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SEE PAGE 6



THE PAMPAS NEWS

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Three arrested for arson in torching of car on lot

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Three Pampans believed to be involved in the Thursday night fire which destroyed a 2005 Chrysler Crossfire at Fenton Motors of Pampa were arrested Saturday by Pampa Police Department and charged with arson.

Matthew Tyler Trusty, 17; Dennis James Beisaw, 21; and Mandy Kay Rippetoe, 18; were arrested in the 200 block of West Kingsmill Saturday afternoon and booked into

Gray County Jail. Trusty was released Sunday on \$4,000 bond. Beisaw and Rippetoe remain in jail as of press time today in lieu of \$5,000 bond each on the second degree felony.

Rippetoe was also arrested on capias pro fines for disruption of class and two counts of failure to attend school. Bond on the first count of failure to attend school was set at \$1,000. No bond was set on the remaining two capias pro fines; Rippetoe will be responsible for pay-

ing the fines at a later date. The Crossfire, which had been sitting at the front of the dealership at 123 N. Hobart, was valued at \$40,000, according to police reports. A one-gallon gas can and a towel were found near the vehicle after the fire was doused. APT Cruiser parked next to the Crossfire sustained \$1,600 in damage to its paint and a side mirror.

"It was a joint effort among Pampa Fire Department, Pampa Police Department, the emergency

dispatchers and Gray County Sheriff's Office," Pampa Fire Department Chief Kim Powell said this morning of the investigation which led to the three arrests.

Beisaw and Rippetoe are also believed to be suspects in the Tuesday night fire which burned the Christmas trees collected on the parking lot of the Warner-Horton building in the 900 block of Duncan, Powell said. The trees were being

See ARSON, Page 3

FRED BROWN TREE AND TURF

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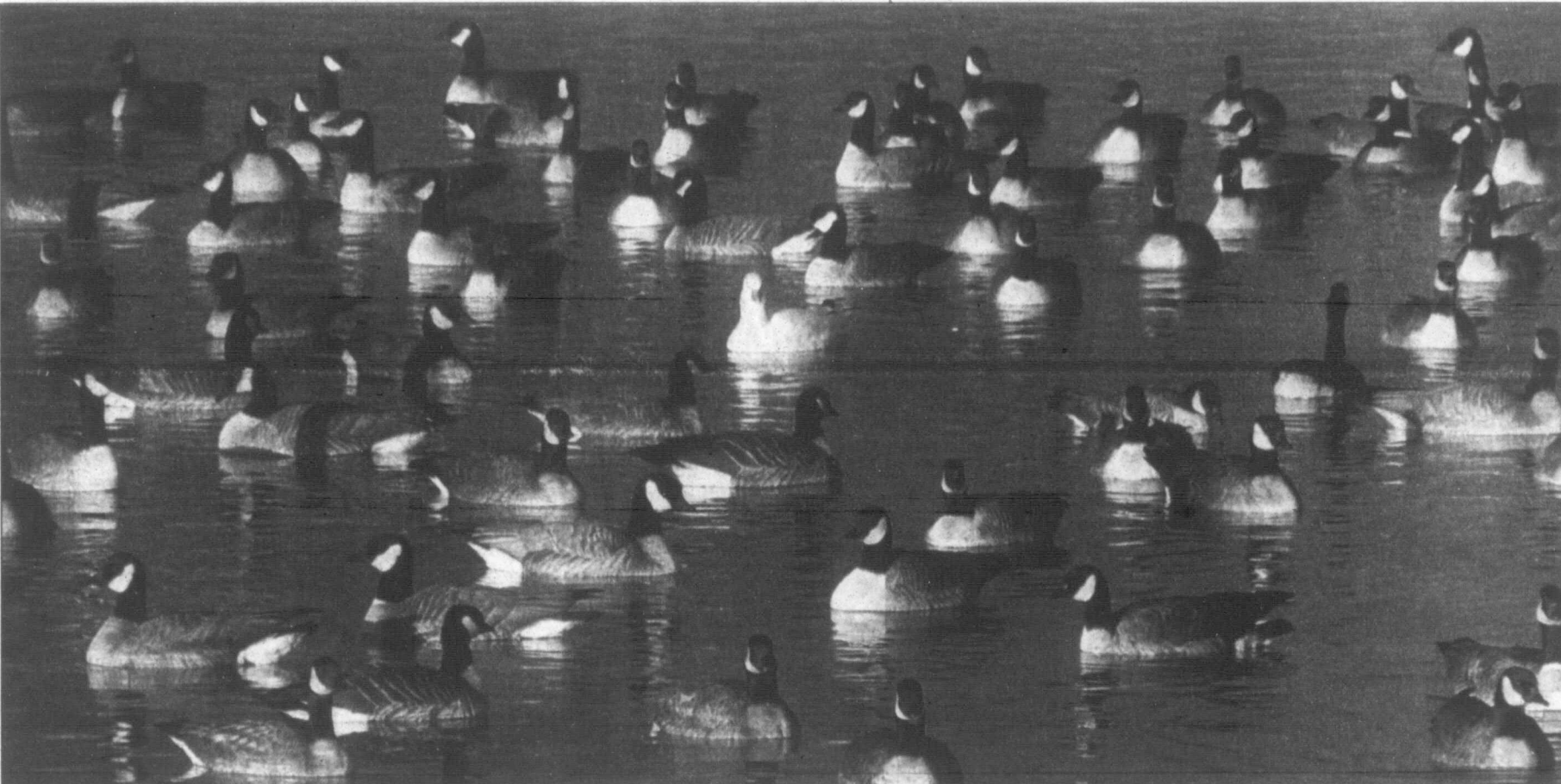
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Odd duck



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A white duck at Recreation Park Lake apparently decided it wants to be a Canada goose. The duck abandoned its usual companions, consisting of a variety of ducks and geese which can be found at the lake year-round, in favor of the migratory fowl which blanketed a portion of the lake last week. One other white duck could also be seen being chummy with the seasonal guests.

Water-related meetings

CRMWA

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority board of directors will meet at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday to discuss and take possible action on buying more water rights.

They are also expected to ratify groundwater purchases already made.

In other business, the board will consider authorizing Kent Satterwhite, the CRMWA general manager, to sign purchasing agreements with the Texas Association of School Boards, Inc., and the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.

The board will also consider authorizing Satterwhite to seek Texas

Water Development Board funding and allowing Satterwhite to issue a request for proposals.

They will also consider a proposed plan for issuing 2006 series revenue bonds.

The CRMWA board, which includes Jerry Carlson and Benny Kirksey, who represent Pampa on the board, will meet at their offices overlooking Lake Meredith in Sanford.

PGWCD

WHITE DEER -- The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will hold an informational meeting Thursday concerning dropping water tables in Carson, Armstrong and Gray counties.

The meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District offices, 201 W. Third

St. in White Deer, is the first step in implementing the district's 50-50 depletion goal. The district has adopted the goal of keeping 50 percent of the groundwater in the aquifer beneath most of the district in storage at the end of a 50 year period beginning in 1998.

Three areas have been designated study areas in Carson, Armstrong and Gray Counties because monitoring has shown depletion in the areas was higher than allowed under current rules.

The areas include land just south of Pampa in Gray County straddling Texas Highway 70, property just west of Groom in Carson and Armstrong counties straddling Interstate 40 and land in

See WATER, Page 3

City to consider reducing insurance fees for taxis

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will meet in regular session Tuesday afternoon at city hall to consider amending taxi insurance requirements, authorizing an underground utility easement for Xcel Energy and set a time and date for open meeting and open records training as mandated by state law.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said an individual is interested in starting a taxi service in Pampa, but the insurance requirements in Pampa exceed those of surrounding towns and what is required for a state license.

Pampa City Attorney Don Lane said the city now requires \$250,000 in insurance for each person, \$500,000 for each accident and \$100,000 in property damage insurance.

The commission will consider a new ordinance bringing the city insurance requirements for taxis into line with state requirements. The proposed ordinance would lower the insurance requirements to \$20,000 for each person, \$40,000 for each accident and \$15,000 for property damage insurance, the same as state requirements.

The commission will also hear reports on drug awareness programs and the city's alley clean up program.

The Pampa City Commission will meet beginning at 4 p.m., Tuesday, in the city commission chamber on the third floor of city hall.

Immediately following their meeting, the commission will have a planning session in the Main Floor

See CITY, Page 3

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from The Pampa Chamber of Commerce

Obituaries

Margaret Quebe Thompson, 81

Margaret Quebe Thompson, 81, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, in Pampa.

A celebration of her life will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006, at the First Methodist Church with the Rev. Jeff Taylor, pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Thompson was born on April 18, 1924 in McGregor, Texas, to Frederick Christian and Emma Fehler Quebe, both of whom preceded her in death. While being raised on the family farm near McGregor and attending local schools, she was surrounded by her sister, Geneva, and a large extended family with whom she remained in close contact throughout her life.

Mrs. Thompson left McGregor to attend North Texas State University where she graduated in 1946. After college, she moved to Austin and began working as a secretary in the University of Texas Law School where she met her husband, Jimmy E. Thompson. They were married on September 25, 1948, in McGregor, and he preceded her in death on April 24, 1994.

The couple moved to Amarillo for one year before choosing Pampa as their lifelong home. Mr. Thompson began his private law

practice, and she became active in the First Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and civic activities within the community while beginning to perfect her life's work, which was to raise her three children with grace, love and ideal example.

As a homemaker, she provided her family with all the elements that molded a loving and warm environment. She particularly excelled in the kitchen where she fed many with her delicious creations and, in particular, her homemade bread which she continued to bake until very recently.

Her friendly nature and positive attitude carried her through life and touched those whom she met.

Survivors include two sons, Gene Thompson and wife Carol of Pampa, and Jim Thompson and wife Cathy of Amarillo; a daughter, Margaret Ann Rice and husband Charles of Dallas; a sister, Geneva Barse of Fort Worth; and three grandchildren, Emily Rice, Charlie Rice, and Mary Margaret Rice, all of Dallas.

The family wishes to thank the many friends who supported Margaret during these last few years when her health began to fail. You are a blessing to us, and we so appreciate your love and support. Her life stands as a testimony of what it is to serve the Lord and lead by example.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to First United Methodist church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981

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



Thompson

Veta Belle Crocker, 84

Veta Belle Crocker, 84, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Tim Roberts and the Rev. Albert Maggard, pastor of First Pentecostal Holiness Church, officiating.

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

Mrs. Crocker was born Sept. 12, 1921, in Wheeler County. She married Ernest Crocker on Oct. 30, 1938, in Shamrock. She

had been a resident of Pampa since 1950. She was a registered nurse, working at Highland General Hospital and Worley Hospital. She was a member of Priest Park Church of God.

Survivors include her husband, Ernest Crocker of the home; one daughter, Sherry Garmon of Pampa; one sister, Wanda Wright of Pampa; one brother, Billy Roberts of Pampa; and two grandchildren, Lindsay Garmon and Brandon Richards.

She was preceded in death by a son, Bobby Crocker.

The family requests memorials be to Alzheimer's Association, 1400 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, Texas 79106.

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



Crocker

Emergency Services

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Jan. 6

William Darbrent Thomas, 33, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on three capias pro fines for no insurance, one capias pro fine for failure to comply and one capias pro fine for no driver's license.

Charles Abernathy, 19, of Skellytown was arrested by GCSO for littering and failure to appear.

Cheryl Abernathy, 37, of Skellytown was arrested by GCSO for no Texas driver's license and failure to appear.

Bill Wayne Morgan, 57, of Pampa, was arrested by PPD for driving while intoxicated, no valid driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Vicki Lynn Ogden, 43, homeless, was arrested by PPD for theft of property with prior convictions.

Mario Alva, 43, Pampa, was arrested by GCSO on a warrant for theft by check.

Matthew Tyler Trusty, 17, Pampa, was arrested in the 200 block of West Kingsmill by PPD for arson.

Tommie Armstrong Campbell, 60, Pampa, was arrested by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for sale to certain persons.

Ronnie Ray Robles, 30, Pampa, was arrested in the 900 block of South Banks by PPD on warrants for no driver's license and open container.

Alfred Shane Bromlow, 41, Pampa, was arrested by TABC for public intoxication and a probation violation for burglary of a habitat.

Victor Manuel Contreras, 17, Pampa, was arrested in the 300 block of Lowry by PPD on capias pro fines for public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Onesimo Recendiz Ochoa, 58, Pampa, was arrested by TABC for public intoxication.

Freddie Antonio Jackson, 28, Pampa, was arrested in the 800 block of South Somerville by PPD on a bond surrender for assault causing bodily injury.

Jamie Theresa Jackson, 29, Pampa, was arrested in the 300 block of South Gray by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts each of no driver's license and failure to appear, and probation violations for delivery of a controlled substance, forgery, and possession of a controlled substance.

Suzan Campbell, 41, Pampa, was arrested by GCSO on a grand jury indictment for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.

Dennis James Beisaw, 21, Pampa, was arrested in the 700 block of West Kingsmill by PPD for arson.

Mandy Kay Rippetoe, 18, Pampa, was arrested in the 200 block of West Kingsmill

for arson and capias pro fines for disruption of class, failure to attend school and failure to attend school, second offense.

Megan Crutcher, 17, Pampa, was arrested by GCSO for minor in possession of alcohol, failure to appear, failure to attend school two or more times, and a capias pro fine for non-payment of court costs and fines.

Sunday, Jan. 8

Carol Jean Kotara, 61, Pampa, was arrested in the 600 block of West Wilks by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Renita Zoe Carroll, 48, Pampa, was arrested in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway by PPD for driving while intoxicated, possession of a dangerous drug, and having a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Antonio Andy Vela, 24, Pampa, was arrested in the 100 block of East Foster by PPD for failure to appear, speeding and no driver's license. Pampa

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thirty-nine traffic stops were made. A traffic stop in the 900 block of South Banks resulted in an arrest for no driver's license and open container.

A traffic stop at the intersection of Brunow and Reid streets resulted in an arrest.

A traffic stop in the 500 block of East Browning resulted in an arrest for no valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.

Traffic complaints were received from Highway 60, the 2700 block of Aspen, the 1000 block of North Hobart, the 700 block of North Zimmers, the 2600 block of Cherokee and the 1100 block of Prairie Drive.

Vehicle accidents were reported at an undisclosed location, the intersection of Duncan and Harvester streets, the 1400 block of North Hobart and at the intersection of Harvester and Dogwood streets, where an arrest for driving while intoxicated was made in connection with the incident.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1500 block of North Banks, the 2200 block of North Wells and the 1000 block of North Sumner. Warrant service was attempted at seven locations, resulting in at least three arrests.

Civil matters were reported in the 1100 block of Juniper, the 100 block of West 30th and the 700 block of Sloan.

Three burglar alarms were reported.

Found property was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson. Checks were found.

Found property was reported in the 500 block of South Ballard and the 400 block of North Wells.

Violation of a city ordi-

nance was reported in the 700 block of Brunow and the intersection of Harvester and Hamilton streets.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1300 block of North Hobart, the 1300 block of Duncan, the 400 block of North Starkweather, the 200 block of North Russell and the 400 block of East Frederic.

A prowler was reported in the 500 block of Harlem.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 600 block of South Somerville and the 300 block of Ward.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from an unreported location.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of South Russell, the police department lobby, the intersection of Nicki and Charles streets, the 1200 block of Darby, the 300 block of Jean and the 900 block of South Wells.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of East 17th Avenue. A window was broken out of a door. Estimated cost of damage is \$300.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of East Browning.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of North Hobart and the 1100 block of Mary Ellen.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 600 block of West Wilks. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

A Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission violation was reported in the 100 block of East Craven.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks. Fuel valued at \$15 was taken.

Burglary was reported in the 800 block of East Craven.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Huff Road. A bicycle valued at \$250 was taken.

Theft was reported at the intersection of Sloan and Allen streets and the 1300 block of East Francis.

Harassment was reported in the police department lobby and the 400 block of North Russell.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 300 block of East Browning, the 700 block of Murphy, the 200 block of North Houston and the police department lobby.

A disturbance was reported in the 800 block of South Somerville, resulting in an arrest.

Assault was reported in the 300 block of Sunset. No injuries were reported.

Assault was reported in the 700 block of North Sumner and the 1000 block

See **EMERGENCY**, Page 3

Annette W. Mayo, 87

PANHANDLE — Annette W. Mayo, 87, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, in Amarillo.

Graveside Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Panhandle Cemetery in Panhandle with Kip Mayo, her grandson, officiating and the Rev. Bill Fuller assisting. Interment will be at the Panhandle Cemetery under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Panhandle.

Mrs. Mayo was born on July 9, 1918 in McKinney. She married S.E. Mayo Sr. on Dec. 23, 1933, in Paducah. She was a member of the 55+ Club. She was preceded in death by her husband S.E. Mayo Sr., three

sons, Larry Mayo, S.E. Mayo Jr., and Jerry Mayo, and a granddaughter Lisa Mayo Crane.

Survivors include two sons, Theo Mayo of Dalhart and Hayden Walters of Panhandle; two brothers, Gerald Walters of Panhandle and James Walters of San Bernardino, Calif.; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the Love and Action of First Baptist Church or BSA Hospice.

Visitation with the family will be this afternoon at the Panhandle funeral home.

James M. 'Jim' Pickens, 81

SALINA, Kan. — James M. "Jim" Pickens, 81, of Salina, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2006.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. today at Ryan Mortuary. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Shamrock Cemetery in Shamrock, Texas.

Mr. Pickens was born Dec. 17, 1924 at Sayre, Okla. He worked as a truck driver for J.T. Richardson, Tulsa Crude and Shamrock Concrete.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lando Pickens and Lillie Wood; his wife,

Lorraine Pickens; a brother, J.R. King and a sister, Wauweta Honeycutt.

Survivors include four daughters, Danielle Pickens of Salina, Carolyn Clarkson of Chester, Ill., Donna Jean Pickens of Wichita, Kan. and Trisha Lee Long of Greenleaf, Kan.; a brother, Gary Wood of Pampa; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Windsor Nursing Home, 123 S. Third, Salina, KS 67401.

Services tomorrow

CROCKER, Veta Belle — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel.

THOMPSON, Margaret Quebe — 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church.

MAYO, Annette W. — Graveside services 2 p.m., Panhandle Cemetery.



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Weather

Today: A slight chance of rain and snow before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. Wind chill values between 20 and 30. North northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 16 and 21. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 53. Wind chill values between 14 and 24 early.

CITY BRIEFS

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

FOR SALE firewood, tree limbs, 2x4s, 4x4s, picket fence. 669-9689.

THE HIGH School Soccer Booster club will meet at 7:00 PM in the high school library this Mon. Jan. 9th

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Roberts County passes burn ban High court backs UT in dating spam squabble

MIAMI -- The Roberts County Commission today passed a burn ban and declared the county a disaster area threatened with wildfires because of drought. County Judge Vernon Cook said today that the county hasn't had any meaningful moisture since August.

"We had a shower about three weeks ago," Judge Cook said, "but it was just enough to settle the dust." He said that the county has not suffered a wildfire since Thanksgiving, but the dry pastures across the county worried the commission. The Friday before Thanksgiving, Judge Cook said, there was a major grass fire on the west side of

White Deer Creek just across the line in Hutchinson County. The only major grass fire in Roberts County was just before Thanksgiving west of Miami. Cook estimated that it burned off three to four square miles of grass.

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to intervene in a dispute between the University of Texas and an online dating service upset that the school blocked thousands of unsolicited e-mails. The high court let stand a federal appeals court's ruling that UT did not violate the constitutional rights of

White Buffalo Ventures mails in 2003. when it blocked 59,000 e-

Arson

Continued from Page 1

collected by the City of Pampa for the city's annual Chipping of the Greens, scheduled for Jan. 21. The annual event provides a way for residents to

dispose of their Christmas trees without violating a city ordinance. The trees are chipped into mulch which is given away free of charge to residents who bring their own containers on chipping day. The fire which destroyed the Crossfire occurred at 11:42 p.m. Thursday; the fire which consumed the

Christmas greenery occurred at 12:29 a.m. Tuesday. The state fire marshal's office has been called in connection with the fires, but a representative has not yet arrived in Pampa, Powell said. "The Pampa Police Department, Chief Pitner, the detectives, the patrol-

men, dispatchers, and Sheriff's Office all handled this job with the utmost professionalism," Powell said. "We all worked the case together. I appreciate everything they did for us." Pampa Fire Department has been without a fire marshal since Gary Stevens' retirement Sept. 2, 2005.

Emergency

Continued from Page 2

of North Sumner. One suicide attempt was reported.

hay bale fire. 2:19 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 600 block of North Sumner on a grass fire. 6:22 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Dogwood on a medical assist. Sunday, Jan. 8 3:59 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Harvester and Dogwood on a vehicle accident. 9:53 a.m. — One unit and five personnel responded to the 100 block of North Sumner on a lifting assist. 1:53 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Harvester on a vehicle-pedestrian accident. 5:25 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 100 block of North Faulkner on an unauthorized burning. 7:15 p.m. — Two units and eight personnel responded to the 400 block of East Frederic on a smoke investigation.

today Friday, Jan. 6 6:59 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Jupiter and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 10:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2700 block of Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC. 11:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a local residence. 11:53 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. 1:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Highway 152 west and transported a patient to PRMC. 1:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2800 block of Charles. No transport. 3:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to NWTH. Saturday, Jan. 7 11:09 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2200 block of Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC. 11:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1100 block of Terrace and transported a patient to

PRMC. 1:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to NWTH. 6:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Dogwood. No transport. Sunday, Jan. 8 00:32 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2200 block of North Wells. Call was canceled en route. 4:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the intersection of Harvester and Dogwood and transported a patient to PRMC. 6:11 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the intersection of Harvester and Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC. 9:50 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of North Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC. 1:50 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1400 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC. Monday, Jan. 9 12:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of North Starkweather and transported a patient to PRMC.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today. Friday, Jan. 6 1:51 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to Wal-Mart, 2801 N. Charles, on a call for medical assistance. 2:51 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a location on Price Road and Highway 152 on an odor investigation. The firefighters searched a building for a possible gas leak but found nothing. 8:37 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of Red Deer on a carbon monoxide investigation and found nothing. Saturday, Jan. 7 11:20 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Terrace on a first responder for EMS. 1:44 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 100 block of Doyle on a

conference room of city hall to discuss the renovation of Tyng Street from Starkweather to Cuyler, the emergency operations center, record retention and tire disposal. Pampa City Manager John Horst said no action will be taken during the planning session. The session, he said, is simply a forum in which to make the commission aware of future issues. The planning session is open to the public, Horst said.

meeting at 10 a.m. in the Santa Fe Room of the Canadian Courts Hotel, 220 N. 2nd St. in Canadian. The area includes all or parts of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, High Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District.

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City

Continued from Page 1

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Water

Continued from Page 1

the northwest corner of Carson County just south of Fritch.

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Canadian

CANADIAN -- The


conference room of city hall to discuss the renovation of Tyng Street from Starkweather to Cuyler, the emergency operations center, record retention and tire disposal. Pampa City Manager John Horst said no action will be taken during the planning session. The session, he said, is simply a forum in which to make the commission aware of future issues. The planning session is open to the public, Horst said.

meeting at 10 a.m. in the Santa Fe Room of the Canadian Courts Hotel, 220 N. 2nd St. in Canadian. The area includes all or parts of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, High Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District.

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Shelly Cook Escrow Officer

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Viewpoints

What questions do you have for your life today?

While flying at 30,000 feet recently, I smiled privately while recalling a unique habit that my daughter and son used often to torture me. Although innocent in nature, they had an unusual habit of asking questions. Not just one question, but a lot of questions.

Most of the time I knew the answers and when I didn't I would make up something humorous just to get them to stop asking.

The warm feelings reminded me of the impor-

ance of questions in our lives.

Truthfully, everything from the chair you are sitting on to the paper or computer you are using to read this started to exist with a question.

To take it to another extreme, every improvement attempted in our lives started with a question.

On a bookshelf in my home is a book that lists 1,000 questions about life. After I finished reading the book, I went back and cir-

clad all of the questions that poised the greatest challenges and represented the greatest opportunities to improve my life. Out of 1,000, I settled on the following ten:

1. If you could ask God any single question, what would that be?
2. If you could change one thing in the world right now, what would you change?

David Cain
Columnist

3. If you were to be recognized long after you are dead for one thing, what would you like to be known for?

4. If you could forever eliminate one specific type of prejudice from the earth, which would it be?

5. If you could ensure that your child had one experience that you have had yourself, what would you want it to be?

6. If you could cure any disease, which would it be?

7. If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

8. If you could give your parents one gift, what would you give them?

9. If your plane was about to crash and you had time to write one quick note, to whom would you write and what would you say?

10. If you had to sacrifice your own life for one thing, what would it be?

Although it has been several years since I read the book, I am convinced that pondering on the questions played a role in shaping the decisions made in my life.

The funny thing is that the opportunities to answer the questions were always present. I just didn't see them because I never stopped to ask any questions. What questions do you have for your life today? Think about it long enough and the answers will appear.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2006. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, Calif.

On this date:

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, N.J.

In 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union.

In 1861, the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, S.C., retreated after being fired on by a battery in the harbor.

'Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark.'

— Agnes de Mille
American dancer-choreographer (1905-1993)

Our readers write

Bible teaches love and forgiveness ...

My son was a first-grade student at Community Christian School. He was expelled Dec. 13 because "he had reached the end of the discipline system and it wasn't working."

This system consists of students receiving a "tally" for infractions of the rules, which can range from forgetting a book to fighting. After three tallies in a week they receive a detention. Six detentions in a semester, they receive a suspension for three to five days. My son received his first one-day suspension because the principal took into account his age, 6. He then received three tallies the following week, one of which was for trying to make a 2-year-old laugh at lunch time, and a second suspension.

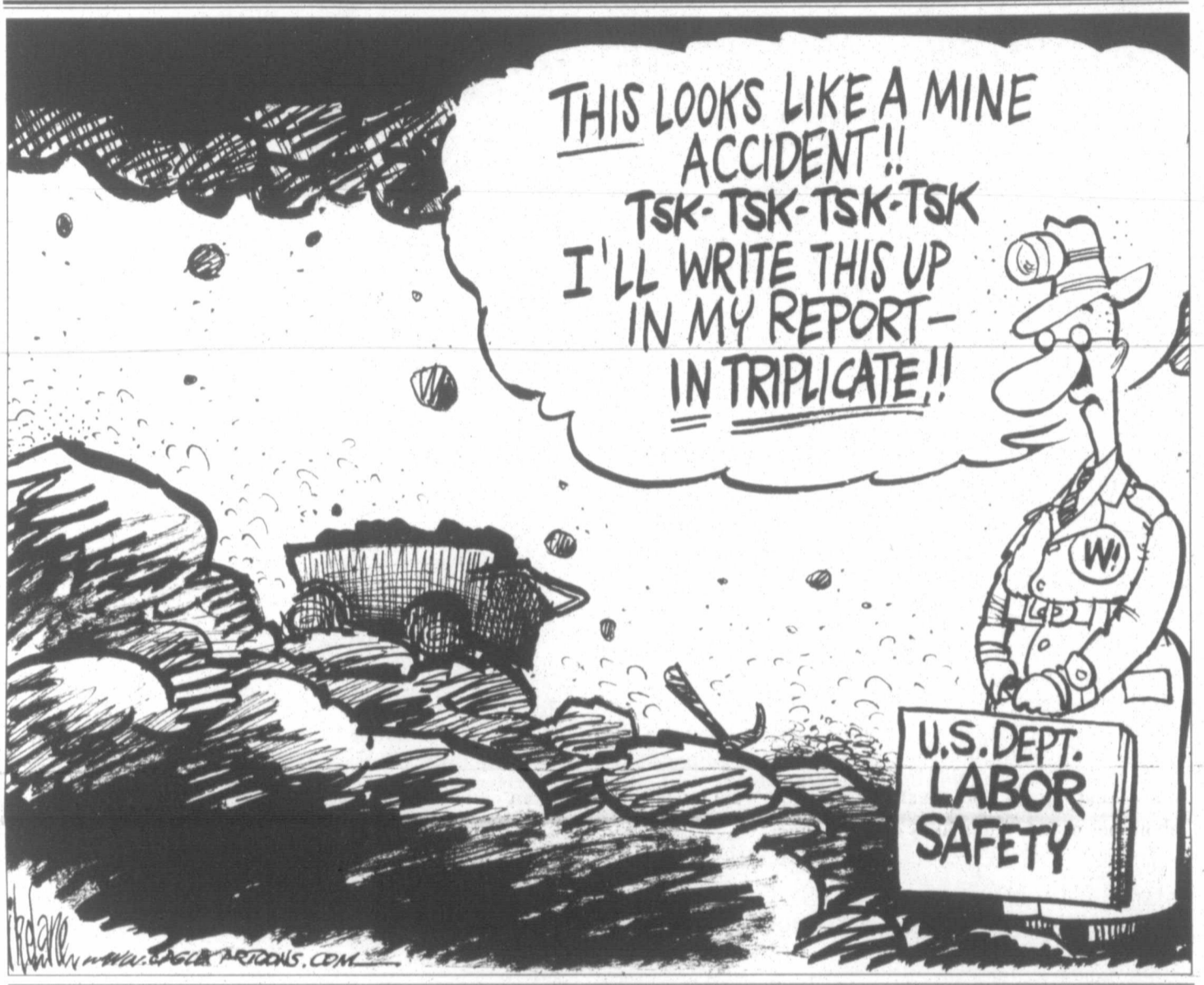
I had a conference with

his teacher and the principal and told them I thought my son has ADD and I planned to have him tested. His teacher said "the lines were blurred" for her when it came to my son because her "frustration level is so high" that she "can't look at it from an unbiased standpoint."

The school board then decided to expel my son — without any knowledge of my suspicions of ADD. They did, however, listen to his teacher who said my son doesn't learn or change and that without counseling he would not be any better.

The school board director, Dottie Fraser, told my mother that the board "only had the book in front of them to go by." I am appalled that a Christian school, based on

See LETTERS, Page 8



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Our nation's economy is worker-driven

I don't know why news organizations think that people shopping or not shopping is news. I suppose it stems from the evil and fallacious notion that our economy is "consumer driven" and therefore all decisions must be made on the basis of what is good for the consumer.

Well, how's this for news: There is no such thing as a consumer. There are workers and former workers and would-if-they-could workers, all of whom out of necessity consume.

The fewer the workers and the lower their pay, the less they will consume, also out of necessity. You would think some of the American corporations so eager to send high-paying jobs overseas would understand that they are, in the long run, cutting their own throats. You would think that somebody in Washington would think in terms of a worker-driven economy.

We didn't become a wealthy country because of consumption. We became a wealthy country because of work. We have, however, become a debt-ridden country because of consumption. Debt levels are at all-time

highs in both the private and public sectors. Yes, we are the biggest debtor nation on the planet. Since debt is a claim on future income, you can whistle past the cemetery all you want, but future growth in the private sector as well as in government services will be limited, again out of necessity.

We mislead ourselves by constantly talking about "the economy" as if it were a single entity. Actually, it is nothing more than the arithmetical sum of all the economic transactions at any given point in time. Therefore, all national economic statistics should be viewed with a great deal of skepticism. Times can be good in one city and very hard in another.

Some journalists like to prattle about productivity. That's simply producing more widgets in the same amount of time at the same cost. The easiest way to increase productivity is lay people off and force the

remaining workers to do those people's work in addition to their own. That's an increase in productivity but hardly good for the country as a whole.

Unemployment statistics are based on a survey, not a head count, and people who have become discouraged and are no longer looking for work are not even counted as "unemployed." All statistics are based on definitions, and if you don't know the definitions, then frankly you don't know what you're talking about when you spout government statistics. And by the way, a government that is willing to lie about such serious matters as war and civil liberties will certainly lie about economic affairs.

Keep in mind, too, the obvious that income is not evenly distributed. Nearly all of the people you see on television, including politicians, are in the very-high-income brackets! A ditsy blond entertainer who is lucky might make \$35 mil-

lion in one year, but the median earning for a full-time, year-round working woman is \$30,724, and for a man, \$40,668. That means half of the women earn \$30,724 or less, and half of the working men earn \$40,668 or less.

As for inflation, which amounts to grand theft committed by the government, what you could buy for \$1 in 1967 will now cost you \$5.62, even if it is made in China.

Professionals and business people can stay abreast or ahead of inflation because they can raise their fees and prices. Workingmen and women cannot because their employers determine their income.

We must reorient our thinking, and therefore our policies, to working instead of consuming. We can call ourselves prosperous if everyone willing to work has a job that pays enough money to provide for decent housing, food, medical, clothing and energy costs, with some left over. That is far from true today, no matter how many billionaires the media coo over.

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 2
San Antonio Express-News on let the chess masters reign:

Students in the Rio Grande Valley have some new heroes, and they aren't the typical athletes or rock stars.

During a recent holiday parade in Brownsville, a teenage chess grandmaster stole the show, The Dallas

Morning News reported.

Timur Gareev, who came from Uzbekistan to enroll at the University of Texas at Brownsville, wowed a cheering crowd of young people as he made his way down the parade route with university President Juliet Garcia.

Chess has been big among students in this border city on the coast for more than 10 years. It is inspiring to see that enthusiasm for the game continues to grow.

Since 1990, public schools in the city

have won nearly a dozen national championships.

It was the game's reputation in the city that lured Gareev to college there. The university's chess team, of which Gareev is a member, recently won its first national trophy at the 2005 National K-12/Collegiate Championship Tournament in Houston.

Students worked up about a game requiring critical thinking skills is cause for optimism.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law was born during the Depression. My question is, what is a safe amount of time to be able to eat meat from the freezer? We have noticed items that are more than 5 years old that my father-in-law insists are still good. "... you just cut off the freezer burn." We're afraid he's going to poison himself. — **CONCERNED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, WELLINGTON, COLO.**

DEAR CONCERNED: According to Mike Herndon, media spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, meat can be frozen "almost indefinitely." However, it must be stored constantly at zero degrees to be safe. Freezer burn does not make food unsafe, but may affect the quality. The following are freezer storage times for quality only: uncooked roasts, steaks or chops, four to 12 months; whole poultry, 12 months; poultry parts, nine months. Also, it's a good idea to check for odor after meat and poultry have been frozen for too long. If there is a rancid smell, obviously, do not use it.

DEAR ABBY: A new employee, "Nicki," was recently hired at the company where I work. A group of us eat lunch together, and we have tried to make Nicki as welcome as possible by asking her to join our table. Usually our conversation consists of talk about our families or a movie we saw recently, but Nicki always seems to interject a piece of information that is so private as to be inappropriate. Recently she confided that her husband had cheated on her, and that he had been arrested for theft. Lunchtime has become less pleasant because this woman seems to have no boundaries. How can I politely let her know that giving too much information about her private life makes me (and other employees) uncomfortable? — **SQUIRMING IN COLUMBIA, S.C.**

DEAR SQUIRMING: The woman has my sympathy. She is trying to bond with you folks in the only way she knows how. It would not be impolite to take her aside and quietly tell her that it isn't necessary to air her dirty laundry in order to make friends at the company. You will be doing her a favor. Please do it now.

DEAR ABBY: When our grandchildren come to visit, their parents do not discipline them. When our children visited our parents, we made sure they behaved. As a matter of fact, we did it no matter where they went. What do you do when the parents do not attend to their children? When I served Christmas dinner, they did not insist that their 6-year-old join the family. He was allowed to continue playing videos. How do I let them know there are rules here? It hurts my feelings when my grandchildren treat my good furniture as a playground. I don't see them often, but I'd rather skip having them in my home and visit them. However, my children rarely offer to host the holidays. What's a person to do? — **CONFUSED GRANDMA IN INDIANA**

DEAR CONFUSED: I'd suggest a two-pronged approach. Ask your children to inform the grandkids that when they visit their grandparents there are certain rules of conduct that must be observed -- and that includes sharing mealtime together and not jumping on or off the furniture. And then, if the youngsters don't behave, take them aside and explain that they may act that way in their parents' home, but not in yours because you have rules -- and tell them exactly what kind of behavior you expect from them. The longer you remain silent, the longer your problem will continue.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



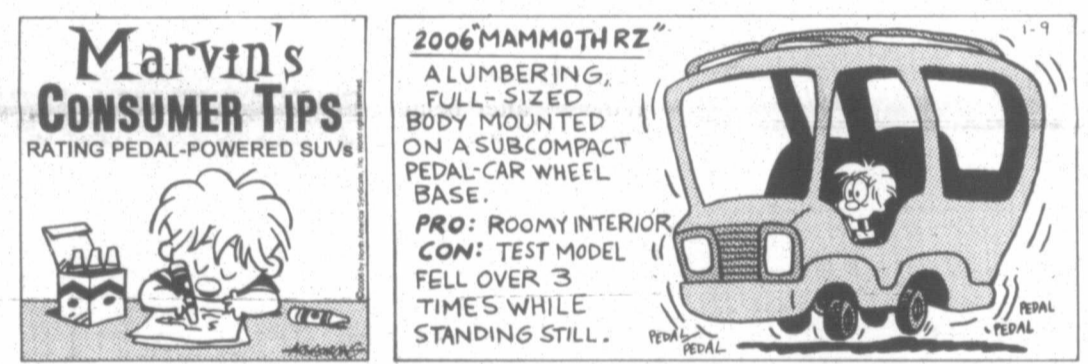
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Raced

1 Narrow

point of land

5 Papa's spouse

9 Frightening

10 Skilled

12 Michael of Monty Python

13 Copier supply

14 Soon

16 Tin Man's prop

17 Engrave

18 "Carrie" star

21 Fabric color

22 Playground fixtures

23 Borscht base

24 Ridiculously odd

26 Drunk

29 Seasoned sausage

30 Exceptional

31 — mode

32 Egyptian landmark

34 Truman's hometown

37 The saurus author

38 Draw out

39 Scents

DOWN

1 Meager

2 Royal home

3 Whisky choice

4 Sharon's "Cagney & Lacey" co-star

5 Rug's kin

6 Bustle item

7 Threaten

8 Pinnacles

9 Caught sight of

11 Long journey

15 Narnia's creator

19 Feel sorry for

20 TV spots

22 Look

23 Lingerie

24 Leafy lunches

25 Become silent

26 Ho Chi Minh City

27 Like an old cuss

28 College books

29 Mall event

30 Mary's friend

33 School event

35 Stunning serve

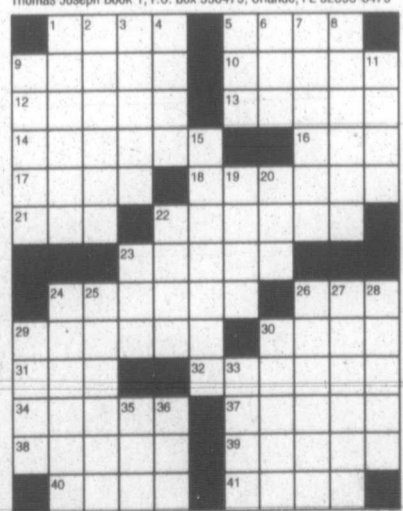
36 Danger once



Saturday's answer

- 19 Feel sorry for
- 20 TV spots
- 22 Look
- 23 Lingerie
- 24 Leafy lunches
- 25 Become silent
- 26 Ho Chi Minh City
- 27 Like an old cuss
- 28 College books
- 29 Mall event
- 30 Mary's friend
- 33 School event
- 35 Stunning serve
- 36 Danger once

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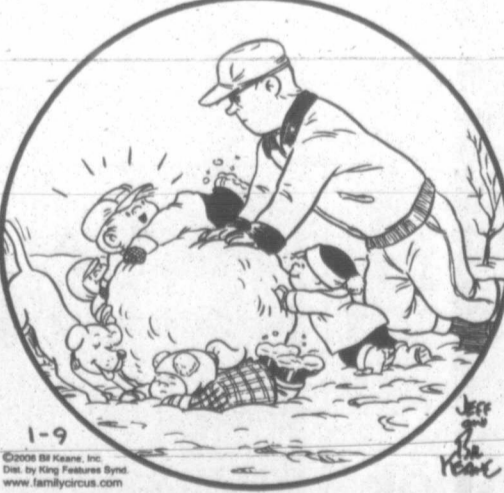


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



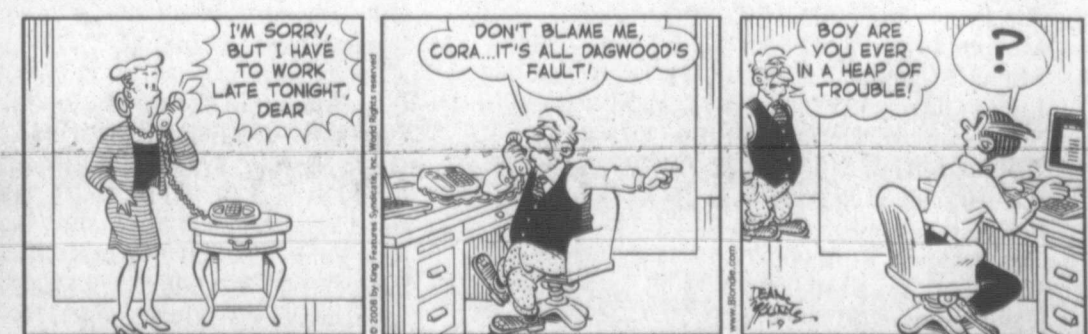
Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

Young headed for NFL draft

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — With a national championship, a litany of school records and one spectacular Rose Bowl performance, Vince Young figures he's done all he can at the college level.

So, the Texas quarterback is going to the NFL. Young announced Sunday he'll skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft, taking the leap many expected after leading the Longhorns to a 41-38 victory over Southern California for Texas' first national title in 36 years.

"It's been a really fun ride. It's been really beautiful, and I'll cherish my memories for the rest of my life," Young said at a campus news conference to announce his decision.

"I feel like I accomplished everything I wanted to accomplish in college," Young said.

And he immediately set the bar for his pro career pretty high.

"I will not let you down. I will be a hard worker and do what it takes to not only be a role model, but make it to the Hall of Fame, and that's the biggest it can be," Young said.

His Rose Bowl performance — 467 total yards with three rushing touchdowns — increased speculation he would leave school early and started a debate about whether he would be the No. 1 pick in April's draft.

Young's hometown Houston Texans have the first pick. He said he'd like to play in Houston, but realizes he could wind up somewhere else.

Texans spokesman Tony Wyllie released a statement that complimented Young as a player, but said the team is still evaluating draft picks and trying to hire a head coach.

Another possibility is Tennessee, which has the third pick. Young counts Titans quarterback Steve McNair among his close friends. He said McNair told him "go with your heart" in making his decision.

Young maintained during the season that he would return for his senior year, but said his Rose Bowl performance put him "over the top."

With a career 30-2 record as a starter, Young is Texas' career leader in total offense (9,167 yards), touchdowns (81) and rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (37).

This season, he became the only player in NCAA history to pass for 3,000 yards (3,036) and rush for 1,000 (1,050) in one season. His 4,086 total yards set a school single-season record.

Young won the Davey O'Brien Award for the nation's best quarterback and the Maxwell Award for the top college football player, but came in sec-

ond behind USC running back Reggie Bush in the Heisman Trophy voting.

Gil Brandt, longtime Dallas Cowboys personnel director and current NFL.com draft analyst, called Young a likely top five pick but said he thought Young should have stayed at Texas another year.

"He is very, very similar to Randall Cunningham," Brandt said. "Had he waited, he probably would've been a better player. All quarterbacks get better with the more experience they get. Going from college football to the NFL is about like going from eighth grade to being a graduate student at MIT."

Although Young has been criticized by analysts for his sidarm throwing motion, Brandt said the most important factor is Young's winning record. Young was the highest rated passer in college last season.

"He has a bottom-line of 30-2. Bobby Layne and Sonny Jurgenson didn't have perfect deliveries either, but they're in the Hall of Fame," Brandt said.

Young is the first Texas player to leave early for the NFL in coach Mack Brown's eight seasons.

Brown, who was at the American Football Coaches Association annual convention and didn't attend the news conference, said he met with Young on Sunday morning and supports the decision.

"We'll miss him, but want him to do as well in the NFL as he did in college. I expect all of the Texas fans to be happy and supportive of Vince," Brown said. "He has done great things for our program."

Young said he talked over his decision with his family and that some of his advisers told him to stay at Texas to finish his degree. Considering the deadline for declaring for the draft is Jan. 15, it was clear his mind was already made up. The ultimate decision was his, Young said.

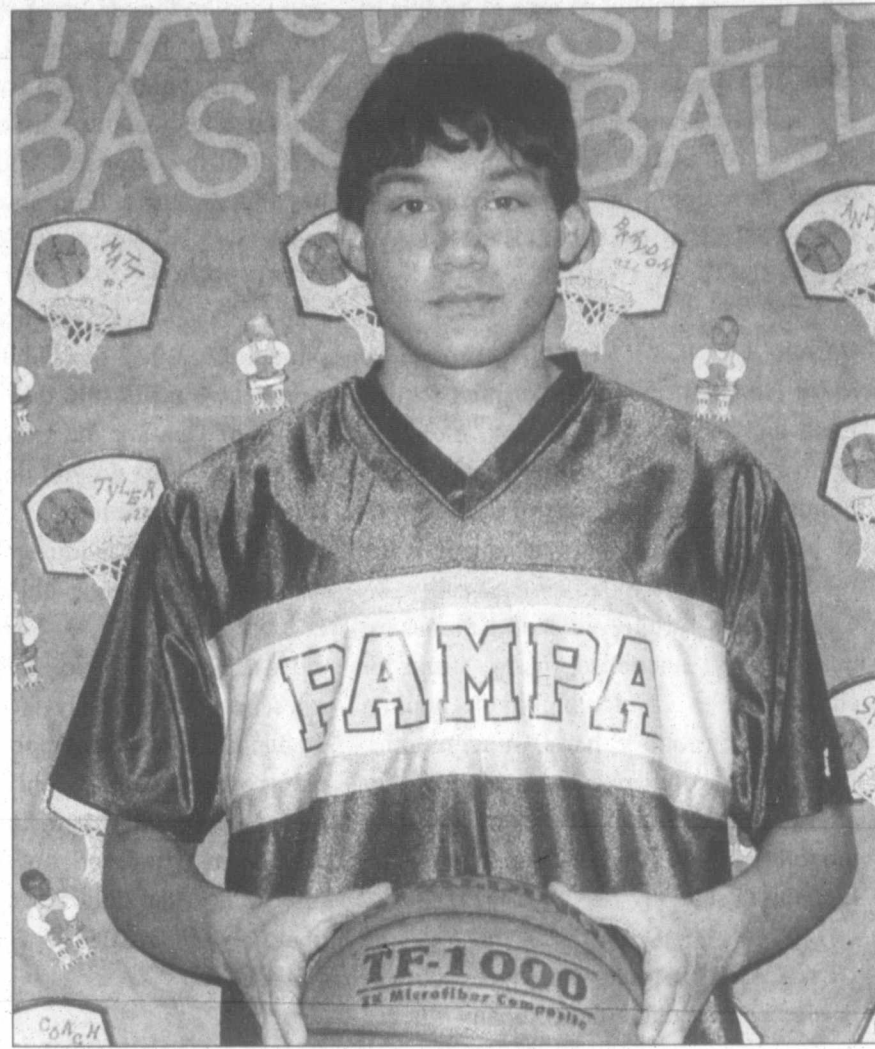
"It took a lot of praying, listening, understanding and knowing that the day was going to come," said Felicia Young, who attended her son's news conference. "Everything is all right. This is great."

Asked how he might spend some of the millions of dollars he'll earn as an NFL player, Young said, "It all depends on mama."

Young's departure leaves a gaping hole in the offense to fill if Texas is to defend its title.

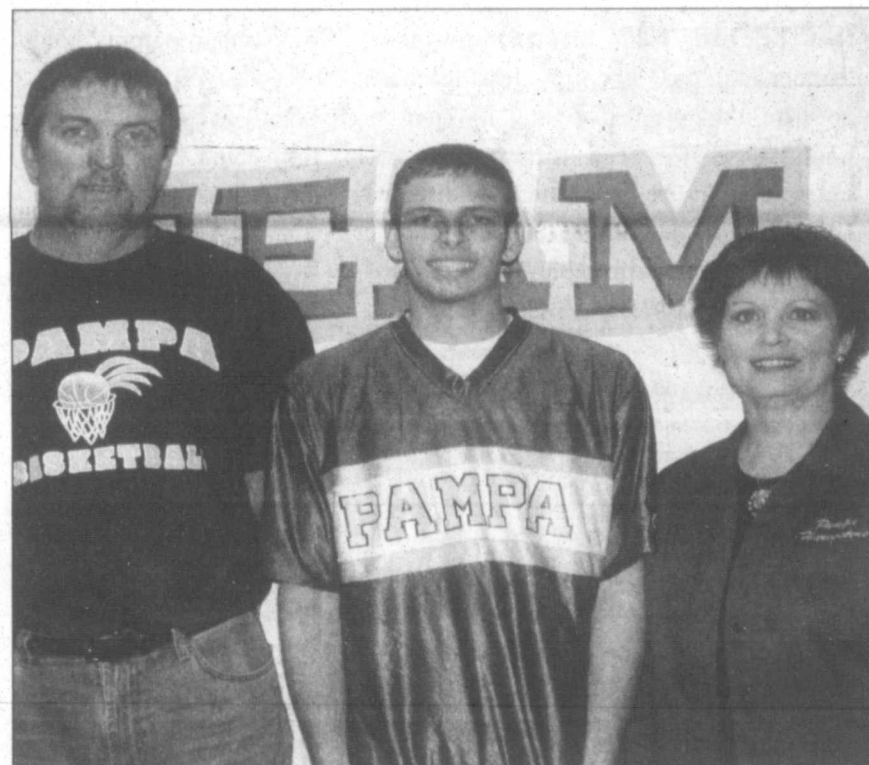
The only other scholarship quarterback on the roster, freshman Colt McCoy, redshirted last season and didn't take a snap. Texas expects to sign another prep standout, Jevan Snead, who plans to enroll in school this month and participate in spring drills in February.

Varsity spotlight



Aaron Anquiano, post

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 180 lbs.
Grade: Senior
Parents: Apolo & Janet
Activities: Basketball
Interests: Music, movies and video games



Braydon Barker, guard

Height: 5'9"
Weight: 160 lbs.
Grade: Senior
Parents: Jimmy & Lori
Activities: Basketball, National Honor Society, DFY-IT, First Baptist Church youth group. Who's Who among American high school students, National Society of High School Scholars.
Interests: Hanging out with friends, watching college football, riding 4-wheelers at the lake.



Craig Crowell, P/F

Height: 6'1"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Grade: Junior
Parents: John & Michelle
Activities: Football, basketball, National Honor Society, DFY-IT
Interests: Football, basketball, water skiing, FBC Youth, Trinity Fellowship Youth.

TAKING HIS 'TALENTS' ELSEWHERE

Marcus Vick decalres for NFL draft

After getting kicked off his college football team, Marcus Vick has decided to make himself available for the NFL draft. I ask, who the heck cares?

Virginia Tech officials stated they simply had enough of Vick's behavior both on field and off. They gave him the opportunity, and he alone blew it.

During the recent Gator Bowl, Vick was caught on tape stomping a Louisville Cardinal defensive player following a tackle. It was also made known recently that Vick had been stopped in December for driving 38 mph in a 25 mph zone and driving with a revoked or suspended license. Vick's license was taken away in August 2004 when he was cited for reckless driving and marijuana possession.

In 2003, he was busted for serving alcohol to underage girls.

Sounds like a stable young man ready to have an NFL team spend a draft pick and loads of money on, doesn't it?

If that doesn't open their eyes, this will...Vick, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, has a whopping 24 games of college football under his belt. In that time, he threw for just over 2,800 yards, 19 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. He did run 184 times for 492 yards and six TDs.

Now that should have NFL coaches and GM's all giddy — ready to stand before the media and say, "We, the (poor team's name here) are in such dire straits that we take Marcus Vick". That will be followed by some cheesy reasoning and attempt to sell fans on just how they think Vick is a victim of circumstance and how he can help the team.

Smart fans won't buy it.

Vick's mother, Brenda Boddie, says she cried a lot when she learned her son had been booted by the Hokies. Though she admits Marcus "did the wrong thing" in attempting to hurt an opposing player during the Gator Bowl, she has managed to find an

excuse for the action — and apparently all the other little boo boos Vick has racked up in the past few years. "Everybody does stupid stuff when they are 19, 20, 21 years old," she said. "Everybody goes through that. Nobody's perfect. He just did the wrong thing."

With all due respect ma'am, no they don't. Most parents rear their children to know and understand that once they cross the threshold of 18, they become responsible for their own actions. At least, most responsible parents do. It is paramount in preparing them for life.

But not all parents are lucky enough to be in a position that allows a millionaire child's name and rep to mask the other child's obvious special needs.

So now Vick wants to ply his trade as a pro? Perhaps I misread his college stats. Let me look at them again. Nope, I read right, they're weak. Though I seriously question what skill he thinks he has that warrants a pick, some struggling team will take him, but it will be late in the draft if it happens. NFL Europe could be a proving ground. Arena Football wouldn't be out of the question either.

Personally, I think Vick has issues it will take more than 12-steps to overcome. Rather than take action, those who see only dollar signs are willing to exploit him. Hey, he only has the same last name as Michael, he certainly does not have the same talent. Riding older brother's shirttail will only take him and his posse so far. At some point, he will be unmasked and his lack of any real talent exposed. Frankly, that happened some time ago.

By contrast, there is a player who will make himself available for the upcoming draft who has the chance to be one of the richest players in the league even before he steps onto the field. And all the pomp-and-circumstance surrounding him is well deserved. There may be some mention of his name on this page. See if you can find it.

Michael J. Stevens
 Sports Editor



Mercedes Championship scores

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Stuart Appleby, \$1,080,000 71-72-70-71—284
- Vijay Singh, \$630,000 70-74-74-66—284
- Jim Furyk, \$420,000 72-72-72-72—288
- Vaughn Taylor, \$287,500 74-73-72-71—290
- Michael Campbell, \$287,500 72-72-71-75—290
- Lucas Glover, \$217,000 74-73-70-74—291
- Sergio Garcia, \$195,000 71-74-73-75—293
- Justin Leonard, \$185,000 72-78-72-72—294
- Bart Bryant, \$175,000 74-72-76-73—295
- Peter Lonard, \$165,000 74-74-73-75—296
- Tim Petrovic, \$150,000 74-77-74-72—297
- Wes Short, Jr., \$150,000 73-73-75-76—297
- David Toms, \$130,000 71-73-79-75—298

- Geoff Ogilvy, \$130,000 75-72-74-77—298
- Jason Bohn, \$110,000 76-70-78-75—299
- Mark Calcavecchia, \$110,000 73-74-73-79—299
- Robert Gamez, \$94,000 77-76-73-75—301
- Olin Browne, \$94,000 69-76-76-80—301
- Kenny Perry, \$87,000 74-77-77-74—302
- K.J. Choi, \$87,000 75-74-77-76—302
- Carl Pettersson, \$84,000 71-85-75-74—305
- Ted Purdy, \$82,000 73-75-77-81—306
- Heath Slocum, \$79,000 74-81-78-76—309
- Brad Faxon, \$79,000 82-78-75-74—309
- Ben Crane, \$76,000 79-78-78-75—310
- Fred Funk, \$74,000 76-82-78-76—312
- Sean O'Hair, \$72,000 77-79-80-82—318
- Jason Gore, \$70,000 80-80-81-79—320

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PAMPA NEWS

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5 Special Notices

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Wheeler Nursing & Rehab. Dietary Position-Nursing Home. FT Cook & Dietary Aide. Competitive wages, exp. preferred but will train. Apply in person to Megan McKinley 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler Tx

21 Help Wanted

CALDWELL Production needs Oilfield Pulling Unit Operator. Paid holidays, 1 wk paid vacation per yr. Top wages for top operator. Hwy. 60 West, Pampa, 665-8888.

TRUCK DRIVER New Pay Increase! 401k, medical ins. & pd. vacation. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record.

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CALDWELL Production needs Secretary. Oil & gas related exp. preferred. 1 wk. vacation, 6 pd. holidays. Hwy. 60 West, Pampa. 665-8888.

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69 Misc.

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PRO-FORM 820 Elliptical Exerciser with advance console to monitor heart rate, pulse rate, time, speed, distance. Can also be connected to home stereo etc. -Brand new \$180. 665-6853 after 5:00

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2 br., gar., work shop, lrg basement for extra bedroom. OWC. 662-7557

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104 Lots

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106 Coml. Property

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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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.

1-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

S X N T W K E X V W E H X X
M T C M L M U S M U E X V W E
L T H M M T E X L S L T S C E

L T Y Y T V Z N Y V A U
Saturday's Cryptquote: LOVE AND THE HOPE OF IT ARE NOT THINGS ONE CAN LEARN; THEY ARE PART OF LIFE'S HERITAGE. — MARIA MONTESSORI

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1512 Oklahoma	\$71,500	.2/1/2 - 1669 SF/GCAD
1119 S. Dwight	\$49,900	.4/2.5/2 - 2408 SF/GCAD
712 Magnolia	\$45,000	.3/1/1 - 1272 SF/GCAD
304 N. West	\$39,900	.2/1.5/1 cp - 2288 SF/GCAD
1125 S. Dwight	\$28,500	.2/1/1 - 1021 SF/GCAD
821 Talley	\$12,000	.2/1/None - 680 SF/GCAD
936 S. Nelson	\$8,500	.1/1/1 - 560 SF/GCAD

TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and North West

1921 Lynn	\$162,500	.3/2/1 - 2494 SF/GCAD
1501 N. Sumner	\$97,900	.3/2/4+ - 1689 SF/GCAD
1933 Lea	\$89,900	.3/1.75/2 - 1820 SF/GCAD
2232 N. Sumner	\$79,500	.4/1.5/2 - 1894 SF/GCAD
2132 N. Wells	\$45,000	.3/1/2 - 1454 SF/GCAD
625 N. Wells	\$38,000	.3/2/1CP - 1612 SF/GCAD
1100 Seneca	\$35,000	.3/1.75/1 CP - 1156 SF/GCAD
2130 N. Nelson	\$32,000	.3/1.75/1 - 1352 SF/GCAD
623 Robertoa	\$28,500	.2/1/1 - 845 SF/GCAD
638 N. Banks	\$23,000	.3/1/None - 1197 SF/GCAD

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT South East

106 S. Cuyler	\$89,000	.3/2/2 - 3560 SF/GCAD
812 Denver	\$68,000	.3 Mobile Homes
1109 E. Kingmill	\$29,900	.2/1/2 - 1030 SF/GCAD
500 Magnolia	\$20,000	.3/1/None - 1208 SF/GCAD
523 Sloan	\$19,900	.2/1/2 def - 936 SF/GCAD

OTHER AREAS Outside Pampa City Limits

8878 Hwy 70	\$350,000	.5/3.5/2 4698 SF/GCAD
11647 FM 293	\$110,000	.4/2.75/2 - 3084 SF/GCAD
604 Daffodil, White Deer	\$93,700	.3/1.75/2 - 1594 SF/GCAD
11619 County Rd. East	\$55,000	.2/2/None - 1120 SF/GCAD
303 Pine, McLean	\$30,000	.3/1.75/2 - 1264 SF/GCAD
702 Swift, White Deer	\$18,500	.4 or 5/1 - 992 SF & 832 Basement
303 Walnut, Skellytown	\$15,000	.3/2/None - 1120 SF/CCAD

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006:

You could surprise others with your actions. Your daily life might change, as you want more out of life. Be willing to go back to school and/or make a major life change. In a different environment, you could flourish more than you'd imagined. Emphasize what you want in order to maximize the power of this year. If you are single, you might want to settle down. You meet people easily. Choosing the right person might take some skill. Be willing to take your time. If you are attached, a love relationship might need more attention. Be more nurturing and open. Joint finances could be difficult. Discuss what you want. Through this process you can make what you desire a reality. GEMINI can exhaust you.

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) ★★★★★ The unexpected runs riot early on. Consider how you might be the cause of the issue — at least through your reaction. You might want to think before you leap into action. Let others make suggestions. Be open. Tonight: Get on the phone.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Give more of yourself, and you could get a surprising response. Understand rather than judge. Build security and be much stronger about your needs. Get your spending under control. Tonight: Pay your bills.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Branding tortillas could help put bucks in wheat producers' pockets

By KAY LEDBETTER
Texas A&M News

AMARILLO — Texas wheat producers hope to cash in on the saying "it's good, and it's good for you" by branding a better tortilla.

Branding flour tortillas made with Texas wheat is an effort that could put more dollars in producers' pockets and meet consumer needs at the same time, said a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station researcher.

Improving wheat quality and products is about more than just tortillas, but tortillas can be a springboard, said Dr. Jackie Rudd, Experiment Station state wheat breeder here.

Tortillas have moved mainstream. The flatbread once considered an Hispanic specialty item now is often substituted for more traditional American breads, reported the Tortilla Industry Association.

Tortillas, and related products including tortilla chips, tostadas and taco shells, comprised the record-breaking \$6.1 billion tortilla industry in 2005, according to an association market study.

Developing a whole-wheat tortilla with the texture and taste consumers desire is only one possibility for researchers in Texas, Rudd said.

The Texas Small Grains Advisory Committee, consisting of members from the Experiment Station, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Wheat Producers Board and the commercial industry, is looking for ways to promote quality wheat.

The committee's goal is to have two Centers for Excellence, one in Amarillo and one in College Station, which will focus on improving quality, Rudd said.

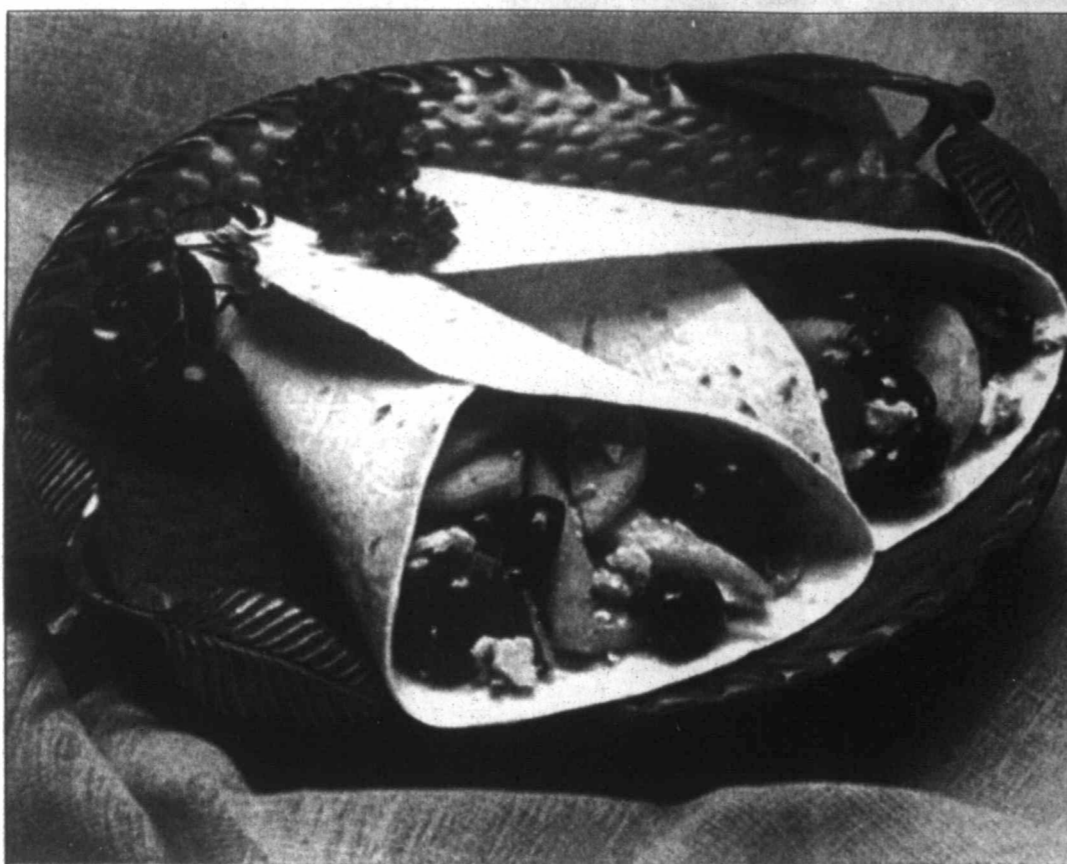
Research on wheats aimed at the traditional bread industry is further ahead than that on wheat varieties bred for tortillas and other such products, he said.

"This group recognizes that the ethnic food market is growing rapidly in the United States and that's where more of our research and marketing efforts need to be concentrated," Rudd said.

There's a need to create a functional, value-added product that meets consumers' needs, said Rachel Myers, Texas Wheat Producers Board vice president and director of producer and legislative affairs.

In the near future, Myers said she hopes Texas wheat producers will be able to market wheat with specific attributes, such as enhanced nutrition, extended shelf life or gluten-free properties.

"I believe we must put added focus on the tortilla industry in our state and Latin America, but we should not limit our product



(Photo courtesy of Texas Wheat Producers Board and the Wheat Foods Council)

A Greek wrap is one of the newer uses of flour tortillas within the foodservice industry.

selection and research in any way," she said. "There are thousands of customers with differing needs, and we must be able to meet those needs in order to remain competitive."

Determining customer needs is the next step, Rudd said. This spring, teams will talk to millers, bakers, tortilla manufacturers and other customers about what it will take to get them to use more Texas wheat, he said.

"What would the value of branding be to them? Would it be valuable to them to sell something with the Texas-certified label?" Rudd said. "We need to know if they can get more for their product and allow some of that added profit to be passed on to the producer."

Texas annually plants between 6 and 8 million acres of wheat and harvests approximately 80 million to 120 million bushels, said David Worrall, committee member with AgriPro Wheat in Vernon.

Most is hard red winter wheat used primarily for leavened pan bread products, Worrall said.

But tortillas are being used more as a substitute for these bread products, even in the food service industry. According to the Tortilla Foodservice Usage Study conducted by the VNU Foodservice Network Research Service, 62 percent of commercial and non-commercial businesses reported using prepared tortilla products.

Wraps and soft tacos were reported to be the most popular use of flour tortillas. Low-carb, flavored and sandwich wraps top the list of new products recently adopted by foodservice operators.

"We want to do a better job of marketing what we

have and capture more value throughout the whole process for the wheat industry," Rudd said.

"We have such a wide diversity of growing conditions in Texas with varying quality," he said. "Through quality identification and grain segregation, we want to match specific qualities with specific products or manufacturing processes."

"For example, grain that has quality characteristics for pan bread should be used for that purpose and grain with the best quality for tortilla manufacturing should be used for that," Rudd said.

About 80 percent of Texas-grown wheat is exported, Rudd said. The idea is to increase the value of this wheat by marketing products both domestically and in foreign markets, rather than dealing in just raw product, he said.

"There's no reason we can't export Texas tortillas to Mexico," Rudd said.

To get there, he said, a quality lab is needed to determine what characteristics best meet the needs of the tortilla industry and this has to be combined with the marketing tool.

Technology also is needed to tag the wheat in the field and allow traceability of that wheat from the testing stage to shipping, allowing the customer to request specific qualities, Rudd said.

Using the Texas Cereal Quality Lab in College Station to research new wheat products and creating a Texas Wheat Commercialization Center to help with future marketing are needed, Rudd said.

To help fund this Texas-branded tortilla product, the committee is applying for grant money from the Emerging Technology Fund set up by Gov. Rick Perry.

The program has \$200 million designated to promote the use of new technology in Texas, Rudd said.

"The Governor's Emerging Technology Fund requires that a partnership be developed between research institutions and private industry to generate additional income in Texas within two to three years, due to expanded business, added value or more jobs," said Dr. Don Robinson, Small Grains Advisory Committee chair.

"Increased income that is shared throughout the wheat industry would be especially beneficial to rural Texans, since wheat is the most widely grown crop in the state and is a major component of rural economies," Robinson said.

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Letters

Continued from Page 4

Biblical beliefs, can be so cruel to a 6-year-old.

The Bible teaches love, acceptance and forgiveness. A Christian school banned a 6-year-old because "parents and other children don't know how to react to somebody that doesn't fit the norm" as his teacher told me.

I just wanted the people of Pampa to be aware of how the Christian school handled this. No forgiveness, alternatives, or understanding.

I'm glad God doesn't allow us six detentions and then he's through with us. I encourage parents who are thinking about sending their child to CCS, if that child is a little bit more active than normal, to think twice. It is heart-wrenching to have to tell your first grader that he isn't allowed to go to his school anymore.

Christie Mitchell
Pampa

Story in paper worst kind of character defamation

Recently, I read a front page story regarding Lee Cornelison and his purported actions at the courthouse.

This was the worst defamation of character action I have ever encountered. I have worked for the federal government 36 years and believe me, I have heard it all.

I have known Lee and Brenda several years. In all that time, I have never heard Lee raise his voice or say an unkind thing to anyone or about anyone.

I think the whole story is ridiculous. I plan to campaign for and vote for Lee in the upcoming election. I hope you will, too.

Sandra Alewine
Pampa