



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 60
LOW 35

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Volume 103 • No. 220

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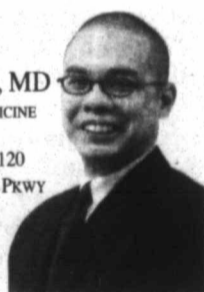
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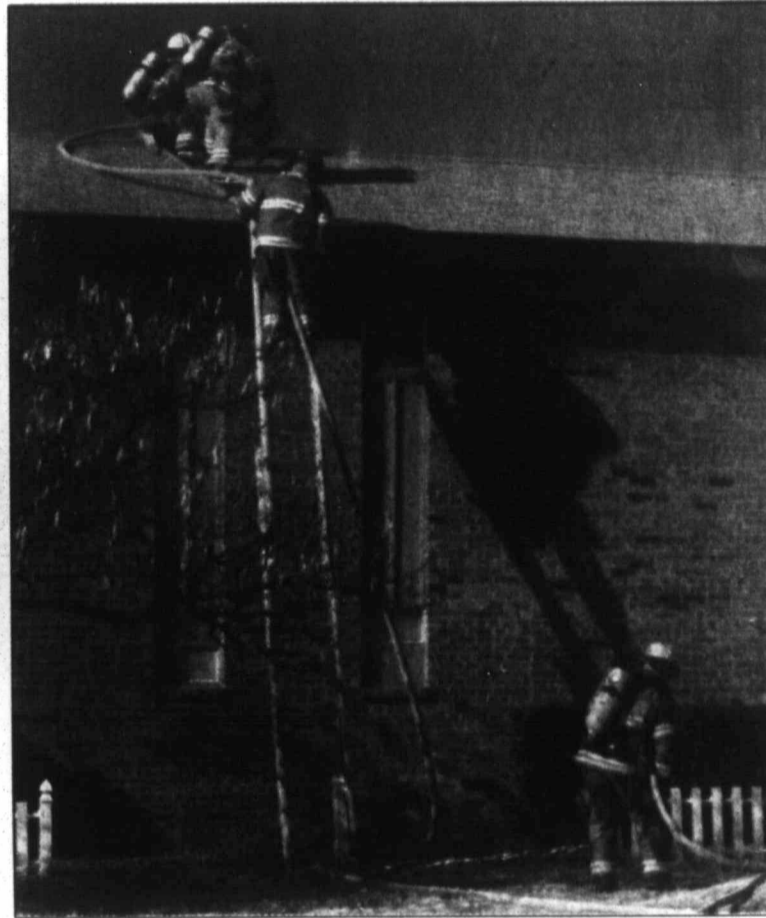
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Courtyard Apartment fire



Pampa News Photos by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa Fire Department was dispatched to the Courtyard Apartments, 1031 N. Sumner, shortly after 11 a.m. this morning on a structure fire. In right photo, firefighters prepare to cut a hole in the roof. Photo above, firefighters climb up the ladder truck to spray water on the flames coming from the roof. At press time, the cause of the fire was unknown, but it is believed that everyone got out of the building safely.



HOLIDAY GIVING

Lions Club to match donations

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Pampa Lions Club members would like to let Pampa residents know about two upcoming events this week. Local mail carriers will collect used eyeglasses on Wednesday and club members will ring the bell one last time for Salvation Army donations on Thursday evening and the Lions Club will match these donations.

The club has been collecting used eyeglasses the past few weeks to send overseas for people who need them but are unable to get them for a variety of reasons. Glasses can be any shape or style and if they are damaged it is OK also because the frames may still be used.

Mail carriers will pick up glasses from homes or mail boxes Wednesday. There will also be a donation box at the Pampa

post office until the end of December for anyone who would like to drop them off themselves.

Also, the Lions Club will be ringing the bell and collecting donations for Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign Thursday evening around 5:30 p.m. at Wal-Mart. The group will also be singing Christmas carols to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

The donations that are collected Thursday evening will be combined with donations that were collected a few weeks ago for the Salvation Army and Lions Club will match the donations dollar for dollar. The club members said this is a great time for people to make donations for the Salvation Army since they will be essentially doubling their money to help those in need.

PGWCD to hear year-end report

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER -- The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District board of trustees will hear the year-end report from the district's general manager and a 10-year water analysis study when they meet here Wednesday morning.

They will also consider Gray County Appraisal District director positions for next year and possible redrawing of the district's precinct boundaries.

The board will consider granting drilling permits for one-inch wells to Lewis and Liz Kemp in Bishop Hills northwest of Amarillo in Potter County; Maston Courtney near Bishop Hills in Potter County, and Dominion Homes, east of Amarillo in Potter County.

They will consider an eight-inch well permit for Lance Williams east of Panhandle in Carson County.

The board will meet at 9 a.m., Wednesday, at the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District offices, 201 W. Third Street, in White Deer.

HO-HO-HO



Children's shopping tour success in spite of weather

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Mother nature was unable to prevent the 45th annual Children's Shopping Tour from taking place Saturday in Pampa. Snow, ice and cold temperatures did not phase more than 350 volunteers who turned out to help 117 children buy Christmas gifts for their families.

According to treasurer John Warner, more than \$16,000 was spent at Pampa Wal-Mart in about two hours Saturday as the children and the volunteers made purchases. Including the gifts the volunteers bought for the children on the tour, 1,467 items were bought for 460 family members.

The call had gone out earlier last week that

the shopping tour was still in need of volunteers and Pampa residents really rallied for the cause. When all was said and done, there were actually more volunteers than there were children to shop for. Those extra volunteers who were not assigned a child went to Wal-Mart and stood by the entrance until they found someone in need of a little extra help. The extra hands also came in handy later on during the wrapping portion of the tour.

Altrusa Club members and co-chairs for the event, Kerrick Horton and Judy Warner, said the event was a huge success.

"The 458 family members served is the

See TOUR, Page 5

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

4 Santa, who is actually Lance DeFever, and his elf, better known as Brad Pingel, gave out candy to children participating in the Children's Shopping Tour Saturday. Santa listened to the wishes of the kids while the wrapping was finished and lunch was being prepared.

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday Sunny, Thursday Sunny, Friday Cloudy

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56.
Friday Night: A chance of snow or rain. Cloudy, with a low around 26.

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Services tomorrow

HOWELL, Sybil — 2 p.m., Forest Oaks Funeral Home, Jasper.
ANDERSON, Wayne — 2 p.m., First Christian Church, Pampa.

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Obituaries

Wayne Anderson, 75

Wayne Anderson, 75, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 16, 2007, at Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at the First Christian Church with the Rev. Barry A. Loving, pastor, and Scott Davey, brother-in-law, officiating.

Plumbing for over 40 years. He married Nita Davey in Clovis, New Mexico.



Anderson

work, carpentry and music. Wayne played drums and was the leader of a local 50's band, "Wayne Anderson and the Midnite Five."

Survivors include his wife, Nita Anderson, of the home; three daughters, Wayneta Britton, Karen McLain and Lisa Anderson, all of Pampa; one granddaughter, Brandie Troutner and husband Gary of Pampa; four grandsons, Davey

Anderson and Brad Britton and wife Sarah, all of Amarillo, Clay Britton and wife Galia of Nashville, Tenn., and Jessie McLain and wife Amanda of Victoria; and one great-grandson, Nathan McLain of Victoria.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Betty Rizzotto. MEMORIALS: First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065. Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Olene Brown, 90

McLEAN — Olene Brown, 90, died Monday,

Dec. 17, 2007. Services are pending with Bailey-Ware

Funeral Home in McLean.

Sybil Howell, 95

JASPER — Sybil Howell, 95, of Jasper, passed away Dec. 14, 2007, at Jasper Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A native of Crowder, Okla., she was a 50-year resident of Pampa, Texas, and had lived in Jasper for the past 20 years and was a

member of the Rayburn Baptist Church. Ms. Howell was an avid seamstress and had worked for many years doing alterations and sewing.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at 2 p.m. at Forest

Oaks Funeral Home in Jasper with burial to follow at West Oaks Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, from 12 noon until service time at Forest Oaks.

Survivors include her sons, C.L. Spotts of Sam

Rayburn, Texas, and John Spotts of New Caney, Texas; along with nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Condolences accepted at www.timeformemory.com/forestoaks.

Imrie Boyd Stephens, Sr., 86

Imrie Boyd Stephens, Sr., 86, of Placitas, N.M., died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007. Graveside services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa.

May 9, 1921, in Toler, Texas, to Imrie and Mildred Louise Stephens. He married Bettye J. Parsons on Nov. 27, 1974.

Mr. Stephens was a general contractor and had owned/operated Boyd Stephens Construction for 20 years. He was instrumental in the construction of Hobart Baptist Church in Pampa.

He was a veteran of the

U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II and was recalled to the military during the Korean Conflict. He enjoyed flying in the private sector and volunteered many hours to community charities and church functions.

Mr. Stephens was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Stephens.

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Bettye J. Stephens of Placitas; a

daughter, Mildred Terrell of Lubbock; a son, Imrie Boyd Stephens Jr. of Broken Arrow, Okla.; stepsons, Howard Parsons of Matthews, N.C., Edward Parsons of Cuba, N.M., and David Parsons of El Paso; many grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: (In lieu of flowers) Bernalillo United Methodist Church.

Emergency Services

Fire

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

Monday, Dec. 17 7:55 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Duncan on a lifting assist.

Sheriff

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

Monday, Dec. 17 Edward Lee Briley, Jr., 29, of Memphis, Texas, was arrested by GCSO for driving while license invalid, second or more offense. Zalen Michael Mahley, 19, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police

Department for evading arrest or detention. Christopher Lee Knowlton, 23, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of less than 2-ounces of marijuana.

Sarah Ann Harbour, 26, was arrested by GCSO for burglary of habitation.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 15 7 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to a private residence. 4:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block

of Miami and transported a patient to PRMC. 6:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

Sunday, Dec. 16 8:43 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 8300 block of Highway 60 and transported a patient to PRMC. 10:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

2:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Davis and transported a patient to PRMC. 5:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC. 8:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block

of Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC. 10:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Cuyler and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Oklahoma and transported a patient to PRMC.

Monday, Dec. 17 1:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and picked up two patients for transfer to an area healthcare facility. 9:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 1:41 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Terrace and transported a patient to PRMC.

U.S. Supreme Court asked to hear SC teen's case

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A group of Texas attorneys has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case of a South Carolina teen sentenced to 30 years in prison for killing his grandparents when he was 12 years old,

arguing that the sentence is cruel.

In the brief submitted to the court late Monday, attorneys from the University of Texas School of Law asked the high court to hear Christopher Pittman's case on the basis

that his 30-year sentence violates his Eighth Amendment protection from cruel and unusual punishment.

Such a lengthy sentence is "unconstitutionally disproportionate as applied to a 12-year-old child," according a

copy of the petition provided by Juvenile Justice Foundation. "Although the statutory schemes in many states appear to authorize the imposition of harsh sentences on such young children, and 12-year-olds commit many serious offenses, petitioner is the nation's only inmate serving such a harsh sentence for an offense committed at such a young age."

Pittman was 12 when he used a pump-action shotgun to shoot his grandparents Joe and Joy Pittman, and then set fire to their Chester County, S.C., home in 2001. During his trial four years later, Pittman's attorneys unsuccessfully argued the slayings were influenced by the anti-depressant Zoloft — a charge the company that makes the drug vigorously denied.

Zoloft is the most widely prescribed antidepressant in the United States, with 32.7 million prescriptions written in 2003.

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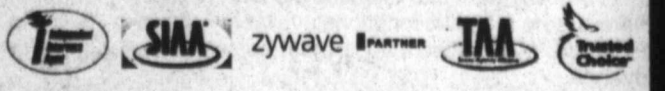
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Mission

The Mission of Tunguska Blast

To promote the power of the Tunguska Effect in the lives of people everywhere. This is our Mission. This is our Cause. To fulfill this mission, we commit to sharing the story and the benefits of Tunguska Blast. First with our family and friends. Then, with their help, to as many people as possible, as fast as we can. The message and benefits of the Tunguska Effect have waited nearly a century to be told, to be empowered. That is why we are committed to this Cause, this Mission. And because we are committed...the wait is over.

Tun • gu • ska - n. Russian

1. a valley bordered by three tributaries of the Yenisei River in Siberia; 2. identified by scientists as the location of a mysterious event in 1908; 3. subject of a prominent theory that a near impact of an asteroid caused a concussion blast in the atmosphere; 4. site of an event of such force that the landscape of the region was permanently and remarkably changed.



A Letter from Mark T. McCool,
 President and CEO of CyberWize

If you have been waiting for a product with the power to change your life, the wait is over. Tunguska Blast was born of a miraculous event that happened nearly 100 years ago. For more than seven years, CyberWize has been dedicated to harnessing the power of that event into a potent, proprietary product that will change your life.

When my wife Jeanine and I founded CyberWize in 1998, we set out to develop the world's best products for improving health, wellness, and quality of life. Today, it is with great joy that we can say: Tunguska Blast fulfills our mission.

I am committed to the belief that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Like the Phoenix that rises from the ashes of a cataclysmic event, people under great stress show remarkable strength and resilience. In a world filled with everyday stresses, we can all benefit from the added boost of energy, stamina, and immune system support that Tunguska Blast delivers.

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Sincerely,

Mark T. McCool
 President, CEO



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Viewpoints

Best way to control traffic is to have no controls

What's the best way to make a dangerous intersection safer for cars, bicycles and pedestrians alike and still maintain traffic flow? In the U.S.A., it traditionally means traffic engineers laying out more traffic signals and turn lanes, posting more road signs and painting even more lane markings and directional arrows. But in socialist Europe they're using a radical, less regulatory and shockingly counterintuitive way to make their roads and intersections safer — they make them even more dangerous. More than a dozen towns have switched to "Shared Space," a traffic-management technique that reduces accidents and eases congestion by stripping streets and crossroads of all government

traffic controls. Shared Space sounds scary and suspiciously anti-automobile to most red-blooded Americans and, at first blush, it seems to reinforce the notion that all Europeans are totally nuts. But for the Dutch town of Drachten — which sought a way to make its roadways equally friendly to those in cars, on bicycles or on foot — Shared Space has been a success. Several years ago the busy burg of 40,000 removed all of its traffic controls. Today a major intersection that handles 20,000 cars and thousands of bicyclists and pedestrians a day has no traffic lights, no speed limit signs, no directional markers, no curbs and no sidewalks.

The intersection has been redesigned into a big, open, traffic circle. Within that circle's seemingly chaotic flow, it's almost impossible to tell where cars and people belong — which is exactly what Shared Space inventor Dutch traffic engineer Hans Monderman intended. Monderman made the intersection seem as confusing, ambiguous and dangerous as possible, so that users would be forced to slow down, gauge each other's intentions, treat one another as equals and use eye contact to sort themselves out as they negotiated the traffic roundabout.

By all news accounts, traffic flows smoothly, safely and politely in the self-regulated anarchy Monderman has created. Accidents and traffic deaths have declined dramatically in Drachten, according to town officials. It really shouldn't surprise anyone: We see this atomistic spirit of cooperation create order and safety out of chaos and danger — spontaneously and immediately — whenever power outages knock out traffic signals at complicated U.S. intersections. It's no accident traffic usually flows more efficiently than when the traffic lights are working.

Monderman hates traffic signs not because they are annoying or stupid but because he thinks they are dangerous. He believes that the way you build a road affects how safely it's used — and by whom. If you make a road real wide and put up lots of 55-mph speed-limit signs, he told Wired magazine a few years ago, it effectively tells motorists: "Go ahead, don't worry, go as fast as you want, there's no need to pay attention to your surroundings. And that's a very dangerous message." Various tricks employed by Shared Space — eliminating turn lanes, narrowing roadways and erasing the center lane lines on secondary roads to slow down traffic and thereby reduce acci-

dents — are being used across Europe and even in downtown West Palm Beach, Fla. But don't worry. Shared Space won't be coming to a tangled intersection near you anytime soon. It's still pretty much a Euro-thing. But its deregulatory spirit ought to appeal to every American who's noticed that our traffic is micromanaged by government to the point of absurdity. And noticed that half of the 500 federally approved traffic signs we must obey are unnecessary and that we have 10 times the red lights we really need. —Bill Steigerwald is a columnist at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Bill Steigerwald
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

- Today is Tuesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2007. There are 13 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 18, 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans (Korematsu v. United States), but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained (Ex parte Endo).
- On this date: In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
- In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect.
- In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)
- In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)
- In 1957, the World War II epic "The Bridge on the River Kwai" opened in New York.
- In 1969, Britain's Parliament permanently abolished the death penalty for murder.
- In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)
- In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.
- In 1987, Ivan F. Boesky was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a major Wall Street insider-trading scandal. (Boesky served about two years of his sentence).

'The only thing we have to fear on this planet is man.'

— Carl Jung
Swiss psychologist
(1875-1961)



Racial hoaxes and present-day NAACP

Last May, firefighters at a Baltimore, Md., fire station came under scrutiny for displaying a deer with an afro wig, gold tooth, gold chain and a cigarette hanging from its mouth. Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, president of the Baltimore chapter of the NAACP, went ballistic, charging, "There is now and has been a culture of racism and white supremacy within the Baltimore City Fire Department." As it turns out, it was a black fireman who dressed up the critter. Cheatham refused to apologize for his accusations of fire department racism, maintaining "there is now and has been a culture of racism and white supremacy within the Baltimore City Fire Department."

On Nov. 21, a hangman's noose was found at the fire station with a note, "We can't hang the cheaters, but we can hang the failures. No EMT-1, NO JOB." The noose and note turned up on the heels of an investigation into allegations of cheating on the test that emergency medical technicians must take for certification. Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon, a black, in a written statement said, "I am outraged by this deplorable act of hatred and intimidation. Threats and racial attacks are unacceptable anywhere, especially in a firehouse." Doc Cheatham said,

"We're going to demand that this be handled as a hate crime. This thing really needs to end here in Baltimore city." The incident prompted a federal investigation. Donald Maynard, a black firefighter-paramedic, recently confessed to having placed the noose, note and drawing depicting a lynching on a bunk in the firehouse. City officials said Maynard was recently suspended, prior to his confession, from the department Friday for failing to meet requirements for advanced life-saving training. A spokesman for Mayor Dixon said there would be no criminal charges filed. In response to Maynard's confession, NAACP President Cheatham still blamed white racism, saying, "It really saddens us to hear that evidently things have reached a stage that even an African-American does an injustice to himself and his own people as a result of a negative culture in that department." Doc Cheatham is a poster boy for demonstrating a much larger problem, namely that the once proud and useful NAACP has outlived that usefulness and has in some instances become an impediment to black progress. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black liberal-to-moderate Washington-based

See WILLIAMS, Page 9

Walter Williams
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS
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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

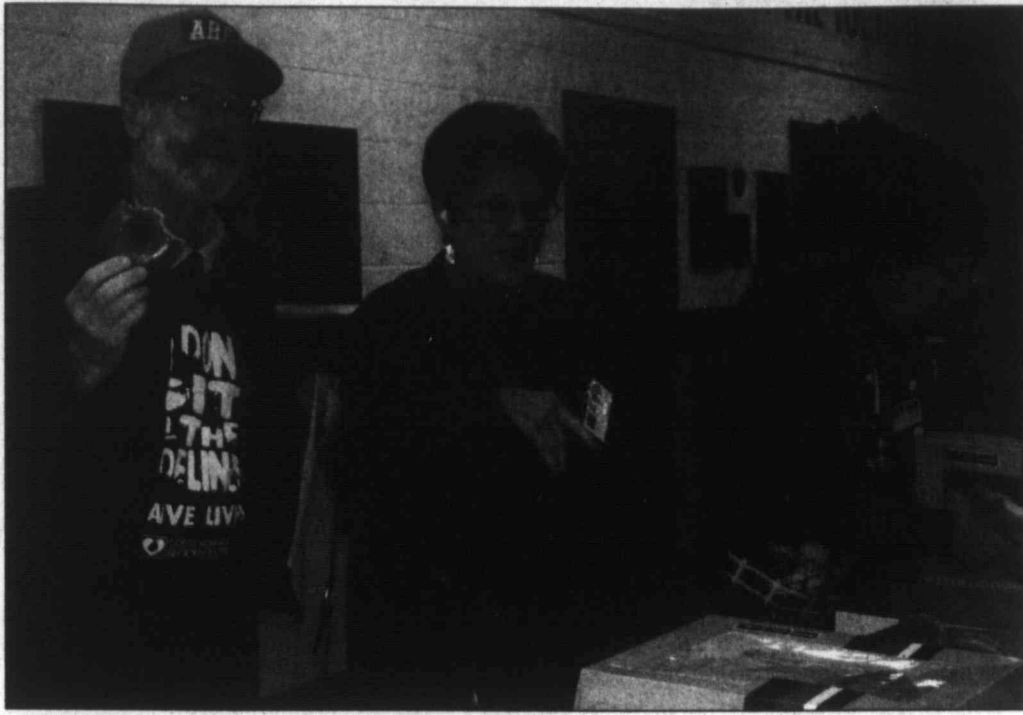
A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:
■ Dec. 10
San Antonio Express-News on what belongs in schools:
The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recently released the results of a test that assesses science and math skills of students in 30 industrialized countries. The results showed American students scored in the bottom half worse than their peers from 16 other countries, and better than only those from Italy, Portugal, Greece, Turkey and Mexico.
U.S. students do not reach "the base-

line level of achievement ... at which students begin to demonstrate the science competencies that will enable them to participate actively in life situations related to science and technology," the report says. The comparative results for math were even worse. Many explanations exist for the lagging performance in science by American students. One that cannot be avoided is that some of the adults who are responsible for their science education don't take science seriously enough. Christine Comer was a science teacher for 27 years. And for nine years until last month, she was the Texas Education Agency's director of sci-

ence. She says she was forced to resign because hold on to your monkey trials she failed to show impartiality in the debate between advocates of intelligent design and evolution. Specifically, the Austin-American Statesman reported, she forwarded an e-mail to a pro-evolution group announcing a speech by Barbara Forrest, a professor of philosophy at Southeastern Louisiana University. Forrest served as a key witness in a Pennsylvania court case that found intelligent design lacked sufficient evidence to be included in a scientific curriculum. That puts Forrest and Comer at odds

See SCHOOLS, Page 9

Children's Shopping Tour breakfast



Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH
 ▶ Melissa Schroeder, left, and Lana Miller stand in line for coffee, orange juice and donuts prior to the Children's Shopping Tour orientation. Both participated by accompanying children shopping.

◀ Serving, and eating, donuts Saturday morning during the Children's Shopping Tour orientation are, from left, Bob Marx, Johnnie Marx and Judy Warner.

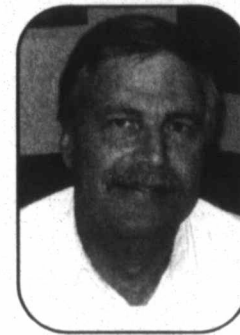


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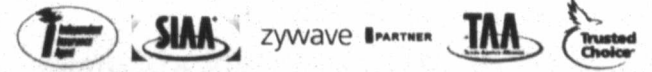
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IQ tests for sale on eBay raise concerns

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Intelligence tests widely used to help determine mental competence of criminal defendants and placement of schoolchildren in gifted programs are for sale on eBay Inc.'s auction site, and the testmaker is worried they might be misused.

The series of Wechsler intelligence tests, made by San Antonio-based Harcourt Assessment Inc., are supposed to only be sold to and administered by clinical psychologists and trained professionals.

The intelligence tests, given over 1 million times a year nationwide, are often part of the battery of tests ordered by prosecutors and defense attorneys to determine the mental competence of suspects. A low IQ, for example, can be used to argue leniency in sentencing.

IQ tests for children are often used by public schools to determine placement in special programs for

gifted or struggling students.

Harcourt officials say they fear the tests for sale on eBay — apparently being resold by people authorized to buy them from the company — will be misused for coaching by lawyers or parents. They have asked eBay to restrict the sale of the tests, but eBay has refused. Five of the tests were listed on the site Tuesday.

"In order for it to maintain its integrity, there needs to be limited availability," said Harcourt spokesman Russell Schweiss.

The tests are generally administered with a series of questions and tasks like putting blocks together.

Misinterpreting the results, even without malicious intent, could lead to mistakes in assessing a child's intelligence, said Aurelio Prifitera, the president of Harcourt's clinical division.

But eBay officials say there is nothing illegal about the sale of the

tests, and the Internet auction site cannot monitor for every possible misuse of items sold through its network of 248 million buyers and sellers.

Company spokesman Hani Durzy said the company does prohibit the sale of items that are illegal in some states, even if they're legal in others. And it has created policies to prohibit the sale of some items, like the teacher's editions of textbooks, as matter of public good.

But there is nothing illegal about the sale of the IQ tests. If there was a violation of intellectual property rights, eBay would remove the items, but Durzy said Harcourt has not lodged that complaint.

"We're always open to listening. Our list of policies has to evolve with society," he said. But "at this point, this is our response. We're not actively considering changing the policy."

Tour

Continued from Page 1

largest number that we have ever served," Horton said. "Last year, we served 315 family members which was a record at that time."

The volunteers began gathering at 7:30 a.m. in the Optimist gym to register and be assigned children. Each volunteer was given a brochure and badge prepared by Altrusa members explaining the project. Sandra McKinney and approximately a dozen other Altrusa members manned registration tables.

Volunteers enjoyed coffee, orange juice and donuts furnished by Tralee Crisis Center while Judy Warner gave an orientation and answered any questions regarding the event. Around 8:45 a.m., the volunteers fanned out across Pampa to pick up the children at their homes.

The children were told they could shop at any store in Pampa, but all chose to go to Wal-Mart. The store had four check-out lanes designated for the shopping tour only. The children were given a 10 percent discount on all purchases and they were not charged sales tax.

The children and volunteers then returned to the Optimist gym for a wrapping party sponsored by the Opti-Mrs. Club with Whitney Davis in charge. Boxes, wrapping paper, tags, scissors and tape were all provided on tables scattered throughout the gym.

The Energizer Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church entertained the children who finished their wrapping early by conducting a coloring contest and singing Christmas carols. The kids heard a rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" and then everyone was treated with cheeseburgers, chips and drinks by Kevin Davis and his crew of Optimists. They served over 350 hamburgers to the vol-

unteers and children.

Santa, also known as Lance DeFever, and his elf, who was none other than Brad Pingel, visited with each child and gave them a gab of candy which was furnished by Jana Gregory of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross also furnished the materials and prizes for the coloring contest.

As the children left to return home with their gifts, Harley Knutson and Richard Morris from the Gideon Society gave a New Testament Bible in English of Spanish to each child who wanted one.

McKinney said they credited the Lions Club for having 100 percent participation by the children this year. She said Pingel and a group of Lions contacted 80 families a few days before the event who had not yet confirmed that their child would be available. McKinney said they did not have a single no show this year.

Shortly after noon, the volunteers took the children back home and surprised the children with a gift of their own also.

"At 6:30 a.m., we were receiving calls asking if we were going to go forward or cancel the event because of the bad weather," John Warner said. "We were concerned about the number of volunteers who could come, but we were overwhelmed by the large number of volunteers. We actually ran out of children while we still had a line of people wanting to help. We were very impressed by the large number of high school kids that come out to help with the tour. If it wasn't for them, this event would not run as smooth."

"One thing all of us leaned from the shopping tour this year is never underestimate the heart of this community and the Pampa people. They really came through for these kids."

Happy Holidays

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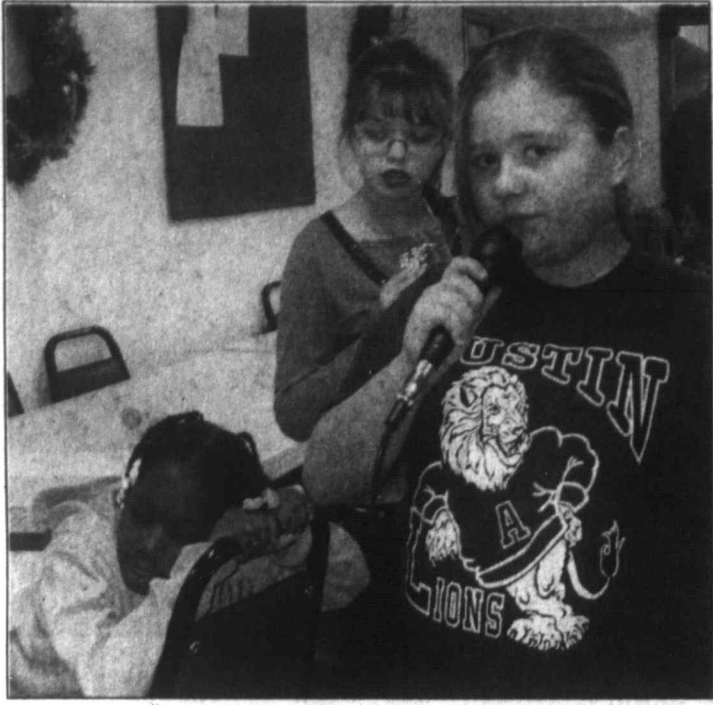
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CREATE-a-Beat! COURTESY PHOTO

Kaitlyn Bruce recently sang in the Karaoke Room while D'Asia Smith and Lindzy Hill watched, waiting for their turn. The activity was part of the Good Behavior Party at CREATE-a-Beat! after-school program at Pampa's Hi-Land Christian Church.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Leno, O'Brien returning to TV but without writers

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC's two late-night franchises are coming back. Will the laughs come with them?

Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien plan a Jan. 2 return with fresh episodes, ending two months of reruns brought on by the writers' strike, the network said Monday. But until the strike is settled, the hosts will be on their own.

While late night TV will forge ahead without joke writers, they won't be far from anyone's mind.

"I will make clear, on the program, my support for the writers and I'll do the best version of 'Late Night' I can under the circumstances," O'Brien said in a written statement. "Of course, my show will not be as good. In fact, in moments it may very well be terrible."

Both NBC hosts indicated it was a torturous decision for them to come back, torn by their support for the writers and knowledge that several dozen other staff members would be laid off if the shows remained dark. Some of the late-night stars covered employees' salaries during the holiday season.

Leno said that with talks breaking down and no further negotiations scheduled, he felt it was his responsibility to get his 100 non-writing staff members back to work.

Mike Sweeney, chief of the "Late Night" staff of 14 writers, said "we all know what a difficult position Conan is in. He's been incredibly supportive of us."

Sweeney said he didn't want to comment on his boss's decision to come back without the writers. The "Tonight" show's chief writer, walking the picket line in Burbank, Calif., was similarly reluctant to criticize his boss's decision.

"I'm happy that he's been able to hold out this long," said Joe Madeiros. "He's not the only one. There's a lot of pressure on late-night hosts."

Marvin Silbermintz, who has been writing

for Leno since 1987, said a "quality" monologue will be tough to produce without writers, but he's confident Leno can carry the show on his own.

"Jay traveled the country doing comedy clubs for years, working the audience. He warms up every show talking to people about what they do, where they're from," he said.

In a statement, the guild chided NBC. "NBC forcing Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien back on the air without writers is

'I will make clear, on the program, my support for the writers and I'll do the best version of 'Late Night' I can under the circumstances.'

— Conan O'Brien

not going to provide the quality entertainment that the public deserves. The only solution to the strike is a negotiated settlement of the issues," either by the studio alliance or individual companies, the guild said.

The strike has left the nation's public discourse without its laugh track as the baseball steroids scandal spread, pop stars Amy Winehouse and Britney Spears continued to spiral out of control, and the presidential campaign heated

up in anticipation of the first votes. NBC's announcement could make it easier for other programs like Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" or "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on ABC to return. Also, the WGA is talking about a separate deal with David Letterman's production company so his CBS show can return with its writers.

The development could cut both ways for the union. Suspended late-night programming has been the most visible sign of the strike for the viewing public, and bringing the shows back could remove a significant piece of leverage. At the same time, the hosts could come back and pepper their network bosses with ridicule in support of the writers' cause.

That's what Johnny Carson did in 1988, when he similarly returned to the air after two months off during a writers' strike then. Carson worked without writers for three weeks, then reached a separate deal with the union to bring his staff back.

People in the news

911 tape details frantic moments as 2 women try to revive Donda West after heart attack

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two women tried to revive Kanye West's mother after she had a heart attack and stopped breathing, according to emergency 911 recordings released Monday.

An unidentified woman tells a male emergency dispatcher during the call that Donda West recently had surgery. She says West just had a heart attack, has stopped breathing and moving, and is "cold and clammy," according to the call released by the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The woman says she and another unidentified woman are trying to administer CPR.

"Are you doing it?" the dispatcher asks. "... Does anybody know how? That's what I already asked you."

As the two women talk, the dispatcher appears to grow frustrated.

"Ma'am, let me tell you how to do this. You need to listen. You're not listening to what I'm telling you. You're not helping the person at all. ... Have the other people be quiet so I can tell you what to do."

The dispatcher then instructs the woman in CPR, telling her to clear West's mouth and administer breaths. The women attempt to resuscitate West, but she doesn't respond. Soon after, paramedics arrive, and the dispatcher hangs up.

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

This Week: Ice Hockey

Hockey!

Swish, click, swoosh. Swish, click. Click! CLACK! "GOAL!"

These are the lively sounds of a hockey game!

Who were the first people to play hockey? No one knows for sure. But for many hundreds of years, kids have been sliding stones and other objects across ice with sticks and tree branches. Over the years, in different parts of Europe, a variety of games played on ice with sticks and sliding objects were created.

WHACK! A hockey puck slammed into the article about pucks, scattering the letters a, b and c. Can you put them all back where they belong?

Ho_key pu_ks weren't _lw_ys m_de of _l_k ru_er like they _re tod_y. The e_rly pu_ks were pro_ _ly _lls_ at other obje_ts, su_h_s stones, lumps of _o_l, or frozen _ow or horse poop were _lso used. Wooden pu_ks were used for m_ny ye_rs. Mothers sometimes put hot _ked pot_toes into their _ildren's sk_ies so th_t the sk_ies would e_oz_y and w_rm when the _ildren re_ _hed the rink or pond. The pot_toes were not thrown _w_y. They eventu_ly fraze and were used _s pu_ks. Although ru_er w_s invented in 1939, it wasn't until the 1_ to 1880s th_t someone thought of m_king m_ _er pu_ks.

European settlers in Canada developed the game of hockey as we know it today. The first rules of the game were published in a

PENSEWRAP Unscramble the answer!

Source: Backcheck: Hockey for Kids Library and Archives Canada

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Icy Art Can you redraw the pattern a skater left on the ice without crossing over any lines or removing your pencil from the page?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the eight errors you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the article.

A Long Overtime

A hockey game is usually played in three 20-minute periods.

But in the 1936 Stanley Cup between the Montreal Maroons and the Detroit Red Wings, the score was tied at the end of the three periods. The game went into overtime.

The teams battled for 116 minutes and 30 seconds before Detroit's Modere "Mud" Bruneteau scored the won goal in a 1-0 victory.

Double Double Word Search

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

HOCKEY	S H L F T P O L C E
STICKS	K R S A R H U I K M
PUCKS	A O E E O O I C I A
ZAMBONI	T T S C O C Z N K G
PENCIL	E N K T Y T O E C S
INVENTOR	S E N U I B A P Y D
POTATOES	Y V I P M C I T Z N
COZY	S N R A S T K A O O
SKATES	N I Z L E Y S S C P
GAME	
RINK	
THIN	
FROZE	
POND	
COAL	

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Good Sports

List characteristics of someone displaying good sportsmanship. Ask students to look in the newspaper for a picture of an athlete demonstrating good sportsmanship and explain why they chose that picture.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the elements of socially acceptable conflict resolution in physical activity settings.

Write On!

Hockey Happiness

Write an alliteration about ice hockey. Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words. Example: *Awesome ants always agitate!*

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **OBJECT**

One meaning of the noun object is any solid thing that can be seen or touched.

Sally looked for an object to slide across the ice.

Try to use the word object in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

The Zamboni® Ice Resurfacing Machine

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In 1949, a man by the name of Frank Zamboni solved the problem of rough, chopped-up ice. He invented a machine that smoothed the ice by applying a layer of water which freezes to the top of the ice surface. This machine is still used today. It smooths the ice and is called a Zamboni® ice resurfacing machine after its inventor!

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Extra! Extra! Hockey Words

Look through today's newspaper for words that go with the game of hockey. The words can be nouns, verbs or adjectives. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives to writing (spelling). Put words in alphabetical order.

SPACE PROGRAM

Space station astronauts take space walk to make repairs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A pair of space station astronauts ventured out on a spacewalk Tuesday to inspect two defective mechanisms that are hobbling power generation at the orbiting complex.

Flight controllers called it a fact-finding mission.

Some 200 miles below, NASA was recreating fuel gauge problems that grounded shuttle Atlantis earlier this month.

Engineers started filling the spaceship's external tank with liquid hydrogen fuel at daybreak, in a test at the launch pad to pinpoint the nagging trouble. One of the four fuel gauges promptly failed, and two others were not working consistently.

The problem could be anywhere in the 100 feet of circuitry between the shuttle and tank, or in the fuel gauges.

Atlantis' astronauts were supposed to examine the clogged rotary joint at the international space station. With the shuttle mission delayed until January, NASA moved up the joint inspection and added another chore to the spacewalk after a second component in the space station's power system failed 1 1/2 weeks ago.

Commander Peggy Whitson and Daniel Tani made history as they floated outside well before dawn: It marked the 100th spacewalk at the space station.

They quickly headed to a mechanism that is supposed to tilt the solar wings on the right side of the space station toward the sun. The component experienced circuit breaker trips Dec. 8, possibly after being hit by a piece of space junk or micrometeorite.

Whitson and Tani found no signs of impact.

Afterward, the spacewalkers moved over to the bigger solar rotary joint, which is supposed to automatically revolve 360 degrees to keep the solar wings pointed toward the sun. The joint has been used sparingly in the past three months because of vibrations and electrical current spikes.

During a spacewalk in October, Tani

found steel grit inside the 10-foot-diameter joint. Even though he collected samples of the shavings, which were returned to Earth on the last shuttle flight, engineers still do not know what is grinding inside.

Whitson and Tani looked deeper into the joint Tuesday, taking off more covers and using a dentist-style mirror on a rod to peek inside. They collected more samples, using tape to dab the grit. They were asked to remove a set of suspect bearings, but no repairs were planned during the excursion.

Tani said the magnetized grit looked like marching ants as the gears moved. "It's hilarious," he called down. "It's like it's animated, like they're alive."

Despite the seriousness of the job, the spacewalkers enjoyed some laughs with Mission Control. One flight controller, a man, wanted to know from Whitson "if this beats cooking and sewing."

"Tell him I'm going to take care of him when I get back — maybe not the way he wants," replied Whitson, the space station's first female skipper.

Three hours later, she became the new female spacewalking champion — "the queen," according to Mission Control.

The unrelated predicaments are curtailing power generation at the space station and could delay future shuttle visits.

Atlantis' trip to deliver the European lab, Columbus, is off until Jan. 10, a date that hinges on the results of Tuesday's fueling test. The Japanese lab, Kibo, or Hope, is supposed to follow on multiple shuttle flights.

NASA has been struggling with sporadic fuel gauge problems for two years and wants to resolve them once and for all. The gauges are part of a backup safety system; they prevent the shuttle's main engines from running on an empty tank, which could be catastrophic.

On the Net:
NASA: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>

Engineers started filling the spaceship's external tank with liquid hydrogen fuel at daybreak, in a test at the launch pad to pinpoint the nagging trouble. One of the four fuel gauges promptly failed, and two others were not working consistently.

Plans for pollution-free coal plant move forward in Illinois

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government and industry research project to learn ways to burn coal without emitting global warming gases took a major step forward Tuesday as an industry group said it would build the facility at a site in Illinois, choosing the loca-

tion over two potential sites in Texas.

The futuristic \$1.8 billion power plant, known as FutureGen, will be built on several hundred acres near Mattoon, Ill., where construction is expected to bring hundreds of jobs and boost the local economy.

Williams

Continued from Page 4

think-tank, reported that 88 percent of blacks favored educational choice plans. A Gallup Poll found 72 percent of blacks support school choice. The NAACP, acting as handmaidens for the teachers' unions, is solidly against school vouchers. A Gallup Poll shows 44 percent of blacks are for the death penalty and 49 percent against it, but the NAACP is solidly against it.

The major problems confronting a large segment of the black community have little or nothing to do with racism — problems such as unprecedented illegitimacy, family breakdown, fraudulent education, crime and rampant social pathology. If white people became angels tomorrow,

it would do nothing to solve problems that can only be solved by blacks.

But I'm somewhat optimistic. More and more blacks are seeing through race hustlers such as Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and Doc Cheatham. An even more optimistic note is the financial decline of the NAACP. Declining black support is good evidence that the civil rights struggle is over and won. That's not to say there are not major problems but they are not civil rights problems.

Today, most civil rights organizations get their financial support from white businesses and foundations caving in to intimidation or seeking to soothe feelings of guilt. For them, I have a cheaper alternative, "Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon Granted to All Persons of European Descent," available at walterwilliams.com.

—Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

Schools

Continued from Page 4

with some members of the State Board of Education. "Employees have to be able to work with all the members in a fair way without the perception that they are siding with one group or another," spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe told the newspaper. "That's why it's important for us to be neutral on issues and just to say what the policy is and not to create it ourselves."

Ratcliffe obviously didn't catch the irony of the "create it ourselves" line. The real issue, however, is not group dynamics. There's a place for faith, and a place for science. And the two shouldn't mix in public school classrooms.

Do Texans truly want their educators to be neutral on the teaching of religious faith versus science in schools? If so, then the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency are well on their way to making students in Italy, Portugal, Greece, Turkey and Mexico feel proud. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

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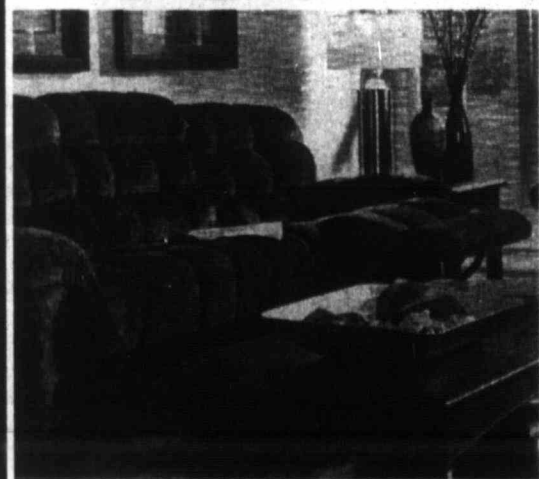
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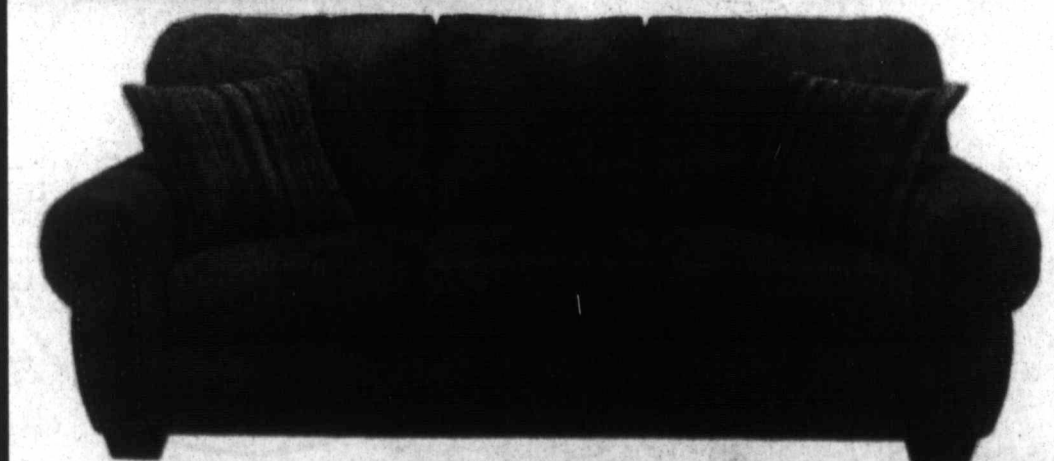


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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Smothered in Michigan" (Oct. 24), whose "loving, caring, generous boyfriend" stops by her job "only a few times a day" and shows up at her door the minute she gets home from work, was wrong. You told her to tell him she needs some space. Well, that won't work. Men like these, under the pretext of "love," try to inhabit every molecule of air around the women they target. I dated a man like him until I finally woke up to the fact that there was no such thing as personal space with him. He'd show up unexpectedly (with flowers), call first thing in the morning "to see how I was" and last thing at night (bed check!), etc. I can relate to the writer's feeling smothered. My psychologist pointed out that this guy's need to control me was beyond obsessive and helped me to realize he wasn't ever going to change, so I needed to get away. I did, but it wasn't easy. These guys do not want to go away! My advice to "Smothered": End this relationship and find a man who will both love you and give you space to be yourself. — **FORMERLY SMOTHERED IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR FORMERLY SMOTHERED: After that letter appeared, I received a ton of mail like yours from readers warning "Smothered" that she needs to get away, and that getting away may be complicated. For others in this situation, the number to call to form a safe escape plan is (800) 799-SAFE (7233) -- the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Smothered in Michigan" may be picking up on signs of an abusive personality, which include isolating the victim and constantly checking up on her. Stopping by her work "only a few times a day" is a few times too many, because it could cost her her job and spring the trap for this potential abuser to make her totally dependent upon him. As someone who works daily with victims of domestic vio-

lence, I would urge her to contact the nearest domestic violence program to learn more about how to identify a potential batterer. — **VICTIM ADVOCATE IN ALABAMA**

DEAR ABBY: I speak from experience. Men who can't let a woman out of their sight are often abusers. While in college, I met a man I thought was Prince Charming. He showered me with gifts, waited on me hand and foot and wouldn't allow me to lift a finger. His darker side emerged as I came to realize that by monopolizing my time and removing my ability to make decisions, he was cutting me off from everything. I no longer went out with friends and family -- only him. I couldn't make a move without him tagging along. "Smothered's" sense that she's becoming "indebted" is dead-on. He will soon call in that marker. Mine did when he started tracking wherever I went, dropped by my classes, even recorded the mileage on my car. One night he became enraged because I hadn't returned from a visit with a relative "on time" and bounced me off a wall. "Smothered" needs to listen to that creepy feeling she's having. And you, Abby, should know better. — **BOBBY IN NEW CASTLE, PA.**

DEAR ABBY: Every woman in my office -- and we're all counselors -- agree that "Gary" is an abuser waiting to happen. He's already indebting her, showing insensitivity to her feelings, smothering and controlling her. She was married to an alcoholic, which may be a sign of her poor judgment when it comes to men. She needs to drop him -- and fast. — **KNOW 'EM WHEN WE SEE 'EM**

READERS: Tomorrow I'll reprint one of my most requested items, the warning signs of an abuser. Perhaps we could all use a reminder.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



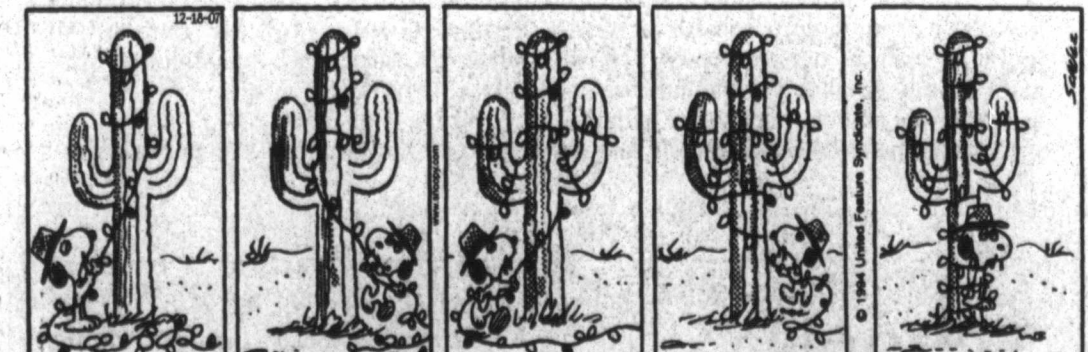
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

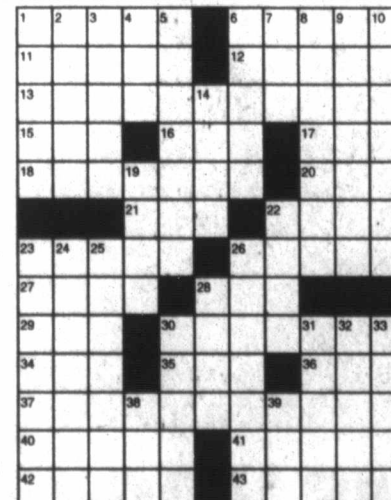
ACROSS

- 41 Spine-tingling fellows
- 6 Bette of "Jezebel"
- 11 Accept eagerly
- 12 Puccini creation
- 13 Exactly
- 15 Luau music maker
- 16 Truck part
- 17 Finale
- 18 Max Ernst, for one
- 20 Ewe's mate
- 21 Director Spike
- 22 Long story
- 23 Lab work
- 26 Sheet material
- 27 Aware of
- 28 Poseidon's realm
- 29 Letter after upsilon
- 30 Poem parts
- 34 — de mer
- 35 Pull gently
- 36 Pipe bend
- 37 Uncertain of success
- 40 Ice-cream unit

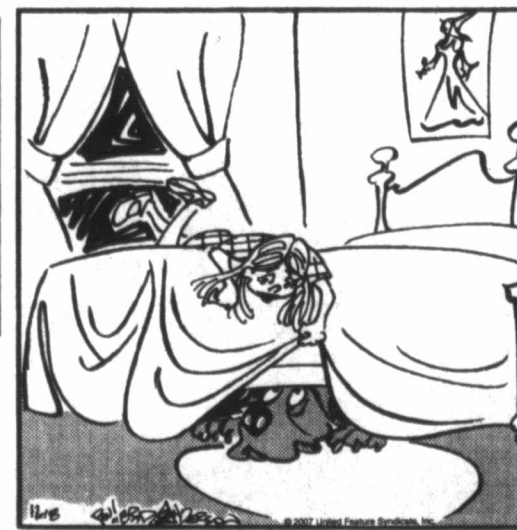
DOWN

- 1 Sun blocker
- 2 Sri —
- 3 Selected quarters
- 4 "Isn't that obvious?"
- 5 Genus subdivision
- 6 Uncertainty
- 7 Gifted
- 8 Old hand
- 9 Tool-making time
- 10 Sleep-bringer
- 14 Head-act
- 19 Singing voice
- 22 Phillips of "Dune"
- 23 Highest
- 24 Augment
- 25 Blue-veined cheese
- 26 Sports organization
- 28 Ticket half
- 30 Dance units
- 31 Striped grazer
- 32 Wagering every chip one has
- 33 Glossy
- 38 Very popular
- 39 Wager

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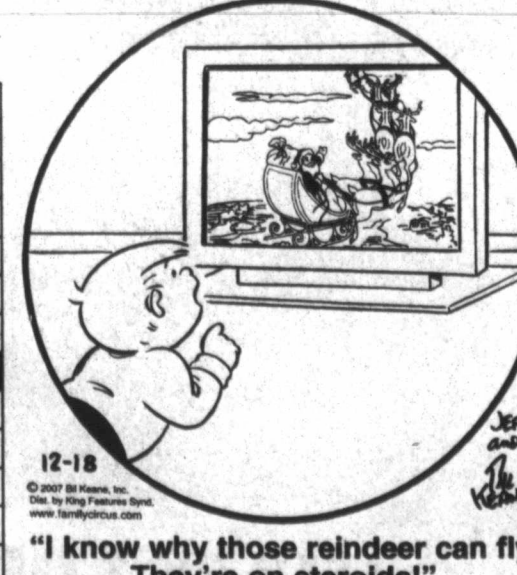


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Wrapping



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Alex Clendening and Kailyn Troxell wrap gifts during the Children's Shopping Tour Saturday. Over 350 volunteers came out for the event and that included hundreds of high school students.

Santa suit given to wrong person by dry cleaner

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (AP) — One dry cleaner now knows how to get on Santa's naughty list: lose his suit.

After Christmas last year, Max Weisberg took his red velvet suit to Royal Cleaners, which accidentally gave it to someone else. The family-owned business acknowledged the mixup and offered to pay him half the value of the nearly \$400 suit, said Jean Hwang, who said she's the owner's sister.

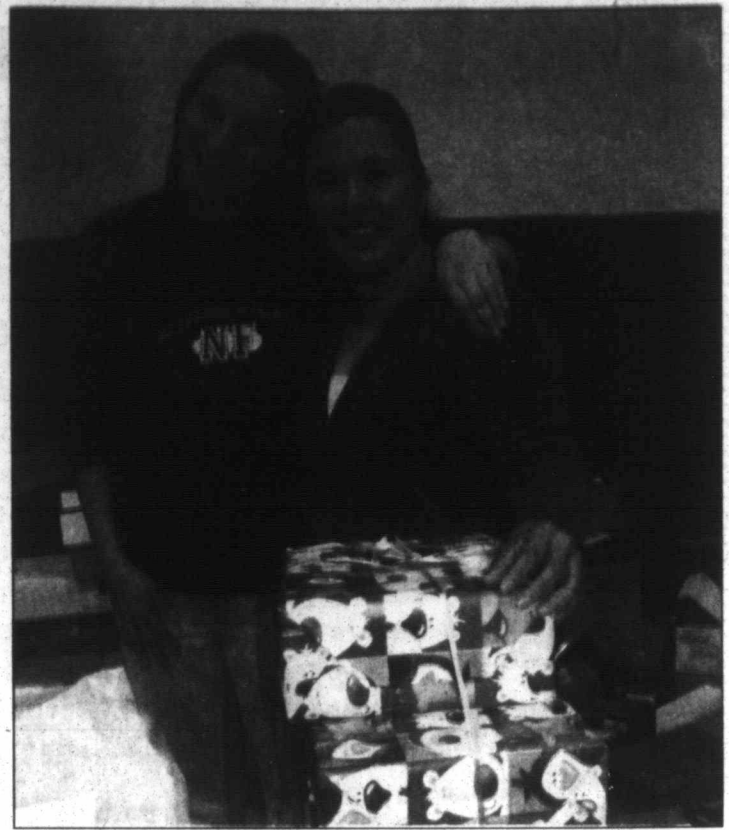
Weisberg, 54, a civilian employee of the Navy, took the business to small claims court and won a \$396.50 judgment to cover the suit and court costs.

But he had to collect the money himself. So Weisberg decided to do it with flair. His wife's public-relations firm notified the media that he would drop by the shop.

Donning a new red velvet suit with soft white trim and shiny black boots, a jolly Weisberg burst into the dry cleaners Monday, television cameras rolling.

"Merry Christmas! Have you been a good girl?" he asked a smiling Hwang. She promised to put the check in the mail to Weisberg the next day.

Weisberg, who has been playing Santa at events for about a dozen years, made a promise, too: If it didn't arrive, he'd be back to protest again.



Holiday cheer

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Tiffany House, left, and Linda Sanchez, both from Xcel Energy, had fun wrapping gifts during the Children's Shopping Tour Saturday. They were a few of the many who wrapped the gifts for the children that volunteers secretly purchased for them.

NJ inmates used photos to hide holes used for jail-break

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — Two jail inmates used photos of bikini-clad women to escape and left behind a thank-you note, signed with a smiley face, for a guard they claimed helped them, officials said Monday.

Jose Espinosa, 20, and Otis Blunt, 32, squeezed through the openings sometime before dawn Saturday in a high-security unit of the Union County jail, jumped onto a rooftop below, and made it over a 25-foot-high fence topped with razor wire, authorities said.

Authorities withheld the name of the officer the inmates said was involved. The note, found in Espinosa's cell, read, "Thank you Officer ... for the tools needed. You're a real pal. Happy holidays."

Authorities are investigating the claims. The guard named in the note has not yet turned in a report, and disciplinary action has not been taken against any guard, said county prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow said, whose office is overseeing the escape investigation.

Police were still searching Monday for the two men. Espinosa was awaiting sentencing for manslaughter in a drive-by shooting, and Blunt is facing robbery and other charges in the shooting of a convenience store manager.

Meanwhile, authorities are reviewing security measures. They barred inmates from pinning up pictures from magazines on their cell walls.

The jailbreak is reminiscent of one in the movie "The Shawshank Redemption" in which the main character, an inmate, uses posters of women, including of a bikini-clad Raquel Welch, to conceal an escape tunnel he had been digging.

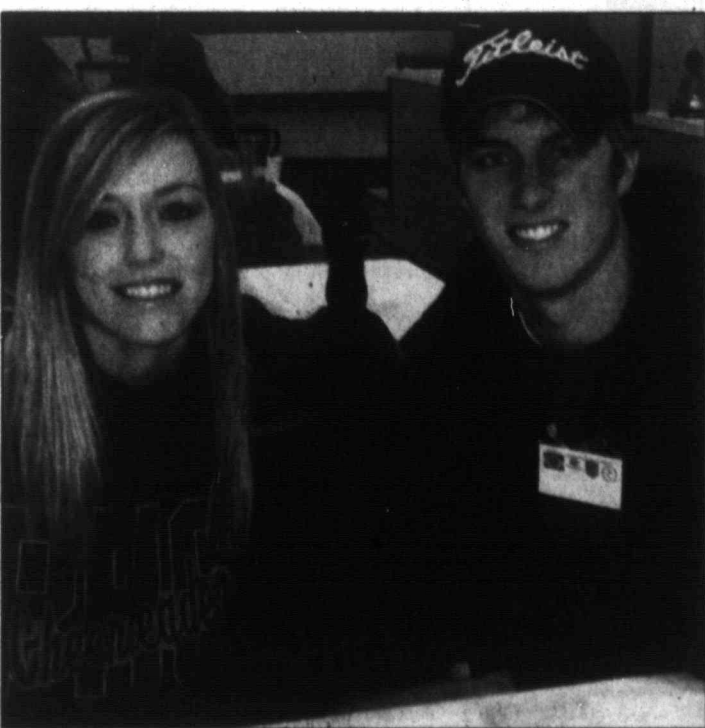
Espinosa and Blunt used at least two improvised tools — a thick metal wire like those used to bind chain link fences to poles, and a 10-pound steel water shut-off wheel — to remove cinderblocks from the wall, Romankow said.

The thick wire was used to scrape away mortar around a cinderblock in the wall between their cells, and then around a cinderblock in an exterior wall in Espinosa's cell that faced busy rail tracks, Romankow said.

The shut-off wheel was used to crush the cinderblocks so they could be hidden in the cells, Romankow said. They also laid out pillows and sheets to make it look like men were sleeping under blankets, authorities said.

Once they landed on the railroad easement outside the fence, they ran in opposite directions, Romankow said. No blood was found.

Volunteers



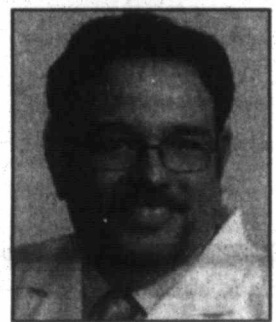
Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Keisha Crowell and Taylor Smith, both PHS students, were out early Saturday morning to volunteer for the Children's Shopping Tour. It did not seem to bother them that it was a cold snowy morning.

GOOD NEWS FOR PAMPA

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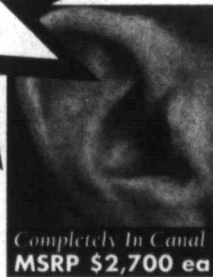
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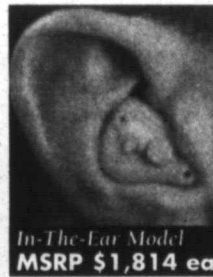
MEDICAID ACCEPTED



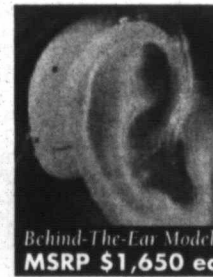
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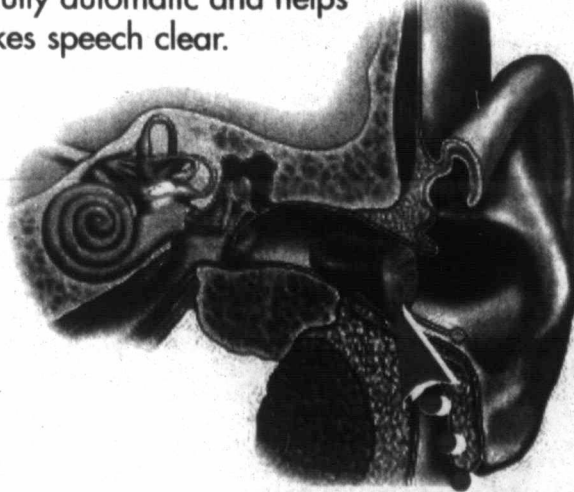


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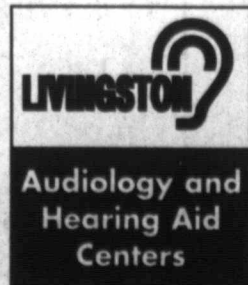
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