

**Tomorrow's Weather**

HIGH  
**50**

LOW  
**34**

See expanded weather on Page 2

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**SEE PAGE 7**



# THE PAMPA


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## Residential limb pickup to begin after first of year



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Tree limbs felled by last week's ice storm are piled at curbs in the 1200 block of Charles, above, and around the city, awaiting pickup by city workers. Pickup of limbs in residential areas is expected to begin after the first of the year, after city parks are cleared of limbs.

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

City crews are still removing downed tree limbs from city parks and have not yet begun pickup of limbs from residential areas, according to City Manager John Horst.

"It looks like it will be after the first of the year before we get started on curbside pickup," Horst said this morning.

An ice and snow storm that moved through the area early last week left a coating of ice on trees and other outdoor surfaces, resulting in a large number of tree limbs breaking off from the trunks. Some limbs fell on power lines and resulted in downed electrical cables and temporary loss of electricity to some areas. Other limbs fell on vehicles and structures, sometimes causing damage.

"We still have a lot of limbs to haul out of the parks," Horst said. The city parks will be cleared first due to issues of public safety, he said.

City officials decided after the ice storm to offer one-time, free curbside pickup of downed limbs from private property after city property is cleared. No street or area will be cleared of limbs more than once, and no limbs will be picked up if placed in alleys.

"If they drag them to the alley, we won't pick them up," Horst said. "If they take them to the curb, we don't know when we'll get to them, but we will pick them up."

City workers are not allowed to go on private property to pick up tree limbs, Horst said.

"Residents should put the limbs as near the curb as they can, and be patient," he said. "They can always take

See **LIMBS**, Page 3

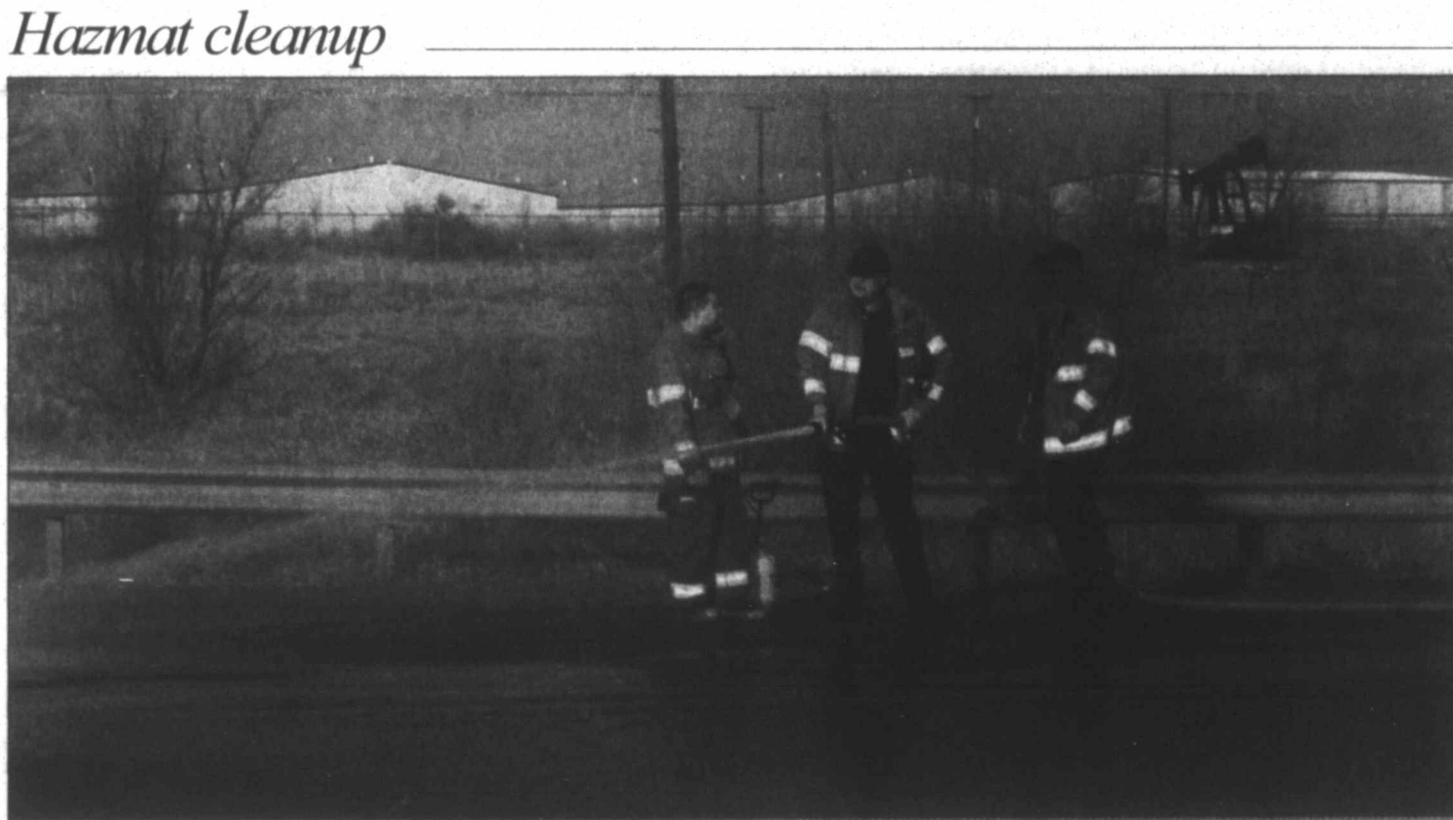
## DPS has quiet holiday for traffic so far

The Amarillo area Texas Department of Public Safety has had a relatively quiet holiday period so far.

"As of noon Sunday, area troopers have worked only a few vehicle crashes and only one of those involved injuries," Trooper Wayne Beigle of the Amarillo DPS office said.

Last year during the Christmas holiday period, DPS troopers statewide arrested 581 impaired drivers and issued 13, 951 speeding tickets and 2,886 tickets for seat belt violations.

Drivers should be aware that all available troopers will work this holiday season.



Pampa News photo by KERRI SMITH

Firefighters were called out this morning on a hazardous material spill at the corner of Price Road and Alcock, which turned out to be a diesel fuel spill. Cleaning up, from left, were firefighters Ricky Morehart, Capt. Tim Kirkwood and Rick Littlefield.

## Lakes McClellan, Marvin planning reports released

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

Public comments on management and long-range planning for Lakes McClellan and Marvin have been released by the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands.

The agency, which manages the lakes as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, held public meetings on both lakes' futures in September in Canadian and Pampa.

The September meetings included information on the initial phase of the planning process, called the Comprehensive Evaluation Report. This report, currently still in the draft stage, details the area's existing conditions and any need for change in management of resources

or land uses on the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle, and McClellan Creek National Grasslands.

Lake Marvin, outside Canadian, is part of the Black Kettle National Grasslands. McClellan Creek Recreation Area is the proposed new name for Lake McClellan, which is in McClellan Creek National Grasslands.

Public comments concerned specifically with Lake McClellan were to remove burned trees damaged or killed by spring wildfires, improve maintenance of the area to attract more visitors, and add a handicapped-accessible trail below the dam at the lake.

Public comments aimed at Lake Marvin included improving signs,

implementing a drawing system for the right to hunt on the Black Kettle lands, using a partnership agreement with Hemphill County to manage the lake, addressing the problems with illegal removal of red shale from Black Kettle grasslands and enforcing district policy prohibiting this activity, and not excluding prescribed burns from a shinnery Research Natural Area on Black Kettle lands, preferably a section in size. "Shinnery" refers to a type of oak that grows shin-high from the Edwards Plateau through the Texas Panhandle to western Oklahoma.

Other September meetings were held in Cheyenne, Okla., Dalhart, Boise City, Okla., Clayton, N.M., and Roy, N.M., concerning Kiowa

National Grasslands and Rita Blanca National Grasslands.

Public comments released by the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands office in Albuquerque, N.M., which were gathered at the public meetings and which were not specific to any particular location included prohibiting the shooting of firearms in campgrounds, requiring grazing permit holders to live in-state, providing an opportunity for bison to roam on the plains grasslands, continuing to allow hunting, considering whether oil and gas wells conflict with scenery and wildlife habitat, addressing the potential for future wind energy development, and emphasizing

See **LAKES**, Page 3

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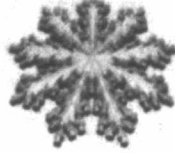
For Ticket Information Call The White Deer Land Museum At 669-8041

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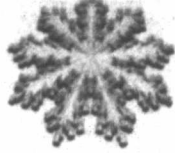
Thursday Friday Satday



Cloudy



Cloudy



Cloudy

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of rain.  
 Thursday Night: A chance of rain, mixing with snow after 4 a.m.  
 Friday: Rain and snow likely.  
 Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow.  
 Saturday: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before 9 a.m.  
 Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. Wind chill values between 8 and 16.

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Store owners find lost luggage

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities were trying Tuesday to figure out how dozens of pieces of luggage belonging to air travelers ended up in a trash bin behind a Houston pet store. FBI special agent Rolando Munoz said 68 pieces of luggage from various international flights were discovered. He said the luggage was turned over to Continental Airlines to sort out. Sgt. Dana Wolfe, a spokeswoman for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, which first responded to the luggage report, said the bags belonged to travelers at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. She said tags on the bags showed some of the travelers were going to or from London and Dubai. The Houston Police Department is handling the case, Munoz and Wolfe said. Mary Clark, a spokeswoman for Continental, said she didn't know if the contents of the bags were stolen.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anterbury Grain of White Deer:		XCEL	23.22	+0.12
Wheat	4.55	Anadarko	43.05	+0.35
Milo	6.32	XOM	76.07	+0.02
Corn	7.29	Nat'l Oilwell	61.62	+0.05
Soybeans	5.53	Limited	28.87	-0.13
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		Williams	26.34	+0.06
OXY	48.73	MCD	44.05	+0.24
BP PLC ADR	67.13	Atmos	32.25	+0.23
Cabot Corp	43.44	Pioneer Nat	39.64	-0.07
Celanese	25.09	JCP	77.41	-0.33
Cabot Oil Gas	60.97	COP	71.59	-0.10
Coca Cola	48.70	SLB	62.78	+0.47
VLO	51.69	Tenneco	25.12	+0.22
HAL	31.10	CVX	73.42	+0.33
TRI	42.13	Wal-Mart	45.91	-0.20
KML	105.76	ORKE	43.72	+0.32
		NS Grp	NA	NA
		New York Gold	626.90	
		Silver	12.73	
		West Texas Crude	62.10	

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

HAYNES, Chubby Dale — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Chubby Dale Haynes, 74

Chubby Dale Haynes, 74, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 25, 2006, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006, at Carmichael-Whately Chapel with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Full Gospel Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mr. Haynes was born August 31, 1932, in Mobeetie. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1950. He married Elnora Black on Jan. 26, 1956, in Pampa. He worked for Cabot

Corporation as a warehouse supervisor, retiring in 1987 after 32 years of service. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the VFW, Pampa Senior Citizens Center, Tri-State Senior Golf Association, West Texas and New Mexico Senior Golf Association, and the Pampa Country Club. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed horse racing, work-



Haynes

ing in his yard, and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Survivors include his wife, Elnora Haynes, of the home; one daughter, Teresa Bruce and husband Wayne of Pampa; one son, Curtis Haynes of Lubbock; two sisters, Wauline Reynolds and Glorice Jones, both of Pampa; one brother, Walden Haynes of Pampa; three grandchildren, Tammy May and husband Byron of

Pampa, Wade Bruce and wife Season of Houston, and Chrissy Haynes of Amarillo; and three great-grandchildren, Taylor May, Westin Bruce and Garret Haynes. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister Glenna Matheu; and one great-grandchild. MEMORIALS: Briarwood Full Gospel Church Building Fund, 1800 W. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whately.com](http://www.carmichael-whately.com).

Shirley F. Hoskins, 62

Shirley F. Hoskins, 62, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 26, 2006, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. Hoskins was born March 12, 1944, in Canadian. She married Donald W. Hoskins on Oct. 10, 1988, in Borger. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1990. She worked for Alsup's as

a store manager for four years. She was in charge of advertising while serving on the Board of Directors of Act I. She was an LVN for 33 years, working for Pampa Regional Medical Center and Dr. Laxman Bhatia. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother. Survivors include her husband, Donald W. Hoskins, of the home; one daughter,

Renee Seger of Gatesville; two sons, Ronnie Jones, of the home, and Richard Jones of Pampa; her mother, Clara Jones of Pampa; five granddaughters, Carissa Seger, Jennifer Jones, Ashley Jones, Jo Lynn Jones and Brooklyn Jones, all of Pampa; and two grandsons, Cameron Seger of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Seger Andrew Jones of

Pampa. She was preceded in death by a son, Randall Jay Seger in 1992; and a grandson, Randall Robert Alexander Jones in 2006. MEMORIALS: American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, TX 79065. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whately.com](http://www.carmichael-whately.com).

Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26 Patricia Dawn Jones, 20, of Pampa was arrested on two counts of forgery.

Wednesday, Dec. 27 Donn Michael Lambert, 23, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Warren for assault causing bodily injury-family violence.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26 11:22 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2200 block of North Hobart on an odor investigation. 12:29 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded

to the 2200 block of North Hobart on a smoke scare.

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Saturday, Dec. 23 Fifteen traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1000 block of North Wells.

Vehicle accidents were reported on two occasions in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1200 block of East Foster, on two occasions from an unreported location, and the 1100 block of Duncan.

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

Suspicious person calls were received from the 2200 block of North Hobart and the 100 block of North

Cuyler.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 800 block of Duncan.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1800 block of North Sumner.

A welfare check was made in the 1800 block of North Sumner.

Civil matters were reported in the 1100 block of South Faulkner and the 600 block of Lowry.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported at the intersection of Faulkner and Oklahoma streets and the 500 block of West Brown.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of East 14th, the 2500 block of Dogwood, the 700 block of North Christy, the 2400 block of Alcock, and the 600 block of Deane Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of West Cook, the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the 2100 block of North Faulkner, where four windows valued at \$250 were shot out with a BB gun.

Possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and possession of less than two ounces of marijuana were reported in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive. One burglar alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of East Brown and at Wal-Mart, 2801 Charles. Assorted items with a total value of \$107.73 were taken.

A gas drive-off was reported at Murphy USA, 201 W. 28th. Fuel valued at \$27.07 was taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 700 block of South Cuyler. The ignition and steering column of a vehicle were broken, and coins were taken from

the vehicle. Total estimated cost of damage and loss is \$1,520.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Six traffic stops were made.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive.

A hit and run accident was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1000 block of Twiford, the 300 block of North Somerville, the 1400 block of Charles, and the intersection of Buckler and Somerville streets.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 12000 block of East Frederic.

A civil matter was reported in the 600 block of Lowry.

A missing person was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells and at One Medical Plaza.

A kidnapping was reported in the 100 block of West 30th. The call was deemed to be unfounded.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 300 block of North Warren and the 500 block of Short.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 2200 block of North Nelson and the 200 block of North Naida, where an arrest was made involving three warrants.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of Deane Drive, the 600 block of North Somerville, the 400 block of North Nelson, and the 700 block of North Christy, where an arrest was made involving three warrants.

Criminal mischief was

See RECORD, Page 3

CITY BRIEFS

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## Ohio top court reprimands governor

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The state Supreme Court today publicly reprimanded Ohio Gov. Bob Taft for his ethics violations in office, a black mark that will stay on his permanent record as an attorney. Taft, a Republican and great-grandson of President William Howard Taft, pleaded no contest in 2005 to failing to report golf outings and other gifts and was fined \$4,000. He could not seek re-election because of term limits and leaves office in less than two

weeks. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel, an arm of the state Supreme Court, said in April that Taft violated Ohio's code of professional conduct for lawyers, and Taft later signed an agreement admitting the violation. The justices agreed by a vote of 6-0 Wednesday with a recommendation from the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline to issue the public reprimand.

## Record

Continued from Page 2

reported in the 600 block of East Foster. A vehicle's floorboards were filled with water and the seats and dashboard were soaked with water.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of Williston. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

Domestic assault causing bodily injury to a family member and interference with an emergency telephone call were reported in the 1200 block of East Francis.

Assault was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

One burglar alarm was reported.

One open door was checked.

Burglary was reported in the 1300 block of East Francis, where water valued at \$50 was taken.

Monday, Dec. 25

No traffic stops were made.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 400 block of Rider, the 2200 block of North Hobart, and on two occasions from an unreported location.

Lost property was reported in the 2200 block of Williston. The incident involves a checkbook and driver's license.

Lost property was reported in the 2200 block of Evergreen. A backpack, bag, I-Pod, clothing, wallet, driver's license and cell phone charger were lost. Estimated value of loss is \$445.

A civil matter was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 400 block of Oklahoma.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the intersection of Beech and Linda streets.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1600 block of Christine.

Harassment was reported in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Assault by threat was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance and assault were reported in the 300 block of North Wells. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

Domestic assault and interference with an emergency telephone call were reported in the 1600 block of Christine. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of North Nelson.

One burglar alarm was reported.

One open door was checked.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Twelve traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 900 block

of Varon Drive, the 1000 block of Sirroco, and the intersection of Browning and Starkweather streets.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Lefors and Browning streets.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1200 block of North Wells, the 400 block of Pitts, and on five occasions from an unreported location.

Agency assistance was rendered at One Medical Plaza.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion, resulting in at least one arrest.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 100 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the intersection of Browning and Wynne streets.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 700 block of East Murphy.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart and the 500 block of North Warren, where no injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

One burglar alarm was reported.

One open door was checked.

Fraud was reported in the police department lobby.

Burglary was reported in the 900 block of South Finley. Three knives, 24 compact discs, a bottle of cologne, a necklace, and a ring were taken, for an estimated total loss of \$850.

## Limbs

Continued from Page 1

them to the landfill themselves at no charge."

Announcements will be made a week ahead of time before each area of the city will be cleared of curbside limbs, Horst said.

## Lakes

Continued from Page 1

treatment and control of invasive plants.

An updated draft of the Comprehensive Evaluation Report for the four grasslands will be posted on Cibola's Web site by Jan. 15, according to the agency's newsletter. Paper or compact disc copies of the report will be sent upon request.

Cibola expects to hold additional public meetings in communities in the grasslands during the spring or summer of 2007. The purpose of the meetings will be to talk with interested parties about preliminary draft desired conditions, strategic objectives, and guidelines for the revised plan.

"We are trying to finalize the Comprehensive Evaluation Report, which sets the stage for what we want to do under the need for change of our current management," said Don Jorgensen, natural resource planner specialist at Cibola's Albuquerque office.

The final plan for the future management and operation of the grasslands is slated to be in place by the beginning of 2008, he said.

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## COP CORNER

'Tis the season to be jolly. The holidays are just around the corner and alcohol use seems to increase during these times. There are company parties and family gatherings in which alcohol is the primary refreshment.

Unfortunately, we also see an increase in DWIs and other alcohol violations. It doesn't take as much alcohol as you would think to reach a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent.

The average blood alco-

hol level for those arrested for DWI in Texas is .16 percent, twice the legal limit. You need to remember that a DWI can cost you lots of money, your driver's license, freedom, your livelihood, your marriage, a loss of respect, your reputation, and worse yet — somebody's life. You've seen the signs along the highways: "DWI, You Can't Afford It." You really can't afford it!

Don't let a DWI spoil your holidays.



Courtney

## Pet of the Week

We Have Several Animals Waiting For Adoption

**BASSET HOUND**  
Adult Female

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Black And White Adult Female

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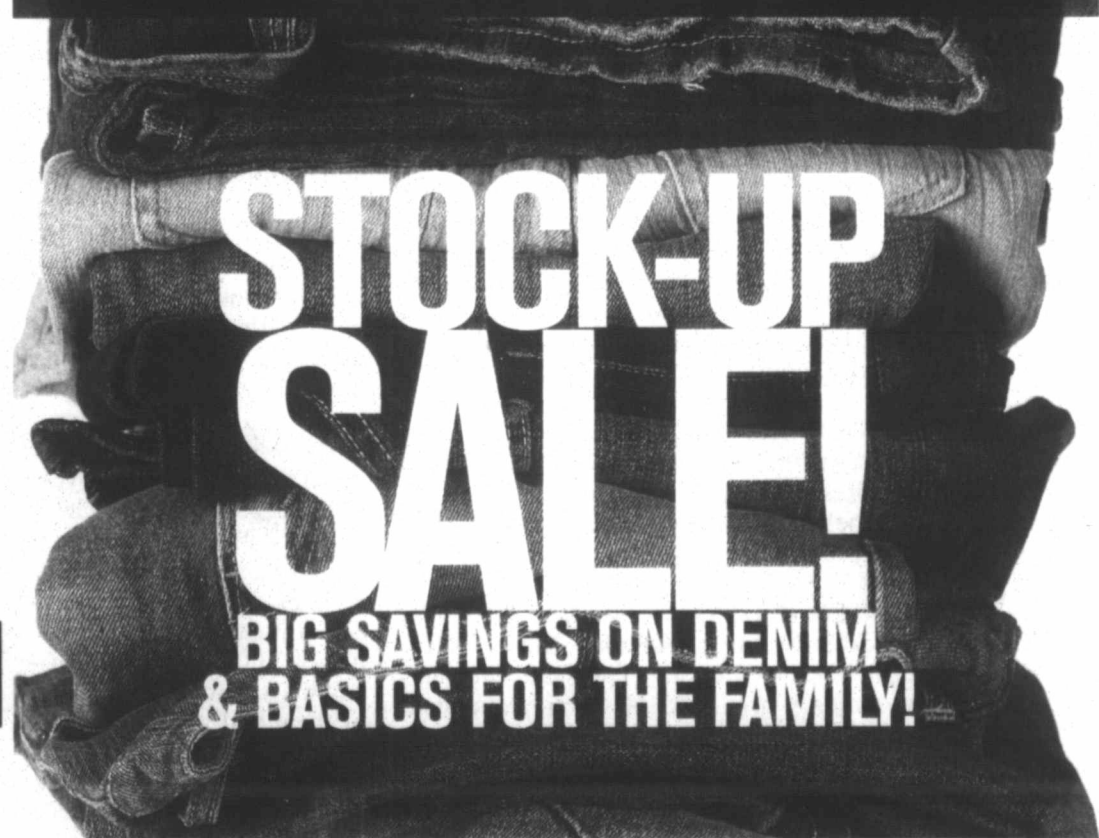
For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

HOURS Monday - Saturday 9 am - 6 pm

Office Open To The Public Monday - Sunday 5 pm - 6 pm

LOST YOUR PET? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

## BEALLS



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# Viewpoints

## Dems' 2008 race is Hillary's to lose ...

The battle for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination will come down to two candidates: Hillary vs. the Un-Hillary. Sen. Clinton is so polarizing and a female candidacy is so novel, that the race for the nomination must revolve around her. Who will the Un-Hillary be? The early front-runner is Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. As a new African-American

face, he has the same sort of first-of-a-kind credentials as Hillary and boasts genuine outsider status as well. But Obama is very, very inexperienced. He was elected to Illinois' state Senate in a one-party district, then won the Democratic U.S. Senate primary because his wealthy, spend-it-all opponent was caught in a messy divorce scandal just as his candidacy was peaking.

He won in the general election of '06 because Illinois is a blue state and the Republican who was to be his adversary dissolved in a marital scandal of his own, whereupon the talent-poor local GOP opted to import the absurdist

candidate Alan Keyes — making Obama's victory a foregone conclusion. In his book "The Audacity of Hope," he confesses that in his Senate campaign "no candidate ran a negative TV ad about me." That's as close as you get to

a political equivalent of virginité. Can Obama weather a presidential race? He better ramp up his learning curve if he is going to try. His book is filled with feature-story fluff about his background, eloquent philosophizing on the state of our nation and its history, and freshly scrubbed naïveté about the political process. But it lacks any substantive ideas, policy innova-

tions or even any insightful analysis of public issues. Unless he can step beyond such Oprah-level content, the national press corps will have him for breakfast. The bottom line? He could grow into the role of a national candidate, but don't count on it happening this year. —Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

**Dick Morris**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2006. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the almost five-year-long journey helped to form the basis of his theories on natural selection and evolution.)

On this date:

In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France. In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

*'Why must all the churches be closed at night? How often has the wanderer groaned in front of those closed doors?'*

— Paul Claudel  
French author  
(1868-1955)

In 1906, American composer, musician, actor and wit Oscar Levant was born in Pittsburgh.

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

In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act granting sovereignty to Indonesia after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

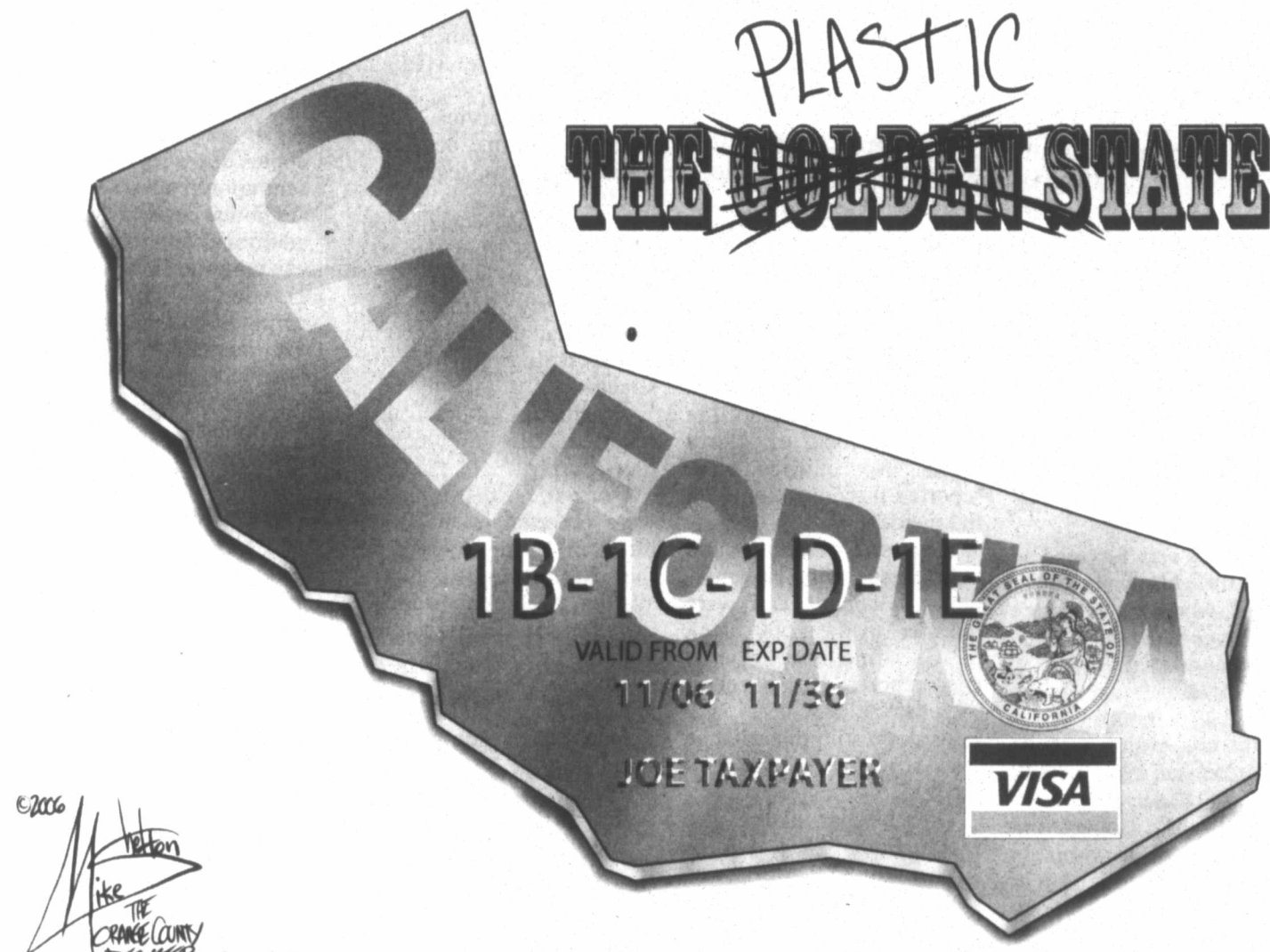
In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; a total of 20 people were killed, including five of the attackers, who were slain by police and security personnel.

Ten years ago: In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, about 60,000 opposition supporters defied riot police and rallied in celebration of an international report backing their triumph over Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in recent local elections.

Five years ago: U.S. officials announced that Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners would be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. President Bush extended permanent normal trade status to China. India and Pakistan engaged in diplomatic tit-for-tat, ordering half of each other's embassy staffs sent home and banning overflights by each other's national airlines.

One year ago: Grass fires burned in drought-stricken Texas and Oklahoma (over three days, nearly 200 homes were lost and the fires blamed for at least four deaths). Indonesia's Aceh rebels formally abolished their 30-year armed struggle for independence under a peace deal born out of the 2004 tsunami.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, is 82. Rockabilly musician Scotty Moore is 75. Western swing musician John Hughey (The Time Jumpers) is 73. Actor John Amos is 67. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 63. Singer Tracy Nelson is 62.



## Late Chilean dictator was a tough old bird

The radical left is a hysterical, hypocritical and unforgiving bunch of wretches. They're going crazy because Augusto Pinochet, a former Chilean dictator, outran his pursuers and hobbled through the Pearly Gates before they could hang or shoot him.

Personally, I've never believed the Chilean Army would allow Pinochet to be executed. If they would have, they are men with no honor.

His worst enemies put the death toll during his 17-year reign at about 3,000. That's less than the number of people killed in one year in this country by ordinary thugs and fruitcakes. Even assuming all 3,000 were innocent — and it's a dead certainty most of them had it coming — his was one of the mildest dictatorships in the 20th century. Most of the deaths probably occurred in 1973, when the army overthrew the government of Salvador Allende, a radical leftist.

It should also be noted

that Pinochet restored the Chilean economy to prosperity, oversaw the writing and adoption of a new, democratic constitution and voluntarily surrendered power to the civilians in a democratic process. That was in 1990, so if the Chilean left has dithered around for almost 17 years without bringing him to justice, they have only themselves to blame for that.

After all, Pinochet wasn't a suicide. The tough old bird hung in there through heart attacks and strokes until the last minute.

Now, let's see how Pinochet compares with Fidel Castro: More blood, more deaths, more suppression, and he isn't ever going to voluntarily loosen his grip on power until the death angels drag him away.

How about Pol Pot? He murdered some 2.5 million

people, including women and children. His men liked to bury people up to their necks and refer to the rotting heads as "American dandruff." I never recall hearing the radical left scream about him.

How about Mao Tse-tung? The death toll he's credited with ranges around 60 million to 70 million, and of course he never surrendered

power or did much for the Chinese economy.

Then there's old Uncle Joe Stalin, the hero of so many American leftists in the 1930s and 1940s. His murder toll is somewhere between 40 million and 50 million, and he never voluntarily surrendered power either.

So what's with all this screaming and vitriol that pasty little American leftists are spraying all over a man who, as far as America is

concerned, was never anything but a staunch ally? Part of it is the usual cowardice — dead men can't get you — but I think part of it is the fact that Pinochet, a rough old soldier, demonstrated that he knew more about economics than all these tenured Marxists in American universities.

What they can't forgive is that he was successful — he rescued the country from leftist chaos, restored the economy, got the people to pass a new constitution, and then voluntarily surrendered power when the people chose a new president. And he did all that without a bloodbath, as so many heroes of the left have caused even while they failed.

Gen. Pinochet was a well-educated man who continued his education as he rose through the ranks. After surrendering power in 1990, he concentrated on improving the training, equipment and

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 17  
Houston Chronicle on Texas emissions:

With Houston unlikely to meet federal ozone standards by 2010, Texas should follow the lead of 11 other states in adopting stiffer limits on pollutants created by automobiles. State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, has introduced a bill to do just that. To be considered in the coming session, the bill has the endorsement of the mayors of Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth.

Ellis argues that the stricter standards will eliminate the ongoing emissions of tens of thousands of tons of

pollutants linked to asthma, heart problems and cancer. "This legislation will require automakers to sell us the same clean cars and light trucks required in 11 other states," Ellis said. "It will reduce pollution and save us all money at the pump."

Because California's regulations were grandfathered under the federal Clean Air Act, which prohibits other states from writing their own rules, it has been copied by 10 other states. The federal government has not challenged the validity of the copycat laws. However, the California law is under legal challenge by the automotive industry after the state expanded its restrictions to include carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases linked to global warming. Texas emits more car-

bon dioxide than any other state in the union.

Opponents of the stiffer standards in the auto industry claim the proposed requirements would increase the cost of a new vehicle up to \$3,000. Ellis says the initial cost is far less, on the order of \$300, and requirements for greater fuel efficiency would mean savings at the pump for new car owners. The legislation, dubbed the Low-Emission Vehicle Act, would only apply to 2009 and later model vehicles.

The bill would especially benefit Houston, which "needs aggressive action to reduce ozone and the air toxics we have identified as the highest public health risks," Houston Mayor

See CHRONICLE, Page 5

*Santa and his helpers*



COURTESY PHOTO

Shepherds Helping Hand partnered with Santa this Christmas season to visit children in area schools and day care centers as a fund-raiser for the organization. "The fund-raiser was such a success that we are planning to do it again next year," said Pam Dalton, board member with Shepherds Helping Hand. Pictured with Santa are LaGayla Wheat and Mary Waldrop.

*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@create-a-beat.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., Backpack Snacks/2-4 p.m., movie - Thursday; and 10-11 a.m. board game day/2-4 p.m. movie - Friday and Jan. 2. For more information, call 669-5780.

• **Pampa Lions Club** is accepting used eyeglasses, any prescription or size, through Sunday at Pampa Post Office where several drop boxes are located. The glasses will be refurbished and sent overseas.

**MESSY BUSINESS**

**Pipeline rupture causes offshore spill**

HOUSTON (AP) — A 42,000-gallon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was expected to cause minimal harm to the environment and coastline, officials said, as dive crews prepared to try to plug a ruptured pipeline.

Divers will inspect the medium crude oil pipeline today to survey the damage and begin repairs. The spill occurred about 30 miles southeast of Galveston, U.S. Coast Guard officials said.

Andy Tirpak, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the environmental damage of the spill would be minimized because the population of juvenile fish is low at this time of year. Also, the oil is light enough to evaporate and disperse quickly.

Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline, which operates the pipeline, is bringing in a dive ship, the American Victory, on Wednesday morning to begin repairs, Coast Guard Petty Officer Mario Romero said.

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Adam Wine said the spill was unlikely to affect Texas beaches. He said winds

and currents were carrying the sheen away from the coast, although conditions could change.

"It's not a very large spill and the impact will be very small for people on shore — tar balls, if that," Wine said.

Romero said the pipeline was leaking from the platform side of the rupture at approximately 500 gallons a day. On Tuesday afternoon, the spill was visible as a light sheen about two miles long and 100 yards wide.

Scott Fitzgerald, Plains construction supervisor, said the pipeline comes ashore on Galveston Island and ends in Texas City at refineries run by Marathon and BP.

The company detected a pressure loss in the High Island Pipeline System and shut the line down early Sunday, said Romero. The company was trying to contain the spill Tuesday by sucking the oil out of the line.

The spill, located near an anchorage, was easy to spot and not disrupting ship traffic, Romero said. The tide was pushing the spill away from the shoreline, he said.

**Reese**

Continued from Page 4

benefits of the Chilean Army. He has also published a number of books.

Most important for Americans to remember is that he was a Chilean, and he did what he did in Chile. It is, after all, none of our business. If the American left wants something to do, then, rather than crow over the death of a foreign leader, they should ask themselves why they are so all-fired ineffective at everything they do except talk. The war in Iraq, which we started, has caused the deaths of 650,000 people, if you want to believe the high estimate, which is considerably more than the number attributed to Pinochet's rule.

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

**Chronicle**

Continued from Page 4

Bill White said. "Adopting tighter auto emissions and fuel economy standards will help us do that and meet federal clean air requirements."

Since only new cars would be covered, the environmental improvements as well as the economic impact of the law would be gradual. It's a largely painless way to put Texas on track toward cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles and healthier air. The Chronicle urges Texas lawmakers to give Senate Bill 124 and its House counterpart the serious consideration they deserve.


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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I read the letter on Nov. 22 from the mother who was concerned about how her stepdaughter is going to spell her daughter's name, which will be Jasiela (pronounced Gisella). And you, of all people, agreed that she should speak with the mother about spelling? Abby, that is the joy in naming your child! You get to choose the name and how to spell it. The unusual spelling of a child's name is what makes the child unique. For that mother to take that away from the mother-to-be, well, it's none of her business! The child will learn to spell her name, as she will other difficult words in life. I feel the mother is entitled to name her child whatever she'd like, as long as the husband agrees. — **SHAWN IN WEST VIRGINIA**

**DEAR SHAWN:** One of the most interesting things about writing my column is not knowing how the public will react. When I answered that letter, I had no idea that some readers would react like angry hornets. I was trying to be logical, but there are strong feelings on both sides of the subject. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** As a soon-to-be new mom, I take exception to the arrogance people show regarding naming children. Because it is not a name that everyone is familiar with does not mean that it's not a good one. And spelling is in the eye of the beholder! I am appalled that people would couch their displeasure for a name under the guise of "for the sake of the child." I would encourage that writer to MYOB. I know if I were the stepdaughter and she said something to me, I would not be happy about it at all. — **FUTURE MOTHER TO IAN OR MIKAYLA IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**DEAR ABBY:** I was given an unusual name. I have had to instruct everyone from teachers, students and co-workers as to how it is pronounced and the correct spelling. Does this mean my parents didn't

know the "correct" spelling of my name? I wholeheartedly say NO! I have also chosen to give my children unusually spelled names, names that were chosen with careful thought and consideration as to spelling and pronunciation. A name is something to cherish and live up to. My children have been and will continue to be taught this throughout their lives. If the grandmother-to-be is concerned about the name, she should start thinking of a good nickname to give the child. — **KLISTA IN IDAHO**

**DEAR ABBY:** I did a Google search on the baby name databases. One of the better ones I queried was Parenthood.com. It shows the male name "Jasiel" and identifies it as a biblical name meaning "the strength of God." Obviously, then, "Jasiela" is the feminine form of the name. Your advice seemed off-putting. "Hesitant" is well-meaning, but she should mind her own business. And for you to assume that Mum didn't know the correct spelling — well! That was a presumptuous remark and certainly not in your normally empathetic style. I think this is one of the rare times that you blew it, Abby! — **LEANNE R. IN CANADA**

**DEAR ABBY:** My siblings and I grew up with unusual names for the United States — Deirdre (dear-dra), Aisling (ash-ling), St. John (sin-gin) and, easiest of all, Becket, pronounced as spelled. True, it wasn't always easy, but our teachers learned something new, and today, as adults, we love our names and are happy our parents ignored convention. — **DEIRDRE IN EKER, SWEDEN**

**DEAR READERS:** Tomorrow, I'll share some of the letters from folks who agreed with my answer. Stay tuned ...

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Aspiration
- 2 Cincinnati's river
- 3 Preparation for some
- 4 Storm center
- 5 Solemn
- 6 Vitamin C source
- 7 They may be liberal
- 8 Cheer
- 9 Nabokov book
- 10 Risk
- 11 Baby dog
- 12 Jest
- 13 Sculpting medium
- 14 Island dance
- 15 Composer Satie
- 16 Neighbor of Turkey
- 17 Improve, in a way
- 18 Coffee-bar order
- 19 Empty talk
- 20 "That would be great!"
- 21 Folk-singing great
- 22 Keats poem
- 23 Sweet-talk
- 24 Talk drunkenly
- 25 Put on a pedestal
- 26 Coin (Sp.)
- 27 Astaire's dance partner
- 28 Invites
- 29 Strummed instrument

POND	SADAT
AROAD	OSAGE
PANDORA	ASBOX
ETA	AOK
BRA	REMEDY
CLAN	SEPTA
HESS	CELLO
ASTO	BAILS
LEST	LYRICS
ICE	SUE
ARE	CATCHERS
BOX	ENSUE
SALLE	STEED
GELLS	

#### Yesterday's answer

- 1 Small dog
- 2 Tedious
- 3 Jam ingredient
- 4 Commotion
- 5 Use the track
- 6 Relaxing site
- 7 Carpet
- 8 Twilight
- 9 Choice
- 10 Time
- 11 God of love
- 12 Jam ingredient
- 13 Commotion
- 14 Use the track
- 15 Relaxing site

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## Marmaduke



"C'mon, you've got enough girlfriends."

## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"I'm glad books don't need batteries."

## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie



# Sports Day

## Dateline NBC football special to air Friday

By **JORDAN REAGAN**  
Sports Editor

When the 2006-2007 school year began in August, Dateline NBC began a search as they tried to find a model West Texas high school football team for a primetime special to air late in the year.

After weeks of traveling around the state, NBC had narrowed its search down to five high schools, Pampa being one of them.

In the end, Pampa's relentless school spirit and constant outpouring of community support won producers over, and before anyone knew it, network camera crews could be found on the sidelines quite regularly.

As the reporter for the prime time special, NBC's Stone Phillips also became a familiar face in the community. It wasn't unusual to see Phillips playing catch with some of the players during practice or cheering the team on

from the sidelines during the games.

Adapting well to the small, unusually close-knit community of Pampa, Texas, the NBC crew captured some great footage of the Harvesters, as well as the devotion of the football fans.

Following weeks since the football season has come to an end, fans and players alike can finally see the Pampa Harvesters on TV, along with the rest of the nation, on Dateline NBC at 8 p.m. Friday.

## Insufficient defense costs Spurs the game

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Mo Williams' Christmas workout paid off immediately for the Milwaukee Bucks. Michael Redd scored 36 points, Williams added 23 and the Bucks rallied from a 13-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 114-107 Tuesday night for their fifth straight victory.

"I came here yesterday and just worked on making layups, making layups, making layups, because those are big shots for me," Williams said.

Williams scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and Redd added eight. The Bucks shot 68 percent in the final period and outscored the Spurs 31-20.

The effectiveness that Williams and Redd showed in getting to the basket for layups contributed to Milwaukee having a 76-40 advantage in points in the paint.

The dominance came mostly out of the half-court offense because San Antonio had a 18-15 advantage in fast-break points.

Milwaukee also struggled from outside, going 1-of-11 from 3-point range.

"To score that many points in the paint against a team like San Antonio is remarkable," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said.

The Bucks (14-14) returned to .500 for the first time since they were 2-2 on Nov. 6. Redd was 14-of-22 from the floor and made all eight of his free throws as

Milwaukee won in San Antonio for the first time in five years.

Andrew Bogut scored 14 and reserve Ruben Patterson had 13 for the Bucks.

The Spurs (21-8) had won six of seven. But coach Gregg Popovich doesn't think the won-loss record has been built by defense — as it usually is in San Antonio.

Popovich said, "This is our worst defensive team in the last seven to eight years.

"Our players need to make up their minds ... that (defense) is what wins games for us, or if they want to make summer plans."

The Spurs were playing without Manu Ginobili and Brent Barry. Both stayed home because of a stomach flu.

"They obviously missed those guys," Redd said. "But they're capable of beating anybody regardless of who is playing. They almost won tonight."

It looked like Tony Parker would take up the slack. He scored 24 points, but only two in the second half.

Tim Duncan had 25 for San Antonio.

"Things that hurt us in the first half we were able to shore up in the second half — mainly Parker's penetration," Stotts said.

Trailing by 13 in the third quarter, the Bucks took the lead when Bogut rebounded a miss by Redd and made the basket with 5:32 left in the game.

## How to get tennis elbow in your living room

By **JORDAN REAGAN**  
Sports Editor

After being a Pampa resident for almost a month, I've come to realize that the community loves the holiday season almost as much as they do their sports.

This year, one of the hottest Christmas gifts on the market is changing the world of virtual sports.

Due to Christmas-like weather, most of Pampa's youth can be found indoors playing virtual sports on

their new Playstations or XBoxes, rather than tossing a ball around outside.

If ever there was a gaming console that brought virtual sports into America's living room, it is the Nintendo Wii, specifically the game that comes with the console, Wii Sports.

The new Wii, unlike its rivals, brings sports video games to a whole new level with its wireless remote controller.

The controller itself is

used in the most realistic fashion yet, whether you're swinging a baseball bat, boxing like a heavyweight champion, or driving a golf ball 300 yards.

If I'm not mistaken, I've become one of many across the nation that has developed a case of virtual tennis elbow this Christmas season while executing a mean forehand volley on Wii Tennis.

Sure, the Wii may be inadequate as far as training video gamers to be star

athletes in real life, but it sure helps the less athletic stand up in front of their television rather than sit on the couch.

High school sports will pick up next week when school begins, and the varsity basketball boys will be attending a tournament in Clovis, N.M. this weekend.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone, young and old to get off of your couch this holiday season and take a stand for Wii.

Photo by Jordan Reagan

**Pampa High School junior Jeremy Martinez gets up close and personal with the Nintendo Wii. Using both the remote controller and the attached "nun-chuck," Martinez uses both hands to compete in a virtual boxing match on the Wii Sports game. "This thing is really cool," said Martinez, "This game makes me feel like I am actually able to go out there and take up boxing. But I know better than that." Other games available on Wii Sports are Tennis, Golf, Baseball and Bowling.**



## McGrady returns to Houston lineup, gives up too many turnovers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers played their best defensive game of the season to spoil Tracy McGrady's return to the Houston lineup.

McGrady finished with 19 points but shot 7-for-22 from the field in the Pacers' 81-76 victory Tuesday night. He had seven turnovers, including two critical ones in the final two minutes while the Rockets were trying to come back.

McGrady had missed seven games with back spasms.

"It's pretty tough being out," McGrady said. "This league is too good to come back and think you're going to have an impact right away. I thought I did some things great out there, but for the most part, I was a little rusty, fatigued. Made a lot of fatigue mistakes and it's just going to take me a few games to get into game shape."

Indiana's Stephen Jackson, who guarded McGrady for most of the game, said it still was a tough matchup. McGrady averaged 19 points, six rebounds and six assists before sitting out.

"He's one of those guys that you've just got to make him work," Jackson said. "You've got to make him take tough shots. You've got to let him know you're there the whole game. He's not one of those guys you can flat out stop."

The Pacers allowed a season-low point total for the second straight game, and did it without their enforcer, Jermaine O'Neal. The 6-foot-11 center, who leads the league in blocked shots and tops the Pacers in scoring and rebounding, sat out with flu-like symptoms.

The Rockets were playing their first game since All-Star center Yao Ming was lost for at least six weeks with a fractured bone beneath his

right knee. Indiana forward Al Harrington took advantage with 23 points and 14 rebounds.

"We wanted to get the ball inside to Al and he delivered a lot tonight," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "We knew we needed Al to have a big game and get four or five guys in double figures."

Jamaal Tinsley scored 17 points, Jackson and Danny Granger added 13 points each and Jeff Foster had 16 rebounds for the Pacers.

Rafer Alston had 15 points and Shane Battier had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Houston.

Indiana pulled ahead 74-73 when Foster made the first of two free throws with 1:44 remaining. On the next possession, McGrady tried to drive but Tinsley stripped him, eventually leading to Harrington's bucket with 49 seconds left.

McGrady missed a jumper, then

turned the ball over again, leading to Granger's two free throws with 20 seconds left that increased Indiana's lead to 78-73.

Alston came back with a 3-pointer for Houston with 16 seconds left to cut Indiana's lead to 78-76.

Indiana's Darrell Armstrong made the second of two free throws with 16 seconds left to bump the lead to 79-76. Houston's Luther Head missed a wild 3-pointer as the clock wound down, and Armstrong rebounded and made two free throws to seal it.

The Rockets fell to 14-7 with McGrady in the lineup.

Houston had possession in the closing seconds of the first half with the teams tied at 39, but the Rockets turned it over and Jackson made two free throws with 0.8 seconds left in the half to take a 41-39 lead into the break. Indiana shot 29

percent from the field in the first half but had 12 offensive rebounds and forced 13 turnovers.

The Rockets opened the second half on a 13-4 run that included a 3-pointer and a 3-point play by Battier to take a 52-45 lead.

The Pacers stayed close with three baskets by Harrington, and a jumper by Jackson gave the Pacers a 60-58 lead with 2:58 left in the third quarter. Indiana held the Rockets scoreless for the last 4:14 of the period and led 62-58 after three.

The Pacers held Houston to 23 percent shooting in the fourth quarter.

"We didn't play well offensively," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "You can't turn the ball over like we did tonight and expect to win, especially on the road. We were discombobulated out there."

## Cotton Bowl tickets become a bargain

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Tickets for the Cotton Bowl are so cheap that a family of four could see the New Year's Day game between Nebraska and Auburn in Dallas for less than \$100.

The lowest price found Tuesday, on TicketLiquidator.com, was \$10 for a ticket with a face value of \$45. StubHub.com was selling a \$90 face-value ticket for just \$12.

"Ten dollars is as low as anyone would sell them for, so you could say the ticket has hit bottom with the Cotton Bowl," TicketLiquidator CEO Don Vaccaro said.

TicketLiquidator, of Vernon, Conn., and San Francisco-based StubHub are among the online marketplaces that bring together ticket buyers and sellers. StubHub spokesman Sean Pate said the so-called "secondary market" gives a true

indication of how hot — or cold — a ticket is.

Typically, fans go to the secondary market for hard-to-get tickets — and often pay significantly more than face value.

Buyers are getting the better end of the deal with the Cotton Bowl.

TicketsNow.com had \$15 tickets, and several other online brokers had plenty listed for \$20. Prime seats still go for several hundred dollars, but what surprises Pate is how little it costs for fans just to get into the stadium.

"Those tickets are dropping to unforeseen territory for a bowl game of that magnitude," Pate said.

Neither Nebraska nor Auburn had sold out its allotment of 12,500 tickets, all priced at \$90. All but about 3,500 of the 68,252 Cotton Bowl stadium seats have a face value of \$90.

Omaha-based Ticket Express is getting 10 calls from people trying to sell Cotton Bowl tickets for every one trying to buy, president Chad Carr said.

Carr, like others in the travel and ticket business, says fans aren't enamored with Dallas as a destination. Brokers say Nebraska fans are let down after the Huskers lost to Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game. Same goes for Auburn fans, who saw their Tigers' national championship hopes end with a November loss to Georgia.

The 10:38 a.m. kickoff time also is difficult to overcome, Carr said, as is the unpredictable January weather in Dallas.

At StubHub, the average price for a Cotton Bowl ticket is \$90, with \$406 the highest paid so far. Pate said he expects the average to fall as the game nears.

The average price is 19th among the 32 bowls and ranks behind games such as the Texas Bowl (\$100), Music City Bowl (\$116), Emerald Bowl (\$125) and Alamo Bowl (\$138).

The Bowl Championship Series title game, Pate said, is fetching an average of \$1,400.

Jason Randall, CEO of Austin-based Coast to Coast Tickets, said he's not caught off-guard by the low Cotton Bowl ticket prices because the stadium is large and the matchup pits teams from distant places.

"When there's not a championship on the line, it makes it a lot harder to justify the travel expense," Randall said. "If (the University of Texas) were playing in the Cotton Bowl against an interesting opponent, maybe that would shake things up. As it is, this game isn't that big a deal."

## Ochoa dominates world of women's sports

NEW YORK (AP) — Lorena Ochoa swept all the major honors on the LPGA Tour and picked up another award at the end of the season with a landslide victory as the AP Female Athlete of the Year.

She received 220 points in voting from sports editors around the country, double the point total of French tennis player Amelie Mauresmo, who captured Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

## U.S. Junior Hockey team defeated in Germany

LEKSAND, Sweden (AP) — The United States lost to Germany 2-1 at the World Junior Hockey Championship, beaten by Marcel Muller's goal 1:51 into overtime.

Maria Sharapova, who won the U.S. Open in tennis, and Lisa Leslie, who won her third MVP award in the WNBA, tied for third with 60 points. Rounding out the top five were French Open champion Justin Henin-Hardenne and Hannah Teter, a snowboarding gold medalist at the Turin Olympics.

It was the fourth straight year a golfer has won AP Female Athlete. Sorenstam won the award the previous three years.







# Egypt: Israeli soldier captured by terrorists still alive

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants last June is still alive, Egypt's foreign minister said Wednesday during a visit to Jerusalem.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Egypt

is mediating between Israel and Hamas to win the release of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was captured last June by militants linked to the ruling Hamas faction who tunneled into Israel and then fled back to Gaza. Shalit has not been seen or

heard from since then, though Israeli officials have said they believe he is alive.

"This is a very sensitive issue," Aboul Gheit told a news conference in Jerusalem. "I hope and believe that he will be released ...

but I emphasize that we are working hard for his release and we are sure that he is still alive."

However, he said he could not guarantee Shalit's release.

Aboul Gheit spoke in Arabic and his comments were translated into

Hebrew. The news conference was held after a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.

The militants holding Shalit have demanded a large-scale prisoner release by Israel.

## People in the news

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Adam Sandler, a New Hampshire native, helped brighten Christmas for a sister and brother who are struggling with cancer.

The 40-year-old actor, whose movie credits include "The Longest Yard," "50 First Dates" and "Mr. Deeds," sent a Sony Corp. PlayStation 3 loaded with games to 15-year-old Stephanie and 18-year-old Kevin Hudon of Manchester. Sandler also sent signed DVDs, jerseys and an autographed "Longest Yard" poster.

**Monahan said in a phone interview Tuesday, "I was completely sarcastic." But Burditt, 18, took her seriously.**

Stephanie has bone cancer that recently spread to her lungs. She is scheduled for surgery Jan. 8. Kevin was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in November and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Christine Monahan, a teacher at Manchester Memorial High School, said the package from Sandler arrived last week. Monahan has been helping raise money for the family.

Memorial High senior Nathan Burditt camped out 34 hours last month to buy a PlayStation 3 and then, on Monahan's suggestion, gave the video game console as a prize in a fund-raising raffle.

Monahan said in a phone interview Tuesday, "I was completely sarcastic." But Burditt, 18, took her seriously.

His explanation is simple. "I've had my tough times," he said Tuesday of medical problems that included frequent trips to a Boston hospital as a child and heart surgery last summer.

Burditt's donation of the \$600 video game console sent the fund-raising project to a new level. Monahan had hoped to raise \$500 to help the Hudon family pay some bills and buy Christmas gifts. Instead, the project raised \$21,000.

"Everybody out there, I just wanted to say 'thank you' and my family thanks you," Stephanie said.

Meanwhile, Burditt won his PlayStation 3 back — albeit reluctantly.

Monahan said that wasn't a big surprise since many people buying tickets wrote his name on them.

Burditt wanted to sell it and donate the money to the Hudons, but the family said no.

"They had said I've already done enough. I don't really see it the same way, but I'm not going to go against what they say," he said.

For now, Monahan is keeping the system boxed at her house until Burditt makes a decision.

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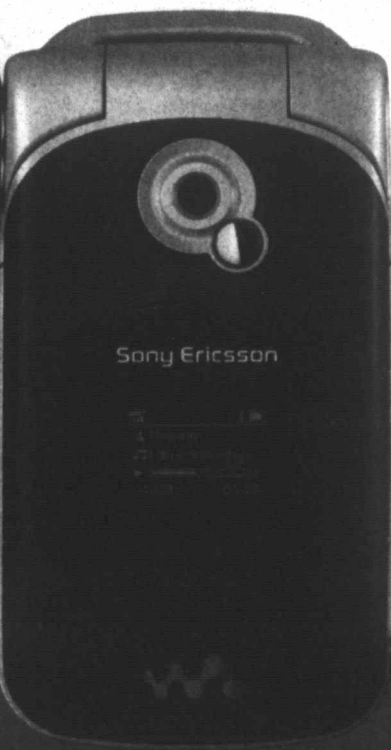
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