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## Pampa woman indicted in credit union embezzlement

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

A Pampa woman is free on a personal recognizance bond after being indicted in federal court in Amarillo on one count of embezzlement and two counts of making false entries by a federal credit union employee.

Shirley Waller of Pampa was in U.S. Federal Court, Northern District of Texas, in a 9:30 a.m. hear-

ing Thursday after a summons was issued for her to appear concerning the indictments, which were handed up Jan. 18 in the Amarillo federal court, according to Matilda Russell of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Amarillo.

Count One of the indictments charges Waller with credit union theft, embezzlement or misapplica-

tion about Sept. 24, 2002, while Waller was employed by Pampa Teachers Federal Credit Union, she deleted approximately \$10,398.56 of accrued interest owed to the credit union on loans extended to her son, Jim Sealy.

The January 2005 edition of the Polk City Directory for Pampa lists Sealy as manager of Centramedia Online Service of Pampa.

Counts Two and Three of the indictments each charge Waller with false entries by a federal credit union employee.

Count Two states that from on or about 1996 and continuing until on or about December of 2002, Waller, who was manager of the Pampa credit union during that time,

See CHARGED, Page 3

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## Accident investigated



An accident between a school bus and a car just before 8 a.m. today at the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan streets sent at least one person to Pampa Regional Medical Center via Guardian EMS ambulance. Pampa Fire Department and Pampa Police Department also responded to the accident. No further information was available as of press time concerning the incident.

Courtesy photo

## Voter fraud complaints not a problem in Gray County

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

Voter fraud is one election-time misdeed that Gray County has not had to deal with, according to County Clerk Susan Winborne and County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead.

"As far as I know, we have never had any voter fraud in Gray County," Winborne said.

"We have never, ever had any

complaints or problems here," Whitehead said.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced Wednesday that he has launched a statewide initiative to work with law enforcement and prosecutors to combat and prevent voter fraud.

The initiative's first phase, which is planned to be completed before early voting begins for the March primary elections, targets 48 coun-

ties that either have a history of voter fraud or a population of over 100,000, according to a news release from Abbott's office.

"Voter fraud has been an epidemic in Texas for years, but it hasn't been treated like one. It's time for that to change," Abbott said in the release.

"Trainers from my office are now across the state visiting with prosecutors and law enforcement officers to stop the problem of voter fraud in

its tracks. The integrity of our democratic process must be protected."

The 48 counties include 14 where the Attorney General has previously investigated or prosecuted alleged Election Code violations that were referred by the Secretary of State. The 48 counties contain 78 percent of eligible registered voters in Texas.

Four sets of indictments have been

See FRAUD, Page 3

## Confusion surrounds new voter registration cards

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

Some Gray County voters may be confused about their new bright yellow voter registration cards, which were mailed in December, according to County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead.

"A lot of people are mailing them back to us," Whitehead said Thursday.

No questions or information is being sent back with many of the cards, she said, leaving county employees to wonder why the cards are being returned in the mail.

"We've gotten back about 1,400 cards. We have about 15,000 total registered voters in Gray County," Whitehead said.

Some voter registration cards are mailed back each time new cards are sent out, she said. The current tally of returned cards is not that unusual.

"A lot of people have complained that they're being put in the wrong precinct," Whitehead said. "Anyone who feels they're in the wrong precinct can come talk to us." Her office uses the new Panhandle Regional Planning Commission county map and a detailed City of Pampa map in determining which precinct voters live in, she said.

The returned cards mean that the tax assessor-collector's office will end up paying double the usual

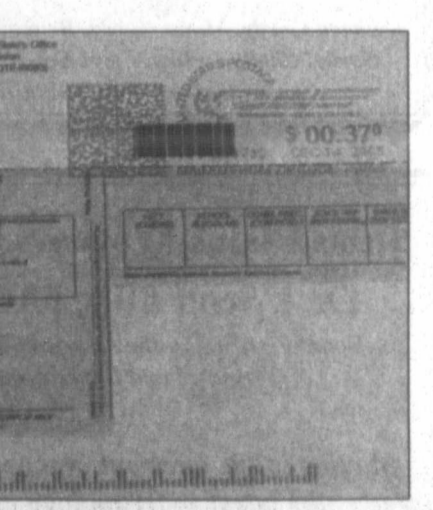
postage cost for those 1,400 voters to get their voter registration cards.

Some returned cards may represent the approximately 1,000 voters out of the 15,000 total in Gray County who are considered suspended.

"We cannot find them or verify that they're in the county," Whitehead said.

Voters who have found mistakes on their cards are running out of time to get those mistakes corrected if they want to vote in the March 7 primary.

Deadline for submitting information to get a correct voter registration card is Feb. 6 for the primary,



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
The new voter registration cards mailed in December are bright yellow. Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead said residents have until Feb. 6 to correct errors or update information on the cards, or to register to vote in the primary on March 7.

## UNITED WAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

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# Charged

Continued from Page 1

advanced or caused to be advanced due dates in records on loans belonging to Waller or her family members "that showed the loans to be current or in good standing, when in truth and fact, as the defendant well knew, the loans were delinquent and nonperforming."

Count Three states that on or about June 29, 2001, Waller, as manager of the credit union, granted a loan in the amount of \$12,000 to Cindy Pohnert, "who in turn

endorsed the loan proceeds back to the defendant who then deposited the proceeds of the loan into the defendant's Pampa Bank of America account."

Waller was employed by the Pampa credit union from July 1978 to December 2002, according to information from Pampa attorney Kenneth W. Fields, who responded to a request of the credit union for information.

"The credit union has no information regarding details of any reported indictments against Mrs. Waller at this time. The credit union will cooperate as requested with any appropriate law enforcement authority regarding any investigation or proceeding,"

Fields said in a prepared letter.

Deposits at the credit union are insured by the National Credit Union Administration for the maximum available coverage, Fields said.

"The credit union does not anticipate that these matters will adversely affect the soundness of the institution or its ability to provide services to its membership," he said.

Count One against Waller is a violation of Title 18, Section 657 of the U.S. Code. Counts Two and Three are violations of Title 18, Section 1006.

The maximum penalty for each of the three charges is \$1,000,000 or twice the amount of any pecu-

niary gain by the defendant or pecuniary loss by the victim, whichever is greater, and/or 30 years, followed by at least three years but not more than five years of supervised release.

A mandatory special assessment of \$300 also applies in the case concerning Waller, as does mandatory victim restitution, cited in Title 18, Section 3663A of the U.S. Code. Information from the U.S. District Attorney's Office in Amarillo states that under this act, "in addition to any other sentence imposed, the defendant is required to pay full restitution to the victim(s) of this offense."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy Drake, the prosecuting attorney in

the case, said this morning that a trial date or plea hearing would probably be scheduled for six to eight weeks from now, in April. She declined to comment on whether additional indictments against Waller or anyone else involved in the incidents was being considered at this time.

The U.S. District Attorney's Office information indicates that an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dan Richard, has been involved in the case against Waller, who is being represented by Amarillo attorney Warren Clark. A telephone call to Clark's office had not been returned as of press time today.

## Wal Mart blood drive for employee scheduled Saturday

A blood drive to honor Johnnie Rogers will be held at Wal Mart from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Rogers is a Wal-Mart employee who is three-time cancer patient, and may need transfusions, according to Norma Powell, personnel manager at the store.

A Coffee Memorial Blood Center bloodmobile will be located in the parking lot.

T-shirts will be given to all donors.

Call 1-877-574-8800 to schedule an appointment.

## Voter

Continued from Page 1

Whitehead said. "If they've moved or don't have a

card, they must come in to our office before Feb. 6. If the address needs to be changed, they can do it in person or by mail," she said.

Voters can notify the tax assessor-collector's office in person or by mail of any address change. Whitehead's office will mail a

change of address card to any voter who requests it, and the card must be signed and returned to the tax office with a postmark of Feb. 6 or earlier for the March primary.

Early voting begins Feb. 21 and continues through March 3. Anyone with questions concern-

ing their voter registration cards, and anyone who wishes to register to vote, may visit Whitehead's office on the ground floor of Gray County Courthouse. For more information, call the office at 669-8018.

## Fraud

Continued from Page 1

handed up since mid-2005 against individuals for voter fraud in Texas.

Earlier this month, two Reeves County women were indicted on charges of illegally possessing and transporting election ballots of several voters.

In December, four indi-

viduals were indicted for illegally possessing and transporting election ballots following a May 2005 Robstown Independent School District election in Nueces County.

In November, Abbott obtained a guilty plea from a Hardeman County commissioner for collecting mail-in ballots while he was a candidate in the 2004 primary and general elections.

In July, Abbott obtained a guilty plea from a Bee

County woman accused of voter fraud for mailing an absentee ballot in the name of her mother, who was deceased.

The voter fraud training for law enforcement and prosecutors will be conducted by the Attorney General's new Special Investigations Unit, which was established with a \$1.5 million grant from the Governor's office.

Investigating voter fraud allegations is one of the pri-

## New Orleans could lose 80 percent of black population

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The city of New Orleans could lose up to 80 percent of its black population if people displaced by Hurricane Katrina are not able to return to damaged neighborhoods, according to an analysis by a Brown University sociologist.

Professor John R. Logan, in findings released Thursday, determined that if the city's returning population was limited to neighborhoods undamaged by Katrina, half of the white population would not return and 80 percent of the black population would not return.

"There's very good reason for people to be concerned that the future New Orleans will not be a place for the peo-

ple who used to live there, that there won't be room in New Orleans for large segments of the population that used to call it home," said Logan, who studies urban areas.

The study used maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that detailed flood and wind damage and compared them to data from the 2000 U.S. Census to determine who and what areas were affected.

It found the storm-damaged areas had been 75 percent black, compared to 46 percent black in undamaged areas of the city. It also found that 29 percent of the households in damaged areas lived below the poverty line, compared with

24 percent of households in undamaged areas.

More than half of those who lived in the city's damaged neighborhoods were renters, the analysis found.

"The odds of living in a damaged area were clearly much greater for blacks, renters and poor people," the study said. "In these respects the most vulnerable residents turned out also to be at greatest risk."

Elliott Stonecipher, a demographer and political analyst based in Shreveport, La., said the analysis gets to the heart of the debate over how to rebuild New Orleans.

## Tool booth scofflaw pleads no contest

DALLAS (AP) — A woman accused of owing about \$76,000 for cruising through toll booths without paying has pleaded no contest to three misdemeanor citations for failure to pay tolls.

Evangelina Gonzalez, 41, entered her plea Thursday in a Dallas County courtroom and agreed to pay one-tenth of the total, about \$7,600, in 10 monthly installments.

"It was more than fair," said Gonzalez's attorney, Michael Stephens.

Tollway authorities have said Gonzalez had acquired the highest fees ever owed by a violator in North Texas. Had she used a toll pass, her trips would have cost about \$1,800.

But tollway officials have said she drove through the booths nearly 3,000 times without paying between June 2003 and November 2005, and the \$25 administrative fees for each violation began adding up.

Attorney Marcelle Jones said the tollway authority was "satisfied" with the arrangement.

If Gonzalez meets the agreement's terms, prosecutors may dismiss the citations, with approval from the North Texas Tollway Authority, Jones said.

Jones said that the defendant still faces citations in Collin County stemming from the case.

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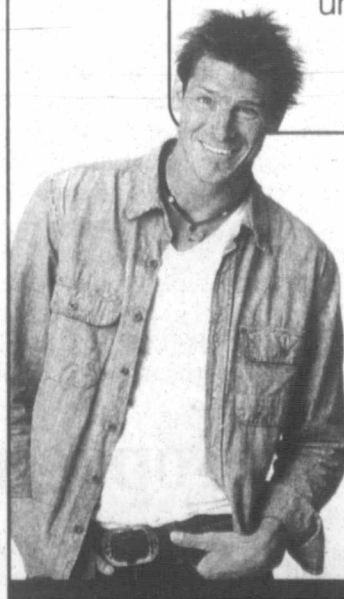
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# Viewpoints

## Power is driving Democratic Party to madness

Euripides said it first, and much later, Longfellow, and though they expressed it slightly differently, they were both right in proclaiming that those whom the gods would destroy they first drive mad.

In the film "Fatal Attraction," we see its truth when the character played by Glenn Close descends into sheer madness out of her frustration at being unable to have the man with whom she had a short and passionate weekend adulterous relationship. Wielding a knife against the lover who spurned her becomes her sole remedy. Her madness ends with her death at the hands of his wife.

We are now witnessing a replay of that theme with the Democrat party playing the role of a Glenn Close clone. The party may not be as

attractive as Miss Close in the movie, but they are just as crazy and instead of advancing policies and programs to woo the voters, they have instead taken up their political knives. And, like the Glenn Close character, it is leading them inevitably towards their political death.

In their case it's not a man they lust after, but instead the most seductive mistress of all: power, untrammelled and total.

If there were such a thing as a psychiatrist who treats political parties, that shrink would identify 1994 as the year the Democratic party suffered the trauma that has since driven them bonkers. It was the year when the unalloyed power they had exercised over Capitol Hill for decades was torn from their grasp in the Gingrich revolu-

tion. Six years later the White House slipped from their grasp and absolute madness began to set in.

It all begins with the warping of the mind that power long-exercised creates. For 40 long years, the Democrats enjoyed almost uninterrupted and total mastery over the Congress, along with eight years of control of the White House from 1992 to 2000. It became an article of faith that their party had somehow been invested with a divine right to rule.

They have become so attached to that fantasy that they are unable to cope with the idea that the power to which they are addicted has

been torn from their grasp. Because of their inability to retrieve it in election after election, they have lost all touch with reality.

Symptoms of that addiction were the lust for committee chairmanships, the touch-tones of power and prestige on Capitol Hill, the big offices, the political patronage that accompanies control of the Congress, and the ability to ram through whatever socialist-oriented legislation they believed would prove to be politically advantageous to themselves and their party, if not to their country.

Twelve years have passed since their 1994 Armageddon and try as they

may, they have been unable to reclaim the power they believe is rightfully theirs and it has driven them into suicidal looniness.

In that state they can no longer appreciate or even understand the multiple causes of their plight. And so in the place of introspection, seeking the cause and the remedy for their pitiful situation, they slip into a near-maniacal state of rage directed at what they view as their tormentors, the Republicans occupying the seats of power they believe are rightfully theirs.

Now, facing the final blow thanks to the certain confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito — the loss of their quasi-control over the Supreme Court where their activist judge appointees have been creating laws no legislature would approve —

they have slipped the moorings of sanity.

Deprived of reason, ranting and raging at the unfairness of it all, they avoid advancing policies of their own designed to attract voters and instead use hatred as their sole weapon in the now-forlorn struggle to recapture power. They seem unable to grasp even that most simple of political truths: that they cannot beat something with nothing. And aside from simmering rage, they have nothing to offer. Like the Glenn Close madwoman, they have forsaken persuasion and taken up the knife.

Their fate will echo hers. —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.

**Michael Reagan**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2006. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on Jan. 27, 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

On this date:

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1901, opera composer Giuseppe Verdi died in Milan, Italy, at age 87.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the

Nevada desert began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flats.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo 1 spacecraft at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

In 1967, more than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Reagan greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran.

Ten years ago: A man invaded a convent in Waterville, Maine, stabbing and beating four nuns, killing two of them (Mark Bechard was later found not criminally responsible because of mental illness). Soldiers seized control of Niger's government.

Five years ago: Two Dartmouth College professors, Half and Susanne Zantop, were murdered at their Hanover, N.H., home by two teens. (Robert Tulloch later pleaded guilty to murder and conspiracy and is serving a sentence of life without parole; James Parker pleaded guilty to being an accomplice to second-degree murder and is serving a sentence of 25 years to life.)

*'Who never doubted, never half believed. Where doubt is, there truth is — it is her shadow.'*

— Gamaliel Bailey  
American abolitionist  
(1807-1859)



## GOP: Only real reform will suffice ...

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the ugliest of them all?

The most recent Fox News poll indicates that Americans see the Republican congressional majority as materially more corrupt and more responsible for the current spate of scandals than the Democrats. Indeed, the building sense of popular anger against the GOP resembles nothing more than the last Congressional scandal — the bounced-check Congressional bank affair of 1991 — in its political impact. But that scandal paved the way for Newt Gingrich's takeover of Congress three years later. This scandal may undo the Republicans.

Generic cynicism about Washington is nothing new. Fox News poll respondents

said that they felt that "most elected officials in Washington make policy decisions or take actions as a direct result of money they receive from major campaign contributors" by 65-21. Nothing new there. Because distrust of Congress is usually visited equally on both parties, it normally has no political impact.

But this scandal is different. With Republicans so completely in control of the government, this scandal is theirs. Asked "which political party in Washington" is "more corrupt," respondents to the Jan. 11 survey said the Republicans are by 33-15. (Forty percent said both

were equally dishonest). Independents, the vital element in any potential Republican majority, rate the GOP as the more corrupt by 23-5.

The scandal also seems to be spawning a reaction quite different from the usual cynicism in that it appears to be visited on each district's local representative. While voters typically deride Congress as a whole, they usually speak highly of their own members. But not this time. Asked if "your own congressional representative has ever taken money or things of value in return for voting a certain way," voters said yes by 42-33, with

Democrats and Republicans equally likely to think so.

Because this scandal is both partisan and local it will have a searing political impact. Nor should the recipients of Abramoff's dubious generosity dismiss their acceptance of his donations by saying it doesn't matter because everybody took his money.

Those who did get contributions from him are in for an Election Day surprise. Forty-four percent of the Fox News survey respondents said that if "an elected official from your state took a campaign contribution from Jack Abramoff or organizations that he represented" it would be a "major" factor in deciding whether to vote for him in

See MORRIS, Page 7

**Dick Morris**  
Columnist



## Don't let the propagandists give you a scare

There's been a lot of talk recently about Israel and/or the United States bombing the nuclear facilities in Iran. I wouldn't worry about that. I believe they are both bluffing.

In the first place, just the talk has kicked up the price of oil. In the second place, there is no proof that Iran really wants to develop nuclear weapons. So far, what the Iranians have done and propose to do are legal. They have a reasonable explanation for why they want to develop nuclear power. Oil is their biggest and most valuable export. The less they use for domes-

tic purposes, the more they will have to export.

On the other hand, they are surrounded by nuclear powers — Israel, Russia, Pakistan, India and the U.S. (through its heavy presence in the Persian Gulf and Iraq). So maybe they do want to develop a nuclear bomb. Personally, I don't care if they do. Having lived most of my life with 30,000 nuclear warheads and the means to deliver them in the

Soviet Union, I'm not going to worry about the Iranians having six or seven.

I'm not one of those people who think the world will end with a nuclear explosion. There have been a lot of nuclear explosions. We dropped two on Japan, and all the nuclear powers tested their bombs in the atmosphere as well as underground. Despite the urban legends about plutonium, we are all still here. A nuclear weapon is, after all,

a bomb, and like all bombs there is a limit to its radius of destruction. As Brother Dave Gardner put it, the place to be when a nuclear bomb goes off is wherever you can say, "What was that?"

In the meantime, what the United States should do is talk to the Iranians, instead of talking at them, threatening them and insulting them. Civil discourse and honest diplomacy are too much to ask of this reckless and immature administration, which, despite evidence to the contrary, seems to

See REESE, Page 12

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



## THE PAMPA NEWS

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# Religion

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Who should tell a preacher what to teach?

How would you feel if you found out that your preacher had been pulled aside by one of the "leading members" of your church and told these words: "Preacher, if you preach on the subject of (fill in the blank), I'll personally see that you are fired!"

How would that make you feel? Now what if your preacher abided by the wishes of that leading member? How would that make you feel? So maybe you think that something like that just couldn't ever happen in your church? Well, that is the focus of this article. Who should tell a preacher what to preach?

I once talked with a minister (not in Pampa) who told me that the "leaders" in his church had decided that no Biblical subject could be preached on or taught in Sunday School classes or small groups until after Election Day which could be construed in any way as being connected to the election — no preaching on abortion, marriage, homosexuality, prayer in school, etc.

This was not a "suggestion" — it was an order! Now you wouldn't think that anything could make this story any worse, but if you think that you would be wrong.

Do you know why they decided to make that the rule for preaching and teaching in the months leading up to Election Day?

Because the leadership was a divided mixture of Democrats and Republicans, and they didn't want anyone to get their feelings hurt. And also because some family members of a leading candidate in their state had started attending one of their Bible study classes, and since they were very pro-abortion it might drive them away from the class.

Now I'm sure that those of you who know me very well know that by the time I heard all of this I was about to do two things — explode and puke.

Fellow preachers, you and I had better never forget that we ultimately will only answer to one person for our preaching — Jehovah God Almighty!

1 Corinthians 4:1-4: "So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God."

2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who

judges me."

The opinions or approval of men had better never influence what we say. The rise of fall of the contributions had better never have any influence on what we say. The attendance totals had better never have any influence on what we preach on. What we preach on and how we preach it had better come from the one who called us to be His mouthpiece.

I am happy to tell you that the preacher I talked to (he isn't the one who preaches the sermons before the congregation) told me, "When I'm asked a question in a Bible class that gets into these areas I just tell them that as John Doe Christian I can tell you that here is what the Bible says. Then I just speak the truth from the Bible."

I then asked him if it had gotten him into any trouble. With a little grin he said, "Not yet!"

I have had church leaders try to tell me what to say. I have had church leaders try to tell me what not to say, and I have had church leaders try to tell me what to un-say that I had already said. I have had elders try to squelch what God had stirred up in me to preach. I have had deacons take me out for

coffee only to try to get me to change my conviction on some Biblical matter or at least to be silent about it.

I remember one day having a church leader walk into my office and say, "Well, Mike, I'm not sure that you can get out of the mess from this sermon." (That was several years ago.)

It didn't even faze him when I said, "I can honestly assure you that I have never in my entire life been more in the center of God's will for my preaching than I was yesterday morning."

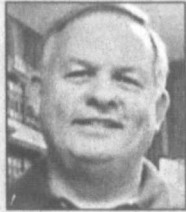
He listened too much to squealing friends who were hit right in the heart with the message.

So what's the moral to this story? We preachers do need to be open-minded enough to receive truth from any source, even those shooting at us. But when it comes to our preaching from the scriptures, we had better be faithful to the one who one day will be our inspector. If that means that we have to pack our bags, then so be it. If that means that some of our own church folks talk about us all over town, then so be it.

Just remember that if our Father is pleased with His faithful child, then everything that really counts in life is A-OK! God bless.

Mike Sublett

Hi-Land Christian



## Catholic church in Borger to host special guest speaker

BORGER — On Feb. 10, Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio will be at Saint John Catholic Church in Borger. D'Ambrosio, a rock 'n' roll teenager turned Catholic theologian, will share his own story in "Why Be Catholic?" at 7 p.m. in

the church's Parish Hall. On Feb. 11, beginning at 11 a.m., D'Ambrosio will give a presentation on "Who Needs Confession?" At 1 p.m., he will speak to the youth (and adults) in a powerful presentation, "Straight Talk to

Teens!" The conclusion of D'Ambrosio's presentations will be "Como Sacar mas de la Misa" ("Getting More out of the Mass"). Each session will be followed by a Q&A segment where attendees can

ask questions about the Catholic faith. D'Ambrosio is the father of five, business owner and executive of The Crossroads Initiative, an apostolate of Catholic renewal and evangelization that he co-founded

20 years ago. D'Ambrosio brings to his teaching a practical, down-to-earth perspective. Audio and video recordings of his popular teachings are See BORGER, Page 6

## Blood ban complex issue for one denomination

NEW YORK (AP) — Jehovah's Witnesses are renowned for teaching that Jesus is not God and that the world as we know it will soon end. But another unusual belief causes even more entanglements — namely, that God forbids blood transfusions even when patients' lives are at stake.

The doctrine's importance will be underscored next week as elders who lead more than 98,000 congregations worldwide recite a new five-page blood directive from headquarters.

The tightly disciplined sect believes the Bible forbids transfusions, though specifics have gradually been eased over the years. Raymond Franz, a defector from the all-powerful Governing Body that sets policies for the faith, thinks leaders hesitate to go further for fear that total elimination of the ban would expose the organization to millions of dollars in legal liability over past medical cases.

The Witnesses have opposed transfusions of whole blood since 1945. A later pronouncement also barred transfusions of blood's "primary components," meaning red cells, white cells, platelets and plasma.

An announcement in 2000 in the official Watchtower magazine, however, said that because of ambiguity in the Bible, individuals are free to decide about therapies using the biological compounds that make up those four blood

components, such as gamma globulin and clotting factors that counteract hemophilia.

Next week's directive could create confusion about these compounds, known as blood "fractions."

**The Witnesses have opposed transfusions of whole blood since 1945. A later pronouncement also barred transfusions of blood's "primary components," meaning red cells, white cells, platelets and plasma.**

Without noting the 2000 change, the new directive tells parents to consider this: "Can any doctor or hospital give complete assurance that blood or blood fractions will not be used in treatment of a minor?"

Aside from the new directive, a footnote in the Witnesses' standard brochure, "How Can Blood Save Your Life?," mentions the 2000 article on fractions — but then omits its contents.

By coincidence, next week's directive follows some heavy criticism of the blood transfusion policy from attorney Kerry Louderback-Wood of Fort Myers, Fla., writing in the Journal of Church and State, published by Baylor University.

Louderback-Wood, who was raised a Witness but now has no religious affiliation, accuses her former faith of giving "inaccurate and possibly dishonest arguments" to believers facing crucial medical decisions.

Louderback-Wood complains that many Witnesses and physicians aren't given clear instruction about their faith's See BLOOD, Page 6

## Religious news in brief

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The president of Providence College, which is run by the Roman Catholic Dominican religious order, has banned a campus performance of "The Vagina Monologues" — a play about female sexuality and violence, saying the work contradicts church teaching.

Written by Eve Ensler, the play debuted a decade ago and is based on the author's interviews with more than 200 women. College officials had permitted performances of the play for four years, while limiting promotion of the show last year, said senior Erica Rioux, who was coordinating this year's production.

Another prominent Catholic school, the University of Notre Dame, also has placed restrictions

on the play's performance. The new school president at Providence, the Rev. Brian Shanley, wrote in a Jan. 18 letter to students that he particularly objected to one tale that uses religious language to describe a sexual encounter between a woman and a teenage girl.

While the teen narrator describes the episode as "a kind of heaven," Shanley said it's "abusive, exploitative and morally wrong." The church teaches that homosexuality is "intrinsically disordered."

Shanley also objected to a description of the work as a "new bible" for women, which he said gave the impression that the play attacks "the traditional biblical views that inspires the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church."

See BRIEFS, Page 7

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Ref: George Bennard Christian History Institute  
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## Borger

Continued from Page 5

internationally distributed, and he is regularly heard on the nationally syndicated radio show "Catholic Answers Live."

D'Ambrosio writes weekly for Our Sunday Visitor, and Catholic News Service's syndicated column "Faith Alive." His book, "Exploring the Catholic Church" and video course "Touching

Jesus through the Church" have been used in hundreds of parishes all throughout the English speaking world.

Most recently he collaborated as co-author and co-editor on the International Bestseller, "The Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions about the Passion of the Christ." He has also developed "Feast of Faith: Transforming Power of the Eucharist" which has received positive reviews from Texas Catholic. The workbook to this series received the Imprimatur by Cardinal Rigali.

## Blood

Continued from Page 5

blood transfusion policy, particularly on the subject of fractions.

She's no disinterested bystander. The lawyer says her mother died from severe anemia in 2004 because local elders didn't realize hemoglobin is permitted.

Louderback-wood learned that hemoglobin was allowed from the Web site of Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood, which was founded in 1997 by dissenting local elders, eight of whom served on Hospital Liaison Committees that advise Witnesses and physicians.

The founder of Associated Jehovah's Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity to protect his standing in a faith that does not tolerate dissent, says liaison committee members know about the revised teachings, but most Witnesses automatically refuse all forms of blood without consulting the committees. Physicians are often ill-informed about Witness beliefs, he says.

Louderback-Wood thinks the faith is subject to legal liability for misinforming adherents, which to her knowledge is an untested theory in U.S. courts. Related issues arise in a pending lawsuit in Calgary, Alberta, however, over the alleged "wrongful death" of teenage leukemia patient Bethany Hughes.

Witnesses headquarters refused an Associated Press request to interview an expert on blood beliefs. Instead, General Counsel Philip Brumley issued a prepared statement rejecting Louderback-Wood's "analysis and conclusions" in general.

"Any argument challenging the validity of this religious belief inappropriately trespasses into profoundly theological and doctrinal matters," Brumley stated.

The Watchtower's 1945 ban said "all worshippers of Jehovah who seek eternal life in his new world" must obey. Such edicts are regarded as divine law, since the Governing Body uniquely directs true believers. Violators risk

ostracism by family and friends.

A subsequent Watchtower pronouncement forbade storage of a patient's own blood for later transfusion. In all, Associated Jehovah's Witnesses lists 20 shifts and refinements in blood-related rules over the years.

At the core of their blood beliefs, Witnesses cite Acts 15:29, where Jesus' apostles agreed that Gentile converts should "keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood." The Witnesses also cite passages in Genesis and Leviticus.

Judaism and Christianity have always understood these scriptures to ban blood-eating for nourishment. This underlies Judaism's kosher procedures to extract blood from meat, which Witnesses do not follow. Christianity eventually decided the rule was temporary.

Experts assume that Raymond Franz's late uncle, Frederick Franz, who served anonymously as the Witnesses' chief theologian, decided those passages cover blood transfusions. But Raymond Franz raises questions about the blood policy in his book "In Search of Christian Freedom." Among them:

—Why forbid a patient's own stored blood yet permit components derived from large amounts of donated and stored blood?

—Why allow organ transplants, which introduce far more foreign white blood cells than transfusions?

—The Witnesses forbid plasma, which is mostly water, but allow the components in it that provide therapy. So what's the point of banning plasma?

Advances in bloodless surgery have reduced medical dangers for Witnesses in the United States, but Associated Jehovah's Witnesses maintains the blood policy is a life-threatening problem elsewhere.

Louderback-Wood says she'll be contented if her protest saves one child's life.

On the Net:  
Witnesses' official brochure:  
<http://www.watchtower.org/library/hb>  
Dissenters' data:  
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## Events calendar

• **Panhandle Community Services** has received funding for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program. The program provides emergency utility assistance for qualifying low-income, elderly and disabled/handicapped families. To apply, Social Security cards for everyone in the household, proof of income, current electric and gas bills and a 12 month billing history of electric and gas bills must be provided. Applicants may call their local Panhandle Community Services office at 665-0081 for more information.

• **AARP Tax-Aide**, a free, volunteer run tax counseling and preparation service, is seeking volunteers to assist in tax preparation and to become leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all

ages and backgrounds are welcome. Tax counselors receive free tax training and become IRS certified by passing the IRS exam. They assist customers one-on-one at tax sites or over the Internet and agree to a minimum commitment of four hours per week for a 10 week period. For more information, call (806) 883-6871.

• **Amarillo Museum of Art** will host its Spring Film Festival in 2006. The festival will include the following films: "Downtown 81," 7 p.m., Feb. 2; "I Shot Andy Warhol," 7 p.m., Feb. 9; and "The Life & Times of Andy Warhol," 7 p.m., Feb. 23. For more information, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

• **BSA Hospice** will offer the volunteer training/community education class "The Hospice Approach to Living

with Dying" from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Tuesday to Jan. 31-Feb. 24 at BSA Hospice Facility, 800 N. Sumner. The course is free. The class is designed particularly for individuals interested in serving as a hospice volunteer or who just want to learn more about hospice care. For more information or to preregister, call Janet McCracken, volunteer coordinator, at 665-6677.

• **Amarillo Children's Theatre Guild** will present "Elvis Acts Up!" with impersonator Manny Triana at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 in Ordway Hall on Amarillo College campus in Amarillo. Tickets go on sale in Ordway Hall at 1 p.m. Feb. 4. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. prior to the performance. Proceeds will benefit AC's Lamplight Youth Theatre

Company. For more information, call (806) 371-5353.

• **The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Feb. 14, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

## Morris

Continued from Page 4

the next election. Even 31 percent of Republicans felt this way.

Washington scandals come and go. But, about every decade or so, they metastasize into massive national affairs that embrace an entire political party. Republicans were victimized in 1974 by Nixon's misconduct. Democrats kept Congress in 1992 after the 1991 check-bouncing scandal, but they did so because so many of their old bulls retired. In their places, Bill Clinton's election swept into office young saplings who succumbed to the partisan wave of 1994, a wave kindled equally by disgust with Clinton and with the Democratic permanent Congressional majority.

The 2006 elections look to be

another of these decadal bloodlettings, victimizing, this time, the Republicans.

What can the GOP do to prevent it? It has to start by not coddling its members who are in the crosshairs of this scandal. But shedding individuals will not buy the party a pass from what voters see as an epidemic of scandal. Only real reform will suffice.

Obviously, Congress needs to ban lobbyist-sponsored travel. It was voter anger over taxpayer-paid junketing that spawned these free trips, as legislators looked to lobbyists rather than Uncle Sam to subsidize their vacations. But now the voters are as angry about lobbyist-paid trips as they were over funding the travel themselves. The trips have to go.

But the more serious reform would be to ban earmarking on appropriation bills. Voters have long since understood that it is a

fiction that a legislator is fighting for a specific earmark to help the district. They know he is really doing it to get campaign contributions. Once the Supreme Court took away the president's ability to use the line-item veto on spending bills — a key provision of the Contract with America that was enacted with Clinton's approval — the natural next step has been to ban earmarking. The practice invites the kind of corruption that is crippling Republican chances in the next election, and it deserves to be ended.

Will the scandals translate into the loss of Congress by the Republicans in 2006? The generic 13-point Democratic lead in Congressional ballot would suggest that it might. Can popular revulsion overcome even Tom DeLay's gerrymandering? You bet it can!

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

## Briefs

Continued from Page 5

"Artistic freedom on a Catholic campus cannot mean the complete license to perform or display any work of art regardless of its intellectual or moral content," he said.

Separately, the new president of Notre Dame said Wednesday that the school will scale back its production of "The Vagina Monologues" and a Queer Film Festival held on campus this year. He is also considering whether to cancel the events in the future.

The Rev. John I. Jenkins, who took over July 1, said he would allow "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus this year, but only in a classroom setting and not as a fund-raiser. Last year's event raised about \$15,000 for a women's shelter and other programs.

The three-year-old film festival will continue, but under a new name: Gay & Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives, Spectatorships. Jenkins said the name change should help clear up any perception that the event is meant to "celebrate and promote homosexual activity."

**North Carolina community prays for jobs**

LENOIR, N.C. (AP) — After years of layoffs at furniture plants, the county with North Carolina's highest unemployment rate held a day of prayer hoping it would help end tough economic times.

About 200 people gathered at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds last Sunday to seek divine intervention for a community coping with a 13.1 percent jobless rate.

"People are down and out," said the Rev. Rodney Raby, who organized the event. "They need some help. They need support."

Raby, pastor of Nazareth Advent Christian Church in Lenoir, was laid off in April from the Broyhill Furniture Harper Plant where he'd worked for 19 years. Raby found a management job at Bernhardt Furniture later that month, but he knows many aren't so lucky.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 13-year-old girl. One of my best friends, "Emmy," has been doing something I think is very dangerous. She has been dating online with people she has never met. She told me she recently had gotten engaged. Abby, she's only 14! Emmy doesn't have a ring because this supposed "fiance" lives in Michigan, whereas we live in Tennessee. I have tried to tell her she will get hurt, but she won't listen. She has actually gone to meet some of these people. But her parents and I go with her to make sure it isn't some pervert in his 50s. I really don't know what to do that won't make her mad at me or cause me to lose a friend. Please help. — **WORRIED IN COTTONTOWN, TENN.**

**DEAR WORRIED:** It appears you not only have more brains than your 14-year-old friend, but also more than her parents. Why they would tolerate, much less encourage, their daughter's online romantic liaisons boggles the mind. If you want to be her friend, you have my blessing; she certainly needs one. However, please do not accompany her to any more of those meetings. The next person might not be a pervert in his 50s, but a couple of perverts in their 20s or 30s, and you could be putting yourself in danger.

**DEAR ABBY:** I was widowed two years ago, and I recently attended the wedding of my granddaughter. At the reception, the usual protocol took place -- including the bride tossing her bouquet over her shoulder. When the announcement was made, I got up from the table to join the other single women, and my daughter-in-law (not the mother-of-the-bride) motioned to me to come to her table. She was frowning and shaking her head "no."

I went over, and she told me in a scolding tone that it was "inappropriate" for me to join the younger women because I was actually considered a widow and not "single." She also told me that catching the bouquet was intended for people who had never been married, not people like me. Abby, I am 65, young at heart, and attractive enough that people tell me I appear to be in my early 50s. I lead an active life, and date and square dance two or three times a week. I didn't join the others, but retreated back to my table. What is your take on this? Was she right that I wasn't eligible? I certainly feel as though I'm single. And I'm not ready to throw in the towel yet. — **TEXAS WIDOW**

**DEAR WIDOW:** You had as much right as any of the other spouseless females to join the bouquet toss if you wished. Putting the best possible face on it, your daughter-in-law may have been concerned that you'd be injured by the younger, ostensibly more agile, women vying for the flowers. However, if she was really concerned about what was appropriate behavior, she would have realized that by preventing you from fully enjoying the celebration, she was committing a far worse breach of etiquette than anything you might have done.

**DEAR ABBY:** My birthday is Sept. 11. I was wondering if you have any advice on how to respond to clerks who often remark in a negative way whenever they see my birth date on my driver's license. It can be very depressing for me, and I dread having to show it for fear of a hurtful remark. — **BELINDA IN LAWTON, OKLA.**

**DEAR BELINDA:** Say, "I'd rather dwell on the positive," and then change the subject.

## For Better Or Worse



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## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Handled

6 Gem side

11 Pallid

12 Battery

13 Photog-

14 Titled

15 Blue hue

17 2005

18 Banish

20 Singly

22 Tot's

23 Burrowing

26 Lasso

28 Waffle

29 NASA

31 Sched.

32 Re-

33 Fence

34 Comfort

36 Heedless

38 Faucet

40 Texas

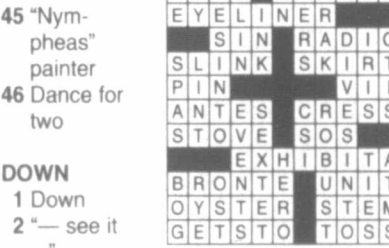
43 Geometry

44 "Rose

is a

rose"

writer



Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Down

2 "— see it

3 Bar line

4 Convic-

5 Top draft

6 Mania

7 Absence

8 Bar line

9 First place

10 Check out

16 Summer

18 Holds title

19 "I'm in

trouble!"

21 Church

23 Obtains

24 Dull

25 Argument

27 Church

28 Name on

the

"Double

Fantasy"

album

34 Wax-

coated-

cheese

35 Florence

river

37 Flight on

the map

39 Fixed

41 Outfit

42 Name on

the

"Double

Fantasy"

album

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## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



## B.C.



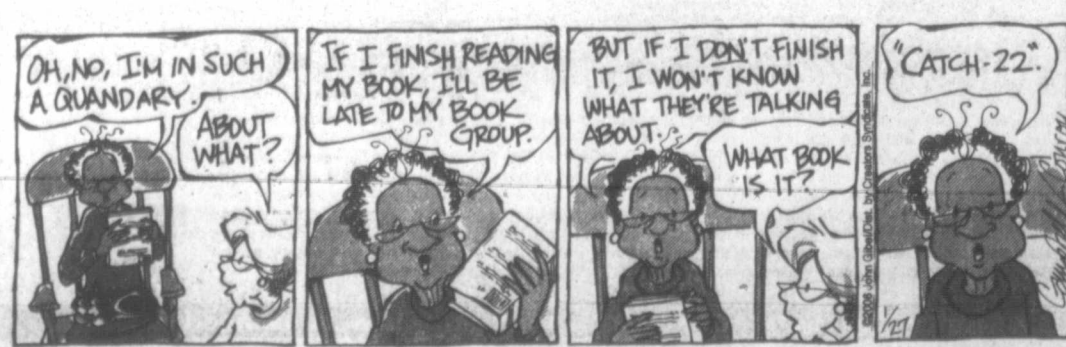
## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie





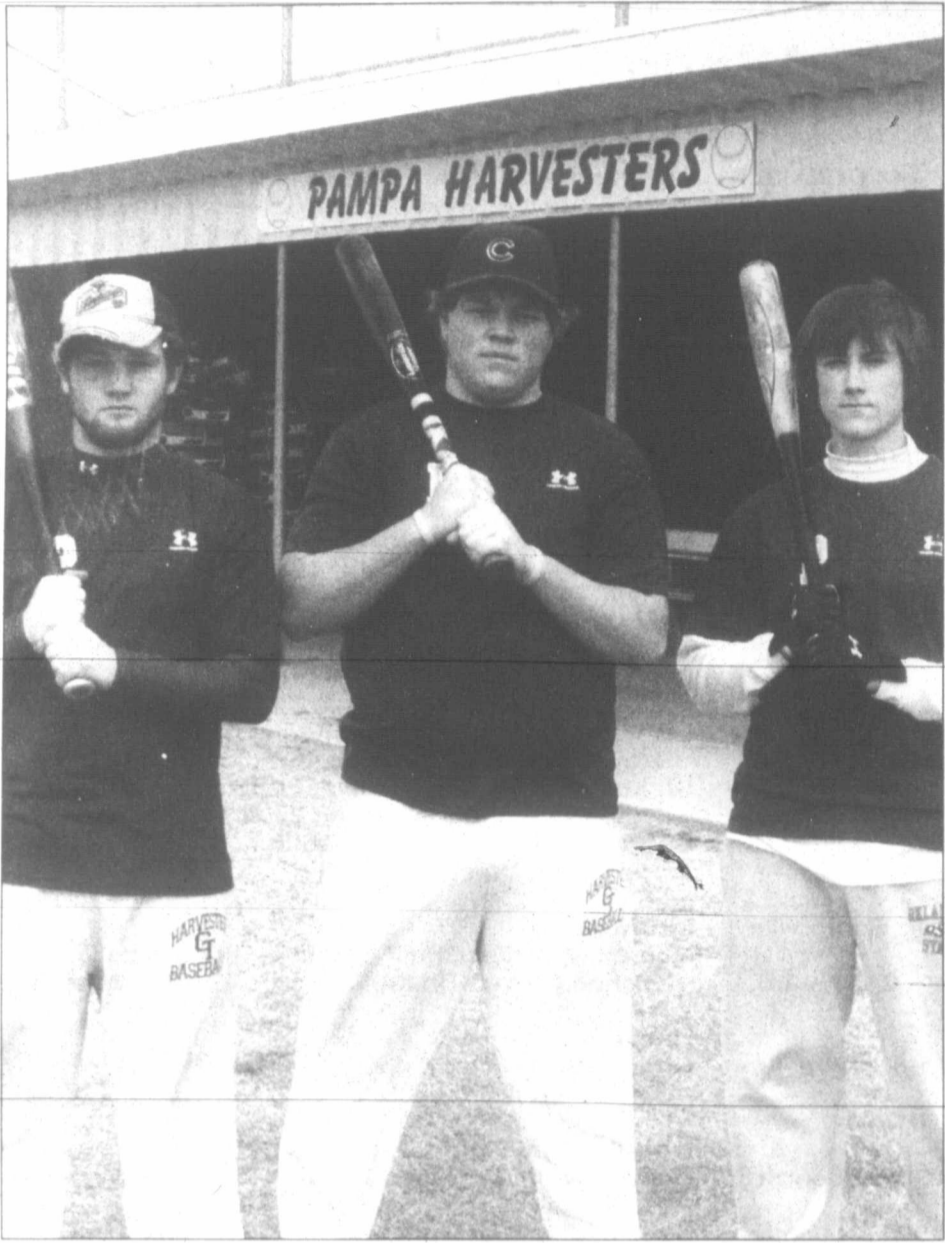
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**JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER  
HEBREWS 13:8**

# Sports Day



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Keenan Davis (L-R), Jake Craig and Wes Teichmann are among the Pampa players selling tickets to Sunday's brisket dinner.

## Baseball boosters to host brisket dinner Sunday

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The annual Pampa Brisket Dinner is set for Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Pampa Optimist Club.

Tickets for the all-you-can-eat affair are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 8 and under.

To purchase a ticket, contact a booster club or Harvester baseball team member. Or call Marie Hickman, 665-6689; Shelly Teichmann, 665-4242; Debbie Dixon, 665-0282 or Lynn Ferrell, 665-2105.

## Pampa Quad, Hot Shot contest take center stage this weekend

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

### Basketball

The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters will travel to Hereford tonight, hopeful of getting back on track after losses to Palo Duro Tuesday. The boys are 18-5, 3-1 entering tonight's game, which will begin at 7:30. The girls' game will start at 6.

The Lady Harvesters are 12-14, 4-2. The Whitefaces are 11-12, 1-3, while the Lady Whitefaces are 9-14, 2-4.

The Lady Harvester freshman team is competing in the Canadian Tournament which got under way Thursday. Pampa opened with a loss to the host team, 40-20.

Said coach Troy Owens, "Canadian jumped out early and played a good game. We didn't get going until the second half."

Pampa rebounded against a West Texas High squad consisting of just five players, 55-15.

Callie Preston led the way for the Lady Harvesters with 12 points. Owens commended his girls for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship

and West Texas for giving their best, despite the lack of a bench, from start to finish.

Pampa (4-10) will play in the tournament consolation game scheduled for 10:15 a.m. Saturday.

The Annual Lamar Hot Shot Contest gets under way at 9 Saturday morning inside the PHS MPAC building.

This Pampa basketball staple features young hoopsters from all local elementary schools.

Shooting should last all day and concessions will be available.

### Wrestling

Wrestlers from Pampa, Borger, Sanford-Fritch and Vernon will take to the mat at McNeely Field House Saturday for the Pampa Quad title.

The quad format allows those competing valuable mat time as districts draw near.

Introductions and matches should begin around noon.

Pampa Junior High School wrestlers will travel to Vernon to compete in districts.

## Despite security, fake Super Bowl tickets persist

DETROIT (AP) — Each Super Bowl ticket features a darkened two-color hologram, as well as images embossed in silver foil — all designed to make tickets hard to duplicate.

But no matter how much the NFL tries to get rid of bogus tickets, they show up every year at football's biggest game.

With this year's Super Bowl nine days away, police and NFL security officials say dozens of fans — some desperate to see their team — get ripped off in street sales and over the Internet. Sometimes, even ticket brokers get taken.

"We see some heartbreaking stories every year, great fans of ours that present themselves at the gate who were victimized," Milton E. Ahlerich, a former FBI agent who is the NFL's vice president of security, said Wednesday.

He cautioned against buying tickets on the street or over the Internet, and said counterfeiters often frequent sports bars and the streets around stadiums on game day.

Last year in Jacksonville, Fla., at least 75 people tried to enter the big game with phony tickets, most not knowing theirs were fake, the NFL said. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said it recovered 146 counterfeit Super Bowl tickets and made 27 arrests in connection with the tickets.

In Houston in 2004, 84 bogus tickets were confiscated, the NFL said. At the 2003 Super Bowl in San Diego, 57 were confiscated, but two days before the game, federal officials near Buffalo, N.Y., arrested two men carrying 232 counterfeit tickets.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006:

You will be much happier if you don't mull over problems as much as you have in the past. Learn to let go and not obsess. Work on detaching and pulling back. Ways to work through stress might be very important to your health and well-being. You'll have an unusually creative streak if you relax. Focus your energy on a creative project involving your home or personal life. You will gain. If you are single, you could meet someone very important late in your birthday year. If you are attached, don't become too me-oriented. Remember that your sweetie has a say too. Don't argue over your home and/or family. Everyone has different views. AQUARIUS can challenge 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)

★★★★ You might need to make an extra effort toward someone key in your life. Be willing to spend a little in order to gain professionally. Sometimes a gesture or token gift could make more of an impression than words. Tonight: Where you are is where the fun is.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Make important calls early. If you need to visit with someone at a distance, take a drive and meet this person halfway. Your high energy helps you forge a new pathway. Talk turkey with someone you respect for his or her opinions and advice. Tonight: The Force is with you.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Deal with one person at a time. You understand a lot more about this person than you realize. Work with an individual rather than groups. Detach and don't overreact. The end results will be better. Tonight: Try something different.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Let friends and family dominate. Go along with their plans, and you'll flourish. Others need to feel in control. You have a great time being out and about. Spontaneity works. A male friend could be quite strong-willed. Tonight: Quality time with a special person.

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

★★★★ Finish your must-do errands, loosening up your afternoon. Despite the mood you have generally been in, others invite you along. Let go of your cares and worries, and skip out the door. You will be happy in the company of others. Tonight: Say yes.

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

★★★ Allow your creativity to play a part in making plans. Use your ability to zero in on what you want. Play it easy with plans. You might like to put your feet up. Sometimes you take on way too much. Relax away. Tonight: Don't push.

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

★★★★ Spend time with family before skirting the door. You have a wonderful idea that you want to follow through on. This afternoon is perfect. A friend is more than willing to play along. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Let your hair down.

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

★★★★ Make calls and reach out to others. You might want to share more with a friend or neighbor. In fact, you get a lot

of feedback. You might want to settle back and relax later in the afternoon. Tonight: Entertain at home.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Do your budget or whatever you deem necessary. In the afternoon, you will want to hang out and visit with others. You laugh and enjoy yourself no matter who you are with. Use care around machinery. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite people.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You are a powerhouse this a.m. By the afternoon, you will want to indulge yourself a little more. Choose what you enjoy the most. A favorite pastime and a fun friend occupy you. Worry less. Tonight: Indulge more.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take your time getting going. Once you are in full form, you are close to unstoppable. You are the personality kid midafternoon. No one will stop you. Make plans and find people who make you smile. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Use the early part of the day to clear out a project or to do something you really want to do. Later in the day, you'll find that you might want to spend some time alone or quietly with another person. Follow your whims. Tonight: Quiet works.

### BORN TODAY

Artist Jackson Pollock (1912), actress Susan Howard (1943), actor Alan Alda (1936)

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

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\*pictures for illustration only

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\*tonight's games can be heard beginning at 6 locally on AM 1230 KGRO, and via the Web at [www.centramedia.com](http://www.centramedia.com).

#### Others

Amarillo High @ Tascosa  
Canyon @ Perryton

River Road @ Borger  
Sanford-Fritch @ WT High  
Boys Ranch @ Spearman  
Highland Park @ Canadian  
Sunray @ Booker  
Stratford @ White Deer  
Gruver @ Vega  
Claude @ Quanah  
Follett @ Wheeler  
Ft. Elliott @ Miami  
Lefors @ Higgins  
Samnorwood @ McLean



## Collecting tabs for the Shriners



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

Students at Wilson Elementary School are collecting the opener tabs of drink cans. Two gallons of tabs were given to Pampa Shriners last Friday, bringing the school's total for the school year to four gallons. In exchange for each gallon of tabs, the Shriners will provide a prosthetic limb free of charge to a child in the organization's Houston hospital. Standing from left are Heidi Baggerman, teaching assistant for the school's mentoring program; Pampa Shrine Club members Olan Elliott, Steve Phelps and Don Denham; and Tonya Larkin, school principal. Middle row from left are Nathan Sprinkle, Reno Glasgow, Johnathen Shackelford, Keenan O'Dell and Makayla Delacruz. Front row from left are Pamela Whinery, Andrea Cotter, Jared Howard and Renee Baggerman. The Shriners provide free medical care at their hospitals, including a pediatric orthopedic hospital in Houston and a pediatric burn hospital in Galveston.

## People in the news ...

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen and Coldplay will perform at the 48th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles next month.

Springsteen has five nominations, including song of the year and best rock song for "Devils & Dust," the title track from his 2005 album.

British band Coldplay has three nominations, including best rock song ("Speed of Sound") and best rock album ("X&Y").

Best new artist nominee Sugarland will appear for a special performance, and Hezekiah Walker & Love Fellowship Choir will sing with Mariah Carey, the Recording Academy said Thursday.

Carey has eight nominations, including album of the year ("The Emancipation of Mimi").

The awards show will be

held Feb. 8 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. It will air on CBS (8 p.m. EST).

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Cruise led a poll of movie exhibitors aimed at determining the top 10 monye-making stars of 2005.

Cruise, who appeared in last year's "War of the Worlds," has won the annual survey by Quigley Publishing Co. seven times, Arnold Robinson, the actor's publicist, said Thursday.

Tom Hanks, Clint Eastwood, Burt Reynolds and Bing Crosby have all snatched the No. 1 spot five times.

The Quigley Poll, conducted every year since 1932, asks motion picture exhibitors to vote for the 10 stars who generated the most box-office revenue for their theaters.

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## Reese

Continued from Page 4

believe it can bully the whole world into doing its bidding.

Right now, the U.S. is banking on getting the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council. Winning this vote is not a certainty, but even if the U.S. does, Russia or China would likely veto any attempt to apply sanctions on Iran. A high-ranking Chinese official has just publicly announced that Iran is to become China's major trading partner. Russia has a heavy investment in Iran's nuclear facilities. President George W. Bush is about to have his bubble of delusions pricked. We are not the world's only superpower, and there are plenty of people who don't jump when Bush snaps his fingers.

As for the Israelis, they would attack Iran in a New York second — if they had the capability, and I don't believe they do. If they take a northern route, they will need permission from Turkey to use its airspace. They won't get it. If they fly to the south through airspace we control, they would need our permission, and that's not at all certain. Moreover, they don't have the planes capable of taking enough ordnance to

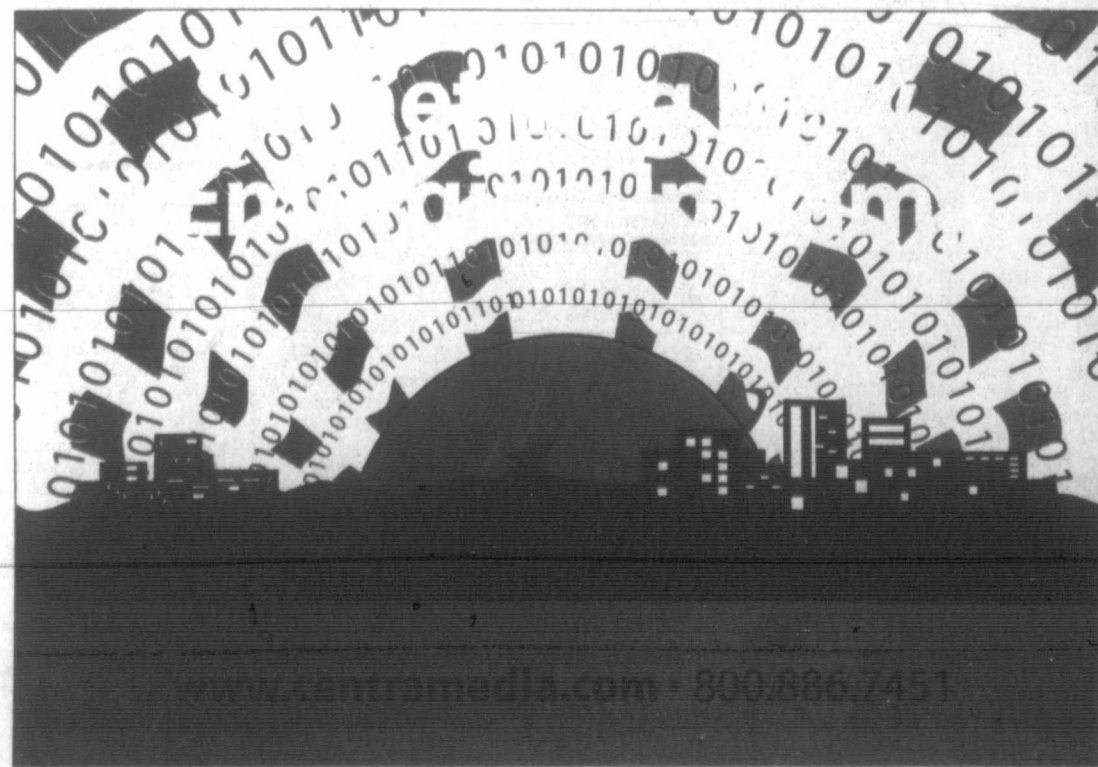
do sufficient damage to fortified, underground installations that are widely dispersed.

Iran, despite its problems, is not without the means to retaliate, whether attacked by Israel or the U.S. One thing the Iranians might do is wreck the oil facilities in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as closing the valves on their own oil. This would throw the world oil market into chaos, and the world economy would quickly follow.

Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney are far too close to the oil industry to risk that kind of worldwide economic train wreck.

Presumably, we didn't want Israel to have the bomb, but the Israelis built them anyway. Ditto Pakistan, India and North Korea. In the end, despite the hot rhetoric, if the Iranians want a bomb, they will probably end up building it. That might cause the Israelis to lose a little sleep — though not much, as they have 200 nuclear weapons — but it shouldn't bother us in the least.

The Iranians are just as sensible and levelheaded as anyone else. Don't buy the propaganda that they are all a bunch of crazies. They've been around a lot longer than we have. I would trust them with nuclear weapons as much as — perhaps even a hair more than — I trust Bush. Americans must stop allowing politicians and propagandists to scare them into reckless behavior.



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