

# End of year to be busy

**Aries (March 21 – April 20)**  
Driving professional forces show no signs of slowing down and the focus is on both your relationships and financial situation. Yet the more you take time to hear yourself think, the more prepared you'll be to start the year. Move into 2011 aware of what you want and with a nose for money.

**Taurus (April 21 – May 21)**  
The focus is on your personal life in the final days of 2010. Whether working or on holiday take time out to recharge your batteries, with things destined to speed up on the career front in mid-January, when things will be moving again on the money front.

**Gemini (May 22 – June 21)**  
Be true to yourself in the closing days of 2010 and the early days of 2011, when much is happening on the romantic, relationship, money, work and career fronts. It would be easy to lose yourself in all the different agendas. You need to be at the top of your priority list rather than at the bottom or worse still, left off altogether.

**Cancer (June 22 – July 22)**  
Some of your biggest demands have come from your home or family, yet this is where you're getting most of your power. Focus on those things that ground you, give you stability and something to hold onto. Focus on your personal life, with romantic and relationship needs and situations featuring strongly.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)**  
Focus on your financial situation as the post-Christmas reality checks hit home. This comes with an opportunity to seize big advantages



## Shannon O'Brien

• Weekly Horoscope

moving into the New Year. Making sure you're not asleep at the wheel. Pressure will be gone by midweek, giving you a chance to find balance.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 23)**  
Center and balance yourself before 2010 ends. In a week where there's focus on home and family and your love life and relationships, listen to your instincts. This gives you a strong center to reference everything against, the ability to trust your instincts to know what is in your best interests. Take your power back, realizing no one else can give you validation.

**Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)**  
What you didn't have this time last year was stability. It's only now that your moral compass can give you a commitment to the whole of the coming year. Center yourself and find your own inner power and conviction. With focus on your home and family, don't let the year end with unsaid words.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 23)**  
Wrap up 2010 and embrace 2011 with your heart and your intuition on the same page, giving you a clear sense of what you want and of what's real. Moving into the New Year with your heart and intuition on the same page is going to give you a dream start, giving you an advantage you can hold onto. Start right and you'll end right.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)**  
Reflect on the year that's been in a smart, savvy and intelligent way, without playing the blame game or the victim. Don't end the year with unsaid words that might lead to regrets. Turn your mental focus to the future and your conversations away from the past. Begin 2011 with a smart and an intuitive edge.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)**  
Not only do you have a clear sense of direction and an openness to change, you have a strong sense of conviction and competitiveness. You're ready for a challenge. You won't be looking for short cuts. Look for the kind of challenges that will allow you to perform at your best, stretching you without being stressful.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)**  
Financial pressures at the start of the week may push buttons and evoke post-Christmas money worries – likely to be a blessing in disguise. An alignment has the power to break through some glass ceilings. Yet don't let money dominate where relaxation needs priority.

**Pisces (Feb. 20 – March 20)**  
Don't be in too much of a hurry to get moving; enjoy the chance to pull back and consider your options. Create a clear divide between 2010's professional year and 2011's, which are two very different beasts. Make the most of down time to socialize, catch up and get away. You also need to chill out and daydream for the big dreams that will define 2011.

*For entertainment purposes only.*

# Colby native wins fellowship for media arts at Highlands university

Two New Mexico Highlands University media arts students received \$2,500 fellowships for fall semester, thanks to the Seabury Foundation and a full match from the university's foundation.

loved," said Wilson, who was named Miss Rodeo America in 2008. "It's who I am. I'm really passionate about the sport of rodeo, and my dream job is to be a rodeo reporter and commentator. My goal is to work for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, which is increasing its news coverage."



Amy Wilson

Seniors Amy Wilson of Colby and Veronica Black of Huron, S.D., showcased their multimedia projects at a Dec. 8 presentation and reception.

"These students have turned out extraordinary, impressive work that is so advanced," said Deborah Seabury Holloway, Seabury Foundation board member. "Bravo to you both. The media arts program at Highlands is a jewel."

Holloway's grandfather established the Seabury Foundation in 1947. This is the third semester she has teamed up with the university's foundation to award fellowships to media arts students. The fellowships give students the financial support and freedom to produce independent portfolio projects.

Wilson transferred to Highlands, in Las Vegas, N.M., in 2008 to compete on the university's rodeo team as a barrel racer and breakout roper, and pursue a degree in media arts.

"Being a cowgirl is not just something I've

For her Seabury Fellowship project, Wilson produced a video resume she will submit to the association and other rodeo broadcasters. Her video features her interviewing big-name rodeo professionals she met during her reign as Miss Rodeo America.

As a media arts student, Wilson used still photography to create striking images that portray what she calls "the intimate beauty of ranching." Her videos of the university's rodeo team capture the grit of the sport and the determination of the athletes.

"Through media arts, Amy has found a way to bridge her passion for both rodeo and media," Jacobs said. "She's very well spoken and visually creative. Amy's definitely ready to take the next step professionally. Now we just need to wait to see her on television as a rodeo commentator."

# Plan ahead for winter weather

Trips to visit friends and relatives can be holiday highlights for your family, especially if your preparations emphasize safety, said Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger.

"When you travel during a Kansas winter, it's always good to think ahead about what you need and how to handle weather conditions," Praeger said.

The same emphasis on safety is also important when you are homebound during a winter storm, she added.

Here are suggestions, gathered from several sources, could help you make it safely through either scenario:

### On the road:

- Keep your car in top operating condition. Have it checked by a mechanic before your winter trip for brakes, battery, fluid levels, tire pressure and treadwear, windshield wipers and light bulbs, among others. Consult the owner's manual to see if the vehicle's current mileage corresponds to any scheduled maintenance.

- If you have a long drive ahead of you, and the weather is unsettled, make sure you have emergency equipment: – first-aid kit, flashlights, a battery-powered radio, blankets, drinking water, snacks, shovel, jumper cables, ice scrapers, extra cash or credit cards, sleeping bags, facial tissues and paper towels, a tow rope, layered clothing, bright-colored flag material and a sack of sand or cat litter.

- Get plenty of sleep before a long trip.
- Have a fully charged cell

phone and pack your vehicle phone-charging unit.

- Make sure all your passengers wear a seat belt.
- Keep the gas tank at least half full.

- Let someone know your timetable.

- Don't assume the posted speed is safe under anything but dry, clear conditions. On snow or ice, traction generated by your tires is only half to a tenth as great as you are accustomed to on dry pavement.

- Clear any snow away from the heater inlets (usually at the base of the vehicle's windshield).

- Be alert for deer near roadways, especially near dawn and dusk.

If you are in an accident, follow these guidelines:

- Call law enforcement.
- Obtain names, phone numbers, insurance policy numbers and addresses of persons involved in the accident, as well as witnesses.

- Record the time, date, location and road conditions at the time of the accident.

- Take notes each time you talk to an insurance company, agent or others involved in the situation.

### At your house

If you need to ride out a winter storm at home, here are some useful tips, courtesy of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Emergency Preparedness website:

- If the temperature plummets, open the cabinets under the sinks in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated indoor air to circulate around water pipes.

- Let faucets drip, but don't run a big stream of water.

- Have a week's worth of food and safety supplies, such as bottled drinking water, canned/no-cook food, a manual electric can opener, baby food and formula (if you have an infant in the household), prescription drugs and other medicine, a first-aid kit, ice melt pellets for walkways, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio and lanterns.

- Avoid using candles for lighting, and never leave lit candles unattended.

- If you have a fireplace, check your supply of dry firewood.

- Don't use a portable generator or appliances if they are wet.

"If you have a household insurance claim from weather problems, call your agent or company promptly," Praeger said. "If possible, take photos or videos of any damage. You can also call our Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline, (800) 432-2484... if you have a question or problem with the claim."

Also available is the pamphlet "Be Prepared: Helpful Tips for Before and After the Storm" from the Kansas Insurance Department website, [www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org), or by calling the hotline.

"Being prepared for a winter trip or a homebound storm situation can save you time, money, frustration and quite possibly your life and the lives of your loved ones," Praeger said. "A little extra planning is worth it. Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season."

# Spots open for leadership program

Emerging leaders in agricultural and rural communities of Kansas can join the 20th Anniversary class, Class XI, of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program.

The two-year program, which includes state, national and international seminars and tours, begins next August.

Eligibility is based on leadership experience and a devotion to the future of Kansas agriculture and rural communities, said director Jack Lindquist.

"A dedication to a more positive future is key to selection," Lindquist said.

Current class members and alumni agree that the 52-day commitment over a two-year period of time is not only well worth the investment, but needed in today's competitive and changing environment, he said.

Applicants must complete a profile form that will be reviewed by the program's board. An on-line application is available at [www.karlprogram.com](http://www.karlprogram.com), or

call the state office at (785) 532-6300.

Applicants will be screened to select up to 45 candidates, who will be invited to a location in their home regions for a personal interview in May, Lindquist said. New class members will be named in June.

Each class consists of up to 30 members. The tuition fee for participants is \$1,500 per year, or a total of \$3,000. Donors pay the rest of the \$17,000 cost per person.

Seminars and tours are generally balanced during production agriculture's "off-season" from November through March, including national, Blue Chip and international study tours, Lindquist said. Monthly in-state seminars typically are held over two-day periods.

For information, including how to donate to KARL Inc., the nonprofit organization that oversees the program, contact the office on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan at (785) 532-6300.

# Drunken tree thief caught green-handed

OXFORD, Ohio (AP) — Police in Ohio have arrested a Miami University student they say was drunkenly trying to chop down a 30-foot pine he wanted for a Christmas tree.

Oxford police tell the *Hamilton*

*Journal News* they were called early Sunday morning. They say the 21-year-old told them he planned to chop down the pine and then cut off the top part for his own Christmas tree.

Police say a friend apparently

took off with the ax.

The southwest Ohio police department didn't immediately release the student's name. He was charged with a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct-public intoxication.

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