 18 Beauty epic
 - 19 Stage whisper
 - 24 Trade
 - 26 Fleshy fruit
 - 27 Defrost
 - 28 Composer Ned
 - 29 Escapade
 - 30 West Indies witchcraft
 - 31 Drumming Beadle
 - 32 Within the law
 - 33 Barbie sidekick
 - 34 Bayler, of baseball
 - 38 Actress Ward
 - 40 White-tailed eagle
 - 42 Estimator's words
 - 45 Louganis, e.g.
 - 49 Isosmic spiritual leader
 - 50 master
 - 51 Oakland pro
 - 54 Pt. of USA
 - 55 Lugosi or Burtok
 - 56 California air hazard
 - 58 Honolulu's island
 - 59 Sound of an elegant fall
 - 60 This, in Tjarna
 - 62 Tighten a canvas
 - 63 Certain
 - 64 "Diary of _____ Housewife"
 - 66 Lonely number
 - 67 Directional indicators

Word Search Answers



Crossword Puzzle Answers



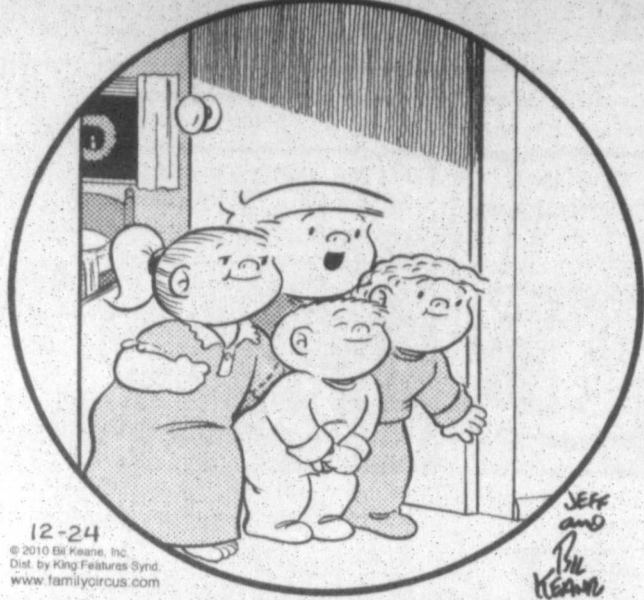
Zig-Zag Answers

- 10 GRUNT
- 12 MULLET
- 20 DOGFISH
- 24 ANCHOVY

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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-24
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"Mommy, isn't it time for us to get nestled all snug in our beds?"

Non Sequitur



Mrs. CLAU'S ANNUAL JOKE

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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010:
This year, you naturally seem to make the right choices. You frequently detach and don't trigger as much. You gain a better understanding of those in your immediate circle. Some of you will travel. Others could decide to specialize in their field or just take a workshop or seminar. Get past present mental filters. Let go of rigid thinking. If you are single, a foreigner or unusual person could enter your life. As a result, you will open up to many new ideas and experiences. If you are attached, your ability to understand your significant other helps warm your bond. VIRGO always presents a calmer point of view.
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)
★★★★ Others seem to fuss. You might feel as if no matter what you do, you cannot make certain people happy. Realize that it might not be you, but rather the expectations others put on this day. Tonight. Relax, watch TV or visit with friends.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ The splendor of Christmas could have a unique quality this year. Watching a child's or loved one's reaction to his or her gifts could be a delight. Express your appreciation. Tonight: OK, join in; be a kid again.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You feel very comfortable close to home. Helping a child enjoy a new toy or visiting with a roommate who might need a pep talk feels right. A loved one or special friend pulls in closer than he or she has in a long time. Tonight: Don't move far from your castle.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others express depth and caring. Be smart — ignore a person's sarcasm. Let go and help others enjoy themselves. Make a favorite snack or join in on a game. Tonight: Surrounded by great people!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Somehow you have the right answer or solution to the moment. You express many different qualities. If someone close becomes difficult, could it be that he or she is jealous? Avoid a difficult situation, if possible. Remain nurturing. Tonight: Kick back and relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ The responsiveness of people right now can only add to the quality of your holiday. A child or loved one's actions or thoughts make Christmas. Allow an innate playfulness to emerge. Tonight: Find an excuse to get under the mistletoe.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Even you have off days, and unfortunately this could be one of them. A change within your immediate circle or family seems necessary. Chill. This, too, will pass. Watch a game on TV with a loved one. Tonight: Just don't make it a late night. You need sleep.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Communication is starred. You might have difficulty returning all the calls or catching up with each person you want to share holiday tidings with. A neighbor has a lot going on. Be sensitive to his or her needs. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Events propel you into the limelight once more. You step in because someone has to. Bring people together. You naturally do the right thing. Do be careful with spending. You could do some damage, even at this late date! Tonight: Slow down. Take time for yourself.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You are coming from a very dynamic perspective. This holiday, perhaps, has more symbolism and caring than many in the past. If you are away or simply surrounded by loved ones, kick back and enjoy. Tonight: Make it OK for your mind to wander. It will anyway.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your mind keeps drifting back to a key person, whether he or she is a new friend or an established loved one seems to make no difference. Hopefully this person is with you. Otherwise, call. Tonight: Be a duo.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others come forward with requests and invitations. What you can count on is that you are no wallflower, under any circumstances. Make your choices, but don't step on another person's feet. Be careful about letting go of a need to control. Tonight: Just don't be alone.
BORN TODAY
Singer Jimmy Buffett (1946), actress Sissy Spacek (1949), screenwriter Rod Sterling (1924)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



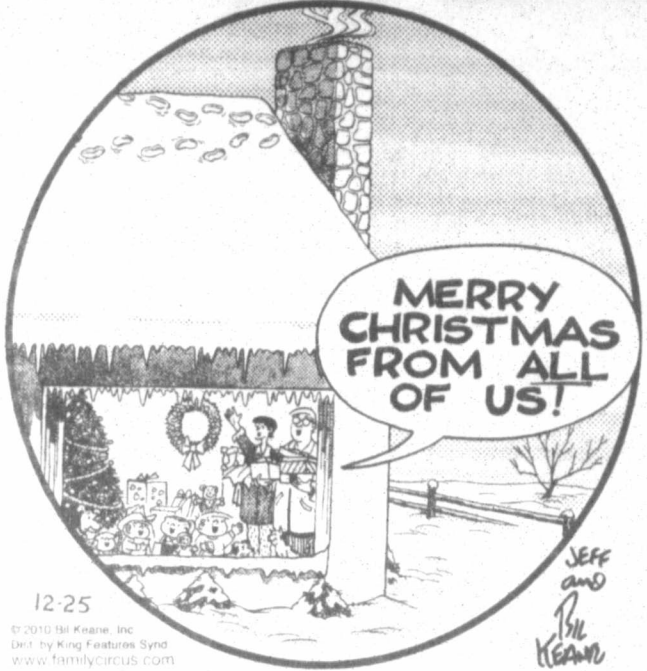


comics

PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

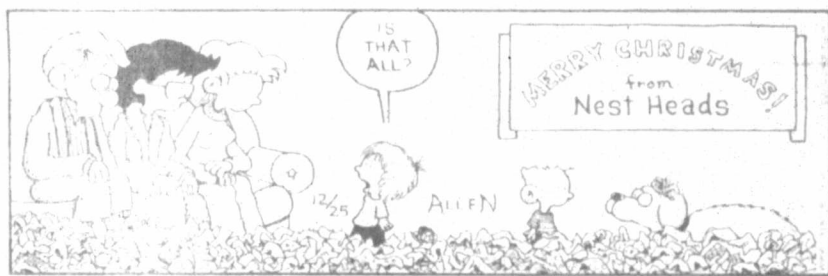
By Bil Keane



Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 27, 2010:

This year, go off on your own fact-finding mission. You'll often find that you are in the middle of misinformation and quarrels. The end result will prove to be better. Tap into your creativity, but don't take any unusual risks. Tonight, play it low-key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be more creative than many, and you will be more than challenged with interactions in the morning. Screen out the superficial, and dive into what must be done. You feel as if you are finally getting something done. Tonight, doing what feels right.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ A late entry into work might not draw the results you anticipated. You could walk into a hurricane. The smart Twin might contemplate turning around and walking out! Dig right in; others will need your input and ingenuity. Tonight, you're feeling quite frisky, considering everything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You will tell others exactly what you think. The reactions you draw could be quite surprising. The problem is that you cannot take back what is said. Cocoon and just play it cool. Get your share of work done. Smile until others smile back, which could be awhile. Tonight, Mosey on home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The impossible (at least in your head) occurs. In your mind, others simply seem to be creating uproar. They really are expressing their dissatisfaction. An even, unpressured approach works best in this atmo-

sphere. Return calls and messages. Tonight, Continue to play it cool!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Expand your horizons. You could find key associates difficult to deal with. You could get tired just walking by them. Tap into your creativity, but don't take any unusual risks. Tonight, play it low-key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Yes, you might wake up on the wrong side of the bed. By midafternoon, despite a challenge here and there, you feel empowered. Enter the next day with creativity and openness. You will like the results. Tonight, Whatever makes you happy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could look at the fireworks between people and wonder what happened to the spirit of Christmas. Know that people are expressing their negative feelings, and perhaps what they are upset about is indeed what they are upset about. Tonight, Get a good night's sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might feel like you are in the middle of a problem that has little to do with you. As a result, you want to vanish. Time is your ally, because by the afternoon, a meeting changes your focus. Be aware of the costs of a decision. Tonight, Be frugal, at least for one evening!

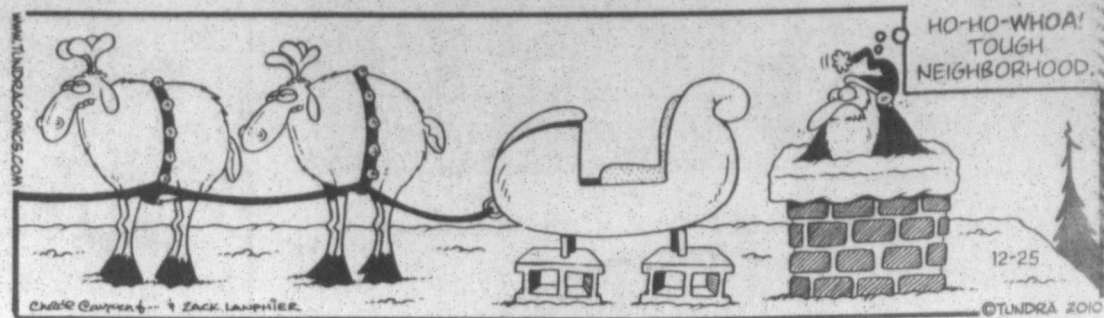
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be caught in a misunderstanding or a misrepresentation. Your best bet is to do nothing and allow the other parties to battle it out, knowing there is more coming. Take a stronger hand in the evening. Tonight, Burning the candle at both ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep your opinions to yourself about an investment and a partnership (as long as you are not the other partner). You have a lot on your mind. Detach and take needed time. Tonight, Answer e-mail.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be pushing the limits without intending to. Your best bet is to pull back and listen to someone's objections. Is this person coming from a grounded place? A one-on-one discussion goes a long way in healing a rift. Tonight, Rearrange your plans if need be.

BORN TODAY
Actor Gerard Depardieu (1948), actress Marlene Dietrich (1901), child actress Heather O'Rourke (1975)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



919 Stern
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924 Crar
928 Crar
908 Crar
1509 Dw
1904 Lyn
2132 Lyn
977 Cnd
1004 Sler
1808 N V
1000 Terr
1816 N. I.
WILSON
420 Russ
509 Lowr
OTHER
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220 N Ba
2270 FM
845 S Hot
1421 N. F
Main Str
410 S Swi
220 E Fra
800 N 8th
201, 205,
101 S 7th
1425 Mar
510 S Grd
501 Calc
706 Stone
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Baby's First Christmas

Kendall Leigh Pierce

Born... November 29, 2010



Parents...
Kyle & Heather Pierce

Brother...
Gunnar Pierce

Grandparents...
Terry & Melissa Garner
Wendy Pierce
Stan & Pam Pierce

Jacob Whitten

Born... September 20, 2010



Parents...
Judy Hawkins & Dylan Whitten

Grandparents...
Leslie Whitten
Clyde Whitten
Debbie Alcaraz

Great-grandparent...
Jan Hawkins

James Winston Sublett

Born... March 13, 2010



Parents...
Corey & Julia Sublett

Sister...
Mia Anna Sublett

Great-grandparents...
Norman & Martha Sublett
Don & Lois Thompson

Hayden Shepherd

Born... June 26, 2010



Parents...
Lisa & Tyler Shepherd

Grandparents...
Dan & Susie Dwight
Tom & Dianne Shepherd

Great-grandparents...
Bulah Dwight
Shirley & Ava Hale

Bentley Andreen

Born... January 25, 2010



Parents...
Paige Willingham & Ross Andreen

Grandparents...
Janice Andreen
Chuck Andreen
Nita & Brent Williamson
Bill Willingham

Konnor Andrew Johnson

Born... June 23, 2010



Parents...
Kera Kent & Bryan Johnson

Grandparents...
James & Kim Ivey
Kim Johnson
Brad & Michele Johnson
Patricia Johnson

Great-grandparent...
Maggie Ivey

Cy Dean Fowler

Born... May 5, 2010



Parents...
Cory & Codi Fowler

Grandparents...
Gary & Cheryl Wisdom
Lonny & Pam Fowler

Great-grandparents...
Shirley McKnight
Myrel Looper

Braely Soffia Solis

Born... January 5, 2010



Parents...
Cassie & Javier Solis

Brothers...
Bryson & Mayson

Grandparents...
Vigdis & Steve Alexander
Curtis & Melissa Newton
Consuelo & Benjamin Blanco

Collin Cade Campbell



Parents...
Brandon & Christy Campbell

Grandparents...
Don & Sue Campbell
Raymond & Sherry Moore

Great-grandparents...
Anne Campbell
Lajuana Mayer

Grayson Benjamin Rigoulot

Born... March 9, 2010



Parents...
Kenny & Jennifer Rigoulot

Brother...
Kennan Rigoulot

Sister...
Brayden Rigoulot

Grandparents...
Leslie & Ken Rigoulot
Bill & Laurie Guess

Claire Elizabeth Bruce

Born... May 9, 2010



Parents...
Ryan & Tracy Bruce

Brother...
Tucker Bruce

Grandparents...
Dan & Brenda Tucker
Lynda Bruce

Eden Deanna Webb

Born... February 3, 2010



Parents...
Irissa Webb & Justin Fortner

Brothers...
Dalton & Jakob

Grandparents...
Brenda & Floyd Baxter
Larry & Denise Webb
Andrew & Dorothy Chambers

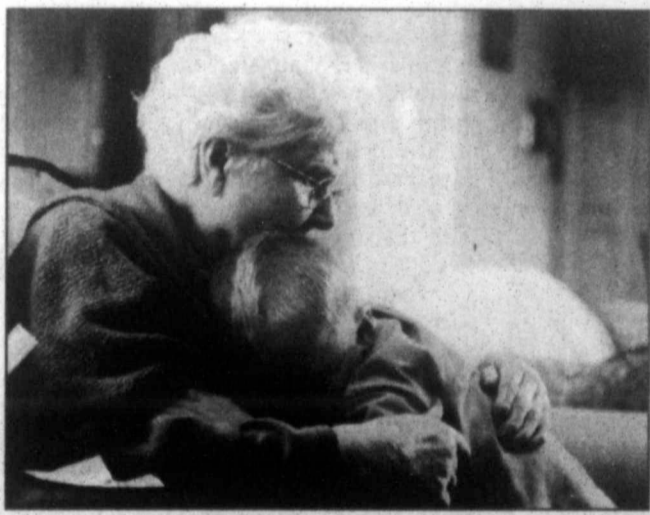


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Engineers develop sensor to manage algae for biofuels

ROBERT BURNS
Texas Agri-Life Extension

COLLEGE STATION — Algae grown for biofuel could be a sweet deal, but without constant monitoring, its growth process can be inefficient and economically untenable, according to a Texas AgriLife Research expert.

Dr. Alex Thomasson, AgriLife Research engineer, has developed an optical-electronic sensor

that will automatically measure algae growth stages and allow micro-management of its production of oils for biofuels.

One of the main advantages of using algae for biofuel is its rapid growth potential, Thomasson explained. The other advantage is that algae can be induced to produce large quantities of lipids — fatty molecules that can be used to produce a wide range of hydrocarbon



fuels.

Both the amount and type of lipids that algae produces depend upon how well the growth processes of the microalgae are regulated. However, the very speed

at which some algae grow — some strains may double their mass every six to 12 hours — makes management tricky, he said.

"Very rapid measurements will be required when scaling up to commercial production of algae as a biofuel feedstock," Thomasson said.

Most algal-oil production scenarios consist of two stages, he said. The first stage involves promoting optimal growth so that the number of algal cells increases rapidly. The second stage requires limiting nutrients at exactly the right time to maximize lipid production by the cells.

"This is a natural response of many organisms; as their nutritional intake is reduced, they tend to convert more of their nutrients to stored energy, such as lipids or fat, to protect against future starvation," Thomasson said. "In fact, a process-control system is necessary in both production stages to ensure that inputs and durations are optimal."

To help solve this problem Thomasson headed a team comprised of himself, Dr. Ruixiu Sui, a U.S. Department of Agriculture engineer in Mississippi, plus Dr. Yufeng Ge, an assistant research engineer, and Yao Yao, a graduate research assistant, both at Texas A&M University at College Station.

Thomasson and the team agreed that measuring optical density of algal cells as they grew in water was the most straight-forward and readily achievable way to go, he said.

"(In research situations) optical density is typically measured by collecting a sample of aqueous solution, taking the sample to

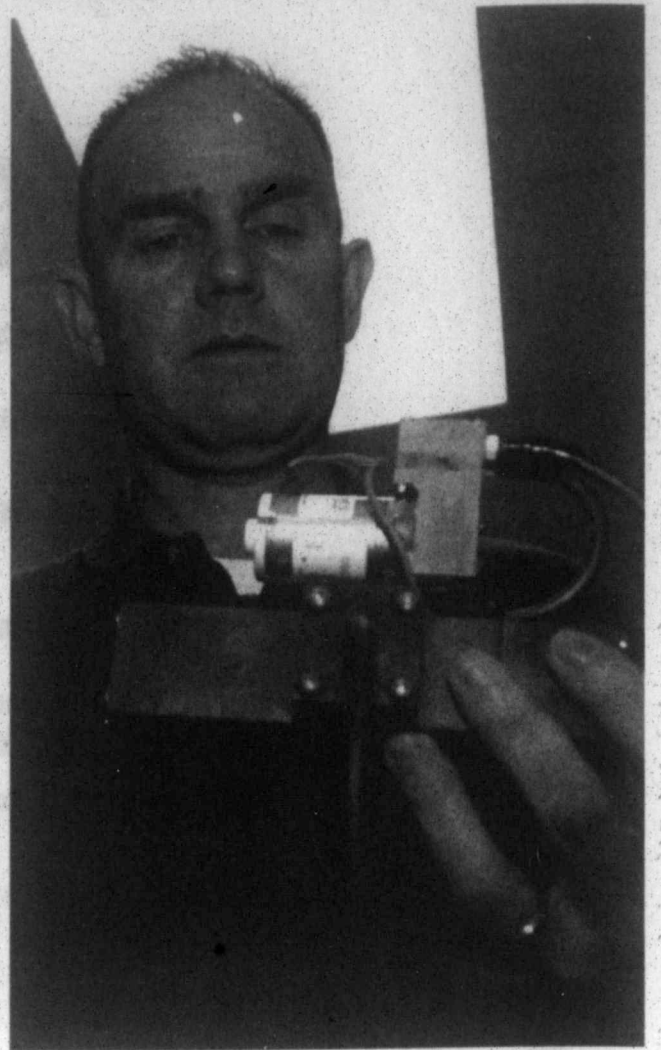


photo courtesy of Texas Agri-Life Extension Service

Dr. Alex Thomasson, Texas AgriLife Research engineer, holds a sensor designed to measure growth progress of algae automatically.

the laboratory, and using a spectrophotometer to measure the absorbance of the sample at a specific wavelength," Thomasson said. "OD probes are available and could potentially be incorporated into a process control system, but those currently on the market had not been proven to be of acceptable accuracy, ruggedness, etc., for a process-control system for open-pond algae production."

To be suitable for commercial production, the optical sensor needed to be mountable at a fixed location in a production facility, operate without human intervention and provide measurements that could be used to adjust production in "real time," Thomasson explained

in a paper the team presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers last summer.

Real time is a computer science term for systems that function instantaneously or nearly so.

Because the team has applied for a patent, the actual wavelengths used are subject to intellectual-property protection, Thomasson said. But he could disclose that one wavelength in the near-infrared region was used to accurately measure the slow-and-steady increase of optical density during the growth process, as well as the drop in optical density when more water and nutrients were added.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Group of plotters
 - 6 Ice-cream unit
 - 11 Find charming
 - 12 Resort off Venezuela
 - 13 Intend to
 - 14 Juan of Argentina
 - 15 Bike part
 - 17 A long time
 - 18 Scrooge cries
 - 20 "— Wonderful Life"
 - 22 1040 org.
 - 23 Grateful reply
 - 26 Shiny finish
 - 28 Washington successor
 - 29 Cushions
 - 31 Diner treat
 - 32 Uriah of fiction
 - 33 Chooses
 - 34 Skunk's defense
 - 36 Italia's capital
 - 38 Keepsake
 - 40 Composer Copland
 - 43 Quartet member
 - 44 On that spot
 - 45 Up to now
 - 46 Light lunch
- DOWN**
- 1 Cornfield cry
 - 2 Hoopla
 - 3 What we deck with
 - 4 City on the Rhone
 - 5 Pollux's mother
 - 6 Maple output
 - 7 Folded
 - 8 What we don
 - 9 Bas-soon's kin
 - 10 Skillets
 - 16 Carnival city
 - 18 Major leagues, in slang
 - 19 Singer Guthrie
 - 21 "— brillig ..."
 - 23 "Got it"
 - 24 Leave out
 - 25 Calls on
 - 27 Like the OR
 - 30 "Morning Edition" ainer
 - 33 Corn-husker city
 - 34 Killer whale
 - 35 Bad grades
 - 37 Stable diet
 - 39 Barracks bed
 - 41 Man-mouse link
 - 42 Homer's neighbor

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D	I	E	T	E	D	E	T	O	N
D	E	N	A	D	A	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer

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12-24

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: From time to time you print letters about random acts of kindness. May I share something that happened to me? On Jan. 30, 2009, my husband and I took our three kids to a restaurant for breakfast to celebrate our twins' fourth birthday. When it was time to pay our bill, the waiter told us that a couple who had been sitting behind us had taken

care of our tab. What that couple didn't know was that the day before, my doctor had informed me a lump in my neck was probably lymphoma and that he needed to do a biopsy as soon as possible. He had wanted me to meet with a surgeon that morning, but I told him no. It was the twins' birthday, and I didn't want them to associate their birthday with the day Mommy got sick.

What that couple did was more than pay for our meal; it gave me hope. I felt it was a sign that everything would be "taken care of." To pay it forward, we left the waiter a large tip.

I did end up with Hodgkin's disease, but I have been in remission since August 2009. — BLESSED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR BLESSED: Your letter made me smile. Your hope was rewarded and everything WAS "taken care of." And because Hodgkin's lymphoma is a treatable cancer, I hope you will continue to enjoy good health for many decades to come.

DEAR ABBY: I have a big problem. My father refuses to spend time with me. He is a firefighter and says he has a busy schedule. I understand that. But when he has extra time, he will find anything else to do. I tried talking to him — it was like talking to a brick wall.

My mom has comforted me a lot, but I feel there is something missing in my life. That missing part is my dad. Please help me to figure out how I can make the situation better. —

GIRL IN NEED IN BALTIMORE

DEAR GIRL IN NEED: You have already done as much as you can. It is now up to your mother and/or your grandparents to help your father understand that there is more to being a parent than providing financial support. I hope he gets the message before it's too late — for him, not you.

DEAR ABBY: An odd custom is beginning to surface in my local church. Showers for new brides and new mothers are being announced from the pulpit at Sunday services. All church members are invited to attend, and in one or two instances even told what to bring for gifts.

I have always understood that showers are given by close friends, relatives, associates, etc. Just what is proper procedure for this? How does one respond to these "open" invitations? I have not responded. Am I wrong? Please help. — SOCIALLY NAIVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SOCIALLY NAIVE: You are not wrong; you are correct. Approach your pastor and ask why this is being done. If the reason is that the bride-to-be or mother-to-be is financially needy, and you would like to contribute, then attend the showers. If not, then treat the announcement as you would any open invitation. If you choose not to attend, you are not obligated to give a gift.

P.S. I agree with you. It is an "odd" custom.

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Glum Christmas for oil spill victims

PORT SULPHUR, La. (AP) — Even before the Gulf oil spill, Jennifer Reddick was just getting by, living paycheck to paycheck as she tried to support six children on the \$400 a week she made working part time as a deckhand and shrimp net maker.

Then BP's well blew out off the coast of Louisiana, scaring away tourists and shutting down fishing. Now she has no work and no money to buy her children toys or new clothes this Christmas. Charities are providing what they can, but it's hard for Reddick to take handouts.

"It was never easy before, but we could make it," said Reddick, 30, of Buris, a small fishing town along the Mississippi River. "I couldn't even afford Christmas this year for the kids."

For many people along the Gulf Coast, there won't be much holiday cheer this Christmas.

It's been more than five months since the well was finally capped after spewing millions of gallons of crude into the Gulf. Many shrimpers and oystermen are catching and selling only a fraction of previous hauls. Business owners who saw a summer of lost revenue are still struggling to pay their bills, and many had to lay off workers to make it through the slow winter months.

The Coastal Heritage Society of Louisiana has seen requests for help double. Many are coming from people who had never asked for assistance before.

"Even after Katrina, it wasn't like this," said

Joannie Hughes, who along with Vickie Perrin has fanned out across the region to deliver Christmas dinners and toys to 112 families.

Perrin said the economic effect is just starting to ripple through communities, from fishermen to grocery stores and restaurants.

"It's like throwing a pebble into a pond. And we're only on the first few ripples," she said.

The Second Harvest Food Bank has also seen a huge increase in families seeking first-time food assistance. Since May, the group has distributed more than 1 million pounds of food in 12 Louisiana parishes, the equivalent of 844,760 meals, to families hurt by the spill, said spokeswoman Leslie Doles.

That's in addition to the more than 9 million pounds of food deliv-

ered to poor people in those parishes during the same months, largely to families who would have needed assistance anyway.

After the spill, many people found temporary jobs on oil cleanup crews, but those operations are winding down. Some who lost money because of the spill are still waiting for their first payment from a \$20 billion fund set up by BP to compensate victims, while others have been paid only a fraction of what they claim they lost.

The program has paid more than 168,000 claimants some \$2.5 billion. More than 467,000 claims have been filed.

Recreational fishing guide Mike Helmer received money from the BP fund to cover his summer of losses, but business is still down more than 50 percent, and he is

struggling with whether to accept a final payout from the company that would require him to sign away his right to sue later.

"It's a gamble because we just don't know what next year will be like, or the year after that," Helmer said. "So it's not a real good bet."

For him, Christmas just brings more worries. He is trying to keep the holidays as close to normal as possible for his wife and two children, but the stress of not knowing whether he will even be in business in the coming years is wearing him down.

"There's just a lot of things in the back of my mind," Helmer said. "We're not in the poverty line yet, but it's the future that worries us."



Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and empty cells. The word 'Sudoku' is written vertically on the left.

Another Sudoku puzzle grid, similar to the first one.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I really need some help. One of my friends and her boyfriend, "Jake," have been having problems and he wants to break up with her. I have had a crush on him since I first met him. My friend knew it and dated him anyway.

Jake has been flirting with me for a while now, and I feel uncomfortable because I flirted back. I'm afraid my girlfriend will think he broke up with her for me. Please help! — **STUCK IN THE MIDDLE**

DEAR STUCK: Be warned. Jake appears to be someone with a roving eye and a short attention span. While he may have his eye on you, play it cool and hold off dating him until he has first dated one or two other girls. Even then, your girlfriend may not like the idea of your seeing him — but she won't be able to accuse you of having had any involvement in their breakup.

DEAR ABBY: My husband started smoking two years ago, and it's driving me crazy — especially the wasted time and money. I try not to nag him, but it's hard.

Because most restaurants are now non-smoking, when we go out to dinner, instead of smoking right before he goes in, then after we leave, he'll get up a few minutes after we order to go outside and smoke — leaving me alone for five to 10 minutes. Sometimes he does it more than once.

It makes me really uncomfortable. I feel like people are staring at me. I have asked him repeatedly not to leave me sitting there, but he won't stop. I told him it's rude and he should respect me enough to remain with me through an entire meal, but he refuses. Please tell me what you think about this. — **SMOKING MAD IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR SMOKING MAD: Your husband isn't being willfully disrespectful. He is so addicted to nicotine that he cannot sit through an entire meal with you because he must have another "fix"! While your suggestion that he have a cigarette before entering the restaurant is logical, he is **UNABLE** to go without smoking for that relatively short length of time.

It's very sad. Because you can't convince him to recognize he has a problem, ask his doctor to help him quit. Then all I can advise is to appreciate him while you can,

because his habit will eventually compromise his health.

DEAR ABBY: I am an intellectual giant. I have nothing in common with my peers. I am smarter than all of them. I am in a gifted-and-talented program in my school, and I am still unable to carry on a conversation that everyone in the room can understand. Please help me. — **HEADS ABOVE THE REST IN IDAHO**

DEAR HEADS ABOVE THE REST: Being intellectually gifted is an asset — unless it isolates you because you can't relate to others. If you're as smart as you say you are, you should try to do what other "intellectual giants" have done — learn to analogize what you're trying to communicate so that others of lesser intelligence can understand you. It is a skill and it may take practice, but the alternative is being unable to share your valuable insights with others.

If you cannot manage what I am suggesting on your own, you may need some pointers from a psychologist to gain the tools you need.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband, "Mac," calls me on the phone, he expects me to look at the caller ID and immediately interrupt whatever conversation I'm having to take his call.

Unless I expect an important call (from a doctor or my children's school), I do not look at the caller ID. I give my full attention to the person I'm speaking to. If I hear someone "beep," I'll attempt to quickly bring the conversation to a polite and natural end before calling back the person who tried to reach me.

Mac believes that anyone I'm talking to should understand that he takes priority. Today, he called seven times in two minutes to then berate me for not instantly taking his call about an unimportant matter.

Abby, in Mac's defense, he's a high-level executive with limited free time during the day. He is not otherwise demanding and usually calls me only once a day. I make every effort to quickly wrap up my phone calls and return his within minutes. Who is right? — **ON A SHORT PHONE LEASH**

DEAR ON A SHORT PHONE LEASH: As your husband is a high-level executive, his time may be tightly scheduled.

Because he calls you only once a day, it's not too much to ask that you take the call. I can understand that you refuse. If I were you, I'd start taking these calls — unless you would prefer getting your messages from your husband via his personal assistant.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Thelma," came to live with us two years ago because at 82, she was no longer financially able to support herself. Because she likes to cook, she has done most of the meal preparation. It has been a big help since my husband and I work full time.

Over the last year, Thelma's judgment has deteriorated and so have her cooking skills. She'll often prepare meals by 2 p.m. that won't be served until 6:00 or 7:00. The food sits on the stove or kitchen counter for hours. She also overcooks to the point of burning and meats are tough and difficult to eat. If she doesn't have something on hand that goes into a recipe — or she can't remember — she'll "substitute." Her choices generally do not work. Everything has become increasingly less appetizing, to put it mildly.

My mother-in-law is so kind, I don't want to offend her. My husband refuses to discuss it with her because he doesn't want to upset her. Please help. I'm worried about the length of time the food sits out after being prepared. Plus, I'd really like to have a good meal! — **HUNGRY IN MISSOURI**

DEAR HUNGRY: Food is the least of your problems. Your mother-in-law is showing signs of dementia. Does her doctor know about this change in her? If not, that should be the first thing on your agenda. If so, then you and your husband need to understand that what's happening may be progressive. A point may come when, if a fire should start while she's cooking, she would no longer remember what to do.

You and your husband should consult his mother's physician and a geriatric specialist. You should also contact the Alzheimer's Association. And at the end of the day, you should "all" prepare your evening meals together.

TO MY CHRISTIAN READERS: A very Merry Christmas to you all!

BANANAGRAMS!

For each phrase below, rearrange the letters to spell two new words that are both jobs people have. For example, I A WORM CYCLE becomes COMIC and LAWYER.

FOR RAT CREAM

I CREATED HAM

COTTON GRADE

LIVID PORTER

Yesterday's Answer: VISAGE/FACTOR; UNEASY/MARKET; FEMALE/COLUMN

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Goofed

1 Miles of music

6 Gravelly voices

11 Build

12 "... who lived in —"

13 Less strict

14 Like snowy

15 Tolerates

17 Hurried flight

18 Yang's counterpart

19 Dickens character

22 Decline

23 Pacify

24 Pinheads

25 General greeting

27 Hit-show letters

30 Dickens character

31 Energy member

32 Colony

33 "Forget it!"

35 Not rented out

38 "Splish Splash" singer

39 Annoyance

40 Select group

DOWN

42 Bottle size

1 Holds up

2 Mideast region

3 Puzzling

4 Like cupcakes

5 Worry

6 Coarse

7 Fire remnant

8 1862 battle site

9 Thick soup

10 Message from the boss

CABAL SCOOP
ADORE ARUBA
WOULD PERUBA
GEAR AGES
BAHS ITS A
IRS IOWEYOU
GLOSS ADAMS
SOFTENS PIE
HEEP OPTS
ODOR ROMA
RELIC AARON
CELLO THERE
ASYET SALAD

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Slide over on the pew
- 20 One to emulate
- 21 NFL tiebreakers
- 24 Take wing target
- 25 Sermon
- 26 Reindeer feature
- 27 Ghost
- 28 Read out
- 29 First game
- 30 Gray-brown
- 34 Noted surrealist
- 36 December 24, e.g.
- 37 Slugger Williams

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Merry Christmas

to all of our loyal readers!

Our Christmas wish is that your family enjoys the blessings of the season.
The staff of *The Pampa News*.



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