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The POWER Of STEAM

Tips offered to help cope with freezing weather

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By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Cold weather is on its way to the Panhandle this weekend. The high for Saturday and Sunday should only reach 25 with a 50 percent chance of a wintry mix or snow. The low temperatures for Friday and Saturday nights should dip down close to 16.

Special precautions for the cold weather such as checking heaters for carbon monoxide leaks, having emergency supplies on hand, insulating pipes and bringing in pets should be taken seriously during the winter months.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid or liquid fuels. Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum, oil, kerosene, coal or wood may produce carbon monoxide . Burning charcoal also produces carbon monoxide .

A person can be poisoned by this gas a little bit over time, so the symptoms may not be alarming.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell described the symptoms as nausea, headache, fatigue, dizziness and shortness of breath. An overall feeling of having the flu is how it is described by many.

Children and pets should be watched closely since they cannot voice their physical symptoms. Powell said it is very important to not ignore symptoms because a person can loose consciousness.

"One of the best determining factors for carbon monoxide leaks is if everyone in the household has the same symptoms," Powell said. "If everyone feels better once they get up and out of the house in the fresh air, this may mean there is a problem with carbon monoxide at the residence."

If someone suspects they may have a problem with carbon monoxide in their home, they can call the fire department or 911 and they will come out with carbon monoxide monitors to see if a leak can be detected. Powell said this service is provided free of charge to the public and they are happy to go by and check anyone's home.

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, space heaters should be cleaned and checked often to make sure they are functioning properly. Adequate ventilation is essential to avoid having fumes linger in the air for all types of heaters. A gas oven should never be used to heat a home, even for a short time. Charcoal grills should never be used indoors, even in a fireplace, because it will emit carbon monoxide

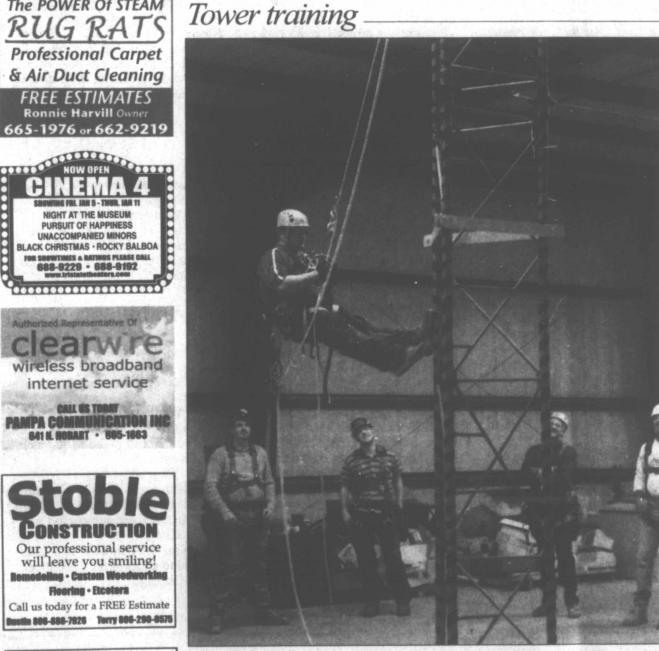
Carbon monoxide detectors are available, but the technology of these is still developing since they are relatively new. Powell warns that people need to make sure a detector is clean, has good batteries and the sensor replaced when required. Carbon monoxide detectors are good to have, but they should not give the homeowner a false

See COLD, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH Gas heaters like this one should be cleaned and checked regularly. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, it is important to make sure fumes are vented properly through ventilation pipes leading outside.

Junior livestock show





641 H. H

Photo by JAYLENE WATKINS

Tower certification training was conducted Wednesday at Centramedia's indoor tower in Pampa. This training session had to be moved to Pampa due to being snowed out in Albuquerque. Practicing a tower descent is Deric Hays from Centramedia. Observing are fellow trainees, from left, J.W. Finn and Aaron Merrill from Epic Touch in Liberal, Kan., Scott Murray from Pampa High Plains Equipment and instructor John Paul Jones from Comtrain in Austin.

set to begin next week

Livestock Show and Sale will begin Wednesday in Pampa.

The program will begin with the weigh-in of animals, will continue with the show and then will conclude with a Buyers Supper and sale at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

The weighing of the animals will be held Wednesday through Jan.19, for all species of animals. The show will begin at 8 a.m. on Jan. 20 at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion at the Pampa rodeo grounds. The order of animals to be shown is goats, sheep, steers, heifers and ending with barrows.

The Gray County Junior and Grand Champion will be chosen at the end of each species with showmanship awards going to junior and senior age exhibitors.

The sale will be held on Jan. 22 at M.K. Brown Auditorium, beginning with a Buyers Suppers which is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. with the sale getting under way at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the show and sale support the youth of Gray County.

Also, area youth are selling tickets for a chance to win \$1,000 in gasoline. To purchase a ticket, find a 4-H or FFA member or contact the Gray County Extension office at 669-8033.

A Reserve Grand Champion

Slain soldier's medals to be replaced

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) -The service medals of a fallen soldier stolen during a burglary will be replaced by the military Friday.

An official at Fort Bliss in El Paso said a Bronze Star and Purple Heart awarded to Army Pfc. Rick Salas, Jr. will be given at the home of Salas' aunt, Rhonda Williams, in Crosbyton. Salas lived in Roswell, N.M.

The medals were stolen from the home of Salas' mother, Brenda Robertson, on New Year's Eve in Lubbock.

Salas, 22, died in Iraq in March when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle, according to a military release. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored

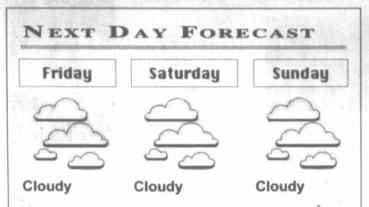
Regiment in Friedberg, Germany. It was the second time in less than a year that medals were stolen from a Lubbock home.

In June, burglars took four medals from the home of Roy Velez, whose two sons died while serving overseas. The Bronze Star, Silver Star and two Purple Hearts belonging to Army Cpl. Jose A. Velez, 23, the older of the Velez brothers, were replaced with help from U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock.

Robertson said she is not sure how the request to replace the medals came to Army officials, though she thinks her son's fellow soldiers put the request in motion.



2 — Thursday, January 11, 2007 — The Pampa News



Friday: A chance of freezing rain, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. Wind chill values between 15 and 20. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Friday Night: A chance of freezing rain and sleet. Cloudy, with a low around 17. Wind chill values between 4 and 14. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

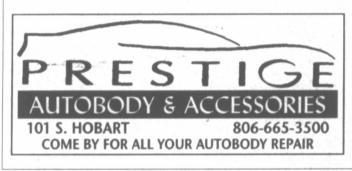
Saturday: A chance of freezing rain and sleet. Cloudy, with a high near 24. Northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Saturday Night: A chance of freezing rain and sleet before midnight, then a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 16. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 11. North-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



Decision expected in Smith inquest

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) - The Bahamas' top prosecutor says a decision will be made soon on whether an inquest is needed into the death of Anna Nicole Smith's son, who died under mysterious circumstances in she was seeking privacy Nassau.

The results of a police chain in July.

Daniel Smith died at his mother's hospital bedside in Nassau on Sept. 10, three days after she gave birth to a daughter. The 39-year-old former Playboy Playmate from Mexia, Texas, has said when she came to the island

House lacks votes to override anticipated veto of stem cell research legislation

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House kicked off debate on legislation boosting taxpayer-funded research on embryonic stem cells, but ran into a fresh veto threat from President Bush.

Despite bolstering their numbers in November's elections, supporters of the controversial research - which holds promise for medical cures of diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's ---acknowledge they lack the two-thirds margin to override another Bush veto.

The House commenced debate on the bill, the third piece of the Democrats' first 100 hours agenda, Thursday morning. Just hours before, however, the White House restated Bush's veto

Obituaries

2007, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with

Carmichael-Whatley

March 10, 1924, in Romney,

Texas. He had been a resi-

dent of Pampa since 1936.

He was a graduate of Pampa

High School in 1941, and

graduated from Texas Tech

University in 1949 with a

After college, he worked

on the Hungry Horse Dam

Project in Montana. He mar-

Industrial Engineering.

Degree

Mr. White was born

Funeral Directors.

Bachelors

"would use federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for research."

At stake was whether research on cells taken from human embryos ---considered by scientists to be the most promising approach to developing potential treatments or cures for dozens of diseases — should be underwritten with taxpayer funds.

The debate raises passions since the research typically involves the destruction of frozen embryos created for in vitro fertilization, which ensures fierce opposition from anti-abortion lawmakers and like-minded constituents who believe their taxes should not fund such research.

Proponents of the research said it is

threat. The statement said the bill done on embryos that would otherwise be discarded from fertility clinics anyway.

The debate comes just days after new research reported that stem cells extracted harmlessly from the amniotic fluid that cushions a fetus in-utero hold much the same promise for diseasefighting as embryonic stem cells.

"I support stem cell research with only one exception - research that requires killing human life," said Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Taxpayer-funded stem cell research must be carried out in an ethical manner in a way that respects the sanctity of human life. Fortunately, ethical stem cell alternatives continue to flourish in the scientific community."

-Sign the on-line register book at

Betty

Amerson and husband Rick

of Los Altos, Calif.; and sev-

book

www.carmichael-

Katherine

www.carmichael-whatley.com.

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Jack Willis White, 82

Elaine Lively, 84

Jack Willis White, 82, of Oct. 1, 1955, at the Magnolia west education building. He ter, Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 11, Baptist Church in Crawford, was chairman of the dea-Okla.

> He was a registered Texas Professional Engineer and a member of numerous professional organizations. He retired from Celanese in 1985 as a project engi-

Elaine Lively, 84, of Pampa, died are pending with Carmichael-Whatley

Jan. 10, 2007, at Round Rock. Services Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Baptist Church where he served on numerous church committees, including the ried Betty Jean Edgington on building committee for the

Emergency Services

in

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-

reported in the police department lobby and from an unspecified location.

A narcotics violation was reported

Brandi Nicole Reeves, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 2100 block of North Sumner by PPD for resisting arrest and interfering with a

whatley.com.

cons, a Sunday

from 1942 to 1945.

Survivors include his ter wife, Betty White, of the home; one son, Paul Mark White of Pampa; one daugh-

neer after 32 years White of service. He was a member of First and went on a crusade to Brazil. He enjoyed spending time on the family farm in Crawford, Okla.

eral other relatives and school teacher, served as president friends. He was preceded in death of the Baptist men, by his parents and one son, Gregory Kim White on Jan. 21, 1966.

Memorials may be made to The Opportunity Plan, 504 24th Street, Canyon, TX 79015, or First Baptist He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621. Air Corps, serving -Sign the on-line regis-

investigation into the death of Daniel Smith, 20, will be given to Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez by the end of the week. Director of Public Prosecutions Bernard Turner told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Gomez or another magistrate will decide whether an inquest is necessary.

Calls placed to Anna Nicole Smith's attorney in the Bahamas went unanswered Wednesday, and Gomez's cell phone was turned off.

A private pathologist concluded that Daniel Smith died from a lethal combination of methadone and two antidepressants. Official toxicology results have not been publicly released.

Bahamian police completed an investigation into his death, which they submitted to the attorney general's office in October. The office is responsible for reviewing the findings, but do not make recommendations on inquests.

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hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Twelve traffic stops were made,

resulting in at least one arrest.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the police department lobby, the 2700 block of Perryton Parkway, and the 800 block of East Browning.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 2200 block of North Nelson, the intersection of Buckler and Ward streets, the 2300 block of Chestnut, the 1800 block of North Dwight, the 300 block of North Wells, the 300 block of North Warren, the 700 block of South Cuyler, and the 2400 block of Duncan.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of South Cuyler.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1900 block of North Hobart. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A civil matter was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 700 block of North Hobart and the 200 block of North Starkweather.

A prowler was reported in the 400 block of North Zimmers.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2800 block of West 28th, on two occasions in the 400 block of West Montagu, and at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of Christine.

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will begin picking up Christ-

mas decorations on Jan. 15.

GIVER will care for elderly

in their home. References

provided. 669-7732.

Sex offender registration was

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ters, 50% off Christmas &

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Dr., 273-7338

in the police department lobby.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Harassment was reported in the 1000 block of Huff Road and the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of East Browning. Mail was taken from a mailbox.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of North Starkweather. A bicycle valued at \$100 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 2800 block of Charles.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today. Wednesday, Jan. 10

Beverly Ruth Anderson, 52, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of Duncan by Pampa Police Department for harassment.

Debbie Diane Tidwell, 40, of Shamrock was arrested by Wheeler County Sheriff's Office for Gray County Sheriff's Office on a warrant out of 223rd District Court for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Jayson Douglas Calfy, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of North Starkweather by PPD for assault causing bodily injury, theft of North Christy, under \$50, and failure to appear.

911 emergency telephone call.

Nancy Yanet Silva, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of 23rd Avenue by PPD for evading arrest, driving while license is invalid, and no insurance.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Wednesday, Jan. 10

9:08 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 2500 block of Chestnut on a carbon monoxide investigation.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance responded to the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 7:31 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a call in the 1300 block

of West Kentucky. Thursday, Jan. 11

12:06 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a call in the 2500 block of Duncan. At least one person was transported.

2:47 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a call in the 2100 block

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Showing the excellence award are, front row from left, Elaine Hapmton and Veronica Coleman. Back row, from lefty, Kathy Cota, Shyla Rush and Angela DeMine. All are employees of the Pampa WorkSource office.

WorkSource receives excellence award

Panhandle WorkSource said today that the related needs. National Workforce Association has awarded their eight Panhandle Centers the Workforce Development Award for Excellence-Rural One Stop Center.

This award is presented to an exemplary one-stop system that has developed and achieved the nation's workforce goals within a local area. The award also recognizes onestop centers that employ innovative strategies in the delivery of business services to the employer customer.

Development system. WorkSource is an employer-driven organization that assists employers with workforce

The Pampa office of Panhandle WorkSource is committed to coordinating their efforts with area chambers of commerce, community colleges and economic development throughout the region.

Panhandle WorkSource is dedicated to creating a truly functioning workforce system in its 26,000 square mile region, consisting of 26 counties, 58 cities and 63 independent school districts.

The Pampa center understands that the The National Workforce Association is a needs of the customer are ever-changing; membership organization dedicated to therefore they work together with their partstrengthening the nation's Workforce ners to provide non-duplicative services in Panhandle order to improve the skill level of the labor force.

Cold

Continued from Page 1

sense of security because there is a chance they may not detect the gas.

during the cold winter to the skin in winter because months. After indoor pets the hair helps keep the ani- by getting under the house come in from outside, their mal insulated. Animals with a blowtorch, so she feet should be cleaned off. should not be left in cold Salt and road chemicals can burn the pads or make them sick if they lick their feet. If you take your dog for a walk, do not go very far from home.

If at all possible, it is best to bring all pets indoors. Make sure pets have enough food and water and make sure the water does not freeze. Long haired animals Pets require more care should not be clipped down to heat frozen pipes. Powell

start a fire or the dog could

and be electrocuted."

chew on the electrical cord heat can be applied to the pipe with a hair dryer, electric heating pad or towels soaked in hot water. A blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove or other open flame device should never be used said that people can get hurt suggests this never

To thaw frozen pipes,

The Pampa News — Thursday, January 11, 2007 — 3



TWO FOR ONE LA-Z-BOY RECLINER SAVINGS TWICE THE COMFORT FOR HALF THE PRICE. QUALITY CRAFTED LA-Z-BOY RECLINERS



Veterinarian Brian Gordzelik of Gray County Veterinary Clinic said that outdoor animals need to have shelter in the cold and snowy weather. A warm, dry doghouse is the best solution. Bedding needs to be kept as dry as possible and hay or straw is good to help them stay warm. A flap-type door on the front of the doghouse is a good way to help keep the wind out.

"Some people like to put heat lamps in their dog houses, but I recommend against that," Gordzelik said. "I know it helps keep the dog warmer, but the risk of fire or electrocution is high. The lamp could get too close to something and

cars alone.

Do not leave anti-freeze or windshield de-icer in an area where children or pets can gain access. These products smell sweet and taste good and even as little as a teaspoonful can kill a small pet or child.

The American Red Cross gives some tips to prevent pipes from freezing in cold weather. All of the water should be drained from outdoor hoses and faucets. All water supply lines that are located in unheated areas should be insulated with pipe sleeves or heat tape.

Newspaper is said to provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes too. When the temperature drops very low, cold water can be allowed to slightly drip from the faucet that receives water from exposed pipes. This keeps the water flowing through the pipes.

attempted. Emergency supplies should always be on hand in the house as well as the car.

For the home, such items as bottled water, radio, flashlight, extra batteries, blankets and non-perishable food with a can opener should be kept during the winter months.

An emergency kit should be kept in the trunk of the car containing food, water, coat, gloves and blankets. People should keep the gas tank in the car as full as possible during the winter. When traveling, you should let someone know your route, destination and the expected time of arrival so if you have problems along the way they know where to look for you. It is suggested that you always travel with a cell phone so assistance can be summoned.

Miami ISD meets Monday

The Miami Independent School District will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the school administration office. The agenda lists general reports to be discussed, financial reports to be heard and the issue of a bond election to be considered.

The general reports that will be discussed will be the Texas Association of School Boards Update 79 and the school calendar for the 2007-2008 school year.

The board will consider and possibly approve an order calling for a bond election to be held for the Miami schools and buses to be updated and repaired. This order would make a provision for the conduct of the election.

If you think. age and occupation are making your legs give out

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again!

4 — Thursday, January 11, 2007 — The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Put safety first in the new year

published part of an e-mail that arrived just in time for the new year from my sister.

Since I really don't know from whence (or whom) the e-mail originally comes, I can't vouch for its accuracy. The message does, however, offer some food for thought, some common-sense measures and precautions primarily for women.

So! Here is the second half of the message copied and pasted straight from my e-mail:

6. ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible who ALWAYS played on the

perfect crime spot. This is especially true at NIGHT!)

7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, ALWAYS RUN! The predator will only hit vehicle, you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a RUN! vital organ. Preferably in a zig -zag pattern!

8. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: STOP. It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a goodlooking, well educated man,

women. He walked with a asked "for help" into his vehicle or

with his Skyla which is Bryant when he abducted News Editor his next victim.

9. Another Safety Point: Someone just told me that her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before last, and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird.

Last week in this space I places to be alone and the sympathies of unsuspecting The police told her "Whatever you do, DO NOT cane, or a limp, and often open the door." The lady then said that it sounded like



already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, DO NOT open the door." He told her that they think

a serial killer has a baby's

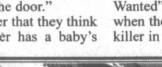
cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby. He said they have not verified it, but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.

Please pass this on and DO NOT open the door for a crying baby - This e-mail should probably be taken seriously because the Crying Baby theory was mentioned "America's Most on Wanted" this past Saturday when they profiled the serial killer in Louisiana.

I'd like you to forward this to all the women you know. It may save a life. A candle is not dimmed by lighting another candle. I was going to send this to the ladies only, but guys, if you love your mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, etc., you may want to pass it on to them, as well.

Send this to any woman you know that may need to be reminded that the world we live in has a lot of crazies in it and it's better to be safe than sorry.

street and get run over. The policeman said, "We



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2007. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

On this date:

In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created by an act of Congress.

In 1807, Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University, was born in Westchester, N.Y.

In 1815, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of

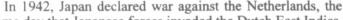
'If you are ruled by mind you are a king; if by body, a slave."

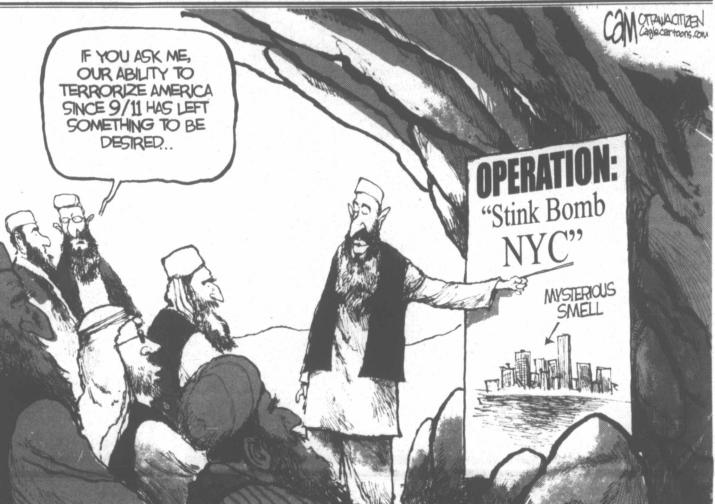
— Cato Roman statesman and historian (234 B.C.-149 B.C.)

Canada, was born in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1861, Alabama

seceded from the Union. In 1913, the first sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th Automobile Show in New York.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif., that made her the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.





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same day that Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies

In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relinquishing extraterritorial rights in China.

In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1995, 52 people were killed when a Colombian airliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena; a 9-year-old girl survived.

Ten years ago: President Clinton summoned top administration officials to a daylong planning session for his second term. An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 shook Mexico City and the southern part of Mexico.

Five years ago: The first planeload of al-Qaida prisoners from Afghanistan arrived at a U.S. military detention camp in Guantanamo, Cuba. Ford Motor Co. announced it was eliminating 35,000 jobs, closing five plants and dropping four models. The Argentine peso floated freely for the first time after 11 years of being tied to the U.S. dollar.

One year ago: A Georgian court convicted a man of trying to assassinate President Bush and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili with a grenade in Tbilisi on May 10, 2005, and sentenced him to life in prison. Gunmen stormed an offshore oil platform run by Royal Dutch Shell in Nigeria and seized the workers, an American, a Briton, a Bulgarian and a Honduran. (The four were freed nearly three weeks later.)

Today's Birthdays: Producer Grant Tinker is 82. Producer David L. Wolper is 79. Actor Rod Taylor is 77. The former prime minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, is 73. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 73. Actor Felix Silla is 70.



403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348 Fax: 806-669-2520 email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Learning the lingo; buying smart ...

A while back, I went into a national-chain computer store. While there, I overa conversation heard between an elderly couple and the salesman. The couple said something that sent shivers up my spine. They said, "Tell us what we need to buy.'

I thought to myself, "What if this were a car lot? Would you ever ask that question of a car salesman?" Of course not! So, why do so many consumers go into a computer store with that attitude? The answer is simple: They don't understand the lingo.

You have to admit, the terminology used in selling computers can be quite overwhelming. Words like gigabyte, dual-core, athlon, cache, CD-RW, RAM, and motherboard can leave the average layman bewildered. In this and my next couple of columns, I will attempt to de-mystify some of the parts of your computer so that you

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 2

El Paso Times on U.S. and Mexico relations:

There are continuing signs that the U.S. and Mexico are increasing muchneeded teamwork when it comes to border issues concerning drugs and fugitives.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, sworn into office on Dec. 1, immediately sent his military forces into the drug-producing hotbed of Michoacan. Forces are arresting reputed druglords and destroying tons of illegal narcotics.

Efforts include Mexico's navy, which is sealing off Michoacan's coast-

can make an informed purchase. First and foremost, we must define three key words: hardware, software, and data. Hardware is basically anything you can touch. Let's cover the basic hardware pieces of your PC. The monitor is the TV-

looking device on your computer. This piece of hardware is classified

what

inside

as an 'output' device, Eric since its Spellmann purpose is to show you Columnist is going on

computer. As an aside, you may have noticed that computer monitors cost a lot more than their same-sized TV brethren.

the

Why is that? Monitors can show much more detail than a TV. That's why it's difficult to hook your computer to older TVs. Older TVs are incapable of showing a clear PC screen. HDTV (high def-

inition TV) changed that, ed a one-word definition of though. You can now hook your HDTV to your PC as well as your DVD.

The next most recognizable piece of hardware is called, the keyboard. Yes, it is the typewriter-looking device. It almost goes without saying that the keyboard is an 'input' device, since it's

board is the

cheapest part of your PC. If it breaks, DO NOT pay to have it fixed. Just throw it away and buy a new one. You can buy a basic keyboard for less than \$15.

Well, keyboards and monitors are pretty basic and 'guessable' as to their function. The mouse, on the other hand, can be a little more confusing. If you need-

line, a port that drug cartels use to dis-

Now comes information that shows

Drugs are a major problem in both

former President Vicente Fox sent "a

record number" of fugitives to face

countries. Mexico is a producer and it's

also a conduit for drugs produced in

Central and South America. The U.S. is

some startling figures have been report-

ed by the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin,

a southern California-based newspaper.

percent of marijuana seized in the U.S.

in 2004 came at the U.S.-Mexico bor-

der. And Mexico ranks No. 2 in supply-

ing heroin to the U.S. Calderon's mili-

The Daily Bulletin reports that 96.7

Fighting this is important because

pense illicit narcotics to the U.S.

United States judgment in 2006.

an illegal-drug abuser.

the function of the mouse, it would be navigation. The mouse allows you to tell the computer WHERE you want to do something. With it, you can perform such operations as 'drag and drop' and ' cut and paste.' While most mice have two buttons, some have three. Most even have a wheel in the middle.

Some older mice have a to rollerball on the bottom, allowing them to move smoothly over a flat surface. Newer versions use a light for more precise movements. By moving the mouse, a user can control the mouse pointer (arrow) on the screen. (Note: Hold the mouse so that your pointer finger is over the left-most button. Move it like you would a clothes iron. In other words, guide it over the mouse pad. Do not press

The left-most button is the

See LINGO, Page 5

tary raids on Michoacan will certainly help to stem that flow.

down on it.)

Last week the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Tony Garza, said Mexico sent 63 suspects north to face justice in 2006. The number has been going up steadily since Mexico sent 12 fugitives to the U.S. in 2000.

There are still many important issues Mexico should address, headed by poverty. And whereas Calderon has initiated a military assault on organized crime, those drug cartels still hold power throughout the nation's populace and its government.

The Dallas Morning News quotes Thomas Shannon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Western

See OP-ED, Page 5

function is to allow the user input information and control the computer. The key-

Reclusive author Harper Lee attends student performance of 'Mockingbird'

(AP) - A high school play based on Harper Lee's classic "To Kill a Mockingbird" brought together black and white high school students to tell the classic story of racial injustice — and even drew out the novel's reclusive author.

Wednesday night's invitation-only performance was organized to celebrate diversity and arts education in Alabama, the home state of the novel's author, whose book and the movie made

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acclaim at a time when Alabama was still rigidly segregated.

Joseph Williams, a 16year-old black student, assumed his peers from nearly all-white Mountain Brook High would immediately see his baggy clothes and make him out for a hoodlum when they begin rehearsing the play.

attends all-black Fairfield High Preparatory School, was one of about 60 students

MONTGOMERY, Ala. from it won immediate from the two schools who came together to perform the play from the Pulitzer Prizewinning book, which looks at racism through the eyes of a tenacious tomboy named Scout.

Working with teens from other backgrounds was a life-changing experience for Williams, who sings bass in Fairfield's choir.

"I had some white friends The sophomore, who before, but they have the same style as me," he said during a break in rehearsal Wednesday afternoon.

"These kids, they have a difartist Larry Allen. ferent style and I felt like they were going to (say) 'He's bad news' or something like that.

"That was good to find out that I was wrong.'

The 80-year-old Lee was invited as a special guest to be honored by education and arts officials.

After the performance, Al Head, executive director of the Alabama State Council of the Arts presented Lee with a piece of pottery titled "Unity Vessel," by Alabama

toward the cast and crew, who stood behind her

audience, which gave a standing ovation. Lee did not address the crowd, but later

talked to students at a private reception.



Have IRA Questions? Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Lingo

Continued from Page 4

most important. It can do two things: single click and double click. Singleclicking allows you to SELECT something. Double clicking (single clicking twice quickly) allows you to open or activate something. The right-most button is mainly used to bring up a shortcut menu. You do not double-click the right button. The wheel, if you have one, is used to scroll. As you probably guessed, the mouse is an input device.

Now, to the boxy part of your computer. The big plastic or metal case houses the most expensive hardware of your PC. These include the Floppy Drive, Hard Drive, CD-ROM and/or CD-RW drive, CPU, RAM, modem, and network card . (Whoa! Don't worry, I'll cover them all.)

an older computer case, you'll notice a small three inch slot with a button next to it. This is the floppy drive. It is both an input and output device as it allows you to read and write information from/to floppy disks. Floppy disks are those flat three inch square plastic objects with the metal slide. You may be wondering, though, why we call them floppy disks. After all, they're pretty hard. Next time you find an old floppy, perform this little surgery:

With your finger, pry the metal slide off. With your fingernails, pry the case apart. Inside, you will find the actual 'floppy' disk. It is made of plastic. Information is stored magnetically on this black shiny disk. The case simply protects it from dust, fingerprints, and scratches. By the way, prying apart a disk completely ruins it, so don't play this game with important disks. Most new systems do not have floppy drives anymore as

If you look closely at the front of rewritable CDs and DVDs have taken their place.

> The hard disk is so-named because it is made of metal. These metal disks are sealed airtight inside a small metal case and housed deep inside your computer's case. Chances are, you will never see the hard disk. It is both and input and output device, but it is a more permanent part of your PC. It can store much more information than a floppy disk and can access it much faster, also. Some people refer to their hard disk as their 'C' drive, and it is the primary storage location for software and data (more on that later).

> Well, it would appear that I've filled up all my column space this week, so next week we will talk about CD/DVD drives, CPU, RAM, modems, network cards, software, data, and operating systems. Until then ...

I'll see you in Cyberspace!

Op-Ed Continued from Page 4

Hemisphere affairs: "We U.S.-Mexico relations strong focus on problems. have great hopes and great

confidence in Calderon ... (who) has left a really good impression as someone who was very focused on the job in front of him." That is what's needed in

gering. The control of drug lords has been vise-like. The Daily Bulletin reports \$142 billion in illegal drugs travels from Mexico to the U.S. each year.

The drug numbers are stag- take further cooperation. And the U.S. should do all it can to help Mexico's new president, who so far is doing good things for both countries.

For this to stop, it will

Events calendar

· Pampa Book Club will has scheduled to discuss the following books: "First Man in Rome" by

(806) 435-6575. Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 1601 Kentucky, will hold

Cuyler, Pampa. The 19th annual Texas High **Plains Grain Elevator Workshop**

Colleen McCullough, Feb. 14; "Widow in the South" By Robert Hicks, March 14; "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger, April 11; and "The Last Promise" by Richard Evans, May 9. The group meets at 10 a.m. in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

 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 continue 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.

· Leadership Perryton and other sponsors will present Jeff Tobe, of Pittsburg, Pa., from 6:30-8 p.m. today at Frank Phillips College Allen Campus in Perryton. Registration will be from 6-6:30 p.m. Tobe will present "Coloring Outside the Lines." Individuals, business owners and employees are invited to attend the free seminar. For more information, contact Perryton Chamber of Commerce at

registration from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday at the campus. Evening registration will be conducted from 6-8 p.m.

 The next monthly Cowboy Poetry Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Big Texan in Amarillo. Marianne Logan will be the facilitator. The guest performer will be Don DeHay of Amarillo.

 The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., Jan. 17, TDH, 736 S.

is planned Jan. 18 at the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. The program has been approved by the state ag department for 5.25 CEUs. Registration is \$35. To register or for more information, contact Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

 "Our Diamond Miss" Youth Achievement Program will be at 1 p.m. Jan. 20 at Pampa Optimist Club. For more information or an entry form, call 665-8921 or (405) 378-0250. Competition is open to infants and youth up to 19 years of age. Categories are modeling, talent, glamour, photogenic, portfolio, World of Babies, Beautiful Baby, baby photo and portfolio.

· Back in Control parent training will be offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 20 at Opportunity Program in Wellington. Registration for the class will be at 8:45 a.m. The class is being offered through Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation's STAR program. For more information, call (806) 359-2005.



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plus... we pick up your mail & water your plants



Let Stable Styles take care of your hair care needs.

Styles, a beauty salon located at 800 W. Foster (behind Sister Spudnuts.)

Her inspiration for the name? "Because," the veteran hair dresser says, "my daughter rodeos and we are western, Christian people."

Kay provides for all your hair care needs – cuts, perms, color, highlights, low-light (cup or foil). "I'll cut it, curl it and dye it for you!" she says.

Kay grew up in Pampa where she was raised by Katherine Helms and the late Jerry Helms. Her grandparents were the late Orval and Avis Walls. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1979.

"I graduated from Pampa College of Hairdressing in 1983," she says. "I married into a hair dressing family. Betty Talley of Miami is my mother-in-law. She's worked as a hairdresser for 50 years in Miami."

Betty retired, says Kay, in 2005. In addition, Kay has a sister-in-law who is a hair dresser in Oklahoma and has several cousins who are hair dressers. Kay's daughter, Trinidee, will begin hair dressing in the fall.

Kay has been in business for four years in Pampa, seven years in Canadian, and 12 years in Miami.

"I worked for Betty's Hair Salon in Miami for 15 years while my kids were small," Kay says. "I also worked in Canadian for seven years while my kids went to school. Then I moved to Pampa and worked at building my business at Tangles and Beauty 2000 for the last several years."

"I try to stay abreast on all the latest styles by attending hair shows and continuing education classes." In fact, Kay has done continuing education in sanitation and color. Her total number of years in the business are 23. Cr

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"I pride myself in doing my very best," Kay says. "By making you feel important, doing exactly what you asked for, not what I want – making you happy when you leave."

To find out more or to schedule an appointment, call Kay at 664-3514.

"I would love for you to give me a try," Kay concludes. "I will try to please you in every hair need you have. I will meet you early or stay late, and I thank you very much for your business."







By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading your Hollywood are any example. (Where have list of questions for "Are You Ready for Parenthood?" (12/6). Your advice was fine, if you were addressing a mature adult. To reach a 15-year-old, try this: "If your child throws up all over your bed, are you or the father going to clean it up, stay up all night with a crying child and then go to work the next day? When the baby is sick, will you cancel your plans with your friends and stay home? "Will you skip buying clothes or the latest cell phone for yourself because you can barely afford food for your little one? Are you willing to give up your dreams of school or travel because the child you gave birth to will grow up and need shoes, an education or medical care? Are you prepared for when this cute, cud- TA dly infant becomes a screaming 2-yearold? "If you continue your education, will you have the energy to work and care for a child who totally depends on you for all physical and emotional needs? And, most important of all, can you handle all this alone if suddenly the father decides he's 'not ready' for the responsibility?" --WAITED TILL I WAS OLD ENOUGH **AND GLAD OF IT!**

DEAR WAITED: No one could say it more plainly than you have. I received a bushel of mail from readers who, like you, wanted to weigh in on the subject. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In response to "Nancy in Flagstaff" concerning "Are You Ready for Parenthood?" the question that should be No. 1 is: Are you married? Sex before marriage, though rampant, is still wrong. -TIM IN LAWTON, OKLA.

DEAR TIM: Sex before marriage may be "wrong," but if my mail is any indication, it's happening. And while having children outside of marriage is not the ideal, the fact remains that folks are doing it and probably will continue -- if the folks in

all the role models gone?) The fact that more than half the households in America are headed by single parents should be evidence that the old rules -- however valid they were -- are now being ignored. I'd change it if I could, but I have to deal with reality.

DEAR ABBY: Here's my addition to your list: Are you emotionally, physically and financially ready if you have a premature or handicapped baby? I am the parent of a severely handicapped son. His twin sister has ADHD, and by God's grace and just dumb luck, I am handling it well -- so far. - FLYING SOLO IN SOUTH DAKO-

DEAR ABBY: Parents need a sense of humor, an infinite amount of patience and thick skin. Children take the longest time eating, using the bathroom, telling a story, asking a question, etc., and there will be many occasions when they will tell you that you are the meanest mommy or daddy or that they hate you. Can you handle it with grace, firmness and patience? --WISE MOM IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY: My question is, Can you provide a safe environment to raise the child? One of the biggest dangers to young children is abuse. Having heard so many stories about young parents shaking babies that won't stop crying -- or worse -- this should be carefully considered before becoming a parent. - SEEN TOO MUCH **IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR ABBY: I don't have a question to add to your list. But I would like to share some great advice my aunt gave me when I adopted my daughter. She said, "Just give her your wallet now; it won't be yours ever again!" It's true -- and I wouldn't change it for the world! -- KEVIN IN AKRON



Zits



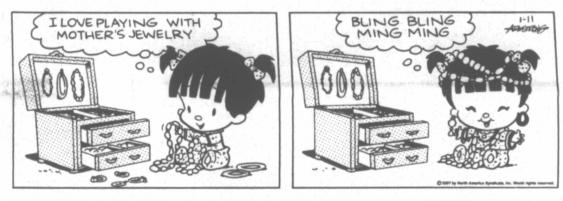
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Sports Day

Seniors honored in Wednesday night's Football Banquet



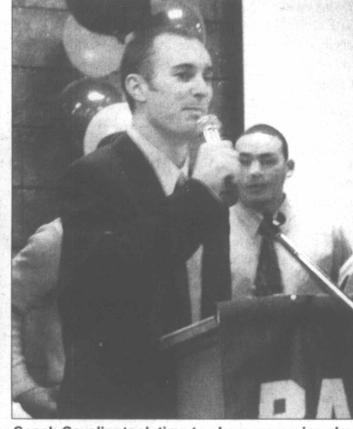
Lined up after having been recognized by Coach Andy Cavalier, the senior players watch on as other teammates are called up.



The future of the Pampa Harvester legacy, the underclassmen Varsity players line up on stage to be recognized.



The JV table is all smiles as they spend some time together before the banquet starts.



Coach Cavalier took time to share memories about every individual senior.

By JORDAN REAGAN Sports Editor

Last night, I was introduced to the modern version of what the majority of my early childhood memories consist of.

The heart and soul of the community, the Pampa Harvesters.

Of course I can't exactly remember who was the star player, or what the win-loss record was 14 years ago, but I know one thing - it didn't matter then, and it doesn't matter now.

The football banquet honored everyone who had a helping hand in the community's most beloved pastime; from the cheerleaders who kept the teams going, to the Booster Club that makes everything financially possible. Everybody got the recognition they deserved.

The Freshman and JV Teams were recognized by their coaches, Josh Cadenhead and Dennis Doughty.

The evening was a celebration of the team that brings the community together, and a celebration of family. A celebration in which we enjoyed delicious steaks and baked potatoes.

The main focus of the night, however, was on the senior varsity players.

First-year Head Coach Andy Cavalier took a moment to talk especially about every individual senior on the team, celebrating their final run as a Pampa Harvester.

As seniors this year, it is probably regarded as a great year to go out on, despite what some may call a disappointing win-loss record.

From the nationallybroadcast Dateline special to the first year of Coach Cavalier, this football season has undoubtedly been one filled with unforgettable memories. The Pampa Harvesters this year were bigger than they've ever been. The Pampa Harvesters this year were the Tila Tequilla, Steve Byrne and KFC's Famous Bowls of the local communi-There is no doubt that the seniors lived up to Coach Cavalier's Latin motto, "Tueor Porro," which means preserve and surpass. It's clear to see, both as a newcomer to the community and a sports writer that the Pampa Harvesters, while thoroughly and fully dedicated to football, are not only about football. They are about brotherhood, tradition, and loyalty.

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> Board of meeting is Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. County Co endon, Te ty citizen Collingsw Gray, Hal Counties a tend this mation

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A few of the senior boys and their dates enjoy time together before picking up their steaks. Coach Cavalier introduces this year's recipient of the Fighting Heart award, senior James Coffee. The Fighting Heart award was one of five handed out.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 12, 2006:

This year make a point of aiming for what you want with the full expectation of getting it. Your circle of friends and associates expands, opening new doors. Sometimes a new door could cause you to close another one. Make that OK, as you are in a period of tremendous change, which will ultimately create greater happiness. You will be like a cat with nine lives, always landing on your feet. Even if a situation looks bleak, it will turn around. Learn to trust more often. If you are single, meeting people will not be the issue. Your choice is what you need to consider. If you are attached, discuss what you would like to create together. Start manifesting and talking. SCORPIO helps you achieve exactly what you want.

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)

**** Let go of the reins and allow others to demonstrate what they have to offer. Get into a meeting. Enjoy the many people around you. A goal-directed conversation lays important groundwork. Tonight: Quality time with a special person

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** You might disagree with others' choices. Recognize that everyone has to live his or her own life and see the consequences of his or her actions. A surprise visit or action allows you to relax more. Work with a pal. Tonight: Such a popular Bull! Work through your options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ What you haven't completed might demand your attention. Clear your desk. Get errands done. If someone is distracted, smile and enjoy the compliment. Keep your main focus — for now. Others are full of surprises. Tonight: You might be underestimating someone's caring.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ With your imagination, you might be able to dream up what isn't obvious. Emotions could be a strong resource right now. What you feel might be going on probably is. Get facts to back you up. Don't just act. Tonight: Dance the weekend in. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

******* You might want to pull back, especially if a situation doesn't make sense. If you have a strong intuitive feeling, check it out before acting on it. Someone might be more unpredictable with money than you realize. Tonight: Quiet and relaxing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You have the right words for nearly any situation. If you don't know the correct words, your actions will speak for themselves. You have a special way about you that makes others want to draw closer to you. Tonight: Someone acts like a wild thing! LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You might want to slow down, especially if your actions could have monetary ramifications. Know when you need to stop and process. Someone could become demanding and argumentive as he or she attempts to get you to cave in. Tonight: Time for a treat. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** With the Moon in your sign, you might be hard to stop. Realize your limitations with someone who has far different ideas from you. An expenditure could be going overboard. Think and decide just how important it is. Tonight: What knocks your socks off! SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Know when to back off. You have reason to smile. Share good news with a caring friend. Not everyone has to hear your news right away. You might actually enjoy keeping some details hush-hush. Tonight: Do a vanishing act. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Your goal is quite clear, and the good news is that with teamwork, you could hit a home run. Pressure yourself less and accept the inevitable. A hunch about an expenditure pays off literally and figuratively. Tonight: Where the action is. AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Know your limits, and if you need to say "no," do just that. Don't stand on ceremony if you are uncomfortable with someone's request. Sometimes by saying how you feel, you can prevent doing a wild Aquarian rebellion. Tonight: A force

to be dealt with. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ****** Sometimes looking ahead is helpful, but at other times it could be a problem. By anticipating an issue, you could halfway cause it to happen just by your expectation. Decide to liberate your future by changing your behavior! Tonight: Opt for different.

BORN TODAY Author Jack London (1876), radio personality Howard Stern (1954), singer Amerie (1980)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2007 by King Features Syndicate Inc. Coach Dustin Miller expects great results from Optimist Club basketball

Pampa High School head basketball coach Dustin Miller had words of praise for the Pampa Optimist Youth Club's basketball program and encouraged boys to participate in the upcoming Optimist season.

"I went through the program myself," Miller said. "My kids are going though it now. I think basketball teaches young men how to act and represent themselves. The earlier they learn the basics of basketball the better player they can be."

A meeting for coaches and prospective coaches is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Optimist Club. "We need coaches so that all the kids who sign up can play," said Kevin Davis, an Optimist vice-president. Registration and tryouts will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Optimist gym. A playing donation of \$35 will be requested.

Scholarships are available.

"We are expecting a team from Wheeler to join our program this year," Davis said. "We are hoping that other communities will join us as well. In the girls basketball program, Miami won the league and White Deer was in a tie for second place. We think these other towns will increase the level of competition for Pampa kids."

Games are expected to begin the week of Jan. 29.

Beckham to join LA Galaxy

LONDON (AP) — David Beckham agreed to a five-year deal with the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer, leaving the Real Madrid club at which he enjoyed worldwide popularity but experienced disappointment on the field.

Beckham, the former English captain who also starred for Manchester United, will join the Galaxy after his contract with Real Madrid expires on June 30. Los Angeles opens its season April 8 in Houston.

"I am proud to have played for two of the biggest clubs in football and I look forward to the new challenge of growing the world's most popular game in a country that is as passionate about its sport as my own," he said in a statement released today.

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LEGAL NOTICE The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission is in the process of electing Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Donley endon, Texas. All minority citizens in Childress, Collingsworth, Donley. Gray, Hall and Wheeler Counties are invited to attend this meeting. Information regarding this election may be obtained PRPC, (806)372-3381. Jan. 11, 2007 F-79

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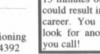
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Lions Club honoree



COURTESY PHOTO

Jon T. Bates recently received a Texas Lions Foundation Fellow award for honoring outstanding contributions to the Texas Lions Foundation. The award was presented to him by District Gov. Gayle Cotton. Bates joined Pampa Noon Lions Club from Amarillo North Lions Club.



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Iraqi War focus of Bush speech

By ERIN McCLAM AP National Writer

Saundra Clagett has spent days bouncing from one conclusion to another about what the United States should do about Iraq. She knew this much: She was glad it wasn't her decision.

So Clagett and her husband, both veterans, settled in Wednesday night to watch President Bush

The reinforcements announced by Bush would bring the U.S. military presence in Iraq to more than 150,000 troops.

explain to the nation why

he was sending 21,500

additional U.S. troops

into the war. She listened,

troops home," Clagett

said after the speech from

her home in Fayetteville,

N.C., near Fort Bragg. "I

think we've done all that

we can do. This is Iraq's

civil war. There comes a

time when they have to

U.S. deaths in Iraq, look-

ing for a way out or a way

forward in the nearly

four-year-old conflict,

Americans considered

Bush's plan Wednesday

night and responded with

Frustrated by mounting

stand on their own."

and was unconvinced. "The bottom line is that a mixture of frustration and cautious, last-ditch hope.

Adam Pollet, a Harvard University student from Atlanta, rushed into the bar Cambridge Common to grab some friends, then focused his attention on Bush's prime-time address.

"I think he's trying to do the best he can," Pollet said, "but I don't think he has any idea that's better than anyone else's."

The reinforcements announced by Bush would bring the U.S. military presence in Iraq to more than 150,000 troops. The president also steeled the country for more violence and said he had made a mistake by not ordering more troops there last year. He was speaking

to a nation that has in large part soured on the war, which last month claimed its 3,000th American life.

An Associated Press-Ipsos poll in December we need to bring our put approval of Bush's handling of the war at 27 percent, a record low, and a majority of voters interviewed in exit polls during the midterm elections said they favored pulling some or all troops from Iraq.

Even among Americans who applauded Bush's decision to bolster the American military presence in Iraq, there were questions about why the reinforcements were only being sent now.

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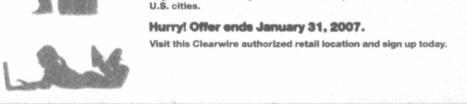
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SETTING

European bank holds key interest rate steady

FRANKFURT, Germany Bank of England raised its held its key interest rate steady at 3.5 percent today but pledged to keep a close eye on prices and the economy.

Earlier in the day, the

(AP) — The European main rate by a quarter of a Central Bank, balancing percentage point to 5.25 growth against inflation, percent, as inflation is running well above its 2 percent target at 2.7 percent and is set to rise further.

ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet's comment that the bank would engage in "very close monitoring" of inflation threats has been taken in the past as a signal that a rate hike could come within two months.

Trichet added that inflation this year and next will hover around 2 percent, in line with the bank's existing goal, with energy costs one of the continuing risks.

The ECB's decision came the same day as the German government announced that the nation's economy expanded by 2.5 percent in 2006, its fastest rate since 2000.

The Eurostat statistical agency, meanwhile, said economic growth in the euro zone slowed in the third quarter of 2006.

Full-year data were not yet available.

The decision helped the euro end its short slide against the U.S. dollar as the currency rose to \$1.2992 in afternoon trading, up from \$1.2936 on Wednesday.

In the euro zone, the 13 nations that use the currency are still showing solid economic growth. The ECB's governing council will likely say it is closely monitoring inflationary threats.

Consumer and business sentiment surveys are positive, unemployment in the euro zone is down to less than 8 percent and data for the fourth quarter is expected to reveal more growth.