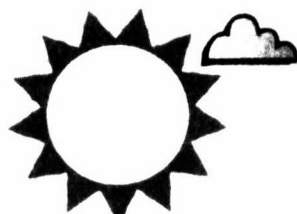


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# THE PAMPA NEWS

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Today's weather



H 68 L 28

Deaths

**Lloyd R. Brummett**, 82, IRI retiree.  
**Evelyn Young Phillips**, 81, telephone operator.  
**Londell W. Saulsbury**, 69, longtime Pampan.  
**Howard M. Shouse**, 71, business owner.  
**Catherine Norton Stringer**, 90, homemaker.

## Texas Today

### Woman escapes blaze, returns to die

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A woman who fled from a burning apartment re-entered the building and was killed trying to save her son, who had escaped by himself earlier, firefighters say.

Blanca Machon believed that her 6-year-old boy was still inside the apartment Sunday morning, relatives said.

Machon, 45, was burned to death.

"My aunt went back inside, she didn't listen to her husband," said Johnny Casimiro, Machon's 11-year-old nephew. "She thought her son was still inside, but he was already out."

He said he didn't know what could have sparked the fire that left him and five family members homeless.

He awoke when he began breathing smoke, called for his brother and ran outside.

Relatives attempted to comfort the boy who watched helplessly as his aunt ran into the flames.

"She was burning," he said, crying.

Eight units of the Ivy Club Apartments were destroyed in the blaze, which took 70 firefighters more than an hour to contain, said Houston Fire Department Capt. Gilbert Bennett.

He said the blaze that began about 7:30 a.m. spread quickly through the 12-unit, two-story building.

Dozens of people were forced to evacuate their apartments. The blaze's cause remained under investigation.

Red Cross volunteers said they would help the fire victims find temporary housing.

Information from: Houston Chronicle, <http://www.houstonchronicle.com>

## Bush: Iraqi troops not ready yet

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Bush pointedly acknowledged Monday that U.S.-trained Iraqi troops are not ready to take over their country's security, and cautioned that next month's elections there are only the beginning of a long process toward democracy.

"I certainly don't expect the process to be trouble-free," Bush said at a year-end news conference

in which he signaled tough spending cuts to come and declined to offer specific solutions to Social Security's solvency.

Bush also gave a fresh vote of confidence to embattled Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "He's doing a very fine job," the president said.

The 55-minute session, the 17th solo news conference of his presi-

dency, was part of Bush's effort to seize the momentum from his reelection victory and push several ambitious domestic and foreign policy priorities in his second term.

On Iraq, where a bloody insurgency continues unabated, Bush urged the American people to remain patient well beyond the Jan. 30 elections to give Iraqis time to craft a constitution and strengthen their

security forces.

"The elections in January are the beginning of a process and it is important for the American people to understand that," he said.

Critics have raised questions about whether enough U.S. troops are in Iraq to bring security for the elections. Meanwhile, more than

See BUSH, Page 3

## Suspects detained in Najaf bombing

**NAJAF, Iraq (AP)** — Thousands of mourners attended funerals Monday and Iraqi authorities detained 50 suspects in connection with an explosion in the Shiite holy city of Najaf that killed at least 54 people and wounded 142.

On Sunday, car bombs tore through a Najaf funeral procession and a main bus station in the nearby Shiite city of Karbala, where at least 13 people were killed and 33 were wounded.

The deadliest attacks in Iraq since July were a bloody reminder that the Shiite heartland in the south — and not just the Sunni regions of central and northern Iraq — is vulnerable to the mainly Sunni insurgents aiming to wreck the country's key elections scheduled for Jan. 30.

Meanwhile, the head of the national electoral commission appealed to security forces to safeguard election officials after three were shot to death in a brazen attack Sunday by dozens of guerrillas operating openly in the heart of Baghdad. The ambush was the latest attack to target Iraqi officials working to organize the vote.

"We send an appeal to the Iraqi government and all the people to protect our employees," Abdul Hussein Al-Hindawi said. "We have no real protection because we work everywhere in the country and have more than 6,000 employees."

Authorities in Najaf banned cars from entering the downtown area that

See NAJAF, Page 3

## Post Office rush



Pampa News photos by BEN BRISCOE



Maria Cortez, above, waits in line at the Pampa Post Office this morning in order to mail two packages of Christmas gifts to her friends and family. Post Office employee, Robert Schwab, left, weighs packages before placing postage on them for mailing. The local Post Office, as is common for this time of year, has had a significant increase in business over the last few weeks as holiday customers send packages to friends and relatives.

## AP Poll: Half of Americans worry about debt

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — During a season with shoppers racing about to wrap up holiday spending, half of Americans say they worry about their overall level of debt, an Associated Press poll found.

That includes many — about two in 10 of those surveyed — who say they stay worried about their debt level most or all of the time.

Those debts can come from home and car loans as well as credit cards — even more so with December buying sprees. Three-fourths in the poll said they have credit cards.

Most people who have credit cards say they work to keep control of them, but one in six with cards say they don't trust their own spending with plastic. Young adults and those who make less than \$25,000 a year were most likely to doubt their own ability to manage credit cards.

For 18-year-old Brandon Terrok of Klamath Falls, Ore., avoiding credit cards is the best approach.

"I've seen people get in trouble. They ran their credit cards so high, they couldn't get approval to buy a car," Terrok said. "I haven't gotten any yet

and I'd rather not have them."

Most who have credit cards say they try to keep those card debts under control. But some still have trouble.

*"I've seen people get in trouble. They ran their credit cards so high, they couldn't get approval to buy a car."*

— Brandon Terrok, 18  
Klamath Falls, Ore.

One-fourth of credit card users say they use plastic to buy things when they don't have the money.

Tanya Pierson of Brainerd, Minn., learned the dangers of credit cards the hard way. She and her family had a handful of cards with big balances.

"We're a lot more cautious since we filed for bankruptcy five years ago," said Pierson, a stay-at-home mom. "I only have one now and I use it every once in a while."

More than 1 million people file for personal bankruptcy each year, said Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America.

"My strong sense from looking at lots of data, is that the number of people with debt problems is declining, but the number with severe debt problems is increasing," he said.

The total amount of revolving credit debt, such as that caused by credit cards, was just over \$600 billion five years ago and is almost \$800 billion now, according to the Federal Reserve.

In the survey, about 10 percent of those with credit cards said they have missed making their minimum payment during the past six months.

Economists say people are missing fewer credit card payments by juggling their debts and getting new credit cards.

See DEBT, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Lloyd R. Brummett, 82

Lloyd R. Brummett, 82, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, in Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Brummett was born Sept. 7, 1922, in Tulsa, Okla. He married Edna M. Berg on May 18, 1946, in Tulsa. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1957. He worked for IRI for 35 years in inventory control, retiring in 1985. He was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Merchant Marines, serving during World

War II.

Survivors include his wife, Edna "Eddie" Brummett of the home; one daughter, Janet Romines of Pampa; one son, Gary Brummett of Carrollton; six granddaughters and four great-grandsons.

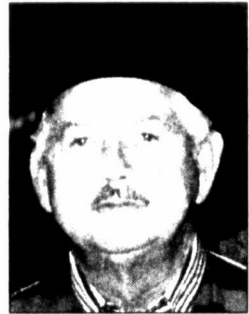
Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan, Pampa, Texas, 79065; or Good Samaritan Christian Services, 309 N. Ward, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

### Jerrell Ray Montgomery, 60

Jerrell Ray Montgomery, 60, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, at Amarillo.

Graveside services were to be at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 2004, in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Bob Thomas, chaplain of Odyssey Hospice, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Montgomery

Mr. Montgomery was born April 15, 1944, at Clarendon and grew up in Pampa. He moved to Lipscomb in 1980 and returned to Pampa in 2000.

Mr. Montgomery retired after 10 years of service with Enron and previously worked as a meter tester for Trans-Western Pipeline for 15 years.

Survivors include two daughters, Michelle Smith and Linda Boyd, both of Amarillo; a son, David Montgomery of Austin; his mother, Willie Montgomery of Pampa; a sister, Linda Ledgerwood of Hilton, Okla.; and five grandchildren.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

### Evelyn Marie Young Phillips, 81

WHITE DEER — Evelyn Marie Young Phillips, 81, of White Deer, died Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, in Levelland.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at First Baptist Church in White Deer with the Rev. Calvin Winters, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Fritch, officiating. Burial will be in White Deer Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Phillips was born Jan. 4, 1923, in McPherson, Kan., to Glen and Kate Young. She moved to Groom at an early age and graduated from Groom High School. She attended college in Oklahoma City and worked as a telephone operator.

She married Jay Phillips of White Deer on Dec. 20, 1942, and they made their home in the White Deer area.

Mrs. Phillips was involved in various town, county and civic organizations including the First Baptist Church of White Deer.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jay, in May of 1996; a brother, Glendon Young; and a grandson, Terrence Danislavs of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Survivors include a daughter, Fern Danislavs and husband John of Cincinnati, Ohio; two sons, Galen Phillips and wife Debbie of White Deer and Don Phillips and wife Suvana of Levelland; grandchildren, Anita Clark, Tony and Kelly Danislavs, all of Cincinnati, Clayton and Chris Phillips of Panhandle, Scott and Shirley Phillips of North Pole, Alaska, Joshua and Erin Phillips of Duchesne, Utah, and Corey and Crystal Phillips of Amarillo; six great-grandchildren, Thomas, Logan and Hunter Phillips of Duchesne, Utah, and Alexy Danislavs, Avery Danislavs and Dex in Clark, all of Cincinnati.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church, 411 S. Omohundro, White Deer, TX 79097; Levelland Nursing Home, 210 W. Ave., Levelland, TX 79336; or a favorite charity.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Phillips

### Londell Wiley Saulsbury, 69

Londell Wiley Saulsbury, 69, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, in Pampa.

No services are scheduled. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Saulsbury was born Jan. 19, 1935, at Pampa where he had resided most of his life. He was a member of First Baptist Church

and he was a Mason.

Survivors include one daughter, Kebby Mitchell of Dallas; his mother, Golda Saulsbury of Pampa; and one brother, Ronnie Saulsbury of Pampa.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

## Services tomorrow

**COCKRELL**, Eulene Rexroat — 4:30 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

**PHILLIPS**, Evelyn Marie Young — 10:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, White Deer.

**ROYSE**, Dr. Kenneth L. — 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Pampa.

**SHOUSE**, Howard M. — 10:30 a.m., graveside, Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

## CITY BRIEFS

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

**FREE DIAMOND** Pendant, register 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. nightly at Rheams Diamond Shop. Open til 8 p.m.

**HUMMINGBIRD DESIGNS**— One of a kind jewelry designs. Available exclusively @ Pampa Custom Framing, 107 N. Cuyler.

**NO PAMPA** News on Sun, Dec. 26th, so Lifestyles section will be in the Fri. Dec. 24th newspaper. Deadline for weddings, engagements & cradle call will be Mon. Dec. 20th, 12 noon for Dec. 24th.

**SKELLYTOWN NEWSPAPER** Carrier needed for the Pampa News. Apply in person, 403 W. Atchison. No phone calls please.

## Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph. Tonight: Increasing clouds, with a low around 28. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday: A 10 percent chance of snow after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 21. Wind chill values between 8 and 18. East northeast wind around 15

mph. Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Thursday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 22. East northeast wind around 15 mph. Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

## Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anthony Grain of Pampa		The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa	
Wheat	4.18	NYC	18.48 +0.14
Milo	1.21	Kerr-McGee	59.85 +0.35
Corn	1.74	XOM	50.84 +0.76
Soybeans	4.79	Lambert	22.80 +0.28
		Williams	16.47 +0.22
		MCD	32.74 +0.20
		Atlas	27.14 +0.14
		Pioneer Nat	34.68 +0.20
		JCP	40.22 +0.36
		COP	87.98 +0.99
		SLB	65.95 +0.57
		Trinaco	16.76 +0.16
		CXN	52.48 +0.66
		Wal-Mart	52.38 +0.36
		OKI	28.61 +0.20
		NS Corp	25.05 +0.44
		New York Gold	441.50
		Silver	6.77
		West Texas Crude	46.28

### Dr. Kenneth L. Royse, 79

Dr. Kenneth L. Royse, 79, of Pampa, Texas, died Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, at Pampa.

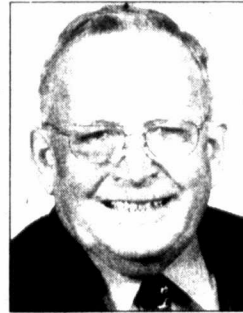
Services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church with Elder Stephen Porter, of the Primitive Baptist Church of Paducah, and Dr. Jerry Lane officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Dr. Royse was born July 19, 1925, in Elk City, Okla. He married Ruby Bozeman on Dec. 22, 1946, in Elk City. He received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

He had been a resident of Pampa since 1959 where he owned and operated Royse Animal Hospital until his retirement earlier this year. He was also involved in farming and ranching in Gray County.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Dr. Royse was a life member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and was a life member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.



Royse

He was a board member of the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association for 17 years and was a past board president. He was a member and former director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Royse served as veterinarian for the Top O' Texas Livestock Show for over 20 years and was active in FFA and 4-H for several years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.T. Royse; and by two brothers, Dr. Paul Royse and Sam Royse.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby Royse, of the home; one son, James Lowell "Jim" Royse of Pampa; one sister, Lucille Stewart of Elk City, Okla.; one brother, T.A. "Ted" Royse of Elk City, Okla.; one grandson, John T. Royse of Fort Worth; several nieces and nephews; and close friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith of Elk City, Okla., Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Smith and daughter Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Seitz and Dr. and Mrs. Brian Gordzelik and children Sarah and Kyle, all of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981; or Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

### Howard M. Shouse, 71

GRAHAM — Howard M. Shouse, 71, of Graham, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, at Wichita Falls. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Jim Senkel, pastor of Salem-Crestview United Methodist church of Graham, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

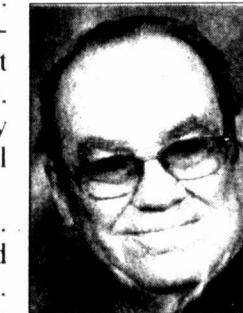
Mr. Shouse was born on Oct. 10, 1933, at Durham, Okla., and was raised at Canadian, Texas. He married Vernice Hulsey on Aug. 7, 1950, at Fort Sumner, N.M. She preceded him in death on Oct. 18, 1974. He later married Sandra (Sandy) Cotten on Aug. 23, 1975, at St. Paul United Methodist church in Pampa. Mr. Shouse worked for Malcolm Hinkle for 19 years and later owned and operated H&S Heating and Air Conditioning in Pampa until his retirement in 1990. In 1990, he moved to

Nocona and then moved to Graham in 1994. He was a member of Salem-Crestview United Methodist Church in Graham. He loved fishing, camping, family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Vernice Shouse; his parents, Howard and Annie Shouse; a son, Mike Shouse; a sister, Clea Elliott; a brother, Roy Junior Shouse, and a great-grandson, Jeremiah Villegas.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra (Sandy) Shouse of the home; one son, Billy Shouse and wife Cristy of Pampa; one daughter, Debe Shouse of Gainesville; three sisters, Mary Ellyson of Weatherford, Texas, Clara Halford of Barnsdall, Okla.; and Carolyn Cook of Wacombis, Okla.; a daughter-in-law, Edwina Shouse of Pampa; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Shouse

### Catherine Norton Stringer, 90

Catherine Norton Stringer, 90, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, in Pampa. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at the First Christian Church in Pampa with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor, officiating.

Private burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley

Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Stringer was born Oct. 31, 1914, at DeLeon, Texas. She was a resident of Pampa since 1965. She married Tom Stringer on Nov. 11, 1933, at Groesbeck, Texas. He preceded her in death on June 7, 2004. She was a member of the First Christian Church, the Pampa Art Club, and attended the Bible Study Fellowship.

Survivors include her two sons, Joe Thomas Stringer of Pampa and Howard Glen Stringer of Mustang, Okla.; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

— Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Stringer

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 72 hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Friday, Dec. 17

A violation of a protective order was reported in the 500 block of Doucette.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of Neel.

A door in the 700 block of North Russell sustained about \$50 worth of damage by vandals.

Disorderly conduct was reported in connection with a fight at Pampa Junior High School.

#### Saturday, Dec. 18

A wallet was reported lost in the 500 block of North Powell.

Justin Thomas, 17, 224 N. Wells, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana under two ounces.

Vandals did about \$300 in damage to windows of a house in the 900 block of North Crest.

Someone broke into the Community Day Care Center, 1100 block of Gwendolyn, but nothing was reported taken.

Timothy Clemmons, 27, was arrested on charges of evading by vehicle in the 400 block of West Brown.

A screen door sustained

\$15 in damage by vandals.

About \$65 worth of lawn ornaments were reported stolen in the 1500 block of North Sumner.

#### Sunday, Dec. 19

An assault with minor injuries was reported in the 1800 block of Chestnut.

Patrick Davis, 34, 1124 N. Starkweather, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.

An assault was reported in the 900 block of Huff Road.

Lorene Rodriguez, 321, 417 N. Faulkner, was arrested in the 400 block of West Crawford on charges of driving while intoxicated.

A medical assist was requested in the 1800 block of North Banks.

A door in the 700 block of North Russell sustained about \$85 worth of damage from vandals.

An harassment complaint was made in the 1000 block of South Wells.

A girl's bicycle, valued at \$260, was reported stolen in the 2700 block of Aspen.

Prescription drugs were reported stolen in the 600 block of Roberta.

## Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

### Friday, Dec. 17

3:06 p.m. — A 1992 Freightliner semi-tractor trailer rig, driven by Matthew Kevin Fitzpatrick, 24, 1825 Coffee, struck a traffic signal at the intersection of Ballard and Browning. Fitzpatrick was cited for improper turn.

### Saturday, Dec. 18

11:47 a.m. — A 1992 Oldsmobile, driven by Jeffery R. Cole, 18, 701 N. Frost, was in collision with a 1992 Ford pickup, driven by Dean Ray Bliss, 45, 1115 S. Wells, in the 700 block of North Russell. Cole was cited for failure to yield right of way.

## Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's office reported the following arrests during the 72 hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

### Friday, Dec. 17

Kevin Taylor McKnight, 34, 809 E. Craven, was arrested by Pampa police officers on a motion to enforce a protective order and charge of evading arrest.

### Saturday, Dec. 18

Justin Allen Thomas, 17, 224 N. Wells, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of possession of marijuana under two ounces.

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# Bush

Continued from Page 1

1,300 American troops have died since the war began in March 2003 and soldiers have complained about long deployments and a lack of vital equipment.

"No question about it. The bombers are having an effect" on Americans' belief in success in Iraq, Bush said, while adding that his own confidence remains unshaken.

Bush said "I would call the results mixed" on a U.S. effort to put Iraqi security in

the hands of its own people. He said U.S. officials, in charge of the effort will "spend a lot of time and effort" on fixing the problem by improving the Iraqi command structure.

"There have been some cases where, when the heat got on, they left the battlefield — that is unacceptable," he said. "... We are under no illusion that this Iraqi force is not ready to fight in toto."

Essential to the American strategy for withdrawing its troops from Iraq is the effort to train Iraqi forces for security and combat. But doubts have been raised from sever-

al quarters about the effectiveness of the effort and the reliability of Iraqi security forces.

On domestic issues, Bush said he will submit a federal budget that will cut the deficit in half in five years in part by asking for strict spending discipline. His fiscal 2006 budget is due to Congress in February.

"We will submit a budget that fits the times. It will pro-

vide every tool and resource to the military, will protect the homeland, and meet other priorities of the government," he said.

*'It's going to be a tough budget, no doubt about it.'*

— President Bush

"It's going to be a tough budget, no doubt about it," Bush said.

On Social Security, Bush said he recognized that there would be "difficult choices" but that he would wait to talk about them.

"Don't bother to ask me," Bush said, adding that the law would be written in the

halls of Congress.

Beyond proposing allowing younger workers to divert a portion of their payroll taxes into private accounts and saying he will not support an increase in payroll taxes, Bush has refused to offer specifics of his plans. Without any changes, Social Security would begin paying more in benefits than it takes in by 2018.

"The first step in this process is for members of Congress to realize we have a problem," he said.

As for Rumsfeld, a growing number of lawmakers, including Republicans, have

voiced no confidence in the defense secretary. But Bush defended his Pentagon chief.

"Beneath that rough and gruff no-nonsense demeanor is a good human being who cares deeply about the military and the grief that war causes," Bush said, batting away criticism that Rumsfeld had not personally signed condolence letters to the families of troops who have died.

Rumsfeld agreed to Bush's request this month to stay in the Cabinet during the president's second term and has received steadfast support from the White House since.

# Najaf

Continued from Page 1

houses the Imam Ali shrine to prevent future bombings, Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said Monday.

"Fifty people, some of them from Najaf and others from outside, have been detained. One person detained this morning is a citizen of an Arab country. They are all being interrogated," al-Zurufi said after taking part in a funeral procession attended by thousands of residents.

Najaf's police chief said that among

them were people with links to the two neighboring countries.

"The police arrested some elements who confessed that they have links with the Syrian intelligence ... and a person who confessed he had links with Iranian intelligence since 1995," al-Jazaari said.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi last week accused Syria of harboring senior officials from the ousted regime of former President Saddam Hussein, including his half brother, Sabaawi. Iraq's Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan has accused both Iran and Syria of supporting terrorism in Iraq.

Asked if Sunday's attack had target-

ed Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who lives several hundred yards from the site of the blast, al-Zurufi said, "We have had information for a long time that his eminence, Ayatollah al-Sistani, is a possible target but we are taking all measures to protect him."

Al-Sistani has declared that voting in the elections is a religious duty for all Shiites.

The deadly strikes Sunday highlighted the apparent ability of the insurgents to launch attacks almost at will, despite confident assessments by U.S. military commanders that they had regained the initiative after last month's campaign against militants in Fallujah.

# Debt

Continued from Page 1

In recent years, low interest rates have helped many people get home equity loans and pay off credit card debts. But that simply shifts the debt around.

"We live in an age of easy money and people pull out the plastic to medicate their pain," said Chris Packard, a mental health therapist from Gilbert, Ariz.

"I have had patients who used their credit cards to punish spouses, to appease depression or anxiety or to try to satisfy an out-of-control child," Packard said.

Experiencing the highest levels of stress from debts were people at their credit card spending limit, those who are unmarried and have children, those without jobs and minorities.

Those with the lowest levels of stress from debt were retirees, Republicans, married people, college gradu-

ates and people between age 30 and 49.

Those groups' stress levels were measured based on their responses to a series of questions asked of 1,000 adults about debt and stress.

Paul Lavrakas, a research psychologist, developed the questions in the 1990s when he was faculty director of the Ohio State University Center for Survey Research.

People say they experience health problems when worried about debts, Lavrakas said: "They could

not concentrate at times, they were losing sleep, taking their anxiety out on others."

About four in 10 of all people questioned said their total debt is at least "somewhat stressful." Also, more than half expect their debt will cause them problems over the next five years.

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,000 adults was taken Dec. 6-8. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, slightly larger for the 790 people with credit cards.

# Record

Continued from Page 2

Sunday, Dec. 19

Lorene Rodriguez, 31, 417 N. Faulkner, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of driving while intoxicated, not having liability insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

David Tucker, 18, 1426 S. Barrett, was arrested by Gray County deputies on charges of harassment.

Patrick Shane Davis, 34, 1124 N. Starkweather, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance responded to the following calls during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Dec. 17

11:32 a.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one person from Pampa Regional Medical Center to Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo.

8:06 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Finley, but no one was transported.

Saturday, Dec. 18

4:17 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one patient from the 1200 block of Hobart to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:48 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one patient from the 2000 block of Mary Ellen to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:24 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of North Nelson for a lift assist.

10:32 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one person from the 1500 block of U.S. Highway 60 to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:26 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one patient from the 700 block of North Banks to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Sunday, Dec. 19

3:54 a.m. -- A mobile ICU was called to 1800 block of Banks, but no one was trans-

ported.

3:31 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one patient from the 600 block of Foster to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

3:25 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one person from the 700 block of North Hobart to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

6:16 p.m. -- A mobile ICU transported one person from the Pampa Regional Medical Center to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Monday, Dec. 20

4:24 a.m. -- A mobile ICU was called to the 600 block of Powell but no one was transported.

Fire

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

Saturday, Dec. 18

11:37 a.m. -- One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 2100 block of

Chestnut. Some CO was found. Firefighters shut off the heating unit until it could be serviced.

7:35 p.m. -- One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 2100 block of Mary Ellen.

8:26 p.m. -- Two units and six firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 800 block of Bradley Drive. Insurance around a heater vent had caught fire. The house sustained minimal damage from the fire.

Sunday, Dec. 19

1:32 p.m. -- One unit and three firefighters provided a lift assist in the 1600 block of Christine.

3:35 p.m. -- One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

3:39 p.m. -- One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 700 block of North Hobart. Firefighters assisted ambulance personnel and cleaned up a small hazardous material spill.

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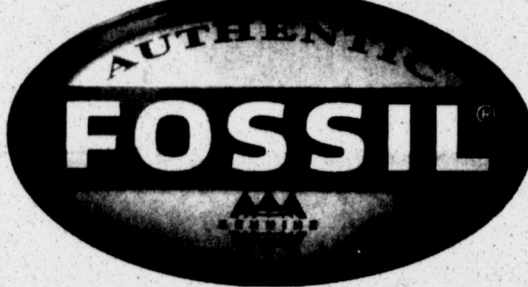
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# Viewpoints

## Sweet dilemmas in Montgomery, Alabama

Martha Hawkins hates me. She knows how much I like red velvet cake and still on Thursdays she makes me choose between that and peach cobbler... straight out of the oven.

Hot peach cobbler made with fresh peaches and a crust that melts in your mouth.

Martha Hawkins is a young lady who has Martha's Inn about a block west of the Frank Minis Johnson U.S. Courthouse in Montgomery, Ala. It is THE place for lunch.

A single mother, Mrs. Hawkins opened the restaurant a decade or so ago in an effort to get off welfare.

I don't know how successful it is financially, but the food is GREAT.

Housed in an old two-story frame home, the restaurant has three dining rooms downstairs. Mrs. Hawkins' grown sons and daughter serve the best food east of the Mississippi.

I have not had greens that good since Grandma Bowser died 40 years ago. I have not had black-eyed peas and cornbread that good since I stayed with Grandma Morton, a neighbor who used to baby sit me, 50 years ago.

Mrs. Hawkins is only open for lunch. The menu generally features a choice of three meats, vegetables and two or three deserts.

There's fried chicken every day, but on other days you can have turkey, and dressing, barbecue or meatloaf and the list goes on.

Of course, it's all served with sweet tea or lemonade.

**David Bowser**

Staff Writer



Friday, looking at the menu, I asked Mrs. Hawkins' son, who waited on me, whether I wanted the barbecue pork or the fried fish.

Without hesitation, he emphatically said the fried fish. I also had the collard greens, which are offered every day as is the cornbread,

and the black-eyed peas, which are offered only on Fridays.

It was so good, I almost got another order to go even though by the time I finished,

I had trouble standing.

Mrs. Hawkins' son recommended the apple cobbler...HOT apple cobbler... over the strawberry shortcake.

The two men next to my table had the fried chicken and strawberry shortcake. The fried chicken looked great, and I wished that I'd gotten that instead of the fish,

although the fish was delicious. The chicken breasts were of the Dolly Parton variety as far as I could tell from a table away, but I think the choice of the apple cobbler over the strawberry shortcake was a good choice, despite the generous dollop of whipped cream on the shortcake.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Hawkins' son. Several actually. From previous journeys to the establishment, I have learned to trust his judgment explicitly.

He's the one that solved the cobbler/red velvet cake dilemma when I was there before.

We argued over what I wanted for desert on

Thursdays. He finally insisted that I get the cobbler, extolling its virtues, being fresh out of the oven.

Then, I as sat there savoring the cobbler, he walked by my table and set down a to-go box filled with not one, but two pieces of red velvet cake.

I had planned to have the cake that evening for desert, but it didn't last that long. I really like red velvet cake.

I returned to my motel room about mid-afternoon to write the story I was working on that day and somehow that red velvet cake disappeared well before supper.

I don't know how good the story was, but the cake was great!

## Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 20, the 355th day of 2004. There are 11 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

### On this date:

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1879, Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1968, author John Steinbeck died in New York at age 66.

In 1976, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died at age 74.

In 1987, more than 3,000 people were killed when the "Dona Paz," a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker "Vector" off

*'There are two days in the week about which and upon which I never worry. Two carefree days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday. ... And the other ... is tomorrow.'*

—Robert Jones Burdette  
American clergyman

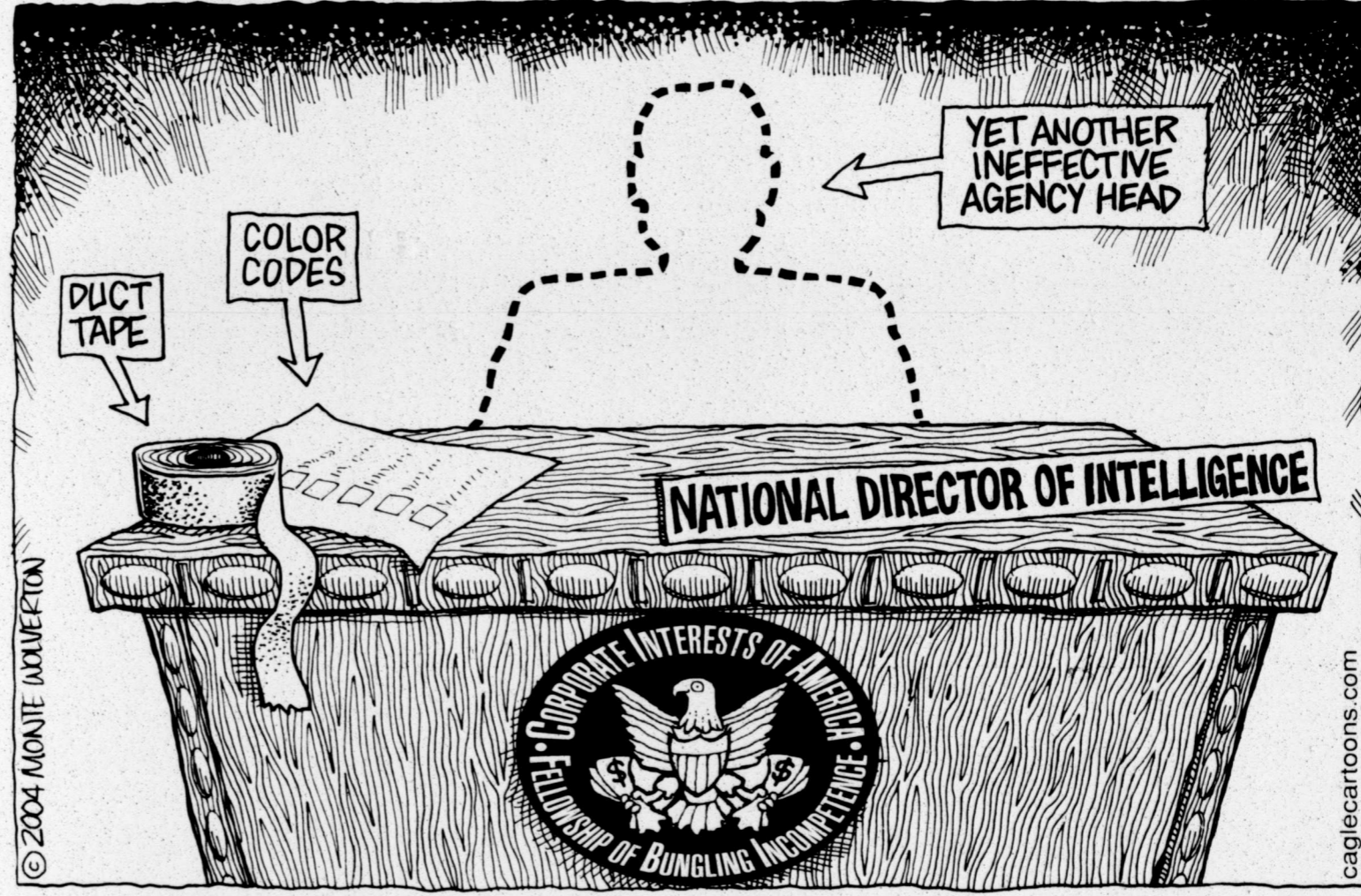
Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation "Just Cause," sending troops into Panama to topple the government of General Manuel Noriega.

In 1998, Nkem Chukwu gave birth in Houston to five girls and two boys, 12 days after giving birth to another child, a girl. (However, the tiniest of the octuplets died a week later.)

**Ten years ago:** Former President Jimmy Carter succeeded in getting Bosnia's warring factions to agree to a temporary cease-fire. Intel announced it would replace all flawed Pentium computer chips.

**Five years ago:** The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples.



## Higher education decline goes on

A recent column discussed the sad and tragic state of affairs in higher education. According to loads of letters received in response to that column, it's worse than I thought. Let me share just a few of them.

One person wrote that he knows an elementary school teacher and said, "She believed, until just this past summer, that the state of Alaska was an island because it is so often shown as an inset on many U.S. maps, appearing somewhat like an island."

A professor said that while he was trying to help a student with a problem, he asked her, "What is 20,000

minus 600?" He went on to say, "She literally could not answer without the calculator." He rhetorically questioned, "Should a person receive a college degree that cannot answer that in their head?"

An English professor wrote, "One of the items that I assigned was a two-page essay that described a favorite vacation or holiday. One student turned in two pictures drawn with crayon depicting the beach. When I gave her a

failing grade, she was indignant and said that she put a great deal of work into the pictures. When I told her that she did not do the assignment and that she was supposed to write an essay, she said, 'But I don't know what an essay is!'"

Such students are academic cripples and don't belong in college in the first place. Recently released findings of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranked U.S. high school students

24th out of 29 countries. American 15-year-olds demonstrate less math proficiency than their counterparts in Hungary and the Slovak Republic. With those findings, we shouldn't be surprised by a recent U.S. Department of Education study finding that nearly half of all college students must take remedial courses in math and reading. According to National Center for Education Statistics, in 2000 close to 80 percent of colleges offered remedial services.

Several devastating consequences result when col-

See COLLEGES, Page 5

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



## Many poverty stricken in golden years

To many recently retired Americans, it's not, ahhh, the good life, as was expected.

Mom hopping a plane and visiting the kids. Dad gone fishin'. If this is summer, it must be a trip to Canada for some lunkers.

Uh-uh. In fact, maybe more than ever, one of the old parental lines comes into play: Let this be a lesson to you, Junior.

Or, to change another parental adage a bit: Do as I say, not as I did.

Quite simply, quite coldly, young people in the work force need to start saving for retirement right now.

A survey by Brightwork Partners for Putman Investments showed retirees in the past two to six years

say their standard of living has declined from when they were working. One retiree in five is struggling to make ends meet. Two-thirds of all retirees say the longer they're retired the harder it gets.

Only 13 percent are living better.

This survey was conducted among retirees both old

enough to have a traditional pensions and young enough to have 401(k) plans.

And still it's not enough. World cruise? Yah, sure.

That's scary for the young workers of today

because many companies are reducing traditional pensions, or eliminating them completely. And there is genuine concern that today's young worker will be able to tap into Social Security to the same extent as their parents.

So the cold news is today's worker will have to count much more heavily on money squirreled away into savings. Mom and Dad didn't do that.

The survey showed only a small percentage of retirees' incomes are from savings. They're living on a supply of money that probably won't be there in the future.

When it comes time for the next generation to retire, the good life will come from savings.

Or the next moms might not be hopping that plane to visit the kids. She and Dad might be living with the kids.

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**'For reshaping the rules of politics'**

# President Bush named Time's Person of 2004

NEW YORK (AP) — President George W. Bush again holds the title of Time magazine's "Person of the Year" — beating out Michael Moore, Mel Gibson and even his political adviser, Karl Rove.

After a grueling campaign and a second election win behind him, Bush remains a polarizing figure in America and around the world, and that's part of the reason the magazine selected him, said Managing Editor Jim Kelly.

"Many, many Americans deeply wish he had not won," Kelly said. "And yet he did."

Bush, tapped in 2000 by Time, joins six other presidents who have twice been named the magazine's Person of the Year: Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower (first as a general), Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. Franklin Roosevelt holds the record with three nods from the editors.

The 2004 Person of the Year package, on newsstands Monday, includes an Oval Office interview with Bush, an interview with his father, former President George H. W. Bush, and a profile of Bush's chief political adviser, Karl Rove.

Bush was recognized for "reshaping the rules of politics to fit his 10-gallon-hat leadership style," according to Time.

The magazine's editors recognized Bush "for sharpening the debate until the choices bled, for reframing reality to match his design, for gambling his fortunes — and ours — on his faith in the power of leadership."

Bush attributed his victory over Democratic candidate John Kerry to his foreign policy and the wars he began in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The election was about the use of American influence," Bush says in the Time article.

Continuing: "I think the natural instinct

for most people in the political world is that they want people to like them," Bush said. "On the other hand, I think sometimes I take kind of a delight in who the critics are."

Asked on ABC's "This Week" how Bush reacted when he learned of Time's decision, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said the president was "not worried about what pundits might be saying."

Card praised Bush as a "great liberator" for the people of Afghanistan and Iraq and lauded Bush's tax cuts, education and Medicare reform packages and plans to remake Social Security.

*'He is not the same man. He is a much more resolute man.'*

— Jim Kelly  
Time managing editor

Other candidates included Moore and Gibson, "because in different ways their movies tapped in to deep cultural streams," and political strategist Rove, who is widely credited with engineering Bush's win. Kelly said choosing Rove alone would have taken away from the credit he said Bush deserves.

Kelly said Bush has changed dramatically since he was named Person of the Year in 2000 after the Supreme Court awarded him the presidency.

"He is not the same man," Kelly said. "He's a much more resolute man. He is personally as charming as ever but I think the kind of face he's shown to the American public is one of much, much greater determination."

This is the first time an individual has been named since 2001, when then-New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was celebrated for his response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The magazine featured the American soldier last year; in 2002, it named Coleen Rowley, the FBI agent who wrote a critical memo on FBI intelligence failures, and Cynthia Cooper and Sherron Watkins, who blew the whistle on scandals at Enron and Worldcom.

## Calendar items

**Shrine Club.** Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 6:30 p.m. every second Monday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

**Southwest Cowboy Poets.** Southwest Cowboy Poets meets at 8 a.m., the second Saturday of each month at The Big Texan, I-40 East, in Amarillo.

**Top O' Texas Rodeo Ass'n.** Top O' Texas Rodeo Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month in the Nona S. Payne Room of Pampa Community Building.

**Al-Anon.** Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-6898.

**American Heart Ass'n.** The Tri-County Division of the American Heart Association meets at 12 noon the first Friday of each month at Pampa Community Medical Center. For more information, call 665-3816.

**ARC.** Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs (with pot) and hospital beds for its Loan Closet. For more information or to make a donation, contact the local Red Cross office at 669-7121.

**Area Agency on Aging.** Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle needs volunteers to serve as advocates for nursing home residents as part of its Ombudsmen program. The Ombudsmen will visit residents of long-term care facilities and help resolve complaints involving residents rights, quality of life and quality of care. Once accepted into

the program, volunteers complete a three month internship including intensive training and supervision in preparation. Ideal candidates will have strong sense of fair play, excellent problem-solving skills, good relationships with older people and the ability to devote two hours a week to the residents served by the Ombudsman program. For more information, contact Jeff Price, regional Ombudsman, or Tanya Mock, Ombudsman

Program Aide, at 1-800-642-6008; or write P.O. Box 9257, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

**Beginnings.** "Beginnings," a Harrington Cancer Center program for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, will meet weekly in Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room, 1500 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173, or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

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## Veterans' lung cancer linked to Gulf War fires

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War exposed to pollution from oil well fires, exhausts and other sources face an increased risk of lung cancer, a government advisory group reported Monday.

A committee of the Institute of Medicine concluded there isn't enough evidence to determine whether most of veterans' health problems are associat-

ed with such exposures. But it said occupational and environmental exposure to combustion products has been shown to increase danger of lung cancer.

## Colleges

Continued from Page 4

leges admit unprepared students. First, it lets high schools off the hook by allowing them to continue to confer fraudulent diplomas. Second, it leads to a dumbing down of the academic curricula and the creation of Mickey Mouse courses for students who can't make it in more challenging courses.

Academic departments or professors who don't dumb down their classes and participate in grade inflation risk declining enrollment and administrative threats to their budgets. Finally, hiring faculty to staff remedial courses inflates college costs to parents and taxpayers.

The nation's primary and secondary education is a national disgrace; will we allow our undergraduate education to become so as well? If we continue down our present course, the answer is an unambiguous yes. To change course, we need to start examining the incentive structure that college administrators face.

To a large extent, college budgets are

determined by enrollment size. More students mean higher budgets and therefore incentive to admit students unprepared for college. Colleges should not admit students requiring remedial education. That's not to say youngsters shouldn't receive remedial education, but let them get it elsewhere — maybe at the high school that awarded them a fraudulent diploma.

We might rethink the financing of higher education, particularly at government-owned colleges, so as to introduce competition that might improve quality and drive down costs.

High school graduates meeting academic criteria for college admission should be awarded a voucher in the amount of the per capita college cost paid by state taxpayers. The voucher could be used at any college, an idea similar to the GI Bill. There was a time when we could have prevented the K-12 slide to mediocrity, but we didn't seize the moment. Now's our chance with higher education. Will we let this moment pass us by?

\*\*\*  
Walter Williams, Ph.D., is a John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

*Colleges should not admit students requiring remedial education.*

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# Communities struggle with pregnant woman's death, baby's theft

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Rev. Harold Hamon refrained from directly discussing the death of his neighbor, Bobbie Jo Stinnett, whose baby was cut from her womb after she had been strangled.

Instead, the subject of this week's sermon was forgiveness.

Churchgoers in two communities grieved Sunday for the young woman and struggled to understand the horrific slaying.

"It's almost unbelievable that right under your nose something terrible can be happening," said Hamon, who lives in the small town of Skidmore in northwestern Missouri.

Hamon said he was probably addressing Christmas cards when Stinnett, 23, was killed. A short time later, a member of his congregation called to say she had heard an ambulance and wondered if anyone near the church was hurt. Hamon said he

looked out the window and saw police cars parked in front of Stinnett's house.

Authorities said Lisa Montgomery, of Melvern, Kan., confessed to strangling Stinnett, cutting out the fetus and taking the baby back to Kansas. She is accused of trying to pass the child off as her own to family and friends. The baby girl was later recovered unharmed.

Montgomery, 36, remained held at a detention center in Kansas City, Kan.

She faces a federal charge of kidnapping resulting in murder.

U.S. Attorney Todd Graves said on NBC's "Today" that Montgomery would probably go first to U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan., and could be taken across the state line within hours for a first appearance in federal court in Kansas City, Mo.

Victoria Jo Stinnett, the slain woman's baby, remained in the neonatal

intensive care unit at Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka, Kan.

"She's in remarkably good condition for what has happened to her," hospital spokeswoman Tami Motley said Monday. There was no immediate indication when the infant might go home.

The Rev. Mike Wheatly, pastor of First Church of God in Melvern, said he wrote his sermon about the birth of Jesus before details about

Stinnett's death surfaced.

Titled, "A Baby Changed Everything," it had added relevance.

"You could've put the situation of Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the same sermon because they are both special babies," he said.

Hamon married Bobbie Jo and Zeb Stinnett last year at his Skidmore Christian Church.

"They were kids in the neighborhood, nice young kids," Hamon said.

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*Beef gift certificates*

Lilith Brainard, Elysa Clements and Buster the dog, from left, on behalf of Top O' Texas CattleWomen's Association recently presented beef gift certificates to Kim Davis of Tralee Crisis Center. Beef gift certificates are available for purchase by the public and may be redeemed at participating grocery stores and restaurants. For more information, call 665-4579.

## WWII shipbuilders played Santa, worked for free on Christmas

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — With the Battle of the Bulge raging in western Europe during World War II, workers at a Brunswick shipyard were determined to deliver one more ship by year's end.

To get the job done, laborers were needed around the clock on Christmas Day. About 1,500 volunteered — and they worked for free.

Newspapers across the United States carried the story in their afternoon editions Dec. 25, and 60 years later, their hard work and generosity remains a point of pride in the coastal city.

"We were Santa Claus," recalled 81-year-old Nanelle Surrency Bacon.

The shipyard built freighters to carry troops and supplies to the front lines of World War II.

It made its December quota before the holiday, launching its sixth ship Dec. 23, 1944. But Bacon and her co-workers at the J.A. Jones Construction Co. shipyard were determined to do more.

Bacon and John Clyde Smith, who supervised 100 electricians at the shipyard, could not remember whose idea it was to build seven ships in December and donate their Christmas overtime pay

to the sailors taking those vessels overseas.

But Bacon remembers reporting for a 16-hour workday and seeing a Christmas tree, which her supervisor had cut from the woods, posted by the front gate. During breaks over crackers and Coca-Cola, she led co-workers in singing "Silent Night" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

In photographs from that Christmas, a man dressed as Santa Claus kneels on the docks with a blowtorch, flanked by two female welders.

"Shipyard workers here put in their eight hours today — free," read one Associated Press dispatch from Brunswick. "It was a Christmas present for the fighting forces on the front line."

After Christmas, workers received their holiday overtime checks already separated from their normal pay. They signed those checks over to the U.S. Treasury and turned them in to the shipyard's 13 union leaders.

The J.A. Jones Company then matched the workers' gift, donating an additional \$16,080.

On Dec. 30, the Brunswick shipyard launched its seventh ship — the William Cox.

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## Burundi

BUJUMBURA — A police official said that peacekeepers were being abused in Burundi.

## Russia

MOSCOW — The founder of Monday's main firm "present" for Gazprom gas conglomerate.

## Yugoslavia

BELGRADE — The wealthiest in Russia, Yukos for the \$18 billion audit.

## Settlement on Gaza

JERUSALEM — Jewish settlers Monday urged to resist the settlements in Gaza.

## Prime Minister Sharon

SHARON — Sharon is a coalition moderate who would stabilize the government.

## Welders

BRUNSWICK — Welders at the Brunswick shipyard worked for free on Christmas.

## WWII Shipbuilders

BRUNSWICK — WWII shipbuilders played Santa and worked for free on Christmas.

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# Burundi police conclude U.N. peacekeepers sexually abused girls

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) — A police investigation has concluded that two United Nations peacekeepers from Ethiopia sexually abused underage girls in Burundi.

U.N. officials and a copy was filed at a court, said Anatole Ntukamazina, commander of the public security police. No charges were immediately filed.

eastern Muyinga province on suspicion of having sex with underage girls who were found in their hotel rooms, Ntukamazina said.

The two Ethiopian peacekeepers were arrested Dec. 11 in the north-

ing to monitor a peace deal between the government and Hutu rebels that ended Burundi's 11-year civil war.

## Russian oil fight

# Obscure Russian firm buys Yukos unit at bargain price

MOSCOW (AP) — The jailed founder of the Yukos oil company on Monday called the weekend auction of its main production unit to a little-known firm "a wonderful Christmas present" for the state, and speculation mounted that the purchaser was a front for Gazprom, the Russian state natural gas conglomerate.

BaikalFinansGroup on Sunday became the fourth-largest oil producer in Russia after buying the Yuganskneftegaz unit of Yukos for \$9.3 billion, half of the \$18 billion that foreign auditors had said the West Siberian unit was worth.

"The authorities have given themselves a wonderful Christmas present — they have destroyed the most effective oil company in Russia," Yukos founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky said through his lawyers, according to the Interfax news agency.

Khodorkovsky, Russia's wealthiest man, has been in jail since his arrest Oct. 25. He has been charged with fraud and tax evasion and is now on trial.

The sale of Yuganskneftegaz reduces the once-giant Yukos to a shadow of its former self, one of the heaviest blows to a company which has been the target of a persistent government campaign. The government says it only wants to collect \$28 billion in back taxes. Yukos officials say the Kremlin — President Vladimir Putin in particular — is punishing the company to halt Khodorkovsky's political activities.

After the auction, the Kremlin declared it would simply seize the

Yukos production unit for taxes if payment was not received from BaikalfinansGroup within two weeks, according to Alexander Bukzman, head of the Moscow branch of the Justice Ministry.

"The auction was farcical as the process being used by the Russians' false tax claims against Yukos," Yukos CEO Steven Theede told reporters in London. American executives hired by Khodorkovsky have fled Russia.

He said BaikalfinansGroup was just 2 days old, and "it must be clear who the company is, and how this happened," implying the auction was rigged by state authorities.

Theede said the sale prices was "half what should have been paid."

"It's a move backward. We have been the most transparent company in Russia. To be sold to an unknown company is a move that is contrary to the overall reform initiatives in Russia," Theede said.

Financial markets in Russia opened lower Monday, a day after the sale.

Gazprom had been expected to be the high bidder, though the natural gas conglomerate for its part denied any links with BaikalfinansGroup.

Kommersant business daily called the sale "a scandal," and Salambek Khadzhiyev, chairman of Rosbusiness Bank's oversight board, told the newspaper he "had a feeling" that Gazprom and BaikalfinansGroup "clearly had a

connection between each other."

Gazprom said Sunday that neither it nor Gazpromneft — its oil component, which was to officially make the firm's bid — had any relation to the winner, Interfax reported. Other top Russian oil producers — Lukoil, Surgutneftegaz and TNK-BP, have also denied ties to BaikalfinansGroup.

OAO Gazprom is the largest natural gas company in the world, with one-quarter of all gas reserves. A union of Gazprom and Yukos would create a global energy titan.

While analysts have little doubt that the state will ultimately take control of Yuganskneftegaz, its purchase by the previously unknown BaikalfinansGroup promises investors yet more uncertainty in an affair that has battered business confidence in Russia.

"There is no early prospect of the hoped-for outcome of getting the whole affair over and done with, allowing Russia to move on and start to repair the damage to the investment climate," the United Financial Group brokerage wrote in a note to investors. "Instead, the market must hunker down for yet further attrition from the Yukos affair."

Yukos, which still faces some \$18 billion in back tax claims after the sale, was down nearly 10 percent in midday trading on Moscow's RTS exchange.

Yukos pumps nearly one-fifth of all of Russia's oil and supplies two percent of the world's consumption. The auctioned unit produced 60 percent of Yukos' output.

Little is known about the winning bidder except that it was registered in the city of Tver, in western Russia, and applied to join the bidding only after a Houston, Texas, court issued an injunction against the sale because of Yukos' U.S. bankruptcy filing.

*'The authorities have given themselves a wonderful Christmas present — they have destroyed the most effective oil company in Russia.'*

—Mikhail Khodorkovsky  
Yukos Founder



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# Settler leader calls on followers to resist Gaza withdrawal

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jewish settler leader on Monday urged followers to resist the evacuation of settlements in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, signaling a shift toward revolt after settlers lost hope of stopping the pullback by political means.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is close to signing a coalition agreement with the moderate Labor Party, which would stabilize his government and guarantee strong political support for the Gaza withdrawal.

For months, settler leaders had been confident they could stop the Gaza plan with political lobbying and that they could bring down Sharon's government, if necessary. Last summer, the settlers' political patrons had quit the coalition, weakening Sharon. Settlers also enjoyed strong support among many legislators in Sharon's Likud Party.

However, Sharon outmaneuvered his opponents, including those in Likud. The call to disobedience issued by Pinchas Wallerstein, a former leader of the Yesha Settlers' Council, who sent letters around the West Bank, said

settlers should resist evacuation even if it means going to prison.

The withdrawal plan is accompanied by special legislation that says anyone physically resisting the dismantling of settlements faces up to three years in prison. The bill requires two more votes before becoming law.

The Yesha Council was to meet later Monday to decide whether to adopt Wallerstein's appeal, which would mark the first time the organization is formally advocating breaking the law.

"I want a large part of the public that I believe are willing to go to prison to say so today ..."

—Pinchas Wallerstein  
former Yesha Settlers Council leader

"I want a large part of the public that I believe are willing to go to prison to say so today so the decision-makers will understand where we are going," Wallerstein told Israel's Army Radio. "I believe that what I represent is the central line in the Yesha Council."

Sharon, a former settler patron, said Wallerstein's statement was "harsh." Sharon said he understood the pain of the settlers but that they must not break the law.

Wallerstein said he did not support using force against soldiers involved in the evacuation.



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I would like to share my pet peeve with you. It's being invited to "sales parties" for kitchenware, beauty products, etc. I can't afford to spend money at these so-called parties because I have three children to feed.

I would prefer not to disclose my financial situation to every person who issues these invitations, which arrive sometimes on a weekly basis. I have tried to tell friends that I am busy that night, and they either find out that I really don't have plans or try to sign me up for an "outside order." I have shared with a few friends that I am on a strict budget, and they reply with "just come and don't buy anything."

That's not a workable solution, because the consultants see the word "no" as a challenge and won't take "no" for an answer. Also, it's intimidating to see everyone else pull out their checkbooks. How can I get uninvited permanently so I can stop avoiding the mailbox? -- CANT AFFORD MY FRIENDS IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEAR CANT: Real friends don't subject friends to embarrassment or use them to get special deals by promoting commercial products. Ignore the solicitations as you would any other, and don't feel guilty. If you're questioned, just say you weren't interested in buying -- it's the truth.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended several soccer practices for 6-year-olds. One boy on the team, "Timmy," is so obese he can barely run. His mother screams at him from the sidelines, giving him directions every few minutes. Sometimes the poor child "runs" in the wrong direction and scores for the opposing team. (I personally believe he suffers from ADD.) Timmy said to his mother, "I can't run!" -- and

he can't. His large belly and huge thighs prevent him from running. One can see his frustration.

After the game, each player is given a paper sack of refreshments. One time, it was a chocolate cupcake, a bag of chips and a cold drink. At the end of the game, after the snacks, Timmy ran to his mother. He was crying. She was talking on her cell phone. She said, "Here's 50 cents -- go buy a candy bar." My heart aches for this boy. What would you suggest? -- CONCERNED PARENT, BLOOMINGTON, IND.

DEAR CONCERNED: Since you can't change Timmy's mother, speak to the coach. That's the only person the boy should be listening to during a game. Perhaps the mother will take guidance from the coach regarding a healthy diet and exercise regimen for her son. Another thing you might do is volunteer to provide some healthy snacks for the players after the games, and organize the other team moms to do the same.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old son was invited to a 14-year-old neighbor's birthday party. On the invitation it said, "Suggested gift -- \$20." The boy's parents were aware that he put it on the invitation. I think it was inappropriate to ask for a specific gift, especially money. What's your opinion? -- OFFENDED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR OFFENDED: My opinion is the same as yours. The fact that the parents didn't put a stop to the gift "suggestion" shows they either endorsed it or didn't know any better. By allowing it, the parents did a disservice to their son.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cast women member

6 Fresh reward

10 Square or circle

11 Reef material

13 Terra

14 Custom

15 Mine rock

16 Bit of makeup

18 Arthur of "Maude"

19 Firing

22 Prehistoric

23 Diminish

24 Like a criminal's eyes

27 Neighbor-hood eatery

28 "Would you to you?"

29 Hosp. workers

30 Evolution

35 Gum mass

36 Decept horse

37 Hit show letters

38 Foolish

40 Fancy parties

42 Rose

43 Cheer up

44 Tenant's fee

DOWN

1 Fancy neckwear

2 Task

3 Spud

4 Select

5 Without difficulty

6 Cousteau's gear

7 Argeles

8 Swift horse

9 Headline setting

12 Near-ringer

17 Plus

20 Intenet connector

21 Surprise in a story

24 Nabob

25 Mrs. Roosevelt addresses

26 When a show is shown

27 Pulled counted

29 Genetic resident

31 Bumbling faith

32 Mosque

33 Make

34 They

39 Convent

41 -- carte

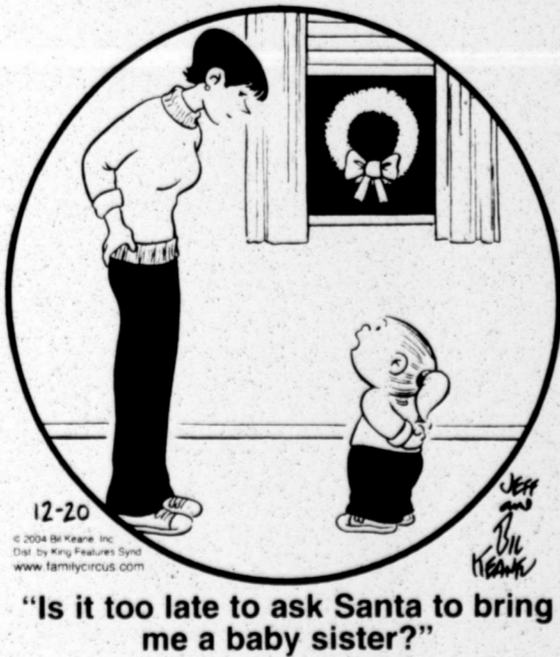
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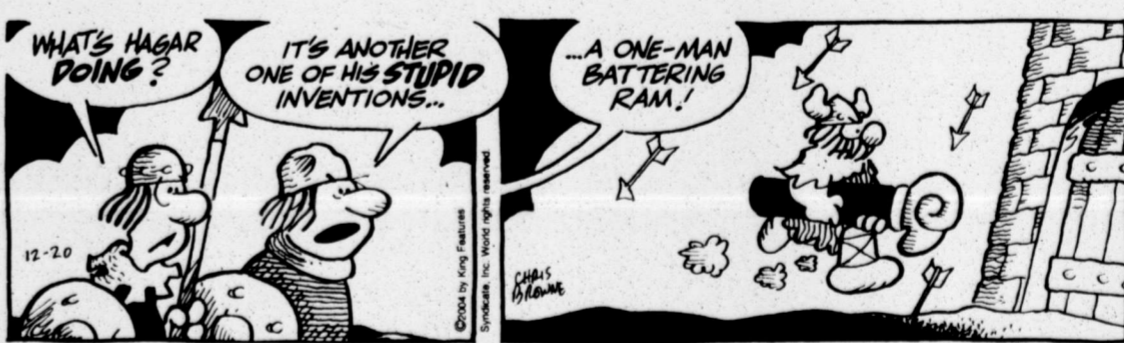
## The Family Circus



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Pan fall

The Pampa wrestling River Row early Sat for a 10:30 The Wil Pampa, 47 The H number of including (112lb.), (112lb.) a (112lb.). feited a fe own, inc and 189 p Among taining m morning o pound of Steven M River R (Yebra) ne

Steven M Scotty B gling aga right, tak John Bur tion prior

# LOOK Th

Dear fo love of P basic, fun that when freaking i they are d It cause ularly to cl fierce wh defensive tackle the diving at h der or, w at him w Unless th these babi ling-challe lack of a shoulder, wrap-up i tackle him enough to Another infiltrated football is ball carri him while grasp. Me gain an e works on t not, it just would aln Haw" no clowns ru

# Cha

(AP) icked in th into the Green Ba something wintry co into the po The Ch eighth str longest wi 1987, and West. Ign snow, a ga ture of 18 chill, the shutout si Cleveland "It feels terback D attempted "It's been San Diego weren't e much this 11-3, a lot we'd be 3- Despite home to Packers ( ninth team reach the p start. They kickoff b Dallas, C York all n the-mill n



# Sports Day

## Pampa wrestlers fall to River Road

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester wrestling team traveled to River Road High School early Saturday morning for a 10:30 a.m. meeting. The Wildcats defeated Pampa, 47-27.

The Harvesters had a number of wins by forfeit including Scotty Brown (112lb.), Matt Railsback (112lb.) and Toby Lynch (112lb.). Pampa also forfeited a few matches of its own, including the 180 and 189 pound classes.

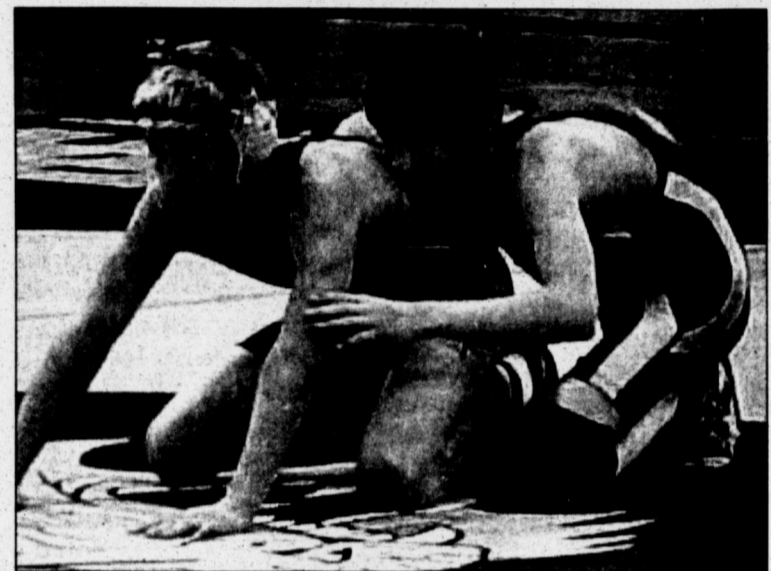
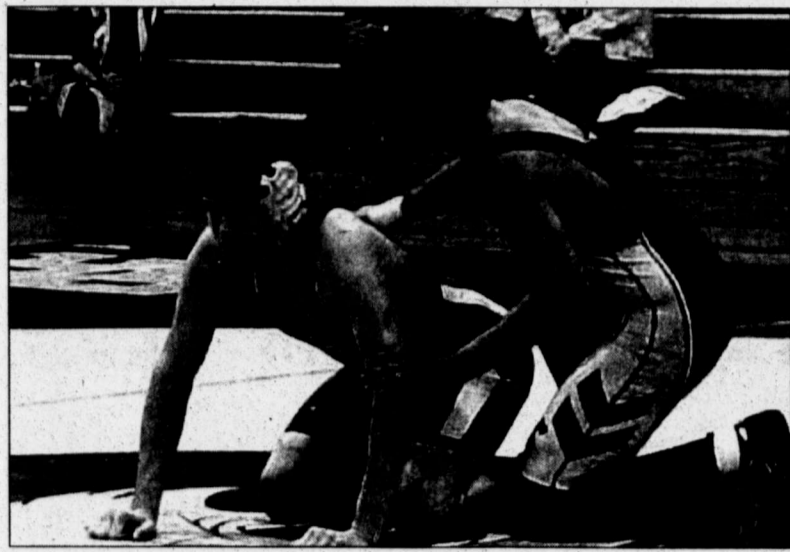
Among the most entertaining matches of the morning came in the 153 pound class. Pampa's Steven McCarley and his River Road opponent (Yebrá) needed every sec-

ond of all three periods to decide a winner. When the buzzer sounded after the third period, McCarley had outlasted Yebrá 10-9.

John Burns won his match his match by pinning his opponent (Rankin).

"I'm proud of the way our guys wrestled," said Coach Joshi Cadenhead. "We were missing a couple of guys Saturday morning. They could have represented a 12-point swing."

Cadenhead noted had the missing wrestlers been available and Pampa managed to win a match or two more, the outcome may have been different.



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Steven McCarley, top left, waits for a whistle. Scotty Brown, top right, grimaces while struggling against his opponent. Richard Leal, bottom right, takes the up position against his opponent. John Burns, bottom left (left), studies the opposition prior to pinning him.

### LOOK WHAT I LEARNED

## They call it technique

Dear football coaches — please, for the love of Pete — teach your players some basic, fundamental skills. Please do this so that when they get older, they have some freaking idea how to tackle because what they are doing in the NFL today is horrible.

It causes my blood to boil and my vocabulary to change something fierce whenever I see a defensive player try to tackle the opposition by diving at him with a shoulder or, worse yet, jumping at him with back turned. Unless the majority of these babies are truly tackling-challenged due to a complete and utter lack of appendages extending from each shoulder, they should have the capacity to wrap-up the opposing player and really tackle him. They're certainly being paid enough to do so.

Another of the lazy "techniques" to have infiltrated the otherwise glorious sport of football is one in which, rather than tackle a ball carrier, the defender opts to hang on to him while trying to punch the ball out of his grasp. Meanwhile the runner manages to gain an extra yard or twelve. This only works on the rare occasion. More often than not, it just looks like some horrible rodeo. It would almost be okay if I heard a "Yee Haw" now and then followed by some clowns running onto the field to protect the

fallen defender from other players, possibly his own.

And where has this moronic maneuver gotten any one? Yesterday, it got Jaguar safety Donovan Darius ejected from Jacksonville's game at Green Bay. Darius was given the boot after he all but took off the head off of Packer's receiver Robert Ferguson. Darius used what he later referred to as a "technique" (see description above) to try to strip the ball from Ferguson's grip. What he did was smack him in the throat hard enough that Ferguson's helmet came detached from his head, causing him to fall to the earth like rag doll. Great technique Donovan. Where did you learn that skill?

Ferguson had no feeling in his legs shortly after the great defensive play that Darius will no doubt play over and over for his friends and family. "Look here at what daddy did to this poor dude kids." Ferguson would regain feeling at the hospital where he stayed the night.

Jacksonville hung on to win the game, 28-25.

So coaches, do your kids a favor and teach them some basic skills. If they don't appreciate the effort, I and others like me will.

Michael J. Stevens  
Sports Editor



## Pampa falls short in Clovis, takes on Plainview tonight

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

Head Coach Jeff Reed wanted to leave Clovis Saturday night with a win in his pocket and perhaps a bit of a snicker under his breath. He came awfully close.

Reed's Pampa varsity basketball team entered Wildcat country to face unbeaten Clovis late Saturday night. Reed is a Wildcat alumni.

The Harvesters started out strong, pinning a 16-10 first period lead on Clovis. The Wildcats would make a comeback in the second period, taking a close 25-23 lead to the locker room at the break.

The Wildcats earn their living by running the opposition into submission by the fourth period. However, Clovis fell into foul trouble in then second half which allowed

Pampa to rest and reserve energy.

Said Clovis Head Coach J.D. Isler in an interview after the game, "Their free throws really kept them in the game. They didn't get tired like they normally would."

The Harvesters shot 27 for 36 at the foul line.

Pampa's 53 points were the most scored on the Wildcats so far this season. 13 more than Clovis usually gives up. Braden Barker led the way for Pampa with 12 points. Sharod Young had 11 points.

It doesn't get any easier for the Harvesters as they face Plainview tonight at McNeely Field House. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 59-56 loss to Amarillo High last Friday night. It was their first loss of the season.

## Lady Harvesters host Plainview

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvester basketball team will take to the home court tonight against the Lady Bulldogs of Plainview. Tip off will be at 6 p.m.

Pampa lost to Clovis Saturday night, 56-44.

Lindsey Ammons had a solid outing for

Pampa, tossing in 14 points. Britteni Rice had 12 points for the night.

The loss moves Pampa's record to 6-9 entering tonight's meeting with Plainview.

The Lady Harvester junior varsity team needed overtime to claim an exciting win over Clovis. That final was Pampa 41, Clovis 34. They will also be facing Plainview tonight in the MPAC building. That game will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Chargers, Packers take different paths to playoffs

(AP) — San Diego frolicked in the snow on its way into the NFL playoffs. Green Bay, which knows something about winning in wintry conditions, backed into the postseason.

The Chargers won their eighth straight game, their longest winning streak since 1987, and clinched the AFC West. Ignoring the blowing snow, a game-time temperature of 18 and subzero wind chill, they got their first shutout since 1993, 21-0 at Cleveland.

"It feels great," said quarterback Drew Brees, who attempted just six passes. "It's been a long road for San Diego fans and us. We weren't expected to do too much this year. Instead of 11-3, a lot of people thought we'd be 3-11."

Despite falling 28-25 at home to Jacksonville, the Packers (8-6) became the ninth team in NFL history to reach the playoffs after a 1-4 start. They clinched before kickoff because Chicago, Dallas, Carolina and New York all lost in the run-of-the-mill NFC — where a

team with a .500 or worse record will make the playoffs.

But the Packers fell into a tie atop the NFC North with Minnesota, which edged Detroit 28-27. The Packers travel to Minnesota for a Christmas Eve matinee that will likely decide the division.

"We're in the playoffs?" Packers lineman Mark Tauscher asked. "I'll take your word for it."

Also Sunday, it was: Indianapolis 20, Baltimore 10; Kansas City 45, Denver 14; the New York Jets 37, Seattle 14; Arizona 31, St. Louis 7; Buffalo 33, Cincinnati 17; Philadelphia 12, Dallas 7; New Orleans 21, Tampa Bay 17; Houston 24, Chicago 5; and Oakland 40, Tennessee 35. On Saturday, it was: Pittsburgh

33, the New York Giants 30; Atlanta 34, Carolina 31 in overtime; and Washington 26, San Francisco 16.

On Monday night, New England is at Miami.

**Chargers 21, Browns 0**

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns, and Antonio Gates tied a record for tight ends with his 12th TD of the season, a 72-yarder.

Tomlinson scored on a pair of 1-yard runs, his 15th and 16th TDs this season.

"To go from where we were to this is awesome. I've dreamed of the playoffs for a long time, but it's only been a dream," Tomlinson said.

The Browns (3-11) have lost eight straight.

**Jaguars 28, Packers 25**

At Green Bay, Byron Leftwich threw two touch-

down passes to Jerry Smith. Fred Taylor rushed for 165 yards and a touchdown, and Rashean Mathis picked off Brett Favre twice in bitter cold to help Jacksonville improve to 8-6.

Favre turned over the ball four times and fell to 31-4 at home after Dec. 1, losing for just the second time in 40 cold-weather games at home.

Jaguars safety Donovan Darius was ejected for a helmet-stripping, clothesline hit that sent receiver Robert Ferguson to the hospital in an ambulance. Ferguson has a sprained neck. Team trainer Pepper Burruss said the receiver had movement and sensation in his arms and legs Sunday night. Ferguson was admitted to Bellin Hospital for observation overnight.

**Colts 20, Ravens 10**

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw for one TD, moving within one of Dan Marino's record for one season, 48 set in 1984. Manning hit Marvin Harrison for a 29-yard score, but otherwise was

flustered by Baltimore's rugged defense.

The fans even booed when Manning knelt down twice in the final minute at the Baltimore 4, running out the clock with a chance to tie the record.

See NFL, Page 10

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# Raptors devour Nets; Knicks edge Jazz

TORONTO (AP) — Lamond Murray scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter and the Toronto Raptors beat the New Jersey Nets 110-99 on Sunday, their first victory of the post-Vince Carter era.

Carter wasn't at the Air Canada Centre because Toronto's trade with New Jersey isn't expected to be finalized until noon Monday. The Raptors traded their biggest star on Friday to the Nets for Eric Williams, Aaron Williams, Alonzo Mourning and two first-round draft picks.

Murray, who could play more now that Carter is gone, recorded his highest scoring game with Toronto. He scored 12 points as the Raptors began the fourth quarter on a 17-4 run.

Morris Peterson added 20 points for the Raptors.

Richard Jefferson had 38 points for the Nets.

**Knicks 94, Jazz 93**  
NEW YORK (AP) — Jamal Crawford scored 11 of his 24 points in the final five minutes, including a rare four-point play and a sweet crossover move that led to a key basket in New York's victory over Utah.

Crawford's running floater made it 90-86 with 27 seconds left, and Stephon Marbury's two free throws with 6.4 remaining gave New York a four-point lead.

Marbury had 19 points and 12 assists, Michael Sweetney scored 13 and Kurt Thomas grabbed 14 of the Knicks' 29 rebounds as New York won at home over the Jazz for the first time in more than eight years.

Matt Harpring scored 21, Raja Bell

added 20 and Carlos Boozer 19 for the Jazz, who dropped their seventh consecutive road game.

Crawford led the Knicks in scoring for the 11th time this season and the fourth time in the past five games.

**Heat 117, Magic 107**  
MIAMI (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal sparked a 13-point run late in the fourth quarter, and Miami won its eighth game in a row.

The winning streak is Miami's longest since March 1998, and the past four victories have come against teams above .500. The Heat trailed for much of the game and were down 103-102 with five minutes left before O'Neal helped them surge ahead.

O'Neal finished with 27 points. Eddie Jones went 8-for-10 and scored 25 points.

## NFL

Continued from Page 9

"That's the right way to play," Manning said.

Baltimore's playoff hopes took a hit. The Ravens (8-6) are tied with Buffalo, Jacksonville and Denver for the final AFC wild-card spot.

**Chiefs 45, Broncos 17**  
At Kansas City, Larry Johnson and Eddie Kennison each scored two touchdowns and Dante Hall returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for another score.

Johnson had his third straight game with over 100 yards rushing, running for 151 yards. The Chiefs (6-8) got their biggest margin of victory in the series since a 31-point win in 1983.

The Broncos (8-6) lost for the third time in four games, and were flagged 10 times for 100 yards. Jake Plummer, who was fined \$5,000 last week for making an obscene gesture at a fan in Denver, threw two interceptions that set up Kansas City touchdowns and was sacked six times.

**Jets 37, Seahawks 14**  
Curtis Martin, 31, had 134 yards and two touchdown runs, becoming the oldest

runner to gain 1,500 yards in a season.

Chad Pennington threw three touchdown passes, helping host New York (10-4) keep its lead in the AFC wild-card standings. The Jets never punted.

The Seahawks (7-7) had three turnovers that the Jets converted into 14 points, and quarterback Matt Hasselbeck injured his right elbow.

**Cardinals 31, Rams 7**  
Josh McCown threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more and the host Cardinals (5-9) snapped a four-game losing streak. He had TD passes of 8 and 4 yards to Larry Fitzgerald, and scoring runs of 1 and 9 yards.

A victory would have moved the Rams (6-8) into a tie with Seattle atop the NFC West. The Rams' touchdown came on Leonard Little's 61-yard fumble return with 7 seconds left in the first half.

**Vikings 28, Lions 27**  
At Detroit, the Lions (5-9) went 80 yards in 1:29 to pull within a point on Joey Harrington's second touchdown pass to Roy Williams. Then, Don Muhlbach's snap bounced to holder Nick Harris, who was tackled before he could get the ball spotted for kicker Jason Hanson.

Despite losing five of their previous seven games, Minnesota (8-6) can win the NFC North with victories Friday at home over Green Bay and then at Washington. Daunte Culpepper passed for 404 yards and three TDs.

**Bills 33, Bengals 17**  
At Cincinnati, Buffalo (8-6) enhanced its playoff chances with a fifth straight victory, scoring at least 33 points in each.

Takeo Spikes returned an interception 62 yards for a pivotal touchdown against his former team, Jason Peters blocked a punt and recovered in the end zone for a score.

The Bengals (6-8) will have their 14th consecutive season without a winning record — one of the longest streaks of futility in NFL history.

**Eagles 12, Cowboys 7**  
Receiver Terrell Owens sprained his right ankle, but will have almost a month to recover before Philadelphia's next meaningful game, in the second round of the playoffs.

Dorsey Levens' 2-yard touchdown run with 1:57 left helped Philadelphia (13-1) clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Keyshawn Johnson had a TD catch for Dallas (5-9).

**Saints 21, Buccaneers 17**

At Tampa, Donte Stallworth's 7-yard TD catch with 32 seconds left capped a late comeback for the Saints (6-8), who revived their postseason hopes with a second straight comeback win. They are tied with Carolina and St. Louis for the last wild-card spot in the weak NFC.

The Bucs (5-9) became the first team to win the Super Bowl and then post consecutive losing records the next two seasons. Simeon Rice had 3 1/2 sacks.

**Texans 24, Bears 5**  
At Chicago, the Texans (6-8) allowed the fewest points in its three-year history and got four turnovers to beat the bumbling Bears (5-9).

With the temperature 9 degrees at kickoff and the wind chill 10 below zero, David Carr threw a TD pass to Corey Bradford and also set up a field goal with a 69-yarder to Jabar Gaffney. Charlie Anderson capped the victory by returning a fumble 60 yards for a TD.

**Raiders 40, Titans 35**  
At Oakland, Kerry Collins threw for 371 yards and matched his career high with five touchdown passes, hitting Jerry Porter for three scores for the Raiders (5-9).

The Titans' Billy Volek had the second-best passing day in franchise history with 492 yards and four touchdowns.

But it wasn't enough to keep Tennessee (4-10) from losing its fourth straight game.

**Saturday**  
**Steelers 33, Giants 30**  
Ben Roethlisberger threw for a career-high 316 yards for a team-record 12th straight victory, all with the rookie at quarterback.

He outplayed Eli Manning, the top overall pick in the draft, who had his first good game in five starts. Manning was 16-of-23 for 182 yards and two touchdown passes at Giants Stadium.

The Steelers (13-1) have clinched the AFC North. The Giants (5-9) have lost seven in a row.

**Falcons 34, Panthers 31**  
At Atlanta, Michael Vick scored the tying touchdown on a 12-yard fourth-down run with less than 2 minutes to go in regulation, then Jay Feely kicked a 38-yard field goal in overtime, helping Atlanta snap Carolina's five-game winning streak.

The Panthers (6-8) recovered from a pair of double-digit deficits, only to have the Falcons (11-3) respond. Jake

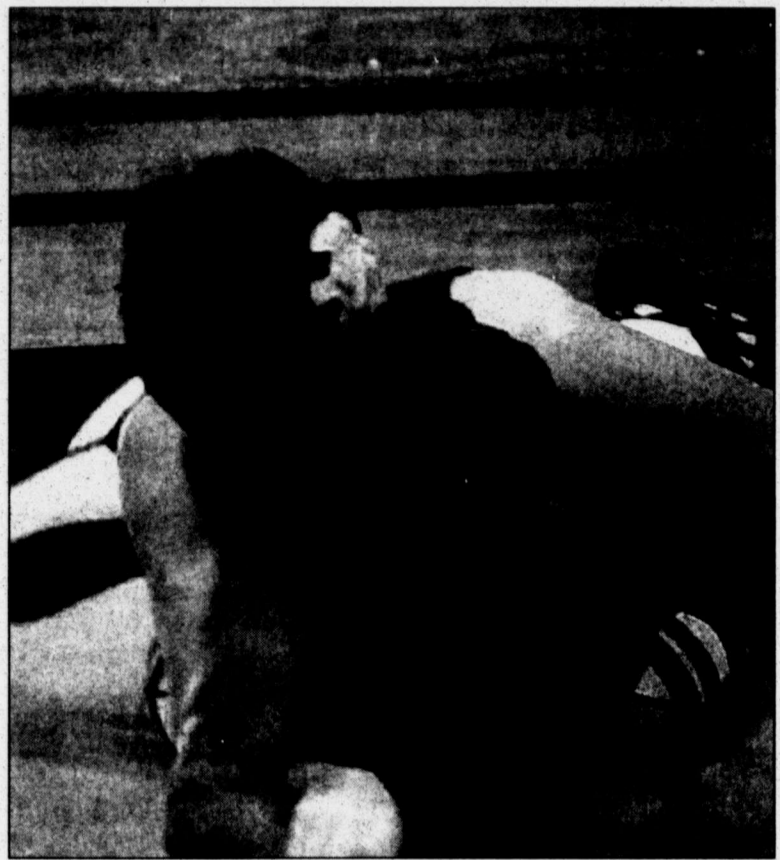
Delhomme was 24-of-35 for 340 yards, but he had two big fumbles and an overtime interception. Muhsin Muhammad had 10 receptions for 135 yards.

**Redskins 26, 49ers 16**  
At San Francisco, Antonio Pierce returned one of Washington's four interceptions 78 yards for a score just before halftime.

Clinton Portis rushed for 110 yards, Rod Gardner caught six passes for 111 yards and newcomer Jeff Chandler kicked four field goals for the Redskins (5-9).

San Francisco dropped to 2-12.

## Wrapped up



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

A River Road wrestler (bottom) struggles against Pampa's Steven McCarley this past Saturday. McCarley won the match, 10-9.

## CHL standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NORTHERN CONFERENCE

#### Northeast Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Bossier-Shreveport	13	7	3	29	73	58
Fort Worth	13	7	3	29	68	65
Oklahoma City	9	12	4	22	72	72
Memphis	11	14	0	22	73	90
Tulsa	10	13	1	21	70	81

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Wichita	16	7	1	33	74	59
Colorado	13	4	4	30	75	47
New Mexico	13	8	3	29	77	73
Topeka	10	15	1	21	69	86

### SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Corpus Christi	12	8	3	27	81	79
Laredo	13	9	1	27	83	56
Austin	11	10	2	24	65	73
Rio Grande Valley	8	14	1	17	53	90

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Lubbock	14	6	2	30	65	50
San Angelo	14	8	2	30	71	76
Amarillo	10	10	2	22	62	73
Odessa	8	8	5	21	58	61

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for loss in overtime or shootout. Overtime or shootout losses are only denoted in the OTL column, not the loss column.

### Saturday's Games

Lubbock 2, Odessa 1, OT  
Bossier-Shreveport 8, Memphis 2  
New Mexico 5, San Angelo 4, OT  
**Topeka 4, Amarillo 1**  
Wichita 2, Colorado 1  
Fort Worth 1, Austin 0, SO  
Rio Grande Valley 5, Oklahoma City 4  
Laredo 5, Corpus Christi 1

### Sunday's Games

Lubbock 4, San Angelo 1  
Tulsa 3, New Mexico 0

### Monday's Games

No games scheduled

### Tuesday's Games

San Angelo at Odessa  
Wichita at Oklahoma City  
Topeka at Tulsa  
Colorado at Amarillo  
Austin at Fort Worth

## Sports Transactions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BASEBALL

#### American League

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Traded LHP Mark Mulder to St. Louis for RHP Dan Haren, RHP Kiko Calero and C Daric Barton.

### BASKETBALL

#### National Basketball Association

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Suspended G Eric Snow one game without pay for his sideline confrontation with coach Paul Silas during a Dec. 16 game against Detroit.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed G Eddie House.

PHOENIX SUNS—Activated F Jackson Vroman from the injured list. Waived G Yuta Tabuse.

### FOOTBALL

#### National Football League

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Placed C Rich Braham on injured reserve. Signed RB Quincy Wilson to a three-year contract.

DENVER BRONCOS—Signed DT Demetris Veal.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Placed CB Tyrone Poole on injured reserve.

## Majerus backs out

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three days after being hired as the new basketball coach at Southern California, Rick Majerus backed out of the deal and will stay at ESPN as a college basketball analyst.

Majerus, who cited health reasons when he retired in January after 15 seasons as Utah's coach, was announced as the Trojans' incoming coach Wednesday. He was to assume the post on April 1.

Until taking over in April, Majerus was supposed to serve on the staff and work on recruiting, filling the assistant's job vacated when Jim Saia was promoted to interim coach after Henry Bibby's firing.

## Early Deadlines for Christmas

CLASSIFIED LINE ADS  
AND CITY BRIEFS

Insertion Date	Deadline
Mon., Dec. 27th	Fri., Dec. 24th, 10:00am
Tues., Dec. 28th	Fri., Dec. 24th, Noon

### ROP DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED DISPLAY (Boxed Ads)

Mon., Dec. 27th	Thurs., Dec. 23rd, 3:00pm
Tues., Dec. 28th	Thurs., Dec. 23rd, 3:00pm
Wed., Dec. 29th	Fri., Dec. 24th, 10am

### NO SUNDAY PAPER

THE PAMPA NEWS WILL CLOSE  
AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>  
& CLOSED DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> IN  
HONOR OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

HAVE A SAFE  
& HAPPY  
HOLIDAY



PHOTO  
It's not just getting a it's build  
¡Llan Múdes  
TOP OF  
Ask About  
AUSTIN SCHO  
2700 Duncan  
323 Oak, Walnut  
2706 Duncan  
1801 N. Russell  
2364 Beech  
2014 Charles  
2356 Beech  
1939 Fir  
1700 Duncan  
1024 Mary Ellen  
2525 Charles  
2547 Duncan  
2200 Duncan  
2410 Fir  
1826 Hamilton  
309 W. Randy Mar  
2714 Aspen  
2216 Evergreen  
2554 Aspen  
2329 Aspen  
2526 Mary Ellen  
2131 Chestnut  
2228 N. Russell  
2126 N. Russell  
1113 Terrace  
1304 Mary Ellen  
1316 Mary Ellen  
120 W. 24th  
615 Frost  
2247 Mary Ellen  
2314 Mary Ellen  
2630 Seminole  
1301 Starkweather  
1105 Garland  
2420 Charles  
1825 Duncan  
WILSON SCHO  
425 Tignor  
901 E. Francis  
1121 E. Francis  
1330 E. Kingsmill  
500 Magnolia  
730 Murphy  
OTHER AREA  
10268 Hwy. 60, Co  
1600 Turtle Creek  
607 Gardena, WD  
91 Acres  
412 Talley, White D  
314 W. Wichita, M  
319 S. Main, Miami  
509 Wilsonton, Whit  
200 Walnut, Skelly  
702 Swift, White D  
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Real Estate For  
Pampa-MLS  
Visit CENTUR  
Average Home & Mobile  
100% Satisfaction  
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HAPPY BIRTH  
Dec. 21, 2004:  
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Average: 2-So-  
ARIES (March  
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Tonight: Don't  
tems.  
GEMINI (May  
★★★★ Contin  
individually, an  
more successful

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

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#### Ask About Valley of the Utes at Angel Fire Resort

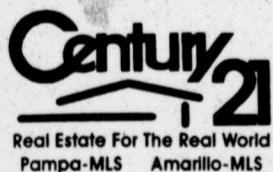
AUSTIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	North and North East	
2700 Duncan	\$289,000	4/2.5/2 - 3830 SF/Guest House
323 Oak, Walnut Creek	\$197,500	3/2.5/2 - 2474 SF/GCAD
2706 Duncan	\$189,900	3/2.5/2 - 2204 SF/GCAD
1801 N. Russell	\$187,500	3/2.75/2 - 3356 SF/GCAD
2364 Beech	\$155,000	3/2/2 2578 - SF/GCAD
2014 Charles	\$152,500	4/2.75/2 2714 - SF/GCAD
2356 Beech	\$147,000	3/2.5/2 - 2714 SF/GCAD
1939 Fir	\$135,000	3/2.75/2 2605 - SF/GCAD
1700 Duncan	\$135,000	3/2.5 - 5/None 3795 - SF/GCAD
1024 Mary Ellen	\$110,000	4/2/2 - 2819 SF/GCAD
2525 Charles	\$92,500	3/2/2 2019 - SF/GCAD
2547 Duncan	\$87,500	3/1.75/2 1868 SF/GCAD
2200 Duncan	\$79,900	4/1.5/2 1912 - SF/GCAD
2410 Fir	\$78,000	3/2/2 1611 - SF/GCAD
1826 Hamilton	\$75,000	4/2/2 cp - 2196 SF/GCAD
309 W. Randy Matson	\$72,500	2/1.75/2 - 1622 SF/GCAD
2714 Aspen	\$152,000	4/2.5/2 - 2345 SF/GCAD
2216 Evergreen	\$67,000	3/1.75/2 - 1413 SF/GCAD
2554 Aspen	\$141,500	3/2/2 - 2232 SF/GCAD
2329 Aspen	\$135,000	3/1.75/2 - 2671 SF/GCAD
2526 Mary Ellen	\$65,000	3/1.75/1 1423 SF/GCAD
2131 Chestnut	\$65,000	3/1.5/2 1414 - SF/GCAD
2228 N. Russell	\$50,000	3/1/None - 1834 SF/GCAD
8126 N. Russell	\$38,000	2/2/None - 1485 SF/GCAD
1113 Terrace	\$37,500	2/1.5/2 1178 - SF & Apartment
1304 Mary Ellen	\$37,500	2/1/1 cp - 1480 SF/GCAD
1316 Mary Ellen	\$37,000	2/1/1 - 1030 SF/GCAD
120 W. 24th	\$35,990	3/1.75/2 1375 - SF/GCAD
615 Frost	\$35,000	3/1/1 1308 - SF/GCAD
2247 Mary Ellen	\$35,000	3/1/1 - 1078 SF/GCAD
2314 Mary Ellen	\$32,500	3/1/1 - 1148 SF/GCAD
2630 Seminole	\$28,500	2/1/None - 1020 SF/GCAD
1301 Starweather	\$26,500	3/2/None 1794 - SF/GCAD
1105 Garland	\$25,000	2/1/1 cp - 898 SF/GCAD
2420 Charles	\$22,500	3/1/1 980 - SF/GCAD
1825 Duncan	\$18,270	3/1/1 1144 - SF/GCAD

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT	SOUTH EAST	
425 Tignor	\$160,000	3/2.75/2 1978 SF/GCAD
901 E. Francis	\$45,000	4/2/2 1866 SF/GCAD
1121 E. Francis	\$25,900	4/2/2 1678 - SF/GCAD
1330 E. Kingsmill	\$23,750	2/1/1 CP 1084 - SF/GCAD
500 Magnolia	\$20,000	3/1/None 1208 - SF/GCAD
730 Murphy	\$18,000	2/1.75/2 cp 1178 - SF/GCAD

OTHER AREA	OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS	
10268 Hwy. 60, Canadian	\$245,000	3/2/2 - 2190 SF/HCAD 13.64 Acres
1600 Turtle Creek	\$225,000	2/2/2 - 2702 SF/GCAD
607 Gardenia, WD	\$125,000	3/2/2 2190 - SF/GCAD
91 Acres	\$120,000	91 Acres at Gray County 10
412 Talley, White Deer	\$65,000	4/2.5/None - 1848 SF/GCAD
314 W. Wichita, Miami	\$45,900	5/2/None 2044 - SF/GCAD
319 S. Main, Miami	\$44,900	3/2/2 18234 - SF/GCAD
509 Williston, White Deer	\$34,500	3/1/2 - 1257 SF/GCAD
200 Walnut, Skellytown	\$30,000	2/1.75/2 1600 - SF/GCAD
702 Swift, White Deer	\$23,000	4 or 5/1 - 992 SF & 832 Basement

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#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004:

You'll have an unusually successful year if you are willing to juggle the many demands in your life. Actively communicate, and you'll be less likely to disappoint others. Often, you will change your plans at the last minute, or events will force you to go in another direction. Your imagination peaks, allowing you to be inventive and to find solutions to problems. Don't allow worry to plague your sleep or life. If you are single, keeping that status might take some work with so many admirers popping out of the woodwork. Enjoy getting to know the different people who approach you. If you are attached, play out the old days in your relationship. If you're at the right age, a pregnancy is possible. TAURUS can be a hoot.

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

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Insight surrounds the Winter Solstice, but so does responsibility. Others clearly depend on you. If you want a change or less of a load, you are going to have to be less available. Learn to say "no" nicely. All eyes are on you. Tonight: In the limelight.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your mind relaxes and your imagination wanders. You finally unwind. Once more, a friend acts in an unpredictable manner. Instead of being upset, think of this person as a source of excitement, a veritable jack-in-the-box. Tonight: Don't do the norm. Break patterns.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Continue to deal with others individually, and you are bound to be more successful. Finally, you feel as if a

burden has been lifted off your shoulders. Be freer with your words and actions. A meeting proves to be essential. Your instincts guide you. Tonight: Where the action is.

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You still carry the ball at work or with some other key happening. Be honest with yourself. You enjoy being the lead player. Surprises arrive from a distance. Just hope it isn't unexpected houseguests! Go with the flow. Tonight: Don't count on making it an early night.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You are ready for the unusual and different. In fact, you crave variation and a change of pace today. Just be careful not to upset someone else too much. A partner or associate could be taken aback. Remember, ultimately you do care about your public image. Tonight: Relish the moment.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Take time with key people in your life. Surprises come from those you have always considered to be stable. Work as a team, both financially and emotionally. Curb flirting, as someone might take your attention as more. Others are very sensitive. Tonight: Play as if there is no tomorrow.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Let others play their cards and demonstrate their leadership skills. In some way, their actions make life easier. You'll gain keen insight into a key person's financial sense and emotional intentions. You could be a bit taken aback. Tonight: Quality time with a loved one or a special friend.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

If you are not sure, ask. Your creativity surges, yet where you place your libido energies is your call. "Spontaneity" becomes your byword. Explain and talk with those your actions could impact. A key friend or loved one

#### 5 Special Notices

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

#### 10 Lost/Found

**REWARD!** Lost rope can. In April during College Rodeo. Initials J.D.M. Leather. (806) 676-9142.

#### 13 Bus. Opp.

**BARBER / BEAUTY Shop for sale.** Great location!! Call 341-0675.

#### 14d Carpentry

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

#### OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR

**Kidwell Construction.** Call 669-6347.

**ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs.** Mike Albus, 665-4774.

#### 14e Carpet Serv.

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

#### 14h Gen. Serv.

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

#### IS your House or Foundation Settling?

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

#### 14n Painting

**INT/EXT painting, mud tape.** 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

#### 14s Plumbing/Heat

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

#### Larry Baker Plumbing

**Heating/Air Conditioning** Borger Hwy. 665-4392

#### 14u Roofing

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

#### 21 Help Wanted

**WAITSTAFF needed.** Willing to work any hrs. good attitude essential. Apply at Dixie Cafe.

### SKELLYTOWN NEWSPAPER CARRIER NEEDED

APPLY AT THE PAMPA NEWS 403 W. WILSON No phone calls please!

### Permian Tank Company Now Hiring Swamper & Yard Hands

Benefits avail.: 401K Paid Vacations Paid Holidays Apply in Person 216 Airport Road Canadian, Tx. 806-323-5802

### STOP LOOKING AND GET TO WORK

Tired of looking for just a job? Call us today and begin a Career. If you are self-motivated and have a sales personality, you may be what we are looking for. Call now to find out how you can support your family in today's job market, only serious inquiries please. 669-0672.

### GPCH

RN-7a-7p SCU/FT RN-7p-7a SCU/FT RN-7a-7p Med/Surg/FT

Golden Plains Community Hospital Borger TX 806-273-1200

### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

### 12-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

BVMRW ZMQ XYHYNW ZBY MCS RVESW OJS ZGCNCRVYW ECB RVESW. STY CMNU SBJY RVES VW Z GCBSVCM CE

U C J B W Y N E — Y A Y B W C M Saturday's Cryptquote: IF YOU INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO BE FRIENDLY, MEN ARE BOUND EVENTUALLY TO RECIPROCATE BY MANIFESTING A SPIRIT OF FRIENDLINESS. — CHAS. GOW

#### 21 Help Wanted

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

**DIST. Boy Scout Rep. for Pampa / Borger areas.** College Degree required. Salary / Benefits, dependable transp., fax resume to 806-358-7470.

**FULL TIME CNA's** 6:20 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. M.L. Loan Care Center call 806-779-2469 for the Administrator of the D.O.N.

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

**AMARILLO Globe News** has openings for carriers in Pampa. Call 806-674-6501, cell.

**WELDERS WANTED!** Overloaded with work on drilling rigs. Need to have own truck and welding machine. Call 806-662-1662 for interview.

**POSITIONS avail. for Exp. Heavy Equip. Operators and Exp. "Finish" Blade Operators,** interested in long term employment. Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187.

**GET paid at home/assembly, crafts, mailing letters, etc.** Send \$8 with a self address stamped envelope to D. E. Houston, 1017 S. Wells, Pampa, TX. 79065.

**MEDICAL scheduling and front desk management incl. daily reports and patient communications.** Full time. Competitive pay but no paid insur. Send resumes to Box 88, c/o Pampa News, PO Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066

**WANTED** I need one person to help me with my business in Pampa. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 669-7605.

**STOP LOOKING AND GET TO WORK** Tired of looking for just a job? Call us today and begin a Career. If you are self-motivated and have a sales personality, you may be what we are looking for. Call now to find out how you can support your family in today's job market, only serious inquiries please. 669-0672.

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

**FRED Brown Tree and Turf.** Tree/yard spraying, Insect/weed control, Deep root feed. 662-3141

**REAL Nice Burial Plot For Sale.** ASAP! Cheap!!! Valued at \$1100 Call 669-1388.

#### 69a Garage Sales

25% Off! Books for Modellers, Airplanes, Military Vehicles, Cars. Lots of model kits. Check it out at Gypsy Cove 1425 Alcock

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#### 21 Help Wanted

**WANTED: CNA** 3-11 shift, FT w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home. 537-3194.

**CNA: TRANSPORTATION & RESTORATIVE AIDE** Must be state certified CNA with knowledge or background in long term care or geriatric environment. We will train qualified applicants to meet Medicare standards. Must be caring and patient, with a pleasant demeanor. EOE. For more info, call Jodie ay (806)665-5746 or apply in person, CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER, 1504 W. Kentucky, Pampa.

#### 50 Building Suppl.

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

#### HOUSTON LUMBER

420 W. Foster 669-6881

#### 60 Household

**MATTRESS SETS.** New in Plastic, Inner coil w/warr. F-5115, Q-5160, K-215. 806-677-0400

**NEW, Name Brand, Mattress sets** 1 yr-20yr. warr. All sizes. 30% off Retail 806-677-0400.

**3 pc. Leather, Brand New, Sofa, Love, Rec. Newer used, will sell \$1050** 806-677-0400

**HOT Tub / Spa** Never used. Lifetime warr. Cost \$6950, will sell \$3650. 806-655-7881

**\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. list \$550, sell \$236.** Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. List \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

#### 69 Misc.

**Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3&6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site.** Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

#### 96 Unfurn. Apts.

**AVAILABLE NOW!** 1 bdrm unfurn. apts. Newly Remodeled \$250-\$300 per month 665-4274

#### CAPROCK APARTMENTS

1, 2, & 3 bdrm Starting at only \$310 6 mo. lease available.

\* Pool  
\* Laundry  
\* Wash/dryer hook-ups  
\* Club room  
\* On-site management  
\* SOFTENED WATER

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

#### CLEAN 1 bdr., stove, refrig., completely renovated, new carpet. All bills paid.

669-3672, 665-5900

#### 80 Pets & Suppl.

**TO give away (all big fish)** 7 Silver Dollar fish, 1 Angel fish & 1 Sucker fish. Call 665-5998.

**BLACK Lab mix, female.** 4 1/2 years old. Free. Needs country home. Call 669-0572.

**KITTEN to give away.** Cute & cuddly! Good Christmas present. Call 440-1759.



(Photo by CHUCK ALBUS)

### Red Hat Society meets Santa and Mrs. Claus

Santa (Don Reed) and Mrs. Claus (Shirley Nicholson) met recently with the Red Hat Dollies of the local Red Hat Society at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus with Dorothy Vaughn, Vivian Dykes, Geneva Barton, Aileen Ruddick, Betty Anderson, Helene Baumgardner, Betty Buckingham, Sidney Jackson, Peggy Cloyd, Rita Geiger, Charlotte Hogan, Pat Terry, Eula Thomas, Thula McCarroll, Joyce Gray, Eva Dennis and Barbara Trimble.

## 96-year-old Florida mayor may be nation's oldest

OCEAN BREEZE PARK, Fla. (AP) — In a community where everyone is over 55, it's fitting that Mayor Dorothy Geeben's age has made her a celebrity of sorts.

At 96, Geeben may be the nation's oldest mayor. She's so well-liked in her the retirement community of nearly 1,000 that no one is opposing her re-election this week, and her next two-year term will last through the end of 2006, or nine months past her 98th birthday.

No records officially confirm the distinction, but the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities have no reports of anyone older, either.

The closest might be a 92-year-old mayor in Pittsburg, Texas, said Sherry Appel, a spokeswoman for the NLC, which found at least 26 elected officials who are 85 or older.

In March, NBC's "Today" helped celebrate Geeben's 96th birthday. Jay Leno

invited her to share her political secrets with his audience, too, though she turned the "Tonight" show down because she didn't want to travel.

"We can't vote her out because she's so well known," jokes Camden Griffin, the editor of Ocean Breeze Park's newsletter.

Geeben said the secret to her longevity and popularity is a full schedule that keeps her moving.

"I have a good time. I'm

on the go a lot. I guess that's half the battle," she said.

Geeben moved to Ocean Breeze Park more than a half-century ago with her first husband after they heard about the town on a television program. Her husband died in 1958 but she later remarried.

A widow again, she also has outlived both her siblings.

Geeben now uses a walker to get around, but says she's moving just as fast as she

was when she was 80, a time she describes as "my younger years."

The quaint collection of mobile homes that makes up Ocean Breeze Park sits on 85 acres of prime real estate, about 100 miles north of Miami. Harry Hoke bought and developed the land in 1938, eventually incorporating the community into a town.

Hoke was elected the town's first mayor, and the title was eventually passed

onto his daughter-in-law, Ruth Hoke, who held the post for 12 years. When she died in 2001, Geeben took charge after already serving as the town council's president for 31 years.

Residents recently had to endure their worst crisis in decades. Back-to-back hurricanes took direct aim at the mobile home community.

At least a dozen homes in the town were destroyed; many sustained major damage.

# Wrap Up The Savings

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**Men's Diamond Rings**  
**25%-50% OFF**

**Diamond Bridal Sets**  
**25% OFF**

**Diamond Rings**  
**25%-50% OFF**

**Gold Chains**  
**50% OFF**

**Citizen, Seiko & Pulsar Watches**  
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**Diamond Pendants**  
**25%-50% OFF**

**Diamond Bracelets**  
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**Diamond Earrings**  
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Great Selection Of... Men's & Ladies Fossil Watches  
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