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Tuna not quitting. Focused on coaching ... SEE PAGE 7



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THE PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1452

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Homelessness problem for some pupils

Alleviating the needs of students without homes one at a time ...

By DEE DEE LARAMORE Special to The News

Dozens of homeless children live in Pampa. Most local residents are unaware, but not so school officials.

In the aftermath of the recent hurricanes that slammed into the Gulf coast, eight evacuees found educational refuge at Pampa schools, according to Lesley Gershmel, Pampa High School counselor and liaison for homeless students.

"It appears (the evacuees) came here either because

they had family or a friend here," she said. "TEA (Texas Education Agency) instructed the schools to accept them. Any that came were to be considered as homeless. None were here even six weeks, though."

Right now, 20 students known to be homeless are enrolled in Pampa public schools, Gershmel said.

"Last year we had 31 total," she said, adding that she expects that number to change. "This is only December."

A number of factors hamper school officials' ability to find these students, including the students' and

families' reluctance to seek help because of fear and embarrassment.

"A lot of times, we don't know about them," she said. "The little kids talk more if they're needing something. The older kids are better at disguising it."

Being homeless does not necessarily mean some Pampa students are living on the streets.

A broad definition of who is considered homeless comes from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 passed by the federal legislature to ensure educational rights and protections for children and

'A lot of times, we don't know about them. The little kids talk more if they're needing something. The older kids are better at disguising it.'

— Lesley Gershmel Counselor and liaison for homeless students

youth experiencing homelessness. The act is a part of the "No Child Left Behind" initiative.

Briefly, the act defines homeless as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence" but also encompasses students without guardians and migratory children. The

definition also includes those who are extremely poor and living out of a vehicle, abandoned houses or public buildings or parks.

For some children, their situation is a result of an environment where caregivers struggle with drug and alcohol addiction.

See HOMELESS, Page 2

STATE

Inmate seeks new trial, blames judge

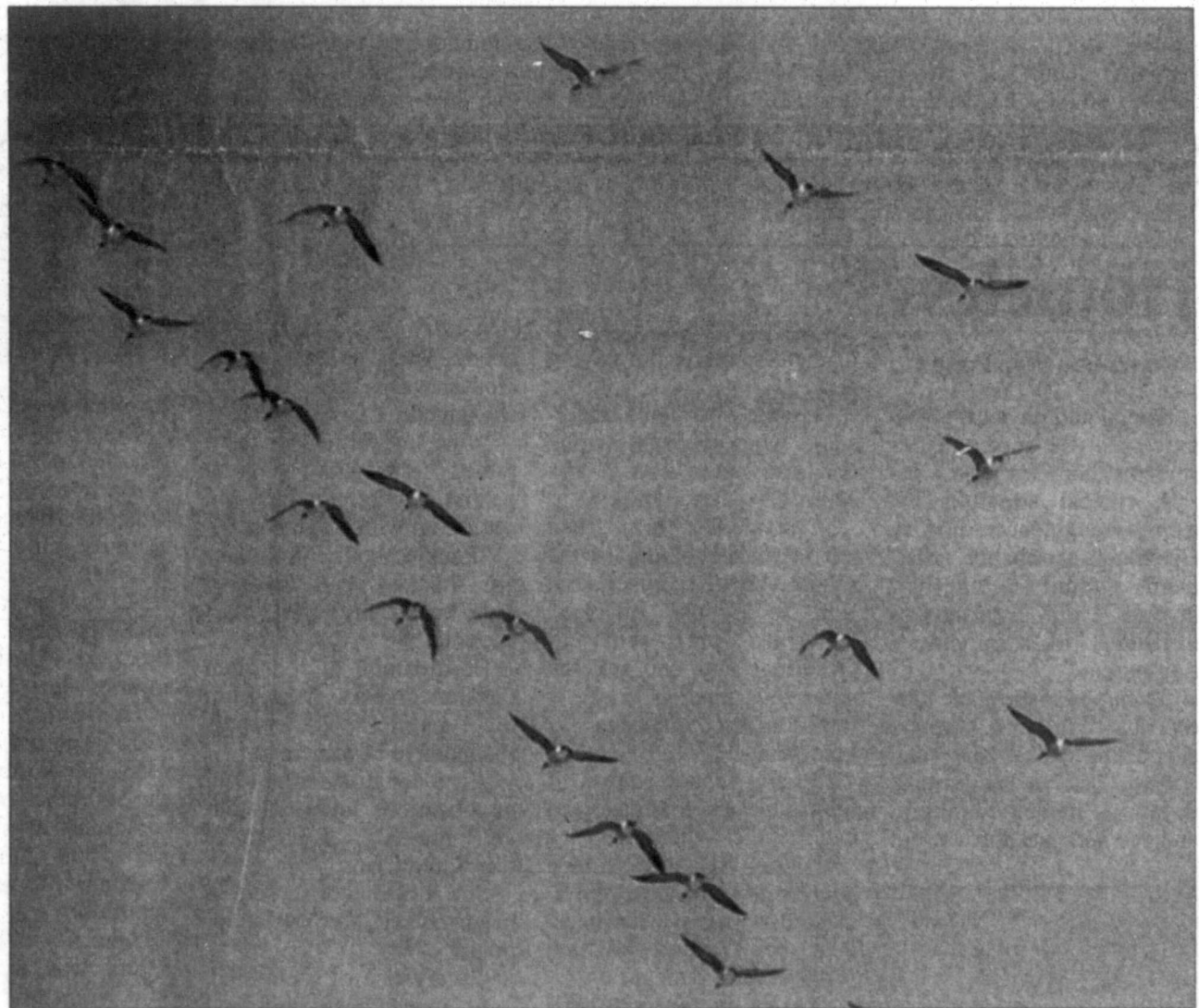
HOUSTON (AP) — One of the men convicted in a series of robberies, rapes and slayings that terrorized Houston in 2002 is seeking a new trial because the judge presiding over his trial was doing prosecutorial work on another death-penalty case.

Edgardo Cubas was one of three men who became known as the East End killers. He was sentenced to death in May 2004 for the rape and murder of 15-year-old Esmeralda Alvarado.

In a brief filed with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Cubas' attorney Kurt Wentz contends his client should get a new trial because of state District Judge Jan Krockner's actions. The appeal points out Krockner's participation in death row inmate Martin Draughon's case before a federal court while presiding over Cubas' state court trial.

Krockner was a prosecutor for the Harris County District Attorney's Office in 1987 when she secured a death sentence against Draughon in the shooting death of a man after a robbery.

Flying south?



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

These geese somehow escaped being part of a traditional Christmas dinner and appear to be making their way south to warmer climes.

Cornelison files for re-election

By DENNIS SPIES Editor

Lee Cornelison has filed for re-election for a second four-year term as Gray County treasurer.

Cornelison, running on the Republican ticket, said the treasurer's office is necessary and important.

"I find that honesty, having an understanding of economics, cash flow and office organization to be the most important qualifications,"

he said. "One doesn't have to be an accountant coming into the job, but probably will be one when he comes out."

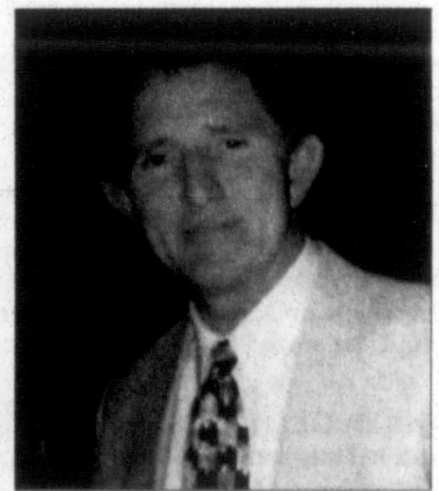
He described the office as difficult to define in a county the size of Gray.

"We are the human resources office, the payroll office, we handle workers' comp claims, and county health self-insurance," he said in a statement. "We have been responsible for formulating and producing the county's personnel manual and

continuing updates, as well as making sure employees stay informed on any changes that come from new legislation. One of the really unusual, but routine functions of our office is analyzing controlled substance testing reports done monthly for our precinct employees."

Cornelison said he is certified by the Texas Association of Counties as CIO-2, the highest level of accreditation for investment qualification.

See ELECTION, Page 2



Cornelison

White Deer Land Museum New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31, 2005 • MK Brown Heritage Room • 8:00 pm to Midnight

Silent Auction and Dance • Tickets \$35.00 per person

for more information call 669-8041 or 662-2727

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

DEVOLL, Lois "Tinky" — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
HOLLAND, John L. — 1 p.m., Hawkins Funeral Home Chapel, Bridgeport.
KEITH, Billy B. — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Elmwood Cemetery, Bowie.

Lois 'Tinky' Devoll, 71

Lois "Tinky" Devoll, 71, of Pampa, died Dec. 25, 2005, at Pampa.
 Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with Carol Peet, of Carol Peet ministries, officiating.
 Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Born Aug. 2, 1934, at McLean, Mrs. Devoll moved to Pampa in 1950. She married Vernon "Curly" Devoll, Sr., on March 25, 1956, at Clovis, N.M.; he died May 5, 1993.



Devoll

She was a homemaker and retired from Wal-Mart in 1995. She was a member of Pampa Moose Lodge.
 Survivors include a daughter, Belinda Thomas of Pampa; three sons, James Devoll and Vernon Devoll, Jr., both of Pampa, and Larry Don Devoll of Bridgeport; two brothers, Marvin Todd of White Deer and James Lloyd Todd of Lefors; a sister, Barbara Romero of Duncan, Okla.; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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

John L. Holland, 56

BRIDGEPORT — John L. Holland, 56, of Bridgeport, died Dec. 24, 2005, at Dallas. Services are scheduled at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Hawkins Funeral Chapel with Dr. Rusty Tanner officiating.
 Arrangements are under the direction of Hawkins Funeral Home of Bridgeport.
 Mr. Holland was born May 4, 1949, at Wichita, Kan. He married Barbara Dunlap on June 26, 1971, at Bridgeport, Neb., to William and Hazel Burris Holland. He was a U.S. Army veteran and owned-operated BAJ Construction in Bridgeport.
 Mr. Holland belonged to The Bay Chapel of Bridgeport. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Hazel; a sister,

Linda; a daughter, Rhonda; a brother-in-law, Jerry Dunlap; and sons-in-law, Rusty and Mike. Son-in-law Kyle Felton followed him in death Dec. 25.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara, of Bridgeport; daughters, Brenda Felton, Kathy Conway and Lee Ann Boyd, all of Amarillo, and Gerri Niles of Bridgeport; sons, Wes Holland of Bridgeport and John Wayne Williams of Allison; a brother, Roger Holland of Eunice, N.M.; a sister, Paula Hapeman of Jacksboro; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Billy B. Keith, 82

Billy B. Keith, 82, passed away Sunday, Dec. 25, 2005, in Bowie.
 Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Elmwood Cemetery with David White officiating under the direction of the White Family Funeral Home.
 Visitation will be Tuesday from 6 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.
 Billy was born May 25, 1923, in Wake County, N.C., to Sion Alvin and Claytie (Brown) Keith Sr. He married Margie Bewley on Nov. 23, 1945, in Pampa, Texas.
 He was employed 34 years with Cities Service Oil Company. He served 10 years on the Lefors ISD School Board in Lefors, Texas, and was a 50-year member of the

McLean Masonic Lodge #889.
 He was an avid fisherman, hunter and outdoorsman.
 He is preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.
 He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margie Keith, of Bowie; sons, Denny Keith and his wife, Shelia of Bowie and Dwight Keith and his wife, Karen of Pampa; daughter, Denise Imke and her husband, Charles of Alto, N.M.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two brothers, Marshal Dean and his wife, Delores of Blantscreek, N.C., and S.A. Keith Jr. of Portsmouth, Va.

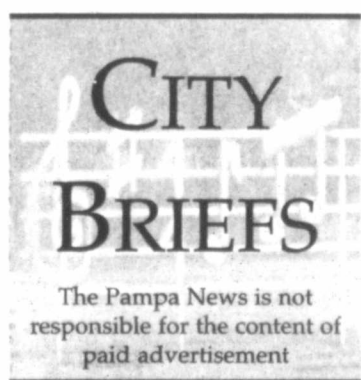
Homeless

Continued from Page 1

Sexual and physical abuse may be at the root of older students' homelessness.
 A typical situation for teens, though, according to Gershmel, "probably arises from family conflict, divorce, a new boyfriend or girlfriend (of a parent), a step-parent."
 "It can be money; the parent says 'We can't keep on supporting you,'" she said, adding, "We've had parents in jail, no money coming in and the kids get thrown out

of their home for not paying rent."
 "Some you don't understand where it went wrong and you never know," she said.
 A residency form filled out at the beginning of the school year often raises a red flag to school officials. Referrals are sent to Gershmel and she investigates the situation to see if the student qualifies as homeless.
 "Every school knows if they have an emergency to call me, too," she said.
 Pampa ISD sets aside a small amount of Title I federal funds to assist with emergency food and medical care for homeless students.
 "A lot of the time that's how I find out they're homeless. They're sick and need to go to the doctor and have too many absences. They don't have a guardian to call in for them," Gershmel said.
 "I know of several students who have spent the night in the park," she said. "Usually they have people who are willing to take them in. I really appreciate people that would."

needs, such as emergency clothing and medical care, she added.
 "One student needed teeth pulled," she said. "A local dentist saw her for free and set her up with a surgeon."
 "People in our community are shocked that we have kids here living like this," she said.
 Fortunately, when Gershmel seeks help from the public, she finds Pampans to be generous.
 "I get donations from local organizations and individuals," she said. "I get to be like Santa Claus."
 She'll contact a student in need and say, "Let's go shopping."
 "Every one of them said, 'I've never been shopping for myself before,'" she said. "That's the fun part of the job."
 She used donated funds to pay for a student to take the ACT exam, a college entrance test.
 "That wouldn't have been an option," she said.
 Gershmel said she became involved with the homeless as an extension of her work as a school counselor.
 "We kept seeing these kids on their own and didn't know how we could help them," she said.
 Gershmel seized the opportunity to be the district's homeless liaison, thinking, "Oh, good, we're finally going to get more help for these kids; we would get help for some kind of housing."



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

BABY'S 1ST Christmas Page will be published again, on Wed., Dec. 28th. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused anyone. Pictures may be picked up Thurs. Dec. 29th. The Pampa News.

EARLY DEADLINES for Classified ads and City Briefs for Mon. Jan. 2nd is Fri. Dec. 30th, 2 p.m., and classified ads for Tues., Jan. 3rd is Fri. Dec. 30th, 4 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S Eve Dance at the M.K. Brown Auditorium with music by the Martini's. Silent auction, food, hats, horns and BYOB. Tickets \$35 per person. For tickets call 669-8041 or 662-2727 or any White Deer Land Museum board member.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Thirty-seven traffic stops were made. One traffic stop in the 200 block of South Hobart resulted in an arrest for driving while intoxicated.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2100 block of Mary Ellen and the 1600 block of North Hobart.

A civil matter was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

Animal complaints were received from the 1100 block of East Kingsmill and the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan streets.

Assistance to other agencies was rendered in the 2200 block of Evergreen.

One alarm was reported. An unattended death was reported in the 700 block of North Roberta.

A mental commitment was reported at One Medical Plaza.

Found property was reported in the police department lobby.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 600 block of North Dwight, the intersection of Huff Road and Crawford Street, the 1000 block of South Sumner, the 2000 block of North Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Foster and Cuyler streets and the 600 block of Lefors.

A suspicious person call in the 1600 block of North Dwight involved a minor in possession of tobacco.

A suspicious person call in the 700 block of North Nelson involved a person ramming their vehicle into another vehicle.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Public intoxication and criminal trespass were reported in the 600 block of North Dwight.

Abusive/silent 911 calls were received from the 1600 block of North Faulkner and the 1900 block of Coffee.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1600 block of North Somerville.

A disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. No injuries were reported.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1800 block of North Nelson and the 500 block of Doyle.

Assault was reported in the 1000 block of East Gordon. No injuries were reported.

Assault causing bodily injury was reported in the 400 block of North Cuyler. Minor injuries were reported, and an arrest was made.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 700 block of North

Cuyler. The incident involved a knife, and one person suffered a one-inch cut on the hand, which required stitches.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Navajo and the 700 block of South Ballard.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of East Francis. An inflatable Santa Christmas yard decoration was cut. Estimated cost of damage is \$25.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of Duncan. The top railing of the bandstand in Central Park was damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$2,500.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of East Francis. An inflatable snowman was slashed, resulting in estimated damage of \$25.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson. A right rear bumper on a vehicle was damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$500 to \$1,000.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of Evergreen and the 1800 block of Alcock.

Burglary was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart and the 300 block of East Brown.

Burglary of a coin machine was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1800 block of Alcock.

Money and three padlocks were involved. Estimated loss is \$35.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 900 block of Campbell. A stereo amplifier valued at \$199 was taken.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported at Top of Texas New and Used Cars, 503 E. Atchison. Estimated value of the vehicle is \$6,995.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Coffee.

Burglary of a coin machine was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred at six locations. Six locks and one large bolt were involved. The machines are owned by The Pampa News. Estimated loss and damage is \$31.

Theft over \$50 was reported at Beall's, 1201 N. Hobart. Shirts and clothes valued at approximately \$300 were taken.

Possession of stolen property was reported in the 200 block of East Brown. The incident involved a firearm.

Forgery was reported in the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway. A check valued at \$182.48 was involved in the incident.

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

Monday, Dec. 26
 Francis Scott-Steen, 39, no address given, was arrested in Carson County on Gray County warrants for

assault causing bodily injury and criminal trespass.

Tuesday, Dec. 27
 Ronald Eugene Lane, 45, 1209 S. Farley, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Office on a warrant for theft by check.

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

Monday, Dec. 26
 3:53 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1100 block of Darby on a small grass fire.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 26
 11:46 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Charles and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

11:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Monday, Dec. 19
 5:30 p.m. — A 2000 Ford Explorer, driven by Jason Glen Martin, 22, 1017 S. Farley, and a 2001 Ford F-150, driven by Cheri Kathleen Beedy, 35, 1800 Lea, collided in the 1600 block of North Sumner. No injuries were reported. Martin was cited for failure to control speed.

Wednesday, Dec. 21
 2:40 p.m. — A 2001 Toyota Corolla, driven by Amanda L. Haiduk, 26, of Groom, and a 1994 Mitsubishi Galant, driven by Amy Michelle Brooks, 29, of Perryton, collided at the intersection of 21st Avenue and Perryton Parkway. Brooks was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Guardian EMS ambulance with possible injuries, and a passenger in her vehicle, Kyler Brooks, 2, of Perryton, was also transported to PRMC with non-incapacitating injuries. Haiduk was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

Thursday, Dec. 22
 9:08 p.m. — An unknown vehicle and driver collided with a legally parked 2003 Oldsmobile Alero, owned by Angela Rene Rodriguez, of Lubbock, in the 2100 block of Mary Ellen. The unknown vehicle and driver then left the scene. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer:			Celanese	19.70	+0.31	Pioneer Nat	50.92	-1.10
Wheat	3.39		Cabot Oil Gas	45.64	-1.54	JCP	56.28	+0.56
Milo	2.93		Coca Cola	41.24	+0.09	COP	58.15	-1.00
Corn	3.91		VLO	51.96	-0.87	SLB	98.46	-1.69
Soybeans	5.00		HAL	62.69	-1.16	Tenneco	19.79	+0.21
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:			TRI	40.26	+0.05	CVX	56.52	-0.61
OXY	81.17	-1.29	KMI	92.55	-0.54	Wal-Mart	48.31	-0.03
BP PLC ADR	64.21	-0.59	XCEL	18.89	+0.03	ORKE	27.17	-0.12
Cabot Copp	36.30	-0.02	Kerr McGee	90.28	-1.89	NS Grp	40.47	-0.77
			XOM	56.58	-0.52			
			Nat'l Oilwell	NA	NA	New York Gold	502.80	
			Limited	22.46	+0.05	Silver	8.56	
			Williams	23.33	-0.50	West Texas Crude	58.43	
			MCD	34.67	+0.12			
			Atmos	26.31	-0.07			

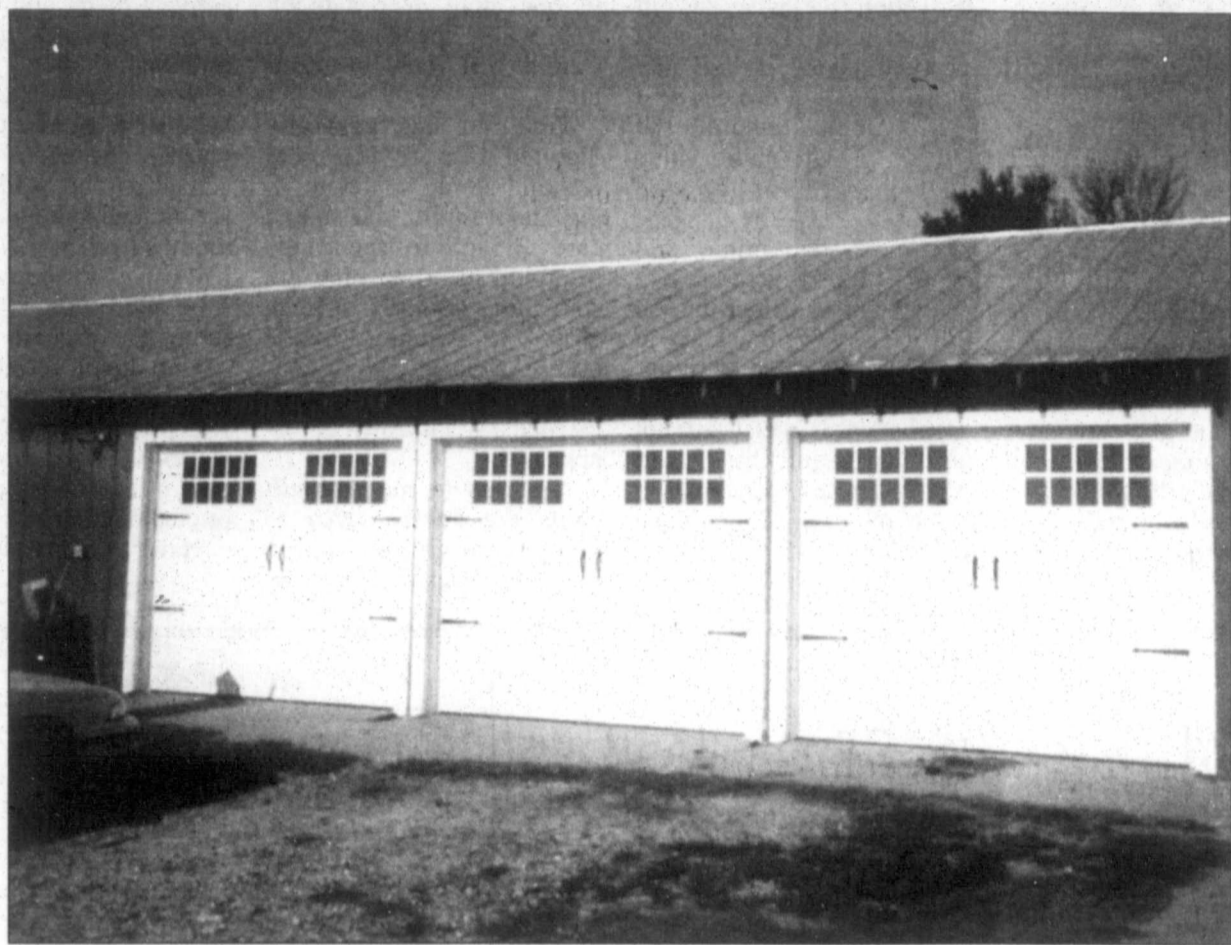
Election

Continued from Page 1

"As a Texas certified county treasurer, I serve as the banker for the county, making photos of canceled checks, account information updates and even investments for other offices of the court," he said. "The trail that any money makes is coded from the time it enters our office until it is finally settled into a reconciled ledger. The coding has made tracing an error quite

easy. It is a demanding job and I love it." His office also handles billing of Perry LeFors Airport hangars, some grassland in the south part of the county, and jail services for the city of Pampa.
 Cornelison was born in Pampa in 1948 and attended Horace Mann and Robert E. Lee Junior High before moving to Carson County where he graduated from White Deer High in 1966. He has a bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist University. He and his wife, Brenda, co-own a small business on North Hobart Street. Their only child, Michael, is deceased.

BUSINESS REVIEW



Building by Rasco Construction.

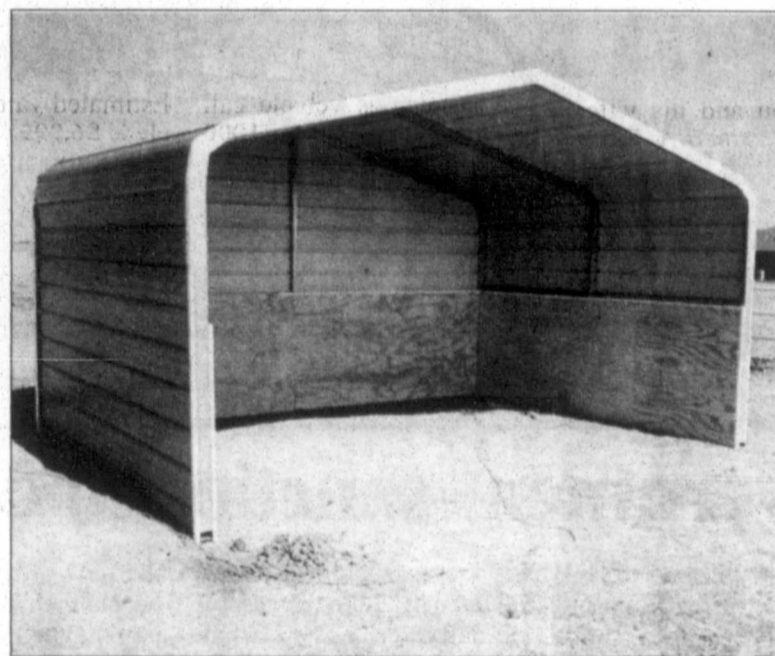
Rasco custom buildings tailored to suit client's needs

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

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

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

Buildings may be used to provide protection from the elements for your car, boat, RV,



Building by Rasco Construction.

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.

"If you are considering a new garage or carport, now is the time before the winter storms hit," said Joyce Rasco of Rasco Construction.

Gerald and Joyce Rasco would like to thank all of their valued customers for their business this past year. "We hope we may continue to serve you throughout the coming year," Joyce said. Rasco Construction

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

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

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

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

'If you are considering a new garage or carport, now is the time before the winter storms hit.'

— Joyce Rasco
Rasco Construction

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Viewpoints

Three drawbacks to giving newfangled gift cards

Another year is almost gone, with the promise of a fresh start at a new year just a few days away.

The days between Christmas and New Year's Day are traditionally the time to reflect on what 2005 was like and to make resolutions to do better in 2006.

It's also the time to take down the Christmas decorations and hit the stores once again, this time to exchange that purple and brown plaid sweater you got from Auntie for something a little more your style.

More and more people are taking the risk out of gift-giving by presenting their loved ones with gift cards rather than picking out a spe-

cific item, having it wrapped, and then hoping it's the right size, color, or whatever.

One advantage to this growing trend is that the risk of disappointing the recipient is greatly lessened. The only thing to worry about is which store or eatery the recipient prefers.

It also makes shopping much quicker and easier for the giver. All you have to do is pick up the gift card and pay for whatever amount you want to give.

There are disadvantages, too, at least as I see it.

For one thing, the recipient obviously will know exactly how much the giver spent on his or her gift. This

may also be true of instances in which the buyer got the giver a specific item for which the giver already knows the exact cost, but it is true in every case of gift card giving.

Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer



For another thing, the giver has reduced his or her gift-giving time and effort, but that work is transferred to the recipient. Now the one who gets the gift card must go to the store or restaurant to select the gift, which may not be available right after the Christmas shopping frenzy.

Gift cards may have hidden pitfalls, too. Some places charge a first-time activation fee when a gift card is used. The fee isn't charged again if the user doesn't spend the entire value of the card the first time and returns at a later date to finish using up the card's value.

Some card issuers also devalue cards which are not used fairly quickly. A card which started out with a value of, say, \$25 may be worth only \$15 if the card holder waited several

months before cashing it in on merchandise.

A gift card is also limited to one store or restaurant. You can't spend an Arch Card at Wal Mart, for example.

Tradition has generally dictated that if you care enough about someone to buy them a gift, you should care enough to spend the time and effort to pick out something yourself to give. Gifts of money, while always welcome, were considered the easy way out and merited a slight frown of disapproval.

It seems to me that gift cards are another way to give a cash gift, but with a few drawbacks. They can

only be spent at one place, they may have a couple of bucks deducted in order to activate them, and they may lose value if not used promptly.

Why not just give cash instead? It can be used anywhere, doesn't require an activation fee, and is good for its face value now or six months from now. The recipient can even choose to keep it by squirreling it away for future use or need.

One good resolution for 2006 may be to give items which the recipient needs or wants. If picking out a specific gift is too much trouble or challenge, try cash.

Have a Happy New Year!

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2005. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.

On this date:

In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France.

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the trip helped to form the basis of his theories on evolution.)

'Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.'

— Gertrude Stein
American author
(1874-1946)

In 1900, militant prohibitionist Carry A. Nation carried out her first public smashing of a bar, at the Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kan.

In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

Our readers write

Is anyone out there listening?

I just want to know when these people are going to get enough money? When are they going to get enough for their wants and needs? When are they going to start listening and hearing the rest of the people here?

When are they going to start working on the rest of the town? Building it up? You know the town does consist of south, east and west, too. And there are people who live in these areas, you know.

Are they going to keep taking everything from the rest of the people until they get the clothes off our backs then turn us in and fine us

for being against the city ordinances because we're all running around here barefooted and naked?

What and how much more are they going to take from the rest of us?

Aren't there other parts of town that need to be built up but around Wal-Mart? Aren't there other people who make up the town, too? Aren't the other people here just as important? Isn't the rest of the town — south, east and west — just as good?

Is someone out there listening and hearing? Pay attention.

Sue Meeks
Pampa

With reports of the costs of heating his home increasing 70%, Lester decides to increase his insulation by 70%.



Government-sanctioned consumer rip-off

Since allegations of oil company price-gouging have become topical, let's look at real price manipulation. Suppose a dairyman wants to sell a gallon of milk for 25 cents less than his competitors, would you want him fined or jailed? Federal Milk Marketing Orders would do just that.

Americans pay four times the world price for sugar as a result of tariffs and quotas on foreign imports. That leads to higher profits and wages in the sugar industry and higher prices for sugar products. Since consumers are far more numerous than businessmen, one might ask how in the world is it politically possible for businessmen to get Congress and state legislators to allow them to rip us off?

There's a phenomenon economists refer to as narrowly dispersed large bene-

fits versus widely dispersed small costs. Take the case of a dairymen association. Members agree to contribute money to lobby federal and state legislators to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture and their state

Water Williams
Columnist



dairy industry to rip us off? Individually, we correctly conclude that it's cheaper just to pay the \$20 or \$30 more a year and get on with our lives. Plus, since milk consumers have diverse interests, it'd be costly to organize us to fight the dairy interests and their congressional allies.

It's a different story with

the dairy producers. They will spend the resources to try to unseat a congressman or state legislator who doesn't do their bidding and vote in favor of statutory minimum milk prices. Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake to be divided among a relatively small group of owners and workers. They hire professionals to justify their agenda, among those justifications are: "To preserve the dairy industry," "to create a level playing field" and incredibly, "to protect the consumer."

Congressmen readily do their bidding because they are well aware that you and I won't put up much of a fight — we'll just pay the higher price.

There are hundreds of statutory minimum prices, including gasoline in some states. There are numerous

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 19
Austin American-Statesman on the recent election in Iraq:

Three times this year Iraqis have gone to the polls to form a government, twice to elect leaders and once to ratify a constitution.

Each time they go, more participate, thus boosting the legitimacy of the electoral process and the government it will produce.

In last week's election, even the native insurgents, not just the foreign-born terrorists of Islamic extremism, had to back off from most attacks because it was clear that even the most

disaffected group, the Sunnis, wanted to vote.

As even officials of President Bush's administration acknowledge, the initial success of last week's parliamentary elections does not mean an impending end to the violence or the high-stakes elbowing for power pitting various Iraqi groups, particularly the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, against one another. Nor do the elections yet tell us whether the new government and the society it will oversee will be primarily secular or Islamic.

But the elections may well be a start toward inculcating in Iraqi society the idea that voting, not bombing, is the best, fairest way to choose a government and, incidentally, the fastest way to get American troops out of the coun-

try. There was an estimated turnout of 70 percent, superior even to Americans in their presidential elections.

This has been a tough year for Iraqis, but it's also been hard on the U.S. military, especially the Army and Marine Corps, with the American death toll in the war over 2,100 people, including several from Central Texas. If anything can vindicate their loss, it would be the creation of a freely elected Iraqi government that respects and protects basic human freedoms and that negotiates, without bloodshed, the differences among clashing interest groups.

But various polls show that Americans are losing patience with the war in Iraq, and administration spokes-

See IRAQ, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Williams

Continued from Page 4

agricultural import restrictions and production quotas. All of these government-sanctioned market manipulations represent seller collusions against consumers. You say, "Williams, how can that be? The Sherman Antitrust Act gives the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission the power to prosecute and levy fines or imprisonment for price-fixing."

You're absolutely right. Price-fixing is illegal, and you will face fines or imprisonment, but with one caveat: unless you get permission from Congress or your state legislator. If you get permission, price-fixing becomes legal and it's non-price-fixing that's illegal.

There's a little-appreciated fact about collusions. They have a tendency to break down. Why? Because each party to the collusion is alert to the private gains to be made from cheating on the collusive agreement, such as charging a lower price or producing a larger quantity. Collusions need government enforcement in order to work.

Part of the unstated mission of some federal agencies in Washington is the enforcement of collusions. That includes the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Justice and Labor. One of the surest ways to detect a seller collusion is to see whether there are statutory minimum prices, import restrictions and production quotas.

Iraq

Continued from Page 4

men already were making noise about reducing troop levels in Iraq after last week's election. While Republicans criticize Democrats for being too eager to cut and run, even the GOP knows that it must show real progress in reducing American military involvement in Iraq if it doesn't want to lose seats in Congress in the November election. President Bush has come under considerable criticism, much of it justified, for his management of the war in Iraq.

Even if in the end a free Iraq emerges, that victory still would be considerably marred by the failure of his administration to prepare properly for whatever was to come after the initial invasion.

But however much criticism the president deserves for his handling of the war, the fact that three elections could be held this year in a nation ruled just a few years ago by a tyrant is a fact to be celebrated. The Iraqi story isn't over, and we don't know if there will be a happy ending.

But there remains reason for hope in this season of hope.

Events calendar

• Pampa Community Concert Association

Presents "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following programs: Susan Egan, Broadway vocalist, Feb. 18, 2006; St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006; and The Coats, vocal harmonic band, April 30, 2006. Additional concerts, featuring with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631.

• Cowboys for Christ will meet

Dec. 30 to discuss the creation of an area chapter. The non-denominational meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the old rock gym in Goodlett, 9-miles west of Quanah, and will include fellowship, music and a potluck supper. Please bring a covered dish.

• Pampa High School will host "Financial Aid Night"

at 7 p.m. Jan. 5 in the school library. Counselors at PHS will discuss and explain grants, scholarships, work-study and loans to interested parents of upperclassmen.

• College-bound high school students

have until Jan. 6 to register to take the ACT exam on the next nationwide test date, Feb. 11. Late registration will be conducted until Jan. 20 and will include an extra fee. Normal cost of the ACT is \$20 or \$43 with the optional writing test. Students can register online at www.actstudent.org or by mail.

• USDA cost-share funds

have been released for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Farmers and ranchers can apply for Farm Bill conservation programs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Eligible produc-

ers may apply for cost share assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concern recognized by the Local Work Group. Practices are implemented through EQIP. The NRCS determines eligibility. The Gray County USDA Service Center will be accepting EQIP applications through Feb. 17. To obtain an EQIP application or for more information, call (806) 665-1751, ext. 3.

• If your church no longer participates in "Angel Food Ministries," Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship Church, 1733 N. Banks, will be happy to serve you. For more information, call the Rev. Epperson at 848-2183, prompt 2, or 662-8532. Please leave a message if your call is not answered.

• Angels Have Wheels program helps eligible seniors or disabled individuals receive electric wheelchairs through Medicare. For more information, call 1-800-810-2877.

• Gray County Soil & Water Conservation District

is accepting orders for windbreak and wildlife tree seedlings and shrubs through March 10, 2006. For more information, call 665-1751, ext. 102.

• The Association of Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans

will lead a group to England and France during April 2006 to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the D-Day landings; the Battle of Normandy and the drive through France to Bastogne. The itinerary will include London, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Omaha and Utah beaches, Caen, St. Mere Eglise, Caretan, Argentan, Falaise and Paris. For more information, call (561) 865-8495 or write Sy Canton 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

ECONOMY

Post-Christmas buying season under way

By SARAH KARUSH
Associated Press Writer

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Shoppers armed with newly obtained gift cards and poorly greeted presents returned to malls and stores in search of returns, post-Christmas discounts and fresh merchandise.

The day after Christmas offered merchants another shot at getting consumers to open their wallets, with retailers hoping customers would be lured by sales and come to spend their gift cards, which are recorded as sales only after they are redeemed.

According to ShopperTrak RCT Corp., the week after Christmas accounted for 10 percent of holiday sales last year, but analysts expect the post-holiday period could account for as much as 14 percent this year, given the increasing popularity of the cards.

At a Best Buy in Okemos, Erik Sellen used a

\$40 gift card and a bit of his own money to buy three DVDs — "Gotti," "The Usual Suspects," "A Few Good Men" — and a Johnny Cash CD.

easy parking," Padgett, 63, said as she browsed a display of Christmas decorations at a JCPenney store, where much of the merchandise was 50 or 60 per-

some spring merchandise while KB Toys was pushing new versions of Barbie and the funky Bratz dolls.

Consumer electronic chains such as Best Buy were highlighting CDs, DVDs and video games in their advertising, counting on shoppers to feed the gadgets they received for the holiday.

Online sites such as overstock.com and buy.com were courting customers Monday with free shipping deals and deeper discounts, though online shopping has been a bright spot in the season.

Jerry Steward, 35, of Detroit, said he wasn't looking for anything in particular as he browsed in KB Toys in Fairlane. But he predicted he would spend about \$200 Monday on gifts for his wife and children, even though he already gave them their main Christmas presents.

"This is just something I do every year because I know things are going to be on sale," he said.

Consumer electronic chains such as Best Buy were highlighting CDs, DVDs and video games in their advertising, counting on shoppers to feed the gadgets they received for the holiday.

The 23-year-old Holt resident said the gift card was nice because it let him pick exactly what he wanted.

Mary Padgett in the Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn said she was taking advantage of sales to stock up on Christmas decorations and gifts for next year. She said she had been bracing herself for big crowds, but was pleasantly surprised.

"It's been nice so far —

cent off the regular price.

"I needed some things I asked for but didn't get," said Troy Holcomb, 30, who stopped at a Target and Best Buy in Okemos to pick up some DVDs with money he got as a gift. He left with, among other things, a Looney Tunes collection.

In an effort to prop up profits, a growing number of stores such as Coach, Target, and American Eagle Outfitters rolled out

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Sports Day

QUITTING NOT AN OPTION

Parcells focused on coaching

IRVING, Texas (AP) - Bill Parcells doesn't seem to act like he plans to quit coaching any time soon. With the Dallas Cowboys still trying to make the playoffs, he appears as focused as ever.

At 2 a.m. Christmas morning, Parcells was in his office watching film and already preparing for the regular season finale.

On Monday, he released inconsistent kicker Billy Cundiff. Veteran safety Tony Dixon was re-signed in case Pro Bowl safety Roy Williams' injured left foot bothers him.

Parcells' focus is solely on the finale against the St. Louis Rams, not on the help Dallas needs from other teams. And especially not a report that claims he's considering retirement.

"I'm not talking about any of that," Parcells said Monday, when asked about his coaching future. "When you're 64 years old, they can say anything they want. They're probably going to be pretty close to being right, some day."

The Cowboys (9-6) remained in playoff contention with a 24-20 victory Saturday at Carolina, but a 10th victory Sunday night at home against St. Louis won't be enough if Carolina and Washington win their road games earlier in the day. But if either the Panthers or Redskins lose, Dallas gets a wild-card berth by winning the NFL's last regular-season game this year.

"Not making the playoffs would be a disappointment to me," Parcells said, adding that's how he'd feel even if the team wins 10 games. "Last year, a couple of teams got in with eight, but this year, we're not that fortunate."

Parcells talked about how much he likes his team. He said the Cowboys have "been pretty close" to reaching the potential that he felt they had for this season.

After going 6-10 last season, the Cowboys are already guaranteed their second winning season in three seasons under Parcells. They went through three straight 5-11 seasons under Dave Campo before that.

Parcells has another season left on his \$17 million, four-year contract, though

there has been some speculation about whether he would return to coach it. A report posted Saturday on ESPN.com, citing unidentified sources, said Parcells was privately contemplating retirement.

"There is no one I have talked to, no one about anything of that nature," said Parcells, an ESPN studio analyst before joining the Cowboys. "I challenge anyone to step forward to say this guy said to me he was thinking about retirement."

Parcells said he didn't want speculation about his future to be a distraction to his players this week. When told by a reporter that he could end any speculation by just saying he'd back next season, the coach responded tersely.

"I'm not saying anything," Parcells said. "I don't want any more questions about that. Thank you. I'll say what I want to say when I want to say it about those subjects."

There have been other reports that owner Jerry Jones wants to offer Parcells a contract extension, but the coach said there haven't been any talks about one.

Rookie kicker Sean Suisham was re-signed to replace Cundiff, who made just 1-of-3 field goals the last three games, and was 5-of-8 since returning six games ago. He had another short miss wiped out by a penalty against Carolina.

"I just had to do something. He couldn't make them in practice either," Parcells said. "It's one of those things. I think it's a little mental now."

Notes: Marco Rivera, who missed Saturday's game with a strained neck suffered Dec. 18 at Washington, is doing better and coach Bill Parcells said he could return to practice Wednesday. Rivera had started 120 straight games (113 regular season games, plus seven with Green Bay in the playoffs). ... While the Cowboys need the Redskins or Panthers to lose Sunday to have a chance to make the playoffs, Parcells doesn't plan to watch those earlier games. "I am sure someone will tell me," Parcells said.

'I'm not talking about any of that. When you're 64 years old, they can say anything they want. They're probably going to be pretty close to being right, some day.'

— Bill Parcells
Head Coach, Dallas Cowboys

Mavericks pound Pacers 102-80

DALLAS (AP) - Devin Harris scored 20 points, including a 20-footer that he intended to be a pass, and Jerry Stackhouse proved his injured knee is doing fine with an active third quarter that featured a tremendous dunk, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a highlight-filled 102-80 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Dirk Nowitzki added 23 points to help the Mavs tie San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference at 21-7.

The Pacers lost their second straight and fell to 5-3 since making Ron Artest inactive. They can forget about this one quickly as they finish a three-game road trip in San Antonio on Tuesday night.

They'll probably want to forget it, too.

After rallying from 22 down to tie Cleveland in their previous game, the Pacers went up 2-0 and were outworked the rest of the game en route to their second-biggest loss of the season.

Dallas grabbed 14 of the game's first 18 rebounds and took 11 of the first 12 free throws. The Mavs snatched seven of the first eight steals, while the Pacers had 11 first-half turnovers, four of them traveling.

The Mavericks finished with a 49-30 rebounding edge, despite a season-low two from Nowitzki. Erick Dampier tied his season high with 14 boards and Josh Howard had 10, along with 12 points.

Jermaine O'Neal led Indiana with 15 points. Stephen Jackson and Jamaal Tinsley scored 12 and Austin Croshere 11. The game was so lopsided that no starter played more than O'Neal's 35 minutes, with the 11th and 12th men each playing nearly seven minutes.

Harris broke open the game in the first quarter. It was tied at 16 when he went in, then he scored 12 points in a 15-7 run. He made 6-of-7 shots, the last one coming by accident when he tried throwing an alley-oop pass to Stackhouse.

RB Williams sets record in Motor City Bowl win

DETROIT (AP) - DeAngelo Williams set an NCAA record with his 34th 100-yard rushing game and scored three touchdowns, leading Memphis to a 38-31 victory over Akron in the Motor City Bowl on Monday.

Williams ran for 233 yards on 30 carries and finished his career with 6,021 yards rushing - trailing only Ron Dayne, Ricky Williams and Tony Dorsett in Division I-A history - and an NCAA-record 7,568 all-purpose yards.

The Tigers (7-5) took a 21-point lead with 3:09 left, but needed to recover an onside kick with 55 seconds left to seal the win after Luke Getsy threw his fourth touchdown pass to cut the lead to seven points.

Akron (7-6) made a good showing in its first Division I-A bowl game.

Getsy was 34-for-59 for a Motor City Bowl-record 455 yards, and tied Chad Pennington's mark for passing touchdowns in the bowl's nine-year history.

The Tigers led by 10 at halftime after

scoring on three straight drives, then pulled away with three consecutive TDs in the second half before nearly collapsing in the final minutes.

Williams, who shared the 100-yard rushing record with Heisman Trophy winners Archie Griffin of Ohio State and Dorsett of Pittsburgh, broke the record in the third quarter when he ran up the middle and bounced to the outside on an 18-yard carry.

Griffin set the mark in 42 games, and Dorsett matched it in 43 games - one fewer than Williams.

Williams, who finished seventh in voting for the Heisman, was taken out of the game midway through the fourth quarter while Memphis was driving for its third consecutive touchdown and a 38-17 lead.

It wasn't shocking to see Williams run through and around the Zips with his NFL-caliber speed after Northern Illinois' Garrett Wolfe ran for 270 yards against Akron in the Mid-American Conference game.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People


Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Penguins

© 2006 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 22 No. 1

Everyone's favorite flightless fowl!

PENGUINS



The Emperor

The largest penguin is the emperor penguin. It lives in Antarctica. In fact, it is the only wild animal that spends the winter there. Use the Cold Code to learn more.

Height: inches tall (90 cm.)

Weight: pounds (40 kg.)

True or False?

The emperor penguin can dive as much as 800 feet underwater and stay submerged for 20 minutes.

True False

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different features that serve different functions in survival.

The Fairy Penguin

Fairy penguins are sometimes called little blue penguins because of their bluish color. They live on islands near Australia and New Zealand and are the smallest penguin species.

On Philip Island, fairy penguins put on a parade each day at sunset. Hundreds of the fairy penguins waddle ashore and parade along the beach.

Height: inches tall (35 cm.)

Weight: pounds (1 kg.)

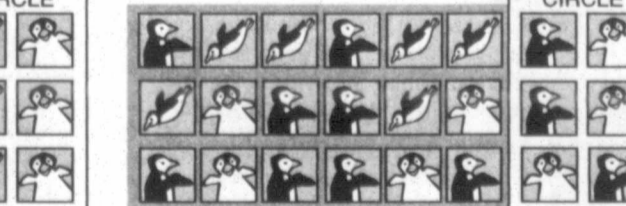
Penguin Patterns

Circle the penguin that should come next in each pattern.



Standards Link: Math: Probability: Extend simple patterns.

CIRCLE



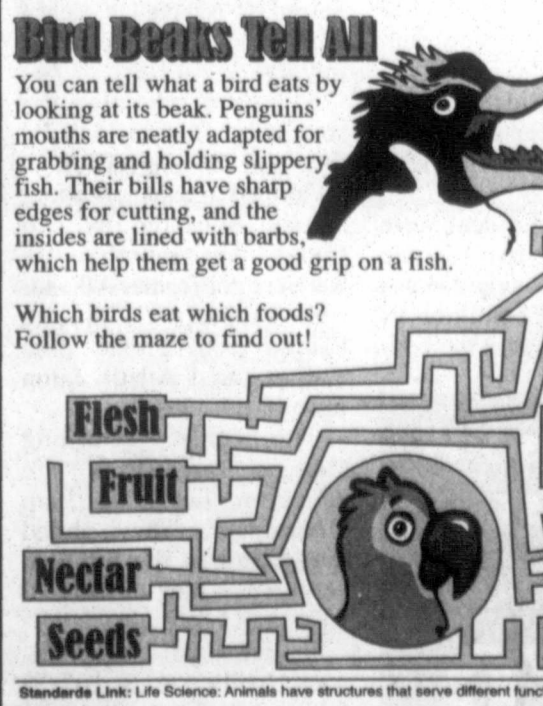
Standards Link: Math: Probability: Extend simple patterns.

Bird Beaks Tell All

You can tell what a bird eats by looking at its beak. Penguins' mouths are neatly adapted for grabbing and holding slippery fish. Their bills have sharp edges for cutting, and the insides are lined with barbs, which help them get a good grip on a fish.

Which birds eat which foods? Follow the maze to find out!

Flesh
Fruit
Nectar
Seeds
Fish



Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in growth and survival.

Hot and Cold Hide-and-Seek

One player is THE THINKER and secretly picks a picture in the newspaper. Other players guess which one by asking questions. THE THINKER can only answer, "You're hot," or "You're cold."

Each player starts with 50 points and loses a point for every question asked.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

Penguin Prankster

There are 17 species of penguins world-wide. But when Petrina Penguin made a list of all the species, she added one more to trick you. To discover which is NOT a real penguin species, do the math. The odd-numbered species is the fake.

16 - 8 = Adelle	16 - 4 = Macaroni
22 + 4 = African	40 - 24 = Magellanic
13 + 13 = Chinstrap	13 + 15 = Rockhopper
19 - 7 = Emperor	27 - 19 = Royal
32 - 14 = Erect-crested	12 + 17 = Sidestepper
29 + 19 = Fiordland	9 + 25 = Snares
14 - 8 = Galapagos	11 - 7 = Yellow-eyed
17 + 21 = Gentoo	
15 + 13 = Humbolt	
18 + 14 = King	
13 + 13 = Little (Blue, Fairy)	

Standards Link: Math: Number Sense: Solve addition and subtraction problems.

Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

PENGUIN	G E E D A R A P N N
FAIRY	I G U R E K N I H T
ANTARCTICA	S B R A B L U W B L
BEAKS	L K I G A G P I E A
THINKER	A N A Y N I S L A M
ANIMAL	N O O E R I N D C I
ROYAL	D R P G B I K P H N
KING	A C I T C R A T N A
BARBS	A R A D H S I F E S
ISLAND	
GRIP	
PARADE	
BEACH	
WILD	
FISH	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Penguin Prose

Look through the newspaper to find 15 or more words that describe penguins. Write a paragraph or a poem about penguins, using these words.

Standards Link: Writing Strategies: Create a single paragraph that develops a topic sentence and includes simple supporting facts and details.

Write On!

Penguin Descriptions

Think up five words that describe penguins. Write three or more sentences using these words to describe a penguin. Describe how it looks, how it acts, how it lives, what you think one might be like, etc. Be creative!

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the eight errors in the article below. Then, rewrite it correctly on another piece of paper.

Was Indecision the Mother of This Invention?

In 1920, a Young Boy named Douglas Resenden entered an ice cream parlor in Onawa, Iowa. He couldn't decide whether he wanted an ice cream or a chocolate bar. He kept changing his mind and finally settled on the chocolate bar.

After the boy left, the owner of the parlor, Christian Nelson, wondered if he could freeze a coating of chocolate around a slice of ice cream. That would be like having a chocolate bar and an ice cream all together.

After many tries, Nelson finally found a way to make the chocolate stick to the ice cream. At first he called his creation an "I-Scream Bar." Later the name was changed to Eskimo Pie.

There are many different versions of the story of the first ice cream sandwich. Since they all take place many years ago, there's really no way to know for sure which is the "official" story. And it's even possible that this frozen favorite might have been invented by more than one person.

Standards Link: Writing Strategies: Revise drafts.

What a Character!

Politeness is ...



... raising your hand and waiting to be called upon in class.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **BARBED**

The adjective **barbed** means a sharp point that sticks out and backward.

The end of a fishhook has a **barbed tip**.

Use the word **barbed** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

NFL standings *Quiet court*

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W L T Pct PF PA
y-New England 10 5 0 .667 353 310
Miami 8 7 0 .533 290 291
Buffalo 5 10 0 .333 245 337
N.Y. Jets 3 12 0 .200 210 329

South

W L T Pct PF PA
x-Indianapolis 13 2 0 .867 422 234
z-Jacksonville 11 4 0 .733 321 256
Tennessee 4 11 0 .267 286 381
Houston 2 13 0 .133 243 411

North

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Cincinnati 11 4 0 .733 418 313
Pittsburgh 10 5 0 .667 354 237
Baltimore 6 9 0 .400 249 279
Cleveland 5 10 0 .333 212 285

West

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Denver 12 3 0 .800 372 251
Kansas City 9 6 0 .600 366 322
San Diego 9 6 0 .600 411 289
Oakland 4 11 0 .267 269 353

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W L T Pct PF PA
xx-N.Y. Giants 10 5 0 .667 392 293
Washington 9 6 0 .600 328 273
Dallas 9 6 0 .600 315 288
Philadelphia 6 9 0 .400 290 357

South

W L T Pct PF PA
Tampa Bay 10 5 0 .667 273 261

Carolina

10 5 0 .667 347 248

Atlanta

8 7 0 .533 340 297

New Orleans

3 12 0 .200 222 371

North

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Chicago 11 4 0 .733 250 168
Minnesota 8 7 0 .533 272 334
Detroit 5 10 0 .333 233 310
Green Bay 3 12 0 .200 275 327

West

W L T Pct PF PA
x-Seattle 13 2 0 .867 435 248
Arizona 5 10 0 .333 298 370
St. Louis 5 10 0 .333 343 419
San Francisco 3 12 0 .200 219 411

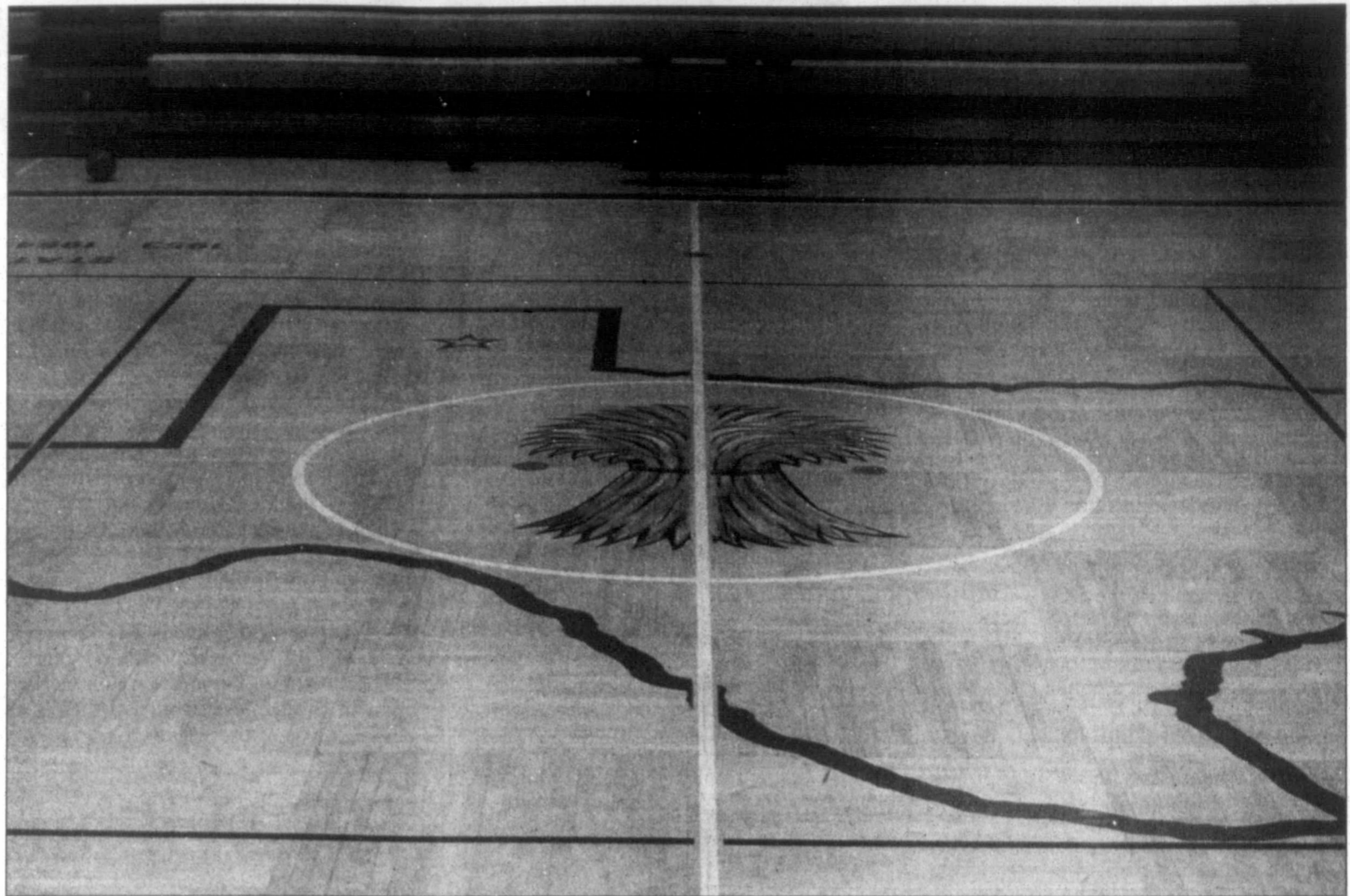
x-clinched conference
y-clinched division
z-clinched wild card
xx-clinched playoff spot

Monday's Game
New England 31, N.Y. Jets 21

Saturday, Dec. 31
Denver at San Diego, 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Oakland, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 1
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Houston at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 4:05 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 4:15 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

End Regular Season



Save for a few strays, basketballs rest silently on a rack atop an open floor in McNeely Field House. All Pampa basketball teams have been off during Christmas break. The varsity teams will resume action Thursday when the Lady Harvesters (7-10) travel to Amarillo to take part in the Caprock Tournament. The boys (11-3) will be in Clovis competing in the annual Milk Cow Tournament.

AP Top Twenty Five

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 25, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Duke (61)	11-0	1,714	1
2. Connecticut (7)	9-0	1,658	2
3. Villanova (1)	8-0	1,595	3
4. Memphis	9-1	1,459	4
5. Florida	11-0	1,401	5
6. Illinois	12-0	1,361	6
7. Washington	10-0	1,270	9
8. Gonzaga	9-2	1,267	8
9. Michigan St.	10-2	1,136	10
10. Louisville	9-1	989	11
11. UCLA	10-1	987	12
12. George Washington	8-0	932	13
13. Boston College	8-2	801	14
14. Oklahoma	6-2	735	7
15. Texas	9-2	651	15
16. Maryland	8-2	638	16
17. Indiana	7-2	564	18
18. Kentucky	8-3	521	19
19. N.C. State	9-1	482	21
20. Nevada	8-1	413	20
21. Ohio St.	8-0	392	24
22. Wake Forest	9-2	268	22
23. North Carolina	6-2	169	17
24. Wisconsin	9-1	136	-
25. West Virginia	7-3	135	-

Others receiving votes: Arizona 125, Pittsburg 118, Iowa 116, Bucknell 90, Tennessee 66, Syracuse 53, Indiana St. 40, Clemson 39, N. Iowa 23, Michigan 20, Cincinnati 18, Southern Cal 12, Vanderbilt 7, Buffalo 5, Colorado 4, Oklahoma St. 4, Alabama 3, Arkansas 3, Iowa 2, Iowa St. 2, Texas A&M 1.

FOND FAREWELL

MNF signs off on ABC

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Al Michaels turned to Frank Gifford, patted his former broadcast partner on the shoulder and said simply: "I can't thank you enough."

Football fans feel the same way about "Monday Night Football."

After 36 years on ABC, the television phenomenon concluded its network run with New England's 31-21 win over the New York Jets, a lackluster game that didn't come close to epitomizing the special place "Monday Night Football" has held in the American cultural landscape.

There were still plenty of great highlights, just not from players in helmets and pads. Instead, they featured characters in yellow blazers and outdated hairdos, cracking wise into ancient microphones and chomping cigars.

The 555th broadcast opened with - who else? - the most recognizable voice in "Monday Night Football" history: Howard Cosell.

And it ended with his longtime foil, country boy Don Meredith, singing his trademark line "Turn out the lights, the party's over ..." By the time the song moseyed to a conclusion - ending a final montage

more than three decades in the making - Hank Williams Jr. was carrying the tune, with a slight lyric change for the last line: "Mondays will never be the same again."

Not for ABC, anyway. The series switches networks next season, when ESPN begins an eight-year deal in which it will pay \$1.1 billion per year for Monday night rights.

"They can take football away from ABC on Monday night," announcer John Madden said after the game ended, "but they can't take away the memories." That meant this night was less a football game than an excuse to queue up the highlight reel.

ABC sprinkled in bits of footage that defined the show through the years, from Cosell's outrageous pontificating to Meredith's drawling serenades. Famous faces such as John Lennon, Bill Clinton, George Bush and Richard Simmons appeared during a halftime montage that illustrated how the program was as much entertainment as sport.

"The game will continue," Michaels said as the show opened. "But the ABC era of 'Monday Night Football' comes to an end tonight."

Cowboys release Cundiff, bring back Suisham

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys released inconsistent kicker Billy Cundiff on Monday, the team's fourth change at the position since training camp.

The Cowboys re-signed rookie Sean Suisham, who was cut when the team brought back Cundiff on

Nov. 19. Suisham was first signed after Dallas cut Jose Cortez, who started the season after Cundiff hurt his leg during training camp and was released.

Cundiff made just one of his last three field goals, and had another short miss wiped out by a penalty against Carolina on

Saturday. He was 5-of-8 overall.

"When you start thinking about going for it on fourth down and stuff like that ... you can't live with that's going on right now, the way it was," coach Bill Parcells said.

Four days after making a team-record 56-yard field goal against Detroit in his first game back, Cundiff missed a 34-yard attempt in the fourth quarter on Thanksgiving Day against Denver, a game the Cowboys lost in overtime.

Cundiff missed a 32-yard field goal against Carolina, a low kick that was partially blocked on the final play of the first half.

He then missed a potential game-tying 33-yard kick with 1:08 left in the game, but Carolina was called for running into the kicker.

Millwood agrees to \$60 million deal

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Free agent pitcher Kevin Millwood reached a preliminary agreement Monday on a \$60 million, five-year contract with Texas, giving the Rangers the legitimate No. 1 starter they have been seeking.

Texas can void the fifth year of the deal if Millwood doesn't pitch a certain number of innings in earlier years of the contract. Millwood is expected to undergo a physical Tuesday in Texas, and the deal likely will be finalized Wednesday.

Details of the deal were disclosed by two people familiar with negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the con-

tract had not been finalized. Millwood's decision to accept Texas' offer was first reported by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on its Web site.

Millwood was 9-11 with a 2.86 ERA that led the American League this year, his only season for Cleveland. The right-hander, who turned 31 Saturday, rejected a salary arbitration offer from the Indians.

Millwood, who also was sought by Boston, will be the No. 1 starter in a revamped Texas rotation, already bolstered by two trades this month. The Rangers got former All-Star right-hander Vicente Padilla from Philadelphia and acquired Adam Eaton from San Diego.

The only returning starters for Texas are Kameron Loe and Juan Dominguez. They ended the season in the rotation, Dominguez making only 10 starts and Loe eight.

In nine major league seasons, Millwood is 107-75 with a 3.76 ERA.

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3 Personal

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Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement windows, steel siding & trim Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

HANDYMAN, home maintenance, Small jobs or you just need a hand, call Mike 595-0219.

NEW Const., remodeling, replacement windows. Shawn Deaver Constr. 662-2977, 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

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

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TRUCK Driver needed. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record. Apply in person 8 am-5 pm., Mon.-Fri., Bourland Levech Supply, Hwy. 152 West, Pampa, Tx.

I AM LOOKING FOR one well groomed man or woman with a high level of integrity that I will train to assist me in my Business in Pampa. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, we need to talk. For a confidential interview call 806-669-0762.

CRALL PRODUCTS Immediate Openings •Welders •Painter/Sandblster 40hrs + wk. Salary based on exp. Apply in Person: W. Hwy 152, Pampa

PHYSICIAN Assistant wanted for busy orthopedic practice. Salary is competitive and insurance will be provided. Please send resume to Box 06, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198.

21 Help Wanted

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

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

Loan Representative For financing program in hospital setting. Professional, organized individual with phone, computer & data entry skills required. Must have transportation, valid license / ins. Bilingual (Spanish) is a plus. Fax salary history and resume to 972-606-1312 or email to: jobs@mtpr.com

DRIVERS Needed! \$14 per hour. Must be 21 with CDL & Tanker endorsement. Will drive in Okla. & Tx. Dunn's Tanker Service, 580-303-0909.

CALDWELL Production needs Oilfield Pulling Unit Operator. Paid holidays, 1 wk paid vacation per yr. Top wages for top operator. Hwy 60 West, Pampa, 665-8888.

RN, LVN & Nurse Aid Wheeler Nursing and Rehabilitation is seeking caring, dedicated employees for the position of 2-10 and 10-6 Charge Nurse: 6-2 & 2-10 Nurse Aid (will certify). \$500 Sign-On bonus for nurses. Please apply in person to Donna Cox RN DON, 1000 S. Kiowa

21 Help Wanted

LVN needed for 3-11. Full-time w/benefits differential. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, (806)537-3194.

Wheeler Nursing & Rehab. Dietary Position-Nursing Home. FT Cook & Dietary Aide. Competitive wages, exp. preferred but will train. Apply in person to Megan McKinley 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler Tx

JANITORIAL Service taking applications, drivers license required, will train. Call 669-9186.

C.N.A. needed. Full-time w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. 537-3194.

HEDLEY FEEDLOT hiring Feedmill Operator and Pen Rider. Must be exp. Call 806-856-5441.

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CNA'S needed, full-time, 2-10 & 10-6 shifts. Apply in person Pampa Nursing Center, 1321 W. Kentucky. No phone calls.

CTW Brake Rims Inc. Is now accepting applications for welder/fabricators • competitive pay • 50+ hrs/week • health insurance • paid holidays Apply in person @ 8855 County Rd 12 1/2 Hwy 60 East. 665-0289

21 Help Wanted

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder fabricators and lay-out fabricator. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

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White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

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104 Lots 2 Mausoleum Crypts Side by Side \$3995.00 Call 440-2449

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'03 Ford F250 supercrew. V8, loaded, bed cap, new bars, 106,000 mi. \$18,500 obo. Call 595-0219 cell#

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005:

You have an unusual perspective this year. As a result, you will often back off and think. Your ability to reflect and get down to the basics proves to be one of the more important elements of your year. You will prevail because you have an excellent support system and great friends. Unexpected communications and events toss you into a tizzy. Don't take anything personally. If you are single, you might often take comments to heart. Don't, as often words are not intended the way you take them. If you are attached, you need more time together as a couple. Let the embers of passion ignite once more. SAGITTARIUS makes a great doc for you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Remember, you can control only yourself, no one else. You might need to remind yourself of that fact today. You might not like to admit it. Detach. Schedule a mini-getaway or buy a new CD. Tonight: Maintain your distance but continue to listen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You might not realize how you are coming off. Your tone of voice or expressions might reveal more of what you really feel than your words do. As a result, unexpected developments could punctuate your day. Share what ails you with a close friend or family member. Tonight: With the most special person in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Others seek you out. What

you choose to do might not be as bold or exciting as usual. Might you have worn yourself out? Let others run the show, and quit being the personality kid for a day. Tonight: Keep plans calm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Slow down and take a break before the new year is upon you. Clear out some work or errands. Curb spending for now, as you might have an unusual expenditure or a late paycheck. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Try to be less serious. Someone might be playing with your head just to see your reactions. Be creative, flourish and don't worry so much. If you are single, a new person could knock on your door if you lighten up. Tonight: Do something that makes you laugh and smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Basics count, and you could make a big difference in what happens. An associate, friend or loved one could be quite unstable. But you might not want to soothe his or her nerves. Ultimately, you will be happier too. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You will express what is on your mind, but don't be surprised at the reactions you get. Try adding a smile or a touch of diplomacy if handling a negative issue. Adjust to the various unusual requests. Tonight: At a neighborhood haunt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ A child or new friend behaves erratically. Though your immediate reaction could be negative, remember that you like challenges. You've got one! You might need to handle an important matter at work or with a parent. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ The Moon in your sign invigorates you and sends you in a new direction. Be willing to try something different. Flex with the unexpected, and you will gain. Nothing is black and white, even if you feel comfortable with that type of thinking. Tonight: Whatever you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Serious discussions surround money and possibly feelings. A partner might be cold, withdrawn or stern. You could try to approach this person differently or with a different mind-set. Tonight: Some time off just for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Remain goal-directed. Enlist a couple of friends for advice, support or help. Someone close to you might be remote and touchy. You pull the wild card financially. Lady Luck might be in your pocket. Tonight: Gather with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You are unpredictable because you are tired. Others seem to make demands left and right. Be direct about what you can do. If you feel overwhelmed, say so. People will pitch in. Consider taking a day off. Tonight: A must appearance.

BORN TODAY Actor Denzel Washington (1954), actress Hildegard Neff (1925), musician Johnny Otis (1921)

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

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

N M U W I X W I X W U K L B M
R F L B Q S L J R W P . T Y B R F B L L
F Y J B U . W F Q K L I Y R B Y J Z V L U
— W O I Y D F Y D W R ' U Q V V
X Y W I X R Y P Y N L Y J R .
— Z L K L B V M U W V V U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE WISH OUR READERS A HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH LOVE, JOY AND PEACE THAT WILL ENDURE FOREVER. — YOUR PUZZLE FRIENDS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to your advice to "Threatened in N.Y.," who received an anonymous phone call that her husband was cheating. You advised her that it was probably a crank call. My comment is, "Where there's smoke, there's fire!" She should insist that her husband take a lie detector test to resolve any doubts she might have. My husband travels for business. I had been concerned about him possibly cheating, and we went to counseling where he swore that he was faithful. I later learned that he'd been having an affair at the time, and had another one after her. Even after I had proof of his affairs, he continued trying to lie about the extent of his infidelities. We are now in counseling, and he's seeing a psychiatrist. -- **WISER NOW IN FULLERTON, CALIF.**

DEAR WISER NOW: Your husband obviously has some serious issues, and you have my sympathy. However, I stand by my answer. I have received a bushel of mail regarding that letter, and less than 2 percent of it agrees with you. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, received an anonymous call about my husband's "infidelity." It was in the days before caller I.D. Each time, the woman left a sleazy message on my answering machine after midnight. However, I was lucky. My husband was known by a different name than the one listed in the phone directory, which indicated that the caller was lying. I hope "Threatened" will take your advice. The person who called her is a misery-loves-company instigator who can't stand to see a happy couple. My husband died a year later, and I thank God I didn't ruin my short time with him by believing some sick tramp who made midnight phone calls. -- **BEEN THERE IN MARYLAND**

DEAR ABBY: I am a member of the clergy. My wife got one of those phone calls. At the time, I was an official in the local

union and was getting ready to go to a meeting when our phone rang. My wife answered, and all I could hear was her saying, "Oh, he is? Are you sure? You don't mean that!" etc. When she hung up, she turned to me and said, "You won't believe this. You're in the back booth at the union hall making out with another woman." Imagine the "kick" we got out of that. Please warn "Threatened" not to believe everything she hears. -- **REV. JIM IN INDIANA**

DEAR ABBY: You were absolutely right that the call could have been made by a kid. Years ago, when most women were homemakers, I would look up names and numbers in the phone book, and when the woman would answer I'd say, "Is 'Harry' home?" When she replied that she was his wife, I'd say, "Oh! He never said he was married!" As a high school girl, I thought it was very funny. As an adult, I realize I could have caused irrevocable harm. -- **SORRY NOW IN BALTIMORE, CONN.**

DEAR SORRY: Better late than never! Your letter was one of a stack of similar confessional letters on my desk piled 3 inches thick. When I was in high school, I heard a similar story about some students who did the same thing to an English teacher they disliked.

DEAR ABBY: A similar incident happened to me years ago. I trusted my husband enough to know it couldn't be true, so I asked the caller to describe him -- was he tall, short, dark or blond, skinny or heavy? And do you know what the caller did? She immediately hung up! -- **OPAL IN ROSEVILLE**

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Moving trucks
- 5 Pulls grade
- 10 Pal, to Pedro
- 12 Talk at length
- 13 TV part
- 15 Early hour
- 16 Highway rescue
- 17 Sheep call
- 18 Countrified
- 20 Enjoy a lollipop
- 21 Reek
- 22 Is inquisitive
- 23 Libya neighbor
- 25 Boot attachment
- 28 Forays
- 31 Highlands gal
- 32 Fancy
- 34 Common verb
- 35 La Brea stuff
- 36 Siesta
- 37 Sub part
- 40 Choice
- 41 Restaurant fixture
- 42 Car type
- 43 Honey bunch?

DOWN

- 2 Pretty good
- 3 Most pleasant
- 4 Corp.'s superior
- 5 Sketched
- 6 Furrow
- 7 Jackal-headed
- 8 Retreat
- 9 Furtive ones
- 11 Excursion
- 14 Popular ice-cream flavor
- 19 Layers
- 20 Classic language
- 24 Chatty bird
- 25 Blackboards
- 26 Prisoner's hope
- 27 Log-on
- 29 Vienna's river
- 30 Horse house
- 33 Some swords
- 35 College freshman, usually
- 38 Bake sale sponsor
- 39 Keyboard key

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Blondie

