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The PAMPA NEWS

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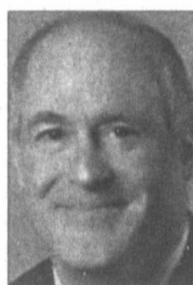
TODAY IN SPORTS Silver
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Seliger to return to Pampa for legislative update

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Top O' Texas Republican Women will host State Senator Kel Seliger, R, Amarillo, of the 31st District, at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15.

While Gray County is outside of his Seliger's district, Seliger does represent 26 counties in the Panhandle and Permian Basin.



Seliger
updated on the goings-on in Austin.

Gayle Whitehead, Top O' Texas Republican Women secretary, said that Seliger will discuss recent legislation to keep Pampa updated on the goings-on in Austin.

"A lot of legislation passed recently, and we got to vote on it in November, but a lot of it didn't pass or won't go into effect until the end of the year," said Whitehead. "He'll talk about things they'd been working on that the general public might not know about."

This will be Seliger's second visit to Pampa during the year. In August, Seliger spoke at an informal town hall meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, where he discussed, among other things, water depletion,

public schools and nuclear waste disposal.

Whitehead encouraged the community to attend and bring any questions or concerns you might have.

"Mr. Seliger always is so open, and he tries to make himself available to the general public," she said. "We want anyone and everyone to come, especially if there's something you're curious about. I'm sure he'll make time to answer any questions you might have."

HAPPY TO HELP

staff photo by **Randy Pribble**

Children's Shopping Tour 2011 chair Sue Pribble (left) hands out name tags to volunteers as Officer Stormy McCullar (right) of the Pampa Police Department watches on Saturday morning.

PD's McCullar talks Christmas shopping safety

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

With the 2011 holiday shopping season kicking into high gear, Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar of the Pampa Police Department urged Pampa shoppers not to forget about safety while buying presents for their loved ones.

"It always pays to be safe," McCullar said. "Everyone loves to Christmas shop, but you shouldn't forget to be careful."

The Christmas shopping season has historically been a safe one in Pampa, McCullar said, with very few problems occurring within the city. Still, she added, incidents can occur, and with many people shopping in Amarillo and online, the best way to make sure nothing does happen is to use caution and common sense.

"If you're going to be shopping, we really advise you not to carry large sums of cash," said McCullar. "That's sort of the number one thing. Use a credit card or a debit card if you can. Try to carry only the cards you'll be using and the cash that you'll need, if you're going to carry cash at all."

SHOPPING cont. on page 10

12 kids of Christmas

Emily Armendariz

Parents: Bob and Nicole Armendariz
What I want most for Christmas is: A baby hamster
What would you like Santa to bring your Mom and Dad?
A bracelet
The best part of Christmas
"The baby Jesus."

COOKS FOR A CAUSE

staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

Melissa Villarreal (left) and Flor Morales prepare a batch of beef enchiladas during the PHS soccer team's cookout Sunday at the Optimist Club.

Chamber Luncheon

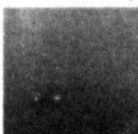


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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
High 49 Low 41	High 55 Low 44	High 55 Low 31

Today: Patchy fog before noon. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 49. Wind chill values between 26 and 36 early. Breezy, with a south-southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly after midnight. Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: A chance of rain, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. Breezy, with a south-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. Windy, with a west-southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph.

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BABY'S FIRST Christmas! Deadline Dec. 15th, 2pm. \$25 (paid in advance) and will be in the Dec 24th paper. Email Photos Will Be Accepted. If emailing photos, please call Beverly to verify that we have received your photo, 669-2525. Please Email photo and information to classified@thepampanews.com or bring by Pampa News Office 8am-3pm. You may include baby's name, birth date, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, (great-grandparents-if there is enough room).

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'Dallas' (the show) returns to Dallas (the city)

DALLAS (AP) — J.R. Ewing has returned to Dallas.

With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series "Dallas," which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as J.R.'s brother Bobby and Linda Gray as J.R.'s ex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive skyline rising from the prairie.

"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson, adding, "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of J.R. and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012. Filming for the series, entirely shot

in Dallas, began mid-October and is expected to wrap in late January.

"There was just no way we were going to film anywhere else," said executive producer Cynthia Cidre, who also wrote the pilot for the new series, a "mix of the old world and the new world."

The original series, which aired from 1978 to 1991, enjoyed popularity around the world as viewers tuned in to watch the scheming Ewing family. As the plot twisted and turned season after season, the series contributed to some of TV's most memorable moments. After Bobby died in a season cliffhanger in 1985 after being hit by a car, the entire next season was revealed to have been a prolonged dream sequence when his former wife, with whom he had reconciled, wakes up to find him alive, taking a shower. The 1986-87 season then mark's Duffy's return to the cast after a yearlong absence.

And, of course, there was the cliffhanger in 1980 that left the whole world in suspense. The catchphrase

"Who shot J.R.?" became part of the common vernacular as viewers waited to find out who had fired on J.R. When viewers tuned in for the answer on Nov. 21, 1980, the shooter was revealed to be J.R.'s vengeful mistress, who was also his sister-in-law. That episode was seen by more people than any TV program in history until that time.

"That phrase. I don't think there's a country in this world that you could find someone who doesn't know what that is. And it all goes back to 'Dallas,'" said Josh Henderson, who plays J.R. and Sue Ellen's son, John Ross.

Henderson, who was born in Dallas and spent part of his childhood here, said that working with Hagman has been a little surreal.

"I find myself sometimes just looking at him sometimes going, 'Wow, this is really happening. This is really 'Dallas' again and I'm really kind of family and kin to the J.R.," Henderson said.

Texas schools buy .xxx sites to head off porn

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas A&M University has bought up 15 .xxx website names to keep the pornography industry from associating itself with various Aggie trademarks. The University of Texas at Austin also blocked about a dozen names, including "hookemhorns.xxx."

The purchases are part of a trend in which companies and universities are paying to avoid inadvertently becoming linked with pornographic websites.

ICM Registry of Palm Beach, Fla., is the exclusive manager of the .xxx names and sells them through a dozen middleman companies such as GoDaddy.com for an average of \$100 a year. ICM sold .xxx names for the past two months exclusively to companies and others that wanted to protect their brands from the porn industry, registering nearly 80,000

names during the sale.

Texas A&M spokesman Jason Cook said administrators chose to protect the university's federally protected trademarks, including mascot "Reveille," at a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

"Our trademarks are extremely valuable to Texas A&M," Cook told *The Eagle* of Bryan-College Station. "The last thing we want is for these valuable trademarks to be associated with the porn industry."

"The way we view this is as an insurance policy," Gary Suswein, spokesman at the University of Texas at Austin, told the newspaper. "It costs us something up front but we avoid the problem of having our reputation ... tarnished by websites we can't control or don't support."

Shane Hinckley, A&M's assistant vice president for business development and past president of the Inter-

national Collegiate Licensing Association, said he warned his and other universities of the looming potential problem early this year.

"When it comes down to it, the way you have affinity with something is through its brand, and we take that responsibility seriously," he told *The Eagle*.

Jonathan Coopersmith, an A&M associate history professor who has written about pornography as it relates to technology, said the universities' move to block certain names is "sad to say, a reasonable defensive precaution." However, he said he worries that such strategies amount to a "protection racket."

ICM Chairman and CEO Stuart Lawley has told *The Associated Press* the company will take steps to protect existing trademarks even if companies or schools fail to lock down certain website names.

Obituaries

James Otis Williams, 55

James Otis Williams, 55 of Pampa, departed this life here on earth to enter his heavenly home on December 2, 2011, in Marietta, Ga.

He was born on January 19, 1956, to Leslie and Jeanette Williams in Pampa.

James attended Carver Elementary, Pampa Junior High and graduated from Pampa High School in 1974. He attended and was a faithful member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. James was employed at Enron Corp., for many years as a supervisor. In 1994, he transferred to Orlando, Fla. Several years later he moved to Marietta, Ga., where he worked for Contour Engineering as an inspector.

James married Jocelyn Johnson in 1979. To this union was born a daughter, Janel Elise Williams.

James was a lovable person and never met a stranger. He was a generous and giving person. James loved to play golf.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Jeanette Williams in August 1979, and his father, Leslie Williams, in October 2009.

Leaving to cherish his memories are his only daughter, Janel (Donnie) Scott of Mansfield.; his wife, Jocelyn Williams of Bay City.; a sister, Dorothy (Willie) Green of Pampa.; a granddaughter, Eryn Scott of Mansfield.; a special cousin, Patricia Wright of Pampa.; a special uncle, Robert (Rosa) Banks of Jacksonville, Fla.; a special friend, Tina Carroll of Marietta, Ga.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

James will have two Homegoing Memorial Celebrations. One will be Saturday December 10, 2011, at Light-house Baptist Church in Fort Worth, at 1:00 p.m. The second will be Wednesday December 14, 2011, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pampa at 1 p.m..

Memorials can be made to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pampa, Texas.

James F. "Jim" Thompson, 65

James F. "Jim" Thompson, 65, died Friday, December 9, 2011, in Pampa.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 13, in the Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with John Curry officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Thompson was born Feb. 28, 1946 in Pampa to Fred and Clotilde McCallister Thompson. Jim was a 1964 graduate of Pampa High School and attended San Antonio College and Texas Tech University. He served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War and was on active duty from 1967-1969, attaining the rank of sergeant. Jim served as an instructor at the Signal Corps School in Fort Gordon, Georgia. He worked for First National Bank while in high school and on two separate occasions during his banking career and also worked for the Bank of North Texas in Hurst. Jim was a member of First Baptist Church and was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club for several years. He was a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels for several years.

He is survived by a sister: JoAnn Jones of Pampa; a nephew: Jeff Jones and wife Consuelo of Pampa; a niece: Christie Demetriades and husband Keith of Pampa; 3 great nieces: Jordan Demetriades and Peyton Demetriades, both of Pampa, and Lauren Jones of Lubbock; and by a great nephew, Alex Jones, of Lubbock.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents.

The family wishes to thank the VA Health Care System, Interim Hospice, and private care givers, Betty Rainey and Anita Graham.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to PAWS, P. O. Box 2095, Pampa, TX 79066-2095, Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065, Meals on Wheels, P. O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939, or Interim Health Care, 2217 Perryton Parkway, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com

John David Geer, 64

John David Geer, 64, of Amarillo died Thursday, December 8, 2011.

Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Boxwell Brothers Chapel at 2800 Paramount Blvd with Dr. G.A. Roach officiating.

Mr. Geer was born on July 20, 1947 in Canton, Illinois to Janie and John Geer. He lived in Cuba, Illinois and moved to Pampa during high school. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He went to West Texas State where he earned a degree in marketing and accounting. Mr. Geer later earned his masters where he got his CPA license and worked for Santa Fe Energy; Brooks Wilson Accounting Firm and for the past 20 years for the City of Amarillo in the accounting department. He retired in October. He was a member of Toastmasters.

He is survived by his mother: Janie Geer, of Casper, Wyo.; a brother: Steve Geer and nephew John Geer of Houston; a sister: Ronda Hickman and husband Michael and nieces, Kendall and Becca Hickman of Casper, Wyo.; a few aunts, uncles and cousins; his faithful four legged friend, Sophie.

John was preceded in death by his father John Donald Greer.

The family suggests memorials to Coffee Memorial Blood Bank, 7500 Wallace, Amarillo, TX 79106.

James W. "Rusty" Taylor, 71

James W. "Rusty" Taylor, 71 died Friday, December 9, 2011 in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.



Williams

Thompson



Geer

MORNINGRUSH

Recalling Big Tex's holiday background

Fire destroys fire hall

SAN MANUEL-LINN (AP) — The headquarters of a South Texas volunteer fire department is in ruins after flames swept through the building while the volunteers were at a Christmas party.

According to *The Monitor* of McAllen, the Hidalgo County Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the fire at the San Manuel-Linn Volunteer Fire Department, which operated out of a former service station. Officials say the firefighters were at a holiday party in Edinburg, 20 miles to the south.

No injuries were reported in the Saturday night fire that drew crews from several surrounding communities. The department's pumper truck, rescue gear and medical equipment were lost.

However, Fire Chief Domingo Hinojosa Jr. tells *The Monitor* that the department still has a pumper truck and three bush trucks and will continue to function with equipment.

Off-duty officer killed in crash

DALLAS (AP) — An off-duty suburban Dallas motorcycle officer is dead after the crash of his motorcycle at an Interstate 30 interchange near downtown Dallas.

Dallas police Sgt. Warren Mitchell said the crash happened about 1 a.m. Sunday as the officer was driving onto the ramp from northbound Cesar Chavez Boulevard to eastbound Interstate 30. Mitchell said the officer couldn't make the curve and was thrown from his motorcycle over the ramp barrier to the highway 50 feet below.

Mitchell said the officer's wife was following in a car, witnessed the crash and called 911. Mitchell and Balch Springs police declined to release the officer's identity Sunday.

Houston refinery blast injures two

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — Two people were injured when explosions rocked an independent refinery in the industrial Houston suburb of Pasadena.

One person was hospitalized for burns to his arm and another was treated for minor injuries at the scene of the 7:15 p.m. Saturday explosion at the Pasadena Refining System Inc. plant.

A company statement says sludge at the bottom of a tank ignited, unleashing a fireball. All workers were accounted for afterward, and no damage or injury was reported outside the plant.

Perry, Santorum: Marriage matters

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential candidates Rick Perry and Rick Santorum say a candidate's fidelity to their spouse is a factor voters should consider, subtly distinguishing themselves from national poll leader Newt Gingrich.

Perry, Texas' governor, said: "If you cheat on your wife, you'll cheat on your business partner. It's a characteristic people look at."

Perry and Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator, are both aggressively courting social conservatives, and touting their family lives. "Certainly, it's a factor and it should be a factor when you're electing a leader," Santorum said.

Gingrich, who has been divorced twice and admitted past infidelity, was asked the question last and confronted it as he has throughout the campaign.

"I think it's a very important issue," he said. "I've made mistakes at times and I've had to go to God for forgiveness."

Perry jabs Romney on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rick Perry insists that GOP presidential rival Mitt Romney continues to support requiring health care coverage for all individuals, and says even a \$10,000 bet isn't going to change that.

Perry tells "Fox News Sunday" that in the hardcover edition of his book, Romney supported the individual mandate. Perry says that passage was removed in the paperback edition.

In Saturday night's presidential debate in Iowa, Romney offered Perry a \$10,000 bet when Perry insisted the former Massachusetts governor supported individual mandates.

Perry declined the wager from the former Massachusetts governor, and Perry said Sunday, "I was a little taken aback."

Romney notes background

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney noted his privileged background during Saturday's debate in Iowa, but said he grew up appreciating hard work because of his parents' influence.

Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, grew up the son of an automotive CEO and Michigan governor, who rose up from childhood poverty.

"I didn't grow up poor," Romney said. "But I grew up with a dad who had been poor and my dad wanted to make sure I understood the lessons of hard work."

Quite the opposite, Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann noted her parents' divorce when she was an adolescent, and remembered her mother's struggle to make ends meet.

"We went to below poverty overnight. I know what it's like for single moms to struggle," Bachmann said. "We're still coupon clippers today."

Okla. teen killed in crash

LINDSAY, Okla. (AP) — The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says a Lindsay teenager was killed and three other teens were injured in an accident on a Garvin County road.

Troopers say 13-year-old Shey Elledge died of a head injury at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City about 9:40 a.m. Saturday.

The patrol says she and three other teenage girls were riding in a pickup truck near Lindsay about 8:15 p.m. Friday. The 16-year-old driver was headed west on the road at a high rate of speed when she lost control of the truck and hit struck a tree.

The patrol says Elledge was pinned in the vehicle for about 20 minutes before Lindsay firefighters freed her.

The other girls all were transported to a Lindsay hospital, where they were treated and then released.

TYLER (AP) — Before Big Tex greeted visitors with his trademark "Howdy Folks" a more appropriate greeting might have been "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

The larger-than-life cowboy that has been a staple at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas for almost 60 years got his start in Kerens, about 20 miles west of Athens. And he wasn't a cowboy. He was then touted as the world's largest Santa Claus and spent two Christmases calling that city's Colket Avenue home.

In 1949, the late Howell Brister, then Chamber of Commerce manager, proposed creating a giant Santa Claus as a way to boost the local economy, according to a 1978 article in the *Corsicana Daily Sun*.

According to the story, he mulled over the idea for two years before he felt confident that the town would endorse the proposal.

So on Nov. 10, 1949, at a chamber meeting, he presented plans for a 50-foot Santa telling his peers the details. He already had measured local men for the dimensions, determined where they could buy the materials, and obtained some cost estimates.

All those at the meeting except for one man, Brister's brother-in-law, supported the project, and he came around in the end — so the community banded together to make themselves a larger than life St. Nick.

Brister already had measured two men to create the dimensions for the figure. The "models," both more than 6 feet tall, were Otis Franklin Spurlock, a 270-pound grocer, and Hardy Mayo, who had the height and the hand size, but apparently not the stomach, according to a 1990 article in the *Dallas Times Herald*.

After measuring the men, Brister multiplied their dimensions by seven to come up with measurements for Santa, the *Daily Sun* reported.

He purchased tubing pipe to make the skeleton framework for \$68 and bought 168 yards of red oilcloth for the suit.

Kerens welding school students welded the framework and vocational agriculture students added the chicken wire to make Santa's body, according to the *Daily Sun*.

Women at the Kerens dress factory stayed after work to cut and sew the suit and Baylor University art students made the papier-mâché Santa face.

Unraveled hemp rope cut 12 inches long served as Santa's beard. And a local cement worker fashioned some boots out of concrete over wire frames and painted them black, according to one article.

After two weeks of work, the town had created a suitable Santa and, with the help of three trucks, lifted him into place on the city's main street. They put him into place about midnight with the idea that the giant Santa would surprise motorists driving along Texas Highway 31 in the morning.

And he surely did, but the Kerens residents were surprised as well. Despite the fact Brister hadn't publicized the city's efforts, a picture of

Santa appeared on the front page of the *Dallas Morning News* that day, according to the *Daily Sun*.

His guess was that a passing motorist or train engineer tipped off the paper, according to the report. But no matter, Kerens got results. The chamber phone rang off the hook and people from beyond Navarro County came to visit, the *Daily Sun* reported. Newspapers around the country and world ran photos of the supposed world's largest Santa Claus.

But that claim would be short-lived. An Illinois town contended that it had created a taller Santa Claus, according to the *Daily Sun*.

Still, Kerens residents were pleased with their creation. Cotton Belt train conductors did their part by promoting the Santa to passengers before they came into town.

"They would stop the train where passengers in two or three coaches could look straight down Colket Street toward Santa, then move the train up a little so another batch of passengers could see," Brister told the *Daily Sun*.

Santa served the town for the Christmases of 1949 and 1950. The second year, the town had a chimney built around him. But that year would be his last in Kerens.

The excitement about Santa had faded and Brister suggested to the chamber board that they sell it to a small West Texas town that could benefit from the publicity. So he went on a road trip to let people know about the opportunity.

For \$1,000, a city could have Santa and his chimney or for \$750 it could have just Santa. On his return trip home, Brister stopped by the State Fair office thinking he would make them the same offer, the *Daily Sun* reported. Despite a little difficulty getting past the secretary, he got his message

to fair manager James Stewart and fair president and future Dallas mayor R.L. Thornton.

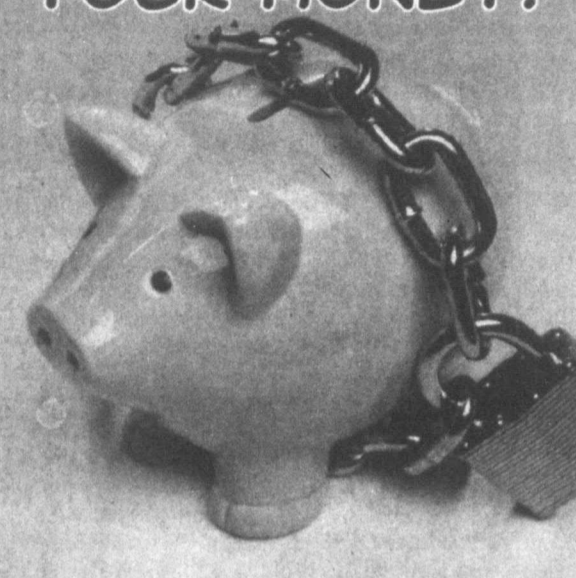
The men apparently saw great potential in the idea because the next day a \$750 check arrived by mail at the Kerens Chamber of Commerce. Santa had a buyer.

Through the work of artists, Santa was transformed. And

after one year of preparation, Big Tex debuted at the 1952 State Fair.

No longer was he Santa sporting a red coat and white beard. Now, according to information on the State Fair website, this cowboy wore a 75-gallon hat, size 70 boots and stood 52 feet above his visitors.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2011. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 12, 1911, Britain's King George V, who also held the title Emperor of India, announced during a visit that the Indian capital would be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2000, George W. Bush was transformed into the president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Ten years ago: A bus ambush killed ten Jewish settlers, prompting Israeli warplanes to strike back; Yasser Arafat bowed to longstanding Israeli demands by closing the offices of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Gerardo Hernandez, the leader of a Cuban spy ring, received a life sentence from a federal court in Miami for his role in the infiltration of U.S. military bases and the deaths of four Cuban-Americans.

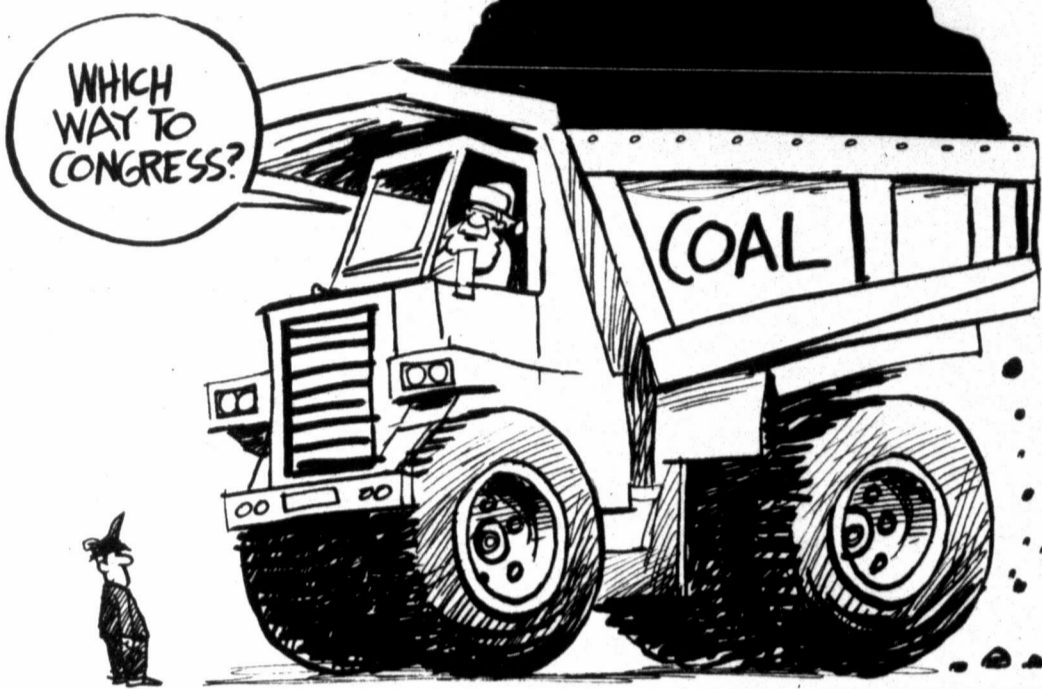
Five years ago: A suicide bomber struck a crowd of mostly poor Shiites in Baghdad, killing some five dozen people and wounding more than 200. A two-day conference questioning the existence of the Nazi Holocaust ended in Tehran.

One year ago: An explosives-packed minibus blew up at the entrance of a joint NATO-Afghan base in southern Afghanistan, killing six NATO troops and two Afghan soldiers as they prepared to head out on patrol. The inflatable roof of the Minneapolis Metrodome collapsed following a snowstorm that had dumped 17 inches on the city.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 88. Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch (kahch) is 87. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 79. Singer Connie Francis is 74. Singer Dionne Warwick is 71. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 68. Former race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 65. Actor Wings Hauser is 64. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 62. Actor Duane Chase ("The Sound of Music") is 61. Country singer LaCosta is 61. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 59. Author Lorna Landvik is 57. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 54. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 53. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 50. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 48. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 44. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 42. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 41. Actress Madchen Amick is 41. Country singer Hank Williams III is 39. Actress Mayim Bialik is 36. Model Bridget Hall is 34.

Thought for Today: "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." — Franz Kafka, author (1883-1924).

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Debate fact check: Plenty to question

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Michele Bachmann accused Newt Gingrich in the latest Republican debate of once supporting a cap-and-trade program to curb global warming, he huffily denied it and told her she should get her facts straight.

Actually, she did. As recently as 2007, Gingrich "strongly supported" the idea.

Viewers did not always get the straight goods Saturday night from other presidential hopefuls, either.

Mitt Romney erred in saying Barack Obama was the only president to cut Medicare. If Rick Perry had been a betting man, he probably would have lost the \$10,000 wager Romney wanted to make with him to settle competing assertions.

A look at how some of the claims from the Saturday night debate and Sunday talk show aftermath compare with the facts:

BACHMANN: "If you look at Newt Romney, they were for cap-and-trade."

GINGRICH: "Well, Michele, a lot of what you say just isn't true, period. I have never — I oppose cap-and-trade. I testified against it the same day that Al Gore testified for it. I helped defeat it in the Senate through American Solutions. It is simply untrue. ... You know, I think it's important for you, and this is a fair game and everybody gets to pick fights. It's important that you be accurate when you say these things. Those are not true."

THE FACTS: Bachmann's suggestion that Gingrich and Romney are in lockstep was oversimplified. But she was right that Gingrich once backed the idea of capping carbon emissions and letting polluters trade emission allowances.

Asked in a 2007 PBS "Frontline" interview about President George W. Bush's endorsement of mandatory carbon caps in his 2000 campaign, Gingrich said: "I think if you have mandatory carbon caps combined with a trading system, much like we did with sulfur, and if you have a tax-incentive program for investing in the solutions, that there's a package there that's very, very good. And frankly, it's something I would strongly support."

To be sure, Gingrich opposed a Democratic version of cap-and-trade when it was adopted by the House. It died in the Senate. Many Republicans considered it a market-distorting cap-and-tax plan instead.

Although most candidates disavow the idea now, cap-and-trade once enjoyed substantial Republican support because it sought to use market mechanisms, not the heavy hand of government, to control pollution. Congress in 1990 passed a law with overwhelming bipartisan support that set up a trading system for sulfur dioxide, the main culprit behind acid rain.

ROMNEY: "Let's not forget, only one president has ever cut Medicare for seniors in this country and it's Barack Obama. We're going to remind him of that time and time again."

THE FACTS: Obama is at least the third president to sign cuts in Medicare that were passed by Congress.

The 1990 budget law signed by Republican President George H.W. Bush raised premiums paid by Medicare beneficiaries and cut payments to hospitals, doctors and other providers.

The 1997 balanced budget law signed by Democratic President Bill Clinton scaled back Medicare payments to hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes and other providers, as well as raising

monthly premiums paid by older people. It reduced projected payment rates for doctors, putting in place automatic cuts that Congress routinely has waived ever since.

The law signed by Obama strengthens traditional Medicare by improving preventive care and increasing payments to primary care doctors and nurses serving as medical coordinators, but reduces subsidies to private insurance plans that have become a popular alternative to Medicare. Obama is cutting about 6 percent of spending from Medicare over 10 years. Clinton and a Republican Congress came up with cuts of 12 percent.

PERRY: "I'm listening to you, Mitt, and I'm hearing you say all the right things. But I read your first book, and it said in there that your mandate in Massachusetts — which should be the model for the country — and I know it came out of the reprint of the book, but, you know, I'm just saying, you were for individual mandates, my friend."

ROMNEY: "You know what, you've raised that before, Rick. And you're simply wrong. ... \$10,000 bet?"

PERRY: "I'm not in the betting business but ... I'll show you the book."

ROMNEY: "I've got the book and I wrote the book."

THE FACTS: At issue is a modification Romney made to his 2010 book, "No Apology," when it came out in paperback this year. Perry has several times accused the former Massachusetts governor of cutting a passage that proposed making the health insurance mandate in his state national, as Obama has done with his health care law.

The Texas governor did so again on "Fox News Sunday" when he contended Romney's hardcover edition "clearly stated that individual mandates should be the model for this country and then he took that out of the book in the paperback."

There is little question Romney altered the words to dissociate himself more clearly from Obama's plan. But the book and its excised passage did not call for Romney's plan to go national. At most, it held out the Massachusetts plan as a possible model for some states, not the federal government, while emphasizing that states should find their own solutions.

The book pitched what Romney called his state's achievement, affordable insurance that covers everyone, and said, "We can accomplish the same thing for everyone in the country, and it can be done without letting government take over health care." That came out.

RON PAUL: "We have dumped the debt on the American people through TARP funding as well as the Federal Reserve. So the debt is dumped onto people. And what did we do? We bailed out the people that were benefiting during the formation of the bubble. So as long as we do that, we're not going to have economic growth."

THE FACTS: The \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program was proposed by President George W. Bush and passed by Congress in 2008 to help rescue banks and other imperiled financial institutions. Nearly all of the money has been paid back, with interest.

Most economists credit the program with keeping the financial system from freezing up and helping to prevent the worst recession in 30 years from becoming another Great Depression. The Federal Reserve does not operate on taxpayer

money and does not receive any operating funds from the Treasury. In fact, it makes money every year from its banking operations, and turns over profits to the Treasury.

GINGRICH: "In 1993, in fighting Hillarycare, virtually every conservative saw the mandate as a less dangerous future than what Hillary was trying to do. ... After Hillarycare disappeared, it became more and more obvious that mandates have all sorts of problems built into them. People gradually tried to find other techniques. I, frankly, was floundering trying to find a way to make sure that people who could afford it were paying their hospital bills, while still leaving it out for libertarians to not buy insurance. And that's what we were wrestling with. It's now clear that the mandate, I think, is clearly unconstitutional."

THE FACTS: Gingrich is right that some conservatives, himself included, once supported the idea of requiring everyone to have health insurance, and that they held this view when Hillary Rodham Clinton was leading the White House effort to overhaul the health care system even more broadly.

But his suggestion that he dropped the idea after the Clinton health care overhaul failed is misleading. In recent years including in his 2008 book, Gingrich endorsed the idea of making people buy health insurance or posting a bond if they wanted to go without coverage, and he contended this year that "all of us have a responsibility to help pay for health care."

ROMNEY: "One, make sure that our employer tax rates are competitive with other nations. They're not now. We're the highest in the world."

THE FACTS: Japan's corporate tax rate is the highest in the world. The U.S. top rate of 35 percent would be second except that few companies pay the full rate because of a variety of loopholes and tax breaks not available in many other countries.

GINGRICH: "It starts very simply taxes — lower taxes, less regulation, an American energy plan and actually be positive about people who create jobs. The opposite of the Obama plan which is higher taxes, more regulation, no American energy and attack people who create jobs with class warfare."

THE FACTS: By "no American energy," Gingrich really meant Obama has not exploited enough American energy in his opinion, but that's how the former House speaker talks, shorn of nuance and after overreaching.

On taxes, the record is more complex than Gingrich suggests in asserting that Obama plots merely to raise them. He is not the only GOP candidate to ignore the hefty tax cuts that Obama has pushed for and achieved, as well as some tax increases.

Overall, as a share of the nation's economy, federal tax revenues are the lowest they've been since 1950.

For the third straight year, U.S. families will pay less in federal taxes than they did under Bush. Much of this is due both to recent tax breaks and the weak economy. Obama has called for extending Bush-era tax cuts for all but the wealthiest Americans, and for extending and expanding the 2011 tax cut in the federal payroll tax, which finances Social Security and Medicare.

The PAMPA NEWS

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Chamber



The Top O' Texas Goldcoats around Pampa

TOP LEFT: Cristy Sea (from left), Randy Pribble, Chad Rohan, Ashley Fleetwood, Joe Weaver, Martha Palomares, John Warner, Kristy Powell, Jack Reeve, Sheila Webb, Roy Morriss, Kerrick Horton, Ronnie Wood, Darville Orr, Nolan Burr and Joy Larsen share a smile at AT&T Mobility. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Debbie Heiser (middle, with scissors) is joined by Goldcoats Joe Weaver (in blazers, from left), Charles Henry, Sheila Webb, Jack Reeve, Roy Morriss and Ronnie Wood at the grand opening of The Victorian Rose. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Cinthia Perez (from left), Stephanie Hickman, Joe Weaver, Joseph White, Michael Loftus, Jack Reeve, Kerry Symens, Roy Morriss, Kenneth Reiese, Charles Henry, Ruby Ponce, Ronnie Wood and Sheila Webb pose for a photo at the Communication Connection.



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6 comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-12

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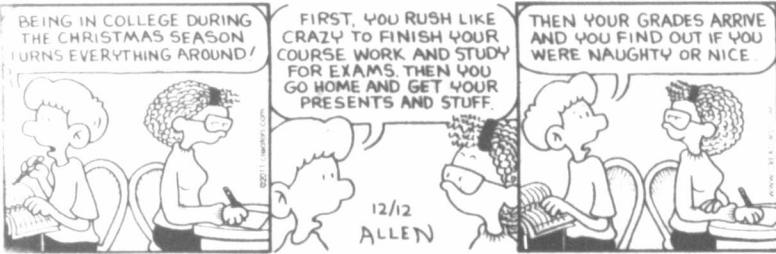
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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 12, 2011:

This year you mix energy and caring in a way that makes others feel nurtured. The balance in your relationships could change as you transform into a much more expressive person. Your popularity soars. Your ability to communicate will expand as you grasp new styles of verbalizing or getting your point across. You feel evolved and more effective. If you are single, you could have a wonderful time dating, and might meet someone who hangs in there with you. If you are attached, you will naturally want to do the right thing to help your sweetie see the new you. VIRGO encourages a quietness within you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ You are direct about what must be done, no matter what your immediate circle's concerns are. Once a situation mellows out, you seem to be ready to lie back. Your thoughts could be a bit indulgent. Use care when shopping. Tonight: Happily head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. You might be confused about a situation. Be proactive in order to gain clarity. Extremes seem natural, and not necessarily bad. The holiday season is taking its toll on others. Tonight: Chatting up a storm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ There is a tendency to go to extremes — whether it is with spending or an emotional situation. Honor a change and examine what is happening with someone at a distance. You will tend to go overboard with spending and caring. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You are full of energy. If you don't get a call or someone doesn't behave as you think he or she should, don't stand on ceremony. Pick up the phone. Know what you want. You might want to indulge a friend or your sweetie. Tonight: Out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Note what is going on behind the scenes. You also could decide to observe rather than participate. Others could be overly sensitive — you might be as well. Listen to your inner dialogue. If it is a repeat inner talk, you might want to really delve into the issue. Tonight: Either alone or with someone you trust.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your interest unites with others to make a goal more plausible. Just finding like-minded people seems like a reason for celebration. You experience a unique sense of friendship that you rarely feel. Walk toward a new opportunity. Tonight: Surround yourself with people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Take a stand if need be. You have a way of knowing the exact words to say to make the right impression. Don't sell yourself short. Investigate an offer that might be too good to be true. Some of you might feel manipulated. Tonight: A force to behold.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Reach out for an adviser or someone you respect. The feedback you get could be more important than you think. Someone knows how to flatter you by showing you a great deal of respect. Be willing to demonstrate more of what others see that is so special in you. Tonight: Choose something different.

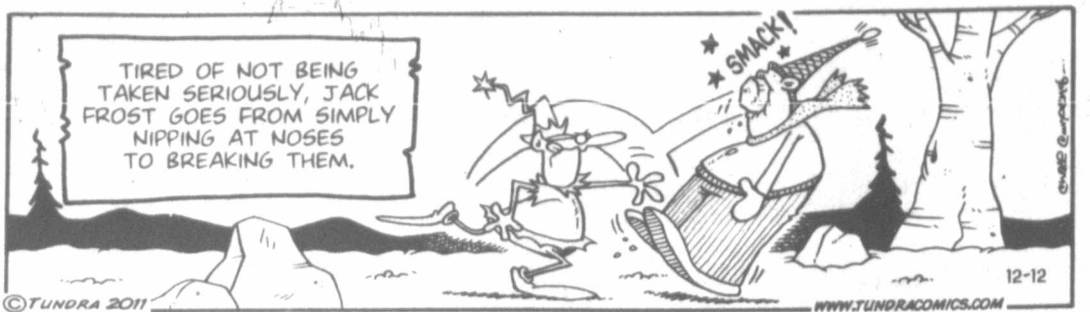
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ A partner has an interest in working with you. At first you might try to avoid this connection. Once you decide to listen and brainstorm together, you could discover how much you like the interaction. Tonight: Continue the theme over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Others might act as if they know it all. Who are you to tell them otherwise? You could have difficulty being heard. Know when you are better off heading in another direction. You might be surprised by how fast someone taps on your shoulder. Tonight: Go along with another person's ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Stay on topic in your head, as well as with others. You easily could be triggered by others. Follow-through counts, or else a close associate could push. Avoid an argument at all costs. Rather than criticize, praise. Tonight: Make it easy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Tap into your ingenuity in order to make what appears to be a boulder in your path but a mere pebble. Someone could be wildly hostile, and you can talk this person down. Remember that ultimately much more is gained by positive feelings. Tonight: Ever playful.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



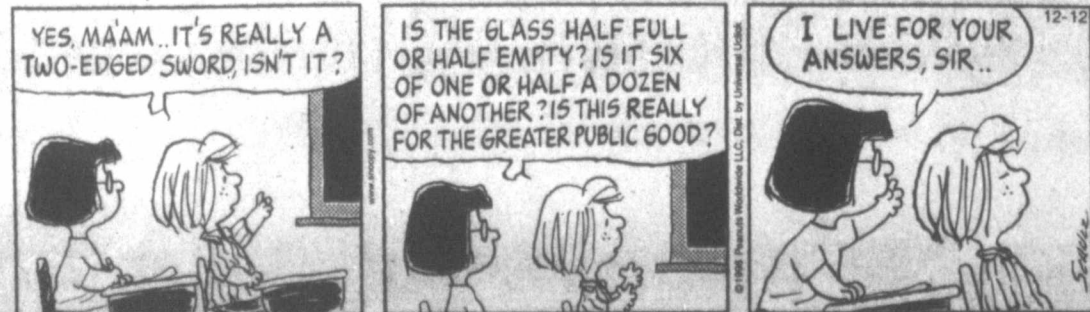
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Sports

Boys swimming finishes second at Seminole Invite

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters' swim teams were hoping for a strong performance at the Seminole Invitational. Both teams left in good shape as the boys finished second and the girls finished fifth Saturday.

"This was an important meet because we need to be gaining momentum as we head into the toughest, most important part of our season," head coach Edward Garvin said. "In January, we have the Lubbock invitational and Districts. We will be attempting to win our 13th straight district championship for both girls and guys."

The Harvesters were only beat by Pecos. Pampa finished third in the 200-meter medley relay, second in the 200-



Garvin

meter freestyle relay and eighth in the 400 meter relay. Senior Karl Pfitzner finished fourth in the 200-meter freestyle and was a member of the 200-meter and 400-meter freestyle relay teams. Sophomore Chris Garvin finished seventh in the 200-meter freestyle, seventh in the 400-meter freestyle and was a member of the 200-meter and 400-meter freestyle relay teams. Senior Nathan Towry finished fourth in the 200-meter medley, won the 400-meter freestyle and was a member of the 200-meter and 400-meter freestyle relay teams. Senior Spencer Estes finished second in the 50-meter freestyle,



Towry

Ramey finished third in the 400-meter freestyle, third in the 100-meter backstroke and was a part of the 200-meter medley and 200-meter freestyle relays. Sophomore Morgan Graef finished seventh in the 200-meter individual medley, third in the 100-meter breaststroke and was a part of the 200-meter medley and 200-meter freestyle relays. Freshman

Samantha VanHouten finished 10th in the 100-yard butterfly and was a part of the 200-meter medley and 200-meter freestyle relays.



Ramey

Edward said the pool was measured by meters. Most pools are measured in yards, Edward said this will be the only time Pampa swims in such a pool.

"The times seemed slower but the pool is longer," Edward said.

Both swim teams will dual Tascosa at the Pampa Youth Center 10 a.m. Saturday for the final meet of the fall semester.

Harvesters' fourth quarter rally falls short against Hebron

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

After not starting Friday's game well, the No. 21 Pampa Harvesters were hoping to get off on the right foot with the Lewisville Hebron Hawks Saturday. Just like the previous game, Pampa found themselves in a hole and a second half rally came up short in a 48-43 loss in the Nichols Shootout finale.

Head coach Dustin Miller said though he was pleased with his team's effort, he was not happy they lost.

"I liked the way we battled against a school we don't have any business battling against," Miller said. "The bottom line is we lost. To be the team that we want to be, we have to win these games regardless the size of the school."

The Harvesters (7-3) never led for the second consecutive game and were down

16-6 in the first quarter. Pampa struggled making shots especially inside.

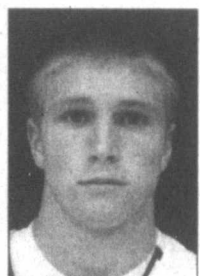
"They were huge," Miller said. "Much bigger than anyone we will see the rest of the year. Their size had a lot to do with that."

For the second consecutive game, Pampa's leading scorer senior Latigo Collins was held without a point in the first quarter and only scored nine the entire game. It was the first game this season that Collins was held to single digits. Miller said Collins' slow starts the last two games doesn't concern him.

"Teams know he is a preseason All-State player," Miller said. "He has earned a reputation and he is other teams' focus."



Miller



Collins

Cole Engle hit two three-pointers and junior Derrek Pollard hit one. Pampa cut Hebron's lead to 10 after the third. In the fourth, the Harvesters continued their momentum. Senior Reid Miller scored five points, including a three-pointer to cut Hebron's lead to three with four minutes left. Pampa was unable to tie the game as they missed a shot and turned the ball over.



Engle

Pampa returns home and hosts the Randall Raiders at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The head coach said he is looking forward to it.

"It's always good to come down here and see these big schools," Miller said. "Makes Panhandle opponents feel average sometimes. Randall is always a big game."

Engle led the Harvesters in scoring with 14, hitting three three-pointers. Reid and Pollard each scored seven. The loss gives the Harvesters their first losing streak since losing four straight at the end of non-district last season.

HOLIDAY BOUNTY



submitted photo

Reece Aikin, 10, from Pampa shot an 8-point buck in Hollingsworth County with a 223 Nov. 27. Aikin was with his dad Ricky. Reece's mom is Samantha.

athletes of the week

Kendle Ramey
Pampa High School

Nathan Towry
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior swimmer **Kendle Ramey** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Ramey finished third in the 400-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke at Seminole Saturday. This is Ramey's first Athlete of the Week honor.

Pampa High School senior swimmer **Nathan Towry** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Towry won the 400-meter freestyle and finished fourth in the 200-meter medley at Seminole Saturday.

NBA

Lakers' star Bryant unhappy about Odom's trade to Mavs

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — The Lakers traded forward Lamar Odom and a second-round draft pick to the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night for a first-round pick and an \$8.9 million trade exception, capping Los Angeles' stunning 72-hour breakup with last season's Sixth Man of the Year.

The Lakers and Mavericks reached a swift deal after Odom learned Thursday that Los Angeles was attempting to trade him in a megadeal for New Orleans superstar Chris Paul.

After the NBA blocked that trade, Odom declined to report to the Lakers' opening day of training camp on Friday. Odom then requested a trade in a meeting with general manager Mitch Kupchak, and the Lakers improbably swung a deal with the rival Mavericks, who swept Los Angeles out of the second round of last season's playoffs.

"Lamar was a fine player for us in his seven years with the Lakers and was a key to helping us win two championships," Kupchak said in a statement. "In addition, he always conducted himself with class and professionalism, and we wish him well in the remainder of his career."

Neither team formally acknowledged the deal until Sunday night, but both teams knew all about the surprising transaction when they reported for training camp practices that morning.

"To be honest with you, I don't like it," Kobe Bryant said. "It's tough to lose Lamar. Pau (Gasol) is still here, and we're all thankful for that. It's hard when you've been through so many battles with players to just see them go somewhere else. It's tough."

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle and star Dirk Nowitzki spoke eagerly about adding Odom to the defending NBA champions' roster without losing a player in return. Odom will aid the Mavs' recovery from Tyson Chandler's departure, and Carlisle said Odom's partnership with Nowitzki and Shawn Marion would form the NBA's best frontcourt.

The Lakers used to have what was considered the NBA's best frontcourt — until they broke it up for reasons that are unclear to their players. Odom, a veteran team leader and a popular Hollywood celebrity, averaged 14.4 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3 assists while playing in all 82 games last season with his smooth, well-rounded game.

Bryant and Derek Fisher led a chorus of confused anger from the Lakers, who have no idea what their front office is planning just two weeks before the season opener. Los Angeles is thought to be working on a deal for Orlando center Dwight Howard,

but the trade exception obtained from Dallas could be only a minor part of any potential deal.

"As a basketball player, it confuses you as to what your focus should be," Fisher said. "I'm very disappointed and frustrated for (Odom and Gasol). If I had my choice, Lamar would be a Laker for life."

Bryant said he hated seeing Odom leave Los Angeles: "Especially to them. We were supposed to come back and get them back. It's tough. ... Do I think we got too little? Who did we get? I don't think Mark Cuban is protesting this trade."

Although Odom was excited about the Lakers' prospects as recently as Wednesday, he never practiced with the Lakers in their first three workouts under new coach Mike Brown while the club attempted to move him to New Orleans. After that three-team deal fell through, the Lakers apparently changed their focus to Howard, who loves Los Angeles and has requested a trade from the Magic.

Gasol, the other main component in the squashed deal for Paul, has been at the Lakers' training complex for all three days of camp, working out the past two days. He remains hopeful he'll stay in Los Angeles, but the four-time All-Star no longer knows what to think about his near future.

"I understand this is a business, and it's become more of a business than a sport nowadays," Gasol said. "It hasn't been extremely easy to be calm and quiet and not think about the different possibilities. But I'm still here, and I'm thankful for that."

Although Bryant expressed his faith in Kupchak, he would prefer to have Odom in camp as the Lakers regroup from last season's failed attempt at a threepeat. Odom starred in a reality show last season with his wife, Khloe Kardashian, clearly enjoying his celebrity at the main intersection of sports and entertainment.

"You're talking about the sixth man of the year last year," Bryant said of Odom. "He played lights-out. I don't understand the criticism of reality shows and this. I don't get that. He had his best season last year, clearly wasn't a distraction, played his (rear) off. I don't get where that comes from."

Even Odom's contract is a good deal for his new employers: He will make \$8.9 million this season in the third year of a four-year deal, which can be bought out next season for a modest amount. The Lakers' trade exception means they can acquire a player making Odom's salary or less without the usual complications, but it would be only one part of a hypothetical deal for Howard or another star.

Is your tax holiday gift a lump of coal?

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Many people have written to ask my opinion of the proposed expansion of the so-called payroll tax holiday. As any working American knows, the Social Security payroll tax, normally 6.2 percent, was lowered to 4.2 percent for all employees in 2011. And now the administration is proposing not only to extend that reduction for another year but also to reduce the withholding even further — to just 3.2 percent.

There are also rumors about reducing the matching tax paid by employers. In 2011, employers continued to pay the full 6.2 percent, but the proposed legislation would lower their 2012 Social Security tax rate to 3.2 percent, matching that paid by employees.

So what do I think? Well, it depends on if you're asking "Is it good for the economy?" or "Is it good for the future of the Social Security program?" My answer to the first question is a wishy-washy "I guess so." My answer to the second question is a rather emphatic "no!"

I'm not an economist. I'm not even very good with numbers — I don't think I ever got any grade higher than a B minus in any math class I ever took, and I haven't balanced my checkbook in 30 years. So I'm not the guy you want to ask about whether lowering the payroll tax is a wise economic move for our country.

On the surface, it sounds like a good move. It puts more money into the hands of American workers. And the proposal for 2012 would lower the tax burden for many small businesses in this country.

However, what many people may not realize is that the law requires the Social Security trust funds to be reimbursed from the general funds to make up for the shortfall in payroll tax collections. So that means we're still paying the piper, i.e., the Social Security

Social Security and you

funds. It's just that the money is coming out of one pocket instead of another.

Congress is currently arguing over whose pocket will get picked in 2012 to pay for the extra general revenues needed to reimburse the Social Security funds. Many Democrats want to increase taxes on the wealthy. And as I write this, many Republicans seem to be in a bit of a tizzy over how to deal with this issue. On the one hand, they don't want to be seen as opposing a middle-class tax break. But on the other hand, they don't want any kind of tax increase to pay for it. I've seen dozens of proposals from the right side of the political aisle to pay for the payroll cuts. Some seem to have merit.

But as I said, I'm not smart enough to weigh in on any of these economic arguments. But I do know a lot about Social Security, so I am smart enough to know that I sure wish politicians — Democrats and Republicans — would stop playing games with Social Security and start getting serious about long-range reforms to the program.

Everyone knows, or should know, that Social Security needs a makeover. The demographic time bomb, represented by baby boomers quickly turning into geezer boomers, has been ticking for years. The Reagan Administration and Congress first dealt with the issue in 1983. But the reforms they instituted back then (increasing the payroll tax and raising the retirement age to 67) didn't go far enough.

Now, thousands of boomers are retiring every day, leaving the ranks of Social Security taxpayers and joining the ranks of Social Security beneficiaries. For decades

now, Social Security has operated rather efficiently at a ratio of 3 workers/taxpayers to 1 Social Security recipient. But in less than 20 years, there will be only two workers supporting each retiree. As it's currently structured, the program doesn't work at that funding ratio.

But the 75-year-old program can continue to function for many more generations with some relatively modest changes — reforms I've discussed many times in the column. For example, bumping up the retirement age by another notch, to age 68 by about 2030, and increasing the payroll tax by just one-half of one percent, would go a long way toward solving Social Security's long-range funding problems.

That's why it seems to me rather foolhardy to take a program that will soon be strapped for cash, dramatically reduce its normal revenue stream, make up the difference from other sources, and then make believe that all is well with Social Security!

I'm often accused by my more conservative readers of being a bleeding-heart liberal. Some have gone even further and accused me of being (hold your ears) ... a socialist! I will admit that I strongly support such government programs as Social Security and Medicare (which really is socialized medicine). I also frequently use our social (I mean public) library, and I sent my kids to social (I mean public) schools.

But this is one liberal who gives the Republicans credit on the Social Security reform issue. I usually don't agree with many of their proposals for change, but at least they're willing to talk about it. Shame on my Democratic friends who bury their heads in the sand and say, "What Social Security problem?"

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the four-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form an eight-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

A D E I N T V

R U L E

A C E L M N P

R O T E

A E E N R S T

D A N G

Yesterday's Answer: G A T V I D E O E H A T A U T H A T E D H A T O U T H A

12.9

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I am a gay woman. My partner, "Jenny," and I have been friends with another couple for 15 years. Over the last year I have come to realize that I no longer want to be friends with them. One of them has been particularly unkind to me, and frankly, we don't have a lot in common.

Jenny is uncomfortable with my decision and wants me to talk to them to discuss my feelings. They have already asked her if there's a problem. If I talk to them, I'm sure they will be offended by what I have to say because I didn't say anything when the issues first arose. I'm not good at confrontation, and it's hard for me to tell someone my feelings are hurt.

The bottom line is, I want out of this couple's friendship. But I need to do it in a way that's OK with Jen. I met the couple through her, and she wants to continue her friendship with them. Please help. — MOVING ON IN GEORGIA

DEAR MOVING ON: It would not be confrontational to tell them that while you have known each other for a long time, you feel you have grown apart. You should also mention that your feelings were hurt when one of them said "()."

At least that way they will understand why you have disappeared, and Jenny won't be left with the responsibility of explaining it to them.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé and I recently received a wedding invitation from a friend of his from high school. Our wedding is not far away, and I have an etiquette question.

Although it wasn't stated on the invitation where the bride and groom were registered, a Facebook message was sent after our invitation arrived in the mail. It said, "In lieu of gifts, people can donate monetarily to the couple" — by check or cash the day of the wedding, or via a Paypal account they have set up.

I'm confused. I grew up (and still live in) the South, and this doesn't seem like a traditional approach to gift-giving. Isn't it considered inappropriate to ask for money? — MYSTIFIED BRIDE IN ALABAMA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Yes, it is. To solicit money the way that couple did is crude. An acceptable way to get the word out about the type of gifts couples prefer is by word of mouth. Guests usually ask if a couple is registered and where, and when the question is raised, it's all right to tell

them. If you have created a wedding website, the information can be included on it; however, it shouldn't be so blatant that it appears gifts are uppermost in your mind.

When couples prefer a gift of money, the proper way the information should be conveyed is verbally by your family or friends, but not by you.

DEAR ABBY: I love the holiday season, but I often feel the blues and get a little depressed. I lost my father on Christmas Day several years ago and have since lost a brother to cancer. I'm tired of feeling this way when this is the season to be merry. What can I do? — ANOTHER BLUE CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR BLUE: I am sorry for your losses. Because of your father's death on Christmas Day, it may always bring some sense of loss. However, an effective way to distract yourself would be to spend time in the company of friends who understand your feelings. Another would be to volunteer at a senior center, shelter or food distribution program. Helping someone else through a difficult time is the surest cure for the blues. Please give it a try.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Hog holders
 - 1 Rotisserie holders
 - 5 Surrounded by
 - 9 Casual eateries
 - 11 Sulky puller
 - 13 Boxing venue
 - 14 Battle site of 1836
 - 15 Tall tale
 - 16 Pecan candies
 - 18 One who might ask for your hand
 - 20 Composer Francis
 - 21 Wild laughter
 - 22 Unit of force
 - 23 Assn.
 - 24 Sticky stuff
 - 25 Sleuth's find
 - 27 Leg bone
 - 29 That woman
 - 30 Like skiers' clothing
 - 32 Toronto team
 - 34 Dissenter's vote
 - 35 Utah neighbor
 - 36 Make blank
- DOWN**
- 1 Message target
 - 2 Out-cast
 - 3 Empathetic comment
 - 4 Kayo count
 - 5 Isolated
 - 6 Fountain order
 - 7 Beatles song
 - 8 Humble
 - 10 Filling up
 - 12 TV's O'Donnell
 - 17 Mex. neighbor
 - 19 Simple
 - 22 Capitol cap
 - 24 Yellow-stone sight
 - 25 Rock of comedy
 - 26 Result in
 - 27 Way off
 - 28 Logic
 - 30 Un-tethered
 - 31 Fabric workers
 - 33 Yon people
 - 37 Massage

S	O	L	E	C	A	R	E	S
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A	R	E	H	O	T	W	I	R
W	A	R	M	U	P	E	E	L
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M	O	N	A	H	I	S	S	
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A	D	I	E	U	E	N	T	E
F	I	N	A	L	R	E	T	R
S	C	E	N	T	W	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer

- 7 Beatles song
- 8 Humble
- 10 Filling up
- 12 TV's O'Donnell
- 17 Mex. neighbor
- 19 Simple
- 22 Capitol cap
- 24 Yellow-stone sight
- 25 Rock of comedy
- 26 Result in
- 27 Way off
- 28 Logic
- 30 Un-tethered
- 31 Fabric workers
- 33 Yon people
- 37 Massage

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
				10		11			12
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18			19					20	
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	40							41	

12-9

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AUSTIN SCHOOL DISTRICT		North and Northeast	
2565 Beech Ln.....	\$275,000	4/3/2 - 3437 SF/GCAD	
1 Cypress Point Rd.....	\$225,000	3/2/2 - 1849 SF/GCAD	
2200 Dogwood Ln.....	\$192,500	4/2/2 - 2629 SF/GCAD	
1130 Williston St.....	\$147,900	4/2/2 - 2711 SF/GCAD	
2541 Christine St.....	\$129,500	3/1.75/2 - 2050 SF/GCAD	
1901 Fir.....	\$110,000	3/1.75/2 - 2102 SF/GCAD	
1612 Evergreen St.....	\$94,900	4/1.5/0 - 2320 SF/GCAD	
1307 Charles St.....	\$38,000	2/1/0 - 1132 SF/GCAD	
TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT		West and Northwest	
8463 Western St. + 6.33 acres.....	\$225,000	2/1/2 - 1225 SF/GCAD	
919 Sierra Dr.....	\$151,500	4/2/2 - 1761 SF/GCAD	
916 Crane Rd.....	\$150,000	3/2/2 - 1710 SF/GCAD	
2113 Lynn St.....	\$122,995	4/2/2 - 2077 SF/GCAD	
1829 Zimmers St.....	\$95,000	3/2/2 - 1511 SF/GCAD	
1609 Dwight St.....	\$91,000	3/1.75/2 - 1550 SF/GCAD	
1824 Christy St.....	\$89,900	3/1.75/1 - 1870 SF/GCAD	
2125 Lynn St.....	\$84,000	3/1.75/2 - 1521 SF/GCAD	
977 Cinderella Dr.....	\$82,000	4/1.75/2 - 1553 SF/GCAD	
1916 Zimmers St.....	\$75,000	3/1.5/1 - 1244 SF/GCAD	
1612 Sumner St.....	\$67,900	3/2/2 - 1073 SF/GCAD	
WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT		Southeast Pampa	
533 Powell St.....	\$69,900	3/1/2 - 1372 SF/GCAD	
612 Powell St.....	\$55,000	3/1/0 - 1166 SF/GCAD	
OTHER AREAS		Outside Pampa City Limits	
804-805 W. Jackson Ave, WD.....	\$140,000	4/2/2 - 2536 SF/CCAD duplex	
612 Ware Av, Groom.....	\$130,000	3/1.75/4 - 1637 SF/CCAD	
503 Ware Av, Groom.....	\$128,000	4/2/75/1 - 2828 SF/CCAD	
400 S. Popham, WD.....	\$67,900	3/1/0 - 1494 SF/CCAD	
600 W 3rd Av, WD.....	\$67,500	3/1/1 - 1100 F/CCAD	
609 Gulf, Lefors.....	\$34,995	2/1/1 - 898 SF/GCAD	
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY & LAND			
Perryton Parkway.....	\$2,503,828	9.58 acres east of hospital	
120 S. Gillespie St.....	\$4,100/mo	For Lease - 7,372 SF/GCAD	
11756 Hwy 152.....	\$2,500,000	12 acres, 2 bldgs 25,000 SF each	
30th & Charles St.....	\$1,400,000	45.9 acres of land N of Walmart	
FM 14 Rd, Lefors.....	\$530,000	530 acres w/water well	
30th & Charles.....	\$435,600	5 acres in city limits	
220 N Ballard.....	\$395,000	Lt. Comm. 4 bath 6,782 SF/GCAD	
500 W Harvester Av.....	\$350,000	Lots south of United	
748 S Price Rd.....	\$350,000	3 Ac. + 14,400 warehouse offices	
302-308 W Foster.....	\$309,900	4 Retail Outlets 10,874 SF/GCAD	
117 - 121 Ballard.....	\$230,000	24,500 SF/GCAD	
1801 Alcock St.....	\$185,000	Office Building, 3,100 SF/GCAD Café	
845 S Hobart/900 Wilks St.....	\$175,000	4 Lots + 10' on north	
420 W Foster Av.....	\$165,000	Houston Lumb & Gas Station	
Harvester St.....	\$150,000	60 x 110 Bldg Lots	
FM 2300 & 1-40, Groom.....	\$145,000	Quonset & 6+- acres	
1435 Alcock St.....	\$135,000	2 Bldg. 3,200 SF/GCAD; 1,020 SF/GCAD	
1421 Hobart St.....	\$105,000	Smoke House 1816 SF/GCAD	
523 W Foster Av.....	\$85,000	7,598 SF/GCAD	
301 & 305 W Foster Av.....	\$75,000	3,500 SF/GCAD each	
23rd & Crescent Dr.....	\$65,000	Lot 4 Bldg 1 North Crest Sec 1	
405 W Foster Av.....	\$65,000	2,000 SF/GCAD C H/A	
220 E Francis.....	\$57,500	1/1 745 SF/GCAD Comm.	
401 W Foster Av.....	\$47,000	2,500 SF/GCAD w/basement & overhead doors	
Chaumont Addition.....	\$35,000	Lots 1 & 2 Block 2	
Dogwood Ln.....	\$22,000	Lots 15-17 & 40' of 18	
Wall St.....	\$15,000	1/2 Block	
Fraser Annex #3 28th.....	\$10,000	Lot 8, W45' Bldg 71	
Holly Lot 10.....	\$10,000	Residential Lot 85' x 120'	
Dogwood Ln.....	\$9,000	Lot 2 & 40.35' of Lot 1	
Jupiter St.....	\$9,000	Lot 3 Bldg 4 Country Club Heights	
Jupiter St.....	\$6,500	Lot 7 Bldg 3 Country Club Heights	

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Come by The Pampa News, 403 W. Aitchison, pick an angel & make someone's Christmas brighter this year! We are open Mon-Fri., 8am-3pm. Merry Christmas from The Pampa News!!</p>	<p>69 Misc. NEW Queen Mattress Sets! Sale Price \$246. Red barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767</p> <p>ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.</p> <p>80 Pets & Suppl. FOR ADOPTION Siamese, Calico, Orange, Tabby, Gray Spayed / Neutered & shots. Call 665-4901 lv. msg.</p> <p>CHRISTMAS Tiny Toy Poodles Registered & Shots, 806-659-2046 www.tangofriendsweebly.com</p> <p>89 Wanted To Buy NEED Money Now? We will give you top \$\$ for your house. Call us today, 665-1875</p> <p>We Buy & Sell Houses Call us today!! 665-1875</p>	<p>95 Furn. Apts. ROOM For Rent, \$100 wk, all bills paid incl. cable. Private entrance. 806-661-8508</p> <p>ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.</p> <p>96 Unfurn. 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AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

ERJA WGQ GPFXR FMRS
MRBQRWI NXWQTEOMQI XRS
WOMQI WE VEONQ VXNWI
MRWE IQDXOXWQS
DMTQERGEJQI. — XJVOQS
CMRIQA

Saturday's Cryptquote: CATS ARE INTENDED TO TEACH US THAT NOT EVERYTHING IN NATURE HAS A PURPOSE. — GARRISON KEILLOR

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Shopping

cont. from page 1

If you insist on carrying cash, McCullar said, avoid carrying a large purse, as they are prime targets for snatchers.

"Try not to carry a purse, especially if you're going to be shopping at night," she said. "If you can just put your credit cards and your money in your pocket, do that. If you have a purse and you decide to leave it in your car, make sure you put it where no one sees it."

More safety advice from McCullar and the Pampa PD:

- "If you're going to go shopping with kids, because the malls are always so much busier, just be extra cautious with them. They can easily get lost. I just suggest you set up a meeting location just in case you do get lost, especially with the younger kids. Go over a few rules in case they do get lost: Where do they need to go, who they should and shouldn't talk to, things like that."

- "If you're going to be shopping at different places, make sure you hide your bags," McCullar said. "Put them in the trunk. Don't leave them out in the car where people can see them."

- "If you do make large purchases and you do put them in your car to go back in and do more shopping, go ahead and move your car to your other location (where you're going). What happens, especially over in Amarillo, is people will make purchases and put them in their car. Well, you'll have people out there watching you. They see where you put (your purchases) and they watch you leave and go back inside. Go ahead and get in your car and drive to the other side of the mall, if that's where you're going."

- "Always be aware. When you're going out to your car, look around your surroundings. Don't just walk with your head down. ... When you're leaving the mall or leaving where your shopping,

always have your keys ready when you're walking out the door if you can. That way, you're not feeling around and trying to find them while you walk out, so you can watch your surroundings better."

- "Don't wear expensive looking jewelry or anything that would make you (a target for thieves)."

- McCullar also cautioned Pampans to stay alert while shopping online. With Internet crime on the upswing, McCullar said that it's important not to let your guard down while browsing the Web for gifts.

"If you're going to shop online, I really suggest you do not use a debit card," she said. "Whatever you do, do not use a debit card."

"It's so easy to get your stuff stolen on the Internet. If you use your debit card, (thieves can get access) to a lot of money out of your checking account. That really messes with people. If you can get a prepaid credit card, I would suggest doing that as a precaution."

- "Say you're going to do \$200 worth of shopping. If you're going to shop online, get a prepaid card for \$200, just in case. That is the best way to prevent anybody getting a hold of your numbers, as far as hackers."

- E-mail scams touting savings or department store credit also increase and may be particularly tempting during the holidays, according to McCullar.

"A lot of people will start getting scams that come in through their e-mails," she said. "You want to be careful with opening up your e-mails. For instance, if you don't have a credit card with (a retailer) and you get an e-mail from them, don't open it up. Just delete it. Be on alert from scams just because you're looking for good deals. Scammers are working overtime trying to get stuff out there."

More holiday shopping safety tips

Shopping with children

- Place your cell phone number in the child's pocket or in his/her shoe so kids have your number with them at all times.

- Take a photo of your child before going out so you'll have the most recent picture, including what he/she is wearing. Try to dress children brightly so they will stand out in a crowd.

- Don't dress your child in something that has his/her name on it. Strangers can call the name and confuse the child into thinking it's safe to go with them.

- Always accompany children into restrooms and keep an eye on them while inside.

Shopping online

- The Identity Theft Resource Center recommends that consumers shop only on sites that use technology that encrypts -- or encodes -- both your personal and financial

information before sending it for payment processing. Encrypting sensitive information makes it inaccessible to anyone outside the system, and all of the Web's major retailers secure customer data in this manner. Nevertheless, it's a good idea to ensure that a shopping site is secure, particularly if you have not made purchases there in the past. Any page on a site that asks for personal or financial information will have a URL or Web address beginning with https:// as opposed to the usual http://.

- During the holiday season, hackers prey on people's generosity by sending what appear to be legitimate e-mails seeking donations to legitimate charities. However, these cybercriminals use fake Web sites with the purpose of stealing not only donations, but donors' identities and credit card information. Ignore and immediately delete e-mails asking for donations and personal information. Make chari-

table donations directly to organizations you know and trust.

- The rise of Internet shopping has opened the doors to scams involving fake invoices and delivery notices from services such as FedEx, UPS or even the U.S. Customs Service. Cybercriminals e-mail consumers requesting credit card information to credit the bank account or inform users that they have to open an online invoice or U.S. customs form in order to receive their package. This is actually a way for criminals to install malware -- software that is intended to damage or disable computers and computer systems -- and steal personal information. Track online purchases carefully and know what items are en route at any given time. Internet retailers will inform you when an item has shipped, but delivery services and U.S. Customs do not issue online invoices.

Source: Metro Creative Services

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20

31 PEOPLE

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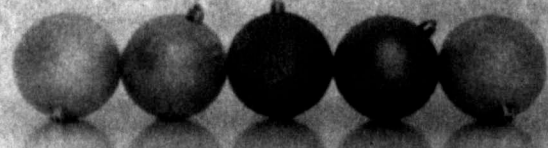
A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Pampa's First Christian Church at 1633 North Nelson will be sharing in a unique blessing this Advent: on Saturday evening, December 17, beginning at 6:30, we will be offering the gift of "A Blue Christmas Service of Worship."

Such a service is not new to Christian worship, and is offered in the hope and prayer that all who are experiencing any kind of pain that might keep them from knowing a fuller joy in Christmas's gift to us in Jesus, can come together and seek Divine Peace.

If you have lost a loved one this past year, or still grieve a loss from years past, or if you are constantly burdened by guilt or Unforgiveness or anger or confusion, or want to more fully support someone who is, you are invited to come lay your burden at the Sacred Manger of the Savior.

Our prayer: may you be blessed at your point of need with renewal and hope, healing and gratitude, and find it possible to truly worship God, who sent Jesus as our Lord and Savior! May this worship bless you so you can indeed celebrate a Merry Christmas!



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