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Weather update
 National Weather Service officials say the winter storm predicted for the area came in slower than expected, but at press time today continued to gain strength.
 "The heaviest snow we're seeing right now is in Carson County around White Deer, southwest Gray County and on south toward Groom," said Rob Slattery, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Amarillo.
 Slattery said Dallam County reported five inches on the ground at mid-morning. Dalhart had only received one inch, and Boise City, Okla., had six inches.
 He said the storm began expanding between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. today.
 "Echoes on the radar show its centered over Carson and northern Potter counties, then cuts off over the city of Amarillo. It's pretty heavy around Groom, from Lake McClellan cut-off through to Groom," he said.
 The warm temperatures, ranging from 34 to 30 degrees, may keep the snow from accumulating like forecasters first thought, he said.
 "When the sun goes down, it will start sticking more. Ice and snow will be forming on bridges," Slattery said.

Sanitation supt. recuperating from fall
 Sanitation Supt. Rick Stone is at home recuperating today after taking a 60-foot tumble Monday down the side of a landfill cell. He was lifted from the bottom of the cell by Pampa Fire Department Rescue Team and others. Richard Morris, director of public works, said Stone is "sore" but suffered no major injuries and few scratches. "He's lucky," Morris added, saying that Stone, who may have suffered a minor concussion, will have another checkup tomorrow.

- Joyce 'Nannie' Shawhart, 73, health care professional for 55 years.
- Creed Smith, 83, retired Getty Oil plant superintendent.

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Raising restoration funds faces county

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Raising \$1.3 million to help pay for a restoration project to restore the Gray County Courthouse is facing the Gray County Commission.

Financing alternatives to supplement the \$3.8 million grant the county was awarded by the Texas Historical Commission will be on the agenda at the Feb. 1 county commission meeting.

"We've got to get our ducks in a row on how to deal with the additional financing we need," said Precinct One County Commissioner Joe Wheeley. "We need to address finances first."

Wheeley was referring to many costs the \$3.8 million will not cover.

Also, the restrictions by the THC on how the \$3.8 million grant is spent limits certain expenditures by the county such as the cost of moving employees out of the courthouse during the restoration.

The county judge cited recent fuel bills in speaking of making the building more energy efficient. The courthouse gas bill for November, 2000, was \$1,020 while December's bill jumped to \$2,900, according to a cost report given to the county commission Monday.

County officials are checking on whether building rental costs would be covered by the \$3.8 million grant. The THC grant program also provides the state puts up 72 percent to 28 percent match by the county.

Among the major building needs identified by consultants are installation of new electrical wiring as much of the wiring was installed in the 1930s. Plumbing repairs have also been identified as a major item. County officials report many rusted pipes as well as cracked and deteriorating sewer lines

inside the building. The exterior of the building is also cracked.

Replacement of windows is also needed, said County Judge Richard Peet. "These windows are not energy efficient," he said. "We still have the old boiler system and only one thermostat for four floors in the building."

The county judge cited recent fuel bills in speaking of making the building more energy efficient. The courthouse gas bill for November, 2000, was \$1,020 while December's bill jumped to \$2,900, accord-

ing to a cost report given to the county commission Monday.

Peet said if the additional funding is not made available the county would lose the \$3.8 million because of the match requirement.

"We need this work done on the courthouse," he said. "If we don't raise the \$1.3 million for the project, we will lose the \$3.8 million from the state, and we may never again have another opportunity like this. If we lose the \$3.8 million grant, another county will get the money and utilize it."

Peet said he would be happy to give residents a tour of the county facility to show them the needs of the building. "These needs are not what people see when they run in the tax office to get new license plates," he said. "Anyone who would like further information is urged to contact me."

The commission has discussed the pos-

(See RESTORATION, Page 2)

2-month old baby in critical condition Deputies probe circumstances

Gray County Sheriff's deputies continue to investigate an early morning call reporting an unconscious baby on South Barnes Street, south of Pampa.

Details remained sketchy at press time today, but sheriff's department officials said that Deputy David Rushing was called to a residence at 1408 S. Barnes at 2:15 a.m. today after authorities received a call that an infant there was unconscious and unresponsive, Chief Deputy David Russell said today.

The baby was reported to be in critical condition about 10 a.m. today, Russell said.

"When the deputy got there, the grandfather was administering CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)," Russell said.

Officers were told that the unconscious baby was found by his mother, Russell said. He said the baby boy is two-months-old. He declined to release the child's name. He said the South Barnes address is the home of "the Porter family."

First responders with the Pampa Fire Department were also called to a medical assist 1408 1/2 S. Barnes at 2:53 a.m., according to fire reports.

Russell said the baby was transported by ambulance to the emer-

(See BABY, Page 2)

PISD officials deny heating reductions

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Heat is not being turned off in the Pampa schools. Pampa Independent School District officials emphatically denied a student's allegation Tuesday morning that heat would be turned off at Pampa Middle School due to the \$80,000 gas bill received by the district.

B. J. Hagerman, father of a sixth grader at Pampa Middle School, went to *The Pampa News* Tuesday morning reporting that his son, Adam, told him the 800 students at PMS must wear jackets to school because the heat would be turned off at school.

Hagerman said his son claimed PMS Principal Tim Powers announced over the intercom Monday the heat would not be turned on in an effort to reduce the cost of fuel to the school, and said Powers told the students to wear jackets to school.

The father said his son may have exaggerated, but told *The Pampa News* he thought it "needed to be checked out."

"No announcement with regard to heat has ever been made," said Powers Tuesday morning. "I announced to the students Monday to

(See PISD, Page 2)

Trade for sleds?



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Robert Mercado, 7, and his sister Ariel Mercado, 9, fly down the sidewalk on East Browning Street recently on the new scooters they received for Christmas. Local youngsters had a few sunny days to play outside, but weather forecasters now predict from six-to-10 inches of snow for the area by this evening. If so, kids like the Mercados will have to switch from scooters to sleds.

PEDC to consider bonds

By KATE B. DICKSON
 Associate Publisher

A discussion and possible consideration of the issuance of revenue bonds to finance more projects for the Pampa Economic Development Commission is on that board's 4 p.m. agenda today at 105 E. Foster.

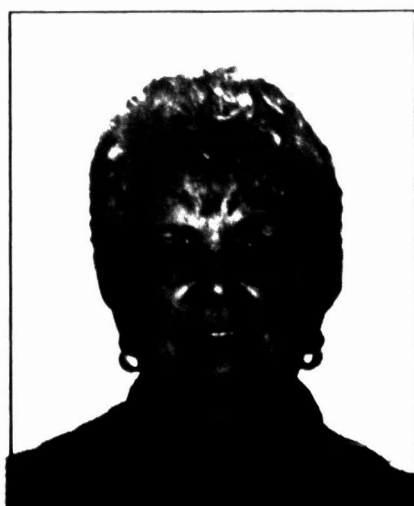
"There will be more discussion for sure," PEDC Executive Director Susan Tripplehorn said this morning. "But I honestly don't know if there will be a vote or not."

In December, PEDC Board President Richard Stowers appointed board members Roger David and Jerry Foote to review the financial aspects of selling revenue bonds as a way of restructuring the organization's debt and generating new money to fund more projects.

The bonds are being considered because the PEDC is strapped for funds to do any deals, Tripplehorn said previously. If bonds are approved they will be repaid from revenue created by the PEDC's half-cent city sales tax.

(See PEDC, Page 2)

Quite frankly... How would you like to be a private pilot?



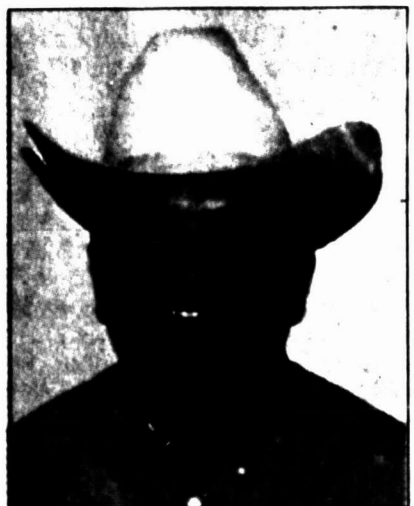
"I would love it. I've been up before and it's wonderful."

-- Vivian Romines



"That would be great, but I would have trouble finding passengers because I run out of gas frequently."

-- Jack Sutherland



"I would like it because we have 900 square miles to patrol in Gray County and that kind of vehicle would be great."

-- David Russell



"I don't want to be a pilot because it's too dangerous."

-- Tamika Davis



"I would like it, then I could go to the Bahamas and see the world."

-- Sarah Brady

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Calendar of events

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B Walker at 669-2266.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need

a ride all Sharon King, 665-2818.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST
Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, conducts prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. daily for the citizens of Pampa - the churches, the schools, etc. All are cordially invited to come and

pray. For more information, call 665-4926.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Women's Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger

and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
Pampa Ministerial Alliance will hold its Annual Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m., Nov. 21 at Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd. Over 10 churches are involved in presenting the annual event which is free and open to the public.

GRAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Gray County Genealogical Society will not meet in the month of December. The January meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at Lovett Memorial Library and will feature a hands-on orientation to the Internet.

PAS DANCE
Pampa Area Singles will hold a dance from 8-11 p.m. Jan. 27 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Music will be by Mike Porter. The event will be alcohol and smoke free. For more information, call 665-7059.

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATRE
The Dallas Children's Theatre will present three performances of "Heidi" for local school children in third- through sixth-grade Thursday, Feb. 1 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Outlying school districts have been invited to attend the program as well. The project is sponsored by Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Pampa ISD and other small independent school districts and the Nona Payne and H.E. and Inez McCarley Foundations.

EVENING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
BSA Hospice will offer grief

education and group support for adults dealing with the loss of a loved one Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m., Jan. 18-Feb. 15 at First Presbyterian Church in Borger. For more information, call (806) 274-9711.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL
Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association will sponsor the Fourth Annual People's Law School from 9 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 20 in the College Union Building of Amarillo College in Amarillo. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The event is being funded through a grant from Texas Young Lawyers Association with assistance from NALS of Amarillo and is open and free to the public. Participants will choose from a variety of topics and attend three 50-minute sessions. Topics include: Criminal

Law, Family Law, Landlord/Tenant Law, Wills and Trusts, Small Claims Court and Small Business Issues.

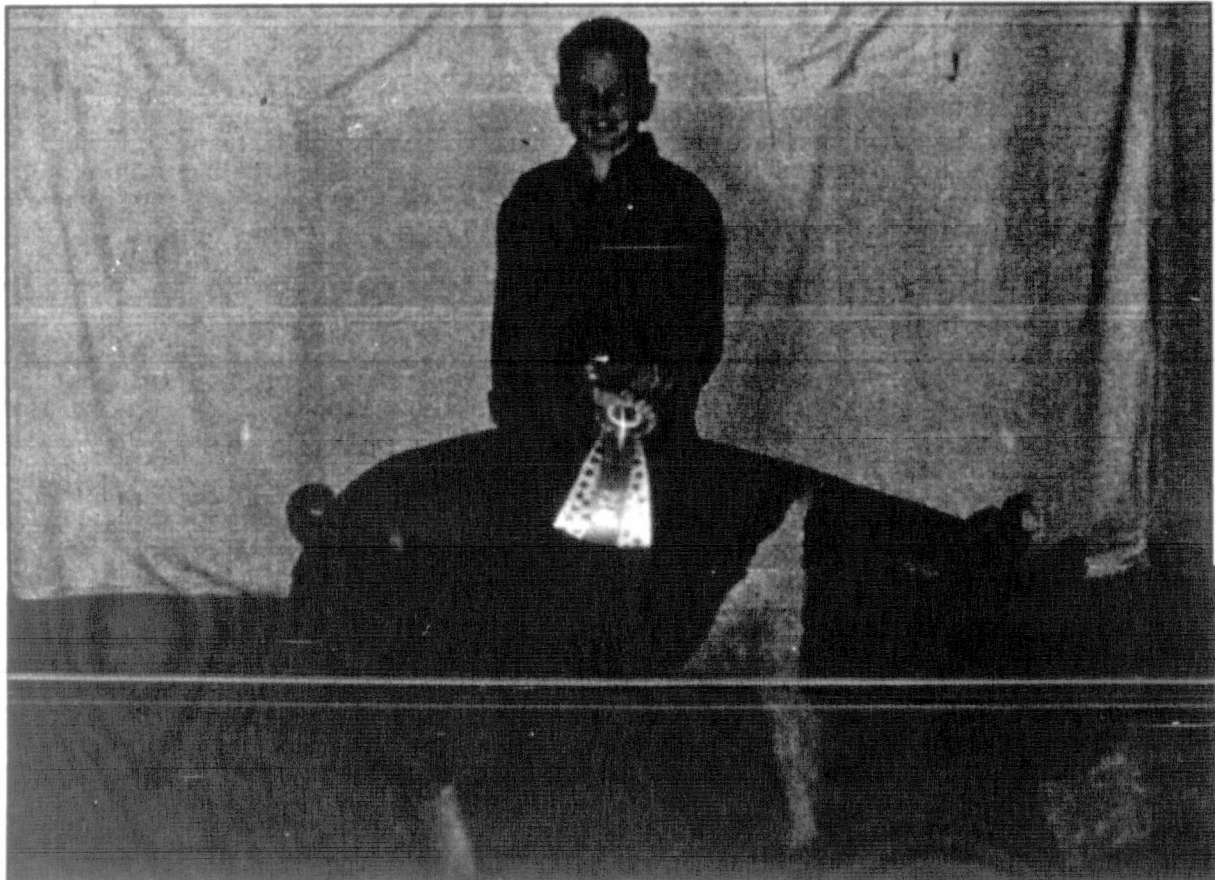
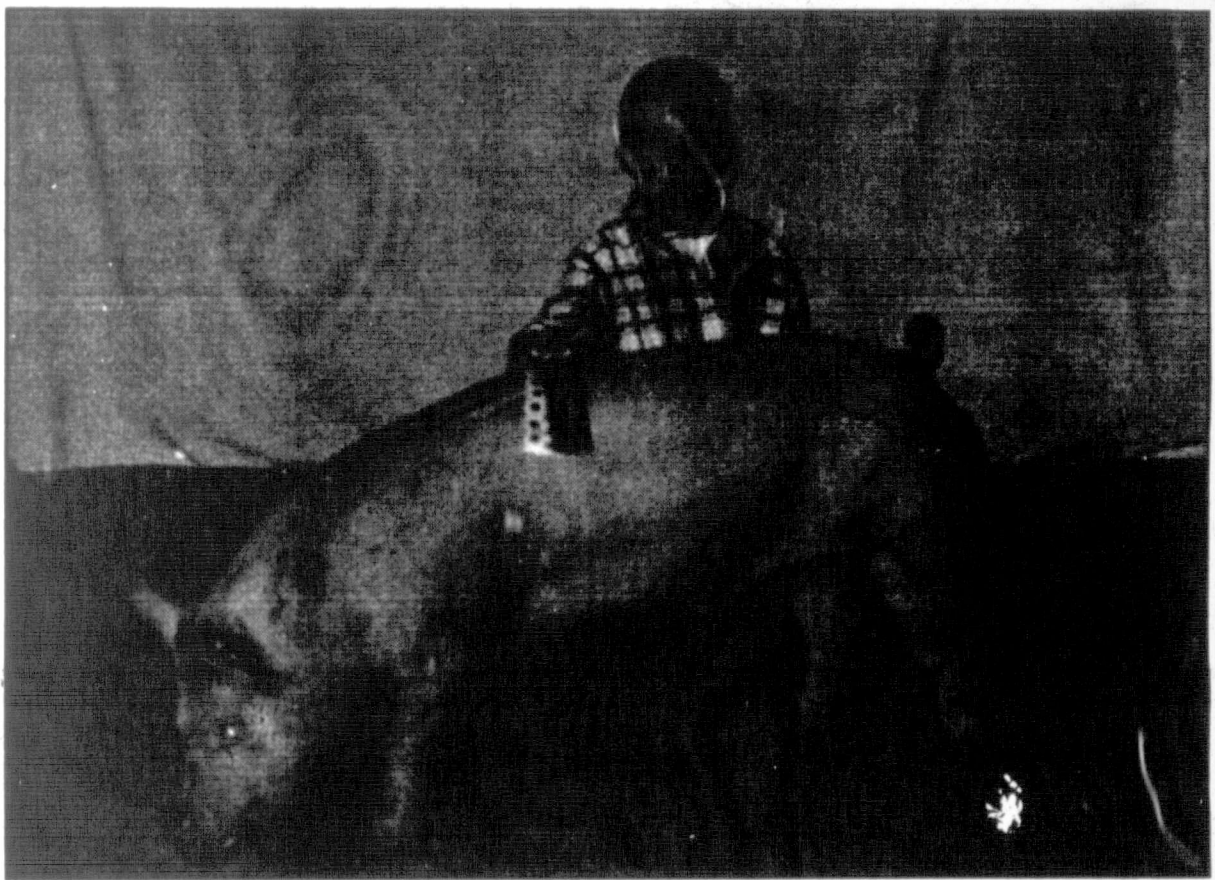
MISS TOP OF TEXAS AREA
The Third Annual Miss Top of Texas Area Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Jan. 27, at Frank Phillips College in Borger. The pageant is the preliminary competition to the "Miss Texas" pageant slated in July in Fort Worth. To be eligible to compete, participants must be between the ages of 17-24, must be at least a senior in high school and must be currently attending or plan to attend college. To enter or for more information, call (806) 273-7168 or (806) 857-3804. Winners will receive a \$250 cash scholarship, a \$250 wardrobe allowance, a official crown and will travel to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant.

Gray County 4-H Livestock Show

Results from the 4-H Livestock Show held recently at Clyde Carruth Pavilion are as follows:
BARROW SHOW. Misty Parish, Champion OPB; Krista Schults, Reserve Champion Other Pure Breds, (OPB); Megan Coutts, Champion Duroc; Drake Jackson, Reserve Champion Duroc; Aaron Hunt, Champion Hampshire; Libby Dyson, Reserve Champion Hampshire; Lauren Coutts, Champion Yorkshire; Megan Crawford, Reserve Champion Yorkshire; Zach Licklider, Champion Cross; Cassie Hamilton, Reserve Champion Cross. Coutts was overall Grand Champion Barrow and Licklider was overall Reserve Champion Barrow. Senior Showmanship award went to Jeremy Pritchett and Junior Showmanship went to Parrish.

LAMB SHOW. Travis Fish, Champion Fine Wool, Reserve Champion Medium Wool and Reserve Champion Lamb of Show; Shawn Smith, Reserve Champion Fine Wool, Reserve Champion Fine Wool Cross and Reserve Champion Southdown; Chloe Smith, Champion Fine Wool Cross, Champion Medium Wool and overall champion of entire show; Misty Parrish, Champion Southdown. Shawn Smith earned Lamb Senior Showmanship award and Travis Fish received the Junior Showmanship award.

STEER SHOW. Chloe Smith, Champion English and Reserve Champion Steer; Cassie Hamilton, Reserve Champion English; Krista Smith, Champion Exotic and Grand Champion Steer; Blake Nusser, Reserve Champion Exotic; Matricia Davis, Champion American; Meagan Crawford, Reserve Champion American. The Senior Showmanship award went to Megan Coutts and the Junior Showmanship award went to Chisum Smith.



Top: Lauren Coutts, Champion York, Grand Champion of Show. Bottom: Zach Licklider, Champion Cross, Reserve Grand Champion of Show.

West Texas to host Music Career Day

CANYON — The West Texas A&M University music faculty is encouraging high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing music at the college level to "Tune in to Your Future" by attending Music Career Day Friday, Jan. 26. The orientation program is free and includes presentations about the University's admission process, financial aid and student activities as well as more targeted sessions on music careers and the University's music program. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Mary Moody Northern Hall Atrium on the WTAMU campus in Canyon. The day's activities also include lunch with students and faculty and a noon concert featuring the Symphonic Band, Chorale and the Harrington String Quartet. Scholarship auditions begin at 2:45 p.m.

"This is the first of several scholarship auditions," Sally Turk, associate professor and coordinator of Music Career Day, said. "The earlier a student auditions, the more funding we have available and the greater the chance we can award scholarship assistance to deserving musicians who choose to study with us." The tables will be turned at 8 p.m. as faculty members take to the stage for the Faculty Grand Recital. The concert is free and open to the public. "It's a great concert," Turk, who plays the flute, said. "Many of the performing faculty are principal

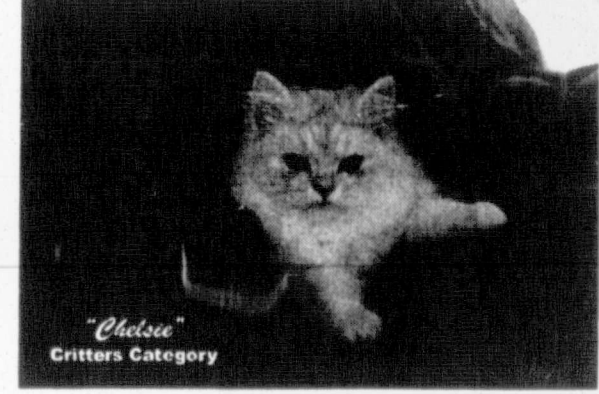
musicians in the Amarillo Symphony, and this provides a rare opportunity for people to see us perform as soloists or members of small ensembles. It's also a great opportunity for us to dispel the myth that those who can't do, teach." West Texas A&M University offers undergraduate music degree programs with areas of emphasis in performance, composition, music therapy, music business and music education. For more information, call the Department of Music and Dance at (806) 651-2840.

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- Categories
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 2. Critters ... pets or wild ones
 3. The Countryside ... landscapes, buildings & scenery without people

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1. Each photo must have been taken in Pampa or surrounding area between January 1, 2000 and February 13, 2001.
2. All entries should be submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to allow us to return them.
3. On the back of each photo attach your name, address, telephone number and a brief description of whom or what is pictured.
4. One entry per category per person. No employees of the Pampa News or professional photographers may enter.
5. The Pampa News reserves the right to reprint all entries in promotional advertising.
6. Send or bring your photographs to: The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Texas, 79065
7. Every effort will be made to return your photo. However, do not send one-of-a-kind photos that can not be replaced.

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS 5:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

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~ Business Review ~

Bob Clements, Inc. in Pampa ...

Getting clothes clean at Bob Clements, Inc. is not the only feature offered by the business, say the owners Neil and Mary Fulton.

Local residents also may find a unique men's suit bar is a special feature located inside the local business at 1437 N. Hobart in Pampa. A

selection of men's suits ranging between sizes 40-60 are found in stock at the local store.

Mary Fulton said she can

also obtain suits in smaller sizes for her customers upon request. Men seeking suits will find an experienced staff to assist them with their selection of a suit of their choice at the local business during regular business hours.

The business also has a wide selection of men's ties to compliment the suits. Men's blazers are also in stock in the suit bar. Customers will also find a large selection of quality men's colognes in the suit bar.

Another distinctive feature offered by the business is the only Ozone Room in the community. The special room has oxidation which will remove the smoke smell from clothing, blankets and other household items following a fire.

Extremely difficult to remove from clothing, the Ozone Room is a welcome feature to residents whose personal items have been saturated with the unwelcome odor.

"Removal of the smoke

odor and stains is very hard work," said Mary Fulton. The Fultons said the oxidation procedure removes the odor usually in a 24-48 hour period.

"We don't do any cleaning until the process is complete," she said. "It is pure oxidation and gets the smoke smell out."

The Fultons credit the expertise of their employees for the success of their dry cleaning business. "Our greatest asset is our employees," Neil said.

The couple purchased the business three years ago. Mary went to work for the previous owner 17 years ago, and has learned the business from the ground up. She began working the front counter and in time began working in the back as well. Neil joined her in the business in 1998 when the couple became co-owners.

"Most of our employees have been here for 15 years or longer," said Neil. "Two employees, Cleo Spencer and Lottie Cary, have been here for 37 years. Our seam-

stress, Linda Ford, has been here for 17 years."

Neil and Mary enjoy working together with their 12 employees. The business provides a full range of cleaning services. Linda Ford, who works full time, provides a full line of repairs and alterations.

The business performs all types of cleaning and drying cleaning. Among the services offered are shirts and jeans with heavy starch, drapery cleaning, as well as bedspreads, blankets, table cloths and wedding dress preservation.

Bob Clements Inc. also stores fur coats and stoles in its refrigerated fur vault.

To help keep keep their cleaning services at the highest possible standard, the Fultons consistently continue to upgrade and add new equipment.

The couple invites the public to "come by and get the laundry and dry cleaning service you deserve." "We welcome all our customers, old and new alike, to come by and see us," said Mary.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Mary and Neil Fulton carry a wide selection of men's suits in the Suit Bar at Bob Clements, Inc. Stylish men's ties and blazers are also stocked at the business as well as a large selection of men's colognes.

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JAN 16 2001

Texas news round up ...

Prison guards conducts candlelight vigil

AUSTIN (AP) — Correctional officer Willie King has had feces thrown at him and has seen colleagues abused by the prisoners they are supposed to oversee.

He is one of some 23,000 prison guards in Texas whose starting pay of \$18,000 a year is among the nation's lowest, despite working in the country's largest prison system.

King, who works at a state prison near Houston, was one of about three dozen correctional employees who began their legislative fight for pay raises and better working conditions at a Monday night candle light vigil.

They plan to begin lobbying lawmakers Tuesday at the Capitol. "If somebody was throwing body waste at you, you'd get tired of it, too. Or stabbing you or hitting you. There's not much you can do. You have to remain a professional and that's kind of hard," King said, clutching a burning candle.

King feels ignored by state officials and politicians. "We're out there every day in the trenches and I have yet to have anybody ask me, 'What should we do? What can I do?'"

From a union's perspective, legislators and Gov. Rick Perry can raise salaries and improve training.

"We don't come with our hats in our hands begging. We come asking for the Legislature and the governor to do the right thing," said Brian Olsen, executive director of the Texas chapter of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees.

Authorities boost reward to \$440,000; two of escaped convicts believed spotted near Houston

IRVING, Texas (AP) — With the seven escaped convicts from a South Texas prison having eluded authorities more than a month, the reward for information leading to their arrests and convictions has risen to \$440,000.

Two of the fugitives were reportedly spotted north of Houston on Monday. The sightings could not immediately be confirmed by state officials, although initial FBI review of the store's surveillance video showed promise.

Navasota Police Chief Bill Lucas said his investigators are reviewing surveillance photos with state corrections and Texas Department of Public Safety officers.

The chief said employees of an Exxon station near Texas 6 reported seeing two men in a red and white flatbed pickup truck who fit the descriptions of Donald Keith Newbury, 38, and Randy Ethan Halprin, 23.

The two men purchased beverages and tried on sunglasses at the store, then requested directions to Conroe.

The men were last seen heading east on Texas 105, leaving Navasota in the direction of Montgomery County. Lucas said police in Navasota, about 60 miles north of Houston, notified law officers in that area.

Montgomery County sheriff's officers began searching Conroe streets for the fugitives.

Halprin and Newbury escaped with five others from the Connally Unit near Kenedy, Texas, on Dec. 13. The fugitives face

capital murder charges in the shooting death of police officer Aubrey Hawkins during a Christmas eve robbery of an Oshmans Super Sports USA in Irving, a Dallas suburb.

Texas pride hits its stride with ascension of Bush

UNDATED — It's a bed and breakfast, and a can of cheap beer. It inhales history, exhales myth and comes out swinging if it catches a whiff of derision. It's a birthright, an inheritance from generations of dusty bards and hard-bitten romantics with time to spin fact into legend.

With George W. Bush's presidential inauguration approaching fast, Texas pride is swelling. Not since the heady days of Lyndon B. and Lady Bird has the Lone Star State seen itself embodied so plainly and publicly as it has in its newest golden boy.

Bush is Midland oil and Dallas baseball and Houston brash, a hunter and a reader of Scripture rolled into a lanky frame, spiced with a swagger.

Americans have been staring at a snapshot of Texas pride for months. But what is it really, this stuff of puffed egos and tall tales? It's a paycheck for Lois Smith, 69, who books reservations at Pride House, a Victorian bed and breakfast nestled in the woods near the Louisiana state line.

Texas pride is a thick-skinned defense against a nation that loves to poke fun at the cowpokes. (There was the famous calling card of a storied statesman that read "Sam Houston: Texas," as if no other information could possibly be relevant.) It inspires loyalists like Smith to count generations of Texans — and discount anything that came before.

Ashcroft hearing looming, Bush pays tribute to King

AUSTIN (AP) — President-elect Bush honored Martin Luther King Jr. with a promise to advance King's work by improving public schools, as civil rights questions loomed over the confirmation of his attorney general nominee, John Ashcroft.

As Ashcroft faced those questions Tuesday on Capitol Hill, Bush was spending his last day at home in Texas before changing his address to Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Laura, will take up residence at the White House following Saturday's inauguration.

"America does not always live up to our ideals," Bush said at a predominantly black Houston elementary school. "The hopes of too many children are frustrated by deep poverty and unequal schools," he said. "And when this happens, our whole country feels the loss of their gifts."

Standing at Bush's side was Rod Paige, his designated education secretary and a product of segregated schools in Mississippi.

Bush held up school desegregation efforts by King's generation as "one of the great victories of our nation."

"Today the challenge is different, but there's still a challenge," the president-elect said. "See, every child can go to school now. The fundamental question is, is every child learning?"

Segregation was among the issues critics have pointed to in assailing Ashcroft's nomination. Ashcroft also has criticized deseg-

regation lawsuits in Kansas City, Mo., and in St. Louis.

Ashcroft opposes affirmative action programs based on racial preferences, and as a Missouri senator voted against expanding hate-crimes laws to make it easier for federal prosecutors to try such cases.

He spoke out Monday against racial profiling, and some civil rights leaders spoke out to defend him.

Billionaire seeking others to offer bid for airline

DALLAS (AP) — Carl Icahn, the billionaire financier and corporate raider who formerly ran Trans World Airlines Inc., is trying to make a power play against American Airlines for the financially ailing carrier's assets.

Icahn, whose earlier alternative against American's proposal for \$200 million in TWA emergency financing was rejected by a judge, is now discussing a competing bid with third parties, his attorney said Monday.

Executives of Fort Worth-based AMR Corp., the parent company of American Airlines Inc., announced last week they would spend \$3.5 billion on TWA's assets and aircraft leases.

However, the purchase by AMR is dependent on TWA, the nation's eighth-largest carrier, first filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The bankruptcy filing, which occurred Jan. 9, left open a door for other bidders to emerge even though American had received interim approval to provide a \$175 million loan to TWA to keep it operating through bankruptcy proceedings.

AMR officials declined to comment on Icahn's proposed bid or any other moves he plans. A final hearing on the company's loan to TWA will occur Jan. 27.

Icahn's attorney, Edward Weisfelner, would not reveal the identity of any third party his client has contacted to join his bid.

Elsewhere:

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: Martin Luther King Jr.'s name has been the subject of a brewing controversy in president-elect George W. Bush's hometown. It began two years ago, when a city councilman introduced a motion to rename a street after the slain civil rights leader. ...

REMEMBERING MLK: Parades and speeches were held Monday across Texas in memory of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In Seguin, James Perkins Jr., the first black mayor of Selma, Ala., was scheduled to speak at Texas Lutheran University as part of the school's MLK celebration. In San Antonio, religious leaders from several denominations worshipped at the Mount Zion First Baptist Church on Sunday to proclaim King's message of racial and religious tolerance. ...

ICE STORM: Residents of three Northeast Texas counties whose homes and property sustained damage from severe ice storms that hit last month need only pick up the phone to get the process of financial assistance under way, state and federal officials said late Sunday.

Report cites six Texas districts for dropout rate

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The school system in this Central Texas city and five others in Texas have ranked among the 14 urban districts with the worst dropout problem nationwide, according to a university study.

The study conducted by two researchers from Johns Hopkins University says the other eight systems are in industrialized cities in the north and midwest.

All 14 school districts had a disproportionate number of Hispanic and black students, according to the study.

"These data reveal an unacceptable number of inner city public high schools that fail to serve the largely minority and low-income students who attend them," the report stated.

The study was one of 14 reports on high school dropouts presented at a conference held Saturday by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University and Achieve Inc., a consortium of governors and corporate leaders that supports higher academic standards.

"The dropout issue has been neglected," Gary Orfield, a Harvard University professor of education, said. "We've been focusing so much on test scores and early childhood education, we forget what happens to kids when they get to adolescence."

He said the dropout problem "absolutely has become worse."

Also presented at the conference were studies criticizing standardized testing, particularly the emphasis placed on the 10th-grade Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, which high school students must pass to graduate.

Walt Haney, Boston College professor, said schools tend to hold students back in the ninth grade if they're not prepared to pass the 10th grade TAAS. Retaining students discourages them from finishing school, he said.

But Uri Treisman, who directs the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, argued that ninth-grade retention and dropout problems stem from several factors, including a state requirement that freshmen pass algebra.

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