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Saying Farewell

Monday Night Football moves on. SEE PAGE 5



THE PAMPA

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Monday, December 26, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1451

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New law impacts some Social Security card rules

By DENNIS SPIES Editor

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act passed in 2004 includes some changes in provisions for assigning Social Security numbers and issuing Social Security cards.

Sandra Alewine, a claims representative of the Pampa Social Security office, said these more stringent changes are in effect, and they will impact those who lose their cards and need to apply for a replacement.

Those who want to obtain a Social

Security number or replacement card that has been lost or misplaced must first prove their citizenship or immigration status and identity.

Under the new law, the only documents that can be accepted as proof of citizenship are a U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of Citizenship.

For those who are not U.S. citizens, different rules are in effect for proving immigration status, and those rules remain the same.

Only certain documents can be accepted as proof of identity. An

acceptable document must have the person's name, identifying information about the person and preferably a recent photograph.

For those who wish to change their name on their Social Security card, they must show proof of a legal name change.

Those documents include a marriage certificate, a divorce decree, a certificate of naturalization showing a new name or a court order for a name change.

Social Security must verify a birth record for all U.S. born applicants of any age when they apply for an orig-

inal Social Security number. The only exception is when a parent applies for a baby's Social Security number at the hospital when the baby is born.

Social Security also must verify birth records of U.S.-born people who want to correct a birth date.

Those who have had replacement cards issued are now limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during a lifetime.

Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits.

War souvenirs



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Walter Miller of Freedom Museum USA, 600 N. Hobart, stands beside a flag flown in Iraq which was donated to the museum Tuesday by Spc. Kenneth Curtis of the Pampa National Guard unit which just returned from Iraq. The flag is signed by members of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry, part of the Texas Arrowhead Division of the National Guard. Curtis also donated two specimens of the new Iraqi paper money, on which all references to Saddam Hussein have been eliminated.

Top beef stories for 2005 included Japan, Canada

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

AMARILLO — Richard McDonald, president of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, said the four top stories in cattle feeding country in 2005 were the reopening of the Japanese market, the reopening of the Canadian border, the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that the beef checkoff program is constitutional and the continuing development of an individual animal identi-

fication system in the United States. In a year-end news conference at their headquarters here, McDonald outlined the major news stories for cattle feeders and the beef industry.

"Last Monday we saw Japan announce that they will reopen their market to U.S. beef," McDonald said. "That's a milestone for us."

The Japanese had closed their border to U.S. beef after a Canadian cow in Washington State was reported to have bovine spongiform

encephalopathy, or BSE, or mad cow disease, on Dec. 23, 2003. It became known among cattlemen as the cow that stole Christmas.

Another trade issue for the cattle industry this year was a ruling last summer by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The federal appeals court reopened the U.S. border to Canadian cattle. The border had been closed when a case of BSE was discovered in Canada. The court

ruled that steps taken by the Canadian cattle industry to meet regulations established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture had been met.

"That was important for cattle feeding because that helps us to return to normal trade," McDonald said, "and that's what we're trying to do on both Japan and Canada and all the other countries."

See TCFA, Page 3

DA Switzer seeks election to 31st post

By DENNIS SPIES Editor

Lynn Switzer, who was appointed to fill the office of 31st District Attorney following the resignation of Rick Roach, has announced she is a candidate for the office.

"I am announcing my candidacy for the unexpired term of 31st District Attorney," she said in a statement. "I have had the distinct honor of serving as your District Attorney since my appointment by Gov. Rick Perry on March 10, 2005.

"We have started on a rebuilding and

a renewal of confidence in the District Attorney's office and I am dedicated to this effort. We have begun implementing several new programs to benefit the people of the 31st Judicial District and I am asking you for the opportunity to follow through with them and to continue to serve as your 31st District Attorney."

Her education includes a BBA with emphasis in accounting from College of the Southwest in 1991 and a law degree from Texas Tech School of Law in 1997.

She was licensed to practice law in Texas in November 1997. She is also licensed to practice in the Western and Northern Districts of the U.S. Federal Court.

Switzer said she had a private practice before taking a job as assistant district attorney for the 106th judicial district. She has also served as an assistant district attorney in the 51st and 119th judicial districts.

She became an assistant district attorney in the 31st judicial district in

See SWITZER, Page 3



Switzer

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

Eloise Brister, 91

Eloise Brister, 91, died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2005, in Pampa. She was preceded in death by a son, Fred Brister in 1996; by a sister, Ruth Carter; and by three brothers, Charles Green, Ed Green and Dan Green.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005, in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Howard Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Mrs. Brister was born on Sept. 3, 1914, in Sylacauga, Alabama, and had been a resident of Pampa since 1936. She married Charles Wayne Brister on Aug. 24, 1935, in Grandfield, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death in 1989.

She was a homemaker and a Baptist. She



BRISTER

The family requests memorials be to American Heart Association, 6605 W. Interstate 40, Suite A-6, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Lois Devoll, 71

Lois Devoll, 71, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2005, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

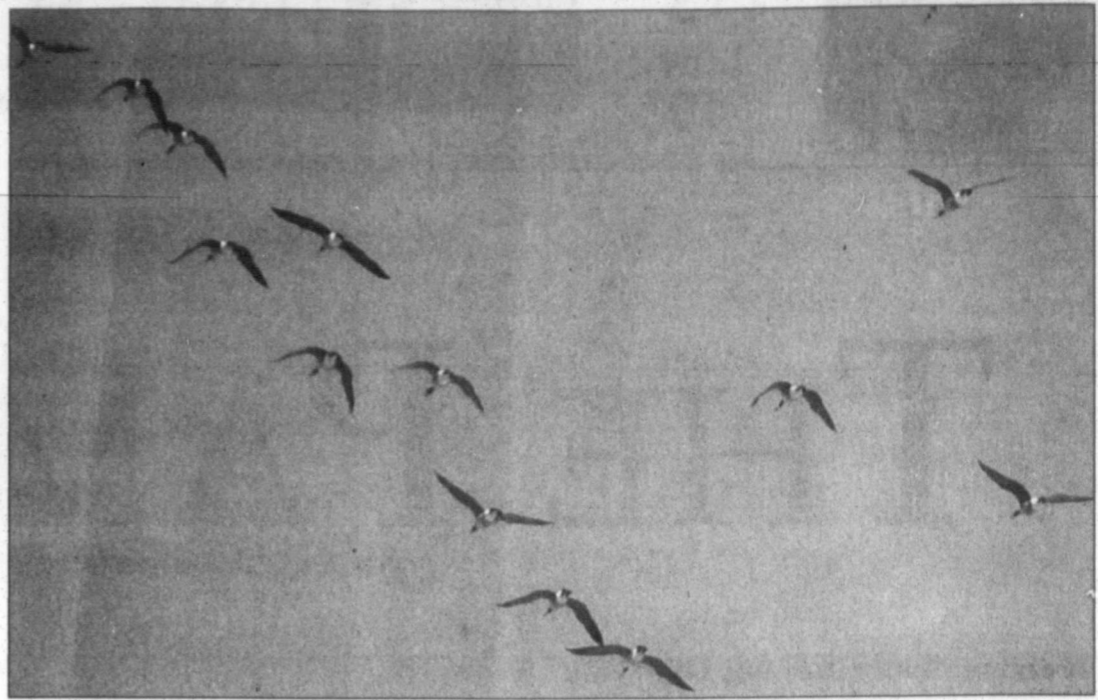
Mrs. Devoll was born Aug. 2, 1934, in McLean. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1950. She married Vernon "Curly" Devoll Sr. on March 25, 1956, in Clovis, N.M. He preceded her in death on May 5, 1993.

She was a homemaker and a member of Pampa Moose Lodge. She was formerly

employed at Wal-Mart, retiring in 1990.

Survivors include one daughter, Belinda Thomas of Pampa; three sons, James Devoll and Vernon Devoll Jr., both of Pampa, and Larry Don Devoll of Bridgeport; two brothers, Marvin Todd of White Deer and James Lloyd Todd of Lefors; one sister, Barbara Romero of Duncan, Okla.; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A gaggle of geese gathers to form their characteristic V-shaped flight pattern recently over Pampa during their annual southern migration. The first day of winter was Dec. 21, although recent temperatures have been more like spring.

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high near 73. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southwest wind between 10 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 62. Windy, with a northwest wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 31. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 57. West northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 64. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as

30 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 52. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 29.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 56.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

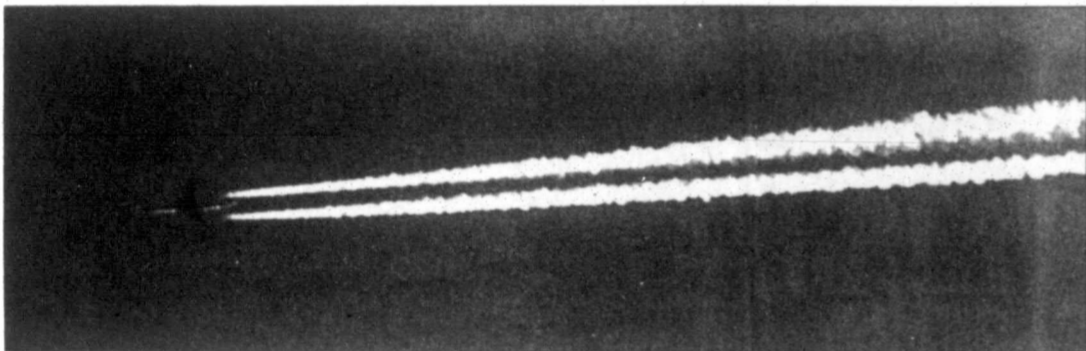
New Year's Day: Partly cloudy, with a high around 56.

Services tomorrow

JONES, David L. — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

BRISTER, Eloise — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Blue skies



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A jet and its contrail are the only things visible in a clear blue sky recently.

DPS finds over 95 pounds of pot; arrests two Christmas Eve on I-40

VEGA — Two men were arrested Christmas Eve on Interstate 40 near here after troopers found more than 95 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle.

Troopers stopped a 2005 Pontiac Grand Prix, eastbound on I-40 near Vega, shortly after 5 p.m. Saturday on a traffic violation.

After initial contact with the driver, the troopers became suspicious of possible criminal activity.

The occupants of the vehicle gave verbal

consent for a search. Troopers then discovered three large duffel bags in the truck of the car. The bags contained more than 95 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$40,150.

Arrested and booked into the Oldham County Jail in Vega were Luis Manuel Banuelos, 21, and Manuel Alejandro Flores, 22, both of El Paso.

Investigators say the load originated in El Paso and was headed for St. Louis, Mo.

Six newspaper vending machines sustain damage, theft at Pampa business locations

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Six newspaper machines owned by The Pampa News were broken into some time between 10 p.m. Thursday and 5:30 a.m. Friday.

The machines were located at Granny's Kitchen, Allsup's at 1900 N. Hobart, The Dixie Cafe, Frank's Foods, Allsup's at 1025 W.

Wilks, and Dyer's Bar-B-Que.

"In each case, thieves cut the lock of the machine and emptied the money tray," said Leon Watson, circulation manager for the newspaper.

The total value of damage and loss was not available as of press time today.

"If anyone saw anything

out of the ordinary or suspicious, call The Pampa News," Watson said of last week's incidents.

"If you see any suspicious person around a newspaper machine, write down a description, car license tag, and any other information and call Pampa Police Department with the information," Watson said.

Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Saturday, Dec. 24

Cory Don Searl, 24, 1707 Chestnut, was arrested in the 200 block of North Hobart by Pampa Police Department for theft by check.

Saul Paulo Alvarado, 54, Fort Worth, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Office for public intoxication.

Sunday, Dec. 25

Julie Ann Kinnamen, 28, 820 S. Somerville, was arrested in the 800 block of South Somerville by PPD on a probation violation for forgery.

Saul Pablo Alvarado, 54, Fort Worth, was arrested in the 1300 block of North Hobart by PPD for disorderly conduct/language.

Vicki Lynn Ogden Merrick, 43, 906 Christine, was arrested by GCSO on warrants for forgery and theft.

Ambulance

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

Saturday, Dec. 24

8:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU

unit responded to the 1900 block of Grape and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of East Campbell. No transport.

2:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

6:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of North Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday, Dec. 25

6:13 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1700 block of Holly and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:32 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Peryton Parkway and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:43 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th Avenue and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:58 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the

200 block of North Russell. No transport.

3:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of North Faulkner. A patient was transported to PRMC.

3:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th Avenue. A patient was transported to PRMC.

5:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

9:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 12000 block of Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

Fire

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

Sunday, Dec. 25

3:07 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 12007 block of White Acres Road on a Dumpster fire.

7:05 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Danzinger Crossing on a reported grass fire. A bonfire was found.

9:42 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 12150 block of East Frederic on a medical assist.

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New member



Courtesy photo

Danny Martin, left, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, presents a check for \$500 to Ken Rheams of the Downtown Business Association which will be used to help defray costs of the downtown Christmas lights. The VFW became a member of the association this year.

Ex-fugitive sentenced to two 60-year terms

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Thomas Wayne Carroll was sentenced to two 60-year terms Dec. 14 in 100th Judicial District Court in Childress on seven charges stemming from a string of crimes in Hall and Childress counties.

The 60-year terms are to run consecutively, ruled District Judge David

McCoey, at the 3 p.m. hearing. The sentence is the result of a plea by Carroll concerning seven charges.

Carroll, aka Bubba, was on the lam in November trying to avoid capture after commission of the crimes, which included the assault of Dennis Irons of Memphis, who was hospitalized as a result of one incident involving Carroll.

100th District Attorney, Stuart Messer and Steve Bird, Carroll's attorney, were present at the Dec. 14 hearing.

Five Childress residents were arrested Dec. 1 in connection with Carroll's flight from capture. All were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity, a first degree felony.

Incident involves Parker, Longoria

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker was cited for impeding traffic and failing to produce a valid Texas driver's license during a traffic stop in which "Desperate Housewives" actress Eva Longoria was his passenger, police said.

French driver's license, police said.

The officer who wrote the citations said Parker complained: "This is all the cops do, just mess with people," and that Longoria shouted from the car: "He's just a Mexican bike cop. He only

wants your autograph."

Longoria denied making the comment. "I never made any sort of racial slurs, let alone made any comments about the officer being Mexican, as a Mexican myself," Longoria said.

The incident happened about 12:45 a.m. Saturday. After seeing a car stopped, a bicycle officer said it was impeding traffic. When the car didn't move, the officer rapped the hood with the palm of his hand, according to a police report.

Parker, who was behind the wheel, questioned why the officer touched the car, and the couple "began screaming in a verbally abusive and demeaning manner," police said. Longoria called the police report "highly inaccurate."

Police say Parker then began to drive away, almost hitting a man standing nearby. After being told to stop and get out, Parker showed a

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TCFA

Continued from Page 1

McDonald said the industry needs to return to the trade relationships it had built up prior to December 2003.

Another issue was the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the beef checkoff program was constitutional.

"That's extremely important because that is the program that we use to fund consumer promotion of our products, consumer education, development of new recipes as well new beef products for consumers" McDonald said. "We were glad to see that the Supreme Court did rule that the beef checkoff is constitutional."

The beef checkoff program funds the "Beef: It's What's for Dinner" advertising campaign. Cattlemen pay one dollar into the program each time an animal sells as it moves through the beef production chain from ranch to feed yard to

packer.

Another topic that was in the news last year, and McDonald said will continue to be in the news for the next several years, is individual animal identification.

"It has moved forward," McDonald said. "Some people would like to see it move faster, but we are moving forward. It will become a reality."

The National Animal Identification System, or NAIS, is now a voluntary program to track animals for animal health issues. It is scheduled to become mandatory in 2009, but that deadline has been pushed back several times already.

The system calls for being able to track an infected animal to its herd of origin within 48 hours.

This is particularly important with highly contagious animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease. Foot-and-mouth disease is not a threat to humans, but it could be economically devastating to the cattle industry.

Switzer

Continued from Page 1
2003.

Switzer is married to J.D. Switzer, and is a member of the Downtown Pampa Kiwanis, Altrusa, Top of

Texas Republican Women and Order of the Eastern Star.

She has two children, Nathan, 22, an architect major at Texas Tech University, and Emily, 20, an elementary education major at South Plains College.

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Viewpoints

Taking a look back at accomplishments of Congress in 2005

Senator Hutchison's Weekly Capitol Comment
Looking back at Congress in 2005

With Congress finishing its legislative business for the year, it is a good time to look back at what has been accomplished since the 109th Congress convened in January. It was a challenging year.

Our troops in Iraq and elsewhere around the globe needed our support as they fought the war on terror. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought devastation to our Gulf Coast. Our country's economy and finances needed attention. And it was important to look to long-term improvements in our nation's energy policy and highway system, as well as making some overdue

reforms to our legal system.

Our troops are at the top of our list because we must fully support the men and women who make our freedom and prosperity possible. We appropriated funds to provide our troops with the resources they need and to equip them with advancements in body armor and weaponry, giving them every possible edge in their task of defeating the terrorists' assault on America's freedom.

We also worked to take care of our veterans at home, providing an additional \$1.5 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This extra money was necessary to provide for the health care needs of veterans of past wars and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Then we turned to covering from the damage done by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I was so proud of my fellow Texans who responded to Hurricane Katrina with such generosity and compassion, taking in people in need and giving substantial sums of their hard earned money to help others get back on their feet.

In Congress, I took the initiative to ensure that our state and local governments will be reimbursed for the expenses they incurred while providing for evacuees' shelter, health care, and education, and to assure that communities

affected by Hurricane Rita receive the federal assistance so desperately needed.

As the session concluded, Congress approved funding that will be available to reimburse Texas for its hurricane-related expenditures. Spending was reduced in other federal programs in order to provide this assistance in a fiscally responsible manner.

While taking care of these high priorities, we worked to put the federal budget in order. As a result of the economic growth generated by previous tax cuts, we were fortunate to have brought in record levels of revenue.

We used that money to pay for much of the nation's emergency spending and then turned our attention to eliminating wasteful spending and reducing the rate of growth in federal expenditures. At year's end, the House of Representatives and the Senate had passed legislation that would reduce projected spending by almost \$40 billion.

We looked to the future in health care. The biggest improvement in health care will be increasing the number of people covered by health insurance. I support association health care legislation that will help small businesses band together when purchasing health insurance for their employees, giving them the same purchasing power advantage

as larger businesses. This will help them provide health care to more employees at an affordable cost. This bill is pending for next year.

Preparing for the future also means developing our transportation system, and Congress passed a landmark transportation bill. This bill will fund construction designed to ease congestion on the roads, create a substantial number of jobs and increase safety on our highways. The bill provides more than \$14 billion dollars for Texas over the next five years.

Last July, we passed the first national energy plan in a generation. As our Texas farmers know, when you

See CONGRESS Page 6



Kay Bailey Hutchison

U.S. Senator

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2005. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

'Christmas has come and gone, and I — to speak selfishly — am glad of it. The season always gives me the blues in spite of myself, though I manage to get a good deal of pleasure from thinking of the multitudes of happy kids in various parts of the world.'

— Edwin Arlington Robinson
American poet
(1869-1935)

Today's Highlight in History:

One year ago, on Dec. 26, 2004, more than 200,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a tsunami triggered by the world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years beneath the Indian Ocean.

On this date: In 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1893, Chinese

leader Mao Zedong was born in Hunan province.

In 1917, during World War I, the U.S. government took over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Our readers write

Don't disrespect the handicapped ...

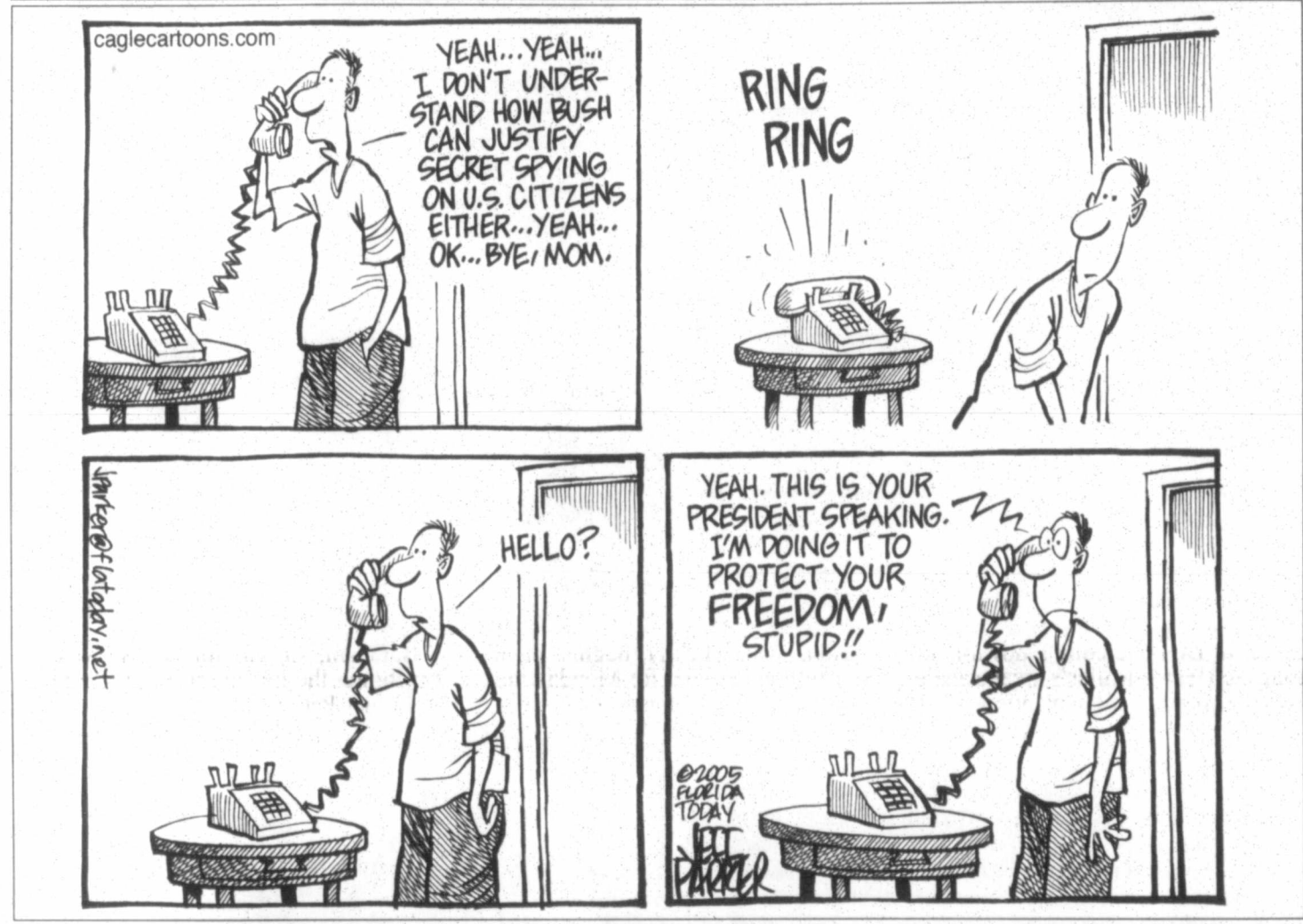
Why are so many people who live in and around Pampa lazy and have no respect for someone with a handicap?

The law says if you park in a handicap parking space and are not the one with a handicap it is a \$100 fine.

I asked a policeman one

time why they didn't do anything about it. He said if they had a complaint they would, so if you rob a bank or shoot someone as long as no one complains you will never have to go to jail.

Bruce Topper
Pampa



Iraqi elections trailblazing development

Michael Sitto said it best. Sitto, a La Mesa, Calif., expatriate Iraqi who works for the U.S. Navy told reporters as he prepared to cast his absentee vote in the Iraqi elections: "It is a great day for the Iraqi people. This is the start of a new democratic system, a democratic country in the Middle East," he said. "At the same time, there has been a great sacrifice by the American people."

And, he added, "We don't want to lose sight of that."

Too bad the Democrats and their Marxist allies here in the U.S. can't see the miracle taking place in Iraq where for the third time, in spite of real and present dangers to life and limb, huge numbers of Iraqis voted in a free election.

Like Sitto, Iraqis are rejoicing, and all Americans

should be shouting Hallelujah along with them, because the miracle that is happening there is taking place because we made it happen.

For the very first time in the Middle East a Muslim nation is creating a democratic republic — the people of an Arab nation are deciding for themselves the kind of government they want and which of their fellow Iraqis they want to run that government. For the first time, the people of a Muslim nation are acting like free citizens instead of as subjects of an autocratic regime.

This is a trailblazing development and it is born

and bred out of our own history. The very idea that a sovereign people could be self-governing was unheard of, yet that is exactly what the founding fathers insisted

when they set up a constitutional republic and created a system of laws and not of men.

Today, confronted by the reality of an Iraqi electorate setting up a constitution that substitutes the rule of law for the rule of a dictator, and voting for candidates to serve in a national legislature, liberal Democrats sneer at the astounding progress democracy has made in Iraq. They predict that all sorts of terrible problems will arise and doom Iraq's hopes for a

free and stable government.

Of course there will be problems. Putting together a conglomeration of groups with widely divergent ideas and modes of living is a tough row to hoe, and our own history provides many examples of the obstacles involved in the process. It took 10 years for America just to reach the point where it was possible to craft a constitution.

In the wake of the American Revolution, the best the founders could do was to operate under the weak and inefficient Articles of Confederation. Finally, 10 years later, they met to create a binding Constitution. It took two years for Congress to adopt the document and another two years of contentious debate before the

See REAGAN, Page 6

Michael Reagan

Columnist



My, what a lot of purple fingers after non-event

If you listen to the Bush administration and most of the talking heads on TV, the election in Iraq was a glorious success and the solution to all of our problems in that country. My, oh my, what a lot of purple fingers.

I highly recommend as a truer version of what's going on an article online at www.atimes.com by Pepe Escobar. The catchy title is "We Vote, Then We Throw You Out."

Among the things he points out is that most of the major political groups and figures all signed a "Pact of Honor" offered by Muqtada al-Sadr. He's the black-

robed mullah in Eastern Baghdad that an American military officer nearly two years ago boasted on international television would soon be "dead or in prison."

That was before his militia fought us to a standstill.

There is an old Southern expression that warns against letting one's mouth overload another portion of one's anatomy. This was just one of several such examples committed during that blunderer Paul

Bremer's regime. Al-Sadr was neither imprisoned nor killed and, according to Escobar, is now said to control the police in Baghdad.

Keep that in mind when you hear the Bush people boast of how many trained policemen there are.

Escobar also reports that the minister of the interior, Bayan Jabr, controls about 110,000 men, including the special commando units you hear the Bushies boast about. Aside from creating

the hellish prisons that have recently been discovered, Jabr uses many of these as death squads to terrorize the Sunnis.

America's favorite politician, Iyad Allawi, who was prime minister in the first interim government, said recently that human rights in Iraq were worse under President Bush than under Saddam Hussein. He accuses the present government of being corrupt, and it, in turn, accuses him of being a front guy for occupation. He is known in Iraq, according to Escobar, as "Saddam with-

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Editor: Dennis Spies
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook
Circulation Manager: Leon Watson

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Sports Day

Pistons 85, Spurs 70

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) - This was not just another game for Antonio McDyess. He was still stung by the Pistons' loss in the NBA Finals six months ago.

The reserve forward came through with a season-high 13 rebounds and 10 points in Detroit's 85-70 victory Sunday over San Antonio - a rematch of the title series and a game between the teams with the two best records in the league this season.

"I was a little more motivated for the win," McDyess said after his first double-double of the season. "It was my first finals. To lose like we did, I'm going to remember it for the rest of my life."

McDyess seemed to take the setback the hardest because he wasn't on the team when it won the title two seasons ago.

"He was so close and it sort of slipped away," teammate Ben Wallace said.

Detroit dominated this gritty defensive struggle. The Pistons held the Spurs to their lowest-scoring first quarter as they missed 13 of

their last 14 shots. Both teams shot about 40 percent.

"You saw both teams as basically who they are - meat-and-potato teams," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "Maybe this is why the game wasn't hyped as much. This is what basketball was meant to be like - play defense, play team basketball."

The game featuring the past two champions opened the NBA's annual Christmas doubleheader, lacking the Shaq-Kobe hype of the Heat-Lakers matchup that followed.

"We're very honored, but we realize it is a great responsibility to play in the JV game," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich joked before the game. "We have to do a good job to make sure the fans stay around to watch the varsity game."

The Pistons won their seventh straight and improved to an NBA-best 22-3, their best 25-game record in franchise history. The Spurs have lost three of five, but their 21-7 mark is the league's second best.

Jones, Ware keep Cowboys' playoff dream alive

IRVING, Texas (AP) - All the high hopes, the enduring faith despite meager results - it all makes sense now that Julius Jones and DeMarcus Ware played the way they did against the Carolina Panthers.

The top picks from the Dallas Cowboys' last two drafts finally had breakout games Saturday, just in time to prolong the team's season.

With Jones rushing for 194 yards and his first two touchdowns since September, and Ware providing three sacks and forcing three fumbles, the Cowboys beat the Carolina Panthers 24-20 to remain in the playoff hunt going into the final Sunday.

"You can count them out if you want to, but I won't," coach Bill Parcells said.

Dallas (9-6) will know before the season finale kicks off Sunday night against St. Louis whether a wild card spot is on the line. A loss by Carolina or Washington would put the Cowboys in a win-and-they're-in scenario.

"It feels good to have that

chance," receiver Keyshawn Johnson said.

Regardless of how things play out, getting this far is meaningful.

The victory guarantees a winning season for Dallas, its second in three years under Parcells. It shows great progress from 6-10 last season and stops a horrendous slide since the Cowboys were 7-3, a collapse that threatened to undermine their strong start.

Seeing Jones and Ware lead the way also restores confidence in those players, as well as in the people who drafted them and the coaches who continued to rely on them when they were struggling.

There are even nice story lines behind it that reinforce Parcells' point about veterans who've been through playoff chases needing to lead the youngsters through it.

For Jones, it was Johnson challenging him by saying, "If we're going to win this game, you're going to have to run the ball." He kept up the banter all day, too, as Jones turned the second-

most carries in club history into the fourth-best rushing performance, behind only his total against Seattle last December and the best games of Tony Dorsett and

Emmitt Smith. And he did it behind an offensive line that had been shoddy at best in recent weeks.

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END OF AN ERA

Clock runs out on ABC's 'Monday Night Football'

By **HAL BOCK**
Associated Press

From its inception, ABC's "Monday Night Football" was a risky experiment that defied American sports tradition. From Howard Cosell's pontification to Don Meredith's down-home songs to Dennis Miller's arcane analogies, it dominated TV viewing in homes and bars across the nation.

The broadcast was a hodgepodge of personalities and indelible images, defining moments and follies, eye-popping on-the-field performances and the kind of impromptu silliness that only sheer boredom can create.

In short, it was exactly what ABC Sports boss Roone Arledge hoped it would be.

It was theater.

Television sports reaches the end of one era and the beginning of another Monday night when ABC signs off on its prime-time weeknight coverage of the NFL for the final time and hands off to sister network ESPN.

The 55th Monday night game on the network is itself of little consequence: The dismal New York Jets play the New England Patriots, who already are playoff bound but have no chance to improve their position.

The series switches networks next season, when ESPN begins paying \$1.1 billion per year for Monday night rights in an eight-year deal.

"Monday Night Football" is the premier property in sports television," ESPN president George Bodenheimer said.

"All the players get up for it. All the teams watch. It's a national showcase. To be able to transition it to ESPN is an honor."

There was no ESPN when ABC began its MNF run on Sept. 21, 1970, with the Jets playing at Cleveland. It was the beginning of 36 seasons of one of television's most valuable franchises, a compelling three hours that became the longest running prime-time sports series in TV history.

Municipal Stadium was jammed with 85,703 fans that first night as ABC began a broadcasting odyssey with Keith Jackson doing play-by-play and ex-quarterback Meredith sharing analysis and wisecracks with Cosell. The three-man booth was new territory for sports television.

But then, so was this whole MNF adventure, the invention of NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle and Arledge.

It was a bold step because, for the longest time, football in America fit neatly into a three-day weekend. Friday night was reserved for high school games.

Saturday belonged to college football. The NFL played on Sunday.

Rozelle wasn't about to lock the NFL into that pattern.

The league had experimented with occasional weeknight games and the commissioner thought it was a perfect place to grow his product.

Similarly, Arledge believed sports was the perfect product for television.

See BOCK, Page 6

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Bears ice Packers 24-17, win NFC North title

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - The Chicago Bears took back the NFC North title and claimed a first-round playoff bye at their new home away from home - Lambeau Field.

"Now it's the Bears' den," linebacker Lance Briggs said after Chicago's 24-17 victory Sunday over the Green Bay Packers.

Bears coach Lovie Smith is 2-0 at Lambeau, and Chicago (11-4) has won three of its last four against the Packers (3-12).

Even without its grinding running attack or stingy defense working in the first half, quarterback Rex Grossman gave the Bears enough to win their first division crown since 2001.

By the second half, it was vintage Bears.

"There wasn't anything that we said (at halftime)," Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher said. "Just make tackles, and we did that."

Grossman didn't approach the efficiency Brett Favre

showed in leading the Packers to three straight division titles and four consecutive playoff berths. However, Grossman made the type of plays Kyle Orton struggled with before being benched last week.

Favre tried frantically to rally the Packers with 1:26 left, but he was sacked twice in the final minute and threw an interception to Chris Harris - the second of the game for the Bears' safety - as time expired before slumping to the ground in frustration.

Favre did not talk to reporters for the second straight week following the loss, finishing 30-of-51 for 317 yards with four interceptions.

"I thought at times in the game because of our situation with the offensive line (injuries), he was under duress," Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "He made some plays for us. Obviously you don't want to turn the ball over."

It was the fourth straight game Favre failed to throw a touchdown pass, and the first time the Packers were swept in a season series by Chicago since before he came to Green Bay. Now it's Grossman, not Favre, generating rave reviews.

"Rex is throwing the ball really well, he's seeing the field really well and he's putting great touch on the ball," said wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad, who

caught five passes for 58 yards and scored the game's first touchdown on a 12-yard pass.

"He played an awesome game, and if continues to play like that, we'll have a great offense."

Grossman finished 11-of-23 with 166 yards and an interception. He threw deep passes efficiently enough to open room for Thomas Jones to run for 105 yards on 25 carries.

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Bock

Continued from Page 5

Rozelle needed a network partner and Arledge needed a foot in the NFL door.

With CBS and NBC locked into NFL games on Sundays, ABC was the perfect fit for MNF. But it took some persuading.

Rozelle's trump card was syndication on the Hughes Sports Network. On and off for two years, Rozelle and Arledge would meet for lunch, usually at Manhattan's posh 21 Club, haggling over details.

Arledge felt he was always on the defensive, especially when Rozelle mentioned Hughes.

"I had about as much clout as the Dalai Lama has dealing with the Chinese army," he once said. "You know where the power was."

Arledge persuaded reluctant ABC higher-ups to sign off on the deal, but then Rozelle almost pulled the rug out from under him.

"He said, 'Of course, you understand we have to offer it to CBS and NBC first because of existing contracts,'" Arledge said. "I was about to slit my throat."

The other two networks passed and the deal went to ABC for \$8.5 million a year, a rights fee that ballooned over the life of the partnership to \$550 million a year, half of what ESPN will pay.

It was the start of something very big.

Arledge's plan was to use the up-close and personal approach he had applied to ABC's coverage of the Olympics. There would be nine cameras instead of the usual four or five.

Producer Dennis Lewin was there at the start and later moved to the NFL as head of broadcasting.

"We approached every game as if it was the Super Bowl," Lewin said.

The selection of the announcing team was vital. The plan was to have ex-NFL star Frank Gifford in the booth, but Gifford had a year remaining on a contract at CBS and he recommended his pal, Meredith.

Arledge added the bombastic, often abrasive Cosell for analysis, with Jackson doing play-by-play.

The interplay between the urbane Cosell and Meredith the country boy made the broadcasts tingle with electricity. Cosell took to calling Meredith "Dandy Don," and the quarterback would serenade blowout games by singing, "Turn out the lights, the party's over."

Once, when the cameras zeroed in on stony-faced Minnesota coach Bud Grant, Meredith changed his tune, singing, "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine ..."

The first game included an electrifying 94-yard return of the second-half kickoff by Cleveland's Homer Jones, played and replayed by ABC's army of cameras, and a dramatic portrait of Jets quarterback Joe Namath, shoulders slouched at game's end after an interception that sealed the victory for the Browns.

It was must-see TV and the country responded. The first-year rating was 18.5 with a 31 percent share of the viewing audience.

When Gifford replaced Jackson to do play-by-play the next year, the rating went up to 20.8.

Rozelle and Arledge had a hit on their hands.

Much of the success had to do with Cosell. His nasal, New York tones delivered a know-it-all message that often infuriated audiences.

"Howard made people listen," Lewin said. "He made people think and he made people watch. You didn't always agree with Howard, but he was never afraid to say what he thought."

Then there was Arledge's unique production.

"Roone felt it was important to personalize the athlete, to transport the viewer from the couch to every part of the stadium," Gifford said. "Roone Arledge turned a football game into live theater."

Gifford functioned as a traffic cop, an x's and o's football fundamentalist, while Cosell and Meredith provided comic relief. It worked famously, benefited by some terrific games and occasionally interrupted by some dramatic news.

It fell to Cosell on Dec. 8, 1980, to announce, in the middle of the broadcast, that Beatle John Lennon had been shot and killed.

Some of the more memorable Monday night moments include:

-Tony Dorsett setting a record with a 99-yard run from scrimmage for Dallas against Minnesota on Jan. 3, 1983.

-Green Bay defeating Washington 48-47 on Oct. 17, 1983, as the teams combined for 1,025 yards of total offense in the highest-scoring MNF game, a contest not decided until Mark Moseley missed a potential game-winning 39-yard field goal with 3 seconds to play.

-Miami ending Chicago's shot at an undefeated season, beating the Bears 38-24 on Dec. 2, 1985, as alumni from the Dolphins' undefeated 1972 team cheered for their record to be protected. The game set an MNF record with a 29.6 rating and 46 share.

-Hall of Fame quarterbacks John Elway and Joe Montana facing off in a dramatic duel won by Montana, who threw a TD pass with 8 seconds remaining to give Kansas City a 31-28 victory over Denver on Oct. 17, 1994.

-The Jets roaring from behind in the fourth quarter, scoring on four straight possessions to wipe out a 30-7 Miami lead and then again with 42 seconds left in regulation before winning in overtime 40-37 on a 40-yard field goal by John Hall on Oct. 23, 2000.

-Brett Favre throwing for 399 yards and four touchdowns in Green Bay's 41-7 victory over Oakland on Dec. 22, 2003, one day after the sudden death of his father.

Over the years, the package changed. Meredith fled Cosell's overbearing presence, joining NBC in 1974 before returning three years later.

Arledge moved to head ABC's news division in 1977. Cosell departed in 1983 but not before taking a parting shot at the NFL, calling it boring.

MNF always battled boring. ABC dressed its announcers in outrageous canary yellow blazers for a while. When ratings began to dip, the network tried different starting times and different broadcasters, even hiring comedian Miller for two seasons.

Some ex-players-turned-announcers stayed longer than others. Fred Williamson never made it out of the preseason in 1974. Gifford stuck around for 28 years.

Al Michaels took over play-by-play duties in 1986 and will follow the series to ESPN next season, joined by ex-quarterback Joe Theismann, who provided one of the more dramatic MNF moments in 1985 when his leg was broken on a sack by Lawrence Taylor.

Dream

Continued from Page 5

"A lot of people were doubting the offensive line, doubting us as a running backs corps, so we came out and really had a chip on our shoulders, something to prove, and we did it," Jones said. "We just played our hearts out."

Jones scored on an 8-yard run in the first quarter. It was his first touchdown since Sept. 25, ending a 140-carry stretch without reaching the end zone that also included three games missed because of a sprained ankle.

His 43-yard run in the third quarter showed why he came into this season eyeing 1,700 yards and 20 touchdowns. Despite all the frustrations he's endured, he's 42 yards from becoming Dallas' first 1,000-yard rusher since Smith in 2001.

"Finally you saw the guy that I expected him to be all the time," quarterback Drew Bledsoe said. "He battled through this injury,

and it's been hard on him. I know that this year hasn't gone the way that he wanted anybody to envision for him. But when everything was on the line, he stepped up."

So did Ware, who had veterans telling him "just play, get to the passer" like he did in college and team owner Jerry Jones telling him, "go out there and let's set a tone like it's going to be like that for the next 10 years." Jones was referring to talk this week about the Cowboys having erred in taking Ware over Shawne Merriman, who went to San Diego and on Wednesday was named to the Pro Bowl.

Ware had gone eight games without a sack, but he responded by matching Randy White's club-rookie record with three. His three forced fumbles were the most since the team began tracking that 21 seasons ago.

"Who would have dreamed he would have walked out there and played a game like that?" Jones said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mora goes off on media

ATLANTA (AP) - Falcons general manager Rich McKay said Sunday it's too early to tell if the team will discipline coach Jim Mora for his antics following the team's overtime loss at Tampa Bay.

The 27-24 defeat on Saturday eliminated Atlanta from playoff contention. After the game, in his regularly scheduled postgame chat with radio flagship analyst Dave Archer, Mora was asked to explain why the Falcons punted from their 24 when facing fourth-and-2 with 1:08 remaining in overtime.

Even though Michael Koenen's punt went 53 yards, Mark Jones' 28-yard return put the Buccaneers in position to win the game on Matt Bryant's field goal five plays later.

According to several team and radio station employees, Mora abruptly removed his headset after hearing Archer's question and threw it to the ground.

Three team employees and two with the radio station, all of whom requested anonymity because they said they feared alienating the coach, said Mora was so angry that he also threw a microphone which almost hit Nicole Watson, a sideline reporter with the radio station, in the head.

ST. LOUIS (AP) - It's too soon to say whether the Marshall Faulk highlight montage the Rams showed at the finish of their home finale was a going away tribute to the running back.

Faulk, a former NFL MVP who's been used sparingly this year behind Steven Jackson, hasn't decided if he will keep playing. Earlier this year, he agreed to a restructured four-year contract and took a pay cut.

After the Rams (5-10) were swept by the 49ers for the first time since 1998 in a 24-20 loss Saturday, he said it wasn't the right time to discuss his future.

Faulk had nine catches for 44 yards and three car-

ries for 5 yards against the 49ers. Winding down his 12th season, he has 267 yards rushing with no touchdowns and 42 receptions for a 6.4-yard average and one score.

He hasn't had a 1,000-yard rushing season since 2001.

BASEBALL WASHINGTON (AP) - Mike Stanton returned to the Washington Nationals on Saturday night, agreeing to a \$1 million, one-year contract.

The 38-year-old left-hander was signed by Washington on July 13, about two weeks after he was let go by the New York Yankees, and went 2-1 with a 3.58 ERA in 30 games with the Nationals. With four days left in the regular season, he was acquired by the Boston Red Sox for their season-ending series against the Yankees in exchange for minor league right-handers Rhys Taylor and Yader Peralta.

STANTON WAS 1-2 WITH A 7.07 ERA for the Yankees last season and pitched one inning for the Red Sox.

FIGURE SKATING TOKYO (AP) - Fumie Suguri won her fifth national figure skating title Sunday, gaining one of three spots for Japanese women at the Turin Olympics.

She will be joined at the Winter Games by former world champion Shizuka Arakawa and Miki Ando.

Suguri, a two-time world bronze medalist, has struggled recently with injuries. She was second after the short program and was virtually flawless afterward at Yoyogi Arena to finish with 194.16 points.

Teen sensation Mao Asada was second with 188.10 points after a free skate featuring two triple axels. Arakawa, who led after the short program, was third with 187.36.

Yoshie Onda (fourth) and Yukari Nakano (fifth) will be substitutes for Turin.

Texans' mistakes add up to 13 losses

HOUSTON (AP) - There were the missed field goals, the almost certain interceptions that were dropped and the penalties. In the end, it added up to another defeat for the Houston Texans.

"To beat a good football team like Jacksonville, you've got to convert all of your opportunities," coach Dom Capers said.

Houston (2-13) led at halftime and was ahead in the fourth quarter but, as usual, the Texans couldn't hold on and lost 38-20 to the playoff-bound Jaguars on Saturday.

"We had a roughing the punter, a couple missed field goals, some dropped balls on defense, a holding call in the end zone that gave them a touchdown - everybody added to it," said Texans offensive tackle Zach Wiegert. "They were not more physical or anything like that, it was just that you can't make those kinds of mistakes in this league."

On Jacksonville's first offensive series, Houston had held the Jaguars on the 1-yard line when rookie safety C.C. Brown was called for defensive holding, giving Jacksonville a new set of downs. LaBrandon Toefield scored a touchdown on the next play.

Congress

Continued from Page 4

plan for the future, you can't just plant one type of crop. The new energy law focuses on applying new technologies to wind energy, solar power, ethanol and hydrogen fuel cells to reduce oil consumption and protect the environment.

At the same time, the energy bill will help keep the price of fuel down by promoting domestic development of oil and gas reserves. It also encourages the design and deployment of clean coal technologies, taking advantage of one of our most abundant natural resources.

Congress moved forward with dramatic legal reform. We passed class action reform to help end the culture of frivolous lawsuits which has cost American workers, businesses and families millions of dollars each year.

The legal structure for class action previously encouraged lawyers to sue even in cases where the lawsuit had little merit and would bring almost no benefit to their clients. Some lawyers were taking advantage of the system and consumers ultimately

paid the price because businesses were forced to include the potential cost of such legal judgments in the price of their goods and services.

With class action reform, Congress has restored a measure of sanity to the legal system and helped foster a climate that will encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

Perhaps our most important change to the nation's legal system was placing a great leader at its helm. By confirming Chief Justice John Roberts we have found a brilliant and wise judge who will keep our highest court firmly grounded in the Constitution for decades to come. The new chief justice impressed numerous Senators on both sides of the political aisle, and our nation is fortunate to have him upholding the rule of law for the foreseeable future.

Though much was accomplished in the first half of the 109th Congress, much remains to be done in the session that lies ahead. Immigration reform, tax relief and, of course, continued efforts to strengthen our national security will be top priorities in the New Year.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

required majority of states approved the Constitution of the United States.

And that was just the beginning. It took a long time for some of the states to accept the idea that they were part of a national union and not individual nations. Some of the disputes actually involved armed resistance, such as the so-called Whiskey Rebellion. Later, the nation split apart over the issue of slavery and a terrible civil war broke out.

In the end, however, we have survived for well over two centuries and today the United States is the wealthiest and most powerful nation on the face of the earth. And because we set an example for all the world to follow over 200 years ago, the people of Iraq have taken

a giant step to follow in our footsteps.

Instead of walking around with the usual gloom and doom written all over their faces, liberals should be leaping with joy over the results of Dec. 15, 2005. It is a time for rejoicing, even if it means that Howard Dean, John Kerry, Nancy Pelosi, John Murtha and all the rest of the "hate-Bush brigade" will have to admit that President Bush knew what he was doing all along.

One Iraqi voter quoted in a story on the "Drudge Report" had a few words for the cut-and-run crowd: "Anybody who doesn't appreciate what America has done and President Bush [has done] let them go to hell."

That works for me. —Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

out a moustache." He gave the OK to level Fallujah and to attack Najaf, which is why the people of that holy city ran him out of town when he showed up there recently.

To return to the Pact of Honor, which all those who will surely emerge as leaders signed, it calls for the withdrawal of American forces according to a strict timetable, no permanent bases and no relations whatsoever with Israel. Even the con man Ahmad Chalabi, who duped the neocons and the Bush administration about weapons of mass destruction, signed it in person.

So, it looks like, despite all the naive gushing about purple fingers from voting, whatever government emerges is not going to be a friend of the United States. We will have spent more than 2,100 lives and \$221 billion to end up with a government that says, "Get the hell out of our country."

The president scornfully derides "politicians" (as if he weren't one) who demand a timetable for withdrawal. What's he going to say when his

bright, shiny, new democratic government in Iraq demands that he set a timetable for withdrawal? Perhaps he will get the CIA to engineer a coup and install his own dictator. The U.S. did that in Iran in the 1950s, which is why the Iranian people still hate us today.

Perhaps, though, when all the factions (there were about 275 parties and nearly 7,000 candidates) are wrangling amongst themselves, the Bush people will be able to bribe enough of them to let us stay.

I'm convinced that the Bush administration is hands down the most incompetent administration in history. According to Escobar, a British Broadcasting Corp. poll found that one-half of the Iraqis wish we had never come, 60 percent believe they are worse off than under Saddam, half want a strong leader and only 28 percent say democracy is a priority. It's hard to believe that after all the billions of dollars spent, all the time since March 2003, we still cannot produce as much electricity or oil as Saddam, and there is still sewage in the streets of Baghdad.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This is difficult, but I have no one here I can confide in. I'm ashamed, confused and unsure. Any advice would be greatly appreciated, as I am finding it more difficult every Sunday. Without going into specific beliefs and asking questions that can only be answered by faith, I will simplify: Is it better to go to church for the wrong reasons than not to go at all? I don't think I am fooling "Him" -- and I know I'm not fooling myself. The others, including my wife, are, if not wise to me, suspicious. I don't like my hypocrisy, but I'm afraid of the reactions -- and repercussions -- should I "out" myself and stay home. I'm uncomfortable masquerading every Sunday, being the loyal husband and worshipper while being untrue to myself. Help. (Or am I beyond it?) -- **BETWEEN A ROCK AND A CLOSET**

DEAR BETWEEN: I have always believed that husbands and wives are members of the same "team" and should be able to level with each other, so I'm having trouble understanding why you are masquerading and hiding the way you feel. I also believe that people can communicate with God in their own way, wherever they are, because God is everywhere -- not just confined to church property. Because you are left feeling empty and unfulfilled by the Sunday sermons, you may need to look elsewhere for spiritual fulfillment. However, until you find the courage to express your feelings and stand by them, you will remain forever between a rock and a closet.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to help my friend "George." His ex-wife, "Carol," left him in 2003 because his hours at work were cut and his salary decreased by \$20,000. She told him she no longer loved him. Abby, George supported her when she wanted to become a teacher, studied to be a bartender and then an actress.

They had been married four years when she dumped him. In 2004, George met a single mother with a young daughter. They fell in love. Soon after, Carol re-entered his life and took a job at his company to be closer to him. It affected his relationship with the single mom. He broke off their engagement and moved out. George is now dating Carol again. He told me a few months ago that she had filed for bankruptcy. Financially, he is doing well again. But he seems blind to the fact that Carol is seeing him only because she needs someone to support her as she struggles to become an actress. He was her third husband. I used to be her confidant. She told me after she and George had been married only nine months that she didn't love him, and only stayed married to him because he was a warm body and a steady paycheck. She'll use him again until she finds a man who is wealthier and more interesting. What can I do to help my friend, Abby? He has turned to alcohol and pot to numb himself. -- **GEORGE'S FRIEND, NOT CAROL'S**

DEAR FRIEND: I assume that between his alcohol and pot binges, your friend George is confiding in you. If you are truly his friend, you'll tell him that it's clear he is in emotional pain and suggest that he get professional help "to see him through this difficult period." Your friend is accident-prone when it comes to love, and counseling is what he really needs.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Today is a double-barreled holiday! To my African-American readers, a Happy Kwanzaa to you all. And to my Jewish readers, a very Happy Hanukkah!

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Writer

1 The Red Hunter Planet

40 Waken

5 Talk

41 Gusto

foolishly

10 Oodles

11 Sweethearts

13 Tibetan monk

14 Place for a plug

15 American essayist

17 Lithuania once

18 Assuaged

19 Foot part

20 Jamie Foxx film

21 Jelly containers

22 Frier's place

25 Front parts

26 Bird's bill

27 Brit's brew

28 Holds

29 Dribbles a basketball

33 Poet's product

34 Eccentric

35 Eye part

37 Diva's song

38 Showed to the door

ST	NICK	CAPO
CRECHE	OMAR	
REVIEW	MERE	
EVICT	CAROL	
WILL	BASILS	
	ESPN	GEE
	MISTLETOE	
SAL	EURO	
TROMPS	OMIT	
ELVES	PLANE	
PEER	HOARSE	
ONLY	OUTLET	
NEAL	WREATH	

Saturday's answer

14	Place for a plug	Antonio attraction	9	Ugly thing	24	Binary system	
15	American essayist	3	Juliet's love	12	Emphasis	25	Family fight
17	Lithuania once	4	Classic sci-fi series	16	Two-wheeled carriage	27	So far
18	Assuaged	5	"Rats!"	21	Noted folksinger	29	Salary extra
19	Foot part	6	Circular	30	Sculpt	31	Inventor
20	Jamie Foxx film	7	Busy insect	22	Hates	32	Incline
21	Jelly containers	8	Historic satellite	23	Words before asking a favor	36	Debt note

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45

Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

