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Thursday, December 4, 2008 Volume 104 • No. 200

## Pampa DBA decorates downtown

by Rachel Stennett  
rstennett@thepampanews.com

The Downtown Business Association is continuing its effort bring Pampa citizens the shopping spirit this year, decorating the downtown area trees with Christmas lights.

This decoration is one of many efforts that organizations in Pampa to make shopping in the city pleasant.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a parade at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 to jump start shoppers for Christmas-season shopping. Pampans have also been awarded "Pampa Bucks" through events, like the "Leprechaun Hunt" that ended on Thanksgiving Day.

The aim of the lighting project is to create an inviting shopping experience in the downtown area. Kim Rheams, owner of Rheams Diamond Shop, said that about \$60 will be spent to decorate 31 trees in Pampa. The lights are used to create a comfy experience for



The Downtown Business Association has raised money to decorate the trees lining downtown's streets.

Pampans, but also to enhance the "hometown" shopping experience for out of town people that may come to shop in

Pampa, Rheams said, a possibility that becomes more important during the economic recession. In addition to the

lights, downtown businesses choosing to participate will be open extended hours on Thursdays until 8 p.m., and new this

year, businesses will also be open on Sunday afternoons to make shopping a more convenient experience.

See DBA, Page 3

## United Way Campaign nearing goal

by Randall Pribble  
rpribble@thepampanews.com

The Pampa United Way campaign is nearing its \$307,364 goal, which is good news for the 19 local non-profit agencies who depend on the campaign to continue good works.

As of Tuesday, the campaign pledges amounted to \$297,824.76 and local officials are confident the goal will ultimately be attained. It is especially gratifying, they add, in a year where economic conditions make things tougher for everyone.

"Every year is different than the one before and I never know what is going to come in," said United Way Executive Director Katrina Bigham. "There may be some who will not be able to give like they did before or not at all. But God keeps blessing us because our town needs it."

United Way distributes money throughout the year to help support agencies providing programs benefiting the needy and deserving within Gray County, from scouting to Meals on Wheels to day care programs helping needy families.

Right now the campaign is approximately \$9,500 away from providing funding levels next year to maintain those existing programs.

See Goal, Page 3

## Construction will dominate board discussion today

by David Bowser  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Construction and athletic will dominate the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees meeting Thursday.

The school board will consider construction of a tennis building at Pampa High School. The old one

was lost due to the high school expansion. They will also consider building a softball concession stand at the high school.

A discussion of athletic personnel is also on the agenda, but it is unclear whether the discussion item is related to coaching

See School, Page 3

## Annual shopping tour enables kids to give

by Rachel Stennett  
rstennett@thepampanews.com

The Christmas Shopping tour, which has been an outlet for people to give and receive in Pampa since 1973, will happen again this year on Dec. 13 at 8 a.m. And again the tour is in need of volunteers and donations to make the project happen.

The project, which began with six children, has grown substantially over the years.

Last year a total of 117 children were presented with the opportunity to give, a first time experience for many due to their economic status, according to John Warner, steering committee member for the project.

"This is the first time most of these kids have been able to experience giving at Christmas," Warner said.

Through the collaboration of over 40 organizations in the Pampa community, children and their families are selected through a need-based screening process done through the Salvation Army and Captain Laura Martin. The child must be 5 to 10 years-old, and must be new to the Christmas Shopping Tour.

Once a child is selected, they are picked up by a volunteer chaperone and taken to a shopping destination of their choice, usually Wal-Mart, and allowed to spend \$40 on every member of the family in their household. Children who complete the shopping early are entertained by the Energizer Sunday School of First United Methodist Church, who tell stories, sing carols, and have coloring contest for the children.

Last year, a total of 460 family members benefited, which was "the largest by far that we have served," Warner said. In 2007, 315 people were served.

To pull off a project of this magnitude, Warner explained that the whole community must work together for volunteer help and financial aid. Volunteers are being recruited by Rhonda Rucker of the Kiwanis club, but the need is great and about 230 volunteers are needed. Volunteers serve in a variety of ways, including chaperoning the kids while

*"This is the first time most of these kids have been able to experience giving at Christmas."*

— John Warner  
Steering committee member

the shop, helping wrap presents after, or cooking for the meal for all the participants of the tour.

After the children have completed their shopping, they go back to the Optimist Club, where the Opti-Mrs. club holds a gift wrap party to help the children wrap all the presents they have bought. All volunteers and children are served a hamburger lunch at the Optimist meeting room after the tour. Last year, 360 hamburgers were served. Santa Claus visits each child, and gives them bags of candy from The Red Cross. Children also hear a "Reason for the Season" speech, given by Sean Hail, youth minister at First United Methodist Church.

As the children leave, The Gideon Society, including Dr. Mark Ford and Harley Knutson, hand out New Testament bibles to any interested children after the tour in English or

See Tour, Page 3

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Friday Saturday Sunday



Mostly sunny Partly cloudy Mostly sunny

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. South-southwest wind between 8 and 17 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. South-southwest wind 7 to 14 mph becoming northwest.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

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**Beatrice 'Bea' Brown, 87**

McLEAN — Beatrice 'Bea' Brown, 87, died Dec. 3, 2008. Arrangement under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home in McLean.

**Wayne Jones, 81**

Wayne Jones, 81, of Pampa, died Dec. 4, 2008, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

**Emergency Services**

**Sheriff**

Gray County Sheriff's Office today recorded the following arrests. Tuesday, Dec. 2 Michael Scott Rabel, 38, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for public intoxication. Patrice Oteava Ballard, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for theft by check, failure to identify, theft of property, three counts of failure to appear as well as one count each of expired registration, expired motor vehicle inspection, failure to maintain financial responsibility and unrestrained child under 4 years of age. Michelle A. Cole, 43, of Lefors was arrested by GCISO on a warrant for failure to appear out of Oklahoma County, Okla.,

**Grain prices**

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.

Wheat	4.41
Milo	4.25
Corn	6.04

**CITY BRIEFS**

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

**ALTRUSA'S SOUP** with "Mrs. Claus", Dec. 6, 11:30-1:30pm. in Old Hardware Bldg. \$5 per person.

**BABY'S 1ST Christmas** (in the Christmas Eve edition of the Pampa News), deadline is Dec. 15th, 5pm. \$25. Photos should be of baby only, please. No emailed photos will be accepted.

**CHRISTMAS TOUR** of Homes, Sun. Dec. 7, 1-4pm. Tickets avail. at homes. 1927 Dogwood, 2425 Evergreen, 1236 Williston.

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**Services tomorrow**

**JOHNSON, Violet Jean** — 2 p.m., Faith Advent Christian Fellowship, Pampa.  
**PARSONS, Mary R.** — Graveside services, 11 a.m., Enid Cemetery, Enid, Okla.  
**SPARKS, Dwayne Anthony** — 10 a.m., First Christian Church, Pampa.

**James Weldon Carter, 50**

AMARILLO, Texas — James Weldon Carter, 50, died Dec. 3, 2008, in Pampa, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Carter was born May 30, 1958, in Pampa, where he was a graduate of Pampa High

School. He had been a resident of Amarillo since 1976. He was a member of Hillside Christian Church. He worked for Tumbleweed Sound and Lighting in Amarillo as a technician. He worked many productions across the Panhandle, especially

"The Nutcracker," the Ballet Association and for Paramount Terrace Christian Church for their annual Christmas pageant. Survivors include his father, Weldon Carter of Pampa; two sisters, Cynthia Bedford of Broken Arrow, Okla., and

Linda Hamby of Lubbock; five nephews; one niece; and one great-nephew. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Carter in 1998. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

**Violet Jean Johnson, 75**

YALE, Okla. — Violet Jean Johnson, 75, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008, at Yale.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at Faith Advent Christian Fellowship in Pampa, Texas, with Pastor Steve Tiger of the Council Valley Advent Christian Fellowship of Yale, Okla., Pastor Grant Johnson and Mr. Ed Copeland, both of the Faith Advent Christian Fellowship of Pampa, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Johnson was born on Aug. 11, 1933, in

Shamrock, Texas, to Mack and Daisy (Lawler) Turnbow, where she was reared and educated.

Violet was united in marriage to Orval L. Johnson on Jan. 4, 1953, in Lela, Texas. She worked at the local phone company in Shamrock.

The couple eventually made their home in Pampa where Violet worked at Pampa Office Supply. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening, painting ceramics, sewing and quilting.

Many of her friends will remember her wonderful cooking, especial-



Johnson

ly the cookies she always delivered around the holidays.

Violet had been a charter member of Faith Advent Christian Fellowship in Pampa and was always active in her church as long as she was able.

Survivors include one son, Grant Johnson and his wife Kelly Mae of Pampa, Texas; one daughter, Stacey Williams and her husband Jeff of Yale, OK; four grandchildren, Miah Ebel and his wife Tricia, Kelleen Roark and her husband J.J., Orval Eugene Williams and

Janette Williams; two great-grandchildren, Kaydence Roark and Troy Roark; and numerous cousins and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Larry Johnson; and her husband, Orval Johnson.

Memorials may be made in Violet's name to the Victory Outreach, P.O. Box 1380, Seguin, TX 78155.

Mrs. Johnson will be available for viewing in Pampa at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home after 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008.

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

**Mary R. Parsons, 72**

Mary R. Parsons, 72, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 1, 2008, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at Enid Cemetery in Enid, Okla., with the Rev. Vernon Lee officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Parsons was born April 26, 1936 in Enid, Okla. She married

Roy Parsons on Jan. 15, 1971, in Ventura, Calif.

She had been a resident of Pampa since 1977. She was a strong Christian woman.

Survivors include her husband, Roy Parsons, Robert Michael Hayter



Parsons

and wife Amy Hollingsworth of Atlanta, Ga.; a daughter, Sherri Lynn Baldwin and husband Jerry Donald of Birney, Mo.; five grandchildren, Robert Jack Hayter, Sarah

Hayter, Sarah Hayter, Michael J.L. Hayter, Krislynn Victoria Hayter and

Stephen Michael Hayter, and five great-grandchildren, Stephen Ray Hayter, Lacy Michelle Hayter, Anthony Hayter, Taylor Rene Elkins and James David Elkins.

MEMORIALS: Trinity Fellowship, 2225 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

**Linda Brown Seitz, 64**

Linda Brown Seitz, 64, of Rowlett, Texas, passed away Nov. 30, 2008. She was born Feb. 26, 1944, in Pampa, Texas, to Herman Maurice and Dorothy Norene (Nichols) Brown. Linda graduated from Pampa High School in 1962 and married Tommie Seitz in 1966. They lived in Amarillo, Texas, until 1985, when they moved

to Englewood, Colo., before moving to Rockwall, Texas, in 1989.

Linda enjoyed working in her yard, oil painting, snow skiing and taking care of her beloved dog, Mika, who was her best friend.

She was employed as an office manager at I.D.G. in Dallas, Texas, and was formerly an airline flight attendant.

Linda was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her mother, Dorothy Brown of Rowlett, Texas; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and good friends. Linda was preceded in death by her father; a son, Bryan; and a brother, Herman Maurice Brown, Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008,

at Bailey-Ware Funeral Home Chapel, 1001 N. Main, McLean, Texas 79057. Interment will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery. The family will receive friends Thursday evening at Rest Haven Funeral Home — Rockwall Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. and Friday evening at Bailey-Ware Funeral Home in McLean from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Dwayne Anthony Sparks, 52**

Dwayne Anthony Sparks, 52, died Dec. 1, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at the First Christian Church with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating.

Entombment will be in Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Sparks was born Feb. 24, 1956, in Elk City, Okla. He was a lifelong resident, attending Pampa schools.

He married LeaNan Evrage on Feb. 14, 1991, at Highland Baptist Church in Pampa. He worked in the oil and gas industry as a pusher for W.O. and Holman Services.

His main hobbies were fishing and vacationing when he could. Above all, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors include his wife, LeaNan Sparks, of the home; one son, Chad Clardy and wife Jessie of Pampa; one daughter, Shannon Lamb and husband Bobby of Fritch; his father, Clyde Davis of Pampa; three sisters, Linda York, Brenda Cumpston, and Laine Brookshire and husband Terry, all of Pampa; three grandchildren, Karlee Lamb, K'Lee Clardy and Colton



Sparks

Lamb, all of Pampa; two stepgrandchildren, Jordyn Lamb and Jayme Lamb, both of Lubbock; one aunt, Rae Jean Walters of Amarillo; in-laws, Jane and Kenneth Purvis of Lefors; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Sparks and Vera Davis.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

MEMORIALS: A favorite charity. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

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669-2525

# Tour

Continued from Page 1

Spanish. 115 out of 117 children took the bibles last year.

Some of the 40 organizations involved in the project include various Pampa High School athletic teams, The National Honor Society, and a "high percentage of churches in town," Warner explained. The Pampa Police Department, Gray County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Roberts County Sheriff's Office are amount the organization involved last year. The "Big Four" organizations contributing to the project are the Optimist Club, the Kiwanis club, The Salvation Army, and Altrusa.

The steering committee for the project includes about 20 people including General Chair Robert Jacobs, and some other members: Cynthia Salazar, Lana Miller, Tyler and Ryan Powell, Harley Knutson, John Warner, Kevin and Whitney Davis and Lynn Leadvitter.

"We are trying to show (the children) that this is a community that cares and we want to help them," Warner said as he explained the motivation behind the shopping tour.

What the kids don't know when they are taken on the tour is that the chaperone is picking out

present for them, while they pick out a present for their family members. Even without that knowledge, Warner remembered a 10-year-old boy from last year's shopping tour that explained the experience as "the happiest day of my life," as he carried his presents out to his car.

"You can't underestimate the heart of this community," Warner said. On average, about 1,000 families are in need of help in Pampa during the holiday season, according to Warner. The Christmas Shopping Tour helps 46% of those in need.

To raise the \$14,000 required to take the kids shopping, and feed breakfast and lunch to the kids and volunteers, donations from individuals from organizations are required. Some benefactors from past years include Wal-Mart, the Kiwanis club who donates \$1,500 every year, and the Energizer Sunday School class. The class parks cars for a fee at the Chautauqua festival, and auctions off service to church members, and are able to sponsor about 15 children through their efforts.

"It all adds up," Warner said.

Anyone is invited to sponsor a child for \$65, or tax deductible contributions can be sent to Pampa Optimist Youth Club, c/o Treasurer John Warner, P.O. Box 645, Pampa, Texas 79066.

# Obama savors easy pace before storm

By LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Barack Obama appears to be enjoying his last few weeks of pondering the nation's problems without being held accountable for them.

The president-elect teased reporters and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, his choice for commerce secretary, during a brief, lighthearted news conference Wednesday. It stood in sharp contrast to Monday's event, where a solemn Obama was flanked by six grim-faced appointees, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, slated to be secretary of state.

On a trip to Philadelphia Tuesday, Obama briefly greeted school children and later chatted up journalists at the back of his charter plane, an occasional practice he abandoned in the presidential campaign's final months. In all, he seemed to be savoring moments of semi-spontaneous interactions and friendly banter, which almost surely will vanish when he is inaugurated Jan. 20.

Since his Nov. 4 election, Obama has left Chicago only twice, including his Washington trip to meet President Bush and tour the White House. On most days he goes to the gym, works at his downtown Chicago transition office and returns home to his family. Occasionally he dines out or visits friends. A Christmastime vacation to his native Hawaii is planned.

While keeping his travel schedule light, Obama has accomplished many of his transition chores in record time. He has chosen his core White House team and filled half his Cabinet, including the four top posts — at the State, Defense, Treasury and Justice departments.

On Wednesday, he looked like a man with a load off his shoulders.

In introducing Richardson, he indulged in jokes and smiles that were absent from his earlier news conferences. He pretended to doubt his own statement, interjecting, "I've got to check that statistic!" after saying Richardson once set a campaign record by shaking

nearly 14,000 hands in eight hours.

He teased one reporter, saying: "I was not going to call on you again," and then uncharacteristically added a personal touch when he invited the first question.

"Let's start with Julianna Goldman from Bloomberg, who was one of the originals, by the way. She was there every step of the way during this campaign," Obama said.

When a reporter asked the clean-shaven Richardson what had become of his beard, Obama insisted on answering.

"I think it was a mistake for him to get rid of it," he said, clearly enjoying ribbing his latest Cabinet choice. "I thought that whole western rugged look was really working for him. For some reason, maybe because it was scratchy when he kissed his wife, he was forced to get rid of it. But we're deeply disappointed with the loss of the beard."

Obama's good mood was a carry-over from Tuesday.

That morning, he emerged from his downtown Philadelphia hotel and bypassed the open door of his heavily secured vehicle. With a broad grin, he crossed the street to a Quaker school where children chanted his name and eagerly shook his hand.

Later, Obama boarded his Chicago-bound plane and ventured back to the press section for the first time since he was elected. Such visits were a fading memory, although in May he had led his staff in a spirited round of the word game "Taboo," defeating the reporters and photographers.

On Tuesday, Obama chomped on a handful of nuts as he greeted reporters with handshakes and hellos, noting a mix of old and new faces.

"Kind of like old times but not really," he said of being on the plane again. "It doesn't have that breathless pace ... just one city a day!"

Obama stopped biting when reporters tried to ask about future Cabinet selections. He pantomimed a zipped lip, and motioned to incoming chief of staff Rahm Emanuel.

# DBA

Continued from Page 1

ence to the customer. More Pampa Bucks will be awarded to shoppers by participating businesses, who will give away tickets that will be placed in a drawing for the Bucks. The drawing will be on Dec. 18 at 7

p.m. in front of Rheams Diamond Shop.

Individuals or businesses donations for the tree lighting project are welcome. To make a donation or to sponsor one or more lighted trees may send donations to DBA, c/o Tree Lighting Fund, P.O. Box 2180, Pampa, Texas 79066-2180, or stop by Rheams Diamond Shop, 111 N. Cuyler.

# School

Continued from Page 1

changes made this week in regard to the girls' basketball program.

The board will also hear an update on construction at the high school, consider a revision to the district's promotion and retention plan and review a new Texas

Association of School Board's policy update.

There will be a public hearing beginning at 6 p.m. on the Academic Excellence Indicator System, an accountability report.

The PISD board of trustees will meet beginning at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Carver Center Administration Office, 321 W. Albert.

# Goal

Continued from Page 1

"They provide services to probably 6,000 to 7,000 people a year on a one-time basis," Bigham said.

What is especially gratifying, she added, is that most of the donations come from individuals through payroll deductions or small campaigns through local businesses.

"We reach our goal by \$5, \$10, \$20 bills and the nickels and pennies and dimes that people give a little bit at a time," Bigham said. "It doesn't

come all at once. So, if people haven't had time to give or think we don't need it, there is still time. Everybody's gift is needed and is as important as any other. No gift is too small."

She added that any money given after the goal is attained is parceled out to the agencies by the United Way Board based upon any special needs for the year. And all the money will stay in Gray County.

Send donations to: Pampa United Way, P.O. Box 2076, Pampa, TX 79066-2074. For more information, call 669-1001.

# AT&T to cut 12,000 jobs

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T says it is cutting 12,000 jobs, or about 4 percent of its work force, because of the economic downturn.

The Dallas-based telecommunications company said Thursday the job cuts will take place in December and throughout 2009.

The company also cited a changing business mix and a more streamlined structure as other reasons for the layoffs.

AT&T plans to take a charge of about \$600 million in the fourth quarter to pay for severance costs.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 2008. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Va., where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival. (Some suggest this was the true first Thanksgiving in America, ahead of the Pilgrims' arrival in Massachusetts.)

On this date:

In 1783, General George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

*'There is always room at the top — after the investigation.'*

— Oliver Herford, American author (1863-1935).

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., and began speeding toward Mars on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

Ten years ago: Space shuttle Endeavour and a crew of six blasted off on the first mission to begin assembling the international space station.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush scrapped import tariffs he'd imposed earlier to help the battered U.S. steel industry. One year ago: Defending his credibility, President George W. Bush said Iran was dangerous and needed to be squeezed by international pressure despite a blockbuster intelligence finding that Tehran had halted its nuclear weapons program four years earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 87. Game show host Wink Martindale is 74. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 71. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 60. Actor Jeff Bridges is 59. Actress Patricia Wettig is 57. Actor Tony Todd is 54. Actress Marisa Tomei is 44. Actress Chelsea Noble is 44. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 42. Rapper Jay-Z is 39. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 35.

## Classic holiday stories inspire during tough times

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press Writer

Hard times have you down this holiday season? Take a trip to the library for some inspiration from treasured stories of Christmas past.

The mortgage meltdown, job squeeze and clash between rich and poor evoke long-popular holiday tales with ghostly clarity, offering messages of hope, faith and togetherness during an intensely uncertain year, says William J. Palmer, an English professor and Charles Dickens expert at Purdue University.

"The real reason that readers have always returned to 'A Christmas Carol' year after year since the 1840s is that it provides a way of reinventing the spirit of Christmas that everyone wants to feel during this season, no matter how hard the times or how bleak the economic outlook," he said.

Dusty old stories mingled with more contem-

porary fare can touch all generations, with the promise of better days ahead, says Brandon Mendelson, 25, a graduate student in history at the University of Albany in New York.

"This is how we as Americans feel in light of the recession," he said. "For my generation at least, Gen Y, we have never in our lives encountered a situation like this. We have a belief, despite evidence to the contrary, that this situation will end soon and improve for everyone. It may be childlike innocence, but we know it to be true."

A sampler of Christmas tales through the ages: — "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, 1843.

The Tale: Ebenezer Scrooge is so consumed by greed and downright meanness that he's visited by three spirits looking to rehabilitate him at Christmas. They lead him on a back-and-forth jour-

ney through his past, present and future. Lesson: It's never too late to make amends and let charity into your heart.

— "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," unsigned editorial in The Sun of New York, 1897.

The Tale: 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon begs for some Santa Claus truth. She follows her papa's advice to consult The Sun, not wanting to believe her "little friends" that St. Nick is a fraud. The newspaper's response in part: "Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

Lesson: A little faith in the unseen can go a long way.

— "The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry, 1906.

The Tale: Jim and Della Young are in love, but they've hit hard times

and can barely pay their \$8-a-week rent. For Christmas, she sells her prized knee-length hair to buy him a fob chain for his cherished gold pocket watch, but he sells the watch to surprise her with two fancy hair combs. Then it's time for pork chops.

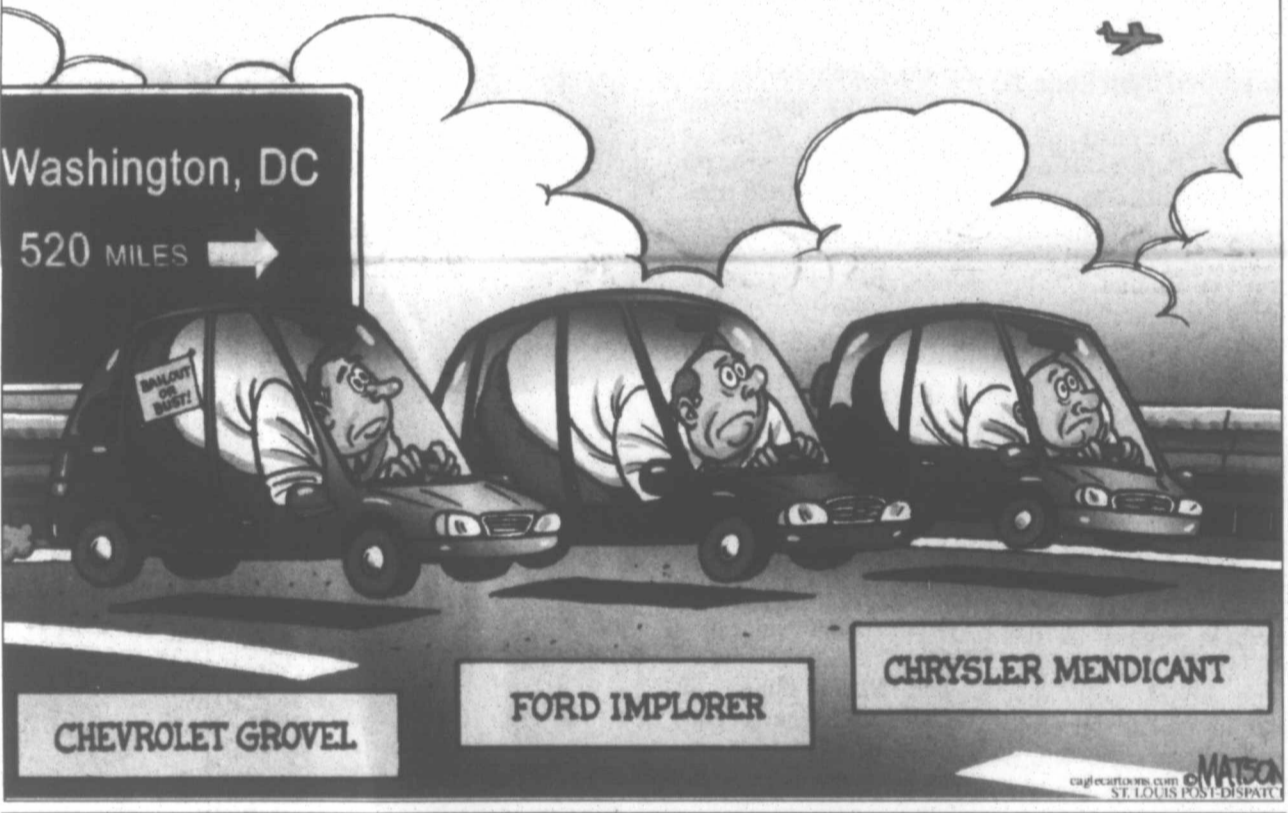
Lesson: The greatest love may require painful sacrifice.

— "It's a Wonderful Life," 1946.

The Tale: Beset by bad luck, a bank run and shattered dreams, George Bailey is about to jump off a bridge on Christmas Eve shortly after World War II. But a guardian angel in training, Clarence, grants George's wish that he had never been born. He reveals George's accomplishments and earns himself some wings to boot.

Lesson: A person's real worth can be measured in family, friends and selfless service.

### AUTO EXECUTIVES MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO CONGRESS DRIVING THE COMPACT, HYBRID CARS OF THE FUTURE.



## Editorial Roundup

By The Associated Press  
Excerpts from recent editorials in newspapers in the United States and abroad:

Nov. 29  
**Rocky Mountain News, Denver, on an agreement to withdraw American troops from Iraq by the end of 2011:**

There was more to be thankful about Thursday than just cranberries and stuffing: Iraq's parliament, after lengthy debate and months of negotiations with U.S. representatives, voted to move the nearly six-year war into its third act.

If the first act was "shock and awe" and toppling Saddam Hussein, and the second act was the lengthy sectarian bloodshed that put the word "quagmire" on many frustrated Americans' lips, the third act should hold two climactic moments: Iraq's move toward full sovereignty, and America's move toward coming home.

The troop surge that helped restore order in Iraq thankfully led us to this point where both the U.S. and Iraq felt comfortable enough to talk timetable. ...

No one should be under the illusion that it'll be sunshine and roses from here on out. Shiite firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr hotly opposed the pact; some in his camp used Thursday's vote to holler their objections in parliament. Ever the rabble-rouser, al-Sadr said that the "faithful will not be bound" by an agreement he deemed void. But above the noise, Iraq selected a way forward. ...

The pact is a light at the end of the tunnel at a time when the next

president will be shouldered with moving beyond Iraq and addressing old and new fronts, namely Afghanistan and Iran.

Dec. 2  
**The Anniston (Ala.) Star, on the Mumbai terrorist attacks and President-elect Barack Obama's cabinet picks:**

If anyone needed a reminder about the dangers that threaten democratic nations, it arrived in a hail of automatic weapons and grenade explosions last week in Mumbai. ...

America and its allies should need no reminder of the dangers that exist more than seven years after the 9/11 attacks, or after the lessons of the bombing of the USS Cole, or of those in London and Madrid.

That reality hung wearily over President-elect Barack Obama's Cabinet announcements Monday in Chicago. ...

The timing of Obama's announcements — planned or circumstantial — couldn't have been more prophetic. ...

But the lesson of Mumbai cannot be understated. Yes, the Obama administration must break new diplomatic ground and repair the international damage of the Bush years. America must return to its image as a nation that does not use its military might as a global bully that pursues pre-emptive wars. ...

During the lengthy presidential campaign, Obama's critics often attacked his lack of experience in military and homeland security affairs, especially when compared

to the service and political record of his opponent, Sen. John McCain.

Thus far, the president-elect has quieted that criticism by making sound decisions on his national-security team. His appointments, like his timing, are superb.

Nov. 29  
The (Nashville) Tennessean, on the financial crisis and unemployment:

It's the big financial institutions and mortgages that get most of the attention in news reports on the economic crisis. But if there is one issue that threatens to further deepen this recession, it is unemployment. ...

President-elect Barack Obama was on the right track when he said during the presidential campaign that too many jobs are being outsourced to other countries. Certainly, companies should not be prohibited from moving jobs, but they currently benefit from tax breaks for taking jobs overseas. As president, Obama and lawmakers should work to end those breaks.

The other challenge: how to prepare for the work needs of the future. Technology and computerization are gradually turning large staffs of mostly unskilled laborers into small staffs of skilled workers. But the retraining of workers for new skills and new fields has not kept pace. ...

Obama has shown a willingness to take on the deep economic problems the U.S. faces. Any recovery plan should include jobs as a major component. It is a busy, vibrant

## THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348  
Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager  
advertising@thepampanews.com

Betsy Phillips

Editor  
bphilips@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative  
advertising1@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising  
classified@thepampanews.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter  
rstennett@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent

Circulation  
circulation@thepampanews.com

Skyla Bryant

Lifestyles Reporter  
lifestyles@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting  
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

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# Comics

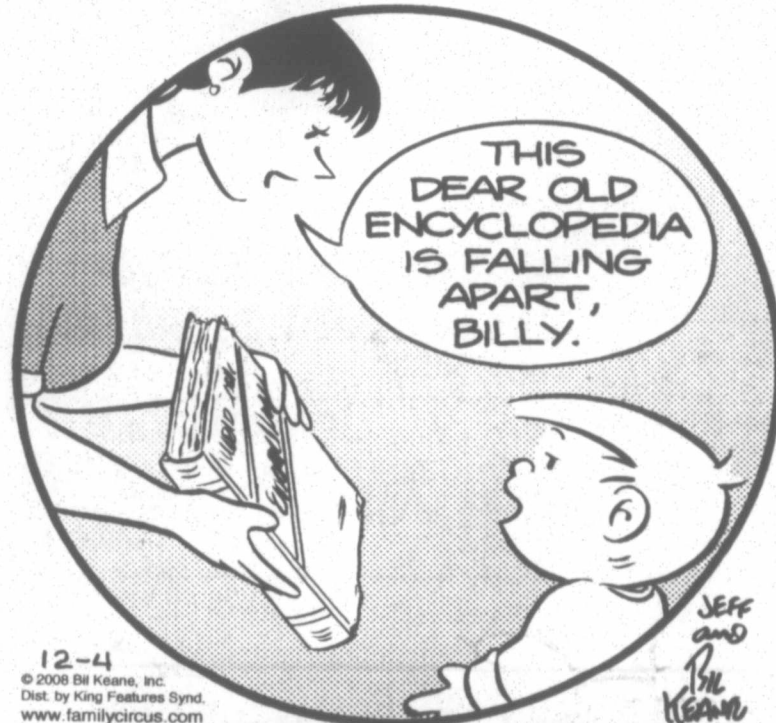
## Marmaduke



"What you see on this scorecard, stays on this scorecard."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Maybe you should take it to an Encyclopediatrician."

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Crawl
- 2 Texas town
- 3 Perhaps
- 4 Privy to
- 5 Earlier
- 6 Threats
- 7 Cabaret
- 8 Welles role
- 9 Nephritic
- 10 Rugged range
- 11 Bother
- 12 Mine find
- 13 "Far out!"
- 14 Lost intentionally
- 15 Pucker-inducing
- 16 Short composition
- 17 "What's — for me?"
- 18 Designer Herrera
- 19 Church part
- 20 Showy flowers
- 21 Church reply
- 22 Saigon setting
- 23 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
- 24 Minimum
- 25 Artless
- 26 Sprite
- 27 Hand warmer
- 28 California island
- 29 Pasta basis
- 30 On the go
- 31 Norse god
- 32 Rich
- 33 Church offshoot
- 34 Personal
- 35 Benefit

#### DOWN

- 1 Snow runners

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C	E	N	T			B	E	S	S	

#### Yesterday's answer

- 21 Ward of "Sisters"
- 22 Wilson's predecessor
- 23 Baja boy
- 24 Speechless
- 25 Acted out
- 26 Digression
- 27 Crebar, e.g.
- 28 Creative germ
- 29 Shaving mishap
- 30 Pot starter
- 31 Ring legend
- 32 Dupe
- 33 Sandy color

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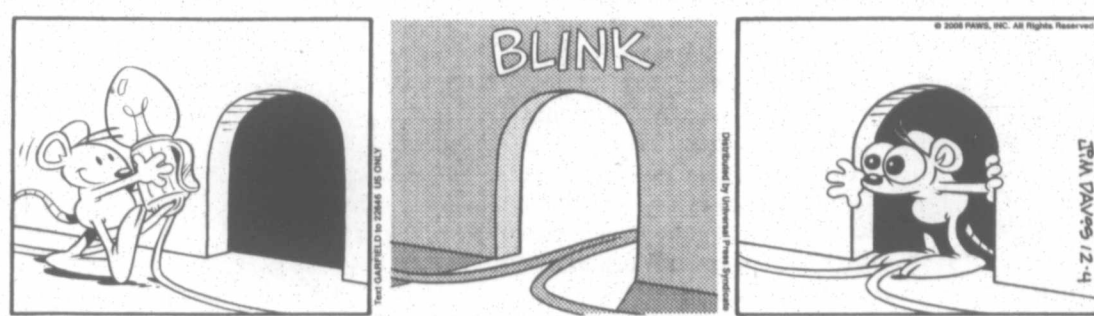
## For Better Or Worse



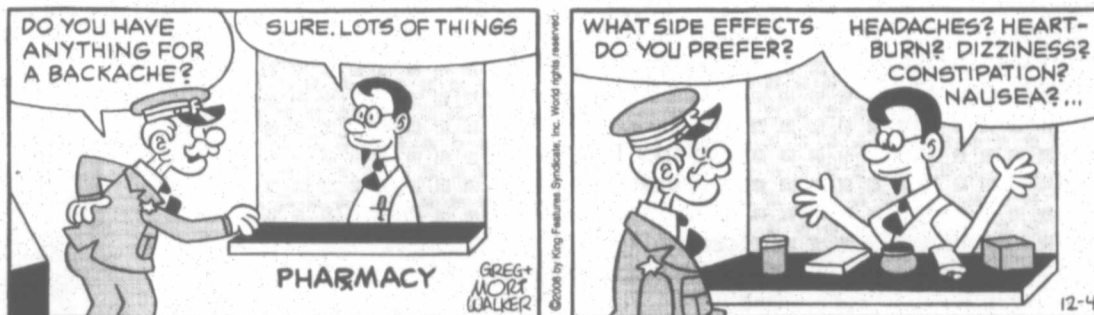
## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Officials: Texas should have storm recovery plans

**By JUAN A. LOZANO**  
Associated Press Writer  
LEAGUE CITY, Texas (AP) — The future of the state's oldest medical school — hard hit by Hurricane Ike — and whether Texas should fund recovery programs to complement federal assistance were two of the highlights of a legislative hearing Wednesday looking at the state's response to the storm.

Ike caused \$710 million in losses to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston when it came ashore near the island city on Sept. 13. Only about \$100 million of the damage was covered by insurance.

The massive damage at UTMB prompted the UT System Board of Regents to lay off 3,000 employees and reduce the number of beds at the medical facility's public hospital from 550 to 200.

In an emotional plea, Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas asked members of the House Select Committee on Hurricane Ike for their help in restoring UTMB, the top employer in Galveston County and a major provider of indigent care in Southeast Texas.

"We can come back. Our people are hard at work repairing their houses and bringing back their businesses," she said. "But we cannot bring back the hospital without your help."

She said Galveston County leaders are willing to ask residents to vote on whether to create a hospital district, which would tax people to support UTMB's public medical services.

State Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston, said UTMB's situation calls for an emergency appropriation by the Legislature. He said such an appropriation could come from Texas' projected \$11 billion budget surplus.

"We must just to keep this campus from going bankrupt," Kenneth Shine, acting chancellor of the UT System, said about the need for an emergency appropriation.

Lawmakers grilled UTMB President Dr. David Callender about whether the hospital could still support the medical school.

Callender said the 200 bed plan is only an initial configuration and he believes that number can go up to 350 beds within 18 to 24 months. He also said UTMB is working to create affiliations with surrounding regional hospitals so its medical students can continue receiving training.

Callender said UTMB needs immediate funding of between \$400 million and \$500 million for working capital and reconstruction.

"We need some help

right now to get back on our feet," he said.

Another issue Wednesday's meeting focused on was whether Texas should prepare for major storms with recovery programs and funding ahead of time instead of depending on the federal government for help afterward.

State Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, chairman of the House committee, said state officials can't simply wait for help from the federal government.

"Instead of telling people we are waiting for (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), what is step two? How do we get debris removed, how do we get people in housing?" said Turner, whose committee held the hearing in conjunction with the Texas Senate Subcommittee on Flooding and Evacuations.

Many local, county and state officials, including Gov. Rick Perry, have been highly critical of FEMA's response in Texas in the wake of Ike. The agency has been accused of being slow in providing mobile homes and other housing to thousands of displaced Southeast Texas residents.

"If the state needs to put in place an extended disaster recovery fund while we are waiting for FEMA, that is a recommendation we need to take a look at," Turner said.

Jack Colley, the state's director of emergency management, said 2007 legislation allows his agency to administer the

Disaster Contingency Fund to provide money and other help for local governments after a natural disaster. But no funding was provided, he said.

"You have legislation in place. The amount of money to put in there is up to you," Colley said.

Colley recommended that \$50 million be allocated to the fund.

Michael Gerber, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs executive director, asked the lawmakers to consider creating a state contingency fund dedicated to providing temporary housing after a hurricane or other natural disaster. FEMA currently provides this temporary housing.

Many of the lawmakers at Wednesday's meeting expressed concerns that some people left homeless by Ike are still living in tents or cars.

Officials with Texas Department of Transportation also told the committees that it would be important for future hurricanes to have pre-established contracts in place so that debris removal can be done much more quickly.

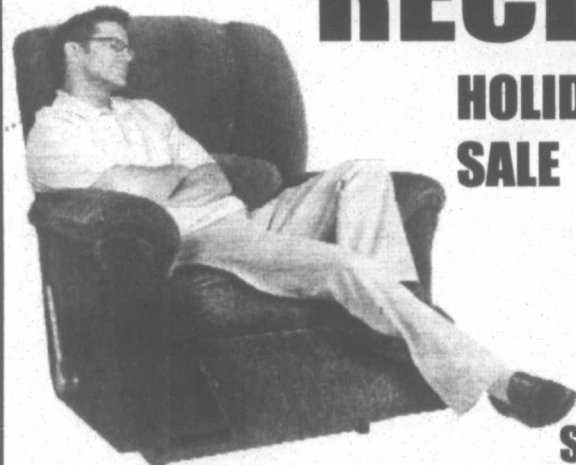
Many Southeast Texas counties complained that they couldn't finish removing debris because they were waiting for FEMA to say if it would continue to fully reimburse them for these cleanup efforts. The federal government has since extended that benefit.

Five other committee meetings are scheduled through January. The committee expects to submit its report by mid-January.

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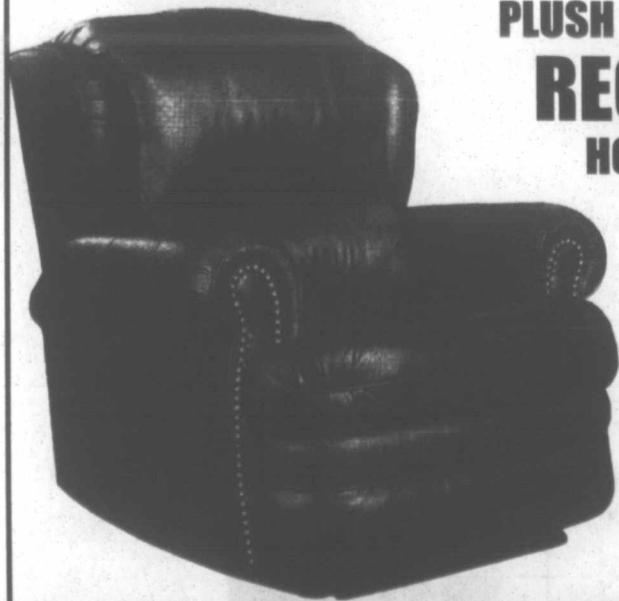
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Level: Intermediate

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Delux Wash.....\$6	\$7.....Delux Wash No Dryer - Old Super No Change in Menu
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Regular Wash ....\$5	\$5.....Regular Wash No Dryer No Change in Menu

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# Sports

## Texas sports round-up

### FOOTBALL:

#### NFL

##### COWBOYS RESTING

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys seem to think it's more important to be rested than sharp going into Sunday's pivotal game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. While starters DeMarcus Ware and Marion Barber missed practice Wednesday because of injuries, Terrell Owens and four other starters got the afternoon off, too. Adam "Pacman" Jones was among those who did practice — in his pajamas.

#### College

##### AP BIG 12 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

AUSTIN — In a season where Big 12 quarterbacks dominated the league, Texas' Colt McCoy stood out in a crowd. He was named Wednesday as The Associated Press Big 12 offensive player of the year. By Jim Vertuno. Moved.

##### TEXAS TECH-LEACH

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers says the school is negotiating a contract extension with Mike Leach, amid reports that the Red Raiders coach has met with the University of Washington about the Huskies' top job.

### BASKETBALL:

#### NBA

##### CLIPPERS-ROCKETS

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets will have to win games the hard way until Tracy McGrady gets healthy. Yao Ming had 24 points, Rafer Alston sank five 3-pointers and added 21, and the Rockets beat the Los Angeles Clippers 103-96 on Wednesday night.

#### College Men

##### LAMAR-KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Patrick Patterson scored a career-high 31 points and Jodie Meeks added 19 and six assists as Kentucky rolled by Lamar 103-61 on Wednesday night. DeAndre Liggins, playing in his first home game since clashing with coach Billy Gillispie during last week's Las Vegas Invitational, added 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the Wildcats (5-2). Kentucky shot 64 percent from the floor while overpowering the Cardinals to win its fifth straight.

WICHITA ST-TEXAS TECH — A 3-pointer by Texas Tech's Mike Singletary with 4.2 seconds left on the clock gave the Red Raiders a 72-69 victory over Wichita State Wednesday night.

TEXAS SOUTHERN-ARKANSAS — Jason Henry returned from a suspension to score 19 points, and Arkansas easily defeated Texas Southern 80-61 Wednesday night.

ST EDWARD'S-TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI — Five players scored in double digits and Demond Watt scored 19 points to led the way in an 84-70 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi victory over St. Edward's on Wednesday night.

SAM HOUSTON ST-NORTH TEXAS — Tristan Thompson scored 20 points to lead North Texas to a 68-66 win over Sam Houston St. on Wednesday night.

SW ASSEMBLIES OF GOD-TEXAS STATE — Texas State got 64 points from its bench and four players reached double digits in a 110-65 victory over the Southwest Assemblies of God on Wednesday night.

TCU-COLORADO — Zvonko Buljan and Keion Mitchem scored 15 points apiece to lead TCU to a 62-46 win over Colorado for the Horned Frogs' fourth consecutive victory Wednesday night.

### BASEBALL:

#### MLB

##### ASTROS

HOUSTON — Oft-injured Mike Hampton finalized a one-year, \$2 million deal with the Houston Astros on Wednesday, hoping to resurrect his career in the place where he became a prominent big league pitcher. Hampton spent six seasons with the Astros, ending in 1999 when he won a career-high 22 games and was an All-Star.

### HOCKEY:

#### NHL

##### STARS-AVERY SUSPENDED

NEW YORK — NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has summoned Sean Avery to New York for a hearing Thursday on remarks that resulted in the indefinite suspension of the Dallas Stars' instigator. Bettman disciplined Avery on Tuesday for making "inappropriate public comments, not pertaining to the game." The punishment came down only hours after Avery used a crude term about his former girlfriends now dating other hockey players.

##### STARS-OILERS

EDMONTON, Alberta — Mathieu Garon made 23 saves to help the Edmonton Oilers beat Dallas 5-2 on Wednesday night in the Stars' second game without suspended agitator Sean Avery. Shawn Horcoff, Lubomir Visnovsky, Marc-Antoine Pouliot, Ales Hensky and Andrew Cogliano scored for Edmonton. With the victory, the Oilers ended a five-game home losing streak, snapped Dallas' seven-game winning streak in Edmonton.

#### CYCLING:

##### ARMSTRONG-CONTADOR

TENERIFE, Canary Islands — Tour de France champions Lance Armstrong and Alberto Contador trained together Wednesday for the first time since the American came out of retirement to join the Astana team. Armstrong and Contador were paired in one of three groups of riders, though the Spaniard left the training session after about an hour to attend an awards ceremony in Madrid.

## Lady Pirates win over Silverton



submitted photo by Lendi Jackson  
Valerie Miller (12) and Kaittlynn Porter (22) of the Lefors Lady Pirates plays tough defense Tuesday night. Lefors (2-2) defeated Silverton 32-30. Miller led the scoring with 11. The Lady Pirates will compete in the Miami Tournament this weekend.

## NCAA rules violations disputed at Texas A&M-CC

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Former Texas A&M-Corpus Christi athletic director Brian Teter is fighting allegations of NCAA rules violations, including use of ineligible players, recruiting violations and lack of institutional control.

In July the NCAA notified the university of alleged violations, eight of them major, that occurred between 2004 and 2008 in men's basketball, women's volleyball and men's tennis.

The NCAA had accused Teter of not reporting his knowledge of two ineligible players and later submitting a false self-report regarding one of those players. Teter failed to conduct himself in accordance with the association's "high standards of honesty and sportsmanship," the notice said.

The report singles out two former compliance directors and Teter for failing to report ineligible players once they learned of them or for failing to

withhold them from competition.

A volleyball player was improperly given a sixth year of eligibility and a men's tennis player was given a partial athletic scholarship when he had not qualified academically and was later allowed to compete even after officials knew he was ineligible, according to the NCAA.

The Corpus Christi Caller Times reported on its Web site Thursday that Teter claims he had school president Flavius Killebrew's backing to not report an eligibility issue involving a former volleyball player.

Killebrew said he asked Teter to report the matter and believed it had been taken care of.

Teter's response to the NCAA gives a different version, claiming Killebrew said he would back any decision. Teter says he decided not to report the issue, but that he had Killebrew's blessing. He also claims he never heard about the issue again from

Killebrew.

"I said, 'Let's play this thing out and see what happens.' So (Killebrew) supported that," Teter testified to the NCAA. "And he says, 'Well, let's just make sure none of this happens again.'"

Teter's response cites a Nov. 25, 2007, e-mail exchange with Killebrew. An A&M System audit had picked up the unreported violation and Teter made the move to self-report. He notified Killebrew via e-mail and Killebrew responded that the matter should be self-reported.

As to the allegation of filing an inaccurate self-report to the NCAA in November 2007 on former volleyball player Anna Machado's ineligibility, Teter's response claims the NCAA has not spelled out any inaccuracies in that report.

Scott Tompsett, Teter's attorney, said the NCAA dismissed a third charge Wednesday, the failure to report the ineligibility of tennis player Raul Morant-Rivas.

The men's basketball program, led by former Miami coach Perry Clark, also faces allegations of improprieties. The NCAA alleges an assistant coach made at least 43 impermissible phone calls to four recruits.

A separate allegation involves the program providing impermissible recruiting inducements to a possible transfer, including transportation to the border town of Laredo so the player could renew his immigration documentation.

Teter plans to fight the NCAA allegations against him Friday in Kansas City, Mo.

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# Community

## Pampa events & opportunities

compiled by Skyla Bryant  
lifestyles@thepampanews.com

• **Tralee Crisis Center of Pampa** launched its annual Tree of Blessing program this month to benefit victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Client families are screened and submit "wish lists." Paper ornaments are made for each item requested and hung on the tree. Families are kept confidential. Persons interested in picking up an ornament and purchasing the item listed may contact Tralee. The deadline to return all items unwrapped to the office is Dec. 19. All ornaments must be returned even if an item is not provided so that organizers can purchase what was not purchased. For more information, contact Tralee Crisis Center at 669-1131.

• **High Plains Public Radio** will hold its next Living Room Concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 at its studio in downtown Amarillo. The free concert will feature folk singer-songwriter Dana Cooper. Refreshments will be served. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. A \$10 artist donation is suggested.

• **Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa** will offer Soup with Mrs. Claus from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Old Pampa Hardware building, 120 N. Cuyler. Admission will be \$5 per person. Photos with Mrs. Claus will be \$2.

• Wesley United Methodist Church will stage its 28th Annual Festival of Arts and Crafts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Community Center in Hereford. Limited booth space is available for a \$10 fee. To obtain an application, call (806) 364-0774, (806) 364-5789 or (806) 364-4419.

• **Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa** will host its Sixth Annual Christmas Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Chapel of Peace Mausoleum on the west side of the cemetery. The service is dedicated to those who are no longer living. For more information, call 665-8921.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 17, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa. For more information, call 665-4752.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2x3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.



staff photo by ReDonn Woods  
Margie Riemen, center, recently won a karaoke machine from Heard Jones Health Mart in downtown Pampa. Riemen is flanked by store employees Ruth Bowers, left, and Ada Westbrook. Heard Jones holds monthly drawings for prizes.

### Shepard's Home Health



submitted photo  
Shepard's Home Health recently celebrated 20 years of service in Pampa and the Texas Panhandle with a barbecue luncheon. During the luncheon, Suzie Wilkinson, CEO, center, presented Teresa Henson, left, regional director of business operations, and Vardene Searl, LVN coordinator of community elder care, with plaques recognizing each for 20 years of service. Shepard's was established in 1988 with a single office in Pampa and a handful of employees. The agency specializes in providing health care in the home. It is staffed with more than 80 employees. Shepard's employees assist with Shepard's Helping Hands, a volunteer organization that helps meet the needs of homebound individuals and shut-ins.



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Regarding "Feels Like a Fool in Gainesville, Fla." (Aug. 11), who complained that her friend "stole" her baby sitter -- I have news for that woman. Baby sitters, even those under 18, aren't indentured servants who serve only one master. A baby sitter is a free agent who can work for anybody she wants. What is that baby sitter supposed to do -- keep her schedule open in the hope this woman is going to call her? What if she doesn't? The baby sitter loses income. "Feels Like a Fool" is selfish. It's a free market, and baby sitters in demand should work for the families who pay them the most, have the best-behaved kids and offer the tastiest snacks. If someone wants an exclusive arrangement, then put the baby sitter on retainer. -- FORMER BABY SITTER, ALBANY, N.Y.

**DEAR FORMER BABY SITTER:** You are right. The sitter is a free agent and obviously the "most valuable player" in the baby-sitting game. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** A baby sitter is not something you can "steal." This is America, and it's a free, open market. The woman who wrote that letter should call the sitter, offer \$2 more an hour and perhaps a signing bonus, along with payment up front. A good sitter is hard to find and worth the additional expense. -- JIM S. IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

**DEAR ABBY:** I think your response about the adults in question was right on. However, there is a third party in play here -- the baby sitter. It appears the sitter could stand to learn a little about loyalty to her employer. If she no longer wishes to sit for "Fool's" family, she should just say so and become "Mimi's" regular

sitter. But if she wants to remain the regular sitter for "Fool," she needs to act like it. This is an essential life skill to learn. Treat those who employ you with respect, or they won't rely on you for very long. -- RETIRED BABY SITTER, SEWICKLEY, PA.

**DEAR ABBY:** Your response surprised me. It isn't normal behavior for a friend to steal a baby sitter or use you for any purpose. Isn't part of being a good friend that you trust one another?

Refusing to share resources with friends implies that other friends will do the same. The woman who used "Feels Like a Fool" needs to get the message that her behavior is unacceptable. LYN W., COLUMBUS, OHIO

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
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IS your house dirty? I'll clean for you. Call me 669-1557. I have References.

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

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D Transports is looking for a full-time Book Keeper/Comptroller. 5 or 6 years of experience preferred. D Transports offers competitive wages, vacation time, health insurance, and retirement. Please send resumes to PO Box 887, Canadian, TX 79014, by Fax to 806-323-9893, or email dtrnsports@sbcglobal.net

OUTREACH Health Services is HIRING FOR THE White Deer AREA. Must be 18+ yrs. or older. MORE INFO., PLEASE CALL MARY 806-373-0986, 1-800-800-0697. EOE.

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Call 806-886-6038 or 806-935-6385 \$15 hr. or more depending on exp. Good Vacations Retirement Plan Health Ins., with partial paid on spouse and children  
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CERTIFIED Pharmacy Tech needed  
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\*No Sundays!  
\*1/2 day every 3rd Sat. No Phone Calls Please!  
Mail Resume to Keyes Pharmacy 928 N. Hobart Pampa Tx 79065 or fax to 806-669-0957

SEMGROUP Energy Partners has openings for a Full-Time Bobtail and Transport Drivers in the Pampa and surrounding areas. Must have Class A CDL with the X endorsement and meet DOT qual. Exc. benefits pkg. incl. medical, dental, vision, life ins.; along with a 401K package and paid vacation, sick and holidays. Please call 806-934-7505, for application.

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NEED Maintenance person, part-time. Call 665-0415.  
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\$300 SIGN-ON BONUS  
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NEED babysitter 1:30-5:30pm. Call between 10-12 am. 662-2408.  
FULL-TIME help needed. Apply in person Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center.  
RN's & LVN's. Pediatric Home Health is seeking FT & PT. Prefer 1 yr. exp. Competitive Pay. 806-359-8512, 2801 Paramount Blvd. or email Lisa.t@householdcare.net  
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EXPERIENCE the home away from home with our furnished rooms. Internet ready. Wkly & monthly rates. White Deer Motel. 883-2572 or 665-1875.

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102 Bus. Rental OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.  
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2011 Coffee 3 bdr, 1 ba could be 4 bdrn sunroom in back  
341 Miami 3 bdr., 1 ba. Fenced Yard Call Milton 806-790-0827  
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HOME EVERY NIGHT 5 DAY SCHEDULES YOU MUST HAVE:  
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102 Bus. Rental 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  
FOR lease: metal building, offices, shop, warehouse and yard. 806-669-5264.  
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2011 Coffee 3 bdr, 1 ba could be 4 bdrn sunroom in back  
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# State News

## Texas time warp? State criticized for mental care

By JEFF CARLTON  
Associated Press Writer

DENTON, Texas (AP) — For more than a century, thousands of mentally disabled Americans were isolated from society, sometimes for life, by being confined to huge public hospitals.

In at least one place, they still are.

Texas has more mentally disabled patients in institutions than any other state, and the federal government has concluded that the state's care system is stubbornly out of step with modern mental health practices.

Critics allege that Texas remains stuck in an era when the mentally disabled were hidden away in large, impersonal facilities far from relatives and communities.

"In Texas, it's like a time warp," said Jeff Garrison-Tate, an advocate who wants to close the 13 hospitals called "state schools" and move patients into group homes.

For the third time in three years, the criticism has attracted the attention of the Justice Department, which on Tuesday accused Texas of violating residents' constitutional rights to proper care.

Investigators found that dozens of patients died in the last year from preventable conditions, and officials declared that the number of injuries was "disturbingly high."

In addition, hundreds of documents reviewed by The Associated Press show that some patients have been neglected, beaten, sexually abused or even killed by caretakers. Inspection reports also describe filthy rooms and unsanitary kitchens.

Many of the nation's mental hospitals were first built in the 1800s, when they were often called insane asylums. But by the 1960s, most experts

concluded that patients fared better in smaller, community-based settings.

The American Institution on Intellectual

a factor that led to the Justice Department rebuke of Texas.

Laura Albrecht, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of

*Investigators found that dozens of patients died in the last year from preventable conditions, and officials declared that the number of injuries was "disturbingly high."*

and Developmental Disabilities says large care facilities — usually those with at least 16 residents — "enforce an unnatural, isolated, and regimented lifestyle that is not appropriate or necessary."

Because of those concerns, eight states have abolished large institutions for the mentally disabled. Another 13 states closed most of their largest facilities, leaving just one open in each state.

But Texas has remained "the institution capital of America," said Charlie Lakin, director of the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota.

The 13 facilities in Texas house nearly 5,000 residents — more than six times the national average.

On a per-capita basis, Texas has 20.4 people per 100,000 in large institutions, Lakin said. The national average is 12.2 people.

Other states with large populations such as New York and California — which have rates of 11.2 and 7.5 people, respectively — rely far less on large institutions.

Federal law requires the mentally disabled to be treated in "the most integrated setting" possible —

Aging and Disability Services, said the agency is expanding community-based services. Texas officials say keeping the facilities open is a matter of preserving as many treatment options as possible.

But critics allege that "warehousing" patients in large institutions invites abuse. Patients are isolated from their families and communities, making regular contact with loved ones more difficult. And caretakers often get overwhelmed by the large numbers of patients, Garrison-Tate said.

In Texas, officials verified 465 incidents of abuse or neglect against mentally disabled people in state care in fiscal year 2007. Over a three-month period this summer, the state opened at least 500 new cases with similar allegations, according to federal investigators.

An AP investigation earlier this year revealed that more than 800 state employees have been fired or suspended since the summer of 2003 because they abused, neglected or exploited mentally disabled residents.

And in the one-year period ending in September, as many as 53 deaths in the facilities were due to potentially avoidable conditions such as pneumonia, bowel

obstructions or sepsis, the Justice Department said. Some families tell horror stories of their loved ones in the state facilities. For instance, Michelle Dooley said her son spent three months in the Austin State School, which she described as a place of "dingy yellow floors and patients running around without any clothes on."

During his time there, he refused to leave his bed and often languished in his own excrement, she said.

Dooley eventually moved her son into a group home in Denton where treatment costs average about \$50,000 per year — roughly half as much as the costs at state schools, Garrison-Tate said. Medicaid often picks

employees had made a bet with the resident that he would be unable to dunk another resident under water. When he lost the bet, the employees restrained him and threw him in the water, according to the reports.

Other families say they are happy with the state care.

Neil Davidson said his daughter Susan, who has cerebral palsy and is mentally retarded, has flourished during her 10 years at the Lubbock State School.

"I'm very impressed with the level of care she has received," Davidson said. "As far as I am concerned, it's Mr. Rogers' neighborhood. Everybody is looking out for everybody else."

But Denton is also the site of Texas' most notorious case of state school abuse.

In 2002, a care worker repeatedly kicked and punched a resident in the stomach and groin. Haseeb Chishty nearly died after that beating. He is now confined to a wheelchair and unable to feed himself or use the bathroom.

"It got to the point where it was fun beating him, torturing him," said former care worker Kevin Miller, who is now serving 15 years for aggravated assault.

In a statement videotaped by Chishty's lawyer, Miller said he and many of his fellow care workers used methamphetamines, cocaine and Oxycontin on the job.

Chishty's mother filed a lawsuit against the facility, but it went nowhere. In Texas, government entities are all but immune from lawsuits.

Some critics want to close the state schools. But because the Texas Legislature created each one, only lawmakers can close them.

Kelly Reddell, the lawyer whose client's son was beaten nearly to death, said the state is not doing right by its mentally disabled.

"The very nature of the institutional setting, I think, creates the environment for the abuse to take place," she said. "How in the world can you think this system is the best and it makes sense?"

*The 13 facilities in Texas house nearly 5,000 residents — more than six times the national average.*

up most of those costs.

"It was just horrible," Dooley said. "If he goes back to a state facility, he will shut down and die."

At the San Angelo State School, inspection reports from 2007 took note of scuffed walls pocked with holes, rotting food, dirty kitchens, broken furniture and missing shower curtains.

More seriously, two employees were fired after throwing a resident into a pool while he was wearing a restraint jacket. The

A visit to the Denton State School, the largest in Texas, reveals a sprawling campus spread across well-kept lawns.

Superintendent Randy Spence described the place as a "happy, home-like atmosphere."

"The vast majority of our employees love the people they work with," said Cecilia Fedorov, another spokeswoman for the Department of Aging and Disability Services. "They think of them as extended family."

## NM officials issue TB alert

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Health officials on Tuesday issued a tuberculosis alert to passengers of a commercial bus that traveled through New Mexico from Texas to Colorado in August.

The New Mexico Department of Health said a person recently diagnosed with infectious tuberculosis was a passenger on the bus Aug. 3 and Aug. 9. Only passengers who rode the bus with this person are at risk for being exposed.

The bus, chartered by El Paso-Los Angeles Limousine Express, Inc., left El Paso, Texas, the morning of Aug. 3. The person with TB boarded the bus later that day in Albuquerque and continued on to Greeley, Colo.

The person returned to Albuquerque on the same bus line Aug. 9, health officials said.

Chris Minnick, a spokesman with the New Mexico Department of Health, said passengers who were on either of the two buses should contact their local health officials for instructions on what to do.

"We're most concerned about getting the passengers to call in to be treated," he said.

Dr. Marcos Burgos, the state health department's TB medical director, said people often delay seeking care and may be ill

with symptoms for weeks or months before TB is diagnosed.

"People can expose others to tuberculosis without knowing they have the disease," Burgos said. "During the contact investigation, which requires several interviews with the case, we identify all the possible individuals who may have been exposed to TB. It is not unusual for people exposed to be notified weeks or months later of their potential exposure."

TB is caused by germs that can be spread from one person to another when a person with active TB coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. Anyone

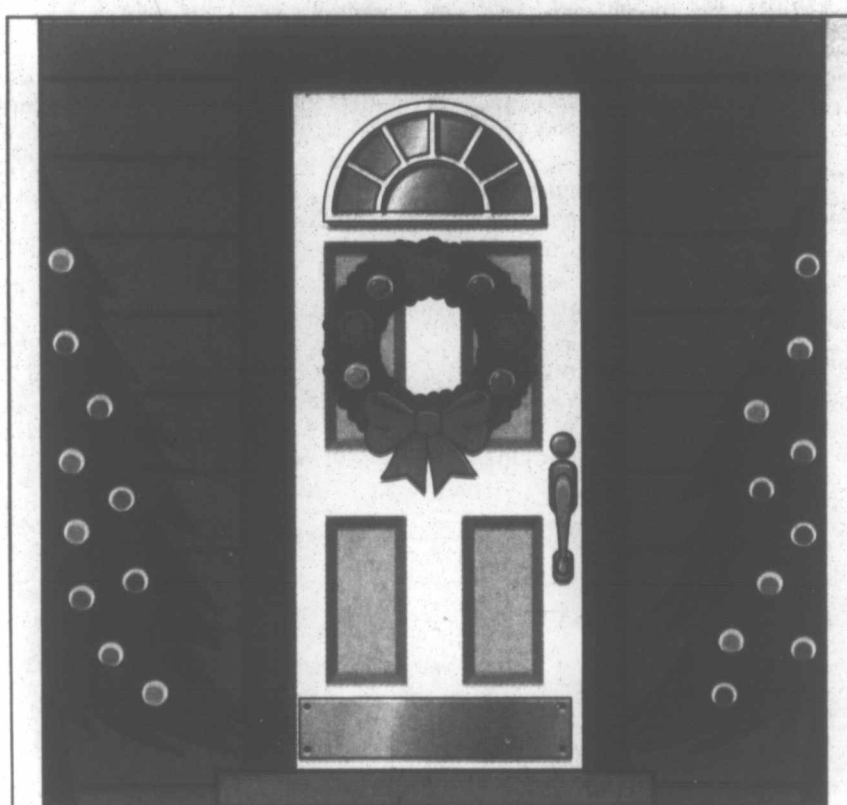
sharing air for prolonged periods with a person with infectious TB can breathe TB germs into their lungs.

Minnick could not say how many people may have come in contact with the person during the two bus trips.

Health officials said although the risk of TB infection from exposure on a bus is considered small, it's important that passengers be evaluated.

Minnick said a medical evaluation may involve a skin or blood test and possibly a chest X-ray.

New Mexico has had 54 TB cases so far this year.



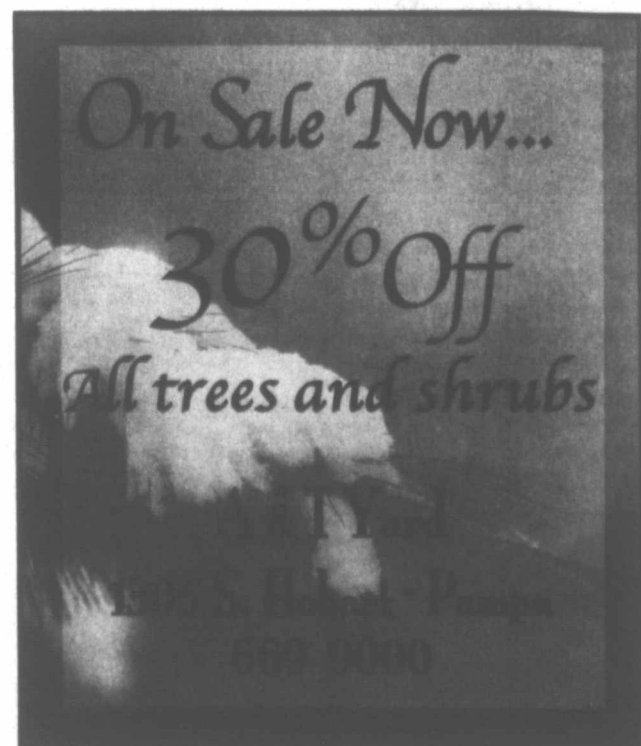
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