



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 49
LOW 29

See expanded weather on Page 2

BUY HERE • PAY HERE • NO CREDIT CHECK
Open 9 am - 6 pm Monday - Saturday - Hwy 60 - Hwy 70 - Pampa TX - 669 6067 - www.DougBoydMotors.com
DOUG BOYD MOTOR CO.

Broncos Tragedy

Darrent Williams shot, killed.
SEE PAGE 9



THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, January 1, 2007 Volume 102 • No. 228 50¢ Daily - Sunday \$1.25

THE FLOOR STORE
NOW AVAILABLE
PROFESSIONAL CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SYSTEM
POWERED BY
MOHAWK FLOOR CARE ESSENTIALS
2100A Perryton Pkwy • 665-4455
Ceramics • Laminates • Hardwood • Vinyl-Carpet

CHILDERS BROTHERS INC. HOUSE LEVELING
Uneven Floors
Floor Bracing
Cracks In Bricks
Sticking Doors & Windows
Interior Wall Cracking
FREE ESTIMATES
1-800-299-9563
WWW.CHILDERSLEVELING.COM

THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE INC.
665-4851
217 E. HUGHSON

One STOP Flooring
On Select Purchases We Offer
90 DAYS SAME AS CASH
6 MONTHS SAME AS CASH
We Accept Visa • MasterCard • Discover
1533 N. HOBART
Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-1

The POWER OF STEAM
RUG RATS
Professional Carpet & Air Duct Cleaning
FREE ESTIMATES
Ronnie Harvill Owner
665-1976 or 662-9219

Texas FURNITURE
PROUDLY SERVING PAMPA SINCE 1932
1415 N. HOBART • 806-665-1623
MONDAY-SATURDAY 9:00-5:30

Authorized Representative Of
clearwire
wireless broadband internet service
CALL US TODAY
PAMPA COMMUNICATION INC.
641 N. HOBART • 605-1663

Stoble CONSTRUCTION
Our professional service will leave you smiling!
Remodeling • Custom Woodworking
Flooring • Etcetera
Call us today for a FREE Estimate
Dustin 806-666-7026 Terry 806-200-0573

IS IT TIME TO ROLL OVER YOUR NEST EGG?
Clay Rice
Financial Consultant
100 N. Cuyler Suite 200
Pampa TX 79065
806-665-5707
A.G. EDWARDS
FULLY INVESTED IN OUR CLIENTS
Member SIPC • 2006 A.C. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

Officials sworn in



Newly elected officials were sworn in to office this morning at the Court House, with a reception following. Pictured front row left are County Clerk Susan Winborne, District Clerk Gaye Honderich and District Attorney Lynn Switzer. Middle row left are Precinct 4 County Commissioner James Hefly, Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Mary Ann Carpenter and 223rd District Judge Lee Waters. Back row left are Constable Don Fletcher, Precinct 2 County Commissioner Gary Willoughby, County Treasurer Scott Hahn, Precinct 1 and 3 Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez, County Judge Richard Peet and Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman.

Pampa News photo by KERRI SMITH

State offices closed Tuesday by governor for mourning

Gov. Rick Perry has declared Tuesday as a day of mourning for President Ford, so most state offices will be closed. "President Ford was a humble leader with a gentle spirit who restored honesty and candor to government during turbulent times," Perry said. "It seems fitting to publicly set aside a day of mourning so all Texans can reflect on the life and person of Gerald Ford."

The governor's executive order encourages Texans to pay their respects through ceremonies in homes, businesses, public buildings, schools, and places of worship for public expression of grief and remembrance.

To allow state employees to attend these observances, Perry has directed state agencies, offices and departments to close on Tuesday. The only agencies that should remain open are those in which the department heads decide it necessary for reasons of public safety and business.

Perry also directed that all U.S. and state flags should be flown at half-staff for 30 days. These flags at public buildings, grounds and facilities should remain at half-staff until sunrise on Jan. 26.

Wildfires top the list of events during 2006

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The year 2006 was a fiery one as wildfires blazed across the county, destroying property and in some cases taking lives.

The largest and deadliest fire began March 12 and involved approximately 907,000 acres in Carson, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler counties, according to the Texas Forest Service. The fire was actually two fires, one named the Borger fire and the other the I-40 fire. Both fires burned in Gray County, with the majority of the county's damage caused by the I-40 fire.

Eleven deaths were caused by the fires, including four in a traffic accident on I-40 in Carson County, three in Hutchinson County, and four in Roberts County, when four oilfield workers were killed after leaving their vehicle and attempting to walk out of the fire zone.

Ten Gray County homes were destroyed in the fire, according to inspectors for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who toured the county on March 22. Another 21 were damaged.

Other structures such as



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Spectators line up to watch as a rapidly moving grass fire jumps Highway 70 north of Pampa in March.

fences, power poles and lines, vehicles, and barns and other buildings were also lost in the fire. More than 1,000 cattle that died as a result of the fires had been buried by April 1, according to County Judge Richard

Peet. Property losses prompted financial and other types of donations to help affected county residents. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey performed a benefit concert at the Clyde

Carruth Pavilion in Recreation Park to raise funds for fire victims, and a committee chosen by county commissioners distributed more than \$100,000 in donations received mainly from the Amarillo Area

Foundation. Other donations of money and materials such as hay and fence materials were also distributed to affected rural residents.

See 2006, Page 6

Happy New Year!
Thanks For Your Patronage
WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
120 S. HOBART 806-669-0158

Happy New Year
We Wish You Good Health, Happiness & Prosperity In The Year To Come
From The Staff At The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Partly cloudy Partly cloudy Mostly sunny

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 49.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, low around 29.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 49. Windy.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, low around 30.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 58.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, low around 34.

© This information brought to you by...

PRESTIGE
AUTOBODY & ACCESSORIES
101 S. HOBART 806-665-3500
Ranch Hand Grille Guards and Vortex Bed Liners

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

MEADOWS, Emma Jean — Graveside services 2 p.m. Gageby Cemetery.

Emma Jean Meadows, 79

WHEELER— Emma Jean Meadows, 79, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2006, in Amarillo.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, in Gageby Cemetery with Dale Meadows, son, officiating.

Burial will be under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mrs. Meadows was born Feb. 19, 1927, in Colony, Okla., to I.E. "Bud" and

Annie Elizabeth Wyant. She married Cecil Meadows in Wheeler on Aug. 3, 1946. She and her husband had lived in Hemphill County from 1946 until moving to Wheeler in 1985. Mrs. Meadows was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one son, Donald Gene Meadows.

Survivors include a daughter, Donna Hawkins and husband Jerry of Logan, N.M.; three sons, Dwayne

Meadows and wife Betty and Dale Meadows and wife Shonda, all of Pampa, and Dean Meadows and wife Shannon of Canadian; one sister, Leona Miller of Eakley, Okla.; four brothers, Earl Wyant of Boone, Colo., Walter Wyant of Portland, Ore., Benny Wyant of Pampa and Eugene Wyant of Springer, Colo.; 13 grandchildren, Ashleigh McWilliams, Leslie McWilliams, Bubba

Meadows, Jennifer Brown, Brian Brown, Cassie Goen, Travis Goen, Michelle Meadows, Jeremy Albers, Megan Meadows, Brandi Dowell, David Dowell and Tiffany Hawkins; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be to Briscoe Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 111, Briscoe, TX 79011.

Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Saturday, Dec. 30

Johnnie Lee Romes, 21, of Pampa was arrested by

Pampa Police Department on assault causing bodily injury to a family member and possession of less than 2 ounces of marijuana.

Sunday, Dec. 31

Jerry James Mears, 23, of Pampa was arrested by PPD

on assault causing bodily injury to a family member and injury to a child.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 30

7:08 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1500 block of Banks on what turned out to be a false alarm.

11:28 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of East Frederick on a gas leak.

Sunday, Dec. 31

1:13 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2700 block of Hobart on a lift assist.

7:03 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 2600 block of Fir on a Dumpster fire.

Monday, Jan. 1

2:13 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 800 block of Beryl on a car fire.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 30

7:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of Gordon with no transport reported.

9:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Russell with no transport reported.

1:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of West Francis and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Willow and transported one patient to PRMC.

8:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Christy and transported one patient to PRMC.

Sunday, Dec. 31

1:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2700 block of North Hobart and transported one patient to PRMC.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
From Livingston Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers

Start the New Year Off Right - Hear What You've Been Missing!

Because every sound matters and every word counts.



0% Financing Available

COMPARE BEFORE YOU BUY!

SPECIAL EVENT - IN PAMPA

Take advantage of these special offers

<p>Full Shell Competitor's Advertised Price \$445 OUR PRICE \$400</p> <p>Class A</p>	<p>Canal Model Competitor's Advertised Price \$795 OUR PRICE \$715</p> <p>Digital</p>	<p>Almost Invisible CIC Model Competitor's Advertised Price \$1,195 OUR PRICE \$1075</p> <p>Digital</p>
--	---	---

FREE AUDIOMETRIC TESTING & VIDEO EAR INSPECTION

Find out what you're hearing and what you are not. You'll see what we see!

The Staff of Livingston Hearing Centers invite you to come in for a listening demonstration of the new Open Ear technology. Hear for yourself!

Richard Davila Board Certified - HIS	Dr. Rachel Lingau Doctor of Audiology	Dr. Suezanna Arp Doctor of Audiology	Rick Palmer Clinical Audiologist	Arthur R. Bickel, III Board Certified - HIS	Patrick McCarty Board Certified - HIS	Kathy McCurry Licensed Dispenser
Myra Eileen Board Certified - HIS	Beverly Thering Clinical Fellow of Audiology	Gregg Lindly Board Certified - HIS	Kay Potter Board Certified - HIS	Mark Davidson Board Certified - HIS	Craig Smith Board Certified - HIS	Carolyn Woodard Licensed Dispenser

LIVINGSTON 701 Hobart in Pampa
Audiology and Hearing Aid Centers 665-3451
1-800-834-0831

Come See Us In Our New Location!

3.5 tons of confetti left at Times Square

NEW YORK (AP) — The big ball is not all that drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve.

As revelers headed home early Monday, the first day of 2007, work crews moved in to sweep up the remnants of 2006. Their mission: picking up 3.5 tons of confetti (a record-setting amount), as well as sandwich bags, food wrappers and other debris from the big bash.

"This is so sad," said spectator Anna Koenig of DeKalb, Ill. "Boy, are people going to be up late cleaning our mess."

More than 1 million people from all over the world gathered in Times Square for the celebration, according to WABC-TV. They greeted the new year with cheers, kisses and hope.

"It's been a long year, with the troops in Iraq and the problems overseas," said Frederic Henderson, of Newark, N.J. "I hope this year is better."

Amanda Bermudez, 19,

also hoped 2007 would bring harmony in the Middle East, and offered some very personal reasons.

She came to Times Square on her honeymoon, having recently married Angel Bermudez, 21, in their hometown of Fort Hood, Texas. He is an Army soldier who recently returned from Iraq.

His new wife, who just found out she's pregnant, said she hoped for peace "so he doesn't have to go back."

Partygoers poured into Times Square long before the clock struck midnight to snag prime viewing spots. They cheered and joked as the celebration began around 6 p.m., and some practiced several countdowns to 2007 long before the actual hour.

"This is the center of the universe," said Raffael Dalvise, who traveled to New York for the holiday from his home outside Venice, Italy. "There is no other place to be."

Police were still compiling reports early Monday from the celebration, which had gone on amid tight security. Spectators passed through police checkpoints; no big bags or backpacks were permitted and bomb-sniffing dogs roamed the crowd.

Public drinking was banned, and visitors were herded into a series of viewing pens that prevented them from bar-hopping.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said last week that revelers would be "safer in Times Square on New Year's Eve than anyplace else," but he insisted that tight security would not spoil the show.

CITY BRIEFS

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

BABY SING & Sign, A language development program for hearing infants (6-18 months) Create a Beat! 665-7474 Class size limited!

DOS CABALLEROS wishes you a Happy New Year. Serving you for more than 25 years. Come in & try our New Italian menu.

Heard-Jones

HEALTH MART

New Year SAVINGS

12 PACK COKE, SPRITE OR DR. PEPPER MIX-MATCH
2/\$6⁹⁹

WATCH FOR COUPON BOOKS ARRIVING IN YOUR MAIL!

BILL HITE
PHARMACIST & OWNER
114 N CUYLER • 669-7478



FREE CITY WIDE PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY
WE ACCEPT ALL 3RD PARTY PLANS
MEDICARE & WELCOME
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE 669-3107

DR. ABRAHAMS
ALLERON \$19⁹⁹
IMMUNAFLU \$14⁹⁹

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
75% OFF RETAIL

SATURDAY DINE-IN FOUNTAIN SPECIAL
HAMBURGER & CHIPS 99¢
CHEESEBURGER & CHIPS \$1.49

FASHION JEWELRY
50% OFF RETAIL

SPECIALS GOOD THRU SATURDAY JANUARY 6TH • MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-6PM • SATURDAY 8AM-4PM

Seniors find Medicare drug savings, but some frustrated

By **KEVIN FREKING**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — At first, Ruth Goundry wasn't sure about participating in the new Medicare drug benefit. It was too confusing, she said. But in the end, she gave it a try.

She's glad she did.

As the program's first year draws to a close, Goundry estimates that she saved about \$150 a month on her five medicines, compared with what she was spending before Medicare Part D began.

"I would say I'm very impressed with the whole thing. I have no complaints," said Goundry, a resident of Chesapeake Beach, Md. "It's meant a tremendous savings. I know other people who are saved by it. I mean that. They don't hardly pay anything."

Goundry is like millions of seniors who say they are happy with the benefit, which cost the federal

government about \$30 billion in 2006.

But the program affects seniors and the disabled differently, depending upon their income and health. There are many people who believe the program could be improved.

Just down the street, at the Chesapeake Care Pharmacy, Wesley Copeland is not so impressed.

In August, he began picking up all the cost of his medicine — about \$300 a month. Plus, he had to continue paying his monthly premium of \$38. That gap in coverage is called the doughnut hole.

"We've got a lot of people in my neighborhood who are seniors like me on retirement. We have to stretch pennies, so when it gets to that doughnut hole, we have to scramble like hell to keep going," Copeland said.

Goundry and Copeland repre-

sent the millions of stories surrounding the addition of a drug benefit to Medicare this past year. The drug coverage has often been described as the biggest change in Medicare in the program's 40 years.

Under the program, seniors and the disabled enroll in a private plan. They pay a monthly premium to the plan. The government also pays the plan.

The Bush administration estimates that the coverage saves the average beneficiary about \$1,200. But many in Washington, particularly Democratic lawmakers, say the savings could be greater if the government were allowed to negotiate with drug manufacturers concerning the cost of medicine rather than leaving that chore to the plans.

Overall, about 22.5 million people enrolled in private plans during the program's first year. Nearly 7 million more people get their med-

icine through their employer, and those employers get a tax credit for providing that coverage.

That total of nearly 30 million getting coverage through Part D is much less than was originally projected. However, analysts also didn't realize that so many seniors had insurance coverage for their medicine through other programs.

The Bush administration acknowledged the program got off to a rough start as hundreds of thousands of people showed up in pharmacy computers as not being enrolled in a plan.

Beverly Dillon, a pharmacy technician in Chesapeake Beach, said that in the program's early weeks, her store advanced about 75 to 100 patients medicine to help them get by.

"We would not let patients go without their medication," she said.

The state of Maryland also

stepped in to pick up the cost of medicine for poor beneficiaries, she noted. Most other states did as well.

"January and February were absolutely crazy," she said. "I would say that around March, or late February, things started to calm down."

She said many seniors are still confused about the program. To prove her point, a customer came into the store to get a refill. Dillon noted that she was in a Part D plan, but the customer was insistent that she was not and that she had coverage through another program. Dillon relented, not wanting to upset her.

Dillon said most customers who did not have insurance coverage prior to the past year are saving money. She has noticed that the checks they write to the pharmacy now are much smaller.

Smokers start year with \$1 tax hike

By **PAUL J. WEBER**
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Texas smokers are starting 2007 with a decision to make: pay more for cigarettes, get them elsewhere or perhaps finally quit altogether.

Starting Monday, a pack of smokes will cost \$1 more as the state rolls out its new cigarette tax hike, signed into law in May to help offset cuts in local school property taxes. The increase — which will be added to the existing 41-cent per pack tax — is first in Texas since 1991.

Texas was formerly among the states with the lowest cigarette tax. But the \$1.41 tax customers will now pay ranks Texas among the top third. New Jersey levies a nation-high \$2.58 state tax per pack.

The higher tax is one of few laws taking effect at the start of 2007, since the Legislature was in session to tackle school finance. The state's new business tax also kicks in Monday, although

the first payments to the state won't be due until May 2008 and lawmakers could change it in the upcoming legislative session.

Like the cigarette tax, the new business tax is to replace money lost by cuts in local school property taxes.

But for now, it's the cigarette tax that has everyone's attention, especially smokers. A pack of best-selling brands like Marlboro will now cost smokers around \$4.50, while carton prices will rise between \$10 and \$12.

"It's going to really hurt," said Tobacco Patch owner Philip Rhodes, whose store in Marshall is just a 20-mile drive from Louisiana, where the cigarette tax is 36 cents per pack. "I just have to cut back on my spending, tighten my belt and see what happens."

Supporters of the tax — from Gov. Rick Perry to the American Cancer Society — think they have a good idea of what will happen: the state will bankroll hundreds of millions in revenue, and tens of thousands of pack-a-

day smokers will decide that the extra \$365 a year is the last incentive they needed to finally kick the habit.

But it's discount smoke shop owners like Rhodes, convenience stores and even law enforcement agencies that are less certain of the magnitude. All agree, however, that the extra dollar will be felt, from sales to theft to smuggling.

Rhodes said a representative from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. told him to expect an immediate 20 percent drop in sales at his shop, which has been in Marshall for 11 years. That forecast is based on what happened to owners in other states after similar cigarette tax hikes.

Across the state, smokers stocked up on cigarettes to beat the tax increase. Rhodes said his sales volume was up 40 percent in the weeks leading up to the new year, when he said he'll carry only the best-selling brands since many of his customers will begin buying in Louisiana.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT TITLE INSURANCE AND CLOSING...

...WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS

GRAY COUNTY TITLE CO. INC

A Full Service Title And Abstract Company
Licensed Title Insurance Agent In
Gray And Roberts Counties

EDITH HILL MANAGER

408 W. KINGSMILL SUITE 171-A
PAMPA TEXAS
OFFICE 806-665-8241 FAX 806-665-7209
E-MAIL gct@graycountytitle.com

RED TAG SALE
ALL IN STOCK CARPET
\$2.00 OFF
PER YARD
OF OUR ALREADY LOW PRICES!

One STOP Flooring
1533 N. HOBART • 665-0995
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00-5:00 • SATURDAY 10:00-1:00
GUARANTEED INSTALLATION WITHIN ONE WEEK!

PAMPA NURSING CENTER

Where Caring And Living Meet

From rehabilitation to long-term care, our compassionate, competent staff is here to help our residents live each day to the fullest.

1321 W. KENTUCKY AVENUE
PAMPA, TEXAS
PHONE: 806-669-2551
FAX: 806-665-1722

TRIANGLE WELL SERVICING CO.
PAMPA, TEXAS

Transport and Vacuum Tank Truck Service
Serving Pampa Since 1948

24 HOUR SERVICE
JERRY CARRILLO - Dispatcher
FULLY INSURED
TERRY ELLIS - Field Supervisor 663-0757
806-665-8459

DEBBIE HOOVER
President
806-665-8459
Mobile: 595-0664

VICKIE HOOVER
Vice President
806-665-8593

Viewpoints

Pirates in Galveston celebrated New Year's Day in 1819

Texans have always known how to have a good time on New Year's Eve, but over the years customs have changed.

Long before Galveston had a well-deserved reputation as a party town, French buccaneers under Jean Lafitte celebrated the arrival of 1819 on the sparsely populated island by imbibing numerous tankards of potent punch. Their holiday grog consisted of rum diluted with slightly muddy water, made zestier with molasses-flavored brown sugar, spices and lime from Jamaica and a pinch or two of red pepper.

On New Year's Day, the more literate of the cutthroats waxed poetic in the written hoo-rawing of their comrade-in-arms. Though hard to imagine an assemblage of hung-over, sword-toting, not-so-Jolly-Rogers dipping their quills to spoof their shipmates, a story by Dr. J.O. Dyer published in the Dec. 26, 1920, Galveston News outlined

what was known of the swashbuckler's method of celebration.

"The playing of tricks and pranks was common enough in the old pioneer days," Dyer wrote, "but on New Year's Day the camp of Lafitte resounded with the hoarse laughs and shouts that accompany horseplay, among the vulgar and ignorant."

Rather than forcing anyone to walk the plank, their piratical pranking took a decided literary bent, with those who could read and write resorting to "their wits and their pens (a quill feather of a bird shaped into a pen point and usually blood for ink) to satirize or ridicule their companions."

Dyer said the pirates stood in a circle to take turns reading their good-natured digs. In the modern vernacular, the patch-wearing "aar-rgggh" set enjoyed something of a gridiron show, indulging in a mutual roast.

"French was the written and spo-

ken language of the camp, and generally understood," Dyer continued, "but a patois of French, English, Portuguese and Spanish was the more often used, and incorrectly at that."

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



Somehow, one the buccaneers, New Year's "bouquets" survived into the 20th century, preserved for posterity by Dyer:

*En voila jo ami le boeuf,
Ilne Jamais argent eneuf,
Et quand desiro demand l'oeuf,
Tout suite esta dumb and deaf.*
In English:
*Here comes your friendly Le Boeuf,
Never has money enough.*

*And when you strike him for an oeuf,
He becomes at once dumb and deaf.*

("Oeuf" is French for "egg," but 19th century slang for "loan," both being rather fragile constructions.)

Within a few years, Lafitte had been run out of Texas and Stephen F. Austin had received permission from the new Mexican government to develop a colony. As Dr. Eugene C. Barker pointed out in his biography of Austin, the first day of 1822 had an impact on the Texas map.

In December 1821, returning to Texas from New Orleans, Austin found that 50 or so families had already moved onto his land. The early arrivers had begun a settlement at the La Bahia Road crossing of the Colorado, near present Columbus. On Jan. 1, 1822, about 10 miles west of the Brazos, some of the colonists established another community on a stream they named New Year's Creek.

Austin's cousin, Mary Austin Holley, later described a New Year's day early in the Republic of Texas period:

Jany 1. 38--May you all be happy this bright New Years day my beloved children. We had a gay supper last night, & danced in the new year, though, being Sunday we did not dance out the old. A few young persons, among them 2 young gentlemen excellent singers & musicians on guitar, flute, violin, & Accordion. . . . After retiring they serenaded us with those instruments combined & vocal solos. Very sweet musick. It lasted till near the time the birds commenced their morning concert.

Holiday bowl games not having been invented yet, Texans in the 1880s marked the New Year by visiting each other. "New Year calls are in order, and a number of ladies kept open house from 5 to 11

See COX, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2007. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.

On this date:

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1898, New York City was consolidated into five boroughs.

In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, died of a drug and alcohol overdose while en route to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro led Cuban revolutionaries to victory over Fulgencio Batista.

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing

to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

In 1999, the euro, the new single currency of 11 European countries (later 12), officially came into existence with the start of the New Year.

Ten years ago: An off-duty Israeli soldier with a history of mental problems opened fire on a crowded vegetable market in Hebron, wounding five people and touching off a stone-throwing demonstration by angry Palestinians. Kofi Annan assumed the title of United Nations secretary-general.

Five years ago: The euro became legal tender in 12 European nations. Michael Bloomberg succeeded Rudolph Giuliani as New York City's mayor. Eduardo Duhalde was named Argentina's fifth president in two weeks. No. 2 Oregon defeated No. 3 Colorado 38-16 in the Fiesta Bowl.

One year ago: President Bush strongly defended his domestic spying program, calling it legal as well as vital to thwarting terrorist attacks. The Medicare prescription drug plan went into effect.

'It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.'

— James Thurber
American humorist
(1894-1961)



Yearly disclosure of conflicts of interest

Some years ago, in lieu of rehashing the year's news, I started a practice of revealing all of my potential conflicts of interest, both financial and philosophical. To my knowledge, I'm still the only syndicated columnist who does this.

Alas, for those with a taste for spicy gossip, I've never developed any conflicts of interests. I belong to no secret organizations, don't have a Palestinian wife (as some have alleged) and like most writers lead a rather prosaic life.

All of my income is from the sale of my columns, plus now a pension and Social Security. I own two residential properties, both paid for. I own one car and one truck, both paid for. My children's college educations are paid for. My retirement funds are managed by a financial planner and are in mostly certi-

ficates of deposit, money-market funds and a couple of mutual funds, the names of which I don't even know. I use one credit card and pay it off every month.

A long time ago, I recognized that the Buddhists were right when they said it is easier to limit your desires than to fulfill them. It's also true what the Romans said, that a man can become a slave to his possessions. I've never cared anything about clothes, jewelry, fancy houses, fancy cars or fine furniture, art or any other collectibles, though I am certainly an accumulator of books.

The only organizations I belong to are the Sons of Confederate Veterans and

the National Rifle Association.

I'm registered as a Democrat, though I realize

that the current Democratic Party's beliefs range from socialism to opportunism.

Philosophically, I'm a Jeffersonian Democrat, which is someone who believes in the republic as it was originally founded. George Washington's "Farewell Address" expresses my opinions perfectly.

I can sum his speech up in modern language. You will see all of his advice is the exact opposite of what we are presently doing. He advised entangling alliances with no one, favoritism to no one and fair trade with all.

He said beware of foreign influence (such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee), as it is the poison of republican government. He said trust no nation beyond its own selfish interests. He said observe scrupulously the limits on power imposed by the Constitution.

What we have today, of course, is an empire. We are in all kinds of entangling alliances. We routinely favor some nations and attempt to punish others with sanctions. We are drowning in foreign influence. We are meddling in the internal affairs of other nations all around the globe. We are bleeding both literally and financially.

If we continue on the same course, then you'd better advise your grandchildren to study Chinese,

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com

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.

© 2005 The Pampa News

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 25

Houston Chronicle on Houston and Harris County's need for new jail facilities:

For years Harris County and the city of Houston jails have been under scrutiny from state and federal agencies and courts for substandard conditions. They have been cited as overcrowded, understaffed and offering inadequate medical services.

Now that county and city officials have joined forces to produce a comprehensive plan to remedy those problems, some critics are claiming that better management of the prisoner popula-

tion would make the construction cost of new facilities and increased jail operating expenses unnecessary.

They've only got it half right. New policies are needed to facilitate bonding of nonviolent prisoners, lower penalties for possession of small amounts of drugs and eliminate lengthy stays in county facilities by state prisoners awaiting parole hearings. These and other desirable actions would significantly reduce the jail population and divert offenders from a lifetime of crime and prison.

But anyone who has toured the city and county jails or had to assist a friend or relative in getting released knows firsthand how bad the conditions are and how pressing the need for new facilities.

"We are building the cornerstone of a system that will provide the needed space for bad guys but also provide the treatment programs and evaluation of mental health needs that will keep us out of federal court," said County Judge Robert Eckels, one of the key proponents of the plan. "I'd love to say that we're innovative and doing things because we want to do the right thing, but we've got this hammer of federal lawsuits and the Texas Jail Commission out there making sure we do our jobs."

Of greatest priority is the planned central processing facility downtown, with 2,500 beds to replace both the city jail and the deteriorating sheriff's

See JAIL, Page 5

Death toll in Iraq reaches 3,000; Bush struggles with strategy

BY PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The day after Saddam Hussein's execution, the death toll for Americans killed in the Iraq war reached 3,000 as President Bush struggles to salvage a military campaign that has scant public support.

The death of a Texas soldier, announced Sunday by the Pentagon, comes as the administration seeks to overhaul its strategy for a conflict that shows little sign of abating. The tally of 3,000 members of the U.S. military killed was a figure compiled by The Associated Press since the war's beginning in March 2003.

In large part because of discontent with the course of the war, voters gave Democrats control of the

new Congress that convenes this week. Democrats have pledged to focus on the war and Bush's conduct of it.

Three thousand deaths are tiny compared with casualties in other protracted wars America has fought in the last century. There were 58,000 Americans killed in the Vietnam War, 36,000 in the Korean conflict, 405,000 in World War II and 116,000 in World War I, according to Defense Department figures.

Even so, the steadily mounting toll underscores the relentless violence the massive U.S. investment in lives and money — surpassing \$350 billion — has yet to tame.

A Pentagon report on Iraq said in December the conflict now is more a struggle between Sunni and

Shiite armed groups "fighting for religious, political and economic influence," with the insurgency and foreign terrorist campaigns "a backdrop."

From mid-August to mid-November, the weekly average number of attacks in the country increased 22 percent from the previous three months. The worst violence was in Baghdad and in the western province of Anbar, long the focus of activity by Sunni insurgents.

Though U.S.-led coalition forces remained the target of the majority of attacks, the overwhelming majority of casualties were suffered by Iraqis, the report said.

The American death toll was at 1,000 in September of 2004 and 2,000 by October 2005.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., called the figure a "tragic milestone" and said the government owes its troops "a new policy that is worthy of their heroism and brings them safely home."

Asked about the 3,000 figure, deputy White House press secretary Scott Stanzel said that the president "will ensure their sacrifice was not made in vain."

"We will be fighting violent jihadists for peace and security of the civilized world for years to come. The brave men and women of the U.S. military are fighting extremists in order to stop them from attacking on our soil again," Stanzel said.

President Bush said the nation is mindful of the troops' dedication and sacrifice.

"In the New Year, we will remain on the offensive against the enemies of freedom, advance the security of our country, and work toward a free and unified Iraq," Bush said in a statement released from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Having launched the war against the advice of a number of nations, the Bush administration never got a huge international contribution of troops, meaning foreign forces involved in the fighting are overwhelmingly American.

The death toll shows it. As of late December, the British military has reported 127 deaths in the war so far; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 18; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; and Denmark, six. Several other countries have had five or less.

Public viewing gives ordinary Americans chance to honor Ford

By ANN SANNER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Ordinary Americans paid their respects to Gerald R. Ford on Sunday, walking slowly by his flag-covered casket in the Capitol and remembering how the 38th president likely sacrificed his career by granting the pardon he thought right for the nation.

Visitors said they thought about Ford's pardon of predecessor Richard M. Nixon as they walked past the casket and military honor guard, in the center of the Rotunda that Ford so often traversed as a member of Congress.

Some mourners also were greeted in the afternoon by two of the late president's sons, first Jack and then Steven.

"Thank you for coming on

behalf of the family," Jack told people as they filed in. "Sorry for your loss," some responded.

Jack Ford spent about an hour in the Rotunda in early afternoon, while Steven was there for roughly the hour before nightfall, sometimes sitting off to the side watching people file by and occasionally getting up to exchange pleasantries with some of them.

Among the people visiting with Jack Ford was former Sen. Bob Dole, an honorary pallbearer and Ford's vice presidential running mate in 1976, who showed up in the Rotunda unannounced and without fanfare.

No official count of the number of mourners was available, but a steady stream of an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 people per hour

walked slowly past the casket for just over nine hours on Sunday, after a similar outpouring for nearly three hours Saturday evening.

The Rotunda was closed to the public at just after 6 p.m. Sunday, but a military guard, changed every hour, stood silent vigil throughout the night. Viewing was to resume Monday morning and continue until 6 p.m. New Year's Day.

Several people said they recalled Ford's toughest moment as president: the pardon, in September 1974 of Nixon for any Watergate crimes. It came only one month after Ford became the nation's only unelected president, following Nixon's resignation.

"I thought when he pardoned Nixon he stood up and did what the country needed,

not what would further his political career," said John Banks, 51, of Calhoun, Ga. "I don't think we have presidents that do that any more."

Banks, who said he was in the Air Force when Ford was president, drove more than 10 hours to Washington to pay his respects.

Jane Keliher, 61, from Wichita, Kan., said Ford "healed the nation and gave up his future as a politician to do it." She described the experience of passing by Ford's casket as "just beyond words."

Ford ran for president in 1976 and lost to Democrat Jimmy Carter. Then and now, political analysts believe the pardon played a major — if not the major — role in Ford's defeat.

According to the funeral schedule, Ford was to lie in state for public viewing through Monday. On Tuesday morning, his remains will rest outside the Senate chamber on their way before the funeral service at Washington National Cathedral.

While Saturday's arrival ceremony in the Capitol was for dignitaries, Sunday's viewing was for people such as Gerald Mitchell, 49, who walked around the casket with his hat over his heart.

Mitchell was visiting Washington with his wife, Susan, 43, from College Station, Texas.

"It's our American duty,"

Susan Mitchell said.

Her husband added, "With the soldiers standing there I felt humble. It was an honor ... to have that privilege to be there. I think he was a good president."

Dan Shirey of Herndon, Va., said he was moved, as a teenager, by Ford's declaration that "our long national nightmare is over" as Ford replaced Nixon in 1974. Shirey and his family — wife Juliet, and son Joshua, 6, and Nathan, 9 — left home at 6:30 a.m. Sunday for the chance to view Ford's casket.

"I think they have to recognize where they come from so when they grow up, they understand," Shirey said, explaining he wanted his sons to witness history. Added his wife: "This is part of building up memories with our children."

Jack and Mary Oslund, both 67 and from Springfield, Va., recalled Ford as a president who had

the job thrust upon him in the last chapter of Nixon's Watergate scandal.

"I think what he brought back to the White House was integrity, trust," Jack Oslund said. "Honesty," added Mary Oslund. "Watergate kind of tore the nation apart. It was a change of regime, completely," she said.

Some visitors said it took about an hour to pass through security checks and make their way past the casket. Mourners lined up for a few blocks, starting near the U.S. Botanic Garden at the base of Capitol Hill. Some people wore blue jeans and sweat shirts; others had something like their Sunday best.

President Bush and his wife, Laura, planned to view the casket upon their return to Washington on Monday after spending the holiday at their Texas ranch. Bush will deliver a eulogy at the cathedral service.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

because the age of American power will soon be over. We are not smart enough, rich enough or powerful enough to run the world, yet we have idiots in Washington who think we can.

We need to find men and women who will think first

and foremost about what is in the best interest of America and the American people. That and that alone should guide our trade policy, our foreign policy and our military policy.

But, as old John Wayne would say, "That'll be the day." Americans have been saturated with the propaganda of globalism. The real goal of globalism is to turn the entire Earth into a series of plantations run by a

handful of multinational corporations. It is an odious scheme that should be opposed by everybody, but most of all by the American people.

Finally, my goal as a columnist is to encourage you to think. I really don't care whether you agree with me or not. Just think for yourself.

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

Jail

Continued from Page 4

booking facility. It would expand by 93,000 square feet existing health care space and centralize it on one floor.

The aim is to house all patients with ongoing health problems near treatment sources. It would add more single cells to provide a secure environment for substance abusers to detox and isolate prisoners with contagious respiratory illness.

"We can identify probably a third of our jail population that have some kind of mental health issues," Sheriff Tommy Thomas said. "We need this to expand existing services."

In addition, the central

booking facility would allow officers a one-stop destination to hand over prisoners, drop off evidence and then get back to their priority task of policing the city. Since Houston's force is seriously undermanned, the saving in time and effort will be doubly valuable.

The city would contribute \$32 million to build the facility and pay the county annually for the cost of jailing those arrested by HPD for misdemeanor offenses.

In addition, the proposal calls for a new minimum security facility in the Atascocita area to provide more than 1,000 beds, with the capacity to double that if needed in the future. Combined with the downtown facility, total capacity would allow the county penal facilities to have a capacity of more than

12,500 beds, finally curing its chronic overcrowding and creating a surplus of space by 2012.

County commissioners could schedule a bond election to finance the jail construction next year or consider a tax increase. However it is handled, it is in the interests of both city and county residents to support the plan.

Rather than continuing to be subject to nonstop litigation over penal conditions, the county and city now have the opportunity to build and operate jails that meet or surpass federal and state capacity, staffing and medical standards. It's both a good investment in our community's security and the humane solution to a festering problem.

Cox

Continued from Page 4

p.m.," the Marshall correspondent for the Dallas Morning News reported in 1887.

San Antonio newspaper readers had an interesting year-end story to ponder in January 1889. It had to do with an old grandfather clock in the home of city alderman J.C. Richey.

"At exactly 12 o'clock on New Year's eve," the Dallas Morning News later reported, "at the very second which marks the death of the old and the beginning of the new year, [the large,

eight-day clock] stopped and all efforts to induce it to run have been unavailing. It ceased work without apparent cause and has evidently determined to remain idle so long as it holds together."

By the end of the 19th century, many Texans referred to New Year's Eve as "watch night."

The more pious gathered in churches for "watch night" services, while others tossed down drinks and thought of ways to add to the cacophony when the clock struck twelve.

In Denton as 1899 became 1900, the Dallas daily reported that "horns were blown, whistles tooted, pistols and guns shot, yells given and nearly all

the bells in the city rung, the whole conspiring to make a most hideous uproar and sleep impossible."

Farther east, in Lamar County:

"The New Year was ushered in by the ringing of church bells, screeching of whistles and the explosion of a few giant [fire] crackers. Very few business houses were closed during the day, however, and the bill collectors made their usual rounds."

Some things don't change.

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

LET US PROVIDE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
AUTO, HOME, BUSINESS, LIFE

GMAC Insurance THE HARTFORD SAFECO TRAVELERS

GRAY COUNTY INSURANCE

JOHNSTON-HILL AGENCY
1712 N. HOBART • PAMPA, TX 79065

806-665-4133
OR
866-655-2788

CJ JOHNSTON MARGARET HILL

Senior Savers Day!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Seniors Save an Extra **15% OFF** Entire Purchase*

This Tuesday it pays to be 55 or older!

Shop at 10am **DUNLAPS**

*Excludes: Hot Buys, Doorbusters, cosmetics, fragrances and Brighton. Discount cannot be combined with any coupon or other special offer and may not be used on prior purchases.

2006 a year of varied events in Pampa

Continued from Page 1

The wildfires, which were termed the largest grass fire in Texas history, spurred other methods of donation, including publication of "Wildfires March 2006," a 24-page color magazine by The Pampa News for sale to the public, with a portion of the proceeds distributed to area volunteer fire departments.

The wildfires also led to a lawsuit filed April 10 by the Burnett Trust, owners of the Four Sixes Ranch, against Cano Petroleum. The suit claimed that a wildfire on the ranch on March 12 that destroyed 13,000 of the ranch's acres was caused by equipment for which Cano was responsible.

Other wildfires also burned portions of Gray County in 2006. Blazes battled during the year included more than a dozen, occurring on Feb. 1, March 8, March 17, April 6, and Aug. 2.

The toll might have been even higher had not county commissioners enacted a burn ban on Jan. 3 and kept it in effect until July 14. A second ban was approved on Dec. 15. In both instances, sales of aerial fireworks were also banned, although the City of Pampa's annual fireworks display July 4 at Recreation Park was allowed to be held.

School Bond Election

The issue of whether to build a new junior high school and renovate the existing high school in Pampa was decided Nov. 7 by 4,604 voters living in the school district.

A \$47 million bond proposition passed by a margin of 856, with 2,730 in favor of the proposal and 1,874 voting against it in the general election.

The current junior high school will be used as administrative offices and as space for maintenance and Pampa Learning Center.

Pampa High School will gain more science laboratory and other classroom space, as well as a new kitchen/cafeteria/dining hall/auditorium complex and other amenities. The shop building will be demolished and the space used for parking.

The cost to taxpayers, according to information provided in a series of meetings concerning the proposed construction and renovation, will be approximately .36 per \$100 valuation for the school bond.

Economic News

Pampa regained a movie

theater when the Cinema 4 reopened May 5 in Coronado Center. The city lost a supermarket and pharmacy, however, when Albertson's, also in Coronado Center, closed its doors in August.

Two new businesses in Pampa are The Plaza Restaurant, which opened July 12 in Coronado Center, and CVS Pharmacy, which is under construction at the corner of Kentucky and Hobart streets.

Another business which had considered coming to Pampa but did not do so was a national call center, which did not move forward with plans to occupy the former J.C. Penney building after no action was taken by the economic development corporation concerning the company's requests.

Area residents had a chance to select, cut down, and transport their own Christmas trees in 2006 at a new tree farm at the home of Lewis and Debbie Davis north of Pampa.

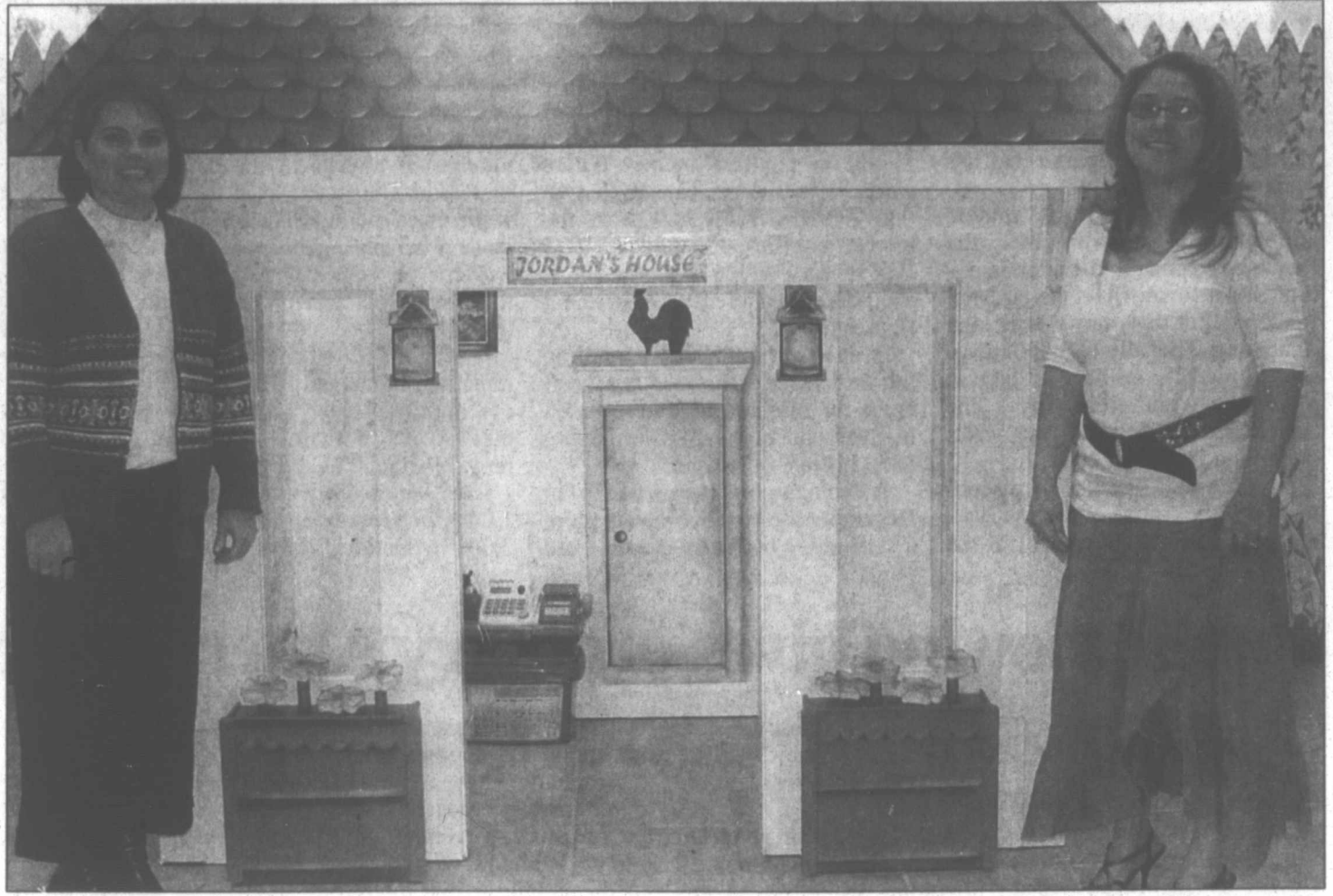
One business which suffered reversals in 2006 was W&W Fiberglass, which lost a building at 207 S. Price Road to a fire the evening of May 19. The building was W & W's production area for manufacturing its fiberglass tanks, and housed equipment and chemicals used in the manufacturing process. Owner Wayne Wilson assured employees and the community that he intended to rebuild the facility.

One type of business which might find it a little harder than before to come to Pampa is adult and topless businesses, which were restricted to certain areas of town after the city commission amended zoning ordinances in August to allow such businesses only in light and heavy industrial districts and only more than 1,000 feet from schools, churches, day care centers, hospitals, parks, stadiums and residential areas. The ordinances also require an annual \$200 license fee and criminal background check on the business owner or owners.

Politics

The only contested race for county office in 2006 ended with a new county treasurer who is also the former county treasurer.

Former treasurer Scott Hahn was in a three-way race with incumbent Lee Cornelison and Tory Peet, a teacher and coach, in the March 7 primary election. A runoff was held April 11 after none of the three gar-



Pampa News Photo by MARILYN POWERS

Shelly Bohannon, left, rural forensic interviewer for The Bridge, and Ofelia Marzal, volunteer coordinator for CASA, stand beside a new playhouse built by inmates of the Jordan Unit and delivered in October to The Brown Alliance for Children in Pampa.

nered a simple majority of the votes cast in the race.

Hahn and Cornelison faced off in the runoff, with Hahn emerging as the winner by a margin of 38 votes. All three candidates for the office were on the Republican ticket, and Hahn was unopposed in the Nov. 7 general election.

Cornelison came under fire in 2006 after bookkeeping errors in his office were brought to light through an annual outside audit of the county's financial records. The auditors' report stated that there were "numerous posting errors of cash receipts by the treasurer's office" and also "numerous errors ... related to state court costs."

The errors led to some heated exchanges between Cornelison and county commissioners and to a monthly report required of the county auditor by the 223rd and 31st District judges. The monthly report listed bookkeeping errors in the county's financial records which were attributed to the treasurer's office. The district judges are the supervisors of the county auditor's office.

Two new city commissioners were also elected in 2006. Bill Allison was elected to the Ward 2 seat and Neil Fulton won the Ward 4 position in city elections May 13.

Allison received 412 votes to Dalton Lewis' 165 for the

Ward 2 spot. Fulton outdistanced opponent Shirley Nicholson with 453 votes to Nicholson's 125.

Allison took the seat vacated by Ray Boring, who did not file for re-election due to his having moved outside the ward. Fulton replaced 12-year veteran Faustina Curry, who chose not to seek re-election.

Anyone who cast a ballot in Gray County in 2006 had a chance to mark their ballots in a new way. Electronic voting machines which were purchased by the county under a new federal mandate were available for use for the first time in 2006 city, school district and county elections.

One Pampan who is moving in national political circles is J.B. Horton, who was appointed effective July 3 as White House liaison for the General Services Administration.

The Pampa native had most recently served as Special Assistant in the White House Liaison Office at the State Department. Prior to May 2003, Horton worked at the Small Business Administration, within the Office of International Trade, managing activities related to SBA's U.S. Export Assistance Centers.

A controversial group which had been reborn after a November 2005 election held its first meeting in January. The new Pampa

Economic Development Corporation was voted in by a margin of 111 ballots, only months after the old EDC's final meeting in March 2005.

Criminals and Crime

It was not a good year for some accused of wrongdoing.

Shirley Waller of Pampa was sentenced May 24 in Amarillo federal court to pay \$186,871.61 restitution and serve 30 months in a federal penitentiary on a federal charge of false entries by a credit union employee. She will be on supervised release for five years following her release from prison.

Waller pled guilty to the charge March 15 after being indicted Jan. 18 on one count of embezzlement and two counts of making false entries by a federal credit union employee.

Waller began working at Pampa Teachers Federal Credit Union in 1978, and held the position of manager until December 2002. During that time, numerous loans were made to Waller's son to fund his computer business, followed by at least 44 extensions on the loans and changes to credit union records to indicate that the loans were not delinquent, according to court documents.

Former 31st District Attorney Rick Roach was sentenced June 26 to 18 years in a Texas prison on state drug charges.

Roach pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in a plea agreement. He had been indicted May 17, 2005, by a Gray County grand jury on state charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, and possession of a controlled substance.

Roach was given credit for the 377 days he had already served in federal prison on a weapons charge. His 18-year sentence will run concurrently with the five years he is serving on the federal charge.

Levi King of Missouri was indicted March 23 on capital murder charges by a Gray County grand jury in 31st District court in connection with the Sept. 30, 2005, shooting deaths of Brian and Michell Conrad, Michell's unborn child, and Zack Doan, all of rural Gray County.

A ballistics match was confirmed in February by the Texas Department of Public Safety between bullets used to kill the Conrad family and a pistol taken from King. King is also accused of the shooting deaths of a Pineville, Mo., man and woman, one day before the Conrads were killed.

King's trial for the Texas slayings is expected to occur sometime in 2007.

See 2006, Page 7



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Dennis Burton, left, was promoted to Assistant Chief of Police. Presenting him with a new badge is Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner.



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Terra Scott, pictured, and sister Breanne Schwiegerath and their husbands bought the Cinema 4 in Coronado Center. After cleaning and refurbishing the theater, they opened it up to Pampa residents who have been enjoying movies there since May.

2006 — School bond election passed by voters

Continued from Page 6

Death row prisoner Hank Skinner's latest appeal for federal habeas corpus relief was denied Oct. 2 in Amarillo federal court. Skinner was convicted March 22, 1995, in the New Year's Eve 1993 beating death of Twila Busby of Pampa and the stabbing deaths of her two sons at their Pampa home. A Tarrant County jury in Fort Worth sentenced him to death.

Joseph Ridenour, 70, was sentenced to 30 years in prison after being found guilty of murder Nov. 13 by 223rd District Court Judge Lee Waters in the shooting death of Eva Fritz, 48, in 2003 at her Pampa apartment. Fritz died of two gunshot wounds, one to the chest and one to the neck, following an argument with Ridenour on July 15, 2003.

Loren Dean Roby, 44, of Pampa received one 60-year sentence and one 20-year sentence April 26 after being found guilty in 223rd District Court of sexual assault and indecency charges. The sentences will run concurrently, with a minimum of 30 years to be served before parole is possible.

Roby, whose first name is also spelled "Lorren" in some court documents, was indicted Oct. 5, 2004, by a Gray County grand jury in 223rd District Court for indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault. The victim in the aggravated sexual assault charge was a child.

The aggravated sexual assault happened on April 15, 2004, and the indecency occurred on May 26, 2004, according to the indictments.

An 8-year-old second-grade boy brought an unloaded handgun to his class at Travis Elementary School on Feb. 9. A hearing concerning the boy was held by Pampa Independent School District on Feb. 20.

Federal law on students' right to privacy prevented PISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch from giving any details of the hearing or its outcome, he said in a telephone interview after the hearing.

The boy had taken a handgun to school in his backpack, and after the teacher stepped out of the room, he pulled the gun out of the backpack and showed it to the other students, according to Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner.

No ammunition was found in the gun's magazine or elsewhere in the boy's possession, said Travis Principal Doug Rapstine.

The incident prompted the formation of a committee to address the issue of school safety and emergency response procedures.

Margaret Stevens, the woman whose 11-year-old special-needs son was removed from her custody after police found the boy alone at a house at 414 E. Browning that was filled with debris, animal feces and urine, dirty clothing and trash, was again in court on Feb. 8 concerning her son.

Judge Phil Vanderpool halved Stevens' visits with the child at the February hearing after a Department of Family and Protective Services caseworker testified that the boy had done much better when visitation was only once per month. Stevens had been scheduled to visit with her son two weekends per month.

Stevens was indicted in October 2004 by a Gray County grand jury in 223rd District Court on a second-degree felony charge of abandoning a child in connection with the August 2004 incident. She pled guilty Nov. 7, 2005, at the beginning of her trial on the abandonment charge and

was sentenced to 10 years and a \$1,000 fine. The 10-year sentence was commuted to seven years' probation, 21 days in Gray County Jail, and 240 days of community service.

Permanent managing conservatorship of the boy was given to DFPS by Vanderpool in a Dec. 7, 2005 hearing. Testimony at custody hearings concerning the child had disclosed that the boy had been living alone at the house for one to two months, and Stevens would bring food to him once or twice a week.

Four Pampans were arrested on 31st District grand jury indictments which were handed up Feb. 9 concerning the death of Cody Randall Best, 17, of Pampa.

Penny June Summers, 25; Kylie J'nae Winegeart, 18; Matthew Wade Hopkins, 37; and Terry Glenn Honeycutt, 37, were arrested Feb. 13 and charged with manslaughter. The indictments state that on Sept. 13, 2005, each of the four recklessly caused the death of Best by failing to seek medical attention for Best in a timely manner.

Best was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center on Sept. 13. He was unconscious, and died the following day. An autopsy showed that he died from a lethal amount of methamphetamine.

Best's father, Randy Best of Chambers County, filed a wrongful death lawsuit Feb. 9, the same day as the indictments were handed up, in 223rd District Court in Pampa against Hopkins and Summers in connection with the death.

Two men were taken to a Lubbock burn center after a rolling methamphetamine lab reportedly exploded in their vehicle July 2 in Pampa.

Schuyler Bond Danner, 22, of Pampa and Joshua Lloyd Mullen, 21, of Odessa drove to Pampa Regional Medical Center about 2 p.m. July 2 suffering second-degree burns to their bodies, according to hospital officials.

Pampa police were called to the hospital emergency room when medical personnel reported the two men were being belligerent, and Officer Dave Thomas smelled ether coming from a white 1997 Toyota four-door sedan parked near the emergency room entrance. Ether is used in the methamphetamine manufacturing process.

The two men had no explanation for the explosion, but denied cooking meth in the vehicle, which was registered to Mullen. Thomas and Officer Casey Ingersoll, both qualified meth lab technicians, found evidence in the car to lead them to believe it was a mobile meth lab.

Additional evidence was found July 3 when a farmer found paraphernalia used in making methamphetamine. A Wal-Mart receipt also found showed purchase of some items that could be used in the process. Videotapes from Wal-Mart security cameras taken at the time the receipt was generated showed the two men making purchases of items that are used in meth labs, according to a police department press release.

Two Pampans were arrested Feb. 5 on warrants for credit card abuse in connection with thefts of mail at Pampa Post Office which had occurred the previous December.

Christopher Shane Nolte, 31, and Tina Marie Williams, 34, were each attempting to use a stolen credit card, according to information from Gray County Sheriff's Office. The two cards had been reported stolen from the post office. Zachary Taylor Wilson,

20, of Pampa was arrested Jan. 18 on the felony charge of theft of mail in connection with the post office thefts. He was booked into Gray County Jail and subsequently transferred to a federal detention facility.

A large amount of mail addressed to Pampa post office boxes was found in Wilson's apartment after a search was conducted in connection with complaints from local citizens about missing mail.

Two Amarilloans and one Pampans were arrested in connection with a home invasion and armed robbery which occurred May 21 at a home in the 1100 block of East Francis.

Adam Refugio Aguilar, 24, of Amarillo was arrested July 29. Carlos Jose Cordova, 25, of Pampa was arrested July 31. Davey Enriquez, 33, of Amarillo was arrested Aug. 3. All three were arrested in Amarillo and charged with aggravated robbery.

A husband and wife and their 8-year-old grandchild were in the home at the time of the robbery. The adults were forced to lie on the floor, and the child ran to a back room and locked the door.

The suspects allegedly demanded money from the victims, and when the adult male apparently did not move fast enough for the robbers, one of them fired a shot. None of the victims was injured. The robbers reportedly took a bank bag with \$4,000 cash from the home.

Another armed robbery by three males occurred at 3:44 a.m. Aug. 8 at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Surveillance camera video recorded at the time showed three men with their faces covered who entered the store and showed the clerk a handgun. They were given an unreported amount of cash and took an unknown amount of consumable goods, which may have included fuel. The three left in a white Ford F-150 pickup.

One inmate of Gray County Jail escaped from a work detail at about 3 a.m. Dec. 22 and was last thought to have been seen in the vicinity of Schwan's Fine Foods and Halliburton Energy Services, both on County Road 12 1/2 off Highway 60, east of Pampa.

William Carl Troglin, 41, of Zephyrhills, Fla., was in jail on charges of theft over \$50 and under \$500 and having a wrong or fictitious license plate, both misdemeanor charges.

Troglin is thought to have left the area, according to a GCSO news release.

Criminal mischief occurred around the city all year and proved especially costly when a new vehicle at Fenton Motor Company was torched.

A curfew for minors which might help curb some incidents of crime went into effect May 24. A nightly curfew between midnight and 6 a.m. was imposed on minors aged 16 years and younger. Fines for offenders can run as high as \$500.

Junked and abandoned vehicles were targeted by the city in a continuing effort to improve Pampa's appearance. Enforcement of city ordinances concerning the vehicles kept Pampa Police Officer Donny Brown busy. In one three-week period, he stickered 52 junked and abandoned vehicles. Owners are required to move the vehicles out of sight within a certain time period; if they do not do so, the vehicles are subject to towing to an impound yard.

Mother Nature

A pit bull became a fugitive from the law after he was "sprung" from Pampa Animal Shelter on March 16. The dog was being held

for observation and had been ordered destroyed after it had attacked two boys in the area of the 200 block of North Faulkner.

A municipal hearing March 16, the tenth day of the dog's quarantine, resulted in the dog's death sentence. It was to be euthanized immediately, but was still alive when it was stolen from the shelter that night. The dog's 16-year-old owner was detained by police officers in connection with the burglary, in which the dog was the only animal taken.

The dog was located and captured March 26 in Tulsa, Okla., and placed in quarantine there after it had bitten a juvenile at a Tulsa business. The pit bull was euthanized April 5 in Tulsa following the 10-day Oklahoma quarantine.

Rattlesnakes became more of a problem than usual during the summer months for area residents. Pampa Animal Control officers were receiving one to two snake calls a day in June and July concerning invasion by the reptiles into residential and business areas of the city.

"The climate and everything seems to fall into place for them this year," Burns said. "I would assume that the mouse population must be up, because snakes eat mice. I really can't put my finger on any one reason."

Trees were in the news in 2006. A dying 90-year-old honey locust tree in front of White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, was cut down Sept. 25.

Locust trees at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston, were given a reprieve. Complaints about the trees' seedpods littering library grounds and clogging rain gutters, and the trees' branches breaking off, were heard by Pampa city commissioners in September and October.

Friends of the Library had suggested removing the trees and replacing them with others placed in better locations on the library's grounds, but commissioners compromised by deciding to have the locust trees trimmed and remaining alert for any signs that the seedpods are clogging rain gutters or the trees' roots are breaking up sidewalks.

Twenty trees in Gray County were given the death sentence by the Texas Department of Transportation as part of their Hazard Elimination Safety Project.

The final proposal was presented at a meeting June 22 in Pampa Community Building. The original plan, unveiled in May 2004, was to fell 1,185 trees along 147 miles of Highways 60 and 83 in Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree and Roberts counties.

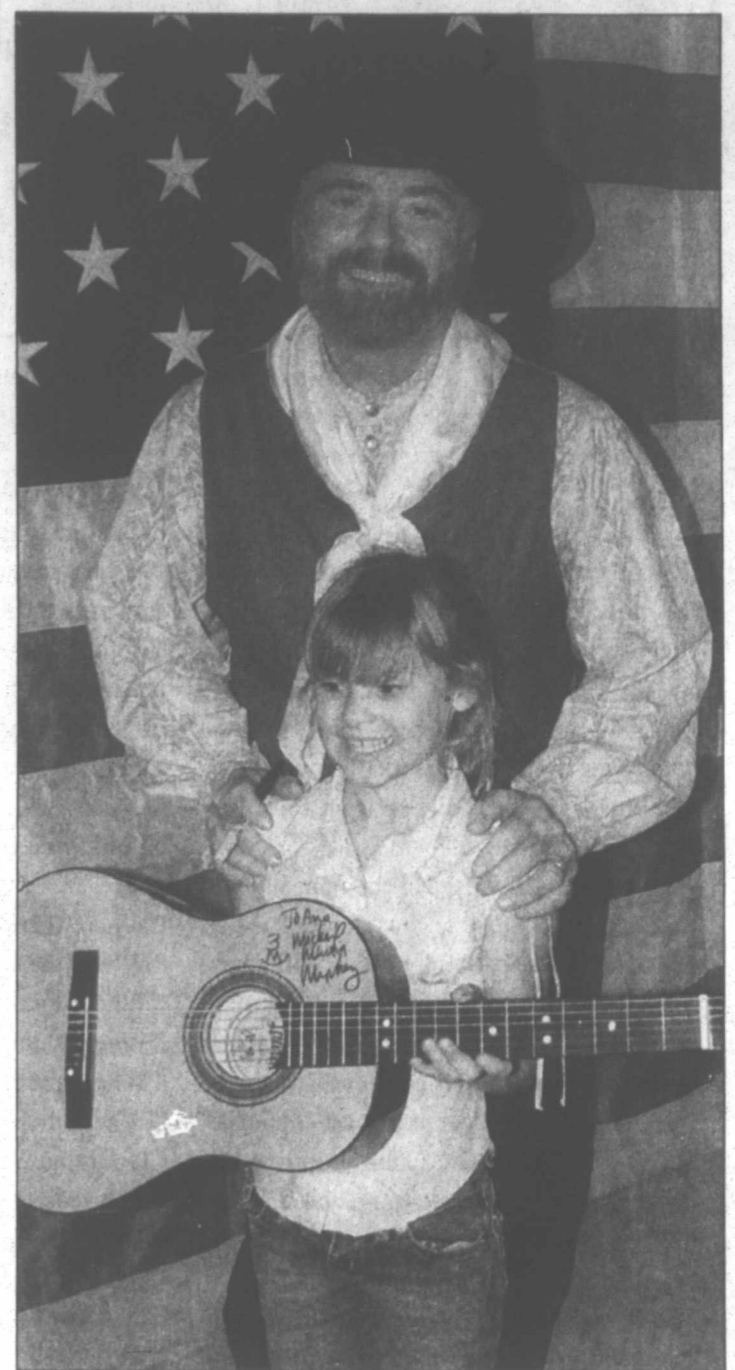
Area residents protested long and loud when the plan was announced, and public pressure resulted in TxDOT amending its plan to remove 93 trees, including the 20 in Gray County.

Summer and winter storms caused damage at some Pampa and area locations.

High winds from a severe thunderstorm which moved across Gray County June 16 left more than a thousand Xcel Energy customers without electricity for up to 24 hours, while damage to trees, residences and other structures was also reported. Damage to trees and roofs was common, and some business signs were also damaged by the winds.

Rain water pooled on the roof of Horace Mann Elementary School in the 400 block of North Faulkner, and a portion of the roof collapsed the week of June 23.

Wintry precipitation also took its toll in the Pampa area. An ice storm on Dec.



Pampa News Photo by MARILYN POWERS
Country singer Michael Martin Murphey autographed a guitar for Ana Wilson of Midland, who traveled to Pampa to attend Murphey's "Burned But Not Burned Out" concert in June. The concert, held at Clyde Carruth Pavillion in Recreation Park, was a benefit performance to raise funds for volunteer fire departments that fought the March and April wildfires.

19 resulted in broken water mains which prompted city officials to ask Pampa residents to boil tap water to be used for cooking and drinking until laboratory analysis of the city's water showed no contamination.

Tree limbs throughout the city were broken off by their icy burdens, and city crews have begun cleaning up the felled limbs on city property. A one-time pickup of limbs placed at curbside in residential areas is slated for after the first of the year, according to city officials.

Good News

Cabot's Pampa Plant, which formed a one-year partnership with Austin Elementary School at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, donated \$23,000 in February to develop a computer lab that would benefit students and teachers at Austin.

The contribution, funded through the Cabot Corporation Foundation, was to provide updated computer hardware and software that would be used to improve the education process at Austin. It was also to be equipped with advanced teaching software, giving the teachers new tools to help raise the academic standard.

The idea for the computer lab came out of a brainstorming session between the school principal and teachers and Cabot representatives.

Expanded treatment for cardiac patients at Pampa Regional Medical Center began when Dr. Steve Silver, a new cardiologist at the hospital, installed a stent in an artery here in 2006, a first for Pampa.

Silver, who has installed almost 2,000 stents in a career that spans more than 25 years, installed five heart stents and one leg stent in a one-week period shortly after starting at PRMC.

The ability to offer stent insertion and balloon angioplasty at PRMC to open up arteries is beneficial to local residents, Silver said,

because of the time factor.

Some patients would not do as well if they had to wait for transfer to Amarillo, and the delay can even be life-threatening, Silver said.

Improvements to M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium were OK'd by city commissioners June 27. The city had budgeted \$101,000 for work to bring the exterior of the building and surrounding environs into compliance with federal disability laws. M.K. Brown Foundation contributed a grant of \$32,000 for the work.

West Texas Landscape's bid of \$130,444.06 was accepted to create new entrances on the north and south; replace concrete islands, curbs and gutter; and lay down asphalt paving.

City officials also planned to replace outside light poles at the auditorium.

Services for abused children in the area were brought closer to home in August when The Brown Alliance for Children, 315 N. Ballard, opened its doors. The alliance's grand opening was Nov. 17.

The Brown Alliance houses CASA of the High Plains and local services of The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center of Amarillo.

CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, trains community volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes. CASA volunteers help provide representation for the children in court.

The Bridge allows law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, and the mental health and medical communities to work together to best serve victims of child abuse and child sexual assault. Its services include recording interviews by trained interviewers of abused children for forensic purposes and providing a place where trained medical personnel may examine sexually abused children.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: Rise and shine, my friends, and welcome a brand-new year! This is our chance for a new beginning. It is the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I am printing Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's resolutions -- adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct, and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully -- if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and **take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.**

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me by I.J. Bhatia, who lives in New Delhi, India:

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say, 'Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature.' 'The following prayer of Saint Francis contains a powerful message:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

"Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

"Where there is injury, pardon;

"Where there is doubt, faith.

"Where there is despair, hope;

"Where there is darkness, light;

"Where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not as much seek to be consoled as to console;

"To be loved as to love.

"For it is in giving that we are pardoned;

"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

May we finally find peace and joy in this New Year. To one and all, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007. -- **Love, Abby.**

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 48 English

1 Peered county

6 Bouncing ball game

11 Visibly stunned

12 Lacking company

13 Old photo tint

14 Nation on the Red Sea

15 Snatch

17 Track act

18 The Enterprise, e.g.

22 Corn Belt state

23 Out of bed

27 Golf course hazards

29 Plow pioneer John

30 Willie Mays catchphrase

32 Author Sheehy

33 Nut collector

35 Young fellow

38 Arm bone

39 Martini gamish

41 Top grade

45 Convergence-based

46 Question of ownership

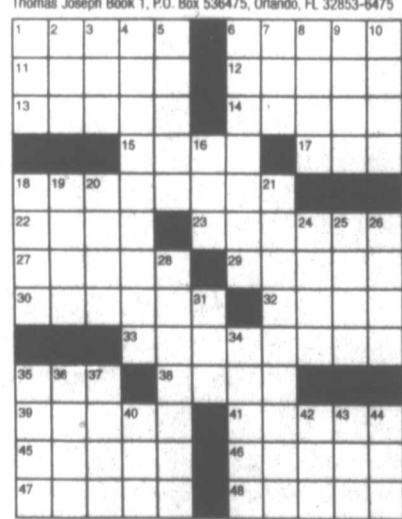
47 Adolescents



Saturday's answer

- 19 Tripled, a 1970 film
- 20 Not at home
- 21 Some charts
- 24 Scorch
- 25 Niagara's place
- 10 Posted
- 16 Sound of insight
- 18 Uses a chair
- 31 Actor Brynner
- 34 Quite impressed
- 35 Barn area
- 36 Lotion
- 37 Craps need
- 40 Mover's truck
- 42 — Alamos
- 43 Employ stories
- 44 Gender

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

Broncos cornerback shot and killed in drive-by

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting in downtown Denver early this morning. Team spokesman Jim Saccomano said police called him about 3 a.m. from the scene of the shooting and told him three people had been shot and that Williams had been killed. A little after 2 a.m., a white Hummer limousine

was sprayed with bullets from a vehicle that pulled up along its side, said Sonny Jackson, spokesman for the Denver Police Department. Three people in the limousine were hit and were taken to area hospitals, where one man was pronounced dead, Jackson said. The other man and woman who were shot were not identified. Jackson said police were searching for the suspects and interviewing witnesses.

"We have no motive yet," Jackson said. "We're hoping to talk with witnesses to find out where they were coming from, and that might give us some clues." Saccomano said he spoke with coach Mike Shanahan and others in the organization. "Complete shock. We're speechless. It takes words away. A terrible tragedy," Saccomano said. Hours before the shooting,

the Broncos lost to San Francisco 26-23 in overtime, eliminating them from the playoff race. The 24-year-old Williams finished the season with 88 tackles, 78 of them solo, and four interceptions. He was a second-round pick in the 2005 draft and started nine games as a rookie due to injuries. This season, he took over as the starter for Lenny Walls alongside Champ Bailey,

and was second on the team with four interceptions and tied for third with 86 tackles. On Sunday against the 49ers, he had three tackles and returned two punts for 50 yards before leaving the game with a shoulder injury late in the second half. The alumnus of O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, Texas, played four seasons at Oklahoma State, where he was a 2003 All-Big 12 selection. He totaled 11

interceptions and scored three touchdowns on punt returns for the Cowboys. Chosen 56th overall in the 2005 NFL Draft, Williams made an immediate impact on the Broncos. He remained an off-season Fort Worth resident. Players and coaches are off Monday. They were scheduled to meet Tuesday before heading home for the offseason.

Cowboys top off ugly month with loss to Detroit

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys ended 2006 the same way they began it: with a deflating loss to a bad team, the identical record and big questions. Except there's one big difference. The Cowboys are going to the playoffs this time, no matter how poorly they've played the last month. The Cowboys blew their last chance to stay alive in the NFC East race and build some much-needed momentum for the playoffs with a 39-31 loss Sunday to Detroit.

"We didn't want to go into the playoffs like this," nose tackle Jason Ferguson said.

"We are definitely going in backwards from the way we wanted to," Tony Romo said. "We may not scare anyone right now. We win a game or two and that will change."

With consecutive losses for the first time this season, the Cowboys (9-7) open the playoffs Saturday at Seattle.

Detroit (3-13) lost by winning, giving up the No. 1 overall pick by scoring its most points since the 2003 opener. Jon Kitna was 28-of-42 passing for 306 yards and four touchdowns, two to Roy Williams.

The final day of 2006 was marked by repeated mistakes by

Romo, the Pro Bowler who had an interception and lost two of his four fumbles, and a couple of huge miscues by cornerback Terence Newman that overshadowed his 56-yard punt return for a TD. Newman's personal foul wiped out an interception return for a score on the game's first snap, and he muffed an earlier punt that led to a Detroit touchdown.

"This is pretty low. I am just disappointed. This is what I have been doing all these years. Of course I take it personal"

— Bill Parcells
Cowboys Head Coach

Back on New Year's Day 2006, the Cowboys were lifeless in a 20-10 season-ending loss to a St. Louis team that had lost four straight games. Dallas had been eliminated from the playoffs by games played earlier that day.

Now, like then, there are questions about whether coach Bill Parcells is coming back. He's still

got at least one more game left.

"This is pretty low. I am just disappointed," Parcells said. "This is my life. This is what I have been doing all these years. Of course, I take it personal."

The Cowboys have a short week to get things straightened out, or it could be another one-and-done in the playoffs like 2003 in Parcells' first season.

"It's not about turning it around now," he said. "We just have to play a good game. I believe in the players, and I do think we can do some things well, but just this last couple of weeks here we have not done them the way I hoped we would."

The Cowboys have allowed 132 points the last four games, the exact amount they gave up the previous eight games. And they lost all three games at home during that stretch.

Roy Williams caught the first two TDs for Detroit, a great one that withstood replay and another with 2 seconds left in the first half. Mike Williams caught a 21-yarder that put Detroit ahead for good and Mike Furrey punctuated his TD by firing the football into a plastic Cowboys logo behind the end zone, knocking it off the wall and putting a crack in it.

"I didn't think the star would come down," he said. "I didn't

want to do that. But all the guys enjoyed it."

The Raiders did, too. Now Oakland gets the top overall pick and the Lions will go second.

Detroit last week botched the final play with a chance to beat NFC-leading Chicago.

This time, Detroit made the final play, stuffing a fourth-down scramble by Romo. He also was stopped on a first-down run and forced to throw incompletions on second and third downs.

"It feels good to end the season like this," cornerback Dre Bly said. "In past games, other teams came back and made plays. Today, we were the last team on the field."

Dallas led by one several times, including Newman with the first punt return for a touchdown since 2001 and Terrell Owens catching a 56-yard pass for a 31-30 advantage with 8:09 left.

That play capped a 99-yard drive, that was highlighted by Romo losing the ball in his own end zone, picking it up and throwing to Owens for 17 yards.

But the Lions answered with Mike Williams' TD and Romo fumbled on his very next snap. That led to Jason Hanson's fourth field goal of the game and an eight-point Detroit lead with 2:58 left.

No Nowitzki, No Problem

DENVER (AP) — Josh Howard had 28 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Mavericks to their 10th straight victory, 89-85 over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday night.

"I was trying to stay aggressive," Howard said. "But it was more of a matter of me going out there and playing my great game."

Howard has scored 20 or more points in 10 of his past 17 games while averaging 23 points.

"This is the top," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "We could easily have found an excuse for this game."

Howard had nine points in the fourth quarter and made a key basket in the last minute. Jason Terry scored nine of his 21 points in the final period for the Mavericks, missing star Dirk Nowitzki because of a sinus infection.

Allen Iverson had 28 points and eight assists for Denver. Marcus Camby had 13 points and 13 rebounds in his first game back after missing four games because of a broken finger.

The 700 Club

By The Associated Press

Coaches with 700 victories who have spent a minimum of 10 seasons in Division I with last school worked at listed (x-active, records through games of Dec. 31, 2006):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Dean Smith, North Carolina | 879 |
| 1. x-Bob Knight, Texas Tech | 879 |
| 3. Adolph Rupp, Kentucky | 876 |
| 4. Jim Phelan, Mt. St. Mary's, Md. | 830 |
| 5. Eddie Sutton, Oklahoma State | 798 |
| 6. Lefty Driesell, Georgia State | 786 |
| 7. Lou Henson, New Mexico State | 779 |
| 8. x-Lute Olson, Arizona | 772 |
| 9. x-Mike Krzyzewski, Duke | 765 |
| 10. Henry Iba, Oklahoma State | 764 |
| 11. Ed Diddle, Western Kentucky | 759 |
| 12. Phog Allen, Kansas | 746 |
| 13. x-Jim Calhoun, Connecticut | 744 |
| 14. John Chaney, Temple | 741 |
| 15. x-Jim Boheim, Syracuse | 737 |
| 16. Jerry Tarkanian, Fresno State | 729 |
| 17. Norm Stewart, Missouri | 728 |
| 18. Ray Meyer, DePaul | 724 |
| 19. Don Haskins, Texas-El Paso | 719 |

Texans survive pre-game warmups to defeat Browns

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Anthony Maddox swatted the ball out of Charlie Frye's hand and pounced on it. The 6-foot-1, 295-pound defensive tackle lied on the turf for a moment, got up once he realized no one had touched him and lumbered 47 yards for the end zone.

The ugly touchdown was a perfect fit in the Texans' less-than-aesthetic 14-6 win over the Cleveland Browns

on Sunday.

"I ran out of gas at about the 30-yard line," Maddox said. "I was just thinking: 'Where can I find some energy?' I thought someone wanted to tackle me, but no one wanted to tackle me."

The Texans (6-10) have back-to-back victories for the first time in two years and won their season finale for the first time ever.

But it wasn't a pretty sight — and that was before the

game even started.

Ron Dayne, who rushed for a career-high 153 yards and two touchdowns against Indianapolis on Christmas Eve, twisted his ankle in pre-game warmups and spent the entire game standing on the sideline, holding his helmet at his side. Tight end Jeb Putzier also got hurt before the game, breaking his foot running a route.

"I've been doing this a long time and I ain't never

seen what I saw in warmups," said Texans coach Gary Kubiak. "I think the guys were stunned at what happened."

The Texans mustered only 70 yards and three first downs in the first half and trailed 3-0 at the break.

Kubiak ripped his team at halftime and the Texans opened the third quarter with their best drive of the game, a 9-play touchdown march that gave them a 7-3 lead.

CHIEF PLASTIC PIPE & SUPPLY INC.
1237 SOUTH BARNES
806-665-6716 OR 800-649-6716

KEEP WARM THIS WINTER WITH A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

INSULATED HOODED JACKETS & BIBBED OVERALLS

- 12 Iron Plus - 2x2 Ply Ring Spun 100% Cotton Duck
- DuPont Advanced Teflon® Repels Wind, Rain & Stains
- 3M Thinsulate™ Insulation for Extreme Cold
- Durable Quilted Brushed Nylon Flannel Lining In Jacket & Bib & Smooth Nylon Quilt Lining In Legs
- Triple Needle Stitching For Extra Strength

ORIGINAL JUSTICE WORK WEAR

REDUCE FUEL COST WITH NEW BLOWN INSULATION BY ATTIC GUARD

SALE \$19.95 PER BAG
REG. 21.95

Covers 132 Sq Ft At 6"

ATTIC GUARD PREMIUM

Purchase 10 BAGS of insulation and get 8 HOURS of FREE rental time on blower machine. Requires \$100 deposit for cleanup fee.

FRANKS TRUE VALUE
401 N. BALLARD 665-4995

2007 Happy New Year

thinking about a new car, truck, boat... or expecting an addition to your family

COME SEE US FOR ALL YOUR "NEW" EXPENSES

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE
An Office Of First National Bank Waupaca, Wisconsin
PAMPA • 1224 N. HOBART • 665-0022
SHAMROCK • 305 N. MAIN • 256-2181
CHILDRESS • 501 COMMERCE • 940-937-2514

FDIC

B&B PHARMACY
 300 N. BALLARD • 665-5788 • 800-273-0927
 EMERGENCY 665-2892
 • ACCEPT MOST INSURANCE • OSTOMY SUPPLIES
 • OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION

Brown's SHOE FIT CO.
"More Shoes ... More Footwear ... More Friendly"
 1500 N. Hobart - Pampa Texas
 Open 9:00 am-7:00 pm Monday-Saturday

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE
 An Office Of First National Bank Waupaca, Wisconsin
PAMPA • 1224 N. HOBART • 665-0022
 SHARROCK • 305 N. MAIN • 256-2181
 CHILDRESS • 501 COMMERCE • 940-937-2514

FIRST STATE BANK OF MIAMI
 Main Bank • 100 S. Main • Miami Tx • 806-868-2771
 Pampa Branch • 120 W. Kingsmill • Pampa Tx • 806-665-3669
 Member FDIC

APARTMENT LIVING FOR SENIORS
PAM APARTMENTS
 1200 N. WELLS • PAMPA • 806-669-2594

Peggy's Place
 Open 7 Days A Week • 5am - 10pm
 1801 Alcock • 665-7830

BATH FITTERS®
 OF AMARILLO
1-888-465-4978
 TOLL FREE
 Tested and proven in 1000's of commercial & residential locations all across North America.

Century 21 PAMPA REALTY INC
 312 N. GRAY
 669-9007
 More POWER To You

LEFORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
835-2773
 117 W. 2ND STREET • LEFORS TEXAS

2007

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS... The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS... Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California.

Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus.

The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR... Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

AULD LANG SYNE... The song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

WARREN CHISUM
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PARSLEYS
 SHEET METAL AND ROOFING
 214 E. TYNG AVENUE
 800-442-4668 • 806-669-6461

HOME FURNISHINGS
 801 W. FRANCIS • 665-3361

Johnson

HOME ENTERTAINMENT
 2211 PERRYTON PARKWAY • 665-0504

CULBERSON STOWERS, INC.
 805 N. Hobart • 806-665-1665
 rstowers@pan-tex.net



GMC BUICK PONTIAC AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE PAMPA NEWS

"YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER"

403 W. LATCHISON
 806-669-2525

www.thepampanews.com

5 Spec
 ADVER
 al to be
 Pampa
 placed th
 pa News
 14d Cal
 Carpent
 placement
 siding &
 gutters.
 669-9991
 OVER
 REPAIR
 struction
 14e Cal
 NU-WA
 ice, car
 walls, c
 doesn't e
 steam u
 owner-o
 3541, o
 town, 80
 14h Ge
 COX R
 Repair o
 new. Fr
 669-776
 HOUSE
 bricks o
 Brothers
 9563, 80
 CERAM
 modeling
 kitchen.
 dry wal
 665-345
 Jesus Ba
 14s Pl
 JACK'S
 Faucet S
 ter, 66
 plumbin
 constr.,
 ing, sep
 led. Vis
 L
 Heating
 Borge
 21 Hel
 Readers
 investig
 which r
 advanced
 services
 EXP. M
 needed.
 tools. C
 4274 or
 FULL
 Janitor
 appl.
 Will
 665-314
 WE pa
 up to
 304
 1-
 Tr
 R
 Relian
 of per
 expand
 ing o
 worki
 custom
 tablisl
 tions.
 What
 Indus
 a rang
 \$75.0
 call, 1
 A c
 in
 Requ
 with
 endor
 relev
 work
 Type
 ble:
 Drive
 Super
 CA
 15 m
 could
 caree
 look
 you c
 HELP
 elder
 home.
 ing, 4
 CNA
 Po Bo
 STEA
 perien
 fits. A
 S. Pri
 TOP
 Serv
 CDL
 Appl

Despite 2004 ruling, Mexican truck travel still limited

LOS INDIOS, Texas (AP) — Mexican trucker Brigido Moctezuma lives in a city on Mexico's northern border, far from talks on whether he'll be able to drive his loads of vehicle air bags all the way to assembly lines in Detroit.

All he knows is that he and his boss' fleet of trucks are ready, and have been for years.

"The line is ready. We've bought many new trucks; everything is in good order," he said. "But it seems like every time it almost happens that we can go, it doesn't."

Access to all U.S. highways was promised by the year 2000 under the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement, as was access through Mexico for U.S. carriers. A similar exchange with Canada has been carried out without a hitch.

But U.S. trucking companies, unions and environmental groups

blame Mexico's loosely regulated trucking industry. They contend that trucks used by Mexican carriers are older and poorly maintained, the result of that country's less stringent environmental and safety standards. The provision will cost Americans thousands of jobs, pollute the air, damage highways and threaten national security, they say.

Mexican carriers insist their rigs meet U.S. standards. Meanwhile, however, their trucks can't go beyond a 20-mile border zone in Texas.

Mexico has said the United States is renegeing on part of its NAFTA role, and a February 2001 international arbitration panel agreed.

President Bush said in 2001 said he would allow the trucks, and a June 2004 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court seemed to remove

the last legal barrier.

In an unanimous decision, the court said that the president — not federal agencies — had ultimate say on whether the trucks could enter.

The ruling in response to a lawsuit by Public Citizen against the U.S. Transportation Department rendered moot the nonprofit organization's efforts to keep out Mexican trucks until air quality issues are studied.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the court that agencies may not "countermand the President's decision to lift the moratorium or to act categorically to prevent Mexican carriers from registering and Mexican trucks from entering the country."

But two and a half years later, the trucks still aren't rolling.

Ian Grossman, spokesman for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety

Administration, said a safety plan for Mexican trucks is ready should the highways be opened. But he added negotiations with Mexico are ongoing.

He said he was not at liberty to discuss the details.

"There's a number of topics that continue to be ironed out," he said.

A Bush spokesman said Grossman was the administration's spokesman on the trucking issue.

Joan Claybrook, president of Public Citizen and the former head of the NHTSA, said the sticking point is legislation calling for U.S. inspectors to perform safety checks at trucking companies in Mexico.

"The Mexican government disagreed or disapproved," she said. "That has caused a standoff. That's why the border hasn't opened."

She said Public Citizen is now working on legislation requiring drivers from Mexico to have

"black boxes" to record driving hours and prevent fatigue, something the group also is seeking in the United States.

Fairborn Ghadar, director of the Center for Global Business Studies at Pennsylvania State University, said the delays were political and that NAFTA was being compromised.

"I think this is just embedded with all sorts of politics — local politics, labor union politics," Ghadar said. "The law can say one thing but you can put so many barriers in front of people that finally it just doesn't make any sense for people. I think that's what's going on."

What it means is that truck loads are transferred from a Mexican to U.S. carrier, Ghadar said, and the consumer ultimately pays the added cost. The transfer business itself is a thriving border trade.

Interior officials under investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators are looking at whether Interior Department officials played favorites or took money from companies vying for big oil and gas contracts.

The probe is the latest in a series of investigations into Interior's handling of \$10 billion a year in royalties paid by companies on the \$60 billion in oil and gas they produce from leased public lands.

The latest investigations into Interior's handling of oil royalties were reported Saturday by The New York Times, which cited unidentified officials speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigations were not yet made public.

Those royalties are the federal government's second-biggest source of revenues, behind only taxes. Other investigations are looking at multibillion-dollar shortfalls in royalty payments.

The Justice Department is investigating the allegations based on the work of the Interior Department's inspector general's office, an internal watchdog. Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said his staff were told earlier this month of two related matters that the Interior inspector general's office referred to the FBI and Justice Department.

Markey said Saturday in a statement given to The Associated Press that it was

"beyond the pale" that several Denver-based officials in Interior's Minerals Management Service may have illegally benefited by acting as paid consultants to some of the oil and gas companies. At issue is whether the officials steered oil-trading contracts to favorite companies.

The Minerals Management Service helps oversee a program the Bush administration has promoted that allows companies to pay "in-kind" amounts of oil and gas, rather than cash royalties, for drilling federal lands. Such payments total about \$3.7 billion in oil and gas a year.

Interior sent most of the oil and gas to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, but lately has sold it by hiring private companies that solicit bids. Through that bidding, companies offering the highest premium over daily market prices is supposed to win the oil-trading contract.

"The allegation that any senior official who is responsible for collecting royalties from companies that drill on public lands is also taking money from those companies as a consultant is beyond a conflict of interest, if true, it is a crime," according to the statement Saturday from Markey, a senior member of the House Resources Committee.

TOUR 1

\$29.99

month

America's Top 120

Over 200 great channels

\$19.99

month

America's Top 60

Over 80 favorite channels

\$29.99

month

DishHD Bronze

25 high-definition channels plus over 80 standard channels

Prices valid for 10 months (after mail-in redemption)

PLUS PICK ONE PREMIUM 3 MONTHS FREE

Choose to add Local Channels, just \$5/month (where available)

FREE DVR Receiver Upgrade - Record up to 100 hours without videotape
Monthly DVR fee \$5.99

FREE Standard Professional Installation (up to 4 rooms)

NO Equipment to Buy

PAMPA COMMUNICATIONS INC.

641 N. HOBART
806-665-1663

Savings on standard-definition programming requires subscription to America's Top 60 package or higher, received as one \$10.00 credit each month for up to 10 consecutive months. Savings on high-definition programming requires subscription to DishHD Bronze package or higher, received as two \$10.00 credits each month for up to 10 consecutive months. Available with Digital Home Advantage; customer must submit redemption form and copy of first bill. Visit www.dishnetwork.com/100back for more information. After 3 free months of qualifying movie package, customer must call to downgrade or then-current price for selected movie package will apply. Digital Home Advantage: Pay \$49.99 Activation Fee. Restrictions apply, including credit approval, qualifying programming purchase and monthly fees for receivers. DISH Network retains ownership of equipment. Limit 4 tuners per account. HD programming requires HD receiver and HD television (sold separately). Lease upgrade fee will apply for HD DVR receiver, and may apply for a second DVR receiver (based on model).

Offer ends 1/31/07 and is available in the continental United States for new, first-time DISH Network residential customers. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local and state sales taxes may apply. Where applicable, equipment rental fees and programming are taxed separately. All DISH Network programming, and any other services that are provided, are subject to the terms and conditions of the promotional agreement and Residential Customer Agreement, available at www.dishnetwork.com or upon request. Local Channels packages by satellite are only available to customers who reside in the specified local Designated Market Area (DMA). Local channels may require an additional dish antenna from DISH Network, installed free of any charges with subscription to local channels at time of initial installation. Social Security Numbers are used to obtain credit scores and will not be released to third parties except for verification and collection purposes only or if required by governmental authorities. All service marks and trademarks belong to their respective owners.

SLICK141103.06 4cC bubbles

TENNESSEE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Ominia

Wishing You A Merry Christmas!

- B.S. in Bible
- B.B.A. in Business
- B.S. in Accounting
- B.S. in Computer Information Systems
- B.S. in Finance
- B.S. in Management
- B.S. in Marketing
- B.S. in Psychology

- M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
- M.Ed. in Instructional Technology

- M.A. in Ministry
- M.A. in Biblical Studies
- M.A. in Christian Education
- M.A. in Divinity
- D.Min. in Ministry

www.tntemple.edu

Register For Spring Semester Starting Jan. 15th

Tenet sells San Diego hospital

DALLAS (AP) — Tenet Healthcare Corp. said today it has completed the sale of a San Diego hospital that was accused of paying kickbacks to doctors in exchange for patient referrals.

Tenet said the 306-bed Alvarado Hospital Medical Center was sold to Plymouth Health of Los Angeles. Tenet said that \$22.5 million in pretax proceeds would be applied to general corporate purposes.

Tenet announced in May that it would sell Alvarado as part of an agreement with federal prosecutors in San Diego to pay \$21 million and settle kickback charges. The settlement came after two juries failed to reach a verdict in criminal trials.

Plymouth Health is a physician-owned company formed by the family of Pejman Salimpour and Pedram Salimpour, doctors who also own a physician-services company called CareNex Health Services.