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See expanded weather on Page 2

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LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

Merry Christmas from the staff of The Pampa News

There will be no newspaper on Monday.



Errors contribute to corrections in property taxes

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Corrections to some taxpayers' property tax amounts due are once again under discussion by local entities, with this year's errors being attributed to clerical mistakes by Gray County Appraisal District, according to Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley.

Clerical errors by the taxpayer were the reason for refunds issued to Celanese last year after the chemical company's 2004 taxable value was lowered from \$85,100,951 to

\$78,342,698, a difference of \$6,647,253. The company was owed a refund of \$32,500.15 from Gray County, \$103,431.26 from Pampa Independent School District, and \$1,010.38 from Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District.

Xcel Energy had requested a correction in their amount of tax due in 2005, also due to a clerical error on the part of the company, but was denied the correction by the appraisal district's review board. The amount in contention was \$7,024,660.

Current corrections deal with much smaller amounts and involve 16 oil and gas leases, according to Bagley when he spoke at county commissioners' Dec. 15 meeting. The total amount is a \$2.3 million decrease in property taxes due, he said.

"This particular mistake was due to an error in my office," Bagley said to commissioners. "There was an action we needed to take that we didn't do. I have to assume this is the largest correction I have."

Corrections to the taxable value of

a property owner can be made if a clerical error is claimed by either the taxpayer or the appraisal district, according to the state's tax code.

"It's unfortunate. I apologize for the problems it causes government," Bagley said at the Dec. 15 meeting. "We're still working to identify the cause of the problem. Adjustments in values didn't get carried over to another program, and thus caused the problem."

County Judge Richard Peet asked

See TAXES, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Law enforcement officers had bloodhounds out trying to pick up the scent of a man who escaped from the Gray County Jail early Friday morning. He was last seen on County Road 12.5 east of town near Schwan's and Halliburton.

Jail escapee still at-large Saturday

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

As of presstime for this issue of The Pampa News, an official with the Gray County Sheriff's Office said local authorities were still seeking the capture of an escaped inmate from the Gray County Jail.

Gray County Sheriff's Office, Pampa Police Department, horses for mounted officers and bloodhounds were all utilized in the search for William Troglin who escaped early Friday morning from the jail.

Lt. Joe B. Hoard from the Sheriff's office confirmed that Troglin, 41, was in jail

on misdemeanor charges.

As of Friday afternoon, it was reported that the subject removed leg restraints and escaped from a work crew around 3:15 a.m. in his orange jumpsuit and reportedly barefoot.

He was spotted at Schwan's east of Pampa around 7 a.m. reportedly telling anyone that he would pay \$50 for a ride or the keys to one of their delivery trucks.

He was not wearing his orange jumpsuit, but instead was wearing a plaid shirt, khaki pants and work boots. The clothing was reportedly

See ESCAPE, Page 3

UW nears goal but still has ways to go

Pampa United Way has received several major firms this past week, bringing the total of contributions to \$241,757, which is 78.9 percent of the \$306,244 goal. This leaves \$58,344 still to raise in order to reach that goal.

Several cards are still outstanding and they urge anyone who has not finished working a card to bring it into the United Way office for help.

Ninety-nine cents out of every dollar stays here in Pampa, according to Executive Director Katrina Bigham. More than 7,500 people received help from 17 agencies on a one-time

basis last year.

"If we do not reach our goal, we will have to cut allocations to these 17 agencies in our community," Bigham said. "We cannot give out more than we collect. Your help is needed to reach our goal. It takes us all to make an impact on our community."

Agencies that are helped each year by United Way are Girl Scouts Five Star Council, Boy Scouts Golden Spread, Pampa Meals on Wheels, Tralee Crisis Center, CASA of the High Plains, the Southside Senior Citizens, the Eastern Texas

See UW, Page 3

Storm cleanup



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
City of Pampa crews were out cleaning up broken tree limbs in Central Park Friday. Tony Hughes used a front end loader to dump branches into a truck for disposal.




Free Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 25 • 11:00am to 2:00pm

Fellowship Hall of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ

Come Share With Us The Blessing And Surplus Of God's Grace As We Eat On Christmas Day

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 49. Sunday Night: A slight chance of flurries.	Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22.	Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

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Emergency Services

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 22

11:59 a.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to the 2400 block of Navajo on a gas leak.

6:08 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 2400 block of Evergreen on a Dumpster fire.

7:17 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 500 block of South Gillespie on a fire investigation.

8:41 p.m. — One unit and

three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a LifeStar standby.

Gray County Sheriff's Office on Saturday reported the following arrests.

Friday, Dec. 22

Raymond McKeever, 72, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on a Potter County warrant for theft by check.

Saturday, Dec. 23

James A. Homer, 27, of Groom was arrested by Pampa PD and charged with driving while intoxicated, first offense.

Obituaries

Marie Parsley, 74

Marie Parsley, 74, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2006, in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with Pastor Kyle Ohsfeldt, of Grace Baptist Church, and the Rev. Roger Bray, Mrs. Parsley's son-in-law and pastor of Central Christian Church in Pocatello, Idaho, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Mrs. Parsley was born Aug. 21, 1932, in Laketon, Texas. She moved to Pampa in 1934 where she had been a lifelong resident. She married A.C. Parsley in 1948 in

Pampa, and they were married for 44 years.

She owned and operated the Crow's Roost Café in Fort Cobb Lake, Okla., for six years, and she was a Hilcoa/Hillstead vitamin distributor since 1965. She was also a salesperson for Wheaton/Tiara Glassware.

Mrs. Parsley was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and the Pythian Sisters. Her passions were bowling, playing bingo, and cooking. She will be remem-

bered as a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Survivors include four daughters, Viola Bray and husband Roger of Pocatello, Idaho, Kathy Cluck and husband Joe of Amarillo, Rita Stephens and husband Clay of Mason City, Iowa,

and Nita Mackey of Perryton; two sons, Ronnie Parsley and wife Betty, and Randy Parsley and wife Michele, all of Pampa; one sister, Correne Nichols of

Pampa; 22 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Daudie and Magnolia Mize; and by a brother, J.D. Mize.

MEMORIALS: Grace Baptist Church, 824 S. Barnes, Pampa, TX 79065, or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 2201 Civic Circle, Amarillo, TX 79109.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at 621 S. Tignor.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.



Parsley

Bush urges prayers, gifts for troops in Iraq

By JENNIFER LOVEN
 Associated Press Writer

'Christmas reminds us that we have a duty to others, and we see that sense of duty fulfilled in the men and women who wear our nation's uniform. I urge every American to find some way to thank our military this Christmas season.'

— President Bush

and others to brief the president Saturday at Camp David.

Bush is spending the long Christmas weekend with his family at the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains. On Dec. 26, Bush flies to his Texas ranch, where he'll be

until Jan. 1.

The president is considering adding thousands of U.S. troops to the 140,000 already in Iraq as a way to control escalating violence, particularly in Baghdad. But that is only one of several options for what is expected to be a

multi-pronged new Iraq strategy that the White House said Bush would unveil sometime between the New Year and his Jan. 23 State of the Union address.

"If you're serving on the front lines halfway across the world, it is natural to wonder what all this means for you," the president said in his weekly radio address, taped before he left Washington for the holiday. "I want our troops to know that while the coming year will bring change, one thing will not change, and that is our nation's support for you and the vital work you do to achieve a victory in Iraq."

Before leaving Baghdad, Gates would not say whether he supports a short-term surge of U.S. troops. He said the review process needs more deliberation, in Washington and with the Iraqis.

He said he had concluded from his talks with Iraqi leaders that improved security is possible "with them in the lead." Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, was expected to work out some of those details with Iraq's political leadership in the days ahead, Gates said.

The White House announced plans for its own review work.

Bush has scheduled a meeting of his full National Security Council on Thursday at his Crawford, Texas, ranch. That session was not designed to make final decisions, but to continue to examine options, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

In his radio address, Bush called on Americans to spend the holidays remembering troops with prayers, gifts, help for families left behind, visits to hospitals and just simple gratitude.

"Christmas reminds us that we have a duty to others, and we see that sense of duty fulfilled in the men and women who wear our nation's uniform," he said. "I urge every American to find some way to thank our military this Christmas season."

Sen. Evan Bayh, the centrist Indiana Democrat and former governor who just a week ago ended any plans to seek the White House in 2008, gave a similar message for his party.

"We can count many blessings this year, but at the top of our list are the brave men and women serving in the United States military," he said in the Democratic radio address.

He pleaded for bipartisanship in Washington — a call made both by Bush and the Democrats, who will lead Congress in January. "We should remember that we have more in common than the differences that divide us," Bayh said.

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Taxes

Continued from Page 1

at the Dec. 15 meeting if any of the errors were attributable to the appraisal district's mineral valuations contractor, and Bagley said no. The appraisal district's board of directors renewed the district's contract with the mineral appraiser, Morgan Ad Valorem Services of Amarillo, formerly Tyler Technologies. The contract renewal is for three years at the rate of \$45,000 per year, an increase over the previous contract of \$42,000 per year.

The corrections concerning the 16 oil and gas leases came up again at the appraisal district's board of directors meeting Wednesday.

"We think we've found out why it happened and have dealt with it," Bagley said of the errors at the Wednesday meeting, adding that clerical errors were to be expected from time to time.

"It'd be nice to get to zero errors," said board member Doug Locke. "We may not make it, but it's a good goal to have. We ought to figure out how to put in quality control steps."

"I assure you, we have and we do," Bagley said.

"If you expect to have errors, you'll have them. You should have a philosophy that we will have zero errors," Locke said.

"I assure you, we have that philosophy," Bagley said.

The current crop of errors and resulting decreases in tax income for the affected entities may not have as much impact right now as they might in leaner years, according to the superintendents of two of the affected school districts.

"It probably won't impact us at all," said Lefors Independent School District Superintendent Gerry Nickell. "Our property values jumped \$50 million, so losing \$1.3 million will be fairly insignificant."

Lefors ISD's property tax values are currently at \$124 million, Nickell said, mainly due to mineral activities in the school district's area.

"In a normal year, that would have been an eye-opener, but under the circumstances, it will have a very negligible impact," Nickell said of the decrease in tax income to the school district. Lefors ISD's net loss due to the clerical errors will be approximately \$14,490, according to figures provided by Peet at the county commissioners' meeting.

"It will have no impact. It is a very minuscule amount compared to our total taxable value," said McLean Independent School District Superintendent Jimmy Hannon, who attended Wednesday's appraisal board meeting.

"Two years ago, we were at approximately \$119 million in taxable value. Last year it was \$123 million. This year we're at \$159 million. A large portion of it is mineral values," Hannon said.

McLean ISD's loss due to the current clerical errors is approximately \$8,359, according to the figures provided by Peet.

The percent of taxable values in the county in 2001 that were mineral properties was 25.5 percent, according to Bagley. For 2006, that percentage has increased to 29.2 percent.

Taxable values for the past three years have reflected an upward trend. The total taxable value of property in the appraisal district in 2003 was \$1,066,268,506. By 2006, that total had climbed to \$1,470,866,001. The only taxing entities showing a decrease in tax revenues are the cities of Lefors and McLean, with losses of \$157,398 and \$7,660,166, respectively, for the three-year period.

Taxable values for those enjoying increased tax revenues from 2003 to 2006 are: Gray County, \$1,008,909,925 to \$1,377,369,990; County Road Fund, \$998,649,575

to \$1,367,616,100; Water District, \$1,007,628,537 to \$1,377,369,990; City of Pampa, \$403,597,356 to \$444,671,468; Grandview-Hopkins ISD, \$63,734,594 to \$114,870,912; Lefors ISD, \$65,331,063 to \$124,536,374; McLean ISD, \$90,549,387 to \$159,403,902; and Pampa ISD, \$728,412,891 to \$943,301,277.

The increase in oil and gas activity is also having an impact on the City of Pampa, although the city does not receive oil and gas lease property taxes, according to City Manager John Horst.

"How it's affected the City of Pampa directly is increased employment in Gray County," Horst said. "We've seen some houses built. We've seen new businesses open, which I would say is due to the increased demand which was created by additional people."

An increase in a different type of tax income is being enjoyed by the city, Horst said.

"The main impact for Pampa is a sales tax increase," he said. "The way it affects our property taxes is new construction and increased inventory and personal property of businesses."

The city noted increases in its sales tax revenue about three years ago, when oil and gas activity in the area began to grow.

"From three years ago, our sales tax is up by about 20 percent. It can be attributed to increases in oil and gas activity," Horst said.

The appraisal district's clerical errors in taxable values on the 16 oil and gas leases in the county has resulted in 112 corrected statements and 78 refunds, according to the information supplied by Peet.

The other county taxing entities impacted by the errors are Gray County, losing \$9,358; Grandview-Hopkins ISD, \$4,680; Pampa ISD, \$789; Gray County Road Fund, \$860; and Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District, \$284.

Escape

Continued from Page 1

dirty and oily like those worn in the oilfield.

Workers at Halliburton were asked to review the surveillance tapes from the morning to see if Troglin was photographed entering their facility. He was not seen on the tapes.

County Road 12.5 was closed Friday morning and law enforcement partnered with guards from the prison to search that area. At least six horses were brought for mounted officers to search the fields.

Nine pack dogs were available to pick up a scent. Two scent specific bloodhounds were on hand to see if Troglin's scent could be picked up.

Capt. Clark, one of the dog handlers from the prison, said they get items from the jail cell of the escapee and let the dogs get that scent. Items such as a pillow case, clothes or a toothbrush can be used.

Troglin holds a Florida driver's license. His girlfriend holds an Arkansas driver's license and it is believed he might be trying to get to Arkansas.

The girlfriend, who was with Troglin when he was arrested, told police Troglin had been suicidal in the past.

Law enforcement reported he might be driving a 1989 Gray Toyota Corolla.



Holiday Greetings

May the coming season bring peace, joy and harmony for you and your loved ones. For your trust, we are truly thankful.



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UW

Continued from Page 1

Panhandle Chapter of the Red Cross, Community Day Care, Gray County Latch Key, Texas Panhandle MHMR, The Salvation

Army, Genesis House, Samaritan Pastoral Counseling, Gray County Child Protective Services, High Plains Epilepsy, Pampa Optimist Youth Club and Create a Beat.

If you have not been contacted by anyone from United Way and wish to

give, you can mail your pledge to P.O. Box 2076, Pampa, TX 79066. You can also take it to the office at 200 N. Ballard, room 105, or call the office at 669-1001 for arrangements to be made for someone to pick it up.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your patronage is greatly appreciated and I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

God Bless!
Regina Woods
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Good Old-Fashioned Christmas Wishes

We hope you and your loved ones celebrate a warm and happy holiday together. May health and good fortune follow you throughout the new year.

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Wishing you and yours, a truly enlightening season filled with magical moments and happy surprises. We appreciate everything you've done to help our dreams take wing this year.

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Viewpoints

Oh, the life of Reilly and bureaucrats

Some people will do anything to try and lose weight. All one has to do is try to watch the infomercials on television about the latest exercise gadget or the newest diet that promises to melt away unwanted pounds.

New Year's resolutions will cause these infomercials to proliferate in the next few months.

Most of these products and diets do not work and are the work of hucksters pushing their wares, trying to fleece the populace to build up their own bank accounts.

Some are almost comical to watch as the host or emcee, usually a young person who is physically fit, babbles about the wonders of exercising all the muscles

you never use, or the latest breakdown of carbohydrates and fat molecules working together to make you healthier and slimmer.

Now there is a guy who has come out with something called the "Beer Drinker's Diet." Since I have been known to quaff some brews in my time, it caught my eye. He is Bradley Scott Cailor, and he said he was frustrated because every diet he was on told him he could not drink beer.

"With this disparaging premise in mind, I have steadfastly tried to get around this issue by trying literally every 'diet' and 'diet pill' imaginable over the course of 25 years," he said in an interview. "Frustrated

by gimmicky diets, dangerous pills, and senseless diet books, I was so tired of failure that I had to take matters into my own hands in a monumental quest to find what diet plan truly works."

He added that his diet book summarizes all the diets he has tried into one complete and thoroughly tested guide that has been proven to work by real people.

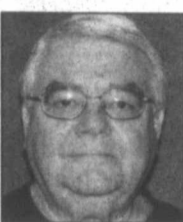
He said he has lost 110 pounds of fat and flab with his diet.

Cailor, of Dublin, Ohio, has a degree in health educa-

tion and has served many years as a personal trainer.

Does it work? I do not know. I have not tried it, and probably will not.

Cailor does offer a 100 percent money back guarantee.



Dennis Spies
Editor

Another event that caught my eye recently was the promise of Maryland Democrat

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, who will become House majority leader for the next Congress.

Hoyer said members of Congress should get ready to work five days a week starting in January.

A report in the Washington Post recently said that lawmakers typically start their work week late Tuesday and finish by Thursday afternoon. And those weeks were relatively few because the House was in recess.

Hoyer wants House members to show up for votes each week by 6:30 p.m. Monday and to finish about 2 p.m. Friday, and he warns that extended six-weekday holidays are a thing of the past.

Isn't that refreshing? Asking public servants to work nearly a full week to earn their pay? As a working stiff myself, I like it.

Ah, another Christmas season coming to a close.

So many memories of white Christmases in western Kansas, in Alberta, Canada, in Denver, Colo., and St. Louis, Mo., and the non-white variety in Biloxi, Miss., and the Texas Panhandle.

I suppose the best memories are of family gatherings, laughter, good food and that great feeling of knowing you are safe and sound.

With that thought in mind, here is an annual hearty Ho-Ho to some special people: Kristen, Brandie, Marcella, Reign, Caden, Gina, Austin, Pike, Grace, Emma, Adrian, Kayla and Kade.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2006. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

'To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year.'

— E.B. White
American author and journalist (1899-1985)

One hundred years ago, on Dec. 24, 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to transmit the human voice (his own) as well as music over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass. (The audience for this broadcast would have been ships' radio-telegraph operators in the Atlantic Ocean.)

On this date: In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and

Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

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

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

Our readers write

A community of wonderful people ...

I was born and raised in Pampa and can still say to this day that there are no people in the world as warm-hearted as the people there. I have not lived in Pampa for 30 years but recently I had the experience of receiving the welcoming of home people.

I had a crisis happen involving my sister who lives there and had to come back to Pampa to take care of her and the crisis.

If it were not for the city of Pampa, the chief of police, the social services, Harvest House, Good Sam, friends from First Baptist

Church, and many other individuals who helped me during this time, it would have been more difficult.

I appreciate and will never forget all of those who gave a helping hand to help me accomplish what needed to be done in such a short time. Pampa is truly a wonderful place and I'm proud to say that I grew up there.

Ya'll should be proud too. Pampa and the people will always have a special place in my heart.

April (Walkup) Coleman
Las Vegas, Nev.



Golf is more humbling than we thought

Uncle Mort and his 42-playing buddies meet at the general store there in the thicket. They have no plans to buy anything, but eagerly take on world crises (plural) in their domino world, often killing the large part of a day. Seated on cane-bottom chairs around a butcher-block table, the foursome hopes that one of them will get new dominoes for Christmas. They believe, in their hearts' bottoms, that the ones they've been playing with throughout 2006 are scratched, chipped or otherwise marked.

After shuffling, they shut their eyes tighter than a bank vault when taking dominoes. This assures random selection instead of choices based on domino recognition.

The game stops for few reasons, one being on those rare occasions when drivers get lost, and stop to ask for

directions. Mort and his cronies always make over such visitors, encouraging them to fill up with gas in case they get lost again. ...

He wipes windshields, often getting tips. Sometimes he whips up yarns to tickle motorists' funny bones, like he did the other day.

"Man, we've never had so many geese flapping their way south," he said. "Do you know why those V's of geese have one short row and one long row?"

The befuddled visitors say, "No, why is one row longer?" "Because there are more geese in the long rows," he jokes, slapping his thighs. ...

The recent errant motorist tossed his morning newspaper into the trash barrel.

When he was out of sight, Mort and his cohorts fished it out.

None of the headlines grabbed their attention, but a tiny story on the sports page

did. Mort nearly got the vapors laughing about Jimmie Johnson, the crown prince of NASCAR racing, breaking his wrist in a fall from a golf cart. ...

"Well, blow me down," Mort blustered. (In thicket vernacular, that's the rough equivalent of "Shiver me timbers.") He had the same response when he heard

about Dick Cheney shooting his friend on the bird hunt.

Mort, between convulsions, said racing fans would not be surprised if Johnson gets hurt roaring around race tracks at 200 MPH, or even on a freeway.

But at a charity golf tournament — where carts move more like snails than "warps?" ...

And he wasn't even driving, for goodness sakes! Boy, is this ever going to change NASCAR rules.

Expect designated cart drivers at such future events. "I doubt that the guy driving the cart was even a designated putter," Mort joked.

Oh, but the story gets worse. According to the Citrus County Chronicle,

See GOLF, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS
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Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **Dec. 18**
The Dallas Morning News on funding for a college education:

Tuition rates in Texas remain a bargain. You can attend college here for about \$5,300 a year, while the national price tag hovers around \$5,800.

But try telling that to Texas parents and students suffering from sticker shock. Since legislators gave state universities the freedom to set tuition rates in 2003, rates have risen nearly 40 percent.

The average Texan's finances can absorb only so much escalation, especially in such a short time.

The problem hits beyond individual pocketbooks the state's economy depends on getting as many students as possible to earn college degrees. And that's a financial challenge given the growing number of poor, often Latino, families.

You can't really blame colleges for the rapid rise. Austin wasn't funding universities adequately so they are doing what they must in order to retain top-notch professors, meet overhead and grapple with huge classes.

GOP Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano perhaps has come up with a way to satisfy parents and universities. She wouldn't strip colleges of the ability to set rates, but the Senate's education committee chairwoman would cap how much they could charge.

She proposes that the tuition cost remain steady once a student enters college, assuming he or she graduates on time. While the University of Texas-El Paso already has adopted this policy, some university leaders worry locked-in rates could harm schools during a recession, when the state might cut its funding stream.

But legislators could get around that problem by establishing a trigger. If, say, a recession hits Texas for several quarters and evidence shows it has hurt schools, legislators would have to find a way to make up the difference.

While trying to find the right balance, lawmakers also should replenish funds to the state GO program,

See COLLEGE, Page 5

Golf

Continued from Page 4

Johnson was sprawled on top of the cart, when a sharp turn — taken at perhaps five MPH — did him in.

"What was he doing up there?" Mort wondered. "You're 'sposed to sit under it to get out of the sun, not on

top to get more. Sounds to me like the whole kit and caboodle may need breathalyzer tests. There may be more swigging than swinging going on."

Mort, who economizes by driving his golf cart everywhere he goes, says he "wouldn't get on the road without seat belts and air bags." He's offered his consultant services. ...

He thinks that in a way, the NASCAR champion was beneficiary of some "blind hog luck." Mort points out that since the Florida accident occurred during the "off" season, the wrist will have plenty of time to mend. Oh, he'll miss racing in the X-Games this month in Paris.

But, his right hand is fine, so he'll be there to back-slap and flag-wave if needed. ...

The world is not a complicated place for the few remaining people in the thicket. The guys finished their game, laughing between shuffles. As they said good-byes, one player salivated at the thought of Christmas treats, "sweetening the air from a mile away," as he put it. Another was ignored when he tried to show new pictures of his

grandchildren. A third player said of his four grown children: "We have three brilliant daughters, and one almost-average son."

Then Mort jumped on his golf cart, fastened the seat belt, and pattered toward home. He hoped he wouldn't run over something in the evening shadows, or be pursued by a varmint faster than his cart. He smiled, figuring that even if he took a turn too

sharp and tumbled to the terra firma, it wouldn't make the newspapers.

His mind drifted to the post-accident press conference, where Mort would have loved asking, "Other than that, Mr. Johnson, did you enjoy the game?"

—Dr. Newbury is a speaker and author whose column appears weekly in 125 newspapers in six states.

Robin Williams out of rehab, back on screen

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After spending two months ensconced quietly in an Oregon rehab program, Robin Williams is back making laughs onscreen.

The 55-year-old comedian voices two characters in the animated "Happy Feet" and performs alongside Ben Stiller and Dick Van Dyke in the holiday fantasy "Night at the Museum."

He's grateful, he said, for the support of family and friends after his relapse into alcoholism earlier in the year, for which he checked into rehab on his own.

"Glad to have done it. Club medicated. Came out, happy to be around," Williams told The Associated Press in an interview. "Good to have back-up."

Williams was speaking from San Francisco, where he said he'd reached that phase of Christmas shopping "where you go from hunter-gatherer to shopper-borrower."

In "Night at the Museum," which opened Friday, Williams plays a wax figure of President Theodore

'He was bigger than life at a time when there were big men as president — big fat men. He was a very active, vital, very well read, well-written really outspoken man. He was put in power by people who thought he could never do any damage. Then bang! President McKinley was assassinated and he's one of the great reformers of the early 20th century.'

— Robin Williams

Roosevelt, a role the manic but brainy comedian said was "a wonderful thing."

"He was bigger than life at a time when there were big men as president — big fat men. He was a very active, vital, very well read, well-written really outspoken man," Williams said. "He was put in power by people who thought he could never do any damage. Then bang! President McKinley was assassinated and he's one of the great reformers of the early 20th century."

Williams rode a horse and acted along with Stiller in

scenes with a capuchin monkey named Crystal.

"Once we started working with the monkey, we both realized we're screwed. This is over. It combines the worst aspects of working with children and animals when you have an animal that looks like a child," Williams said. "He overacts like crazy. If he made those faces as a human we'd be like, 'What's he on?'"

"Plus what other human can (defecate) on you in the middle of a scene and people would be like 'Awww, great.' Basically we finished a take, and he took a dump

Events calendar

• **CREATE-a-Beat!** of Pampa is offering a series of eight classes for hearing infants and their families. "Baby Sing & Sign" is divided into eight-week sessions. The enrollment fee is \$100. Sessions begin Jan. 10 (10 a.m.); Jan. 9 (6:30 p.m.); March 21 (10 a.m.); and March 20 (6:30 p.m.). To register or to find out more, call 665-7474 or e-mail cmoore@createabeat.org.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa has scheduled several activities for the end of December and the beginning of January. The upcoming activities are as follows: 10-11 a.m., Christmas story/2-4 p.m. movie - Dec. 22; 10-11 a.m. Storytime/2-4 p.m., board game day - Dec. 27; 10-11 a.m., Backpack Snacks/2-4 p.m., movie - Dec. 28; and 10-11 a.m. board game day/2-4 p.m. movie - Dec. 29 and Jan. 2. For more information, call 669-5780.

• **The Comprehensive Breast Center** of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Dec. 26 and Jan. 23, Shepard's Crook Nursing Center,

916 N. Crest, in Pampa. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

• **Back in Control** parent class will be offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 6 at 1500 S. Taylor in Amarillo. Registration will be at 8:45 a.m. The class will be conducted by Janice James, UCAP coordinator, and is being offered through Texas Panhandle Mental Health Retardation's STAR pro-

gram. For more information, call (806) 359-2005.

• **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** of the High Plains will hold an informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Brown Alliance for Children, 315 N. Ballard, in Pampa. CASA volunteers serve as special advocates in court cases involving neglected or abused children. The volunteers help ensure that such children find safe, permanent homes, assisting the courts and the often overburdened child welfare system so that no child falls through the cracks.

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

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on my shoulder. I was like OK, thank you." Williams said he tried to soothe the animal. "I just talked to it nice and say 'Who's your daddy? Who loves you? Who's a simian? Who likes your little tail? Who's more hairy than you? I am. I'm the alpha. You know that.'"

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College

Cont. from Page 4

authored by Dallas Democratic Rep. Helen Giddings. Since 2003, GO has helped 28,000 students wade through the complicated process of applying for college loans. Unfortunately, the program has run out of money.

From tuition controls to the nitty-gritty of application papers, we're heartened by options that keep the college graduate pipeline unobstructed.



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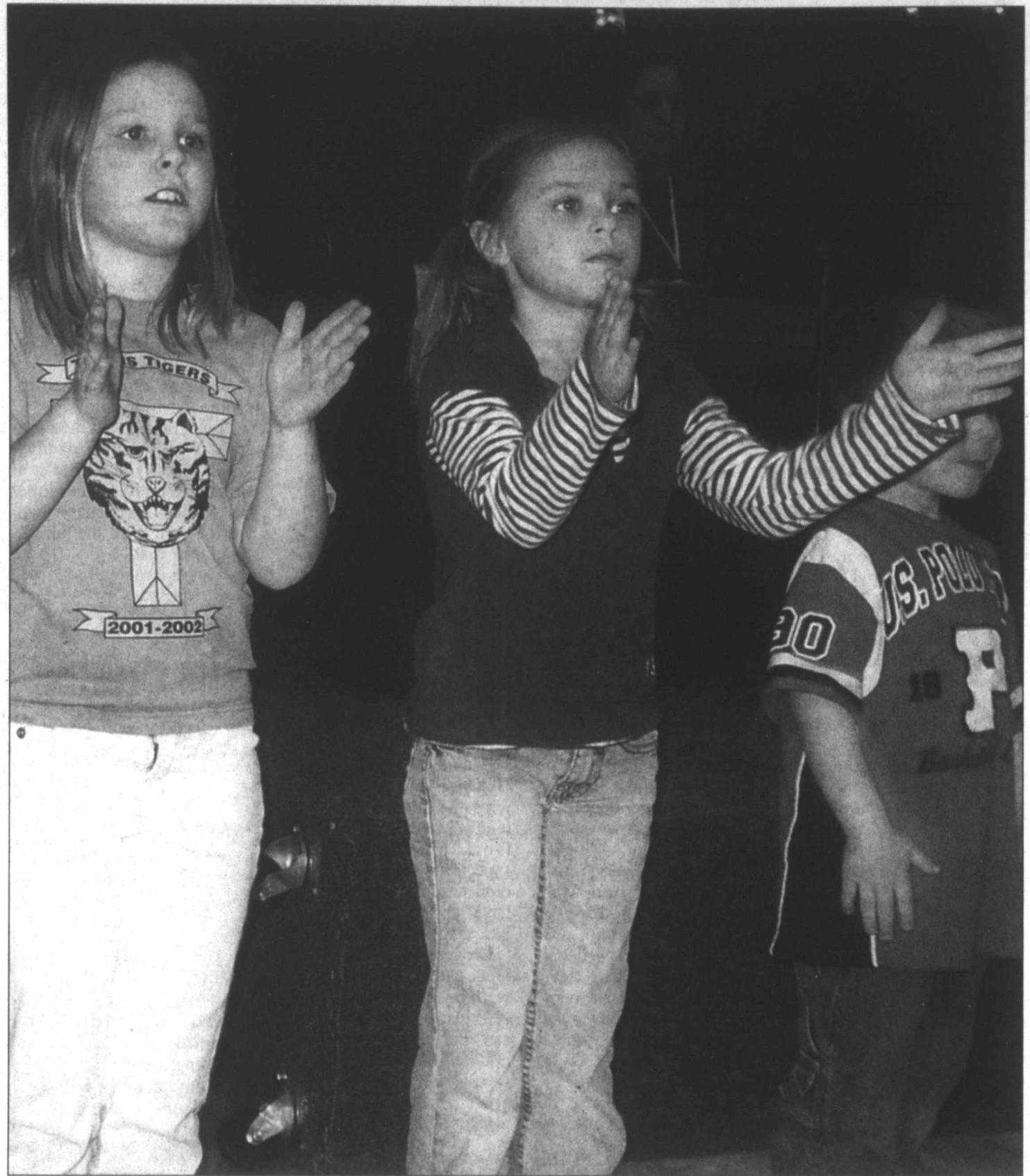
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Christmas program



COURTESY PHOTO
Samantha Clancy, Chaine Corley and Bryton Anderson put on a real show for the parents during the annual CREATE-a-Beat! Christmas program recently.



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**Girl Scout gala to recognize
2007 'Women of Distinction'**

AMARILLO — A Pampa woman with a long-standing history of service to Scouting will be honored this coming spring when the Five Star Girl Scout Council confers "Women of Distinction" awards upon her and six others at a March 2 gala in Amarillo.

The adult gala will be held at Tascosa Country Club and is scheduled to kick-off with a reception from 5:30-6:15 p.m. Dinner and a program will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Martha Holt, a long-time Girl Scout supporter from Pampa, was — besides being past president of Quivera Girl Scout Council — a troop leader for many years and a former day camp and troop camp director.

During her stint as council president, Holt spearheaded a drive to improve camping facilities and advocated better learning experiences throughout the council.

Presently, she is an active member of First Baptist Church of Pampa, participating in its Sunday school class and Sunshine Club. She worked with Vacation Bible School for many years, acted as president of Horace Mann PTA and was heavily involved in the Rebekahs.

Holt helped organize Pampa High's Class of 1943 through its 55th class reunion and has received many accolades from many of the organizations she has served throughout the years.

Reservations to the spring gala must be made by Feb. 20. To find out more, call (806) 356-0096 or 1-800-687-4475.



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for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

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Drilling Intentions

Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #15R Hemphill Walsler '11', 511' from North & 1765' from West line, Sec. 11,4,AB&M, PD 14000'. Replacement well for #11-15 Hemphill Walsler
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1348 Irene Dixon, 2310' from South & 990' from East line, Sec. 48,A-2,H&GN, PD 13100'.
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., Barker, Sec. 53,M-1,H&GN, PD 13600', for the following wells:
 #1153A, 1800' from South & 660' from West line of Sec.
 #1253A, 2310' from North & West line of Sec.
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #707A Peak Bourassa, 467' from North & West line, Sec. 7,3,AB&M, PD 13050'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. CANADIAN Douglas) Cordillera Texas, L.P., #1 Nix '83', 660' from North & 1300' from East line, Sec. 83,42,H&TC, PD 7500'.
HEMPHILL (N.W. MEN-

DOTA Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #6 Mendota Ranch '36', 620' from South & 467' from West line, Sec. 36,1,I&GN, PD 12600'.
Recompletion
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Douglas) Samson Lone Star, L.P., #4 Ramp Walker '12', 557' from North & 1911' from East line, Sec. 12,41,H&TC, PD 8600'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Grayhawk Operating, Inc., #1200 Isaacs, 2186' from South & 820' from West line, Sec. 200,C,G&MMB&A, PD 11500'.
HUTCHINSON (WILDCAT 11600' & above) Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #1 Morrison Quachita 'A' 522, 467' from South & 1362' from West line, Sec. 2,—, A. Barclay Survey, PD 11600'.
ROBERTS (WILDCAT & CHRISTIE TIPPS Upper Morrow) Samson Lone Star, L.P., #1069 CB, 900' from South & 467' from East line, Sec. 69,B-1,H&GN, PD 11250'.
ROBERTS (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Mewbourne Oil Co., #81

Flowers Trust, 1980' from South & 467' from West line, Sec. 8,—,BS&F, PD 11200'.
WHEELER (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #19R Zybach '65', 1307' from North & 487' from West line, Sec. 65,M-1,H&GN, PD 14300'. Replacement well for #65-19 Zybach
WHEELER (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #4051A Finsterwald-Dobbs, 2310' from South & East line, Sec. 51,M-1,H&GN, PD 13900'.
WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con., Inc., #12 Britt Ranch 'C' 35, 1100' from North & 1980' from West line, Sec. 35,A-3,H&GN, PD 15850'.
WHEELER (WILDCAT & FRYE RANCH Granite Wash 'A') Questar E&P Co., #104 Mitchell, 933' from South & 1707' from West line Sec. 4,—AB&M, PD 18500'.
WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #1 Jerri Reed '3', 467' from North & 753' from East line, Sec. 3,2,B&B, PD 16200'.
WHEELER (WILDCAT

& EAST THORNDIKE) Rio Petroleum, Inc., #1092 Bailey, 2195' from North & 603' from West line, Sec. 92,A-5,H&GN, PD 14500'.
WHEELER (WILDCAT & WEST PARK Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.P., #1 Fuhrman '19', 2173' from South & 467' from West line, Sec. 19,RE,R&E, PD 15000'.
Oil Well Completions
HUTCHINSON (ARRINGTON Morrow) Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #9 West Turkey Track, Sec. 4,H,H&GN, spud 2-27-06, drlg. compl 3-29-06, tested 4-12-06, pumped 4.2 bbl. of — grav. oil + no water on 24 hour test, GOR 6904, TD 7925', PBD 7834' —
Recompletion

Gas Well Completions
GRAY (N.E. HOOVER Virgil Lime) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con., Inc., #5 Ruth '23', Sec. 23,3,I&GN, spud 2-5-04, drlg. compl 5-18-04, tested 10-20-04, potential 18 MCF, rock pressure 1010 psia, TD 9013', PBD 5100' — Form 1 in Jones Energy, Ltd.
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1653A Barker, Sec. 53,M-1,H&GN, spud 8-28-06, drlg. compl 9-15-06, tested 11-20-06, potential 3616 MCF, rock pressure 3216 psia, TD 13458', PBD 13360' —
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1530 Peak Walsler, Sec. 30,A-

2,H&GN, spud 9-23-06, drlg. compl 10-13-06, tested 11-20-06, TD 12810', PBD 12750' —
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #5528P Carr '55', Sec. 55,M-1,H&GN, spud 5-20-06, drlg. compl 5-31-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11940', PBD 11871' —
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) See INTENTS, Page 8

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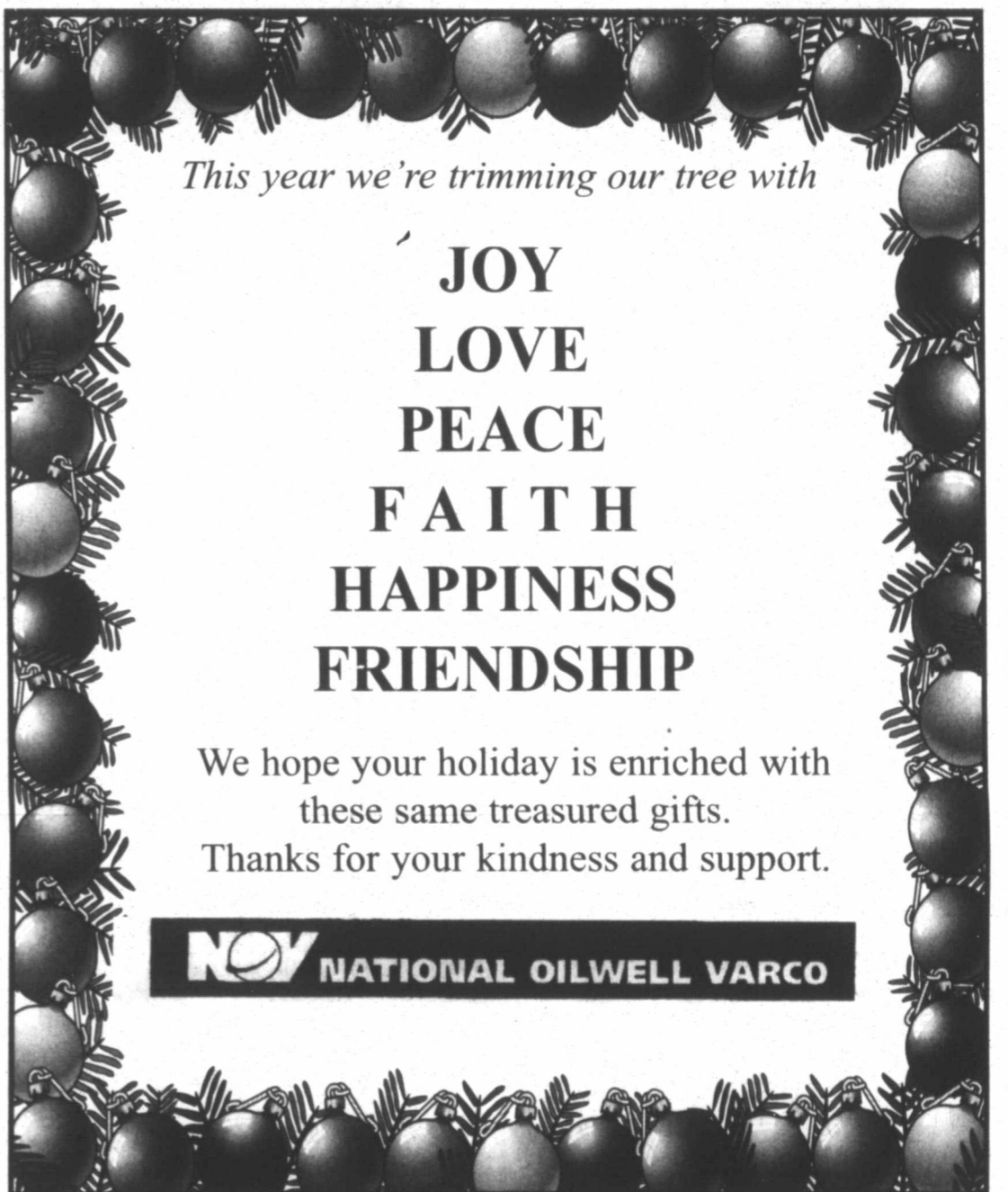
Atmos Energy honored for greenhouse reductions

LUBBOCK — Atmos Energy has recently been honored with two awards from the Environmental Protection Agency for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 "Every year, Atmos Energy employees work hard to replace miles of aging pipe that carry natural gas to our customers," said Stuart Schulz, Atmos Energy Environmental specialist. "Replacement programs improve the safety and reliability of our distribution system while protecting the environment by reducing or eliminating methane emissions."
 At the 13th Annual Natural Gas STAR

Implementation Workshop recently, Atmos was selected as the natural gas distribution company Partner of the Year in the EPA's 2006 Natural Gas STAR Program.
 Annually the EPA chooses a partner of the year from each of the four natural gas industry sectors — production, gathering and processing, transmission and storage, and distribution.
 Atmos also received a Continuing Excellence award from the EPA for five years of continual improvement in the STAR Program. The program is a voluntary partnership between the EPA and the natural gas industry to

encourage voluntary reductions in the emissions of methane. Atmos joined the program in 1999.
 "For five consecutive years, Atmos Energy has significantly reduced emissions," Schulz said. "In 2005, Atmos Energy reported the highest overall reductions and third highest normalized reductions for distribution partners. Atmos Energy also has the third highest cumulative reductions of all distribution partners."

See ATMOS, Page 8



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Barbie doll named for Hilary Duff

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hilary Duff is a real doll. A real Barbie doll.

Duff is the latest Hollywood star to take on 12-inch proportions as the world's most popular fashion doll. She joins other famous (doll) faces such as Reese Witherspoon, Beyonce Knowles and Lucille Ball.

The Red Carpet Glam Hilary Duff Doll, which shows the 19-year-old's likeness in a polka-dot dress with a red satin sash, hits stores this month.



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Realty banquet



COURTESY PHOTO

The Pampa Board of REALTORS®, Inc., recently held an Installation Banquet for its 2007 officers and directors. The banquet was held at The Plaza III with Randy Jeffers, secretary/treasurer and president-elect of Texas Association of Realtors, giving the oaths. Shown are Jeffers; Becky Baten, president; Jim Davidson, vice president; Emily Trennepohl, secretary; Irvine Riphahn, director; Joan Mabry, director; and Sandra Schuneman, director.

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To Our Friends & Neighbors At The Holidays

This greeting is filled with a healthy measure of best wishes and gratitude. We hope your holiday is just what the doctor ordered.

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Intents

Continued from Page 7

WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #4127P Hefley, Sec. 41,M-1,H&GN, spud 2-16-06, drlg. compl 2-28-06, tested 11-6-06, TD 11895', PBDT 11835' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #5724P Holland 'C', Sec. 57,M-1,H&GN, spud 6-3-06, drlg. compl 6-13-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11985', PBDT 11962' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #5730P Holland 'C', Sec. 57,M-1,H&GN, spud 4-10-06, drlg. compl 5-4-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11916', PBDT 11752' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #4222P Teas '42', Sec. 42,M-1,H&GN, spud 4-22-06, drlg. compl 4-30-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11796', PBDT 11730' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #4231P Teas '42', Sec. 42,M-1,H&GN, spud 4-6-06, drlg. compl 4-15-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11837', PBDT 11777' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy Production, Inc., #4323P Teas '43', Sec. 43,M-1,H&GN, spud 5-23-06, drlg. compl 6-12-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11887', PBDT 11785' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble

Energy Production, Inc., #4331P Teas '43', Sec. 43,M-1,H&GN, spud 4-13-06, drlg. compl 4-24-06, tested 11-7-06, TD 11950', PBDT 11854' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, Sec. 14,A-1,H&GN, spud 8-30-06, drlg. compl 9-17-06, tested 11-22-06, TD 11900', PBDT 11790' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #2 Black Jack, Sec. 14,A-1,H&GN, spud 8-30-06, drlg. compl 9-17-06, tested 11-22-06, TD 11900', PBDT 11790' —

ROBERTS (QUINDUNO Council Grove) Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #11 Courson Ranch '135', Sec. 135,C,G&M, spud 7-4-06, drlg. compl 7-11-06, tested 8-1-06, potential 225 MCF, rock pressure 515 psia, TD 4300' —

Plugged Wells

GRAY (PANHANDLE) Taylor-Clayton-Hawley, #4 W.H. Taylor 'AG', 2310' from South & 1650' from West Lease line, Sec. 80,B-2,H&GN, spud 5-11-65, plugged 9-1-06, TD 3262' (oil) Form 1 in W.H. Taylor, et al.

GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Taylor-Clayton-Hawley, #21 Taylor Ranch /WHT/, 1250' from North & 660' from East Lease line, Sec. 12,B-2,H&GN, spud 4-15-62, plugged 9-6-06, TD 2994' (gas) — Form 1 in W.H. Taylor Estate, et al

HUTCHINSON (PANHANDLE) Enid Operating, Inc., #1 Cal Merchant 'A', Sec. 37,47,H&TC, spud unknown, plugged 8-25-06, TD 3040' (oil) — Form 1 in W.R.

Edwards, Jr. HUTCHINSON (PANHANDLE) Enid Operating, Inc., Little Rascals, Sec. 38,47, H&TC (oil) — Form 1 in W.R. Edwards, for the following wells:

329, 990' from North & 660' from West Lease line, spud unknown, plugged 8-30-06, TD 3030' — #30, 330' from North & 660' from West Lease line, spud unknown, plugged 9-6-06, TD 3100' —

HUTCHINSON (PANHANDLE) Luxor Oil & Gas, Inc., #2701 Barnhill, 6617' from North & 1650' from West Lease line, Lot 27.2, G. Martinez, spud 3-27-81, plugged 8-31-06, TD 3400' (oil) — Form 1 in W.R. Edwards, Jr.

HUTCHINSON (NORTH HUTCHINSON Tonkawa & Mississippian) Strat Land Exploration, #3 Holt, 467' from North & 2173' from East Lease line, Sec. 52,5-T,T&NO, spud 7-10-91, plugged 6-9-06, TD 7000' (oil) — Dual

ROBERTS (WILDCAT) Raydon Exploration, Inc., #2018 Hale, 2230' from North & 2130' from East Lease line, Sec. 18,B-1,H&GN, spud 4-27-06, plugged 5-17-05, TD 9810' (dry) —

WHEELER (WAST PANHANDLE) Kenneth Wischkaemper, #1 Keller, Sec. 31,24,H&GN, spud 9-26-81, plugged 9-20-06, TD 2373' (gas) — Form 1 in D&B Petroleum, Inc.

WHEELER (EAST PANHANDLE) Kenneth Wischkaemper, #5 Wischkaemper, Sec. 5,24,H&GN, spud 9-10-81, plugged 9-13-06, TD 2130' (gas) —

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► Atmos

Continued from Page 7

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AG NEWS

Economist: Grain outlook best in 20 years

By KAY LEDBETTER
Extension News

AMARILLO — Grain producers can look forward to a profitable market for several years, but cattle producers must work through some shocks in the market, a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist said.

"The overall outlook for grain producers is the best I've seen in 20 years," said Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension economist in Amarillo.

Amosson will give High Plains producers more details on the market outlook during Profitability Workshops scheduled in January.

"With near-record prices for corn and sorghum, producers are going to have an opportunity to lock in profits for not only this year, but for the next couple of years," he said. "This means profits above all costs."

Ethanol production has raised corn use 500 million bushels in the last year, Amosson said. If the planned ethanol plants all come on line, corn usage could increase another 500 million bushels.

"In fact, in order to meet the proposed goal of producing 15 billion gallons of ethanol, we'd need to increase in corn acreage somewhere between 21 (million) to 23 million acres nationwide," he said. "We're already hearing from some seed dealers who said early corn sales are up 25 (percent) to 30 percent this year."

Some of the ethanol plants will utilize

'With near-record prices for corn and sorghum, producers are going to have an opportunity to lock in profits for not only this year, but for the next couple of years.'

— Dr. Steve Amosson
Extension economist

sorghum, but in the short-term the majority will be corn-based, Amosson said. The cellulose-based ethanol production could impact the future demand for corn, but that process may still be a ways from being economical.

On another front, wheat is ringing up high prices for producers, for a different reason, he said. Production throughout the nation and world has been short.

"So producers can lock in prices around \$4.50 per bushel for this year's crop, as well as next year's," Amosson said. "There's definitely an opportunity in wheat to

make a profit, considering the typical price is \$3.05 per bushel in this area."

While natural gas prices can wreak havoc with profits, he said the natural gas futures are showing prices to be stable or falling in the next couple of years. That not only affects irrigation pumping prices, but also fertilizer prices.

Availability of water was a concern that prompted some producers to switch to cotton to conserve water, but higher corn prices will likely bring them back, at least partly, Amosson said.

"The risk on corn production, to me, is less than that of cotton," he said. "If I had the water, I would do it. If you figure in \$50 to \$150 profit, above all costs, you don't see many years when that could happen. And we're looking at it for two to three years. It's not hard to make the decision."

See OUTLOOK, Page 10

Drought took its toll on Texas in 2006

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Texans are about to bid farewell to a dry, hot year that had the nation's No. 2 agriculture state reeling from the worst single-year losses for crops and livestock.

"We're going to have to start to sell cows if we don't get some rain," said rancher John Welch, who manages up to 10,000 head of cattle on Spade Ranches across West Texas.

The forecast through April could improve conditions. A weak to moderate El Nino weather pattern shows increased chances for above normal rainfall statewide.

As much as 20 percent of the state remains in exceptional drought and a similar percentage is enduring extreme drought, Texas Cooperative Extension drought specialist Travis Miller said.

The first 11 months of 2006 rank as the 31st driest January-through-November stretch since 1895. Average rainfall for that period was 23 inches, down from the normal of 26.02 inches, the National Weather Service said.

Compounding the lack of rainfall is a statewide average temperature of 68.9 degrees, the second warmest January through November on

record. "You put those together and it's not good," National Weather Service meteorologist Victor Murphy said.

The drought cost the state — the nation's leading producer of cotton and cattle — \$2.5 billion in lost crops and \$1.6 billion in livestock losses.

The drought, now in about its 20th month, also sparked deadly wildfires and dropped lake levels to their lowest point for this time of year since 1978.

Lake levels fell 1 percent from October to November and are down 7 percent from a year ago, according to the latest Texas Water Development Board report.

The drought cost the state — the nation's leading producer of cotton and cattle — \$2.5 billion in lost crops and \$1.6 billion in livestock losses.

The cotton crop, coming off a record 8.5-million-bale harvest in 2005, was projected to be down 32

percent for 2006. About three-fourths of the state's hay crop didn't make it, forcing cattle ranchers to pay more for what remained or pay higher prices for hay trucked in from out of state.

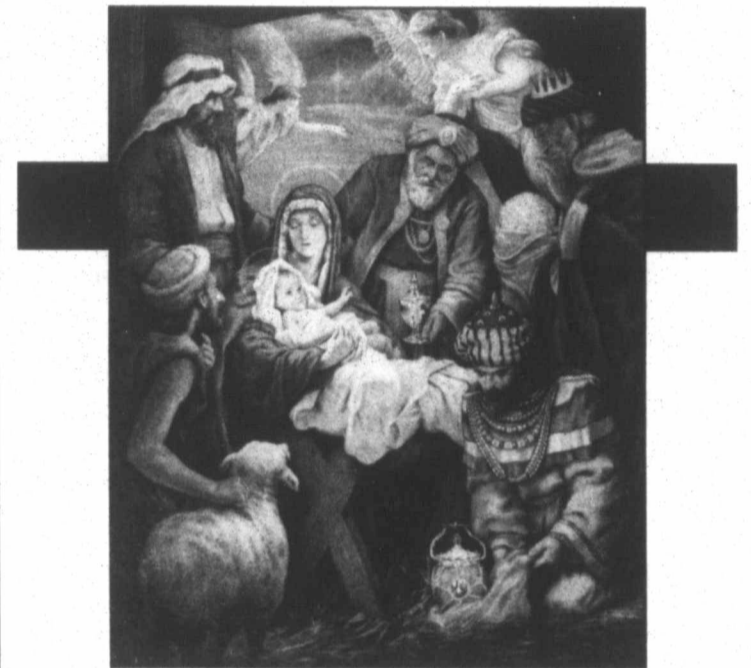
Texas sent more cattle to auction in the late spring and summer than in 2005 because of the drought, Texas Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Beverly Boyd said. Lack of forage and hay prompted producers to cull their herds to cut losses.

"It's very difficult to feed out of a drought," Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association president C.R. "Dick" Sherron said. "A lot of old timers will tell you it's impossible."

In September, about 24,000 Texas producers in 216 drought-stressed counties became eligible for \$16.1 million from the federal Livestock Assistance Grant Program.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, recently told Texas Farm Bureau members she had "every confidence" federal disaster assistance would materialize in the next budget.

But farmers and ranchers know money won't solve all their problems. "There's no substitute for a good rain," Hall said. "We're, along with everyone else, on our knees praying for that."



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Luke 2:11

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Mexican shoppers helping make Texas' holiday season much more profitable

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Hundreds of last-minute shoppers jammed the streets of downtown El Paso on Friday morning, many carrying armloads of plastic shopping bags.

A pedestrian line leading to an international bridge connecting the far West Texas city with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, was just as crowded with bundled up shoppers heading back to Mexico.

It's a typical scene this time of year, and with just three shopping days left until Christmas it looks like this

holiday season is on track to be a very lucrative one for border-area retailers from El Paso to McAllen.

"It looks very good, real positive," said Steve Ahlenius, president and CEO of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce. "My prediction ... was a 7 percent to 10 percent increase over last year."

Ahlenius, who works with retailers in and around McAllen, said Mexican shoppers spent much of the more than \$3 billion in November and December of last year.

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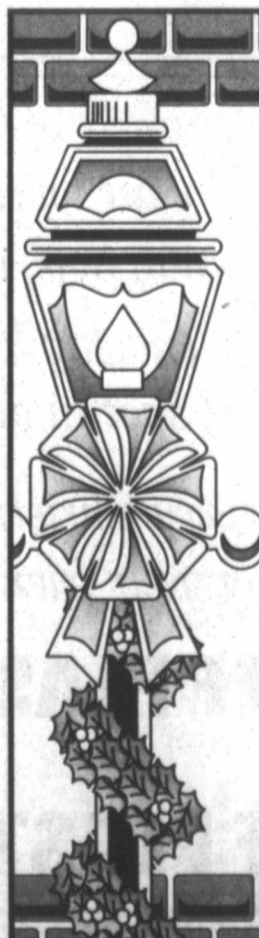
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"Jesus is the Reason for the Season"

Christmas has been a hectic time for centuries ...

By **MATT CRENSON**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Once upon a time the holiday season was a quiet time spent with family and friends — simpler, less commercial, more spiritual, nothing like today's frenzied orgy of soulless consumption.

"There are worlds of money wasted, at this time of year, in getting things that nobody wants, and nobody cares for after they are

got," one observer noted recently. Well, not so recently.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote those words in 1850. By then, the holiday was already well on its way to becoming the retail orgy it is today.

"Every generation for the last 250 years tends to think it was only in the last generation that it got commercialized," said Stephen Nissenbaum, an emeritus professor of history at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

In his book "The Battle for Christmas," Nissenbaum puts that myth to rest by tracing the history of the holiday from colonial New England to the turn of the 20th century.

Nissenbaum shows that powerful social interests have always advanced their agendas through Christmas, and describes how the holiday we celebrate today had its origins in the New York City of the 1820s. Christmas, it seems, has always been a holiday of excess.

For most of its history Christmas was a free-for-all, more New Year's Eve or Mardi Gras than the domestic idyll described in Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" (better known today as "The Night Before Christmas"). The holiday has its origins in the Roman festival of Saturnalia, a weeklong winter solstice celebration that featured feasting, drinking, gambling and sex. Men dressed like women, women

dressed like men, and masters waited on their slaves in a raucous reversal of the social hierarchy.

Such behavior was almost inevitable during the weeks surrounding the winter solstice in the preindustrial societies of northern Europe, thanks to what Nissenbaum refers to as a "combustible mix" of leisure time, abundance and alcohol.

The work of the harvest done, young men had plenty of time on See **BUSY**, Page 11

Former Texas AG out of prison

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has been released from federal prison in Texarkana and placed in a halfway house near San Antonio, authorities said.

Morales is scheduled to be released from federal custody in April, said Mitch Huffman, a spokesman for the U.S. Board of Prisons.

Morales, 50, was a two-term attorney general from 1991-98 who helped win a \$17 billion settlement against big tobacco companies. In 2002, he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for governor.

See **MORALES**, Page 11



Candle lighting service

Jeanna Zuniga, left, and Adam Zuniga are seen here preparing for the annual candlelight service held recently at Memory Gardens Cemetery.

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Outlook

Continued from Page 9

Other bright spots in the forecast include rising silage prices on the heels of corn, as well as an the eventual increase in cotton and soybean prices, Amosson said.

The corn acreage has to come from somewhere, he explained, predicting it would be from soybean, cotton and some wheat acreage. Shorter supplies of these crops could lead to higher prices in the future.

The not-so-bright part of the agriculture picture is with the cattle industry, Amosson said.

"They are going to see some heavy losses, especially if they bought cattle before the corn price run-up," he said. "The rule of thumb is for every 10 cent increase in corn prices, calf prices will fall \$1.50 per hundredweight."

The cattle industry will go through some adjustments, he said. The distiller's grains, a by-product of the ethanol industry, will be built into feed rations to help offset some of the corn currently being fed to cattle.

Some areas have fed as much as 30 percent of the ration as distiller's grain without losing any gain, but researchers are still working out the best fit for the ethanol by-product for the Texas feeding industry, Amosson said.

In addition to learning to feed the distiller's grain, he said the industry might move to shorter feeding periods to reduce feed bills.

"It's going to be a shock to the system, and then things will start to adjust," he said.

The one caveat Amosson puts on his outlook is, "You have to produce it to make it. You can have \$10 corn and if you can't produce it, it won't do you any good."

Amosson will be working with producers at several Profitability Workshops in January. During these meetings, he will go over the 2007 budgets for all crops, including dryland and irrigated, and do sensitivity analysis on yields and prices.

"Hopefully this information will give the producer a better set of knowledge to make those decisions," he said. "Last year, almost everything bled red. This year, we see black with a lot of the budgets."

"We're hoping the biggest problem after this year for producers will be income taxes," Amosson said.

Profitability Workshops are planned in the following counties: Ochiltree, Jan. 5; Hall, Jan. 16; Hansford, Jan. 18; Dalhart, Jan. 24; Hemphill, Jan. 25; and Deaf Smith, Jan. 31.

For specific times and locations, contact the Extension agent in the county.



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The Smiths
Sean, Chrissy, Avery & Halle



Busy

Continued from Page 10

their hands, much of it in the form of long, dark nights tailor-made for mischief.

In a world without refrigeration, the arrival of cold weather made fresh meat available for the first time in months. But most importantly, December meant beer. By mid-month, whatever grain surplus their hard summer's labor had produced would have been fully fermented and ready to drink.

In the northern Europe of the late middle ages, gangs of young men would engage in "wassailing," a cross between Christmas caroling and home invasion. The gangs would visit wealthy homes, often in disguise, and sing songs that threatened violence if they were not invited in for food and drink.

In agrarian societies, practices like wassailing served as a critical safety valve, giving people at the bottom of the social ladder a release that would keep them in line during the rest of the year.

With the arrival of the Industrial Revolution, factory owners didn't want their employees wandering off for weeks of drunken merriment. During the 1820s, after a series of particularly raucous holiday seasons in New York, the city's elite began campaigning for a more restrained, domestic Christmas. Central to that campaign was the tradition of purchasing gifts, especially for children.

Christmas and America's consumer culture have fed off one another ever since, said Russell Belk, a

professor of business at the University of Utah. His research has shown that the more materialistic people are about Christmas, the less satisfaction they derive from the holiday.

'It's as if we're cheering for people to spend more money, and the more we cumulatively spend the better it is.'

— Russell Belk
Professor of business

There's no doubt Americans are materialistic about Christmas. Almost half of all Americans crammed stores on the day after Thanksgiving this year, the traditional beginning of the holiday shopping season. By the time the Christmas shopping season is over, the country will have spent in the neighborhood of \$150 billion, most of it on gifts. That's an average of \$500 for every man, woman and child.

The retail industry so relies on holiday spending that business news outlets report the progress of the annual shopping spree almost on a daily basis, beginning with that fateful Friday after Thanksgiving.

"It's as if we're cheering for people to spend more money, and the more we cumulatively spend the better it is," Belk said.

There are still some opportunities for carnality during the holiday sea-

son, such as New Year's Eve and the office Christmas party. But by and large we've substituted unrestrained spending for uninhibited behavior, a swollen credit-card balance for a throbbing head.

In surveys well over 90 percent of Americans say they celebrate Christmas. A study performed in the 1990s concluded that the average person buys 36 gifts for 14 recipients, though the number is likely to have increased since then.

"There's a socio-cultural expectation that we ought to get caught up in it," said Cele Otnes, a professor of business administration at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

And the commitment is not a slight one. Christmas trees and other decorations have to be put up. Baking needs to be done. Children need to be driven through heavy traffic to rehearsals for holiday pageants. Presents have to be purchased, wrapped and occasionally mailed. Relatives must be visited. And then when it's over, there are the gift returns.

And all of this transpires in a society where the vast majority of parents work. The burden ends up falling most heavily of women, who tend to do more of the gift buying, tree trimming and cookie baking.

"For all the joy it promises it really puts intense pressure on people," Nissenbaum said.

Perhaps that's the biggest difference between Christmas present and Christmas past. A holiday that began in ancient times as a debauched escape from everyday chores has become exactly the opposite.

Merry Christmas.

Morales

Continued from Page 10

time friend and lawyer from the settlement.

Morales had contended that Houston lawyer Marc Murr was due \$560 million from the settlement.

In October 2003, Morales was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to get mental-health counseling and pay more than \$330,000 in fines.

The courtroom victory against big tobacco was eventually Morales' undoing. He admitted to falsifying a contract so that a long-time friend and lawyer could personally profit from the settlement.



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Research finds new blood tests better at predicting heart attacks

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

New blood tests that doctors hoped would more accurately predict which patients are headed for a heart attack or stroke are no better than cholesterol levels, blood pressure and other conventional measurements, a study found.

Doctors in recent years had become excited over substances in the blood that appeared to be powerful new predictors of a heart attack. These substances included C-reactive protein, or CRP; homocysteine; and BNP, or B-type natriuretic peptide.

An increasing number of family doctors have been ordering expensive tests for these substances, and some patients have started requesting them, in hopes of identifying people who do not have the standard risk factors but are still likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke.

But the new research, by scientists at the highly regarded Framingham Heart

Study, found that tests of CRP, BNP, homocysteine and seven other substances are only a couple of percentage points better at predicting outcomes than the standard, commonsense risk factors that doctors have known for decades.

The difference in accuracy was considered so small as to be negligible.

"It's a little bit disappointing," said lead author Dr. Thomas J. Wang, a Harvard Medical School assistant professor. "I think our study

and some other recent studies have begun to dampen that enthusiasm."

The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The Framingham researchers, who have been testing residents of the Boston suburb for several decades, used frozen blood samples taken from 3,209 healthy Framingham participants in the mid-1990s, then checked to see who had major heart complications or died over the following

decade.

The best predictors were tests for BNP, CRP, homocysteine and renin in the blood and albumin in the urine. Patients with the highest levels of BNP and albumin were nearly twice as likely as those with lowest levels to suffer a heart

See BLOOD, Page 13

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Audi adds 2007 RS 4 as new performance compact sedan

By ANN M. JOB
For The Associated Press

German luxury carmaker Audi AG is cranking up its racy, sporty side in a surprising way — by giving its smallest sedan a 420-horsepower V-8 and a manual transmission.

The new-for-2007 RS 4 is faster than any other car in Audi's introductory A4 line of sedans and wagons, including the previous top sporty model, the Audi S4.

In fact, the RS 4 is faster — going from 0 to 60 miles an hour in just 4.8 seconds — than even Audi's flagship large sedan, the A8, with its V-8 or 12-cylinder engine, according to Audi performance statistics.

Turning a compact, four-door car into a stunning sports car puts Audi and its RS 4 performance experts at quattro GmbH in Germany in some rarefied company.

German carmaker BMW sells a 2007 BMW M5, for example, that's a mid-size sedan with a 500-horsepower, V-10 engine. Mercedes-Benz and its AMG performance group created a 2006 compact sedan, the C55 AMG, with 362-horsepower V-8.

As you can expect, all these models carry big price tags, can be thought of as low-volume exotics — even though they're sedans that look a lot like their more regular siblings — and have an admiring following among auto enthusiasts.

Starting price for the 2007 RS 4, including manufacturer's suggested retail price, destination charge and a federally required gas guzzler tax of \$2,100, is \$68,820. This is nearly \$40,000 more than a base, 2007 Audi A4 sedan with turbocharged, four-cylinder engine.

The RS 4 also is nearly \$19,000 more than the Audi S4, which was the previous performance leader in the A4 line. The S4 has a 340-horsepower V-8.

To be sure, the RS 4 comes with nearly all features standard, including perforated leather seat trim, bi-xenon headlamps with self-leveling function, sunroof, rear park assist and

Audi's own permanent all-wheel drive system called quattro. Oddly, though, the car's steering wheel tilts and telescopes manually, and a buyer must opt for a \$4,700 premium package to get automatic-dimming rearview mirror, satellite radio and garage and gate door opener, among other things.

There's also no automatic transmission. Only a six-speed manual is in the RS 4.

This contrasts with Mercedes' C55 AMG, which came only with a five-speed automatic.

The test RS 4 got plenty of attention, in part because of the bright yellow paint. People also noticed that this version of Audi A4 has an aggressive grille, 19-inch wheels and an expressive lower body kit that makes the car look like it's hugging the ground.

Car buffs young and old took it all in, with hotel valets parking the RS 4 in an honored spot right outside the door. It's the kind of parking place usually reserved for Ferraris and Lamborghinis.

I loved the way the RS 4 power came on in a smooth thrust, pushing me into the seatback.

The RS 4 engine uses Audi's race technology of FSI direct injection of the gasoline into the engine combustion chamber, so the resulting power from the fuel and air reaction is efficiently maximized.

The eager response from the RS 4's 4.2-liter V-8 is palpable, not just at startup and in low gears, but also at highway speeds.

Indeed, I often found I didn't need to downshift on hilly country roads to maintain speed or even zip forward. It seemed as if there was always power waiting in reserve.

Maximum torque is 317 foot-pounds at 5,500 rpm, and Audi reports 90 percent of this maximum power can be tapped from 2,500 rpm to as high as 7,600 rpm. Yes, this is a high-revving engine. Redline, or top engine speed, is 8,250 rpm. In a V-8, this is more akin to a race car than a street car.

The clutch pedal took some effort, but the gear shifter moved easily from gear to gear.

Starting price for the 2007 RS 4, including manufacturer's suggested retail price, destination charge and a federally required gas guzzler tax of \$2,100, is \$68,820. This is nearly \$40,000 more than a base, 2007 Audi A4 sedan with turbocharged, four-cylinder engine.

Blood

Continued from Page 11

attack, stroke or heart failure; those with the highest levels of CRP, BNP and the three other substances were four times as likely to die during the decade.

However, the standard risk factors — high blood pressure, high cholesterol, family history, advanced age, smoking, obesity, lack of exercise and diabetes — proved to be just as accurate when it came to predicting heart disease.

And the new blood tests, which are not covered by insurance companies, can run from \$25 to more than \$150.

"This really supports the value of focusing on risk factor reduction, not looking for a magic blood test," said Dr. Richard Stein, director of preventive cardiology at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. He predicted some insurance companies will soon start telling doctors to limit such tests, which are not covered by some insurers.

"At present, I don't think we should be measuring these in routine clinical practice," said Dr. Daniel Levy, director of the Framingham study, which is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Levy and Wang said the 10 "biomarkers" tested in the study may still be useful for the many patients at intermediate risk of heart

problems — those determined by the conventional risk factors to have a 10 percent to 20 percent chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke over the next decade.

Dr. Sidney Smith, former president of the American Heart Association and director of the Center for Cardiovascular Science and Medicine at University of North Carolina, noted the findings may not apply to minorities. The Framingham residents are almost all whites of European extraction.

He said the findings also show that doctors and patients should work harder to get known risk factors such as obesity and diabetes under control to prevent serious heart problems.

Some doctors said they expect better blood tests to be discovered eventually. "The question is, 'Where's the next frontier?'" Levy said.

He said the answer could come from two huge federal studies. One, with results expected next year, is examining about 500,000 genetic

variations in 10,000 people to spot differences linked to heart disease; the other, still being planned, will examine about 150 biomarkers to see which ones best predict future heart problems.

On the Net:
<http://www.nejm.org>
American Heart Association site
<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier4726>

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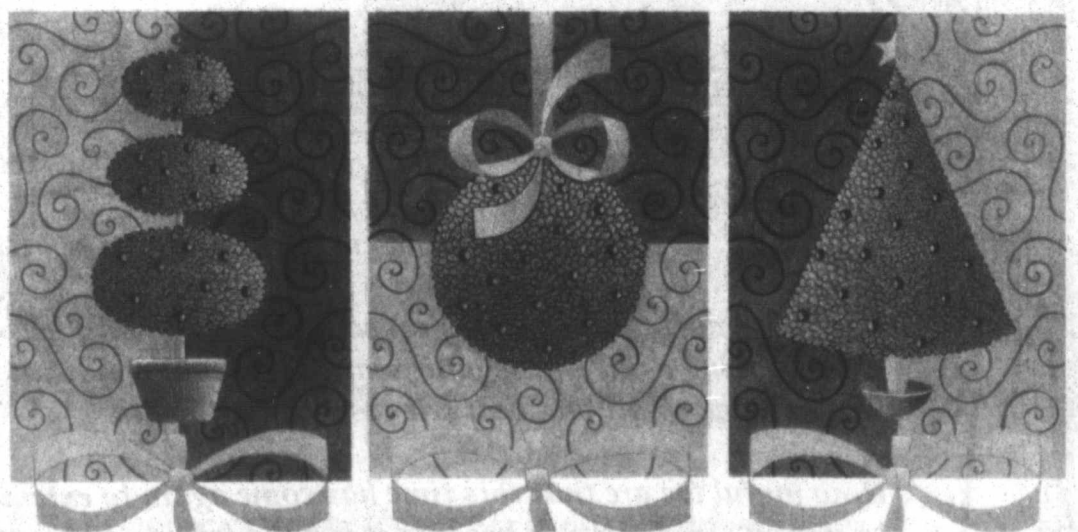
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ReDonn, Keith, Autumn & McKenzie Woods



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Free Christmas Dinner 2006

Monday December 25th 11:00am to 2:00pm

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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 the church office at 665-0031 by December 20th to reserve your meals

Sports Day

Police: Dontrelle Willis arrested on drunken driving charge in Miami Beach

MIAMI (AP) — Florida Marlins pitcher Dontrelle Willis was arrested Friday morning on a drunken driving charge along a Miami Beach street lined with nightclubs. An officer saw the former NL rookie of the year stop his black Bentley in the South Beach neighborhood, get out of the car around 4:30 a.m. and urinate in the street.

Miami Beach police spokesman Bobby Hernandez said the officer noticed signs of intoxication as he approached Willis, who failed a field sobriety test. "He couldn't keep his balance, he had a strong smell of alcohol," Hernandez said. Willis was arrested and taken to a police station, where he refused a

breath test, Hernandez said. He was being taken to Miami-Dade County jail, the police spokesman said. Marlins spokesman P.J. Loyello declined comment. Willis' agent, Matt Sosnick, and jail officials did not return phone messages seeking comment. Willis finished last season 12-12 with a 3.87 ERA in 223 1-3

innings. In 2005, he led the major leagues with 22 wins and finished second in the National League Cy Young Award balloting. Willis was the NL rookie of the year in 2003, the year the Marlins beat the New York Yankees in the World Series. In 127 starts with the Marlins since being called up from Double-A Carolina early in the 2003 sea-

son, Willis is 58-39 with a 3.44 ERA. He earned \$4.35 million this past season and is likely to make at least \$6 million in 2007, once he and the Marlins come to terms on what's expected to be another one-year deal.

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Who needs Bledsoe, McNabb anyway?

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Maybe sometime Monday afternoon, Drew Bledsoe will see Donovan McNabb and they can chat about what might have been. If Bledsoe hadn't been benched. If McNabb hadn't gotten hurt. And, truth be told, if their teams weren't doing so darn well without them. Tony Romo and Jeff Garcia have turned the Dallas-Philadelphia game into far more than a battle of the backups. Romo has been everything Bledsoe wasn't since replacing him as the Cowboys' quarterback. Mobile, quick-triggered and willing to spread the ball around, he's gone 6-2 as a starter, sealing a playoff berth and putting Dallas (9-5) in position to win the NFC East with a victory over the Eagles. It would be the club's first division title since 1998, thus the first under coach Bill Parcells.

"If a guy comes in and plays well, he can definitely get your team going in the right direction," said Romo, whose has steered Dallas so well that he was picked for the Pro Bowl. "If we play to the best of our ability, I feel like we've got a pretty good shot." Philadelphia's expected demise following McNabb's season-ending knee injury never happened. Although the Eagles fell to 5-6 by losing Garcia's first start, they've won three straight. Two more wins in a row and they'll be division champs, headed into the playoffs with the kind of momentum another Pennsylvania team had last postseason. "We haven't done anything yet. We put ourselves in a position to do something," coach Andy Reid said. "We've got to focus everything we got on the Cowboys and not worry about anything else." The Eagles beat the Cowboys 38-24 earlier this season in a game so over-

hyped you might've thought traitor Benedict Arnold was returning to the Philadelphia to put a couple more cracks in the Liberty Bell. It was only Terrell Owens going back to the town and team he ripped apart last year. Maybe the Eagles would've revived themselves if McNabb had stayed healthy. Or maybe losing their leader forced everyone else to step up. Regardless, they're playing their best when it matters most, and the Cowboys fully respect a club that went to four straight NFC title games until their T.O.-inspired implosion last year. "It has been a hard road and I am just excited to be in this position, to be fighting for something like this," safety Brian Dawkins said. "You want to be playing your best ball and I think we are. I think defensively, the attitude is where it needs to be, the desire is where it needs to be and the mental preparation is where it needs to be."

Colts can improve playoff position with win over Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — Indianapolis and Houston will be playing for two very different things when the AFC South teams meet Sunday. The Colts will get a first-round bye in the playoffs with a win and a Baltimore loss. The Texans? They say beating Indianapolis for the first time would take some sting out of yet another disappointing season. The Colts (11-3) have won all nine meetings. "People say we have nothing to play for, but we're playing for pride," Texans cornerback Dunta Robinson said. Houston (4-10) is coming

off of an embarrassing 40-7 loss to New England, while the Colts were impressive in a 34-16 Monday night win over Cincinnati. "It was really huge for us to get ourselves in the playoffs, to get back playing a little bit better, to re-establish ourselves at home and get a little confidence," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "It was good for us in a lot of ways, but more than anything we just got back to playing the way we should play — fewer mistakes, playing a little bit faster, playing with energy." The Texans were just the opposite, as David Carr threw a career-high four

interceptions in his third straight poor performance and Houston's fourth loss in the last five games. Despite Carr's troubles, coach Gary Kubiak still believes in his abilities. "We're definitely struggling, and we've got to come out of it somehow, some way," Kubiak said. "And someone has to lead us out of it, and that's what I'm expecting David to do." It won't be easy against the Colts, who have won the last five meetings against Houston by an average 19 points, including a 43-24 win in Week 2. Peyton Manning has been unstoppable in nine career games

against Houston, with a 117.7 passer rating and 22 touchdowns with just four interceptions. "They could wrap up home-field advantage and everyone knows that is important," Carr said. "But we're hungry, too. It's been a long time coming as far as playing these guys and feeling good about yourself when you leave. We definitely could use one." The only thing possibly on the Texans' side is their recent success in running the ball, coupled with the Colts' problems in defending the run. Indianapolis is allowing an NFL-worst 173.4 yards rushing a game.

Kubiak says Texans' rookie ready to run

HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Taylor has made three special teams tackles since he was activated two weeks ago. Now, the Texans rookie is ready to run. Houston coach Gary Kubiak said Thursday the 5-foot-11, 220-pound running back from Indiana will get some carries in Sunday's game against Indianapolis (11-3). The Texans (4-10) signed Taylor, an undrafted free

agent, in May. Kubiak said Taylor stayed on the practice squad because he fumbled too often. After nearly a season of correcting the problem, studying film and staying in shape, Taylor will finally get his chance to play. "I wish I could've had more games, but that was their decision," Taylor said. "Hopefully, I can make a good impression on them and show them I can play this game."

Kubiak said Ron Dayne will remain the starting running back Sunday. Dayne has 276 yards in the last three games, the best three-game stretch of his career. And now the Texans are facing the Colts and the league's worst rushing defense. Taylor understands, with only two games left and the 1999 Heisman Trophy winner ahead of him on the depth chart, he'll have to make the most of any opportunities.

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

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

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Coach depicted in 'We Are Marshall' says right message comes through

PHOENIX (AP) — Thirty-six years later, Jack Lengyel vividly recalls the overwhelming sadness that surrounded him when he arrived at Marshall.

He had come as the new football coach to help revive a program torn to pieces by one of the worst sports disasters in U.S. history — the loss of 75 people in a plane crash on the outskirts of town.

"I thought I was coming to rebuild a football program," Lengyel said. "It turned out to be the whole community."

Among the dead were 52 members of the Thundering Herd football team, as well as some of the university's leading boosters, top administrators and city officials.

"What you had here was a void of leadership of the community, a void in the administration of the university, and obviously a void with the football team," he recalled. "This tragedy cut a wide swath."

The effort to rebuild the football program and bring hope to a stunned city is the subject of "We Are Marshall," a movie that opens nationwide Friday. Lengyel is the central character, portrayed by Matthew McConaughey.

Now 71, Lengyel lives in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise and works as a software executive after many years in athletic administration. He was among several principals from the real-life story who helped in the making of the film.

While he says a few details aren't accurate, he loved the finished product.

"It's a movie about core values," he said, "hope and faith and perseverance and love."

Huntington, W.Va., is a small town with ever-so-close ties to the university.

"I've been to about 16 universities as coach or athletic director, associate athletic director or interim athletic director," Lengyel said. "There has never been another university I've been associated where the community and uni-

versity have a heart that beats as one — and it's all Marshall green."

There were heartbreaking, sometimes miraculous, stories at every turn when Lengyel got to town. He remembers the parents of one player had asked their son to drive with them home from that game at East Carolina, but the youngster said he wanted to go with the team on the ill-fated flight.

In an incident not mentioned in the film, a player got a telephone call from his mother pleading with him not to make the trip because she had a feeling the team's plane would crash. The player, Eddie Carter, agreed with his mother's wishes and went on to become a prominent evangelist.

Two coaches had turned down the Marshall job before the university chose Lengyel, then head coach at the tiny College of Wooster in Ohio.

"When I went down there, I quickly found out about 21 boosters on the plane, 70 children left without one parent, 18 without both parents," he said. "I quickly found out that this was a community that needed to heal."

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni was a 19-year-old sophomore on the Marshall basketball team at the time of the crash. He recalls that suddenly rows and rows of rooms in the athletic dormitory were suddenly empty.

"They were all just not there," he said.

D'Antoni's older brother, Suns assistant Dan D'Antoni, was baby-sitting the six children of the team's doctor — a prominent booster — at the time of the crash. The older D'Antoni brother was haunted by the trauma for years.

Lengyel said McConaughey told him right off that he would not be impersonating Lengyel, but interpreting the role as an actor to best tell the story. Lengyel said he never was nearly as animated on the sidelines as McConaughey is in the movie.

The movie climaxes with the second

game of that first post-crash season, the home opener in front of an emotion-soaked crowd. A touchdown pass on the final play of the game gave the Thundering Herd a 15-13 upset of Xavier.

The play used in the movie isn't the one that won the game, Lengyel said, but all is forgiven because he loved the way the scene was shot.

Lengyel remembers what he told the players at halftime of that game, with Marshall leading 3-0 on a field goal "by a soccer player who had never played football in his life."

"I told the team that in the palm of your hand, you've got an opportunity for one of the greatest upsets in college football," he recalled. "If you continue to play the way you're playing, you'll have an experience you'll remember for a lifetime."

Fairy tales don't last long in sports, though. Lengyel lost his job after four seasons, and he went into a long career as an administrator, including 13 years as athletic director at the U.S. Naval Academy.

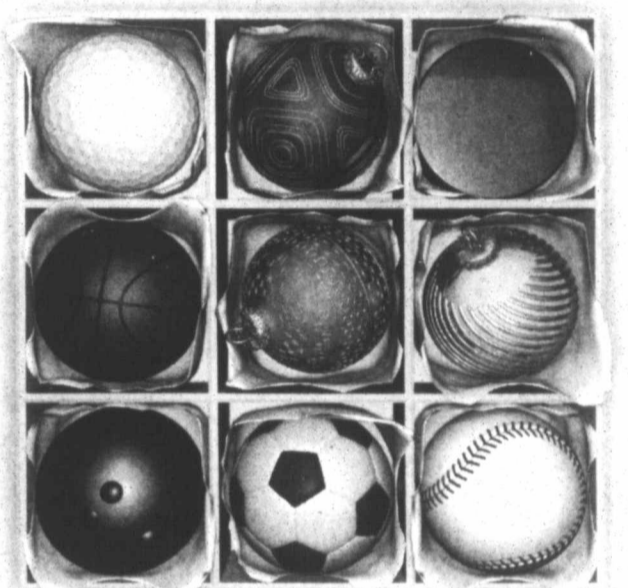
Marshall's climb to football respectability was slow, too. But in the 1990s, the Thundering Herd were rolling. When the 1996 team went 15-0 — with a freshman receiver named Randy Moss — and won the NCAA Division I-AA championship, coach Bob Pruett had special national title rings made for Lengyel and a few others who were instrumental in the resurrection of the program.

Lengyel always wears that ring. It is a reminder of his defining years and his great lesson.

"As you live your life in sometimes quiet desperation, facing adversity and tragedy," he said, "if you have hope and love, that mixture helps you overcome that tragedy and go on with the rest of your life."



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Texarkana quarterback named 4A's best offensive player

DALLAS (AP) — Texarkana quarterback Ryan Mallett has earned another acknowledgment of his famously strong arm.

Mallett, one of the top-rated high school quarterbacks in the country, was selected Class 4A offensive player of the year Thursday by Associated Press Sports

Editors in the 17th annual all-state team.

Mallett, who is orally committed to Michigan, threw for more than 2,500 yards and 27 touchdowns in his last season at Texarkana, where he's started since his sophomore year. It was around that time that Mallett, who's 6-foot-7, was throw-

ing as far as 70 yards in quarterback camps.

Coaches, sportswriters and recruiting analyst have compared Mallett's arm with the strongest in schoolboy history. He knows it's a reputation he'll take to Michigan.

Mallett isn't graduating with any state passing

records or a state championship, though it's only the latter that disappoints him. Texarkana was eliminated in the Division I state quarterfinals by Copperas Cove, which lost in the championship to San Antonio Alamo Heights.



Best Holiday Wishes

Thank you for being one of our most valued customers. We wish you all the happiness of the season, and hope your holidays are spent joyfully and in good company.

It's been a real privilege serving you this year. We look forward to your continued patronage in the new year.

In lieu of cards we have made a contribution to various charities.

Merry Christmas & A Prosperous New Year

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

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Military newsmaker

◄ Airman Robert L. Brown, son of Christie and Kevin Redding of Pampa, recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Brown is a 2006 graduate of Pampa High School.

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., (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Club Council

Gray County Extension Education Council of Clubs convened Dec. 9 in Pampa for a joint Christmas party. Represented were Progressive, Patchwork and Mail Box clubs.

Geneva Barton presented a Christmas poem, and party-goers participated in a gift exchange and a Christmas game.

As part of a combined holiday project, the various clubs' members brought items to donate to Child Protective Services, Rainbow Room.



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Here's hoping your holiday season is just the way you like it. It's always a pleasure to serve folks like you and we sincerely appreciate your dining with us this past



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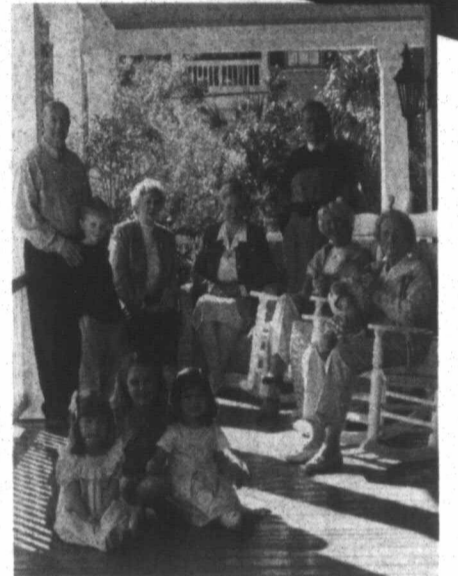
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Lifestyle

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

PAMPA TEXAS

Recreation Park on Highway 60 East
November 18th - December 31st
6-10 pm Sunday thru Thursday
6-11 pm Friday and Saturday

Pampa Invites You to visit our Winter lighting Fantasy and the Animated Santa Feeding the Reindeer will greet you. Animated rodeo displays join in the season's festivities. Fun and fanciful displays, displays of the nativity and other religious scenes add to the pleasure of the holidays.

MALONE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Malone of Pampa will observe their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 28. No reception is planned. Cards and calls are welcome, the couple say, but no gifts, please.

Jack Malone and the former Glenda Weeks were married Dec. 18, 1956, at the First Assembly of God parsonage in Pampa. They have been Pampa residents for 55 years and are members of First Assembly of God.

Both Jack and Glenda retired in



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Malone

1999. Jack was in the appliance business for 42 years. He and Glenda owned-operated Malone Appliance Company

for 26 years. Glenda is an officer of American Business Women's Association in Pampa.



Children of the couple are Brenda Wilson of Edwardsville, Ill., Jackie Malone of Houston, Texas, Elisa

McIntire of Sugarland, Texas, and Patricia Ferguson of Murfreesboro, Tenn. They have seven grandchildren.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ray Shults

SHULTS

ANNIVERSARY

Ray and Wilma Shults celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 21 with a family dinner and celebration.

Willie Ray Shults married Wilma Faye Lee on Dec. 21, 1946, at Wellington, Texas.

Ray worked as a long-time auto body repairman, owning his own business, "Ray's Body Shop," for more than 40 years prior to retiring in 1994.

Wilma worked as a homemaker.

They have three children, Janice McCoy and husband David of Childress, and LeAnn Callas and Wendell Shults and wife Charla, all of Pampa. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Menus

Week of December 25-29

Pampa Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY

Holiday.

Kid's Cafe-Wilson
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

Closed for holiday.

Kid's Cafe-Lamar
TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Closed for holiday.

Senior Citizens
MONDAY

Closed for holiday.

TUESDAY

Chicken fried steak or chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cream corn, beans, orange pudding cake or chocolate pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY

Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, California blend, fried squash, beans, devilsfood

cake or pineapple squares, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

THURSDAY

Chicken strips or liver & onions, Potatoes O'Brien, beets, spinach, beans, lemon bundt cake or butterscotch ice-box pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

FRIDAY

Catfish/hushpuppies or tamales with chili/cheese, potato wedges, cheese grits, beans, peaches & cream cake or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic bread sticks, hot rolls or cornbread.

Meals On Wheels
MONDAY-TUESDAY

Closed for holiday.

WEDNESDAY

Barbecue meatballs, baked beans, potato salad, apple-sauce.

THURSDAY

Stew, cornbread, pears.

FRIDAY

Tuna casserole, pickled beets, brussels sprouts, apricots.

If you think... aches and pains are part of growing older

If you are depending on drugs or medications, think again about the side effects. Also, think about how much better off you would be with a natural form of health care.



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Medicare changes to be topic of upcoming Senior Seminar

AMARILLO — Medicare changes for the upcoming year will be the program offered at the next Senior Seminar, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Texas Cooperative Extension offices of Potter County located on the Tri-State Fairgrounds.

Serena Cowart, volunteer and public education program specialist with the

Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle will present the program, said Sue Church, Extension family and consumer sciences agent in Potter County.

Cowart will discuss Part A, hospitalization; Part B, increases in premium changes for medical and preventative services; and Part D, the prescription plan, Church said.

The program is sponsored by the Potter County Extension Coalition on Aging and Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association. Door prizes will be donated by Scott's Flowers and Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association.

The meeting is open and free to the public. For more information, contact Church at 806-373-0713.

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR EARLY!

Dance To "Fencewalker"

MK BROWN CIVIC AUDITORIUM

9:00PM - 1:00AM

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Community Arts Academy will be offering the following classes and instruction beginning in January
Call for times & availability

• Group Lessons

Beginning Guitar • Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

Beginning Strings • Tuesdays at 5:30pm

\$30 per month

Adult Recorder Class • To Be Scheduled

• Private Lessons

Voice and Piano • \$40 per month

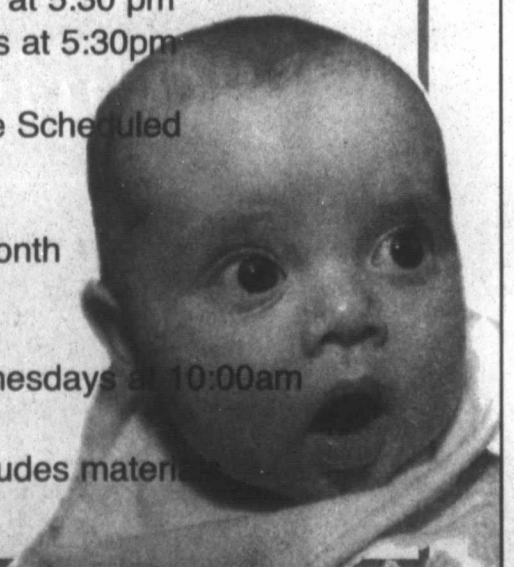
• Baby Sing and Sign

Tuesdays at 6:30pm or Wednesdays at 10:00am

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MEDICAL, SUPPORT GROUPS, ETC.
 "Beginnings," a Harrington Cancer Center program for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, will meet weekly in Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room, 1500 Wallace Blvd.,

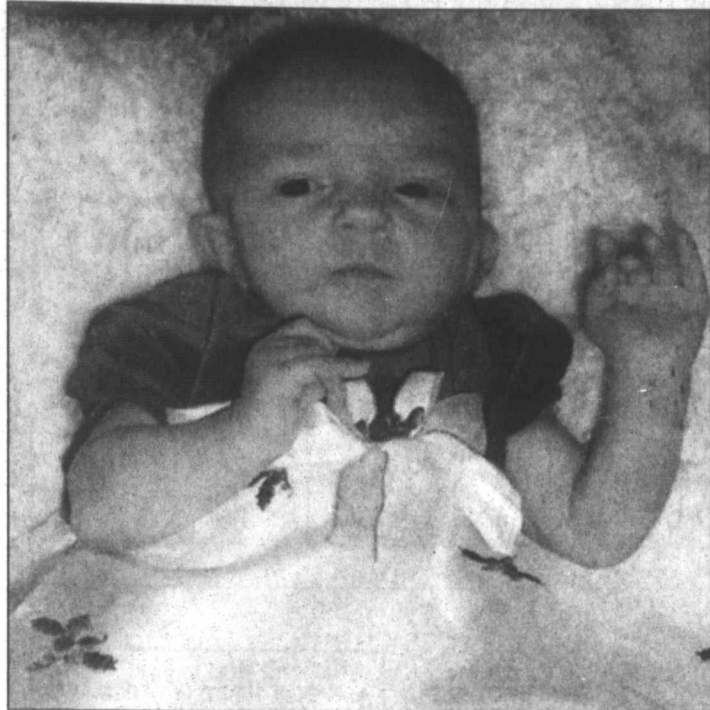
Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173, or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.
 Breast Cancer 101. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center offers "Breast Cancer 101," an intensive education

and supportive introduction to breast cancer, from 4:30-6 p.m., the second Monday of each month in the Quiet Room of Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo. For more information call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173 or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

COAF Web Site. The Children of Alcoholics Foundation, an education-prevention arm of Phoenix House, recently launched a website (www.coaf.org) for children of substance abusers of all ages. The website is designed to help educators, physicians, social workers and other professionals.

Coffee Memorial Blood Center. Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo is now open on Saturdays and will take appointments for blood donations. Donation hours are: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. The center is also promoting The Birthday Club. If a donor donates blood on their birthday, they will receive a Blood Drop Beanie. For more information, call (806) 358-4563 or 1-800-658-6178.

Cradle call



Emeri Addasin Goodson

Emeri Addasin Goodson was born at 9:06 p.m. Dec. 6 at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo, to Johnny and Michelle Goodson of Pampa. At birth, the infant weighed 6-pounds, 12-ounces and was 20-inches long. Emeri has two sisters, Cidnie and Jaiden; and is the granddaughter of Rod and Debbie Goodson and Steve and Teresa Wade.



Chace Wayne McLaughlin

Chace Wayne McLaughlin was born at 11:50 p.m. Nov. 29, at BSA Hospital in Amarillo, to Robyn Lowrey and Cody McLaughlin of Amarillo. At birth, the infant weighed 4-pounds, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounces and was 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inches long. He is the grandson of LeeAnn Callas and Cricket and Jeffie Lowrey, all of Pampa; and is the great-grandson of Ray and Wilma Shults and Buddy and Billie Lowrey, all of Pampa.

Wherever you go this holiday season, our fond wishes are with you. All the best to our many friends throughout the area! This has been a great year for us, thanks to your generous support.

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Merry Christmas to all and many thanks to those we've had the pleasure to service this past year.

May God bless your home and family wherever you reside this holiday season.

from Pam and the staff of

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Daddy died a year ago. He was an avid sportsman who left behind a large gun collection. Mama is planning to sell it, with the help of a close friend of Daddy's. This friend told Mama a few weeks ago that he thought some of the guns were missing. After some encouragement, she filed a police report. To make a long story short, some of the guns were located in a pawn shop. The thief was my baby sister "Jan's" fiancé. He admitted to Mama that he took the guns a month after Daddy died. He had a key to the house and found the key to the gun cabinet, which she had hidden in her underwear drawer. Mama has not pressed charges because of my sister. Jan claims she "loves" this felon. She says he is "so sorry" and "remorseful" and she knew nothing about the theft. Abby, my sister's 12-year-old daughter lives in the house with them, and her natural father is ignorant of this whole mess. Jan says she and her fiancé have been to a counselor, who told them they should stay together. Mama now feels violated and unsafe in her own home. We find it unbelievable that Jan can even look this guy in the eye, much less continue to live with him. Her financial picture is not good, and our parents gave her money for years that they could not afford. I think the guy belongs in jail, but only Mom can bring charges. As long as this thief is in Jan's life, our family will be in turmoil. What should we do? — **STABBED IN THE BACK IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR STABBED IN THE BACK: Your sister's fiancé appears to be a sociopath or druggie -- possibly both -- and I doubt whether any licensed counselor told her they should stay together. The man must no longer be allowed in your mother's home, and her locks should be changed to ensure it. Your niece's father should be informed about everything that has transpired. If he

doesn't want custody, your niece should be assured that she can come to you if she needs to talk to you about "anything." Although you cannot force your mother to put your sister's fiancé in jail, that is where he belongs. By not pressing charges, your mother is enabling him to continue his criminal behavior.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I both came from "the wrong side of the tracks," but have done better than the odds predicted we could for ourselves and our children. We have a 2-year-old and a newborn, both planned. Recently, my mother-in-law, "Martha," was arrested by Children's Social Services and my 11-year-old sister-in-law was removed from her care. My husband and I have discussed attempting to get custody before, so this could be a blessing in disguise. My problem is I do not want Martha in my home. My mother-in-law stole credit cards and bank cards from me when she was our roommate. Because we have babies in the house and are doing so well -- I have a job and am completing my college degree, and my husband is also employed and will be starting school soon -- I do not want this person in my house. We have worked too long and hard for what we have. Can you give us any suggestions? Lord knows we could use some help. — **MEGAN IN MIAMI**

DEAR MEGAN: Considering your mother-in-law's history, your reasons for not wanting her in your house are understandable. Because she was arrested for abusing (or neglecting) her daughter, it's possible that she could be considered a danger to the child and ordered by the court to stay away from her and your house. Please look into it. An attorney can help you.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

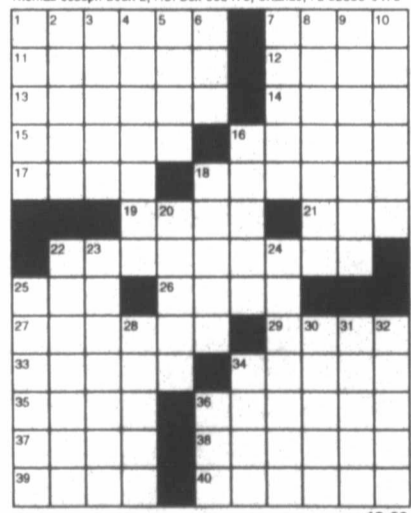
- 1 Santa's transport
- 7 Rotisserie
- 11 Gift-box liner
- 12 Color
- 13 Out sick
- 14 One of Chekhov's sisters
- 15 Christmas color
- 16 Parcels
- 17 Hot
- 18 Cager
- 19 Store sign
- 21 Directing
- 22 Seasonal dessert
- 25 Scary cry
- 26 Equal
- 27 It gets the lead out
- 29 Inspid
- 33 Sad sack
- 34 Like some tests
- 35 Pay to play
- 36 Puzzles
- 37 Like cupcakes
- 38 Grove product
- 39 Some wines
- 40 Tree trim

MAJOR	RAJAH
ALONE	ATONE
NONET	RANGE
AHA	ICE
MAT	NOR
ASHMAN	SHED
AUSTRIA	
LONG	RUNNER
END	HOT
DEE	ALG
GIMLI	ELYSE
ELMER	RICER
SLEDS	SEERS

Yesterday's answer

- 10 China buy
- 15 Christmas
- 16 Parcels
- 17 Hot
- 18 Cager
- 19 Store sign
- 21 Directing
- 22 Seasonal dessert
- 25 Scary cry
- 26 Equal
- 27 It gets the lead out
- 29 Inspid
- 33 Sad sack
- 34 Like some tests
- 35 Pay to play
- 36 Puzzles
- 37 Like cupcakes
- 38 Grove product
- 39 Some wines
- 40 Tree trim

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'Twas The Night Before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads. And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutter, and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, gave the luster of midday to objects below, when, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles, his coursers they came, and he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

"Now Dasher! Now Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky so up to the house-top the coursers they flew, with the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof, the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, and filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem, which he named "A Visit From St. Nicholas," was published for the first time on December 23, 1823 by a New York newspaper, the Sentinel. Since then, the poem has been reprinted, translated into innumerable languages and circulated throughout the world. Clement Clarke Moore was born in 1779 to a well-known New York family. His father, Reverend Benjamin Moore, was president of (what is now) Columbia University and was the Episcopal Bishop of New York. Moore's father also participated in George Washington's first inauguration and gave last rites to Alexander Hamilton after Hamilton was mortally wounded in an 1804 duel with Aaron Burr. Moore himself was an author, a noted Hebrew scholar, spoke five languages, and was an early real-estate owner and developer in Manhattan. Despite his accomplishments, Clement Clarke Moore is remembered only for "Twas the Night Before Christmas," which legend says he wrote on Christmas Eve in 1822 during a sleigh ride home from Greenwich Village after buying a turkey for his family. Some say the inspiration for Moore's pot-bellied St. Nicholas was the chubby, bewhiskered Dutchman who drove Moore to Greenwich Village to buy his holiday turkey. Moore never copyrighted his poem, and only claimed as his own over a decade after it was first made public. Moore read the poem to his wife and six children the night he wrote it, and supposedly thought no more about it. But a family friend heard about it and submitted the poem to the Sentinel, a newspaper in upstate New York, which published it anonymously the following Christmas. Moore's poem immediately caught the attention and imagination of the state, then the nation, and then the world. Finally, in 1844, he included it in a book of his poetry. Moore died in 1863 and is buried in Trinity Church Cemetery in lower Manhattan, New York. Because of his "mere trifle," as he called it, 175 years ago Clement Clarke Moore almost single-handedly defined our now timeless image of Santa Clause.

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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING DECEMBER 24, 2006

Table with columns for time slots (12pm-10pm) and rows for TV channels (KACV, KAMR, etc.) listing programs and movies.

MONDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING DECEMBER 25, 2006

Table with columns for time slots (12pm-10pm) and rows for TV channels (KACV, KAMR, etc.) listing programs and movies.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING DECEMBER 26, 2006

Table with columns for time slots (12pm-10pm) and rows for TV channels (KACV, KAMR, etc.) listing programs and movies.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING DECEMBER 27, 2006

Table with columns for time slots (12pm-10pm) and rows for TV channels (KACV, KAMR, etc.) listing programs and movies.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING

DECEMBER 28, 2006

Table with columns for TV/Data, time slots (12pm to 10pm), and program details for Thursday, Dec 28, 2006.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING

DECEMBER 29, 2006

Table with columns for TV/Data, time slots (12pm to 10pm), and program details for Friday, Dec 29, 2006.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING

DECEMBER 30, 2006

Table with columns for TV/Data, time slots (12pm to 10pm), and program details for Saturday, Dec 30, 2006.

Some major airlines raise fares to offset added cost pressures

ATLANTA (AP) — have raised air fares to offset added cost pressures. American Airlines, a unit of Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp., raised its ticket prices Thursday between \$10 and \$40 for round-trip fares, depending on the miles traveled. Also Thursday, Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. raised its one-way fares by \$10 in most domestic markets. Kurt Ebendorfer, a spokesman for Egan, Minn.-based Northwest Airlines, said Friday that the airline hadn't made a decision on raising its fares. "We are studying filing was for a \$10 round-trip fare increase on most domestic flights, spokeswoman Robin Urbanski said Friday. "We will continue to study this throughout the days ahead to ensure we stay competitive," Urbanski said.

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Baby's First CHRISTMAS

Brenden Patrick Killinger

Born... September 30, 2006



Parents...
Patrick & Tausha Killinger
Brother...
Jordan Killinger
Grandparents...
Johnnie & Brenda Cook
Gary Thrasher
Gerald & Sue Killinger
Great Grandparents...
Billy Reeb
Bob & Lois Thrasher

McKenzie Tate Woods

Born... July 5, 2006



Parents...
Keith & ReDonn Woods
Sister...
Autumn Woods
Grandparents...
Dwayne & Cindy Hall
Monty & Pat Elkins
Regina Woods
Mike & Mona Woods

Kendall Grace Downs

Born... February 23, 2006



Parents...
Jason & Brienna Downs
Grandparents...
Ron & Brenda Caudle
Keith & Beverly Taylor
Johnny & Brenda Downs

Mason Andrew Childress

Born... November 16, 2006



Mother...
Keisha Childress
Grandparents...
Rex & Jo Linda Childress
Michelle Russell

Hunter Chase Atwood

Born... September 30, 2006



Parents...
Megan & Curtis Atwood
Grandparents...
Rick & Hattie Atwood
Eddie & Becky Quarles
Holly & Quanah Gilmore

Margaret Faith Hall

Born... September 8, 2006



Parents...
Marcus & Leanne Hall
Siblings...
Hunter & Jessica Hall
Brayden Dyson
Grandparents...
Dwayne & Cindy Hall
Debbie Hoover
Kent & Michele Dyson
Cheryl Porter

Evan Cade Kelley

Born... February 17, 2006



Parents...
Rodney & Tori Kelley
Brother...
Colton Kelley
Grandparents...
Don & Brenda Donelson
Late Jerry & Suzanne Nave

Alana Kaylene Peery

Born... November 20, 2006



Parents...
Sammy & Melanie Peery
Grandparents...
Brenda Taylor
Jerry & Hollene Peery

Mikensey Michelle Nelson

Born... September 25, 2006



Parents...
Mike & Amber Nelson
Grandparents...
Mike & Drona Kelsey
Jack & Anita Davis
Neva Fliger

Jesus "Jessie" Ruben Chavez

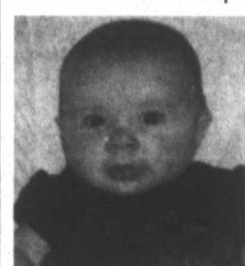
Born... July 3, 2006



Parents...
Nicki & Eric Chavez
Grandparents...
Amy & Kelly Watson
Keith Germany
Ruben & Sabas Chavez

Laynie Jade Soria

Born... September 30, 2006



Parents...
Megan Broadbent
& Felipe Soria
Grandparents...
Sheila Broadbent
Charlie Broadbent
Maria Torres
Maoro Torres

Thomas Alexander Silva

Born... January 18, 2006



Parents...
Katlin Passini
& Luis Silva
Grandparents...
Kathy & Mike Shipp
Salomon & Martina Silva

Emeri Addasin Goodson

Born... December 6, 2006



Parents...
Johnny & Michelle Goodson
Sisters...
Cidnie & Jaiden
Grandparents...
Rodney & Debbie Goodson
Steve & Teresa Wade

Saylor Joy Stribling

Born... June 29, 2006



Parents...
Scotty & Shanna Stribling
Sister...
Stori Grace Stribling
Grandparents...
Connie & Randy Molitor
Johnny Chatham &
Carol Stribling-Chatham
Great Grandparents...
Clinton & Maurita Stribling

Jaden Gipson Salazar

Born... May 17, 2006



Parents...
Josh & Jera Salazar
Grandparents...
Shannon Beck
Jerry Skinner
Lety Salazar
Magda Blanco

Mercedes Abigail Hartwig

Born... January 19, 2006



Parents...
Jason & Delta Hartwig
Sisters...
Hope & Kaylee
Grandparents...
James Wells & Diane Wells
Bruce Hartwig & Joy Combs
Great Grandparents...
Phyne Hartwig
& Norma Combs

Aubrie Mia Garza

Born... September 28, 2006



Parents...
Marc & Autumn
Grandparents...
Lisa Darden
Ed & Diana Garza
Great Grandparents...
Lois & the late Charles Harris
Cleo Mikeal

Rylee Jordanne

Born... May 3, 2006



Parents...
Lacy Kilcrease & Ben Ponce
Grandparents...
Russ & Debbie Kilcrease
Ruben Ponce
Great Grandparents...
George & Marie Kilcrease
Bob Weldon
Joesetta Ponce

Grayson Bo Wesbrooks

Born... April 27, 2006



Parents...
Jason & Rebecca Wesbrooks
Brother...
Jackson Cade Wesbrooks
Grandparents...
Mike & Alice Wesbrooks
Gary & Rhonda Heller
Great Grandparents...
Eleanor Wesbrooks
Margaret Helen Hayes

William Brady Duncan

Born... December 1, 2006



Parents...
Chris & Katie Duncan
Grandparents...
Brian & Linda Duncan
Kevin & Patricia Cruthirds
Great Grandparents...
Ray & Hilda Duncan

Alexander James Crispin

Born... October 12, 2006



Parents...
Jose Crispin Jr.
& Susanna Sanches
Brother...
Juan Angel Sanchez
Grandparents...
Jose Crispin & Mary Crispin
Irma Lerma
Jesus Sanchez

John Taylor Scott Raymond

Born... July 21, 2006



Mother...
Stephanie Raymond
Grandparents...
Mr. & Mrs.
Johnny Raymond

Brenlie Nicole Etheredge

Born... July 19, 2006



Parents...
Chad & Jodi Etheredge
Sister...
McKenna
Grandparents...
Joe & Pam Millican
Jessie & Sherry Etheredge

McKayla Paige Winkler

Born... September 15, 2006



Parents...
Tanner & Amy Winkler
Sister...
Tristen
Grandparents...
Keith & Patricia Winkler
Karen Ware

Savanna Lynn-Grace Williams

Born... July 4, 2006



Parents...
Seth & Alesha Williams
Grandparents...
Ronnie & Terri Williams
Ronnie & Gail Preston

Caleb Jones

Born... July 26, 2006



Parents...
Kurt & Amber Jones
Grandparents...
Kent & Karen Jones
Tom & Kay Ratliff

Alexandra & Kassandra Amzen

Born... August 11, 2006



Parents...
Bryan & Amber Amzen
Sister...
Kadence
Grandparents...
Keith & Pam Amzen
Larry & Rhonda Gilbreath

Jeremy Blake Helfer

Born... April 13, 2006



Father...
Jeremy Helfer
Grandparents...
Jimmy & Freida Helfer
Carol Vaughn
Great Grandparent...
Freida Calder

Michaela Marie Miranda

Born... February 27, 2006



Parents...
Chris & Christy Miranda
Grandparents...
Ignacio & Patricia Miranda
Dannie & Angie Hoover

Jacob Daniel Hoover

Born... July 21, 2006



Parents...
Jared & Tiffany Hoover
Sister...
Makena
Grandparents...
Dannie & Angie Hoover
G.D. & Kathy Murphy
Great Grandparent...
Vera Murphy

Emori Carrillo

Born... February 1, 2006



Parents...
Jerry & Cari Carrillo
Sister... Raeli Walker
Grandparents...
Gary & LaGwenda Walker
Gustavo & Lupe Carillo
Great Grandparents...
Lester & Opal Cochran
Esperanza Carillo
Eulozio Gutierrez

Jaylee Taylor Johnson

Born... October 30, 2006



Parents...
Shannon & Elaine Johnson
Brothers...
Payton & Joey
Grandparents...
Rex & Erlinda Taylor
Jim & Maurine Helfer

Ella Joy Price

Born... February 15, 2006



Parents...
Cortnie & Trent Price
Grandparents...
Lynn & Lynn Allison
Kim & Harold Price
Great Grandparents...
Shelby & Arthella Abercrombie
Luella Allison
Norma & Frank Morrison
Onis Price

Nathaniel Rian Mann

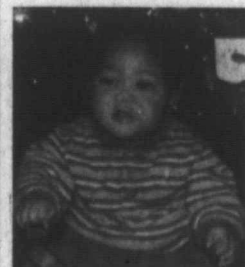
Born... September 12, 2006



Parents...
Brian & Amanda Mann
Grandparents...
William & Cynthia Mann
R.L. & Marcia Mondan

Jonathan Ryan Milligan

Born... February 8, 2006



Parents...
Jessica & Ryan Milligan
Grandparents...
Larry & Lisa Blandford
Aubrey & Vanessa Milligan



Reindeer party

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
One of the 3-year-old classes of St. Matthews Day School had a reindeer Christmas party Tuesday. Raegan Beckham, a student from the class of Jamie White and Sissy Curtis, is enjoying one of the snacks provided by the parents.

Shawl ministry

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
As part of the Shawl Ministry, women from St. Matthews Episcopal Church meet the third Thursday of every month in the parish hall to knit and crochet shawls. These are then blessed by Rector Linda Kelly and given to people in need. Sixteen shawls were donated to the local nursing homes for residents who do not have family in the area. Pictured from left are Cirilda Ramos of Coronado Healthcare Center; Cindy Theis, Jean McCarley, Joyce Roberts, Iris Ragsdale, and Jodie Jones of Pampa Nursing Center. Seated left are Kathy Kane of Coronado Healthcare Center and Gina Albus.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 24, 2006:
 Curb a tendency to lean toward materialism this year. Not everything can be judged by monetary value. If you listen to your instincts, you will make good financial investments, even if a partner is negative. Relationships are tested, whether it is business or a partnership. Learn to express your feelings and ideas in a manner in which someone can hear you. If you are single, note what you do to draw someone in. You might not realize that you are flashing what you consider an asset and not revealing the authentic you. If you are attached, your relationship will grow if your sweetie can get past some negativity. Don't push. Give him or her space. PISCES likes to visit and chat.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★ You march to a strong, steady beat this morning. By midafternoon, you will slow down and mellow out. All the better, as opportunities to chat and visit with an important friend will head your way. Tonight: You smile a lot. This Week: Expect to stall until Wednesday, when you'll roar onto the scene.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ You might feel as if you have done more than your share to make the next few days work. You are right. Know when to stop being so "there" for everyone and when to start relaxing. Tonight: Get into the spirit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Learn to see the big picture, and you will be much more content. When you get into being petty, life becomes unnecessarily complicated. Stay on the high road, and you will like what heads down your path. Tonight: Kick off the celebrations.

This Week: You cannot stay out of the

limelight — so don't even try.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Work with one person at a time. Others relish this one-on-one attention. You'll get much more accomplished if you work this way. Your interactions breed a certain amount of closeness. Don't forget an important call. Tonight: How about some holiday caroling?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★ Sometimes you could be overwhelmed by what goes down around you. Right now, you could be a touch more difficult than you realize. Listen to what is being shared. Try looking at the best-case scenario. Tonight: Go along with someone else's ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ You finally sense that you will have a break in the near future. What a relief! And just in time! Choose a relaxing activity and get ready. You never know when Santa could plow through your door! Leave out cookies. Tonight: Enjoy those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Mischief appears to be your middle name, whether you want it to be or not. You help a key friend get over a hump because of your understanding and caring. If need be, pull back some, and make it OK. Tonight: Now relax — if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ Your family and personal life demand 100 percent of your attention, whether you like it or not. You could be overwhelmed by a last-minute demand. Know what you cannot change, and don't buck trends. Fatigue sets in. Tonight: Add more holiday spirit wherever you are.

This Week: Use your imagination to find shortcuts!
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ You slip into a kidlike mode and enjoy yourself in new and different ways. Your spirit picks up someone who might be playing Scrooge. This person could be at a distance. Communication flourishes. Seize the moment. Tonight: Enjoy the people around you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ You might be running around at the last minute. You could be exhausted by others' needs and demands. See how much of a close associate's negativity you can deflect. Your instincts play a strong role in making decisions. Tonight: Hang out and sip hot cider.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ You cannot seem to stop yourself, and why should you? Make a point of touching base with several people who aren't as content as you. Your mood is contagious. Spread the happy infection! Make sure you have a few last-minute gifts. Tonight: You feel indulged.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Though you might wish this day would end, by late afternoon, you'll get your second wind. You enjoy yourself wherever you are, doing whatever you need to do. Let good feelings flow. Break down a barrier. Tonight: Radiant and happy.

BORN TODAY
 Actress Ava Gardner (1922), singer Ricky Martin (1971), aviator Howard Hughes (1905)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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Actress who played Zuzu thinks life is wonderful

By MICHAEL HILL
 Associated Press Writer

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — Zuzu has a cold again. She snuffles and sucks on a cold pill as she signs autographs for fans lined up to the door in a coffee shop.

Karolyn Grimes jokes that she left her coat open, like her character Zuzu Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life." A more likely culprit is the holiday crunch of appearances by the former child actress — from a Victorian festival in Puyallup, Wash., to the Colorado Country Christmas Show and now to Seneca Falls, which claims to be the inspiration for director Frank Capra's mythical Bedford Falls.

Around Christmas, this Finger Lakes village is gussied up like the snowy movie town with white lights and wreaths strung across the main street. And the 66-year-old Grimes has come for a weekend celebration.

Everyone who saw the movie remembers Zuzu. She gets to say, "Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings." And the petals from Zuzu's rose — stuffed into a pants pocket by Jimmy Stewart's George Bailey as he comforts his sickly daughter — become a symbol of life.

Grimes laughs about the petals getting more screentime than she did. But she has parlayed her six minutes in the beloved 1946 film into a late-life career. After enduring heartaches that make George Bailey's troubles look small, she has become a feel-good ambassador for the film and one of its last living links.

"I'm that little girl and I stand for something those people love," she says. "... For some reason or other, that little girl embodies the image, or maybe the power to make them happy."

People tell her as much all afternoon at the Zuzu Cafe, where she sits with a Sharpie at a table laid out with "It's a Wonderful Life" stuff: DVDs, ceramic ornaments, memory books, her own "Zuzu Bailey's It's a Wonderful Life Cookbook" and scattered rose petals.

"Do you know what a thrill this is?" "This is my favorite movie!" "Thank you for giving us so much joy!"

For each person, Grimes neatly signs her name with "Zuzu" in quotes and a little doodle of a bell. She usually adds a message like, "Enjoy life, it's wonderful."

Grimes lives near Seattle, but retains a Midwestern cheeriness. She holds her smile for hours and laughs as she pops up for snapshots. She has a gold "Z" pinned to her blue velveteen jacket.

She lost her nest egg in the 2001 economic downturn and relies on these appearances. As she signs, her husband sits beside her and asks, "Cash or credit card?" It's a job, but she clearly loves being Zuzu. After signing autographs all afternoon, she bumps into a fan at a diner who talks on her cell phone to her father.

Grimes happily accepts the phone. "Do you know who you're talking to?" she says to woman's father. "You're talking to Zuzu!"

Grimes had already worked with Bing Crosby and Fred MacMurray when she appeared in "It's a Wonderful Life." She grew up in Hollywood and was nudged into the

business by her mother. Capra picked her to play Zuzu.

Grimes retains kid-centric memories of the movie: Capra kindly squatted to give her directions. "Mr. Stewart" held her in his arms, take after take, for the end scene and always put her down gently. She loved the Baileys' big Christmas tree.

At the time though, even to a 5-year-old, "it was just another job."

Grimes' movie career waned as her mother became ill. She lost her at age 14. Her father died in a car accident a year later. A court shipped the teenage orphan to Osceola, Mo., to live in a "bad home" with an aunt and uncle.

She liked meeting people outside hyper-competitive Hollywood. She went to college, married, raised kids, became a medical technologist. Zuzu was the past. Her box of clips and pics stayed in the basement until 1980, when a reporter came to her door in Stilwell, Kan., and asked her a question:

"Did you play that little girl in the movie, 'It's a Wonderful Life?'"

Now Grimes stands watching herself on a big-screen TV as a curly-haired pixie from 60 years ago. The little girl asks her dad to fix her flower, and he sneaks the wilted petals into his pocket.

"What do you think? Did I see it?" she asks the audience. Grimes is giving a crowd at the community center a tour of the movie with bits of trivia.

Zuzu's name was inspired by an old brand of ginger snaps, she says. The snow coating Bedford Falls was made of soap flakes and chemicals; that's why it looks sudsy sometimes. Reviewing the flower scene, she suggests Zuzu saw through her father's heartfelt ruse and loves him all the more for it.

"I think what Frank Capra is trying to say is she knows her father isn't perfect," she said.

The film about a suicidal, small-town money lender was a bit of a dud after its December 1946 release. "Wonderful Life" got a second life in the mid-'70s when a lapsed copyright allowed television stations to show the movie for free. The movie gathered iconic status through constant showings.

After the reporter's story, Grimes did local Zuzu events in the '80s and branched out by the '90s.

This was a difficult stretch personally; she knows angels don't always save people. Her 18-year-old son killed himself in 1989 and her second husband died of cancer in 1994 (her first husband was killed in a hunting accident). She kept on.

"You have a choice," she says. "You can drown in your sorrows, be the grumpy old Mr. Potter and be hurt and be in pain ... but I think you need to put that behind you because, my gosh, life is a wonderful gift."

Grimes, one of about seven surviving actors from the movie, says she's had troubled souls approach her sobbing at her appearances. She inspires smiles when she passes out a rose petal.

"I really feel like Zuzu is kind of a mission maybe, I don't know," Grimes says. "I think that there is a higher power at work and that I had to go through a lot of adverse situations in my life to understand other people's pain."

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Cause No: 34430
IN THE 223RD DISTRICT COURT OF GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, F/K/A CENDANT MORTGAGE CORPORATION D/B/A CENTURY 21 MORTGAGE VS

CHRISTOPHER JAMES MORRISON, SAM MAY, JESSE LEE MAY AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ROSE M. LOWREY

TO: JESSE LEE MAY AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ROSE M. LOWREY, Defendant-GREETING NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued, you may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday, the 22nd of January, 2007, before the Honorable 223RD DISTRICT COURT of Gray County, at the Courthouse in said County of Pampa, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 14th day of August, 2006 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: ORIGINAL PETITION FOR FORECLOSURE OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS 1920 NORTH CHRISTY STREET, PAMPA, TEXAS 79065. More particularly described as ALL OF LOT FIFTEEN (15), IN BLOCK TWENTY-FIVE (25), OF THE JARVIS-SONE WEST ADDITION, TO THE CITY OF PAMPA, GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF SAID ADDITION RECORDED IN VOLUME 130, PAGE 356, OF THE DEED RECORDS OF GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Pampa, TX 79066-1139, ON THIS 4th day of December, 2006.
Gaye Honderlich, District Clerk 223RD DISTRICT COURT Gray County P.O. Box 1139 205 N. Russell Street Pampa, Tx 79066-1139

1 Public Notice

ATTORNEY REQUESTING:
Esteban H. Gonzales
Attorney at Law
15000 Surveyor Blvd., Suite 100,
Addison, Texas 75001
F-68 Dec. 10,17,24,31, 2006

LEGAL NOTICE:
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on January 30, 2007. You have until July 29, 2007, to redeem any tickets for these games: #577 EASY 10 (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.65, #603 SET FOR LIFE (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.47, #637 3 OF A KIND (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.39, #645 CASH TO BOOT (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.83, #650 CASINO CASH (\$7) overall odds are 1 in 2.92, #656 HARLEY-DAVIDSON (R), BUCKS & TRUCKS (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.66, #664 PAC-MAN™ (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.12, #674 POKER ROYALE (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.32, #676 HOT TEXAS CASH (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.32, #677 PINK PANTHER™ (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.85, #678 \$250,000 RICHES (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 2.78, #679 TEXAS TRIPLER (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.72, #696 CASINO ROYALE (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.03, #698 FIND THE 9'S (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.85, #724 DIAMOND DAZZLER 3X (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 3.86, #729 WILD 10'S (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.14. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch-off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education.

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FULL & Part-Time. Janitorial Serv. taking appli. Dr. license req. Will train. 665-2667, 665-3144 or 669-9186.

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21 Help Wanted

AUTO mechanic needed. Salary based on experience. Please mail resume to POB 2201, Pampa Tx.

21 Help Wanted

NIGHT Shift Nurse Aides needed at Edward Abraham Memorial Home. We will train for Nurse aide. Benefits incl. shift differential, paid holidays, vacation, health ins. Apply 803 Birch Str., Canadian or call 323-6453. EOE

21 Help Wanted

AUTO mechanic needed. Salary based on experience. Please mail resume to POB 2

★
Christmas
joy
love
peace
kindness
salvation
goodness
gentleness
truth

All these things we wish for you and your family this holiday season.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

All United Supermarkets locations are closed
Christmas Day so our team members may enjoy the holiday with their families.

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