



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 56  
LOW 30

See expanded weather on Page 2

Gramatica Wins It

Cowboys' Kicker comes through. SEE PAGE 8



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# THE PANHANDLE NEWS

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0000471 12/31/2014  
HERITAGE MICRO PUBLISHING  
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Monday, December 4, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 205

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## Some vehicle registration renewals have glitch

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Some owners of passenger vehicles may have been charged an incorrect amount on their vehicle registration renewals if their renewals are due in December.

Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead said her office noticed the errors during the week of Nov. 14, when some renewals received by mail at her office included payment for more than the amount due.

"We got three in the mail and wrote refund checks for the over-

age," she said.

Registration fees for passenger vehicles are based on the age of the vehicle. The December renewals did not reflect the new model year, with the result that some vehicle owners were charged too much.

"The Texas Department of Transportation said they would re-mail them with the correct amount," Whitehead said of the December renewals. "They will get another notice even if they've paid. All passenger vehicle renewals for December will be re-mailed."

The correct amounts for passenger vehicle renewals after Nov. 1 are \$40.80 for 2001 and older models, \$50.80 for 2002 through 2004 models, and \$58.80 for 2005 and newer models. This amount does not include the county road and bridge fee which is also charged on Gray County renewals.

The incorrect mailings apply only to passenger vehicles and not to any renewals which are based on weight, Whitehead said. TxDOT is the state agency which generates and mails out the renewals.

The erroneous amounts apparently do not apply to Internet renewals.

"We have had no problem with Internet registrations. Those people are sending the correct amount," Whitehead said.

Anyone who has recently paid a vehicle registration renewal and feels they may have paid an incorrect amount may call or go by Whitehead's office on the ground floor of Gray County Courthouse.

"We will be glad to check for them and see if they've paid, and if so, if it was the right amount," she said.

## Weekend drug busts land 5 in area jails

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Five people were arrested on drug charges in the area over the weekend after three traffic stops were made.

Two different traffic stops near Groom resulted in four arrests. The first stop occurred at 11:24 a.m. Saturday, when Department of Public Safety troopers stopped a 2006 Dodge Dakota pickup traveling eastbound on Interstate 40, two miles east of Groom, for a traffic violation. After consent to search was given, troopers found 2,720 grams of methamphetamine in two bundles hidden inside the air cleaner of the vehicle. The meth has an estimated value of \$220,320.

Arrested and booked into the Carson County jail in Panhandle were Heriberto R.

Bajo, 43, of Rodeo, N.M., and Basilio Ramos, 47, of Casa Grande, Ariz. Investigators believe the load originated in Casa Grande and was headed to Columbia, Mo.

The second traffic stop occurred at 5 p.m. Saturday when a 2005 GMC Sierra pickup pulling a utility trailer was stopped traveling eastbound on I-40 13 miles west of Groom. Found in the bed of the pickup and the tool box were 281 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$118,301.

Arrested and booked into Carson County jail on drug charges were 39-year-old Adolfo Rodriquez, 39, of Hobbs, N.M., and Adam Robert Rodriquez, 26, of Donna, Texas. Investigators

See DRUGS, Page 3

## Chilly parade



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Cold and windy weather did keep some entries from participating in the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, but it couldn't keep Brownie Troop 221 from displaying their snowflakes. Back row left are Zoe Hulsey, Rylee Shackelford and Keely Allums. Front left are Kristen Duree, Kassie Jerome, Katanna Shay and Makenzy Arganbright.

## Tree festival



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Pampa Fine Arts Association held Festival of Trees this weekend at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Awards were handed out to WB Supply for most original with their hardware tree; the Weller family for most creative with their Go Steelers tree; Lamar fifth grade science students for most unique with their tree facts tree; Girl Scout Troop 232 for best use of handmade ornaments; and the judges' favorite went to Top of Texas Cattlewomen with their "Beef - It's What's for Dinner" tree.

## BBB suggests checking before giving money

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

The Better Business Bureau is warning those wanting to give to charitable organizations to be careful this holiday season. The majority of charities are legitimate and ethical, but there are many scams out there also. The Christmas season is a time when more people are needing and asking for assistance, so people should be especially careful right now.

"You have a right to know exactly how your donation will be used and legitimate charities must disclose this information when asked," Janna Kiehl, chief executive officer of the BBB said.

A person should ask how much of the donation will go directly to the cause. Many charitable organizations use professional fund-raisers or telemarketers to raise money and a portion of those donations will go to them. In

some cases, less than 10 percent of the proceeds actually benefit the charity.

Never allow the solicitor to talk you into giving a donation to a runner or courier who will come by your home or office. Overnight mail should never be used either. Charities will welcome any donation and will allow you time to get that to them.

Watch out for emotional appeals. While they may bring tears to your eyes, they may not tell you anything about how the money you donate will be used. If you do decide to give, write a check instead of giving cash and never make the check out to an individual's name. The check should always be made out to the official name of the charity.

The BBB suggests that if you do not want to donate money, you may want to

See BBB, Page 3

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
Snow: 0%	Snow: 0%	Snow: 0%
<p>Today: Sunny, high near 51. Tonight: Clear, low around 23. West wind 5 mph. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 56. Wind chill 15 to 25 early. Wind 5 to 15 mph, gusts to 25 mph. Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, low around 30. Wind chill 22 to 27. Wind 10 to 20 mph, gusting to 25 mph. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 46. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. West southwest wind around 5 mph.</p>		

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Obituaries

**Homer Ratliff Jr., 85**  
 died Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006, in Canadian. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006, at the Miami Cemetery in Miami with his son Rusty Ratliff, pastor of Masterplan Church in Amarillo, and Rev. Mindy McLanahan, pastor of United Methodist Church of Miami, officiating. Military rites will be accorded by U. S. Army personnel from Fort Hood in Killeen. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Ratliff was born Jan. 1, 1921, in Memphis, Texas. He served during every major campaign in the European

Theater in World War II with the U. S. Army. He married Billy Jo Paris on Nov. 2, 1946 in Miami. He was a cattleman all of his adult life and loved to train horses.



Ratliff

He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Miami, the VFW, and the American Legion Post. He was a Mason for over 50 years, and he was an accomplished musician. Mr. Ratliff was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, and he always put others before himself.

Survivors include his wife, Billy Jo Ratliff of the home; a daughter, Stacy

Narron and husband Darrell of Miami; a son, Rusty Ratliff and wife LaDonna of Canyon; a grandson, Buster Ratliff of Canyon; a granddaughter, Carie Peach and husband Byron of Miami; a great grandson, Cayden Peach; and a great granddaughter, Ashton Peach of Miami; and by numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Rene R. Ratliff.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065, or Edward Abraham Memorial Home, 803 Birch, Canadian, TX 79014.

Sign the online register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

Services

tomorrow

**RATLIFF, Homer Jr.** — Graveside services 2 p.m. Miami Cemetery in Miami.  
**SHARP, Arnold Sam** — 2 p.m. First Baptist Church, McLean.

Arnold Sam Sharp, 91

McLEAN — Memorial services for Arnold Sam Sharp, age 91, will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2006, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of McLean, Texas, where he was a longtime member. Pastors Kelly Raymond and Jim Reyna will conduct services. Burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home. Mr. Sharp died Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006, at the Shamrock Hospital following a lengthy illness. His body was worn out and tired, and he has gone home to be whole again.



Sharp

Mr. Sharp was born in Tuckerman, Arkansas, Oct. 13, 1915. The Sharp family moved to McLean in 1927. He married Wanda Geneva Blaylock in Wheeler, Texas, Jan. 9, 1937. They drove directly from Wheeler to a ranch northwest of McLean where he was a cowboy and she became ranch cook. They had many adventures during those years.

Maturing during the Depression, Mr. Sharp worked at whatever was available, and at various times was employed as a truck driver and cowboy. At the beginning of WWII, they lived in Portland, Oregon, where he worked in the shipyard. Shortly after daughter Peggy was born, they returned to McLean and he soon joined the Navy, serving the remainder of the war in San Diego. After retirement from Warren Petroleum, he was a night watchman for McLean Feed Lot. Later, he and Wanda traveled frequently,

working for his brother-in-law in construction. They also used their travel trailer for trips about the country, often taking their two grandchildren with them. They made countless trips to Dumas, never missing an activity in with either grandchild was involved.

Arnold loved Wanda. They would have been married 70 years Jan. 9, 2007. She was his nurse during the past few years, and his best friend always. He was proud of his family and doted on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In his eyes, the "might not always be right, but they could sure do no wrong." He saw to it that his family had everything they needed and most of what they wanted.

He loved horses his entire life, and was still riding at age 78, when his health began to fail. His last horse, Punkin, was a gift from Creed and Anna Jean Lamb after Corky died. They could not imagine Arnold without a horse.

Mrs. Sharp was preceded in death by parents Sam E. Sharp and Shell Fitzwater Sharp, brother Jack, Sharp and sister Relia Sharp Ayers. His only son, Val, was killed in 1967 in Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda, of the home; daughter and son-in-law Peggy and Duwain Baer of McLean; grandson Tracy Lyle Gordin of Dumas; granddaughter Val Marie and husband Larry Dutcher, great-granddaughters Shelby Marie and Katie Jean Dutcher, all of Dumas; and stepgrandson Beau and wife Shirlene Baer, stepgreat-grandchildren Creede and Chloe Baer, all of Daphne, AL, Kryslyn Baer and one step-great-grandson of Amarillo.

Memorials may be made in care of the First Baptist Church of McLean, PO Box 690, McLean, TX 79057.

Emergency Services

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

Eighteen traffic stops were reported resulting in one arrest.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 500 block of North Hobart, 2200 block of North Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 100 block of North Faulkner, the intersection of Cuyler and Kingsmill, the 300 block of North Perry, the 1300 block of Kentucky and the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Accidents were reported at the intersection of Browning and Perry, the 1400 block of North Hobart,

the 900 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Hobart, the 200 block of North Hobart, in the police department lobby and at the intersection of Duncan and Louisiana which resulted in an arrest.

Failure to stop and render aid was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan which resulted in an arrest.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 2800 block of Charles.

Motorist assists were provided at the intersection of Hobart and McCullough and the 300 block of Somerville which resulted in an arrest.

An agency assists were made in the 1000 block of

Crane which resulted in an arrest, and the 800 block of Municipal.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 2200 block of Evergreen, the 1600 block of Highway 60 and the 600 block of South Cuyler.

Unauthorized use of a vehicle was reported in the police department lobby.

Stolen vehicles were reported in the police department lobby and at the intersection of Crawford and Barrett.

Calls concerning animals were reported in the 900 block of Finley, the 2100 block of Charles, the 1300 block of South Hobart, the 1900 block of North Dwight, the 500 block of Perry, the 1100 block of

See RECORD, Page 7

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchery Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	4.82
Milo	6.09
Corn	7.04
Soybeans	5.58

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:

OXY	49.49	-0.92
BP PLC ADR	67.47	-0.45
Cabot Corp	41.52	+0.10
Celene	21.99	+0.03
Cabot Oil Gas	62.73	-0.13
Coca Cola	46.68	+0.11
VLO	55.26	-0.59
HAL	33.45	-0.08
TRI	41.51	+0.42
KMI	105.20	+0.17
XCEL	22.93	+0.08
Anadarko	48.26	-0.64
XOM	76.91	-0.29
Nat'l Oilwell	66.83	+0.52
Limited	30.89	+0.31
Williams	27.73	-0.22
MCD	42.35	+0.27
Atmos	32.63	-0.12
Pioneer Nat	43.49	-0.79
JCP	77.06	+0.73
COP	67.01	-0.36
SLB	68.01	-0.21
Tenneco	24.12	+0.29
CVX	73.04	-0.07
Wal-Mart	46.02	+0.15
OKE	43.88	+0.21

New York Gold	650.60
Silver	14.19
West Texas Crude	63.43

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# Thousands still without power in Midwest

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tawana Jean Cooper and her family escaped their frigid suburban home for the warmth of an urban Red Cross center after roads were cleared of ice, downed power lines and broken tree limbs left by a devastating Midwest ice and snow storm.

Joining her were three young grandchildren. "They know this is not home. They know this is a disaster," Cooper said Sunday as she cradled her sleeping 5-month-old granddaughter in her arms.

Four more deaths in Missouri pushed the death toll to 19 on Sunday as hundreds of thousands waited another day for electricity to be restored. Missouri National Guardsmen knocked on doors to make sure people were safe.

Temperatures across much of the region were predicted to hover in the teens and 20s on Monday while wind chills should make it feel even colder, slowing down cleanup efforts, according to the National Weather Service.

Today, Missouri and Illinois residents who have toughed it out for five days without power learned they will have to keep waiting. An official with St. Louis-based Ameren Corp. said today he expects it will be "several more days" before the utility can fully restore power. Nearly 300,000 customers in the two states were still in the dark Monday.

"We've had some ice storms before. This one puts them to shame," said Ron Zdellar, vice president of energy for subsidiary AmerenUE, who has worked for the company for 35 years.

Temporary help has come from 14 states, but even as crews put in 16-hour days, cold temperatures, icy poles, downed lines and brittle trees were making the

restoration process a difficult one following Thursday night's ice storm.

The storm spread ice and deep snow from Texas to Michigan and then blew through the Northeast late Friday and early Saturday. Thousands of travelers were stranded by canceled flights, highways clogged by abandoned vehicles and stalled trains.

Amtrak had reduced service Monday, running four out of its five regular round trips between Chicago and St. Louis and one out of two between St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo.

Tree limbs, wires and poles had fallen on Union Pacific-owned tracks between Alton and Springfield, Ill.

"It takes some time to clear that out," said Amtrak

spokesman Marc Magliari.

Trains also were stopping briefly to allow conductors to temporarily stop traffic at crossings where power was out.

At the peak of the outages Friday, 510,000 Ameren Corp. customers had no electricity in a roughly 300-mile swath from Jackson, Mo., northeast to Pontiac, Ill., paralleling the track of the storm.

Trees throughout the region were glazed with a thick coat of ice that reflected the sunlight and also snapped tree limbs, bringing power lines down with them.

"It's slow," said repairman Bernie Kutz, after completing a job in south St. Louis. "The tools are freezing somewhat, and nothing wants to work right."

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## Drugs

Continued from Page 1

believe this load originated in El Paso and was headed to Oklahoma City.

Angela Myra Huckins, 26, of Pampa was arrested Sunday by Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance, more than four grams and less than 200 grams, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Huckins was stopped for a traffic violation on Terry Road in Pampa, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of GCSO. After consent was given to search her vehicle and purse, drug paraphernalia with a white powdery residue was found and Huckins was arrested.

Upon arrival at the jail, Huckins handed over a pipe containing white residue, Hoard said. Deputies searched her person and found several baggies containing a white crystallized substance.

## BBB

Continued from Page 1

consider doing volunteer work for the organization. Many charities need your time as much as they need your money.

Be cautious of advertisements announcing that the purchase of certain items will benefit a charity. This type of marketing is lawful as long as the organization discloses the actual amount of that purchase that will go to that charity.

If you receive a request from a charity, check out the group with the BBB before sending any money. Most charities will provide you with written information about their program if you ask. You should also be aware that many bogus charities choose names that are very similar to reputable ones, so pay close attention to the name.

A charity report search can be done from a Web site when you type in the name of that charity at [www.charitiesofwest-texas.org](http://www.charitiesofwest-texas.org). This will let you check on local charities. To check on national charities, go to [www.give.org](http://www.give.org). If you need more information, contact the Better Business Bureau, 720 S. Tyler, Suite B112, Amarillo, TX 79101, or call 379-6222.

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# Viewpoints

## Republican right scraping the bottom of the barrel

By **DICK MORRIS** and **EILEEN MCGANN**

With the recent defeat of Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) and the surprising withdrawal of Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN) from the presidential race, the right wing of the Republican Party is running out of candidates for president in 2008.

For the centrists within the party, the likely candidacy of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and the possible option of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani offer attractive possibilities, but whom do the conservatives have to put up against them? Surely the GOP is not about to embrace the pro-choice, pro-gay rights, pro-gun control, pro-affirmative action, pro-immigration Giuliani.

(He's fine with us, but not with the party base.)

Nor are they likely to find favor with John McCain, co-sponsor — with Ted Kennedy — of the immigration amnesty bill, supporter of the rights of detainees to avoid "torture" sponsor — with Joe Lieberman — of the anti-global warming initiative, and the original framer of campaign finance reform. Conservatives are also likely to hold his membership in the so-called "gang of fourteen" against him.

Back in 2005, he joined six other Republicans and seven Democrats in backing confirmation of moderate judges without a filibuster. Trusting such a person with control over judicial appointments may be a non-starter on the right. (Again,

we're OK with all this, but you don't win in South Carolina with these positions.)

So whom does the right have to put up?

The current conservative front-runner is soon-to-be former Massachusetts Gov. **M i t t Romney.** But Romney's social positions aren't likely to appeal to mainstream conservatives. During his 2002 race for governor, Romney said that while he personally opposed abortion, he "would protect the current pro-choice status quo in Massachusetts. No law would change. The choice to

have an abortion is a deeply personal one. Women should be free to choose based on their own beliefs, not the government's."

He said he would "preserve and protect a woman's right to choose." Ted Kennedy couldn't have said it better himself.

Romney said, in a 1994 television debate against Kennedy (he ran for the Senate that year against Teddy), that he changed his pro-life stand after, "A dear, close family relative ... passed away from an illegal abortion ... Since that time, I have been committed to the belief that ... we will not

force our [pro-life] beliefs on others. You will not see me wavering on that."

Wavering? No. But out-right reversing, yes. Romney seems to be a chameleon who adjusts his positions to suit the need of his environment. When he was running in a liberal state against the most liberal member of the Senate, he talked liberal. But now that he wants to win a Republican primary with a conservative base, he speaks their language.

Now, he says that his views on abortion have "evolved and changed" since he sought election in the most liberal state in the nation, and he now considers himself pro-life.

But on abortion, the only thing liberals and conservatives agree on is that they

can't stand those who would flip-flop on this moral issue, adjusting not only to the political winds but also to the geographic area in which they are running at the moment. Since Romney has flip-flop-flipped, going from pro-life to pro-choice to pro-life, he is unlikely to gain traction on the right.

So whom does that leave? Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he will come into the race by September of 2007 if "nobody else has caught fire." But Gingrich may find that his own past makes him a hard pill for the Christian right to swallow. And clearly, he subordinated the moral agenda of the conservatives to his budget-balancing, tax-

See **MORRIS**, Page 5

**Dick Morris**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2006. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

On this date:

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Wilson set sail for France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first

female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1986, both houses of Congress moved to establish special committees to conduct their own investigations of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity.

In 1991, Patricia Bowman testified at William Kennedy Smith's trial in West Palm Beach, Fla., that Smith had raped her the previous Easter weekend. (Smith was acquitted.)

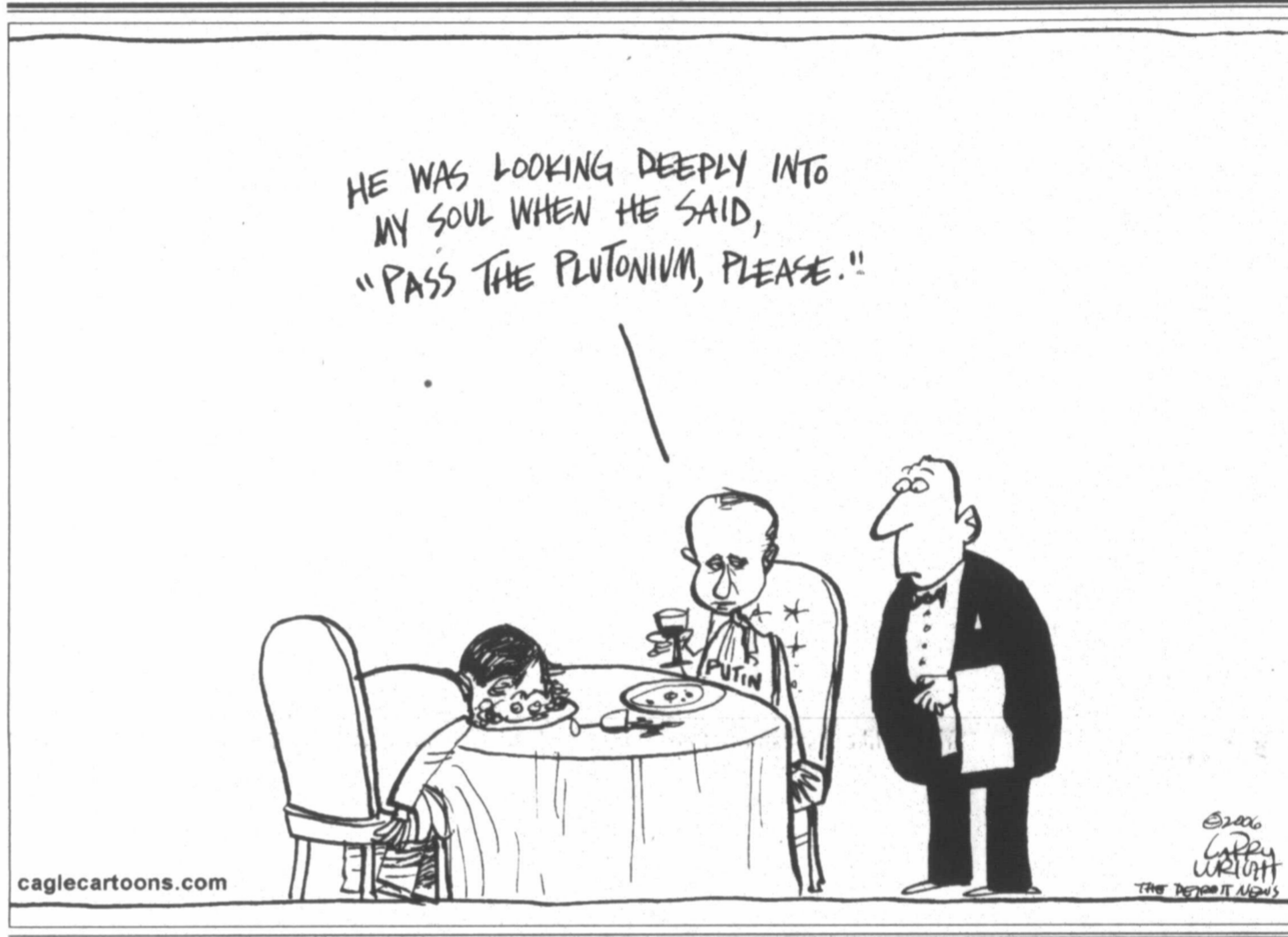
In 1991, the original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

Ten years ago: The Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., and began speeding toward Mars on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

Five years ago: Stepping up reprisals for suicide bombings by Palestinian militants, Israel unleashed air strikes; three missiles hit near Yasser Arafat's office as the Palestinian leader worked inside. The United States froze the financial assets of organizations allegedly linked to Hamas, the group that claimed responsibility for recent deadly suicide attacks in Israel. The Olympic flame began a 46-state, two-month journey from Atlanta, host city of the 1996 Summer Games, to the opening ceremony of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games.

## There's much to be said for challenging fate instead of ducking behind it.

— Diana Trilling  
American author and literary critic (1905-1996)



## Arab station only airs the grim reality

Al-Jazeera, the Arab television network that the Bush administration hates so passionately, has launched its English-language service but is, of course, having trouble finding an American cable or satellite system willing to carry it.

The British Broadcasting Corp. had a man watch the first day's broadcast (it's being distributed in Europe) and gave it a rave review: accurate, but grim.

Since American politicians have involved us so deeply in the Middle East, the American public is entitled to see the truth of what's going on over there. The public can't get that from American television, which sanitizes its reports. Al-Jazeera shows you the grim reality. When the Israelis kill children, they show you the bodies and the weeping mothers. They show you all

the ugly truth about Israeli and American policies and actions in the Middle East. They show you what war looks like.

So you don't need an electronic bug in the offices of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee to know that AIPAC and the Bush administration are putting pressure on the distributors to shun Al-Jazeera. Denying Americans their First Amendment right to the truth, in regard to Israel, is always Job One with AIPAC. That is necessary because the truth about Israel's actions toward the Palestinians and other Arab countries puts the lie to all of the Zionist propaganda.

Even before the recent massacre of an extended family asleep in its home by Israeli tank fire, the Israelis had killed 57 unarmed children in their current Gaza attacks. That number comes

from Haaretz, an Israeli newspaper that publishes an English-language edition on the Internet. I heartily recommend it, because Israeli newspapers, unlike American newspapers, are not afraid to criticize the Israeli government.

Israel is, after all, a country like any other, and its population consists of decent people and indecent people, as does the population of every other country in the world. The conflict between

Israel and the Palestinians is the core problem in the Middle East. It drives everything else, and until that problem is resolved in a just manner, there will be no peace or stability in that region.

Recently, the U.S. again vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the murder of the extended family, using the same worn-out excuse that it was unbalanced. OK, the resolution could have said it condemned the sporadic firing of homemade rockets, which have killed one person in recent weeks, and the deaths of 18 innocent people, the latest of more than 150 who have been killed by the Israeli army. Even if it had said that, we still would have vetoed it. The Israelis — who, by the way, have the most high-tech military

See **REESE**, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Nov. 27

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on redistricting:

"Redistricting" in Texas conjures ugly images of bruising battles — and that's just from 2003.

Endless special sessions sucking up time, energy and good will, plus millions of dollars in public funds.

Dozens of Democrats hightailing it to Oklahoma to hold up a vote on a new map of congressional districts.

Years of litigation resulting in a federal court-ordered redrawing of districts three months before the November elections.

But redistricting also could mean Republicans and Democrats working together to fashion a bipartisan method of apportioning congressional districts, one that better serves voters and eliminates the worst of the rancor. In fact, that happened in the Texas Senate in 2005 without much fanfare.

In 2007, both chambers of the Legislature should take up that worthwhile and necessary work again and get it finished.

As Texas has seen vividly, manipulation of congressional districts has become a blood sport whose key goal is accumulation of as many seats as the political party in power can muster. Legislators can abdicate their redistricting responsibilities to the federal courts and then gripe about the maps that the

judges approve.

Republicans complained mightily that Democrats gerrymandered after the 1990 and 2000 Censuses — and then bulldozed their own gerrymander into place as soon as possible, even if that meant after a census-driven plan already was in place.

A bipartisan congressional redistricting commission could eliminate much of that focus on parties rather than voters, as well as the temptation to redistrict every few years instead of once a decade, as traditionally has been done.

The Texas Senate took just two months to approve a commission bill sponsored by Republicans Jeff Wentworth and John Carona along with

See **LINES**, Page 5

**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348  
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**Publisher: Sean Smith**  
Editor: Dennis Spies  
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods  
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

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

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Ben Gibson and Michael Forman, both Pampa High School choir members, helped out recently during the "Second Annual Basketball Invitational" put on by Pampa Lions Club and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. Gibson and Forman took tickets at the fund-raiser.

## Navy submariner pleads to selling classified data

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A sailor accused of stealing a Navy laptop and peddling its classified contents to an undisclosed foreign government pleaded guilty today to espionage, desertion and other charges.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Ariel J. Weinmann, 22, of Salem, Ore., faces a sentence of life in prison without parole, a dishonorable discharge from the Navy and forfeiture of all pay.

Under a plea agreement,

Weinmann pleaded guilty to one count each of espionage, desertion, failing to properly safeguard and store classified information, copying classified information, communicating classified information to a person not enti-

tled to receive it, and stealing and destroying a government computer.

Weinmann pleaded guilty to trying to transmit classified information related to national defense to a representative of a foreign government on Oct. 19, 2005, while he was in or near Vienna, Austria.

He pleaded not guilty to two additional espionage counts, one accusing him of giving classified information to an agent of a foreign government in March of 2005 in Bahrain and another accusing him of trying to deliver confidential information on March 19, 2006 in Mexico City.

Weinmann told the judge, who had yet to accept the plea, that he deserted the Navy in July 2005 because the service did not meet his expectations.

Weinmann, a fire control technician, had been stationed on the Connecticut-based submarine USS Albuquerque.

He said he did not report for duty aboard his submarine on July 3, 2005. He moved to Austria and never planned to come back to the United States, but changed his mind and was arrested in March at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

## Morris

Continued from Page 4

cutting economic priorities when he was speaker. Again, fine with us, but not with the base.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is looking more and more attractive given the paucity of the field. He is eloquent, outspoken, and has shown a record of great creativity in his state. Not

only is he hard-line on the social issues — as a former Baptist minister and president of the Southern Baptist Convention — but his policies on health care and nutrition mark him as a compassionate Christian conservative as well.

His state is a defect, and he's the world's worst fundraiser, but the right could seek him out. He's lost 100 pounds, so he really must want the job. (Note: He's a former client.)

Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback is another possibility, but he lacks Huckabee's background, passion and stage presence.

Or there could be someone else. But, at this stage, the Republican right is scraping the bottom of the barrel.

—Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Eileen McGann, an attorney and consultant, is a CEO of VOTE.com and Legislativevote.com.

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

equipment in the region — said the deaths were a mistake. Yes, the death rate of Palestinians due to Israeli mistakes is very, very high.

The rest of the world is getting sick of watching us kowtow to the Israeli government. The U.S. is losing

friends like a sycamore tree loses leaves in the cold blast of a November storm.

You should call your cable or satellite provider and request the English-language service of Al-Jazeera. In addition to Haaretz, you should also google the Angry Arab News Service, a Web site of an American college professor who isn't afraid of the truth.

I wish American politi-

cians had never gotten us involved in the Middle East, but since they have, you deserve to know the naked truth of what's going on over there. Al-Jazeera will tell you. Fox News, whose employees act as if they are on Karl Rove's payroll, won't.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

## Lines

Continued from Page 4

Democrats Ken Armbrister, Rodney Ellis and John Whitmire in 2005. But the bill never got a House committee hearing.

State Rep. Allan Ritter, D-Nederland, has proposed amending the state constitution to limit congressional redistricting to once a decade.

State Rep. Mark Strama,

D-Austin, has proposed a seven-member redistricting commission that would include two retired federal judges and be barred from considering any information about incumbents, candidates' residences or areas' past voting records in drawing boundaries.

These are starting points for a healthy discussion about improving Texas' dysfunctional congressional redistricting scheme.

The Republican-dominated Legislature might be

thinking about self-preservation as members look at the electoral upheaval in states where disillusioned voters helped Democrats upend GOP incumbents. But lawmakers from both parties should remember that they more fully serve the public interest in good government by devising a system focused on drawing districts that are compact and contiguous and have common interests.

And that's why they're elected in the first place.

## 'Full Service Tuesdays' bring old days back

Remember the "good old days" when you could pull into a gas station, get your tank filled and your windshield washed without ever leaving the cozy confines of your vehicle?

Well, United Supermarket's Pampa location, 1420 N. Hobart, is bringing those days back — at least on Tuesdays.

"Full Service Tuesdays" will last from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"We are proud to be able to offer this added benefit to our customers and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity as often as possible," said Brian Irlbeck who oversees fuel operations for United Supermarkets, Ltd.

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Published December 24<sup>th</sup>

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- Payment in advance

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Example

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** We are a small family of four living on my husband's income. We have a small farm that I run, and I home-school my children. My husband works full time in another job. We aren't poor, but we do have to count our nickels and dimes and budget for things we want. This is the first year we have splurged on gifts for the children, and we spent more on my sister-in-law because, for once, we had a little extra to spend. It has brought us joy that we can be a bit more generous. Now that our Christmas budget is spent, my sister-in-law has asked twice that we purchase gifts for her dog -- wrapped, no less -- because her dog likes opening packages! I ignored her request the first time. After the second one, I told her we don't ask people to purchase gifts for our kids, and we don't purchase gifts for other people's pets. Now she's offended. Abby, it may not seem like a lot, but for us, it's a big deal when we get to purchase a movie and a pizza every few months. We never ask anything of anyone. We're a happy, tight-knit family regardless of our financial status. My husband has had enough. He's tired of his sister's self-absorption and wants to tell her to grow up and that the world does not revolve around her and her dog. Instead, I asked her to simply return any gifts she has bought for us and spend the money on her dog. Are we being unreasonable? — **IN THE DOGHOUSE IN ALASKA**

**DEAR IN THE DOGHOUSE:** Not at all. Your sister-in-law is out of line to put the bite on you for gifts for her dog, and you are within your rights to tell her you have a bone to pick with her. After she chews on it awhile, let's hope she comes around.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have survived cancer twice in the last 20 years. The second cancer, which was successfully operated on 10 years ago, was in my right lung. So far, I

am still cancer-free. My sister, "Kelly," whom I love dearly, is a heavy smoker, and has smoked 20 years longer than I did. My problem is, she still smokes around me, closed up in the car, etc. It isn't only the smoke that bothers me, but the fact that I have had lung cancer and am not supposed to be around any cigarette smoke. Kelly is a wonderful person, and I have nothing else bad to say about her. She does not believe all the stuff about secondhand smoke, etc. I wish there was some way to impress upon her that she shouldn't be smoking around me or others who have had cancer. — **COUGHING IN CORPUS CHRISTI**

**DEAR COUGHING:** Your sister is nicotine-addicted and in denial. She's obviously not a Dear Abby reader, or she'd have seen my Nov. 14 column that featured the American Cancer Society's 30th Annual Great American Smokeout. In it was information from the U.S. surgeon general's first report in 20 years about the effects of involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke. Specifically, "Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The scientific evidence indicates that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke." I know you love your sister, but considering your health history, if she needs a nicotine fix, she should do it out of your presence -- and certainly never in an enclosed environment with you. I urge you to do something you should have done 10 years ago: Draw the line and **INSIST** that she consider your health and refrain from smoking anywhere around you, even if it means getting out of the car to do so.

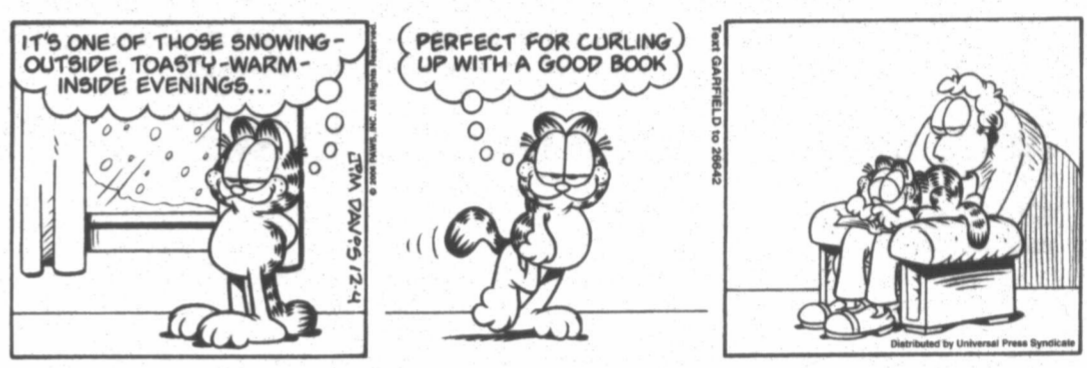
## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

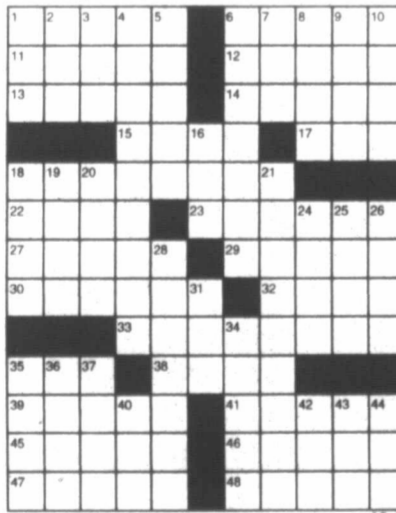
- ACROSS**
- 1 Augment
  - 6 Convergent
  - 11 Second airing
  - 12 Washington neighbor
  - 13 Store worker
  - 14 Colorless gas
  - 15 Egg setting
  - 17 Pupil's place
  - 18 Execute
  - 22 Jai —
  - 23 Solicit, as new business
  - 27 Magic props
  - 29 Wipe clean
  - 30 Pitiful quality
  - 32 Russian denial
  - 33 Territorial struggles
  - 35 Gift topper
  - 38 Ark builder
  - 39 Plant pest
  - 41 Spats
  - 45 Health-bar order
  - 46 Enjoyed avidly
  - 47 Fall flower
- DOWN**
- 1 Circle part
  - 2 Penna. neighbor
  - 3 Rap's Dr. —
  - 4 Gee
  - 5 Pitched perfectly
  - 6 Permanent part
  - 7 Poem of praise
  - 8 Walking aid
  - 9 Tar's cry
  - 10 Solitary
  - 16 Lawn material
  - 18 Complain
  - 19 Inter —
  - 20 Diatribe
  - 21 Blanch
  - 24 Mexican native
  - 25 Manipulative sort
  - 26 Tabby and Spot
  - 28 Cicely
  - 31 Hit show letters
  - 34 Deadly peninsula
  - 35 Mexican work
  - 36 Masterwork
  - 37 Iola
  - 40 Bar cubes
  - 42 Charge
  - 43 Natural coat
  - 44 007, for one



Saturday's answer

- 20 Diatribe
- 21 Blanch
- 24 Mexican native
- 25 Manipulative sort
- 26 Tabby and Spot
- 28 Cicely
- 31 Hit show letters
- 34 Deadly peninsula
- 35 Mexican work
- 36 Masterwork
- 37 Iola
- 40 Bar cubes
- 42 Charge
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## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



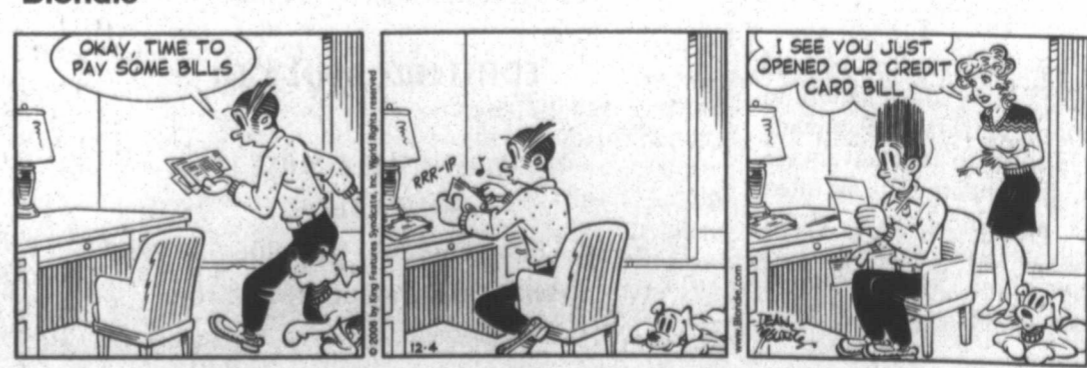
## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie



## Five generations



Five generations of the Garner family gathered recently for a picture. Above: (front row) Terry Garner of Pampa, Gunnar Pierce of Yukon, Okla., Helen Hoover of Sherman; (back row) Heather Pierce of Yukon and Dale Browne of Sherman.

## Record

Continued from Page 2

Sierra, the 300 block of Starkweather, the 1800 block of West Alcock, the 2100 block of North Wells, the 1400 block of Hobart and at three undisclosed locations.

911 hang-ups were reported from the 400 block of Lefors, the 800 block of East Kingsmill and the 500 block of Magnolia.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 700 block of Locust.

Police escorts were provided in the 800 block of East Campbell and the 100 block of 19th Street.

A civil matter was reported in the 400 block of West Brown.

Warrant service was made at the corner of Highway 60 and Williston resulting in an arrest.

Welfare checks were made in the 800 block of North Dwight, the 700 block of East Francis, the 600 block of North Gray and the 2800 block of Charles.

Reports of suspicious people were received in the 2300 block of Dogwood, the 400 block of West Foster, the 1000 block of Mary Ellen and the 1000 block of Sirocco.

Harassment was reported in the 1900 block of Fir.

Open doors were reported in the 800 block of East

Kingsmill and the 1000 block of South Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the intersection of Gwendolyn and Christy, the 900 block of East Francis, the 600 block of East Frederic and the 1300 block of Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson where a window was broken with an estimated value of \$100 and in the 100 block of East Harvester where graffiti was reported on a wall with an estimated value of \$25.

Domestic disturbances which were verbal only were reported in the 2300 block of Navajo and in the 2100 block of North Faulkner. Other domestic disturbances were reported in the 1400 block of East Browning and in the 600 block of Magnolia.

Narcotics violation was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

A child custody dispute was reported in the 2500 block of Beech.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of 30th Street.

Five alarms were reported.

Thefts were reported in the 500 block of Brown where five checks valued at \$1,596 were stolen, a Christmas tree valued at \$21 was stolen in the 1000 block of Wilks, pizza and salad valued at \$26 were stolen in the 800 block of West

Kingsmill.

Other thefts were reported in the 100 block of North Sumner, the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway, and three reports in the police department lobby.

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

Saturday, Dec. 2

Matthew Tyler Trusty, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 1300 block of Duncan for failure to stop and give information.

Zachary David Cordova, 18, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 1000 block of Duncan for capias pro fine minor in possession consumption and capias pro fine failure to appear.

Mick Gene Pendergrass, 48, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 200 block of Somerville on a fugitive warrant.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Juan Miguel Silva, 48, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 2200 block of North Hobart on warrants for no valid drivers license, failure to appear and disorderly conduct lewdness.

Erin Rae Turner, 18, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 1000 block of Sirocco for capias pro fine minor in possession and failure to attend school.

Andrew Shane Johnson, 22, of Lefors was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Timothy Joe Broadbent, 26, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to stop and render aid.

Angela Myra Huckins, 26, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of drug paraphernalia and controlled substance more than four grams and less than 200 grams.

Pedro Venegas Montoya, 30, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Monday, Dec. 4

Shawn Lee Weatherford, 35, of Pampa was arrested by PPD on warrants for no seat belt, no valid drivers license, failure to appear and capias pro fines for no valid drivers license and failure to appear.

Zachary Wade Skinner, 21, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on bond surrender for possession of a controlled substance and bond surrender for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

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

Saturday, Dec. 2  
10:50 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1100 block of Kiowa on a structure fire.

12 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 100 block of North Cuyler on a grease fire, which turned out to be a medical assist.

3 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Duncan and Louisiana on a motor vehicle accident.

Sunday, Dec. 3  
3:18 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 2200 block of Mary Ellen on a Dumpster fire.



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for your business and wish you a  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Bolton steps down from UN position

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unable to win Senate confirmation, U.N. Ambassador John Bolton will step down when his temporary appointment expires within weeks, the White House said today.

Bolton's nomination has languished in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for more than a year, blocked by Democrats and several Republicans. Sen. Lincoln Chafee, a moderate Republican who lost in the midterm elections Nov. 7 that swept Democrats to power in both houses of Congress, was adamantly opposed to Bolton.

Critics have questioned Bolton's brusque style and whether he could be an effective public servant who could help bring reform to the U.N.

President Bush, in a statement, said he was "deeply disappointed that a handful of United States senators prevented Ambassador

Bolton from receiving the up or down vote he deserved in the Senate."

"They chose to obstruct his confirmation, even though he enjoys majority support in the Senate, and even though their tactics will disrupt our diplomatic work at a sensitive and important time," Bush said. "This stubborn obstructionism ill serves our country, and discourages men and women of talent from serving their nation."

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass, said Bolton's departure could be a turning point for the administration.

"With the Middle East on the verge of chaos and the nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea increasing, we need a United Nations ambassador who has the full support of Congress and can help rally the international community to tackle the serious threats we face," Kerry said.



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**No emails will be accepted.**

# Sports Day

## Tournament action



Pampa High School boys and girls teams competed in the Kids Inc. Gene Messer Tournament of Champions over the weekend in Canyon. At left, Haili Kotara puts one up from the corner against Borger. At right, Blake Sieck lays one in amid defenders. The boys team lost to Canyon. The girls finished on a high note with a 54-45 win over Borger.

## Gramatica finishes off Giants in dramatic fashion, 23-20

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Bill Parcells has never been crazy about kickers. Martin Gramatica may have changed the Dallas coach's opinion. Gramatica, signed last Monday after Parcells cut the enigmatic Mike Vanderjagt, kicked a 46-yard field goal with a second left Sunday to give the Dallas Cowboys a 23-20 win over the New York Giants and a two-game lead in the NFC East. "I've got to thank the Cowboys for giving me a second chance," said Gramatica, once a top kicker who had just one field goal in three games since 2004. "It's been a rough couple of

years for me," the journeyman said, "being out all last year and then not making any teams this year." The winning score was set up by a 42-yard pass by Tony Romo to Jason Witten and came just over a minute after the Giants, wearing their red jerseys for the first and only time this season, had tied the game at 20-all on a 5-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Plaxico Burress. Gramatica, who also kicked field goals of 41 and 35 yards, was signed last week after the Cowboys cut Vanderjagt, who had received a three-year \$5.3 million contract in the offseason. But being the new guy didn't

keep Gramatica from bursting into one of his over-the-top celebrations: The diminutive kicker leaped into the arms of his teammates, while coach Bill Parcells broke into a wide smile on the sidelines as the ball sailed through. "Gramatica made me look good," Parcells said with a smile. "For a first game back in the league, you can't get more pressure than that for the division lead." It didn't look so good for Parcells on Gramatica's first kick, a 44-yard attempt on the Cowboys' opening drive. But the last kick, which went right down the middle with power to spare, more than made up for it. "For a guy who hadn't been

kicking with regularity," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said, "it was a difficult thing to do." It was the fourth straight loss for the Giants (6-6) and the fourth win in five games for Dallas (8-4) since Romo replaced Drew Bledsoe at quarterback at halftime of a 36-22 loss to New York on Oct. 23. He finished 20-of-34 for 257 yards with two interceptions. "Anytime you come up to this place you know it's not going to go smoothly," Romo said. "We made mistakes today. I know I did. You just have to have a chance to do something at the end of the game to win." Both teams did — there were three scores in the final 3:33 — but

the Cowboys had the last chance. First, Marion Barber III scored the second of his two touchdowns on a 7-yard run at the end of a 66-yard drive. Then Manning drove the Giants 63 yards for the tying score on the pass to Burress. But Romo hit Witten on the first play after the kickoff with a strong throw to take the Cowboys to the Giants 26. The Giants took an early 7-0 lead on their first possession, driving 66 yards on 10 plays with Manning hitting Jeremy Shockey on a 17-yard pass for the score. But they couldn't score a touchdown again until the fourth quarter, despite first downs at the Dallas 4-yard-line twice in the second half.

## BCS favors Florida, but Gators coach Meyer no fan of system

**By The Associated Press**  
The Bowl Championship Series broke in favor of Florida, sending Urban Meyer's Gators to the national championship game to play Ohio State. Michigan was the odd team out in this year's college football controversy, getting passed by the slimmest margin in BCS history and denied a rematch with the Buckeyes. Despite the results, Meyer and Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr found common ground Sunday night in bashing the BCS. "It's an imperfect system," Meyer said. "If you want a true national championship, the only way to do it is on the field. Carr's take: "I don't think there is any question that there are flaws in the system. I hope one day we have a system where all the issues

are decided on the field." Florida, which lobbied hard for the victory, got in by a whisker — just a hundredth of a point in the BCS standings. The Gators had a BCS average of .944. The Wolverines were at .934. The teams were tied in the computer ratings, but Florida had a 38-point lead in the Harris poll and a 26-point advantage in the coaches' poll. Meyer spent more time answering question about why voters finally saw fit to put the Gators ahead of Michigan than he did talking about how his team went 12-1 against one of the nation's best schedules to win the country's toughest conference. "We're beyond the fact of do we need a playoff," he said. "It's now, can we get one." Of course, Southern California

could have made things simpler by beating UCLA on Saturday. Instead, the Trojans were upset 13-9, dropping in the standings and clearing the way for Florida (12-1) or Michigan (11-1). The Gators leapfrogged idle Michigan by winning the Southeastern Conference championship game, 38-28, over Arkansas. "It's well deserved, and I'm proud of it," Meyer said of the Gators' selection. The championship game is Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz. Michigan's consolation prize is a Rose Bowl bid to play USC (10-2), a classic Big Ten vs. Pac-10 matchup of teams left to wonder what could have been. In other bowls: — Big 12 champion Oklahoma will meet unbeaten Boise State in

the Fiesta on Jan. 1. — Big East champion Louisville will play ACC champion Wake Forest in the Orange on Jan. 2. — LSU will take Florida's spot in the Sugar and play Notre Dame on Jan. 3. When the Wolverines ended their regular season with a 42-39 loss to the Buckeyes two weeks ago, they talked about getting another swing at their Big Ten rivals. While Michigan was left to wait and hope, the other contenders still had games to play. As Florida padded its resume, Meyer became a very vocal critic of the BCS, especially when it appeared the Gators wouldn't get a shot at Ohio State — and Michigan could get a mulligan. Meyer suggested the BCS should be imploded if the SEC

champion was left out of the championship game — the way undefeated Auburn was in 2004. Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, who is taking the Buckeyes to the BCS championship game for the second time in his six years in Columbus, isn't so sure about a playoff system. "With a 12 game season, it would be next to impossible to have a 16-team playoff," he said. "We'll continually improve the system. As you look at it over the past few years, it has gotten better and better." But Tressel wanted no part of helping decide which team the Buckeyes would face in Arizona. A voter in the coaches' poll, Tressel declined to cast a ballot in the final rankings. "We felt it was somewhat of a conflict of interest," Tressel said.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006.  
You have a way of handling problems that others wish they had. You will go right in and handle a difficult situation with ease. You have unusually high energy this year, and you can meet life's demands with ease. On the negative side, your temper could be closer to the surface. You could become frustrated easily. Words said cannot be taken back — be careful. Emphasize your routine and your daily life. Build greater security. If you are single, you'll have many admirers. Maintaining a new bond this year might take attention and focus. If you are attached, try not to push your sweetie too hard. Remember, this is a mutual arrangement. GEMINI can be challenging.  
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 be filled with energy and vivaciousness. Much spins around you. Your perkiness makes it easy to take a mental stretch or leap. Just don't risk wildly. A child has a lot to share. Tonight: Talk up a storm.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
★★★ Your expenses could be out of whack, at best. You might find that you have to rethink your domestic or personal costs. A tighter budget might make you more comfortable. A partner might not have the same idea as you. Tonight: Talk out a problem.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
★★★★ You have a lot of energy, but will need every drop of it to get through what you must. News or information

comes out that makes sense but might not feel good. A partner or associate could become more testy. Tonight: Smile, and someone decides to come around to your point of view.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
★★ Trust that you might need some time off. You could be tired and withdrawn. Try something different and more dynamic. You will make others think twice without having to say one word. Setting an example works better than words. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
★★★ Saturn goes retrograde in your sign today. You have felt very restricted. Now you can finally start to clear the air and get a problem resolved. Your creativity surges simultaneously. Friends finally support you. Tonight: Decide if a risk is worth it.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
★★★ You might finally understand where someone is coming from. Perhaps you have been assuming too much responsibility for this person or the relationship. Relax and allow others to seek you out. Tonight: Time for some holiday decorating.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
★★★★ You will need to reconcile yourself to a friendship that might be testy but important. Also, this person could be older than you. In any case, curb any sharp words you might have. Take a walk or go to the gym instead. Tonight: Get physical.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
★★★★ Work with someone closely. You might be uncomfortable with a partner. Information comes out. Responsibilities have been demanding, but now you see a reward heading your

way. Spending easily goes overboard. Tonight: Enjoy a close friendship or bond.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
★★★★★ Mars enters your sign, and you'll have more than enough energy for the next few months. If you aren't careful, you could turn combative or bossy if you don't funnel this newfound energy. Tonight: Listen to the other side of a story.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
★★★ A financial matter that might have chilled a bond opens up. This person now shares what he or she is feeling. Know that this person has a hard time expressing his or her feelings. Curb a tendency to feel hurt or to overreact. Tonight: Run errands.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
★★★★★ Finally, people you care about make a stronger effort and want to be with you. Of late, you might have noticed a boundary or a distancing. You might have taken this behavior personally. Tonight: Hang with favorite people.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
★★★ Stay centered, even though you might not feel comfortable with a boss or someone you look up to. This person might become even more bellicose. Finally, you feel that you are far more in control of your schedule. Tonight: Happy at home.  
**BORN TODAY**  
Cartoonist Walt Disney (1901), opera singer Jose Carreras (1946), aircraft manufacturer Clyde Cessna (1879)  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.  
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## Texans top Raiders, 23-14

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — David Carr completed 22 straight passes two weeks ago and didn't win. So he doesn't feel bad about getting one on a day he didn't complete a single pass in the second half and his team finished the game with negative yards passing. "It's the weirdest feeling I've ever had in a football game," Carr said. The Texans became the first team in 25 years to win a game with negative yards passing, using Demarcus Faggins' 58-yard fumble return for a touchdown, two long returns on special teams and a pair of fumbles by Randal Williams to beat the Oakland Raiders 23-14 on Sunday. Carr figures this is payback for what happened two weeks ago in Buffalo, when the Texans lost 24-21 despite his big game passing. "This was a lot better feeling," Carr said. "This plane ride is going to be much sweeter." In a season full of ugly losses by the Raiders (2-10), this one gets its own special place. In the first game since John Shoop took over the play-calling duties from Tom Walsh, Oakland turned the ball over five times, missed three field goals, allowed five sacks and had only one offensive score.

The Raiders lost despite outgaining Houston 302-124 in total yards. "When you make the mistakes that we made, it's tough to win," running back Justin Fargas said. "We can move the ball but when you get penalties and turnovers, you end up with no points on the board after all that effort. That wears on the morale of the team and the other team is able to get confidence. All of a sudden, a team that should be blown out of the water is hanging around in the fourth quarter and we end up in this situation." Carr finished 7-of-14 for 32 yards, failing to complete a pass in the final 32 minutes. He was sacked five times for 37 yards, leaving Houston with negative-5 yards passing. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Texans were the first team since the Houston Oilers on Oct. 4, 1981, against Cincinnati to finish with negative yards passing and win. "We weren't productive at all," Carr said. "We didn't do anything. I didn't do anything. We could have had you out there. Anybody could have handed it off that second half." About the only thing working for the Texans (4-8) on offense was handing the ball to Ron Dayne, who had 83 of his 95 yards rushing in the second half.

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