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# THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Today's weather



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## Deaths

Mary Lou Latham Peppers, 90, educator.

## Odds and Ends

**MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)** — Strapping that Christmas tree to the top of a sport utility vehicle can be a real drag.

A couple of engineers at the University of Vermont claim that sport utility vehicles topped with trees have 26 percent more aerodynamic drag than treeless SUVs.

Knowing the energy density of gasoline, typical engine efficiencies and the number of trees sold, they concluded that an extra 53,000 gallons of gas are used each year to retrieve trees.

And given high fuel costs, that translates to a nationwide a total of about \$100,000.

"It's a modest impact per vehicle, but nonetheless when you add it all up the gross effect is not negligible," said Darren Hitt, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the university.

Hitt, whose main research project is with the U.S. Air Force looking at miniaturized propulsion systems for next generation satellites, said he's part of a research group that favors satire.

**PERTH, Australia (AP)** — Customs officials in Australia are serious about the country's quarantine laws — and that's no baloney.

A Swiss national discovered that when he was caught at Perth International Airport trying to smuggle a salami in his luggage. Dylan Pascal Graves, who was studying English in Western Australia state, was fined \$3,057 at the Perth Magistrates Court.

Australia has strict quarantine laws, and customs officials inspect all incoming flights for agricultural pests and food that could carry diseases. Sniffer dogs patrol airport terminals and luggage is passed through X-ray machines.

Graves twice told customs officials in November that he was not carrying any food, but an X-ray revealed salami meat concealed in his luggage. When asked why he had not declared the salami, Graves said he had planned to eat it.

Graves was charged with making a misleading statement to an officer and knowingly importing prohibited food into the country.

## Winter weather turns roads icy

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

An Arctic front heralded the first day of winter Tuesday, and wintry precipitation which accompanied the low temperatures turned Pampa and Gray County roadways into skating rinks for motorists.

A trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety, who asked not to be identified, said this morning that DPS had worked seven accidents near Pampa and 10 on Interstate-40 in Gray County yesterday as a result of slick pavement. Most of the accidents on the interstate involved tractor-trailer rigs, he said.

DPS also worked three accidents in the Canadian vicinity.

"There were a slew of them in Carson County, too," he said.

Deputies with Gray County Sheriff's Office responded to the same accidents worked by DPS. One included a one-vehicle accident in which the vehicle did a quarter-roll, landing on one side. The accident happened one mile west of Pampa on Highway 60. The motorist was not injured but needed assistance to get out of the vehicle, said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing.

"No information is reported



(Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS)

**Chelsey Townson, 11, left, and Jimmy Townson, 6, practice the technique of making snow angels in the 2300 block of Aspen this morning. They may have more material to work with tomorrow, as additional snowfall of up to one inch is forecast for this afternoon and overnight.**

ed in any of the accidents" worked by troopers and deputies, Rushing said.

Officers of Pampa Police Department responded to seven motor vehicle accidents on Pampa streets,

beginning at 9:06 a.m. at the intersection of Kentucky Avenue and Price Road.

According to the department's incident blotter, a car reportedly hit a brick wall in the 2100 block

of Perryton Parkway at 9:54 a.m.

Two vehicles were involved in an accident which was reported at 11:03 a.m. at the intersection of Wilks and Hobart streets.

A triple play occurred during lunch hour, when three accidents were reported within six minutes.

The first was reported at

See **ROADS**, Page 3

## Fighting erupts in Fallujah as refugees return

Military reassesses security measures at bases across Iraq after Mosul bombing

**FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)** — U.S. Marines battled insurgents in Fallujah on Thursday, with warplanes dropping bombs and tanks shelling suspected guerrilla positions in the heaviest fighting in weeks, erupting as the first residents returned to the devastated city. At least three Marines were killed in the area, the military said.

The fighting was the heaviest in Fallujah since Dec. 10, when seven

Marines, three Iraqi troops and about 50 insurgents were killed. The former insurgent stronghold has seen sporadic violence, including artillery and small-arms fire, since the United States captured it in a weeklong offensive last month.

F-18 fighter-bombers were seen striking at targets in the city's outskirts. Tank and artillery fire was also heard.

U.S. officials said Marines and

insurgents were killed in the Fallujah fighting. A military spokeswoman said three Marines were killed in action Thursday in Anbar province, which surrounds Fallujah.

American commanders have hailed the November offensive to retake Fallujah as a major tactical victory. But pockets of insurgents remain in the city — and violence elsewhere in Iraq has only escalated since the capture of Fallujah, after

many guerrillas apparently slipped out of Fallujah to operate in central and northern Iraq.

U.S. forces suffered the deadliest attack on one of their bases, when a blast Tuesday ripped through a dining tent at a base near Mosul, killing 22 people — mostly Americans. The military was reassessing security measures at bases across Iraq after it

See **IRAQ**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

## On frozen pond

A pond beside Kentucky Avenue, west of Price Road, is frozen over as a result of an Arctic blast of cold air which entered the area late Tuesday, the first day of winter. The temperature at the Texas Tech mesonet weather station, located east of Pampa near Recreation Park, was 16 degrees as of press time today, with a wind chill of 3. Local temperatures are not forecast to climb above freezing until Saturday.

## Ice, snow stops flights; Friona motorist killed

By JAY JORDEN  
Associated Press Writer

The season's first winter storm kept an icy grip on northern and western parts of Texas Thursday, with snow continuing to fall in the Panhandle and South Plains. At least one motorist died in a weather-related wreck and snow and sleet grounded hundreds of flights at North Texas airports.

A record three inches of snow fell at Lubbock on Wednesday, surpassing the previous mark of 1.8 inches for the date in 1986.

Another record was set at Amarillo, which reported 3.7 inches of snow. The previous record of 1.2 inches for the date was set in 1990.

Between five and six inches of snow fell in Tahoka, with up to six inches in Post and in Brownfield.

More snow was expected in the Amarillo and Lubbock areas, with accumulations of up to three inches of new snow as another low-pressure storm system pushes more upper-level cold air into the state. The National Weather Service continued its snow advisory for the Panhandle through 6 p.m. CST.

Some travel could be hazardous.

See **STORM**, Page 3

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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

### Slip-sliding away

Chelsea Townson, 11, left, and Jimmy Townson, 6, slide on a patch of ice next to the curb in the 2300 block of Aspen. The frozen stuff provided fun for would-be skaters, but triggered a slew of vehicle accidents yesterday, including seven on Pampa streets and at least 16 more in Gray County, according to law enforcement reports.

### Roads

Continued from Page 1

12:10 p.m. and occurred in the 100 block of East Foster. The second was reported as a minor acci-

dent at 12:12 p.m. in the 200 block of North Cuyler. The third, listed as involving no injuries, was reported at 12:16 p.m. and was at the intersection of Tyng and Cuyler streets.

Before lunch hour was over, one last accident,

described as minor, was reported at 12:55 p.m. in the 200 block of North Russell.

Things were a lot quieter this morning for law enforcement and other emergency response personnel, Rushing said.

That lull may not last, as additional snowfall up to one inch is forecast for this afternoon and tonight for the Pampa area, with overnight lows in the single digits and wind chills possibly dipping below zero.

### Storm

Continued from Page 1

with icy roads and reduced visibility to less than one-half mile from snow and fog. On Wednesday, motorists spun off icy roads and air travelers waited hours for their flights.

Hundreds of flights were grounded at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Delays of up to two hours at DFW and at Dallas Love Field were common.

American Airlines canceled 230 flights at DFW Airport on Wednesday, with numerous delays of at least 1 1/2 hours, said Tim Kincaid, spokesman for the Fort Worth-based airline.

The airline had no cancellations and just a few delays early Thursday. But Kincaid said New York and Chicago will be challenges.

"We will look at some delays in the Northeast — New York especially with low ceilings," he said. "Chicago has high winds and that slows down the flow out of O'Hare."

American, the nation's largest airline, has 3,800 daily departures systemwide including its American Eagle

### Study: Many kids who left CHIP got other insurance

AUSTIN (AP) — Almost half of the Texas children who left the state's health insurance program as a result of budget cuts found coverage elsewhere, about a third of them through Medicaid, according to a survey the Health and Human Services Commission released Wednesday.

Lawmakers faced with a \$10 billion budget shortfall in 2003 revised eligibility requirements for the Children's Health Insurance Program. The changes resulted in 171,508 children leaving the CHIP rolls.

According to the survey, 31 percent of the children who left the program were picked up by Medicaid, a federally mandated health program for the poor. Eleven percent were insured through a parent's employers, and another 5 percent obtained insurance from another source.

and American Connection carriers.

"Flights are extremely full and we are doing our best to get people where they want to be," he said. "Yesterday, today and tomorrow are busy days for us."

Snow and ice contributed to a string of car wrecks Wednesday. The Texas Department of Public Safety said 19-year-old Isabel Garcia of Friona died as the result of a crash just before noon involving a tractor-trailer and a car 10 miles north of Channing.

"Troopers are everywhere, cleaning up car acci-

dents and helping motorists stuck on the side of the road," DPS Trooper Wayne Beighle told the Amarillo Globe-News in Thursday's editions.

A number of tractor-trailer rigs jackknifed and cars overturned on icy roads, according to the DPS in Abilene.

In Dallas, traffic slowed to a crawl during rush hour and part of Interstate 35 over the Trinity River in downtown Dallas was closed for a time because of icy conditions.

Some snowdrifts in the South Plains were up to six inches deep. With tempera-

tures were not expected to top the freezing mark until Saturday, Jody James, NWS senior forecaster in Lubbock, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal that "chances are pretty good for a white Christmas."



**May All Your  
Dreams Come  
True This  
Holiday Season!**

**Leslie Ramming  
& Family  
The Pampa News**

**Warm Wishes  
at Christmas**

Christmas is such a wonderful time because it brings family and friends together in celebration. I hope all your family and friends are able to gather together to share this very special time of year.

Thank you for your business and Happy Holidays from my home to yours.

**Beverly Taylor  
The Pampa News**

### Iraq

Continued from Page 1

was determined that a suicide bomber carried out the attack after successfully infiltrating the base, officials said.

A U.S. soldier was also killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, the military said. The deaths raised the number of U.S. troops who have died since the start of the war in March

2003 to at least 1,325, according to an unofficial count by The Associated Press.

The new Fallujah fighting came as the first group of returning residents lined up at checkpoints into the city, brandishing documents to prove to Iraqi policemen that they had the right to enter. Once in the city, returnees visited the remains of bombed-out and looted homes they fled — along with most of Fallujah's population of approximately 250,000 people.

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### Jesus Is Everywhere

Dear Dee Dee,

As I was out last night with my mom looking at Christmas lights and observing all of the nativity displays about town, I was reminded of your column in the paper a few days ago titled, "Where is Jesus?". I started to think about that question and here is my answer.

I see Jesus everywhere. I see Him in every Salvation Army bell ringer who volunteers private precious time to help someone else. I see Him in the staff and volunteer drivers of Meals on Wheels who make sure people are fed regardless of the weather. I see Him in the hearts of two very dear friends who while being held and consoled because of a loss they experienced during the holiday season a few years back are telling you of His mighty love. I see Him in a local merchant who after making your home beautiful, gives you a 20% discount on your bill because her product was going to be on sale shortly. I see Him in the actions of a beautiful daughter who everyday extends her hand to help someone else. I see Him in the words of a 16 year old Grandson who has from the day he could read felt it his privilege to read our family the story of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke and I hear Him when a six year old Grandson tells me, "I really believe in God." He is there when a son says, "Mom, what do you need me to do?" I see Him in the actions of an 85 year old mother who after experiencing 6 hard years of family and personal health problems is seeking ways to help others. I see Him everyday in my co-workers who never say, "that is not in my job description." I found Him at Cottonwood Springs at the First Annual Cowboy Country ball and I have enjoyed Him recently at the Stokes Barn with family and friends. I saw Him in action when a minister who doesn't even know you, drives a 120 miles round trip to be there when one of your loved ones is in surgery to pray with you and for that person. I saw Him this week in the tears flowing from my best friend's eyes as she held a dear family pet while it drew its last breath. I have watched him as a community has responded to keeping the teachings of a beloved Coach alive by buying a simple green bracelet. I see Him in a CASA volunteer who battles for the rights of children because they are too little to fight their own fight.

I feel Him when I see on the news our military people coming home from Iraq unharmed and I know He is there to hold those He takes Home and I hear Him as He is telling them, "No greater Love"

Dee Dee, Jesus is not lost. Come spend a day with me, He is everywhere I turn. He is not a commercial - but He is in the hearts and actions of many wonderful people in our community.

Sincerely,

*Paulette Hinkle*

Paulette Hinkle



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# Viewpoints

## Facsimile facts sometimes can be phish-y

One of the most interesting things about this job is the many and varied facsimiles we receive here at the news office. Though this week the pickings have been somewhat slim I'm assuming due to the holidays, I thought two worth mentioning — a fax from Ethician News Network and another from C I Host.com.

I believe the ENN-fax was sent to our editor Dee Dee Laramore on Tuesday. In true hyperbolic fashion, it proclaimed "America's Only Beaver Sanctuary Threatened" in capital letters. I found it curious that, at the height of the holiday season, ENN is preoccupied with *beavers*.

I also found amusing ENN's over-blown rhetoric: "Because they (beavers) love to munch on the bark of living trees, and even cut down trees to build their homes, beavers are often harassed and even killed by irate home owners."

"Sanctuary donors, George and Sue Russell, will scold the beavers in jest when they discover that a large birch, willow, or sweetgum tree has been chewed on, but they were extremely pleased that the animals could live out their lives without fear of retaliation."

"Today, the sanctity of the beaver sanctuary has the Russells and National Area Preservation Association

concerned. Sam Houston Electric Cooperative (SHECO) is obsessed with clear-cutting a huge swath 2.7 miles long through the Holy Trinity Wilderness Cathedral, Zwicky Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Westernmost Longleaf Pine Preserve, Perpetual Forest Preserve and the Beaver Sanctuary."

I'm not saying I don't sympathize with the beavers, but isn't saying SHECO "is obsessed" a bit extreme? And how wide is this 2.7-mile "swath" expected to be?

ENN claims less costly alternatives exist for SHECO, but provides no real specifics.

I must say, I regard as highly suspicious arguments that appeal more to my emotions than to my intellect (limited though it may be). The contact for ENN is listed as George H. Russell. In the bio at the end of the ENN release, Russell is described as "an outspoken opponent of the death penalty" who "is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as 'The

City of Death.'" "Russell, 59, is an educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethicist."

In case you're wondering as I did what an ethicist is, let me enlighten you. An ethicist, according to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, is "a specialist in ethics."

I feel better about Mr. Russell and his network already, don't you?

The second fax's headline screams "C I Host's Faulkner Warns of Viruses Squashing Holiday Cheer

This Season." Hmm. Fax-writers certainly are a dramatic lot.

"Beware — computer viruses and phishing (publishing?) schemes disguised as season's greetings are on the rise," the fax relates.

"The Zafia e-mail worm hides behind subject lines such as 'Merry Christmas,' 'Happy Holidays' and 'Warm Wishes From ...' and once unleashed, it exploits Windows operating systems. This Christmas 'Grinch' spreads through e-mail addresses collected from computers it infects."

So on-line enthusiasts beware.

Merry Christmas.



**Skyla Bryant**

News Editor

## Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 23, the 358th day of 2004. There are eight days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Dec. 23, 1823, the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore was published in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel.

**On this date:**  
In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander-in-chief of the Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.  
In 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Hansel and Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.  
In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.  
In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.  
In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.  
In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship "Pueblo" were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.  
In 1980, a state funeral was held in Moscow for former Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who had died Dec. 18 at age 76.

## Our readers write

### A wonderful veterinarian

A dear friend, Dr. Kenneth Roysse, recently passed away. He was a wonderful man that contributed greatly to this community. Dr. Roysse was also a valuable person to the Animal Control Department. He was the city veterinarian for 30 years. He was there for us day and night if we needed him. He was a wonderful veterinarian and friend. We will truly miss him.

**Sandy Burns and Monty Montgomery**  
Pampa Animal Control

**Proud to say it's my town**

The holidays are such a wonderful time of year.

What a perfect time to spread cheer and love to all.

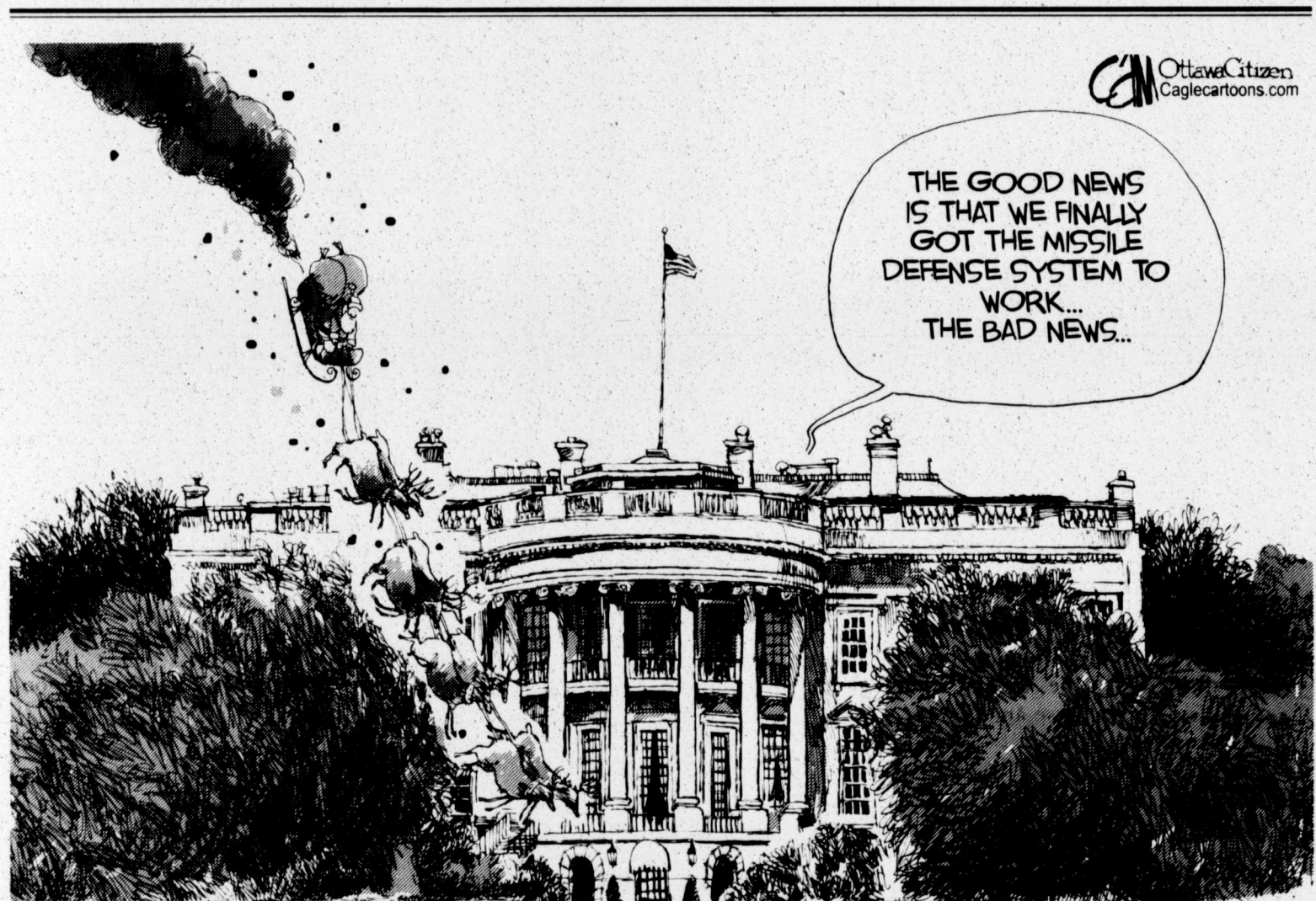
The great people of Pampa helped make the holiday season a special one for the residents and staff of Pampa Nursing Center. We had so many wonderful caroling groups from several schools that came and sang with all their hearts. Joy was spread throughout our home with every note.

Many church groups and different organizations volunteered their time visiting, singing, and making special things for our residents.

Volunteers make such a difference not only in our home but also throughout Pampa.

It is so nice to have the "Celebration of Lights." My kids love it! The whole town

**Continued on Page 5**



## 10 percent's good enough for U.S.

Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.) has authored H.R. 25 "To promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States."

Before we look at whether a national sales tax is a good idea, how about a little Economics 101 just to convince you that government spending, not government taxation, is the true measure of governmental impact on our lives?

Keeping the numbers

small, suppose the annual value of what Americans produce, our gross domestic product, is \$100.

If government spends \$40 of it, of necessity the government must force us to spend \$40 less. There are several ways this can be done. Government could tax us \$40. Government could borrow, thereby driving up interest rates and reducing private spending. Government could simply print money, which

would cause inflation and reduce our purchasing power. Finally, government could employ some combination of the three.

The bottom line is that if government spends \$40 of our GDP, we can't spend that same \$40.

There's no question that tax reform is needed, but tax reform is secondary to a much larger issue — federal spending. From 1787 to 1920, except during war, federal spending was a mere

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



See TAX, Page 5

**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
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## ED proposal deserves serious look

Gov. Rick Perry last week made a pitch for \$600 million worth of economic development programs: \$300 million more for the Texas Enterprise Fund, which is used to lure new businesses to the state, and \$300 million for a new Emerging Technology Fund, to foster research and development that could help build an entire industry, not just a business. The governor's proposal deserves serious consideration and serious questioning.

Although the state budget is not as sickly as it was two years ago when the Legislature prepared for the 2001 regular session, it is not

fully recovered, either. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has said the Legislature next month will start out about \$2 billion in the hole. Others estimate the Legislature must find more than \$5 billion in new money over the next two years just to maintain the current two-year budget. That is before dealing with any real increases in spending for public or higher education, deeply troubled child and adult protective services, restoring children's health insurance for

poor but working families, or meeting other needs. There is also an overdue state employee pay raise and higher health insurance costs for state employees and retirees.

Yet the governor wants the Legislature to stake out \$600 million for economic development, double the \$295 million lawmakers appropriated for the creation of the Texas Enterprise Fund in 2001.

Skeptics, including some economists, argue against

**Texas Thoughts**  
Austin American Statesman

See FUNDS, Page 5

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**Mosul mess hall attack**

# Suspected suicide bombing represents fundamental military security breach

WASHINGTON (AP) — The suspected suicide attack inside an Army mess hall in Iraq represents a breach of the most basic principles of military security and points to significant weaknesses in the screening of Iraqis who are allowed onto the base, experts say.

"This is an incredible occurrence, that someone could have come in undetected with some kind of bomb," said Mitch Mitchell, a retired Army officer who helps design security training for the military. "It blows my mind that force protection on the base is that poor."

Tuesday's explosion at a base near Mosul killed 22 people, including 14 U.S. service members, injured scores more and put Pentagon officials on the defensive against new criticism of holes in the protections for troops in Iraq.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, defended the security plans put in place by the U.S. commander in northern Iraq, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham.

"We have had a suicide bomber apparently strap something to his body and go into a dining hall. We know how difficult this is, to prevent people bent on suicide and stopping them,"

Myers said Wednesday at a Pentagon news conference. "This was the insurgents that did this. So it's not General Ham that attacked his dining hall."

*'This is an incredible occurrence that someone could have come in undetected with some kind of bomb.'*

— Mitch Mitchell  
Retired Army officer

Military officials initially said a 122 mm rocket was the likely cause. Myers would not comment on specific evidence in the ongoing investigation of the attack, but said, "If it was a rocket, you'd find remnants of the rocket. If it were an improvised explosive device you would find remnants of the improvised explosive device."

Like Myers, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld defended U.S. troop security in Iraq, saying it was "an

enormous challenge to provide force protection."

"They have to be right 100 percent of the time," he said, standing at Myers' side. "An attacker only has to be right occasionally."

Elsewhere in Iraq, an international construction company, Contrack International Inc., which led a coalition of firms working on a \$325 million contract to rebuild the country's roads, bridges and railways, withdrew from that contract last month after a surge in attacks on reconstruction efforts, Lt. Col. Eric Schnaible of the Pentagon's Project and Contract Office in Baghdad, said Wednesday.

"It's hard to do construction in a place where people are shooting at you or intimidating your work force," Schnaible said in a telephone interview. "It's a challenge across the country."

Mitchell and other experts said it was obvious the military was not taking basic protective actions for U.S. troops in Iraq. On most bases, troops have their meals in large dining hall tents like the one attacked Tuesday, for example, instead of in small, scattered groups. That presents a tempting target for insurgents, Mitchell said.

## Tax

Continued from Page 4

compliance costs estimated to be between \$250 billion and \$500 billion each year.

Abolition of the IRS and the income tax code it enforces, replaced by a national sales, would create greater economic incentives, enhance personal privacy, and lower tax compliance cost by an estimated 90 percent. There'd also be greater faith and allegiance to our founders' constitutional vision, expressed in Article I, Section 9, which says, "No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken." The founders feared the abuse and the government power inherent in an income tax. Another benefit of a national sales tax is that being taxed 23 percent to 30 percent with every purchase we become more aware of the cost of government. Income taxes and corporate taxes conceal that cost.

Before we accept a national sales tax, there are two minimal requirements. First, there must be a repeal of the 16th Amendment so Congress can't hit us with both an income and sales tax. Second, there must be a constitutional amendment fixing the national sales tax at a certain percentage that can only be increased by a three-fourths vote of the House of Representatives.

People have advocated a national sales tax or a flat income tax for years, and I don't want to rain on their parade.

*Abolition of the IRS and the income tax code it enforces, replaced by national sales, would create greater economic incentives, enhance personal privacy, and lower tax compliance cost by an estimated 90 percent.*

But here's my prediction: Congress will never enact a sales tax or a flat tax.

Why? The two most powerful congressional committees are the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. Both dispense tax favors to different Americans that come at the expense of other Americans. With a sales or flat tax, their Santa Claus roles, not to mention campaign contributions, would be diminished. On top of that, they'd have restricted opportunities for social engineering through fiddling around with the tax code.

My personal preference is a constitutional amendment limiting federal spending to a fixed percentage, say 10 percent, of the GDP. You say, "Williams, why 10 percent?" My answer is that if 10 percent is good enough for the Baptist Church, it ought to be good enough for the U.S. Congress.

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

## Funds

Continued from Page 4

down a new Toyota truck plant for San Antonio, Sematech and, most recently, to persuade Countrywide Financial Corp. to carry out a major expansion 7,500 jobs here in Texas over the next six years. Some critics say many of the firms being awarded state enterprise money would have located here anyway. Perhaps so, but there's usually no way to know for sure while a company is negotiating with several states or communities.

Before committing any more money to the Enterprise Fund, however, the Legislature should take a hard look at the effectiveness of its spending so far and weigh its worth against some of the state's other critical needs.

The other fund, Emerging Technology, is an attempt to make Texas a more serious player nationally in fostering high-level research and development and attracting the scientists, engineers and others who do such work to the state. There is still a part of the Texas psyche that dis-

trusts and dismisses such research and development as the work of mysterious eggheads who probably believe in evolution.

But this is the scale of the competition: California voters just committed \$3 billion in state bonding authority to support stem cell research. Many Americans have moral problems with a particular kind of stem cell research that uses human embryos, but the field in general holds enormous promise for human health and human wealth. Biology is not the only field likely to see enormous technological advances in the next few decades. But as the 1980s and 1990s demonstrated, the states where basic and applied research and development occurs in fields with major breakthroughs tend to be those that gain most economically from such advances such as Silicon Valley in California or Research Triangle in North Carolina.

*Some critics say many of the firms being awarded state enterprise money would have located here anyway.*

A good chunk of the \$300 million Perry proposes for the Emerging Technology Fund would go toward funding state university research programs an implicit admission, we think, that the state has underfunded its universi-

ties for years. It is particularly important that the state invest in its universities because in today's global economy, the biggest advantage that the United States has and must retain is its ability to carry out fundamental research whose findings can be translated into productive uses for improving human life, for which there is always an economic demand.

## Calendar of Events

**LifeStyle Medical.**

LifeStyle Medical Program makes available, at no cost to the patient, breathing medications and nebulizers to patients who use oxygen or who have asthma, emphysema or COPD if they qualify. The Albuterol Products are provided to those with severe breathing conditions and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. For more information, call 1-800-519-4480.

**Medicines.md.** U.S. senior citizens now have access to legitimate e-mail order links to the world's lowest prices on prescription drugs by visiting [www.medicines.md](http://www.medicines.md) on the Internet, allowing them to have their prescriptions filled by licensed pharmacies abroad. The service adheres to FDA guidelines and offers free access to regularly updated international price lists for the 120 most popular brand-name prescription drugs as well as 1,300 generic medicines.

**Miracle Ear.** Miracle-Ear Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization, works in cooperation with Miracle-Ear Centers nationwide to provide free hearing aids and services to children 16 and under whose families do not qualify for public assistance, yet cannot afford the expense of hearing aids for their children. For more information, contact the local Miracle-Ear Center at (806) 795-0188 or 1-800-808-0188.

**Mamá Maniá.**

Mamá Maniá is a support group for mothers entirely in Spanish. It meets at 10 a.m., the third Thursday of each month at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. For more information, call 1-888-892-2273, ext. 228.

**Mom Mania.** Mom Mania, a support group for mothers with small children, meets at 6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Come for facts, food and fun. Nursery not included but infants and toddlers are welcome. For more information, call 664-2459.

**Mommy 'N' Me.** Mommy 'N' Me is a support group for nursing mothers and women needing information on breastfeeding that meets at 10 a.m., the first Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan. For more information, call 664-2459.

**MSAA.** A wide range of free, direct support services is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access [www.msaa.com](http://www.msaa.com) on the Internet.

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## Candlelight

### Christmas Eve Service

#### December 24 at 6:00 PM

Adult Choir Music Worship  
Pastor - Dr. Johnny Funderburg  
Public Is Invited

### First Baptist Church

203 N. West Street  
669-1155



## Letter

Continued from Page 4

looks great. What a blessing it is to know the

Christmas spirit is alive and well here. What a pleasure to live in such a great place. I am proud to say, "This is my town."

Kristie Fuller  
Pampa

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# Israeli lawmakers say they'll help settlers resist Gaza withdrawal

JERUSALEM (AP) — A dozen Israeli lawmakers have signed a pledge to join Jewish settlers in resisting the dismantling of settlements in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank — the latest sign that protests could be fierce.

of the group, told Israel Army Radio on Thursday that the petition calls for nonviolent protests, but acknowledged that things could get out of hand. "We must not carry out this evacuation. I think the prime minister has to understand that this

evacuation stretches ... the limits of democracy," Eitam said. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to dismantle 25 settlements and remove 8,600 settlers from their homes has infuriated Israeli hard-liners. Protests escalated this week, after Sharon managed to sta-

bilize his wobbly coalition and the settlers' political options were dwindling. Some settlers, comparing the evacuation of settlements to the Nazi Holocaust, began wearing orange Star of David patches, similar to those the Nazis forced Jews

to pin to their lapels. The campaign caused an uproar in Israel, which gave refuge to hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors after World War II. Critics said the settlers belittled the suffering of the survivors and caused them new anguish.

## World news

### Newmont CEO owns up to leaks in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The head of U.S. mining giant Newmont Corp. defended his company's environmental record Thursday, saying mercury emissions at an Indonesian mine were well within the country's standards and posed no health hazards.

Wayne Murdy, CEO of the Denver-based Newmont, acknowledged that the mine in Indonesia, where sick villagers have launched a \$543 million suit against the company, released 17 tons of waste mercury into the air and 16 tons into the water over five years.

But he said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that the emissions were below Indonesian government standards — which he said amounted to the equivalent of 22 tons per year until 2000, when the country lowered the permissible limit to 11 tons per year.

"We were well below any Indonesian standards and well below any U.S. Environmental Protection standards," Murdy said from Denver. "We have an excellent environmental record worldwide."

However, the EPA called the release of 33 tons of mercury into the air and water over several years at the gold mine "a major concern."

The admission by

Newmont — the world's largest gold producer — is the latest setback for the company in its six-month battle to defend itself against pollution allegations in Indonesia, one of several countries where it has faced similar accusations.

Indonesian authorities have accused its local subsidiary, Newmont Minahasa Raya, of dumping heavy metals into Buyat Bay on Sulawesi island, causing residents to develop skin diseases and tumors.

The company received some good news Thursday when a court ruled that the detention of five of its executives in the case was illegal, and lifted a travel ban on them.

The five executives — an American, an Australian and three Indonesians — were accused of corporate crimes in connection with the alleged pollution. They were released in October after a month in prison, but still face trial as soon as next month. If found guilty, the men could face up to 15

years in jail.

Newmont hailed the court's decision and said it had ruled the entire investigation was illegal. Prosecutors and police, however, said the ruling had no bearing on the case.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that an internal company report described the mercury release as "significant" and that a cleaning system to control the problem often did not work. The internal report also said the company wasn't abiding by its public claims that it was upholding U.S. environmental standards, the Times said.

Murdy said the article "draws incorrect conclusions." "It makes me feel very upset because there has been no scientific studies that anyone has referenced that shows any of these allegations are true," Murdy said.

An EPA staff member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the mercury release was "significant by

American standards. It's a huge amount of mercury to be releasing into the environment."

Indonesia plans to put on trial next month five Newmont executives — an American, an Australian and three Indonesians — accusing them of corporate crimes in connection with the alleged pollution. If found guilty, they could face up to 15 years in jail. Sick villagers have also filed the \$543 million lawsuit against the company.

The EPA staffer said Newmont could not have operated the same way in the United States.

"They would be required to have pollution control equipment and it would have to work," the staff member said. "If it was not operating properly, they would have to notify EPA how it would be fixed. If they didn't, they would be subject to criminal and civil penalties."

The company has said the EPA does not require a permit for mercury emissions or review of a site that releases less than 10 tons of mercury per year.

Myriad tests on the bay have produced conflicting results.

The World Health Organization and an initial Environment Ministry report found the water unpolluted.

*'We were well below any Indonesian standards and well below any U.S. Environmental Protection standards.'*

— Wayne Murdy  
Newmont CEO

### Putin defends state-owned firm's purchase of oil unit

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday strongly defended the purchase of Yukos oil company assets by a state-owned firm, saying the state was just protecting its interests in moving to get control of the second largest oil production facility in Russia.

In an apparently secret, no-bid sale, the state-owned Rosneft oil company bought a little known company, BaikalFinansGroup, that just days earlier had purchased Yukos' most important production unit, Yuganskneftegaz, for \$9.3 billion, half of what foreign auditors say it was worth. The Yuganskneftegaz production unit pumps about 11 percent of Russia's oil.

The deal set the stage for the Kremlin's takeover of the nation's largest oil company following a relentless 18-month official crackdown on Yukos, which supplies about two percent of the world's oil. Putin's deputy chief of staff and long-time confidant, Igor Sechin, serves as Rosneft's chairman of the board.

"Today, the state — using absolutely legal, market mechanisms — is ensuring its interests. I consider this perfectly normal," Putin told reporters at his annual press conference, reminding them of how the oligarchs, or private businessmen, obtained properties at bargain basement prices shortly after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"Some market participants got multibillion state assets using different tricks, including some violations of then-existing legislation," Putin said.

By contrast, he said, the 100-percent state-owned Rosneft's purchase of the Yukos stake "was done in absolute conformity with market means."

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, founder of Yukos has been in jail for the last 14 months, and is on trial charged with fraud and tax evasion. Russian authorities say the oil giant owes \$28 billion in taxes, and froze its assets.

Putin cast the moves against Yukos as part of efforts to uproot corruption and shady bookkeeping. But Kremlin critics have described it as a political vendetta for Khodorkovsky's political activities and an attempt to gain leverage over the strategically important oil sector.

According to reports, Rosneft gets more than three-quarters of the shares in Yukos' Yuganskneftegaz production unit.

Alexander Stepanenko, spokesman for Rosneft, confirmed the deal to Dow Jones Newswires early Thursday. "The owners of BaikalFinans made us an offer to sell their company, and we took it," Stepanenko said. He would not disclose the purchase price.

ALL AREA

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# Hur for in c

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## Hunting for clues in cash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Karl Miller hunts for clues in cold cash — counterfeit cash, that is.

Studying a bogus \$100 bill, Miller looks for imperfections — a wisp of ink extending outside of a line, blurred scrollwork, a mottled background — that might tie it to another one on record, and help investigators catch the counterfeiters.

"What we are trying to do is compare the image that we see, the details from it, to the details seen on previous images of counterfeit," said Miller, a counterfeit specialist in the Secret Service's anti-counterfeiting lab.

*'What we are trying to do is compare the image that we see, the details from it, to the details seen on previous images of counterfeit.'*

— Karl Miller  
Counterfeit specialist

The Secret Service is the primary federal agency for investigating the counterfeiting of U.S. currency.

A cache of 23,000 uniquely classified counterfeit notes stored in a "specimen vault" helps investigators make a match. That, in turn, helps them decide whether to go after those who made the phony money or those who distributed it.

Using microscopes, handheld magnifiers and a fleet of sophisticated instruments and equipment, investigators analyze the bogus bills.

"We start with the paper and work our way to determine how they did produce it," said Lorelei Pagano, a senior counterfeit specialist.

Real bills, for instance, have tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Counterfeiters often try to simulate them by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper.

Examiners also look for attempts to copy security features, such as watermarks that become visible when held up to light, ink that shifts colors when a bill is tilted and embedded security threads that glow a certain color when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Information about how a counterfeit bill is made also helps examiners evaluate the effectiveness of existing security features.

The lab also studies the security features of foreign currencies, keeps up with new security technologies, conducts anti-counterfeiting training and assesses the effectiveness of possible changes to U.S. currency.

Roughly 60 percent of the \$37 billion in counterfeit notes passed off as genuine in the United States are printed overseas, mostly in Columbia, the Secret Service says. Officials suspect the counterfeiting may be related to the drug trade.

Most bogus U.S. notes made overseas are done through traditional printing processes, such as offset printing, while most of those produced in the United States are done digitally, Secret Service officials say.

In general, a traditionally printed counterfeit note tends to look better than a digital one, although quality can run the gamut for each type of printing process.

## Family: Texas-based worker unafraid to work in Iraq

HOUSTON (AP) — One Texas victim of the attack on a mess tent in Mosul, Iraq felt it was his calling to work in the war-torn country, his wife says.

Leslie W. Davis, 53, of Magnolia and Allen Smith of Rosharon were among four Halliburton Co. employees killed Tuesday in the suicide bomb attack at the military base in northern Iraq.

Davis, 53, worked at the quality assurance and quality control department for Houston-based Halliburton's KBR subsidiary.

"He was not afraid. He spent a year in Vietnam on river patrol boats. He was in heavy combat then," his wife, Dona, told the Houston Chronicle in Thursday's editions. "It had prepared him. He said this is where the Lord wanted him and where he should be right now."

She said she last saw her husband in June, when he left for Iraq. The former Cy-Fair High School sweetheart, married for 35 years, talked on the phone or e-mailed daily. She last spoke to her husband by phone Monday night as she was driving home from her job at the Southwest Airlines reservation center near Hobby Airport.

"He talked about how he felt for the young soldiers," she said. "He said he was going to go out on Christmas and take pictures of all the soldiers and have Christmas fun with those without families. He said he would rather die than one of those young soldiers, without a doubt. He said, 'I have a chance to leave, but they don't.'"

Friends of Smith, 45, gathered Wednesday night at Johnson's Market & Grill in Pearland. They mourned the passing of "a good man and wonderful friend" and avid darts player who was killed less than a month after going to Iraq.

*'He was not afraid. He spent a year in Vietnam on river patrol boats. He was in heavy combat then. It had prepared him. He said this is where the Lord wanted him and where he should be right now.'*

— Dona Davis  
Leslie Davis' wife

Terry Hartley, a friend and former customer at the Hoot N'Annie's bar that Smith owned said the Halliburton worker left for Iraq on Nov. 24. Smith previously owned a landscaping and lawn-care business in Brazoria County.

"He went over there for a job that would make life better — that's what he was hoping," Hartley said.

Anthony M. Stramiello Jr., 61, of Astoria, Ore., and Brett A. Hunter, 29, of Chickasaw, Ala., were also killed.

As relatives and friends of the Halliburton victims mourned, the defense contractor reported that three subcontractors also thought to have died in the explosion had survived. A total of 22 people died, including 14 U.S. military personnel.

"We are thankful and hopeful to learn that three of our subcontractors, contrary to the first reports, survived yesterday's attack," Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall said.

The KBR subsidiary manages military mess halls as the contractor responsible for feeding U.S. troops, building bases and providing other logistical support.

Recently, Dona Davis sent her husband a Christmas tree and presents. The Davises were looking forward to a vacation in Rome in March.

A father of four and grandfather of 11, Davis attended the Fellowship of The Woodlands Church and was a deacon at Cypress Bible Church for many years before the couple moved to Magnolia four years ago.

"I think everybody who knows him would say he was one of a kind," Dona Davis said. "He was the life of everyone. He was the focus, and he liked to be."

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

## Security measures modified for women

WASHINGTON (AP) — In response to numerous complaints from women, the government has ordered airport security personnel to avoid touching female passengers between their breasts when performing patdowns.

Security screeners now will keep their hands to the "chest perimeter" of women unless detection equipment picks up the possibility that they are hiding explosives between their breasts.

The new method takes into consideration passenger discomfort while remaining steadfast in mitigating risks, said Transportation Security Administration spokesman

Mark Hatfield.

The nation's 45,000 screeners are being told to pat down the perimeter of the chest, backsides and abdomen, effective today.

TSA has made other modifications. Last week it began allowing passengers to lower their arms after the first part of a search so they can be more comfortable.

Women have complained about the intrusiveness of the searches. "This reduces some of the anxiety that some passengers have expressed," Hatfield said, adding that the change does not weaken security efforts.

Roughly 2 million passengers a week are patted down.

Some are searched this way after setting off metal detectors twice; others are chosen by computer.

The government has directed airport screeners to carry out more frequent, more thorough searches for explosives. That policy was instituted Sept. 22, after 90 people were killed in two plane crashes in Russia believed to have been caused by Chechen women who carried explosives on board.

For female passengers, screeners would use the back of the hand to pat down the center line of the chest and follow the bra line below the breast.

## Gold coin tossed into SA kettle

HOUSTON (AP) — This holiday donation to the Salvation Army was almost solid gold.

It was a South African Krugerrand, worth about \$400.

The one-ounce gold coin was wrapped in a dollar bill and dropped into one of the nonprofit organization's kettles Monday by an unidentified donor.

Agency officials who discovered the coin Tuesday while counting the previous day's donation could not recall another instance when such a gift was made here.

The coin was confirmed as authentic at a Houston bank.

"It's the first time we've gotten a gold piece like that," said Maj. John Jones, area commander for the Metropolitan Salvation Army.

But Jones speculated that

news reports of a 20-year tradition of dropping gold coins into holiday kettles in the Chicago area may have prompted the donation outside a drug store in Houston's West University area.

The gift was made the day after one report in Sunday's Houston Chronicle, which prompted Salvation Army workers to say it wouldn't happen in Southeast Texas.

"As soon as we said that, one showed up in our kettle," said Jones. "I don't know if it was planned, but it was pretty simultaneous."

More than 300 gold coins have been collected since 1982 in Chicago, with 10 coins donated there so far this year.

The Salvation Army has also received gold coin donations in about a dozen other states.



**All The Best!**



*Hats off to you, my customers. I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of folks, than you.*

*Happy Holidays To Your Family From Mine*

*ReDonn, Keith & Autumn Woods*

## Saint Matthews Episcopal Church Christmas Eve Services

**6pm to 7pm ... Christmas Caroling  
And Refreshments**  
**7pm to 8pm... Family Christmas Eve  
Communion Services**

*join us for this  
57th Yearly Tradition  
a family observance of Christmas  
Everyone Welcome... all family  
members and friends invited*

**Saint Matthews Episcopal Church**  
**727 W. Browning Ave**  
**806.665.0701**



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** You printed a letter from "Beaten Down in Oklahoma," who said that although she had a history of severe depression; her verbally abusive husband refused to allow her to get medication "because he didn't believe in it." He told her she was "worthless" and said he only kept her around so he could be near the kids. That letter could have been written by me five years ago.

I was nine years into a physically and emotionally abusive marriage. I heard the same things from my husband. And afterward, when he was trying to make up, he'd always said he "didn't mean it."

Well, it turned out he did mean it. Once he found his next victim - a younger woman - he walked out. As he left, he announced it was because everything he'd said had been the truth. I was ugly, fat, worthless, lousy in bed, and he'd only stayed because he wanted to be around the kids.

You should have advised "Beaten Down" to see a lawyer in addition to a counselor, while she still has a shred of self-esteem. Following my divorce, I got counseling. Once I felt better about myself, I met a wonderful man. We're married now. I wish I could give "Beaten Down" a hug, because she's not alone. She's in my prayers. -- FULL OF HOPE IN GEORGIA

**DEARFULL OF HOPE:** I heard from many readers who identified with that letter and felt it was important for her to break away. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** A husband who tells his wife she's worthless and stupid is using verbal abuse to wear her down and control her. Marriage counseling and psychiatrists won't help. The man has low self-esteem and tries to make himself appear powerful and intelligent by making his wife feel inadequate. Every day she stays with him is far more harmful to the children than taking them and leaving. Abuse is not always physical. She needs to get out BEFORE it becomes physical. -- DIANE IN

PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR DIANE:** It's true; children model their behavior on what they're exposed to.

**DEAR ABBY:** As a clinical social worker and therapist with a strong background in the field of domestic violence, I must comment on your response to "Beaten Down in Oklahoma." Your suggestion of marital counseling is not recommended in such situations. It can render the victims more vulnerable to abuse and manipulation after they leave the counselor's office.

Your suggestion of going alone and building her own strength is helpful. Contacting her local domestic violence organization for support is also recommended. -- LSCW IN MAINE

**DEAR LSCW:** Thank you for the input. The toll-free number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline is (800) 799-7233.

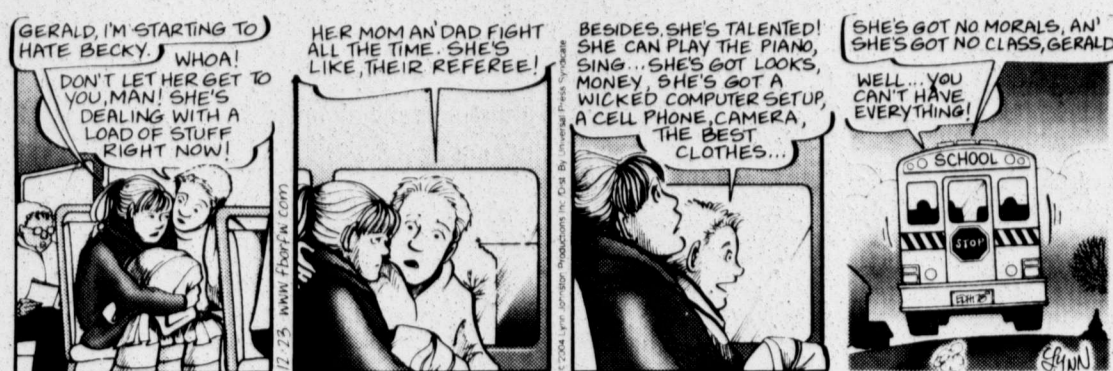
**DEAR ABBY:** Too many times during my 24 years as a paramedic I have seen the end result on a spouse or a child by someone who crossed the line from verbal to physical abuse. "Beaten Down" should indeed get counseling, but first it is imperative that she secure a safe place for herself and her children. More than her mental health could be at stake. -- EMT IN CINCINNATI

**DEAR EMT:** I've got the message -- and I'm sure my readers will, too.

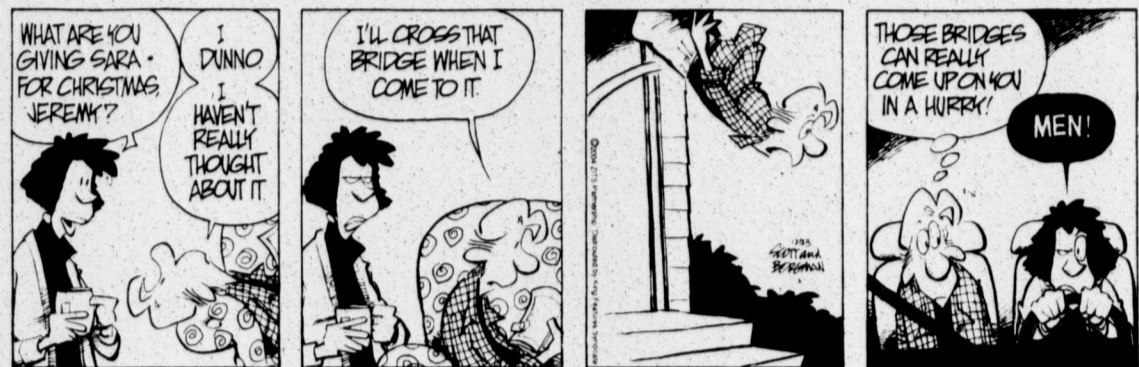
**DEAR ABBY:** Have you ever wondered where your readers come up with aliases they give to the people in their questions? I have. I have always suspected they were names they wanted to give their kids, but didn't. How do you think they come up with them? -- PONDERING IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR PONDERING:** I come up with them!

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin

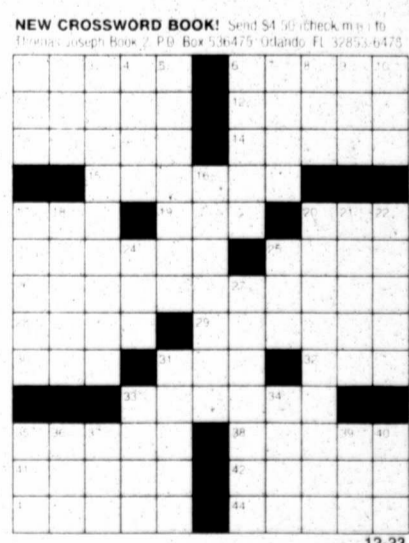


## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Candy
  - 6 Blaise
  - 11 Be of one mind
  - 12 Relish
  - 13 Swim
  - 14 Boston
  - 15 Repress
  - 17 Toward
  - 19 Kittenish
  - 20 Govt
  - 23 Light for short
  - 25 Omi's country
  - 26 Plant
  - 28 Farm unit
  - 29 Looks after
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  - 31 Coffee
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  - 33 Swindle
  - 35 Take it easy
  - 38 Less
  - 41 Knock for a loop
  - 42 Game setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Select
  - 2 In the past
  - 3 Window patterns
  - 4 Hat
  - 5 Sammy Davis Jr
  - 6 Like St
  - 7 Lotion
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  - 10 Bear's lair
  - 16 Closes a map
  - 17 Pond
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  - 20 Like some freezers
  - 21 Dispatch
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  - 24 Actor's
  - 25 Anger
  - 27 Men's hats
  - 31 Friendly
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  - 34 Going rate?
  - 35 Scoundrel
  - 36 Earth-bound
  - 37 Research
  - 39 Finish
  - 40 Comic
  - 41 Romano



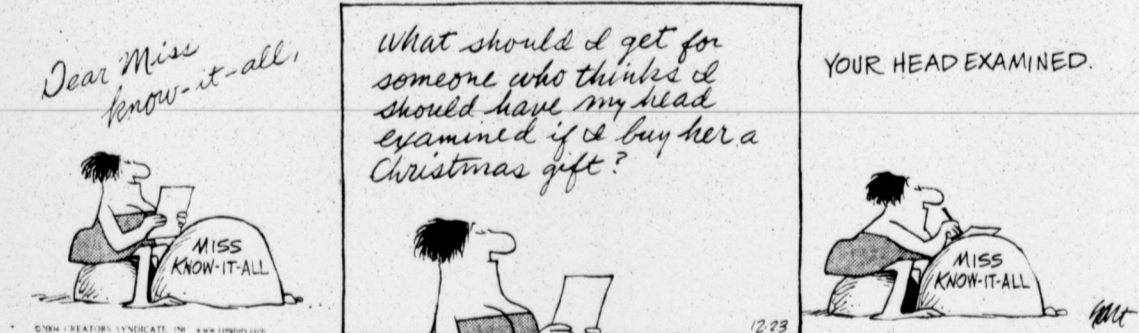
## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus



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## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



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# Sports Day

## NBA, union to argue brawl suspensions

By CHRIS SHERIDAN  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The question of whether Jermaine O'Neal will play on Christmas will be in the hands of a federal court judge.

The NBA and the players' union were due in court Thursday morning, one day after an arbitrator knocked 10 games off the penalty O'Neal received from commissioner David Stern for fighting with fans during the Nov. 19 Pacers-Pistons brawl. Three other suspensions were upheld.

O'Neal's penalty was reduced from 25 to 15 games, making him eligible to return Saturday in the nationally televised rematch — but only if the judgment stands up in court.

The NBA has already filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging arbitrator Roger Kaplan's authority to hear the grievance, a complaint that remains pending before Judge George B. Daniels.

At Thursday's hearing, the union is expected to ask the judge to issue an order granting immediate enforcement of Kaplan's ruling, thereby making O'Neal eligible for Saturday's game.

"We have consistently maintained that the arbitrator has no legitimate role in this matter," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said. "While we obviously agree with Mr. Kaplan's decision upholding virtually all of the suspensions, we don't agree with his conclusion that the conduct did not occur on the playing court, and we have no choice other than to challenge it in federal court."

In a 28-page decision, Kaplan upheld Ron Artest's season-long suspension and the penalties given to Stephen Jackson (30 games) and Anthony Johnson (five games).

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## Gone to the dogs



The fifth and sixth grade Optimist Girls' Bank of America-Junkyard Dogs basketball team, lost just its first preseason game, and then went undefeated. The team finished in first place in the league. The girls also went undefeated in the Optimist Tournament, where they claimed another first place prize. The Junkyard Dogs are, from left to right, front row- Megan Pirtle, Liz Hoelting, Monica Parish and Kylee Wyatt. Back row- Coach Jeff Kelly Wyatt, Karen Perez, Holly Gage, Kayla Hughes and assistant Russ Hughes. Not pictured- Ashtin Sackett.

## HE AIN'T MEAN, HE'S A COACH

# Do not confuse intense emotion as Coach Jeff Reed being mean

While attending the Pampa High School varsity basketball games at McNeely Field House this past Monday, I overheard a woman ask her husband, "He's kind of mean, isn't he?" The "he" she was referring to was boys varsity Head Coach Jeff Reed. Reed, as he does many times, had his team gathered at the bench (seats actually), where he was laying out a plan of attack he obviously believed would give his team its best chance to beat Plainview in the waning moments of what had been an exciting game.

His intensity is easily seen in his face and heard by those sitting just feet away from the bench. He was admonishing silly mistakes, while emphasizing those things his team was doing right.

When the game resumed, he took his now familiar knee, rested his chin in his hand and looked on as Pampa executed the plan. Now and then, he would spring to his feet, look at his bench and ask with emotion, "What are they doing?" Or, "Why won't he pass the ball?"

Sure, Reed has an intensity about him. As any good coach, he believes his team is going to win

every game it plays. No one in their right mind steps on to the floor and thinks, "Well, we're probably going to lose this game. So I'll just try to make it as painless as possible."

Michael J.  
Stevens  
Sports  
Editor



In the heat of the battle, especially a close one such as this game was — when you can taste victory — you want to instill in your team that same level of intense emotion. And if you are not getting the desired response, you do what is necessary to achieve it. Many NASCAR drivers will instruct their spotters and other team members prior to a race to talk to them. Let them know what they are doing right and what they are doing wrong. Criticize when needed, while offering the occasional Atta-boy. In other words, help them to keep their heads in the race.

This is what Reed does. He

takes every measure and opportunity to keep his players' heads in the game.

Reed is a strategist. Pay attention to him while he paces the floor. You can see the wheels turning. I think he is game-planning what is taking place on the floor as it happens as well as, even if only deep in his mind, considering the next opponent. Not thinking ahead, per se. But maybe trying something now to gauge how it might work later.

He obviously knows and understands every nuance of the game. He works the refs for the right reason while he yells challenges to his team.

By the time the game ended Monday night, my wife turned to me and said, "I'm worn out just watching him." Little did she know how accurate her observation was.

Is Jeff Reed mean? Not at all. Pulling the legs off a grasshopper is mean. Giving a wedgie is mean. Leaving Santa cookies but no milk is mean.

Jeff Reed is a coach. And, I for one, wouldn't have it any other way.

# Count on Yanks to keep zeroing in on Johnson

By STEVE WILSTEIN  
Associated Press

If money talks, George Steinbrenner shouts.

At least that's how the New York Yankees' boss has gone about his business most of the time over the past three decades.

Has he gone soft lately, been a little too tentative?

He put up the big bucks for Alex Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield and Kevin Brown last year. But Steinbrenner passed on Manny Ramirez when Boston put him on waivers, and couldn't craft a trade for Randy Johnson during the season.

The Boss then fumed when he watched the Yankees — three outs from a sweep — lose to the Red Sox in the AL championship series.

Stuff like that gets on Steinbrenner's nerves and makes his check-writing fingers twitch.

Two players he covets are out there for the taking right now and he seems ready to shout, pound, pounce, do whatever it takes to beat Boston in a renewal of their arms race.

With two shopping days left before Christmas, Steinbrenner still doesn't have the presents he most wants for himself and Yankee fans: Johnson, the five-time Cy

Young Award winner, and free-agent slugger Carlos Beltran.

Johnson, at 41 still the nastiest left-hander in baseball, was close to being gift-wrapped in pinstripes until the proposed three-team, 10-player megadeal with the Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers blew up. The Dodgers scuttled the deal, the Yankees felt betrayed, and the Diamondbacks were left in limbo.

Beltran and his agent, Scott Boras, spent an hour in Tampa, Fla., talking with Steinbrenner and other top Yankee officials on Tuesday, then went to Kissimmee on Wednesday to hear what the Houston Astros had to say.

The Yankees didn't make an offer, but let the center fielder ask questions about playing in New York. It was a soft-sell approach, backed by Steinbrenner's reputation for paying top dollar. Maybe Steinbrenner mentioned along the way that Hall of Famers Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle once roamed center in Yankee Stadium.

"When the Boss gets talking, it gets serious and you get excited," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

The Astros, trying to persuade Roger Clemens to pitch one more year, surely do not want to lose Beltran.

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## BCS won't be destroyed by Associated Press decision

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bowl Championship Series is ready to move on without The Associated Press college football poll.

"I wasn't surprised by the AP's decision," Big East commissioner Mike Tranchese said. "I don't think it's a negative issue. We're just going to have to put our heads together and come up with an alternative way of picking the teams for the 1-2 game."

The Associated Press told the BCS on Tuesday to stop using its poll to determine which teams play for a national title.

BCS coordinator and Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg has said the BCS hopes to have a new formula ready by April.

"We're not heading

toward a playoff," Tranchese said Wednesday.

So for the second straight season and the fifth time since the system was implemented in 1998, the BCS will change the way it computes its standings.

This season, the BCS streamlined its formula and put heavy emphasis on the AP and ESPN/USA Today coaches poll. The goal was to make it more likely that Nos. 1 and 2 in the polls played in the national title game, unlike last season when Southern California was a consensus No. 1 but left out of the BCS championship.

Without the AP poll, the BCS's current formula is left with the coaches poll and six computer rankings.

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# Illinois wins a close one as No. 1

(AP) — Illinois had nothing but easy wins so far this season. The top-ranked Illini even cruised over the likes of Wake Forest and Gonzaga.

For the first time this season they were pushed to final minute and it was still a victory, 70-64 over Missouri on Wednesday night.

"I'd love to win every game by 20, but that's hard," guard Deron Williams said, shorting his team two points off their average margin of victory. "We needed to win a game like this."

Luther Head scored 20 points, and Williams had nine of his 19 over the final 3:19 to help the Illini (11-0) overcome foul problems, poor shooting and a second-half surge by the Tigers (6-5).

Roger Powell Jr. had 14 points for Illinois, which matched its season worst for shooting at 42.3 percent but still won its fifth straight over Missouri in the annual game played at the Savvis Center in St. Louis.

Illinois entered the game leading the country in shooting at 53 percent and

the closest any team had come was Arkansas, which lost by 12 points. Those were things Illini coach Bruce Weber didn't think would matter in the "Braggin' Rights" game.

*'They raised their level, they battled, they fought.'*

— Bruce Weber  
Head Coach, Illinois Illini

"It's too big of a game, and you add the extra incentive of us being No. 1," Weber said. "They raised their level, they battled, they fought."

In other games involving ranked teams on Wednesday, it was: No. 2 Kansas 73, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 62; No. 5 Wake Forest 81, New Mexico 64; No. 7 Syracuse 88, Rice 72; No. 8 Kentucky 92, William & Mary 47; No. 9 Georgia Tech 90, Charleston

Southern 48; No. 11 Connecticut 87, Central Connecticut State 59; No. 12 Washington 114, Sacred Heart 53; No. 15 Texas 97, Centenary 52; No. 18 Louisville 77, Austin Peay 49; No. 19 Alabama 76, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 54; No. 21 Mississippi State 95, Jacksonville State 53; and No. 22 Cincinnati 84, La Salle 63.

Linus Kleiza had 25 points, one off his career best, for Missouri. He was 11-for-13 from the free-throw line and had seven rebounds and three assists.

He also helped put Illinois' frontline in foul trouble by bullying inside for shots.

"Linus was in an attack mode," Missouri guard Jimmy McKinney said. "His mind was set, we told him they couldn't guard him. They couldn't do nothing but foul him."

The Tigers trailed by 15 points at halftime. They cut the deficit to five points with just under 8 minutes left and then to four on Jason Horton's 3-pointer with 14 seconds to go.

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### Stuffing stockings

Members of Five Star Girl Scout Brownies Troop #221 and Daisy Troop #222 with "40" stockings they filled with candy, toys and stuffed animals as a holiday community service project. Above: (back, left-right) Rylee, Makenzie, Ashlynn, Ashlee, Haylei, Keely, Cherish; (front, l-r) Katterina, Zoe, Alexis, Kristen, Kassie and Kathilyn.

## Pope defrocks priest shot by his alleged victim

BALTIMORE (AP) — A priest facing trial next month for allegedly molesting a former altar boy who later shot him has been defrocked by Pope John Paul II, The Associated Press has learned.

Maurice Blackwell 58, is scheduled to go on trial Jan. 3 on four counts of child sexual abuse against Donte Stokes.

Blackwell was shot by Stokes in May 2002, in the midst of the national scandal involving Catholic priests. In the aftermath, Baltimore

prosecutors reviewed Stokes' allegations and charged the priest with molesting Stokes.

The pope decided in October to dismiss Blackwell, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore received the official paperwork earlier this month from the Vatican, archdiocese spokesman Sean Caine said Wednesday.

Blackwell's trial has been postponed five times, and the archdiocese received word from Rome just before one of

his previous trial dates. Caine said the archdiocese decided then not to make a public statement about Blackwell's defrocking out of consideration for how it could affect potential jurors.

But after receiving requests from the AP for information about Blackwell's status, and discussing the matter with the prosecutor's office, the archdiocese "decided it would be prudent for us to acknowledge that the pope has signed this decree, and it is in effect

and Maurice is no longer considered a priest in the eyes of the church," Caine said.

Defrocking, which the church calls laicization, is applied in extreme cases of misconduct. It comes about only after a long process involving the Vatican.

The alleged abuse began in 1989 and ended in 1992 — a decade before the Baltimore barber shot Blackwell in front of the priest's home.

## Snow, frigid temps disrupt U.S. travel

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Frigid temperatures, blasting wind and more snow than some places normally see in a year left parts of the Midwest and South paralyzed Thursday, and transformed a section of highway in southern Indiana into a parking lot.

The winter storm dumped double-digits of snow from western Pennsylvania to Wyoming, the Texas Panhandle to the Great Lakes, disrupting pre-Christmas travel. Northern Mississippi motorists were warned Thursday to stay off highways iced up from freezing rain.

Southern Indiana barely had time to catch its frosty breath after a snowstorm Wednesday morning when a second, heavier gust pummeled the region, shutting down Interstate 64 eastbound from Evansville to the Illinois State line.

"We're still stuck here. It's been about 13 hours," Ken Sabatini, 52, of Leawood, Kan., said Thursday morning. He, his wife and two children were traveling to Cincinnati for Christmas. "It's cold outside and we're doing our best to stay inside the car."

Temperatures fell to 12 degrees overnight, and Sabatini said some motorists had run out of gas and were sleeping in a stranded Greyhound Bus to stay warm.

"We've got some gas left, so every hour we run it for five minutes to get some warmth in the car," Sabatini said.

Authorities sought help from the Indiana National Guard and the American Red

Cross to rescue the motorists. The tieup began around 5 p.m. Wednesday when two semis had trouble getting up hills and rolled back, blocking traffic, police said.

The Wednesday snowfall at Evansville of 19.3 inches shattered the record for any single day, set Feb. 25, 1993, when 10.9 inches fell. It was also well over the normal yearly total of 14.2 inches.

*'We've got some gas left, so every hour we run it for five minutes to get some warmth in the car.'*

— Ken Sabatini  
Traveler

Paducah, Ky., got 14 inches, more than the yearly norm of 10, and state police closed down a 13-mile stretch of the I-64 in both directions west of Louisville.

In Illinois, where up to 20 inches of snow fell, forecasters warned that wind chills would reach as low as 25 below zero, and high snowdrifts created a hazardous morning commute, officials said.

Cincinnati was looking at about 20 inches before the system, with its high winds and freezing temperatures, moved on later Thursday.

Parts of Arkansas looked forward to only the ninth white Christmas in 120 years as the storm barreled across the state, closing businesses, shuttering restaurants and snarling traffic.

### AP source: Rowland to plead guilty in corruption case

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Former Gov. John G. Rowland had decided to plead guilty to charges in a two-year corruption investigation that drove him from office, The Associated Press has learned.

Rowland, a three-term governor who resigned July 1, was scheduled to make the plea Thursday morning in U.S. District Court, according to a source familiar with the case.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not specify the charge.

Rowland's top deputy, Peter Ellef, and a top state contractor were indicted in September on charges of running a criminal enterprise out of the governor's office.

Since the indictments, federal investigators have continued scrutinizing Rowland's personal and business dealings.

Rowland, 47, was once one of the GOP's rising young stars.

He became engulfed in scandal in December 2003 when he admitted accepting renovations at his lakeside cottage — including a hot tub and new heating system from employees and state contractors — and lying about it. Other gifts and favors soon came to light.

Rowland resigned amid legislative hearings that threatened to lead to his impeachment.

His lieutenant governor, M. Jodi Rell, was elevated to

fill the remainder of his term, which expires after the November 2006 election.

For months, Rowland has insisted he never did anything in exchange for the gifts. But the drumbeat of allegations sent his approval ratings plummeting and led to demands for his resignation from both Democrats and Republicans.

Rowland received cigars, champagne, a canoe and free or discounted vacations from employees and friends — including some with state contracts.

The FBI was even looking into whether Rowland skimmed money from low-stakes poker games he hosted.

*Merry Christmas*

*from Our Family to Yours...*  
*LW & Sherry McCall*

**Free**  
**Christmas Dinner**  
**2004**  
**Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**at The Fellowship Hall of**  
**Mary Ellen & Harvester**  
**Church of Christ**  
**Across from the High School**

**Come and share with us the**  
**blessing and Surplus of God's**  
**Grace as we eat on Christmas Day!**