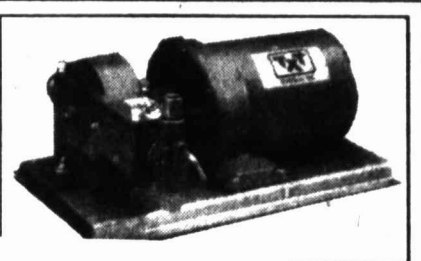


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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2003

NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 832 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH 65 LOW 30

STATE

Man held in crash that killed 6, hurt 3

BENBROOK (AP) — Police arrested a 22-year-old Tarrant County man on suspicion of driving while intoxicated and expect to file more serious charges in a weekend crash that killed six people, police said.

Police said witnesses reported Tyrel J. Irwin, who was injured in the late Saturday crash, was driving erratically before his car struck another on ram-slickened Loop 820. The impact knocked the other car into an oncoming lane and into the path of a sport utility vehicle.

Four people in a 1996 Lincoln and two people in a Mitsubishi Montero Sport were killed in the wreck, police said.

DEATHS

- Robert 'Bobby' Burns, 80,** musician.
- Saylor Kayte Danner,** infant.
- Silvester Diaz, 54,** Graham resident.
- Chester Willis Van Natta, 76,** oil field pumper.
- Gladys Standridge Pannell, 94,** homemaker.
- Eva Irene Vinson, 81,** retired nursing home employee.

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Area cattlemen to wait and see
Livestock officials can't gauge effect of mad cow disease until next sale

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Texas Panhandle cattlemen were holding their breath today as they waited to see what is going to happen to the market for their livestock following the discover last week of a dairy cow with mad cow disease.

Cattle from panhandle feedyards were bringing a profitable \$91 per hundredweight Tuesday, Dec. 23, until about 4:30 p.m. when Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman announced that a dairy cow slaughtered in Washington state on Dec. 9, had bovine spongiform encephalopathy, more commonly known as BSE or mad

cow disease. Few live cattle sold after that, although there is one report of cattle being bought by a packer on Friday, Dec. 26, for \$75 per hundredweight.

Most of the cattle trade has slowed for the holidays.

Industry officials reported Monday that a packer offered one feedyard \$78 for some cattle but had been turned down.

With few cattle sales since the discovery of the dairy cow with BSE in Washington, industry officials said this week that no one really knows what is going to happen to the cattle market, which had this fall been setting record prices for cattle.

Jim Gill, market analyst for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association said Monday afternoon that until the cattle trade resumes next week, nobody knows for sure what's going to happen.

It is an opinion echoed by P.R. Bass of Shamrock Livestock Auction.

For the last several months, cattle coming out of panhandle feedyards and going to slaughter have been quite profitable. Those profits followed some 18 months of severe financial losses.

Area ranchers, who provide cattle that go into the feedyards for fattening, have shared recent profits.

Bass, whose livestock auction facility in Shamrock handles some of those

cattle going into the feedyards, said he expects prices for those cattle to be lower when his sales resume next week, but he doesn't know how much lower. Until some trades are made, there won't be any stability in the cattle market, he said.

Gill said much the same about the finished cattle coming out of local feedyards. Until area packers begin buying cattle, no one knows exactly what their cattle are worth.

The 30-year veteran of the cattle feeders association, however, said that cattlemen are not panicking. They are patiently waiting to see what develops.

A number of countries around the

(See CATTLE, Page 3)

Program impacting teen pregnancy rate

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 EDITOR

Seven years ago, approximately 35 of every 100 teenage girls living in Gray County became pregnant, constituting one of the state's highest teen pregnancy rates.

At that same time, a non-profit sexual abstinence education program called "Worth the Wait" pioneered here. Its purpose: To address teen sexual activity as an important public health issue.

Since then, WTW has broadened its scope to include 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle and is now considered as a model for similar programs throughout the United States.

In addition, more than \$2.3 million in grants and donations have passed through the organization into the local economy the past five years.

But the most important fact about Worth the Wait is the statistical evidence that the program appears to be reducing the number of teen pregnancies here.

WTW workers began teaching the princi-

pals of sexual abstinence until marriage and promoting the benefits of an abstinent lifestyle to Pampa students in 1998.

That year, 34.8 percent of girls, ages 13 to 17, living in Gray County were pregnant.

Six years later, in 2001, Gray County's teen pregnancy rate had dropped approximately 14 percentage points to between 20 and 21 percent.

Stacey Ladd, WTW executive director, related this information in her annual report to the Pampa school board members.

The 2002 preliminary teen pregnancy figures have not been released, but Ladd says she believes the downward trend will continue.

"The trend is good," she said. "We hope it will hold."

Ladd explained teen pregnancies have declined in the state overall and in Region I (the state's public health region which includes Gray County) but not at the rate of decline seen in Gray County.

In 1999, after one year of WTW education, the local teen pregnancy rate dropped more

(See WTW, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Stacey Ladd, executive director of Worth the Wait, presents the results of a Baylor University-sponsored survey evaluating the effectiveness of the abstinence education program in Pampa middle and high schools.

Hot under the hood



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa firefighters extinguish a fire in the engine of a Ford LTD at the FirstBank Southwest drive-up in the 300 block of West Kingsmill Monday afternoon. Pampa Fire Department officials today said the fire was contained to the engine compartment of the vehicle and no other damage or injuries resulted from the blaze.

Holidays mean special hours, day off for many

Schools, government offices, financial institutions and other businesses that will be closed for New Year's Day include the following:

SCHOOLS

Pampa Independent School District closed Monday, Dec. 22. Classes will resume Monday, Jan. 5, 2004.

Clarendon College - Pampa Center closed at noon Friday, Dec. 19. Classes will resume at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2004.

GOVERNMENT

Pampa city offices will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1.

Lovett Memorial Library will close at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, and reopen for regular hours Friday, Jan. 2.

Gray County offices will be closed Thursday.

Texas Department of Health will be closed Thursday.

Texas Department of Human Services will be closed Thursday.

Texas Cooperative Extension

Service will be closed Thursday and Friday.

The Social Security office will be closed Thursday.

Farm Service Agency will be closed Thursday and may close early on Wednesday.

Pampa Post Office will be closed Thursday. No mail will be delivered and service windows will be closed.

BUSINESSES

Pampa Chamber of Commerce will be closed Thursday and Friday.

All Pampa banks will be closed Thursday and will observe regular business hours on Wednesday and Friday.

The Pampa News will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday. A newspaper will be printed and delivered on Thursday, but the office will be closed all day Thursday.

Compiled by News Editor Skyla Bryant and Staff Writer Marilyn Powers.



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BUSINESS REVIEW

Rasco custom buildings tailored to suit client's needs

Rasco Construction, owned by Gerald and Joyce Rasco, is located at 1000 S. Price Rd. Rasco purchased the company from Ganell Overhead Doors on May 16, 2002.

Custom built buildings of any size are built by the staff at Rasco Construction. "We

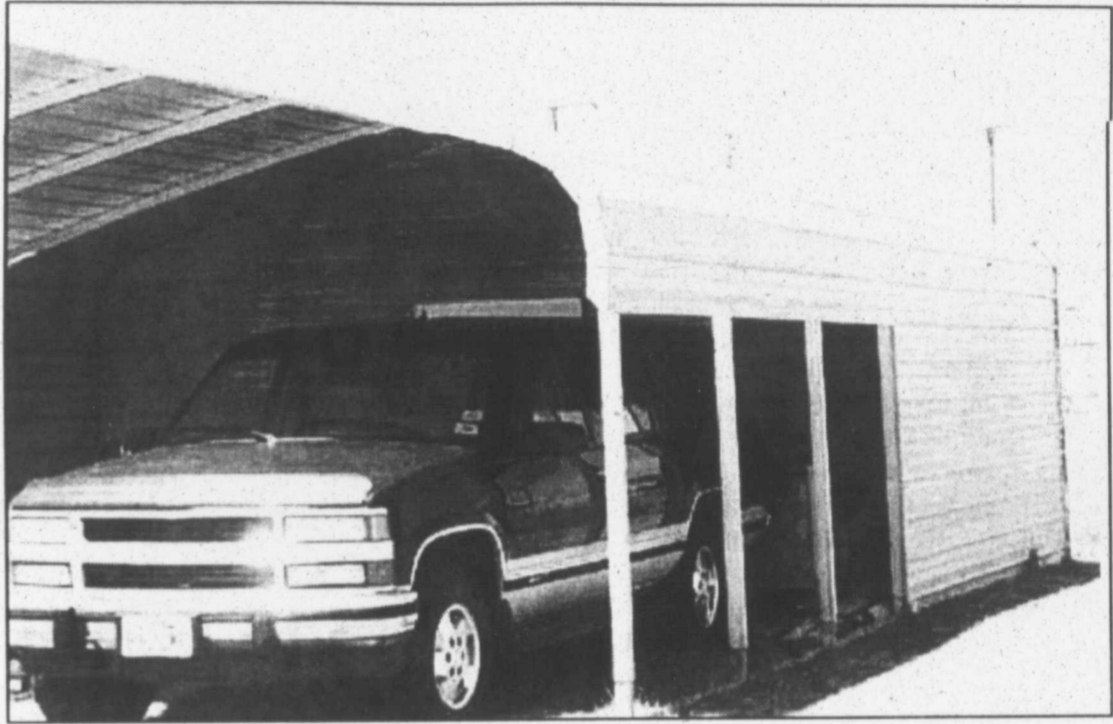
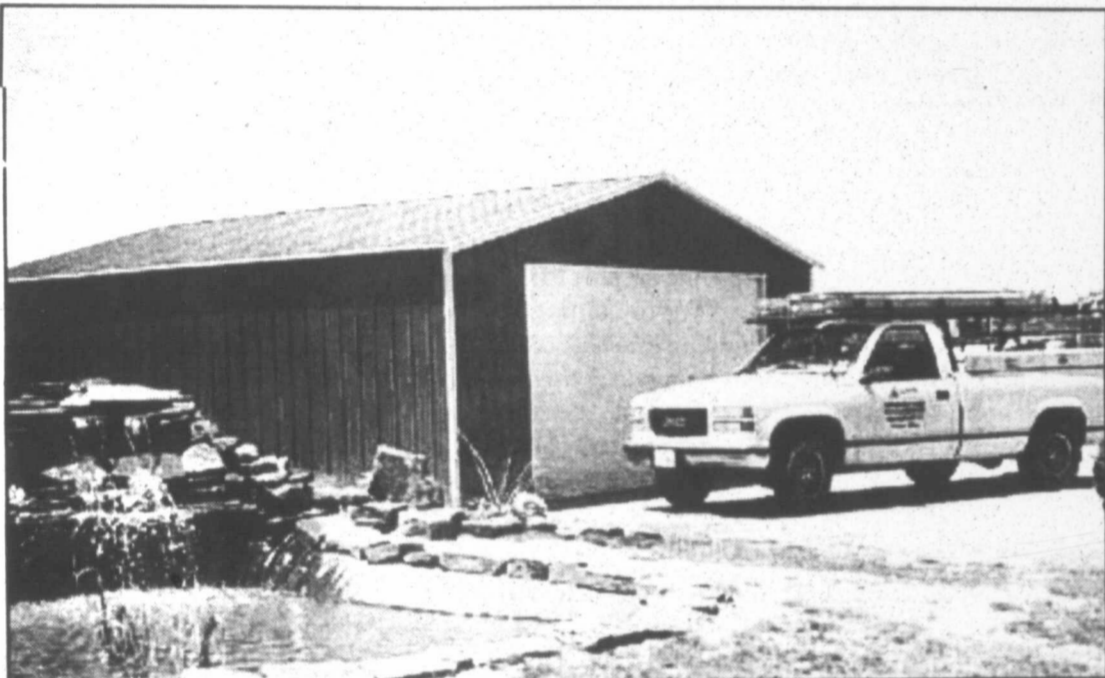
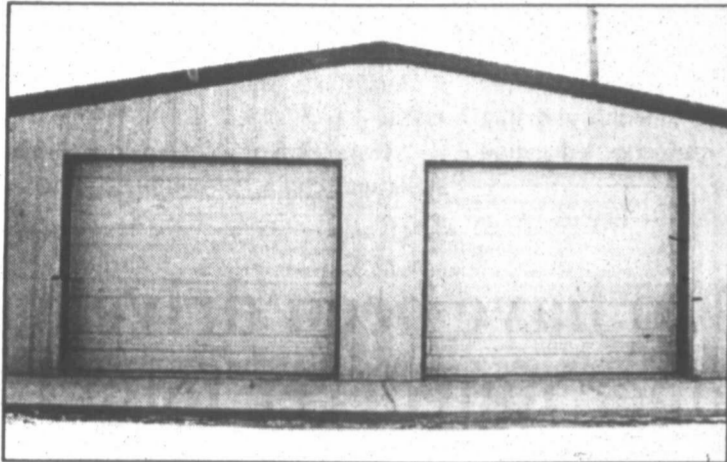
will build them any size the customer wants," said Rasco. "Both large and small."

Along with VERSATUBE and FABRAL'S superior products for fabricating buildings, VERSATUBE now offers our company an economy line of carports and steel buildings. Buildings

may be used to provide protection from the elements for your car, boat, RV, outdoor furniture and equipment or even livestock. They can be installed on the ground, gravel, or a concrete pad. Custom sizes to meet your needs are easily built by adding height and length extensions.

Selling and installing overhead doors both residential and commercial as well as the door openers to operate the door is just another of the functions the trained staff at Rasco Construction provides for their customers. MID-AMERICA doors and LIFTMASTER overhead door openers may be purchased from Rasco.

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

There's plenty of room for storage in this building while the carport allows two vehicles to be parked in it. The building may be seen at Rasco Construction at 1000 Price Road.

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Pampa News

Crossword P
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 BY THOMAS J
 ACROSS D
 1 Writer
 James
 5 Page of
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 12 Slugger
 Hank
 13 Western
 convoys
 15 Had
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 16 Bill
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 17 Complete
 18 Depict
 20 Milk
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 43 Hotel
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TUESDAY • DECEMBER 30, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Wife Too Tired To Tango With Husband Hot To Trot

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "John" for 11 years. We have four beautiful children. John earns enough money so I can be a stay-at-home mom to our little ones.

My problem is, John's sexual appetite is insatiable. It's driving me crazy. He demands sex twice a day and more often on weekends. If I tell him I'm tired or stressed, he threatens to find a girlfriend or a hooker. I don't know how much longer I can go on like this. Please help me.

SEX SLAVE IN WICHITA

Or should I let Arnie decide when it's time to tell the rest of his family? **STRESSED-OUT IN LAS VEGAS**

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: Something is not kosher here. Could Arnie be ashamed of you? Could he still be married? By all means, you should be concerned. If you continue to tolerate this behavior, you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

DEAR SEX SLAVE: With four children under the age of 10, it's no wonder you're feeling tired and stressed. Has your husband always been this way? If this is new behavior, he may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated by a physician. If it is not new behavior, then I hope you realize your problem isn't about sex as much as it is about dominance. Your husband is using sex as a bludgeon to keep you in line and show you who's boss.

Marriage is supposed to be a union, a partnership. Marriage counseling could help you both bring your real issues out into the open and improve the level of communication between you. If John refuses, go without him so you can learn assertiveness skills. If you continue to tolerate the status quo, well, your signature says it all.

DEAR ABBY: Recently I began a wonderful relationship with "Arnie," the man of my dreams.

My problem is, he is hiding our relationship from certain members of his family. He told his youngest daughter about me, and she likes me so much she calls me Mom.

Arnie and his daughter tell me to remain silent when other family members call on the phone. If one of them comes to the door, they tell me to hide in another room.

Should I be concerned about this?

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother with an 11-year-old daughter. We live in a small two-bedroom apartment.

My sister, her husband and their three kids moved in with us from out of state because they didn't like it where they were. When they arrived, my sister said they would only stay for two weeks. That was three months ago.

In addition, they are broke. My brother-in-law lost his job and is not looking for another one. I work but make just enough for my daughter and me.

They're costing me a fortune. My electricity bill has doubled, plus there is no privacy. Please help!

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

DEAR DAMSEL: You've been a supportive sister. Now it's time to draw the line. Set a date for them to move out and stick to it. Enough is enough.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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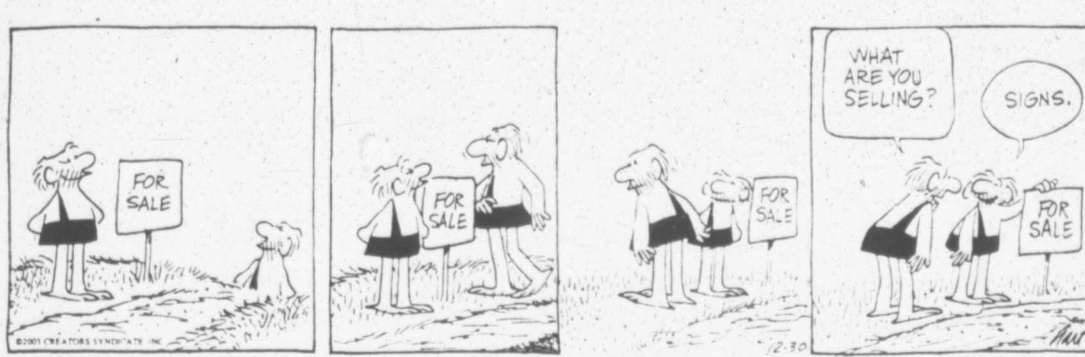
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

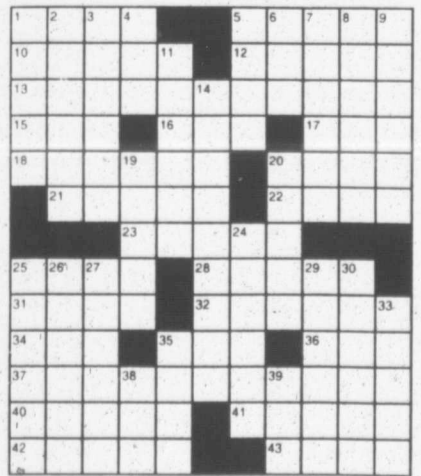
- 1 Writer James
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- 10 Armistice
- 12 Slugger Hank
- 13 Western convoys
- 15 Had supper
- 16 Bill stamp
- 17 Compete
- 18 Depict
- 20 Milk buy
- 21 Showed over
- 22 Falls behind
- 23 Sports spot
- 25 Indian gown
- 28 Had supper
- 31 Prayer end
- 32 Kind of band
- 34 Medico
- 35 Wish undone
- 36 Paid player
- 37 Transmission connections
- 40 Mass language
- 41 Bender
- 42 Vote in
- 43 Hotel furniture



Yesterday's answer

- 14 Assembled
- 19 Shower part
- 20 Runway sight
- 24 S.F. players
- 25 Rider's need
- 26 Unconcerned with ethics
- 27 Speak from memory
- 29 Realm
- 30 Fixed socks
- 33 Plane parts
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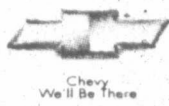
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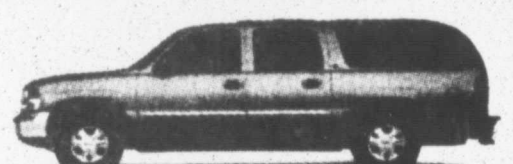
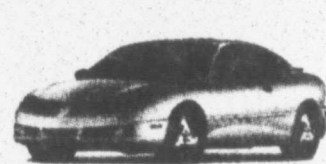
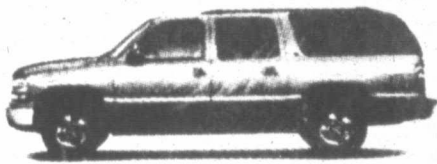
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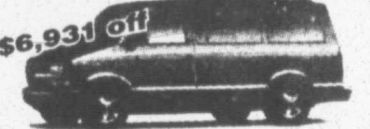
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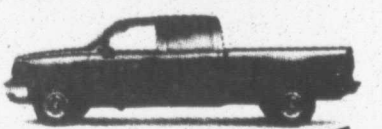


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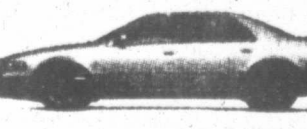
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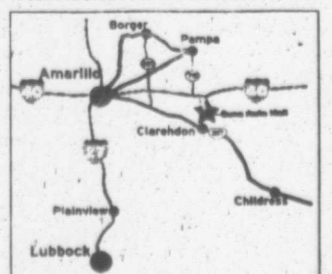
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