

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
43
LOW
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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Monday, December 24, 2007

Volume 103 • No. 225

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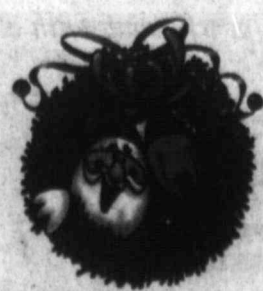
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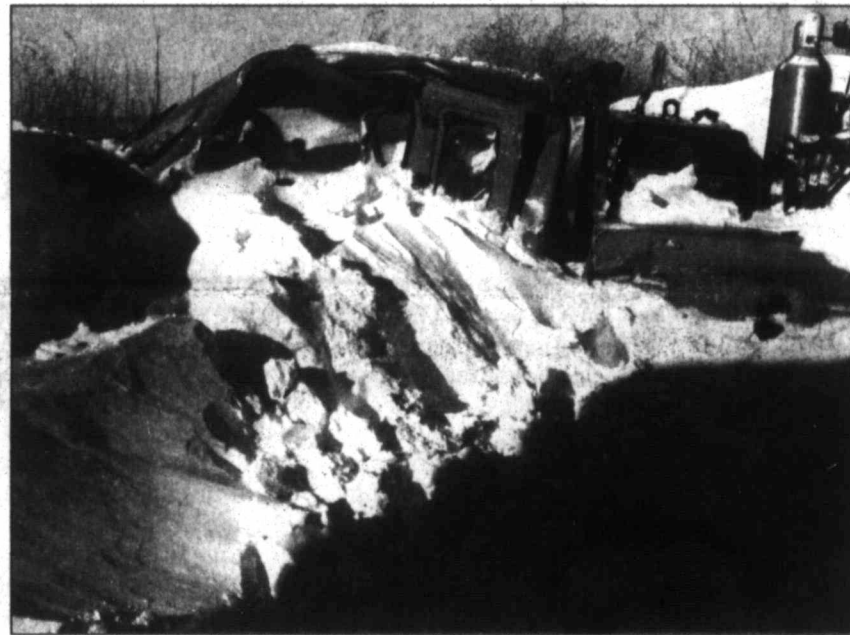
FROM YOUR STAFF AT THE
GREATER PAMPA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Car pile-up



Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH

Above - Even hours after the huge pile-up occurred Saturday morning, Highway 60 remained closed for the massive clean-up operation. Below - This welding truck was one of the vehicles involved in the accident. Almost the entire truck was filled and covered with snow Saturday afternoon before it was hauled off by one of the many tow trucks.



Snowy accident kills one, involves 26 vehicles

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

One traveler was killed and several others were injured or stranded Saturday morning as the result of a 26-vehicle pileup amidst adverse winter weather conditions on Highway 60 east of Pampa.

Identifying information on the victim has not been released pending notification of next of kin, but the man was not a local resident, according to a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman.

Blowing snow and biting wind chills resulted in uninjured persons being transported to the local Red Cross for shelter, according to Gray County Sheriff's Office Lt. Joe B. Hoard. Others who required medical attention were transported by ambulance.

The pileup was reported to DPS at about 9:35 a.m. GCSO, DPS, Hoover Volunteer Fire Department, Pampa Fire Department, Guardian EMS Ambulance Service and area ambulance services responded to the call and went to the scene, about eight miles east of Pampa.

The accident closed traffic on Highway 60 until about 10:30 p.m. that night, Hoard said.

Weather conditions Saturday included blowing snow with wind speeds from 22 to 44 miles per hour and a peak wind gust of 53 miles per hour from the north, according to the National Weather Service. About one and one-half inches of snow fell in the Pampa area Saturday, according to the NWS.

Pampa man with dope

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

A Pampa man was arrested and booked into Gray County Jail early today after he was found to be holding a suspected controlled substance in his hand.

Carl Wayne Dunn, 53, was a passenger in a vehicle stopped at 12:28 a.m. at the intersection of Crawford and Faulkner streets by Gray County Sheriff's deputies Steven White and Rhett Rollins for a traffic violation.

Dunn was placed under arrest when deputies learned he was wanted

on a bond surrender for evading arrest/detention.

"They attempted to place handcuffs on Dunn, and he resisted," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. "They discovered he was concealing a substance believed to be crack cocaine in his right hand."

The incident earned Dunn two new charges for resisting arrest, search or transport and possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance.

No one else in the vehicle was detained or arrested, Hoard said.

Amarillo man dies in pile-up on Interstate 40

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A 62-year-old man was identified as the person killed in a massive chain-reaction wreck in the Texas Panhandle that left more than a dozen people injured and temporarily shut down Interstate 40.

The man, whose name was not being released pending family notification, was an Amarillo resident, police Sgt. Greg Fisher said Sunday. The man was in a car with his wife, who was in stable condition at a hospital following Saturday's pileup.

Investigators say winds hastened around mid-morning Saturday, whiting out visibility for motorists and contributing to the 30 second chain-

reaction accident that stretched for about a quarter to a half mile.

It started when a tractor-trailer lost control and flipped over, blocking the portion where I-40 and U.S. Highway 287 split. At least four other semi-trailers were unable to stop in the icy conditions and slammed into each other. Another tractor-trailer jackknifed and yet another overturned. Several cars then crashed into the wreckage, leaving people in at least four vehicles trapped, Fisher said.

"We're not really sure how many cars, probably in excess of 40 cars and in excess of 20 semi-trailers," he

See I-40, Page 3

WINTER

First day of winter rough in Panhandle

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

The first day of winter saw blowing snow and freezing temperatures in Pampa and across the Texas Panhandle.

The Carson County Sheriff's office reported blowing snow shortly before dawn Saturday. The sheriff's department dispatcher said it was like a blizzard outside with the wind howling. She said it wasn't drifting yet as of 7 a.m. Saturday. She said it started snowing about 6 a.m.

She said Department of Public Safety troopers were out on the highway, but there had been no reports of slick roads or any accidents as of 7 a.m. Saturday, but she expected the roads to get rough later. She said she expected a busy day.

The Hemphill County Sheriff's office said it was snowing and sleeting in Canadian at 7 a.m. Saturday.

The dispatcher said it started snowing about 5:30 a.m. in Hemphill County. It hadn't covered the road yet, but she expected it to.

It was 23 degrees across the panhandle at 8 a.m. Saturday with blowing snow from Amarillo and Canyon up along U.S. Highway 60 to Canadian and the northern panhandle. By 8 a.m. it was moving into Wheeler.

The Wheeler County Sheriff's Office dispatcher said it started to snow about 7 a.m. in Wheeler.

She said she expected visibility to be a problem as the snowfall increased, but she didn't know what kind of accumulations to expect.

The snow was expected to end Saturday afternoon with the sun coming out for most of Christmas week and with high temperatures in the 40-degree range.

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

This Halliburton truck was involved in the 26 vehicle accident Saturday, just east of Pampa. The truck apparently jackknifed and the trailer detached from the cab. This accident is still being investigated.



NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Mostly cloudy Mostly sunny Partly sunny

Christmas Day: A 20 percent chance of rain after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Wind chill values between 26 and 33. Windy, with a north northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain before 8pm, then a slight chance of snow. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. Northwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. South wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 36. South wind around 20 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. West northwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

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Obituaries

Daniel "Danny" Welsh, 50

AMARILLO, Texas — Daniel "Danny" Welsh, 50, of Amarillo, died Dec. 21, 2007, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wed., Dec. 26, 2007, at Schooler Funeral Home, Brentwood Chapel, 4100 S. Georgia St., Amarillo with Rev. Robert Field officiating. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Llano Cemetery.

Mr. Welsh was born in Philadelphia, Pa. on Nov. 23, 1957, to Daniel Grant and Anna Jane Welsh. He graduated from Springfield High School in Philadelphia. In 1977, he entered into the United States Air Force and began a career that would span 22 years.

In 1982, he married the love of his life, Gwendolyn Kennedy or "Gweny," as he

calls her. They were married in Norman, Okla. While in the Air Force, he worked as Security Police and was awarded seven good conduct medals, along with many other prestigious awards.

Mr. Welsh also earned his degree from the Maryland Air Force Academy. After retiring from the Air Force, he went to work for the State Department as a security analyst. While he was on assignment in New York, the World Trade Center was attacked on 9/11. He spent many weeks on ground zero aiding and assisting in every possible way he could.

In 2002, he left the State Department when the family decided to move to Pampa to be closer to family. While in Pampa, he managed the Allsup's. The family moved to Amarillo in 2005. Although his health was deteriorating, he was diligently working towards his Master's Degree in Criminal Law at WTAMU.

Mr. Welsh was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He found joy when he was in the presence of his family and was devoted to them and to his country. He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his wife, Gwendolynn Welsh of

Amarillo; two daughters, Cleo McDonald and husband Mico of Ft. Hood in Kileen, Texas and Courtney Chilton and husband Ronald of Fairfax, Va.; two sons, Daniel Welsh II and wife Lorrie of Pampa and Marshall Welsh of Amarillo; his mother, Jane Welsh of Gettysburg, Pa.; a sister, Karen Griffith of Okeechobe, Fla.; a brother, Keith Welsh and his wife Karen of Central Point, Ore.; and nine grandchildren, Jordan, Ariel, Alex, Detriveon, Eva Roxanne, Exevion, Alyssa, Thomas and Chyanne.

Memorials can be made to the Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center, 600 Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

Emergency Services

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour week-end period.

Saturday, Dec. 22
 9:44 a.m. — Two units and five personnel responded 8 miles east of Pampa on Highway 60 on a motor vehicle accident.
 9:54 a.m. — Two units

and two personnel responded to the 400 block of Hughes on a carbon monoxide check.

8:27 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of South Russell on a first responder call.

Sunday, Dec. 23
 12:45 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 600 block of East Browning on an odor investigation.

11:12 a.m. — Five units and 11 personnel responded to the 500 block of Harlem on a structure fire.

2:57 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a Lifestar stand-by.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Friday, Dec. 21
 Rhoda Denise Meadows, 40, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of Barnes by Pampa Police Department for no valid driver's license and animal at large.

Saturday, Dec. 22
 Veronica Ballard, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of East Frederic by PPD for disorderly conduct/language.

Dixie Denise Wilson, 53, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill by PPD on capias

pro fines for violation of a city ordinance/no running water, two counts of theft under \$50 and two counts of failure to appear/bail jumping.

Randall Menefield, 49, of Fritch was arrested in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill by PPD for manufacture/delivery of one or more grams but less than four grams of a controlled substance.

Steven Cook, 50, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill by PPD for displaying expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear/bail jumping.

Phillip Littrell, 37, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on capias pro fines for public intoxication, open container, failure to maintain financial responsibility, running a stop sign and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Felipe Palacios, 21, of Perryton was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Sunday, Dec. 23
 Samuel Salazar, 29, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of North Russell by PPD for driving while intoxicated, no valid driver's license and no proof of financial responsibility.

Vincent Albert Giovanoni, 23, of Imperial, Mo. was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

Stephanie Suzanne Thomas, 26, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on warrants for open container and failure to appear and capias pro fines for expired motor vehicle inspection, displaying expired registration and failure to appear.

Monday, Dec. 24
 Carl Wayne Dunn, 53, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a bond surrender for evading arrest and for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and resisting arrest/detention.

Kedrick Don Grays, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive by PPD for tampering with evidence, possession of less than two ounces of marijuana, failure to register vehicle within 20 days, expired motor vehicle registration, no proof of liability insurance and no valid driver's license.

Colby Cee Greenhouse, 17, of Miami was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather by PPD for speeding, failure to appear and expired driver's license.

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Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

This was the snowy scene around Pampa Saturday morning, just a little after the car pile-up that happened on Highway 60 just east of town. Visibility was very low due to high winds whipping the snow around.

I-40

Continued from Page 1

said on Sunday. At least 16 people went to the hospital. Several have since been released

Fund set up for accident victim

A fund has been set up for Joshua Urban and his parents Gerald and Monica Urban to help with medical expenses after Joshua was critically injured in a motor vehicle accident Dec. 14.

Joshua, 21, of Pampa was critically injured when the vehicle he was driving southbound on Hobart sheared a lightpole, rolled

but at least one had life threatening injuries, Fisher said. Hospital officials were still trying to gauge Sunday how many patients were injured in the pile-up.

One officer responding to the scene was injured when another vehicle side-swiped his patrol car, which was

parked in a ditch.

Passers-by helped the injured, which included children, by opening presents to provide warmer clothing and loading people into their cars to help them keep warm, officials said.

"We don't know who they were but it was very nice to see," Fisher said.

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God Bless!
Regina Woods
SHEAR ELEGANCE

Bush makes holiday phone calls to troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush made Christmas Eve calls to 10 U.S. troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other spots around the world, thanking them for their sacrifice and wishing them a happy holiday even though they'll be far away from their families and friends.

The president made his calls Monday from the Camp David presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains, where he is spending Christmas. He spoke with members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard, including seven serving in Iraq.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said Bush knows it is difficult for the children of U.S. servicemen and women to understand why their fathers and mothers cannot be home for the holidays. Bush said that when the children are older,

he hopes they'll understand and appreciate their parents' sacrifice, Perino said.

"He said he couldn't thank them enough for their contribution to their country, hopes they are in high spirits, and that they are serving a cause that is very noble," Perino said. "He said, 'I know that you miss your family.'"

"He asked them to pass on to their colleagues his appreciation and his wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Bush also exchanged holiday greetings on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin and spoke with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said that Bush and Erdogan discussed their efforts to fight terrorism and the importance of the United States, Turkey and Iraq working together to confront

the PKK.

The PKK, or Kurdistan Workers' Party, has fought for autonomy in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast since 1984. The group is considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. Over the weekend, Turkish warplanes bombed Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq in the third confirmed cross-border offensive by Turkish forces in less than a week.

Bush will leave Camp David the day after Christmas for his Texas ranch and will return to Washington on New Year's Day. A week later, on Jan. 8, he begins a trip to the Middle East with stops in Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Among those joining the president at the wooded compound in Maryland's

Catoctin Mountains are Mrs. Bush's mother, Jenna Welch; and the first couple's twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna; the president's sister, Doro Bush Koch and her family; and the president's brother, Marvin, and his family. For lunch on Christmas Day lunch, they will dine on roast turkey, cornbread dressing, green beans, sweet potato casserole, fruit salad, pumpkin and pecan pies and red velvet cake.

Historic district for sale on eBay

THE GROVE, Texas (AP) — Looking for that last minute holiday present with a price tag in the \$1 million range?

The gift isn't guaranteed in time for Christmas because the bidding runs through Wednesday for the historic business district of the Coryell County town of — The Grove.

It's listed on eBay, with the headline: "Last chance to own an authentic Texas

museum town."

Five buildings, including a blacksmith shop, are part of the half-acre package.

The eBay posting says a more than century-old hand-dug well "is still wet today."

Antiques collector Moody Anderson of Austin bought The Grove district in 1972.

The Grove is a community of about 100, located 80 miles north of Austin.

Merry Christmas!

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Viewpoints

Children with divorced parents enjoy two holidays

Here anymore, it's not that unusual for kids to grow up with divorced families. I don't want to make divorce sound like a good thing, but this time of year, for the kids, it really can be if you look at it positively - or at least it was for me when I was growing up. When Thanksgiving and Christmas roll around, the kids whose parents are still married usually have one Thanksgiving dinner and one Christmas holiday. Not the kids with divorced parents! We had two of everything. Two Christmases, two birthdays, two Easters, two everything. It really put a smile on my face any time I ever started to feel sorry for myself about my parents being divorced.

With most divorced families, the parents get to split the holidays spent with the kids amongst one another. My parents, for instance, alternated Christmas and Thanksgiving time every year with me and my two brothers. That meant if we spent Thanksgiving with Mom, then we would spend Christmas with Dad, then come home and have Christmas all over again with Mom. Honestly, I wouldn't have had it any other way. The only thing better for a 10 year old boy than opening presents on Christmas day is getting to do it again two days later. Now that I'm an adult, by some standards, Christmas means much more to me than just opening Christmas presents. I grew up with my

mom in Andrews, and would get to see my dad and his family every once in a while, since Pampa is pretty far away. The past year has been the complete opposite, and I've really enjoyed getting to catch up with my dad's family and make a lot of new friends. It's made me realize, though, that I don't want anything for Christmas this year at all. I don't mean to get sappy and sentimental when I say this, but all I want to do is spend time with friends and family. Out of all the Christmas gifts I've ever received over the past

20 years, none of them mean as much to me as those people do, and the memories I've made with them.

One of the funniest Christmas memories I have is when my mom's family got together for a gift exchange, here in Pampa about five or six years ago. All of us went into Wal Mart with \$5 each, and were told to buy something red for the gift exchange game we would play later in the evening. There were about 18 or so gifts in brown paper bags with a number on each one lined up in the living room.

We would work our way through each family member, who had the choice of either drawing a number or stealing a gift from someone else who had already drawn a number. However, once a gift had been stolen three times, it was frozen and that person was stuck with it. My cousin, Katelyn, bought a half gallon bucket of joint compound from Wal Mart as her gift, and my Paw-Paw ended up getting stuck with it. I don't think anyone in the family is ever going to forget his reaction to getting stuck with a bucket of joint compound. I ended up getting a bag full of quarter machine jewelry that my brother, Payton, so creatively put together, and I'm admittedly still bitter about that.

And of course, Christmas with my dad's family is always a great time. With that many dynamic personalities in one room opening presents from one another and having a good time, you can't help but make memories. I remember one year, when I was probably in third or fourth grade, I was obsessed with presidential politics. That year, I got several books on former U.S. Presidents, a Theodore Roosevelt wristwatch, and even an Andrew Jackson 3-D puzzle. There wasn't a happier kid in the entire universe that year. I'm sure my parents were probably wor-

Jordan Reagan
Sports Editor



See REAGAN, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2007. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 24, 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

On this date:
In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cochin, India.

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

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

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1907, investigative reporter I.F. Stone was born in Philadelphia.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1943, President Roosevelt appointed General Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC-TV.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

Ten years ago: Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the aging revolutionary known as "Carlos the Jackal," was sentenced by a French court to life in prison for the 1975 murders of two French investigators and a Lebanese national. Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune died in suburban Tokyo at age 77.

Five years ago: Laci Peterson was reported missing from her Modesto, Calif., home, by her husband, Scott, who was later convicted of murdering her and their unborn son. Saddam Hussein said in an address read on television that Iraqis were ready to fight a holy war against the United States. Chinese pro-democracy activist Xu Wenli was released from a prison in Beijing and flown to the United States.

By The Associated Press



"HEY, BOSS... I THINK RUDOLPH'S ON THE JUICE!"

Assimilation has served this country well

When representatives of a minority religious belief show up at a school board and demand equal display of their religious symbols beside those of Christmas, there is only one proper answer: Go home, have babies, and when your religious believers become a majority of the U.S. population, come back and see us. In the meantime, don't screw around with the traditions of the American majority.

The feeble brains and even more feeble backbones of bureaucrats who swallow the bilge that multiculturalism is a good thing deserve to be exiled. Some of those countries where multiculturalism manifests itself in war and political strife would be a good destination.

Don't confuse diversity and multiculturalism. It's fine to have people come to America from different

countries in order to become Americans. It's fine for these newcomers to preserve what they love about their native land in their homes and private relations. That includes their language and religion.

What's not fine is when some recent arrival says, "OK, all you Americans now have to pay attention to and adapt to my culture." No, we don't. You came here presumably to assimilate into our culture. It's you who has to adapt to our culture and traditions. If we wished to adapt to your culture, we would have emigrated to your native land.

Imagine what would happen if someone went to Israel and demanded that

Christian crosses be displayed on an equal basis with the Star of David. Imagine what would happen if someone went to Saudi Arabia and demanded that the government observe all Christian holidays. Imagine what would happen if Americans went to Mexico and demanded that the Mexican government conduct its business in English. In every case, it would be boot-in-the-fanny time.

Tolerance does not mean surrendering our own values and traditions. Protecting the rights of minorities does not mean surrendering our own values and traditions. No minority has the right to impose its wishes on the

majority.

Americans had better wake up to the fact that what makes a country are the people and their culture, not geography. Don't let lame-brained intellectuals tell you that you have to be ashamed of America's history, its culture and its traditions.

If we allow this country to become riddled with pockets of foreign-born people who have no interest in becoming Americans, then we will have serious political and social problems. Eventually there will be bloodshed.

Assimilation has served this country well. It is a natural process, provided it is left alone. Cheap demagogues love division and will encourage it. We should never fail to rain on their parades. That means teaching newcomers English by

Charley Reese
Columnist



See REESE, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:
On Dec. 17

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on no real answers in the Texas House:

Anyone who enjoyed the chaotic final days of this year's legislative session has to be thrilled with Attorney General Greg Abbotts Friday opinion about the powers of House Speaker Tom Craddick.

Legislators who asked Abbott whether Craddick could be booted from his throne by the same House members who put him there were handed instead a lengthy evasion of that crucial question.

The chaos continues.

Abbotts answer: The speaker can be impeached, but that would lead to his removal only if the Senate agrees. Under certain conditions, House members can remove any of their colleagues, including the speaker, by declaring them unfit to hold any office. But the attorney general did not adequately address whether the House can decide that it simply wants someone else as speaker.

Shame on Abbott.

He and his team of staff attorneys might think that they answered that question. They agreed with Craddick that the speaker, elected from among the members of the House when that body first convenes in regular session, holds that position until a new session convenes two years later.

But they took great pains to point out that they reached that conclusion with scant precedent or guidance from state law or the constitution. And even then, they reached it primarily by noting that the speaker serves in various positions, including as joint chairman of the Legislative Budget Board, both during the legislative session and after the session ends.

They did not explain why they assumed that the person in those positions would not or could not be changed by the House.

The question might not arise again. Craddick has been recruiting people across the state to run against his House enemies in the March party primaries

See HOUSE, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS
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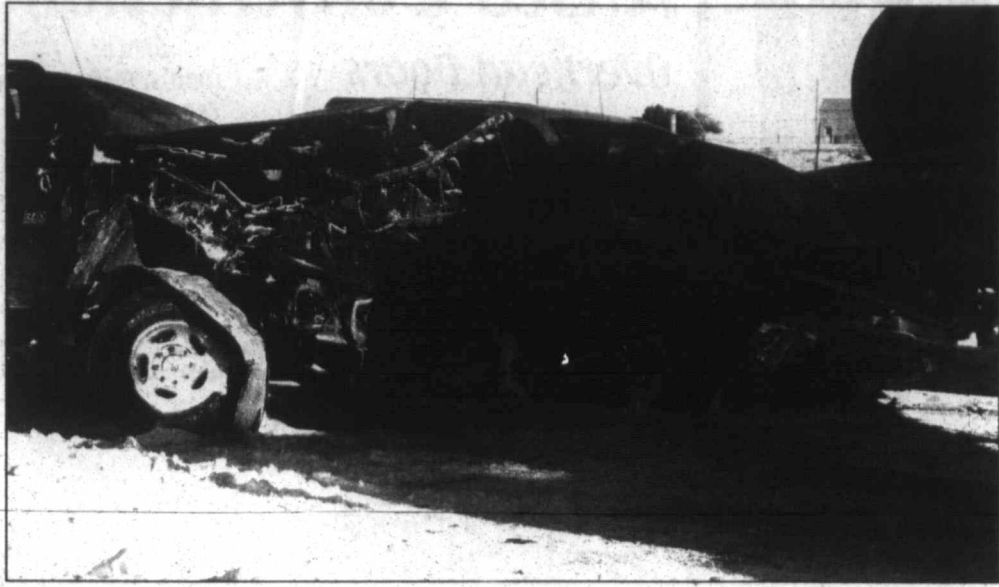
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Accident



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
These were a few of the cars that were involved in the 26-vehicle accident Saturday, just east of Pampa. One person was killed in the accident, but the name has not been released yet. The Texas Department of Public Safety said it may take quite a while to figure out what exactly happened. They are still investigating the accident.

ND farmer forecasts winter by examining pig spleens

STEELE, N.D. (AP) — Paul Smokov doesn't need radar or other high-tech equipment to forecast a major snowstorm on the prairie. He consults pig spleens.

"It looks like a normal year with no major storms," said the 84-year-old Smokov, peering at two of the brown, glistening, foot-long organs on his kitchen counter like a Gypsy gazing into a crystal ball. "That's what the spleens tell me."

Smokov and his wife, Betty, raise cattle on their 1,750-acre ranch north of this town of about 760 people. He is happy to share his forecast with his neighbors or anyone else willing to rely on the reading of animals' innards.

If the spleen is wide where it attaches to the pig's stomach and then narrows, it means winter

weather will come early with a mild spring, Smokov said. A narrow-to-wider spleen usually means harsh weather in the spring, he said.

The spleens obtained by Smokov this year are pretty uniform in thickness, which means no drastic changes.

Janice Stillman, editor of the Old Farmer's Almanac in Dublin, N.H., said she had heard of at least one other pig spleen weather prognosticator — Gus Wickstrom of Saskatchewan — but he died earlier this year.

"It's folklore and a dying art, obviously," she said.

Smokov's Ukrainian parents brought their knowledge of pig spleen forecasting with them when they came to the U.S. a century ago. As for listening to forecasts on the radio — electricity didn't

reach Smokov's ranch until 1949.

"The spleens are 85 percent correct, according to my figures," he said. As for the weathermen, "Those guys aren't any better."

At the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, meteorologist Vic Jensen relies on Doppler radar and other sophisticated scientific instruments. But he is charitable toward folk methods such as Smokov's.

"I can't discount some of these kinds of theories," Jensen said. "It's just another way for people to forecast what's going to happen."

The weather service's three-month outlook is typically at least 60 percent accurate, Jensen said. Forecasters are calling for a normal winter for North Dakota. That matches Smokov's gut feeling.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

ried about why their third grade son wanted to be a politician so badly, but they humored me anyway.

This year, however, I don't want anything for Christmas. I just want to spend time with the people that I love. I want to go through my cousin, Morgan's unabridged dictionary with the whole family again, and I want to see someone else get mad about getting stuck with another inevitably lame gift in the exchange. To me, that's what Christmas is all about.

Donor gives \$1K to Salvation Army

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Salvation Army Major Richard Hathorn knew when and where it would happen, but he still doesn't know who slipped the \$1,000 bill into one of the charity's Christmas kettles.

Each Christmas since 1978, someone has covertly stuffed one of the big bills into a kettle in this northern West Virginia university city.

This year, Hathorn says, the donor alerted the Salvation Army that the tradition would continue with a deposit between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday at the Wal-Mart at University Town Center.

During the appointed period, Hathorn carefully scanned the faces of people dropping money into the kettle, but he didn't spot anyone with a bill

bearing the likeness of President Grover Cleveland. He found it later, wrapped inside a \$1 bill.

Hathorn says he hopes to

raise about \$62,000 from the kettles this year to provide everything from toys and food to utility assistance.



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House

Continued from Page 4

and the November general election.

When the House convenes again in January 2009, its members will be free to elect the speaker they want and to adopt rules to govern the speakers behavior.

Sadly, the attorney general did not help light the path.

What happened?

Three days before the session ended May 28, Craddicks opponents began maneuvering to replace him. The House erupted into chaos when the speaker, asserting that he held "absolute" power, refused to recognize motions that could lead to his removal. The parliamentarian and her assistant resigned and were replaced. Members passed important bills, but disorder returned periodically until final adjournment.

What are the key arguments?

Two committee chairmen, former Craddick allies Reps. Jim Keffer of Eastland and Byron Cook of Corsicana, asked Abbott for a formal opinion on the constitutional and legal issues involved. They contended that the House, having the power to appoint a speaker, also has the power to remove him and appoint a new one.

Craddick says that the speaker is not just a member

of the House but also, like the governor and lieutenant governor, an "officer of the state" with duties and powers that affect all of Texas. As such, he says, the speaker can be removed from office by impeachment but otherwise holds the position for two years. Impeachment charges can be brought by the House but must be tried in the Senate.

Keffer, Cook and their allies say that it is absurd to think that the House must get approval from the Senate to

replace its presiding officer. They say that they sought only to remove Craddick as speaker, not to boot him from his job as state representative from Midland.

Can this get any more absurd?

Keffer and Cook asked whether the House is free to elect a new speaker if, during a session, that job becomes vacant for any reason or must it continue its work without a speaker?

Abbott performed the lawyerly equivalent of hold-

ing up his palms and shrugging.

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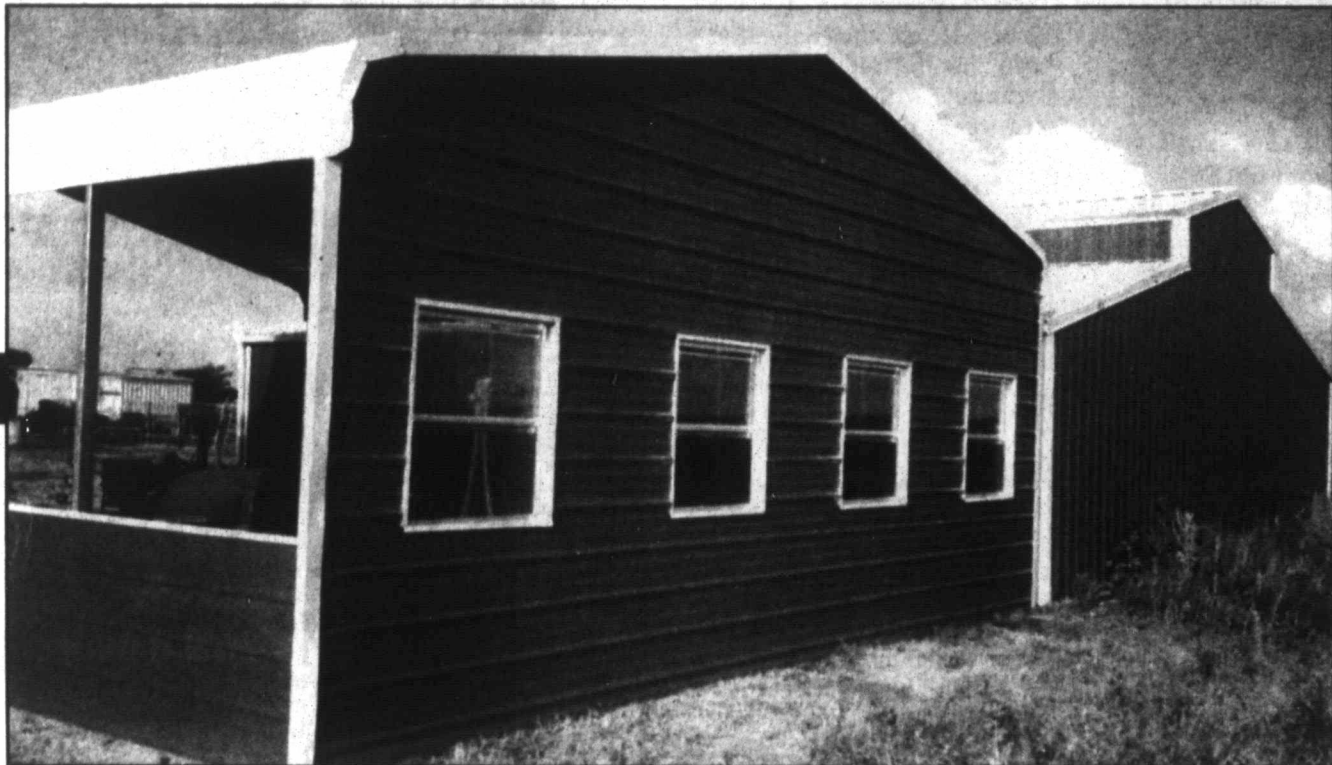
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BUSINESS REVIEW



Rasco Construction's custom-built buildings are of varying sizes and designs. The staff builds any size custom building to the specifications of the customer. Rasco Construction now offers a larger 40' wide building.

Rasco Construction: Overhead Doors and Custom Buildings

Rasco Construction, owned by Gerald and Joyce Rasco, is located at 1000 S. Price Rd. Selling and installing overhead doors both residential and commercial as well as the door operators is one of the main functions the trained staff at Rasco Construction provides for their customers. MIDAMERICA doors and LIFTMASTER overhead door openers may be purchased from Rasco.

Custom built buildings of any size are built by the staff at Rasco Construction. "We will build them any size the customer wants," said Rasco. "Both large and small."

Buildings constructed by Rasco Construction may be seen in towns across the Texas Panhandle. The staff has traveled to almost every town in the Panhandle since the business began in May 2002.

Along with VERSATUBE and FABRAL'S superior products for fabricating buildings, VERSATUBE now offers the company an economy line of carports and steel buildings. Buildings may be used to provide protection from the elements for your car, boat, RV, outdoor furniture and equipment or even livestock. They can be installed

on the ground, gravel, or a concrete pad. Custom sizes to meet your needs are easily built by adding height and length extensions.

Rasco Construction would like to welcome everyone to drop by the local business to check out the services the company provides. Prospective customers may visit with the staff and determine the "perfect" storage building for their needs. Free estimates are available.

Gerald and Joyce have both lived in Pampa all their lives and would appreciate the chance to be your hometown garage door supplier and service company.

"We also keep door and operator parts in stock," Rasco said.

The business is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon. through Fri. The business telephone is 665-0042.

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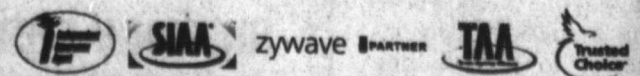
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COURTESY PHOTO
Third graders at Lamar Elementary School Kaenan Hanks, from left, Brendon Woelfle, Nikolas DeLeon, America Mariscal and Jaycee Brown recently participated in a school-wide effort to collect items for Socks for Soldiers. Many children and staff participated in the annual holiday campaign.

Plainview prison guard indicted

PLAINVIEW, Texas (AP) — A prison guard has been indicted on a murder charge in the death on an inmate.

Jose Rodriguez, 28, a corrections officer for the Wheeler unit in Plainview, was awaiting arraignment and remained free. He was indicted by a Hale County grand jury Thursday in the death of 52-year-old Paul Ray Judia.

Judia died days after his head was slammed into a cell wall, according to the

indictment.

The Nov. 12. incident happened "during a major use of force" after the inmate allegedly kicked Rodriguez, said Warden David Cole.

Judia died Nov. 15. at University Medical Center in Lubbock. He was a transfer inmate from Eastland County who was serving a 10-year-sentence for burglary.

Rodriguez was hired in March 2005.

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& a Happy New Year!

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Five guilty in SWAT pranks

DALLAS (AP) — Five people who pleaded guilty in federal court to using "spoofing" technology to dupe tactical officers from agencies in North Texas and around the country are scheduled for sentencing early next year.

Officials say the four men and one woman were part of a group that tried to get tactical teams deployed to unsuspecting victims' homes, part of a prank called "SWATing." The five used spoof cards and other phone system intrusion methods to alter their caller identification information, investigators allege in court documents.

"These individuals are doing it for bragging rights and ego, vs. any monetary gain," said Kevin Kolbye, assistant special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office. "What they don't realize is that they are causing a significant amount of scarce police resources to be spent, and putting individuals in situations that are safety concerns," he said.

They are: Stuart Rosoff, a.k.a. Michael Knight, of Ohio; Jason Trowbridge, a.k.a. "Mr. Stoner," and his girlfriend, Angela Roberson, both of Houston; Chad Ward, a.k.a. "Dark Angel," of New York; and Guadalupe Santana Martinez, a.k.a. "Wicked Wizard," who has lived in Washington and Oregon.

The five pleaded guilty last month to various charges, including transmitting interstate threats with the intent to extort, conspiring to use devices to modify telecommunications instruments and accessing protected telecommunications computers, according to court documents.

Between 2002 to 2006, they called authorities in Johnson County, Fort Worth, Dallas, Highland Park, Garland and Mesquite, along with more than 60 cities around the country. Pretending to be inside a home, they said they had killed people, had hostages and were ready to kill.

In one case, SWAT officers surrounded an Alvarado home in rural Johnson County thinking they were going to confront a drug-crazed man armed with an AK-47 who

had already killed his wife, taken hostages and wanted to kill police. Instead they found Jim Proulx, an innocent 60-year-old trucker, no crime scene and no assault rifle.

But the potential for violence was high, said Cpl. Dale Abbott, of Cleburne's SWAT team, which responded to the call in Alvarado last year.

"Say he had heard a noise outside, and say he came out with a gun. It could have turned out really bad," Abbott said.

Rosoff worked with a hacker to fool telephone employees into giving them information on victims and to manipulate phone service. Rosoff also demanded phone sex from a Michigan woman, and had her phone service terminated when she refused. He then called in false allegations of child abuse to authorities in her area, hoping to have her arrested, documents allege.

According to authorities, Martinez made the bogus calls to police, and he posed as Mr. Proulx, among others. Ward, who owns a chat line business and a tattoo parlor in New York, paid to have certain people targeted, according to the FBI.

Prosecutors say Trowbridge was a debt collector who used commercial credit databases, to which he had access, to dig up information on the SWATing victims. Roberson admitted using the commercial database Accurant to assist in getting information on victims.

Roberson's attorney said his client regrets her involvement with the other defendants and accepts responsibility for her actions. Attorneys for the other defendants either had no comment or could not be reached.

Rosoff, Ward, and Roberson are scheduled for sentencing in March. Trowbridge is set to be sentenced in February and Martinez in January. Each faces up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and restitution costs.

Up to 20 people were involved in the SWATing incidents.

*"These individuals
are doing it for
bragging rights and
ego, vs. any
monetary gain"*

— Kevin Kolbye
Dallas FBI

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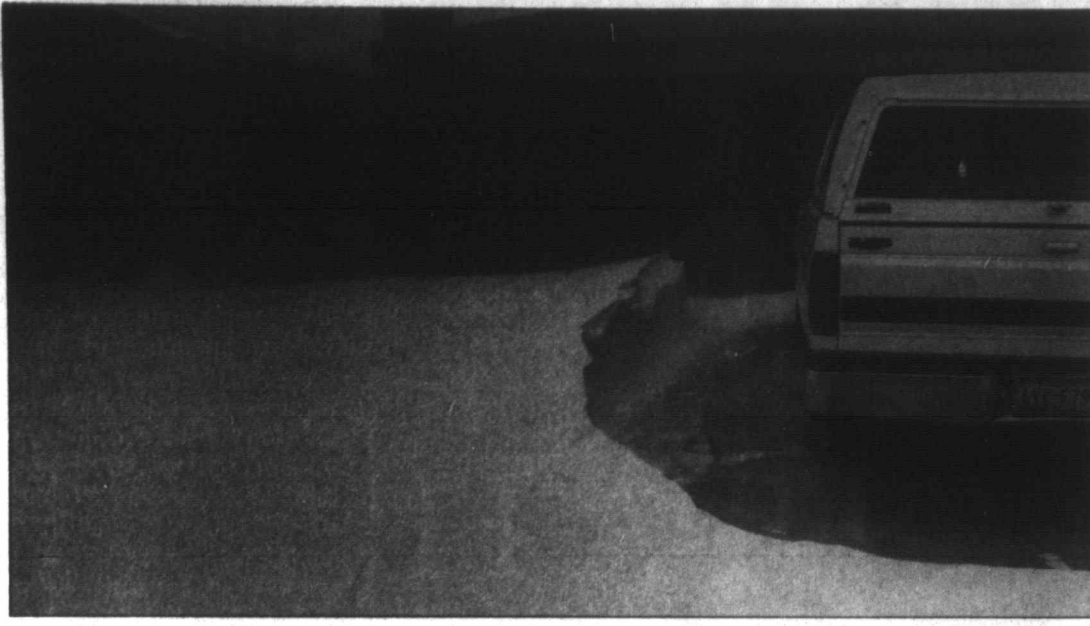


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Snow drift



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
 This snow drift, that was approximately 3 foot tall, was seen at a house in the 1900 block of Lynn Saturday morning.

Waco riverboat sinking

WACO, Texas (AP) — A riverboat restaurant that was damaged during spring flooding is sinking into the Brazos River, and the city has asked the owner to remove the boat by the end of the week.

The bow of the 160-foot Brazos Belle first dipped below the surface of Lake Brazos in late November. The city has canceled the lease for the riverboat, which is docked on city property near Interstate 35.

City officials say Brazos Leisure Inc. failed to pay rent or all its taxes, didn't provide required insurance and didn't correct health issues raised after the spring floods. The restaurant shut down in August.

"It will have to be removed," said John Patterson, acting city attorney. "And if it has to be removed in pieces, it will be removed in pieces."

Patterson said the city might have to pay for the boat's removal if it's abandoned.

"But I don't want to give any opinions on the matter until we have looked at all our options," Patterson said. "This is not a run-of-the-mill situation, to say the least."

Tony Cain, who is listed as the registered agent for Brazos Leisure Inc., has said flood damage stopped his business. He spent \$105,000 on repairs but ran out of money because he couldn't generate income with the restaurant, he said.

In late November, Cain said he was no longer responsible for the boat and had handed it back over to F.M. Young, who built the boat for \$1 million and has docked it on Lake Brazos since 1997. Cain couldn't be reached for comment in recent days.

Young said he sold the boat in May 2006 to Cain in his capacity as president of Brazos Leisure Inc. Young, 77, said the boat is salvageable, but he doesn't have the energy for the project.

"Flotation devices could raise it, and then you could pump it out," he said. "But I just can't do it, and I'm disappointed as I can be that this happened. It could be an even bigger attraction than it was."

Chris McGowan, director of urban development for the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, said revitalizing the Belle would benefit the downtown area.

In the meantime, the view from Interstate 35 of a half-sunken riverboat "is certainly not the most attractive thing I can think of."

The city in November dedicated a new \$20 million dam for Lake Brazos with hopes of maintaining a constant water level.

8-year-old dies in Greenville house fire

GREENVILLE, Texas (AP) — An 8-year-old Greenville boy died when he was unable to escape a fire that broke out in a bedroom of his family's home.

A Greenville firefighter pulled Isaiah Bell from the home. The boy was taken to a Greenville hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Isaiah's twin brother, his mother and an elderly man

were able to get out of the home when the blaze began late Friday night, authorities said.

Interim Fire Chief Doug Caison said a preliminary investigation did not reveal the cause of the fire. He said it did not appear to be a suspicious cause.

Isaiah's mother, Sandra, is a Hunt County sheriff's deputy.

Merry Christmas

*Wishing everyone in our fine community
 a joyous holiday season.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Drilling Intentions

Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #4 Thomas '47', 1065' from North & 1775' from West line, Sec. 47, A-2, H&GN, PD 15000'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Cordillera Energy Partners III, L.L.C., #3056 Chumbley, 2023' from North & 1980' from West line, Sec. 56, 41, H&TC, PD 13000'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Cordillera Energy Partners III, L.L.C., #5008 Ramp, 2259' from North & 2458' from East line, Sec. 8, 41, H&TC, PD 13400'.
**HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & S.E. CANADIAN Lower Morrow) Unit Petroleum Co., #3 Jarvis 'A', 660' from North & 2300' from West line, J. Fanning Survey, PD 11750'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #2005 Isaacs, 1800' from South & 1990' from West line, Sec. 200, C, G&MMB&A, PD 18000'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Samson Contour Energy E&P, L.L.C., #3 Mendota Ranch '15', 1600' from South & 467' from East line, Sec. 15, 1, I&GN, PD 12000'.
HUTCHINSON (PAN-HANDLE) Linn Operating, Inc., W.A. Carver, J.J. Hall Survey, PD 3650', for the following wells:
 #60, 1950' from South & 3658' from West line of Survey
 #61, 1470' from South & 4098' from West line of Survey
 #62, 940' from South & 4778' from West line of Survey
**HUTCHINSON (PAN-HANDLE) Linn Operating, Inc., #1205 Huth, 1900' from South & 2556' from East line, Sec. 5, M-24, TCRR, PD 3650'.
HUTCHINSON (PAN-****

**HANDLE) Linn Operating, Inc., #13 Ethel Smith, 1687' from South & 2938' from West line, J.J. Hall Survey, PD 3650'.
**ROBERTS (WILDCAT) Cimarex Energy Co., #13 Courson Ranch '4', 203' from North & 815' from East line, Sec. 4, 44, T.E. White, PD 12000'.
ROBERTS (WILDCAT & LARD RANCH Granite Wash 'C') Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #2H Flowers 'CCSL', 4150' from South & 660' from West line, Sec. 1, —, CCSL, PD 12000' (BHL: 7390' from South & 660' from West Sec. line) Horizontal
WHEELER (WILDCAT & ALLISON-PARKS Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.L.C., #1 Jones '6', 2173' from North & 467' from East line, Sec. 6, RE, R&E, PD 15000'.
**WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Atoka) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #5 Legg '6', 1750' from North & 467' from West line, Sec. 6, E, G.W. Jacobs, PD 16000'.
**WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Atoka) Linn Operating, Inc., #2 Britt '38', 467' from North & West line, Sec. 38, A-3, H&GN, PD 16500'.
**WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con., Inc., #17 Britt Ranch 'C' 35, 1575' from North & 592' from West line, Sec. 35, A-3, H&GN, PD 15900' (BHL: 1650' from North & 467' from West Sec. line) Directional well
**WHEELER (WILDCAT & WEST-PARK Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.L.C., #213H Zybach, 467' from South & 567' from East line, Sec. 13, —, camp CSL, PD 12200' (BHL: 467' from North & 567' from East Sec. line) Horizontal
Oil Well Completions
HUTCHINSON (PAN-HANDLE) Linn Operating, Inc., #22 Crosby & Hatcher 'A', Sec. 5, M-************

24, TCRR, spud 7-10-07, drlg. compl 9-8-07, tested 11-6-07, pumped 5.8 bbl. of oil + 154 bbls. water on 24 hour test, GOR 7069, TD 3583', PBTD 3539' — Form 1 in Stallion Energy
Gas Well Completions
**HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1045A Meek, Sec. 45, M-1, H&GN, spud 9-22-07, drlg. compl 10-5-07, tested 11-13-07, potential 2961 MCF, TD 13573', PBTD 13500' —
**HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #907 Peak Bourassa, Sec. 7, 4, AB&M, spud 10-8-07, drlg. compl 10-24-07, tested 11-20-07, potential 3411 MCF, TD 12850', PBTD 12772' —
**HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1729 Walser, Sec. 29, A-2, H&GN, spud 8-24-07, drlg. compl 9-10-07, tested 10-30-07, potential 2266 MCF, TD 13200', PBTD 13101' —
**HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Noble Energy, Inc., #4129P Hefley, Sec. 41, M-1, H&GN, spud 7-26-07, drlg. compl 8-5-07, tested 10-13-07, TD 11895', PBTD 11779' —
**HEMPHILL (HAYWOOD Atoka) Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #2 Sanders '60', Sec. 60, 41, H&TC, spud 6-22-07, drlg. compl 7-18-07, tested 9-18-07, potential 1423 MCF, TD 12955' —
**HEMPHILL (N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Mewbourne Oil Co., #1934 Arthur Webb, et al 'S', Sec. 193, C, G&MMB&A, spud 10-10-07, drlg. compl 10-25-07, tested 11-17-07, TD 11050', PBTD 10999' — Operator plans to down hole commingle w/other fields
ROBERTS (N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Cimarex Energy Co., #9 Kaufman '81', Sec. 81, B-1, H&GN, spud 7-15-07, drlg. compl 8-8-07, tested************

**10-25-07, potential 1817 MCF, TD 11500', PBTD 10893' —
**ROBERTS (RED DEER CREEK Granite Wash) Bluegrass Energy, Inc., #705 Byrum, Sec. 5, B-1, H&GN, spud 10-3-07, drlg. compl 10-21-07, tested 11-21-07, potential 1910 MCF, TD 10525', PBTD 10466' —
**ROBERTS (ST. CLAIR Granite Wash) Mewbourne Oil Co., #862 McMordie '86', Sec. 86, C, G&M, spud 10-27-07, drlg. compl 11-8-07, tested 12-4-07, TD 10050', PBTD 10000'.
**WHEELER (B&B Granite Wash) Linn Operating, Inc., #5 Huff '2', Sec. 2, 5, B&B, spud 7-1-07, drlg. compl 7-28-07, tested 9-17-07, TD 15550', PBTD 15485' —
**WHEELER (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #1560A Helton, Sec. 60, M-1, H&GN, spud 8-29-07, drlg. compl 9-19-07, tested 10-23-07, potential 2248 MCF, TD 13640', PBTD 13412' —
**WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Forest Oil Corp., #501 Britt, Sec. 1, 5, B&B, spud 8-18-07, drlg. compl 9-13-07, tested 10-9-07, potential 3998 MCF, TD 15808', PBTD 15723' —
WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con., Inc., #9 Britt Ranch 'D' 5, Sec. 5, 2, B&B, spud 1-5-07, drlg. compl 2-14-07, tested 6-14-07, potential 25044 MCF, TD 15720', PBTD 15616' — Directional well************

NATIVITY

Stolen baby Jesus returned to nativity

BRAZORIA, Texas (AP) — It may not qualify as a Christmas miracle, but residents are grateful that a baby Jesus figure stolen from the town's nativity scene a year ago has been returned.
 The miniature figure and the manger that held him were stolen last December from the nativity scene off Highway 36 in Brazoria, about 55 miles south of Houston. They were mysteriously returned sometime last week.
 "I think everyone in the city noticed when it was stolen," Brazoria Mayor Ken Corley said. "It was depressing after it was taken. That's just something you don't steal."
 Resident Bill James and his family noticed Dec. 16 that the figure had been returned to the nativity scene, which the Brazoria Chamber of Commerce has used for years.

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

In 1867, Phillips Brooks, who pastored the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, wanted to compose an original Christmas hymn for the children to sing during their annual program. Recalling a previous trip to Bethlehem, he wrote a five-stanza poem which he gave to his organist, Lewis Redner, to write a melody. He told Redner that if he liked the tune, he would name it "St. Lewis" in Redner's honor. On the night before the Christmas program, Redner gave the music to Brooks, who was so pleased that he named the tune "St. Louis," so as not to embarrass Redner. The next day, six Sunday school teachers and thirty-six children sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Ref: Robert J. Morgan

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'Twas The Night Before Christmas



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem, which he named "A Visit From St. Nicholas," was published for the first time on December 23, 1823 by a New York newspaper, the Sentinel. Since then, the poem has been reprinted, translated into innumerable languages and circulated throughout the world.

Clement Clarke Moore was born in 1779 to a well-known New York family. His father, Reverend Benjamin Moore, was president of (what is now) Columbia University and was the Episcopal Bishop of New York. Moore's father also participated in George Washington's first inauguration and gave last rites to Alexander Hamilton after Hamilton was mortally wounded in an 1804 duel with Aaron Burr. Moore himself was an author, a noted Hebrew scholar, spoke five languages, and was an early real-estate owner and developer in Manhattan.

Despite his accomplishments, Clement Clarke Moore is remembered only for "Twas the Night Before Christmas," which legend says he wrote on Christmas Eve in 1822 during a sleigh ride home from Greenwich Village after buying a turkey for his family. Some say the inspiration for Moore's pot-bellied St. Nicholas was the chubby, bewhiskered Dutchman who drove Moore to Greenwich Village to buy his holiday turkey. Moore never copyrighted his poem, and only claimed as his own over a decade after it was first made public.

Moore read the poem to his wife and six children the night he wrote it, and supposedly thought no more about it. But a family friend heard about it and submitted the poem to the Sentinel, a newspaper in upstate New York, which published it anonymously the following Christmas. Moore's poem immediately caught the attention and imagination of the state, then the nation, and then the world. Finally, in 1844, he included it in a book of his poetry. Moore died in 1863 and is buried in Trinity Church Cemetery in lower Manhattan, New York.

Because of his "mere trifle," as he called it, 175 years ago Clement Clarke Moore almost single-handedly defined our now timeless image of Santa Clause.

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More POWER To You

Britain's Queen Elizabeth launches video site on YouTube

LONDON (AP) — Just call her Queen e-Lizabeth.

The 81-year-old British monarch launched her own video site on YouTube Sunday, featuring old news reels and film snippets of daily royal life. Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth II keeps up with new ways of communicating with people and was hoping to reach a wider, and younger, audience through the popular video-sharing Web site.

The palace began posting

archive and recent footage of the queen and other royals on the official Royal Channel on YouTube on Sunday, with plans to add new clips regularly.

The queen will use the site to send out her annual televised Christmas message, a tradition that she began 50 years ago.

"The queen always keeps abreast with new ways of communicating with people," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. "She has

always been aware of reaching more people and adapting the communication to suit. This will make the Christmas message more accessible to younger people and those in other countries."

The royal page — which bears the scarlet lettered heading "The Royal Channel - The Official Channel of the British Monarchy" — features a picture of Buckingham Palace flanked by the queen's Guards in

their trademark tall bearskin hats and red tunics.

Palace officials said the queen's Christmas message this year will urge people to care for the vulnerable and those excluded from society. She will also pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the armed forces.

The queen chooses a different theme for each annual address, the one occasion in the year when she writes her own speech without government advice.

In a preview of this year's speech, the monarch is seen standing in Buckingham Palace, watching black and white footage of herself delivering her first televised broadcast.

Dressed in an apricot colored dress, the queen can be seen walking into the palace's opulent 1844 Room, which is filled with lights and production equipment, and preparing to start her address.

The speech remains confidential until it is aired, both on TV and radio, on Christmas Day.

YouTube, which allows

anyone to upload and share video clips, was founded in 2005 and bought by Google last year.

How to get grade schoolers to eat more fruits, veggies

By Alfredo Flores
USDA News

One approach frequently suggested as an effective way to increase children's consumption of healthy foods is to encourage them to participate in food preparation activities. Now a study conducted by scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) in Houston, Texas, has demonstrated that this may be an effective approach.

Karen Cullen, a CNRC behavioral scientist and associate professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), and her colleagues evaluated the impact of combining food preparation and goal setting on 671 fourth-grade students in the Houston area over the course of 10 sessions. The CNRC is operated by BCM in cooperation with Texas Children's Hospital and ARS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

For six of the 10 sessions in the program, students selected a fruit, juice or vegetable recipe and set a goal to prepare it at home before the next session. In addition, they set a goal related to eating fruit, juice or vegetables.

The recipes most often prepared were Razzle Dazzle (a fruit juice mix), Royal Slush (a fruit slushy), Wizard's Magic Pocket (a pita pocket with vegetables), Great Shake (a fruit smoothie) and Golden Knight Burrito (a vegetarian burrito). Each time, the students returned parent-signed notes reporting whether they prepared a recipe.

The researchers observed an average increase in consumption of one serving per day of fruit, 100-percent fruit juice, or vegetables, compared to the beginning of the study. Girls and Hispanic students achieved the most recipe-preparation goals.

Achieving fruit-juice and vegetable



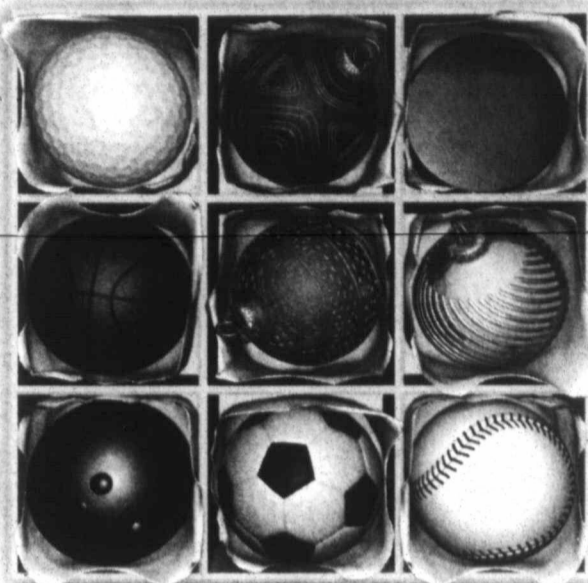
COURTESY PHOTO

Fresh fruit is one of the best and easiest "recipes" for healthy eating.

recipe preparation goals was related to students' eating more fruit and juice or vegetables after the study, but the size and direction of the relationship depended on number of goals achieved and how much the students were consuming at the beginning of the study. Practitioners should be encouraged to include recipe preparation and goal setting in interventions with children.

This study appeared in the June 2007 issue of the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity. An Open Access version is available at: <http://www.ijbnpa.org/content/pdf/1479-5868-4-28.pdf>.

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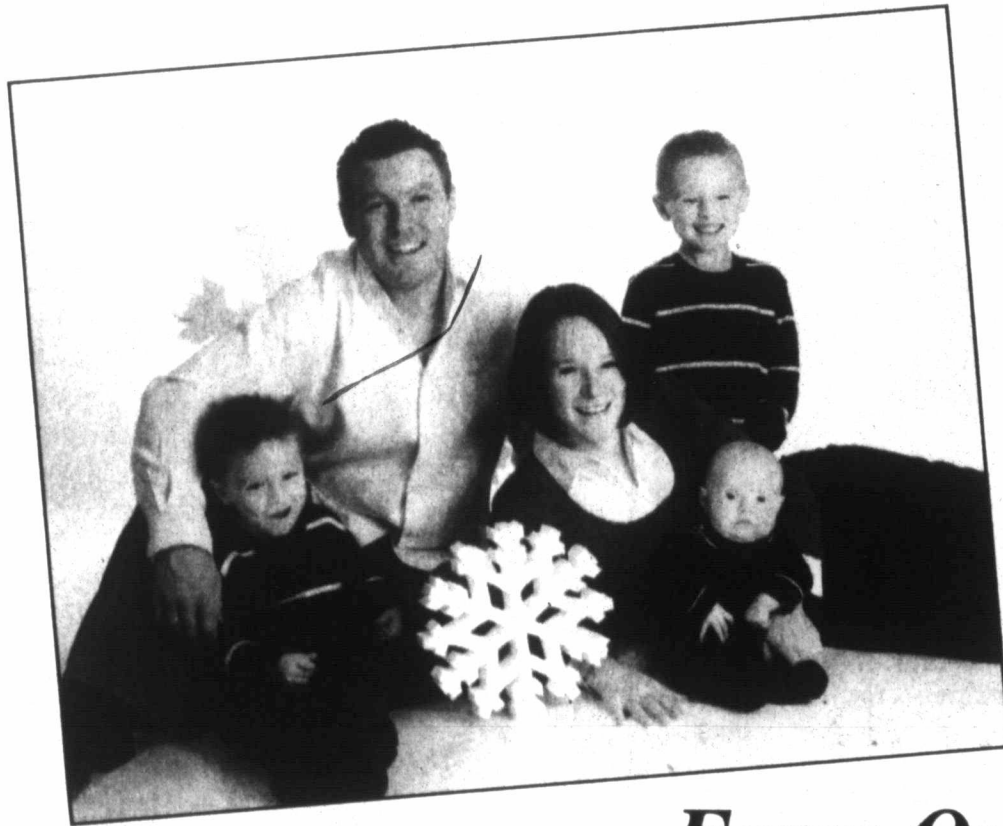
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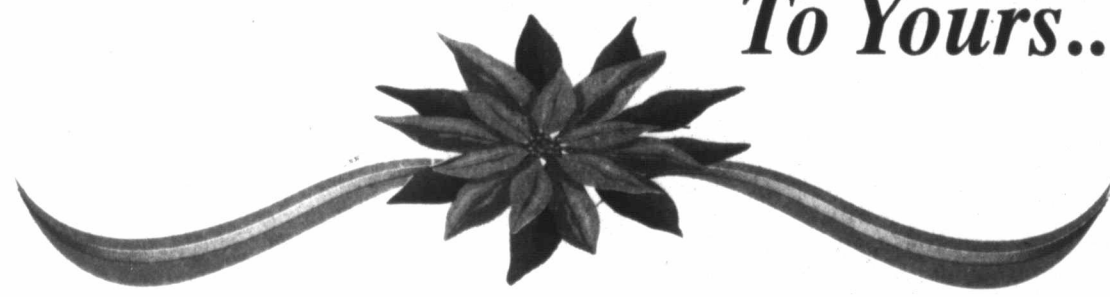
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Resolutions rarely change throughout the years

(MS) — New Year's Eve is a time when revelers remember all that has happened during the year, and look forward to a fresh start in the one to come. A part of the celebration is making resolutions for the new year.

The idea of resolutions is thought to have come from the ancient Babylonians. These people believed that what a person did on the first day of the new year would affect him or her throughout the entire year.

Resolutions range from many things, from quitting smoking to getting more organized. Although the priorities and hobbies of people change throughout the generations, most resolutions remain the same through the years.

The key to keeping resolutions is to think about them in advance of New Year's Eve festivities and decide on one or two that are really important to you. If you need some inspiration, consider these top 15 resolutions.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Exercise/weight loss | 2. Reduce stress | 3. Make time for yourself | 4. Volunteer work | 5. Save money | 6. Eat more healthfully | 7. Treat friends/family/neighbors better | 8. Spend more time with family/kids | 9. Get more sleep/relaxation | 10. Get a new job or start a new career | 11. Pay off debt | 12. Get organized | 13. Watch less television | 14. Balance the checkbook | 15. Quit smoking/drinking/another bad habit. |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|



New Year's Eve is a time when revelers remember all that has happened during the year, and look forward to a fresh start in the one to come. A part of the celebration is making resolutions for the new year.

Could SAD be culprit for winter doldrums?

(MS) — It's a sentiment that's often echoed once the winter weather hits and the clocks have been turned back for daylight savings time: with shorter days and less sunlight, life is not nearly as enjoyable. While this might be just a way of venting about the winter cold for some, for others it could be a sign of something else.

Though most people lament the loss of sun once winter arrives, for others this time represents a significant change in mood. That could be the result of seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a type of depression that's tied to a particular season such as winter, when the days are

shorter and the amount of daylight is drastically reduced. Because of the already heightened stress of winter thanks to the holiday season, it's important to know the signs and potential causes of SAD to ensure you or a loved one gets the help needed.

Who Gets SAD?

While anyone can get SAD, it has proven more common in certain groups of people than others. Those who have proven especially susceptible to SAD include: women, people who have a close relative who has SAD, and those who live in areas

See **SAD**, Page 2-B

Blessings At Christmas

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- Eat a high fat diet.

Choose TO:

- Eat 5 or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables. This can help prevent cancers of the colon, mouth, pharynx, esophagus, stomach and lung.
- Choose to eat a moderate-fat diet. Some research has shown a link between high fat diets to several types of cancers, as well as heart disease and other chronic diseases.
- Become physically active and maintain or reach a healthy weight, which is an important part of a cancer free lifestyle.
 - Obesity and lack of physical activity causes 25 to 30 percent of colon, breast, endometrial, kidney and esophageal cancer.
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- Infusion Therapy



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Michigan to start regulating body art industry

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press Writer

Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio in East Lansing, located just steps from Michigan State University.

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — As once-taboo piercings and tattoos grow in popularity, Michigan wants to start regulating the body art industry. Tattoo artists and body piercers are asking what took so long.

"We are dealing with blood and body fluids. We're not just cutting hair," said Kris Lachance, who owns the Splash of

Times are changing. In December, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation requiring body art shops to get a \$500 state license and meet safety standards.

Hepatitis and skin infections such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, have been linked to tattoos and piercings. But other than requirements that minors have parental consent and that adults be drug- and alcohol-free when getting body art, there has been no state law punishing artists for the unsanitary use of needles and gloves.

Times are changing. In December, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation requiring body art shops to get a \$500 state license and meet safety standards.

Until now, regulation was left to local governments, which could decide whether to license and inspect body art shops. Wayne and Oakland counties near Detroit have regulations. Many others don't — possibly up to two-thirds of Michigan's 83 counties, estimates Lachance, who pushed for the bill.

Starting in 2009, all county health departments will have to conduct annual inspections under the new law. The state can't issue licenses until seeing inspection results.

Tattoo industry regulation varies widely across the nation. Oklahoma banned tattoos until 2006. Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota and many other states have little or no state

regulation. Oregon and Colorado are among states regulating the industry.

State regulation bills have stalled in Michigan's Capitol for a decade, but legislation sponsored by Sen. John Gleason got traction this time, partly because more people are getting tattoos or piercings.

Once the domain of bikers and those serving in the military, body art now is more mainstream, thanks to athletes, celebrities and TV shows such as "Miami Ink" and "Inked."

Professional piercers and tattooists say they want to make their industry more legitimate to ward off concerns over health problems and teens participating in underground tattoo parties held in people's homes. MRSA infections have drawn attention in recent months with a spate of reports in schools.

"I think we have to be more concerned now than ever because of communicable diseases," said Gleason, who said he became aware of how much regulations differed between localities when he was a county commissioner.

"It was frustrating because our kids, they'd jump in the car after school and run across the county line" to tattoo parlors in unregulated localities, he said.

At some college and high school blood drives, half the potential donors have new tattoos or body piercings, making them ineligible to give blood for a year. These students could donate right away, however, if their tattoos or piercings were done at a state-licensed facility. The American Red Cross estimates Michigan's yearly blood supply would rise by up to 30,000 units under the new law.

There are 350 to 400 tattoo and/or body piercing businesses in the state. About 18 percent of Michigan adults have tat-

See BODY ART, Page 3-B

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SAD

Continued from Page 1-B

where winter days are especially short, or in regions where daylight is reduced significantly in winter compared to other seasons.

What Are the Symptoms of SAD?

It can be common to mistake the symptoms of SAD with simply feeling bad around the holidays because of the loss of a loved one. However, while SAD can certainly take hold around the holidays, unlike feelings of sadness rooted in the holiday season, SAD does not go away after the holiday season has passed. Instead, SAD can

last through the duration of the winter season, which, in some regions, can be well into mid-April.

In fact, many people with SAD begin experiencing symptoms in fall (September or October) and those symptoms don't dissipate until April or May, when the weather typically changes dramatically. Symptoms to keep an eye out for include but are not limited to:

- Weight gain
- Excessive time spent sleeping or increased feelings of drowsiness
- Loss of interest in usual activities and separation from friends or family
- Moodiness characterized by feelings of sadness and grumpiness and increased feelings of anxiety
- Dietary differences, such

as craving carbohydrates like bread and pasta

How Do You Know the Difference Between SAD and Depression?

Depression and SAD can be very difficult to differentiate. The best way to tell the difference is to go to a doctor and be honest and ready to answer questions as to whether or not these feelings are now a pattern or if they just began. In general, the older a person gets, the less likely they are to get SAD for the first time. However, there is not cutoff age for SAD and anyone can get it.

Before going to the doctor, ask yourself if these feelings have become an annual thing that settles in at the onset of a particular season. A doctor will certainly ask these questions, but it's good to think

about it beforehand as well to get the most accurate diagnosis. If the feelings do seem to arise around the same time every year, and the aforementioned symptoms occur as well, you could have SAD instead of depression.

How Is SAD Treated?

While there is no cure for SAD, light therapy has proven an effective and rather quick means of treatment for many people suffering from the condition. This therapy has two different approaches.

Dawn simulation: In dawn simulation therapy, a dim light goes on while a person is sleeping, and that light gradually gets brighter over time. Meant to simulate a sunrise, dawn simulation requires continued use throughout the season, even after the person starts to feel better.

Bright light: Bright light treatment is a more direct approach to including more light in a person's daily routine, simply requiring them to sit in front of a bright light (referred to as a "light box") for no less than 30 minutes per day (typically in the morning).

While these treatments might be met with skepticism at first, since SAD is often linked to a lack of light, it's no surprise both treatments have proven effective.

Other treatments can include medication (antidepressants) and even counseling. In addition, some therapists suggest simply getting outside for a period of time when it's light out each day. Obviously, this can be difficult for adults with full-time jobs, but consider taking a walk during a lunch hour.

To learn more about SAD, visit the Season Affective Disorder Association Web site at www.sada.org.

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6:00 PM Birthday Party For Jesus

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9:00 AM Christmas Holy Eucharist

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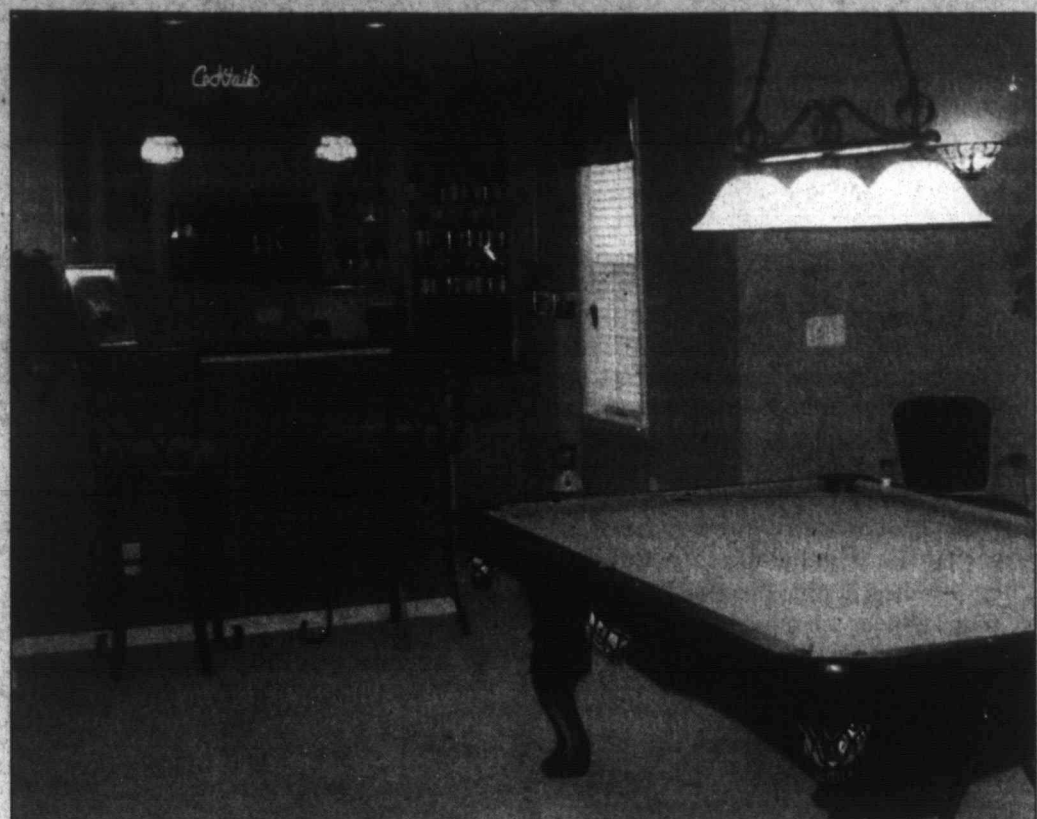


Thank you for your patronage. I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

ReDonna Woods
Pampa News
Advertising Representative

photo by Shutterbug Photography

INNOVATIONS



Well-insulated basements provide extra living space and added resale value to a home.

Basement bottom line: Addition adds space, value

(MS) — You store the holiday decorations there. You have laundry facilities there. But, are you actually living in your basement?

Seen as a high-value feature of a new home, basements have moved a long way since the time of low ceilings, cobwebs and damp areas. While the basements in today's homes may still be used for storage and laundry, you're more apt to find them converted into true living spaces — serving as bonus rooms, children's play areas and home offices. What makes this evolution possible? The move toward using custom-designed foundations that make the basement warm, dry, bright and livable.

"We've created and installed more than 85,000 custom-designed, damp proof foundations for homes nationwide during the past 27 years," says Aaron Schoeneberger, director of marketing for Superior Walls®. "These precast insulated foundation systems help homeowners save on energy bills and allow them to

fully utilize their basement space as functioning, integrated and comfortable living areas in the home."

Trending Towards Basements
According to the "What 21st Century Home Buyers Want" survey of customer preferences conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, the inclusion of basements in new homes has been on an upward rise since 2000. Homes being built on slabs are declining, as homeowners find more value in basements both during their occupancy of the home and at the time of resale.

"There's nothing like a well-insulated basement that can serve as valuable living space to pop the eyes open of a potential homebuyer," says Tina Fountain of Tina Fountain, Realtors® in Atlanta, Georgia. "You can see the wheels start turning in a person's mind as they quickly calculate what they can do with the 'bonus space.' A good basement takes the pressure off

See BASE, Page 4-B

New-generation Malibu earns praise for styling

By ANN M. JOB
For The Associated Press

I admit it. I had to check that there was a Chevrolet bowtie badge on the trunk lid of the 2008 Malibu.

Why? I could have sworn that from the back, the Malibu had the attractive styling of Volkswagen's short-lived Phaeton luxury sedan.

And after getting inside the Malibu and seeing the nicely crafted interior — which is especially eye-catching with two-tone cockpit — I checked again for the Chevy badge.

Yup, it was there, highlighting that Malibu is distinctly different and welcoming for 2008 with new interior, exterior, platform and engines.

Indeed, since its introduction at showrooms this fall, the new-generation Malibu has been winning praise from auto critics left and right. It even made Car and Driver magazine's 10Best list for 2008 and is among three finalists for the independently bestowed North American Car of the Year.

That's not all. The new Malibu earned a top, five-out-of-five-stars safety rating for frontal crash protection. Six standard air bags, including curtain air bags, are standard. So are antilock brakes and traction control.

But don't miss this: The Malibu's starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including destination charge, of \$19,995 — with an automatic transmission and four-cylinder engine — undercuts many family-size sedans from Japan-based brands.

For example, the lowest MSRP, including destination charge, for a 2008 Camry

with four-cylinder engine and automatic transmission is \$20,280, while the lowest retail price for a 2008 Honda Accord sedan with four cylinder and automatic is \$21,795. A 2008 Nissan Altima sedan with automatic and four cylinder starts at \$21,205.

Every Malibu comes with standard air conditioning, AM/FM stereo with CD and MP3 player and XM satellite radio with three months of complimentary service.

Each Malibu also has something not offered in the competing vehicles: OnStar emergency notification service with one free year of point-by-point navigation assistance included. No purchase of a DVD-based navigation system is required.

Like the competitors, Malibu also is offered with a V-6, at a starting retail price of \$26,995.

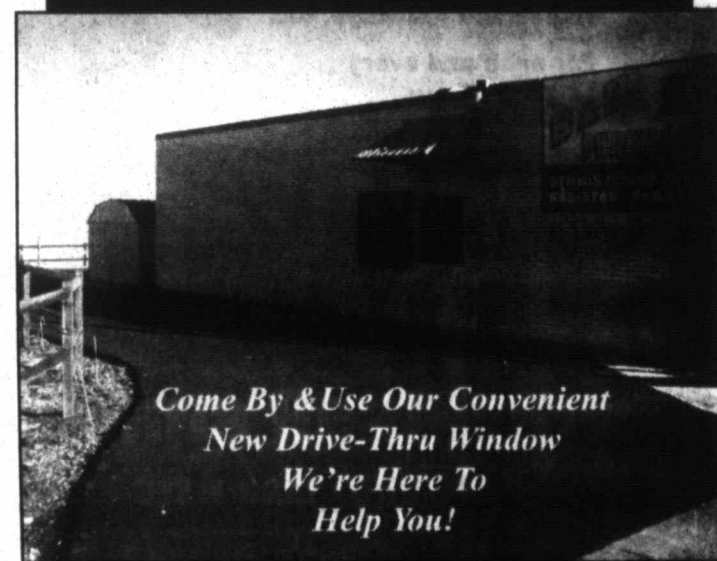
This price is more than the \$24,300 starting price for a 2008 Camry with V-6, the \$24,705 price for a V-6-powered Altima and the \$26,595 price for a 2008 Accord with V-6.

Will all the improvements be enough for the Malibu to outsell the Camry and Accord, which rank among the best-selling cars in America?

Perhaps not, given that more than three times as many Accords and Camry cars have been sold to U.S. consumers this year than Malibus.

See MALIBU, Page 4-B

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Body art

Continued from Page 2-B

toos, according to a poll conducted for the Detroit Free Press and Detroit TV station WDIV. People younger than 35 comprise 62 percent of the tattooed.

"I'm just amazed at how big this industry is growing," said Wayne County spokesman Dennis Niemiec, who added that body art's popularity makes it even more important to protect people from bad practitioners. "You wouldn't eat at a restaurant or fly on a plane that is never inspected."

Wayne County already has one of the state's most aggressive licensing policies, but unauthorized body art is a problem anyway. Teens at one school tattooed and pierced each other in a park, Niemiec said.

"We get loads of complaints," he said of tattoo parties advertised on Internet

message boards and by word of mouth. "Some guy walks into a living room and starts tattooing people."

Regulating body art shops statewide is considered a starting point. Owners would have to use sterile needles and single-use ink, comply with blood safety standards and keep records of customers. Violations would count as misdemeanors punishable by 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine.

Counties would be free to impose stricter standards than the state — for instance, directing health officials to inspect businesses twice a year or to license tattoo artists, not just the businesses.

"Enforcement has been nil ... because the industry for a long time was out of the mainstream," said Lachance, who has run her East Lansing business for nearly 11 years.

On the Net:
Michigan Legislature: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

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Study: Obese patients far less likely to get kidney transplant

BALTIMORE (AP) — Very obese people who need a kidney transplant are far less likely to get one than normal weight people, and when they do, their wait is an average of a year to 18 months longer, a new study found.

The reason seems to be both economic and medical. Very obese people have a greater risk for complications, and the transplant centers often must bear the additional cost of treating those problems.

The study showed that morbidly obese patients —

those who average about 100 pounds over their ideal weight — were 44 percent less likely to get a transplant than normal weight patients. Those just slightly less obese were 28 percent less likely to get a transplant, the researchers found.

The results also mean very obese patients are more likely to die; each year about 8 percent of all patients waiting for a transplant die.

The research was based on an analysis of records of 132,353 patients on the national kidney transplant

waiting list between 1995 and 2006. The work was published recently in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

Obesity can be a reason to exclude a potential transplant recipient because of the risk for complications.

However, once someone has been accepted for the waiting list, that patient is supposed to progress to the top as time passes, said Dr. Dorry Segev, the Johns Hopkins University transplant surgeon who led the study.

Segev said he did not believe doctors or transplant staff were consciously choosing slimmer candidates over obese patients. However, he said two factors may be combining to create the bias.

The main insurer for kidney transplants, Medicare, pays a fixed rate regardless of the difficulty of each case, meaning the transplant hospital bears the burden of added costs for complications. And transplant centers risk losing Medicare funding.

"I don't think any of this is conscious," Segev said. "It would be hard to imagine any of us in our field would deliberately act against the welfare of our patients. That's not what we do, but there are all sorts of subconscious forces that are happening and there's clearly an unintended bias in practice."

Segev's group found the wait to get a transplant increased along with the patient's body mass index, a height-weight formula. Non-obese patients waited on average 39 months, the overweight waited 40

months, the obese waited 42 months, and the severely and morbidly obese, waited 51 and 59 months, respectively, the researchers found.

Transplant centers normally won't give an organ to a patient with a body mass index over 40, which is morbidly obese, said Dr. Benjamin Philosophe, head

of transplantation division at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Such patients are at higher risk for a number of complications.



Here Comes Christmas!

The sleigh is loaded with best wishes and gratitude, too

For each and every one of you,

And now that Christmas is getting near,


We'd like to thank you for your support this year.



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Merry Christmas...

Signs of Christmas are everywhere, bringing to mind all the kind people we've had the privilege to serve this year, and so we offer our best wishes to all the familiar faces that make the holiday season so special for us. Thank you for your continued patronage.



Rusty, Brenda, Gracie, Gunnar, Garrison and the staff of West Texas Landscape & WTL Equipment.

Malibu

Continued from Page 3-B

But the new Malibu surely is compelling enough to draw new buyers — especially buyers keeping an eye on fuel mileage.

Malibus with the base, 169-horsepower, 2.4-liter, double overhead cam, Ecotec four cylinder are rated by the federal government at 22 miles per gallon in city driving and a noteworthy 30 mpg on the highway.

The only transmission offered is a four-speed automatic that performed quite smoothly in the test car.

The resulting combined mileage rating for this model is 25 mpg, which is on par with that of a Camry and better than the 24-mpg combined rating for an Accord — both with four-cylinder engines and five-speed automatic transmissions.

There's also a first-ever gasoline-electric hybrid version of Malibu for 2008, just released in the last few weeks. Its fuel rating is 24/32 mpg, which is just a bit better than that of a four-cylinder, gas-only Malibu.

Malibus with the uplevel, 252-horsepower, 3.6-liter V-6 carry one of two mileage ratings: 18/29 with four-speed automatic or 17/26 with six-speed automatic.

Beyond the stylish looks and interior, the new Malibu rides and handles well. The platform underneath is the same one that's used in the Saturn Aura sedan — another product of Chevy's parent company, General Motors — and it provides a stable structure for the independent, four-wheel suspension to do its work.

In the test Malibu 1LT with four-cylinder engine, the car mostly rolled over road bumps, conveying just slight vibrations to passengers. Yet the driver never felt isolated or disconnected from the road.

This is in contrast to previous Malibus where I often felt that the back end of the car handled road bumps differently — and more harshly — than did the front end of the car.

The Malibu's steering in the test car had a mostly mainstream feel. It responded easily.

And I didn't notice, as I drove the new Malibu, that this car is some 3.5 inches longer, overall, than the 2007 Malibu and has a 6-inch longer wheelbase that con-

tributes to good-size door openings and a

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By The Associated Press
• 2008 Chevrolet Malibu 1LT
BASE PRICE: \$19,345 for LS; \$20,305 for LT.
AS TESTED: \$21,470.
TYPE: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger, mid-size sedan.
ENGINE: 2.4-liter, dual overhead cam Ecotec four cylinder.
MILEAGE: 22 mpg (city), 30 mpg (highway).
TOP SPEED: 113 mph.
LENGTH: 191.8 inches.
WHEELBASE: 112.3 inches.
CURB WEIGHT: 3,436 pounds.
BUILT AT: Kansas City, Kan.
OPTIONS: Convenience package (includes remote engine start, power, six-way driver seat and power adjustable pedals) \$515.
DESTINATION CHARGE: \$650.

welcoming 37.6 inches of legroom in the back seat.

The length and an additional half inch of width meant, though, that the Malibu took up a bit more room in my garage than I had expected.

The Malibu's back seat is roomy for even three adults, and I appreciated the 37.2 inches of head room.

Best of all, the back seat didn't steal space from the trunk, which has a competitive 15.1 cubic feet in storage space.

I just wish that the lower sills at each door opening of the Malibu were recessed a bit more. In the test car, I dirtied the backs of pant legs getting out of the vehicle once the Malibu had been in a rainstorm and gotten wet and dirty. I also had a bit of trouble working the latch on the small storage spot at the top middle part of the dashboard.

A final note: The five-door Malibu Maxx hatchback model offered with the previous Malibu has been dropped.

Base

Continued from Page 3-B

the other living areas in the home and opens up a world of possibilities for potential homebuyers."

At Superior Walls, Xi® wall panels are constructed with a concrete face shell, backed by 2-1/2-inches of DOW® extruded polystyrene insulation. The steel reinforced concrete walls create a permanent barrier against sidewall water penetration, making the home damp proof.

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For more information visit www.superiorwalls.com.

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And the angel said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10,11

May the peace and joy of this holiday season be in your heart now and throughout the coming year.

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Web site created to pair lost gloves with owners

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jennifer Gooch's mission was to create a simple Web site where people could go to find their lost gloves. Even if no happy reunions ever took place, she was just content to spread a little goodwill.

But just a month since www.onecoldhand.com went live, the Carnegie Mellon University art student is busier than ever. She's reunited four gloves with their owners, is working on similar sites for cities around the globe, and is planning a book to showcase her found gloves.

The first glove match was made about a week ago, when a CMU intern from Germany heard about the site and checked it out for her missing beige glove. She found it on the page, under

the description "woman's leather glove with bling."

Sarah Altmeyer said she bought the gloves a few years ago in Germany, but later lost one at Carnegie Mellon's Simon-Newell Hall. She heard about the Web site Gooch created and thought she'd check it out.

Much to her joy, she found the missing glove there. "It was a very popular glove. I was actually kind of happy it was our first reunion," Gooch said.

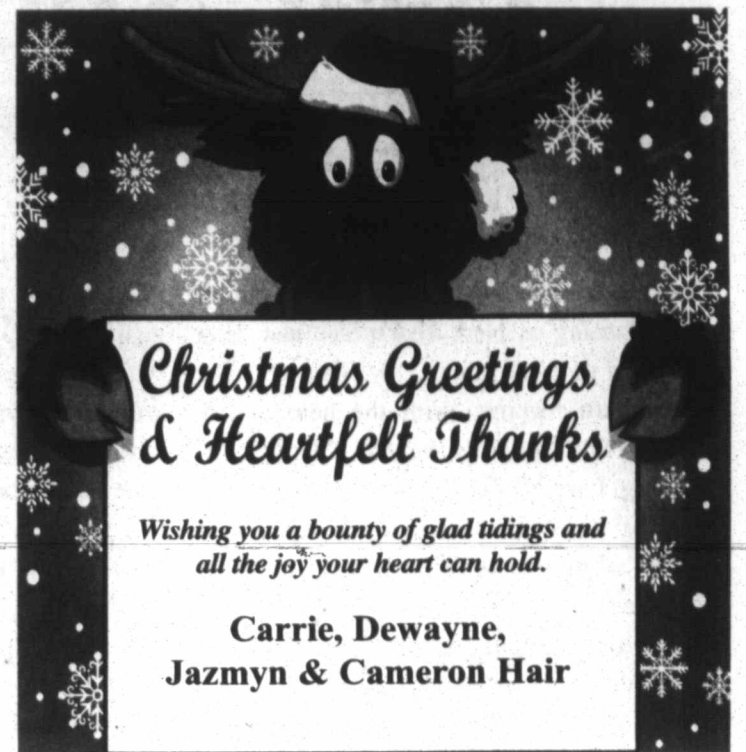
Gooch's Web site got 55,000 hits in the 10 days after stories about her project ran all over the world.

"It's been amazing. Once the surprise kind of waned, I realized that it's something a lot of people can relate to, and for different reasons," Gooch said.

More than a dozen businesses and other offices in Pittsburgh now have drop boxes where lost gloves can be placed. Gooch gathers the gloves, photographs them and displays the picture on her Web site with information about where the glove was found.

Gooch's site has grown from 21 gloves to a collection of 75. A site started soon after, www.onecoldhand-nyc.com, had three gloves posted online as of Thursday. Sites are also planned for Manitoba, Milan and Philadelphia after Gooch was contacted by strangers who wanted to spearhead similar efforts in their cities.

At the end of April, Gooch plans an art show with the photos of her gloves, along with an accompanying book.



Athletes accused in deer beating disciplined

IRAAN, Texas (AP) — Four members of Iraan High School football team accused in the beating deaths of two deer trapped on a baseball field will spend 88 days of the spring semester in an off-campus disciplinary program.

The school district's superintendent says the boys will be allowed to play football in the fall, when they are expected to return to normal student status.

After the deer were found dead on the baseball field earlier this month, each of the students was cited on a charge of hunting deer with illegal means and hunting

deer in closed season since the beatings allegedly happened at night.

Two of the students were identified as Call Cade, a first-team all-district quarterback, and Zac Owen, a first-team running back, Capt. Scott Davis of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said. Both are 17.

Cade and Owen could not be reached for comment Saturday and it was unclear if they had attorneys.

Davis and Iraan-Sheffield Superintendent Kevin Allen declined to give the names of the other students because they are minors.

All face up to \$500 fines on two Class C misdemeanor counts when they meet with Pecos County Justice of the Peace Cathy Ervine and Davis for a plea hearing Jan. 8, the Odessa American reported for its Saturday editions.

The four will be sent to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement, which educates students off-campus. It would be up to coaches to determine if the players need to complete any additional tasks before rejoining the team, Allen said.

Iraan, a community of about 1,100, is about 115 miles southwest of San

Angelo, just west of the Crockett County line.

Did you know?

(NAPSA) — People across the U.S. are encouraged to compete in an online version of the video game My Word Coach, which runs through Jan. 31, 2008, for the chance to establish their hometown as the city with the best vocabulary. To learn more, visit www.greatamericanwordchallenge.com.

If someone put \$10,000 into the stock market in 1996, the average annual S&P return would make that investment worth \$21,500 today—an increase of \$11,500. The median home price in 1996 was \$140,000. Today, that same home would have gained nearly \$100,000 in value. To learn more, visit www.nahb.org/timetobuy.

The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass—which provides access to nearly 2,000 federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee—can be purchased in advance for \$80 online at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass> or www.recreation.gov. For additional information, call (888) ASK-USGS, ext 1.

The York bypass whole-house humidifier and flow-through humidifier from Johnson Controls deliver air throughout a home. When paired with a York Affinity modulating gas furnace, they become a "total comfort system." Learn more at www.yorkupg.com or (800) 910-YORK.

It's estimated the U.S. has 150 billion barrels of heavy oil and bitumen located in California, Utah, Alaska, Texas, Alabama, Kentucky and Missouri. A company called MegaWest Energy thinks this could improve energy security for the U.S. Learn more at www.megawestenergy.com.

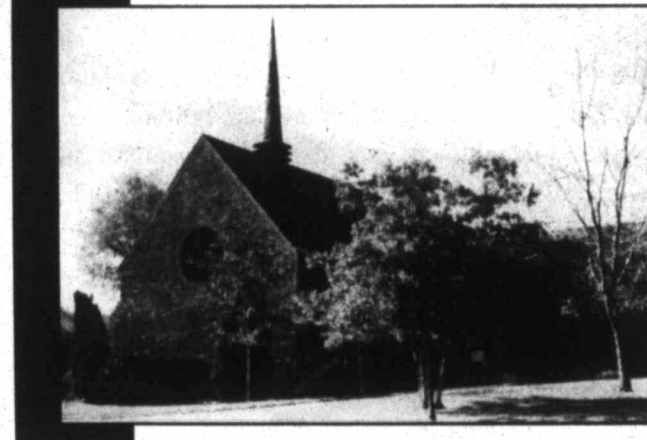
Save a broken family heirloom. Instant Crazy Glue Advanced Formula with precision tip can delicately fix just about any type of holiday keepsake. Learn more about saving holiday memories at www.crazyglue.com.

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many parents turn to TiVo KidZone, which sponsors Smart Television Alliance to promote quality television content for children. For more information or to learn about Smart News, the twice-monthly free newsletter, visit www.smarttelevisionalliance.org.

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And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."
St. Matthew 2:11

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband had a stroke the morning of New Year's Eve last year. He died on New Year's Day. This year has been hard for me. With the help of my strong faith and my family, I have been coping. I am having an overwhelming feeling of anxiousness about the upcoming New Year's events. I don't want to go to any gatherings. (We usually stayed home.) I feel like going away, but where could I go without a lot of party stuff going on? Should I just stay home and deal with the reminder of the events of his stroke happening here at home? I don't know what to do. I don't want to be with anyone, but I don't want to sit around bawling my eyes out reliving the whole nightmare, either. I'm confused and don't think I am thinking clearly. I am not in some deep depression. I have accepted my husband's death, although I miss him dearly. I just feel nervous and anxious, and I don't feel like celebrating. Please help me figure this out. — **HOLIDAY BLUES IN INDIANA**

DEAR HOLIDAY BLUES: Please know that all the feelings you are experiencing are absolutely normal. It is entirely possible that from now on you will associate New Year's with your husband's death. No law says that you must celebrate this holiday. If you would prefer not to be home at this time, consider checking into a hotel and asking a close friend or family member to join you. Hopefully, as time goes by your anxiety will lessen. However, if that doesn't happen, then counseling can help you.

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced in 2001 after a 20-year marriage. They recon-

ciled a few years later, only to split up again after Dad once more had an affair with a younger woman. Dad is now living with his girlfriend, and the situation has my mother severely depressed. Mom is in poor health due to a severe heart condition. She has had multiple bypass surgeries over the last 15 years and has a defibrillator permanently implanted in her chest. And she's not even 50. Every time I speak with her or go to visit, she dwells only on the things Dad has done to her. I understand her pain, but I don't know how to help her overcome it. Words cannot express the contempt I have toward him for doing this to her again. Mom can't work because of the stress it puts on her heart. I try to get her to go out and do things, hoping it will ease her out of her depression, but she wants only to stay home, do housework and watch daytime soap operas. She has also begun smoking again against her doctor's orders. How can I help her before she works herself into another heart attack? — **HEARTSICK IN HOUSTON**

DEAR HEARTSICK: Your mother appears to be chronically depressed, and part of it may be due to her heart condition. You can't fix what ails her, but you should accompany her to see her doctor and explain what's going on. It's possible that with a combination of counseling and medication, her depression can be treated and she'll end the self-destructive lifestyle she has adopted. Because of her serious medical problems, her doctor should also be involved in her rehabilitation.

For Better Or For Worse



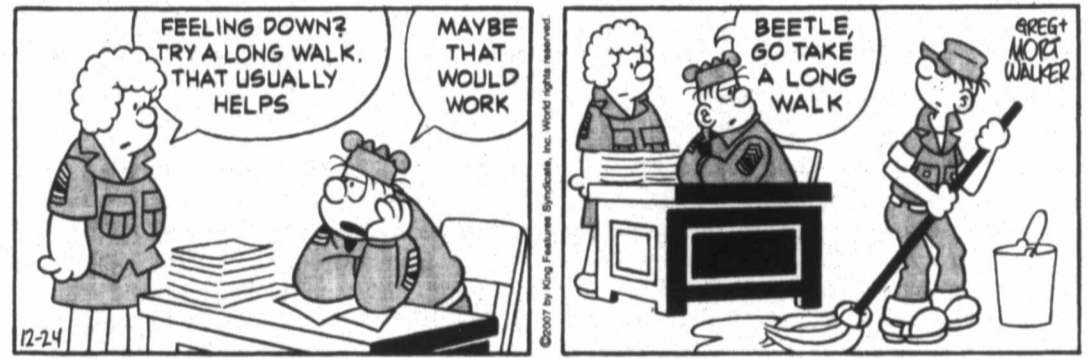
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

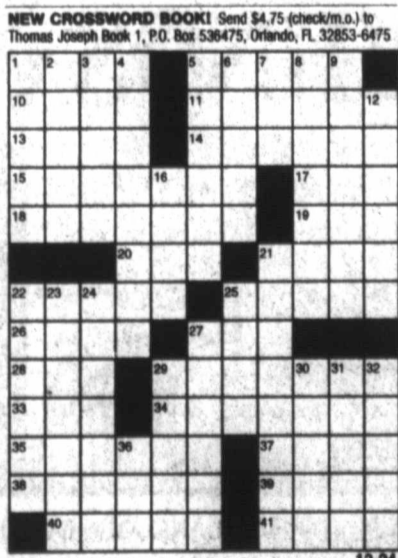


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soft mineral
 - 5 Heredity components
 - 10 Cain's brother
 - 11 Historic occasions
 - 13 Chess turn
 - 14 Lane of Broadway
 - 15 Turned outward
 - 17 Verb for you
 - 18 Fill in for
 - 19 Maiden name label
 - 20 Horse-shoe shape
 - 21 Surgery souvenir
 - 22 Jingle writer
 - 25 Convenes
 - 26 Spring shape
 - 27 Toddy base
 - 28 New England catch
 - 29 Give credence to
 - 33 Summer in NYC
 - 34 As we speak
 - 35 Jacket part
- DOWN**
- 1 Circus worker
 - 2 Higher than
 - 3 Flat
 - 4 Office-related
 - 5 Swiss city, in French
 - 6 Dodge
 - 7 Fishing aid
 - 8 August
 - 9 Eye rudely
 - 12 Looks of scorn
 - 16 Prom attendee
 - 21 Florida native
 - 22 Entry in French
 - 23 Casual art
 - 24 College exam
 - 25 Cart puller
 - 27 Change back
 - 29 Slanted edge
 - 30 Come in
 - 31 Ballot caster
 - 32 'Return of the Jedi' critters
 - 36 December 24, e.g.

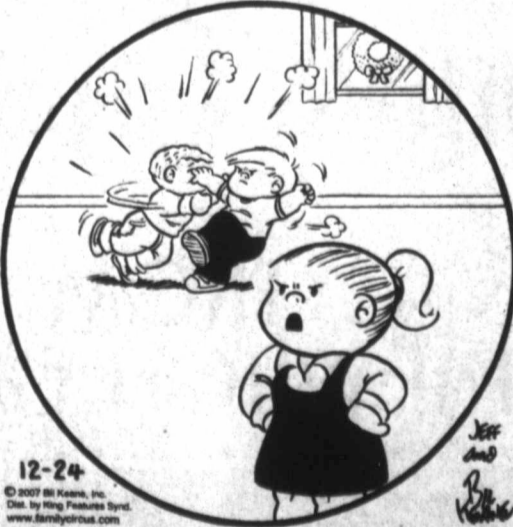


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

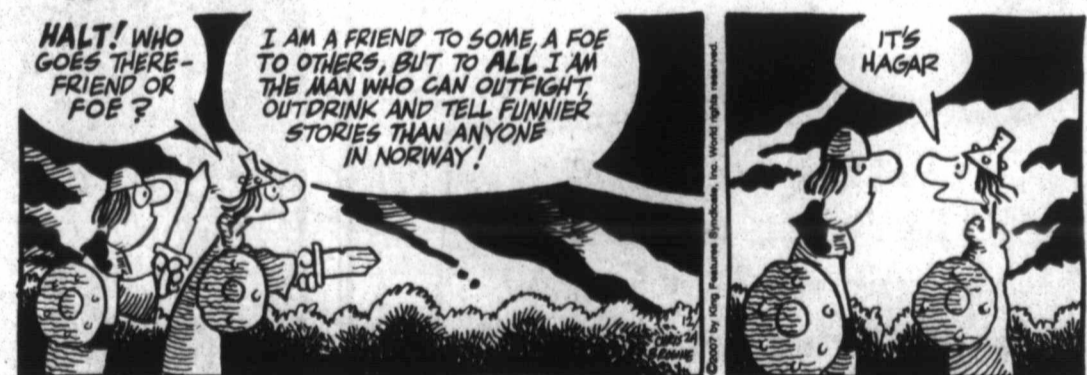
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for instructing "Pulled in Two in California" (Nov. 1) to stick by her decision to keep a troubled child out of the system. As a newly licensed educator, I find the attitude of the granddaughter to be indicative of our times. It appears the girl's mother has completely dropped the ball. Today, sadly, mediocrity is the norm. How can we expect better from our children if those who are supposed to teach them, both at home and at school, settle for so little? Grandma should stand firm. By doing so, she'll teach her granddaughter a long overdue lesson. - **TEACHER IN ALABAMA**

DEAR TEACHER: I agree with you about the importance of adults teaching by example. In this case, it could be the defining moment in her foster child's life. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was 18 when my husband's 11-year-old sister moved in with us. Their parents are convicted drug addicts who never had time for their children. I shudder to think about where "Kim" might be if we hadn't taken her. Her parents didn't make her go to school because they didn't feel like getting up to take her. She had no rules and got her own way so she would leave them alone. We had a hard time with her at first because she didn't want to follow rules. Kim is now 17, a junior in high school and has made the honor roll for the first time since she was in grammar school. She is learning that her life is not defined by her parents' actions. She's happy, healthy and well-mannered, and I'm proud of her. "Pulled in Two" is doing the right thing. Kids can't control what they're born

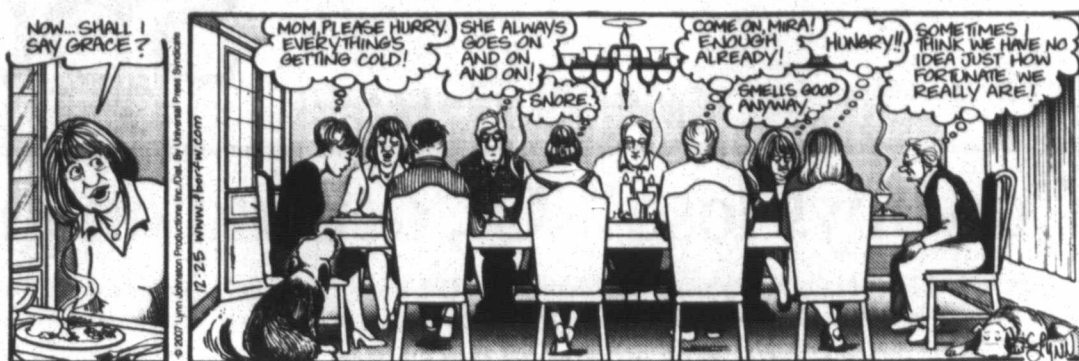
into, but we can help them control what they become by not giving up on them. - **KIM'S 23-YEAR-OLD "MOM" IN ARKANSAS**

DEAR ABBY: That grandmother needs to get herself to a foster/adoption parent support group or a therapist who specializes in adoption. Her local foster/adoption agency can provide a contact. I also suggest Adoptive Families magazine, which is online. - **DIANE IN CASTLETON, N.Y.**

DEAR ABBY: Your reply to "Pulled in Two" was excellent. It underscored that foster youth and former foster youth need stable influences in their lives. The last thing that young girl needs is for someone else to abandon her, as her mother and former best friend have. I want to make you and your readers aware of a full five-year scholarship program for former foster youth and emancipated minors. It's called Guardian Scholars, and it's at Cal State-Fullerton. The program provides housing, tuition and books to youth who would likely not otherwise have the chance to further their education. This model is being implemented on campuses throughout California and in other states as well. The success rate is excellent, and because my wife works in the program, we have had the privilege of meeting dozens of truly amazing young people. - **ROGER K., BREA, CALIF.**

TO MY CHRISTIAN READERS: A very Merry Christmas to you all!

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

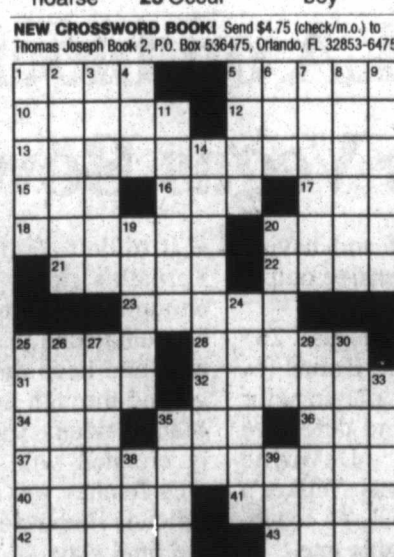


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Tendon
 - 1 Mil. sch.
 - 5 Beeper's kin
 - 10 Henry VIII's house
 - 12 Colleague of Spock and Sulu
 - 13 Military salute
 - 15 Farm animal
 - 16 Use a pew
 - 17 Winter air quality
 - 18 Store business
 - 20 Drummer Krupa
 - 21 Suit material
 - 22 Looked over
 - 23 Polygon corner
 - 25 Thyme, for one
 - 28 Orange peels
 - 31 Singer Tori
 - 32 Modern messages
 - 34 Coat rack part
 - 35 Waikiki souvenir
 - 36 Bigwig
 - 37 Now
 - 40 Marsh bird
- DOWN**
- 1 How some stocks are sold
 - 2 "Drat!"
 - 3 "—"
 - 4 Parties close to
 - 5 Finish a hole
 - 6 Cry of insight
 - 7 Hospital transport
 - 8 Regal
 - 9 Sounded hoarse
 - 20 Davis of "Beetle-juice"
 - 24 Boun-daries Carol
 - 25 Occur
 - 11 Quit
 - 14 Color
 - 19 Swift horses
 - 20 Davis of "Beetle-juice"
 - 24 Boun-daries Carol
 - 25 Occur
 - 26 Appear
 - 27 Ginger in movies
 - 29 Heavenly
 - 30 Glops
 - 33 Gushes forth
 - 35 Permits
 - 38 Fixed
 - 39 "A Christmas Carol" boy



Marmaduke



"Marmaduke's doing a search. Some of his stuff got lost in the wrappings."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"Aw, Mommy! Do I HAFTA eat Christmas breakfast?"

B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports

Cowboys lose T.O., depend on ground game in win over Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Tony Romo's sore thumb appeared fine and the Dallas Cowboys were driving down the field on the way to taking a 14-0 lead.

Then Terrell Owens sprained his left ankle. The offense stalled and the concern about Owens' overshadowed Dallas' 20-13 victory over the Panthers on Saturday night.

While Dallas (13-2) moved a step closer to clinching home-field advantage throughout the playoffs behind a solid defense and an improved running game, the Cowboys were dealing with another injury to a key offensive player.

Last week it was Romo, who bruised his right thumb and was ineffective in a loss to Philadelphia. Now it's Owens, who left in the second quarter after his left leg got caught underneath him after a catch. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones called it a high ankle sprain.

"I'm a little sore and in a little pain," Owens said. "I've been through this before. God is good. It definitely could have been worse. I

will have an MRI done (Sunday) and we'll go day to day."

The Cowboys made it 14-0 a play after Owens left, but failed to score another touchdown and were greeted with Owens wearing a boot on his left foot after the game.

Romo threw for 257 yards and a touchdown, but wasn't as effective without his top target.

"Obviously he's an explosive player who's going to obviously be missed if he's not back," Romo said. "I haven't heard anything. I don't know if he's coming back next week or what."

After the Panthers (6-9) cut it to 20-13 on John Kasay's 25-yard field goal with 3:01 left, the Panthers decided not to try an onside kick.

The Cowboys then put it away on Marion Barber's 11-yard run for a first down with 1:45 left.

Barber rushed for 110 yards on 22 carries to help Dallas match the 1992 team for the most victories in franchise history.

But despite improving to 7-0 on the road, the Cowboys struggled to

put away the Panthers, who started undrafted rookie Matt Moore for a second straight week.

Moore, who like Romo went undrafted and spent training camp with the Cowboys, threw for 182 yards. He threw his first NFL touchdown pass to Steve Smith in the second quarter, and connected with Smith on a 57-yard pass play that led to Kasay's final field goal.

But Moore was intercepted once and sacked five times, twice by DeMarcus Ware and the Cowboys' defense was strong despite the absence of Roy Williams, who was serving a one-game suspension for an illegal "horse-collar" tackle.

"I think there were some good things and there's obviously stuff to work on," Moore said. "That interception in the second half was just a bad read."

Smith caught nine passes for 137 yards, but the Panthers managed only 67 yards rushing and were officially eliminated from playoff contention.

After the game, Carolina coach John Fox refused to discuss an

NFL Network report that owner Jerry Richardson said Fox and general manager Marty Hurney would return next year despite their second straight non-winning season.

'Obviously, [Owens] is an explosive player who's going to obviously be missed if he's not back.'

— Tony Romo
Dallas Cowboys quarterback

"I won't address that or any conversations until the season is over," Fox said.

While the Panthers season will end next week, the Cowboys will clinch home-field throughout the playoffs if Green Bay loses at Chicago on Sunday.

But there are concerns about when Owens will be able to play

again. "The first round bye helps," Owens said. "I won't rush anything."

Owens, who finished with five catches for 48 yards, had his team-record 15th touchdown catch of the season in the first quarter. After grabbing a sideline hitch pass, Owens barreled over cornerback Richard Marshall for a 10-yard score and a 7-0 lead.

Owens' fifth catch midway through the second quarter was his last. After Romo's 4-yard pass near the goal line, Owens went down awkwardly after he was tackled by Jon Beason.

Agitated, Owens limped to the sideline, then later walked to the locker room. He was seen later seen walking outside the locker room without his left shoe, and he remained in the locker room for the rest of the game.

Cowboys took a 14-0 lead the play after Owens went down on Barber's 5-yard run, but struggled to score again despite a big possession advantage.

Bills injured tight end Kevin Everett attends Buffalo's home finale against N.Y. Giants

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Bills tight end Kevin Everett arrived at Ralph Wilson Stadium on Sunday morning to watch Buffalo's home season finale, less than four months since sustaining a severe spinal cord injury on the same turf.

Everett addressed teammates about two hours before the game against the Giants. He left the locker room in a wheelchair and then, on his own power, climbed into a covered golf cart before being driven up the tunnel and out of the stadium.

Everett was driven to team owner Ralph Wilson's suite at midfield, and was immediately recognized by fans and concession workers, who began applauding as he got out of the cart. Everett smiled and waved but didn't say anything.

Bills spokesman Scott Berchtold said Everett, who has spent the past 2 1/2 months rehabbing in Houston,

where he makes his offseason home, would not be available for interviews.

Everett's attendance is the latest step in a remarkable recovery after doctors initially feared he'd never walk again. Everett was paralyzed from the neck down after he was hurt tackling Denver's Domenik Hixon in Buffalo's season opener Sept. 9.

Hixon now plays for the Giants and hoped to meet with Everett at some point during the day.

Everett is now walking under his own power, and continues his rehab as an outpatient at Houston's Memorial Hermann/TIRR.

He had indicated to his teammates last month that he hoped to attend the game.

Everett was not expected to walk out on the field because of poor weather. Winds were already gusting at more than 30 mph and there was a persistent drizzle falling two hours before game

time. Snow was also in the forecast.

Everett was also reunited with Bills team doctors, including Dr. Andrew Cappuccino, the team's orthopedic surgeon, who immediately attended to the player on the field when he was hurt and operated on him at Buffalo's Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital.

Hospital spokesman Mike Hughes was delighted to learn of Everett's return to Buffalo.

"What a great testament for our nurses and doctors seeing him," Hughes said. "He is a shining example of their great care. And we have a standing offer to Kevin and his family to visit anytime. The staff here would love to see him again."

The Bills (7-7) were eliminated from playoff contention following last weekend's 8-0 loss at Cleveland. The Giants (9-5) need a win to clinch a playoff berth.

Duncan scores 34 in Spurs' 99-90 win over Los Angeles Clippers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs took advantage of the banged-up Los Angeles Clippers, and departed with an injury problem of their own.

Tim Duncan had 34 points and a season-high 18 rebounds, and the Spurs beat the undermanned Clippers 99-90 on Saturday night.

Tony Parker had 18 points in his first game back since missing four with a sprained left ankle but top reserve Manu Ginobili left in the first quarter with a sprained left index finger.

"His hand's been bothering him for a long time,"

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "The X-rays are all negative, but the ligaments are in bad shape. It's like a sprained thumb, sort of. You keep hitting it and hitting it and it never gets healed. ... He's back to square one."

San Antonio snapped a two-game skid, while the Clippers' losing streak increased to four. The teams play again Jan. 6 when the Spurs visit Los Angeles.

"I think we should take a page out of their book," said Cuttino Mobley, who scored 16 points for Los Angeles. "They move the ball a lot. A

See SPURS, Page 9B

McGrady scores 20 to lead Houston to 116-98 victory over Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rockets' bench players showed Tracy McGrady how important they can be. Then McGrady showed those guys a thing or two.

McGrady returned to the Houston lineup and had 20 points and eight assists to lead the Rockets to a 116-98 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Saturday night.

Yao Ming had 18 points and eight rebounds but sprained his right thumb in the third quarter. X-rays were negative, and Yao returned in the fourth quarter.

With the Bulls leading 28-27, the Rockets went on a 14-3 run in the second quarter with Yao and McGrady off the floor, to give the Rockets the lead for good.

"They did a great job. We found

guys on the perimeter, we exploited their weakness on the defensive end and did a great job of getting it going," said McGrady. "We're starting to turn the corner if we can get the bench to play like that."

Luther Head, a Chicago native, scored eight straight points for the Rockets during the span. He hit a 3, then went into the lane and scored on a reverse layup, and made a 3 from the right corner the next time down to give the Rockets a 41-31 lead.

Head finished with 13 points for the Rockets, and the Rockets bench outscored Chicago's 51-21.

The Bulls have lost three of their last four games and were booed throughout by the home crowd. Despite high expectations, the Bulls (9-16) have the third worst

record in the Eastern Conference.

Ben Wallace would welcome personnel changes if it would help the club.

"That's one of those things that goes along with this league," said Wallace. "Change is not always bad. If everybody wants to be here we have to step it up and go out there and play basketball."

McGrady, playing on a sore left knee that kept him out of Thursday's double overtime loss to Denver, sparked Houston in the third quarter with nine points and four assists.

Leading 68-61, Houston pulled away midway through the third quarter behind McGrady. After hitting a jumper, his penetration set up an open 3 for Shane Battier. Then McGrady made a nice pass to Luis

Scola for a layup to make it 75-61 with 4:16 left.

"It was sore a little bit when I was doing some cutting but it loosened up. I think taping it put a little pressure there and made it feel pretty good. It was fine," said McGrady.

Battier was elbowed by Luol Deng near his left eye in the first quarter. After receiving six stitches, he returned in the second quarter and finished with 14 points.

Yao was also banged up during the game.

"The first quarter I jammed my little finger and then the third quarter my (thumb). So I think it wasn't my lucky day," said Yao.

Bonzi Wells scored 20 points for the Rockets, who won for the second time in seven games and

snapped a three-game losing streak.

Kirk Hinrich led Chicago with 22 points and Deng added 21 points and seven rebounds.

"We have to do a better job of playing for each other. At times, it looks like if we are playing like we're strangers. We need to care more about each other and play for each other," said Wallace.

"You can't go out there and play for the fans, you can't go out there and do it for the coaches, you got to do it for each other, we got to respect each other enough to give it are all every night and until we start doing that we're always going to struggle."

The Bulls were outrebounded 50-34. Scola led the Rockets with 11 rebounds and 14 points.

San Antonio Spurs retire Avery Johnson's No. 6

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs retired the No. 6 worn by former Spurs player Avery Johnson on Saturday night.

The 5-foot-11 Johnson, now the coach of the Dallas Mavericks, spent parts of 10 seasons with the Spurs during his 16-year career and was part of the 1999 championship team. His 18-foot jumper with 47 seconds to play in Game 5 against the New York Knicks was the final basket of the game and led to a 78-77 Spurs win and their first title.

"I've accomplished a lot during my 16-year career and I think this is really going to cap it off," Johnson said before the ceremony.

Following a big-screen tribute to Johnson featuring his crucial jumper in the 1999 finals, a gigantic No. 6 jersey reading "Johnson" and "1991-2007" was unveiled from behind a black cloth high in the rafters of the AT&T Center.

Johnson, nicknamed the "Little General" both for his height and competitive nature, was with his wife, Cassandra, and two children, Christianne and Avery Jr., for the ceremony Saturday.

He was also presented a large, framed No. 6 jersey.

Johnson's 10 years with the Spurs were played in three different stints; the longest was from 1994-2001. He went undrafted in 1988 and started his career in Seattle. Johnson, who retired in October 2004, also spent time with Denver, Houston, Golden State and Dallas. He won the league's sportsmanship award in 1998.

"I can't imagine anything sweeter and I can't imagine it happening to anybody who has given more to our organization, to the city and to me personally," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "He was a heck of a player, he's now a heck of a coach. ... No matter what happens, no matter where he is, he's a San Antonio Spur."

BYU edges UCLA on blocked field goal in Las Vegas Bowl

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Eathyn Manumaleuna and Brett Denney blocked a field goal as time expired to give No. 19 BYU a 17-16 victory over UCLA on Saturday night in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Kai Forbath made field goals of 52 and 50 yards to keep the Bruins in it and UCLA drove almost the length of the field in the final 2 minutes to line up Forbath for the potential winner. But Manumaleuna and Denney led a surge by the defensive line for the block and the Cougars got their first win over the Bruins since Steve Young was the quarterback.

Max Hall threw for two touchdowns and the Cougars (11-2) closed the season with their 10th straight win despite getting shut out in

the second half and having their lowest offensive output of the year.

BYU managed just 265 yards against the Bruins (6-7), who were playing for interim coach and defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker. If it was Walker's only game as UCLA's coach, it was a memorable one.

The Bruins forced two turnovers, pressured Hall all game and nearly pulled off the upset with their fourth-string quarterback.

Walk-on McLeod Bethel-Thompson drove the Bruins from their own 2 in the final 2 minutes, completing a 36-yard pass to Logan Paulsen on a third-and-8 play with 30 seconds left to give UCLA a chance at finishing with a winning record.

It didn't quite happen. Forbath's kick was low enough for Denney and Manumaleuna to get a piece of it and keep the ball from getting through the uprights. Manumaleuna was originally credited with the block, then Denney was added after officials reviewed replays of the final play.

BYU improved to 2-7 against UCLA, beating the Bruins for the first time since 1983 when Young passed for 270 yards and two touchdowns. The Cougars also avenged a 27-17 loss to UCLA in the second week of the season, one of just two losses this year for BYU.

The Cougars won the Las Vegas Bowl for the second straight year.

Hail Mary sparks Katy over Pflugerville 28-7 for 5A D-II title

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Bo Levi Mitchell threw three touchdown passes, including a Hail Mary on the last play of the first half, to lead Katy past Pflugerville 28-7 in the Class 5A Division II championship game Saturday night.

Mitchell's 45-yard Hail Mary toss to Brian Rowe started a 28-point spurt by Katy in less than seven minutes, including a 66-yard touchdown run by Aundre-Dean, who had 221 yards on 30 carries and was named MVP.

The Tigers won their fifth state title with their second 16-0 season since 2000. It was their fourth title in the last decade. Pflugerville (12-4) is 0-2 in title games after losing in its first appearance since 1970.

Katy's 28-point spurt came a week after the Tigers scored 52 straight points to turn a 14-14 tie against San Antonio Madison into a 66-21 victory.

Trailing 7-0 with eight seconds left in the first half, Katy was going to punt on fourth-and-20 from the Pflugerville 45, but Katy coaches changed their minds after Pflugerville called time-out. On the Hail Mary, Mitchell's pass went about 55 yards in the air and was tipped in a crowd by Joey Fuda and floated into the arms of Rowe about a yard deep in the end zone.

"We were about to play it safe and punt," Mitchell said. "But we said 'This is the state championship. We've got to go for it.' We came to the sideline and we were (saying), 'Throw it, throw it, throw it.'"

Katy carried that momentum into the second half with three consecutive four-play scoring drives.

Dean started it with his long touchdown, then consecutive three-and-out possessions for Pflugerville were followed by touchdown passes from Mitchell, who threw for 142 yards. The first was a 24-yarder to Fuda. The second went 40 yards to Terrence Avie, who made the catch and got both feet in just inside the pylon.

"We just needed the momentum going in (at halftime)," Dean said. "We were a little bit down because we usually put up points. We knew we played a real bad half and made some mistakes."

Canadian defense holds up at state

By JORDAN REAGAN Sports Editor

The Canadian Wildcats celebrated a come-from-behind win at the Class 2A Division II championship game Saturday in Brownwood, claiming their first state championship in school history.

Their opponent, Elysian Fields had a 13-0 advantage getting into the first quarter, but the Wildcats' defense took the time to figure out how to work against the Yellow Jackets.

In an effort to undo their early deficit and take a lead over Elysian Fields,

Canadian defenders held the Yellow Jackets to no more points in the first half as they claimed 33 of their own to take a 20 point lead at halftime.

In a good attempt to take back their lead, Elysian Fields scored two more touchdowns after halftime, but Canadian scored one last touchdown to seal the win late in the game.

Canadian defeated Elysian Fields 40-25.

With both teams going into the game with a 14-1 record, Canadian improved to end their season with a record of 15-1 overall.

Indy's offense produces 38 straight points in win over Houston

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts wanted Sunday to be a playoff tuneup. Instead, the Super Bowl champs turned it into an offensive showcase.

Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes, Joseph Addai and Clifton Dawson ran for TDs, and the Colts scored on six of their first eight possessions in a 38-15 rout of Houston.

In what was likely to be the last significant action for Indy's starters until mid-January when the AFC's No. 2 seed will play in the divisional round of the playoffs, Manning

& Co. finished with 458 yards, scored 38 unanswered points and won their sixth in a row.

The Super Bowl MVP was 28-of-35 for 311 yards with a rating of 132.3 before leaving late in the third quarter. Three Indy running backs — Addai, Dawson and Kenton Keith — combined to give the Colts (13-2) their first 100-yard rushing day since Thanksgiving night, and Dallas Clark broke the single-season franchise records for receptions and touchdown catches by a tight end.

Clark caught six passes for 60

yards and two TDs, giving him 57 receptions for 661 yards and 11 TDs this season. Hall-of-Famer John Mackey held the previous records of 55 receptions and nine TDs.

It wasn't just the offense.

Bob Sanders, Matt Giordano and Melvin Bullitt all had interceptions, and the Colts defense — playing for the second straight week without any of this season's projected starters on the defensive line — allowed Houston to drive as deep as the Colts 40 only once in the first three quarters.

For Houston (7-8), trying to win a franchise record eighth game, it was downright ugly.

Sage Rosenfels was 22-of-36 for 233 yards and three interceptions, including one in the Colts' end zone, after opening the game with a 17-yard TD pass to Kevin Walter.

Not everything went perfectly for the five-time AFC South champs, though.

They Colts lost tight end Ben Utecht with a shoulder injury and receiver Anthony Gonzalez with a bruised foot in the first half. Defensive back Tim Jennings also

left in the final minute of the game. None of the three returned and coach Tony Dungy did not have an immediate update on the severity of their injuries.

Addai played only sparingly after the first quarter after he reportedly sustained back and shoulder injuries, a report later denied by Colts spokesman Craig Kelley who said he was out because of a coach's decision.

Afterward, Dungy said Addai and Gonzalez could have returned. Still, it was hard to quibble with what the Colts accomplished.

Clemens repeats steroids denials, will interview on '60 Minutes'

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens posted a video repeating his denials of steroids use and will interview with "60 Minutes" to answer questions about allegations against him in the Mitchell Report.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner was accused in the report of using steroids, an allegation made by his former trainer.

In October last year, the Los Angeles Times reported Clemens was linked to steroids in the May 2006 sworn statement of a federal agent who cited former big league pitcher Jason Grimsley. At the time, the names of players in the public version had been blacked out. When the full affidavit was unsealed Thursday, Clemens' name was not in it, and the paper issued a correction and an apology.

"I faced this last year when the L.A. Times reported that I used steroids. I said it was not true then, and now the whole world knows it's not true, now that that's come out," Clemens said in the video, which was posted Sunday on the Web site of his foundation and on YouTube.

George Mitchell, a director of the Boston Red Sox and a former Senate majority leader, wrote in his report that former Toronto and New

York Yankees strength coach Brian McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids in 1998 while with the Blue Jays, and in 2000 and 2001 while with the Yankees. McNamee also claimed he injected Clemens with Human Growth Hormone in 2000.

"Let me be clear, the answer is no. I did not use steroids, or human growth hormone and I've never done so," Clemens said. "I did not provide Brian McNamee with any drugs to inject in to my body. Brian McNamee did not inject steroids or Human Growth Hormones into my body either when I played in Toronto for the Blue Jays or the New York Yankees. This report is simply not true."

Baseball players and owners did not jointly ban steroids until September 2002. They did not ban HGH until January 2005.

While Clemens has released a written and video statement since Mitchell issued his report on Dec. 13, he has not answered questions.

"After Christmas, I'm going to sit down with Mike Wallace of '60 Minutes,' and I'll do an interview, and he'll ask me a ton of questions on this subject, and I'll answer them right there in front of him."

Spurs

Continued from Page 8B

lot of randoms. Teams can't think as fast when you go random."

Rookie Al Thornton led the Clippers with 25 points in his second career start. Chris Kaman added 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Los Angeles was down by 14 heading into the final quarter, but cut it to 85-74 with 7:56 left on Qinton Ross' fastbreak layup. Kaman followed with a jumper to get Los Angeles within nine.

The Spurs built the lead back up to 14, but an 8-0 Clippers run, starting with a reverse layup by Kaman, made it 92-86 with 1:40 to play.

"The second half our guys really came out and competed," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said.

Duncan's three-point play, plus another pair of free throws with 43 seconds to go, helped put the game out of reach.

"He played great tonight. He was aggressive," Parker said of Duncan. "He went to the basket, got a lot of rebounds, a lot of offensive rebounds. He had a great game."

While the Spurs were slowed by injuries, the Clippers had it far worse. Sam Cassell was back for the first time since Nov. 26 after sitting out with a strained left calf, but Tim Thomas sprained his left knee in the first quarter and left the game. The

team said Thomas will undergo an MRI exam on Monday.

Starting forward Corey Maggette also sat out Saturday with a sore right knee.

"I thought he was totally fine last night and today ... I set him in the starting lineup in the meeting and then the trainer this afternoon said he couldn't play," Dunleavy said.

The coach said he was pleased with the Clippers' effort.

"Losing two guys to injuries, a lot of guys would have just folded," he said. "You go through a lot of things physically. You're on a road trip before Christmas. Guys go down. You could easily start feeling sorry for yourself. ... But our guys came out and they really got after it."

Even before Thomas' injury, the Clippers were already missing Shaun Livingston and Elton Brand. Paul Davis also is out indefinitely after hurting his right knee in Friday's loss in Dallas.

Cassell had six points in 9 minutes in his return.

Ime Udoka, who logged extra minutes due to Ginobili's early exit Saturday, scored a season-high 17 points. Michael Finley scored 10 for San Antonio.

Tributes to former Spurs player and current Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson played during time-outs Saturday. Johnson's No. 6 was retired in a ceremony following the game. The Spurs outscored the Clippers in the paint 52-30.

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007:

Let others strut their stuff this year, even if a side of you would like to steal the limelight more often. You have nothing to prove, as you will discover. You are starting a new, loving life cycle. Your abilities make you a star. You will shine through any haze. You have much to share. Friends support you in nearly any idea or project. Let your immediate horizons open up. If you are single, be more open to that person who could be a touch different. Your popularity will soar. If you are attached, give your sweetie plenty of one-on-one time. He or she will need it, as you keep seizing the limelight. LEO reads you cold.

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)

★★★★ Family and your immediate loved ones dominate, as they should. Indulge a loved one with attention and caring when others are distracted. You have the skill to squeeze everyone in. You will do just that. Tonight: Express your feelings freely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be a touch too busy to stop and share with everyone, but you do a great job at squeezing in others. Your attention means more than you know. Center on what is important and make strong choices. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Watch a tendency to lose the true meaning of this holiday with the swirl of

action and gifts. Slow down and take time to simmer or center. Reach out for others and make that extra effort. Your words do mean a lot, but save them for later. Tonight: Speak, share and smile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your energy helps many. You certainly are the sign that most appreciates holidays and family. You share and lift others' spirits. Investigate someone's need to be possessive or have his or her way. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Though mildly out of sorts, you can decide to make the best of the moment. Understand what is happening within your immediate circle. Share special feelings. You revive post-happenings and beam. Are you feeling relieved or well cared about? Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Use the early hours of the holiday to express your depth and caring. You beam, and so do others, simply because they are around you. Take some personal or quiet time toward the end of the day. Tonight: Give a personal thank-you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to touch base with quite a few people but have limited energy and time. Listen to your inner voice. Do your best. Remember a special friend later in the day. He or she might be alone. Tonight: Zero in on that special person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Make a point of staying tuned into the spiritual meaning of this holiday; you could be so overwhelmed otherwise. Others look to you for direction and meaning. Give them just that. Tonight:

Up late visiting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Defer and understand. Share your time with others, but independently. Think in terms of adding that special caring with others. If you're feeling upset, save it. You can clear the air later on. Tonight: Touch base with those at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others continue to maintain their high profile. You might have no choice but to sit back. Make special time for a loved one. Express your depth and caring. Help someone who might feel uncomfortable. Tonight: Time with your very favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Chip in and help someone with a problem. Examine what needs to happen more carefully. Listen to a child who might be overwhelmed with excitement. Help others relax. Step in and help out. Tonight: Enjoy the remaining glow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Be more kidlike and get into the holiday. Don't let your mind or judgment interfere with the mirth and joy that surround this day. Others appreciate your depth and feelings. Do share. Tonight: If you're tired, slow down.

BORN TODAY

Singer Jimmy Buffet (1946), actor Humphrey Bogart (1899), screen writer Rod Serling (1924)

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

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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007:

You have the unusual capacity to draw out the best in others. Often people want to be with you, and just you. Making time for all the many people in your life might be an issue this year! Deal carefully with a partner or key loved one who might become jealous or reactive. Never forget the stars in your life, and keep these people high on your priority list. You will have a deep, meaningful, intimate relationship this year. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone who fits the job description! If you are attached, again, make your marriage a top priority, and then you and your sweetie will be happy. LEO zeros in on essential questions.

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)

★★★★ Your creativity bubbles forth in this more relaxed mood. You are happy to be past the big holiday. Consider what needs to happen. Extremes punctuate others' moods. Work on being mellow, as others seem a touch out of control. Tonight: Time for more love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind, but if you're angry, try to calm down before starting a conversation. You know what works. How you approach a family member can make or break a situation. Express your big spirit. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You still might be spreading Christmas cheer. How nice, but look at

your calendar, my dear Twin. It is time for New Year's resolutions. Help others form theirs, and you will find yours in the process. Tonight: Thank-you-note time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ If you want, you might share more of yourself. Often you don't realize how much your presence offers. Try it out. You'll find that others react very positively. Consider your immediate options far more carefully. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You certainly are in the pink. Because you are rested, you could act on strong feelings if you aren't careful. Remember, anger stems from hurt. Try to express the softer feelings. You will discover that the other person is responsive. Tonight: As you like. (It's about time!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Know when to back up and take a timeout. Ask yourself if you want to greet 2008 in prime form. If you do, you know what to do. Others might also be a touch cranky. Don't take it personally. This too will pass. Tonight: Live it up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Knowing what you want allows you to seize the moment. Others scatter left and right. Take charge and use your sense of direction. Know your exact desired outcome, and start visualizing it. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ If you are thinking that responsibilities always drop on you, you are not far from wrong. Knowing when to turn down a chore, errand or project might be important, not only for you but for the other person. Tonight: Adapt to a change in plans or mind-set.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Visualization allows you to relax. Even better might be taking off for a few days. Some of you might dive into a great book. Whatever the case, you need an escape. Detach from the immediate frenzy or situation. Tonight: Let your body follow your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ How you follow through and what you do could make a big difference with others. If someone is complaining, don't react. Listen. A conversation might prove to be healing. Success lies in working with people individually. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others seek you out. A need to cover a lot of ground or accomplish a lot could be making you less than gregarious. Do stop, at least for a moment. Are your priorities in order? Only then can you come up with answers. Tonight: Be that special friend to someone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Prioritize. If you still see a problem between what you need to do and the hours in a day, tap into your creativity. You might be surprised by some ideas that bubble forth. Curb a child's wildness. Tonight: Early to bed, if possible.

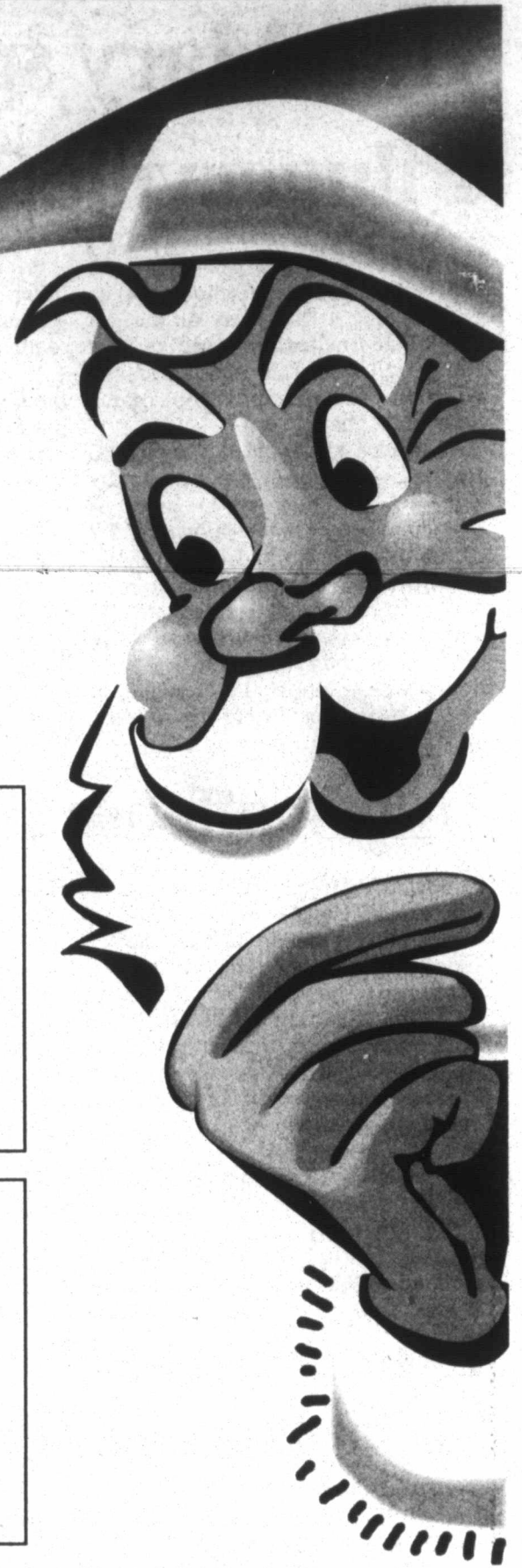
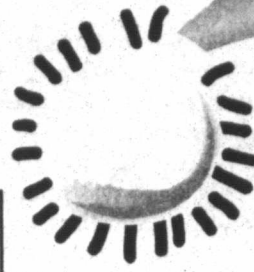
BORN TODAY

Author Henry Miller (1891), producer Phil Spector (1939), considered "father of the computer" Charles Babbage (1791)


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

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Baby's First Christmas




Briley and McKinley Daniels
Born... June 25, 2007



Parents...
Kyle & Theresa Daniels

Grandparents...
Glen & Anita Smith
Donnie & Karen Daniels


Carson Brandt Allen
Born... April 3, 2007



Parents...
John & Ashley Allen

Grandparents...
Lynn & Becky Willis
Kerry Allen
Roger & Debbie Allen

Zoe Kathryn Downs
Born... February 14, 2007




Parents...
Jeremiah & Keely Downs

Brothers...
Jesse & Ayden

Grandparents...
Keith & Beverly Taylor
Kathy Topper
Mark Topper
Johnny & Brenda Downs

Kennedy Logan Woods
Born... August 8, 2007




Parents...
Keith & ReDonn Woods

Sisters...
Autumn & McKenzie

Grandparents...
Regina Woods
Cindy & Dwayne Hall
Monty & Pat Elkins
Mike & Mona Woods

Tegan Rowe
Born... September 8, 2007



Parent...
Samantha Rowe

Grandparents...
Dennis & Fannie Hilburn
Johnny Rowe
Gerald & Karen Scott

Kenli Rae Johnson
Born... August 15, 2007




Parents...
Kim Ma & Ken Johnson

Brothers...
Brandon Boyd
Kolbye Johnson

Sisters...
Tiffany Garrison
Stephanie Boyd
Chelsea Ma
Lindsey Ma
Courtney Ma

Jake Johnson Miller
Born... June 3, 2007



Parents...
Kelly & Lana Miller

Sisters...
Courtney, Krysten,
Cashion, Jetta

Grandparents...
Ken & Carol Miller
Doug & Marty Morrison
Lee & the late Karen Young


Christoff Dietrich Von Keller
Born... November 16, 2007



Parents...
Cherie & Chris Keller

Grandparents...
Leo Keller
Dorina Beason
Diana Bichsel
Harold Gassaway

Kaleb Aaron Steadman
Born... December 11, 2007




Parents...
John & Amber Steadman

Grandparents...
Chalena Freeman
Terry & Debbie Steadman
Connie & Frank Chapin

Cousins...
Michael Tanner & Amber


Cameron Trey Johnston
Born... October 25, 2007



Parents...
Brandon Johnston & Shaylyn Garner

Grandparents...
John & Sheri Worthington
Terry & Melissa Garner

Brayden Cloud
Born... July 27, 2007




Parents...
Katie & Jeff Cloud

Sister...
Alec

Grandparents...
Stacy Hamilton
Pam & Tommy Bowers
Cel & Alan Cloud
David Hamilton & Joann Ondrovik

Brianna NaKay Cloud
Born... February 28, 2007




Parents...
Ryan Cloud & Holly Buczniski

Sister...
Audrey Leger

Grandparents...
Roy & Rolinda Hoskinson
Tommy & Pam Bowers
Alan & Cel Cloud

Jake Anthony Martinez
Born... August 8, 2007



Parents...
Andrew & Tiffeni Martinez

Grandparents...
Gary & Jeena Jones
Bobby & Rita Martinez


Masie Lea Nickole Furgerson
Born... October 10, 2007



Parents...
Mase & Addie Furgerson

Grandparents...
Mase & Hazel Furgerson
Lanette Heuer & Roger Willis
Keith Lavrenz

Joshua John Hendricks
Born... July 18, 2007




Parents...
Danny & Lori Hendrics

Brothers...
Bryce, Alec, Jackson

Sister...
Emily

Grandparents...
Judy Sutton
Roxanna & Dan Hendrics

Reese Elizabeth Nelson
Born... May 31, 2007




Parents...
Monty & Grace Nelson

Sister...
Molly Nelson

Grandparents...
Judy Sutton
Elva Nelson

Daxton Alan Joshua Dallas
Born... July 13, 2007




Parent...
Adeena Dallas

Grandparents...
Alan & Tami Dallas

Great Grandparents...
Earl & the late
Mary Jane Dallas
Charles & Roseann Gown

Layla Lynn Smith
Born... May 8, 2007




Parents...
Michael Smith & Holly Rose

Brother...
Kayden

Grandparents...
Ron & Tracy Smith
Jimmy & Cathy Baggett
Rogie & Vicky Rose

Jacob Charles Smith
Born... October 6, 2007




Parents...
Greg Smith & Alicia Baze

Brother...
Zach

Grandparents...
Ron & Tracy Smith
Jimmy & Cathy Baggett
Patsy Bonner
Johnny Bonner

Cambree Taylor Brown
Born... March 9, 2007



Parents...
Clint & Carissa Brown

Grandparents...
Eldon & Christie Eads
Don & Darla Brown

Kaden Willaim Sellers
Born... June 28, 2007




Parents...
Keith & Shelley Sellers

Brother...
Dasen

Grandparents...
Butch & Liz Sellers
Will & Sherry Hahn

Great Grandparents...
Ruby Sellers
Nan Hahn
Doris Swan

Victor Reshawn Jones
Born... November 1, 2007

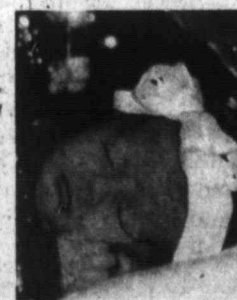


Parent...
Patricia Jones

Grandparents...
Sue Jones & the late
Victor Jones

God Parents...
Patty & Doug Shoffner
Janie & Don Ford


Brooklyn Elise Blain
Born... December 6, 2007



Parents...
Rick & Stormie Blain

Grandparents...
Dick & Becky Blain
Darrel & Belinda Martin
Brenda & Rod Donaldson
David & Chris Watkins

Britten Michael Joyce
Born... January 18, 2007




Parents...
Mike & Jami Joyce

Sisters...
Madison, Bailey, Morgan

Grandparents...
Warren & Kathy Miller
Great Grandparent...
Jere Eisenhour


Rhett Payne
Born... July 18, 2007



Parents...
Kelley & Mark Payne

Grandparents...
Randy & Pam Harris
Booty & Beverly Payne

Lily Ann Jones
Born... November 30, 2007



Parents...
Melisa & Burton Jones

Brother...
Madox

Grandparents...
Scott & Cindy Moore
Mike & Sharon Price
Brenda Scissons

Reese Beckham
Born... June 28, 2007




Parents...
Ashlee & Steve Beckham

Sister...
Raegan

Grandparents...
Phyllis & Justin Beckham
Roger David
Peggy McGuire

Lily Rebecca Cirone
Born... June 25, 2007



Parents...
Joe & Stacy Cirone

Grandparents...
Jim & Teresa Cirone
Jim & Rebecca Downey

THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIED

IT'S EASY ... PLACE YOUR AD BY TELEPHONE

669-2525 OR 800-687-3348

VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

POLICIES... We ask that you check your ad after its first insertion for mistakes. THE PAMPA NEWS is not responsible for more than ONE incorrect insertion or omission on any ad ordered for more than one insertion. Requests for corrections should be made within 24 hours of the first publication. The publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or properly classify any copy.

NOTICE... 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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FOR RATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL 669-2525

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\$17.00

8 LINES FOR 4 DAYS
\$20.00

DAYS MUST BE CONSECUTIVE

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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FAX 806-669-2520

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14b Appli. Repair

CALL TODAY! We repair appliances in your home. Washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers. **806-341-7170**. Can haul off old appliances. Stan's Appliance

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Re-placement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service. carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563
COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

14n Painting

INVITATION TO BID
Caprock Apts. is accepting bids for a paint contractor. 5-10 apts per month. Sq. ft. is 519-1053. Bid should be with and without ceilings. Paint is furnished by the apts. To qualify to bid, contractor must have valid General Liability insurance. Worker's comp insurance is applicable and references. Fax bids to 1-866-311-7899. Bids accepted until Jan. 7, 2008.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new constr., & septic sys.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

19 Situations

HOUSECLEANING, private home care sitting. References avail. Call Susan Q's, 779-8853.

WILL do child care in my home. Call 669-2634.

21 Help Wanted

BRITKARE Home Medical seeks a DME Tech for our Pampa location. Responsibilities incl. delivery, set-up, cleaning and pick up of DME equip., supplemental oxygen and supplies to home care patients. Requirements for the position are good driving record; pass drug screen, ability to lift 150 lbs. Salary DOE, hours are M-F, 9-6 w/ alternating on-call. For immediate consideration please fax resume or appli. to Jennifer Bouersa, 806-351-0071.

POTTER TRUCKING, INC.
DUMAS, BORGER, PAMPA, TEXAS
AREAS
Equal Opportunity Employer
Call 806-935-6385 for Application

- **\$14 / hr Plus for Experienced Qualified Drivers
- **Retirement
- **Vacations
- **Health Ins., Dental, Vision, Disability, Life, Partial Insurance Paid on Wife and Children
- **DOT Medical, Uniforms
- **Home Every Night
- **YOU MUST HAVE
- **CDL W/ Hazmat and Tanker
- **Good Driving Record
- **Previous Employment Record
- **Clear Drug & Alcohol Record
- **DOT Physical

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE
Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

DRIVERS / Career Training: Average \$40K+ with Central Refrigerated! Professional CDL Training! We employ and finance! www.centraldrivingjobs.net 1-800-567-3867.

PARKVIEW Hospital now accepting appli. for Full-Time Registered Nurse, for the 7pm-7am shift. Competitive salary. Exc. benefits. Mileage pd. Call Sue Stiles, DON, or apply in person, 901 Sweetwater St., Wheeler, Tx., 806-826-1370.

KFC is hiring for all positions and all shifts. Apply in person, at 2201 N. Hobart. No phone calls please!

PARKVIEW Hospital now accepting appli. for Full-Time Nursing Asst. for the 3pm-11pm shift, and Part-Time Nursing Asst. for 11pm-7am shift. Competitive salary. Exc. benefits. Mileage pd. Call Sue Stiles, DON, or apply in person, 901 Sweetwater St., Wheeler.

Front Office / Insurance Team Members Needed In a Busy Chiropractic Office. Put Your "People Skills" To Work! Fax resume to (806)665-0537

JANITOR - full & part-time job. No experience needed, will train. To apply call, 665-2667.

NEED Office Assistant. Apply at 800 N. Nelson, Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm. No phone calls please.

NEED handyman for different properties. Plumbing a plus! Must have own tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson, Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm. No phone calls please.

PART-TIME Provider needed for Pampa patients. Above average pay. Nurses By Prescription, 806-355-1899.

NEEDED: DRIVER w/ CDL-B, Hazmat, Tanker, Airbrakes endorsements. M-F, ins., 401K, home nightly. Call 806-683-5649 or 806-440-1505

GREAT Part Time job for dependable hard worker buffing local supermarket floors nightly. \$40 per night. Call 1-888-535-9319.

21 Help Wanted

FT RN needed at Parkview Hospital Home Health, Wheeler. Please contact Susan Leffew, RN, Director, at 806.826.1370 or you can pick up application at 306 E. 9th, Wheeler, TX.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20 / hr. or \$57K annually including Federal benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacation, FT / PT. 1-866-483-6490. USWA.

KOYOTE Trucking needs Full-Time flat-bed truck driver. 2 years driving exp. req. 806-665-0984.

DirectTV Satellite Installers Needed! We need full-time, hard working individuals with strong customer service skills. We provide excellent wages, medical/dental/vision/401K benefits, PAID TRAINING & Free DTV! Call 800.411.4374 or go to www.premiercomm.com for further info.

BANK Of Commerce of McLean is presently taking applications for a full-time Customer Service Rep. Please come by 201 N. Main for an appli.

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR TUBULAR PURCHASING position. Previous exp. a plus. Computer exp. req. ONLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS NEED APPLY! Excellent benefits. Appli. / resumes being accepted at W-B Supply Co., 111 Naida St., PO Drawer 2479, Pampa, EOE.

NEED Part-Time Shift Leaders & Drivers. Apply in person 1500 N. Banks, Pampa.

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

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOLIDAY MATTRESS SPECIAL Mattress Set w/4" pillow-top Q-\$399, K-\$459 20 yr. war. Free Layaway 806-677-0400

USED Clothes Dryers for sale. Guaranteed. \$50-\$100. Call 662-7557.

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21 Help Wanted

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is now hiring servers, & dishwashers. Apply in person! No Phone Calls.

NURSES Unlimited, Inc. is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing attendants to assist clients in their home with personal care, meal prep, light housekeeping. P-T. EOE. CALL 1-888-859-0631.

BUFFET City, 518 N. Hobart, dishwasher needed. Apply in person.



Taylor Food Mart is now hiring Sales Associate, Asst. Managers, Manger Trainees at all Pampa locations. Please contact 806-379-9000, or apply at 1324 N. Hobart or online at: taylorfoodmart.com

TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service needs Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd.

WHEELER - Nursing & Rehab has Nurse aide openings-all shifts. Will train & certify competitive pay, shift differential. Apply in person, 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler, TX. See Donna Cox DON or Angie Kincannon ADON.

WAIT STAFF needed. Apply in person, Pizza Hut, 855 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

NEED Part-Time Shift Leaders & Drivers. Apply in person 1500 N. Banks, Pampa.

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

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOLIDAY MATTRESS SPECIAL Mattress Set w/4" pillow-top Q-\$399, K-\$459 20 yr. war. Free Layaway 806-677-0400

USED Clothes Dryers for sale. Guaranteed. \$50-\$100. Call 662-7557.

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69 Misc.

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

2 SEATER Go Kart, like new Bio Force home gym, very new Hot Springs hot tub. Just in time for Christmas! Call 440-4072 for more info.

BUNK beds, bdr. furniture, dinettes, desks, refrigerator \$175, much more. Red Barn, Sat. 10-5 or by appt. 665-2767.

BLUE STEM GRASS HAY FOR SALE \$35 ROUND BALE 806-883-2152

PUPPIES, shots & wormed. Cocker, Pugs, Papillons, Bichons, Basets, Sm. Chihuahua, Dachshund, White Schnauzer. e-mail pics & deliver. 1-800-655-4688, cell 580-497-7526.

TOY sz. ma. Multi-Poo puppy \$425. Mini apricot, white, tri-color Multi-Poo puppies, \$375. 486-1017

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WHEELER - Nursing & Rehab has Nurse aide openings-all shifts. Will train & certify competitive pay, shift differential. Apply in person, 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler, TX. See Donna Cox DON or Angie Kincannon ADON.

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96 Unfurn. Apts.

PAMPA MANOR SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828

THE Schneider House, now leasing apts. Seniors or disabled, utilities included. Stop by 120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.

98 Unfurn. Houses 2 and 3 bdr. homes in Pampa. References req. Security deposit req. 610-929-1761.

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

STORAGE Units For Rent at 1246 S. Barnes, Pampa. 806-669-6301.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823.

103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

FSBO, 406 E. Kingsmill, \$43,000 obo. 408 E. Kingsmill \$6000 obo. For more info, 806-664-1093.

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

LRG. 1 bdr. house \$1000 down, \$300 mo. 1416 E. Browning. Call 662-7557.

OWNER FINANCE Low Down & Payment 1333 Garland 3 bdr., 313 Miami 2 bdr., 341 Miami 3 or 4 bd. Habla Espanol Call Joe 806-336-1740

Owner Finance! 1018 Duncan 1333 Garland both 2 bdr., 1 ba. Bad Credit Ok! EZ Terms 665-4595

105 Acreage 4 acres for rent or lease. Perfect for animals or equipment storage. Call 664-2655 or 665-6600.

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

Kentucky Fried Chicken in Pampa is looking for an Assistant Manager. Must be available for all shifts! \$26,000 per year plus Bonus. Please fax resume to 1-866-315-4709

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2700 Duncan	\$365,000	4/2.5/2 - 3830 SF/GCAD
210 W. Harvester	\$290,000	5/3.75/2 - 3262 SF/GCAD
1 Cypress Point Rd	\$245,900	3/2/2 - 2000 SF/Approx.
2325 Beech	\$211,999	3/2.75/2 - 2993 SF/GCAD
2336 Duncan	\$195,000	3/3/2 - 2778 SF/GCAD
2011 Mary Ellen	\$169,500	3/2.5/2 - 2730 SF/GCAD
101 E. 26th	\$158,900	3/1.75/2 - 2687 SF/GCAD
2120 N. Charles	\$148,500	3/1.75/2 - 1861 SF/GCAD
1228 Charles	\$145,000	3/1.75/2 - 2912 SF/GCAD
2228 Mary Ellen	\$134,000	3/1.75/1 - 2021 SF/GCAD
2725 Cherokee	\$130,000	3/2/2 - 1813 SF/GCAD
129 E. 27th St.	\$130,000	4/1.75/2 - 1467 SF/GCAD
2325 Fir St.	\$125,500	3/2/2 - 1727 SF/GCAD
1505 Williston	\$125,000	4/2/1 - 2277 SF/GCAD
1532 N. Christy	\$117,500	3/1.75/2 - 1450 SF/GCAD
2100 Christine	\$89,500	4/1.5/2 - 1703 SF/GCAD
2200 Duncan	\$82,000	4/1.5/2 - 1912 SF/GCAD
2231 Mary Ellen	\$59,900	3/1/1cpt - 1386 SF/GCAD
1125 Duncan	\$53,000	3/2/1 - 1828 SF/Ownr.
1420 Hamilton	\$52,500	4/2/1 - 1377 SF/GCAD
1324 Terrace	\$44,750	2/1/1 - 954 SF/GCAD

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT South West

817 N. Christy	\$70,000	3/1.75/0 - 1366 SF/GCAD
1004 S. Banks	\$57,500	3/1/1 - 1001 SF/GCAD
1000 S. Wilcox	\$35,000	4/2/0 - 1900 SF/Ownr.
615 N. Faulkner	\$19,900	2/1/0 - 728 SF/GCAD

TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and North West

2117 N. Wells	\$129,000	3/2/1 - 2122 SF/GCAD
1532 N. Christy	\$117,500	3/1.75/1 - 1450 SF/GCAD
1613 N. Dwight	\$106,000	3/2/2 - 1534 SF/GCAD
1947 N. Nelson	\$95,000	4/1.75/1 - 1656 SF/GCAD
1012 Sierra	\$94,900	3/2/2 - 1317 SF/GCAD
1605 N. Sumner	\$89,000	3/1.75/2 - 1277 SF/GCAD
2113 N. Sumner	\$87,500	3/1/1 - 1092 SF/GCAD
2517 Mary Ellen	\$82,500	3/2/2 - 1392 SF/GCAD
1825 Dwight	\$79,000	3/1.5/1 - 1902 SF/GCAD
2218 N. Nelson	\$74,500	3/1/0 - 1634 SF/GCAD
1117 Willow	\$69,900	3/1.5/1 - 1112 SF/GCAD
1527 N. Sumner	\$65,000	3/1.75/2 - 1028 SF/GCAD
2133 N. Wells	\$57,500	3/1/0 - 1284 SF/GCAD
1432 N. Hamilton	\$39,000	3/1/1 cpt - 1043 SF/GCAD

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT South East

533 Powell St	\$62,500	3/1/2 - 1372 SF/GCAD
620 Red Deer	\$59,900	3/1.75/0 - 1215 SF/GCAD
1212 Darby	\$37,000	3/1/1 - 877 SF/GCAD
107 Warren	\$27,000	2/1/1 - 852 SF/GCAD
1329 Terrace	\$25,000	2/1/1 - 954 SF/GCAD

OTHER AREAS Outside Pampa City Limits

640 Acres Magic City	\$740,000	Ranch
530 Acres Near Lefors	\$530,000	Ranch West Of Lefors
6232 FM 291, Alantreed	\$125,000	4/2/1 - 2,000 SF 5 Acres
210 N. Dickerson, Mob	\$69,900	4/1/3 - 1725SF/Ownr
117 N. Miami, Mob	\$55,000	3/2/0 Td - 1216 SF/Ownr
207, 5, 1 Swift, White Deer	\$50,000	Church & 2 Small Houses
Hwy 152, Mobeefle	\$12,000	3 Acres 1 Mile E. of Oasis Rest.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

30th & Charles	\$3 of & \$1 if	50.9 Acres N of Walmart
420 W. Foster	\$165-400,000	Houston Lumber Co.
Hwy 40 Ranch House Motel	\$150,000	Ranch House Motel
703 W. Brown	\$125,000	3 Buildings w/Workshops
1122 Alcock	\$80,000	3,360 SF Bldg

Pampa Realty Inc. 669-0007

Jim Davidson (BKR/OWNR) . 662-9021
Robert Anderwald . 665-3357
Kathrina Blgham . 898-8510
Christa Carpenter . 664-0463
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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.

12-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

E TSUJLW PEKKUB RSUGGUF
JNBVUCB GCKGVNKL, KUW E
OEWILK JNBVUCB SUXL.

— LKOSNGV EIEOL
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND ENJOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. — YOUR PUZZLE PEOPLE

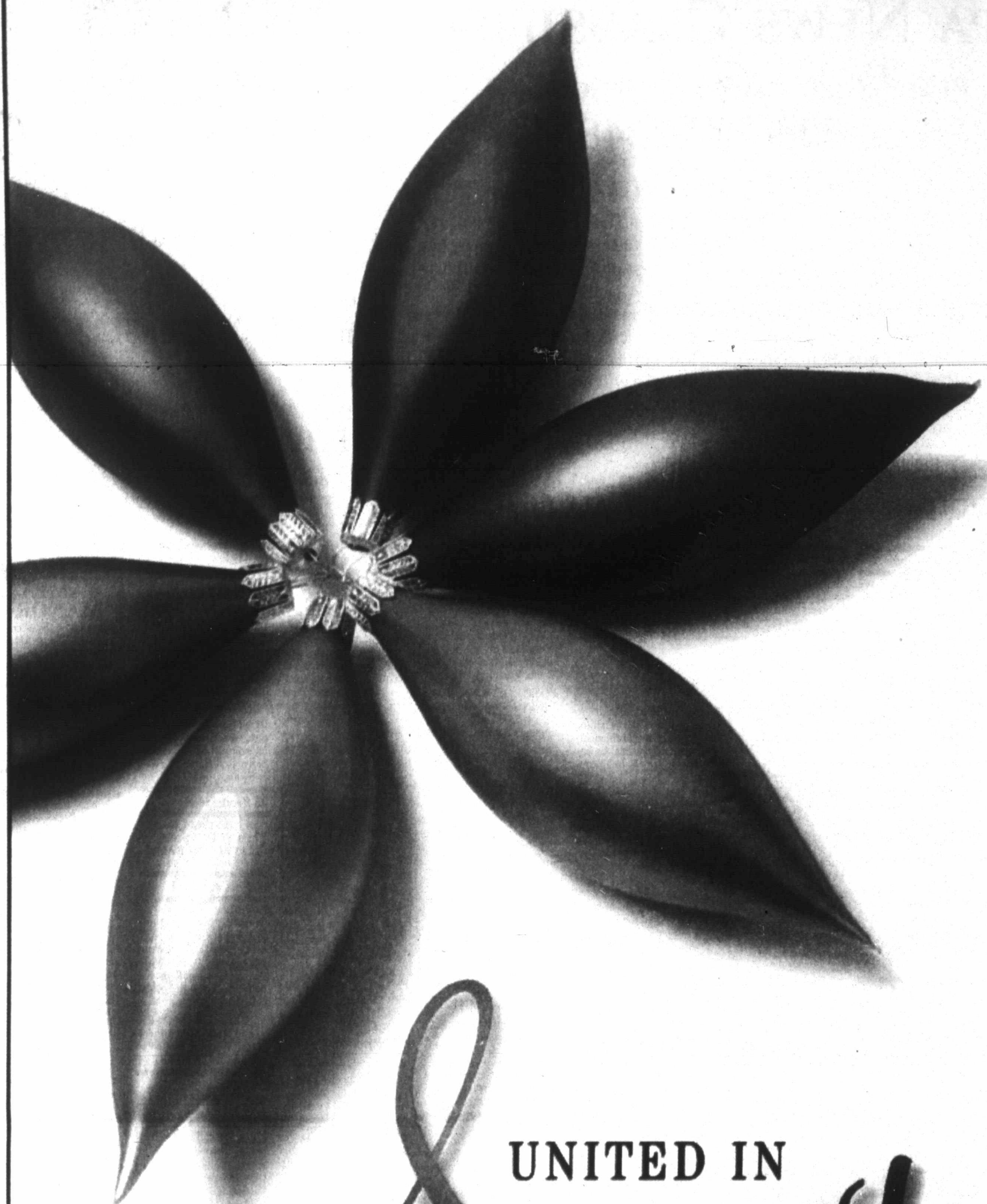
AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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.

12-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

NJOL J NJAAH SNMEQGFJQ
JTY LTDIH GNEQ NIEYJH
QLJQIT. — HIWM AWWVUL

ALIAUL
Saturday's Cryptoquote: THERE'S A LOT OF



UNITED IN *Spirit*

May this holiday season awaken the Spirit of Christmas in you and provide a strong sense of peace and hope for the New Year.

We wish all of you and your loved ones the most wonderful Christmas ever, and in this coming year of 2008, it is our hope that you may have...

*Enough happiness to keep you sweet, enough trials to keep you strong,
Enough sorrow to keep you human, enough failure to keep you humble,
Enough hope to keep you happy, enough success to keep you eager,
Enough friends to give you comfort, enough wealth to meet your needs,
Enough enthusiasm to look forward, enough faith to banish depression,
Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday.*

All United Supermarkets, Market Street and Amigos locations will be closed on Christmas Day so that our team members may enjoy the holiday with their families.



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