

Tomorrow's Weather

**HIGH
33
LOW
21**

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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Icy weather



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

This icy tree seen in Pampa early Friday morning may be a precursor for bad weather this weekend. According to the Weather Channel Web site, the Texas Panhandle may have snow accumulations of 3-5 inches through Saturday and may have wind gusts up to 25 mph.

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Pampa man hurt in early morning vehicle accident

By KERRI SMITH
 Managing Editor

A Pampa man was injured in a one-vehicle accident early Friday morning on Hobart Street.

According to the Pampa Police Department, at approximately 1 a.m. this morning, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of South Hobart on a major vehicle accident. Guardian EMS and Pampa Fire Department also responded to the scene.

A 1997 Toyota Camry, driven by 21-year-old Joshua Urban of Pampa, was traveling southbound on Hobart at a high rate of speed, struck a light pole and over turned approximately two times.

Urban was ejected from the vehicle. He was transported by Guardian Ambulance, due to life threatening injuries, to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. His condition was not known at press time.

PAMPA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

School board approves cafetorium, new buses

By KERRI SMITH
 Managing Editor

Pampa school board members had lengthy discussions on the recommendation to construct a cafetorium at the new Pampa Junior High School, the status of the district's school buses and a proposal for a student information system at a regular board meeting Thursday night.

Mike Baker from the architectural firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper and Randy Stephenson, who is overseeing the new school construction, spoke to the board about the advantages of constructing a cafetorium as opposed to a gymnasium.

"Most of the people who have been consulted on this subject feel that con-

structing a cafetorium instead of a gymnasium is the best thing for our new junior high school," Stephenson said. "After making some comparisons between the two and studying the advantages and disadvantages of both, most people involved in the project feel the cafetorium would be better. The acoustics would be much more suitable for assemblies and other presentations and the seating would already be in place."

Baker said they could put the stage in either location, the gym or cafeteria.

See PISD, Page 3

Three face evidence tampering charge after stop by GCSO

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

Three Pampa men were arrested Tuesday afternoon by Gray County sheriff's deputies after they threw a liquid substance from their vehicle while deputies were attempting to stop their vehicle.

Anthony Ryan Ferrell, 24; Kenneth Putman, 25; and Ryan J. Wohlford, 22, were arrested and booked into Gray County Jail at 5:34 p.m. Tuesday on a charge of tampering with evidence in connection with the incident.

Deputies Rhett Rollins and Joe Montgomery had noticed that the vehicle the three were riding in was

being driven erratically in the 2700 block of Duncan, and the deputies initiated a traffic stop, according to sheriff's office reports.

"When the officers attempted to stop them, they threw a liquid substance out the window of the vehicle," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. The deputies recognized the odor of the liquid as being the same smell as that emitted by a substance used in making methamphetamine, Hoard said.

"They got the vehicle stopped, placed the three under arrest, and found items commonly used in a clandestine meth laboratory inside the vehicle," Hoard said.

City drops mesh network

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

The City of Pampa will not be getting a mesh network in the near future, despite approval by city commissioners at their Tuesday afternoon meeting.

That approval came only after a lengthy discussion and a vote of three to two, the reason city directors decided not to get the network at this time, according

to a written statement issued Thursday afternoon by City Manager John Horst.

"After further consideration concerning the Mesh Network, the Directors of the City of Pampa have decided unanimously not to pursue the project at this time," Horst said in the statement.

"The Directors feel that a project of this magnitude needs the full support of the City Commission in order to

proceed." Ward 2 Commissioner Bill Allison and Ward 3 Commissioner Robert Dixon voted against acquiring the system, while Mayor Lonny Robbins, Ward 1 Commissioner Brad Pingel and Ward 4 Commissioner Neil Fulton voted in favor of the new system at the

See MESH, Page 3

Cat vs. turkeys



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

An orange cat seems to have decided that discretion is the better part of valor after considering the size and number of turkeys around him. He made no attempt to chase or catch any of the feathered visitors to a north Pampa lawn, and vacated the premises shortly after this photo was taken.

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CHAMBER LUNCHEON • DECEMBER 18 AT 11:45AM

Please join us in the MK Brown Room at the Chamber Building, 200 N. Ballard for a menu of baked chicken, potato, vegetable & salad provided by Pampa Country Club. The Entertainment will be the PHS Show Choir sponsored by National Bank of Commerce. The public welcome, please RSVP at 669-3241. Thank you to the luncheon sponsor: Accolade Home Care.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday **Sunday** **Monday**



Cloudy



Sunny



Sunny

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. Wind chill values between 6 and 16. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21. Wind chill values between 13 and 18. West-northwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 47. West-southwest wind around 5 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. South-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 50. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. South-southwest wind around 10 mph becoming west-northwest.

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William Lenson Groves, 88

ROCKY, Okla. — William Lenson Groves, 88, a longtime Rocky resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007, at Ellkview General Hospital in Hobart, Okla.



Groves

Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19 at Rocky First United Methodist Church with the Revs. Norman Wasson, pastor, and Roger Reston officiating.

Burial will follow in Lone Star Cemetery at Rocky under the direction of Ray & Martha's Funeral Home of Hobart.

Mr. Groves was born Dec. 17, 1918, in Kiowa County to Stewart Johnson and Sena Beatrice (Van Santen)

Groves. He grew up in Rocky, where he graduated from high school in 1938. He served in India and Burma with the U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II and received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Groves later graduated from Southwestern University at Weatherford, Okla., with a teaching degree. He taught in Binger, Okla., and in Pampa for 29 years. When he retired he moved back to the family farm in Rocky where he died.

Mr. Groves was a longtime member and Sunday school teacher at First United Methodist Church in Rocky. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Eseral Groves; and a sister-in-law, Violet Groves.

Survivors include cousin and caregiver, Lois Rose of Rocky; two second cousins, Crystal Anderson and Mark Tyler, both of Salem, Ore.; and numerous cousins in Oregon, Michigan, Louisiana and North Carolina.

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ANYONE WITNESSING car accident at PHS in front of Field House, Oct. 22, please call 440-3148. Reward.

MASSAGE THERAPY Christmas Gift Certificate Special. Call Cathy Potter or Holly Couets, 669-0013.

PACK 'N' Mail will be open Sat. Dec. 1st, 8th, & 15th from 10am-5pm for all your packing & shipping needs.

LETTERS TO Santa, to be in the Pampa News, the deadline is Mon. Dec. 17th, 5pm.

LOST FAMILY pet. German Shep. mix, fe., black w/ tan & white markings, "Jo Jo." Call 662-2673 or 665-2463

GOLF SALE at David's Golf Shop at Hidden Hills! All golf shoes, jackets, gloves, shirts, bags & equipment, 20% to 40% Off. New arrivals of Nike and College merchandise. Buy a Golf Gift Certificate, it's a great present for Christmas!

LARGE CASH Reward, remain anonymous, for info. leading to arrest & conviction on burglaries of 1407 S. Barnes, Sat. Aug. 25, OCB, Sept. 23, 1407 S. Barnes, Dec. 5. Crime Stoppers, 662-1022.

SMOKIN' JOE'S Grill, New hours Mon. thru Sat. 11am-3pm. Taking reserv. for your parties (filling up fast). Catering avail. 688-5637.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

BATMAN, Daniel Jackson — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

Daniel Jackson Batman, 10-days-old

Daniel Jackson Batman, a 10-day-old infant of Pampa, died Dec. 12, 2007, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Steve Cox, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under

the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Daniel was born Dec. 2, 2007, in Pampa. Survivors include his parents, Marisa



Batman

Sanders and Christopher Batman, both of Pampa; a sister, Mackensi Batman of Pampa; his maternal grandfather, Jack Sanders of Amarillo; and his paternal grandparents, Ellen and

Melvin Batman of Pampa.

MEMORIALS: March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation-Golden Spread Chapter, 104 SW 6th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101.

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

Mary Frazier, 89

The family of Mary Frazier celebrated her beautiful life as they grieved her passing on Dec. 7, 2007. Mary went home to be with the God she loved and served all her life. Funeral services were 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007, at Oak Crest Funeral Home in Waco, Texas, with burial at Oakwood Cemetery, Waco.

She was born May 26, 1918, in Galveston, Texas, the second of four children to Robert and Vashti Bowen. When she married Charles Frazier in 1938, they began a lifetime of Christian ministry that continued to the very end of each of their lives.

In 1947, they moved their family to Waco and opened

an electronics business. Mary took her children to nursing homes and neighborhoods across Waco to visit the sick, the lonely and forgotten, and the broken hearted. She sent them bearing plates of home baked gifts

to warm hearts and fill often empty bellies. She provided clothes and toys, and rides to the grocery store, the doctor, church and school for families in need, teaching her children to care about the needs of others. Her convictions were never compromised, her faith never wavered. She filled her home with family,



Frazier

friends, happiness, laughter, security, faith in God and unconditional love.

She was never too busy to listen. Her children learned God's Word at her knee, and His love through her actions. Memories of her beautiful laughter and love will live in her children's and friend's hearts forever.

Mary moved from Waco to McLean in 1986 to be near a daughter living there. She returned to Waco in 2001. During her residency in McLean she was very active in the United Methodist Church, where among other things she served as teacher

of two Sunday school classes.

She also began and for several years taught a Sunday School class for residents of the McLean Care Center, getting others to help in various ways with the class. At her home, she at times conducted prayer sessions and Bible study.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Bill and Al Bowen, Sr.; and sister, Martha Webster.

She is survived by daughters, Janys Stubbs and Laura Barrett and son-in-law Jack Barrett, all of Waco; son, Charles "Chuck" Frazier and daughter-in-law Kathy Frazier of Dallas; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

Thirty-seven traffic stops were made, resulting in two arrests.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 1300 block of Coffee, the intersection of Harvester and Williston, the 1100 block of Seneca and the 1000 block of South Hobart.

An accident was reported at the intersection of Hobart and Alcock.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 200 block of Harvester, the 1100 block of Gwendolen, the 600 block of North Dwight, the intersection of Market and Nelson, the 1100 block of Neel, the 500 block of Magnolia, the 700 block of East Bradley and the 1900 block of Duncan.

A welfare check was made in the 2400 block of Rosewood.

An silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1600 block of North Hobart.

Public intoxication was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic.

One attempt to serve was made.

A runaway was reported in the 500 block of Magnolia.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 1000 block of Duncan, and the intersection of Francis and Starkweather.

Criminal trespass was reported in the police department lobby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Miami.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of Fisher.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1500 block of Dogwood.

One alarm was reported.

A prowler was reported in the 1000 block of Scott.

A stolen vehicle was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

A theft was reported in the 100 block of North Sumner.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of West Foster. Reported taken was an antique baby stroller, a TV and two tool boxes containing tools.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Jaycob Tolman, 44, homeless, was

arrested by GCSO for public intoxication.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Wiatt Wilken, 27, of Arizona was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of marijuana.

William Craig Stephens, 35, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a blue warrant.

Cindy Costas Price, 44, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for theft by check.

Jared Page Rorie, 27, of Osceola, Ind., was arrested by DPS for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Don Ray Howard, 35, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for failure to maintain financial responsibility, no valid driver's license and failure to appear.

Bryan Humphrey, 19, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for credit card abuse.

Antonio Gonzales, 40, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for capias profines for no seat belt and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Isaac Rodrigues, 20, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 10

8:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Charles and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 3000 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient(s) to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

12:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Christy and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

2:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1100 block of Neel Road.

3:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

6:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to NWTH.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

8:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU respond-

ed to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to a facility in Amarillo.

4:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Charles and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

6 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Banks and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:26 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

Thursday, Dec. 13

12:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of East Kingsmill and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to an unspecified location and transported a patient to PRMC.

Friday, Dec. 14

1:09 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to an unspecified location on Hobart and transported a patient to NWTH.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

7:35 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2200 block of North Christy on a carbon monoxide investigation.

12:16 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersections of Hobart and Alcock on a motor vehicle accident.

Thursday, Dec. 13

12:47 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 400 block of Purviance on a first responder call.

4:56 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the intersection of Finley and Beryl on a false alarm.

5:49 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2100 block of Nelson on a carbon monoxide check.

Friday, Dec. 14

1:08 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 100 block of South Hobart on a motor vehicle accident.

What do you think?

Who would you like to see play in the Super Bowl this season?



Steve Busse
Culberson-Stowers Inc.
Pampa

Of course I'd like to see the Green Bay Packers beat the best team - New England.



Carole Lesly
Heard-Jones
Heath Mart
Pampa

My favorite team - the Pittsburgh Steelers will play the Dallas Cowboys.



Ronnie Holmes
Holmes Sports
Center
Pampa

I'd like to see Green Bay and the Patriots play.



Jacque Chester
O'Reilly Auto
Parts
Pampa

The New England Patriots will beat the Dallas Cowboys.



Justin Howard
Bartlett's Lumber
and Hardware
Pampa

Anybody but Dallas!



Katina Atchley
Holiday Inn
Express
Pampa

Green Bay Packers vs. the Dallas Cowboys.

Mesh

Continued from Page 1

Tuesday meeting. The network, available through Motorola, would cost \$489,000, and installation would cost an additional \$300,000. A lease-purchase plan for a five- or seven-year period is offered by Motorola, with a down payment of \$200,000 and annual payments thereafter for the term of the contract.

The network consists of hardware and software to provide various information to laptop computers for city workers. Hardware would include 12 fixed cameras, three portable cameras, computer cards and fixed nodes, or repeaters. The nodes, which could number as many as 88, would have been placed strategically around the city to act as signal relays.

Information provided by the system could have included various city features such as the location of fire hydrants, water and sewer lines, along with data tables showing facts such as age of the features and flow rates. Street information could have included the age of the street and the date of its

last seal coating, if applicable.

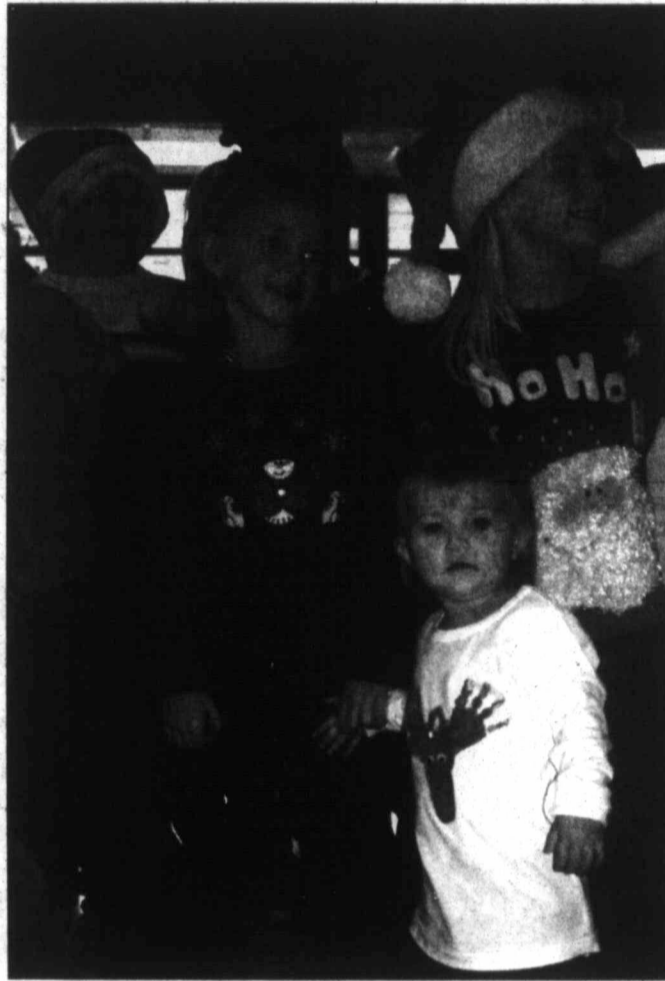
Network cameras could have been used to monitor firefighters at a fire, a SWAT team in action and other emergency activities, according to Fire Chief Kim Powell and Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner.

"What you can do with it is endless," Pitner said. "A lot of it deals with safety and manpower."

Price and priorities were two sources of differing viewpoints concerning the network at Tuesday's meeting. After several city directors, including Powell and Pitner, spoke in favor of the network and explained how it could benefit the city and city employees, questions and disagreements were expressed.

Dixon said that the city's first priority should be to replace water and sewer lines and improve city streets. Allison asked if the city would get \$800,000 worth of good out of the network, and how many city employees would be cut. Horst said no employees would be recommended to be cut as a result of the purchase.

One reason for taking action on the mesh network at the 4 p.m. Tuesday meeting is a deadline to take advantage of a discount being offered by Motorola for the system.



Happy Holidays from The Pampa News staff

Buy one year or six months of the newspaper for yourself or a loved one

Pampa News Photo by Brenda Cook
4 Austin first graders recently went caroling at FirstBank Southwest. One student's younger sister decided she wanted to join in the fun and wandered out to help sing and dance.



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PISD

Continued from Page 1

since an auditorium will not be built at the new school.

Board member Lee Porter had concerns that making this change might disappoint the people who were involved in the planning stages of the school bond issue.

"A lot of time and discussion went into this subject and at the time the majority of those on the committee felt the stage would be better in the gym," Porter said. "After reading the pros and cons to both considerations, I also agree that the cafeteria would be the best place to put the stage, but I feel those committee members should be brought together again so we can meet and discuss with them why we feel this way now. I would just like to be up front with the public and explain why we changed our minds and that when we made that original decision this new information was not available."

The board voted to make the change at the new junior high school from a gymnasium to a cafeteria and to bring back bond committee members to a January board meeting with the architects so this issue can be discussed and explained.

Members of the district's transportation department gave a report on the condition of current school buses and to recommend the district purchase four new buses. The district currently has approximately 15 buses to use for routes to and from schools and to also use for

extra-curricular trips out of town. Five of the buses are almost 20 years old and four are at least 10 years old.

Part of the problem within this department is the inability of hiring a regular full-time mechanic to work on the buses. Transportation Director Sam Haynes said they have advertised for close to a year for a mechanic, but no one has been interested in the position. He feels the district needs to make the salary more desirable to attract qualified applicants. He also said the district does not have any back up buses when they do have mechanical problems, the transportation department just has to pull from the trip buses and hope there are enough.

The board voted to purchase two new buses at a cost of \$82,319 each and finance them over a 4-year period. They also want to keep advertising for a mechanic who could possibly help keep the current buses in better shape with preventative maintenance.

After hearing reports from committee members, who are either teachers or administrators from different grade levels, the board also voted to approve the purchase of Skyward software as the students information system for a total first year cost of \$176,027 plus a dedicated server for \$17,000 additional. A budget amendment was also approved to cover the cost of the software.

Committee members met several times to study and use three different types of software that the district could purchase. The overwhelming choice of those members was the Skyward package because of the ease of use, the years of its proven track record and the

compatibility with Texas educational systems. Teachers will use this software to enter student assignments, grades and discipline referrals. Parents will be given access codes and passwords to sign on to the system and check the status of their children's school work.

Board members also approved the removal of bleachers from the unused Baker Elementary gym to be used at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club. Board members reported on the training hours they have completed from March through November of this year and they are as follows: Lance DeFever, 16.25 hours; Derrell DeLoach, 12.50 hours; Joe Martinez, 19.75 hours; Mark McVay, 19 hours; Lee Porter, 23.25 hours; and Charles Smith, 29.50 hours.

The board heard reports on construction bond issues, the 2008-2009 school calendar, procedures used to evaluate professional personnel, the library report and roofing projects planned for Travis and Lamar Elementaries.

All of the campuses were represented by principals or teachers who gave reports to board members regarding the second benchmark testing that has been done in Pampa. They explained that this is the first year to do this kind of testing, but it is a valuable way to collect data and measure how the students are doing in regard to the same students the following years. Each time these tests are given to the students, the administrators at each school can check to see if the students are on track for progression or if new resources need to be brought in to help in the learning process.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



presents
TOM FULLER
founder of
The John Wesley Adventure

SUNDAY DEC 16TH
MORNING WORSHIP 10:30AM & EVENING WORSHIP 7:00PM

MONDAY DEC 17TH & TUESDAY DEC 18TH
EVENING WORSHIP 7:00PM

Dr. Tom Fuller is General Evangelist for the United Methodist Church. He began studying John Wesley in the 1980s. He was fascinated by Wesley's high Christian standards, his commitment to Scripture, his balanced understanding of God, his energy and his optimism. Wesley's goal was spreading Christ throughout the world. Eventually he did. Two questions kept returning to Tom's mind: "Why am I not like that?" and "Why is my church not like that?" Dissatisfied with mediocre standards, Tom wrote *The John Wesley Academy* to return United Methodists to a clear understanding of our thrilling heritage. For five years Tom spent early mornings studying and writing *The John Wesley Academy*. Tom has preached, taught and sung across North America, as well as in great Britain and India. He received the M.Th. degree from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, and the D.Min. degree in Church Growth from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

The Amazing John Wesley is a condensed, three-day dramatic presentation on the life and beliefs of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Tom tells it in story form, then concludes by introducing church members to *The John Wesley Adventure*. It is a major reform movement for local churches whose members want to go deeper into their learning about Wesleyanism, and how to bring Wesleyan renewal and growth to their churches.

FOSTER & BALLARD

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Viewpoints

Bickering to save the earth becomes ridiculous

Blanche and John Bickerson, two fictional characters who finally divorced after their radio show was canceled in 1951, discussed getting back together to save the environment.

"I don't know why we're even talking about this, Blanche. Getting back together is a terrible idea."

"But we have to, John. Michigan State University found recently that divorced people, because they no longer share one household but require two, use 61 percent more resources than married people."

"Be honest, Blanche. You want to get back together to use more of MY resources."

"You used to be so considerate, John. But ever since

you married me, you have no sympathy at all."

"When I married you, I got everybody's sympathy. Look, Blanche, maybe we should take it slow. Why don't we fly to the Bahamas?"

"But what about our carbon footprint, John? It would be selfish of us to burn more fossil fuel just so we can go to an exotic location and patch things up."

"All right, Blanche. Why don't we go out for a nice dinner somewhere — get a couple of steaks and talk things over?"

"You know better than that, John! Cow flatulence produces methane, a greenhouse gas. And so many trees have to be felled to clear land for grazing. Eating

steak is one of the worst environmental sins!"

"Goodness gracious, Blanche. Then how about some fish?"

"Fish are bad for the environment, too. Fossil fuels must be burned to power the

boats that catch the fish. Then the fish have to be trucked all the way across the country, which requires even more fossil fuel."

"I'll tell you what I'll do, Blanche. I'll go down to the lake and catch a couple of fish, then grill them up on the barbecue."

"We can't barbecue, John!

Every time a person barbecues, he emits 50 to 100 grams of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That's why progressive countries, such as Belgium, have issued a barbecue tax."

"OK, Blanche, let's stay in tonight and have peanut butter sandwiches in front of the fireplace."

"Fireplace, John! Don't you know some parts of the country are considering various bans on wood-burning fireplaces? At the very least, governments should mandate pollution controls on them. How dare we pump

soot, smoke and toxic fine particles into the air to enjoy a little romance."

"OK, Blanche. How about I light a couple of candles to get the mood right?"

"Every candle we burn will produce 15 grams of carbon dioxide, John. Haven't you heard of the Green Hanukkah campaign? A group of Israeli environmentalists is encouraging Jews across the globe to light one less candle on their menorah this year. If they're going to sacrifice so should we."

"Look, Blanche, if we do decide to get back together, maybe we should start a family."

"Children, John! Children are needy creatures that demand the Earth's precious

resources to be wasted. Our children would cause even more greenhouse gases to be pumped into our fragile ecosystem."

"For Pete's sake, Blanche. Look, it's true the Earth has warmed roughly one degree in the last 100 years. It's possible human behavior has contributed in some way to that increase. It's also possible that it's a natural cycle — that humans have virtually nothing to do with it."

"Oh, John!"

"Whatever the case, we all need to keep our head about us, Blanche. The hysteria and fear-mongering has got way out of hand. That is no way to address any challenge, but because some

See PURCELL, Page 12

Tom Purcell

Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2007. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Va., home at age 67.

On this date:

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died in London.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his group became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out an expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was dropped from the League of Nations.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish U.N. headquarters in New York.

In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner 2 approached Venus, transmitting information about the planet.

In 1975, six South Moluccan extremists surrendered after holding 23 hostages

"To the memory of the Man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

— Henry Lee
American governor (1756-1818) on the death of George Washington

for 12 days on a train near the Dutch town of Beilen.

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 1995, presidents Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia signed the Bosnian peace treaty in Paris.

Ten years ago: Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, called for a dialogue with the people of the United States — a nation reviled by his predecessors as "The Great Satan." Cuban President Fidel Castro declared Christmas 1997 an official holiday to ensure the success of Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit to the communist country.

Five years ago: Jordanian police announced the arrest of two alleged al-Qaida members in the October killing of American diplomat Laurence Foley.

One year ago: South Korea's Ban Ki-moon was sworn in as the eighth secretary-general of the United Nations.

SPEAKING OF OFFENSIVE TEDDY BEARS...



Mike Keefe, THE DENVER POST 12/02/17 www.digitart.com

Very little is constant but life but change

Don't bet on peace coming out of President Bush's much-belated efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

For one thing, the people whom the Palestinians elected to represent them are excluded. President Bush, hypocrite that he is, blathered about democracy, then changed his tune when Hamas won the last election. He cut off all aid to the Palestinians and sponsored a coup by the Fatah faction.

Secondly, the Israeli government is not about to dismantle the Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The Israelis will not allow the Palestinians to have a viable state even on 18 percent of Palestine. Nor will the Israelis agree to allow the Palestinian refugees to return or even be compensated for their lost property.

The Annapolis meeting was just another charade like the one Bill Clinton staged. Eventually the Israelis will make an offer no Palestinian could possibly accept, and then the Israelis and the Americans will say,

"We offered them a good deal and they rejected it." Note, too, that the only thing to come out of the Annapolis meeting was an agreement to reach an agreement by the end of 2008. This is the 40th year of Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. They don't need a year if they are serious, which they are not.

Some sap on TV said the big difference this time was that the president himself would be the judge of

progress. What a joke. George Bush has shown for seven years that he would sooner kiss Bill Clinton on the lips than utter a word of criticism of the Israeli government.

In 1988, Yehoshafat Harkabi wrote an excellent book, "Israel's Fatal Hour." In it, Harkabi, former head of Israel's military intelligence and a hard-liner, said that unless Israel grants the Palestinians a state, Israel will be committing national suicide.

What he predicted is coming true. Israel will eventually bankrupt itself trying to remain a regional military superpower, even with U.S. assistance. The occupation

has already corrupted the Israel Defense Forces, which no longer enjoys the enormous prestige it once had. Israel was driven out of Lebanon by Hezbollah fighters, and despite its high-tech weapons and brutal tactics, it was unable to stop Hezbollah from raining rockets down on Israel in the summer of 2006.

Furthermore, Israel's real strategic asset is its powerful lobby in the United States, and this lobby is already facing what it dreads most — becoming a public political issue. Sooner or later, the American public will rebel. What I fear is that when it happens, it will come in the form of a rebirth of anti-Semitism. That will be a terrible price to pay for Israeli intransigence and ideological and religious fanaticism.

See REESE, Page 12

Charley Reese

Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Nov. 30

Odessa American on peace in the Middle East:

Considering the discouraging history and circumstances, it was an accomplishment to get representatives from 40 countries, including most of the relevant Arab nations, to sit down for a day just to talk about the possibility of a Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

And if the real point was to use the meeting to give Sunni Arab countries a chance to be together and brainstorm about how to deter Iran, perhaps the meeting was a success.

While it is encouraging that there

will be frequent meetings between Israelis and Palestinians over the next year, the likelihood of a formal peace agreement emerging from this process is slim.

While Ehud Olmert of Israel and Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority promised these get-togethers would discuss the "core issues" that separate the two sides, the vague statement they released didn't even name those issues.

Among others, there are deep disagreements over the final border between two states, the status of Jerusalem, whether Palestinian refugees can return to former homes inside Israel, whether Israel will be recognized as a "Jewish state," and what the Palestinian Authority should do to

control terrorism. These are all potential deal-breakers.

It was to be expected that Hamas, which was not invited to the meeting but controls Gaza, would sponsor rallies in Gaza to protest the meeting. But anti-Annapolis and anti-Abbas rallies took place on the West Bank, which Abbas party nominally controls. And opposition Likud party members denounced Israeli Prime Minister Olmert as a sell-out simply for attending the meeting.

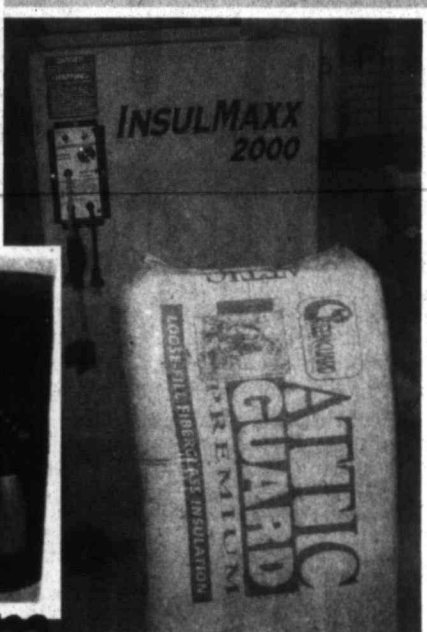
These protests underline the weakness of the two leaders, which leads to questions as to whether they can cajole their own peoples into accepting the compromises any lasting agreement

See MID-EAST, Page 12

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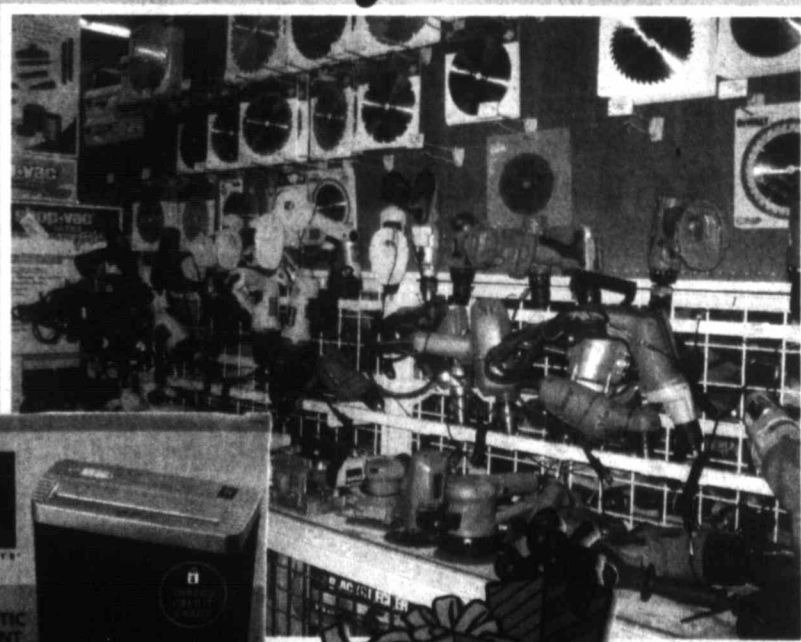
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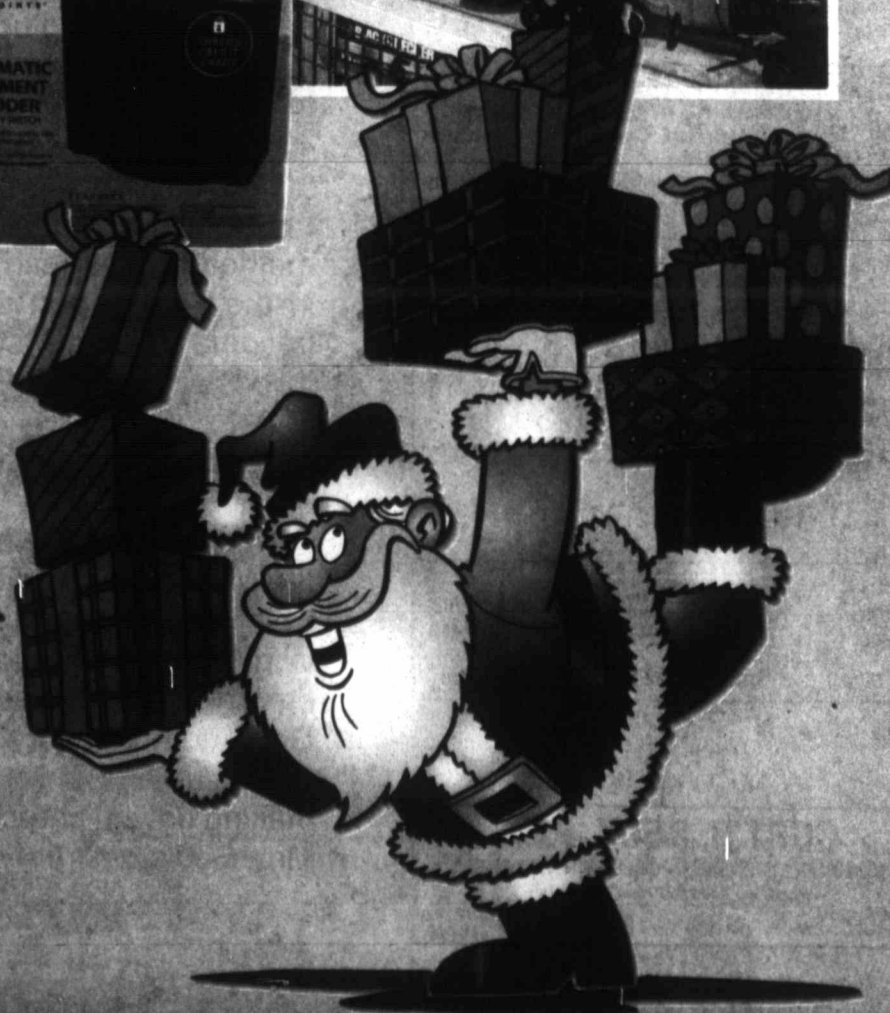
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Praise & Worship

A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches



Church of the Nazarene

Church name: Church of the Nazarene, 500 N. West, 669-3144.

Minister: Pastor Jimmye Cole.

Services: Sunday — 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Morning worship, 6 p.m. Evening power hour; Wednesday — 7 p.m. activities for children, youth and adults.

Activities: Children's choir program, which consists of a play and songs, at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16; missions education service at 6 p.m. on fourth Sunday and birthday and anniversary celebration, summer camps and vacation bible school, Easter breakfast, Good Friday service and other special seasonal events also.

Members: 62

Denomination: International Church of the Nazarene.

How long here: Since 1930.

Goals: Our goal is to increase in Bible comprehension, spiritual maturity, attendance, finances and new converts on a regular basis.

Other activities: Providing Christmas to several children and teens in our community, as well as several widows without family in the area.

Main goal: We aim to be a lighthouse in a world of darkness by lifting up the name of Jesus Christ and His love through praise and worship, prayer, bible study and friendship evangelism.

Church message: We are a holiness church who shares the gospel of Christ. We believe the local church is God's method for outreach and nurture to help us all "Reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

Responsible parties: Pastor Jimmye Cole.

Information: We are a Bible based Christian church from the Wesleyan tradition which means we believe the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and transforms our lives to be Christlike in motives and actions. God cleanses us and equips and empowers us to live our lives in a way that would please God and bring glory and honor to Him. We would invite you to visit us and, if you do not have a home church, consider making us your church home. Jesus loves you and so do we. May God's best be yours today.

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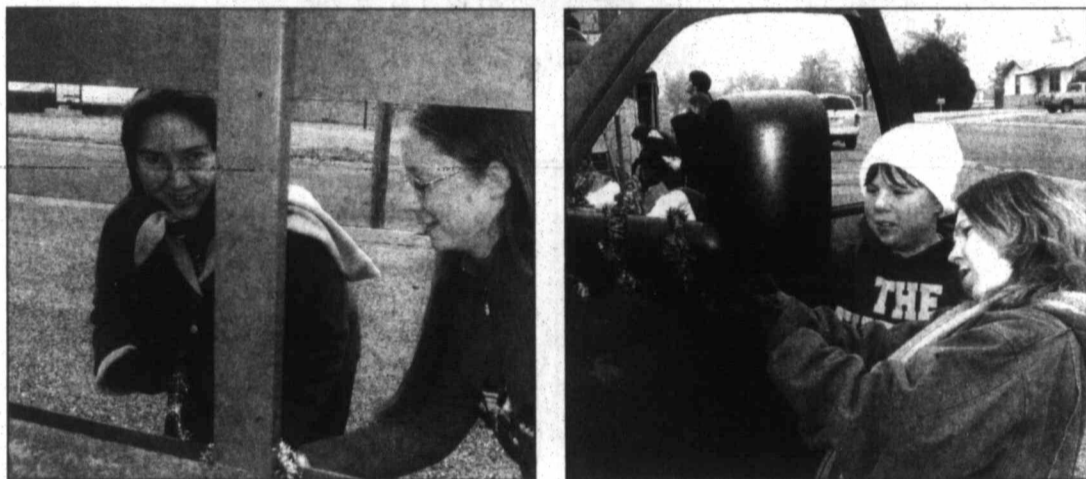
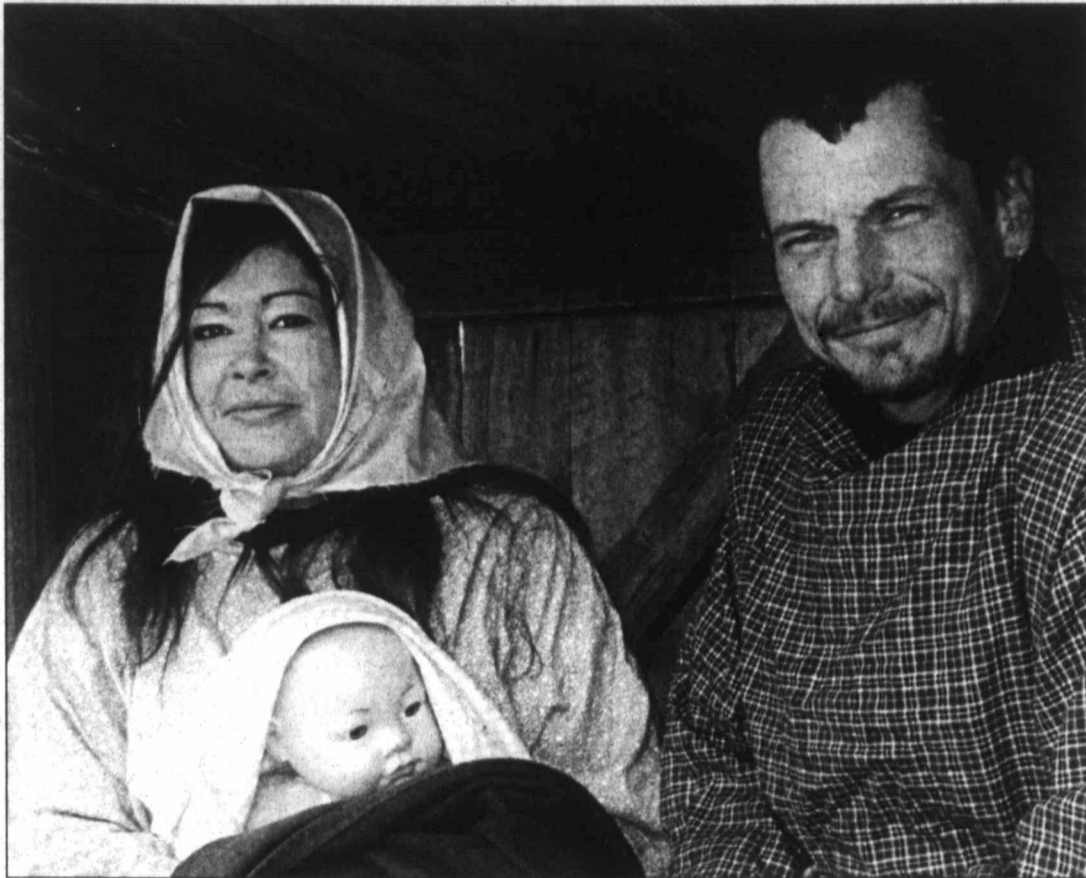
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Religion

Nativity



COURTESY PHOTOS
 TOP: Sylvia and Kinney Ross portrayed Mary and Joseph in the stable on this year's Hi-Land Christian Church Christmas parade float, "Nativity." LEFT: Linda and Angela Carlton recently braved the cold weather to help decorate the Nativity float. RIGHT: Lindie Wiley and Pamela Whinery spruced up Marvin Carlton's pick-up to pull the float.

Christmas at Calvary to be 'musical extravaganza'

Christmas at Calvary '07 will kick-off at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at Calvary Baptist Church here in Pampa. Each year, Christmas at Calvary grows into a bigger production than the previous year.

This year's program will be a musical extravaganza featuring several choirs along with the Calvary Christmas Orchestra. Almost 75 singers and musicians will participate in the program using music to celebrate the birth of Christ.

This year's program is called "The Mysteries of Christmas." Many mysteries surround the birth of Christ, ranging from the virgin birth to the star that led the magi to the baby. These mysteries (and miracles) have baffled people for 2,000 years. Ronnie Holmes will again play Grandpa. Jessica Smith will play his grandchild.

Instrumental music has always been a favorite of past Christmases at Calvary. This year's orchestra selections have been selected to place the audience in the Christmas spirit. The 20-piece Christmas orchestra is made up of church musicians and students from West Texas A&M University and Pampa High School.

The program is free and a nursery will be provided. The program will be staged in the church sanctuary located at 900 E 23rd Street.

Church brief

The music and drama ministry at First Baptist Church will present "The Marvel at the Manger" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 203 N. West. The program is open to the public. For more information, call 669-1155.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Berinda Turcotte and Ronnie Holmes discuss the nativity scene in last year's Christmas at Calvary.

"The Holly And The Ivy"

This hymn is a medieval English carol (perhaps of French origin) on the subject of the rivalry between the holly and ivy competing for mastery in the forest. These two plants came to be associated with the sexes, holly being masculine and ivy feminine. Holly, ivy, and mistletoe were used in medieval times because they continued to remain green in winter weather, and there were myths that holly had the power to ward off evil spirits. According to Christian tradition regarding holly, the pointed leaves represent the thorns of Christ's crown. The perennially-green leaves represent eternal life, and the red berries represent the blood He shed for our salvation.

Ref: hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I live 3,000 miles away from my immediate family. I am happily married and six months' pregnant. In the past, I had many issues with my family. I have a long history of anorexia, and my pregnancy has forced me to give up my self-destructive behaviors. I would never jeopardize my baby. I asked my father if I could have a baby shower this month. I don't want to travel when I am further along in my pregnancy, nor do I want negative comments from my family members about my size. After my baby is born, I will not visit for at least a year. My father suggested that I have a baby shower then, but my baby will be a year old! He believes having a baby shower "too early" is asking for gifts. I am hurt by his attitude, and I'm having a hard time understanding his logic. Meanwhile, my friends and a few family members have offered to host a shower for me next month, but I want my father's support -- which perhaps is another issue in itself. Please advise. — **MOM-TO-BE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR MOM-TO-BE: You are correct -- your need for your father's approval, and his unwillingness to give it, is "another issue in itself." Unless he comes from a culture in which infant mortality is so high that it is traditional to wait until a child is born to hold a shower, I can only conclude that his unwillingness is a form of punishment. My advice is to allow your friends and family members to host the shower. Take plenty of pictures and send copies to your "immediate family." Visit them next year, and don't be surprised if no shower is forthcoming then, either. Live a healthy, happy life, enjoy your husband and child, and do not allow anyone to make you feel

less than adequate. And that includes your father. P.S. If, after your baby arrives, you begin backsliding with your eating disorder, for your sake and the sake of your child, I urge you to get professional counseling. Children model their eating habits on those of their parents.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old grandmother, twice divorced. I have been living with a man I'll call "Mickey," and we're contemplating marriage. My older sister met Mickey for the first time and insists that I abandon my marriage plans. She says that while she talked with him, she realized that he is controlling, possessive and angry. She's convinced that he will ruin my life. I love my sister, and I'm not sure how to react to her phone calls and e-mails. I have not discussed this with Mickey because I don't want him thinking poorly of my sister. I know he has problems, anger issues being one of them. And perhaps she's right about his being controlling and possessive. I'm not sure what to do here. Mickey wants to get married next month. I'm thinking we need to wait a while longer. We've been together only seven months. — **WENDY IN WASHINGTON STATE**

DEAR WENDY: You have struck out twice at marriage. For your own sake, please do not marry again without at least a year of premarital counseling. The traits your sister spotted, and that you admit Mickey suffers from, are red flags that he could be an abuser. Your mental and physical health could be at risk, so do not allow yourself to be rushed into anything.

For Better Or For Worse



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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

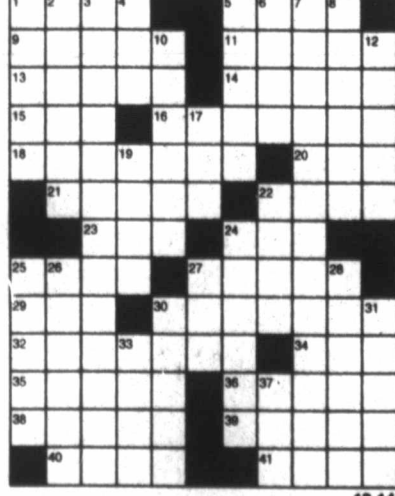
ACROSS

- 1 Iuprofen
- 5 Boost
- 9 Quick looks
- 11 Cheering loudly
- 13 Saw
- 14 "Twelfth Night" character
- 15 "Far out, man"
- 16 Sparkle
- 18 Accolade
- 20 Publicity look
- 21 Derisive look
- 22 Kitchen nuisance
- 23 Poet Hughes
- 24 "D.C. Cab" star
- 25 Lion player
- 27 Maze choices
- 29 Dedicated work
- 30 August meteor
- 32 Astronomer
- 34 River of Scotland
- 35 Visibly shocked
- 36 Squirrel's treat
- 38 Cruise ship
- 39 Concise
- 40 Casino concern

DOWN

- 1 History stretches target
- 2 Isolated
- 3 Lebanon symbol
- 3 Obnoxious attitude
- 4 Heart chart
- 5 "C'est —"
- 6 Crocus cousin
- 7 First step
- 8 Gift, of a sort
- 10 Made a smooth transition
- 12 Puts in order
- 17 Printer tray abbr.
- 19 Saloon staple
- 22 News-paper section
- 24 Callas and Bello challenges
- 25 Union chapter
- 26 Slow movement
- 27 Signing need
- 28 Rugged range
- 30 Berth places
- 31 Body-shop challenges
- 33 Ignored the limit
- 37 Cohort of Fidel

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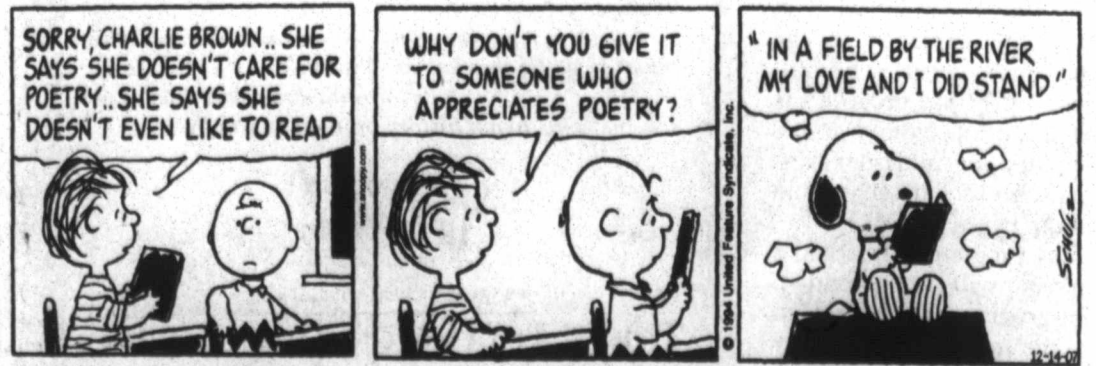
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Sports



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN
Pampa's Amber Brown brings the ball for the Lady Harvesters as teammates Emilie Troxell (10) and Jasmine Moore (12) follow closely behind at a recent tournament held in Canyon.

Bush says he hopes baseball will put steroid era behind it

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said today that baseball players and owners must take seriously the Mitchell Report on steroid use, but cautioned against jumping to conclusions about the individuals named.

"My hope is that this report is a part of putting the steroid era of baseball behind us," he said, surrounded by Cabinet members in the Rose Garden.

Bush, who once owned the Texas Rangers, said, the Mitchell Report means that "we can jump to this conclusion: that steroids have sullied the game."

"The players and the owners must take the Mitchell Report seriously," Bush said. "I'm confident they will."

In a report issued Thursday, former Sen. George Mitchell linked 85 players to the illegal use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

The 409-page report identified an array of players, from those who have had brief stints to prospective members of the Baseball Hall of Fame — including seven MVPs, two Cy Young Award winners and 31 All-Stars.

Lawyers in baseball commissioner Bud Selig's office will have to determine whether any of the active players deserve punishment, a process that will spill into next year.

"I think it's best that all of us not jump to any conclusions on individual players named," Bush said.

As an intense fan of baseball, Bush seemed pained by the extent of the problem. He spoke about the issue in answer to a question from a reporter.

"I understand the impact that professional athletes can have on our nation's youth," he said. "I just urge those in the public spotlight, particularly athletes, to understand that when they violate their bodies, they're sending a terrible signal to America's youth."

Bush had called for a voluntary crackdown on steroids in his 2004 State of the Union address.

This August, Bush called to congratulate Barry Bonds when he broke the home run record. The president didn't weigh in on the steroids controversy surrounding the slugger's smashing of the vaunted major league record.

"There is a lot of speculation about Barry Bonds, and my only advice for people is to just let history be the judge," Bush said during a television interview. "Let's find out the facts, and then everybody's opinion — one way or the other — will be verified or not verified."

If it's later proven that a lot of Bonds' strength came from drug use, Bush said, there will be a lot of disappointed people.

"As you know, I'm a baseball fan — I love the sport, I love the game," he said. "I've been troubled by the steroid allegations."

On Thursday, White House press secretary Dana Perino said Bush does not recall being aware of any steroid use during his time as a baseball executive. Pushed about whether Bush regrets being in the dark about that, Perino said: "The president said he thought long and hard about it. He just does not recall hearing or seeing it. And I don't think it's time for regret. I think it's time to do what the president has done, which has been to take time in his State of the Union to shine a light on the issue. Now we have the result of a report that is getting a lot of attention, and deservedly so."

Pampa to welcome Estacado tonight

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

The Pampa Lady Harvesters have struggled so far this season, but as their game improves, their margin of error has grown slimmer.

In their second match against Borger Tuesday, the Lady Harvesters were

defeated 59-42.

Last week against Canadian, the Lady Harvesters suffered their closest loss this season to the Lady Wildcats, 47-45.

Tonight, the Lady Harvesters hope to further improve their game as they take on Lubbock Estacado at McNeely Field

House in Pampa.

The Lady Matadors currently stand with a record of 7-7, and hope to keep the Pampa from picking up their second win of the season tonight.

The game will begin at 6 p.m. at McNeely Field House.

JV girls defeat Hereford in first round

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

In their first-round match Thursday night at the Amarillo High Booster Club Tournament, the Pampa JV girls improved their record to 9-5 with a victory over Hereford's girls JV team.

Taryn Eubank led the Lady Harvesters with 13 points scored.

Ashley Holland had 10 points and Ashley Facio and Aubrei Dowdy had nine points each.

Brooklyn Barker led with five rebounds, and Sam Pearson, Facio, Eubank and Dowdy pulled down four rebounds each.

Pampa shot 8 for 11 from the free throw line and 12 for 25 from the field in the second half.

The tournament will continue Saturday morning when Pampa takes on Amarillo High at 11 a.m.



Courtesy photo
Sam Pearson (25) catches a pass during Thursday night's first-round game against Hereford at the Amarillo High Booster Club Tournament. Teammate Brooklyn Barker (45) looks on from behind.

Clemens hit in Mitchell Report; Tejada, Bonds, Pettitte named

NEW YORK (AP) — Page after page, Roger Clemens' name was all over the Mitchell Report.

Count them, 82 times.

Barry Bonds showed up more often. So did Jose Canseco. Andy Pettitte, Eric Gagne and Miguel Tejada also became part of baseball's most infamous lineup since the 1919 Black Sox scandal.

But they didn't get the worst of it Thursday. That infamy belonged to Clemens, the greatest pitcher of his era.

The Steroids Era.

"Those who have illegally used these substances range from players whose major league careers were brief to potential members of the Baseball Hall of Fame," former

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell wrote in his much-anticipated report on performance-enhancing drugs.

"They include both pitchers and position players, and their backgrounds are as diverse as those of all major league players."

Seven MVPs, two Cy Young Award winners and 31 All-Stars — one for every position. In all, the 409-page report identified 85 names to differing degrees, putting question marks if not asterisks in the record book and threatening the integrity of the game itself.

"If there are problems, I wanted them revealed," commissioner Bud Selig said. "His report is a call to action, and I will act."

President Bush, who once owned the Texas Rangers, said Friday he's been "troubled by the steroid allegations."

"My hope is that this report is a part of putting the steroid era of baseball behind us," said Bush, surrounded by Cabinet members in the Rose Garden.

The Mitchell Report, he said, means "we can jump to this conclusion: that steroids have sullied the game."

"The players and the owners must take the Mitchell Report seriously," Bush said. "I'm confident they will."

On Friday, Mitchell insisted he provided opportunities for the players identified in his report to

respond to the allegations.

Almost without exception, he said on CNN's "American Morning," they declined. So Mitchell turned to union head Donald Fehr.

"I wrote a letter to Don Fehr's office setting forth the names and the dates and I wanted to tell them, here is what happened, come in and explain it to me," Mitchell said. "They refused to do so."

Gary Sheffield, Jason Giambi, Troy Glaus, Gary Matthews Jr., Paul Byrd, Jose Guillen, Brian Roberts, Paul Lo Duca and Rick Ankiel were among other current players cited. Some were linked to human growth hormone, others to steroids. Mitchell did not delve into

stimulants in his 20-month investigation.

While he vehemently denied it through his lawyer, Clemens was the symbol.

Considered a lock for the Hall of Fame earlier this week, Clemens' path to Cooperstown was thrown in doubt after he was singled out on nearly nine pages.

Seven-time Cy Young Award winner, eighth on the career list with 354 victories, an MVP and All-Star himself, Clemens suddenly had more to worry about than simply whether to play next season.

"It is very unfair to include Roger's name in this report," said

See REPORT, Page 10

Houston's Mario Williams has 3 1/2 sacks in 31-13 win over Broncos

HOUSTON (AP) — Mario Williams helped Gary Kubiak look more like the mentor than the protege against the Denver Broncos.

Last year's No. 1 pick had a career-high 3 1/2 sacks Thursday night to lead the Houston Texans to a 31-13 victory over the Broncos in Kubiak's first regular-season matchup with his former boss, Mike Shanahan.

Kubiak was Shanahan's offensive coordinator for 11 seasons before he took over

Houston in 2006. Not surprisingly, the Texans' defense often seemed to know what was coming much of the game against the Broncos.

"There's a lot of faces over there I've been through many games with," Kubiak said. "I was thinking today that Mike and I, as a player and coach, have been in over 350 NFL games. That's a lot of ball and I'll always have a lot of respect for what he does."

The two embraced at mid-field and had a brief conversation when the game ended.

"I just said, 'Hey, great job, You got your team ready to play,'" Shanahan said. "You outplayed and out-coached us."

Turns out Kubiak and Texans management know how to pick a good defensive player when they see one, too.

The Texans (7-7) have been hearing for two years what a mistake they made by

drafting Williams over Reggie Bush and Vince Young with the No. 1 overall pick in last year's draft.

But Williams was disruptive the offense Kubiak once ran all night and became the Texans' career sacks leader in the process. After wrapping up Jay Cutler for the third time, Williams sashayed like a hula dancer, perhaps lobbying for an invitation to the Pro Bowl.

And why not? Williams now leads the

AFC with 17 1/2 sacks and he's had one in a team-record five straight games.

"That's what I was drafted for," he said. "I feel like I have to be accountable to my teammates and this organization to go out and try to help us win a game and get a winning season."

Houston tied the franchise record for victories with its seventh of the season. After losing to Young and Tennessee, the Texans have rejuvenated once-remote

playoff hopes with two straight wins.

The franchise has never finished above .500 in six seasons of existence.

"I think we still have something else to do," Kubiak said. "I told the kids a while ago, that our football team is 60 minutes from being able to say we're a winning team. To have a season that is a winning season, that's a huge step."

Eagles have lots to prove and play for against NFC-leading Cowboys

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Eagles have absorbed their share of tough-luck losses, yet Philadelphia's setback to Dallas last month was anything but a near-miss.

At least five of the Eagles' eight losses this season have resulted from an unlucky turn, from a mishandled punt, to a last-minute comeback, to squandered late scoring chances and, most recently, a potential tying field goal deflecting off the upright.

But make no mistake, the Eagles were soundly beaten by the NFC-leading Cowboys on the first Sunday in November. Dallas manhandled the Birds on both sides of the ball, dropping them to 3-5, the team's worst start since Andy Reid became coach in 1999.

"It was probably our worst defensive game," defensive coordinator Jim Johnson said Thursday.

The Eagles have something to prove and plenty to play for when the teams meet Sunday in Texas Stadium. Losers of three straight by a total of just 10 points, the Eagles (5-8) are still holding slim hopes for qualifying for the postseason. While not mathematically eliminated, the Birds need to win their last three games and hope for plenty of help to have a chance at a wild-card spot.

The Cowboys (12-1) also have a bit at stake. Dallas claimed the NFC East last week and can secure home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs with a win and a Green Bay

loss. Even with all their forgettable losses, the Eagles sure do remember when Dallas came to town.

Tony Romo completed 20 of 25 passes for 324 yards and three touchdowns, with half his passes going to former Eagles standout/troublemaker Terrell Owens, who finished with 174 yards and a TD. Dallas also displayed a solid running game with Julius Jones and Marion Barber sharing the load.

But it was Romo and Owens who caused the Eagles fits. Seemingly every time Philly pressured Romo, he'd dump it off to a running back, avoiding the sack. It was Owens' TD on the first drive of the third quarter that gave the Cowboys a 28-7 lead.

Romo's play has caught the eye of Johnson, who said the quarterback has been as good as anyone he has seen in the nine years he has been with the Eagles.

"He's probably a guy who has much better vision this year than last year," Johnson said. "If the first receiver's not there, he goes to the second. If the second's not there, he goes to the third. He's been very effective on check downs, when people take away their main receiver."

"I see a guy who's getting rid of the ball. Not just throwing it away, but going to the second, third and fourth receivers."

Linebacker Takeo Spikes echoed Johnson.

"He's a guy where he may not

throw off the front foot, he may not step into every throw, but he's very football savvy," Spikes said.

While Johnson talked about Romo's maturation, Pro Bowl safety Brian Dawkins said the Eagles need to capitalize on the QB's inexperience — when he shows it.

"He's played in a lot of games, but he's still a young quarterback, so he's going to make some mistakes," Dawkins said. "You just have to capitalize on the mistakes."

One player benefiting from Romo's success has been Owens, who has 74 receptions for 1,270 yards and 14 touchdowns.

The Eagles know they need to do a better job stopping Owens this time. Philadelphia might look back to its performance against unbeaten New England to solve Romo, Owens and the rest of the Cowboys.

Against the Patriots, the Eagles hit QB Tom Brady early, and Spikes believes that might be the key against Romo.

"You want to do some things that other people haven't been able to do," Spikes said. "That's something that has not shown up on film, defense's not being able to get him."

Johnson said the Eagles plan on being more physical with Owens, just as they were with Patriots' standout receiver Randy Moss.

"We have to make sure we're in the right combination coverage, depending on where he is," Johnson said.

Other athletes gawk at MLB's dirty laundry

By The Associated Press

Some were quick to cajole or criticize.

Others just wanted to get a look at the names.

From the White House to the halls of Congress to the locker rooms of the NFL, plenty of folks reacted to Thursday's release of the Mitchell Report, the most compelling look yet at baseball's shameful side.

"Yeah, I heard a few names on the list," New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said.

His reaction?

"Wow."

Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds were among those called out in the report on performance-enhancing drugs infiltrating the national pastime, a problem baseball has long addressed with its head in the sand but now vows to attack with a vengeance.

Curt Schilling called on any offending players to own up to their mistakes, from the biggest stars to the most obscure backups, from those who once used steroids to those who still use human growth hormone because it can't be detected in baseball's current testing system.

"Look, if you ordered HGH or steroids, in your name, and there is documentation to prove that you did, please do us all a favor and admit you made a mistake and move on," the Red Sox pitcher wrote on his blog, 38pitches.com. "This is a pretty damn forgiving country. We are all about giving people second chances. The quicker anyone guilty is accountable, the quicker we can all move on and hopefully make this thing go away, and fix what needs to be fixed."

Republican presidential candidate John McCain accused the players' association of dragging its heels in the fight against doping.

"It's time now for the players' union to step forward and say 'OK, we'll save the game and the reputation of the game and cooperate with meaningful, tough punishments, and testing procedures so that we can prevent this from ever happening again,'" he said.

Brazile clinches 5th all-around title during 8th round of NFR

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Trevor Brazile clinched his fifth world all-around title Thursday night during the eighth round of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, giving him two-thirds of the triple crown.

Brazile, from Decatur, Texas, increased his record-setting total in all-around to \$381,221 with two rounds left. In team roping Thursday night, Brazile and heeler Patrick Smith of Midland, Texas, finished third with a 4.4-second

run.

Josh Peek of Pueblo, Colo., was second in the all-around race with \$381,221. Brazile clinched the all-around title when Peek was unable to place in steer wrestling.

Brazile, already the steer roping champion, can complete the triple crown by winning the tie-down roping title. He's first in the tie-down roping world standings with \$175,640, while Houston Hutto of Del Rio, Texas, is second with

\$156,027.

In tie-down roping, Peek won the eighth round in 7.5, while Brazile tied for second with Hunter Herrin of Apache, Okla., at 7.6.

In barrel racing, Canada's Lindsay Sears won for her fourth time at the 2007 NFR in a time of 13.69. She leads all 118 NFR competitors with \$88,317. The event record is \$126,932, set by Janet Stover in 2001. The most money won in any event is \$142,644 by

bull rider B.J. Schumacher in 2006.

World standings leader Brittany Pozzi-Pharr of Victoria, Texas, who has earned \$207,357, placed sixth in 13.86.

In bareback riding, world standings leader Bobby Mote of Culver, Ore., won his second 2007 NFR round by tying for first place with Scott Montague of Rapid City, S.D. Mote had an 84.5 on Dusty Dan. Mote leads with \$187,484, while

Justin McDaniel of Porum, Okla., who didn't place among the top six Thursday, remained second at \$151,946.

"Wins, period, are important, and I haven't been getting enough of them," Mote said. "I feel like I've been doing my job, and then I got to the point where I got tired of waiting for the chance and tried to go outside of my limits and make one. I had a chance last night and messed it up because of this."

Bryant scores 30 to lead Lakers past short-handed Spurs 102-97

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Even with two of their three stars watching from the sideline and the third playing poorly, the San Antonio Spurs gave the Los Angeles Lakers all they could handle.

The Lakers expected nothing less.

Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, and the Lakers used an 18-5 fourth-quarter spurt to break open a close game

and beat the Spurs 102-97 on Thursday night for their fourth straight victory.

"Very choppy game, but the Spurs can make you play like that. Their defense is solid, regardless of who they put out there," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

"It's the NBA. They're the Spurs. They're going to execute," Los Angeles forward Luke Walton said. "We did-

n't play as well as we'd like, but we got the win."

The defending NBA champion Spurs (17-5), losers of two straight for the first time this season, played without Tim Duncan and Tony Parker.

Duncan, averaging 17.6 points and 8.9 rebounds, sat out his fourth straight game because of a sprained right ankle. Parker, averaging 20.1

points and 6.8 assists, missed his first game of the season with a sprained left ankle.

"We hung in for a good long time," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It was tough to hang in there the whole time and then have a couple defensive situations break it open."

The Washington Wizards beat the Miami Heat 104-91 in the only other NBA game

Thursday night.

Bruce Bowen led San Antonio with 22 points — two off his career high. Brent Barry added 17 points and Fabricio Oberto had a career-high 16 rebounds to go with nine points.

Manu Ginobili, averaging a team-leading 20.8 points, scored only 14 and committed seven of San Antonio's 16 turnovers. He shot 5-of-

17 and picked up his fifth foul with 10:27 remaining and the Lakers leading 78-76.

"It was hard," Ginobili said. "I tried at the beginning to play off the ball and find the open man. But we weren't making those shots, and I wasn't making mine, either. You've got to give them credit, too, they played a good defense on me."

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007:

You might want to be more open and forthright this year. Deal with others directly and with a smile. Your ability to touch many people on a very deep level adds to the power of your relationships. Sometimes you could suddenly be greeted by a brick wall. In that case, you know that person is just scared. How you treat this type of situation depends on what type of relationship you seek. If you are single, you meet people with ease. A problem could occur and break up a relationship, should you decide you made a mistake. So choose your sweetie with care. If you are attached, you could redefine your bond this year. Let it happen, and your relationship will continue to grow. PISCES can push your buttons.

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 move in strange ways and act in a different manner. How you respond to a trusted associate will radically change soon. Zero in on a friendship, which could be key in your next step. Know what is enough and what is too much. Tonight: Be spontaneous and be a people person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Walk down a different path. Take a stand and do what is necessary. If you are open to positive change, you'll take a step in a new direction. Your abilities come through for everyone involved. Sometimes you are a lot tougher than you believe. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Circumstances around you

could vary. Pull back as a result of spending. Evaluate what might be going on. A conversation gives you meager information. Pouring more money into an emotional or financial investment needs evaluating. Tonight: Take an overview.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Focus on accomplishment and getting the job done. By making that extra effort, you'll pull yourself into the inner circle. Know when you have had enough, and you'll head in a new direction. Question as much as you need to. Tonight: Honor the fact that you are tired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Be honest if you have had enough. Somehow you make headway where few can. You know much more about a situation than you realize, as a discussion reveals. A partnership stars as a primary focus. Tonight: Easy and relaxing work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You might need more information than you currently have. If you listen to someone more carefully, you'll discover the lay of the land. Your determination sometimes comes off as cold, perhaps causing a weird reaction. Tonight: Just as you like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Your creativity bubbles forth. You add magic to a romance and sparkle to other situations. You are a welcome figure wherever you go. Do step back and take a good look at a professional matter. You might not have all the answers. Tonight: Know when you are tired.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Your ability to take action and get someone energized comes through. Your words stir up others far more than

you'd anticipated. You know what to say and when. Tonight: Move with the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your personal life is up for grabs. You might be checking out an investment, being as realistic as possible. A partner has strong feelings. Listen as he or she airs out his or her concerns. Relax and don't judge. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ What you say will echo in your universe, if you let it. Honor someone's concerns and address them directly. You might be having difficulty walking in his or her footsteps. Reach high to create more. Tonight: New visions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You might be more involved in a problem than you would like to be. Finances need sturdy guiding and direction. You achieve what you want. In fact, what you do changes dramatically. Allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: All smiles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You have the rare opportunity to knock on someone's door and have a wide-open interchange. You have waited for something like this for a very long time. Finally, you have reason to smile and rejoice. Tonight: Skip to a new tune.

BORN TODAY
Comedian Tim Conway (1933), oilman J. Paul Getty (1892), actor Don Johnson (1949)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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Report

Continued from Page 9

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin. "He is left with no meaningful way to combat what he strongly contends are totally false allegations. He has not been charged with anything, he will not be charged with anything and yet he is being tried in the court of public opinion with no recourse. That is totally wrong."

Much of the information about Clemens came from former New York Yankees major league strength and conditioning coach Brian McNamee.

According to the report, McNamee also told investigators that "during the middle of the 2000 season, Clemens made it clear that he was ready to use steroids again. During the latter part of the regular season, McNamee injected Clemens in the buttocks four to six times with testosterone from a bottle labeled either Sustanon 250 or Deca-Durabolin."

The report was unlikely to trigger a wave of discipline. While a few players, such as Bonds, are subjects of ongoing legal proceedings, many of the instances cited by Mitchell were before drug

testing began in 2003.

Mitchell said punishment was inappropriate in all but the most egregious cases; and Selig said decisions on any action would come "swiftly" on a case-by-case basis.

Mitchell said the problems didn't develop overnight and there was plenty of blame to go around.

"Everyone involved in baseball over the past two decades — commissioners, club officials, the players' association and players — shares to some extent the responsibility for the Steroids Era," Mitchell said. "There was a collective failure to recognize the problem as it emerged and to deal with it early on."

Mitchell recommended that the drug-testing program be made independent, that a list of the substances players test positive for be issued periodically and that the timing of testing be more unpredictable.

"The illegal use of performance-enhancing substances poses a serious threat to the integrity of the game," the report said. "Widespread use by players of such substances unfairly disadvantages the honest athletes who refuse to use them and raises questions about the validity of baseball records."

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FOR sale: '98 Buick Regal 1000. 115 Mercury Boat & Trailer \$1400. 665-7074 or 595-0662.

2001 sevy tail Deuce HD: 1995 200 Yamaha Blaster 4 wheeler, 12x7 dbl. axle trailer. Jim, 688-9731.

SADDLES For Sale: 1 new handmade by Bobby Edmond \$1000, 1 by Triplec Saddle Co. \$500, 1 by Blue Rider Barrell Racing \$350. 3 youth \$250 ea. 1 long horn \$250 ea. 2-200 Lincoln welders \$3500 ea. Welding bed w/ poles \$3000. Craftsman 2500 watt generator \$300, 6000 watt \$650. Call 595-0789.

21 Help Wanted

WANTED Church Piano Player to play contemporary worship music, on Sun. mornings 10-11am/ \$50 per week. 665-0804.

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HOT TUB HOLIDAY SPECIAL All new Loaded, Therapeutic, Spas Lifetime Warranty Starting at \$2900.00 806-677-0400

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INDOOR Garage Sale. 211 E. Francis (behind B&B Pharmacy). Appl., garden tools, computer parts, exer. equip., furn., clothes, misc. Sat. 8am-?

2 Family Moving Sale, Sat. & Sun. 8:30am-6pm. Lots & lots of everything, clothes, furn., toys, nick nacks, 50 yrs. accumulation. 1915 Evergreen.

80 Pets & Suppl. FREE to good home, friendly female Schnauzer. Great Christmas present. Call 662-1801.

FIXED & shots, white m. Lab, 4 yrs. old. Free. Very smart. Needs good family. 486-1084, 663-0758

BL. & wh. m. reg. Boston Terrier. Has shots. Loves kids. Free to good home. 486-1084, 663-0758

SWAP Shop is giving away a Decorated Xmas Tree. Dec. 15. Come in & sign up! 1001 E. Frederic.

LIGHTED Christmas Village. All or part for sale. See in window at 119 S. Cuyler. 662-7557.

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ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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120 Autos WHEELCHAIR Lift Van, 85 Ford F150, 80K, new battery, new tires. \$3950. 806-665-8046.

121 Trucks 1979 F-150, new rear end and tires. Rebuilt trans. & motor. Needs some work. \$1000. 662-1236

122 Motorcycles 2004 Yamaha TTR 125 dirt bike. 1 owner. Great cond., 4 stroke. \$1500. 835-2271.

126 Boats & Access. 1993 Landau Pontoon Boat w/ '92 Johnson 40 hp. motor, new fish finder. \$3200. 662-1236.

JONES

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You should be experienced in the following areas:

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- 2) Oil well operation: pumpjack operation / maintenance, preparing oil for sale, etc.
- 3) Facility operation: optimization, winterization, troubleshooting

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- 3) Health, dental and vision insurance
- 4) Company vehicle, laptop, phone, etc.
- 5) 2 weeks paid vacation
- 6) Company holidays

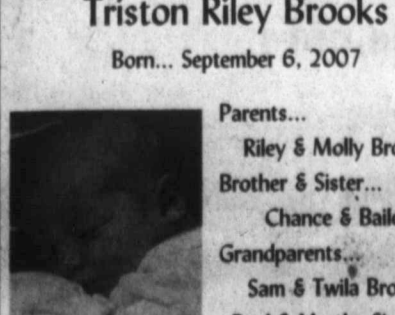
If you are interested in the opportunity to advance yourself and your career, please send your resume to Rod Kimmell @ rkimmell@jonesenergy.com

Note: applicant must pass drug screening and background / driving check prior to acceptance and may be subject to random testing.



Baby's First Christmas
Deadline 5 PM, December 17th
Published December 24th
•Photos need to be of baby only
•No emails will be accepted
•Payment in advance

Triston Riley Brooks
Born... September 6, 2007




Parents...
Riley & Molly Brooks
Brother & Sister...
Chance & Bailey
Grandparents...
Sam & Twila Brooks
Paul & Martha Simpson

\$25.00
Example

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-14 CRYPTOQUOTE
XVQB WJOIVQJ ULV YL SLB
BIAJ IS ZSBPJB QZS
MLEZBZOQ, YLJQ SLB FJIS
MLEZBZOQ RLS'B BIAJ IS
ZSBPJB QZS ULV
— MJPZOEJQ
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: COMMON SENSE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A DEPOSIT OF PREJUDICE LAID DOWN BY THE MIND BEFORE YOU REACH EIGHTEEN. — ALBERT EINSTEIN

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TexSCAN Week of December 9, 2007

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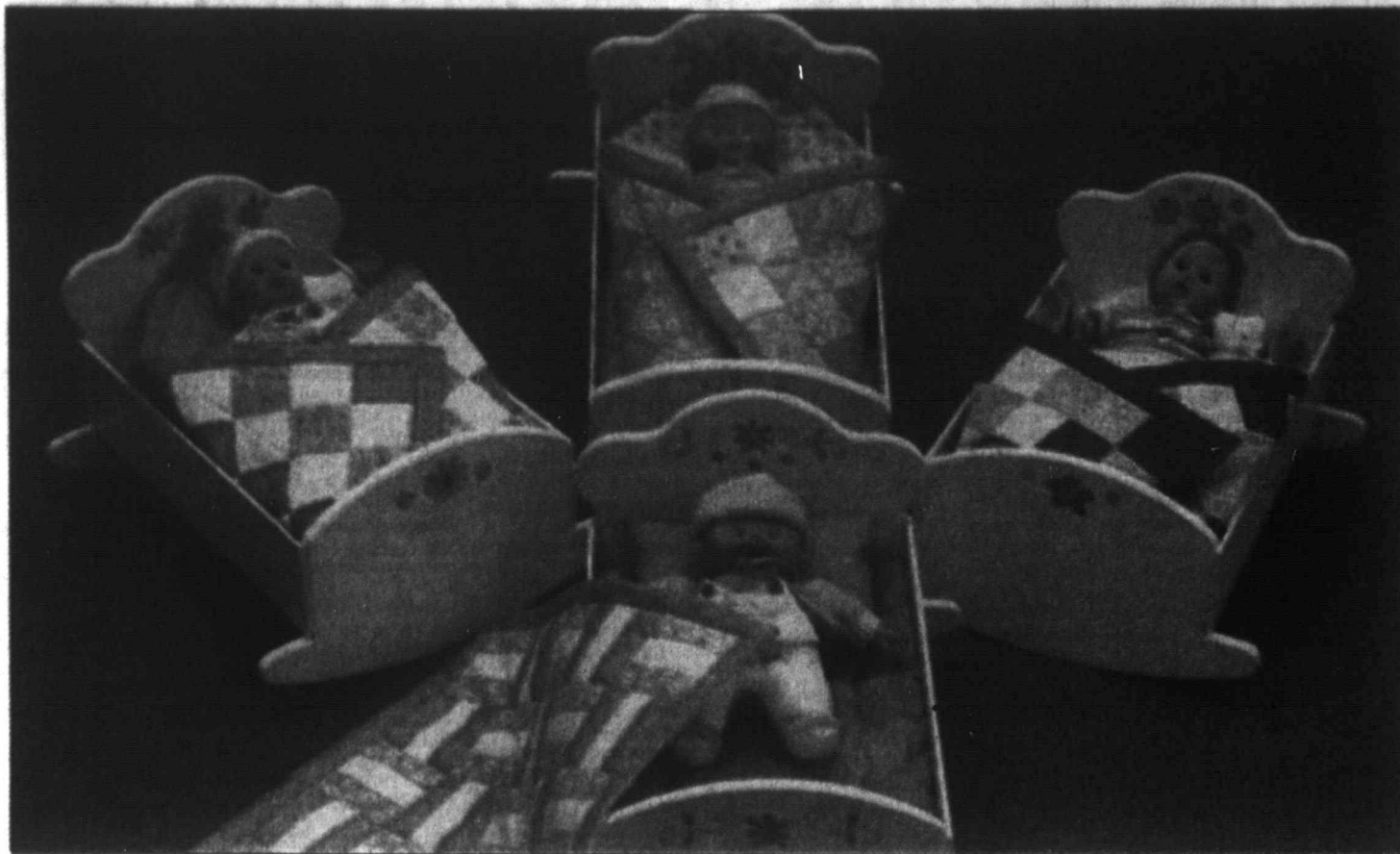
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Cradle Babies



COURTESY PHOTO

The Salvation Army is once again offering "Cradle Babies" as a Christmas fund-raiser. Each handcrafted wooden cradle comes complete with a coordinating quilt, mattress, pillow and purchased doll. In limited supply, the Cradle Babies are available with a \$60 donation to the Salvation Army on a first-come basis. For more information, call Raymond or Susie Edwards at 665-4268 or 662-2909. The Edwards family is instrumental in offering this special Christmas package.

Events calendar

• **First Baptist Church** will present "The Mystery of the Manger - It's the Gospel Truth!" a children's Christmas musical, at 11 a.m. Dec. 16, at the church. The program will include the preschool and kindergarten choirs along with the G-56 Singers.

• **Pease River Productions** and Quanah Historical Museums will hold their second annual quilt show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 15 at Quanah Depot Museum in Quanah. The event will include quilt demonstrations, music, chuckwagon cooking and more as well as a cowboy ball in the evening. For more information, call (940) 663-

2040, (940) 663-5959, (940) 839-7332, e-mail info@peasriverproductions.org or log onto www.peasriverproductions.org on the Internet.

• **Madeline Graves Dance Studio** will stage "Scrooge - All Jazzed Up Like the Dickens" at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. A spaghetti meal is scheduled prior to the show at 5:30 p.m. Admission to the program/meal will be \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. Children 3 and under are free.

• **Applications for Miss Teen Gray County 2008** will be accepted until Dec. 17. The title-winner will

represent the county at the Miss Teen Texas Pageant in April at San Antonio. To find out more, call (210) 403-0589 or log onto www.misstentexas-international.com on the Internet.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa will stage its December "Story Time" at 10 a.m. Dec. 19 at the library. Story Time is open to children between 18 months and 4 years of age. A Christmas party is planned the 19th. For more information, call the library.

• **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). 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: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 19, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

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Purcell

Continued from Page 4

politicians, advocacy groups and media members see profit in emotion and fear, suddenly EVERYTHING causes global warming.

"Oh, John."

"Blanche, we have to live our lives. If we get back together, shouldn't we do so

because we love and need each other — not because it is supposedly good for the environment?"

"You'd better say you're sorry for that, John."

"Okay, Blanche, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

"You are not."

"I am, too, Blanche. I'm the sorriest man who was ever born."

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

A common fallacy of human beings is to imagine that what is will always be. The opposite is true. Change is a constant. Nothing ever remains the same. Every single day, the world shifts. After World War I, nobody could imagine the British Empire fading away, but the change was already taking place. Today, Britannia, which once ruled the waves, would be hard-pressed to win a war unassisted with even Libya.

America is also changing. The Chinese have shot down a satellite, launched a successful moon probe, penetrated our naval defenses with a submarine that surfaced within torpedo range of an American carrier and refused us the use of its port in Hong Kong. Vladimir Putin is telling us in plain words to butt out of Russian

affairs. The president of Iran is publicly scoffing at our threats to attack his country. And after five years, we are still fighting in two poor countries.

I expect our own empire is on the wane, and when we wane, Israel will wane.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Mid-East

Cont. from Page 4

would entail.

Many commentators believe active involvement by the U.S. is essential. We question that. If the two sides will compromise only if prodded by the U.S., that's a sign they're not really ready for formal agreements.

Still, talking every two weeks for a year can't be all bad. URL: <http://www.oaoa.com>

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