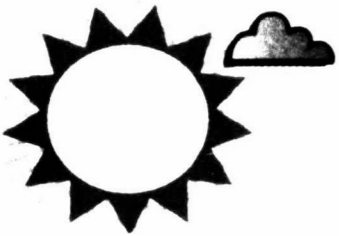


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Today's weather



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Deaths

Eulene Rexroat
Cockrell, 83, longtime Frank's Foods employee.
Jerrell Ray
Montgomery, 60, Enron retiree.
Evelyn Marie Young Phillips, 81, graduate of Groom High.
Dr. Kenneth L. Royse, 79, veterinarian.
Howard M. Shouse, 71, Graham resident.

State

Cookie buyers giving Girl Scouts the shaft

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Girl Scouts are putting the bite on cookie monsters who failed to pay for the boxes of sugary treats they ordered last year.

The Girl Scouts of the San Antonio Area sued 24 people earlier this month in an effort to recover more than \$20,000. Each person owes between \$200 and \$5,925.

Many of the debtors are parents who did not pay the organization for the cookies their children sold, Girl Scout officials said.

The lawsuits, all of which were filed in Bexar County, followed months of letter writing, first by the local scouts and then by their lawyer.

"We've tried several different times to get in touch with these people," said David Dauphine, chief financial officer for the Girl Scouts of the San Antonio Area. The organization also offered to work out payment plans with them, he said.

Dauphine said he believes many of the debtors used the cookie money to cover pressing financial obligations, thinking they'd be able to replace it quickly. But they often can't pay the group back as their other debts mount.

The scouts have used a combination of lawsuits and collections agencies to pursue debtors in the past. This year, though, the organization filed lawsuits against everyone who owes more than \$200. Smaller debts will be handled internally.

The San Antonio scouts will begin their next cookie sale in January. They raised about \$3.1 million in last year's sale.

Low-rated schools may see transfers

AUSTIN (AP) — More than 293,000 students at the state's worst campuses have the right to transfer to a better school under Texas' education choice law after the number of low-rated schools saw a dramatic jump this year.

The Texas Education Agency listed 420 schools statewide Friday, up from 126 a year ago. Houston led the state with 62 schools that failed to make the grade. The Dallas school district had the second-most, with 48 campuses.

Even with the transfer option, few students are expected to take advan-

tage of the Public Education Grant program. Reasons for that include that transportation is not provided and school districts are not required to accept students from neighboring districts.

Republican leaders in the Legislature may use that fact to argue that students need vouchers that can be used at private schools to be free of low-performing public schools.

State education officials attributed the increase in failing schools to the tougher performance standards introduced this year that were based in large part on the state's redesigned

achievement test, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

"We expected to see an increase because schools are being held to higher standards under the accountability system, and we added test scores in science and social studies to the criteria," said Debbie Ratcliffe, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency.

"Low student performance on the science test was one of the most common reasons that schools were rated academically unacceptable this year," she said.

To make the list, a school had to have more than 50 percent of its students fail the TAKS or its predecessor the TAAS in any two of the last three years or have been rated academically unacceptable this year or in 2002. Performance ratings were not issued in 2003.

Students from those schools can transfer to another public school in their own district or another district — if that district agrees to accept them. Those that do receive a financial incentive from the state — an

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 5

Laxer flu shot limits expected

ATLANTA (AP) — Worried that tens of thousands of doses may go to waste, a federal advisory panel wants the government to ease restrictions on the nation's supply of flu vaccine.

The panel recommended Friday that the shots be made available to everyone 50 and older.

The U.S. supply of flu vaccine was cut in half earlier this year when a Liverpool, England, factory was shut down because of contamination.

In response, the government recommended in October that healthy adults delay or skip a flu shot this season to save vaccine for the estimated 98 million people in the country who need it most — the elderly, infants or those with chronic conditions.

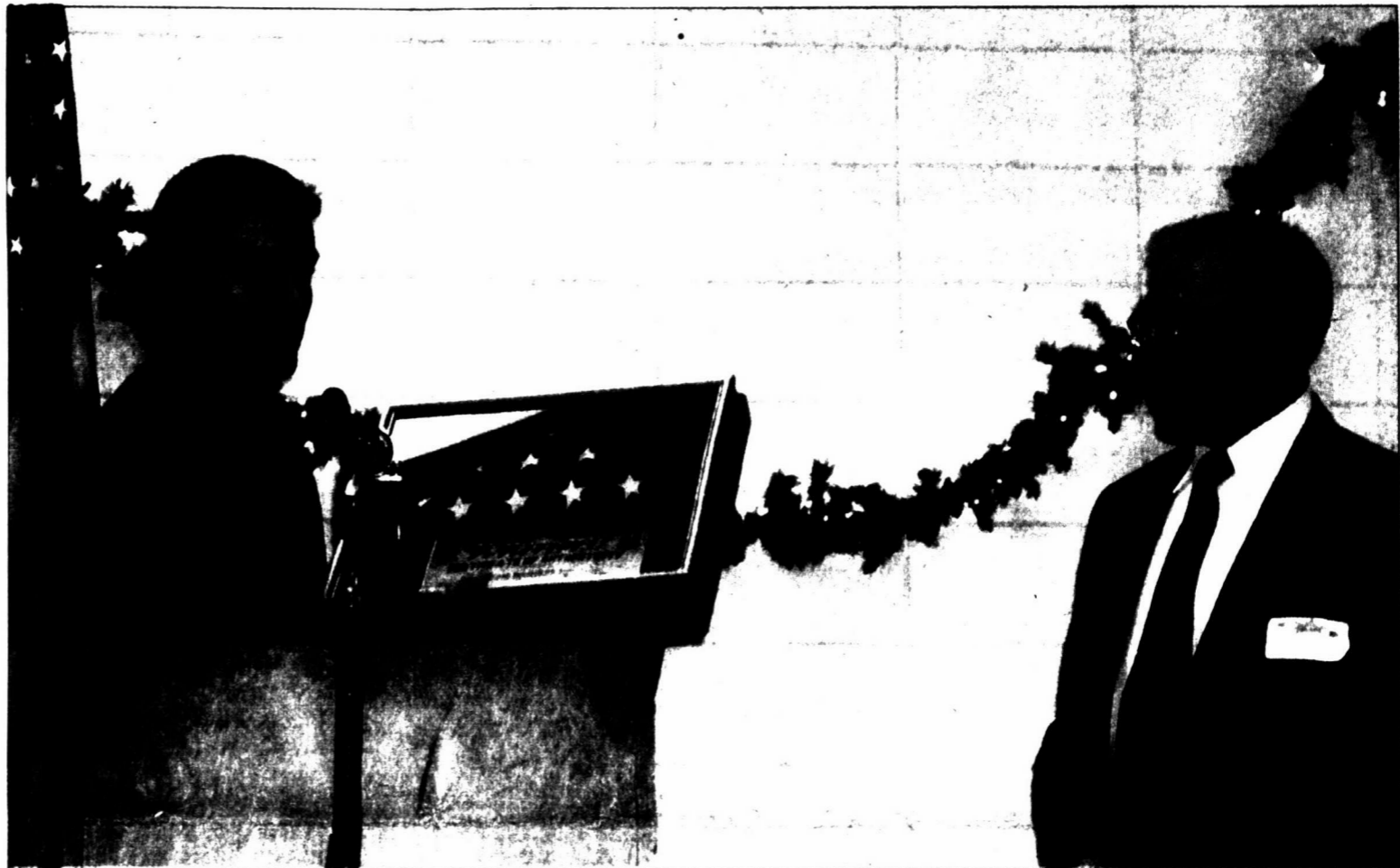
Those people are at highest risk of severe complications or death from the flu, which kills on average 36,000 people and hospitalizes 200,000 each year in the country.

More than four out of five states report having sufficient supplies of flu shots, and at least six states have reported a surplus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

One reason is that many of the elderly or chronically ill people who were given top priority for flu vaccinations did not even try to obtain a shot because they figured they would not be able to get one.

Also, the flu season has been mild so far.

A flu shot is only good for the flu season it is made for, and any excess must be disposed of at the end of the season, which can run through April.



For supporting our troops

During the Titan Specialties, Ltd., annual Christmas party recently Clifton Dyer, left, presents Clarence Marak, right, with an American flag from the 709 MP Battalion which flew over Bagdad, Iraq, on Sept. 6, 2003. The flag was presented to the Marak and Titan Specialties in honor of the support the company has given to U.S. troops. Titan employees Dyer, Doug Fulton and Mauricio Vasquez were recognized for their military service.

Dobson official clarifies position

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

Tim Duffy of Dobson Communications would like to set the record straight.

Duffy, who is senior vice president and chief technical officer of the company in Oklahoma City, Okla., was unavailable for comment when an update on the new cell phone transmitter tower, one mile west of Pampa was published in the Dec. 5 issue of The Pampa News.

"I wasn't able to respond or return calls, being out of the country," Duffy said in a telephone interview last week.

"There have been numerous conversations between us and Debbie Stokes. Also, the tower owner has been in contact with her, but she won't talk to them anymore," he said.

Stokes and several of her neighbors have expressed displeasure with the

tower's placement near the intersection of County Roads D and 5, one mile west of Pampa. They have cited concerns about the tower's possible effects on property values, health, safety and enjoyment of their homes, with the tower seen as an eyesore.

The strobe lights originally mounted on the tower, which Stokes cited as a potential health hazard that could cause seizures in people with epilepsy, were changed at Dobson's initiative, not due to any action by Stokes, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Duffy said.

"The lights were changed because initially, when the tower was built, the

strobes were on all the time. But in the interest of public safety and the residents, we changed them to red at night," he said.

'I wasn't able to respond or return calls, being out of the country.'

— **Tim Duffy**
Company official

Stokes had said the lights were changed after the FCC had responded to complaints she had lodged. She also had said that an antenna mounted partway down the tower, as well as a satellite dish-style antenna, were removed because it was required by the FCC.

"We have had no communication from the FAA or FCC about this tower" since the time when licensing for the tower was sought and received, Duffy said.

See **TOWER**, Page 5

Children's Shopping Tour draws 200 volunteers

By **John W. Warner**
Special to the News

"I have been in the business of helping children at Christmas for 35 years," said Capt. Patricia Stewart of the Salvation Army. "and the Children's Shopping Tour is the best project of its kind that I have ever seen."

On Saturday, Dec. 11 more than 200 volunteers from the community provided 88 children an opportunity to give to others at Christmas through the Children's Shopping Tour. The children shopped at

Wal-Mart and Top Of Texas Outlet for members of their households, not for themselves.

They purchased bicycles, coats, clothing and toys.

"The children really do a good job of shopping," said Gayla Rigdon, a Kiwanian who was the general chair for the event.

Rigdon gave an overview of the project before the chaperones fanned out of the

'I have been in the business of helping children at Christmas for 35 years and the Children's Shopping Tour is the best project of its kind that I have ever seen.'

Capt. Patricia Stewart
Salvation Army

Optimist Club to pick up participating children. The chaperones were permitted to spend \$30 for each family member. After doing their shopping, the children

returned to the Optimist gym where they wrapped their packages. An estimated 700 packages were wrapped in about an hour and half.

The Optimists Mrs. Club sponsored the wrap-

ping party. The Optimist Club, headed by Ronnie N. Haynes, provided a hamburger luncheon with chips and soft drinks. Cooks included

Optimists Billy West, Bill Kidwell, Jimmy Cantrell and K.T. York.

"We served 310 hamburgers," Haynes said.

Children who finished their shopping and wrapping early, competed in a coloring contest sponsored by the Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Director Jana Gregory was in charge.

"I had a hard time deciding who the winners were," Gregory said. "Some of them were exceptionally

See **TOUR**, Page 3

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Tour

Continued from Page 1

good."

The children sang Christmas carols led by Ann Franklin, the Kiwanian who also put together a brochure on the project for the chaperones to refer to. The children heard a rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" and another Christmas story before hearing a devotional by Danny Hendricks, a youth director for First United Methodist Church.

The Gideon organization gave Bibles to any child or adult who wanted one.

"We gave out about 150 Bibles," said Dr. Mark Ford.

One of the highlights of the luncheon was the appearance of Santa Claus, who had a gift for every child. The children had their pictures taken with Santa by Kiwanians Rigdon and Shelly Cook and given them as a souvenir. Cook was in charge of recruiting the volunteers who assisted with the project.

Capt. Stewart and Sandra McKinney, of the Texas

Department of Health and Human Services, cross-checked all applications.

"We had 296 applications this year and wound up inviting 99 to attend," said John Wagner, who has been in charge of registration for the past four years. "We would like to have more children but we limit it to children who are between the ages of five and 10 who have never been on the tour before."

"Everything I heard from everybody was positive," Haynes said. "I think this project touched the hearts of those

who helped in a special way. I had many people make it a point to tell me that they were blessed to have participated and would definitely help again next year. That's what we like to hear."

One chaperone explained that she had never seen a child so happy as when he walked into his living room with his arms full of presents for his family.

The project is a joint project between the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, Pampa Kiwanis Club and Salvation Army. The Energizer Sunday School Class

of the First United Methodist Church, Tralee Crisis Center and the Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross also furnish members of the Steering Committee, which organizes the project.

Other groups involved this year include Pampa Harvester Basketball Team, Lady Harvester Basketball Team, Pampa Harvester Football Team, Drug Free Youth in Texas, ASTRA Club, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of FUMC, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Body of Christ at

Pampa, Gideons, Junior Service League, Pampa High School Rodeo Club, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, First Christian Church and its Disciple Women's Ministry and Lamplighter's Sunday School Class, the Miami Area Youth Organization, First Baptist Church of Miami and City of Pampa Police Department.

The combined efforts of these groups put happy smiles on the faces of an estimated 293 children and family members whose Christmas season was brightened by the project.



For Heaven's Sake

For Heaven's Sake Daycare & Preschool recently held a special holiday program, "Someone Has a Birthday!" narrated by Sherry Etheredge. In the foreground, from left to right are Ashlyn Roby, Elizabeth Yearicks and Mackenzie Gordon as shepherds and Lynnze Standerfer as an angel.

FOOT FACTS BY BROWNS SHOE FIT CO.

BED AND SHOES... A wise doctor said, "Everyone should own a really comfortable bed and a good pair of shoes, for you are in one or the other most of your life." The average person takes about 15,000 steps each day. If you weigh 150 pounds, the feet and nervous system absorb about 2,250,000 pressure pounds daily. If you are a housewife or sales girl, you will average 8 miles a day; a policeman on his beat, 14 miles; a mailman, 22 miles; a youngster, about 12 miles daily. Common sense tells us that no item of clothing is more important than shoes - and shoes that fit correctly. Trust your feet only to an experienced and conscientious shoe fitter.



Seminar to examine feedgrain marketing options

AMARILLO — A two-day Advanced Topic Series seminar slated for Jan. 12-13, 2005, will help producers develop a feed-grain marketing plan, said a Texas Cooperative Extension economist.

"We will focus on break-evens, market fundamentals and technical signals, and seasonal trends in cash, basis, and forward contracts for feedgrains," said Steve Amosson, Extension economist based at Amarillo.

"We will also discuss pre- and post-harvest marketing strategies and how to use these strategies based on market conditions."

"We will use a combination of classroom lectures and small work groups to provide a learning environment similar to our Master Marketer training. Our goal is for every participant to leave the seminar with a written marketing plan for their operation for the upcoming year."

The seminar will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Amarillo.

Amosson and Mark Waller, Extension economist in grain marketing and policy

based at College Station, will teach the seminar. Both are co-directors of Extension's Master Marketer program and have taught more than 100 beginning and advanced marketing courses.

Registration is \$125 per person, and includes educational materials, breaks and lunch. Spouses can attend for the same fee, as long as the couple shares materials, Amosson said.

Preregistration is required. The registration deadline is Jan. 5. To register or to get more information, contact Amosson at (806) 677-5600. Registration forms are also available at Extension offices.

Extension offers several Advanced Topic Series agricultural marketing workshops each year. Partial funding for this year's Advanced Topic Series is provided by the Southern Region Risk Management Education Center, Amosson said.

The series is also underwritten by the sponsors of the Master Marketer Educational System, the Texas Wheat Producers Board, Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Farm Bureau and the Texas State Cotton Support Committee.

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Free Christmas Dinner

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Saturday, December 25th

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

at The Fellowship Hall of

Mary Ellen & Harvester

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Across from the High School

Come and share with us the blessing and Surplus of God's Grace as we eat on Christmas Day!

For take out meals or deliveries call church office at 665-0031 by December 21st to reserve your meals.

PtMIPA
Pampa Independent School District

Pampa ISD Event Calendar

Watch this space every Sunday for a weekly listing of non-athletic events from every campus in our school district

Events for Pampa ISD for the week of December 19-25

All Campuses - Christmas Holidays

Events for Pampa ISD for the week of December 26-January 1

All Campuses - Christmas Holidays

Events for Pampa ISD for the week of January 2-8

All Campuses

January 3 • Teacher Inservice
January 4 • All Students Return

Pampa High School

January 6 • 7:00 • Financial Aid Meeting • Library
January 6 • Report cards

January 7 • Band & Choir Auditions All State • Midland
January 8 • Band & Choir Auditions All State • Midland

For the most up-to-date Pampa ISD information, Go to the school website at www.pampaisd.net. From the parent information drop-down menu, click on the Pampa ISD Event Calendar

This PISD Events Calendar courtesy of the Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau Agents
Ray Boring • Brandon Wheeler • Ricky Martin



Bright

Continued from Page 4

from another child's piggy bank in the back seat.

Indeed many victories are small, yet worth pursuing. The 7-year-old boy, sporting a report card that gives parents bragging rights, was rewarded with a trip to see the Dallas Mavericks play basketball at the American Airlines Center. He had never been inside the splendid basketball palace, and upon taking his seat was

ready for the sights and sounds of the evening.

It was yet early. Mostly, he busied himself reading ads; he was not short on reading. The UPS slogan on the scoreboard caught his eye: "What can brown do for you?" The question had bugged him since preschool when he first heard it on a TV ad. It whirled in his head like the "Little Drummer Boy" melody playing on endless audio loops at the malls.

As Dirk Nowitzki and lesser stars took the floor, the 7-year-old high-fived with his folks and others within reaching distance. Oh, it had

nothing to do with the team's arrival. He had the answer for the UPS question, and surely it might earn him a nice prize.

I've got it! I've got it," he screamed. "Call UPS immediately! I know what brown can do for us: Mixed with white, it can give us tan."

Seems reasonable to me. Ah, and the Mavericks won! There were no injuries, on or off the court. Crowd deportment was feisty, but well short of unruly. Security folks pretty much blended in, chatting with fans. It was a good night.

One wonders what lies ahead in new safety measures for thousands of people at sporting and concert events. Some people employed to keep the peace at the latter venues are called "bouncers." What may be needed instead are "deflators."

Avoid situations with bouncers. Take a deep breath as you finish out the year; keep in mind that folks on the high road diffuse many problems. A friend reminds that first-class people treat others first class; second-class people treat others third class.

May the gifts you get and

give all fit and please, each bundled in "first-class" sentiments. And, as you move about in ever-increasing traffic, avoid fast-food drive throughs if the line is long and the front car has a baby seat in it.

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist. His weekly column appears in more than 100 newspapers in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Feel free to contact him at 817.447.3872 or by e-mail: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

Prisons

Continued from Page 4

Allen, chairman of the House Corrections Committee, told Ward: "Tight budgets have forced fiscal conservatives like myself to ask the same questions liber-

als were asking 10 years ago. We're all at the same reality now on criminal justice, I think: We simply cannot afford to keep everyone behind bars."

Prisons are the state equivalent of the national defense budget it's a sacred cow with a high-decibel moo. The prison system employs

45,000 and carries a \$2.4 billion annual budget.

In the 1990s the prison system added 100,000 beds and became the largest penal system in the free world (if you'll pardon the expression.)

All that adds up. Contrast a \$45 per day per convict price tag with the \$2 a day it costs to keep a convict on

probation. No one would responsibly advocate putting everyone on probation because some people need to be in jail.

Paying for the knowledge to identify those convicts who should be locked up and those who could safely serve an alternative sentence would be money well spent.

River of Life plans Christmas service

SKELLYTOWN — On Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m., River of Life Assembly of God in Skellytown will host a Christmas candlelight and communion service for the public.

"It's a wonderful time to celebrate Christmas with the family," said Pastor Danny Trussell. "Plan to bring the whole family for a beautiful service. Come and put Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration."

River of Life is located on the corner of 5th and Chamberlain streets. Go to the old Taylor Mart building, turn right on 5th and go to Chamberlain. The church will be on the right.

Tower

Continued from Page 1

The microwave and satellite antennas were "removed at our choice. It had nothing to do with Debbie Stokes. The lower antenna was temporary and was no longer needed," he said.

Dobson Cellular Systems, which is a cell phone service provider in Pampa, and Cellular One are not owned by the same company, and Dobson does not own Cellular One, as understood by Stokes, Duffy said.

"Dobson Cellular Systems is owned by

Dobson Communications Corporation of Oklahoma City. Cellular One in Pampa is owned by Western Wireless Corporation out of Seattle, Wash.," he said.

Dobson has contracted for use of the tower, and Stokes said she understood Cellular One also was using the tower for transmissions.

Not everyone in Pampa is unhappy with the new tower, Duffy said.

"We have received many calls applauding our investment in Pampa," he said.

"This is progress for Pampa. The fact that we are willing to go out there and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide state-of-the-art service to Pampa says something about the Dobson family," Duffy said.

Schools

Continued from Page 1

extra 10 percent per pupil.

Students at substandard schools also have the right to transfer to a better school under the federal No Child Left Behind Act but the num-

ber of eligible campuses is less than half that under the Texas Public Education Grant program.

In September, 199 Texas schools were put on the federal list. Passing rates on the TAKS were the main criteria in compiling that list.

Under the federal program, school districts must provide transportation to a

transferring student, unlike the state program.

Since the Public Education Grant program began in the late 1990s, just under 2,000 students including 127 last year have used it to transfer to a new school.

Information from: The Dallas Morning News, <http://www.dallasnews.com>

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Texas cotton production shows gain

AUSTIN — Texas Upland cotton production for 2004 is expected to total 7.6 million bales, up 76 percent from 2003 and down 1 percent from last month, according to figures released by Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

"Recent rain and snow throughout the month of November caused harvest delays," reported Robin Roark, state director.

By the end of the month, harvest was at least three weeks behind the five-year average.

Statewide harvested acreage is esti-

mated at 5.5 million acres, 26 percent above last year.

Yield is expected to average 663 pounds per acre compared with 478 pounds last year and 672 pounds from the November forecast.

Production on the Southern High Plains is estimated to total 3.33 million bales, up 91 percent from last year's production. Average yield, at 615 pounds per acre, is 208 pounds more than a year ago.

The Northern High Plains crop, estimated at 1.2 million bales, is 126 per-

cent more than last year. In the Low Plains production is estimated at 950,000 bales, 68 percent more than last year.

United States Upland cotton production is expected to total 22.1 million bales, up 24 percent from last year and up 1 percent from the November forecast.

Yield is expected to average 818 pounds per acre compared with 723 pounds in 2003. Harvested acreage is estimated at 13.0 million acres, 10 percent higher than a year ago.



Altrusa honorarium

Altrusa President Billie Dixon, left, recently presented a \$1,000 honorarium to Mary Wilson, right. The funds are to be used for a scholarship in Wilson's name. Wilson has been a member of the Pampa Altrusa Club for 40 years.

Call this man when your city gets sued

By LARRY McSHANE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Consider the case of the soused spouse.

Shortly after midnight on Nov. 14, 1999, a drunken Jose Ordonez returned to his East Harlem home and demanded dinner. When his wife refused, the 240-pound Ordonez allegedly beat her. Police arrived and arrested Ordonez; as they walked the intoxicated suspect down the stairs, he stumbled, missed a step and broke his ankle.

Ordonez's next step? He called a lawyer and sued the cops.

Each year, 37,000 people sue New York City. Some of those cases strain the imagination.

There was the Bronx man, legally blind, who drove his car into a concrete barrier and sued.

The guy who bought a stolen SUV in a city airport parking lot for \$75 and sued.

The two inmates who shot themselves with a smuggled handgun in their Rikers Island jail cells and sued.

Representing the Big Apple in the nation's most litigious city is Michael Cardozo, named in January 2002 as New York City corporation counsel. The city's top legal gun runs an office of 650 lawyers in all five boroughs.

"This is the greatest general counsel job that any lawyer could ever have," said Cardozo, a descendant of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo. "The variety of legal issues is just so overwhelming."

See CARDOZO, Page 7

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Iowa farm land values hit record price

AMES, Iowa (AP) — The average price of Iowa farmland jumped 15.6 percent this year to a record \$2,629 an acre, according to an annual survey by Iowa State University.

The increase means the value of the state's 32.6 million acres of farmland increased \$11.5 billion in the year that ended Nov. 1, said Michael Duffy, an Iowa State economist who conducted the study.

It is the fifth consecutive year that farmland prices have risen.

Duffy said that when adjusted for inflation, the price of Iowa's farmland is about the same as in 1973. That was the beginning of the farmland boom, which led to

a peak value of \$2,147 an acre in 1981. After that, Iowa farmland lost 63 percent of its value, falling to a statewide average of \$787 an acre.

Farmland prices have rebounded, soaring 234 percent in the past 18 years. Prices have risen 47 percent in the past five years.

He said several factors, such as inflation and the size of government farm program payments can influence the market. A big difference between now and 20 years ago is that more farmland is debt free.

The rapid increase has some wondering if another crash is just around the corner, Duffy said.

In the early 1980s, about 60 percent of farmland was

free of debt. When interest rates shot up, many farm loans became unmanageable and the land was put back on the market, which drove prices down further, Duffy said.

Today, more than 75 percent of Iowa's farmland is debt free, making it less vulnerable to increasing interest rates, he said.

Another difference is that government farm program payments, which totaled more than \$11 billion between 1995 and 2003, have supported farmland prices, Duffy said.

Between 25 percent and 50 percent of Iowa's farmland prices are attributed to government farm payments, something that wasn't the case 20 years ago, he said.

The Iowa State study surveyed real estate brokers, farm lenders and others who work directly with farmland markets.

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Cardozo

Continued from Page 6

Included in Cardozo's annual budget is \$560 million to pay off lawsuit judgments or settlements. The city isn't giving money away: New York's lawyers post a pretty fair 52 percent

'New York City is endlessly sued — sometimes with no basis at all, or a concocted basis. Someone is always trying to rip them off. I think the corporation counsel's office is pretty good.'

— Edward Hayes
New York attorney

winning mark in court.

"New York City is endlessly sued — sometimes with no basis at all, or a concocted basis," said veteran New York attorney Edward Hayes. "Someone is always trying to rip them off. I think the corporation counsel's office is pretty good."

Ordonez might agree. He sought \$6.5 million for his ankle, but wound up with zip from a Manhattan jury.

The corporation counsel's office is nearly as old as the city itself, created in 1683 as a New World version of an English position called "the recorder."

The job disappeared during the Revolutionary War, but it was an absolute necessity by the start of the 19th century. It wasn't until 1849 that the actual office of corporation counsel was established, with a five-member staff.

The office expanded with the city. It now stands as the third largest law firm in New York, behind only the international powerhouse Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and the citywide Legal Aid Society. Its 17 divisions stretch into virtually every aspect of the city's massive legal machinery.

— In Family Court, 80 lawyers handle cases ranging from a knife-toting

schoolkid to a teen drug mule packed with heroin-filled condoms at Kennedy International Airport.

— North of the city, in Kingston, a half-dozen city attorneys deal with environmental, real estate and zoning issues involving the city's reservoir.

— The city signs off on \$4 billion worth of contracts annually, and the counsel's office approves each one.

"One better be ready for this job 24/7," said Victor Kovner, corporation counsel during the Dinkins administration. "It's very hectic, very demanding."

The tort division, with 180 lawyers, handles cases of every size and shape and takes a staggering 60 of them to trial every week. The lawsuits often linger for years; a case won by the city last month dated back to 1991.

"The amount each lawyer handles is breathtaking," said Larry Levy, a 14-year veteran of the corporation counsel's office now in private practice.

The bizarre cases make headlines. But the caseload also includes thousands of lawsuits, on everything from police brutality to worker's compensation, filed by legitimate plaintiffs with legitimate complaints.

When a Staten Island ferry crashed in October 2003, killing 11 people and injuring dozens more, Cardozo's office settled more than 50 claims within 13 months.

His lawyers also uncovered one fraud — a Manhattan man who claimed he was a passenger when the ferry slammed into a concrete pier. An investigation showed he had filed more than 10 previous lawsuits against the city, and was only trying to cash in on the tragedy.

"You get some stories to tell at cocktail parties," said Kate O'Brien Ahlers, communications director for the office.

Michael Hess, corporation counsel during the Giuliani administration, remembers his first week on the job in 1998: It included a \$76.4 million jury award to a reputed Bronx gang member left paralyzed by a gunfight with an off-duty police officer. The city argued that the officer only returned fire after the plaintiff shot at him with a Tech-9 submachine gun.

"That jury should have

thought, 'Where is this money coming from?'" Hess said. "It's taxpayer money. That's something to be thought about."

A legal note: Sixteen years later, the case remains on appeal by the city.

There are dozens of similar cases down through the years, part of the lore in the counsel's office. In 1990, in one of the most infamous incidents, a drunken dishwasher lost his left arm when he tumbled in front of an oncoming subway train. He won a \$9.3 million award from a Bronx jury.

"God bless America!" proclaimed the plaintiff, Francisco Marino, a Mexican immigrant. Six years later, a state appeals court threw out his would-be windfall.

"There's always those bizarre, frivolous claims," said Kovner, whose watch coincided with the Marino case. "I noted them, and try not to think about them."

For Cardozo, such cases are now part of the routine. He came to the corpora-

tion counsel's job from one of the city's top law firms, Proskauer Rose, where he was a senior partner. He spent four years there as co-chair of the litigation department.

His office has established a "risk management" unit to assess the lawsuits, paying off legitimate cases but tar-

getting those that appear shady.

"It's so important to say, 'That's a lot of baloney. We've got to defend that case,'" he said.

After all, potential lawsuits can crop up almost anywhere. Consider the case of the lumbering lawyer.

Levy recalled one night

several years back when he was crossing a wet Greenwich Village street. He suddenly lost his balance and tumbled to the street.

"I slipped," he said with a laugh. "And suddenly there were three strangers on the corner shouting, 'Sue the city! Sue the city!'"

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Santa, I

Museum Mementos

How the legend of Rudolph began

On an icy January morning in 1939, Robert L. May felt like a loser as he was going to his job grinding out catalogue copy in the Montgomery Ward building at Chicago. His wife was gravely ill, and he was deeply in debt.

In the copy department, he was asked by the department head to design a booklet to replace the Christmas give-away coloring books that Montgomery Ward had been buying from local peddlers.

The proposed booklet would save money for the firm, and the boss thought that it should be an animal story with a character like Ferdinand the Bull.

That night May decided that a reindeer would be the appropriate animal for a Christmas story. He wanted the

plot to give hope to children by showing that a little reindeer who was teased by other reindeer could turn into an admired leader of Santa's rein-

Eloise Lane

White Deer Land Museum, Pampa



deer.

As he wondered what could make his little Rudolph different from Donner, Blitzen and the other reindeer, suddenly he had the idea of a bright red nose that could shine through fog

like a flashlight. The nose would help Santa bring joy to children.

May's boss was not pleased with the plan for the booklet and said that a red-nosed reindeer would be a monstrosity, but May had faith in Rudolph and asked a friend in the art department to draw a reindeer with a big red nose that would still be appealing. The boss studied the sketches for a long time before he smiled and told May to put his story in finished form.

May finished his booklet in late August, and Rudolph's story was rushed into print. About 3 million copies were given to children for Christmas, and soon the copy office at Montgomery Ward was flooded with enthusiastic letters from grateful parents.

In 1949, song publishers began to contact May for permission to use Rudolph's story for a song. A company official said that Rudolph belonged to Montgomery Ward, but Sewell Avery, then chairman of the board of directors, said, "Let Bob May have the copyright."

In 1949, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," with lyrics and music by Johnny Marks, was published by St. Nicholas Publishing Company in New York. It was first sung and then popularized by Gene Autry, and now it is sung at Christmas time by children over all the world.

In December 1964, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was featured on TV in a stop-motion animation style dubbed "Animagic" by producers Arthur Rankin, Jr., and Julian Bass.

The song has aired annually ever since, finding a new home in 1972 at CBS who gave the song its 40th anniversary telecast on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004.

In the 1950s and 1960s, boys and girls attending Sam Houston Elementary School in Pampa sang a parody based on "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The parody was about Randolph, the bow-legged cowboy, who had a very shiny gun — anyone who saw it would turn around and run. The cowboys laughed at Randolph and would not let him join in any poker games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, the sheriff asked Randolph to use his gun so bright to guide the posse through the night. Then the cowboys shouted out with glee and told Randolph that he would go down in history.



Drawing by Jack Percy.

RRC offers some propane safety tips

AUSTIN — Winter Texans can locate nearly 1,000 propane refueling sites as well as recreational vehicle parks and state historic sites by logging onto the Texas Railroad Commission's website: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/>. This one-stop website, also found at: <http://www.propane.tx.gov/safety/winter-texans.html>, provides RV operators with See RRC, Page 10

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Jazmyn, 9

Dear Santa,
 I would like traintwister and mathbox, haunted house and Sorry Battle Ship, Bulls-eye ball, mission painter, shirt, basketball goal, video now, Conner four, spiderman, 2 blonive, Dwel disk, turtles, Whao-a-Mole, life, CD player, pac-man.
Daniel
 P.S. Thank you.

Dear Santa,
 For Christmas, I want my brother Jeremy to come home from the Army. I also want a robot that has fire shooting from his head and I want some cowboy clothes.
 Thank you.
Clayton

Dear Santa,
 Pong ping, cholor, puzzle, sorry.
Hailey Hutchison

Dear Santa,
 I have been good to others and kind. Bring me, Mom, Dad and Chichi lots of stuff. All my friends have been very good they all deserve cool CDs. My grandparents deserve thousands of gifts.
 Bring my cousins alot of gifts.
 Please remember to sing Happy birthday to Jesus! I love you Santa.
 Ho Ho Ho love,
Dacie McGill, 7

Dear Santa,
 How are you?
 I hope good.
 My name is Thomas J.
 I am only 6-months-old.
 Santa, I am a good baby. I like my Christmas tree. The lights excite me.
 Santa, I need some clothes and shoes. I would like

See LETTERS, Page 10

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Area news

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum adding to its staff

CANYON — Amy David has been chosen as the new programs coordinator at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, according to a press release from PPHM.

A Florida native, David was the curator of education at Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa, Fla., and was the former executive director of Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History at Safety Harbor, Fla.

David holds a bachelor of art degree in art history from Salem College in Winston-Salem, N.C., and a masters of liberal studies in museum studies from the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

David's professional responsibilities have included the creation and implementation of educa-



Amy David

tional programs, fund-raising, development of outreach programs and promotion of corporate and individual membership benefits and services.

Professional affiliations include membership in the American Association of Museums and former board of trustee position with Florida Association of Museums.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to join the team at such an outstanding institution," Davidsaid in the press release. "I look forward to new programming and outreach opportunities for both the museum members and the general public."

"Ms. David possesses significant museum-related work experience, and she will be an important part of the museum's efforts to provide high-quality learning experiences for residents of the region and state," said Guy C. Vanderpool, director of PPHM.

T.R.I.P. deters farm equipment theft

MIAMI — Texas Recovery and Identification Program (T.R.I.P.) is designed for owners of both commercial and farm grade equipment to enter specific information regarding their property into a database that will be utilized by law enforcement personnel in tracking stolen equipment.

Registration of equipment is done online and is free. According to the Texas Crime Information Center, in the year 2000, 784 pieces of commercial equipment were stolen and 801 pieces of farm equipment. The year 2001 reflected 788 pieces of commercial equipment and 1063 pieces of farm equipment stolen.

Types of equipment that are eligible for the T.R.I.P. must meet three criteria: it must

be commercial or farm grade, it must have permanent wheels or tracks, and it must have a manufacturer Property Identification Number (PIN) or serial number.

T.R.I.P. was designed as a pointer system to find out who the owner of the equipment is and allow law enforcement to verify if it has been stolen. The program helps owners of this equipment because law enforcement will already have their equipment information available in the event it is stolen. It is possible that law enforcement might know the equipment is stolen before the owner does because the registration information is placed in a law enforcement database that is accessible 24/7.

Equipment is registered online at http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/mvt. For help or questions on the program or registering equipment, call Kacy Bivens, with Roberts County Crime Victims Assistance Program, at 868-2089.

Protecting vehicles during the holidays

The Grinch not only wants to steal Christmas, he wants to steal your car, too! Protect your vehicle this holiday season from Mr. Bah Humbug himself: The Auto Thief.

A car is stolen every 25 seconds in the United States, amounting to over 1.2 million vehicles stolen across the country last year alone. In 2003, Texas motor vehicle theft victims suffered losses totaling \$782,330,063, making auto theft the number one property crime in the state.

Sgt. Jerry Hataway with the Arlington Police Department warns, "Thieves are everywhere. Most are opportunists who try to take the easy way out. Don't leave your car anywhere you're not sure of and be aware of your surroundings."

Drunk

Continued from Page 10

member to come and get you; • Or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober; • And remember — Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season.

are out shopping, dining or enjoying friends and family this season, you can help protect your vehicle, valuables and life if you follow these simple preventative steps:

- 1. Always take the keys with you and lock the doors.
2. Park in well-lit areas.
3. Use anti-theft devices anytime your vehicle is left unattended.
4. Do not leave valuables out in plain sight to tempt thieves.

vehicle burglary picks up at the shopping malls and congestive areas. Thieves go where the crowds are because it makes it easier for them to blend in and commit a crime," Sgt. Hataway said.

Thieves target all vehicles, which makes every driver a potential victim of auto theft.

By stealing your car a thief can also gain access to your identity and personal information. Be proactive this holiday season.

"Over the holidays motor

See AUTOS, Page 14

Advertisement for Pampa Communications Satellites. Features: WHY IS DIGITAL CABLE SO EXPENSIVE? SWITCH TO DISH NETWORK AND SAVE. Includes logos for abc, CBS, FOX, and PBS.

Drilling

Continued from Page 10

Energy Production Co., L.P., #1 Effie Hayes '18', 502' from South & 2270' from East line, Sec. 18, RE, R&E, PD 14600'.

Recompletion WHEELER (WEST PARK Granite Wash) Devon Energy Production Co., L.P., #2 Holmes '17', 800' from North & 1063' from East line, Sec. 17, RE, R&E, PD 14500'.

Recompletion Gas Well Completions HEMPHILL (ALPAR Tonkawa) Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #2113 Yarnold, Sec. 113,41, H&T, spud 3-20-04, drlg. compl 4-10-04, tested 9-16-04, potential 581 MCF, TD 8312'.

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #4306P Bourassa 'C', Sec. 43, M-1, H&G, spud 8-13-04, drlg. compl 8-28-04, tested 10-26-04, TD 11900', PBTD 11836'.

HEMPHILL (N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Pablo Energy, Inc., #101 Vollmert, Sec. 1, B-1, H&G, spud 8-17-04, drlg. compl 9-8-04, tested 11-4-04, TD 11751', PBTD 11349'.

HUTCHINSON (WILDCAT) Burnett Oil Co., Inc., #3802 Coble Suffolk, John Gibbs Survey, A-38, spud 5-16-04, drlg. compl 6-1-04, tested 8-2-04, potential 1273.2 MCF, TD 7050', PBTD 6618'.

HUTCHINSON (WEST PANHANDLE) Pantera Energy Co., #3035A Penny, Sec. 35, Y, A&B,

spud 9-25-04, drlg. compl 9-27-04, tested 11-8-04, TD 2750', PBTD 2693'.

WHEELER (ALLISON-BRITT 12350') Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #2-21 Elmore, Sec. 21, RE, R&E, spud 7-26-04, drlg. compl 8-10-04, tested 9-15-04, potential 2653 MCF, TD 12800', PBTD 12751'.

Plugged Wells CARSON (PANHANDLE) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., S.B. Burnett (oil) — for the following:

#30, Sec. 107.5, I&GN, spud 7-30-57, plugged 8-17-04, TD 3026'.

#32, Sec. 126.5, I&GN, spud 9-6-57, plugged 9-3-04, TD 3155'.

#34, Sec. 116.5, I&GN, spud 11-2-57, plugged 8-27-04, TD 3209'.

#36, Sec. 106.5, I&GN, spud 11-9-57, plugged 7-28-04, TD 3139'.

#37, Sec. 116.5, I&GN, spud 11-15-57, plugged 7-22-04, TD 3191'.

#38, Sec. 106.5, I&GN, spud 11-29-57, plugged 7-26-04, TD 3157'.

#41, Sec. 106.5, I&GN, spud 12-23-57, plugged 8-19-04, TD 3157'.

#44, Sec. 117.5, I&GN, spud 12-14-57, plugged 8-31-04, TD 3258'.

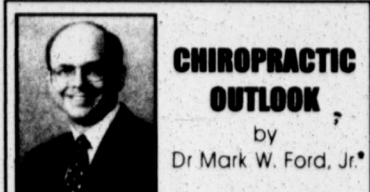
#45, Sec. 105.5, I&GN, spud 1-19-58, plugged 8-25-04, TD 3258'.

#59, Sec. 106.5, I&GN, spud 8-3-58, plugged 8-3-04, TD 3174'.

#65, Sec. 106.5, I&GN, spud 10-30-58, plugged 8-11-04, TD 3131'.

#68, Sec. 126.5, I&GN,

spud in 1957, plugged 9-9-04, TD 3122'.



CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK by Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.

CHIROPRACTIC HELPS BOTH ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN

An injury can cause acute medical conditions. Your child falls off a swing and gets a sprain or you hurt your back from raking. These types of situations usually require frequent treatments by the Doctor of Chiropractic in the early stages when there is swelling and pain. How long it takes for treatment varies, depending on the severity and type of problem.

Chronic conditions are those that are present for longer periods of time. In many cases, an illness that started many months or years in the past is still present. For example, some people get headaches for many years. A medical situation often goes from being acute to chronic because it is not originally treated to the degree that is needed.

Perhaps a person ignores a subtle headache, thinking the problem will go away. However, the pain becomes increasingly worse. Had the condition been treated in its early stages, recovery would have been swift. Now it will take much longer for the chiropractor to determine the cause and eliminate the problem.

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Sports Day



Hand ball

Lefors Lady Bandit Emily Jackson, #14, battles a Wheeler player during a recent home game. Lefors won the game, 37-8, improving to 4-1 on the season. Jackson scored 11 points in the game. Other top Bandit scorers included Rebecka Lawrence with six points. Ashlyn Johnson added five. Haley Smith and Ashley Shepard each ended with four points. Misty Parish, Valerie Willis and Lacey Johnston finished with two points each.

Bears, Texans match 5-8 seasons

CHICAGO (AP) — The Texans kept Peyton Manning and the NFL's most potent offense out of the end zone for an entire half last week, a rather remarkable feat against the touchdown-tossing Colts.

That would seem to make Houston's assignment Sunday a little more manageable this Sunday, when the league's wobbliest offense will be across the line of scrimmage.

But bundling up the Chicago Bears could be more than a test of Houston's 3-4 defense, it might also mean defeating the elements. Same deal for the offense — moving the ball and completing passes when the fingers are a bit numb.

Winter is forecast to roar across Lake Michigan on Sunday, spitting out some snow and leaving temperatures from single digits to the teens on what shapes up as a bone-chilling day at

Soldier Field.

It's a venue where teams from the South or those who play in domed or retractable roof stadiums generally don't warm up.

"I think we'll be cold, but I think the Texans will be colder," offered Bears defensive back Charles Tillman.

"You just got to wear some warm clothes," Texans' quarterback David Carr said.

"They have to play in it, too," Houston tight end Billy Miller said. "I don't believe there is any way to get used to weather. When it's cold, it's cold. It's cold for everybody."

Bears linebacker and leading tackler Lance Briggs has been trying to get his body ready for the surge.

"I'm still a California guy trying to live in Chicago, so I have to stop wearing flip-flops when I come to work," he said.

BUSY WEEKEND

Basketball results and more Monday

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams are in Clovis Saturday night, each team facing an undefeated opponent in the Wildcats.

The girls' game had a local start time of 7 p.m., while the boys' game was to

begin at 8:30 p.m.

The Lady Harvesters entered the night with a 6-8 record. The boys were 10-3 going in.

We have results and more in Monday's Sports Day.

We will also bring you results from the Harvester wrestling meet at River Road and Pampa's swim and dive performance at Midland.

Eagles' starters make their last stand?

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb and Vinny Testaverde will start the game. Koy Detmer and Tony Romo might finish it.

First place was on the line the last time Dallas came to Philadelphia. The stakes are much lower this year, with the Eagles preparing for the playoffs and the Cowboys looking toward the future.

The four-time NFC East champion Eagles (12-1) are one victory away from securing home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Andy Reid plans to play his starters against the Cowboys (5-8) on Sunday. But they might not be in there the whole game.

"Right now the guys are going to play and we'll keep ourselves sharp and get ourselves ready to go," Reid said. "As much momentum as you can keep going into the playoffs, that's what

you'd like."

McNabb prefers to play as much as possible this week and the final two games against St. Louis and Cincinnati, but understands he'll probably end up watching Detmer and third-string quarterback Jeff Blake take plenty of snaps.

"I'm a guy that loves playing football," McNabb said. "I want to get out there and continue to get better, so when the playoffs come around we are at our best and ready to

go. It always feels good to go out there and be fresh, but you want to keep your chemistry and your timing where you left it."

Meanwhile, the disappointing Cowboys are looking ahead to next year, even though they still mathematically have a shot at the playoffs in a weak conference in which a losing team could reach the postseason.

Romo, who has yet to play in a game in his two seasons in Dallas, said this week he moved ahead of Drew Henson into the No. 2 spot behind Testaverde on the quarterback depth chart. If so, Romo could make his debut against Philadelphia.

Henson, considered the Cowboys' quarterback of the future, started one game against Chicago last month, but coach Bill Parcells said the former Michigan star isn't ready to play full-time yet after a three-year layoff to play professional baseball.

"He's not had enough looks really. That's all," Parcells said. "He hasn't played much here or before, so how can I think he's ready to play? I think he's as ready as he could be under the circumstances."

The rivalry between the Cowboys and Eagles has lasted decades — from Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman to Ron Jaworski and Randall Cunningham, from Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson to Dick Vermeil and Buddy Ryan, from Tex Schramm and Jerry Jones to Leonard Tose and Jeff Lurie.

But it has lost some intensity in recent years as the Cowboys have struggled

while the Eagles established themselves as one of the elite teams in the NFL.

Parcells' arrival in Dallas last season renewed the rivalry. After three straight 5-11 finishes, the Cowboys started winning again. When they came to Philadelphia last Dec. 7, the Eagles held just a one-game lead in the division. A convincing 36-10 victory kept Philadelphia atop the standings, a spot it hasn't relinquished.

The Eagles thoroughly dominated the Cowboys in a 49-21 victory before a Monday night audience last month. They would sweep their division for the first time in team history with another win over the Cowboys.

"Sweeping the division, no one ever expected that to happen, so that would definitely be a special feeling for all of us," McNabb said. Perhaps the most interesting side note will be seeing if Terrell Owens gets his 15th touchdown catch. Reid promised before the season to wear black spandex tights if Owens reached that total. Owens had three TDs against Dallas on Nov. 15, but only two in the last four games.

"It's just a matter of time," Owens said. "I'm not going to say if it doesn't happen I'm not going to be disappointed. It'll happen, I'm not really worried about that."

The Cowboys didn't have Julius Jones when they last played the Eagles. The rookie running back has run for 517 yards in the four games since returning from a shoulder injury.

Jones could have a big day against the Eagles, who are inconsistent against the run and will be without their best run stopper, injured defensive tackle Hollis Thomas.

"I think we are a little bit better off than we were from the first time we played them, so hopefully we can do something there," Parcells said.

Henson now third QB

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Drew Henson lasted just two quarters as the starting quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys. Three weeks later, he's not even their top backup.

Henson was dropped to No. 3 this week and Tony Romo was moved up to No. 2. Romo has been with the team since the start of last season without taking a snap in a regular-season game.

Romo revealed the change Wednesday, about a half-hour after Parcells said he hadn't set the depth chart. At his daily news conference Thursday, Parcells insisted the change was no big deal, saying he likes to flip-flop the order every so often "to make sure they are staying in tune with what we're doing and preparing for the game like they're going to play in it."

Although Parcells said he "wouldn't make too much out of" the change, he knows there are no minor issues when it comes to Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks.

Cowboys fans are always looking for the next leader

to carry on the tradition of Don Meredith, Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman. Henson is supposed to be next in line and he seemed to be coming along well. He spent the first five games as the third-stringer, the next five games as the backup then started the 11th game, albeit mainly because Vinny Testaverde was injured.

Parcells benched Henson at halftime of a tie game and went back to Testaverde. Henson remained at No. 2 the last two games but didn't throw a pass.

Now he's back where he began the season. And, this time, there are only three games left, which is why Parcells also is talking about possibly sending him to NFL Europe for some game experience.

"It's not demotions or psychological warfare," Parcells said. "It really isn't."

Henson said he was disappointed to be "farther from being on the field," yet he remains hopeful he can get some snaps this season.

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Jim Le: least he ca brave U.S. wounded Afghanista front row Mavericks "It's a s to show so for what t us," said dozens of son-ticket up their se night's ga think it's e In all, a soldiers fr Medical C Antonio w — on a ch ed by Ame to see the

FISHIN

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PANHA BAYL bass are sl GREEN low. Black fair on jerk Walleye ar and stinkb MACKI low. Black striped bas slow. Wall Catfish are MEREI low. Black fair on live on jerkbait nows and l PALO D low. Black nows. Sma are fair on WEST ALAN .05' low. B and jigs. ARROV degrees; 4. spinnerbait Crappie ar feet near tl 3-8 feet or inline spin pared baits COLOI Black bas: slow. Redd FT. PH low. Black White bass HUBB/

Beltre

NEWY Pried fre Beltre ar Mariners : million, Thursday, Press learn Beltre's ject to him cal, a per: third baser ing on anonymity The d announced Friday. Seattle c on the agre A day Mariners slugger by million, fc with free-man Richi Seattle 1 last in the 63-99 for t since 1983 The Ma the league homers an Beltre, 2 with 48 h Los Angel hit .334 wi finished Barry Bo MVP votir Beltre a defense la

Mavs seats for soldiers

DALLAS (AP) — They've dodged bombs and bullets, suffered bruises and burns. They've lost limbs and stared at death's door.

Jim Leslie figures the least he can do is let these brave U.S. soldiers — most wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan — sit on the front row at a Dallas Mavericks game.

"It's a small way for me to show some appreciation for what they've done for us," said Leslie, one of dozens of Mavericks season-ticket holders giving up their seats for Saturday night's game. "I still don't think it's enough."

In all, about 140 injured soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center near San Antonio will fly to Dallas — on a chartered jet donated by American Airlines — to see the Mavericks play

the Atlanta Hawks. They'll enjoy complimentary food and beverages and have their pictures taken with Mavericks players, dancers and officials, including owner Mark Cuban.

"This is bigger than the game," Cuban said in an e-mail. "This is a chance for these servicemen and women to feel the admiration and respect of 20,000 people, reinforcing for them that we as a nation feel grateful for what they have done for us."

The key playmaker for "Seats for Soldiers" is a season-ticket holder named Neal Hawks, who reluctantly let the Mavericks publicize his name, a team spokeswoman said.

Hawks first offered front-row seats to soldiers last season, bringing eight to each of three games.

NHLPA takes its case to the public

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL players' association is taking its case public.

Annoyed and dismayed by financial figures they call "absolutely ridiculous," NHLPA officials sought to discredit projections that the NHL made when it rejected the union's proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The NHL lockout reached its 93rd day Friday and has wiped out 430 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star game.

Negotiations broke off Tuesday after the NHL rejected a players' proposal that featured a 24-percent salary rollback. The league handed back a salary cap-structured counteroffer that also was turned down during the 3 1/2-hour meeting in Toronto.

"They based their reac-

tion to our significant proposal by saying they'd be right back where they were. Well, that's a bunch of hogwash," union head Bob Goodenow said. "They mixed up and diced up statistics in a blender and came out with what I think are absolutely ridiculous forecasts."

No new negotiations are scheduled, leaving the NHL perilously close to becoming the first North American sports league to lose a season to a labor dispute.

"It is a lockout that's going to extend for an awful long time if the parties aren't able to try to work together," Goodenow said.

Although no drop-dead date has been set, there figures to only be about a month of negotiating time left to save the season. The lockout during the 1994-95

season ended on Jan. 11 and allowed for a 48-game season to be played.

The players' association already believed that the NHL's financial figures were off when they saw them in the counterproposal. After a few days of crunching numbers, the union made sure to let everyone know just how wrong it feels the amounts are.

Using a 3-year projection based on league numbers, the NHLPA said its offer would produce a \$275.5 million profit for teams as opposed to a \$568.5 million loss, as stated by the NHL.

"They were desperate to mischaracterize things and try to throw a high, hard one past a lot of people," Goodenow said. "That's why we've taken the time to go back and restate reality."

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Local water levels low; live bait and crankbaits netting response

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PANHANDLE

BAYLOR: Water lightly stained; 55 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are slow.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 24' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair on jerkbaits along the dam. Smallmouth bass are slow. Walleye are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on minnows and stinkbait.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 67.5' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows. Smallmouth bass are slow. Walleye are fair on slabs tipped with minnows. Catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 23.45' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair on live bait and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on jerkbaits. Walleye are fair on slabs tipped with minnows and bottom bouncers. Channel catfish are slow.

PALO DURO: Water lightly stained; 48 degrees; 44.67' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth bass are slow. Walleye are fair. Catfish are fair on stinkbait and minnows.

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; .05' low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water muddy in upper end; 57 degrees; 4.8' low. Black bass are slow on crankbaits and spinnerbaits near rocky areas and flooded vegetation. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs suspended 12-14 feet near the derricks. White bass are fair on shallow flats 3-8 feet on shad-imitation crankbaits and larger jigs with inline spinners. Blue catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits in shallow water and along the vegetation line.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 70 degrees; .75' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 55 degrees; .6' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live bait. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 60

degrees; 10.26' low. Black bass are slow on dark jigs and minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striped bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on chicken liver and minnows.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows. Catfish are slow.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 24.53' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on the dirt road near the dam.

OH. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 22' low. Black bass are fair on black/blue jigs and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair. Channel catfish are fair on prepared and live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 56 degrees; .5' low. Black bass are fair at 5-10 feet. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair. Striped bass are fair on live shad or sunfish fished vertically. Channel and blue catfish are good in river just above the reservoir on trotlines baited with shad.

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 49.6' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair. Striped bass and hybrid striped bass are slow. Catfish are slow.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 4.57' low. Black bass are fair on live bait. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on slabs tipped with minnows. Catfish are fair.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 30.8' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Catfish are slow on live baits.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 18.7' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Walleye are fair. Channel catfish are fair on live baits.

WICHITA: Water clearing; 53 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass and Hybrid striped bass are fair on large minnows and Roadrunner jigs along the dam. Channel catfish are good on trotlines baited with whole shad or drift fishing using shrimp or punch bait.

Beltre may soon be a Mariner

NEW YORK (AP) — Prized free agent Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal Thursday, The Associated Press learned.

Beltre's contract is subject to him passing a physical, a person close to the third baseman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The deal could be announced as early as Friday.

Seattle did not comment on the agreement.

A day earlier, the Mariners added another slugger by finalizing a \$50 million, four-year contract with free-agent first baseman Richie Sexson.

Seattle finished a distant last in the AL West, going 63-99 for their worst record since 1983.

The Mariners was last in the league with only 136 homers and 698 runs.

Beltre, 25, led the majors with 48 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He hit .334 with 121 RBIs, and finished second behind Barry Bonds in the NL MVP voting.

Beltre also improved on defense last season, com-

mitting only 10 errors.

The Dodgers wanted to keep Beltre and offered him salary arbitration.

But Los Angeles recently gave itself some protection, signing free-agent Jeff Kent and saying that he could play third base, along with his usual spot at second.

"We're disappointed. It hurts," Dodgers general manager Paul DePodesta said. "Obviously, we would have loved to have him back."

"I think all of us knew this certainly was a possibility. We feel like we stepped up and made a very competitive offer, actually tried to make it a compelling one by offering a sixth guaranteed year. Unfortunately for us, Adrian decided to go elsewhere."

Beltre made \$5 million last season, and figured to cash in after a career year in which he led the Dodgers to the NL West division title and their first postseason spot since 1988.

DePodesta said the Dodgers' six-year offer to Beltre and agent Scott Boras included an option for a seventh season.

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American Airlines to begin selling food in main cabins

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines says it will begin selling \$3 snack boxes in the main cabins of long U.S. flights beginning Feb. 1.

American, which cut back on in-flight food after the industry downturn of 2001, said Friday it would offer food in the main cabin on all domestic flights longer than three hours.

Food will be sold on more than 500 daily non-transcontinental flights of three hours or more. That's about 300 more flights than currently offer food, said Fort Worth-based American, the largest U.S. carrier.

The snack boxes will replace current main cabin food service on about 120 other transcontinental and 40 Hawaii flights, which the airline said would help it save about \$30 million a year.

The airline said it would continue to offer complimentary food for first-class passengers.

American had tested food on-board flights for main-cabin passengers since September.

American said Friday it would sell a "morning snack box" containing a muffin bar, dried cranberries, bagel chips, cream cheese spread and a mint from 6 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.

From 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., the snack boxes will include crackers, sliced salami, cheddar cheese, fruit mix and Oreo cookies, the airline said.

On some transcontinental and Hawaii flights, passengers will be able to buy breakfast sandwiches or turkey wraps for \$5.

Shares of AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, fell 21 cents, to \$9.95, in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Autos

auto theft in Texas. For more information on auto theft prevention or to be put in contact with your local ATPA task force, call 1-800-CAR-WATCH.

Continued from Page 11

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NEWS

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Lifestyle

The First Christmas

NEWSMAKERS

Joe D. Cree, CLU, ChFC, Pacific Life, of Pampa, has recently been approved for membership in the 2005 Million Dollar Round Table, a press release said.

According to the release, Cree is a 42-year life member of MDRT.

"By joining MDRT," the news release said, "you are a member of The Premier Association of Financial Professionals®."

"A significant goal of MDRT," the release stated, "is to increase members' knowledge, ethics, service to clients and productivity."

As a member, Cree will be eligible for a number of benefits provided through MDRT such as the "Round the Table" magazine and the "PR Firm for Members."

WEATHERFORD, Okla. — Approximately 279 students from Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford will complete requirements for either bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees after the current fall 2004 semester.

These students had the opportunity to participate in the 2004 SWOSU graduation ceremony or wait and go through convocation exercises at the conclusion of the spring 2005 semester.

Students from Pampa who completed degree requirements for December include Gaurav Patel, bachelor of business administration degree in management, and Kimberly Porter, bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech University held commencement Saturday in United Spirit Arena in two separate ceremonies. Thomas V. Mallon, author, was the featured speaker at both ceremonies.

Outstanding students carried banners representing their respective colleges at the commencement including Dillon Ross Hill of Pampa who carried the College of Visual and Performing Arts banner.

Hill is a music major with an emphasis on teacher preparation.

PLAINVIEW — Commencement was held recently at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview for the university's fall graduates.

Diplomas were awarded to Shanna Michelle Buck, daughter of Mike and Shirley Buck of Pampa, who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in religion; Maegan Nicole Dyer-Conner, summa cum laude, bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies in elementary education; Penny N. Greer, BA in religion; and Jessica Renea Blandford Milligan, daughter of Larry and Jessica Blandford, magna cum laude, BSIS in elementary education, all of Pampa.

A workshop by Lee Carter, technology director for Pampa Independent School District, was recently chosen as one of the 30 "Best of NECC" workshops.

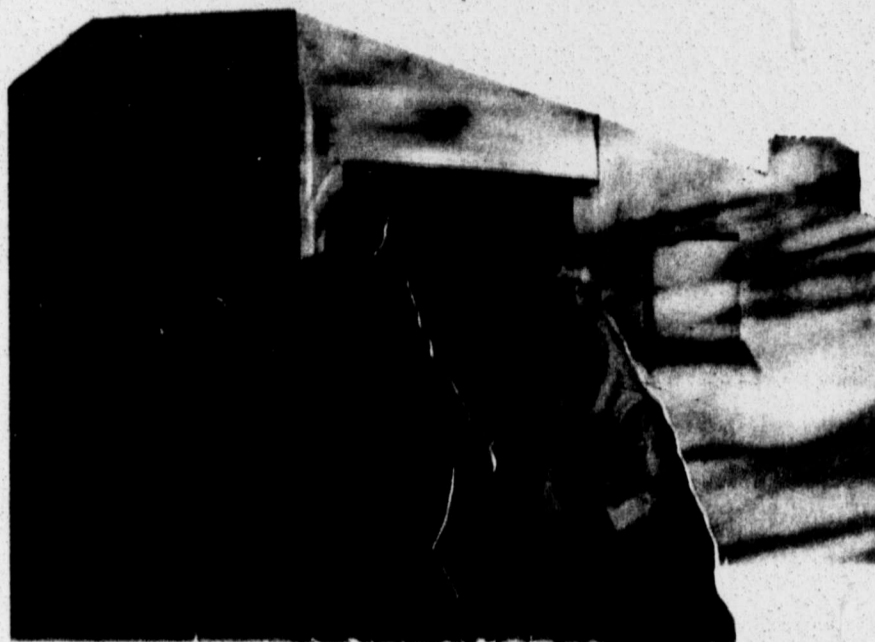
Carter's workshop "Using Photoshop to Create Cool Graphics for the Web" earned this honor while competing against more than 140 contenders at National Education Computing Conference 2004 in New Orleans, La.

"This is quite an accomplishment given the fact that each year NECC attracts some of the best ed-tech presenters in the country," a press release from NECC and International Society for Technology in Education said. "The criteria for selection of our 'Best of NECC' presenters includes quantitative and qualitative evaluation of numerous factors such as workshop enrollments, participant evaluations, relevancy of topic, and overall audience appeal."

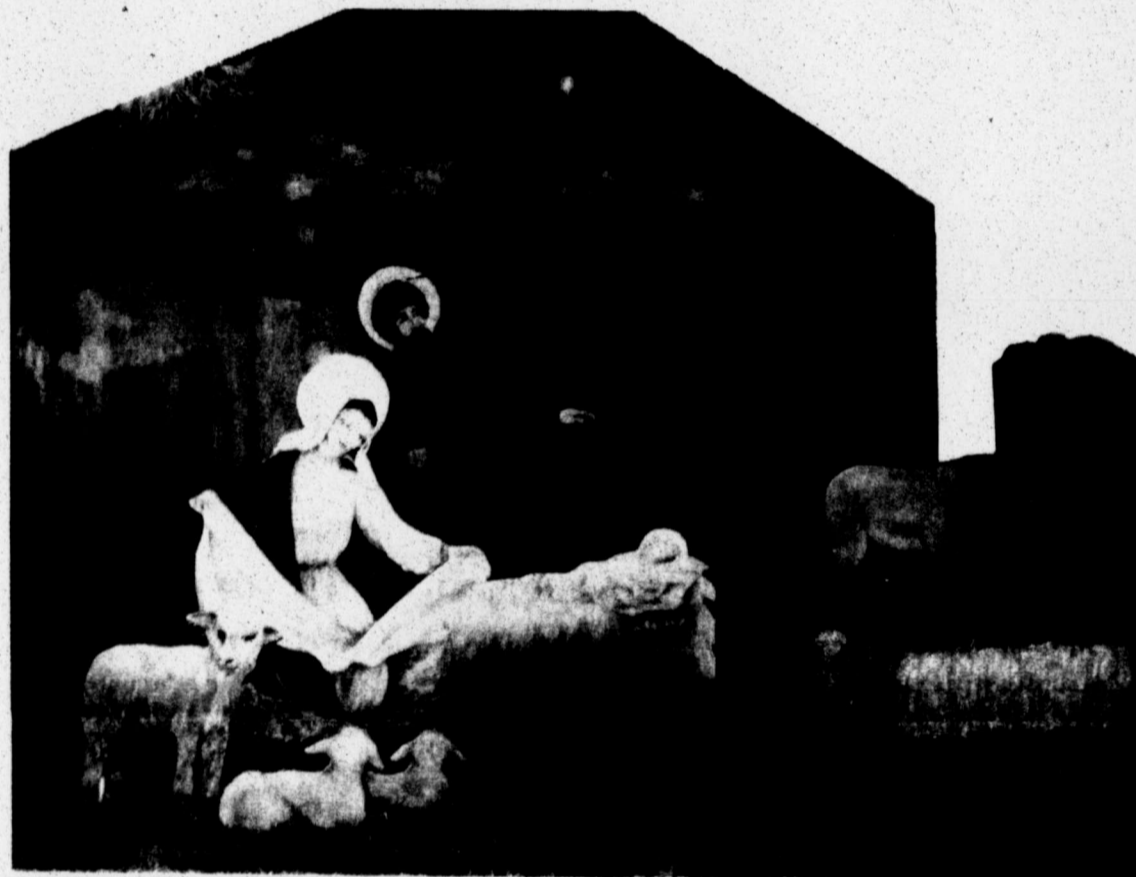
Should Carter enter NECC 2005, a icon will single out his entry as an "advance program."



The angel Gabriel appeared unto Mary to tell her she would bear the Son of God.



In Bethlehem, where Joseph and Mary went to enroll in obedience to a decree by Caesar Augustus, there was no room at the inn.



The newborn Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. A star in the East heralded his arrival.

The story of the Nativity is on display in a series of figures at Burdette Park, immediately north of the Hughes Building on Francis Street.

The display is patterned after scenes which were first created in 1947 and placed on the lawn of Gray County Courthouse.

The story told by the figures begins with the Angel Gabriel telling Mary she will bear the Son of God, and ending with Joseph, Mary and Jesus fleeing Bethlehem for Egypt to escape King Herod's plan to murder Jesus.



An angel appeared to shepherds in their fields to bring them the news of the birth of their savior, Christ the Lord.

Story and Photos by
Marilyn Powers



Three wise men followed a star to Bethlehem in search of the newborn king.



Joseph and Mary flee with baby Jesus into Egypt to escape Herod's plan to kill Jesus.

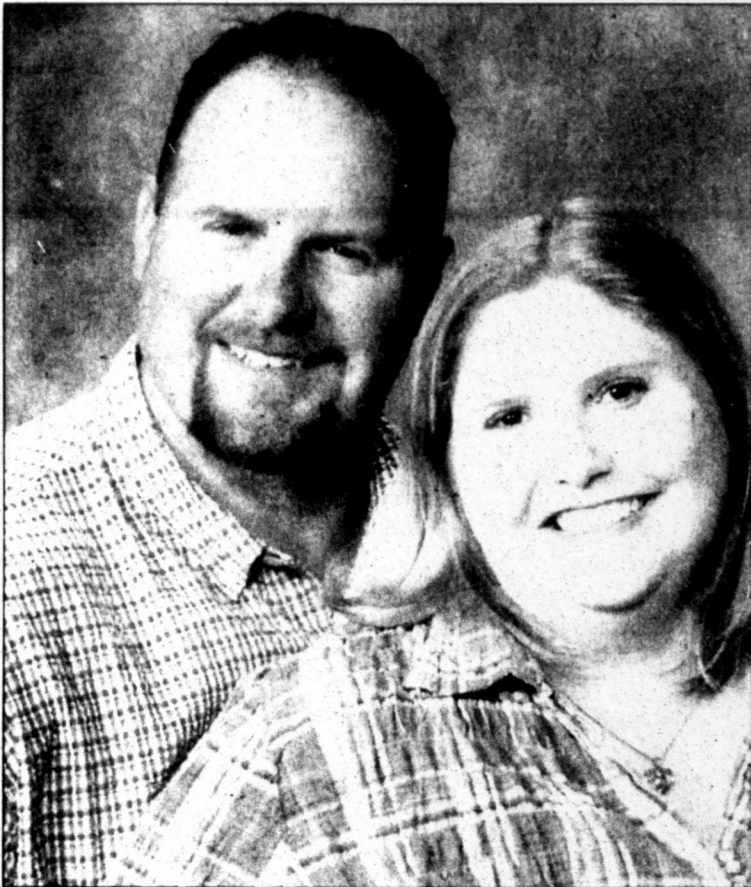


King Herod sought information about the newly born Son of God from priests, scribes and the three wise men.

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Michael Griffis and Dayla Lewis

Griffis, Lewis tie knot at Fellowship Baptist Church

Dayla Lewis of Pampa and Michael Griffis of Bells exchanged wedding vows on Nov. 13 at Fellowship Baptist Church in Pampa. Charles Lowry, of Bethel Baptist Temple in Tulsa, Okla., presided over the ceremony.

The matrons of honor were Jessica Dawes of Amarillo and Amber Brookshire of Denton. The bridesmaids were Danielle Green of Richardson, Annabell Ferguson of Canyon, Jennifer Stubblefield and Brynna Stubblefield, both of Pampa, and Alyssa Lowry of Tulsa.

The flower girl was Nakita Ellis of Azle.

Richard Goode of Bullard stood up with the groom as best man. The groomsmen were Bobby Griffis of Dennison, Jason Smith of Sherman, Clinton Lewis and Alva Ferguson, both of Canyon, Rylee Lowry of Tulsa and Braden Clay of Pampa.

Adrian Elam of Canyon was ring bearer.

Scott Rider of Corpus

Christi ushered the guests to their seats and Sadina Rider, also of Corpus Christi, Angela Resendiz of Richardson and Keri Lewis of Canyon served as candle-lighters.

Karie Lowry of Tulsa registered guests.

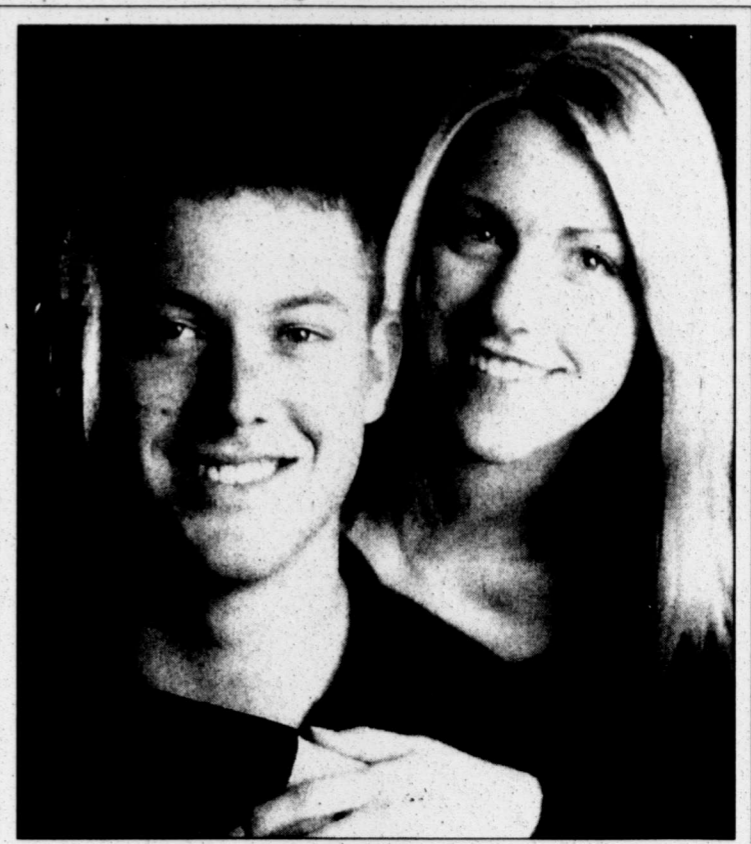
Music was provided by Joe Martinez of Pampa.

A reception was held following the service in Knights of Columbus Hall with Deanna Watson, Nikki Brown, Stephanie Boyd and Laticia Dudley, all of Pampa, serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Dale and Alma Lewis of Pampa. A student, she attends the University of North Texas and is a substitute teacher for Pampa Independent School District.

The groom is the son of Richard and Kay Goode of Bullard. He is a mechanic at Union Pacific Railroad and is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico. They live in Pampa but plan to relocate to Dallas soon.



Nutt/Trollinger

Meghan Nutt and Justin Trollinger, both of College Station, plan to wed Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Grapevine. The bride-elect is the daughter of Jim and Susan Nutt of Grapevine. She holds a degree in sports management from Texas A&M University and is currently employed at AeroFit Health and Fitness Center. The prospective groom is the son of Bobby and Susan Trollinger, formerly of Pampa. He is scheduled to graduate from Texas A&M with a degree in construction science Dec. 17. After graduation, he plans to work for a commercial construction company in Dallas.

Bridal Registry

Courtney Moreland & James Godwin
 Meghan Nutt & Justin Trollinger
 Kristi Carter & Clint Weil
 Sarah White & Bobby Carter
 Andrea Abbe & Cary Erskine
 Andrea Rodriguez & Woody Smith

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Walkers celebrate 50 years of marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Walker of Pampa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 27 at Mitchell's Family Restaurant in Shamrock with David and Carroll Kilpatrick of Amarillo and Leigh Anne and Denny Thrasher of Tucson, Ariz., hosting the dinner.

Norris Walker and Leoma Martin were married Dec. 18, 1954, at Gateway Church of Christ in Borger. They have been Pampa residents for more than 50 years and are members of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ and Pampa Senior Citizen Association.

Mr. Walker retired from Phillips Petroleum in 1985 and Mrs. Walker from Ingersol Rand in 1982.



Mr. and Mrs. Norris Walker

Photos with Santa!

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Lifestyles Policy

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are

accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.

2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.

3. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.

4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.

5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.

6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.

7. Birth announcements will only be published for 0- to 3-month-olds. (See form for more details.)

8. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

9. Two anniversary pictures may be placed for a \$25 charge or four extra lines may be added to announcements for \$25 (\$50 for both).

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Lily Darlene Forbes

Lily Darlene Forbes was born at 7:57 a.m. Oct. 8 at Pampa Regional Medical Center, to John and Melody Forbes of Pampa. At birth, the infant weighed 8-pounds, 10-ounces and was 21-inches long. Relatives include a brother, Dillon Forbes; grandparents, Dwight and Kathy Dennis, Larry and Judy Parker, all of Pampa, and Tom and Wanda Forbes of Ackerly; and great-grandparents, A.M. Dennis and W.J. and Virginia Welch, all of Pampa, and Ray and Velma Forbes of Ackerly.



Grayson Thomas Baker

Grayson Thomas Baker was born Sept. 30, at Wichita Falls, to Lane and Emily Baker. At birth, the infant weighed 6-pounds, 12-ounces and was 21 1/2-inches long. Relatives include grandparents, Tom and Sue Baker of Pampa and Nancy and Jerry Gholson of Iowa Park; and great-grandparents, Bijl Medler of Amarillo and Glen and Helen Miller of Iowa Park.

Menus

Week of December 20-24

Pampa Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.	broccoli/chicken/noodle casserole, mashed potatoes, spinach, beets, beans, but- ter cream cake or chocoalte pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or corn- bread.
Lefors Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.	
Kid's Cafe MONDAY- THURSDAY Holiday.	TUESDAY Chicken strips or ham- burger steak/brown potato
Senior Citizens MONDAY Chicken fried steak or	See MENU, Page 4-B

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. This changes to 12 noon Tuesday on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Meeting the deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Heritage Art Club

Heritage Art Club met recently at the home of Edie Hudson for its annual Christmas party. Hostesses were Jennie Barker and Barbara Stubblefield.

Members exchanged Christmas ornaments and Secret Pal gifts. The afternoon was spent playing games.

Ruth Barrett took home the door prize.

Present at the party were Barrett, Polly Benton, Roxanna Hendricks, Marjorie Holland, Theresa Maness, Betty McCracken, Louise Ward, Hudson, Barker and Stubblefield.

The next meeting is scheduled Jan. 3 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Pampa Art Club

Pampa Art Club met Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the home of Rue Park with President Linda Nowell presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Pat Kindle read minutes from the previous meeting which were approved as read.

—Members discussed the Festival of Trees and voted to participate again next year. The club won in the category of most original ornaments at the recent 2004 festival.

—Kathy Gist and Nowell have been accepted for entry into the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Invitational slated March 7 through April 7 in Canyon.

The next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 21 at the home of Dona Cornutt.

Progressive TEEA Club

Progressive Texas Extension Education Association Club met Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the home of hostess Helene Baumgardner for a Christmas party and regular meeting with President Eva Dennis presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made.

—Roll was taken and minutes read.

—Beulah Terrell gave a devotional.

—Members were advised the annual Christmas activity was scheduled Dec. 12 at the home of Joan Gray-Soria, county Extension agent. The club decided to take a favorite finger food and several items for infants to donate towards a special holiday project for the needy.

—The club will tend to the Gray County Annex kitchen for the month of January.

—Members participated in games, a gift exchange, sang Christmas carols and more.

—Geneva Barton won the hostess gift. Gray-Soria won the prize for the memory game.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 13 at the home of Mary Ann Bailey. Gray-Soria will present the January program with "chocolates" as her subject.

20th Century Club

Twentieth Century Club of Pampa met Dec. 14 at the home of hostess Phyllis White with President Fay Harvey presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Billie Dixon led the

club collect and delivered the treasurer's report.

—Secretary Louise Bailey read minutes which were approved as read.

—Members participated in a gift exchange.

—Donations were collected by White to benefit Tralee Crisis Center.

—Pat Terry presented the program on "Christmas Customs of the Past." Harvey assisted the hostess.

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the home of Vonna Wolf.

Altrusa

Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met Dec. 14 at Pampa Country Club with President Billie Dixon presiding. Myrna Orr and DeLynn Gordzelik served as greeters.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Members with service to Altrusa exceeding 25 years received special recognition. These members were Mary McDaniel, Georgia Johnson, Marian Stoup, Glydene Seitz, Ruby Royse, Louise Bailey, Chleo Worley and Mary Wilson. Wilson, a member of 40

years, was also honored with a \$1,000 honorarium that will be applied to a scholarship in her name.

—Carolyn Kessell was welcomed as a new member.

—Dixon announced that the local club had received a \$500 grant from Altrusa International Foundation for the Southside Community Center Reading Room project. The grant will be used to continue improvements at the center.

—ASTRA members and Altrusans met recently to See CLUB, Page 4-B



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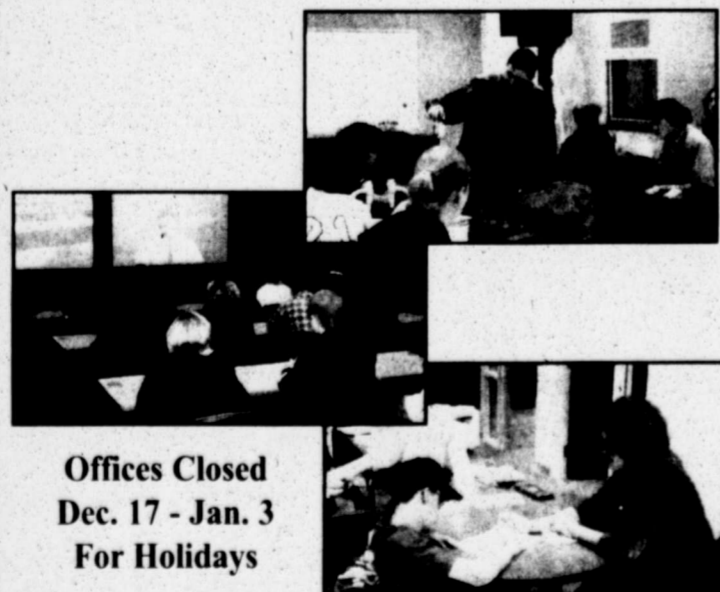
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And Refreshments**
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Communion Services**

*join us for this
57th Yearly Tradition
a family observance of Christmas
Everyone Welcome... all family
members and friends invited*

Saint Matthews Episcopal Church
727 W. Browning Ave
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Menu

Continued from Page 3-B

wedges, breaded tomatoes, carrots, pinto beans, red velvet cake or lemon icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or corn-

bread.

WEDNESDAY

Baked turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, candied yams, pumpkin cake, cherry cobbler, fruit cups, diet lemon pie, cranberry sauce, deviled eggs, stuffed celery, olives/pickles, rolls.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY

Holiday. Call before 9:30 a.m. Wednesday to place orders.

Meals On Wheels

MONDAY

Barbecue, potato salad, baked beans, pudding.

TUESDAY

Roast, gravy, mashed potatoes, hominy, carrots/raisin salad.

WEDNESDAY

Ham, dressing, gravy, English peas, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce.

THURSDAY

Chicken nuggets, baked potato, green beans, cookies.

FRIDAY

Holiday.



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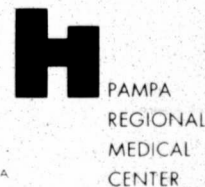


30 Months Saved the Mama

"I wasn't looking forward to it, but it's something you do for yourself and your family. The technician was wonderful—she walked me through the procedure and answered my questions. It just wasn't a big deal. Now I have peace of mind, and I'm thankful I had the mammogram."

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PRMC is accredited by the American College of Radiology with two dedicated Radiologists on site. **We Care.** We care that women get mammograms and that they're performed correctly right here at home.



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Local Altrusa Club receives grant

Altrusa International, Inc. of Pampa recently received a \$500 grant from the Altrusa International Foundation Grants program to be used for the Southside Senior Citizens Reading Room project. The funds will go toward furnishing books and other materials needed for improving the reading room.

Billie Dixon, Altrusa Club President, said that grants of \$250 to \$1,000 are available through sponsoring Altrusa Clubs from the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc., to improve the economic well-being and quality of life

through the foundation's commitment to community service and literacy.

Established as a charitable corporation in 1962, the foundation's sole purpose is to be an avenue through which Altrusans can assist Altrusa Clubs and other worthy organizations, throughout the world, to carry out their programs of community service and assistance to individuals in need.

Funding is provided by voluntary contributions from members, Altrusa Clubs and the general public.

Club

Continued from Page 3-B

wrap gifts for the Salvation Army.

—Members volunteered at the Celebration of Lights on Dec. 1 and 13.

—Gaye Whitehead, Terri Williams, Terry Gamblin and Mayda King shopped and purchased toys and clothing for two children from the Angel Tree.

—Fourteen members met recently to assemble Christmas stockings for clients in Child Protective Services. The club voted to fill the stockings with fruit and candy canes.

—Pat Johnson and Leona Willis were presented award certificates for their successful coordination of the Career Clinic held recently at Pampa High School.

—Birthday greetings were extended to Karen Bridges, Mattie Norton, Kadda Schale, Anne Stobbe and Judy Warner.

—The Altrusa Christmas Reception was held Dec. 5 at the home of Chleo Worley, 1901 N. Russell. The reception which was hosted by the Altrusa board of directors was held to honor the club president, Billie Dixon.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon Jan. 11 at Pampa Country Club.



SWOSU scholars

Shane Story of Pampa was among several Southwestern Oklahoma State University students who won Society of Manufacturing Engineers scholarships at the recent Technology Department awards banquet held at the university's Weatherford campus. Above, left-right: Students winning awards were Chris Bell, Weatherford, Okla.; Brandy Pizzini, Weatherford; Oliver Rozell, Duncan, Okla.; Nick Bidelspach, Chickasha Okla.; Story; and Bryon Hammer, Shidler, Okla.

Lawyer gives up big salary to join Army

DALLAS (AP) — A chance meeting in Subway restaurant with an Army recruiter changed the life of Michael Brown, a Dallas lawyer.

When Brown, 26, left for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., recently, he cut his annual income from \$120,000 to \$18,000 to serve in the Army.

The impetus was a conversation with Staff Sgt. Jerome Huntley in mid-July.

"I had been thinking about doing it," Brown said. "It's on your heart and your thinking about doing it and there he is."

They talked in the restaurant and the next day Huntley came to Brown's apartment to describe life in an Army special operations unit, such as the Rangers or

Green Berets. Huntley said Brown's enthusiasm eliminated any doubts about someone giving up a career as a lawyer.

"He was just saying he wanted something more exciting in his life."

— Jerome Huntley
Staff sergeant

ing up a career as a lawyer.

"He was just saying he wanted something more exciting in his life," Huntley said.

After 16 weeks of basic and advanced individual training as an infantryman at Fort Benning, he'll go to Fort Campbell in Kentucky. He hopes to then join a special operations unit.

A recruit like Brown is "relatively unusual" not only because of his profession,

but also because of his income and age, said Douglas Smith, spokesman for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox in Kentucky.

About 98.5 percent of Army officers have a bachelor's degree, and 40 percent of those have a master's or a doctorate, according to the Army. But only about 5 percent of enlistees have a four-year college degree or higher.

Smith said the average recruit's age is 21, and according to 2002 data, only 7 percent of enlistees come from households with incomes of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Brown grew up in Starkville, Miss., and played outside linebacker at Mississippi College where he earned an accounting degree before going on to law school at the University of North Carolina. He moved to Dallas to practice

See ARMY, Page 14-B

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Relay for Life Committee 2004

Chair - Pam Dalton • Co-Chair - Cherri Waites
Secretary - Geri Caylor • Treasurer - Betty Graham

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NBC	Methodist Church
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West Texas Landscaping & Irrigation	Dr. Kamnani
Top Of Texas Cattle women	

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Entertainment

Study suggests TV negative on religion

NEW YORK (AP) — Television entertainment programs mention God more often than they did in the mid-1990s but tend to depict organized religion negatively, a study recently released said.

The Parents Television Council watched every hour of prime-time on the broadcast networks during the 2003-04 season and logged 2,344 treatments of religion. They judged 22 percent of the mentions positive, 24 percent negative and the rest neutral.

The conservative group's last study, released in 1997, found far fewer mentions of the topic — an average of once per hour compared to three times per hour last season.

But any mention of a religious institution or member of the clergy was at least twice as likely to be negative than positive, the council said.

"Ninety percent of the American people believes in God," said Brent Bozell, the council's president. "It is an important issue to most people. Hollywood is attacking the very thing that they consider important in their own lives. Perhaps Hollywood ought to be changing its world view."

Negative examples varied widely: from comic Jimmy Kimmel joking on the American Music Awards that winners should resist thanking God, to a Catholic priest admitting on "The Practice" that he had had sex with a

woman who was later murdered.

Well-publicized scandals about pedophile priests made Catholics particularly vulnerable, the council found.

"Catholicism is in the bulls-eye of the entertainment medium," Bozell said.

'It is an important issue to most people. Hollywood is attacking the very thing that they consider important in their own lives. Perhaps Hollywood ought to be changing its world view.'

— Brent Bozell
Council president

His group singled out NBC, saying its mentions of religion were nearly 10 times more likely to be negative than positive. "Law & Order" episodes, which tend to have stories ripped from the headlines, helped skew those numbers, the group said.

Bozell noted, however, that one of the negative NBC examples the PTC cited — Karen on "Will & Grace" quipping, "let's go by that historic church and turn it into a gay bar" — reflected as poorly on the character as on religion.

Entertainment

After Chinese reality series barnstorms across U.S., its next stop is China itself

NEW YORK (AP) — There aren't many reality shows in which a guy, racing around a track against fellow contestants, slides into the finish line, skins his elbows and offers this assessment: "You bleed and sacrifice for the people."

Then again, there aren't many reality shows in which all the contestants are speaking Chinese — at least, not that many that use the American landscape as muse, backdrop and all-purpose obstacle course.

Take four teams of young people steeped in Chinese culture — from Hong Kong, Taiwan, the mainland and the United States. Pit them against each other — but in a nice, collaborative way. Then send them on a weird road trip through New England, Amish country, the rural South and Miami Beach.

What you end up with is "Quest USA," a compelling bilingual reality show envisioned by its producers as the first in a series of real-life exploits by ethnic Chinese from all over. It's "The Real World" meets Kerouac meets "The Simple Life 2" — in Mandarin, with heavy overtones of politeness and a very Chinese sense of duty and commitment to teamwork.

"We wanted to do Americana: Amish country, Mystic Seaport, those things that are very much American," producer Sarah Zhang says.

"This kind of thing makes Chinese feel that average, ordinary people can become stars. I think that's interesting for them," she says. "It gives them a platform, that 'I'm nobody, but I still have the opportunity to be on TV, to be a public figure.'"

The show, which chronicled an eight-day odyssey and was shot on a budget of \$60,000, aired this fall on two channels in New York and is avail-

able now on DVD. It includes a throbbing soundtrack — a pure product of globalization that includes the unlikely fusion sound of "Chinese bluegrass" and a cool track by the band Notorious MSG called "Dim Sum Girl."

Now the producers begin a second, more daunting quest — to air the show on mainland Chinese television and get the Beijing government and a

Maybe fly to Xi'an. Maybe take a train to Chongqing or visit one of those villages with a minority ethnic group in southern China."

She adds: "Our goal is to show the real China to the outside world — and also what China looks like now. Foreigners only want to see ethnic and exotic culture. They don't know how advanced China is now and that Shanghai looks like the city from the future."

China is dabbling in reality TV as its reform process opens up the culture in many respects; among its latest entertainment efforts is a reality show filmed in the heavily Muslim (and heavily restricted) desert region of Xinjiang. But it's still a dictatorship. That means it's a place where government officials — both central and local — don't always cotton to outsiders running around with video cameras.

So arranging to film such a show in China will undoubtedly involve delicate negotiations and endorsements from the top levels in Beijing. In addition, says Zhang, "The government doesn't want to promote too much American ideology. They don't want to see too much backstabbing in order to succeed."

She needn't worry. China is, after all, a society where the central government, a generation ago, heavily promoted this slogan: "Friendship first, competition second."

The Chinese sensibility of cooperation and taking one for the team infused every episode of "Quest USA." Sacrifice was invoked often. Contestants — many of them graduate students — talked of how their parents back home expect so much from them. Participants who got too aggressively competitive were often admonished by teammates.

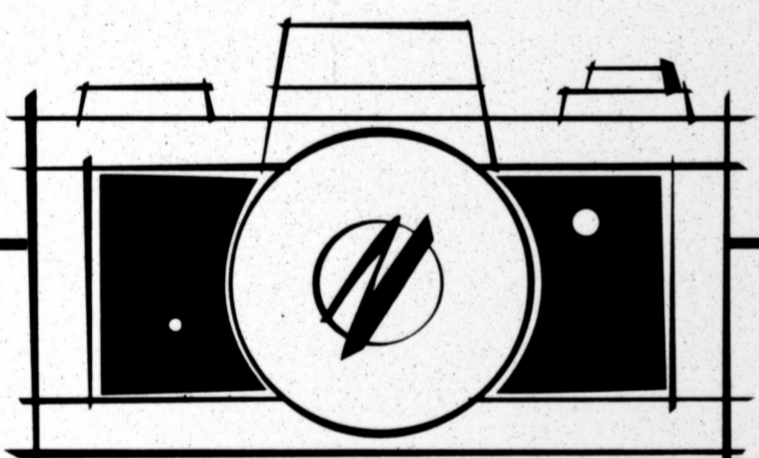
'This kind of thing makes Chinese feel that average, ordinary people can become stars. I think that's interesting for them.'

— Sarah Zhang
Producer

major Shanghai production company involved in producing a sequel, "Quest China," which would involve teams running across the Chinese landscape and encountering various unique challenges there.

Zhang and her husband, the show's executive producer, returned from China a few weeks ago, and she's brimming with optimism that the project can start filming next spring. She says Shanghai Media Group, a television powerhouse, is "extremely interested" in helping produce a show where teams from the United States, Australia, Canada and China would turn the Chinese countryside into a playground.

"They'd start from Beijing, end in Shanghai," Zhang says. "But they (wouldn't) know where they're going."



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43 Pulls

44 Ceases

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Pampa News
12/19/04

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: When we married in 1998, my husband "Grant" and I agreed that we would never put our parents into a nursing home as long as we were physically able to care for them. After our home was built, my father-in-law, "Papa Jake," moved in with us. Papa Jake is now 73, wheelchair-bound from a stroke, and an alcoholic.

He gets into his motorized wheelchair every day and heads out to the local bar, which is a mile away. When he returns, he's completely intoxicated, and sometimes falls. Papa Jake is also belligerent toward me, and I don't want our 2-year-old son living in this environment. I didn't bargain on this when I married Grant.

Grant refuses to tell Papa Jake that if he can't live by the rules he needs to leave. I have reached my limit. I love Grant, but I can't live like this anymore. When is enough enough? -- FED UP IN NEW YORK

DEAR FED UP: Papa Jake appears to be a danger to himself. If you haven't already done so, inform his doctor about what's going on. It's extremely unfair of your husband to wimp out and allow his father to treat you so disrespectfully -- let alone drive his wheelchair drunk on the public roads.

The bargain you made with your spouse was that you would care for his father as long as you were physically able. Well, since you are not physically able to prevent Papa Jake's forays to the bar (which put his safety at risk), insist that the time has come for Jake to go, and do not back down.

DEAR ABBY: Before a game, my friend asked if I ever had a flame-shooter. Then he went into the bathroom and got a can of hair spray and some matches. He told me to light the match and hold it. While I was holding the

match, he sprayed the hair spray on it, and then my hand caught fire. I wasn't burned, but it scared me.

I'm not sure what to do. I want him to still be my friend, but I don't want him to get hurt. Should I let him keep doing it, or should I tell someone and have them tell him to stop? -- WORRIED IN KANSAS

DEAR WORRIED: Have you ever heard the saying that people who play with fire usually wind up getting burned? This applies to you and your friend. All you would need is for one of those "flame-shooters" to explode in your faces, and there would be lifelong consequences. The next time your "friend" suggests playing that game, tell him you'd prefer to do something else. Your mother or your teacher should inform his mother about what her son is up to. The boy is a tragedy waiting to happen.

DEAR ABBY: Early this year, I lost my precious father to cancer. Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary would have been in a few weeks, and we had started planning a big celebration. Now that Dad is gone, how can we acknowledge this day? It seems a shame to do nothing, since in her heart, Mom will always be "with" my father.

Is there a way to have a special acknowledgement of any kind? Any suggestions would be welcome. -- GRIEVING BUT GRATEFUL IN ATLANTA

DEAR GRATEFUL: While a large celebration of your parents' marriage would not be appropriate, I see no reason why family members and close friends shouldn't take your mother out on this emotionally loaded occasion. Certainly, she should not be alone -- and I am sure she would welcome the emotional support.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Tot's spot
- 5 Brisk pace
- 9 Vacation spot
- 10 Twin of myth
- 12 Maximum
- 13 Not hidden
- 14 Agitated
- 16 Hubbub
- 17 Bit or wordplay
- 18 Becomes chatty
- 20 Animal tracks
- 22 Peepers
- 23 Tangential comment
- 25 Coconut fill
- 28 Tenant of a sort
- 32 Pitt's wife
- 34 Genesis name
- 35 Hairy beast
- 36 Hurts
- 38 Portly
- 40 Dizzying designs
- 41 Stair part
- 42 River deposits
- 43 Pulls
- 44 Ceases

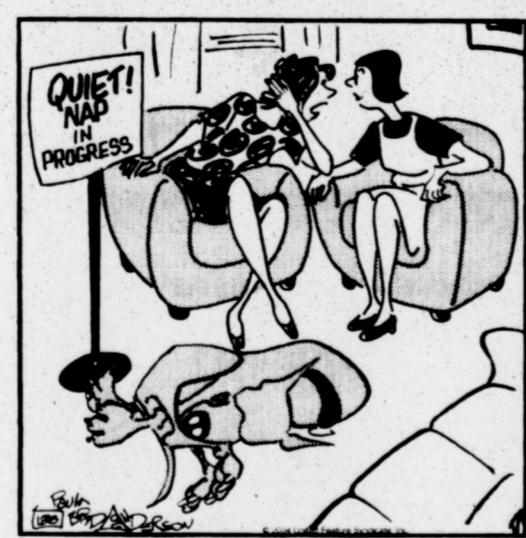


Yesterday's answer

- 1 Bar
- 2 exercise
- 3 Ray of TV
- 4 Showy flower
- 5 Casino group
- 6 Beautiful
- 7 Mind
- 8 Ceases
- 9 Jimmy's star
- 10 Delta
- 11 follower
- 12 Demand
- 13 Sturdy
- 14 Trees
- 15 Carmen's song
- 16 Indiana love
- 17 City head
- 18 Soon
- 19 In this
- 20 Put in manner
- 21 stitches
- 22 Jimmy's predecessor
- 23 Overthrows
- 24 Takes a breather
- 25 Layers
- 26 arms
- 27 Put in
- 28 stitches

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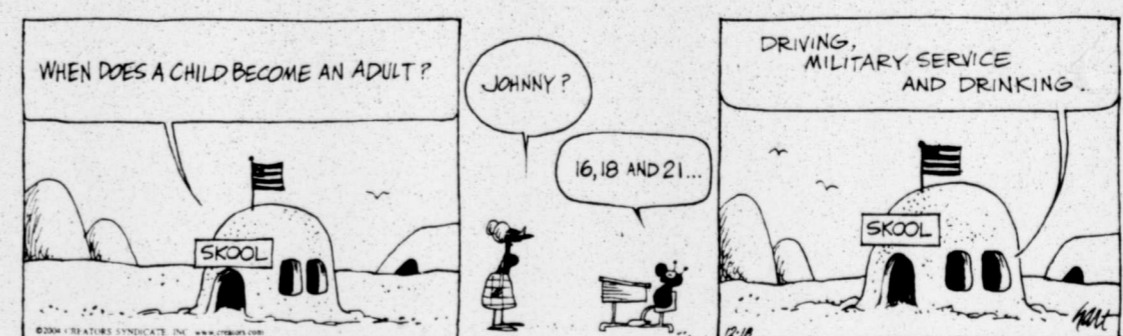
Marmaduke



The Family Circus



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



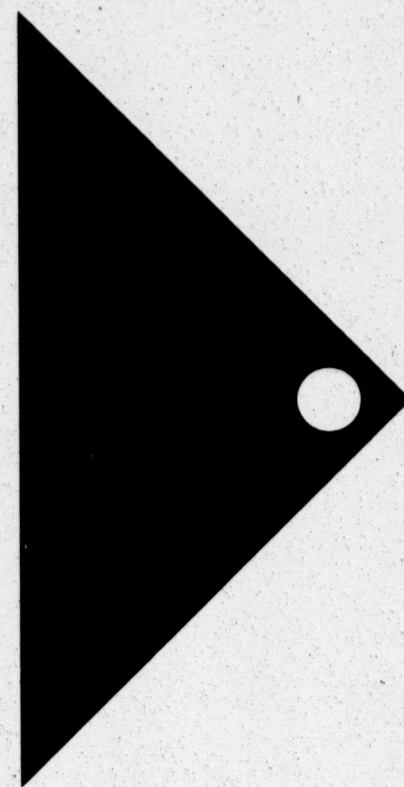
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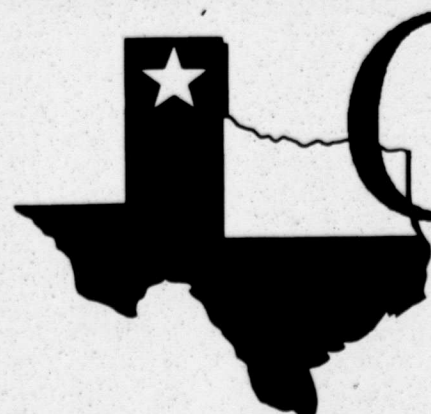
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Army

Continued from Page 4-B

construction and personal injury defense law.

Approaching Huntley that day was no spur of the moment decision, Brown said.

It was something that built for a long time. As a boy, he loved to play with toy soldiers and as a young adult he thought about a career in the military, but he

went on to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both lawyers.

After Brown got to Dallas, he started contemplating the

switch.

"The law may not be exactly what I want to do — the military's something I've always wanted to do," he said.

Brown, who is single, said he misses being out in the field, building a camaraderie with a group of guys like he did when he played football.

Santa's helpers



Raelynn Miller and Alexis Kraemer, students at Lamar Elementary School, dressed up as "Santa's Helpers" recently.

Rural Development announces \$6 million in grant funding

TEMPLE — Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State director, announced in a news release the availability of \$6 million in grant funding to support rural economic and community development efforts. Qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs are eligible to apply.

The fiscal year 2005 Rural Community Development Initiative grant funds will provide, the release said, financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop projects relating to housing, community facilities or community and economic development.

"Through the Rural Community Development Initiative, rural Texans can increase their capacity to bring community and

economic development opportunities to local communities," said Daniel.

Funds may be used to provide technical assistance on how to create and operate a revolving loan fund, establish and manage cooperatives, or provide training on how to conduct homeownership education classes.

Grant recipients will provide training and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit community development organizations and low income communities located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less.

The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than Jan. 25, 2005. For more information, contact Francisco Valentin, Jr., Community Programs director, at (254) 742-9789.

Agriculture

Cotton offices close for holiday

ABILENE — Offices in the Northern Rolling Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone will be closed, according to a press release from Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2.

Cotton producers who need to obtain an endorsement during this time for a check made jointly payable to Texas Department of Agriculture, the release said, will need to make an appointment at their local office.

Area contacts include: Childress office. Barbara Jones, (940) 585-9499; or Debra Medford, (940) 585-4400.

Memphis office. Rusty Pierce, (940) 937-0000; Janet Montgomery, (806) 259-1116; or Barbara Booth, (806) 259-3333.

Wellington office. Debora Neeley, (806) 447-5426.

Endorsements may also be obtained at TDA's office in Lubbock or the office in Dallas. Growers are encouraged to call the offices to make sure someone will be there to help them. The Lubbock number is (806) 799-8555.

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