



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 41  
LOW 25

See expanded weather on Page 2

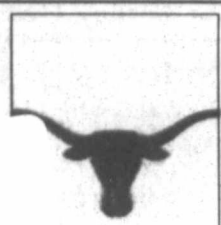
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## Socks for Soldiers a rousing success

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

The Socks for Soldiers campaign in Pampa has been a great success. Directors of the organization and Amarillo residents Doug and Carolyn Miller were in town Thursday evening to collect the items that have been donated.

The presentation was done in conjunction with the Shop Pampa and Win drawings in front of Rheams Diamond Shop.

Jaylene Watkins, Director of Marketing for Centramedia, organized the effort in Pampa. She thought this campaign would be a great way for the community to give back to the service men and women who do so much for our country.

"We asked our fellow downtown Pampa businesses to participate in this effort

to maximize exposure for the organization and we are thrilled with the response and generosity of Pampa residents," Watkins said.

More than 340 pairs of socks were donated. Also collected were 172 food items, 66 toothbrushes, 45 tubes of toothpaste, 77 tubes of lip balm and more than 1,000 personal hygiene items such as hand sanitizer, disposable razors, powder, eye drops and soap. To help for postage, the organization also received \$100 in cash.

Socks for Soldiers sends these care packages to service men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as troops aboard ships.

The Millers explained that when they send these packages they make sure they send enough for the entire

See SOCKS, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH  
The creators of the Socks for Soldiers program were in Pampa Thursday night to receive the donations that Pampans made over the past month. Doug Miller, left, and Carolyn Miller, right, have sent care packages to thousands of soldiers serving overseas in the past three years. Jaylene Watkins, center, from Centramedia, was the person who asked Pampa residents to help.

## Law enforcement search for Gray jail escapee

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

A prisoner escaped from the Gray County Jail shortly after 3:00 a.m. this morning.

William Troglin, is described as having blond hair, blue eyes, is 5 feet 7 inches tall weighs approximately

150 pounds.

Troglin reportedly escaped barefoot in his orange jumpsuit.

Around 9:30 a.m., law enforcement teams were searching near Schwan's and Halliburton on County Road 12.5.

The escapee was reported seen in

that area around 7:15 a.m.

Workers at Halliburton were reviewing videotapes of the grounds to see if Troglin was photographed entering the facility.

Law enforcement told Halliburton employees to go inside the buildings because the search dogs from the

prison were going to be let loose.

Jail officials would not comment on how the escape happened or why Troglin was in jail.

Sheriff's deputies were not available for comment because they had joined in the search effort.

## Cactus makes unique Christmas tree



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH  
Mary Ward shows off her six-foot tall cactus that she has decorated for Christmas. She's had the prickly plant for about 10 years.

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Mary Ward has an original Christmas tree. It is actually a six-foot tall cactus that she has decorated for the holidays.

Ward said the cactus got its start about 10 years ago.

She did her banking at First National Bank, which is now Bank of America. She noticed a cactus in the bank lobby that was attractive, so she inquired about it.

A teller told her that a woman had left the cactus while she was going shopping and would be back later that day. It had been more than a year and the woman never returned, so the bank just kept it in their lobby. It had grown quite a bit, the teller said.

Ward asked if she could get a clipping from the cactus and the teller provided her with a two-inch piece. She took that home, planted it and watered it twice a week with only rain water.

Obviously Ward is taking great care of the cactus since it has grown more than six feet in the past 10 years.

See CACTUS, Page 3

## DPS out in force for the holiday

The Department of Public Safety will have all available troopers on Texas roadways during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. They'll be looking for drivers who are drunk, for speeders and for those who are not wearing safety belts.

"Slow down and live," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the Texas DPS. "Speeding is the number one killer on Texas roadways. Making sure you're driving the speed limit — or drastically reducing your speed in bad weather or in crowded road conditions — can mean the difference between life and death. We want to make sure you get to your destination safely."

The Christmas enforcement period will run from Friday, Dec. 22 through midnight on Monday, Dec. 25. (Last year during the Christmas holiday period, Highway Patrol troopers made 581 DWI arrests. They also issued 13,951 speeding tickets and 2,886 tickets for seatbelt violations-including 365 citations for child safety

seat violations.)

The New Year's enforcement period will run from Friday, Dec. 29 through midnight on Monday, Jan. 1. (Last year during the New Year's holiday period, Highway Patrol troopers made 461 DWI arrests. They also issued 6,671 speeding tickets and 1,432 tickets for seatbelt violations-including 188 citations for child safety seat violations.)

"Be sure to designate a driver if you're planning on consuming alcohol. Drinking and then driving is a bad way to celebrate the holidays. And, as always, you should buckle up," Davis said.

Since both holidays fall on weekends, it's likely there will be more people on Texas roadways. Texas troopers offer the following helpful hints for a happier driving experience during the holidays and throughout the year:

• Slow down. Speed is the number one killer on Texas roads. Bad weather can cre-

See DPS, Page 3

## Free Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 25 • 11:00am to 2:00pm

Fellowship Hall of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ

Come Share With Us The Blessing And Surplus Of God's Grace As We Eat On Christmas Day



NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday

Sunday

Monday



Partly cloudy Mostly sunny Mostly sunny

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 41. Wind chill values between 17 and 27.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Wind chill values between 19 and 24.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Wind chill values between 12 and 22.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Windy, with a north wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

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Obituaries

Ray Thomas Hudson, 82



Hudson

**AMARILLO** — Ray Thomas Hudson, 82, died Dec. 21, 2006. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006, at Schooler Funeral Home Brentwood Chapel.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Mr. Hudson was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma on Oct. 6, 1924. He served in the Merchant Marines during

World War II. He married his high school sweetheart, Edna Holland Ramage in Seminole, Okla., on Dec. 12, 1943.

Ray worked for Phillips Petroleum for a number of years before becoming an independent contractor.

He was a loving husband, father, and papa and was so proud of his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Edna Hudson, of the home; one daughter, Sharon K. Stiles of White Deer; one son, Les

Hudson and wife Roxanne of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Leslie Shackelford and husband Sammy of Pampa, Stephanie Shields and husband Bob of Canyon, Lorrie Stefanuski and husband Billy of West Bloomfield, Mich., Jennifer Swartwood of Amarillo, and Melissa Holman and husband Scott of Canyon; and eight great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Woolley, 74

**SPEARMAN** — Dorothy Woolley, 74, died with her husband, Walter Woolley, in a traffic accident Monday, Dec. 18, 2006.

Memorial services were at 3 p.m. today in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ken Cole of Amarillo officiating with assistance from the Rev. Jim Medley of Spearman.

Private family burial will in Hansford Cemetery under

the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home in Spearman.

Mrs. Woolley, born Nov. 24, 1932, to James Raymond and Pearl Ashpaugh Halliburton, met her husband while attending Glendale County School in the Oklahoma Panhandle. The couple married July 22, 1949, and had recently celebrated 56 years of marriage.

Mrs. Woolley belonged to

First Baptist Church and was active in Esther Sunday School Class and Women's Missionary Union. She was a homemaker, a member of Hansford Honeys Red Hat Society and 20th Century Club.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; and a sister, JoAnn Cantwell.

Survivors include two sons, Gary Woolley and Joey Woolley, both of Spearman;

a brother, Raymond Halliburton of Gage, Okla.; a sister, Patsy Carr of Pampa; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: Make-A-Wish Foundation, 411 S. Fillmore St., Amarillo, TX 79101; Mothers Against Drunk Driving, P.O. Box 152241, Irving, TX 75015-2241; or a favorite charity.

Walter Lee Woolley, 77

**SPEARMAN** — Walter

Lee Woolley, 77, died, along with his wife, Dorothy, on Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, in a traffic accident. Memorial services were at 3 p.m. today in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ken Cole of Amarillo officiating with assistance from the Rev. Jim Medley of Spearman.

Private family burial will in Hansford Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home in

Spearman.

Born Sept. 11, 1929, at Follett, Mr. Woolley was the son of the late Elmer and Elsie Dishen Woolley. He and the former Dorothy Halliburton were married July 22, 1949.

For 26 years, Mr. Woolley was employed with Texas Co., which became Texaco. He farmed and ranched in the Spearman area for another 20 years, inventing and patenting No-Spin Lugs for

sprinkler systems.

He was a member of the Hansford County Showtime Car Club, Spearman First Baptist Church, belonging to the men's Sunday school class, and Windmill Association besides being active with Make-A-Wish Foundation.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Woolley.

Survivors include two sons, Gary Woolley and Joey

Woolley, both of Spearman; two brothers, Clarence Woolley of Springdale, Ark., and Paul Woolley of Dumas; a sister, Leona Treat of Laverne, Okla.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: Make-A-Wish Foundation, 411 S. Fillmore St., Amarillo, TX 79101; Mothers Against Drunk Driving, P.O. Box 152241, Irving, TX 75015-2241; or a favorite charity.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Thursday, Dec. 21

Six traffic stops were made resulting in one arrest. Motorist assistance was provided in the 1200 block

of North Hobart.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 500 block of North Wells, the 1100 block of South Hobart, the 1800 block of North Dwight, the 1100 block of Neel, the 800 block of Gordon, the 900 block of Campbell and the 1100 block of Huff.

Found property was reported in the 400 block of Lowry.

Lost property was reported at the police department lobby.

Warrant service was attempted at four locations.

Agency assistance was provided in the 2800 block of Charles and the 200 block of Russell.

A welfare check was made in the 800 block of Bradley.

Civil matters were reported in the 500 block of North Dwight and at the police department lobby.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 700 block of Malone and the 200 block of West 28th.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Fir, in the police department

lobby, in the 600 block of East Scott, in the 1300 block of North Banks and in the 600 block of North Sumner.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart and in the 400 block of Wynne.

Three alarms were reported.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart, in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway and in the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Thefts were reported in the police department lobby, in the 2800 block of West Kentucky and in the 800 block of 25th.

A prowler was reported in the 900 block of Finley.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Robert James Ellis, 18, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for minor in consumption, possession of

marijuana less than two ounces and a warrant out of Bell County for resisting arrest.

Friday, Dec. 22

Jesus Bernal, 37, was arrested by Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury to a family member, no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire

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

Thursday, Dec. 21

7:38 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway on a false alarm.

12:55 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Dwight on a carbon monoxide investigation.

11:47 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 700 block of Zimmers on a gas odor investigation.

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DBA winners



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Winners in the Downtown Business Association's drawing for Shop Pampa and Win were drawn Thursday evening. Each winner received \$500 in Pampa Bucks to spend at local retailers. Winners are Denelda Burke, second from left, and Brenda Stroud, second from right. Representing the business association are Jaylene Watkins from Centramedia, left, and Ken Rheams, right, from Rheams Diamond Shop.

Thousands still stranded in Denver

DENVER (AP) — Thousands of frustrated holiday travelers queued up at the ticket counters this morning, desperate for a flight out as Denver International Airport prepared to reopen its runways after a two-day blizzard shutdown.

Airline officials weren't offering much cheer: It could take days to clear out the backlog, and some passengers might not make it home for Christmas.

"We're asking for their patience as we work to get people where they need to be as soon as we safely can," said United Airlines spokesman Jeff Kovick.

More than 2,000 flights were canceled Wednesday through Friday morning at Denver, the nation's fifth-busiest airport, causing a ripple effect that disrupted air travel around the country just as the holiday crush began. Outside, an army of snow plows worked on the runways so the airport could at least resume limited operations around noon.

Many of the travelers stranded by the storm are stuck waiting on standby, though, hoping to get on another flight at a time when airlines rarely have open seats.

"I just want to get home to see my family," said Atlanta businessman Scott Carr, standing in the Frontier Airlines line that wrapped around to the opposite side of the terminal.

He booked four flights on three different airlines to increase his chances of making it

home for Christmas and was considering driving to Kansas City to catch a flight.

"If I have to drive, at least I'll be getting closer," he said.

Frontier spokesman Joe Hodas said the airline has 65,000 bumped passengers to move systemwide and the airline was already 90 percent booked for the holidays. "Do the math," he said.

An estimated 4,700 travelers spent Wednesday night at the airport. By Thursday evening, about two-thirds of them had found hotel rooms, but others still slept on cots in the airport, in chairs or wrapped up in coats and cardboard shelters on the concourse floors.

Workers in orange vests directed the human traffic and offered blankets and what other supplies they could to the stranded travelers.

Near one cardboard shelter that had been cobbled together from boxes the workers had used, Jackson, Wyo., teacher Joanna Snyder and others searched in vain for information on flights.

"It's all rumor," she said.

Michele Bermudez hadn't planned to be in Denver for more than a few minutes. She was supposed to change planes there on Wednesday en route from Tennessee to California but ended up at the terminal after spending eight hours in an airplane on the runway.

Judge says Iran partially to blame for attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iranian government is partly to blame for a 1996 terrorist attack that killed 19 Americans in Saudi Arabia, a federal judge ruled today.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth allows the families of the victims of the Khobar Towers bombing to seek \$254 million in compensation from the conservative Islamic regime in Tehran.

Though intelligence officials have suspected a link between the Tehran

government and the Saudi wing of Hezbollah, which the FBI has accused of carrying out the bombing, Friday's ruling is the first time a branch of the U.S. government has officially blamed Iran for the deaths of Americans in the bombings.

"This court takes note of plaintiffs' courage and steadfastness in pursuing this litigation and their efforts to take action to deter more tragic suffering of innocent Americans at the hands of terrorists," Lamberth wrote. "Their efforts

are to be commended."

Lamberth relied heavily on testimony by former FBI Director Louis Freeh, who investigated the bombings.

Two Iranian government security agencies and senior members of the Iranian government itself provided funding, training and logistical help to terrorists who carried out the attack on a dormitory that housed U.S. Air Force pilots and staff in Saudi Arabia, Freeh testified.

Socks

Continued from Page 1

unit so no one is left out. Local soldiers are included in those receiving items.

This campaign is not just a Christmas project, but something the Millers do all year.

Anyone interested in sending donations, either supplies or money, to help pay for postage, or has the name of a local person serving overseas can contact Socks for Soldiers, P.O. Box 20147, Amarillo, TX 79114. To contact by phone, call 806 352-7899 or email the Millers at socks4soldiers@cox.net.



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Isaiah 9:6

May you receive many blessings this Christmas season and through the coming year. Texas Plains Women's Center

DPS

Continued from Page 1

ate conditions where slowing down can save your life, or the lives of others around you.

• Drive sober. Designate a driver who hasn't consumed alcohol. Calling a cab is much cheaper than paying for the consequences of a DWI charge.

• Wear your seatbelt./ Being properly secured can increase the odds of surviv-

ing a serious crash. Make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up. Children should be secured in the appropriate car seat or booster seat.

• Drive courteously, it's contagious! Turn signals can be your gift to other drivers. Don't tailgate.

• Plan ahead. There may be construction or other delays on your planned route. Be patient, and give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination safely.

Cactus

Continued from Page 1

The only information she knows about the plant is

that it is known as a three-cornered cactus, because it is triangular in shape.

Originally from Oklahoma, Ward has lived on the same block for the past 40 years.



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<b>Childress</b> 2004 Ave. G N.W. (840) 937-8550	<b>Hereford</b> 5158 N. 25th Hwy. (806) 364-1055	<b>Comm. Connection</b> (806) 274-9444	<b>Dalhart</b> Comm. Connection (806) 249-9411
		<b>Island Phones</b> (806) 274-2226	<b>Dumas</b> Access Wireless (806) 935-9197
			<b>Pampa</b> Comm. Connection (806) 669-1551
			<b>Shamrock</b> Mahkian Drug (806) 256-2782
			<b>Spearman</b> Country Cellular (806) 659-2541
			<b>Hereford</b> Whiteface Cellular (806) 363-2740
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# Viewpoints

## It's been a wonderful year here in Pampa

Christmas is just around the corner and I still get energized during this time of year, only now my eagerness exists for different reasons. As a small child I would get excited about opening the presents that Santa Claus had delivered, getting two weeks vacation from school, and eating the many wonderful desserts my parents would bake throughout the holiday season. Now that I have a family of my own, my excitement comes from watching my own daughters take pleasure in the little things that brought my sister and me so much joy over the

years. Another reason I enjoy the holiday season, families take time out of busy schedules to visit. As a result of my chosen profession my family and I have moved many miles over the years with each new destination bringing new names and faces. Growing up at home and around family now makes me realize that I probably took some of that time for granted because those times are now so rare. This is another reason I get excited about the Christmas holidays, spending time with family and friends. Pampa is a wonder-

ful place to live and provides some great Christmas festivities to attend during the holidays. A few examples include the Christmas Parade, the Christmas Shopping Tour, the Celebration of Lights, the Festival of Trees, and a multitude of candlelight services. I encourage you to take advantage of a few of Pampa's events.

**Sean Smith**

Publisher

Dr. Seuss. The Grinch had just stolen all the presents and Christmas trees from all of the homes in Who-ville thinking that he had stopped Christmas. Then on Christmas morning every Who in Who-ville walked outside into the city and, despite their situation, began singing Christmas carols. The Grinch says, "How could it be so? It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came with-



out packages, boxes, or bags!" Christmas is a time to celebrate life, enjoy time with family and friends, and be thankful for the things in life that bring us joy. So, in the midst of all of the commercial activity and all of the travel take some time for yourself and soak in the little joys of life. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more!" As 2006 comes to a close, we should savor the

good times, learn from the bad, and look forward to 2007 with unrelenting optimism. Christmas celebrates the whole wonderful and sometimes not so wonderful package. That is exactly why its meaning is so powerful. This has been a wonderful year for my family and for The Pampa News. For that, I am grateful. The reason we publish a newspaper, is you, our readers. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and an even more wonderful New Year.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2006. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected the Germans' demand that the Americans surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander in chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act, barring all U.S. trade with foreign countries.

In 1808, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor and Symphony No. 6 in F Major had their world premieres in Vienna, Austria.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of

*'A thousand probabilities do not make one fact.'*

— Italian proverb

Savannah."

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin Roosevelt.

In 1963, an official 30-day mourning period following the assassination of President Kennedy came to an end.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising.

In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage murdered by his captors, was found dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

Ten years ago: Peruvian guerrillas holding more than 360 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima freed all but 140 of their captives. Eight workers were killed in an explosion at the Wyman Gordon Forgings metal-fabricating plant in northwest Houston.

Five years ago: Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid, who later pleaded guilty, is serving a life sentence in federal prison.) Hamid Karzai was sworn in as prime minister of Afghanistan's interim government.

One year ago: Congress completed work on a one-month extension of the Patriot Act and sent it to President Bush. New York transit workers ended their three-day strike without a new contract.



## Taming a leviathan takes commitment

East of Atlanta, an outcropping of granite rises 863 feet above the Georgia plateau. It is rounded and about five miles in circumference. Today, Stone Mountain is owned by the state of Georgia, and there is an amusement park.

In earlier years, however, visitors who climbed to the top would sometimes walk toward what they thought was the edge. Because of its rounded shape, there was no edge; there was only an ever-receding illusion of an edge. Sometimes people would realize too late they had walked too far and, unable to go back, would fall to their deaths.

I believe we Americans have walked too far from our original constitutional republic, and it's now impossible to restore it. I say this because I like to profess my belief in the early republic just to aggravate the politically correct. But there is a big difference between what one wants and what is

possible. We are stuck with a big central government with imperial ambitions abroad. There are far too many Americans who benefit financially from government — from paychecks, purchases or subsidies — to muster the political will to trim it down to size. Moreover, most Americans have learned to love government. They are content for the only debate to be about patronage and who gets it. They are content with national political conventions that are nothing more than scripted TV shows without a scrap of debate about issues or candidates.

This contentment, however, doesn't mean we shouldn't be politically active. We still must put pressure on Congress to get our financial house in order; to pass logi-

cal and sensible laws; to curb the government's inclination to erode personal liberty; and to restrain the executive branch from involving us in useless wars.

We can't recover our past, but we can darn sure ruin our future if we fall asleep at the political switch.

About 52 percent of our massive public debt is now held by foreigners. This is dangerous. Either because of spite or loss of faith in our fiscal responsibility, this massive amount of U.S. bonds could be dumped on the market and cause a financial catastrophe.

Trade policies have to be revamped, because no American, no matter how well-educated or -trained, can compete with people who will work for half or less than what an American makes. The theory of The

New York Times' self-appointed sage, Tom Friedman, about a flat Earth is a prescription for turning America into a Third World country.

That's not far-fetched. An article in a recent edition of the Financial Times reports that 10 percent of Americans own 70 percent of the nation's wealth. That leaves only 30 percent to be divided by the remaining 90 percent of the population. The government loves to use statistics to disguise the truth. The claim, for example, that 69 percent of the people own their homes includes people who are making mortgage payments. Paying on a mortgage is not ownership. Read the fine print in your mortgage contract if you doubt this.

The war in Iraq is an insane endeavor for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the stupidity of spending billions of dollars

See REESE, Page 7

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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 9

The Victoria Advocate on preserving wild spaces:

Recent news from the Land Trust Alliance that private landowners have set aside 37 million acres to preserve wild spaces and the habitats they provide for wild fauna and flora is good for pretty much everyone. That is equal to the size of the state of Georgia, The Associated Press reported from the alliance survey.

The scope of the private land conservation movement is increasing, up from 24 million acres in 2000.

"The success of private land conser-

vation boils down to this: When people appreciate the natural qualities of their environment, they are increasingly taking steps in their communities to conserve what makes that land unique," said the alliance's president, Rand Wentworth. "With the federal government reporting that we lose about 2 million acres to development sprawl each year, private, voluntary conservation gives everyday Americans the tools and resources they need to protect their natural heritage."

The increased private protection of wild spaces is obviously good for the environment. Wild fauna and flora continue to lose habitats to ever-growing human demands. With the U.S. population having topped 300 million earlier this year, that trend will continue.

Preserving the land needed to preserve endangered and threatened species and to keep others from becoming so is an ever-greater need. And there is a limit to how much of that the federal government can do with national wildlife refuges and national parks, state governments can do with state parks and wildlife preserves, and local governments can do with similar facilities.

Private landowners also benefit from both preserving wild spaces on their property and making sure that its use by humans is eco-friendly.

Earlier this year in the Victoria area, for example, the Lucas family granted a conservation easement for their ranch

See WILD, Page 7



# Religion

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Men with God's unity vision

When God decided that it was time to help me see past the sectarian view of His family that I had carried around in my mind and heart most of my life, He primarily used two men — Verne Flock and Nathan Hopson.

Verne was downright sneaky. He invited me to lunch one day in 1987. I respected him as an elder in the Ontario Church of Christ where I was preaching and looked forward to some extra time with him over lunch.

After we had been there a few minutes, two other men walked up to our table and sat down. I could tell immediately that one of the men was a close friend of Verne and that the other man looked as uncomfortable as I felt.

Verne had set a lunch date up with one of the elders from Sunrise Christian Church and asked him to bring his preacher. His name was Mike Trautman.

That was a mighty uncomfortable lunch.

Near the end of lunch, Verne gave Mike and I a challenge. He reminded us of what the Lord said about unity and told us both that what happened between the two of us as preachers was now up to us, and that we were without excuse to practice the unity that we both so eloquently preached about.

In short order, Mike and I became best friends. Our churches gathered together for joint worship services at their church and at ours. We even co-sponsored a youth rally for three years, and Mike and I coached football and baseball teams together in Ontario.

If Verne had not been both sneaky and a man with

a unity vision from God, I would never have met one of my best friends, and I certainly would not have continued on my ever-widening journey with God.



**Mike Sublett**  
Hi-Land Christian

Thanks, Verne. I owe you bigtime!

Then in 1992, I moved to Pampa, and in 1994 I met Nathan Hopson. Nathan wasn't sneaky. He was just so doggone friendly that you couldn't help but follow right along with him. We began drinking coffee each morning and talking about unity.

That was over 10 years ago. Since then, we have both been part of a lot of unity services right here in Pampa. Some were at his church. Some at mine. Some at other Pampa churches. Some at M.K.

Brown Auditorium, and a few were at Central Park.

All that was only possible because Nathan chose to drop by and ask me to coffee one day. He too was a man with a unity vision from God and chose to do something about it. Thanks, Nathan. I love you, Bro., and I owe you bigtime, too.

How broad is your view of God's family? Is it narrow and sectarian — we're the only ones? Or is it as broad as the whole family of God? If your view of the family of God (your brothers and sisters) is too narrow, then my prayer is that God will send you a Verne or a Nathan.

"And, Lord, please bless all of the Vernes and Nathans around the world. Please continue to give them a vision of unity to share with others. And, Father, give each of us that same vision for unity and be with us as we, too, share it with others. Amen."

## Church briefs

First Assembly of God in Pampa will hold a special worship service and Communion will be observed on Christmas Eve beginning at 9:30 a.m. Services will conclude promptly at 11 a.m.

All are invited to worship at First Assembly. No evening service is scheduled due to the holiday.

Zion Lutheran Church will hold Christmas Eve

candlelight services at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the church. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service will start at 9 a.m. Monday. For more information, call 669-2774.

Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, will hold its Annual Advent and Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Sunday. The focus of the service will be the light-

See BRIEFS, Page 7

### "Away In A Manger"

This is commonly known as "Luther's Cradle Hymn," but was it actually written by the great German Reformer, Martin Luther? In 1887, the song appeared in a book of songs entitled "Dainty Songs for Little Lads and Lassies." It quickly became America's favorite children's carol, the words being sung to forty-one different tunes. In 1945, a journalist named Richard Hill conducted extensive research on the authorship of the song and concluded that Luther had nothing to do with writing the carol, but the colonies of German Lutherans in Pennsylvania almost certainly did. An unknown German Lutheran in Pennsylvania wrote the first two stanzas, and an unknown author added a third verse in 1892. Ref: Robert J. Morgan

This hymn history brought to you by



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## Religious game, toy makers look to grow

By JAY LINDSAY  
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The "crazy, crazy Jewish fun" of Kosherland looks a lot like the board game Candy Land, except gefilte fishing substitutes for visits to the Ice Cream Sea.

In Catholic-opoly, like Monopoly, the job is to bankrupt your opponents. The difference is it's done "in a nice, fun way."

And role-playing can get pretty realistic with the Biblical Action Figure of Job, which comes complete with boils.

The market for religious board games and toys like these is tiny, and a bit quirky. But sales numbers indicate demand is growing as families demand wholesome entertainment, selections expand and the Internet gives greater access to retailers.

Abe Blumberger of Jewish Educational Toys said people are much more willing to buy religious toys since he helped create Kosherland in 1985. His game is now offered on UrbanOutfitters.com.

"I think there's a recognition there's a small niche out there," Blumberger said.

Statistics on sales of religious games are hard to find. However, retail sales of inspirational gifts and merchandise, which includes religious toys and games, were an estimated \$1.9 billion in 2005, an 11.8 percent increase from the previous year, according to an April report by Packaged Facts, the publishing arm of MarketResearch.com.

The report projected 26.3 percent growth to \$2.4 billion in sales in the gifts and merchandise sector by 2010.

The games and toys cover a variety of faiths, from Islam to Mormonism, and include Risk-style games such as Missionary Conquest and talking plush dolls, including the smiling and sneaker-wearing Pray-With-Me-Mantis.

In the Muslim "Race to the Kabah," players advance by learning the meaning of the 99 names of Allah. Kosherland teaches about Jewish dietary law, requiring, for instance, that players move backward if they mix milk with meat. In the Mormon game Mortality, good decisions help a player acquire "testimonies," which strengthen his faith and help him endure life's trials.

Many of the games were made by people with little or no toymaking experience who

*Cliff Rockwood of Tyngsborough, developed "Holy Huggables" because he wanted a doll for his daughter that reflected his family's spiritual values. Using informal gatherings with friends as market research, he and his wife developed talking Esther, Moses and Jesus dolls, and have sold "tens of thousands," though Rockwood declined to be more specific.*

were inspired by deep religious conviction and an idea that wouldn't let go.

Cliff Rockwood of Tyngsborough, developed "Holy Huggables" because he wanted a doll for his daughter that reflected his family's spiritual values. Using informal gatherings with friends as market research, he and his wife developed talking Esther, Moses and Jesus dolls, and have sold "tens of thousands," though Rockwood declined to be more specific.

Thasneem Ahmed, creator of the Muslim board game "Race to the Kabah," wanted to promote family life after being deeply affected by the 1999 Columbine massacre. She paid \$40,000 to produce 2,500 copies herself in 2001. Last month, she sold the last game of that batch.

"I felt this was really important for children and families," she said. "That's

what it came down to."

Rebecca Sachs Norris of Merrimack College in North Andover and Nikki Bado-Fralick of Iowa State University co-authored a paper on religious games and toys, which they say can be a powerful part of instilling values.

But they also worry about whether children can handle some of the more serious and complex messages the games try to send.

"These aren't trivial," Norris said. "They really aren't."

In some games, for instance, the losers don't reach enlightenment or Heaven, Norris said. Missionary Conquest awards extra points to players who are martyred by stoning as they try to establish missions in the Middle East.

Rockwood said his dolls' sayings portray what the Bible

says in a way a child can understand. Holy Huggables Esther says, for example, "My natural beauty won the king's heart," explaining how she was chosen to be queen by King Xerxes in the Book of Esther.

The dolls are meant to gently introduce children to the Bible, and kids have responded, Rockwood said.

## Shouldn't The First Gift You Open This Christmas Be From God?



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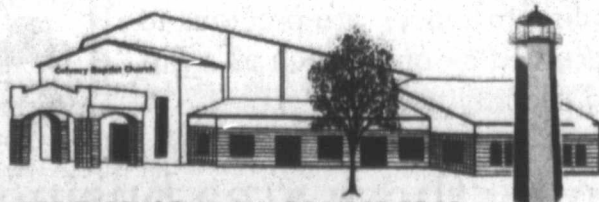
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## First Baptist Church

**Church name:** First Baptist Church, 203 N. West, 669-1155.

**Minister:** Dr. Johnny Funderburg.

**Services:** Sunday — 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 11 a.m. Morning Worship, 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir, 5 p.m. Discipleship Groups, 6 p.m. Evening Worship (also broadcast on cable television channel 5); Wednesday — 4:45 p.m. Children's Choirs, 5 p.m. Fellowship Meal, 6 p.m. Adult Prayer Meeting and Discipleship Groups, 7 p.m. Adult Choir and Youth Activities in basement.

**Activities:** Fall — Sonshiners: Senior Adult Choir, Adult Missions Trips, Annual Widows' Banquet, Children's Fall Festival, Women of Faith; Winter — Living Christmas Tree, Christmas Eve service, Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree Prison Ministry, International Mission Offering; Spring — Easter celebration service, Disciple Now for students, Senior Service and Breakfast, CDC Mother's Day brunch; Summer — Youth Camp, Youth Choir Mission Trip, boy's and girl's camps, Vacation Bible School, family mission trips, Special Friend's camp.

**Members:** 700.

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist.

**How long here:** Celebrating 100 years in April 2007.

**Goals:** Church-wide revivals.

**Other activities:** Christmas food baskets, fall festival, high school Lunch for a Bunch program, weekly breakfast for bus and special friend's ministry, widows' banquet, church builders, mission trips, disaster relief teams.

**Main goal:** To lead all people into a dynamic relationship with almighty God through His only Son, Jesus Christ. Every program and ministry in our church is set up to help people understand and receive the abundant and eternal life offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Church message:** God has created mankind to have a special relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Responsible parties:** Pastor Dr. Johnny Funderburg, Minister of Music Barry Owens, Minister of Administration and Education Carl Novian, Interim Youth Minister Larry Williams, Children's Coordinator Nikki Routh, Preschool Director Linda Clark, Children's Day Care Director Tonie Bolin.

**Information:** You, regardless of age, background, marital status, skin color, social standing or any other circumstance, are precious to God and important to us. You will be received by our church as a gift from God and find us to be a loving and friendly people.

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## Wild

Cont. from Page 4

to the Nature Conservancy, one of the leading private land trust organizations both nationally and internationally.

The Lucas family that for six generations has owned the Fair Oaks Ranch — 10,259 acres in Goliad County and 584 acres in Bee County — has practiced wildlife and habitat conservation for many years. The family's limited partnership is stepping up that effort to ensure that the land will not be subdivided and will continue to be home to wildlife for years to come.

"I've been particularly interested in getting access to the experts — botanists and biologists — associated with the Nature Conservancy. They've been down to the ranch, and it's been interesting going around with them, having them explain more about the fauna, things as a nontechnical person I'd have never noticed," said David Weaver, one of the family members.

The ranch's four habitats are home to a variety of rare plants and animals. The owners also gain tax and estate-planning benefits that will make keeping the ranch in the family easier.

As more Americans spend more time indoors in multimedia entertainment cocoons, they lose touch with wild spaces and with the other creatures that live there and with which we all share this country.

Richard Louv, the author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder," worries that disconnecting children from wild spaces and the physical activities those places offer "has huge implications for their health and well-being."

"Physically, nature is not as available. The bulldozers took out the woods," Louv told the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Private landowners, both individuals and organizations, that protect the woods from bulldozers and that also make those wild spaces available to the public help keep nature available to families.

New incentives at all levels of government are encouraging private landowners to preserve wild spaces through conservation easements.

An August 2006 federal law offers incentives for farmers and ranchers to do that. In 2006, voters across the country passed 133 state and local ballot initiatives to provide tax incentives and public funding for preserving wild spaces.

U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, this week introduced legislation — which he plans to offer again next year, when the new Congress convenes — "to provide financial incentives for private landowners to help recover endangered species," according to a news release from his office.

"Protecting vulnerable species takes cooperation on many levels. This legislation uses a formula that works — financial and procedural incentives for tangible results. Over 80 percent of endangered wildlife live on private property. By providing tax benefits for conservation efforts, this legislation encourages landowners to get involved in critical species recovery," Crapo said.

With news that is not good for the environment coming so frequently these days, the Land Trust Alliance's survey and growing support for private land conservation is a welcome contrast.

## Reese

Cont. from Page 4

Nevertheless, we had better do all we can to see that this leviathan is run by honest and intelligent people, lest we follow all the previous empires into the sanitary landfill of history. We can't afford any more boy emperors or chicken hawks anxious to prove their manhood at the expense of other people's lives.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

## Briefs

Continued from Page 5

ing of the five candles of advent. Solos and Christmas carols will be sung. The hour will conclude with all present lighting a candle. A nursery for children 3 and under will be included.

SKELLYTOWN — River of Life Assembly of God Church, 411 Chamberlain in Skellytown, will present a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church.

## ANNA NICOLE

### Judge orders paternity test for Smith baby

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anna Nicole Smith was ordered Thursday to bring her infant daughter to California for paternity tests sought by a former boyfriend who claims he is the father of the child, the man's publicist said in a statement.

"Los Angeles Superior Court has ruled today that Anna Nicole Smith and 3-month-old baby daughter Dannielynn are ordered to submit to paternity testing," read the statement from Luck Media & Marketing Inc.

Smith's ex-boyfriend, Larry Birkhead, welcomed the ruling.

"Christmas has come early, and I thank God that I will soon have the opportunity to prove that I am the father ... and eventually hold her in my arms," Birkhead said in the statement.

Smith's attorney, Ron Rale, would not deny or confirm the ruling.

A Superior Court spokeswoman declined to confirm the order, saying

paternity cases are confidential.

"I believe there is not an issue about Anna's willingness or unwillingness to submit to testing," Rale said. "Any kind of allegation that she's blatantly refusing DNA tests is off the mark and not an accurate depiction of the legal process at this time."

Smith, 38, was in San Francisco on Dec. 15 for a hearing in her battle for a share of the fortune left by her late husband, oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall III. It was the first time the reality TV star and former Playboy playmate had been back in the United States since the death of her son, Daniel, and the birth of her daughter in September.

Birkhead, a Los Angeles photographer, filed a lawsuit in October claiming he is the father of Dannielynn Hope Marshall Stern, who was born in September in the Bahamas.



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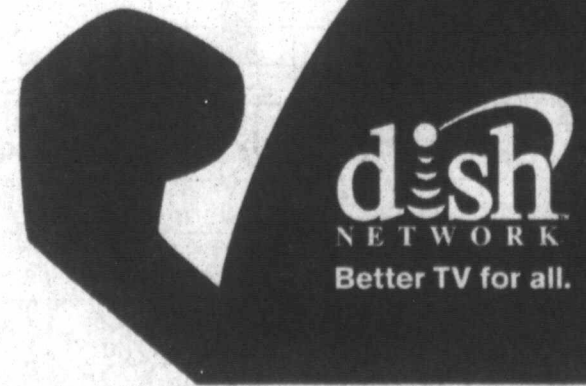
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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My parents split when I was 3 and divorced when I was 6. I am now 28. Mama remarried when I was 7 to a man I consider to be my dad. My biological father, "Kevin," lived in the same town we did until I was 11, when we moved. (My stepfather was in the military.) Communications and visits were rare before we moved and have been nearly nonexistent ever since. Kevin never paid child support and only occasionally remembered birthdays when I was young. He called once a few years ago. The entire conversation was centered around his making excuses about why he was never around and never supported us. In the end, he blamed Mama for it. He never once apologized for being a deadbeat dad or his lack of interest in my life. Kevin called again a few months ago. I was civil to him although I didn't offer much in the way of conversation. He said he and his wife had prepared their wills and that I was named in his. I simply said "OK" and didn't ask any questions. Kevin has called a couple of times since, but I have no motivation to return his calls. This week I got a birthday card from him in the mail -- two weeks late, of course. It contained a check for a small amount of money. I honestly did not feel any loss for not having Kevin in my life because I was blessed with a loving, caring male parent. Sharing DNA does not constitute being a father in my book. But I think he at least owes me an apology or some kind of admission of wrongdoing (or lack of doing) if he expects me to be civil and communicate with him. Should I return the check? Should I cash it, and write a letter thanking him for remembering my birthday, albeit late? Or should I tell him I am not willing to talk to him until he's willing to offer me an apology? — **DAUGHTER WHO DOESN'T NEED TWO DADS**

**DEAR DAUGHTER:** For someone who "honestly did not feel any loss for not having him in (your) life," you appear to be genuinely steamed at your birth father. The time has come to be honest with yourself about your feelings of anger, disappointment and abandonment -- and tell him honestly how you feel. Then hear him out. You may learn that your mother made it difficult for your father to see you -- and the move reinforced it. He may also have had financial problems that made monetary support difficult. Only he can give you the details that, in my opinion, you sorely need to hear. It is clear your father is now trying to make amends, even if it's not in the form of an apology.

**DEAR ABBY:** Am I a "sicko" because I step out of the shower naked in front of our dog? My wife thinks so. The trouble started when we got a female dog, "Taffy," from the local animal shelter. Taffy sleeps in our bedroom and is there in the morning when I take my shower. My wife insists that I cover up in front of the dog and that Taffy is no different from a child. This has created a lot of stress between us because, to me, a dog is a dog. Is it wrong to be naked in front of a dog? — **IN THE DOGHOUSE, TEMECULA, CALIF.**

**DEAR IN THE DOGHOUSE:** Even though many people treat their dogs like children, the fact remains that dogs are canines -- not homo sapiens. Your wife appears to be either jealous or have an overactive imagination. It is no more wrong for a human to be naked in the presence of a dog than it is for a dog to be naked in the presence of a human.

**CONFIDENTIAL TO EDWARD PHILLIPS IN MINNEAPOLIS:** Happy Birthday, li'l bro. I hope you're partying hearty!

## For Better Or For Worse



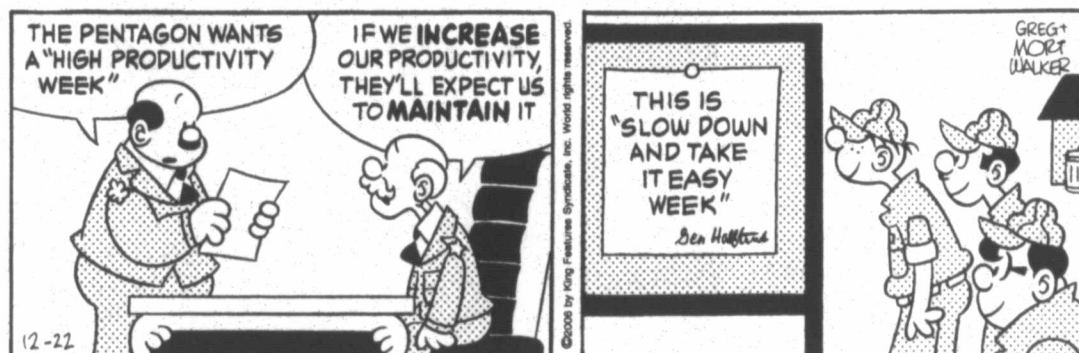
## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



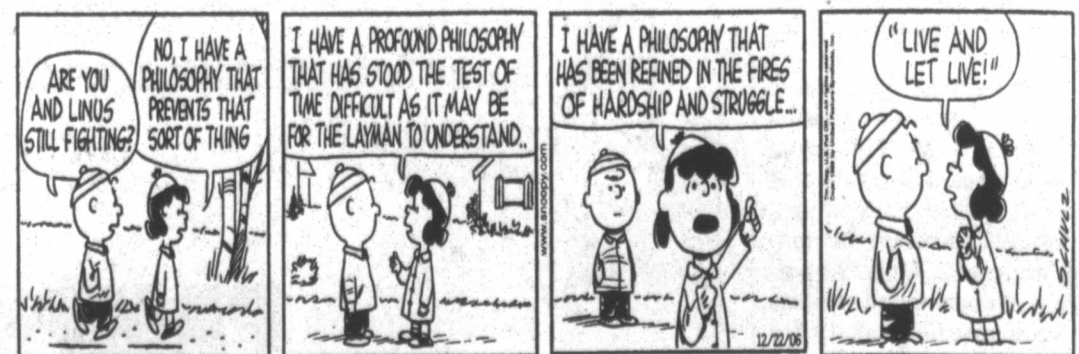
## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



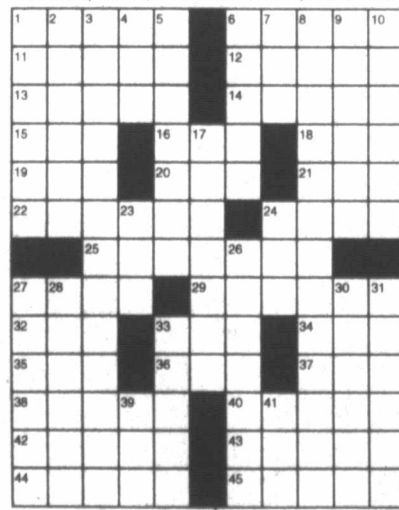
## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 College study
  - 6 Prince of India
  - 11 Forsaken
  - 12 Be penitent
  - 13 Tripled trio
  - 14 Grazing area
  - 15 Cry of insight
  - 16 Skating surface
  - 18 Greedy desire
  - 19 Wrestlers' need
  - 20 Also not
  - 21 Kicker's aid
  - 22 "Little Shop of Horrors" lyricist
  - 24 Lose
  - 25 Neighbor of Germany
  - 27 Pine
  - 29 44-Across part
  - 32 Football position
  - 33 Blazing
  - 34 NFL player
  - 35 Ruby of movies
  - 36 Math subj.
  - 37 Cloth scrap
  - 38 "Lord of the Rings" dwarf
- DOWN**
- 7 — glance
  - 8 "Brazil" star
  - 9 "The Hulk" director
  - 10 Was an obedient dog
  - 17 Computer key
  - 4 Area-code precursor
  - 5 Eye parts
  - 6 Less common
  - 7 — glance
  - 8 "Brazil" star
  - 9 "The Hulk" director
  - 10 Was an obedient dog
  - 17 Computer key
  - 23 Cocoa container
  - 24 Moral no-no
  - 26 New
  - 41 Fiction
  - 27 Pigeon perches
  - 28 "Ah, Wilderness!" author
  - 30 Pencil end
  - 31 Ginger in movies
  - 33 Lock parts
  - 39 Blazed a trail

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## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS, By Bil Keane



## Flo & Friends





# Sports Day

## PHS Soccer alumni games to take place in January

The PHS soccer teams will bring back an old tradition that has faded in recent years. The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters soccer teams will host alumni games on Jan. 6. The games will be played at the Harvester Soccer Complex which is located at Travis Elementary School. The women's game will begin at noon, followed by the men's game at 2:30.

The PHS soccer coaches and players are excited about this event, and are highly encouraging all alumni of any age to participate as your schedule allows. This will be a day of fun for the alumni and for the current PHS players. If you are a PHS soccer alumni and do not feel that you can play in the game, the coaching staff and players still would like you to come and watch some soccer fun. The concession stand will be open and hamburgers will be available courtesy of the PHS Soccer Booster Club.

For halftime entertainment, boys and girls in the U-10 and U-12 age divisions of the Pampa Soccer Association will display their soccer skills in small sided scrimmages.

Not only will this be a fun day of soccer, it will also provide this year's soccer teams with a good preseason scrimmage. A good turnout of alumni play will definitely help the teams get better prepared for the upcoming season. This year's teams boast more than 20 players on the varsity boys team, and more than 30 players for the varsity and JV girls teams. Come show your support for these athletes and be a part of the fun.

## SMU proves every last second counts with 3-point buzzer beater

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Dez Willingham's 3-pointer at the buzzer lifted visiting SMU to a 64-62 win over regional rival TCU on Thursday.

The bucket, which accounted for Willingham's only points of the game, was the fourth lead change in the final 17 seconds.

A 3-pointer by Brett Hackett put TCU ahead 60-59 with 17 seconds left. But

the Mustangs (9-1) responded with 14 seconds left when Jon Killen hit two free throws.

TCU's Ryan Wall made a pair of free throws with eight seconds left, putting the Horned Frogs (7-4) up 62-61. That set the stage for Willingham's game-winner.

Donatas Rackauskas led SMU with 13 points and nine rebounds. Derrick Roberts also scored 13

points, Devon Pearson had 11 points and seven rebounds and Killen added 10 points and seven assists.

For TCU, Alvarado Parker finished with 14 points and five rebounds. Wall had 13 points and four assists and Kevin Langford had 11 points and six rebounds.

This is the third time in four seasons that the SMU-TCU game has been decided by three points or less.

## Colt McCoy cleared to play in Alamo Bowl following neck injury

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas quarterback Colt McCoy has been cleared to play in the Alamo Bowl, school officials said Thursday night.

McCoy's status had been in doubt after suffering a severely pinched nerve in his neck in the final minute of a 12-7 loss to Texas A&M on Nov. 24.

The Longhorns will face Iowa on Dec. 30 in San Antonio.

Athletic trainer Kenny Boyd said

McCoy had made great progress over the past several weeks and is back at full strength.

"He went through a thorough and complete evaluation that involved everyone on our staff and a series of tests to insure his recovery was complete," Boyd said in a statement released by the school.

"Colt passed all of the functional and diagnostic tests to return to the field, and his performance and

recovery in practices confirmed that he is back at full strength. We're all comfortable that he's physically ready to play."

McCoy, a redshirt freshman, set a school record this year with 27 touchdown passes. He led the Longhorns to eight straight wins before he hurt his neck the first time on the first drive of a 45-42 loss at Kansas State on Nov. 11.

He was able to return to the field

against the Aggies, but got visibly weaker as the game went on and threw three interceptions. He was carted off the field with 20 seconds left after taking a hit following an incomplete pass.

Jevan Snead, the No. 2 QB all season, then decided to transfer. That left No. 18 Texas with Matt McCoy, no relation, a fourth-year walk-on who has taken only a handful of snaps in mop-up duty

the past two seasons.

Colt McCoy has passed for 2,262 yards and thrown seven interceptions.

"I feel like everything is back to normal and I am 100 percent," McCoy said in the statement.

McCoy said there was steady progress in his recovery.

"It all paid off because I could feel the strength in my arm coming back," he said.

## Oklahoma State outlasts Pitt in double overtime

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Pittsburgh and Oklahoma State played one of the best games of the college basketball season, and Cowboys guard James On Curry was convinced the deciding factor couldn't be found on the stat sheet.

"It's heart. We've got heart," Curry said after No. 7 Pitt 95-89 in double overtime on Thursday night.

"It doesn't matter how many people are on your bench. It's what's in your chest."

Mario Boggan scored a career-high 30 points and had a crucial putback in the final minute, Curry added 21 points and the Cowboys (12-1) benefited from an intentional foul call to emerge with the victory.

"When you're playing hard and they're letting you play, they're letting you be physical, that's what we're about — just playing real hard and physical and showing heart," Boggan said.

Boggan called his putback for a 90-87 Oklahoma State lead a dream come true. Cowboys coach Sean Sutton considered Boggan's night

one of the best performances in school history, up there with Bryant "Big Country" Reeves leading the Cowboys to the Final Four and Randy Rutherford's 45 points against Kansas on a school-record 11 3-pointers.

After Mike Cook answered Boggan's putback with two free throws and the shot clock was turned off, the Panthers (10-2) were forced to foul and LeVance Fields was called for a flagrant foul for grabbing Byron Eaton's neck with 21.6 seconds left.

Eaton hit both his free throws and Curry added two more for a five-point lead. The celebration started soon after, with the Cowboys exchanging high-fives before huddling with 16.7 seconds remaining. Fields discarded his headband as Curry stepped to the foul line to hit the last two foul shots of the game.

"We didn't want it to be called an intentional foul, but that's what they called and you have to play through it," Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said.

Eaton, who had his face planted into the hardwood

floor, admitted he "acted a little bit."

In other games involving Top 25 teams, it was No. 6 Duke 61, No. 22 Gonzaga 54 and No. 20 Notre Dame 88, Army 47.

Aaron Gray, the Big East preseason player of the year, had 24 points and 10 rebounds to lead Pitt. Antonio Graves added 17, Cook and Fields each had 15 and reserve Sam Young scored 10.

The Panthers, the No. 2 team in last week's poll, have lost back-to-back games after starting the season with 10 straight wins.

Oklahoma State, which had an 11-game win streak halted Monday against Tennessee, bounced back from its first loss by cutting down on turnovers. After committing 23 in Nashville against the Vols, the Cowboys had only 13 in 50 minutes against the Panthers.

Curry played 47 minutes and Boggan recorded 43. Four Pitt players — Gray, Graves, Cook and Fields — play more than 40 minutes.

"I thought I was going to be dead to the world but as it

kept going I just kept wanting to play. I just got more energy and my adrenaline was just rushing more," Boggan said.

The Panthers scored four points in a single possession to force overtime. Down 75-71, Cook hit the first of two free throws before the second shot caromed away to Gray. Fields then connected on a 3-pointer from the right wing to tie it with 25.1 seconds left.

Curry missed a potential game-winning jumper in regulation, and Boggan couldn't connect at the end of the first overtime period. But the Cowboys never quit trying.

"We just kept talking about how big a game this was and that this was going to be a defining point for our season," Sutton said. "They kept battling and came up with enough plays to win."

The only potential downside was a late injury to Boggan. He had to leave after fouling Cook with 25.3 seconds left and thought he might have sprained a ligament in his left thumb. He said the thumb was hyperextended when it got caught in

## Thorpe Award winner briefly hospitalized

AUSTIN (AP) — Thorpe Award-winning Texas cornerback Aaron Ross was taken to a hospital Thursday after police found him disoriented outside of a restaurant and found minor damage to his car. He was later released.

Coach Mack Brown said Ross was involved in an accident on the way to practice but was doing fine. "He's really fortunate that he's OK and that no one else is hurt," Brown said.

Ross, a senior, missed the Longhorns' practice for the Alamo Bowl. The team broke practice for three days and will meet on Christmas in San Antonio for the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl against Iowa.

Ross said in a statement released by the university that he didn't remember much about the circumstances.

"I remember getting in the car to head to practice and I must have fallen asleep and run off the road," he said. "I was pretty shook up and out of it, but they checked me out at the hospital and I'm OK."

Pflugerville police Capt. Jim McLean said officers couldn't determine if Ross was actually in an accident but the car had minor damage.

McLean said Ross had walked in the restaurant and sat down. Police were called when a waitress at the restaurant reported hearing Ross ask "Where's the money at?" and thought it was an attempted robbery.

Police approached Ross outside the restaurant and found him disoriented and unsure of where he was, thinking he was in south Austin rather than Pflugerville, a northern suburb of Austin, McLean said.

McLean described Ross as "very polite" and said there was no evidence of alcohol or drugs and no charges would be filed.

Police called for an ambulance because of Ross' confused state, McLean said.

Ross has 71 tackles, five interceptions, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries for the Longhorns. He also has scored two touchdowns.

## Kentucky high school to boycott game with opponent that uses Confederate flag

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A high school basketball team has voted to boycott a game against an opposing team that waves the Confederate flag, adding fuel to a debate over what is appropriate behavior at sporting events.

The team of eight male players, including one black student, at the private David School in Floyd County unanimously decided this week to boycott a Jan. 19 game against Allen Central High School, said Ned Pillersdorf, the David School's athletic director and boys basketball coach.

The players believe Allen Central's displays of Confederate emblems are a form of taunting, which is forbidden by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, Pillersdorf, also an attorney, said Thursday.

Especially upsetting to the David School's team, Pillersdorf said, was when a black player was up for a foul shot and "they were waving the Confederate flag at him."

Pillersdorf sent a letter to Allen Central officials, stating in part, "David has the only basketball team with black players in Floyd

County, we want to assure you that the decision was made by all of our players."

Allen Central Principal Lorena Hall and her students have defended their Confederate emblems, saying they symbolize strength, independence and pride.

"It has nothing to do with racism," Hall said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It's a part of us." She declined to comment Thursday.

Floyd County Superintendent Paul Fanning said he has forwarded the issue to the state athletic associ-

ation.

Brigid DeVries, association commissioner, was out of town Thursday and could not be reached for comment. Other association officials declined to comment.

David is the only school that has pulled out of a competition against Allen Central, Fanning said. The school board will discuss the issue in January.

It was unclear whether the David School would have to forfeit the game.

Members of Louisville's Justice Resource Center had expressed

concerns to Fanning on Monday over Allen Central's prominent displays of the Confederate flag at the school and public events.

The Rev. Louis Coleman, head of the civil rights group, suggested giving nearby schools with black students the option of not participating in events where Confederate symbols are displayed, saying the flag creates "a very tense and negative atmosphere" for black student athletes.

## T.O. has nothing against Garcia, but doesn't plan to talk to him

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The bitterness Terrell Owens had toward Donovan McNabb eventually led to the receiver's suspension last season and departure from Philadelphia.

That wasn't his first public spat with one of his quarterbacks.

Before that in San Francisco, Owens made insinuations about Jeff Garcia's sexuality. And Owens said he hasn't had a conversation with Garcia since their days together with the 49ers.

How about on Christmas Day when the Garcia makes his fifth straight start for the injured McNabb when the Eagles play the Dallas Cowboys?

"No. There wouldn't be any need to," Owens said Thursday. "I don't have anything against the guy. My focus is really trying to beat those guys. It's not about me or Jeff, and I commend him on the job he's doing there."

The Cowboys (9-5) clinch their first NFC East title since 1998 with a victory Monday.

Philadelphia (8-6) is still in contention for the division title because Garcia has led the Eagles to three straight victories — and a 3-1 record — since McNabb tore knee ligaments Nov. 19. And the Eagles have the head-to-head tiebreaker for the title if they beat Dallas.

"I'm not surprised," Owens said. "When we were in San Francisco, we were very successful."

Asked if he regretted anything he said about Garcia, Owens said, "No, we're not even going to get into that.

That's old news."

Still, Owens later acknowledged that the situations with Garcia and McNabb helped him learn how to better deal with teammates.

"You always can learn from your mistakes, and I think I definitely had ample opportunity, especially with the suspension last year and going through a lot of things, to kind of just reflect on what happened, not only in Philly, but in San Francisco," he said.

Garcia refused to address

questions about Owens during a conference call with Dallas media Thursday.

"I'm not even talking about that," said Garcia, who made three straight Pro Bowls during his five seasons with Owens (1999-2003).

McNabb was still healthy Oct. 8 for Owens' much-hyped return to Philadelphia. Owens had only three catches for 45 yards, all after half-time, and the Eagles won 38-24.

That game was all about T.O. going back to

Philadelphia, the team he helped lead to the Super Bowl in 2004 before being suspended midway through last year.

This time, it's more than T.O. vs. the Eagles — or any quarterback.

"I'm still going to go in with the same attitude I did the first game. I want to go in and I want to play well and I want to beat them," Owens said. "I think a lot is on the line especially with the play-off race. It's not only meaningful for me, but for this team as well."



# Favre's still got it — Green Bay defeats Minnesota, 9-7

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — In an otherwise ugly performance, Brett Favre mustered just enough late-game magic to leave Lambeau Field a winner again. Who knows if he'll back for more? Favre set up a game-winning 44-yard field goal by Dave Rayner with 1:34 left and the Green Bay Packers beat the Minnesota Vikings 9-7 on Thursday night. Rayner's kick gave Favre his 36th career fourth-quarter comeback victory — and first in more than a year — and ran Green Bay's winning streak to three. The Packers (7-8) head into their season finale in Chicago still holding out hope to make the playoffs. They'll need help to get in, but had long been left for dead at 4-8 after bad losses

at home to New England and the New York Jets. "The most important football that's played comes in December," Packers rookie coach Mike McCarthy said. Victories aside, Favre's last two games at Lambeau Field this year — and perhaps his last here ever — were forgettable. He hasn't thrown a touchdown pass, leaving him still eight short of Dan Marino's record of 420. And he's tossed five interceptions while completing 53 percent of his passes. "I'm hoping that he comes back. But, you never know," said Donald Driver, who finished with nine catches for 99 yards. "It's really going to be up to him. Right now, I think he's coming back. So, we're all going to sit back and wait. We'll be waiting like you guys."

The 37-year-old Favre, who hasn't said whether he'll play another season, finished 26-for-50 for 285 yards and didn't speak to reporters after the game. He was on target when it counted most against the Vikings after nearly giving the game away in the third quarter. Favre, 89-29 including the playoffs at Lambeau, threw a pass Fred Smoot picked off and returned 47 yards for his first career touchdown to give the Vikings a 7-6 lead late in the third quarter. Smoot tried a "Lambeau Leap" into the crowd, but the fans pushed him back and some tried to pour drinks on him. Favre threw another interception to former teammate Darren Sharper on the Packers' next offensive play,

and his first attempt at a fourth-quarter comeback was thwarted when Bubba Franks fumbled for the second time in the game, this time at the Vikings 1. Favre got the ball back one more time, with 4:47 left. His 36-yard pass to Ruvell Martin was the key play, setting up the winning kick. For a decade, Ryan Longwell made the key kicks to cap Favre's rallies. But Longwell, who kicked 14 field goals to tie or give Green Bay the lead during Favre's previous 35 comebacks, is now with the Vikings. Rayner was 2-for-4 Thursday night before nailing the winner. "I just wanted an opportunity to hit a game-winner, and it worked out well,"

Rayner said. "It was probably the most nervous I had ever been in my entire life, but it worked out." The kick went straight through the uprights. "If I could ... have the career he's had, I'd be happy," Rayner said of Longwell. "He's a class guy and he's been nothing but nice to me." Minnesota, which squandered a 4-2 start, had its worst offensive performance in 35 years behind rookie quarterback Tarvaris Jackson, making his first start. Jackson, the 201st starting quarterback in the league since Favre began his consecutive starts streak on Sept. 27, 1992, went 10-of-20 for 50 yards and an interception. He also scrambled for 23 yards on five attempts.

"The numbers aren't going to bear out that he did anything of merit, but I thought he did a good job of managing the football game," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. Minnesota had three first downs, its fewest in franchise history. Favre held the ball aloft at the final gun, hugging his former teammates and saluting his family in a skybox as well as the fans surrounding the tunnel to the locker room. "When he's ready to shut it down, he'll shut it down," longtime teammate William Henderson said. "But until then, you all need to leave him alone."

## Pistons flex muscles, pound Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Attention, Detroit detractors. The Pistons are still firing on all cylinders. "They're still a powerhouse," LeBron James said. He would know. Dominating on defense as always and getting the usual big shots from Chauncey Billups, the Pistons overpowered Cleveland in the fourth quarter on Thursday night for an 87-71 win over the Cavaliers. Billups scored 12 of his 17 points in the final period when Detroit outscored Cleveland 30-16, held James to just one field goal and showed why despite losing Ben Wallace during the offseason they're still among the NBA's top teams. Billups, who was just 1-of-9 from the floor after three quarters, dropped three jumpers — two of them 3-pointers — in the first 3:02 of the fourth as the Pistons went on a 14-3 run to open a 71-58 lead with 8:19 left. "That's Big Shot Billups at his best," James said. "Fourth quarter, time to take over." Billups added 10 assists, including four in the last 12 minutes against a

Cavaliers team that was defenseless to stop him. "They saw me missing shots early and let their guard down a little," he said. "That's when I attacked. That's how I play." Tayshaun Prince had 16 points and Antonio McDyess added a season-high 11 points — all in the fourth — with 11 rebounds as the Pistons won their third straight and improved to 16-8, tops in the Central Division. In Thursday's only other game, it was Washington 126, Sacramento 119. James had 26 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 16 for the Cavaliers, who dropped to 11-3 at home. It was the first meeting between the club's since last season's playoff series won by the Pistons in seven games. After losing Games 1 and 2, Cleveland won three straight and had a chance to close out the Pistons in Game 6 but couldn't come up with an offensive rebound in the closing seconds. The Cavs then lost Game 7 in Auburn Hills, Mich., when the Pistons dominated the second half in a 79-61 win. This one followed a similar script.

"We got our behinds kicked tonight," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "In the fourth quarter when the game got tight, that team turned it up a notch. We have to get mentally tougher when the going gets tough. We caved into their pressure. We did not execute offensively. Defensively, we were two steps behind." In the fourth quarter, the Cavs were booed by their home fans, who seemed disgusted by the club's lack of offensive firepower. Cleveland shot just 34 percent from the floor and scored 30 points in the second half on 25 percent shooting. The Cavaliers have lost three in a row and are just 7-8 in their last 15. "We just have to get better," James said. "I don't know when it's going to happen. We can't keep going out there and doing the same thing." After Billups' second 3 put the Pistons up 69-58 with 8:58 remaining, he whipped a behind-the-back bounce pass to Jason Maxiell, whose baseline jumper put Detroit ahead by 13, forced a timeout by Cleveland and sent Detroit's bench bounding onto the floor for high-fives and chest bumps.

## Nebraska takes break in preparation for Cotton Bowl

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska coach Bill Callahan turned his players loose for a four-day holiday break after declaring them good to go for the Cotton Bowl. "The game plan has been fully installed," Callahan said Thursday after the Cornhuskers' final practice on campus. Most players were to catch flights home Thursday and Friday. The team reconvenes in Dallas on Tuesday and plays 10th-ranked Auburn (10-2) on New Year's Day. "We'll go out and condition the team a little bit," Callahan said. "They have four days off, so we're going to have to run off some of that holiday food." Playing Auburn gives Nebraska an opportunity to finish the season on a positive note after losing 21-7 to

Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game. "Those are really prestigious bowls that are played after the New Year," quarterback Zac Taylor said. "It was our goal to play in a game in January some time. It didn't go down the way we wanted it to, but it's a great game to go to and a great opponent." The biggest development during bowl practices was freshman defensive back Major Culbert's switch to running back last week. The move was necessary because 1-backs Brandon Jackson, Cody Glenn and Kenny Wilson have been banged up. Callahan wouldn't say whether Culbert would play on offense against Auburn. Callahan and running backs coach Randy Jordan said they were pleased with how Culbert made the transition.

## Dallas Stars defeat San Jose Sharks in 4th shutout of the season

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Marty Turco cared more about the Stars playing well again than the Dallas goalie did about his own achievement. Turco made 20 saves for his fourth shutout of the season, leading Dallas past the San Jose Sharks, 3-0 on Thursday night a night after things got so bad the team held a closed-door meeting. Turco, who also added a rare goalie assist on Jokinen's ninth goal, established a franchise record with his 28th career shutout. He blanked San Jose for the second time this season after he made 25 saves against the Sharks on Dec. 4.

"Any time you reach a milestone or record of any sort, it's something to look back on after your career is over," Turco said. "We played so well, the franchise record feels so insignificant." Jeff Halpern, Jussi Jokinen and Brenden Morrow each scored goals as Dallas improved to 12-2 against the Pacific Division — with one of those defeats coming to the Sharks on Oct. 17. It was the third meeting of the season and third shutout between the teams, who each won on their home ice with shutouts. The Sharks and Stars are two of the NHL's top defensive franchises, both among

the top three in the league for fewest goals allowed this season entering the game. "I have no idea why," coach Ron Wilson said. "For the first five minutes I was feeling pretty good. We had our legs. We were skating. We hadn't taken a shot but we were flying around. As soon as they scored the first goal, we lost the will to battle. At home that is very disappointing." Dallas appeared to have more energy despite playing on back-to-back nights after losing 4-1 at Anaheim on Wednesday. The Stars bounced back with an impressive win after losing three of their previ-

ous four, having given up 15 goals during that span — a stretch that sparked the postgame meeting after losing to the Ducks. "From doom and gloom last night, we end up with five or six points and go home with some momentum," coach Dave Tippett said. "They came out and put the words into action." Mike Modano missed his eighth straight game with a hip injury sustained against the Sharks on Dec. 4, when he had the only goal of the contest. Modano did not travel with the team for this three-game road trip that ended before a disappointed sellout crowd in the Shark Tank.

Halpern put the Stars on the board with his fourth goal of the season 6:56 into the game when got the rebound after a long shot by Philippe Boucher bounced off defenseman Kyle McLaren's stick. Halpern shot into an open net after goalie Vesa Toskala got screened by McLaren. Boucher got the assist and he has recorded points in nine of his last 11 games. San Jose, coming off an emotional win against the Mighty Ducks on Dec. 16, had its chance to rally in the third period thwarted.

## Houston opens Rainbow Classic with victory over Charlotte

HONOLULU (AP) — Dion Dowell scored 22 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to help Houston top Charlotte, 68-46, in the opening round of the Rainbow Classic on Thursday. The Cougars, who entered the game second in the country with 12.1 three-pointers made per game, went 12 of 35 from behind the arc. Robert Lee added 17 points, Robert McKiver had 13 and Oliver Lafayette

added 11 for Houston (5-3). The 49ers struggled against the Cougars' man-to-man defense, shooting 23 percent from the floor. E.J. Drayton scored 11 points and DeAngelo Alexander added 10 for Charlotte (3-6). Alexander and Antwon Coleman both grabbed 10 rebounds. Houston advances to the semifinals to play either Creighton or Valparaiso on Friday.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006: This year, much perks up in your life, emotionally, intellectually and in life events in general. What might be important and instrumental to your life's success is to weigh the pros and cons of a situation more carefully before leaping in. Sometimes you get so frustrated you cannot hold yourself back. Be more direct and open with close friends. Learn, also, to express uncomfortable feelings. If you are single, check out someone you are interested in very carefully. You could be stunned by what you find. If you are attached, a common goal or achievement will draw you closer. AQUARIUS expects a lot from 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) ★★★ Your ideas convert into actions. Your actions let others know just how much you care. You have a strong sense of direction. A call or news might encourage you to bring a new person or two into your plans. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You might be overwhelmed by a key loved one's or friend's requests. Yet you might not be willing to say "no." Please don't complain. You express your unique qualities in your choices. Others like it when you do. Tonight: A must appearance.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Do make an effort to understand what someone else is thinking. Make a point of calling or reaching out to

those at a distance. You find your interest in others can illuminate your life. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Togetherness is the theme right now. Find that special friend or associate who you can talk to and share with. You might be delighted by what goes on. Take a walk or go see Christmas decorations when you can. Tonight: Stoke the fires.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Others cannot stay away, no matter what. Don't worry about what is going on; just enjoy it. Someone has a different perspective from you. Are these differences worth a toasty disagreement? We think not. Tonight: Respond to another's suggestion.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Get a head start on what you might like to accomplish. You find that handling the details and must-do's immediately will help you relax. You'll want to clear out as much free time as possible. Touch base with key people in your day-to-day life. Tonight: Mosey on home.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You cannot hold yourself back. You might want to ask yourself why you need to. Let your enthusiasm and bubbly flow. Others appreciate your lightness. Don't stand on ceremony. Make a call. Tonight: Fun and games.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You want to head home early. All this nesting might be fine and well, but still some people would like to visit and see you. Try to fit in others' needs. It isn't all about you. Honor changes within a key relationship. Tonight: How about some eggnog?

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You have plans. How you approach others can determine the success or failure of the next few days. You will naturally choose the right direction. File down a touch of abrasiveness, and you are a sure-bet winner. Tonight: Share holiday tidings.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ Be careful about last-minute impulsiveness. You could cause yourself a problem when you least expect or want it. Don't allow a perceived slight to mar the moment. Don't let this issue impact what could be a very special few days. Tonight: Play Santa. Give out treats!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Clearly, you are on top of your game. Certain friends could be very demanding. How you deal with these people might make a big difference. Allow more give-and-take with your special people. Tonight: Don't be shy. Share a dream.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ Get extra sleep while you can, because before you know it, you will be the lead actor. Think in terms of completing a personal matter or talk. This person might seem bellicose at first. That, too, can change with your special touch. Tonight: Get ready!

**BORN TODAY**  
Model, actress Estella Warren (1978), emperor of Japan Akihito (1933), Zionist leader Avraham Stern (1907) \*\*\*

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.  
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A X Y D L B A A X R  
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.

12-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

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Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF I HAD LEARNED EDUCATION, I WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TIME TO LEARN ANYTHING ELSE. — CORNELIUS VANDERBILT

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**5 Special Notices**

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

**14d Carpentry**

**Carpentry, Roofing, Re-**placement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

**OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR** Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

**14e 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.

**HOUSE Cracking?** In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

**CERAMIC** tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

**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 Borger Hwy. 665-4392

**21 Help Wanted**

**EXP.** Maintenance person needed. Must have own tools. Call to apply 665-4274 or 806-433-6939

**FULL & Part-Time.** Janitorial Serv. taking appl. Dr. license req. Will train. 665-2667, 665-3144 or 669-9186.

**WE** pay you cash to lose up to 20 lbs in the next 30 days. Call today 1-800-211-0085.

**AUTO** mechanic needed. Salary based on experience. Please mail resume to POB 2201, Pampa Tx.

**STEAMER** Operator. Experience required. Benefits. Apply in person, 408 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

**TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service** needs Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd.

**CHURCH** Nursery Worker needed in Pampa. Pick up application at JR's Alignment on Hwy. 60 or call 806-228-5108.

**Advanced Safety Specialists Inc.** has immediate full time openings for a Safety Technician and Safety Instructor inspiring to join ASSI's Team of Professional Safety Management Technicians. ASSI has numerous clients, in a variety of industries, which provides an outstanding opportunity for the right person to gain knowledge and experience in the Safety Profession. We are a full-service safety management and equipment rental firm based in Pampa, Texas.

The right candidate should have approximately 5 years experience in safety, a good general knowledge of OSHA regulations, excellent communication and writing skills. The candidate would also be required to use Confined Space Entry Equipment and perform Rescue Stand-by. Oil field experience is a plus. Above all, the right candidate must be willing to learn from experienced safety professionals and work as a Team player.

The candidate shall be required to pass a physical, pulmonary and drug test. Must be able to pass a background check. Salary commensurate with experience. Candidate must relocate to Pampa, Texas. Relocation allowance NOT provided.

Out of Town Travel will be required, expenses provided. Operation of transportation is offered. Vacation, holiday, and benefits offered.

Interested persons should submit resume, references, and salary requirement to my attention promptly.

**Kelley Randall** P.O. Box 1404 Pampa, TX 79066-11404 Or fax to 806-669-0323 or e-mail: air2safety@amazonline.com Equal Opportunity Employer.

**21 Help Wanted**

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

**Reliant Family of Companies** Reliant Transportation FloCo2- Reliant Gases

Reliant needs a variety of personnel to meet our expansion needs. Joining our company or working with us as a customer, we seek to establish win / win solutions.

What you can expect is: Industry leading pay in a range from \$45,000 to \$75,000. No 24 hour call, local hauling

**A company where family counts!** Requirements: CDL with tanker & Hazmat endorsements, 2 years relevant & verifiable work history.

Type positions available: Drivers, Team Drivers, Mechanics, Supervisory personnel

**CALL 888-339-0599** 15 minutes of your time could result in a lifetime career. You will never look for another job if you call!

**ACCOLADE Home Care-Shamrock** is currently seeking a full time Physical Therapist for the rural area we serve. We offer competitive salaries, benefit packages, tuition assistance and CE courses. It would be an honor to receive your resume via e-mail

oventuriffs@fms-regional.com fax 806-256-1101 or call 806-256-1100 for more information.

**NURSING OPPORTUNITIES!** RNs/LVNs \*12-hour shifts \*You get every other weekend off \*Work approximately 15 days per month

**CNAs: \$500 sign on bonus** \*Ask for details! \*All shifts available Positions require Texas State License of Certification. For additional information, please call (806)273-3785, or apply in person:

**BORGER HEALTHCARE** 1316 S. Florida Borger Equal Opportunity Employer

**NEED** someone (non-smoker) to do ironing. Call 665-1478, lv. msg.

**EYECARE TEAM** Reception, Optical Tech needed to be filled by energetic, career-minded persons. Must be able to multi-task. Interviews are being scheduled for both entry and advanced positions.

Drs. Simmons and Simmons VISION SOURCE 1324 N. Banks, Pampa

**MECHANIC** Eagle Rock Energy has immediate opening for an experienced Mechanic at its Arrington plant and field location. Successful candidate will perform activities related to mechanical work on equipment at compressor, pipeline, storage, gathering and/or gas processing facilities. Responsibilities include servicing, troubleshooting, maintaining, installing and repairing structural, mechanical, electrical, and/or well equipment; conducting performance analyses, including emissions testing. Qualifications required: experience servicing, repairing compressor station engines and equipment; use and function of hand and power tools / equipment; ability to read blueprints, charts, diagrams and equipment manuals; strong mathematical, analytical and communication skills. High school diploma. Applicable driver's license.

We offer a competitive starting salary and comprehensive benefits package. For immediate consideration, please send resume with salary history to the attention of: MECHANICS Eagle Rock Energy 8442 County Road 3 Pampa, Texas 79065 EEO/AA Employer

**21 Help Wanted**

**TAKING** applications for Glass installer, will train, Pampa Glass, 1432 N. Banks

**HELP** wanted to care for elderly gentleman. In his home. Light housekeeping, cooking. Exp. req. CNA not nec. Resumes to Po Box 393, Pampa, TX

**EXPERIENCED** morning cook needed. Apply at Granny's Home Cookin', 328 E Frederic. No phone calls!!

**NOW** hiring a cook, evening position. Apply in person, Dos Caballeros, 1333 N. Hobart, Pampa.

**C.N.A.'s** needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home, 7-3 & 3-11. Full-time, excellent benefits. Will assist with certification. Panhandle, 537-3194.

**WEEKEND R.N.** is needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194.

**L.V.N.** for 3-11 is needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home. Excellent benefits plus shift differential. Panhandle 537-3194.

**D.E. CHASE, INC.** 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx.

**TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED** 4 days on / 2 days off Medical & Dental Ins. Uniforms Monthly Safety Bonus Retirement Plan

**Requirements:** CLASS A CDL DOT Physical Tanker Endorsement Must pass DOT Drug Screen

**Apply in person NO PHONE CALLS!**

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS-** LVNs-all shifts CNAs Housekeeping Dietary Aids Cooks McLean Care Center Call 806-779-2469

**Quentin Williams REALTORS** Keagy-Edwards, Inc.

**Selling Pampa Since 1952** 669-2522 • 2208 Coffee & Perryton Pkwy.

**N. WEST** - Beautiful historic home located on four lots. Has been a bed & breakfast, but the last owner used it for a family home. 5 bedrooms, 4 living areas, plus a formal dining room & a rec room in the basement. Each upstairs bedroom has a separate bath. 2 heat pumps, 2 hot water heaters, fireplace, double garage and much more. MLS 06-7505.

**ZIMMERS** - Two story home with three bedrooms, 2 living areas, sewing room, large utility room, sunroom, dining room has tile floors, den has atrium doors to back yard, new fence, storage building, double garage. MLS 06-7468.

**LEA** - This home has been completely redone. Fresh paint in all rooms. New stove / refrigerator / washer / dryer. Has a nice size basement. New hot water heater, new roof on sun porch. Wood work has been restained. three bedrooms, 2 baths, double garage. MLS 06-7474.

**ASPEN** - Executive home with 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 2 living areas, formal dining room, new wood flooring in dining/living/den areas, new tile in bath and entry, new central air conditioner. New paint and wallpaper. Large corner lot. Double garage and much more. MLS 06-7476.

**S. CUYLER** - Very large expanded metal building that has been used for a welding shop. Has an office in front and several divided workshops. Large tool room, two restrooms, two overhead doors with bays for large trucks. MLS 06-7479.

**MARY ELLEN** - Quiet neighborhood close to schools. Nice two bedroom home with 1 3/4 baths. Large living room. Dishwasher, cook-top & oven, double garage. MLS 06-7480.

**N. NELSON - PRICED BELOW APPRAISAL AT \$99,900** - Freshly painted with new textures inside this spacious 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath home on corner lot. Large living area with a woodburning fireplace. Kitchen has extra nice cabinets, 2 pantrys, new cook-top and double ovens. Large master bedroom is 24.6' x 15'. Oversized double garage, covered patio and siding on trim. New roof in '05. New central air conditioner, large storage/workshop in back yard. MLS 06-7568.

**E. 8TH, LEFORS** - Well cared for three bedroom, 1 bath home with central heat and air, double garage. Price right at \$22,900. MLS 06-7426.

**N. WELLS** - Very nice home that has had some updating. New siding on exterior, wood flooring in kitchen, some new paint, three bedrooms, central heat and air. The stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer stay. Single garage. MLS 06-7561.

**N. WELLS** - Three bedroom home close to school. Large living area. Needs some work. Single garage. Central heat and air. 1 bath. MLS 06-7528.

**HOLLY** - Updated 2 story home with 4 bedrooms, 2 living areas, den has woodburning fireplace and built-in entertainment center with shelving and storage. Kitchen has beautiful custom cabinetry. Custom plantation blinds throughout home. Covered porch overlooking pond. Insulated garage has workshop area. MLS 06-7459.

**E. LOCUST** - Home has been remodeled. Sunroom added to back over a storm cellar. Has 2 bedrooms, 2 living areas, 2 kitchens. Storage building, master bedroom and living area have woodburning fireplaces. Single garage. MLS 06-7458.

**SIRROCO** - Two bedroom home located on corner lot. Central heat and air, 2 living areas. 1 3/4 baths, single garage. MLS 06-7267.

**KENTUCKY STREET** - Seven lots located close to church and shopping center. MLS 05-7073.

**LOWRY** - Three bedroom home with good storage. 1 3/4 baths. Kitchen has knotty pine cabinets. Most of house has hardwood flooring. Caport. MLS 06-7243.

Becky Baten ..... 669-2214 Roberta Babb ..... 665-6156 Heidi Chromier ..... 665-5388 Joan Hasty ..... 669-3781 David Schorn ..... 669-6284 Sandra Bromer ..... 665-4218 Linda Bart ..... 665-5524 Dennis Edmondson ..... 669-6582 Roof Donaldson ..... 665-2800

JUDI EDWARDS ORL, CRS MARILYN KEAGY ORL, CRS BROKER-OWNER ..... 665-3687 BROKER-OWNER ..... 665-1449 Visit our new site at www.quentin-williams.com E-mail our office at qwr@quentin-williams.com

**50 Building Suppl.**

**White House Lumber** 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

**60 Household** /HOT TUB / SPA NEW in plastic, 6 person,w/lounger, 53 jets 7 HP,waterfall,blower, synthetic cabinet, Full Mfg. Warr. w/Free Starter Kit & Steps! Limited Supply \$4500 806-670-9337

NEW Mattress Sets No Flip Pillow top, 15 yr. Warr. In Plastic T-\$189 F-\$229 Q-\$289 K-\$369 White Supplies Last Elite Furniture 806-677-0400

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

**MERRY** Christmas from The Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. 665-2767

**69a Garage Sales** Come & Check Our Holiday Savings! YELLOW BARN Antiques & More 543 W. Brown Hwy. 60 Pampa Mon.-Sat. 10:30-5 Booth Space Avail.

**VERY** Nice, Reasonably Priced Clothes, Gifts, & Dolls. Come see our collection at Taylor's Boutique & Gifts, 212 E. Broadway, Fritch.

**DEBBIE'S** Used Furniture. We buy & sell. 903 S. Main, Borger, 273-2905, 886-0268 Mon.-Sat.

**80 Pets & Suppl.** JUST in time for Christmas! Free Corgi mix puppies. Call 806-848-2122 for more info.

**FREE** to good homes, adorable kittens. Call 669-1799.

**FREE** female Lab/Aussie mix, 4 mo. old. Will be large dog. Call 665-5254 or 664-4088.

**95 Furn. Apts.**

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of 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.

**96 Unfurn. Apts.** LARGE efficiency apt. Bills paid. 516 N. Frost. \$300 mo. 662-7557.

**98 Unfurn. Houses** PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

2 bdr., 2 ba., lrg. livrm. 1019 N. Wells, Pampa. \$550 mo., \$550 dep. Cakk 669-2952 aft. 5pm.

2 bd, 1 bath, 1 car garage, fenced. Deposit req., \$475 mo., 516 N. Nelson. 806-584-1266.

SINGLE white 2 bd trailer home to rent, \$250 mo, 3 bd home, 1 bath, c h/a, \$350 mo. Call 835-2860.

**99 Stor. Bldgs.** TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

**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.

FOR lease: warehouse, offices, and yard space. 669-5264.

**103 Homes For Sale** Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

**LAKEVIEW** Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. avail. Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

**POTTER TRUCKING, INC.** DUMAS, BORGER, PAMPA, TEXAS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Call 806-935-6385 for application

**Driver in Pampa area** EXCELLENT WAGES, RETIREMENT, PAID VACATION, HEALTH INSURANCE, DENTAL, VISION, DISABILITY, LIFE, PARTIAL INSURANCE PAID ON WIFE AND CHILDREN, DOT MEDICAL, UNIFORMS, HOME EVERY NIGHT

**YOU MUST HAVE** CDL WITH HAZ-MAT AND TANKER GOOD DRIVING AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT RECORD CLEAR DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECORD

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**YOU MUST HAVE** CDL WITH HAZ-MAT AND TANKER GOOD DRIVING AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT RECORD CLEAR DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECORD

**103 Homes For Sale**

5 bdr., 1 ba., c h/a. New tub, cabinet, dishw., disp. & carpet. All remodeled. Near Travis. 1124 Seneca. \$49,500 OWC. 662-7557.

**HOUSE** for Sale-Cheap-\$10,000 as is. Small 2 bedroom, Lamar School District. Call 669-6245 or 662-2462

**MOVE IN READY** 2112 Lynn. 1550 sq. ft. 3/1.75/2. new windows 04, new roof 05, ceramic tile in kitchen, laundry room, & baths. \$109,500 664-3105 or 664-3588, leave message.

**Owner Will Finance E/Z Terms** 1333 Garland 2 bedroom, 1 bath

1012 Duncan 2 bedroom, 1 bath

Call Joe 806-336-1740 or Milton 806-790-0827

**Century 21 PAMPA REALTY** 806-669-0007

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

**103 Homes For Sale**

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Yum!



COURTESY PHOTO  
Aliscion Dancer is thinking "yum" as she eyes her favorite Christmas cookie at CREATE-a-Beat's Christmas party refreshment table recently.

## Utility commission report says some power companies too big

DALLAS (AP) — A new report by the Public Utility Commission suggests that the state's effort to open the electricity market to competition isn't working because some power companies are too big.

The PUC released a report Thursday on the state of competition in the electricity market as the regulatory commission seeks to influence debate in the upcoming legislative session.

Texas electricity customers were first allowed to choose their providers five years ago. On Jan. 1, the market enters full deregulation.

The PUC report offered ideas for reducing the market share or the size of the state's largest power companies, such as Dallas-based TXU Corp.

"We see the opportunity to make the market a little more vigorous," said PUC Chairman Paul Hudson. "There are certain market participants that, by virtue of the way the market was set up, were in a structurally advantaged position."

The report recommends that consumers who haven't actively chosen an electricity plan should be encouraged to do so or randomly assigned to a provider. Only a third of Texas households in deregulated areas buy electricity from new competitors.

Hudson said forcing customers to switch would be "fairly draconian," but "there's a way to structure it that makes it less heavy-handed," such as urging customers to switch through repeated mailings.

The report also proposes that the Legislature force companies to separate their power line divisions from retail or wholesale operations.

For their part, power companies want the state to maintain its path to full deregulation.

"We remain confident that full deregulation come Jan. 1 will be good for consumers, as has been proven in other deregulated industries," TXU spokeswoman Lisa Singleton said.

Singleton criticized the idea of breaking apart TXU's business.

## Events calendar

- **CREATE-a-Beat!** of Pampa is offering a series of eight classes for hearing infants and their families. "Baby Sing & Sign" is divided into eight-week sessions. The enrollment fee is \$100. Sessions begin Jan. 10 (10 a.m.); Jan. 9 (6:30 p.m.); March 21 (10 a.m.); and March 20 (6:30 p.m.). To register or to find out more, call 665-7474 or e-mail cmoore@createabeat.org.

- **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa has scheduled several activities for the end of December and the beginning of January. The upcoming activities are as follows: 10-11 a.m. Storytime/2-4 p.m., board game day - Dec. 27; 10-11 a.m., Backpack Snacks/2-4 p.m., movie - Dec. 28; and 10-11 a.m. board game day/2-4 p.m. movie - Dec. 29 and Jan. 2. For more information, call 669-5780.

- **The Comprehensive Breast Center** of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Dec. 26 and Jan. 23, Shepard's Crook Nursing Center, 916 N. Crest, in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with indi-

vidual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

- **Back in Control** parent class will be offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 6 at 1500 S. Taylor in Amarillo. Registration will be at 8:45 a.m. The class will be conducted by Janice James, UCAP coordinator, and is being offered through Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation's STAR program. For more information, call (806) 359-2005.

- **CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the High Plains will hold an informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Brown Alliance for Children, 315 N. Ballard, in Pampa. CASA volunteers serve as special advocates in court cases involving neglected or abused children. The volunteers help ensure that such children find safe, permanent homes, assisting the courts and the often overburdened child welfare system so that no child falls through the cracks.

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