



Today's Weather

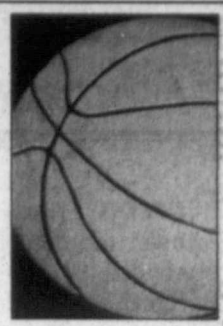
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THE PAMPA

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City officials question cost of water from CRMWA

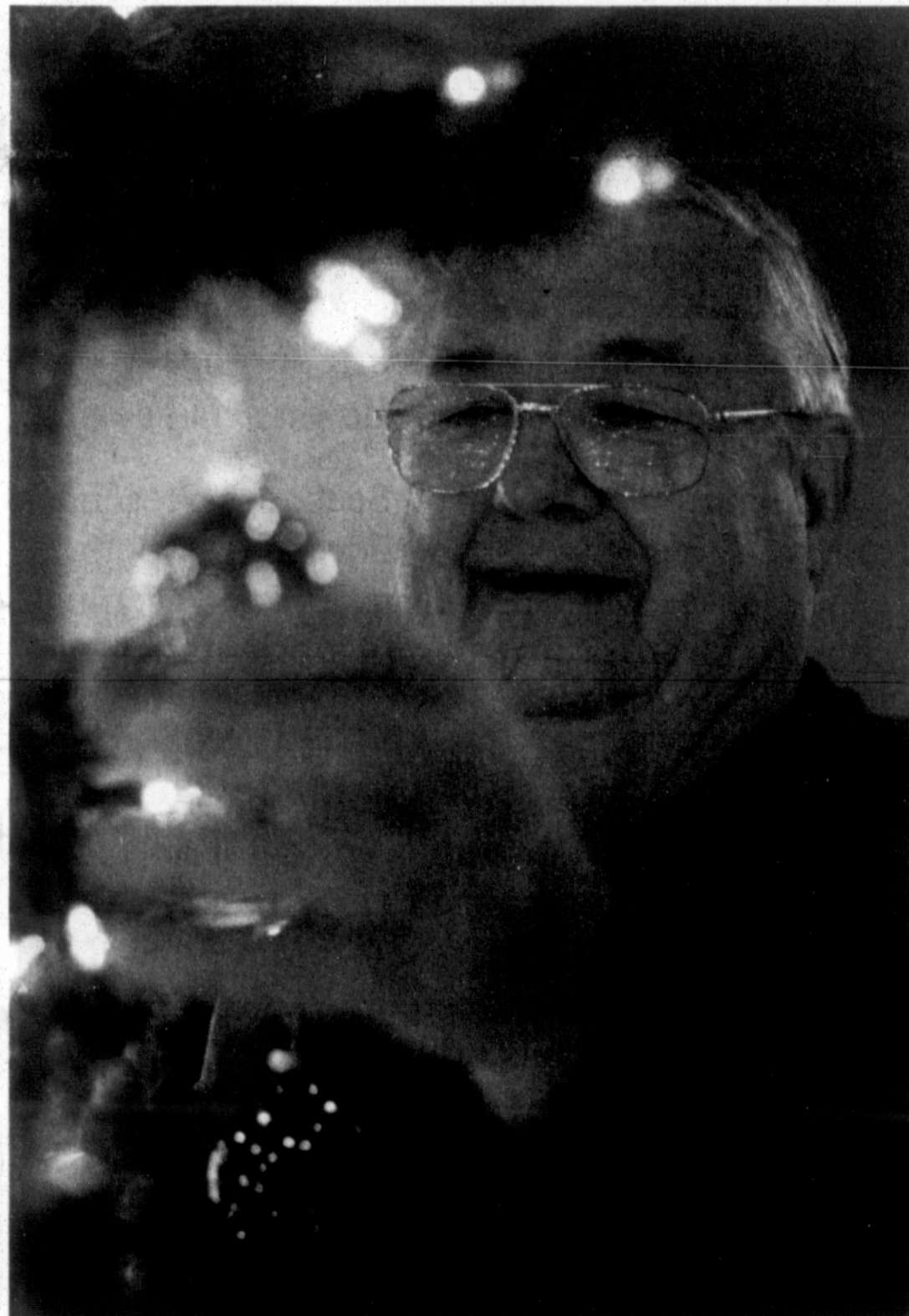
By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority is planning to buy more water, but Pampa city officials question the debt involved. Kent Satterwhite, general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, was in Pampa Monday to meet with Pampa City Manager John Horst and Public Works Director Richard Morris and Benny Kirksey, Pampa's representative on the CRMWA board of directors, to discuss the water authority's plan. The plan will be presented to the Pampa City Commission today for discussion. Satterwhite said that while Lake Meredith was expected to provide 126,000 acre-feet of water per year when it was originally built 40 years ago, due to drought conditions, the lake is now producing only 69,000 acre-feet. The difference is being made up from the John C. Williams Wellfield in Roberts County. A mixture of groundwater from the wellfield, water from Lake Meredith and water from local community wells are provided to most of the 11 member cities of CRMWA. Borger and Pampa mix their own because of their location on the aqueduct. Amarillo and Lubbock are the two largest users of the water, Satterwhite said. Each uses about 37 percent of the water allocated by CRMWA annually. Pampa is allocated 5.8 percent of the water, but doesn't use that much, Horst said. Consequently, it has sold the portion of its allocated water to Lubbock. Horst said that Lubbock elected to take the 400 million gallons that Pampa is selling to the South Plains city this year all in the month of December. Satterwhite, noting that not all member cities can afford the increased debt of a bond issue for water purchases by the authority, said that the allocations could be adjusted according to what each city feels it can afford. "I don't see how we can afford it," Horst said prior to Monday's meeting. Satterwhite said that the allocation of water from Lake Meredith would remain stable, but groundwater allocations could be adjusted under the plan at a member city's request. Horst said there is one part of the CRMWA plan he likes. He said the plan includes a provision to set aside money, like a sinking fund, to buy water rights in the future, which should alleviate the future need for indebtedness. Earlier this year, CRMWA sold \$50 million in bonds. Twenty million dollars of that was to improve the infrastructure from the well field to where it ties on to the main aqueduct between Amarillo and Lake Meredith. The remaining \$30 million was for additional water rights. As more water rights became available in Roberts County, CRMWA issued another \$50 million in bonds to buy additional water. Satterwhite said that some member cities want to buy more groundwater rights, while other member cities, who are not using their full allocations and have no forecast of growth, cannot justify the increased debt of a proposed 2006 bond issue. CRMWA's plan is an attempt to satisfy the needs of both groups. See WATER, Page 3

Interviews continue today for EDC board

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer Pampa City Manager John Horst said today that interviews of applicants for the new Pampa economic development corporation will continue this afternoon. Beginning at 4 p.m., the Pampa City Commission will interview six more candidates for the board. The commission will go into executive session for the interviews, then reconvene in open session about 5:30 p.m. today in the city commission chambers of city hall for their regularly scheduled meeting. Kathy Cota, Bill Berry, Glennette Goode, Bill Allison, Robert Dixon and Duane Harp will be interviewed by the commission today.

County gets in the spirit

Initially, Jeff Andrews had applied, but Horst said he withdrew and Duane Harp took his place in the interview schedule. Monday evening, the commission interviewed Sean Smith, Lance DeFever, Jeanee Townson, Kenneth May, Renee Brown, Gary Sutherland, James Bradley, Phillip Conner, John Curry, Jimmy Humphrey, Ray O'Quin, Shawn Clifton, Dwight Fiveash, Carl O'Neal and Dalton Lewis. "Everybody showed up," Horst said. The city manager said he hoped that the commission would name the board members during their meeting tonight so City Attorney Don Lane could file the corporation papers with the State of Texas. Pampa's school board will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Pampa Junior High School library. Among items for consideration and discussion are: the quarterly financial and investment report; second reading of TASB policy update 76; the 2005-2006 district improvement plan; the 2005-2006 campus improvement plan; the purchase of a bus, and; personnel matters. The board will also discuss an update on election procedures and progress made by the Facility Committee Meetings. The junior high school is at 2401 Charles St.



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER Gray County Veterans Service Officer Bob Dixon makes a last minute adjustment on the county Christmas Tree today at the courthouse. The tree went up last week, but it took several days to get it trimmed, Dixon said. "Almost everyone in the courthouse helped," he said. "It was a joint affair." Dixon said County Judge Richard Peet and Sandra Martin from the judge's office helped as did County Treasurer Lee Cornelison, County Clerk Susan Winborne, County Auditor Elaine Morris and Child Protective Services Coordinator Pam Phillips.

PISD school board to meet Thursday

Pampa's school board will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Pampa Junior High School library. Among items for consideration and discussion are: the quarterly financial and investment report; second reading of TASB policy update 76; the 2005-2006 district improvement plan; the 2005-2006 campus improvement plan; the purchase of a bus, and; personnel matters. The board will also discuss an update on election procedures and progress made by the Facility Committee Meetings. The junior high school is at 2401 Charles St.

Blood drive scheduled Dec. 22

Coffee Memorial Blood Center will hold a blood drive in Pampa on Dec. 22. Potential donors are asked to make an appointment by calling 1-877-574-8800. Hours for the drive are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus center at 318 Cuyler. Each donor will receive a Christmas ornament.

White Deer Land Museum New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31, 2005 • MK Brown Heritage Room • 8:00 pm to Midnight Silent Auction and Dance • Tickets \$35.00 per person for more information call 669-8041 or 662-2727

Obituaries

Donna Jean Thornburg Glover, 62

IRVING, Texas — Donna Jean Thornburg Glover, 62, died Dec. 3, 2005, at Barbados.



Glover

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of the Briarwood Full Gospel Church of Pampa, officiating.

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

Mrs. Glover was born May 19, 1943, in Wichita, Kan. She had been a resident of Pampa most of her life, moving to Irving in 1994.

She married Benny Glover on Oct. 23, 1984, in Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, Benny Glover, of the home; two daughters, Dorma Hoyos of Barbados and Dana Willis of Irving; one son, David Smith of Pampa; one brother, Ellis Thornburg of Dumas; one sister, Verna Price of Yale, Okla.; and six grandchildren, Jessica Willis, Corey Willis, Amie Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Michael Smith and Benjamin Hoyos.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

LaNella Hensley, 65

LaNella Hensley, 65, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 12, 2005, at Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Ms. Hensley was born Nov. 28, 1940, in Crawford, Okla., to Leslie Landon Hensley and Kate Ella Jones Hensley. She lived in Crawford until the family moved to Durham, Okla., in 1957. She attended school in Durham until the school's closing in 1958 and transferred to Reydon, Okla., where she graduated in 1960.

She had been a resident of Pampa since 1964, working for Marie Foundation and Cabot Corporation, retiring from Cabot in 1999. She was involved in many activities and community organizations including Meals on Wheels, the American Business Women's Association, Durham Quilting

Bees and Durham Willing Workers Club. She was a member of the Central Baptist Church in Pampa.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Kate Ella Hensley, in 1946; and her father, Leslie Landon Hensley, in 1991.

Survivors include three brothers Marvin Hensley and wife Eltha of Pampa, Morris Hensley and wife Francis of Killeen, and Wilbur Hensley and wife Eva of Raywood; two nephews; six nieces; many great-nephews, great-nieces and cousins; one aunt, Erma Hensley of Cheyenne, Okla.; and one uncle, Bill Jones of Dumas.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 5, Durham, OK 73642.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Norma Sue Holt, 68

Norma Sue Holt, 68, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 11, 2005, at Pampa.



Holt

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Bryan Loughmiller, minister of the Central Church of Christ, officiating.

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

Mrs. Holt was born Dec. 13, 1936, in Erick, Okla. She attended Pampa schools. She had been a longtime resident of Pampa before moving to Grapevine.

She had been a resident of Grapevine for 34 years before returning to Pampa.

She married R. Howard Holt on Oct. 29,

1953, in Pampa. She was a former member of the Central Church of Christ in Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, R. Howard Holt, of the home; three sons, Alan Holt and wife Athena of Haltom City, Joel Holt and wife Falene of Grapevine and Chet Holt and wife Betty of Argyle; two brothers, Robert Cobb of Spring and John Cobb of Austin; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Thirty two traffic stops were made. One traffic complaint was received from the 1800 block of West Alcock.

Theft and vandalism was reported in the 200 block of West 28th where Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Slim Jims were taken. The Coca-Cola and Pepsi coolers were damaged and a Slim Jim display stand was damaged. Damages totaled \$1,593.34.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1200 block of North Duncan, and the 500 block of Montagu. A civil matter was reported in the 900 block of North Wells.

Found property was reported from the 900 block of South Dwight and the 2200 block of North Evergreen.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of East Scott, the 1700 block of West Alcock, and in the police department lobby.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of West Alcock, and burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Lowry, and disturbances were noted in the 2800 block of West 28th, and the 300 block of North Davis.

A prowler was reported in the 500 block of North Lowry and suspicious persons were noted in the 100 block of Starkweather, the 1500 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Nelson, the 300 block of North Banks, and the 1200 block of North Charles.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 900 block of North Banks.

Escorts were provided in the 600 block of North Ward and the 400 block of North Gillespie; assisting other agencies services were provided in the 12000 block of East Frederic, the 1200 block of North Wells, Highway 70 South, the 300 block of North Hobart, the 1100 block of East Darby, the 300 block of North Wynne, near highways 60 and 171, and the 1200 block of North Wells.

A 911/hangup call was received from the 500 block of North Lowry.

Identity theft was investigated in the 400 block of North Cuyler.

Welfare checks were made in the 800 block of West Campbell, and the 800 block of East Malone, and an open door was investigated in the 100 block of North Hobart.

Thefts were reported in the police department lobby, the 1300 block of North Russell, and the 2800 block of North Charles.

Complaints of harassment and forgery were received in the police department lobby.

Animal complaints were received in the 700 block of North Sloan, and the 2500 block of North Charles.

An assault was reported from One Medical Plaza.

Police responded to an alarm in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

An accident was noted in the 1300 block of North Garland.

Criminal trespass complaints were received in the 1100 block of West Seneca and the 2100 block of Lea.

An assault was reported in the 600 block of Red Deer.

One suicide attempt was investigated.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accident.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

A 1999 Ford Escort, driven by Kelly Charles Presson, 41, of Pampa and a 2004 Ford F250 pickup driven by Jim H. Cornett, 61, of Hobbs, N.M., collided in the 1900 block of North Price Road. There were no injuries. Presson was cited for unsafe passing.

Sheriff

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

Monday Dec. 12

Brent Keith Crossman, 48, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

Lloyd Ernest Poland, 40, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of DWI, 2nd offense.

Fire

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

Monday, Dec. 12

12:36 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of Wynne on a medical assist.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 12

9:11 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Maple and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to BSA in Amarillo.

12:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Wynne and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

1:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to the 1000 block of Mary Ellen.

3:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to a local nursing facility.

5:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to an undisclosed location on Frederic and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

CREATE a BEAT!

Pampa Community Center for the Arts will be offering the following classes

Musikgarten's Cycles of Seasons (Preschool Music Experience) for children ages 3 to 5. The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:15. A parent's orientation will be held on January 3. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee is required to hold your child's place in the class. The registration fee covers the cost of the materials, orientation class, and a cloth Musikgarten carry bag. The cost of the 15 classes (Jan. 10 - May 9) will be \$175 for the semester. Register before December 21. Class size is limited.

Musikgarten's Music Makers at the Keyboard for children ages 6-10. The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30. A parent's orientation will be held on January 3. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee is required to hold your child's place in the class. The registration fee covers the cost of the materials, orientation class, and a cloth Musikgarten carry bag for your child. The cost of the 15 classes (Jan. 10 - May 9) will be \$175 for the semester. Register before December 21. Class size is limited.

CITY BRIEFS

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

ANGELS, ANGELS, we have Salvation Army Angels! Help to make someone's Christmas brighter this year!! *Pampa News*, 403 W. Atchison, Mon.-Fri. 8-5. Deadline to return gifts to our tree is Dec. 15. Questions, 665-7233.

KNIGHTS OF Columbus Turkey Sale. Fried or Smoked. To order, call 665-7161, 665-3786 or 669-0604.

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Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Wind chill values between 23 and 30 early. South-southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. West-southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north-northwest.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 47. Wind chill values between 16 and 25 early. North-northwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 24. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 39. West-northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west-northwest.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 19. North-northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high around 35. North-northeast wind around 10 mph becoming east southeast.



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THIS REMINDER FROM THE PAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT - BECAUSE WE CARE!

Southwest Airlines begins flights from Dallas to Missouri

DALLAS (AP) — The first Southwest Airlines Co. flight from Dallas to Missouri left Love Field on this morning, opening a new front in the battle between the low-cost carrier and American Airlines.

The 8:10 a.m. flight to St. Louis was followed 40 minutes later by a flight to Kansas City, marking Southwest's first new non-stop service from Love Field in more than 20 years, according to spokeswoman Brandy King.

A few hours later, American, the nation's largest airline, announced that American and regional affiliate American Eagle would begin 16 daily flights from Love Field on March 2 to St. Louis, Kansas City, Austin and San Antonio.

Officials with American, a unit of Fort Worth-based AMR Corp., said shifting flights to the downtown facility would weaken Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport but that they were forced to respond

to Southwest's expansion.

Southwest moved quickly to expand at Love Field just two weeks after President Bush signed a transportation spending law that included a provision allowing the Missouri flights. A 1979 federal law that was changed in 1997 limited flights to and from Love Field to Texas and seven nearby states.

The only way around the law is to operate planes with 56 or fewer seats. A startup, Legend Airlines, tried that strategy in 2000 but soon

went out of business.

Southwest has been lobbying for more than a year to repeal the Love Field restrictions and got its first victory when Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., included the Missouri provision in the spending bill.

The first flights to Missouri were not full — King conceded that "passenger loads on those first flights were light" — but the airline didn't announce passenger counts.

"We only had a week and

a half to advertise and sell those flights," King said.

Southwest scheduled four daily nonstops to St. Louis and four more to Kansas City, bringing its departures from Love Field to 120.

The Dallas-based airline had planned a celebration of the new service, but it canceled those plans after last week's accident in Chicago, in which a Southwest jet skidded off a snowy runway and struck cars, killing a 6-year-old boy in one of the vehicles. It was the first acci-

dent-related death in Southwest's 35-year history.

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Democrat returns donation to Indians

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top Democrat on the Senate committee investigating Jack Abramoff's Indian lobbying is returning \$67,000 in donations in response to Associated Press reports that he collected tribal money around the time he took actions favorable to those of Abramoff clients.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said today that while he never met Abramoff and didn't take any actions at the lobbyist's behest, he nonetheless wants to return the money to avoid any appearances that tribal money was directed to him by the controversial lobbyist.

"Even though those contributions were legal and fully reported as required by law, I will not knowingly keep even one dollar in contributions if there is even a remote possibility that they could have been the result of any action Mr. Abramoff might have taken," the senator said.

Dorgan is the senior Democrat on the

Senate Indian Affairs Committee that has spent more than a year investigating alleged fraud in Abramoff's representation of Indian tribes, which were charged tens of millions of dollars in lobbying fees between 2001 and 2004.

AP reported in three stories over the last month that Dorgan did not disclose during the probe that he took actions favorable to Abramoff's tribal clients, often around the time he collected donations from Abramoff's firm or clients. For instance, Dorgan:

—Used Abramoff's arena skybox in March 2001 to raise money, letting one of Abramoff's tribes foot the bill for using the box. The senator says he didn't know at the time that Abramoff leased the box. He's recently reimbursed that money.

—Got Congress in the fall 2003 to press government regulators to decide, after decades of delay, whether the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe of

Massachusetts deserved federal recognition. Dorgan met with the tribe's representatives and collected at least \$11,500 in political donations from the Abramoff partner representing the Mashpee around the time of the help.

—Collected \$20,000 from Abramoff's firm and tribes in the period around when he wrote a letter in 2002 urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund a school construction program that Abramoff's clients and other tribes wanted. The letter mentioned one of Abramoff's tribes.

The Coushatta tribe of Louisiana told AP they were directed by Abramoff to make a \$5,000 donation to Dorgan's leadership political action committee just a few weeks after the 2002 letter was sent. Dorgan specifically cited that report as the reason he was returning all the donations.

Gays, lesbians want Ford to reconsider

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gay and lesbian organizations asked Ford Motor Co. on Monday to reinstate advertising for its luxury Jaguar and Land Rover brands in gay publications and to distance itself from an anti-gay group which had boycotted the automaker's vehicles.

Ford officials met with leaders of the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and other organizations in Washington, D.C., after the automaker said last week its luxury brands would no longer advertise in gay publications.

The move came nearly a week after the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association canceled its boycott of Ford vehicles, which started in May amid criticism that the nation's No. 2 automaker was too gay-friendly.

Water

Continued from Page 1





Satterwhite said. Under CRMWA's proposal, water allocations would be based on the total investment of each member city has in the total groundwater project.

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Christmas Open House

Saturday December 17th

9:00am - 6:00pm

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Viewpoints

The quest for something 'American made'

I may be an alarmist, but I'm a little bit worried.

I heard on a news program this week that China had surpassed the United States in exports of electronic items.

On the same news program, it was reported that Japan has decided to lift a two-year embargo against U.S. beef. And we are described as being very, very grateful for that.

How much beef does Japan eat, anyway? And why are we importing beef from New Zealand for our McBurgers? This seems a little topsy-turvy to me.

China may just take Russia's place as the other world superpower, a position Russia held for years as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

At the same time, we are

becoming more and more dependent on other countries for manufactured items, fuel and other things. Count the number of Japanese versus U.S. vehicles on the road the next time you go motoring.

What's the matter with us? Doesn't anybody realize that if we become dependent on other countries for most of our goods and quit making them ourselves, one of these days we may be in the position of having to stay in someone else's good graces in order to continue to get those items, some of which are necessities?

I decided to go on a search through my house for items to see where they were made. My cable TV box was assembled in Mexico. My telephone was made in China. I have

clothes that were made in Swaziland, the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh and elsewhere. My computer keyboard was made in China.

I'm glad to say that my vacuum cleaner was made in the U.S., and we have General Motors vehicles in our garage.

One Internet Web site shows that China has the most population of any in the world, with 1,306,313,812. India is next with 1,080,264,388. The U.S. comes in third at 295,734,134.

The next seven most populous countries, in order, are

Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Nigeria and Japan.

Mexico is 11th, and Canada is 35th. The United Kingdom is 22nd.

The above numbers show that China has more than four times the number of people that the U.S. does. China also has more land than we do, if you include Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

China with its minions represents the fourth largest land mass on the globe, if you count Antarctica in the list. Antarctica is second behind Russia, although Antarctica is not considered part of any country.

Next is Canada, then Greater China at fourth, followed by the U.S.

The People's Republic of China follows, if only mainland China is considered.

China is busily working to improve its world standing. Meanwhile, we are closing our factories or moving them to other countries in order to take advantage of cheap labor under the claim that we can't afford to make the items here at a price anyone would pay.

Are we really willing to pay the price of being dependent on other countries for the majority of manufactured items? Can we continue to afford that?

Some services, too, are being shipped overseas. I have called customer service numbers for some com-

panies in which someone in India or wherever answered the phone and could barely speak recognizable English. This is customer service?

Not only is our dependence on foreign goods and services increasing, resulting in fewer American goods, services and jobs, but it also impacts our country in other ways.

Moving as much of a company overseas as possible has become a nifty tax dodge for some, even though they retain their standing as a U.S. company.

Sounds like corporations can't lose by leaving our shores, does it? They get cheap labor, acceptable products that are cheap enough to sell well, plus a tax dodge.

The only loser is America itself.

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2005. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

'A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few.'

— Judge Learned Hand
American jurist
(1872-1961)

On Dec. 13, 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

On this date: In 1577, Sir Francis Drake of England set out with five ships on a nearly three-year journey that would take him around the world.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1918, President Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive

to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.



Our readers write

When did Happy Holidays supplant Merry Christmas at Christmastime

My pastor told us that the season went from Christmas to holidays. People, what happened? How many like me did not notice that it went from Merry Christmas to Happy Holidays?

The TV and radio ads say Happy Holidays. The clerks wish you Happy Holidays. What happened to us when we let Christ be left out?

We would see nativity scenes on people's lawns. Now we see blown up Santas, snowmen and reindeer. I went through the

stores. There is only a small place for anything pertaining to Jesus's birthday.

Everywhere you hear Happy Holidays. Call out, loud and clear, Merry Christmas. Call your radio (including the local radio stations) and TV stations and wish them a Merry Christmas. Call The Pampa News and wish them a Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas.
Leta Herring
Pampa

See LETTERS, Page 10

Nation-building is a tedious business

Here's a story most newspapers buried, if they ran it at all: Bosnia's three key ethnic-political groups (Muslims, Serbs and Croats) have all agreed to unify their nation and end the tripartite government bequeathed them by the Dayton peace accords negotiated in 1995 after a heavy round of American bombing.

No longer were racial hatreds so deep that these three factions needed to stay away from one another. Now the desire to centralize to join Europe and grow economically has overcome the animosities that led to 250,000 deaths in the early 1990s.

Should we expect a similar article 10 years hence — about Iraq?

As intense as the killing has been in Iraq, with 30,000

civilian and 2,000 U.S. military deaths, it doesn't come close to Bosnia's quarter-million genocide. But constitution-making, nation-building and planting the seeds of democracy have still worked in Bosnia.

To cap it all off, the Bosnian Serbs said that they would undertake "all possible measures and actions to find and apprehend" the two most widely sought war criminals — Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic, once their political and military leaders.

President Bill Clinton was right to invest in "nation-building" after U.S. military

action in Bosnia and 2000 presidential candidate George W. Bush was wrong to criticize him for it. And now President Bush is right to push nation-building in Iraq, while ex-President Clinton is wrong to criticize the military action as a "huge mistake."

Nation-building, while tedious and costly in lives and money, is the only way to reconcile hatreds so that the great cycle of revenge killings and wars does not continue to hold nations in its grip.

Symptomatic of the growth of an Iraqi democracy was the declaration at the recent Arab League meeting

by both Shiite and Sunni Iraqi representatives demanding a schedule for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

We all agree that America needs, ultimately, to withdraw from Iraq (though possibly keeping a base there to assure that the bad guys don't regain power by military means). But Sunnis have been trying to blast us out, with each bomb amplifying Democratic and liberal calls back home for a pull-out. But now both factions have joined as part of a political process to call for a timetable for withdrawal, a signal breakthrough. The Sunnis have invested in the political process to effectuate a U.S. withdrawal — and the Shiites have accommodated them.

Even if only to expel
See IRAQ, Page 10

Dick Morris

Columnist



Economic ignorance spells death to liberty

With all the recent hype and demagoguery about gasoline price-gouging, maybe it's time to talk about the basics of exchange. First, what is exchange? Exchange occurs when an owner transfers property rights or title to that which is his.

Here's the essence of what transpires when I purchase a gallon of gasoline. In effect, I tell the retailer that I hold title to \$3. He tells me that he holds title to a gallon of gas. I offer to transfer my title to \$3 to him if he'll transfer his title to a gallon of gas to me. If this exchange occurs voluntarily, what can be said about the

transaction?

One thing we know for sure is that the retailer was free to retain his ownership of the gallon of gas and I my ownership of \$3. That being the case, why would we exchange? The only answer is that I perceived myself as better off giving up my \$3 for the gallon of gas and likewise the retailer perceived himself as better off giving up his gas for the \$3. Otherwise, why would we have exchanged?

Walter Williams

Columnist



Exchanges of this sort are called good-good exchanges, namely, "I'll do something good for you if you do something good for me." Game theorists recognize this as a positive-sum game — a transaction where both parties are better off as a result. Of course there's another type of exchange not typically sought, namely good-bad exchange.

An example of that kind of exchange would be where

I approached the retailer with a pistol telling him that if he didn't do something good for me, give me that gallon of gas, I'd do something bad to him, blow his brains out. Clearly, I'd be better off, but he would be worse off. Game theorists call that a zero-sum game — a transaction where in order for one person to be better off, the other must be worse off. Zero-sum games are transactions mostly initiated by thieves and governments.

Some might argue that there's unequal bargaining power between me and the

See LIBERTY, Page 10

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Publisher: Sean Smith

Editor: Dennis Spies

Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

Circulation Manager: Leon Watson

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am 8 years old, and I have a question that has bothered me for months. Is Santa Claus a real person, and if not, why does everyone say he is? And if Santa Claus ISN'T real, where do all the letters go? -- **CONFUSED IN KINGSTON, N.Y.**

DEAR CONFUSED: Santa Claus is more than a human being. Santa Claus is the living symbol of selfless giving, handed down from one generation to the next. In 1897, a girl named Virginia asked the same question in a newspaper. A very wise newspaper editor, Frank Church, wrote in reply: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. ... The most real things in the world are those which neither children nor men can see. ... Thank God, he (Santa Claus) lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now - - nay, 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood." Letters to Santa Claus go where every other letter goes -- directly to the U.S. Postal Service, which makes sure the letters reach their destination regardless of "rain, hail, sleet or snow." Read on for a testimony from a true believer:

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday afternoon, as I was opening my mail, I came across an envelope with my name and address printed on it, but no return address. I assumed it was junk mail that had been made to look like a Christmas card, but curiosity got the better of me, so I opened it. Inside was a Christmas card. It was signed "Santa," and inside were five \$100 bills! I checked the postmark. It read, "Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 9." Abby, I don't know anyone in Grand Rapids. I'm divorced. My ex-husband hasn't been helping me to support our children. Times have been hard.

Obviously, the card was sent by someone who cares about us very much -- someone who went to great trouble to remain anonymous. The money was a blessing. An equally great blessing is the fact that my children had a chance to witness such an act of generosity and kindness. I hope that Santa is reading your column today, because I want to say thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. I am grateful. -- **STILL BELIEVES IN SANTA, HOUSTON**

DEAR STILL BELIEVES: I'm printing your letter with the conviction that some kind of elf will ensure that it is delivered as far north as a reindeer can fly. A perceptive person once said that true generosity is doing something nice for someone without taking credit for it. However, your case is exceptional -- and how fitting of your benefactor, "Santa," to take a bow. I know readers of all ages will be as gratified as I was to read about his act of kindness in this, the season of giving.

DEAR ABBY: When you're a guest in someone's home and use the powder room, and the only soap on the bathroom sink is the kind that's pretty and looks like little flowers -- do you use one and throw it away when you're finished, or just rinse your hands with plain water? -- **EMBARRASSED IN DELAWARE**

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Please don't feel embarrassed; yours is a very common question. The answer is that guests should feel free to use what is offered by their hosts. The hosts can throw away the soap later if they wish.

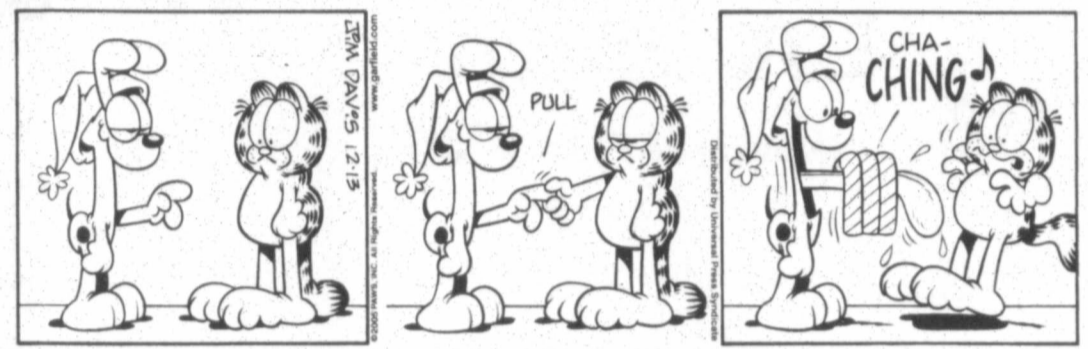
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



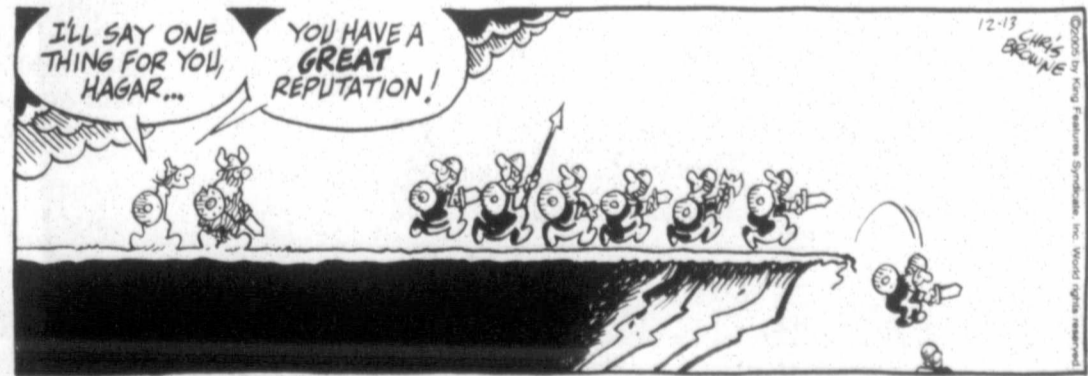
Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

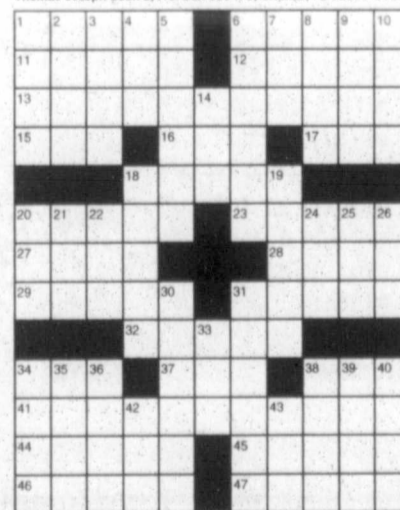
- 1 Took to impound units
- 6 Spanish hero
- 11 Make a speech
- 12 Librarian's bane
- 13 Trafalgar, for one
- 15 Shrewd
- 16 Male turkey
- 17 Star agreement
- 18 Sent a copy
- 20 Still life subjects
- 23 Admit
- 27 Jane Austen novel
- 28 In the buff
- 29 Feeling sorry about
- 31 Intolerant sort
- 32 Bounce off
- 34 Cry of insight
- 37 Fireplace sight
- 38 Pine flow
- 41 Court ordeal
- 44 "Good-night" girl
- 45 Pathway
- 46 Lingerie item
- 47 Choir member



Yesterday's answer

- 21 Nonflying bird
- 22 French pal
- 24 Harbor boat
- 25 Knot-tying promise
- 26 Tennis court divider
- 30 Ship's kitchen
- 31 "Key" Largo" star
- 33 Hold up
- 34 Landed
- 35 Roll-call answer
- 36 Anti-quoted
- 38 Shock
- 39 Choir member
- 40 Gaze
- 42 Not to mention
- 43 Nail setting

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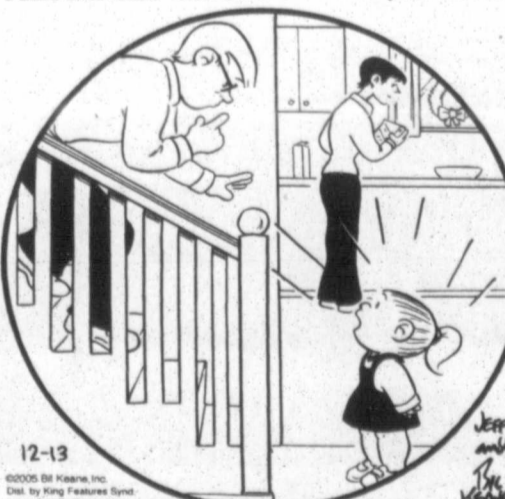
Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

Pampa seems to have Borger's number, but road games can prove troublesome

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Harvesters

Pampa and Borger have met twice this season, with the Harvesters taking both games. The two will meet for a third time tonight, and head Harvester Dustin Miller says this is the kind of game that tends to concern you. "Sometimes it makes you over-think. We have had some success against them so it kind of makes you wonder if they will try a different approach this time, not to mention it is difficult to beat a team three times in one season," said Miller.

Pampa has had a week off, but they kept busy working on free throws and jump shots. They also did a little shopping. "Saturday as a team we went and took some kids shopping at the shopping tour, which

always helps to keep things in perspective and get our boys out helping out in the community," Miller said.

Tonight's game will start at 7:30 in Borger. The junior varsity game will begin at 6 p.m.

Lady Harvesters

Pampa is coming off a tough loss to the Lubbock Coronado Lady Mustangs Friday, 76-51. The Lady Harvesters can pull to within a game of .500 (6-8) with a win over Borger tonight in Borger. Like the boys, the girls seem to have the Lady Bulldogs' number, but things are always a little tougher on the road. Should Pampa's starting five take control early, look for the bench to get some court time. A bench Coach Fry is very proud of.

Game time is 6 p.m. The junior varsity game is set to start at 7:30 p.m.

Dusters sign former UTEP standout

The Amarillo Dusters announced Monday the assignment from the af2 league office of former UTEP standout Jahmal Fenner. A native of Austin, Fenner was a Sporting News freshman All-

American, as well an all-conference performer as a senior and 4-year starter for the Miners.

"Jahmal will be an explosive player for us this year," said Dusters General Manager Warren McCarty.

"He was all over the field at UTEP, and he's got the ability to get downhill to break on the ball. What he'll bring to us in the return game is exciting as well."

Fenner (5'8", 180lbs.) was an aggressive cornerback for the Miners, racking up 124 tackles, 3 sacks, 5 tackles for loss, 25 pass break-ups and 9 interceptions over his career. He earned All-WAC honors as a senior in 2004. He was also a threat on special teams, shattering school records in punt and kick returns.

In his four seasons at UTEP, Fenner returned 86 punts for 917 yards and 1 touchdown, averaging 15.4 yards per return as a senior, good for 10th in the nation.

He also averaged 23.9 yards per kick return, including a 98 yard kickoff return for a touchdown as a freshman.

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.

12-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

VJLI XRSII YZSSIYX KHIGGIG
YZMGIIYHXNBIFO JMU OZH
DNFF IGXJTFNGR J
SICHXJXNZM JG JM IWCISX.

— FJHSIMYI P. CIXIS
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THOSE ARE HAPPY WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN THE HABIT OF BEING CONTENT WITH HUMBLE FARE.
— DR. WILLIAM KITCHINER

PLAINVIEW TOURNAMENT

PJHS Gold takes third, Green nabs hardware

Plainview Tournament 7th Grade Dec. 8 Gold Team

Pampa 44, Plainview Scarlet 23

Coach's Summary: The Pampa Gold team got its first two victories in the Plainview Tournament this weekend, bringing home a third place trophy in the process. The Gold Team got started Thursday afternoon with a solid victory over the Plainview Scarlet team, 44-23. Zach Murray ripped the nets for 14 points, Kendrick Alexander had six and Evan McElwain tossed in five. Trent Carter and Brandon Chairez controlled the boards for the Gold and got the fast break started all afternoon.

Westover Park 60, Pampa 10

Coach's Summary: The second game wasn't quite so good for the Gold as they dropped one to the Westover Warriors, 60-10. The Gold didn't have an answer for the 6'3" Warrior post who dominated play on both ends. Cold shooting from the field by the Gold made matters worse. With one win and one loss it put the Gold into the third place round against the Dumas Demons.

Dec. 10 Pampa 33, Dumas 22*

Coach's Summary: Once again the Gold found the shooting touch beating the Demons 33-22. Zach Murray led all scorers with 11 and Hudson Bentley scored seven. Almost every player on the Gold scored in the contest. It was a great tournament for the Gold taking home the third place trophy for Pampa Junior High.

*Third place game Dec. 8 Green Team

Canyon 41, Pampa 39

Coach's Summary: The Pampa Green team found going a little tougher at Plainview. They also started play Thursday night against the Canyon Eagles, losing a close one 39-41. The scoring was evenly spread as Garrett Ericson scored eight, Jonathon Polasek and Reid Bradley both had seven and Colten Sander put in five points. The game went back and forth throughout with the Green Team holding the lead most of the game. With 30 seconds to go, Canyon took a 1-point lead. Pampa's Tyler Malone got the ball up court for two quick shots, but neither found the mark. Fouls and Technical fouls would keep things tight to the end in a game that was as exciting to watch as it was to play.

Plainview 63, Pampa 36

Coach's Summary: The second round pitted Pampa Green against Plainview Red. Pampa never could get into a rhythm and lost to Plainview Red 36-63. Jon Polasek led the green with 10, Garrett Ericson scored nine and Joe Meshelay tossed in eight. The loss put Pampa into the Consolation game with the Dumas Demons.

Dec. 10 Pampa 58, Dumas 33*

Coach's Summary: The game close for the first quarter, then Pampa got into the zone and pulled away. Tyler Malone found the range early and often from the 3-point line as he poured in 20 points. Garrett Ericson scored 13, Jon Polasek had 11 and Reid Bradley scored eight. After the first quarter Pampa controlled the game at both ends to defeat the Demons 58-33, giving Pampa the Consolation trophy.

*Consolation game

Seventh grade girls do Pampa proud in Canyon Tournament, takes two from Demonettes Monday night

Canyon Tournament Results Girls 7th Grade Dec. 8

Gold Team Pampa 52, Dumas 21

High Point: Aubrei Dowdy 20
Team Points: Cali Gibson 6, Rebecca Porter 6, Cassie Doyle 5, Liz Hoelting 4, Candia Jimenez 4, Karina Cabrales 3, Ashtyn Roberts 2, Madilyn Shults 2
Rebounds: Aubrei Dowdy 9, Madilyn Shults 7, Cali Gibson 6, Candia Jimenez 5, Hannah Lake 4, Liz Hoelting 2, Brenna Ellison 2, Karina Cabrales 2, Danielle Towles 1, Ashtyn Roberts 1, Rebecca Porter 1

Green Team Plainview 55, Pampa 31

High Point: Taryn Eubanks 11
Team Points: Shaylie Thompson 6, Kayla Hughes 4, Ashlee Holland 4, Kay Kirkham 4, Kylee Wyatt 2
Rebounds: Kayla Hughes 7, Kay Kirkham 3, Hayley Steger 2, Holly Gage 2, Taryn Eubanks 2, Ashlee Holland 2
Steals: Shaylie Thompson 1, Cori Cook 1, Ashlee Holland 1

Dec. 10 Gold Team Canyon 57, Pampa 11

High Point: Madilyn Shults 5
Team Points: Cali Gibson 2, Ashtyn Roberts 2, Hannah Lake 2
Rebounds: Aubrei Dowdy 6, Madilyn Shults 2, Liz Hoelting 1, Candia Jimenez 1, Ashtyn Roberts 1
Steals: Cali Gibson 2, Candia Jimenez 1, Aubrei Dowdy 1

Green Team Pampa 60, Dalhart 28*

High Point: Kay Kirkham 12
Team Points: Kylee Wyatt 11, Taryn Eubanks 9, Ashlee Holland 9, Shaylie Thompson 8, Cori Cook 5, Kayla Hughes 3, Holly Gage 3
Rebounds: Ashlee Holland 6, Kay Kirkham 5, Holly Gage 4, Shaylie Thompson 3, Taryn Eubanks 2, Hayley Steger 1, Kylee Wyatt 1, Kayla Hughes 1, Cori Cook 1
Steals: Shaylie Thompson 4, Ashlee Holland 3, Kylee Wyatt 2, Kay Kirkham 2, Kayla Hughes 1

*Consolation game

Coach Kathy Lee's notes: "The girls played very well. They did a great job executing the plays and playing tough defense. Everyone on the team contributed to this

win, and I am very proud of these girls."

Gold Team Plainview 32, Pampa 28*

High Point: Madilyn Shults 8
Team Points: Aubrei Dowdy 7, Liz Hoelting 6, Cali Gibson 3, Candia Jimenez 2, Cassie Dolye 2
Rebounds: Candia Jimenez 9, Aubrei Dowdy 8, Madilyn Shults 7, Danielle Towles 2, Liz Hoelting 2, Cali Gibson 2
Steals: Cassie Doyle 2, Madilyn Shults 2, Liz Hoelting 1, Candia Jimenez 1

*Third place game

Coach Kathy Lee's notes: "This was a tough loss. We did a great job staying with Plainview throughout the entire game. The girls hustled after loose balls and did a good job on defense. They played hard during this whole tournament and I was able to see a great improvement in all of the girls. Good Job to the 7th grade girls basketball teams." from Pampa.

Pampa vs. Dumas Dec. 12 Green Pampa 64, Dumas 14

High Point: Kay Kirkham 16
Team Points: Ashlee Holland 12, Kylee Wyatt 11, Taryn Eubanks 11, Shaylie Thompson 10, Holly Gage 4
Rebounds: Ashlee Holland 12, Kay Kirkham 9, Kayla Hughes 4, Hayley Steger 2, Kylee Wyatt 2, Holly Gage 1, Shaylie Thompson 1, Cori Cook 1, Taryn Eubanks 1
Steals: Cori Cook 3, Kylee Wyatt 2, Shaylie Thompson 2, taryn Eubanks 2, Ashlee Holland 1, Kay Kirkham 1

Coach Kathy Lee's notes:

"Every player on our team played a key role in this win, whether it was making assists, steals, rebounding, playin good defense or scoring, everyone contributed. The 7th grade teams look strong heading into the second half of our district season."

Gold Team Pampa 45, Dumas 26

High Point: Madilyn Shults 15
Team Points: Cali Gibson 13, Aubrei Dowdy 9, Liz Hoelting 7
Rebounds: Madilyn Shults 14, Aubrei Dowdy 12, Candia Jimenez 7, Cali Gibson 4, Ashtyn Roberts 3, Liz Hoelting 2
Steals: Cali Gibson 6, Aubrei Dowdy 3, Liz Hoelting 2, Madilyn Shults 2

Coach Kathy Lee's notes:

"We played great defense and ran the ball well on offense. I am very proud of this team. All of the girls work very hard in practice and in the games."

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Baby's First Christmas

Deadline 5 PM, December 19th

Published December 25th

- Photos need to be of baby only
- Releases needed for copyright photos
- Payment in advance

Triston Riley Brooks

Born... September 6, 2005



Parents...
Riley & Molly Brooks
Brother & Sister...
Chance & Bailey
Grandparents...
Sam & Twila Brooks
Paul & Martha Simpson

\$25.00

Example

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2005:

You have a way of getting what you want. You are unusually solid and stable, but sometimes you have difficulty seeing the whole picture. Your popularity is high, but don't be surprised if others challenge you. You will have many people around you who might seem very different but actually have the same issues as you. Observe different approaches. If you are single, romance is a strong possibility, though you might want to play the field. Don't get tied down until you meet that special person. If you are attached, you often might not agree with your sweetie. Agree to disagree. A liberal, nonjudgmental approach will draw the two of you together. GEMINI tests your actions, will and attitude.

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)
★★★★ You might want to have a serious talk and get past a problem. You have a way of coming up with unusual solutions, but right now you have a practical idea. A friendship could be significant. Tonight: Midweek munchies with your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ As the holidays roll on, you might feel a bit tight financially. Could this be the case? Your imagination will take you in new directions if you are willing to brainstorm and chat with someone you look up to. Tonight: Gather your bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a way that draws many people to you, especially now. You

develop an ethereal manner that others find quite unique and different. Honor what is happening. Communication remains key to reaching others. Tonight: You are on top of your game.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Carefully listen to others, especially someone who could impact your finances and emotions. You might feel uptight financially and want to play it conservatively, which is not a bad idea. Tonight: Do your thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Aim for what you want and be determined. The results will be positive no matter what. A partner plays a strong role in your decisions. He or she could be unusually creative. Tonight: Be with your friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You're more in control than you believe. Don't allow yourself to think otherwise. You might need to step up to the plate and assume a leadership role. You are inspired by your work and daily life. Tonight: Your enthusiasm could be contagious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to detach from a situation. Do you really want what you are zeroing in on? You might be so determined that you haven't fully looked at what you want. Listen to feedback from a wise friend. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Work with others individually, and you will get the results you desire. Think carefully about a mutual decision. Listen well to someone you care about. Be willing to cross the line and do something differently. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will be able to see a situation differently if you allow others to take command. You will learn more about those around you. Sometimes you have a problem opening up your mind. Walk away from that attitude. Tonight: As you like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Plunge into work as if there were no tomorrow. You might want to think through a decision. Listen more carefully to a co-worker. Your imagination might affect your spending — careful. Tonight: Your turn to make dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your playfulness and creativity come forward. You are capable of the impossible right now. Don't allow anyone to rain on your parade. Your spunk might be irritating to someone who is more serious or down. Tonight: Romp the night away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to stay close to home and relax. You'll have an easy time if you get enough R and R. Demands might be very heavy right now. Pace yourself or work from home. Others might want to take off early. Tonight: Snooze and veg.

BORN TODAY
Singer Charlie Rich (1932), actress Lee Remick (1935), author Shirley Jackson (1919)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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Iraq

Continued from Page 4

American troops, the factions, bitter enemies for centuries, have now come together in a political statement. The progress this shows is immense and its promise is immeasurable. It presages just the kind of unity and democratic cooperation we now see on the former killing fields of Bosnia.

Fortunately, Bill Clinton had the courage to defy the United Nations in 1995 and act to bomb the Bosnian Serbs (with NATO cooperation and sponsorship). Then he had the foresight to send in U.S. peacekeeping forces, a deeply unpopular step.

Now the former president fails to see how Bush's policies in Iraq will succeed just as his did in Bosnia. But his partisan myopia should not cloud our vision. Success in Iraq may seem as unlikely as it once did in Bosnia. But, if we persevere, it will come just as surely.

—Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Liberty

Continued from Page 4

gas retailer. That's nonsense! The retailer has the power to charge any price he wishes, but I have the power to decide how much I'll buy, including none, at that price. You say, "Gas is a necessity, and we're forced to buy it." That too is nonsense. If I voluntarily purchase the gas, I do so because I deem it better than my next best alternative. Of course, at a high enough price, I wouldn't deem it as such.

In the wake of the spike in fuel prices, many Americans demand that politicians do something. You can bet the rent money that whatever politicians do will end up harming consumers. Despite a long history of their economic calamity, some Americans and politicians are calling for price controls or, what amounts to the same thing, anti price-gouging legislation. As Professor Thomas DiLorenzo points out in "Four Thousand Years of Price Control," price controls have produced calamities wherever and whenever they've been tried.

Economic ignorance, misconceptions and superstition drive us toward totalitarianism because they make us more willing to hand over greater control of our lives to politicians. That results in a diminution of our liberties. Think back to the gasoline price controls during the 1970s.

The price controls caused shortages. To deal with the shortages, restrictions were imposed on purchases. Then national highway speed limits were enacted. Then there were more calls for smaller and less crash-worthy cars. With the recent gasoline supply shocks, we didn't experience the shortages, long lines and closed gas stations seen during the 1970s. Why? Prices were allowed to perform their allocative function — get people to use less gas and get suppliers to supply more.

Economic ignorance is to politicians what idle hands are to the devil. Both provide the workshop for the creation of evil.

ECONOMY

Federal interest rate increases viewed by some analysts as drawing to a close

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 18 months in which the Federal Reserve has been pushing interest rates higher to keep inflation under control, the central bank appears to be getting close to the end of its rate increase campaign.

But there is a divergence of opinion among economists on just when the rate increases will cease. One group thinks the Fed will stop after two more rate increases, while analysts who are more worried about inflation think the central bank could raise rates perhaps four more times.

There is no dispute, however, over what Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues will do at Tuesday's meeting. Expectations are essentially universal that the Fed will increase the funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter point to 4.25 percent, the highest level since May 2001.

It would mark the 13th time the Fed has raised

interest rates since it began tightening credit in June 2004 when the funds rate stood at a 46-year low of 1 percent.

"Another quarter-point rate hike is baked in the cake," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors, a Colorado-based consulting firm. "But we are near the end."

Jones is in the camp that believes the Fed will boost the funds rate at Tuesday's meeting and then deliver one more quarter-point increase at Greenspan's final meeting on Jan. 31, leaving the funds rate at 4.5 percent.

But other economists argue that inflation pressures spawned by a surge in energy costs this year will prompt the central

bank to keep pushing rates higher even after Greenspan leaves office.

They also believe that Ben Bernanke, who has been nominated by President Bush to succeed Greenspan, will want to quickly demonstrate his own inflation-fighting credentials.

For that reason, they are looking for Bernanke to keep pushing rates higher in small quarter-point increments at his first Fed meeting as chairman on March 28 and possibly a final move at the May 10 meeting.

That would leave the funds rate at 5 percent, a level that some economists believe the central bank may feel is needed to make sure that interest-rate sensi-

tive sectors of the economy such as housing slow enough to keep inflation under control.

"The Fed is looking at an economy right now that is growing strongly with upside risks to inflation," said Lyle Gramley, a former Fed board member and currently senior economic adviser at Schwab Washington Research Group, a financial advisory firm.

Indeed, a variety of recent statistics have come in stronger than expected, depicting an economy that is rebounding after the blows delivered by a string of devastating hurricanes and a spike in energy prices.

Hints about the Fed's future intentions may come from the wording of Tuesday's statement explaining its latest action.

For all of the rate increases so far, that statement has said future increases will occur at a "pace that is likely to be measured," a phrase seen as a signal of quarter-point increases.

'The Fed is looking at an economy right now that is growing strongly with upside risks to inflation.'

— Lyle Gramley
Economic adviser

Letters

Continued from Page 4

Cheney didn't mingle with the commoners

It's Christmas time. Everybody is hustling and bustling around to buy, but why do we celebrate Christmas? Isn't it Christ Jesus our Savior's birthday? How many ever stop to think where and what He was born in?

A manger.

Did anybody that night offer to give up their room for Him? Why was He born and why did He come into this world? Wasn't it to bring peace, joy and prosperity to all people?

Did He just show His love at one time of the year? Did He come into this world so that some could have a lot and some do without?

Did He come into the world so some could take from the others and be superior? Did He come into the world to forgive and condone some people's sins and punish others for what somebody else did?

Did He come into the world to pun-

ish and destroy, or did He come into the world to forgive and give to all? And when He went to the cross, who took Him there? Didn't He give His all for all of us?

This thing with Mr. Cheney. Didn't he come into town long enough to do whatever it was then leave? Would he have been around the common people if he had visited?

I don't care for the man and what he represents, but it looks like a lot of people got a dose of their own medicine.

Sue Meeks
Pampa

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Reindeer Games

Change HOT Into TEA

Change the word HOT into the word TEA in just four steps. Change only one letter at a time. Need help? Look at how Randolph changed a DOG into a CAT.

H	O	T
D	O	G
D	O	T
C	O	T
C	A	T

Hint: Golfers use the word on line 4.

Peppermint Puzzler

This reindeer has a head, antlers, a tail, legs and a body. Can you move just two peppermint sticks to make the reindeer look in the opposite direction?

Solution at www.kidscoop.com/kids/index.html

Thinking this hard makes my antlers sore!

Circle the two identical reindeer.

Food Flight

Rhoda is doing a little flight practice, Elmer Elf left her favorite treats: apples, carrots and sugar cubes. To help her get the treats, look at each math problem and the numbers next to each treat. Place a number in each empty box so that the problem equals the answer. Use each of these numbers only once. (There is more than one possible solution for each problem.)

□	-	□	+	□	-	□	=	4	8 9
□	-	□	+	□	-	□	=	7	5 2
□	-	□	+	□	-	□	=	5	8 7 10

Randolph Reindeer's Holiday Brain Builders

Don't let your brain hibernate on winter break! Join in Randolph Reindeer's games and see if you can solve these puzzles designed to boggle your mind!

How many differences can you find between the two pictures above?

Extra! Extra! Headline Values

Pretend each letter of the alphabet could be exchanged for money. Imagine A = \$1, B = \$2 and so forth until you get to Z which would equal \$26.

Find a headline and figure out what each letter in the headline is worth. Add up those numbers to figure out what the dollar value of the entire headline would be.

Candy Cane Count

How many candy canes can you find in this box?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

REINDEER	C	E	T	A	N	R	E	B	I	H
PUZZLES	I	H	S	R	E	L	T	N	A	R
TREATS	R	O	M	O	N	E	Y	M	E	Y
CANDY	T	S	H	A	R	D	L	I	L	D
GEOMETRIC	E	O	T	I	N	E	N	N	D	O
HIBERNATE	M	L	A	A	G	D	Y	D	G	B
MONEY	O	V	C	S	E	L	Z	Z	U	P
ANTLERS	E	E	A	E	B	R	A	I	N	M
BRAIN	G	E	R	S	R	E	T	N	I	W
LEGS										
BODY										
WINTER										
SOLVE										
HARD										
MIND										

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

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Get In Shape

Find examples of each of these geometric shapes in your newspaper.

- pentagon
- circle
- square
- trapezoid
- triangle
- rectangle
- octagon

Standards Link: Math: Geometry: Identify basic geometric shapes.

Write On!

Make a Brain Builder

Make up a holiday math problem that is a story problem. Include the answer. Be sure the holiday is a wintertime holiday.

Example: *There was 5 feet of snow on the ground. When the next snowstorm hit, the new storm dropped 3 feet of snow. How much snow is on the ground now? (Answer: 8 feet.)*

Fill in The Blanks!

Ask a friend to come up with three nouns (person, place or thing) and three verbs (action words like swim and walk). Use them to fill in the blanks in this story. Read it aloud to share some holiday humor!

NOUN 1: _____

NOUN 2: _____

NOUN 3: _____

VERB 1: _____

VERB 2: _____

VERB 3: _____

Ricky Reindeer wanted to get a special gift for his friend Sadie Squirrel. He walked deep into the forest, and was surprised to find a shiny, new _____ in the snow. He picked it up and started to _____ back home. He wrapped the gift in _____ and put a nice big _____ on top.

Sadie was thrilled with the gift. She was so happy, she began to _____ around in the snow. Ricky was happy, too. So he began to _____ merrily while jumping for joy.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand text from context clues.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **BOGGLE**

The verb boggle means to overcome the mind with amazement.

The circus performer's tricks on the trapeze were enough to boggle anyone's mind.

Use the word boggle in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.