

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

EDMISTON, Leisa Devone — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Leisa Devone Edmiston, 43

Leisa Devone Edmiston, 43, of Pampa, died Dec. 25, 2005, at Lubbock. Memorial services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Friday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Fred Palmer, pastor of the Carpenter's Church, officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born Oct. 26, 1962, at Wichita Falls, Ms. Edmiston

was a Pampa resident most of her life and was a beautiful woman.

Survivors include a daughter, Stephanie Braddock of Venice, Fla.; her father, Bill Edmiston of Pampa; her grandmother, Patricia Edmiston of Corvallis, Ore.; and a granddaughter.



Edmiston

—Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Aitken Grain of White Deer

Wheat	3.44
Milo	2.96
Corn	3.94
Soybeans	4.99

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa

OXY	80.33	-0.25
BP PLC ADR	64.11	+0.01
Cabot Corp	36.66	+0.09
Celanese	19.45	+0.15
Cabot Oil Gas	45.15	-0.72
Coca Cola	40.66	-0.12
VLO	51.55	-0.32
HAL	61.83	-0.61
TRI	39.67	-0.26
KMI	92.09	-0.12

XCEL	18.70	+0.03
Kerr McGee	90.54	-0.50
XOM	56.32	+0.07
Nat'l Oilwell	NA	NA
Limited	22.42	+0.02
Williams	23.16	-0.09
MCD	34.08	-0.11
Amos	26.14	+0.08
Pioneer Nat'l	51.12	-0.54
JCP	56.61	+0.30
COP	57.87	-0.42
SLB	98.00	-0.32
Tenneco	19.60	+0.08
CVX	56.84	+0.14
Wal-Mart	47.99	+0.15
OKE	26.84	+0.02
NS Gp	42.06	-0.38

New York Gold	516.50
Silver	8.91
West Texas Crude	59.80

Sales of previously owned homes fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of previously owned homes fell by 1.7 percent in November, fresh evidence that the high-flying housing market is losing altitude.

The latest snapshot of activity in the housing market, released by the National Association of Realtors on Thursday, showed that November's sales of existing homes, including single-family, town homes and condominiums, totaled 6.97 million units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate. It marked the lowest level of sales since March and the second month in a row that sales went down.

In other economic news, the number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits rose last week, but even with the pickup the level of applications still pointed to an improving job climate.

The Labor Department's report showed that new applications filed for unemployment insurance increased by a seasonally adjusted 3,000 to 322,000

for the week ending Dec. 24. That matched economists' expectations.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials were up 20 points in morning trading.

In the housing report, the over-the-month decline was slightly steeper than the 1.3 percent drop that analysts were expecting before the report was released.

Yet, even with the drop, economists said the housing market remains in healthy shape and is on track to set record-high home sales for the fifth year in a row for all of 2005.

"We are really on track for a soft landing," said David Lereah, the association's chief economist. Moderately rising mortgage rates are allowing the housing market thus far to land safely, he said. "There are no balloons popping," he said.

Other housing barometers — including a drop in new-home sales in November — also have flashed signs that the market has peaked and is now slowing.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Twenty-four traffic stops were made. One stop in the 500 block of North Francis resulted in an arrest for violation of a protective order.

Vehicle accidents were reported at an unreported location, the 1400 block of North Hobart and the 1800 block of North Wells.

A stolen vehicle was recovered in the 1900 block of Coffee.

Found property was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather. Two wallets were found.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of North Roberta.

A civil matter was reported at the intersection of Cook and Somerville streets.

One burglar alarm was reported. One open door was checked.

A runaway was reported in the police department lobby.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 400 block of Hughes and the 500 block of West 20th Avenue.

An animal complaint was received from the 500 block of South Tignor.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 500 block of Magnolia.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 700 block of Murphy, the intersection of West and Thut streets, the 1000 block of South Barnes, twice in the 1100 block of Alcock, the 1000 block of Prairie Drive, the 700 block of South Somerville, the intersection of Kingsmill and Somerville streets, the 2300 block of Beech, the 300 block of North Dwight, the 2100 block of North Sumner, the 600 block of East Frederic and the intersection of 19th and Banks streets.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 2800 block of Charles, the intersection of Buckler and Hobart streets and the intersection of Murphy and Henry streets.

A prowler was reported in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

Possession of under two ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia were reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

Failure to identify as a fugitive was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. The offender is a juvenile.

Disorderly conduct was reported twice in the 400 block of North Wells.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Aspen.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Charles. A car window was damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$200.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of Mary Ellen. Christmas lights valued at \$100 were damaged.

Harassment was reported in the 400 block of Carr, the police department lobby and the 1900 block of Grape.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 900 block of Campbell and involved a Social Security card and identity cards.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson. An interior light was broken. Estimated cost of damage is \$50.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Wells. A pool cue and case, 15 compact discs, a radio receiver and money were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$670.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of North Christy. A radio/CD combo, speakers in case and a stereo amplifier were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$900.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. A purse, cash and credit card were taken, for an estimated loss of \$430.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of North Faulkner. A CD player, speakers, amplifier, satellite radio, custom box and Raptor distributor were taken, for an estimated loss of \$1,675.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 900 block of South Faulkner. A Pac Man game and DVD player were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$135.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of North Russell.

Counterfeiting/forgery was reported in the police department lobby. The incidents occurred at First Convenience Bank and First State Bank of Miami. Travelers' checks valued at \$5,000 were involved.

Theft was reported in the 800 block of East Craven. A back yard gate valued at \$20 was taken.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 900 block of East Francis. Cash totaling \$700 was taken.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. Beer valued at \$21.89 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of West 30th Avenue.

Assault was reported in the 700 block of North Russell, the 100 block of South Sumner and twice in the 400 block of Carr.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents.

Saturday, Dec. 24

6 a.m. — An unknown vehicle and driver collided with a properly parked 2002 Ford Explorer, owned by Dean Roby Lorren, 1601 W. Somerville #206, in the 1600 block of West Somerville. The unknown vehicle and driver then left the scene. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

1 p.m. — An unknown vehicle and driver collided with a legally parked 2004 Toyota Sequoia, owned by Zachary Grant Cambern, 2146 Dogwood, in the 100 block of North Cuyler. The unknown vehicle and driver then left the scene. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Sunday, Dec. 25

4:05 p.m. — An unknown white two-door vehicle and driver collided with a 2005 Chevrolet Impala, owned by Monica Anne Cook, of White Deer, in the 2100 block of North Hobart. The unknown vehicle and driver then left the scene. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

7:16 p.m. — A 1998 Ford Contour, driven by Rebecca Ann Middlebrook, 18, 2129 N. Dwight, struck a pedestrian, James Horace McDonald, 1904 N. Banks, in the 1900 block of North Hobart. Middlebrook then left the scene in the vehicle, according to the accident report. McDonald reported possible injuries but was not transported by ambulance. No citations have been issued.

Monday, Dec. 27

4:07 p.m. — A 1992 Pontiac Grand

Prix, driven by Michael R. Hartzell, 37, 1100 E. Kingsmill, and a 2001 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by Rhonda Jean Manriquez, 43, 943 E. Francis, collided at the intersection of Warren and Francis streets. No injuries were reported. Hartzell was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign and no valid driver's license.

5:45 p.m. — A 1993 Ford Explorer, driven by Jessica Elaine Smith, 23, of Skellytown, and a 1998 Toyota Avalon, driven by Jennifer Rene Bonnell, 25, 1811 N. Christine, collided in the 1400 block of North Hobart. No injuries were reported. Smith was cited for failure to yield right of way from a private drive.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Eric Chennault, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for simple assault.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Dustin Lenderman, 19, of Pampa turned himself in to Gray County Jail for evading arrest.

Gary Jernigan, 38, of Amarillo was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Office on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

Antonio Vela, 25, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for theft under \$50 and no valid driver's license.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

3:32 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a report of kids playing with matches in the 1100 block of Neal. Nothing was found.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

10:48 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 2400 block of Evergreen on a carbon monoxide investigation.

11:41 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the Pam Apartments on a carbon monoxide investigation.

6:41 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of Miami on an odor investigation.

Thursday, Dec. 29

6:44 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to County Road 5 and Highway 60 on standby while arcing power lines were repaired.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, Dec. 28

11:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

11:41 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No transport.

1:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Rose and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

2:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. South-southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west-northwest.

Tonight: Mostly clear,

with a low around 35. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 51. Wind chill values between 28 and

33 early. North-northwest

wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 32. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. Calm wind becoming south between 5

and 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 63. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly

cloudy, with a low around 39. Southwest wind around 15 mph.

New Year's Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 62.

West-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

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CITY BRIEFS

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

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.

PEGGY'S PLACE serving Breakfast Buffet Only, New for Mon. Jan. 12 am.-4 am. Open New Year's Day! Have a safe Holiday.

SANDS FABRICS End of Year Clearance Sale, now thru Dec. 31st, 9:30-5:30 pm. Save 40% Off all fabric. The Scissor Sharpening man will be here, Fri. & Sat.

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.

VFW BLACKKEYE Pea Dinner, 105 S. Cuyler, Sun., New Years Day, 12 noon-3 pm.

SALE CONTACT LENSES

Focus Night & Day \$53.95
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1324 N. Banks 665-0771

COP CORNER

Ever since the left turn lanes on our major streets and highways were put in, I have wondered if the motoring public really understands what these lanes are for. There are a few problems I see about their use.

Drivers are using the center lane as a "merge" lane instead of a turning left lane. There seems to be a little confusion when there are double yellow lines on either side of the center lane.

Last, it seems drivers enter the center lane at the wrong place when approaching an intersection. Drivers, like when pulling out of a business, should proceed across the turn lane and into the first clear traffic lane.

That means you have to wait for traffic to clear so you can go safely. If you pull into the center lane and wait for a break in the traffic, then you impede other drivers who want to use the center lane and you violate the traffic code.

The citation is driving in the center lane and not turning left. It is also called "staging." When you have the double lines on each side of the turn



Lt. Fred Courtney

lane, then you should turn left from the traffic lane just like there is no center lane. Just be sure to signal your turn in plenty of time.

Approaching an intersection, drivers should move into the center turn between where the yellow line ends and before the white line begins. If you enter the turn lane before this point it raises the risk of a collision. The person ahead of you is not anticipating having to look for a car passing them on the left as they enter the center lane.

Well, I hope this is as clear as mud. Drive safely and Happy New Year.

Cop Corner is provided by Lt. Fred Courtney of Pampa Police Department.

Danger

Continued from Page 1

Panhandle, are under a burn ban," Goehring said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Dry conditions and high winds make it more difficult to extinguish a fire quickly, both chiefs agreed.

"A small bar ditch fire now turns into five to 10 acres of grass fire quickly," Millican said. "This year, on what should be a one-truck fire, we're having to send three. The conditions require more men, more trucks and more water. The fire spreads a lot faster."

"We've got so much wide-open space that if a fire took hold, it could go for miles," Powell said. "And gullies and washes make it harder to chase those fires."

Low humidity increases the danger of fire, as can the time of year, she said.

"In winter, everything is dead," Powell said. "It's like kindling."

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department has been on one and one-half times as many grass fires as usual for the period from Oct. 1 to date, Millican said. The current grass fire total for the department is near 30, he said.

"These fires are burning 40, 50 or 60 acres," Millican said. "One in Roberts County in late October involved a couple of sections of land, or 1,200 to 1,500 acres."

HVFD's total includes

not only Gray and Roberts counties but assistance rendered through an agreement with Carson, Wheeler and Hutchinson counties.

Powell urges caution when handling anything that could cause a fire, and pointed out the legal liability involved in using fireworks and outdoor burns.

"If a person causes a fire on their own land and it travels to another's land and does damage, that person is liable," she said.

The City of Pampa has ordinances against fireworks and outdoor burning inside city limits, she said, and violators can be fined.

Millican urges caution when setting off fireworks, and warns against trying to put out a small fire during such dry conditions.

"Be careful with fireworks, especially aerial fireworks that go up in the air," he said. "The instant any grass catches on fire, call the fire department. Don't try to put it out yourself."

"Some rural citizens have tried to help that way and ended up getting minor burns," he said.

Will Gray County join the list of counties under burn bans?

"I've asked the commissioners to let me know anytime they want to be put on the agenda to consider a burn ban, and so far no one has done so," said County Judge Richard Peet in a telephone interview Wednesday.

"Be really careful. It's really dry," Millican said. "Everybody just be safe."



Pampa News photo by RaDonn Woods

Denise Daves, representing Pampa United Way, spoke to the Pampa Lions Club last week about the importance of the agency in the community. Daves is also chief nursing officer for Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Many Sept. 11 loan recipients were not affected by attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a program to help businesses after Sept. 11, a high percentage of government-backed loans went to recipients who appeared to be unqualified — some of them unaware they were receiving terrorism-recovery money, investigators report.

The Small Business Administration's inspector general said Wednesday that agency officials were at fault for telling lenders in the program that their determinations would not be questioned.

The inspector general concluded that only nine loan recipients in the 59 cases sampled appeared to be qualified for disaster loans.

Lenders who handed out billions of dollars in loans failed — 85 percent of the time — to document that recipients were actually hurt by the terrorism attacks and therefore eligible for the aid under the law, the report found.

The investigative report substantiates key findings of an Associated Press story in September that found similar problems with the SBA's Supplementary Terrorist Activity Relief (STAR) program.

The AP found that terrorism recovery loans went to a South Dakota radio station, a Virgin Islands perfume shop, a Utah dog boutique and more than 100 Dunkin' Donuts and Subway sandwich shops in various locations.

Meanwhile, small businesses near Ground Zero in New York couldn't get the assistance they desperately sought.

SBA Administrator Hector Barreto put the best face on the findings, saying the audit did not find that loan recipients were unqualified for the program, although he did note that lender documentation could have been better.

His statement, however, was contradicted by the chairwoman of the Senate committee that oversees the SBA program.

"These initial findings are troubling and the committee ... will continue with its own investigation of the STAR program to get at the truth and inform Congress for the future," said Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine.

Roach

Continued from Page 1

District attorney, and \$11,295.63 in attorney's fees and expenses for Scott.

Roach is also facing state charges concerning possession of cocaine and methamphetamine, in addition to the perjury charge.

He is currently serving a five-year sentence in Federal Medical Center of Fort Worth on a federal charge of addict or user in possession of a firearm. He pled guilty to the firearms charge in federal court in Amarillo on Feb. 8, the same day he resigned as 31st District attorney.

Divorce fee shot down

AUSTIN (AP) — A provision in a new law that tacked a \$30 fee onto divorce cases to pay for child abuse prevention is unconstitutional, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has determined.

Abbott ruled Wednesday that the Legislature should not have authorized the Family Protection Fee, which was expected to raise \$2.6 million a year for education programs and resources.

Insurance

Continued from Page 1

Bill Bridges of Pampa said the acquisition will open up the Amarillo market to the Pampa firm. A Duncan, Fraser & Bridges production office will move into the Amarillo office of Edmond, Deaton & Stephens.

Duncan, Fraser & Bridges has a background in oil and gas and is a member of Combined Agents of America, an agency that puts premiums together to earn better benefits for its members. Customers of Edmond, Deaton & Stephens will benefit from that arrangement.

Bridges said the goal of the agency is to double every three years for the next nine years.

Duncan, Fraser & Bridges employs 20 at offices in Pampa and Borger. Edmond, Deaton & Stephens employs 12.

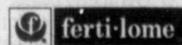
Edmond said the company would probably add some sales staff.

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<p>1/2 OFF KIDS FLEECE SETS, WINDSUITS By Specialty Baby, Specialty Girl. Rawlings, more. Orig. 22.00-38.00. SALE 10.98-18.98.</p>	<p>1/2 OFF MISSES SLEEPWEAR & ROBES Pajamas, gowns, robes and more in winter styles. Orig. 16.00-78.00. SALE 7.98-38.98.</p>	<p>1/2 OFF MISSES DRESSES, PANTSUITS Fall styles. Jacket dresses, skirt sets and more. Orig. 54.00-88.00. SALE 26.98-43.98.</p>
<p>1/2 OFF ALL BOOTS FOR LADIES From Skechers, Markon, EA by Agner, more. Orig. 30.00-100.00. SALE 14.98-49.98.</p>	<p>1/2 OFF FASHION ACCESSORIES For her. Cold weather accessories, scarves, hats, and more. Orig. 10.00-42.00. SALE 4.98-20.98.</p>	<p>1/2 OFF JUNIORS JEANS & PANTS By BeBoP, Vigoss Jeans, Tempted, more. Orig. 28.00-44.00. SALE 13.98-21.98.</p>

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Viewpoints

Twentysomethings want to look younger these days

Are you aware that "40 is the new 30"? Well, I wasn't, but now that I am, life is so very beautiful.

Though chronologically I may be thirtysomething, by the '40 is the new 30' standard I am but twenty... something.

Fantastic, isn't it? And how do I know this? Well, because Martha Irvine said so in a recent Associated Press story.

Of course, Irvine wasn't speaking directly to me, but still...

"Forget '40 is the new 30,'" Irvine begins. Ha! Like I'm going to forget something like that.

"Some young adults," the piece continues, "say they want to reverse the effects the sun has already had on their skin. Others already are feeling social pressure to retain their fresh-faced looks."

As revolutionary as 40 is the new 30 premise is, that

obviously is not the thrust of Irvine's article. No, the gist of her story is twentysomethings are no longer happy about being twentysomething. The ingrates.

They are, according to Irvine, starting to purchase larger quantities of anti-aging creams and anti-wrinkle products in the quest to look younger.

You do realize that according to the 40 is the new 30 rule these twentysomethings are mere teenyboppers? And they want to look younger? Wow. It wasn't until just recently that I concluded I should've started using sunscreen a little sooner, like in the second grade.

Seems to me we spend way too much time (myself included) obsessing about our outward appearance instead of scrutinizing our inner selves.

Who we are and how we treat others isn't as important as

how we look, evidently.

Yes, some of us take ourselves way too seriously, and unfortunately I place myself squarely in that camp. I admire people who can laugh at themselves and see the humor in even the most embarrassing and mortifying situation. I long to acquire that ability.

Speaking of mortifying and humiliating situations, OfficeTeam, a self-described workplace staffing service, recently solicited a survey on personal management calamities. The survey covered some 150 senior executives at the "nation's 1,000 largest companies."

The following paragraphs were lifted from an

OfficeTeam press release. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did. Perhaps they will help us all keep our own importance in perspective.

"Executives were asked, 'What was your most embarrassing moment at work?' Here are some of their responses:

• 'I inadvertently sent a personal e-mail to an entire distribution list.'

• 'Another manager and I had a conflict in front of the president of the company.'

• 'I pretended to throw water on a colleague only to discover my cup wasn't empty. Luckily, she had a good sense of humor.' ...

Think performances are limited to the stage or screen?

Consider the following:

• 'For Employee Appreciation Week, executives perform a skit and I played Cher.'

• 'I sat in a dunk tank and was in my swimming trunks in front of the employees.'

• 'My colleagues pressured me to sing my school song the day I started.'

• 'The marketing team did karaoke. We sang 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

Hopefully, these executives rebounded from these memory lapses:

• 'Calling the CEO by the wrong name'

• 'Leaving the boss behind and going to a meeting without him'

• 'Showing up for work on a Sunday thinking it was Monday'

Ever wonder what it would be like working with the Three Stooges? Here are a few possi-

ble scenarios:

• 'I stumbled and fell on my face when I tripped over the carpet.'

• 'In a meeting, I spilled coffee all over myself.'

• 'While speaking at a business event, I fell off the stage.'

Controlling their emotions and staying focused at work challenged these respondents:

• 'I hugged the senior manager on my first day of work.'

• 'While interviewing a job candidate, I fell asleep.'

• 'I passed out in the front lobby after I cut my finger.'"

Just think of aging as putting distance between yourself and your worst goof-ups. And — I hope I don't regret saying this — after reading the results from the OfficeTeam survey, my worst faux pas don't seem that bad. Happy New Year, everyone!

Skyla Bryant
News Editor



Texas Thoughts

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 19

El Paso Times on distracted driving:

Cell phones present increasing problem Think of it this way: As you're driving along Interstate 10 at 60 mph (yeah, right!) in heavy traffic, about 10 percent of the people around you — that's one in every 10 cars you see — are yakking on a cell phone.

That statistic, from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, should put a good scare into you.

Why?

Because people who are talking on cell phones aren't paying full attention to their driving and thus have become accidents waiting to happen. It's classic distracted driving. That's probably right for other drivers, but not for me, you're probably saying right now.

I can multitask, drive and talk on the phone at the same time without sacrificing safety. Of course, that's patently absurd. Once you start fumbling with the phone, dialing, pressing buttons, looking for text messages or even just concentrating on a conversation, your attention has been compromised and you become a danger to drivers around you.

In fact, a study published in July's British Medical Journal showed that drivers using cell phones were four times more likely — four times! — to get into a crash serious enough to put them in a hospital.

Some people like to take comfort in the idea that using hands-free phones while driving reduces the risks. Not so, according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The study determined that it didn't necessarily matter whether a hand-held or hands-free phone was used. Both increased risk.

And who does the most talking?

NHTSA says women are more likely to use phones while driving than men, 8 percent to 5 percent. Industry officials have a perfectly valid argument in response, noting that drivers are distracted in many other ways besides phone use. Tuning in the radio or messing with the CD player, balancing a cup of hot coffee in one hand, trying to unwrap and eat fast food, applying makeup, talking with other passengers and actually turning to look at them. Some people even read while driving — maps, newspapers, even books.

And, of course, there's what seems to be an increasing problem with tired drivers, making dozing at the wheel an incredibly dangerous form of distracted driving. But special attention must be paid to cell phones because it's an emerging and growing technology. It will become cheaper and more and more available, and more people will use them. It's a driving hazard that shows every indication of growing rather than retreating.

Laws against using cell phones while driving are scarce. Ten states and the District of Columbia have restrictions on young drivers using cell phones. Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and D.C. forbid use of hand-held phones while driving.

To his credit, Texas state Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, has tried for some time to have restrictions in Texas, but to no avail. Don't drive distracted. Don't use cell phones, hand-held or hands-free, while driving. Use them only in an emergency, and then try to pull over before use.

Don't become a statistic.

Newsmaker interview with Tony Snow

Pundit and commentator Tony Snow hasn't been the host of "Fox News Sunday" since 2003. But the former director of speechwriting for the first President Bush is keeping busy hosting "The Tony Snow Show," his 9 a.m.-to-noon morning talk show on Fox News Radio, and "Weekend Live With Tony Snow" on the Fox News Channel.

Snow, who is back to writing a weekly syndicated newspaper column again and can be heard on satellite via Sirius or XM Radio, has spent most of the year fighting colon cancer. I talked to him by telephone on Thursday:

Q: First, how is your health?

A: My health is doing great. I had surgery in February to remove the colon. I had chemotherapy from April through September. I had a follow-up operation to finish everything off. The good news for me is that I'm done with surgery. I'm done with chemotherapy. The CAT-scans have come back completely clean. The blood tests are encouraging. But as anybody who's had cancer knows, what you do is you keep doing your CAT scans. I'll do that every three months just to make sure we're still on track.

Q: A few years ago when I talked to you, you called yourself more libertarian than Republican. Is that still true?

A: Yeah, I think so. I learned a long time ago that if you sit around and pledge your fealty to politicians, you're going to get burnt. So what I like to do is maintain my independence. I'm clearly conservative. But I've been bashing conservatives on various forms of corruption, including spending money on stuff that's completely idiotic, like, oh, the fact that they are now going to have subsidies for people to have digital signals on their TVs. It's unbelievable.

They are actually setting up a subsidy for people who still have analog televisions as of 2009 or something. They'll give them \$40 or \$60 per TV to digitize them. Give me a break!

Q: You recently wrote that Republicans are cowards because they have forsaken their core beliefs and betrayed the Republican Revolution of 1994. How so?

A: What happened is when Republicans came in in 1994, what did they say? They said we're going to make government smaller and we're going to make it more responsive. Instead, what has happened — and it's typical, it's natural, it's something that happens all the time — is that they decided, "You know what, I'd rather just stay in office." So they decided to worship incumbency rather than principle.

Well, what happens over time is that you end up with a government that spends like crazy on stuff that is not of vital national importance. You find members of Congress suddenly fudging on things that they had promised to do. And over time, what happens is that they lose their credibility with voters. It's exactly the same thing that happened to Democrats in the run-up to the 1994 congressional elections.

Q: Is there anything that President Bush has done that you are completely jazzed about — happy about?

A: Completely jazzed about? I get jazzed when my son brings home a report card full of A's. I don't get jazzed when presidents do their jobs, so the answer would be "no."

Q: What's the worst or most egregious mistake the president has made?

A: The lack of spending discipline on the part of

Republicans has been disappointing and frankly so has George W. Bush's inability to understand the importance of using a veto. Washington is like a dog pound. You have to have an alpha male. You've got a scent, mark your territory — and the way you do that is using the veto. I know the war is important, but being the lead dog in Washington is also important and I don't think the president has quite figured that out yet and I don't think the people closest to him have either.

Q: What gives you the slightest hope that conservatives will return to their core principles — and is there anyone you think might make that happen?

A: Oh yeah. Actually, I think voters are making it happen. If you take a look at what's going on in Capitol Hill, I think Republicans were stunned when voters started calling them and really going crazy when they were going to spend a quarter of a billion dollars on a "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska. In that transportation bill they had more than 6,000 local pork-barrel projects. Mark Pence of Indiana, a former radio talk show host himself, has been one of the guys who has really been out there raising hell about the abandonment of principles. I think you're seeing clustering around Mark and some other young Republicans — something that reminds me a great deal of Newt Gingrich and something they called the Conservative Opportunity Society in the late '70s and early '80s, where they were getting together and talking about big ideas and core principles. I think the Republicans are realizing that to be principled and visionary in the long run is good politics. Doing the

re-elected once or twice — you do that. But you do that at the expense of the soul of a party. In the long run, it's the ideas, it's the great figures, it's the inspirational figures who define a political party and shape in people's mind an image of what that party is and what it stands for. If any political party is the party of payoffs, it's going to lose.

Q: What about the Democrats?

A: The Democrats have a problem right now, because they seem to be a "cut-and-run" party that is also being run by a handful of billionaires who are supplying all the money for them. That's not a winning proposition in the long run. Similarly, if Republicans are a bunch of deal-makers who are simply trying to hold on to political office, sooner or later somebody's going to say, "You know what? We can do better than that." Both political parties are on notice that they are really not doing very well with this visionary business, and whoever gets there first is going to win.

Q: Who'd you like to see win the Republican nomination in 2008?

A: I really don't know. I'm old school. I like to see how these people do when they have to go to horrid places like northern New Hampshire or when they have to brave the winters in Iowa to go around, hat in hand, begging for votes. There's something good about a primary process that makes you work hard and become humble. Those who have the stamina and desire and organizational ability — those are the ones who make the cut as potential presidential timber. I really don't know. There are a lot of people who are thinking about running. We'll just have to wait to see who does well.

—Bill Steigerwald is a columnist at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Bill Steigerwald
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2005. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date:

In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1913, the first movie serial, "The Adventures of Kathlyn," premiered in Chicago.

In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on London.

In 1975, a bomb exploded in the

main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

In 1989, playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia by the country's Federal Assembly, becoming the first non-Communist to attain the post in more than four decades.

Five years ago: President-elect Bush filled four more Cabinet slots, tapping Rod Paige to be secretary of education, Gale Norton to be secretary of the interior, Anthony J. Principi to return as secretary to the Department of Veterans Affairs and Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson to be secretary of health and human services.

Sports Day

Fantastic Five Football Picks: If 'Horns lose, blame Stokes

Week 18 Games

Denver @ San Diego
 NY Giants @ Oakland
 Baltimore @ Cleveland
 Carolina @ Atlanta
 Seattle @ Green Bay
 New Orleans @ Tampa Bay
 Detroit @ Pittsburgh
 Buffalo @ NY Jets
 Miami @ New England
 Cincinnati @ Kansas City
 Arizona @ Indianapolis
 Tennessee @ Jacksonville
 Houston @ San Francisco
 Washington @ Philadelphia
 Chicago @ Minnesota
 St. Louis @ Dallas
 Miami vs. LSU
 Texas Tech vs. Alabama
 FSU vs. Penn State
 Texas vs. USC

Correction: Donny Hooper went 13-7 in week 16, not 12-8 as was reported.



Michael J. Stevens
 Last Week: 14-6-0 (3)

Denver
 NY Giants
 Cleveland
 Carolina
 Seattle
 Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh
 Buffalo
 Miami
 Kansas City
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 San Francisco
 Washington
 Chicago
 Dallas
 LSU
 Texas Tech
 Penn State
 Texas



Sean Smith
 Last Week: 11-9-0 (4)

San Diego
 NY Giants
 Baltimore
 Atlanta
 Seattle
 Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh
 Buffalo
 New England
 Cincinnati
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 Houston
 Washington
 Chicago
 Dallas
 Miami
 Alabama
 Penn State
 Texas



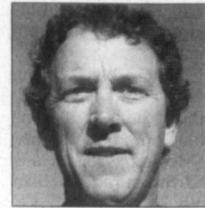
Donny Hooper
 Last Week: 15-5-0 (2)

Denver
 NY Giants
 Cleveland
 Atlanta
 Seattle
 Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh
 NY Jets
 New England
 Kansas City
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 Houston
 Washington
 Minnesota
 Dallas
 Miami
 Texas Tech
 Penn State
 Texas



Ray Boring
 Last Week: 10-10-0 (5)

Denver
 NY Giants
 Baltimore
 Carolina
 Seattle
 Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh
 Buffalo
 New England
 Cincinnati
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 Houston
 Washington
 Chicago
 Dallas
 Miami
 Texas Tech
 Penn State
 Texas



Shane Stokes
 Last Week: 16-4-0 (1)

San Diego
 NY Giants
 Baltimore
 Atlanta
 Seattle
 Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh
 NY Jets
 New England
 Kansas City
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 Houston
 Washington
 Minnesota
 Dallas
 Miami
 Texas Tech
 Penn State
 USC

Milk Cow Classic: Pampa cruises in round one

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
 Sports Editor

Pampa proved early they are in Clovis to win, dropping St. Michael's 67-55 in Wednesday's opening round of the annual Milk Cow Classic.

The Harvesters, fueled by Braydon Barker's long range shots, led at one point in the first quarter 26-8. It was all Pampa from there.

The win sets up a 4:10 p.m. (MDT) rematch with Abilene Cooper today.

Cooper defeated Rio Rancho 52-48 Wednesday.

To win is the obvious goal this afternoon.

But to defeat the Cougars today would not only advance the Harvesters into

the championship game Friday, but avenge an early December loss to Cooper, the first team to hang a defeat on Pampa this season. A game Coach Dustin Miller and his team felt they let slip away.

Milk Cow Classic results Wednesday

Abilene Cooper 52, Rio Rancho 48
 Pampa 67, St. Michael's 55

Rio Grande 65, Aztec 54
 Clovis 70, Tascosa 59

Today
 Consolation Semifinals
 Rio Rancho vs. St. Michael's

Aztec vs. Tascosa
Championship Semifinals
 Abilene Cooper vs. Pampa
 Rio Grande vs. Clovis

Lady Harvesters competing in Caprock Tournament

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
 Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters (7-10) are back in action today as Pampa takes part in the Caprock Tournament in Amarillo.

Pampa was scheduled to meet Shallowater at 12:30 this afternoon. Win or

lose, the Lady Harvesters will play again Friday morning at 10:30.

Like the boys, the Lady Harvesters have been off since Dec. 28.

The Caprock Tournament is the final tune-up for Pampa before district play begins Jan. 6 at Palo Duro.

SAYING GOODBYE

It does get a little easier

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
 Sports Editor

Two years ago my wife and I drove our only son to a town in North Carolina, spent a few days with him, then left him there. It was one of the toughest — certainly one of the most emotional — things either of us had ever done. I kept telling my wife, "Hey, it's just like momma and daddy birds showing their babies out of the nest." It didn't ease her pain. Nor did it mine.

Over the following year, he flew home twice. One was a surprise visit our neighbors arranged for Mother's Day. Mom and I flew him home later that year for Christmas. This of course meant we had to say 'good-bye' two more times. Again, not an easy thing to do.

So when we decided to fly him home this Christmas, I had some concern. Not that I didn't want to see him. I just didn't want to say that 'G' word and see his mother cry. I didn't want to see that look on his face that seemed to say, "I can't believe you're making me leave again."

This past week was one of the best I have had in a long time. We stayed up late playing games and watching movies. It is tradition in the Stevens home that we tune in TBS' 24-hour airing of 'A Christmas Story,' then see who can stay up the longest watching it.

We ate, and ate, and ate. Then we snacked a little. Our son spent some time visiting old friends, even made a new one. She has his mother's approval. Not an easy thing to get.

Then, before we knew it, it was Wednesday morning. A week had come and gone and it was time to put him on the plane and send him home. It was time to say "Good-bye" again.

Yet there was something about Michael this time. He seemed ready to get back. Not quite anxious, just ready. He's grown accustomed to the ambiance of the airport, particularly Amarillo, Dallas, Houston, Nashville and Raleigh-Durham.

He checked in at Rick Husband International Airport early (very early) Wednesday morning. We went upstairs to the point where passengers and those saying the 'G' word are forced to separate. We said our good-byes and we watched as he went through the screening process, gathered his things, waved and walked away. Funny, he looked so much like a man.

My wife, bless her heart, couldn't keep the tears in check. Nor could the lady standing next to me who was saying the 'G' word to her daughter. She looked at us and asked, "It's so hard letting them go, isn't it?" I smiled and said, "Actually, we let him go two years ago. He's just going home."

I am not sure how many licks it really takes to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop. Never been patient enough to find out. What I do know is if you look close enough, you can see your child mature right before your eyes. And it is truly a sight to behold. It does, however, require a little patience.

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Hornets sneak past Rockets, 92-90

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The New Orleans Hornets got enough balance throughout their lineup to beat Tracy McGrady and the Houston Rockets — barely.

David West was one of six players in double figures and made a jumper with 1.8 seconds remaining in the Hornets' 92-90 victory Wednesday night.

"I knew I was going to get that shot. It's a shot I've made before many times," said West, who had 15 points. "I took my time and hit it."

McGrady scored a season-best 38 and Stromile Swift had season highs with 26 points and 13 rebounds, but the Rockets lost their fourth straight.

Wesley, who rotated over to defend West's shot, said the Rockets wanted to make the Hornets take a jump shot and not allow the ball inside.

"I can't see us defending it any differently," Wesley said.

J.R. Smith led the Hornets with 16, Rasual Butler had 15 — all in the fourth quarter — and Desmond Mason scored 13. Speedy Claxton had 14, and rookie Chris Paul scored 11 and added a career-high 15 assists, including on the game-winner by West.

Butler, averaging just 5.3 points, hit three straight 3-pointers during a 13-1 run that gave the Hornets an 86-77 lead with 4:12 to play. He added another jumper with 2:22 left for a 90-

84 advantage.

"After I hit my first couple of shots, I knew I had it going a little bit," Butler said.

The Rockets tied it at 90 on two free throws by McGrady with 12 seconds remaining. New Orleans went without a timeout and Paul drove and found West open for his jumper.

"In the fourth quarter, we really showed our resilience and our confidence in one another," Hornets coach Byron Scott said.

The Hornets forced the tempo in building a 12-point first-quarter lead and led by as many as 11 with about 5 minutes left in the second quarter.

Boston College survives charge from Broncos

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Dan Hawkins came up just short in his final game as coach at Boise State.

He still left the field at the MPC Computers Bowl proud of his Broncos, especially after they battled back from a big deficit before losing 27-21 to No. 19 Boston College on Wednesday night.

"I would have loved to have a win for seniors and the effort they put forth, but I told them they can hold their heads up," Hawkins said.

Hawkins is headed to Colorado after signing a five-year contract worth \$900,000 per year on Dec. 16 — with the stipulation that he be allowed to coach Boise State in the bowl game.

"It's been awesome for me," Hawkins said. "I'm very fond of my time here. At the same time

Christopher Columbus set sail once and people thought he was crazy. Sometimes in your life you have to be able to do that a little bit, and that's what I'm doing."

Boise State quarterback Jared Zabransky was intercepted by BC's Ryan Glasper in the end zone with 37 seconds left as the Eagles broke the nation's longest home win streak at 31 — but not before almost blowing a 27-0 lead.

Afterward, Hawkins was reflective, but not before consoling his now former quarterback, giving him a hug and saying "I'm proud of you," after Zabransky faced a throng of cameras and questions.

It was Boise State's first home loss since 2001 when Washington State beat the Broncos in Hawkins' first home game after taking over for Dirk Koetter.

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12-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

VUG VNWAFG QL IQMG H
LUHTY MWQEG: QV MQIIL
JQVUNFV PTHJQWA XINNP.

— DUQWGLG YTNZGTX
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN ACTION GROWS UNCOMFORTABLE, GATHER INFORMATION; WHEN INFORMATION GROWS UNPROFITABLE, SLEEP. — URSULA LE GUIN

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.
Your birthday coincides with the New Moon this year. Your creativity surges in an unprecedented way. You are in a wish-upon-a-star mode. You can easily make what you desire happen. Your creativity surges. You come up with answers, ideas and an unusual approach in nearly every situation. Your charisma surges. If you are single, you can meet the sweetie of your life if you are open and ready to meet new people. Friendship plays into this matter. If you are attached, your relationship could develop to a new level. Avoid being too me-oriented. CAPRICORN is a soul mate.

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)
***** You play leader of the gang through the new year. You might want to bring others together for a fun event, if plans aren't made yet. Be honest with yourself this New Moon, and wish for what you want professionally or in your public life. Tonight: Don't you think you should rest up?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** You might choose to get away this New Year's weekend or get tickets to a music performance. If you have been thinking about returning to school, the time is now. Decide to open this door in 2006. Tonight: With the New Moon, it isn't too late to begin your New Year's resolutions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** You might feel very strongly about a loved one or a partnership. If you are single, you might be ready to clip

your wings and settle in. If you're attached, add to the quality of your bond. Start acting on these thoughts. Tonight: Be a duo.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Others seek you out. You might get a new beginning in a relationship, if you so desire. If you are single, someone could enter your life if you are available. Sort through your many invitations. Tonight: Out and about. You can't always be a homebody.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Make a decision to do something special for someone who might be down. Also decide to exercise and perhaps clean out some drawers. Take stock of your well-being. Have you been partying too much? Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You are going to need it!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Creative new beginnings are possible. Express yourself by creating something or spicing up your love life — it's your call. Others feel warmly about you. You seem to be able to solve nearly any problem. Tonight: Decide what you want from a partnership, existent or not yet formed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Being quiet at home fits the bill. If you have to work, try to call it an early day or work from home, if possible. You might be considering a move or a new addition to your home. Discuss your thoughts. Tonight: Happy as a cat, snuggled in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Perk up your communications and/or your daily life. If buying a car or any new item, be careful. You could spend way too much and get a lemon right now. Do your research before you buy. Tonight: Visit or chat away.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** Decide to adhere to a better budget and save more. You are often tempted. Still, a rainy day can happen. Decisions made today are likely to stick. Listen to someone who seems to have it together financially. Tonight: Be willing to think differently or come from another perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** The New Moon in your sign heralds a new beginning. What would you like to revive or change? Make that a wish, and you might very well see it happen. Don't toss obstacles in your own path. Tonight: The world is your oyster. You choose what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
** Take your time and allow yourself to mellow out. Sometimes, especially lately, you have been racing around. You might want to close your door at work or take a walk at lunchtime. Tonight: Cocoon.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** The New Moon in your sector of hopes and wishes today could help bring a dream to fruition. You might be very pleased as you work toward this end. A meeting or friend plays a significant role. Tonight: Follow the gang.

BORN TODAY
Pro golfer Tiger Woods (1975), musician Bo Diddley (1928), writer Rudyard Kipling (1865)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RENA BOUCHARD McKEAN Deceased, were issued on December 19, 2005, in Docket No. 9243, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Wayne Albert McKean.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Gray County, Texas. The post office address is: 8103 FM 749, Pampa, Texas 79065. All persons having claims against this Estate which are currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 19th day of December, 2005.

By: Harold L. Comer
State Bar Court
046410000
P.O. Box 1058
Pampa, TX 79066-1058
(806) 665-8495
FAX (806) 669-0553
Attorney for Independent Executor
D-68 Dec. 29, 2005

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

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14c Carpet Serv.
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.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

14s Plumbing/Heat
JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing
Heating/ Air Conditioning Berger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

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

Immediate Openings
LVN's 2-10 shift
CNA's 6-2, 2-10 shift
Dietary Aides
McLean Care Center
Call 806-779-2469
Ask for Administrator
Billy Ray Johnston

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

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

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.

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

21 Help Wanted

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.

Hiring Company Drivers
Earn \$700-\$1300 per week. Local hauling / 5 day work week, day shift. Great benefits. Paid weekly-direct deposit. Paid vacation. 401K. Dedicated tractors. Class A CDLX required.

Call **806-669-9091**

Fleet Mechanic

Diesel Mechanic with Tank Exp. & Tools A-CDL-X plus Competitive Salary Great Benefits, 401K Pampa Terminal Call Johnny or Steve 806-669-9091

Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC
Career Opportunities

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General Laborers & Road Flaggers in Canadian, Texas

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Positions in Canadian & Clarendon

Accounting Clerk
In Wheeler For Feed Lot. Degree or Exp. Req. Turn-Key Experience a Plus Competitive Pay

Utility Assistants
Based in Pampa Some travel & overnight stays required

Contact Us Today
NBC Plaza II, Suite 11
1224 N. Hobart
Pampa, TX 79065
806-665-2991
www.isalle.com

No Fees To Applicants
EEO EMPLOYER

21 Help Wanted

NOW hiring Asst. Management trainees. Come join our dynamic team! National consumer finance co. with over 425 locations. Full benefits pkg., vacation, paid holidays, medical & life ins., 401k retirement, excellent training program. No finance exp. required. We are looking for qualified candidates with a desire to succeed & advance. Professional appearance & automobile. For info. or to schedule an interview, please call 665-6442.

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

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.

FULL-TIME Yard/Delivery Worker. Must have good driving record. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard.

AMARILLO COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Part - Time Teller
Position Available. Looking for a smiling face, with a positive attitude to fill this position. Cash handling experience a plus. Hours scheduled to work will be Monday through Friday Noon until 6 P.M. and every other Saturday 9 A.M. until Noon. Pick up application at 900 N. Hobart

W&W FIBERGLASS
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CDL TRUCK DRIVERS
Field Labor/Swamper Fiberglass Manufacturing General Labor
•40+ hrs / wk
•Salary based on exp.
Apply in person: 100 N. Price Rd., Pampa

21 Help W...
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408 S. Price

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21 Help Wanted

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

21 Help Wanted

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

21 Help Wanted

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

21 Help Wanted

FULL Time Teller / Scanner. Please apply at Bank of Commerce, 201 N. Main, McLean, Tx.

21 Help Wanted

NEED Exp. Cook. Apply in person at Granny's Home Cookin', 328 E. Frederic. No Phone Calls

21 Help Wanted

R.N. needed for night shift on Fridays and Saturdays. Alternating weekends can be arranged. St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Panhandle, 537-3194.

21 Help Wanted

CALDWELL Production needs Secretary. Oil & gas related exp. preferred. 1 wk. vacation, 6 pd. holidays. Hwy 60 West, Pampa. 665-8888.

69 Misc.

WANTED: Responsible party to take on small monthly Payments on High Definition Big Screen TV. 1-800-398-3970.

96 Unfurn. Apts.

1 bdr. apt. All bills paid. Clean, newly remodeled. 1113 S. Banks. Call 665-0379.

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



TexSCAN Week of
December 25, 2005

ADOPTION

Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

PREGNANT? THINKING ADOPTION? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with loving families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7. One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-921-0565.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. 1-888-625-5481, Multi Vend, LLC.

DRIVERS

CDL DRIVERS - LIVESTOCK Division, CO-L/P-O/O, 1-888-707-7729, National Carriers, Inc.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT. Excellent pay and benefits for experienced drivers, O/O, solos, teams and graduate students. Bonuses available. Refrigerated now available. 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729).

DRIVER - REGIONAL & DEDICATED CDL Drivers, Company, Lease Purchase, O/O, \$800 to \$1500 a week. 1-888-707-7729, www.nationalcarriers.com

DRIVERS / DRIVING SCHOOL graduates wanted. Tuition reimbursement. No waiting for trainers. Passenger policy. No NYC. Guaranteed hometime. Dedicated and regional available. USA Truck, 1-866-483-3413.

DRIVERS - OTR SHOLIDAY Cash. Class "A" CDL. 1 year OTR. From start, get extra \$800 first 8 weeks. Then .03 cpm to \$4,000. Call FFE Transportation, 1-800-569-9232.

DRIVERS-OVERNITETRANSPORTATION, a UPS Company, needs 53 TT drivers. New pay package. CDL-A w/hazmat required. Low cost benefits. Call Donna at 1-877-786-6773.

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop

Extend your advertising reach with TexSCAN, your Statewide Classified Ad Network.

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DRIVERS! \$6,000 EXPERIENCED driver incentive bonus! Top pay and more home time. No experience? No problem - low cost CDL and 100% tuition reimbursement. 1-800-796-9888, www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com

EMPLOYMENT

A FAST TRACK to a sales career. Travel the USA as you develop skills in Outside Sales. Paid training, transportation, lodging furnished. Call Success Express Sales, Inc. today. 1-877-646-5050.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT, Petro-Chem/Gas Plant Construction. Civil, concrete, piping and mechanical experience required. Competitive salary and benefits. Some travel required. Send resume: Holloman Corporation, Attn: Jeff Munn, P.O. Box 69410, Odessa, TX 79769-9410. EOE/VET/Handicap.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOME FINANCING. GET pre-approved 100% loans or small down based upon your circumstances. Perfect, limited, troubled credit (bankruptcy-OK). Call! Mortgage Makers, 1-512-292-4444 or 1-888-500-0000 (TMB#44749).

JOB TRAINING

NOW HIRING FOR Postal Positions. \$18.50-\$59.00/hr. Full benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience necessary. 1-800-584-1775. Public Announcement Reference #5401.

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINE MECHANIC - Rapid training for high paying Aviation career. FAA predicts severe shortage. Financial aid if qualify - job placement assistance. Call AIM 1-888-349-5387.

EARN DEGREE ONLINE from home. Medical, Business, Paralegal, Computers. Job placement assistance. Computer & financial aid if qualify. 1-866-858-2121, www.onlinedegreeatwateretech.com

REAL ESTATE

A BARGAIN - 75 Acres - \$39,900. Rolling hills, good brush, rock outcroppings. Trophy deer habitat. Good highway access. Easy terms. Perfect for hunting retreat. Texas Land & Ranches, 1-877-542-6642.

BREWSTER COUNTY, 176+ acres at \$235 per acre, south of Sanderson, deep canyons and rough terrain, deer, quail, and javelina. Owner financed, 5% down. 1-830-885-4578.

NEW TO MARKET - 100 Acres - HUNTING RANCH. First chance to own hunting retreat. Big buck area, plus turkey, dove, quail and more. Very private with/EZ highway access. \$49,900 w/financing. 1-866-899-5263.

35.88 ACRES, oaks, cedar, Pinon pine cover. Native, exotic game, turkey, hogs. Southwest of Rocksprings. \$316 per month. 1-800-876-9720, ranchenterprisesid.com

STEEL BUILDINGS

BUILDING SALE! "Extended 3 weeks!" 20x26 now \$3340, 25x30 \$4790, 30x40 \$7340, 40x60 \$11,490. Factory Direct, 25 years. Many others. Ends/accessories optional. Pioneer, 1-800-668-5422.

STEEL BUILDINGS - FACTORY deals. Save \$\$\$ 40'x60' to 100' x 200'. Example: 50'x100'x12' = \$3,600/sq. ft. 1-888-467-4443, www.rigidbuilding.com

Run Your Ad In TexSCAN!
Statewide Ad \$400
306 Newspapers, 1.1 Million Circulation
North Region Only \$175
102 Newspapers, 381,000 Circulation
South Region Only \$175
101 Newspapers, 462,000 Circulation
West Region Only \$175
103 Newspapers, 255,000 Circulation
To Order: Call This Newspaper direct, or call Texas Press Service at 1-800-749-4793 Today!

Nurse Aid \$300 Sign-On Bonus

Wheeler Nursing and Rehabilitation is seeking caring, dedicated employees for the position of 6-2 P.M. Nurse Aid (will certify). Please apply in person to Donna Cox RN DON, 1000 S. Kiowa

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

TRUCK DRIVER

New Pay Increase! 401k, medical ins. & pd. vacation. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record.

BOURLAND LEVERICH SUPPLY

Hwy. 152 West Pampa, Tx. Apply in person 8 am-5 pm., Mon.-Fri.

WAIT Staff needed. Apply in person before 11 am. or after 2 pm. Dixie Cafe, Pampa.

FULL TIME DEPENDABLE SALES PERSON NEEDED

Apply in person at Rheams Diamond Shop 111 N. Cuyler

SONIC DRIVE-IN

is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crewmembers for all shifts, all positions. Apply in person at 1404 Hobart EOE

CAREGIVER positions avail. Better pay. Call 806-665-4141.

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 806-669-0672.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household

Furniture and Mattresses! On Sale Now 806-677-0400

ROUND king sz. bed w/ lights / mirrors above. Comes w/ stairs/ bedding. Serious only 4K 665-0008

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

SEASONED Oak Firewood, delivered and stacked. 779-3284.

77 Livest./Equip.

FOR Sale 4 registered colored paints. Call 806-440-6343. Serious inquiries only please.

95 Furn. Apts.

M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr.

starting at \$360. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

NEWLY remodeled.

New ownership. Security Officer on duty. 1 bdr.-\$385, 2 bdr.-\$490, all bills pd. Limited openings. Court-ard Apts., 669-9712.

SMALL house, furnished.

All bills pd. up to \$50. Washer/dryer conn. \$260 mo. 669-2696, 665-6870

PICK UP rental list

from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston, Pampa. Update each Fri. (2) 3 bedroom homes for rent, in excellent condition. Call Shed Realtors, 665-3761.

DUPLEX: 3 bdr., 2 ba.,

fireplace, double gar. \$695 mo., \$350 dep. Call 665-5315 or 665-4726.

2 br., gar., work shop, lrg

basement for extra bedroom. \$500 mo. 662-7557

2 br., gar., work shop, lrg

basement for extra bedroom. OWC. 662-7557

TUMBLEWEED Acres,

self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

100 Rooms For Rent

HOTEL DAVIS 116 1/2 W. Foster 440-1066 Rooms \$80 wk., bills paid

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in City!

Downtown locations, stores, warehouses, rec. facilities. Call 665-4274.

103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

3/2 Brick Home w/ fpl, 2

Car Gar., Lrg Lot, Patio, 2529 Aspen. By Appt. Call 806-231-1438.

BY Owner, 3 bdr., 2 3/4

ba., 2 liv. areas, dbl. gar, 1701 Grape. 665-4961, 290-2803, by appt. only.

LARGE, spacious rooms,

Harvester St. Condo 2 bdr., 2 ba., gar., fence. Realtor C-21. 665-4180

Owner Will Finance

Low Down Low Monthly 1129 Juniper. 3br., 1ba., ch/a, fp., Tile & Carpet Floors Call Milton (806)790-0827

104 Lots

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

106 Coml. Property

FOR Lease Warehouse on N. Hobart. 1500 sq. ft. Call Jannie Lewis Broker, 665-3458.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos

2002 Chev. Suburban 271 pkg., 4x4, quad leather seats, cd & cassette, pewter, 60,000 miles. Light hail damage to hood. \$19,000. Jason Abraham 323-8260 or 323-2700.

121 Trucks

2004 Avalanche, has conversion pkg and new tires. 1999 Chev. Blazer, high mileage, but good cond. 835-2773 for more info.

'03 Ford F250 supercrew,

V8, loaded, bed cap, nerf bars, 106,000 mi. \$18,500 obo. Call 595-0219 cell#

RED TAG SALES EVENT ENDS JANUARY 3, 2006

2006 CHEVROLET AVEO LS



STK# C05199
MSRP \$13,710.00
DISC \$607.46
SELL PRICE
\$13,102.54

2006 CHEVROLET IMPALA 3LT SEDAN



STK# C05205
MSRP \$27,870.00
DISC \$1,799.69
REBATE \$1,000.00
SELL PRICE
\$25,070.31

2006 BUICK LACROSSE CXL



STK# B05007
MSRP \$29,605.00
DISC \$2,262.11
REBATE \$1,500.00
SELL PRICE
\$25,842.89

2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 2WD CREW CAB



STK# C05169
MSRP \$30,880.00
DISC \$2,960.64
REBATE \$3,500.00
SELL PRICE
\$24,419.36

2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD EXT CAB WT



STK# C05188
MSRP \$32,090.00
DISC \$2,336.07
REBATE \$2,500.00
SELL PRICE
\$27,253.93

2006 PONTIAC G6 SEDAN



STK# P05014
MSRP \$17,990.00
DISC \$540.65
REBATE \$1,500.00
SELL PRICE
\$15,949.55

2006 GMC SIERRA 1500 2WD EXT CAB



STK# G05056
MSRP \$30,630.00
DISC \$3,197.59
REBATE \$3,500.00
SELL PRICE
\$23,932.41

2006 GMC SIERRA HD2500 CREW CAB DURMAX



STK# G05067
MSRP \$46,870.00
DISC \$5,102.51
REBATE \$1,000.00
SELL PRICE
\$43,767.49



Culberson - Stowers, Inc.

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rstowers@pan-tex.net



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Aaron in Syracuse" asked whether it was rude of him to ask, "May I ask who's calling, please?" when he answers the phone at home. His wife says it's nosy and people will think he's screening his calls. Abby, the person who should decide if calls need to be screened and callers identified should be the recipient of the call. If the calls are for Aaron's wife and she doesn't want or need him to identify the caller for her, then he should not do it. On the other hand, if she doesn't want to be bothered by calls and requests that he "screen" for her, that's different. Because he insists on doing it over her objections, I wonder if he's motivated out of inappropriate curiosity, jealousy or insecurity. Please note: My view is specific to adults in the household. Whether parents identify callers for their minor children is a matter for parents to decide. — **CYNTHIA IN ALBANY, N.Y.**

DEAR CYNTHIA: You have a point, but the mail that came in response to "Aaron's" query indicates that various readers saw the problem in a different light. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In my years of work answering a company telephone, I have discovered that saying, "May I SAY who is calling, please?" conveys the idea that the need to know is to relay the information to the call recipient. "May I ASK who is calling" has a note of nosiness to it, and does not imply that the need to know is just to relay the name. Before I learned this trick, people would sometimes take offense at the question. However, using the word "say" instead of the word "ask" has never resulted in offense taken. — **DIANE IN GARDINER, MAINE**

DEAR ABBY: You missed a golden opportunity to educate your readers on proper phone manners! I have always stressed to my teenagers, and their friends, that when they make a phone call, they

should identify themselves first, then ask for the person they wish to speak to, as in, "Hello, this is John. May I please speak to Kenny?" Not only will this prevent the problem of the person wondering who is calling, it's just common sense and good manners. I stress to them that in the business world, it shows not only good manners, but also consideration for others, both of which seem to be in short supply these days. — **WELL-MANNERED IN WASHINGTON STATE**

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice to "Aaron" -- however, there is one exception. When I was in my teens, my mother became an ordained minister. From that time on, if someone called for her and didn't identify him/herself, we didn't ask, as there might be confidentiality issues for the caller. — **MARGARET IN PHILADELPHIA**

DEAR ABBY: About 40 years ago, a grand old New York department store opened a suburban branch in our area. They had a team from the telephone company come in and give a few classes in telephone etiquette to all the new employees. We were instructed to say, "May I TELL her who is calling?" in a pleasant tone, and I have done it ever since. People are invariably politely responsive. Also, we were told never to "mute" the receiver against our diaphragm while calling someone to the phone, because the chest cavity acts as an amplifier. Imagine a caller hearing, "It's that pest again!" or something worse vibrating through the phone. I enjoy your column. — **TAMPA READER**

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

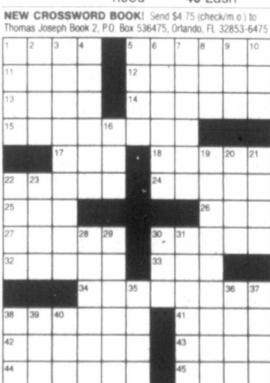


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Charity event
 - 5 Metallic element
 - 11 Mexican rivers
 - 12 Not tense
 - 13 Fan's favorite
 - 14 Sawbuck
 - 15 Cry during a fight
 - 17 Espy
 - 18 Mediterranean island
 - 22 Nonsense
 - 24 Drink noisily
 - 25 Take the cup
 - 26 Pool need
 - 27 Frequently
 - 30 Velo-drome sights
 - 32 Furry wrap
 - 33 Canyon carrier
 - 34 Mozart, for one
 - 38 Want
 - 41 Opposed to
 - 42 Patch type
 - 43 British school
 - 44 Inventor's claim
 - 45 Easy run
- DOWN**
- 1 Fortitude
 - 2 Egypt-based opera
 - 3 Investigates
 - 4 In dream-land
 - 5 Inauguration Day event
 - 6 Prepares broccoli
 - 7 Like a brain-storm
 - 8 Golfer
 - 9 Woosnam
 - 9 Employ
 - 10 Body of eau
 - 16 Ball holder
 - 19 Gets
 - 20 Loyal
 - 21 Imitates
 - 22 Noah count?
 - 23 Schism
 - 28 Stritch of Broadway
 - 29 Brain
 - 30 Diamond need
 - 31 Jordan neighbor
 - 35 Dis-patched
 - 36 Resting on
 - 37 Muses count
 - 38 Dance maneuver
 - 39 Memorable time
 - 40 Lush



Marmaduke



"Don't kid yourself. They would think anybody's singing sounded good."

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends

