





# The

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TIME IN SPORTS

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

**Editor favors mixed drink sales** 

Junior High teams in action. Under 8 Dragon soccer team | 199

Volume 108 • No. 198

Atheist attacks on Christmas | p4

# 3 booked for stealing motors off pump jack

By SASHA HELLER sheller@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Sheriff's Office arrested three men Monday afternoon on a related theft of property charge:

Kolby

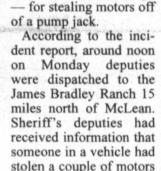
Johnson

Vargas

**Richards** 

Kolby Dale Johnson, 26, of Pampa; Pete Vargas Perez, 34, of Pampa; and Chad Michael Richards, 33, of McLean.

Chief Deputy Joe Hoard confirmed Tuesday morning that the three individuals were booked on a related theft of property — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 charge



off of a pump jack. Included in the tip given to deputies about the vehicle description was the location of the vehicle, about nine miles north of McLean, parked at a residence.

The theft of property more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 - charge

carries a sentence of imprisonment of not more than 10 years or less than two years and possible fine of up to \$10,000.

# State to transfer inmates from Panhandle prisons

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON (AP) - State prison officials have begun transferring some inmates from two Texas Panhandle units to other penitentiaries due to a lack of corrections officers.

The Houston Chronicle reported Tuesday that the units in more remote parts of the state are facing guard shortages approaching 50 percent.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice says about 200 inmates have been moved from the Smith Unit in Lamesa, 60 miles due south of Lubbock.

The prison has a 2,234-inmate capacity, but has been operating with about half the needed correctional officers.

Prison officials are moving about 400 inmates to lockups throughout the state from the Ware Unit in Colorado City. The prison has a 916-inmate capacity.

Lance Lowry with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has called for higher wages for Texas prison staffers.

# Taliban popular where U.S. fought biggest battle

BY KATHY GANNON **Associated Press** 

www.thepampanews.com

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) -Nearly three years after U.S.-led forces launched the biggest operation of the war to clear insurgents, foster economic growth and set a model for the rest of Afghanistan, angry residents of Helmand province say they are too afraid to go out after dark because of marauding bands

And during the day, they say corrupt police and government officials bully them into paying bribes. After 11 years of war, many here long for a return of the Taliban. They say that under the Taliban, who routinely punished thieves by cutting off a hand, they were at least safe from crime and corruption.

"If you had a box of cash on your head, you could go to the farthest part of Marjah and no one would take it from you, even at night," said Maulvi Daoud, who runs a cubbyhole sized-shop in the town of Marjah. "Today you bring your motorcycle in front of your shop and it will be gone. Now the situation is that you go on the road and they are standing in police and army uniform with weapons and they can take your money."

It was in the town of Marjah in early 2010 that some 15,000 NATO and Afghan forces waged the war's biggest battle. They not only fought the Taliban with weapons, they promised to bring good governance to Marjah and the rest of the southern province of Helmand and demonstrate to the residents the advantages of shunning the militants.

But it appears the flaw in the plan was with the quality of Afghans chosen by President Hamid Karzai to govern and police the area after most of the fighting ended. And that adds to growing doubts

TALIBAN cont. on page 3

# **SNACKS 4 KIDS**

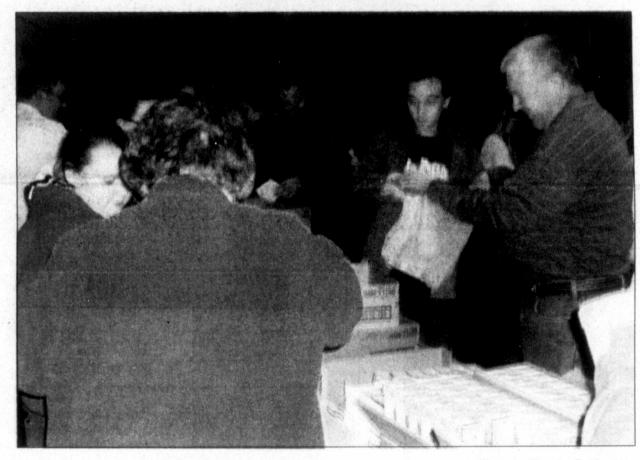


Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Tad Smith, green shirt, and Madison Young, purple hood sweater, work on the Snacks 4 Kids crew Monday night at the Carver Administration building

# Snack Pak 4 Kids in the bag for Pampa

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE thowsare@thepampanews.com

While most of us were snug and warm in our homes on a chilly Monday night, a small army of volunteers were gathered in the former gymnasium of the Carver Center to stuff snacks into plastic grocery bags.

The Snack Pak 4 Kids program, which started about two years in Amarillo, has now come to Pampa - and in a big way.

The program provides a sack filled with kid-friendly snacks to be distributed on Fridays to elementary school kids who may not have enough to eat over the weekend.

The children who received the snack packs are chosen by their teachers or school counselors, and the sacks are placed in their backpacks or cubbies while at recess or gym class so they are not singled out in front of the other students.

Monday night, about 50 or so volunteers worked in assembly-line fashion, stuffing nonperishable items like Pop Tarts, jars of peanut butter, animal crackers, juice boxes and sunflower seed packets into bags.

They started at 7:30 p.m. and within 30 minutes filled 675 sacks for 175 K-5 students in Pampa Independent School District's four elementary schools.

The 675 bags are intended to last for four weekends, because the volunteers won't be stuffing bags again until after the holidays.

After that, they will stuff bags about once every two

Organizers of the Pampa branch include Suzanne Pingel, PISD drug and alcohol educator and homeless liaison; Lisa Gibson, a minister at First Baptist Church and former PISD teacher and counselor; and Kim Powell, chief of the Pampa Police Department.

Several churches in Pampa had already been putting together snack packs on their own, Gibson said, but there was a need for consistency.

Pingel added that as the prices of food have increased, the number of kids in Pampa going hungry has increased as well, as it became more and more of a challenge for those local churches to meet that demand.

Pingel said they contacted the Amarillo program and went down there last week to visit and to "see how the assembly line worked."

Pingel said the program buys most of the food from Labatt Food, a company that provides food-awayfrom-home services in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

And for the Pop Tarts and peanut butter they hold donation drives. The group is supported 100 percent through dona-

SNACKS cont. on page 3







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Viewpoints 4	Puzzles/Dear Abby
Church Dans	



# PAMPA FORECAST

Today Thursday Friday

Low 31

Low 35

High 61 Low 34

Today: Warming trend with sunshine and a high of 57. No chance or rain or snow. Winds south southwest at 21 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

Tonight: Clear with a low of 31. No chance of rain or snow. Winds south southwest at 16 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny with a high of 63. No chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:45 a.m.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 35. No chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 12 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

Friday: Rain moves in with a high of 61. Thirty percent chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 23 mph. Sunrise at 7:46 a.m.

Friday night: Clear with a low of 34. No chance of rain. Winds west southwest at 19 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

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# For the record

# Pampa man arrested for possession of marijuana

■ 23-year-old Darrell Rashode Willis, of Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of marijuana — less than two

ounces. 22-year-old Colden

Trey Fortenberry, of Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Texas Department of Public Safety for driv-

ing without a license and driving at an unsafe speed.

■ 39-year-old Michelle Jean Windle, of Pampa, was arrested Monday by the GCSO for possession

of drug paraphernalia.

■ 18-year-old Junnis Garcia-Molinar, of Pampa, was arrested Monday by the PPD for capias pro fine for theft under \$50.

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# Study club holds December meeting

#### SUBMITTED

Twenty First Century Study Club met on Tuesday, Dec. 4, for its annual Christmas meeting.

Hostess Mary McDaniel presented a program on the "Origin of the Poinsettia" following a short business meeting.

Refreshments were served to Louise Bailey, Nancy Coffee, Dot Stowers, Chloe Worley, Lucille Merilatt, Pat Terry and Myrna Orr. Guests present were Gladys Vanderpool and Johana

Wheeley.

The next meeting will be Jan. 8 at the home of Dot Stowers.

# Fatal accident in Wheeler County on Monday

#### STAFF REPORT

A fatal wreck occurred on State Highway 152 four miles east of Wheeler on Monday morning, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

A 2012 Dodge truck driven by Casey Brent Lustfield, Hydro, Okla., was traveling westbound on SH 152 while a 2010 Pontiac G6 driven by 55-year-old Susana Reatana Salazar, Wheeler, was traveling eastbound.

Lusfield crossed over into the eastbound land and struck Salazar head on. Salazar was pronounced dead at the scene. Salazar

was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident. No other injuries were reported by DPS in the report.

# Several honored at Public Safety Commission meeting

SUBMITTED BY DPS

AUSTIN - The Texas Public Safety Commission (PSC) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw honored recently appointed Texas Secretary of State John Steen, on Monday, for his service on the Public Safety Commission.

Two Killeen Police Department officers were honored for foiling an attempt to kill Fort Hood soldiers, and two DPS officers who helped arrest a suspect wanted for an

"Commissioner Steen's dedicated service on the Texas Public Safety Commission the last four years supporting the department's mission and goals has been invaluable, and today's recognition is just a small token of our appreciation," said Director McCraw.

"The Public Safety Commission greatly benefitted from Commissioner Steen's service to the people of Texas and to his commitment to the DPS. His presence will certainly be missed, but he will continue to serve the citizens of Texas in his new position as Texas Secretary of State," said PSC Chair Cynthia Leon.

Steen received a flag flown over the Texas State Capitol and was made an honorary Texas Ranger Captain. He was also presented with a DPS flag that was carried aboard a DPS aircraft, on a DPS patrol boat and in a Highway Patrol car.

Also Monday, Killeen Police Department Lt. Patrick Boone and Sgt. Richard Eric Bradley were presented Director's Awards for their efforts in the investigation and ultimate conviction of an AWOL Army soldier in a 2011 bomb plot.

A call from a local gun store about a patron acting strangely as he paid cash for six pounds of black powder and a high capacity pistol magazine started a fast-moving investigation that led to the arrest of an AWOL Army soldier from Kentucky.

Killeen police, with the assistance of the FBI, found bomb construction in progress after a search warrant was executed at a local hotel.

A nationwide investigation was launched that led to the conviction of Naser Jason Abdo in a Waco federal court in May of 2012. The attack was planned at a restaurant frequented by Fort Hood soldiers.

"This is our way of saying thank you on behalf of the DPS, the law enforcement community and the state of Texas to two officers who averted an evil, cowardly plot to murder Fort Hood soldiers," said Director McCraw. "Lt. Boone and Sgt. Bradley brought distinction on themselves and the Killeen Police Department in saving lives and bringing the suspect to justice."

DPS also received a special letter of recognition from the Chief of the Anchorage Police Department for the arrest of a suspect in the kidnapping and murder of Samantha Koenig.

Corporal Bryan Henry and Texas Ranger Steven Rayburn were specifically recognized for their efforts.

After his arrest in Lufkin in March of 2012, Israel Keyes allegedly confessed to a variety of crimes. However, he died in an apparent suicide earlier this month in Alaska while awaiting trial for the Samantha Koenig

# Come help us celebrate



# Rex Britton's Big 80th Birthday Bash!!!

Saturday, Dec. 15th 6 to 10 pm Pampa Country Club

RSVP: Rosann 806-282-5915 Birthday Cards Only

Attention Important Legal Notice Regarding

# ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

If you or someone you know are <u>53 years of age or older</u> and have been in the work force for at least 5 years and worked at one of the following jobsites anytime prior to 1982, then you may have been exposed to asbestos.

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- Phillips 66 Chemical Plant
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- \* This is a partial site list if you feel you have been exposed to asbestos please call

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# CITY

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

TABLES ANTIQUE chairs, buffets and more Priced to sell! The Vicary House Tea Room, 303 N Frost. December 13th, 14th 15th, 12:00-6:00

JELLY IS still available Great Stocking Stuffers Come by Rheams Diamonc Shop at 111 N. Cuyler

OPEN LATE Thursday night till 7:00. 40% off select lotions and candles Brandon's Flowers

OPEN LATE Dec. 13 Come check out the grea specials and the drawing fo. \$500 in Downtown bucks Rheam's Diamond Shop

RECIPE BOOKS stil available. \$3 each or free with a new subscription.

SHOP OUR Cookie Blitz at M&S specialty foods, 120 N. Gray. December 13-15 Baked cookies ready for gif giving and party trays.

RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP, looking for Sales Person for Saturdays starting after the first of the year Apply in person, 111 N Cuyler.

WOW!!!! SHARON Crosier has new sheets at the Sparrow's Nest. 1800 CT any size \$49. 1500 CT, \$35 Also gorgeous florals!

ADVERTISE IN THE CITY BRIEFS! Only \$2.50 per line (was \$4.15 per line) with a 4 line minimum. For deadlines call Stephanie, at the Pampa News, 669-2525.







# Snacks

**Continued From Page 1** 

tions, she said.

"Anyone who wants to donate can," she said "It doesn't matter whether its \$1 or \$1,000.

PISD is providing the old gym in the Carter Center as a work space and warehouse, and will continue to provide a space when the administration moves to its new offices in the Coronado Center on North Hobart Street.

Gibson said she was pleased with the turnout Monday

She said the eight Snack Pak 4 Kids board members decided if each one of them could recruit eight volunteers, then they'd be off to a good start.

"We call it eight bring eight," she said.

As the Pampa program gets bigger, Gibson said, she would like to see a schedule where, for instance, the Rotary Club volunteers one night and then a sports team

from the high school will volunteer another night, and

For those who wish to donate money instead of their time, a child can be adopted for the program for \$133 a year, she said.

The program in Amarillo began with a small group of volunteers bagging snacks for 10 kids. Now, the program has grown to 400 volunteers serving 2,400 kids throughout the Amarillo schools.

For more information or to donate or volunteer, call Gibson at 669-1155 or Pingel at 669-4800.

# Taliban **Continued From Page 1**

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about the entire country's future after foreign troops withdraw by the end of 2014.

Despite military claims of gains across the province and an overall drop in violence, Marjah residents told The Associated Press that NATO's counterinsurgency experiment has failed. A bleak picture also emerges from anecdotal evidence collected from dozens of interviews with residents elsewhere in the province, some from the most violent districts

Many claim the U.S.-funded local police, a type of locally sanctioned militia, routinely demand bribes and threaten to accuse those who do not comply of being members of the Taliban. Good governance never came to Marjah, they say.

In villages of sun-baked mud homes, at crowded bus stops and in local tea houses where residents sit crosslegged on plastic-covered tables drinking tea and eating off communal plates, people scoffed at claims of security and development. They heaped criticism on the Afghan government and officials, accusing them of stealing billions of dollars in aid money meant for the people and on an international community that they said ignored their needs and pandered to a corrupt administration.

Daoud, the Marjah shop owner, said there was more security under the country's Taliban regime that was ousted by the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001.

"They were never cruel to us and the one difference was security. It was better during the Taliban," he said.

His partner in the rickety shop along Marjah's chaotic one-street bazaar, Mohammed Haider, said poppy farmers who planted substitute crops such as cotton are losing money because they cannot sell their harvests. He predicted poppy production would double when foreign soldiers leave in 2014.

At a bus stop in Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, residents scrambled for dilapidated old buses and

cars to go to parts of Helmand. Hamidullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, was waiting for a bus to Sangin district — the scene of some of the most violent fighting between the Taliban and British and U.S. forces.

Like the majority of those at the stop, he wanted foreign

forces to leave Afghanistan.

Several of the men scrambling on top the packed buses and jamming themselves into the back of cars seemed to growl at the presence of foreigners in their midst. A single question: "What is the situation like in Helmand today?" brought a cacophony of answers. Many of the voices sounded angry, some sounded weary and a few angrylooking men walked away.

We are completely destroyed today," said Hamidullah. "The situation is getting worse and worse," shouted a voice in the crowd. Another yelled: "There is no security because of the foreigners." And from a deeply wrinkled elderly man whose voice seemed both angry and sad: "If the foreigners are out of Afghanistan, all the problems will be solved. Are our lives any better?"

Analysts who know Helmand say a corrupt government poses one of the biggest hurdles to stability, alienating the local population and driving them into the hands of the

The province is strategically important because of a massive poppy production that is financing the insurgency and fueling criminal activity. While some success has been achieved at getting farmers to plant substitute crops, Helmand is still one of Afghanistan's largest opiumproducing provinces, often blamed on anti-government sentiment and collusion between corrupt government officials and the Taliban.

The NATO-led coalition, known as the International Security Assistance Force, claims there are tangible gains against the Taliban in Helmand and neighboring Kandahar province.

"While insurgent activity remains problematic in several districts, primarily in northern Helmand and western Kandahar, data from the battle space shows a marked decrease in overall enemy activity," ISAF spokesman Jamie Graybeal said recently.

Despite a drop of 8 percent in militant attacks from January to October compared to the same period last year, Helmand and neighboring Nimroz province accounted for 32 percent of all such attacks reported across the country from October 2011 to October this year, according to ISAF.

Ryan Evans, a research fellow at the U.S.-based Center for National Policy, called Helmand the "most dangerous and violent" of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

"From 2010 to early 2012, one of five ISAF soldiers was killed in this one province - Helmand. And the province has since taken more lives and limbs than any other province," said Evans, who worked with U.S. and British troops in Helmand during 2010 and 2011

The larger question, of course, is whether what's happening in Helmand is a harbinger of what the rest of Afghanistan will look like after the departure of the international troops.

A report released last month by the British Parliament's International Development Committee offered grim sta-

Afghanistan continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world, with the average person earning less than one dollar a day despite \$32 billion in foreign investment.

The country has also tumbled in corruption ratings assembled by Transparency International. Afghanistan was ranked 117 out of 158 countries in 2005, then slid to 180 out of 183 nations last year. The scandal-ridden Kabul Bank milked millions of dollars from Afghans'

Some Afghans believe their countrymen are responsible for the current state of affairs.

Haji Khalil who moved his family from Marjah to Lashkar Gah during the 2010 offensive, blamed Afghans for the spike in thefts and lawlessness since the defeat of the Taliban.

"During the Taliban no one would steal because we knew the punishment, but when they left everyone began to steal," Khalil said.

"We became worse after the Taliban," he said. "The problem is with us."

# Christmas gifts can help teach kids about money

TERRY SAVAGE Creator's Syndicate

Shopping for holiday gifts for children or grand- total, as well children this season? Surely as you'll be spending money, sound effects. So why not make the gift it- From self teach something about mark Games. the value of money? Here Price on Ama-

suggestions for children. es/11ndAht Money Savvy Pig Bank. This is my all-time favorite The holiday season is exgift for children as young as 4 years old, but one they your preteens for earning can keep into their teens. This four-chambered translucent pig in various colors has slots for money set aside to save, spend, invest or donate. Thus, it teaches children the importance of saving money and prioritizing its uses. Order at msgen.com, where entrepreneur Susan Beacham has also created games and an app to download. Price of the piggy bank is \$16.99, and it comes with a coloring/activity book to help teach young children. Also available on Amazon.com.

Soccer Ball Digital Coin Counting Bank. When your young teens get past the piggy bank stage but still

counts the coins as they are inserted shows a digital Trade-

The Allowance Game. actly the right time to prep an allowance starting with the new year. And this board game is designed to make the entire concept fun and educational. It's created by Lakeshore Learning Materials, which says: "Players race around the game board doing chores to earn their allowance ... then save it or spend it on things they want, learning to make change, handle money and more." Price is \$16.95, on Amazon.com or LakeshoreLearning.com.

Moneybags Coin Value Game. Today's store cashiers can't make change for a dollar without the register doing the math! Here's another game from Lakewant to save, try this bank shore Learning, designed shaped as a soccer ball to teach kids the value of alized. Plus, the child will (football and basketball coins -- and work. This receive a colorful book exbanks also available). It board game has a spinner plaining stock ownership.

and offering on money

> collect your earnings. Not for young children because of small pieces -- but ages 5-plus can learn a lot about money for \$14.28 on Amazon.com. Go to: suntm.es/ UjncVw OneShare.com. Oh, so you wanted a real gift of stock to get your child or grandchild started on in-

vesting. That's easy at oneshare.com, and click on the tab marked "My First Stock." You'll get a framed stock certificate, along with real-life ownership of one share of stock. There's even a guide to help you search relevant companies for girls or boys: Disney, Mattel, Dreamworks, McDonald's, Nintendo and Gap. You'll receive a start-up kit that includes a gift card, and you can have your certificate framed and person-

on the stock chosen from can open a 529 account at 200 companies, as well T. Rowe Price online or as the framing style. Call over the phone in just minearly to make sure your gift utes. Minimum investment arrives on time: 888-777- is \$250 -- or \$50 per month

529 Plan. What goes best with and ongoing gift that a parto a young child is to open an account in a 529 College Savings account. There, the money will grow tax-free if withdrawn to use for college expenses for any child in the family at any accredited school in the country. Add to it regularly or for

birthdays and holidays. There are so many different 529 plans that you'll need some resources to choose one. The place to start is savingforcollege. com — the independent website that explains and rates college savings plans. Hint: You don't have to use your own state's plan, although it might offer a state tax deduction.

So do your homework. Or if you want me to make it absolutely easy for you, here's my pick, no matter where you live. Just go to price529.com or call them

if you sign up for an auto-College Savings matic investment plan. And, finally, if you get and an unusual twist. It an educational money gift bored after holiday presare my annual holiday gift zon is \$8.88. Go to: suntm. tells you which coins can like those described above? ents or football games, go be taken from the bank to Real money! The very best online to orangekids.com — a free website by ING ent or grandparent can give (CapitalOne) that has won awards for its outstanding video and graphics designed to teach preteens about money and investing. The only real investment here is your time to sit down and talk money with your child. That's a gift that will continue to give over the years. And that's The

> Savage Truth. Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage. com. She is the author of the

Price depends, of course, at 800-369-3641, and you new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?



## A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Pampa's First Christian Church at 1633 North Nelson will be sharing in "A Blue Christmas Service of Worship" again this year. The service will be shared Saturday evening, December 15, beginning at 6:30.

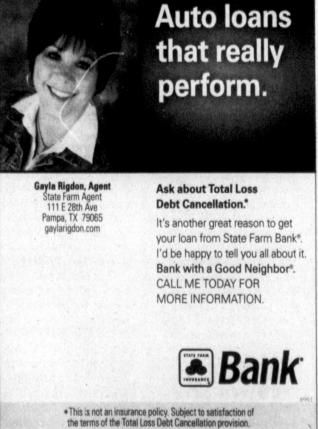
The service is offered in the hope of blessing anyone who has experienced major trauma this year. If you have experienced the trauma of illness, loss of loved one, job change/search, or anything else personally or in your family that might keep you from truly celebrating the joys of Christmas, you are invited to share in this special service.

Our prayer is simple: May you be blessed at the point of your specific need with renewal, hope, and gratitude that enables you to worship the Lord who sent Jesus to us as our ultimate Savior and King - the gift we cherish anew each Christmas!

10843



**Memory Gardens Of Pampa** 



State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

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# Viewpoints

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# Atheist attacks on Christmas

The war against Christianity has been waged by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Freedom From Religion Foundation and similar

groups.

Their

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**SCHLAFLY** 

terpretation of the First Amendment, as Americans have understood it for over two centuries

The re-election of Barack Obama has made this issue even more pressing. Throughout his first term, he waged a persistent campaign to secularize America, to push all religion behind church doors and to ban all mention of religion from every public place, park, building, military facility, school and speech.

The public schools have become the front line in this battle to banish Christmas from celebrations, songs and events, and anti-Christmas public school rulings have been accelerating. Here are a few examples.

Pennsylvania fourthgraders were prohibited from handing out religious Christmas cards to classmates, Massachusetts ninth-graders were told they could not create Christmas cards that depict a nativity scene, a Georgia school board deleted the word "Christmas" from the school calendar, Minnesota middle school kids were disciplined for wearing red and green scarves in a Christmas skit and for ending the skit with wishing all a Merry Christmas, and dozens of schools banned Christmas carols, in favor of songs such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Winter Wonderland"

A New Jersey secondgrader was prohibited --from singing the pop song "Awesome God" at an evening talent show, and a Colorado school counselor changed the words of the Pledge of Allegiance on the publicaddress system from "one nation under God" to "one nation under your phyllis@eagleforum.org.

belief system" (that was, fortunately, overturned). A Massachusetts elementary school censored God from Lee Greenwood's famous song, changing the line "God bless the U.S.A." to "We love the

U.S.A. A first-grade girl in North Carolina wrote a poem for her school's Veterans Day assembly honoring her two grandfathers who had served in the Vietnam War that included the sentences, "He prayed to God for peace. He prayed to God for strength." The school censored the word God out of the poem before the kid read it. A Texas high school ordered the football coach not to bow his head or kneel when the team said a prayer before a game.

Cranston High School West in Rhode Island banned a prayer ban. ner that had hung on the auditorium wall for 38 years without complaint. The banner read in part: "Our Heavenly Father, Grant us each day the desire to do our best ... Help us to be good sports and smile when we lose as well as when we win. Teach us the value of true friendship. Help us always to conduct ourselves so as to bring credit to Cranston High West, Amen."

A Plano, Texas, school banned an 8-year-old from handing out candy canes with Jesus' name on them to classmates at a school holiday party, confiscated a girl's pencils because they mentioned "God" and banned an entire classroom from writing "Merry Christmas" on cards to be sent to our troops serving in the Middle East. Litigation followed the action of a Texas high school that tried to forbid cheerleaders from displaying a banner at a football game with the Bible verse: "And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of 20 books. She is the co-author, with George Neumayr, of the New York Times Best-Seller titled "No Higher Power: Obama's War on Religious Freedom." She can be contacted by e-mail at

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**EXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION** 

# Editor supports mixed drinks

When I tell people I don't drink I have sometimes been asked, "Not even beer or wine?"

"I don't drink, period. That means beer, wine, liquor, engine degreaser, whatever," is my answer.



HOWSARE

I had a problem with drinking and on June 30, 1997 made a promise to God to never drink again. I have kept that promise. So to me — whether it's beer, wine

or booze — it doesn't make a difference. It's all the same evil to me. And like they teach in driver's ed class one 1.5-ounce of liquor equals

equals one 12-ounce beer. Though I choose to be sober as part of my spiritual beliefs, I don't encourage others to do the same unless they tell me they

one six-ounce glass of wine

have a problem with drinking. If someone can have two or three drinks with dinner or in a social setting and can control handle it, that's fine with me. I quit because I could no longer drink in that way.

To me, it doesn't make sense to allow restaurants with alcohol and beer certificates to only sell beer and wine. A lot of people would rather drink margaritas or those fancy umbrella drinks, and if that's what they like, then let them have it.

If it's true that our current liquor law is standing in the way of chains like Chili's and Bennigan's establishing in Pampa, then the law needs to be updated.

I do not believe national chains coming to town will hurt the already-established local restaurants. There is an aphorism that comes to my mind: "A rising tide lifts all boats."

It means that what benefits one or two businesses in a particular

business sector will benefit all businesses in that business sector, and I think this will hold true for Pampa.

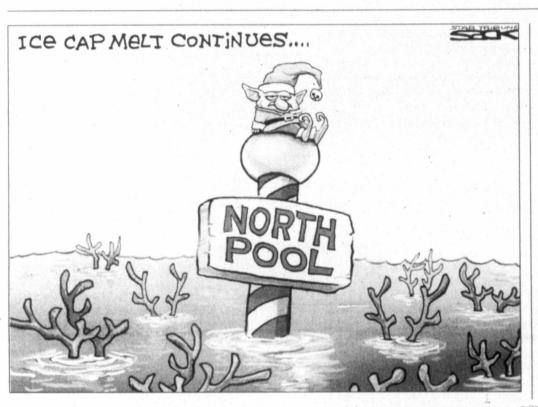
I know the Dixie Cafe and The Plaza Restaurant on with the petition drive, and they wouldn't be doing so if they didn't think it would help their business.

I am not going to sign the petition because, as a journalist, I don't sign any petitions. I don't put bumper stickers on my car or wear campaign buttons, either. However, I do vote in elections and, if if enough signatures are obtained to place the mixed drink issue on the May ballot, I will vote in favor of it.

I think updating the law will bring more business to Pampa. Drinking alcohol is a personal

choice.

What matters most is not what kind of drink it is, but whether that person can dink responsibility and not cause harm to himself or others.



#### **How To** Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

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We reserve the right to edit letters or not to publish certain letters.

By Fax: 806-669-2520

By U.S. mail:

Letters The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa, Texas 79065

By E-mail: thowsare@thepam-

# Obamacare in a jiujitsu battle to be stopped

The art of jiujitsu is to use an opponent's weight and strength to your advantage. I

believe we

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me explain.



CHUCK **NORRIS** 

week, I shared with you that while Republicans' power to repeal Obamacare has been thwarted by the president's re-election, all is not lost. Conservatives can still suffocate the federal monstrosity by supporting individual-tostate efforts to impede its funding and implementation.

I noted how, just two weeks ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a lower federal court to take up a lawsuit by the patriots at Liberty University, who claim Congress violated the college's religious freedoms by forcing it to provide federally mandated insurance and requiring payment for abortion-related services.

Similarly, legal battles and federal courts blocked the Obama administration's health intrusions into O'Brien Industrial Holdings (a Missouri mining company), as well as Tyndale (a Christian publisher) and the Christian-owned craft chain Hobby Lobby. All of these fine American institutions are being mandated by Obamacare to abandon their own consciences and core values about contraceptives.

And let us not forget that more than half of the states in our Union are suing the federal government over Obamacare. WND just reported that, for a second time, Republican Gov. Chris Christie "rejected legislation passed by New Jersey's Democratic-controlled legislature that would have established a staterun health insurance exchange under Obamacare.

As Avik Roy, a health care investment analyst and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, explains in his Forbes blog about health care and entitlement reform: "States are on firm policy ground in refusing to expand Medicaid, America's worst health care program, because it will create severe fiscal vulnerabilities for the states. In addition, states are right to refuse to implement Obamacare's exchanges, because the law gives states almost no flexibility in terms of how they build those exchanges." (Insurance exchanges are a list of government-regulated and certified health care plans that are eligible for federal subsidies. Obamacare mandates that exchanges must be approved and ac-

tive by Jan. 1, 2014.) This past week, Doug Book from the Western Center for Journalism noted well how the hinge of Obamacare (indeed, its rigidity) pivots on more federal subsidies "designed to help low and middle-income individuals purchase health insurance." But, according to the Affordable Care Act

itself, the "subsidies may only be applied to insurance exchanges set up by individual states, not exchanges implemented by the federal government. Be wise and careful

here! Many believe state

resistance is then the coup de grace of Obamacare. especially since 17 states have already refused to set up a state-run exchange by the federal government's deadline. However, state resistance also provides another manipulative chess move by the Obama administration to bully, coerce and cast blame on the states and Republican governors in particular who refuse Obamacare.

Mark my words: If Obamacare continues on its present course, the president and his minions will blame states for denying affordable healthcare via subsidies and tax credits to citizens, "forcing Washington's hand to implement the law of the land at unaffordable and higher-priced health care premiums."

I pray Republican governors and other state officials don't fall prey to this laden political folly and pressure. Rather, as sheep before wolves, they should be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves, especially when finely typed print among a hospital's privacy disclosure statements (which patients are asked to sign) included the words that the treating medical facility may disclose your health information to federal officials "in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state." So much

for HIPAA privacy laws! What state officials (and our conservative representatives in Washington) need to do is leverage (jiujitsu) Obamacare's next chess moves and offer more fiscally responsible and freedom-loving alternatives or reforms, such as some version of Avik Roy's "Obamacare jiujitsu" and his four-step solution to tackle the U.S. health care behemoth. It includes:

Step One: Replace or fix Obamacare's exchanges. It starts by improving the market orientation of Obamacare's insurance exchanges. With the states' pressure and even the leverage offered them via last summer's Supreme Court decision, they and Republicans in Congress can reduce the excessive mandates, regulations and subsidies in Obamacare. Utah, for example, created a health care exchange that is far more palatable and market-oriented than the one offered through Obamacare.

Step Two: Migrate Medicare enrollees into the exchanges.

The next step would be to move Medicare patients into Obamacare's (reformed) exchanges. Roy explains, "For example, Congress could agree to raise Medicare's eligibility age by three months every year for the foreseeable future (and) transfer the 'dual eligible' population - seniors who are enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid - onto the exchanges." Roy adds, "In effect, over time, this

NORRIS cont. on page 5

# NATIVITY AT CALVARY



Gary Jameson, music minister at Calvary Baptist Church, submitted this picture of the church's Nativity scene. The church is located at 900 E. 23rd St.

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**Continued From Page 4** 

would gradually introduce premium-support-style reforms into the retiree population, without requiring Congress to get bogged down in complicated reform legislation."

Step Three: Let more people buy insurance on their own.

The third step would be that "Congress could consider reforms of Obamacare's employer mandate — for example, exempting businesses with fewer than 200 employees or eliminating it entirely — so as to stimulate economic growth while improving the market for individually purchased health insurance."

Step Four: Offer Medicaid patients a way out of that broken system.

The last step would be to "move the Medicaid population into the (reformed) exchanges. ... Another approach

could be to give Medicaid's long-term care program back to the states, in exchange for federalizing Medicaid's acute-care, pediatric and dual-eligible populations."

As Roy concludes: "Conservatives have lost the battle to repeal Obamacare. But they haven't yet lost the larger war against out-of-control health spending. The opportunity to seize the mantle of reform is theirs for the taking."

When I think of Obama and Obamacare, I can't help but think of the words of Rickson Gracie, retired Mixed Martial Arts World Champion and a member of the renowned Gracie family, who once said, "If size mattered, the elephant would be the king of the jungle."

Let's continue to fight and show Washington that we, the people, are the kings of the jungle.

Follow Chuck Norris through his official social media sites, on Twitter @chucknorris and Facebook's "Official Chuck Norris Page." He blogs at http://chucknorrisnews.blogspot.com.

# **Community Calendar**

Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at 812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night. Join them for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam sessions every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler StarFor more information, and 806-664-0824.

Winter Blood Drive at Clarendon College

College, Clarendon Pampa Campus, will host its Winter Blood Drive, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 12, at 1601 W. Kentucky. A photo ID or donor ID card is required. Must be at least 17 years old to donate blood. Every eligible donor will receive a T-shirt and will be entered into a weekly drawing to win a one-year supply of milk (52 gallons), courtesy of Plains Dairy.

Sweet Times at Lamar Sweet Times at Lamar

Elementary is set for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Dec. 13, at 1234 S. Nelson. There will be cookie decorating and arts and crafts. The event is free for all Lamar Elementary families. For more information, call 669-4880.

Christmas Tree of Blessings

Tralee Crisis Center will host its Christmas Tree of Blessings ceremony at 5 p.m., Dec. 14, at 310 S. Cuyler St. Contact Karen McGahen at 806-669-1131 for more information.

Pampa Chamber of Commerce luncheon

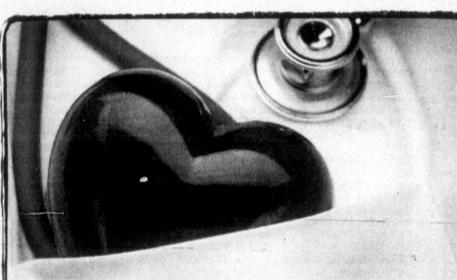
Pampa Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly luncheon from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 18, at 200 N. Ballard St. Cost is \$10 per person; RSVP by Dec. 14.

The chamber luncheon is open to the public; nonchamber members must call the chamber to register for the luncheon. Contact Lori Byrne at 806-669-3241 for more information.

Christmas carols at the Meredith House

There will be Christmas caroling at the Meredith House from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 21, at 812 W. 25th Ave., Pampa. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Editor's Email submissions to thowsare a thepampanews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.



# Pampa Welcomes

Dr. Jack C. Smith III, MD, FACC

Invasive, Interventional Cardiologist

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Dr. Nirmala Kamnani

at Pampa Heart Clinic 104 E. 30th St. Pampa,TX 79065

He is accepting all new cardiology patients.

Call 806-665-0815

for appointments.



Cot A Sports Story or Photo?

Send them to us! zgreen@thepampanews.com or bring it to the paper! If you don't see it after a week, call us! 669-2525 ext 209 and the first of the second of the second

# PampaFaith

# Christina and the bucket of pickles

It was the weekend after Thanksgiving and Christmas was just around the corner. Shari and I were on our yearly present buying adventure in Boise, Idaho. Shari had our list of people and gifts in hand and we were making our way through several stores, saving the Town Square Mall for our final stop and always our LONGEST stop by far.

Our daughter, Christina, was in high school and therefore old enough to be one of those "difficult" ones to buy for. It was hard to know which clothes she would like and which ones not so much. Money was always the safest bet, but that just seems so empty to moms and dads.

We had been in several clothing stores and looked at many blouses and jeans. Neither of us could decide with complete confidence. We had a limited budget, but like all parents we still wanted to hit a homerun with our little girl.

Since we were stuck, we decided to take a break and make our annual stop at Hickory Farms. We had to get stocking gifts: Jeff and Chad wouldn't know what to do without their original summer sausage and Christina had to have her turkey sausage. That's when it hit me. I knew exactly what to get Christina for Christmas, but I didn't know if we could afford it or if they even sold it.

All of her life Christina has LOVED pickles. And her very favorite pickles of all time were always the HUGE pickles sold in Hickory Farms stores during the holidays. When she was with us during the Christmas season, we couldn't pass Hickory Farms without her getting at least one of the monster pickles and maybe even one to go.

I asked the clerk, "So what if I wanted to buy a bunch of those pickles?" They were \$1.00 each. The clerk assured us that he would love to sell us as many as we wanted. So Shari and I began to figure out how many we could afford. That's when I think I got a nudge from heaven. "So just how do these pickles come to your store?" The clerk said that they came in a 5 gallon bucket. I then asked how many pickles were in each bucket. He replied, "100."

I then explained why I was asking and who the gift was for. The clerk took pity on us and said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. You buy a whole bucket and I'll sell it to you for cost; \$35.00. I don't think anyone ever bought a whole bucket before. That would be a great story to tell." That fit our budget and a couple of weeks later we returned to Boise to pick the bucket of pickles up.

Shari wrapped the very heavy fivegallon bucket with no name on it and we put it under the tree. Then we threatened the kids with near death experiences if anyone tried to peak. We did let them each kind of push on the present which totally dumbfounded all three kids. None had clue.

Christmas day came and we began to open gifts. Everyone was excited, but kept asking about the heavy present at the back of the tree. We saved it for last. In Shari's family there was always a MYSTERY PACKAGE opened last which had no name on it. No one ever knew who it was for until all the other presents had been opened. Most Christmases we used that same tradition in our family. The pickles were the mystery

When I picked up the gift and sat it in the floor, the camera was ready. When we announced that it was for Christina, Jeff and Chad were a little bummed out, but still eager to know what was inside. When she got enough of the paper off to see what it said on the side, she thought it was a miswrapped present. In our family Shari was famous for wrapping something in a box that had nothing to do with what the gift really was; just like her mother did before her.

Christina couldn't get the lid off, so she asked for help. I had to get a large screwdriver to break off the tabs that held the lid in place and prevented any leaking. When she took the lid off she was stunned. We told her that there were 100 of them in the bucket and hoped that once and for all she finally got her fill of Hickory Farms jumbo dill pickles. And

Now more than 20 years later, Shari and I were watching a movie called "Because Of Winn Dixie." In it there was a scene where a man brings a two-gallon jar of jumbo pickles to a party and we both began to laugh and remember. I then called Christina and told her what we were watching and asked her if she remembered. Her response was, "Are you kidding? Of course I remember. If it hadn't been for some of my friends, I would never have gotten them all eaten." Once again the three of us shared a moment of laughter and love over the pick-

So let me give you a recommendation. When you see something that makes you remember a special family moment from the past, don't just remember. Take a few seconds and send a text, or an instant message or an email, or even make a call. You will be rewarded all over again and so will the person you are contacting. Today Christina, Shari and I got to revisit a special memory moment. But then after we called her, she went straight out and told her kids the story about the pickles. That made it a three generation story. Why don't you start making you and your family some three generation story moments? God bless. Mike Sublett

#### **CHURCH SPOTLIGHT**

**Candlelight service** 

**CHRIS** 

ELY

Calvary Baptist Church's annual Advent and Candlelight Service is Dec. 19, at 6:30 pm.

The one hour service will include lots of Christmas music and drama.

The service will conclude with a candle lighting ceremony by everyone in attendance. Solos and Christmas carol singing will be included.

Candles and candle lighting have al-

ways been popular during the Christmas season because God, the Father, sent His son, Jesus, as a light to the world.

Just as light will spread through the Calvary Baptist Church sanctuary as the candles are lit, the light of Jesus Christ is spread by Christians into the world.

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 900 E. 23rd St. There will be a nursery for children through age 3.

For more information call 665-0842.

# Finish the year, start the new year strong

Remember all those New Year's resolutions we made at the beginning of the year - the ones we broke by about the third week of January? The end of the year is a good time to look back and see where we've been and where we're going.

It doesn't matter that we may have gotten off track during the year. It only matters that we finish strong. That's true not only about the year. It's true about all of life. No matter how many times we mess up, if we turn back to God, He will give us a fresh start. And He will help us persevere so we can finish strong.

Finishing strong is a theme throughout the Bible. It's a lesson we must learn if we are to "run the race with endurance." The Bible compares the Christian life to that of a runner. A runner has to pace himself in a long-distance race, and a Christian must pace himself when trouble comes so he'll be able to finish the race strong.

The apostle Paul is an example of someone who finished strong. At the end of his life when he was in prison for preaching the Gospel, Paul wrote to Timothy, encouraging him to "keep his head in all situations, endure hardship and do the work of the ministry."

Paul never gave up. He persevered. He pressed on despite the hardships he faced throughout his Christian life. By his determination, Paul not only overcame the obstacles but he thrived in the middle of his problems.

I want to be like Paul. The key is not giving up but to persevere. We will face problems in this life, and we may get off track. But the great thing about God is that He is willing to take us back and give us a new start.

Wherever you are in life, God will take you as you are. He will begin to change you from the inside out. So start wherever you are and run to God. Then, just keep running your race. Don't look back and don't quit. If you fall, get back up and keep running. Then, you will be able to finish strong and receive the prize of eternity in

As this year ends and a new one is about to begin, get ready to run your race like never before. You will win if you run and do not give up.

Pampa TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

First Presbyterian

Pampa TX 79065

Foster & Ballard

720 W. Francis

806-336-4427

824 S. Barnes

669-7967

665-4922

669-2923

669-3212

Church

669-6700

Church

665-3300

665-4330

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665-8331

1701 Coffee

669-9355

665-2572

Church

665-0262

669-6915

Fellowship

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Pampa TX 79065

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**Baptist Church** 

Pampa TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

1100 W. Crawford

**Hi-land Christian** 

**Highland Baptist** 

1615 N. Banks

1301 N. Banks

Pampa TX 79065

1021 S. Barnes

Pampa TX 79065

Iglesia Casa Del

500 N. Duncan

Pampa TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

New Life Church

1200 S. Sumner

Pampa, TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

of Christ 1612 W. Kentucky

Pampa TX 79065

725 W. Brown

Pampa TX 79065

1733 N. Banks St.

Pampa TX 79065

**Lighthouse Covenant** 

**Lighthouse Baptist** 

Jehovah's Witnesses

Kentucky Ave. Church

Iglesia Nueva Vida

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Pampa TX 79065

Harvest Fellowship

Harvest Bible Church

Pampa TX 79065

Gateway of Grace Min-

**Grace Baptist Church** 

First Freewill Baptist

669-3225

Church 731 Sloan St.

665-2545

665-8192

665-1031

669-7411

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1700 Alcock

525 N. Gray

ness

# Directory

**Bible Baptist Church** 500 E. Kingsmill Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-7830 **Briarwood Full Gospel** Church 1800 W. Harvester Avenue Pampa TX 79065 665-7201 Calvary Assembly of God Church 1030 Love Street Pampa TX 79065 669-7207 **Calvary Baptist** 900 E. 23rd Street Pampa TX 79065 665-0842

Carpenter's Church 639 S. Barnes Pampa TX 79065 669-2720 **Central Baptist Church** 513 E. Francis Pampa TX 79065 665-1631 **Church of Christ** 1342 Mary Ellen Pampa TX 79065 665-0031 Church of Christ Somer- 2700 W. Kentucky Ave.

500 N. Somerville

ville

Pampa TX 79065 665-0004 Church of God Gwendolen & Sumner Pampa TX 79065 669-6372 **Church of Jesus Christ** of the Latter Day Saints 411 East 29th Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-2967 Church of the Nazarene Pampa TX 79065 500 N. West Pampa TX 79065 669-3144

**Community Christian** School 409 N. Frost Pampa, TX 79065 665-3393 **Cornerstone Baptist** Church 2410 W. 23rd Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-6509 Crosspointe 711 E. Harvester

Pampa TX 79065 665-2480 **Faith Bible Church** 110 W. Kingsmill Pampa TX 79065 688-9266 Faith Tabernacle UPC 610 Naida Pampa TX 79065 665-3676 **Fellowship Baptist** Church 1936 N. Wells

Pampa TX 79065 665-2747 **Fellowship Baptist** 622 E. Francis Pampa TX 79065 665-5976 First Assembly of God 500 S. Cuyler

Pampa TX 79065 665-5941 First Baptist Church 203 N. West Pampa TX 79065 669-1155 First Christian Church 1633 N. Nelson

Macedonia Baptist Church 441 Elm Pampa TX 79065 665-4926

**New Hope Baptist** 

Church

First Pentecostal Holi-404 Harlem Pampa TX 79065 665-4044 **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church** 912 S. Gray St. Pampa TX 79065 665-4044 New Life Assembly of First United Methodist God

1435 N. Sumner Pampa TX 79065 665-0804 Open Door Church of **God in Christ** 402 Oklahoma Pampa TX 79065 665-6132

**Priest Park Church of** God 731 N. Faulkner Pampa TX 79065 688-0174 Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana

541 Hamilton Pampa TX 79065 665-8347 300 W. Browning Avenue Redeemer Pampa 225 N. Cuyler Pampa, TX 79065 **Hobart Baptist Church** Salvation Army

701 S. Cuyler Pampa TX 79065 665-7233 Seventh Day Adventist Church 421 N. Ward

Pampa TX 79065 665-4492 Southside Church of Christ 11927 McCullough Pampa TX 79065 665-2183

St. Paul United Methodist Church 511 N. Hobart Pampa TX 79065 665-8951 St. Mark CME Church

406 Elm Ave Pampa TX 79065 665-6743 St. Matthews Episcopal Iglesia Cristiana Canaan Church 905 E. Beryl St. 727 W. E

727 W. Browning

Pampa TX 79065 665-0701 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 810 W. 23rd Ave. Pampa TX 79065 665-8933 Straight-Up Fellowship 400 N. Wells Pampa TX 79065

664-0096 **Trinity Fellowship** Church 2225 N. Hobart Pampa TX 79065 665-3255 **United Methodist** Church

201 E: Foster Pampa TX 79065 669-9371 **Zion Lutheran Church** 1200 Duncan Pampa TX 79065

669-2774

RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP



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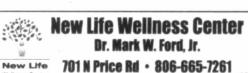
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Borger Hwy.- Pampa

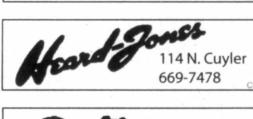
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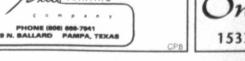
312 N Gray Pampa, TX



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THE PAMPA NEWS 403 W. ATCHISON • 669-2525



# Deadline December 14th by 5 pm Published December 22th

Photos need to be of baby only. Payment in advance.

Bring your photo to
The Pampa News office at
403 W. Atchison
or Email it to
classified@thepampanews.com
Please call Stephanie at 669-2525,
to verify that your photo
has been received.

James Robert Jones

Born... June 23, 2010



Parents...

Holley & Gary Jones Grandparents...

Linda & Stan Bims
John Bims
Sue & Gary Jones
Mary Jones
Great-grandparents...

lvy & Bill Jones

\$2500

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By Bil Keane



"How many stairs do you think they use up in a day?"

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**Nest Heads** 







HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012:

This year you will have a new beginning in whatever area you deem necessary. Your personal power will expand ple in your life want to draw you in, both professionally and personally. Your magnetism soars, and if you are single, you, will see direct results. If you are attached, curb a tendency to be me-oriented. Yes, it is an exciting year, but a relationship will succeed only with the combined efforts of two people. CAPRICORN is mor emerges because of a child's antics. cautious.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; rands done. 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\*\* A matter from the recent past could come back to haunt you. You can't take back words said or actions done, but the good news is that you can remedy what happened. Your instincts speak to you and show you the right path to follow. Tonight: Touch base with an

older relative. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Reconsider a situation involving a close partner. You can work through nearly anything together, as long as you are able to remain detached. You might surprise yourself with the sense of elation and harmony you could achieve as a result. Tonight: Answer your calls.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\*\* Reflect rather than react. A friend's unpredictability could create uncertainty in your world. On the other hand, you just might find exactly what you've been looking for. Relate to others directly, especially when discussing finances. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\* Dive right into work. You'll discover the importance of clearing up as much as possible in the late afternoon. Free yourself up for some socializing with friends and loved ones. A boss or someone you respect startles you with his or her response. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\* You feel the weekend in your bones, but you have a lot to do before then. As you attempt to accomplish everything you must, you could get bogged down in a project. A different perspective could help you see the situation in a new light. Tonight: Do your thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ If you're considering the possibility of staying home more often, know that you'll have to indulge this fantasy sooner or later. You could find a friend because you live your word. Many peo- or loved one most distracting, though, so you might want to rethink this plan. Tonight: Now for the romp.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that falls into your lap. You are incapable of handling it all, as you are only human. Your sense of hu-Can you even question how much you are cared about? Tonight: Get some er-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You could have a lot to say, and perhaps it is more than someone wants to hear. Be sensitive to this person. You might have a lot to say, but the purpose of saying it is to be heard. You need this individual around for his or her support. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\* Make a resolution in the morning, and you'll stand a chance of making it so. Your creativity springs forward whenever there is a need for a solution. You delight others, as well as yourself, with an addition to a project or a special purchase. Tonight: More holiday duties

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ In the morning, you could have a case of the lazies or seem a bit passive. By midafternoon, you'll start acting like the Energizer bunny, and few can hop as fast as you. What you initially had resisted doing becomes a piece of cake. Tonight: The world is your oyster. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\* Use the morning to the max. You could be inordinately lucky or just have a lot of support. Whatever you launch, do or decide seems destined to succeed. An interpersonal relationship glows. A neighbor or friend could surprise you with his or her antics. Tonight:

Not to be found. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take charge of a project early on. You might feel as if you do not have enough time in the day to handle what you must. Lighten up and prioritize, and by late afternoon, the Fish will beam. A meeting could be more important than you realize. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



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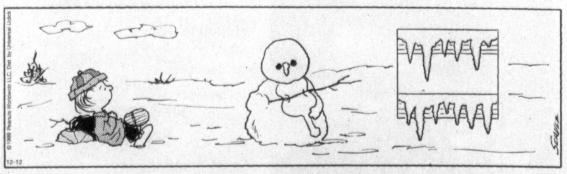


Hagar The Horrible





# Peanuts



# Blondie





# PampaSports

# UNDER 8 DRAGON TEAM



Pampa Soccer Association's U8 Dragon team had a great fall season with the boys improving on blocking and making goals. The Dragons were coached by Thorban Weaver.

# Junior High teams in action

BY ZACHARY GREEN zgreen@thepampanews.com

**Boys JH** 

Monday night the Pampa JH Boys traveled to Bushland to compete against the Blackhawks. The boys came up empty in all four games, with each team struggling offensively.

The 7th grade B team lost 29-16. Brendan Grant led the team with 5 points and Chris Madrid had 4. Chance Kerbo led the team in rebounds.

The 7th grade A team lost 29-25. Brady Porter led the team 11 points. Angel Gonzalez led the team in rebounds and also had 3 points. Fernando Anguiano played great defense.

The 8th B team lost 25-14. Chaseton Brown led the team in scoring with 6

points and Jared Lake had 4. Kade Woods played good defense.

The 8th A team lost 34-25. It was a three point game going into half time, but Pampa could not overcome the size of their op-

Bryce Parker had 8 points and led the team in rebounds. Brendan Woelfle had 5 points as well.

Girls JH

The Pampa JH girls hosted Bushland Monday night.

The 8th grade girls "B" team won 36 to

The top scorers were Madison Young with 10 points and Abby Olveda with 8.

The 8th grade girls "A" lost 59-26. The top offensive performer was Kristin Robison with 5 points.

# Young looks forward to new challenge with Phillies

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

DALLAS (AP) — Michael Young says he's ready for a different challenge in Philadelphia after spending the first 12 seasons of his career with the Texas Rang-

Young says it was an easy decision from a baseball perspective. He wanted to go to the Phillies to be their everyday third baseman.

Speaking publicly for the first time since

waiving his no-trade clause and the deal being completed, Young said goodbye Monday to Rangers fans and spoke about how much he would miss his teammates.

Young has played all 1,823 of his major league games for Texas and is the franchise leader in games played and hits. He is a .301 career hitter and a seven-time All-Star.

Over the past two seasons, Young has been a designated hitter and played all four infield positions.

# Cowboys may be without wide receiver Dez Bryant for crucial playoff push

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys might be without wide receiver Dez Bryant for their playoff push.

Bryant injured his left index finger in an emotional 20-19 victory over Cincinnati on Sunday, one day after practice squad linebacker Jerry Brown was killed in a car accident that landed defensive tackle Josh Brent in jail on intoxication manslaughter charges.

Dallas coach Jason Garrett said Monday that Bryant was still being evaluated. The Cowboys play Pittsburgh at home Sunday in a battle of 7-6 teams trying to keep playoff hopes alive.

Bryant re-entered the game after sustaining the injury and caught a touckdown pass that pulled the Cowboys to 19-17 in the fourth quarter. Dallas won on a field goal by Dan Bailey on the final play.

"I think adrenaline sometimes allows players to connue to play after they've had an injury" Garrett said. "He certainly made a big play in the ballgame, and I Stadium, and Jason Hatcher raised Brown's No. 53 jer-back to work."

think that's a real tribute to his toughness and his love for the game."

If Bryant ends up on injured reserve, he will be the fifth Dallas starter sidelined by a season-ending injury. The other four are defenders, and nickel cornerback Orlando Scandrick is out for the year with a hand injury. Nose tackle Jay Ratliff has missed seven games with ankle and groin injuries.

Brent was set to make his fifth start in Ratliff's place against the Bengals, but police say he was speeding and drunk when the vehicle he was driving clipped a curb and flipped in the Dallas suburb of Irving early Saturday, hours before he was to be on the team flight to Cincin-

Brown was found unresponsive at the scene and pronounced dead at a hospital.

Garrett told the team about Brown's death on the plane just before takeoff. The Cowboys kept an empty locker for Brown in the visitor's locker room at Paul Brown sey over his head as he walked on the field after Bailey's winning kick.

"I think it's the most emotional game that I've ever been a part of anywhere, player, coach," Garrett said Monday. "You're trying to place life and football in some kind of context together and it doesn't really fit and you don't really have a whole lot of time to kind of

Garrett said the Cowboys "absolutely" will carry Brown's death with them for the rest of the season and

But they still have the postseason to pursue. Dallas is still a game behind Chicago and Seattle for the two wildcard spots in the NFC, and the New York Giants stayed a game ahead in the NFC East by beating New Orleans.

"It was difficult for us to do it in Cincinnati, but it's just the reality of life," Garrett said. "We have to continue to move on. We have to honor Jerry. We have to help Josh any way that we can. But then we have to get

# Death of Cowboys player Jerry Brown raises question of safety net for athletes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas (AP) San Francisco 49ers defensive end Demarcus Dobbs walked away from a one-vehicle accident on his 25th birthday last month and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Less than two weeks later, with the NFL rocked by the car crash that killed Dallas Cowboys player Jerry Brown and left his teammate, Josh Brent, facing a manslaughter charge, Dobbs swears he'll find another way home whenever he does too much partying.

"I'm never going to put myself in that situation ever again," he said.

This is, of course, exactly what the NFL, its teams and the players' union wants to hear amid fresh questions about whether all the warnings and safety nets - because players in most of the major sports leagues arguably have more than the general public — will ever be enough to prevent accidents and deaths.

"There's a lot of pressure being in the NFL ... but it's no excuse for bad decisions," Detroit coach Jim Schwartz said. "Players have a lot of options, tools at their disposal, that they

need to take advantage of, but it comes down to individuals making good deci-

Brown's death on Saturday and the arrest of defensive tackle Josh Brent after police say he caused the fatal wreck by speeding and driving drunk put the NFL Players Association's safe ride program back in the spotlight. It was revamped three years ago after concerns that enough players weren't using it.

Union spokesman Carl Francis said the program is a strong point of emphasis, and every player's membership card includes the contact information. And CEO John Glavin of Florida-based Corporate Security Solutions Inc., which runs the program, said he is happy with how the union gets the word out on the program.

He also stressed the confidentiality of the program, saying the company doesn't even tell the union when players call for rides.

Jacksonville cornerback CB Rashean Mathis, the team's union representative, said players rarely, if ever, use the program.

"Confidentiality is the problem," Mathis said. "Guys are going to go out and have fun. We're just like the regular guy that

works a 9-to-5 job. On a Friday night, he goes out and has some beer. It's not the best-case scenario, but

it happens in life." To use the program, players can either work in advance to set up a full night with a driver or make a call for a ride home. The brochure says most response times are less than an hour. The program is available all year, and Glavin said his company also serves the NBA and NHL.

In Major League Baseball, designated drivers are available to players and fans through the teams, and the players have access to a confidential program that will take them wherever they need to go.

In the NFL, some teams rely solely on the NFLPA's program, while others have an additional system. In Cincinnati, the Bengals pay a company to make two drivers available when an employee calls. One drives the caller home, and the other follows in the

employee's vehicle. Glavin said some players hesitate to use that kind of program because they don't want others driving their expensive vehicles. Either way, the program hinges on a player making

the first move. "We can't make them make the phone call,"

Glavin said. Last summer, the NFL held its 15th annual rookie orientation, which includes a number of life skills sessions. For the first time, separate sessions were held for the AFC and NFC to make the groups smaller, and current and players former brought in as speakers, Philadelphia including quarterback Michael Vick and Cincinnati cornerback Adam Jones. Both have had high-profile legal problems, with Vick spending time in prison in

a dogfighting case. The NFL has sessions on issues ranging from guns to alcohol and drug use at other times of the years, and all teams have counselors who work with players, league spokes-

man Dan Masonson said. League owners are gathering in the Dallas area Wednesday. The agenda was set to focus in part on player safety through the addition of leg padding, but it's likely to change. A week before Brown's death, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher fatally shot his girlfriend before driving to the team's stadium and shooting himself in front of his coach and general man-

"I am sure the events of the past two weeks will be discussed at the league meeting," league spokesman Greg Aiello said. "We are always looking to do

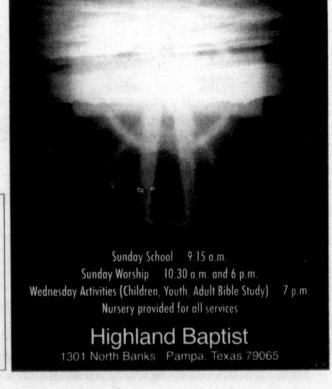
more." Several coaches said Monday they were talking again about issues of safety and good decisions after Brown's death. They also acknowledged there was only so much they could do, as did Mathis.

"We're not immune from life because we're athletes," Mathis said. "We're not, but there are smarter choices."

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# 9th girls game cancelled Monday

The freshman girls game that was slated for Monday night against Canadian was cancelled late Monday after-

It was stated in Tuesday's paper to look for results of that game in today's paper. Due to the cancellation there will be no game results.

Pampa's freshman girls team is 5-6 on the season and will play their next game Friday at Estacado at 6:30 p.m.

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**HEART I** 

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

years to a man who had never felt insecure in my one that got away?" and, very much and I believe CALIFORNIA "Have you found the he cares for me. love of your life?"

My husband respondly on her birthday and Valentine's Day. To the divorce, which he admitted was his fault.

I know he was talking about his first wife. I feel so sad and insecure. Now I must deal with the fact that on Valentine's Day his thoughts are with believe him when he says have proof that he hasn't moved on yet. I can't believe he said that even now he still thinks about her. Please help. — SAD HEART IN SAN JOSE

DEAR SAD HEART: Your husband posted those thoughts on a public forum? Rather than feel hurt and insecure, you should be furious. How would he feel if the person answering that poll had been you? (Of course, you would have had better judgment.)

By now it should be clear to you that you did not marry a rocket scientist. You have my sympathy because his first marriage has been over for nearly two decades and he along with his obvious shortcomings — are no longer her problem, but yours. However, your pain may lessen if you look at the bright side:

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

6 Rough

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DOWN

great until he was deved that he thinks about astated by a downturn planned to move here, but was unable to sell other question he replied his home. We used to he had found the love see each other every two tionship had ended in It has been almost two months. He calls once a week, but nothing else.

> his worries and personal information with me. I haven't pressured him

too much to ask for more pened. frequent communication

DEAR ABBY: I have He treats you well 363 from him? I have offered been married for 14 days a year, and many to travel the 1,000 miles, of the women who write but he has evaded my two failed marriages. I to me are not so lucky. offer. I'm not ready to DEAR ABBY: I have walk away. We have married life until I read been involved with a been great together and his answers to a Yahoo man in a long-distance this is difficult for me. Answers poll that asked, relationship for two Advice? - HOLDING "Do you dream about the years. I care about him ON IN COASTAL

DEAR HOLDING Things were going ON: It's fine to be supportive, but don't overwhelm him right now. her very often, especial- in his business. He had You may have to let this play out in its own time. Your friend may have retreated because he's concentrating his of his life, but the rela- weeks, but no longer. energy on reviving his business. He may be licking his wounds or he may have met some-We have been close one, which is why he and he has shared his life, discouraged your visit. That he still calls you is encouraging.

Because you have and I don't need a com- known him for two someone else. How can I mitment now, although I years, I recommend get over this? I no longer would like one someday. you simply ASK him if Abby, he seems to be he's met someone else. he loves me because I drifting away. Is it OK to If the answer is no, it write to him, email him, will put your mind at send encouraging notes ease. But if the answer once a week and contin- is yes, at least you'll be ue to support him? Is it clear about what hap-

# BANANAGRAMS Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, LEVEL a few tiles from the bunch have been placed. Reuse the tiles for each grid. E Yesterday's Answer: CHINA, CHAI, CHI, HI

PACES

NONETHELESS
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CENSORS AYE

SCUFFPEERS

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RATON

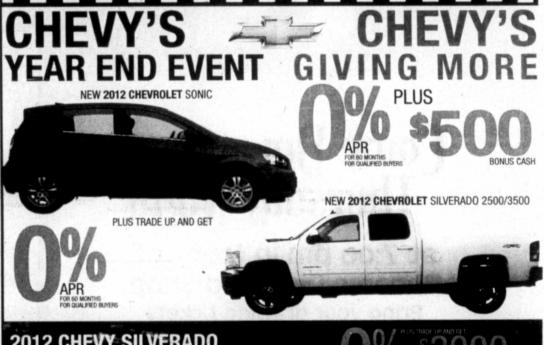
SWEAT

12-12

GAS

AYE







# **CULBERSON-STOWERS**

805 North Hohart Street • Pampa • 806-665-1665 www.culbersonstowersautos.com

#### holder 12Ham it up Yesterday's answer 3 Magnetite, 13Fare 29 States of 15One of for one carriers Frank's mind 4 Bread 14Ship of 30 Rolling with a wives 1492 Stones 17 Pizarro's 15 Show up pocket quest song 5 Take in 16Chapel 6 Christmas 20 Spigot 31 River promise 21 Singer feature tree 17 December 35 Citi Field Shannon topper 24, e.g. 7 Poison 24 Corrode team 18Court 25 Patella 36 Secluded 8 Full of divider 27 Sought a place energy 19 Apple seat 38 Pos-9 Trouble variety 28 Hinders 11 Might sesses 22 Enjoy a novel NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to 23 Social Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 misfit 26 Oregon's 10 largest city 29 Furning 14 32 Bleachers cry 33 Ball holder 34Kind of



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Downtown Pampa Thursday Open till 7:00

Come Downtown Thursday Night

at 7:00 pm in front of Rheams Diamond Shop Bring your drawing tickets Two winners will be drawn for \$250 Downtown Bucks

(Must be present to win)

Gift Shop at Branch

You'll LOVE the

Thomas is cates for All Budges is Occasions

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N. Cuyler 665-554 brandonsflowers.com

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40% OFF Topaz, Rubies, Emeralds, & Sapphires

Downtown Business Association \$500 Drawing at 7 p.m.



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Hand Jones

14 N CUYLER 669-7478

DDEN TIL 8:00DM THURSDAY!

The Fountain will be serving Homemade Chicken & Dumplings from 5pm - 7pm!

"Merry Christmas to All" Giveaway

Over \$500 in Cash & Prizes

Including —\$250 in cash for the Grand Prize!

Collect tickets when you shop at Heard Jones now through Thursday, December 20 at 7:00pm. Keep one half and place the other half in the box located at the registers. Drawing will be on Thursday, December 20 between 7:00pm and 8:00pm. There will be a *total of 5 winners* with the last name drawn being the winner of the **\$250 cash Grand Prize**. Total value of all prizes is at least \$500.

Santa has a Secret Special or Two Good only from 5-8—Just for You!

# HEV KIDG

This Thursday evening it the LAST chance to find Willy the Elf on the Shelf and register for the \$50 cash prize to be given away NEXT Thursday evening between 7pm & 8pm. Contest is open for children 2 to 10 years of age.

Must be present at time of drawing to win. NO substitution allowed.



## PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturda			
Markey E		Jane L			
High 64 Low 35	High 55 Low 35	High 58 Low 29			

Today: Sunny with a high of 64. No chance of rain. Winds southwest at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:45

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low of 35. No chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 13 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

Friday: Few showers with a high of 55. Thirty percent chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 21 mph. Sunrise at 7:46 a.m.

Friday night: Mostly clear with a low of 35. Ten percent chance of rain. Winds south southwest at 19 mph.

rain. Winds west northwest at 15 mph.

Saturday: Sunny with a high of 58. No chance of

Saturday night: Mostly clear with a low of 29, No chance of rain. Winds west southwest at 11 mph.

This information brought to you by...



Come in today to pick your spot to win a golf cart. **100 spots - \$55 each.** 

# CITY BRIEFS

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

OPEN LATE Thursday night till 7:00. 40% off CITY BRIEFS! Only \$2.50 per select lotions and candles. line (was \$4.15 per line) with Brandon's Flowers

Come check out the great Pampa News, 669-2525. specials and the drawing for \$500 in Down-town bucks. Rheams Diamond Shop

0292. We Deliver!

RECIPE BOOKS still available. \$3 each or free Great Stocking Stuffers! with a new subscription.

RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP, looking for Sales Person for Saturdays start- Gift Certificates- Christmas ing after the first of the year. Special. Call Cathy, Holly or Continued From Page 1 Apply in person, 111. N.

ADVERTISE IN THE a 4 line minimum. For dead-

ANTIQUE chairs, buffets and more! Priced to sell! The Vicary PARTY TRAYS for the House Tea Room, 303 N. holidays. Hoagies Deli, 665- Frost. December 13th, 14th, 15th. 12:00-6:00

> JELLY IS still available Come by Rheams Diamond Shop at 111 N. Cuyler

MASSAGE THERAPY Brittany, 669-0013, 1224 N. Hobart Ste. #9.

# PC DREAMS

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# Come help us celebrate



# Rex Britton's Big 80th Birthday Bash!!!

Saturday, Dec. 15th 6 to 10 pm Pampa Country Club

RSVP: Rosann 806-282-5915 Birthday Cards Only

# Obituaries

Frank

Bridwell

# Frank Bridwell

Frank Bridwell, 68, died Dec. 11, 2012 in Dallas. Services will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Buster Reedy, a

cowboy preacher, officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Heights Cemetery in Lefors, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Direc-

> Mr. Bridwell was born Oct. 8, 1944 in Pampa. He was raised north of Miami on Chicken Creek until his senior year in high school when he moved to Lefors. Bridwell graduated from Lefors High School in 1963.

Frank married Madonna Jordan on July 10, 1964 in Lefors. He had been a former resident of White Deer for 18 years. He was a rancher all of his life, working for Miami Cattle Company, Bill Tolbert Cattle Company, and Cactus Feeders, as well as being self-employed for many years.

Frank was a member of the Professional Cowboys Rodeo Association where he participated in team roping. He was a rodeo cowboy his entire life. He was a generous man who would do anything for anybody and a friend to everyone.

Survivors include: his wife, Madonna Bridwell of the home; two sons, Shane Bridwell and wife Kristi of Pampa, and Chadd Bridwell of Austin; five grandchildren, Garrett Bridwell of Amarillo, Frankie Bridwell, Taylor Smith, Tucker Bridwell and Hunter Smith, all of Pampa; a sister, Verna Smith of Dumas; four brothers, John Bridwell of Spearman, Vick Bridwell of Waggoner, Okla., Joe Bridwell of Perryton, and Jim Bridwell of Borger; and numerous nieces and nephews. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Virginia Bridwell.

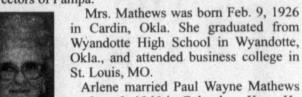
Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, National Center, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas 75231 The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to-

night at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.

# **Arlene Matthews**

Arlene Mathews, 86, died Dec. 12, 2012 in Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



on June 8, 1946 in Columbus, Kan. He preceded her in death on Feb. 4, 2008. She had been a resident of Skellytown

Arlene from 1947 until 2006 when she moved to Matthews Amarillo. Arlene worked at Pampa Chamber of

Commerce for several years and then worked as an administrative secretary for Cabot Corporation in Pampa for 23 1/2 years.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Skellytown and attended Paramount Baptist Church in Ama-

Survivors include: three daughters, Karen Horner and husband Jimmie, Nancy Fox and husband Jim, and Denise Smyth and husband Blaine, all of Amarillo; six grandchildren, Todd Horner and Shellie James, both of Amarillo, Matt Pruett of Woodward, Okla., William Chris Fox of Denver City, Dawn Marie McLean of Santa Fe, N.M. and Nicole Hallums of Beaumont; three stepgrandchildren, Mickey Smyth of Plainville, Kan., Brock Smyth and Kamie Smyth, both of Lubbock; and 24 greatgrandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Essie Mae Burnett; a brother: Bobby Burnett; and a grandson, Keith Horner.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 176, Skellytown, Texas 79080, or BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.

# For the record

# Pampa man interferes with sheriff's at railroad

51-year-old Michael Kent Love, of Pampa, was arrested Monday by the OPEN LATE Dec. 13. lines call Stephanie, at the Gray County Sheriff's Office for interfering with an emergency call at a rail-

> 37-year-old Joseph Bartlesville, Okla., was arrested Tuesday by Lefors ure to maintain financial intoxicated.

responsibility (car insurance), capias pro fine driving without a license, capias pro fine - disregarding a stop sign, and two charges of capias pro fine — failure to appear.

■ 53-year-old William Lee Remington Jr., of Jay Browning, of Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Department of Public Police Department for fail- Safety for driving while

■ 17-year-old Krysten Nicole Miller, of Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Pampa Police Department (PPD) for criminal mischief -- over \$500 and under \$1,500.

27-year-old Ashley Dawn McIntosh, of Skellytown, was arrested Wednesday by the PPD for violation of probation possession of controlled endorsement.

40-year-old Renard Lee Villareal, of Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the PPD for unlicensed carrying weapon, violation of probation - driving while intoxicated (second), failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility (second), no motorcycle

# Tour

households," Hooper said. "The children do not buy presents for themselves. The project offers them the opportunity to experience giving at Christmas.'

Hooper said the children may shop anywhere they want. Most of them will go to Walmart, which gives them a 10 percent discount on all purchases and does not charge sales tax since the Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Service regulations.

"After making their purchases, Kiwanis members, headed by Bill Kindle, Bob Benyshek, Doug Cates and Robert Jacobs, will make sure the volunteers do not exceed the allowance of \$50 per family member for the children to spend," Hooper said. "They also mark through the bar codes on the items purchased so that they cannot be exchanged for cash.

When the children finish shopping, the volunteers will take them back to the Optimist gym where the Opti-Mrs. Club, headed by Whitney Davis, will sponsor a wrapping party. Hooper said last year they wrapped more than 1,300 packages.

More than 200 volunteers are needed for the project, Hooper said.

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Celanese

Shonda Rucker of the Kiwanis Club has been in charge of getting volunteers. Brad Pingel and Rusty Tapp from the Lions Club lead a group who contact families who do not have a phone to remind them of the tour. Kevin Davis of the Optimist Club heads a group who will cook hamburgers with all the trimmings for the children and volunteers. Bobby Pogue from Miami will lead a group of volunteers from Miami High School including the National Honor Society and the Lady Warriors' basketball team.

They will lead the children in singing Christmas carols, hold a coloring contest and tell Christmas stories including a special story about the "Reason for the Season.'

"We are particularly excited to welcome Jane Steele with the Pampa Chamber of Commerce," Hooper said. "She and chamber volunteers have furnished materials and prizes for the coloring contest, sacks of candy for Santa Claus to give to each child and decorations for

Other members of the Steering Committee, which plans the project, include John Warner of the Optimist Club, who has served as treasurer for the project, and Jono Carr, Justin King and Matthew Ribail, who have been members at-large.

Linda Weaver of the Altrusa Club is putting together a brochure about the project. A copy of the brochure will be given to the parents of the children, the volunteers and every contributor. More than 40 organizations come together each year to carry out the Tour.

For more information or to volunteer, call 669-3397

