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Members of Pampa Economic Development Corporation's board of directors elected board officers and discussed participation in a veterans' job fair in Lawton, Okla. at their meeting Thursday in the Nona Payne Room at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Officers elected for 2008 are Ken May, president; Dennis Stowers, vice president; Gary Sutherland, treasurer; Kathy Cota, secretary; Tyson Curtis, assistant treasurer; and James Bradley, assistant secretary. Cota reported on plans for the EDC to be represented at a veterans' job fair Feb. 21 in Lawton, Okla. Approximately 1,000 job seekers are expected to attend the fair. Cota said she would display information at the fair from any Pampa business which wishes her to do so.

Pampa EDC elects officers, reports on housing

EDC Executive Director Dwight Fiveash reported that a meeting was held recently with building contractors concerning housing starts in Pampa.

"The Pampa EDC is interested in pushing ahead with more homes

Rep. Chisum accepts award

for dental patient advocacy

being built," Fiveash said. "The costs of utilities and square foot costs are running extremely high."

The high cost of building in Pampa was cited as the main reason why more houses, apartment buildings and other dwellings are not being built, Fiveash said. The slow pace of building results in relatively high demand for any homes which are completed.

"The builders here in town said they can't hardly get one built before it's sold," Fiveash said.

A report on the current status of negotiations and agreements with

several companies expressing interest in coming to Pampa was given by Fiveash. Existing agreements with MXT, a company which makes pet treats and packing material, are going well, he said, while communication with the company which plans to build the Hampton Village low-income apartments on Alcock Street are less satisfactory.

Other companies which have shown interest in Pampa include Cedar Creek Partners, which has a contract on seven acres behind Wal-Mart Supercenter.

By KERRI SMITH Managing Editor

Rep. Warren Chisum was in Pampa Thursday evening to accept an award from the Panhandle District Dental Society (PDDS) at a reception at Pampa Country Club. The PDDS and the Texas Dental Association (TDA) recognized Chisum for his "Excellence in Patient Advocacy."

Attending the reception and award ceremony were members of these organizations from Amarillo and Pampa, the TDA director of the work he has done, many people, especially children, now have access to dental care that did not before."

Local dentist Dr. Jay Johnson, who is president elect of PDDS, presented the award to Chisum on behalf of the organizations and explained that this award is relatively new.

"This award has only been around since 2005," Johnson said. "Warren is the fourth person this year to receive the award and we are very excited to present this to him for all of his hard work in the legislature. "The main people who will benefit from his work are the children of Texas. As chairman of the committee on appropriations, Rep Chisum helped negotiate the Frew settlement, which provided critically needed funding to increase reimbursements for dentists par-





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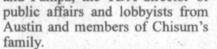
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Also in attendance was Dr. Richard Black, chair and council on legislative and regulatory affairs from El Paso. He said this award is one way to thank Chisum for his wise council and negotiations on behalf of the TDA.

"I'm pleased to be in Pampa to help present this award to Rep. Chisum," Black said. "Because of

See CHISUM, Page 3

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Rep. Warren Chisum was in Pampa to accept an award from the Panhandle District Dental Society and the Texas Dental Association for patient advocacy. From left are Dr. Richard Black, chair for council on legislative and regulatory affairs from ElPaso;Rep. Chisum with wife Omega (holding award); and Dr. Jay Johnson from Pampa.

School board members, public hear updates on renovations

By KERRI SMITH Managing Editor

Construction and renovations was the main item of discussion at the school board meeting for PISD Thursday evening.

The board approved a bid from Hickersons, in the amount of \$4,892, to replace a gas line at Pampa High School's football field. During the construction of the new track, part of the existing gas line was crushed and both concession stands are in need of new lines. After bidding out the job, the proposal by Hickersons was the lowest so the board decided to accept their bid.

Mike Baker from Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, gave an update on how renovations are progressing at the high school, while showing a PowerPoint presentation of the site plans.

He told the board that construction of the new addition to the MPAC building should be finished in a few weeks. The main work that still needs to be done is putting in the bleachers, putting a few more coats of sealer on the floor and striping the courts.

The main part of the high school is also progressing. He said that workers, should start drilling holes soon for concrete piers that will be part of the foundation for the new science wings, library and the cafeteria commons area.

"All of the existing classrooms at the high school will be renovated also as part of the bond election," Baker said. "All classrooms will get new ceilings, lights, electricity, floor tiles and data ports. We are also putting in fire sprinklers and new fire alarms to make the building safer for the students."

Another safety feature for the high school will be security cameras. These will be placed at all entrances and any other large open areas. The high school will eventually have one main entrance where the students have to enter. All other entrances will be made exit only to allow for a way out in case of a fire.

GCSO arrest two on drug charges

By MARILYN POWERS vehicle. Staff Writer "They

Walking in the grass in one's stocking feet took on a new meaning Thursday evening when Gray County sheriff's deputies discovered suspected marijuana inside the sock of a person involved in a traffic stop.

Deputies Stephen White and Robert Douglasstopped a vehicle in the 200 block of West Brown some time after 6 p.m. Thursday. They determined that one of the vehicle's occupants, Lexton Larue, 18, of Pampa was wanted on warrants for failure to appear/bail jumping and two counts of minor in possession of tobacco.

Larue was arrested, and deputies then searched the

"They detected an odor of marijuana," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. "Upon searching the vehicle's other occupant, they found a substance believed to be marijuana in his sock."

The second occupant was Hugh Parman, 19, of Pampa. Parman was arrested, and both men were booked into Gray County Jail around 6:45 p.m., according to jail records.

Parman was charged with possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

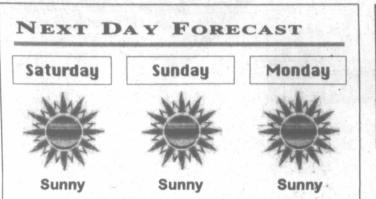
Both men remained in jail as of press time today. Parman's bond was set at \$1,500. Larue's fines on the charges against him total \$920.

It is not known whether the "grass" left a stain on the sock.



2 — Friday, January 11, 2008 — The Pampa News

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Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 52. Wind chill values between 23 and 33 early. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Northnortheast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southeast. Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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ing Jim Buie & Paul Shields, classes on Sat. Jan. 12th, 9:00-7:30-11:00pm., \$8 ea.

OPTIMIST BOYS Basketday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecos- ball Registration & Try-Outs tal Holiness Church, 1700 will be Jan 9, 10 & 11, 5:30-7:00 pm at the Optimist Gym. For more information call Chris Engle at 665-0851 or North Sumner. 665-7518. Everyone must reg-

RED CROSS Eastern Tx. reported in the 1900 block of Jan. 12, to QuickSilver featur- hosting CPR & First Aid of West Somerville.



Dogwood.

Dogwood.

Services tomorrow

HELFER, Jim "Little Jim" - Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memorial Heights Cemetery, Lefors.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. Thursday.

Thirty-two traffic stops were made. Stops at the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets, the intersection of 19th and Russell streets, and the 1100 block of Varnon Drive resulted in arrests.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Sandlewood and North Crest streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Loop 171 and Highway 70, the 2200 block of North Hobart, the 1000 block of Neel Road and the 800 block of West Francis.

Driving while intoxicated was reported at the intersection of West and Browning streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of North Zimmers, the 1700 block of Williston, the 1000 block of Crane Road, the 100 block of West 30th, the 700 block of North Roberta and the 800 block of Murphy.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1000 block of

A welfare check was made in the 2400 block of Charles. Missing persons were

MCLEAN Dance Club, Sat. Panhandle. Chapter will be Duncan and the 1400 block A runaway was reported in

the 1100 block of South Dwight.

A civil matter was report-

was broken out. Estimated value of loss is \$100. Criminal mischief was

Domestic disturbances

Assault was reported in

Two alarms were reported.

Fraud was reported in the

Burglary was reported in

Gray County Sheriff's

Thursday, Jan. 10

Lonnie Remond Mills, 39,

of Pampa was arrested by

GCSO on a probation viola-

tion for possession of mari-

Katherine Hockaday, 20,

of Pampa turned herself in

to GCSO for possession of

drug paraphernalia and

minor in possession of alco-

Pampa turned herself in to

GCSO for expired registra-

tion and expired motor vehi-

cle inspection.

Amber Caviness, 25, of

juana.

hol.

police department lobby. The

incident involved use of a

were reported in the 400

reported in the 2200 block of reported at Johnson Home Furnishings, 801 W. Francis. Criminal mischief was Three windows were shot reported at Sands Fabrics, out. Estimated value of loss 225 N. Cuyler. A window valued at \$800 was broken. is \$800.

Criminal mischief was A domestic disturbance reported in the 800 block of was reported in the 1400 North Sumner and the 1900 block of North Hobart. block of Grape. Two alarms were reported.

Fraud was reported in the 400 block of North Warren. Theft was reported in the

block of East 17th and the 1800 block of North Banks. 1400 block of Hamilton. A bicycle valued at \$300 was the 800 block of Bradley taken.

Burglary was reported in Drive. the 500 block of West Brown. A satellite radio and hookups, two impact wrenches, a company gaso-Social Security number. line card and an unknown amount of cash were taken. Estimated value of loss is the 500 block of Gillespie? \$350.

Burglary was reported in the 2700 block of North Office reported the following Hobart. arrests today.

PPD reported the following incidents between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. today.

Twenty-one traffic stops were made. Stops in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive and the 500 block of West Foster

A pursuit was reported at the intersection of Brown and Somerville streets. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident. Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2800 block of Charles, the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway, the 1500

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1000 block of East Browning, the 1600 block of North Somerville, the 500 block of North Cuyler, the 800 block of South Sumner, twice in the 800 block of Murphy, once in the 300 block of North Somerville, the 2500 block of Charles, the 1900 block of Grape, the 2400 block of Mary Ellen, the 500 block of North Russell and the 2600 block of Seminole.

and 9 personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident at Highway 60 and Gray Road Criminal mischief was B.

Obituaries

1:15 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to a grass fire at Highway 60 and Gray Road 5.

Friday, Dec. 7 9:30 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident at Highway 152 and Gray Road 20.

Saturday, Dec. 8

1:00 p.m. - Five units and 10 personnel responded to a Pampa parade in the City of Pampa.

8:30 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a good intent call at Highway 70 and FM 2477.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

12:31 a.m. - Four units and nine personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident/good intent at Highway 60 and Gray Road B.

Saturday, Dec. 22

9:39 a.m. - Seven units and 16 personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident at Highway 60 and Gray Road 14.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 8

11 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Russell and Harvester streets. No transport.

3:01 p.m. - A mobile bluow sidICU responded to the 100. Christopher Perez, 21, of block of South Cuyler and Pampa was arrested by transported a patient to GCSO for aggravated Pampa Regional Medical enter 3:33 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to Hobart and 21st streets and transported a patient to PRMC. 7:54 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC. Wednesday, Jan. 9 7:09 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Highway 70 and Loop 171. No transport. 7:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Frost. No trans-

resulted in arrests.

block of Ripley and the 1300 block of North Hobart.



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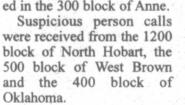
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Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 700 block of North Hobart and the 500 block of North West. Prowlers were reported in

the 2700 block of Seminole and the 1800 block of Holly. Silent/abusive 911 calls

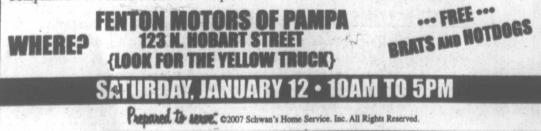
were received from the 1000 block of North Sumner and the 2300 block of Charles.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 700 block of North Hobart, the 2800 block of Charles and the 400 block of West Foster. An arrest was made in connection with the incident in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 2200 block of



This Saturday January 12th 2008 from 10:00am to 5:00pm at FENTON MOTORS OF PAMPA. We will have a truck fully stocked and ready for you to take home some delicious quality food. Purchase a new or used car and receive up to \$500.00 worth of Schwans Food the day of the sale. Compliments of Fenton Motors of Pampa.



Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Highway 152 and Price Road.

Welfare checks were made in the 1200 block of North Wells, the 900 block of South Faulkner, the 800 block of East Browning and the 1100 block of Darby.

A suspicious person call was received from the intersection of Somerville and Sumner streets.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1500 block of North Hobart. A prowler was reported in

the 1800 block of Holly.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the intersection of 21st and Hobart streets, the 600 block of Sloan and the 500 block of Gillespie.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of Frost.

Criminal mischief was reported at Parsley's Roofing, 214 E. Tyng. A pickup truck window was shot out and paint was chipped. Estimated value of loss is unknown.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of East Kingsmill. A vehicle window was shot out. Estimated value of loss is \$100.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of North Faulkner. A window valued at \$300 was shot out. Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. A side view mirror of a vehicle

ssault. Lexton Larue, 18, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to appear/bail jumping and two counts of minor in possession of tobacco.

Hugh Parman, 19, of Lefors was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

Salazar Amalia Solis, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive by Pampa Police Department for no liability insurance and no driver's license.

Antonio Gonzales, 40, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive by PPD for no insurance and no driver's license.

Kay Rippetoe, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of West Foster by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ashleigh Young, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Neel Road by evading PPD for arrest/detention with a vehicle.

Kenyon Kendall, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of West Foster by PPD on a capias pro fine for no valid driver's license.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following call for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Jan. 10

5:45 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Highway 60 and Dwight on a motor vehicle accident.

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department reported the following incidents for the month of December.

Monday, Dec. 3 6:30 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to a power pole fire at Gray Road D and Gray Road 3.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 8:45 a.m. — Three units

port. 7:52 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2700 block of Beech. Call canceled en route.

9:38 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Mary Ellen. No transport.

6:02 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of South Farley and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Thursday, Jan. 10 7:51 a.m. – A mobile ICU

responded to the 2600 block of Cherokee and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:29 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:08 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to PRMC.

3:45 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1200 block of Hamilton.

5:01 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 3000 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Friday, Jan. 11 5:06 a.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:08 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of McCullough and transported a patient to PRMC.

The Pampa News - Friday, January 11, 2008 - 3

What do you think?

Do you pay attention to the expiration date on food?



Carol Dout Stay at home mom

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"Yes - one time I made gravy from a packet that was old, so since then I always check the dates.'



Jane Adams Retired

"Yes - I don't cook a lot and it sometimes goes bad before I use it, so I always look."



Kristen Dunn PHS Senior

"Yes - I've always done that because I learned that from going grocery shopping with my mom."



LeeSa Brown Stay at home mom

"Yes - I have to because my 8-yearold son had a kidney transplant so any old food could be dangerous for his health.



Lisa Shorter Wal-Mart

"Sometimes - I work around food and I've learned that a lot of stuff has dates, like frozen food, that I did not know before.



Wanda Passmore Retired

"Yes - I became aware of checking dates on food when I worked at a dairy, so I've always done it since then."

Former Olympian Marion Jones sentenced to prison

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) -Marion Jones was sentenced Friday to six months in prison for lying about using steroids and a check-fraud scam, despite her plea that she not be separated from her two young children "even for a short period of time."

"I ask you to be as merciful as a human being can be," said Jones, who cried on her husband's shoulder after she was sentenced.

The disgraced former Olympic champion was ordered to surrender March 11 to begin her term.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Karas said he gave her the maximum under her plea deal to send a message to athletes who have abused drugs and overlooked the values of "hard work, dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship."

"Athletes in society have an elevated status, they entertain, they inspire, and perhaps, most important, they serve as role models," Karas said.

The 31-year-old Jones also was given two years' probation and supervised release, during which she will be required to perform 800 hours of community service.

"The judge said this would take advantage of 'Jones' "eloquence, strength and her ability to work with kids.

It was her children that worried Jones and 1,600-meter relay and bronzes in most as she beseeched the judge for a lighter sentence, talking at length about her two boys, including the infant son she's still nursing. "My passion in life has always been my family," Jones said. "I know the day is quickly approaching when my boys ask me about these current events. I intend to be honest and forthright ... and guide them into not making the same mistakes." The sentence completes a stunning fall for the woman who was once the most celebrated female athlete in the world. She won three gold and two bronze medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

investigators in November 2003, acknowledging she took the designer steroid "the clear" from September 2000 to July 2001. "The clear" has been linked to BALCO, the lab at the center of the steroids scandal in professional sports.

She also admitted lying about her knowledge of the involvement of Tim Montgomery, the father of her older son Monty, in a scheme to cash millions of dollars worth of stolen or forged checks. Montgomery and several others have been convicted in that scam. They include Jones' former coach, Olympic champion Steve Riddick, who was to be sentenced later Friday.

After her guilty pleas last October, Jones made an apologetic and tearyeyed statement outside court, saying, "It's with a great amount of shame that I stand before you and tell you that I have betrayed your trust."

"I have been dishonest, and you have the right to be angry with me," she added. "I have let (my family) down. I have let my country down, and I have let myself down. ... I want to ask for your forgiveness for my actions, and I hope you can find it in your heart to for give me."

Jones returned her Olympic medals - golds in the 100 meters, 200 meters

DEATH

Figure skating champ found dead

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Christopher Bowman, the former U.S. figure skating dubbed champion "Bowman the Showman" for his flair on the ice, died Thursday of a possible drug overdose, authorities said. He was 40.

Bowman was pronounced dead at 12:06 p.m., said Coroner's Lt. Joe Bale, who wasn't immediately able to provide more details about the possible drug overdose.

Bowman's body was found at a motel in the North Hills section of Los Angeles, and an autopsy was planned for this weekend, Bale said.

Bowman, a former child actor, was one of figure skating's bigger personalities in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Immensely talented, with a gift for performance that few others could match, he won the

titles in 1989 and 1992, and was runner-up in 1987 and .1991.

He also won a silver medal at the 1989 world championships, and a bronze the next year. He skated in the 1988 and 1992 Winter Olympics, finishing seventh in 1988 and fourth in 1992.

But as talented as he was on the ice, Bowman could be just as big a challenge off it. He bounced from coach to coach long before it became fashionable, and freely admitted that practice was something that just didn't interest him much.

"Each and every competition that I train for, prepare for, is always a personal challenge for me because, as we all know, the training and discipline between each event is very difficult for me," Bowman said in 1992.

He battled drug prob-U.S. men's figure skating lems, and underwent treat-

ment at least twice - once before the 1988 Olympics and then again after the Albertville Games in 1992. He also had run-ins with the law.

In November 2004, he pleaded no contest to two misdemeanors involving having a gun while drunk in Rochester Hills, Mich.

In 1993, while skating with the Ice Capades, he was beaten at a hotel in a seedy neighborhood in Pittsburgh, according to a police report.

Born in Hollywood, Calif., on March 30, 1967, Bowman had a part in the TV series "Little House on the Prairie" for one season and appeared in dozens of commercials.

Recently, Bowman had returned to acting. He had a role an assistant coach in the upcoming Brian J. De Palma-directed movie "Down and Distance" staring Gary Busey.

Price & Part Chiel 4.

Jacob on S. Jan 12th, 9:00 A manuary was reported in LAP BAND

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After long denying she ever had used performance-enhancing drugs, Jones admitted last October she lied to federal

the long jump and 400-meter relay even before the International Olympic Committee ordered her to do so and wiped her results from the books.

Jones was among the many athletes who testified in 2003 before a grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

On the day she pleaded guilty, prosecutors said a 2003 search warrant at BALCO uncovered ledgers, purchases, doping calendars, and various bloodtest results connected to Jones and former coach Trevor Graham.

She took EPO, human growth hormone and THG using drops and injections, according to the court documents that show use in 2000 and 2001.

SEMINAR

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10:00 am Time:

Place: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church **Parish Hall**

Saturday, January 12, 2008 Date: RSVP if possible to (972) 331-8100

Lap Band Procedure Is Covered By Most Insurances

hisum

Continued from Page 1

ticipating in the Medicaid program. We are proud to have him in Austin and we admire his integrity and we'd just like to say thank you for what you do for Texas."

When accepting the award, Chisum said it was a treat to be able to do this in front of so many family members, which included his wife, children, brother and niece and their spouses. He said he could not have done all of this work without the work of his great staff.

"I'm glad that I have played a part in helping the unserved kids of Texas with dental care," Chisum said. "We raised the rates that dentists receive when treating Medicaid patients so hopefully more dentists will participate with this type of insurance.

"In the future, we will have mobile dentist offices that will travel around the state. Their intent is not hurt you for the award and for all the local dentists and their of you who traveled long practices, but to assist them distances so that I might be in providing the best care. I able to spend this time with would just like to say thank my family."

FAST FAQs

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What is most rewarding is seeing patients regain their health and self confidence. -Dr. Benavides

Meet Richard Benavides, MD

Dr. Richard Benavides is considered one of the leading LAP-BAND[®] surgeons in the country and is a nationally recognized expert who is often asked to help train other surgeons on the LAP-BAND[®] System procedure.

Dr. Benavides, a native of San Antonio, is a graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He completed his internship and residency at Scott and White in Temple. He is on the medical staff at the Surgery Center of Richardson; the Medical Center of Lancaster; Plano Surgery Center; College Station Medical Center; St. Joseph's Hospital in bryan, Texas; and the TOPS Surgical Specialty Hospital in Houston. Dr. Benavides is a member of the American Medical Association and the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.

Richard Benavides, MD 7920 Belt Line Road, Suite 310 **Dallas Texas 75254** 972-331-8100

Friday, January 11, 2008 — The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Nature teaches our young valuable lessons

hit me.

that kid in the knees with my toboggan, I didn't notice the pond.

Maybe I better explain.

It's winter. The snow is falling. And when the snow falls, there's only one place a kid should be - out in the elements whipping snowballs, building snowmen and riding sleds down steep hills.

Too few kids are doing that anymore. Thus, they're suffering from Nature Deficit Disorder, a term coined by journalist Richard Louv in his book "Last Child in the Woods.'

eling around America interviewing parents, kids, teachers, researchers and others to learn about children's experiences with nature. His find- and cognitive functioning

I was so determined to hit ings: During the last 30 years our sensationalist media "scared children have straight out of the woods and fields." Parents are afraid to let kids out of their sight afraid their kids might get

> hurt. Add to that the advent of television, video games and the Internet and the result is this: Kids aren't getting out much anymore. And because they're not getting out, they're withdrawing from nature - the chief place where they use all five of their senses at once.

"We don't yet know why Louv spent 10 years trav- it happens, but when all five of a child's senses come alive, a child is at an optimum state of learning," Louv told me. "Creativity

go way up."

The consequences of withdrawing from nature are not good. Kids lose their sense of being rooted in the world. They're more likely to experience stress, hyperactivity, attention-deficit dis-

order and other mod-Tom malern Purcell adies. That's Columnist why more kids should enjoy winter as I did

as a kid. Which brings us back to the pond incident.

One Sunday afternoon, after a fast run down the hill, I picked up my plastic toboggan and began to climb the hillside for another run. That's when a kid on a sled

Unlike most kids, who rode sleds solely for the thrill of whipping down the hill, this kid got his kicks out of knocking other kids off their feet. He hit me just below

the knees, causing me to go posterior tin over cups. spent the rest of day that with vengeance

on my mind. I made several runs looking to hit that kid back. I finally saw my opportunity. Just after he jumped on his sled and took a run, I jumped onto my plastic toboggan just behind him.

My timing was exquisite.

As he finished his run and got on his feet, I hit him square in the shins, causing him to go posterior over tin cups. So delighted was I with my success, I didn't notice the pond at the bottom of the hill.

Mr. Ayres had dammed up the creek that ran through his yard to form a small pond. Just after I hit the kid, I hit the mound of earth surrounding the pond and was suddenly floating through the air. I landed in the center of the pond on a patch of ice. The ice quickly broke, sending me and my plastic toboggan to the bottom.

Unlike too many of today's kids, I spent my childhood out in the elements. I was free to play and roam and discover. There

was certainly the risk of injury and all the other things parents worry about today, but such things didn't concern us in the '70s - all to my benefit.

When it snowed, 30 or 40 kids could be found on our neighborhood hillside. We had to figure things out on our own - had to figure out how to deal with risk and danger and ruffians who liked to take your legs out with their sleds.

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It was a boneheaded move by me to tag him right in front of the pond, but, boy, was I immersed in nature that day. I certainly didn't suffer from Nature Deficit Disorder.

If we have any sense,

See PURCELL, Page 10

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2008. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1908, the Grand Canyon National Monument was created with a proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt. (It became a national park in 1919.)

On this date:

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

In 1815, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union.

'In much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

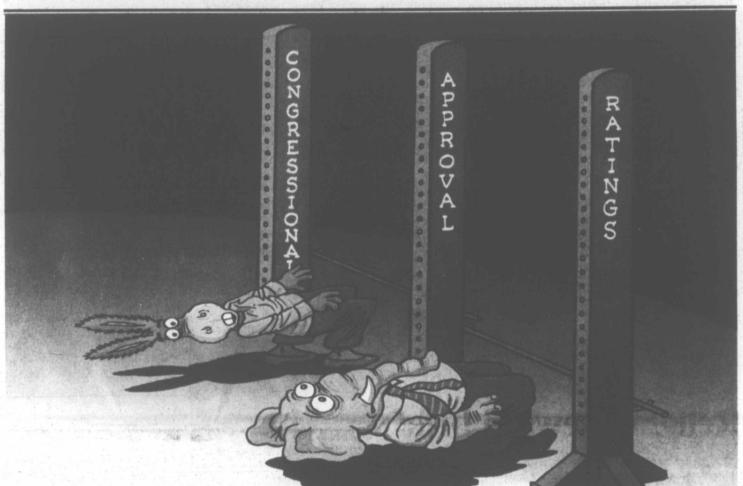
— Ecclesiastes 1:18

In 1913, the first sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th Automobile Show in New York. In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif., that

woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

In 1942,

made her the first



declared war against the Netherlands, the same

day that Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies. In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relin-

quishing extraterritorial rights in China. In 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

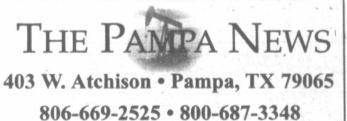
In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1995, 52 people were killed when a Colombian airliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena.

Ten years ago: The Denver Broncos beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 24-21, to win the American Football Conference Championship; the Green Bay Packers defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 23-10, to claim the National Football Conference Championship.

Five years ago: Calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

One year ago: President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq ran into a wall of criticism on Capitol Hill as administration officials drew confrontational challenges from both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats selected Denver to host their 2008 presidential convention.



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Robert E. Lee, a man we lead an invading army to should all try to emulate. He was so nearly a perfect human being that it is hard for our modern minds to come to grips with him.

We have grown cynical. We've seen too often men who gain fame but lack virtue. We've seen too many flawed heroes marketed like disadvansoap. In contrast, Lee was tage the genuine article, the last of the Christian knights.

He went through West Point without a single demerit, was a hero of the Mexican War, and married and remained faithful to his wife even though she became an invalid at a young age.

When secession came, Lee was offered the command of the Union Army. What a temptation to a professional military man. Lee was opposed to secession, though he recognized the right of states to withdraw from the union. He agonized over the decision. He simply

Jan. 19 is the birthday of could not bring himself to fight his family and friends in Virginia. He did the honorable thing and resigned his commission.

> His fame earned during the tragic

war

was worldwide. Charley Always at a Reese in Columnist numbers and equip-

ment, he conducted brilliant campaigns. The New England historian Charles Francis Adams said: "My contention is that Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia never sustained defeat. Finally, it is true, succumbing to exhaustion, to the end they were not overthrown in fight."

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant bristled when he heard the radical Republicans had - indicted Lee for treason after the war, and he warned Washington, "I will resign the command of the Army

rather than execute any order expensive speeches and directing me to arrest Lee or any of his commanders so long as they obey the laws." The charge was dropped. "Lee is the greatest military

genius in America." It was not his courage

"I have enough and am content," he said in refusing one gift. Instead, he accepted the post of president of what is now Washington and Lee University at a most modest salary. He told his young students there was only one unique. To rule: They were to act like

> Christian gentlemen. His letters to his children are full of advice to seek knowledge and virtue. "The more you know, the more you find there is to know in this grand and beautiful world. It is only the ignorant who suppose themselves omniscient," he wrote to one daughter.

accepting corporate director-

ships, Lee turned down all

the offers of gifts and lucra-

tive positions that flooded in

after the war, including the

"Gain knowledge and virtue and learn your duty to God and your neighbor. That

See REESE, Page 10

Texas Thoughts.

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

n Jan. 1, 2008

The Daytona (Fla.) Beach News-Journal, on Congress, consumer credit and high interest rates:

It's the time of year when many Americans confront irresponsible spending - but now, the days of reckoning are taking on an air of desperation in many households, as families face bills they can't pay.

Nobody forced these families to

spend beyond their means. And many debtors acknowledge that they are, themselves, to blame for much of their problem. But credit-card companies also must take responsibility for extending credit without a firm indication that debts could be repaid - and most certainly deserve blame for predatory practices that make the plight of many families far worse than it would otherwise be.

These companies' profits still are running high. In fact, many card companies have adopted policies that make it likely that the default rate will continue to spike, and purposefully target high-risk debtors, loading on fees that assure the accounts will be profitable even if the borrowers default. ...

But Congress and federal regulators also should examine the costs of high default rates on a wider scale, especially when coupled with the still-developing mortgage-foreclosure boom.

... Federal regulators should face reality: Too much of the U.S. economy is based on high-risk debt, much of which probably should never have been extended in the first place. ...

Gen. Winfield Scott said,

offer of an estate in England.

and military skills, however, that make him

Lee, Christianity was not something to be flaunted, but a way of life. Fame didn't faze him. He remained humble. He never took credit for victories, ascribing them to God and to his men. There is no record of his ever uttering a vulgarity or speaking ill of the enemy. He is the only general I've ever heard of whose men loved him.

Unlike today's generals, so many of whom seek to become millionaires on a paltry record by making

ROLL CALL ecartoons.com

Robert E. Lee was real Christian knight



Religion

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COURTESY PHOTO

Southern gospel quartet "Praise Incorporated" will be in concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at Church of the Nazarene, 500 N. West in Pampa. "In just three short years," a press release about the quartet said, "this group has been nominated in the top five by the U.S. Gospel News as Quartet of the Year, New Excelling Artist of the Year and in 2005 they were chosen as the Horizon Group of the Year at the Grapevine Opry. They have been nominated for the second year in seven categories for the SGM FanFair and Southern Gospel Music Awards in Ashville, N.C." The guartet consists of Steve Sam, founder and leader; Ron Higgins, tenor; Mark Sargent, baritone; and Greg Bares, bass. The concert is free. A love offering will be taken.

Monk & Neagle



COURTESY PHOTO

"Monk & Neagle" will be in concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 in the Family Life Center of Briarwood Church. This contemporary Christian music team recently completed a tour with Mercy Me.

Religion news in brief

Pa. Presbyterian church gation, which was estab-



Sunday school class

COURTESY PHOTO

Brionna Wadsworth, Kyler Ramming (with bow), Taylor Ramming, Kyra Moyer and Raeli Walker (in front) are from Lea Ann Cochran's Sunday school class at Cornerstone Baptist Church. They learned first-hand recently some of God's greatest gifts by "unwrapping" two of their friends.

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e realmy is which been sues to avoid threat of lished 64 years ago and has property seizure PITTSBURGH (AP) — A

lawsuit seeking to bar any

threat of seizure of its prop-

erty by the local presbytery

as it joins a more conserva-

Presbyterian Church, the

largest church in the

Pittsburgh Presbytery, is

seeking to confirm its title to

7.5 acres of land and owner-

ship of buildings. The

church filed suit in

Allegheny County Common

Pleas Court after its govern-

ing body voted unanimously

to disaffiliate from the pres-

bytery - a regional body of

the denomination - follow-

ing nearly a year of negotia-

Memorial Park's congre-

Memorial Park

tive denomination.

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leave

1,675 members, will vote on whether to disaffiliate durlocal church that voted to ing weekend services Jan. the Presbyterian 19-20. Church (USA) has filed a

In June, members of the church voted to seek dismissal from the national church. Memorial Park then offered \$360,000 to the Pittsburgh Presbytery to seal the break.

Memorial Park's senior pastor, Rev. Dean Weaver, said the presbytery initially offered to settle for \$1.7 million but later lowered its request to \$1.2 million. Memorial Park made what it said was a final offer of \$500,000 in September.

The Rev. Doug Portz, acting pastor to the presbytery, said leaders "have made every effort to keep such matters out of the civil courts."

See BRIEFS, Page 10

Pastor - Richard Bartel

Sunday Worship Services

8:30am - On Cable Ch. 5

10:45am - At The Church

6:00pm - At The Church

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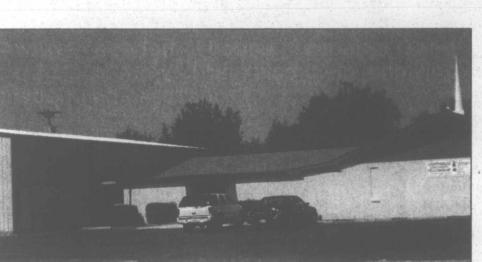
A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches





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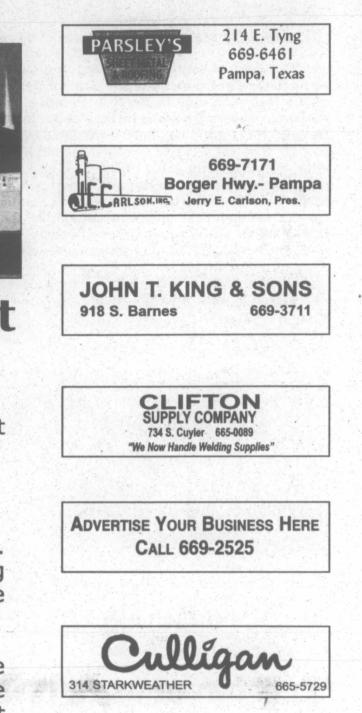
Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship

Church name: Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship, 1733 N. Banks, 669-6915.

Minister: Dr. Ed Barker.

Services: Sunday -- 10:30 a.m. Morning worship, 6 p.m. Evening worship, Wednesday -- 7 p.m. Bible study.

Activities: Angel food distribution the last Saturday of each month. Orders are taken earlier in the month (contact church office for details). We distribute



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food packages to approximately 100 families each month.

Members: 75 - 100.

Denomination: International Pentecostal Holiness Church.

How long here: 45 years.

Goals: Finish construction of a new sanctuary on our property.

Other activities: The men's ministry at our church assists in helping our seniors with needed house repairs and transportation. They also help shut-ins who need assistance.

Main goal: Our main goal is to reach the spiritually lost in our local area through providing teaching, evangelism, programs and encouragement. Likewise, we desire to fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus gave to the church (Matthew 28:18-20) to go into all the world through missions. We believe that all cannot go, but all can send others.

Church message: That the just shall live by faith, not by works of the person or the goodness of their lives, but by faith in Jesus Christ.











This weekly series brought to you by these area businesses.



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN Senior Josh Humphrey quickly brings the ball in past a Tascosa defender during Saturday's game at McNeely Fieldhouse.

Harvesters, Lady Harvesters to play at Palo Duro tonight

By JORDAN REAGAN Sports Editor

The Hustlin' Harvesters are just beginning to kick off their district season and the Lady Harvesters are two games deep, but tonight, Caprock Tuesday, and hope both teams will play on the same court as they take on Palo Duro in Amarillo.

The Lady Dons of Palo Duro, who defeated Randall earlier this week, currently

district, 19-7 overall.

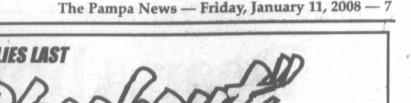
The Lady Harvesters are going into tonight's game with a 1-1 district record after having defeated to improve to 2-1 over Palo Duro tonight.

The varsity boys suffered a tough one-point loss Saturday in their most recent

stand with a record of 2-0 in match-up against the Tascosa Rebels, and hope to end their ongoing losing streak tonight as they start their important district season.

The Lady Harvesters will hit the court at 6 p.m. today, and the Harvesters will follow at 7:30.

The JV boys and girls will play at 6 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.





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Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa's Kiersten Taylor (33) prepares to shoot a free throw during the second quarter of Tuesday's game against Caprock. Also pictured here are Lady Harvesters Shelbie Watson (center) and Emilie Troxell.

Last chance for optimist boys basketball registration tonight

is the last day to register and tryout for Optimist Boys' Basketball.

"We are going to have six teams in the third and fourth grade division and six teams in the fifth and sixth grade division," said Chris Engle, Optimist Boys the Basketball Commissioner. "We have a total of 79 boys registered at the present time. Our goal is to have no more than eight boys on a team so that we might have more playing time."

Engle continued, "We have six head coaches for the younger boys and four for the fifth and sixth grade boys. We need two more coaches for the older boys.

"The third and fourth grade division will have a blind draft while the fifth and sixth graders will draft on Sunday," Engle explained. "Practices will start Monday for most teams. We are going to begin play on Jan. 28."

The Optimist Board of Directors has voted to have paid referees for boys' bas-

Today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. ketball this season in an effort to provide a better experience for the players.

The Pampa Optmist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

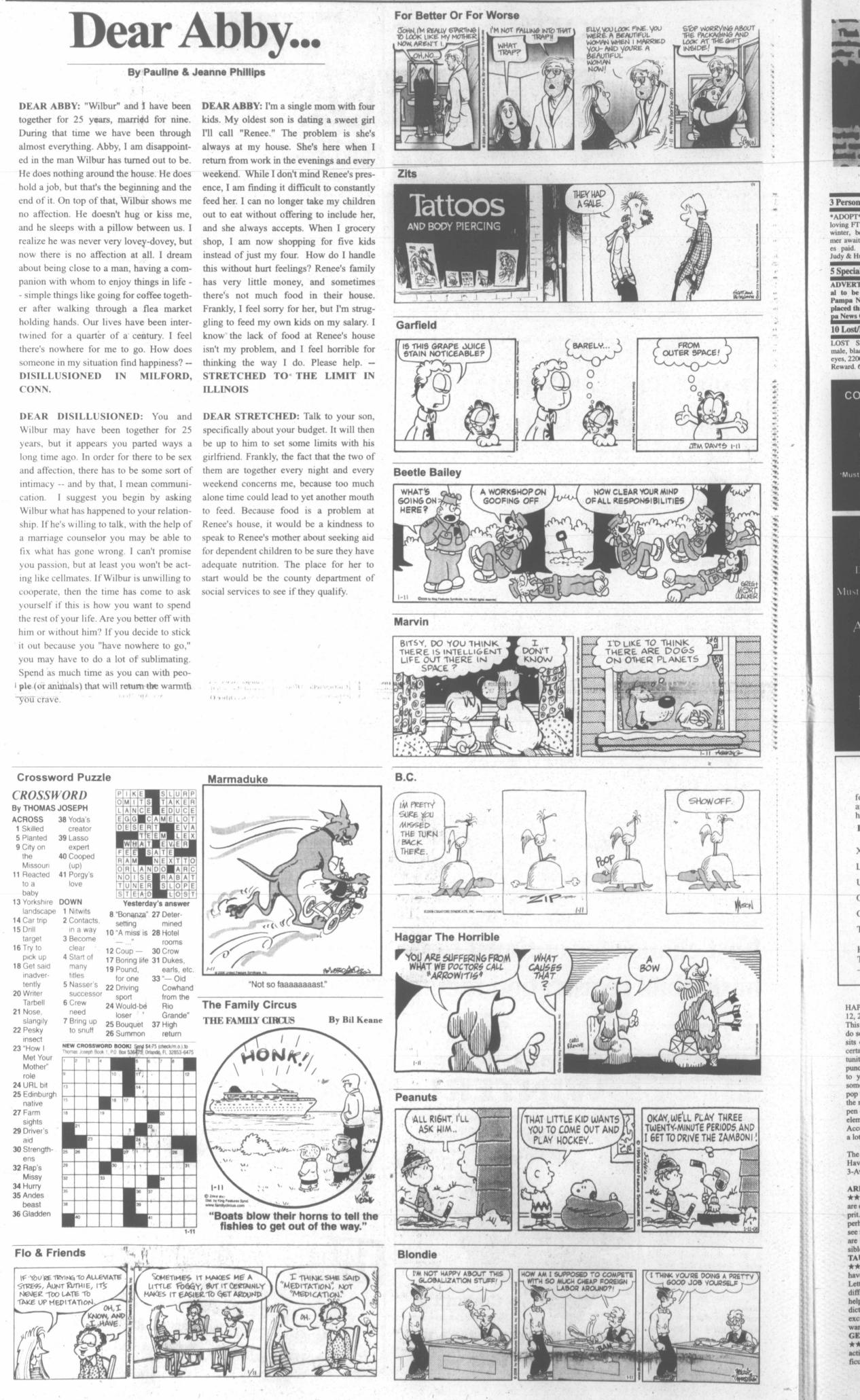


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work out our

weekend. While I don't mind Renee's presfeed her. I can no longer take my children and she always accepts. When I grocery instead of just my four. How do I handle this without hurt feelings? Renee's family has very little money, and sometimes there's not much food in their house. gling to feed my own kids on my salary. I know the lack of food at Renee's house isn't my problem, and I feel horrible for thinking the way I do. Please help. --STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT IN **ILLINOIS**

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FULL Time Secretary needed. Must have excellent computer & phone skills. Must work well with the public. Send resume to Drawer 59 C/o Pampa News PO Box 2198 Pampa Texas 79066 NEEDED: RN-16 hrs. on weekends, Fri. & Sat., 10:30pm-7am. 537-3194, St. Ann's Nursing Home Would consider 2-RN's alternating weekends.

Teachers / Caregivers needed for Heaven's Sake Daycare & Pre-School. Full & Part-Time avail. Apply at 900 E. 23rd, Pampa or call 665-5758. NOW hiring Part-Time Tellers. No prior exp. necessary. Great benefits. Bring resume by 100 N. Cuyler, Pampa. M-F, 9-3. **50 Building Suppl.**

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Record price for foreign oil pushes U.S. trade deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) -The U.S. trade deficit in November surged to the highest level in 14 months, reflecting record foreign crude oil prices. The deficit with China declined slightly while the weak dollar boosted exports to another record high.

The Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit, the gap between imports and exports, jumped by 9.3 percent, to \$63.1 billion. The imbalance was much larger than the \$60 billion that had been expected.

The increase was driven by a 16.3 percent surge in America's foreign oil bill, which climbed to an all-time high of \$34.4 billion as the per barrel price of imported crude reached new records while the volume of shipments declined slightly. With oil prices last week touching \$100 per barrel, analysts are forecasting higher oil bills in future months.

Ian Shepherdson, an analyst at High Frequency Economics, noted that the deficit was also pushed higher by a big drop in exports of



Cont. from Page 4

is the great object of life," he said in another letter. "The first business of education is to draw forth and put into habitual exercise the former dispositions such as kindness, justice and self-denial."

Lee answered a request for an interview by a biographer, "I know of nothing good I could tell you of myself."

In today's me-first,

commercial aircraft. He said that setback is likely to be only temporary given the orders backlog that Boeing

Through the first 11 months of 2007, the deficit is running at an annual rate of \$709.1 billion, down 6.5 percent from last year's all-time high of \$758.5 billion.

must fill to meet global demand.

The big surge in oil pushed total imports of goods and services up by 3 percent to a record \$205.4 billion. Exports also set another record, rising by a smaller 0.4 percent to \$142.3 billion. Export demand has been growing significantly over the past two years as U.S. manufacturers and farmers have gotten a boost from a weaker dollar against many other currencies. That makes U.S. goods cheaper on overseas markets.

Through the first 11 months of 2007, the deficit is

Bank of America to buy Countrywide

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Bank of America said Friday it will buy Countrywide Financial for \$4.1 billion in stock, a deal that rescues the country's biggest mortgage lender and expands the financial services empire of the nation's largest consumer bank.

The acquisition will make Charlotte-based Bank of America Corp. the nation's biggest mortgage lender and loan servicer.

Bank of America said it initially plans to operate Countrywide separately under running at an annual rate of \$709.1 billion, down 6.5 percent from last year's all-time high of \$758.5 billion. Analysts believe that the export boom will finally result in a drop in the trade deficit in 2007 after it set consecutive records for five years.

Critics of President Bush's trade policies, however, say the declining deficits will still leave the imbalance at a painfully high level, which they contend reflects unfair trade practices of other nations that have contributed to the loss of more than 3 million U.S. manufacturing jobs since 2000. Trade is expected to be a key issue in this year's presidential campaign, with many Democrats charging that the Bush administration has not fought hard enough to protect American workers and keep companies from shipping jobs overseas.

Much of their unhappiness is focused on China, where the U.S. trade deficit through the first 11 months of this year totals \$237.5 billion, the highest annual imbalance ever recorded with a single country – with December still left to tally.

Countrywide's troubles have allowed Lewis to sweep in and add a major business line to his supermarket of financial products on the cheap.

"Countrywide presents a rare opportunity for Bank of America to add what we believe is the best domestic mortgage platform at an attractive price and to affirm our position as the nation's premier lender to consumers." Lewis said in a statement.

It also places Lewis in the position of a market savior. By buying Countrywide, he's

Briefs

Continued from Page 5

Memorial Park officials have said they were concerned about the national denomination's move away from traditional doctrines concerning the Holy Trinity and the Bible's authority, and its increasingly liberal views on gay ordination. Similar disputes about sexuality, church oversight and property rights are dividing the Episcopal Church, as well.

http://www.pcusa.org

Judge dismisses lawsuit against **Baptist megachurch pastor**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A judge dismissed a lawsuit against the senior pastor and two other leaders° of a Southern Baptist megachurch, saying the court lacked jurisdiction over the case.

A lawsuit filed last year by about 75 members of Two Rivers Baptist Church accused the Rev. Jerry Sutton of failing to abide by church rules and punishing those who question his authority.

The members accused Sutton of misappropriating funds, including using church money for personal trips and paying for his daughter's wedding reception. They demanded access to church records and asked the court to remove Sutton as officer and director of the church.

Sutton and others denied the allegations and said the church members had no right to sue just because they didn't like the way the church spent their offerings.

In her ruling, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman said the court lacked the jurisdiction to be involved, but the members were entitled to see more financial documents.

Larry Crain, an attorney who represented Sutton and other church leaders, said the ruling sends a message that civil courts aren't going to get involved in internal church disputes.

"This case was being watched around the country by a number of other churches," Crain said.

It's not clear whether church members will appeal.

"Right now, we're less concerned about appealing her decision than seeing the documents that we've never gotten," said Mark Freeman, their attorney.

In 2005, Sutton's 2,000-member church drew national attention for hosting "Justice Sunday II," a conservative Christian conference focused on the judicial system.

http://www.tworivers.org/

Toni Collette gives birth to baby daughter

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Toni Collette has given birth to her first child, a baby girl, Australian media reported Friday.

The Sydney-born actress and her husband, musician Dave Galafassi, welcomed Sage Florence Galafassi into the world Wednesday, a spokeswoman told the Australian Associated Press.

"Both mother and baby are very well and very happy," the spokeswoman was quoted as saying.

Collette, 35, was nominated for a best supportingactress Oscar for her role in 1999's "The Sixth Sense." Her screen credits also include "Little Miss Sunshine," "The Night Listener" and "Muriel's Wedding."

She announced her pregnancy in July, saying she had recently been leaning toward motherhood roles.

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"It is strange the last three films I've done I have been pregnant," Collette said at the time. "I'm just like, 'What is the universe trying to tell me?' But I think everything happens when it's meant to."



egocentric world, that is hard to grasp, but Lee was indeed a genuinely humble man - and one of the greatest.

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

Purcell

Cont. from Page 4

we'll do one thing this

winter: encourage our

kids to turn off their

video games and go out-

side for a sled ride the

nationally syndicated

exclusively by Cagle

-Tom Purcell is a

columnist

next time it snows.

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the Countrywide brand, with integration occurring no sooner than 2009.

The transaction represents a 7.5 percent discount to where Countrywide shares ended Thursday after they soared on news that a rescue plan was in the works. It also effectively leaves Bank of America with a big loss on its \$2 billion August investment in Countrywide Financial Corp. during the height of the summer's global credit crisis. An aggressive dealmaker who has already snapped up FleetBoston behemoths Financial and MBNA, Bank of America chief executive Ken Lewis this time isn't buying a financial winner. Delinquencies and loans in pending foreclosure are rising in Countrywide's loan portfolio, and Bank of America chief executive Ken Lewis said Friday "there are nearterm challenges" in the nation's housing market.

keeping the industry and regulators from the messy task of figuring out who would take on the responsibility of collecting payments for the 9 million U.S. home loans serviced by the Calabasas, Calif.based lender.

"There's still plenty of risk involved," said Bart Narter, senior analyst at Celent, a Boston-based financial research and consulting firm. "He's brave to do it. But I think that it's very likely down the road to be profitable, maybe not immediately, but long-term."

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