

THE PA NEWS









Man dies after ramming vacant house with car

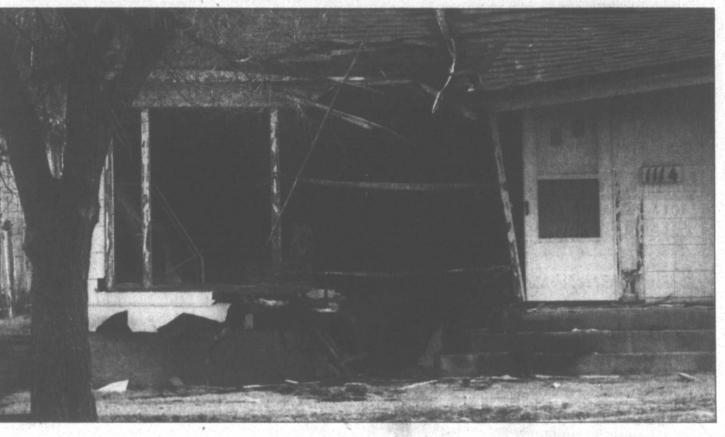
By MARILYN POWERS

Staff Writer An apparent high-speed departure from the scene of a misdemeanor ended with the death of a 30-year-old Pampa man after his vehicle crashed into a house early today.

Jorge Alberto Ortiz-Mares, of 1221 E. Francis, was driving a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix when he left the parking lot of an apartment building at 1601 W. Somerville at a high rate of speed just after midnight, according to Pampa Police Department Assistant Chief Dennis Burton.

Police were at the apartment buildings concerning a disorderly conduct report involving loud music from a vehicle at 12:07 a.m. Police records show that other calls to the address from the same source during the evening included domestic disturbance and criminal mischief, involving a tail light being broken out of a vehicle.

"Officers were in the parking lot, and the suspect apparently saw police and fled in his vehicle," Burton said. "By the time officers could give chase, he was gone. Officers turned onto Hobart Street in search of the fleeing vehicle but did not find it or the driver. Meanwhile, a call was



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

The front wall and roof of a house at 1114 W. Somerville was damaged shortly after midnight today when a 30-year-old Pampa man, Jorge Alberto Ortiz-Mares, became airborne in his vehicle and crashed into the home. Ortiz-Mares was transported to Amarillo by ambulance and was later pronounced dead.

received by emergency dispatch that a vehicle had driven into a house.

"Police believe that

the front room of the home." The vehicle that crashed into the house at 1114 W. Somerville was determined

of tire tracks leading up to vehicle, Burton said. the house and the vehicle's landing on its passenger side, Burton said.

Ortiz-Mares was transported by Guardian EMS ambulance from the scene to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival, Burton said. See DEATH, Page 3

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because of excessive speed, Ortiz-Mares lost control of the vehicle," Burton said. "It became airborne and struck the house. Police report the vehicle ended on its side in

to be the same one officers had been searching for after it left the apartment buildings at a high rate of speed. Indications of the vehicle's high speed include the lack

Pampa Fire Department, Guardian EMS Ambulance, and PPD responded to the scene of the accident. The Jaws of Life was used to extract Ortiz-Mares from the



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School board approves new track, Houston job

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Independent School Pampa District held a special meeting this morning to consider and possibly approve two items — the demolition of Sam Houston school and the approval of an engineering firm to oversee the construction of a new track at the high school.

Athletic Director Stuart Smith addressed the board regarding the cost for various engineering firms to direct the Athletic Department Capital Improvement Project. Sports Engineering Technologies proposed a fixed fee of \$31,200 to oversee the bidding process, surveys and construction of a new track at the high school.

"I've contacted a former employer of the gentleman that owns this company and he gave nothing but rave reviews for his work," Smith said. "I also talked to a few schools that had this company as their engineer on their track projects and they gave very good recommendations also." The board voted and approved this firm as the engineer for the project.

Board members discussed whether they should award a bid for the demolition of Sam Houston school now or should allow for a rebid that includes demolition and committed to Pampa this summer." remodeling at the high school also.

Lee Porter was concerned that if the high school project was not bid out soon that there might be a delay in the process that would cause the demolition to be delayed another vear

"My main concern is making sure there are construction firms available to do the work this summer." Porter said. "We do not want this project to be delayed for another year. I wonder if having this project rebid to include not only the high school but Sam Houston's demolition would make sure a company is

Superintendent Barry Haenisch had a message from Henry King, the consultant for the project, who said he felt the bid for Sam Houston should be awarded now. He said he wants to get the specs for bidding on the high school project ready in March, so there should not be any problem getting a company to commit to this summer in Pampa.

After these discussions, the board voted to award the bid for demolition of Sam Houston to Advanced Environmental Services from

See PISD, Page 3





Mayor, two spots open in election

Pampa voters will elect a mayor and two commissioners in the May 12 election.

Ward 1 Commissioner Brad Pingel's seat is up for re-election, as is the Ward 3 seat held by Lana Miller. Ward 3 will not have an incumbent because Miller moved out of the precinct, City Manager John Horst said this morning.

Mayor Lonnie Robbins seat is up for re-election, too.

A story in Sunday's newspaper omitted the fact that Robbins' and Pingel's offices would be up for election.

Today is the first day candidates can file for the offices.

See ELECTION, Page 3

City commission to meet Tuesday

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Pampa City Commissioners will hold a regular meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the City Commission chambers on the third floor of City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill. Items on the agenda to be considered are three different resolutions, appointing two people to the Panhandle Elderly Apartments Board, approving an interim city secretary and approving an amendment to the Joint **Election Agreement.**

The commission will hear the second and final reading of a resolution and possibly approve an agreement between the Pampa EDC and the manufacturing company MXT, L.L.C. that would provide an economic development grant for the creation and

retention of primary jobs in Pampa.

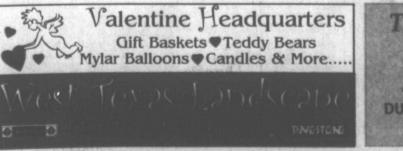
Commissioners will consider an authorization to release a lien to Richard C. DeVuyst and M. Linda DeVuyst dba Red River Dairy. This loan was originally given to Larry D. Roden, Gary Wayne Roden and Ricky Roden, dba Top O' Texas Dairy.

Also under consideration will be re-allocation of the remainder of the 2005-2006 bond issue of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

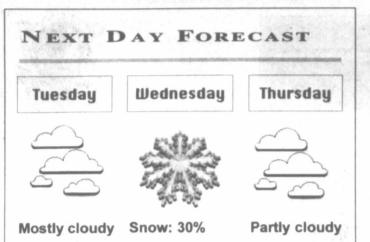
Two vacant positions on the Panhandle Elderly Apartments Board need to be filled, preferably prior to Feb. 22. These vacancies occurred when two of the members died.

The commission will consider approving

See CITY, Page 3



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Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. Wind chill values between 13 and 18. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 16. Wind chill values between 6 and 11. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 23. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow before midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 15. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 35. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

() This information brought to you by...



Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Feb. 9 Eighteen traffic stops were made, resulting in at least three arrests.

A traffic stop in the 400 block of North Sumner involved no insurance and no driver's license.

Traffic complaints were received from the 700 block of West Foster, the 1300 block of East Browning, the police department lobby, and an unreported location.

A suspicious person call reported in the 800 block of was received from the 300 block of South Cuyler. East Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 300 block of East Brown.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 100 block of South Nelson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of South Nelson and the 1200 block of North Hobart. Criminal trespass was

reported in the 600 block of Plains. Telephone harassment was received from a location

Obituaries

Services tomorrow.

EARP, W.H. 'Hood' - 2 p.m. Central Baptist Church. ADCOX, Loraine H. - Graveside services 2 p.m. Fairview Cemetery.

W.H. 'Hood' Earp, 84

in Weinert. Mr. Earp worked the home; two daughters, W. H. "Hood" Earp, 84, died Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 13, 2007, at Central Baptist Church with Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor, and Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Earp was born Aug.

15, 1922 in Okra, Texas, and came to Pampa in 1946 from Weinert, Texas. He served in the U. S. Army Air Force during World War II. He married Earlene "Ikey" Driggers on Aug. 26, 1944,

Loraine H. Adcox, 90,

Graveside services will be

died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007

at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13,

2007, at Fairview Cemetery

with Rev. Philip Elsheimer,

pastor of Calvary Assembly

of God Church, officiating.

Carmichael-Whatley

A missing person was

A civil matter was report-

A welfare check and dis-

block of East

ed in the 100 block of West

turbance were reported in the

Kingsmill. The incident

A suspicious person call

A suspicious vehicle call

was received from the inter-

section of Somerville and

involved an argument.

Francis streets.

are by

in Dalhart.

Arrangements

30th.

1100

in various oilfield-related Debbie Robertson and husbusinesses from 1946 until band David, and Jeanna retirement his from LSI, Inc. in 1996. He was a member of Central Baptist Church.

Funeral Directors.

East 17th.

location.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Wesley Earp Jr.; his mother, Ruth Smith Earp; a sister, Elizabeth Earp Earp

Heiskell; a broth-

all of Amarillo; Rodney er, John Wesley Earp III; and a great-grandcaughter, Jenna Robertson and wife Tonya and Jamie Winborne and Kay Earp. Survivors include his husband Tommy, all of wife, Earlene "Ikey" Earp of Pampa; Jay Wyatt Earp and

Loraine H. Adcox, 90

Assembly of God Church. Survivors include two Mrs. Adcox was born sons, Raymond Self of Dalhart and Tom L. Foster of Arlington; two daughters, Sherrye King of Flagstaff, Ariz. and Marlene Wyant of Pampa; 11 grandchildren, 24-great grandchildren, and great-great-grandchdildren. She was preceded in

Miller and hus-

band Johnny, all of

Pampa; a son,

Wyatt Earp and

wife Raynetta of

Pampa; a sister,

grandchildren,

Shelley Brantley

and husband Ken

and Jeremy Miller,

Earp

of

six

Darlene

Dunham

Nocona;

wife Jennifer of Duncan, Okla.; and Joshua Miller of Weatherford, Okla; six great-grandchildren, Natalie and Jaycee Winborne, both of Pampa; Judd and Lauren Earp, both of Duncan, Okla.; Emily Robertson of Pampa, and Wesley Brantley of Amarillo.

Memorials may be to Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065 or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

death by two brothers and two sisters.

Memorials may be to Calvary Assembly of God Church, P. O. Box 1837, Pampa, TX 79066-1837.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

Aug. 31, 1916, in Gomez, Texas. She married Earnest Adcox on Feb. 28, 1985. He preceded her in death on Jan. 22, 1998. She had been a resident of Pampa since

1979, moving to Dalhart in

the 700 block of East on a Dumpster fire. Murphy.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of North Somerville, where a tail light on a car was broken.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1600 block of North Somerville and the 700 block of East Murphy.

Sheriff

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

Monday, Feb. 12

12:21 a.m. - Two units and six personnel responded to the 1100 block of Somerville an a vehicle extracation.

2:17 a.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Huff on a medical assist.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today. Saturday, Feb. 10 7:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Twiford. No transport. 1:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Fire Department Drill Tower for a testing standby. No transport.



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2005. She was a founding member of the Calvary

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Abandoned vehicles were reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive and the 1000 block of Huff Road.

Reckless driving was reported in the 600 block of West Foster.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1300 block of Garland, the 500 block of North Somerville, the intersection of Mary Ellen and 18th streets, on two occasions in the 1500 block of North Christy, and the 2500 block of Charles.

A runaway was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

An arrest was made in the 1200 block of South Nelson on a warrant.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 400 block of Crest.

A welfare check was made in the 1900 block of Christine.

was reported in the 700 block of Lefors.

order was reported in the police department lobby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North Faulkner.

Assault was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester and the 2400 block of Charles.

One burglar alarm was reported.

Forgery was reported at FirstBank Southwest, 300 W. Kingsmill.

Burglary was reported in the 900 block of East Frederic.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Seventeen traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 500 block of Lefors, the 500 block of North Wells, the 800 block of Beryl, the 800 block of South Gray, the 500 block of North Somerville, the 1100 block of South Dwight, and the intersection of Denver and Reid streets.

on Perryton Parkway

A prowler was reported in Violation of a protective the 700 block of East Murphy.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive, the 100 block of 30th Avenue, and the 1700 block of North Russell.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee.

A threat was reported in the police department lobby. Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1500 block of Coffee and the intersection of Sloan and Browning streets.

Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the police department lobby. Bruising was reported in connection with the incident.

One burglar alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby.

Sunday, Feb. 11 Thirteen traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the 2100 block of North Dwight.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 300 block of

block of East Brown, the 1000 block of South Hobart, and an address on Osage Street.

Animal control officers

made stops concerning ani-

mals in the 1900 block of

Coffee and an unreported

rendered in the 800 block of

South Barnes, the 200 block

of Thut, the 2700 block of

West Harvester, and the

1000 block of East Frederic.

The incident in the 800

block of South Barnes

resulted in at least one arrest.

were received from the 300

Suspicious person calls

Agency assistance was

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Crawford and Varnon streets and the 300 block of East Browning.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

A civil matter was reported in the 1800 block of North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of South Starkweather, the 400 block of Graham, on two occasions in the 2600 block of North Hobart, and the 1600 block of North Somerville.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1600 block of North Russell.

A welfare concern was reported in the 1900 block of North Banks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of North Somerville. One burglar alarm was

reported. Monday, Feb. 12

Saturday, Feb. 10 Renard Lee Villarreal, 34, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for public intoxica-

tion. Sunday, Feb. 11

Mary Michelle Daniels, 35, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of South Barnes by Pampa Police Department on capias pro fines for no driver's license, no insurance, and unsafe backing.

Brent J. Bradford, 44, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on capias pro fines for possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.

Fire

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

Saturday, Feb. 10

7:32 a.m. — Seven units and 11 personnel responded

Sunday, Feb. 11 two personnel responded to the 1400 block of Williston

3:26 p.m. — a mobile ICU responded to Pampa Nursing Center and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Sunday, Feb. 11

12:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:19 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of North Somerville and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital.

12:22 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA.

6:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a private residence.

Another blood drive scheduled Thursday

Coffee Memorial Blood Center will hold a blood drive in Pampa from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The event will be at Clarendon College ampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky.

TOP' TEXAS Knife & Fork Every donor will receive a M*A*S*H T-

To schedule an appointment, call 1-877-

A press release from the center indicated that there is a need for all blood types. Residents are encouraged to attend one of these and help with the need for all blood types.

For more information, contact Suzanne Talley at 806 331-8841 or Stephanie Hinds at 806 331-8852.

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\$22,000. 662-5837 or 665-3379 black poodle, with red collar 13th, 7pm. Pampa Show and bow. Childs pet. Please Choir will present "Evening 574-8800. on Broadway" Guest Night.

VALENTINE BALLOON

VALENTINE'S STOP. Bal-662-1801.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided	Cabot Oil Gas 65.25	-0.61
by Attebury Grain of White Deer.	Coca Cola 48.01	+0.25
Wheat	VLO	-0.31
Milo	HAL	-0.25
Com	TRI 49.61	+0.01
Soybeans	KMI	+0.05
	XCEL 23.98	-0.02
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock	Anadarko 41.60	+0.05
Market quotations are furnished by	XOM 74.87	+0.01
Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.	Nat'l Oilwell 66.92	+0.38
OXY	Limited 28.20	-0.30
BP PLC ADR62.25 -0.65	Williams 27.80	-0.01
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	+0.25	JCP 82.71 -0.14
	-0.31	COP
	-0.25	SLB 63.54 -0.92
49.61	+0.01	Tenneco 25.30 +0.62
106.04	+0.05	CVX 72.85 -0.47
23.98	-0.02	Wal-Mart 47.81 -0.16
41.60	+0.05	OKE
74.87	+0.01	NS Grp NA NA
66.92	+0.38	
28.20	-0.30	New York Gold
27.80	-0.01	Silver
44.52	-0.04	West Texas Crude
32.14	-0.09	

Pioneer Nat . . .

A prowler was reported in

to the 1000 block of Twiford on a structure fire. 2:14 p.m. - One unit and

The Pampa News — Monday, February 12, 2007 — 3

Death

Continued from Page 1

"He had massive head and internal injuries," Burton said. "No autopsy is planned."

Toxicology tests are pending, and the investigation is continuing, he said.

No passengers were found with Ortiz-Mares in the vehicle at the time of the accident, Burton said. The owner of the house on Somerville Street has been notified of the accident. The house was vacant at the time of the wreck, Burton said.

Ortiz-Mares is believed to be from Mexico. He also apparently had an alias, Jorge Alberto Lopez-Orozco, Burton said. Funeral services are pending.

PISD

Continued from Page 1

Odessa. Their proposal is for \$272,933 for demolition and asbestos abatement and \$15 a linear foot for any undisclosed thermal insulation. The materials will not be deposited in the Pampa landfill.

Tape reveals Armitage outing Valerie Plame

By MATT APUZZO Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -Jurors in the CIA leak trial today heard a one-minute excerpt from Washington journalist Post Bob Woodward's tape recorder which revealed a top State Department official repeatedly discussing CIA operative Valerie Plame.

Woodward, who famously kept the identity of his "Deep Throat" Watergate source a secret for decades, testified that in June 2003, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage disclosed that the wife of a prominent Iraq war critic worked for the CIA.

Armitage mentioned several times, in sometimes explicit terms that had to be redacted, that former Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife was a weapons of mass destruction analyst for the CIA.

"His wife is at the agency and is a WMD analyst," Armitage said on the tape.

The exchange occurred at the end of a lengthy inter- Monday that he was only view for one of Woodward's cooperating books on the Bush administration's war policy. Woodward did not publish an article on Plame, who was

outed a month later by columnist Robert Novak. Armitage also was the source for that story.

Novak's column sparked an FBI investigation that Libby is accused of obstructing. He is accused of lying to investigators about his conversations with reporters regarding Plame but is not accused of the leak itself.

Woodward testified that he interviewed Libby a few weeks after talking to Armitage.

"I have no doubt Mr. Libby did not say anything about Mr. Wilson's wife,' Woodward said.

Woodward's testimony doesn't directly undercut Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's case but it offers fodder to Libby's attorneys, who say Libby is being made a scapegoat by the administration.

Woodward, who protected the identity of former FBI official Mark Felt until Felt himself came forward in 2005 as the secret source for the Watergate stories, said because Armitage had encouraged it. Armitage has acknowledged being the source for Woodward and Novak but

has said it was accidental. Woodward was the second defense witness to testify Monday. His Post colleague, Walter Pincus, testified that White House press secretary Ari Fleischer leaked him Plame's identity in July

2003. Pincus, a veteran national security reporter, said he was talking to Fleischer for a story about weapons of mass destruction. He said Fleischer "suddenly swerved off" topic and asked why Pincus continued to write about Wilson.

"Don't you know his wife works for the CIA as an analyst?" Pincus recalled Fleischer saying.

Fleischer testified that he first learned that information from Libby over lunch. Fleischer testified he leaked the information to two reporters during a presidential trip to Africa but he did not mention the Pincus conversation.

In exchange for his testimony, prosecutors promised not to charge Fleischer.

Libby argues that he never discussed Plame with Fleischer. Pincus' testimony helps defense attorneys make the argument that Fleischer needed someone to

DA arrested for blocking police

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas (AP) -Willacy County's top prosecutor was arrested after he refused to allow police to enter his office with a search warrant related to allegations of abuse of office, theft and oppression, officials said.

Raymondville police arrested District Attorney Juan Guerra on Sunday at the Willacy County Courthouse on a misdemeanor charge of interfering with the official duties of a police officer, police Chief Uvaldo Zamora said,

"He stood in front of the door and said we weren't going in and, 'If you have to arrest me, arrest me," Zamora said in today's editions of the Valley Morning Star. "We gave him several more opportunities to cooperate. But he refused. We had no other choice but to place him under arrest." Zamora said Guerra was expected to be arraigned today. Special prosecutor Gustavo Garza said Sunday that Guerra is under investigation for theft by a public servant, official oppression and abuse of office. He said the allegations involve "a \$10,000 attempted extortion," the sale of a 2002 Toyota Camry that belonged to the state and an \$800 telephone reimbursement. Guerra remained in the Willacy County Jail early today without bail pending arraignment, Willacy County Sheriff Larry Spence said. He declined to make Guerra available, citing jail policy against inmate interviews.

A telephone call to the DA's office went unanswered this morning, and a message left with Precinct 4 County Commissioner Aurelio Guerra, who is Juan Guerra's brother, was not immediately returned.

Garza, a Cameron County justice of the peace, said he was appointed special prosecutor by state District Judge Migdalia Lopez. He said the investigation was initiated by a grand jury last year.

Guerra has been wrestling with his colleagues in the county justice system for years over controversies such as county audits and prison contracts. Other officials say he is antagonistic and holds vendettas over breaches of political loyalty.

On Thursday, Guerra sought to stop Lopez from hearing any of his cases. He cited her appointment of Garza, a longtime political rival of Guerra's, as special prosecutor against Guerra.

blame to cover up his own attorneys said. leaking.

Novak, whose column triggered an FBI investigation into the leak, was also scheduled to testify Monday,

Associated Press writer Michael J. Sniffen contributed to this report.



Election

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The city election will be held in conjunction with the Pampa Independent School District election.

Candidates have until March 12 to file applications to be included on the ballot with the city secretary's office.

March 20 is the last day for a candidate to withdraw from a race.

Early voting begins on April 30 and ends May 8. May 4 is the last day to receive an application to vote by mail.

Continued from Page 1

an interim city secretary to be effective on March 1 until a permanent selection can be made from applications that are due by March 9.

Also on the agenda is approval of an amendment to the Joint Election Agreement to name Karen Price as the Joint Election Officer.

A special city commission meeting may be scheduled for Feb. 28 at noon instead of the regular meeting on Feb. 27. Some members of the commission will be in Austin attending Panhandle Day.

The following day, Guerra said he was trying to have the county sheriff, district clerk, and county clerk removed from office. He said the district clerk refused to accept his petitions, which he said were based on allegations of official misconduct.

Garza said Sunday that the investigation into Guerra "has nothing to do with politics."

"This is a country of laws and not of men. The evidence will speak for itself," Garza said.

Raymondville is in the Rio Grande Valley, about 210 miles south of San Antonio.

Lefors school board to meet Tuesday

School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the high school library at 209 E. Fifth St.

School board elections will be ordered for May 12.

Financial items on Tuesday's agenda include approval of monthly expenditures, a budget amendment, and extension of the cur-

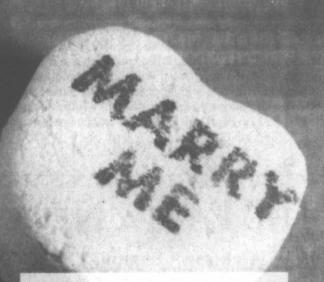
Lefors Independent School District's rent depository contract with FirstBank Southwest.

Purchase of new scoreboards will be discussed, and Update 79 will be presented for

approval. Other items on the agenda include a superintendent's report and a report on the district's cash position.



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Viewpoints

Rebel giant put fear into the hearts of Yankee soldiers

diers saw Henry Clay Thurston charging toward them through the clouds of black powder smoke they must have rubbed their eyes in disbelief. This gray-clad Johnny Reb towered over the other fighting men like a pine tree growing next to a bush.

Born May 4, 1830, in Greenville, S.C., Thurston grew to 7 feet, 7-and-a-half inches. Some folks quibbled that he only stood a mere 7 feet, 6 inches but no one wanted to get in an argument with him about it. Maybe the Abe Lincoln-style stovepipe hat he favored in his later years did make him look a little taller.

To put Thurston's height in perspective, in a piece called "The Men in the Union and Confederate Web site Armies," the http://www.civilwarhome.com says the average height of Union soldiers was 5 feet, 8-and-a-half

measured only 6 feet, 10-and-ahalf inches.

Thurston and his family, which included four brothers who also wore extra, extra, extra longs, moved to Missouri, where he spent his early years. In 1850 he went to California for a while, coming home to Missouri via the Isthmus of Panama. At 23 he married Mary Thurston, a distant cousin. They would have four children.

When the Civil War broke out, Thurston joined the Confederate Army, serving as a private under Col. John Q. Burbridge in the 4th Missouri Cavalry. Given Thurston's size, that speaks well for the sturdiness of Missouri horseflesh.

Early in the war, when the Southern military still worried about discipline and the orderly forming of ranks, a colonel assembled Thurston's company. Noting

The first time the Yankee sol- inches. Even the tallest Yankee that one of the soldiers in the rank Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. rose way above the rest of the men, the officer figured Thurston had stood up on a stump and ordered him off. When Thurston did not move, the officer drew his saber and roared, "I will make you obey orders! What are you standing on?" To which Thurston drawled, "I am standing on the ground."

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



Though federal marksmen could hardly hope for a more visible target. Thurston survived the hostilities with only a couple of relatively minor wounds, including a high shot that grazed the top of his head. His outfit fought with distinction in

The skyscraper soldier became a prisoner of war late in the conflict, but did not spend long in confinement, gaining parole at Shreveport, La., in June 1865.

After the war, Thurston reunited with his family in Missouri and migrated southwest to Texas, stopping when he got to Titus County. He bought 100 acres east of Mount Vernon and spent most of the rest of his life farming.

Except when he toured with a circus company that billed him as "The World's Tallest Man." While it's impossible to prove he actually stood taller than anyone on the planet, Thurston did go into the record books as the tallest Confederate solider.

Despite his size, he seems to have been a gentle giant. But he had his limits. Once, when a much shorter man looked up at him and asked, "How's the weather up

there?" Thurston let fly with a big gob of spit directed down on the man. "It's raining," the old Rebel answered.

"He was very proud of his great height and on every occasion of note would take the opportunity to exhibit himself, being called upon by all kinds of organizations in all parts of the country to mark in their ranks as a color bearer," a Mount Vernon newspaper wrote of Thurston. The Titus County farmer particularly liked to attend local and national reunions of Confederate veterans, serving as a human flag pole.

On Friday, July 2, 1909, Thurston sat down to supper with his son Ed, his daughter-in-law and their son. Mrs. Thurston told him that since he had not been feeling very well, he'd better pass on the cabbage. The big man began to

See THURSTON, Page 5



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2007. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky. On this date:

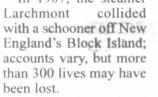
In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who had claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

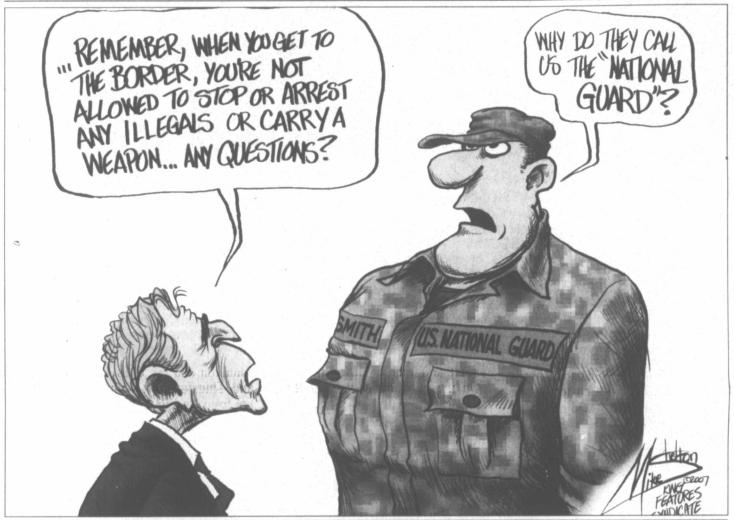
In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

'No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."

— Abraham

In 1870, women in the Utah Territory gained the right to vote (however, that right was taken away in 1887). In 1907, the steamer







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Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington D.C.

In 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" debuted with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place

In 1999, the Senate acquitted President Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Ten years ago: The highest-ranking official to flee communist North Korea, Hwang Jang Yop, asked for political asylum at South Korea's consulate in Beijing. The Clinton administration gave permission to 10 U.S. news organizations to open bureaus in Cuba.

Five years ago: Former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay expressed "profound sadness" about the collapse of the energy giant, but refused to testify at a Senate hearing. Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic went on trial in The Hague, accused of war crimes. Pakistan charged three men in connection with the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi (they and a fourth man were later convicted of Pearl's murder). An Iranian passenger jet crashed, killing all 119 on board.



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What age can do to one's outlook, optimism

A kind lady accused me of other nation in the world, need a splendid campus and becoming "cranky" because I criticized the pope's visit to Turkey.

Why, crikey, I'm shocked. I thought my point that the crisis in Christianity is in Europe and North America and that the church could better use its resources there than on a public-relations trip to a Muslim country was quite reasonable.

Nevertheless, I rummaged around in my mental attic until I found my conscience. I've dusted it off and examined it carefully. I don't think I am cranky, but there are some characteristics of advancing age that might be mistaken for crankiness.

For example, one loses patience with hearing the same excuse for failure that has been heard hundreds of times before. More money for education is one such excuse. We already spend more on education than any

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Feb. 4

Houston Chronicle on tougher sex offender laws:

There is a difference between being tough on crime and talking tough about crime. That distinction is in danger of being lost in the push to adopt laws that would impose the death sentence for repeat child sex offenders and a mandatory 25-year sentence for first-time offenders. The governor and lieutenant governor of Texas each made passage of the so-called "Jessica's Laws" prominent in his campaign. Legislators have filed more than 30 related bills, most proposing to "get tough" on an

and we get poorer results. Whatever the key to education is, it obviously is not money.

One gets tired of hearing politicians flap their lips about the "high cost of health care"

while at the Charley same time Reese ignoring the problem. Columnist The problem is the

prices charged by hospitals,

nursing homes, doctors,

pharmaceuticals and all the

other appendages of the

health-care system. To play

around with the notion of

who will pay these high

costs – public or private

insurance - is to avoid the

The same thing applies to

the "high cost" of higher

high cost -

to wit, the

issue.

an accountant or a social worker or a teacher or a lawyer. Most universities have become pretentious vocational schools for the middle class. Students could hear their

lectures just as well in an building or a Quonset hut, for that matter. Nor do

they need to be entertained by high-priced sports teams.

Too much experience robs one of the bliss of ignorance, which is real, but at the same time, it leavens one's optimism with realism. There is always progress, but it is never easy, and progress also creates new problems. There is also regression. Utopia never comes. One wishes the education. Well, you don't old German saying "too

offense no one denies is devastating.

When proponents of these measures cite the psychological wreckage in a child victim's life, they are not exaggerating. The damage can take years to repair. Every child deserves laws that promote protection and prevention as effectively as possible. Every offender deserves punishment that matches the severity of the offense.

By most accounts, Texas already has some of the most stringent laws in the nation to deal with sex crimes involving children. When asked if he had the tools he needed to vigorously prosecute these cases, Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said he did. Rosenthal is no softie.

But two years ago talk-show host Bill O'Reilly told Gov, Rick Perry that

soon old, too late smart" grand buildings just to train were not true. There is a poignant truth

to the Adam and Eve story. The one fruit they were forbidden to taste came from the tree of knowledge. Knowledge, once acquired, cannot be unacquired, except through disease or brain injury. All the images office stored in our brain have an effect on us. That is reason enough for parents to guard their children's brains from all the images of death and violence the commercial entertainment industry supplies.

> So, dear lady, I shall be on my guard lest I become cranky, but please keep in mind that most of my illusions are in tatters. Like Patrick Henry, I have only the lamp of experience to light my way, and my experience tells me that the future

> > See REESE, Page 5

Texas laws weren't tough enough. He told Perry Texas should join a halfdozen other states that have added the death penalty and the 25-year minimum sentence. At the recent inaugural ceremony, both Perry and Dewhurst mentioned their commitment to these measures. Dewhurst told listeners that there's tough and then there's Texas tough.

A society concerned about coping with this terrible and confounding crime will disregard the tough-guy rhetoric and ask whether the proposed measures will make children safer.

Proponents of high sentences presume that offenders will be convicted and locked safely away. Rosenthal said

See OPINION, Page 5



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The Pampa News - Monday, February 12, 2007 - 5

Harvard names historian as first female president

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Drew Gilpin Faust recalls her mother lecturing her that "this is a man's world, sweetie, and the sooner you learn that, the better off you'll be."

It was a lesson, she wrote in a memoir, that she refused to accept.

On Sunday, Harvard University named Faust the first female president in the school's 371-year history.

"I hope that my own appointment can be one symbol of an opening of opportunities that would have been

Carrying a tune.

inconceivable even a generation ago," Faust said. But she also added, "I'm not the woman president of Harvard, I'm the president of Harvard."

A Civil War scholar and respected university insider, Faust, 59, emerged as a candidate considered by the school's governing body to be best suited to cool tensions within the faculty after the tumultuous fiveyear presidency of Lawrence Summers. Two years ago, Summers created an uproar when he said that genetic gender differences may explain why few women rise to top science jobs. At the height of the controversy, Faust oversaw two panels that examined gender diversity on campus.

She has been dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study since 2001, two years after the former women's college merged into Harvard as a research center with a mission to study gender issues. Faust was elected by the sevenmember Harvard Corporation, the school's governing body, and ratified by the 30-member Board of Overseers.

With Faust's appointment, half of the eight Ivy League schools have woman presidents. The other three are Amy Gutmann of the University of Pennsylvania, Shirley M. Tilghman of Princeton University, and Ruth J. Simmons of Brown University.





Tyler Lambright sounded a little like Hilary Duff in the CREATE-a-Beat! karaoke room recently.

Thurston

Continued from Page 4

butter a biscuit when he fell back in his chair in heart failure.

Before Thurston could be laid to rest, the local undertaker had to await the arrival by train of a custom-made casket from Texarkana. Eight feet long, it couldn't fit into the hearse with the doors closed. longer than deep in Mt. Pleasant's Edwards Cemetery. His house, which had nine-foot ceilings, still stands in Mount Vernon.

The editor of the local weekly newspaper eulogized Thurston as "a kind and generous friend, a citizen of strong prejudices [the modern word would be beliefs], and intense patriotism."

On the other hand, the old Rebel hadn't been a church goer and "made no pretension to religion whatsoever." Even so, the newspaperman surely he concluded: "He was our friend and we shall miss his cheering words and hearty handshake."

COURTESY PHOTO

Note from the author: Mount Vernon psychologist R.L. Flournoy has done a lot of research on Thurston. The delightful anecdotes about Thurston and the Confederate officer and Thurston's "it's raining" remark are from Dr. Flournoy's work.

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a



A Perfect Way To Show Your Love On Valentine's Day Wednesday, February 14



They buried him in a grave much spoke for the whole community when dozen Texas-related books.

Opinion

Continued from Page 4

that high penalties generally work against the prosecution, and the stiffer penalty would result in fewer families coming forward. Because child sexual abuse is overwhelmingly a covert crime that occurs between a child and someone known to the child, fewer cases prosecuted means more children remaining in abusive situations.

Many victims' rights groups are particularly leery of the death penalty. It puts the child and the family in the position of testifying in the capital trial of another family member. The fear is that, rather than deterring offenders, the death penalty would deter the family from reporting the offense.

Imposing the death penalty for repeat offenders would mean that an offender would receive the same punishment, regardless of whether the victim was killed. This raises the specter of a "perverse incentive" for the offender to kill the child to eliminate the witness.

State Sen. John Whitmire,

chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, says the Texas penal code allows for long sentences, difficult parole and civil commitment when child sexual offenders fail to comply with the terms of their release. No one should mistake this state as weak on offenders, he said. Yet he urges caution about the unintended consequences of some of the measures being pushed this session.

Shannon Edmonds, director of governmental relations for the Texas District and County Attorney's Association, outlines potential outcomes that concern many prosecutors. These include the already mentioned reluctance to report by families; jury nullification in cases in which an automatic severe penalty seems excessive relative to the offense; and an unmanageable number of cases going to trial because offenders will no longer have an incentive to plead guilty.

It is tempting to believe harsher sentences might prevent offenders from slipping through the system, but when seasoned prosecutors say otherwise, politicians

will not be radically dif-

and the public should listen. These are difficult cases to prosecute; replacing a range of penalties with mandatory sentencing is only likely to increase the difficulty of obtaining convictions. Without increased disclosure, without additional cases being prosecuted and more success in gaining convictions, it is hard to see that tougher sentencing laws are actually tough on crime.

Changing the Texas criminal code should not be based on the emotional devastation of a family that lost a beloved child, or the urging of a talk show host. Those who wish to benefit victims of childhood sexual offense need to look beyond the quick fix of unrealistically harsh sentences. They add little to the ability to prevent these horrific crimes.

2 teen girls cancel school

TRENTON, Ohio (AP) — Edgewood City Schools Superintendent Tom York said he was perplexed when he logged onto the district's Web site to announce a onehour delay for cold. He found an announcement that school was canceled for snow — which wasn't in the forecast.

"I didn't make that call, and I'm the guy who does, so I knew something was up," York said.

Indeed. Now two teenage girls are accused of gaining unauthorized access to the Web site and posting the fake winter school closing. The two Edgewood High

School students were charged Friday.



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Reese

at

Continued from Page 4 We make progress with our toys and weapons, but human nature remains what it was before the gates of

ferent from the past.

Troy or in the Roman forum. We are as a species opportunistic predators, and neither religions nor philosophies have been able to cure us. Therefore, if you do not expect peace, you will not be disappointed. If you do not look for utopian solutions, you won't look in vain. If you expect more of the same, you can at least take comfort in being right.

But never forget that life, even as it is, is a delightful feast.

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



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JOHN DEERE

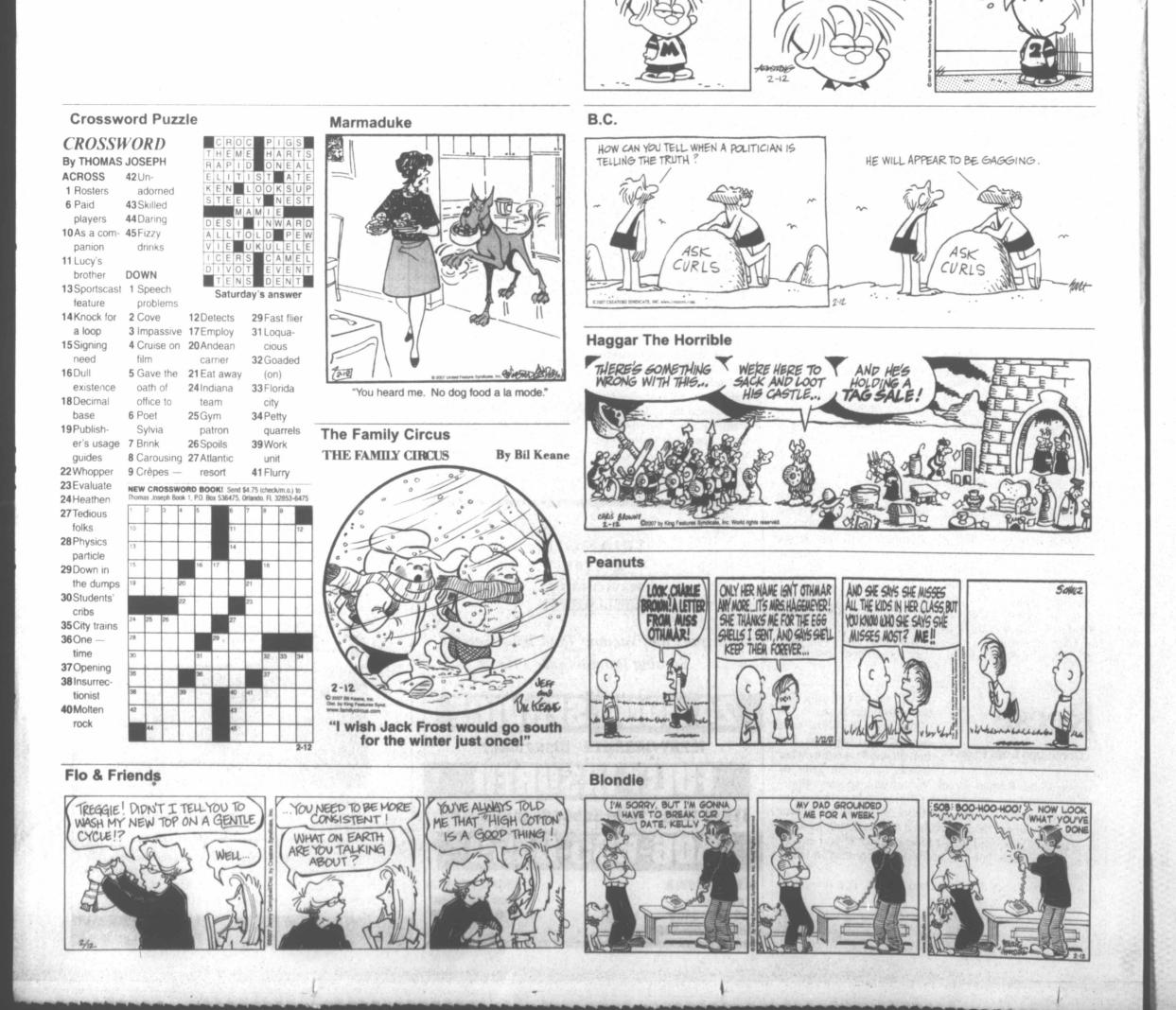


By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is nearly here, and it can be a sad day for people who are alone -- especially for widows and widowers living by themselves. This holiday can be more painful for them than birthdays, anniversaries and other holidays because they are constantly bombarded with images of love by retailers. I would like to offer a suggestion that can turn an otherwise difficult day into a day for them to look forward to. Last year, my fiance and I spent Valentine's Day with his widowed grandmother. Her husband has been gone 10 years, and she has not remarried. He was her soul mate, the center of her life. We wanted to do something to make it a day she could look forward to. Abby, I cannot tell you how happy she was when we told her we would be spending the evening with her. She had the table set for dinner by noon that day. When we arrived, she was glowing. We stayed for hours and listened as she told stories about her life with her husband. We both learned so much that we didn't know about her life and family. We wouldn't trade that night for anything. As a couple in love, we get to spend every day tive. celebrating our love for each other. We don't need a day set aside to remind each other of that. Valentine's Day is about love. It doesn't have to be romantic love. We have decided to spend every Valentine's Day from now on with her, so we can make it "her" special day. Everyone knows someone who has lost the one that he or she loves. I see no reason not to take a little time to make this a special day for them. Such a small gift can make a world of difference. -- BETH IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

DEAR BETH: Thank you for a beautiful letter. From reading it, I know you and your fiance have a wonderful future ahead of you. You have made an important point. Regardless of the holiday hype, the most precious gift a person can give to another isn't one that's tangible. It's the gift of time. Although Valentine's Day celebrates romantic love, we all know that there are many kinds of love. On Wednesday, I hope that none of my readers who are unattached will sit at home alone and brood. Reach out to other singles! Rent a stack of videos, pop some popcorn, sit back and enjoy each other's company. Or pick up the phone and call someone to say that he or she is in your thoughts. Everyone likes to be remembered. For those lucky folks who "have everything," take a moment and thank the good Lord that you are so blessed. And while you're at it, offer up a prayer for the safety of the men and women who are serving our country in all four corners of the globe, as well as their families at home who are doing without them. I have found that coing so puts everything in perspec-





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The Pampa News — Monday, February 12, 2007 — 7

Sports Day



TEEPERSTER FERENCE

If you see any of these boys around town, be sure and ask them about tickets to the brisket dinner. Pictured here are: (L-R) seniors, Alex Torres, Jarron Clark, Brett Ferrell, Robbie Dixon and Brady Eakin.

Harvester Baseball to host brisket dinner

The Pampa Harvester baseball team will host a brisket dinner at 2 p.m. this Sunday at the Optomist Club. There will be all-you-can-eat brisket, baked potatoes, 665-2105.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 8 and under, and are available from any of the baseball players or by calling

Mickelson starting to hit his stride

By DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer**

salad and cobbler.

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) ---So much for the demise of Phil Mickelson.

The last time he had the lead in the final round of a golf tournament, Mickelson sprayed the ball so badly off the tee that it finally caught up to him on the last hole of the U.S. Open. He clattered shots off trees and tents on his way to a dubious double bogey that cost him his third straight major.

Three tournaments into the 2007

appeared into the weeds, a lost ball that sent him to a double bogey on the fifth hole.

The rest of the final round was a breeze. He made three birdies during a four-hole stretch around the ocean to pull away from the pack, and for the second time in three years, was able to stroll up the 18th fairway in peaceful sunshine.

"I was excited to get back here," Mickelson said. "I felt like I was finally starting to play well."

Mickelson says things like that after all his victories, this one his third at Pebble and the 30th of his career. But ask him about his driver, and he can't contain his enthusiasm.

The rest of his game isn't bad. either.

His short-game coach joined him earlier in the week and they worked on his putting, which Mickelson felt had held him back in two mediocre starts and a missed cut this year. He didn't make them all, but he made enough. Mickelson finished at 20-under 268 to tie the record set by Mark O'Meara in 1997

He earned \$990,000 to become the third player in PGA Tour history to surpass \$40 million for his career. He went up to No. 4 in the world rankings. And he won on the West Coast Swing for the 11th time in his 15 full seasons on the PGA Tour.

Mark James takes Allianz Championship with 4-under

(AP) — England's Mark Dana Quigley (70) were James won the Allianz Championship on Sunday in his first tournament of the year, closing with a 4-under 68 for a two-stroke victory over Champions Tour player of the year Jay Haas.

James spent the previous three weeks skiing in the French Alps.

"I came out here fairly cold from the winter off and only started practicing this week," he said. "It's a nice surprise and gives me a lot of confidence.'

James finished at 15under 201 on The Old Course at Broken Sound, and earned \$240,000 for his third career victory on the 50-and-over tour.

Haas birdied the par-5 18th for a 70.

"As good as I played yesterday was as poorly as I played today," Haas said. "Off the tee, I had been 68 to tie for 20th at 6 under bragging about how good my driver was, but I maybe hit three or four fairways today.'

R.W. Eaks (68), Morris Hatalsky (70) and Brad Bryant (69) tied for third at 12 under, and Loren Roberts feel wanted again.

BOCA RATON, Fla. (67), Keith Fergus (68) and another stroke back.

James, tied for the lead with Haas and Craig Stadler at the beginning of play Sunday, birdied six of the first 12 holes to reach 16 under. James bogeyed the 14th to drop back to 15 under, where he stayed for the final four holes.

James most difficult moment of the day came when he bogeyed the nine hole for his first bogey of the tournament. James took a calculated risk on the ninth when he took off his shoe to hit a ball out of shallow water, but only managed to chip it about 2 feet. Haas and Stadler also bogeyed the hole to stay one stroke behind.

Stadler double-bogeyed the 14th and 16th en route to a 74 and a 9-under total.

Nick Price closed with a in his Champions Tour debut.

"I'd have liked to play a little better in my debut," Price said. "My game left a little to be desired. But it's been great and it's nice to

Celtics extend franchise record breaking skid

By The Associated Press

The Boston Celtics are in a record-breaking rut that has shaken their confidence and damaged the image of a once-proud franchise.

"You can feel it in the locker room, each loss defi- a row. The Celtics still have nitely hurts," Paul Pierce a ways to go to get to the said. "These guys are going NBA record of 24 straight to keep playing hard. We just losses by the Cleveland head." Easier said than done, especially when you've lost a franchise-record 18 consecutive games. The latest loss came Sunday when Ricky Davis' jumper from the corner with 0.2 seconds remaining lifted the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 109-107 victory. "It is tough, the guys played so hard and deserve to win," said Pierce, who scored 29 points. "We did everything we could. Down the stretch, they made the last play."

franchise low was 13 straight losses in 1993-94 and 1996-97. They've blown past that mark, and haven't won since beating Memphis on Jan. 5.

The Utah Jazz also lost 18 straight in 1982 and seven teams have lost 19 games in

season, Lefty didn't do much to stop speculation that he would never be the same

Mickelson might agree after his five-shot victory in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

He might be even better.

With a command performance from tee-to-green, Mickelson went wire-towire on the Monterey Peninsula and closed with a 6-under 66, tying the 72hole tournament scoring record and giving him great vibes about the rest of the year.

He used his debacle at Winged Foot to become a better driver, and he was all that and more at Pebble Beach. Mickelson missed only one fairway in the final round and only got in trouble when his 6-iron caught a gust and dis-

Whether he was trying to hit a draw or a fade, high or low, even a straight shot, the ball obeyed.

That was the lesson he took out of Winged Foot — becoming better off the tee — and while Pebble Beach is not a major, Mickelson felt as though it showed everyone he was ready for anything.

"I've never had this type of feeling on the tee box, knowing that it's going to be in the fairway and not worry about it," he said. "Not seeing if it's going to go left or right or worried about that. I just feel so confident now."

The important statistics, however, were accumulated over four days of sunshine and rain.

Mickelson tied for fourth in driving accuracy, hitting 82 percent of his fairways. He tied for first in greens in regulation, missing only 15 all week. He averaged only 28 putts per round, tied for fifth. And his average drive of 285.1 yards was tied for fourth.

It all starts off the tee.

Thrashers v. Ambassadors

"It's very easy for me to hit fairways. It feels that way," Mickelson said.

And that's when he's dangerous.

The Celtics' previous

need to get it out of our Cavaliers, a streak that spanned the end of the 1981-82 season and start of the 1982-83 season.

> In other NBA games, it was: Chicago 116, Phoenix 103; Seattle 114, Sacramento 103; Cleveland 99, the Los Angeles Lakers 90; Miami 100, San Antonio 85; Indiana 94, the Los Angeles Clippers 80; Portland 94, Washington 73; Dallas 106, Philadelphia 89; and Atlanta 106, Golden State 105.

At Minneapolis, the Celtics led by 10 points in the first half and 107-105 with 1:17 to play after Pierce fed Al Jefferson for a dunk.

Miami takes over San Antonio Spurs

Dwyane Wade got rolling, things seemed almost easy for the Miami Heat.

Wade - virtually silent offensively for the first three quarters — had 18 of his 26 points in the final period and the Heat held San Antonio without a field goal for more than 7 minutes down the stretch on the way to beating the Spurs 100-85 on Sunday.

He was 3-for-9 from the field entering the fourth, then hit 7-of-10 shots in the final 12 minutes, falling two points short of matching the Spurs' offensive total in the stanza by himself. Miami outscored San Antonio 31-20 in the fourth.

"It was a great game until Dwyane Wade decided to take over," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "And then it was over."

Shaquille O'Neal had 16 points in 25 minutes; he didn't play in the final 15:44, partly because he's still coming back from knee surgery, partly because the smaller

MIAMI (AP) — Once lineup the Heat used did well enough to not necessitate his return. Jason Kapono added his first career double-double, 13 points and 11 rebounds.

The win was Miami's fifth in its last six games and pulled the Heat within one game of the .500 mark again; Miami (25-26) can get there Tuesday when it hosts Portland in its last game before the All-Star break.

"We're just trying to continue to get better," Wade said. "If anyone knows basketball, they understand that we're not going anywhere, that we've been having a lot of injuries. But we're getting it back. That's our whole focus, to keep going this way."

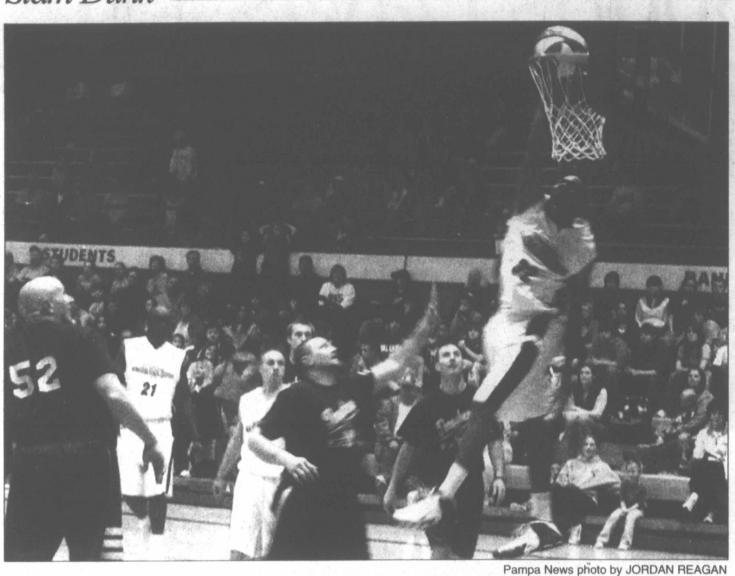
Manu Ginobili had 26 points off the bench for the Spurs, who fell to 2-4 on their eight-game road trip. Tony Parker added 20 for San Antonio, while Tim Duncan finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds and Brent Barry scored 11.



Coach John East of the Pampa Thrashers takes a 3-point shot as Donnie Hooper looks on during Saturday night's game with the Harlem Ambassadors.

Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Slam Dunk



Coaches John East, Ches Tucker and Andy Cavalier have a tough time defending the Harlem Ambassadors' consistent slam dunks Saturday night.

McGrady, Howard lead **Rockets to comeback** over Charlotte Bobcats

HOUSTON (AP) Juwan Howard was impressed the Houston Rockets were able to shake off a bad start and forget a tough loss from the day before to beat the Charlotte Bobcats.

Getting the decisive 104-83 win Saturday night after trailing by 11 points early is a sign of maturity, said Howard, who scored 16 points.

And on the subject of maturity, the team also got a boost from its 40-year-old center Dikembe Mutombo. Playing in place of the injured Yao Ming, Mutombo had a season-high 14 points, added 14 rebounds and had four steals.

As the Rockets missed shot after shot early on, it looked as if maybe they were still suffering from Friday's 95-74 loss to the Mavericks - their largest defeat of the season. But they quickly got going and built a 14-point lead by halftime and didn't trail again.

"We didn't play well at all last night and we knew we had to bounce back against a young, athletic, tough team," Howard said. "They came out and got after us early. It was good to see as professionals we kept our poise and responded."

Tracy McGrady had 16 points and Rafer Alston added 14 and had a careerhigh nine steals for Houston. Alston's steals are the second most in team history and the team's 20 steals are also the second best in franchise history.

"It shows that I can play some defense," Alston said of his steals. "It shows that I can really put a lot of energy on the defensive side of the ball and be all over the place out there."

McGrady scored Houston's first seven points in the third quarter to extend a big halftime lead to 67-50. Alston's behind-the-back fake before a layup early in the fourth quarter extended Houston's lead to 86-66.



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Stars defeat Colorado

in 12-goal showdown DALLAS (AP) — Even making Tip (coach Dave without All-Star goalie Marty Turco finishing

games, the Dallas Stars are winning and making up ground in the Pacific Division.

Jeff Halpern had a goal and two assists in a 7-5 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Sunday, when the Stars set a season high for goals and were involved in a 12-goal game for the first time in more than nine vears

The Stars' scoring surge next Sunday. came a day after their 1-0 victory over division-leading

Tippett) a little nervous." In his previous start Tuesday against Minnesota. Turco gave two goals on seven shots in the first eight minutes. Dallas rebounded to win 4-2 after Smith took over.

The Stars have still won three straight games and five of their last six. With 70 points, they are four points behind Anaheim and only one behind second-place San Jose, which plays in Dallas

Smith came in against the Avs after Paul Stastny and rookie Wojtek Wolski scored 49 seconds apart midway through the second period to get Colorado within 4-3. Turco allowed three goals on 15 shots, the other in the closing minute of the first period when he let a puck through and behind him, and Joe Sakic knocked it into the net.

Roddick bounces Czechs from Davis Cup

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic (AP) - Andy Roddick kicked the red powder off his shoes one last time Sunday, happy to be done with clay and ready to return to the hardcourts back home for the Davis Cup quarterfinals.

Roddick beat Tomas Berdych 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (4) Sunday to lead the United States to a 4-1 victory over the Czech Republic in the first round of the World Group.

"As far as the weight of the situation goes," Roddick said, "It definitely could be one of my best matches on clay.'

The victory gave the Americans an insurmountable lead in the best-of-five format, and Roddick ran his record to 8-0 in Davis Cup matches with victory on the line. In the final match, which had no bearing on the outcome, Bob Bryan beat Lukas Dlouhy 7-6 (5), 6-4.

and I'm sure the court probably won't be too slow," Roddick said.

Other World Group winners in the first round were: defending champion Russia (at Chile), Sweden (at Belarus), Germany (home against Croatia), Spain (at Switzerland), France (home against Romania), Argentina (at Austria) and Belgium (at home against Australia).

The other pairings for the April 6 quarterfinals are: France-Russia, Germany-Belgium and Sweden-Argentina.

Roddick, ranked No. 4 and winner of the 2003 U.S. Open, displayed an overpowering serve and a solid baseline game. He mastered not only the clay but a partisan crowd and one of the game's rising stars to raise his Davis Cup record to 22-9.

"It is one of his biggest wins, cer-

Americans are looking to end their longest Davis Cup drought, which dates to 1995.

"It is a statistic I don't like," the 24year-old Roddick said. "Especially considering I have been on the team for my seventh year now."

On Friday, Roddick downed Ivo Minar in four sets before Berdych beat James Blake in four sets. The U.S. went up 2-1 Saturday on a doubles victory by twins Bob and Mike Bryan.

The Roddick-Berdych match featured two tall players wielding big serves. Berdych, ranked No. 12 and his country's biggest star at 21, maintained the pressure and Roddick was the first to crack.

In the seventh game, the Czech hit a couple of baseline winners and sealed the game with a subtle drop shot. The home crowd sensed another victory

WILSON SC 812 Denver

Anaheim when Mike Smith started instead of Turco, who Sunday was pulled from his second straight start after allowing two goals in less than a minute midway through the second period.

"I'm disappointed that I let the guys down. They weren't great goals," Turco said. "I haven't been my best the last couple weeks and it's

The United States will next play Spain in Winston-Salem, N.C., in April. It will be a rematch of the 2004 final in Seville, when the Spanish hosts beat the Americans on clay spread so thick it took any sting out of the U.S. game.

"It was similar to a sandbox," Roddick recalled.

Now the Spaniards, likely led by Rafael Nadal, can expect something faster.

tainly in Davis Cup — one of his most impressive wins," captain Patrick McEnroe. said

The Americans had not won a Davis Cup World Group series on clay in a decade, but Roddick broke the streak when Berdych netted a return of serve in the fourth-set tiebreaker.

"We saw today why Andy Roddick is the fourth best player in the world," Czech coach Jaroslav Navratil said.

The United States leads all nations "I'm sure we will return the favor, with 31 Davis Cup titles. But the

from Berdych and the prospect of a decisive fifth match.

"I played almost without mistakes in the first set," Berdych said. "I got one chance and used it, but then I started making mistakes and he improved his play."

Roddick seized the initiative. He broke at the first opportunity and suddenly the Czech was making errors. Roddick started winning the longer rallies and evened the match at one set apiece.

Nowitzki, Mavs stomp Philladelphia

Another one of Dallas' big leads turned this one into a snoozer early. Only coach Avery Johnson didn't expect his team to be the one that went to sleep.

Once Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry snapped the Mays out of their 10-minute funk, they had the easy win they were coasting toward against the woeful 76ers..

Nowitzki had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and the Mavericks built on their NBA-best road record with a 106-89 victory over Philadelphia on Sunday night.

Terry hit consecutive iumpers in the fourth quarter to help the Mavs stave off a surprising Sixers rally that saw them slice a 30point deficit down to only eight. Nowitzki also added back-to-back baskets that pushed the lead back to 14 and helped Dallas to its 18th road win of the season.

"In the second half, we kind of went to sleep," Johnson said.

Terry scored 16 points and had 11 assists, and Devean George and Josh Howard each had 15 points. The Mavericks had 28 assists on 39 baskets and shot 52 percent overall.

The Mavericks play two

PHILADELPHIA (AP) more on the road this week at Milwaukee and Houston and don't return home until their NBA finals rematch with Miami on Feb. 22.

> "They're a scrappy young team and they just kept coming at us, but we stood our ground and put them away there at the end," Terry said.

> Andre Iguodala led the Sixers with 21 points, Kyle Korver added 18 and Andre Miller 16.

Iguodala was the only starter on the floor for most of Philadelphia's 30-8 run that spanned the third and fourth quarters and stunned a Dallas team was on cruise control early in this one. Willie Green scored a pair of baskets and Korver hit a jumper to pull the Sixers to 86-75.

Iguodala was fouled on a driving layup and sank the free throw to cap the run and make it 86-78 with 8:40 left.

"I'm not surprised we came back. We're not going to lay down," Korver said. "But Terry got open looks and then they took control of things."

Then Terry hit his jumpers, Nowitzki hit two and George sank a 3 for a 97-80 lead that put away for the Sixers for good.

AFC dominates at Hawaii Pro Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) ---Even while the star-studded AFC cruised to a comfortable lead in the Pro Bowl, Carson Palmer could sense a wacky finish lurking just beyond everybody's control.

"With this much talent, anybody could change the game at any time," the Cincinnati quarterback said.

Palmer's hunch proved correct in the improbable final minutes - but thanks to Palmer's poise and a costly NFC penalty, the AFC's Hawaiian vacation ended with another win.

Nate Kaeding kicked a 21yard field goal as time expired to cap another strong drive led by Palmer, the MVP of the AFC's 31-28 victory Saturday in the 57th edition of the NFL's all-star game.

The NFC trailed 28-14 with 3 minutes to play before injecting a little drama into this normally mellow exhibition. Steven Jackson scored on a fourth-down TD run, and Ronde Barber recovered an onside kick to set up Anquan Boldin's 47-yard TD catch from Tony Romo with 1:48 left - followed by a tying 2-point conversion catch by Carolina's Steve Smith.

But just as quickly as the NFC's playmakers got back in the game, the AFC got it together again.

"I had a feeling they were

going to have one more shot," Jackson said. "These games are all about who lands the last punch, and Carson is a great player."

Palmer, who passed for 190 yards and two touchdowns, calmly got the AFC across midfield — and then Arizona's Adrian Wilson, mistakenly believing Palmer's long pass had been tipped, leveled Chad Johnson at the goal line before the throw reached

them. The 39-yard pass-interference penalty put the ball near the goal line. San Diego's Kaeding easily made his field goal, setting off fireworks at sold-out Aloha Stadium for the talent-rich AFC's eighth win in the last 11 Pro Bowls.

Palmer threw a 42-yard TD pass to Johnson and a 72-yarder to Reggie Wayne, and Baltimore's Ed Reed intercepted two passes before the frantic finish. Palmer, who took over for Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning after just two series, went 8-for-17 in his first Pro Bowl appearance after missing last season's game with a knee injury.

"This is all just a fun game," said Reed, who tied the Pro Bowl record for interceptions. "Carson made two great throws, and those guys made great catches. We needed those points."

League MVP LaDainian Tomlinson also ran for a score as the AFC underlined its regular-season superiority - but until things got tight, neither side cared much about the result in the league's annual postseason showcase.

Instead, they welcomed new stars such as Vince Young — the first rookie quarterback here since Dan Marino in 1984 — and said goodbye to older pros who won't be back.

Tiki Barber, the New York Giants' running back who's retiring after a 10-year career, scored on a 1-yard run in the second quarter. Kansas City guard Will Shields, who appeared in his record-tying 12th Pro Bowl, also is contemplating retirement.

Baltimore's Adalius Thomas returned Marc Bulger's fumble 70 yards for a confusing score in the first half, but there was no confusion about the game's best play: Sean Taylor, the maverick Washington safety, broke the unwritten rule about hard hits in an exhibition when he viciously leveled Buffalo punter Brian Moorman on an attempted fake in the third quarter.

"Believe it or not, it wasn't as bad as it looked," Moorman said. "It was just hard. It took me a second to realize that it didn't hurt so

bad, so I got right back up."

Tiki Barber threw an interception and rushed for just 4 yards on seven carries, but the veteran scored the game's first touchdown. He got a standing ovation from the crowd and his fellow players when a video tribute to his career was shown on the scoreboard with 1:58 to

play. "I've been ready for this for a while, and I've been expecting it," Barber said. "I'm excited. I'm not sad and upset that it's over. I'm just real happy that it happened the way that it did, and I achieved all that I have, and get to go out on my terms."

Romo passed for 156 yards in the second half, and San Francisco's Frank Gore made an early TD run. The crowd actually booed Romo in the second half as the NFC's early comeback attempt stalled, but the Dallas quarterback led three strong final drives.

He was stopped on a fourth-down quarterback keeper on the first drive, but after Young fumbled, Jackson made a gutsy scoring run on another fourth down with 2:54 to play. The NFC tried a fake on the conversion attempt, but Romo who had no trouble holding for kicks after his infamous flub in a playoff loss to Seattle - couldn't find an open receiver.

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you than you might realize. Often, you might be withdrawn. You will enjoy your downtime and become highly reflective. This year will be very important to your future. You will learn to trust your instincts, especially about money. You might revise your goals, and possibly your friends as well. If you are single, you will lean toward a more personal bond in which you spend a lot of time together in your own company. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from frequent getaways. You will naturally stoke the fires of romance. CAPRI-CORN reads you cold.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** You will want to step up to the plate now. Your choices will dictate what happens in the next few weeks or even longer than that. Once acted upon, your instincts and kindness will draw excellent results. Walk in a boss' shoes. Tonight: Could be late. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Go digging for facts. You can never have too much information. A friend expresses unusual kindness or gentleness. Be receptive to his or her thoughts. Perhaps all you need to do is listen. You don't need to feel the same way. Tonight: Play a game - maybe solitaire online or Scrabble with a friend. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** If you deal with individuals rather than groups, you will obtain far better results. You also might be taken ter needs discussing. Tonight: Time with a special friend. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Others might be more controlling or harder to deal with than you initially anticipated. Getting past a problem

might involve deferring to an individual. Sometimes others need to see the natural outcome of their actions. Tonight: Just be with someone you care about. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Plunge into work, acting as if there is no tomorrow. The more you accomplish, the happier you will be. Someone could be quite distracting. Are you seeing charm and kindness or manipulation? Only you can judge. Tonight: Fit in some exercise. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Allow your imagination and creativity to determine your choices. If you let more spontaneity in, you will have a better time. A relationship gets new life from a more childlike or fun attitude. Tonight: Let it all hang out. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Evaluate the basics, especially concerning your domestic and/or daily life. A discussion sheds light on how you could make a situation easier. Stop and think about your goals and priorities. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Speak your mind, and others will listen. If you notice someone making goo-goo eyes at you, he or she is really taken with you. Listen more and share more. Make fewer judgments, and be willing to be wrong. Tonight: At a favorite place. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

allow someone to distract you or encourage you to go off your chosen path. In the long run, some self-discipline will put a smile on your face. Rethink a partnership. Tonight: Revamp your budget. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ With the Moon in your sign, you've got what it takes. The question that remains is where you would like to focus your energy. You have a lot to say and do. A gentler style that might be more expressive of your core self emerges. Tonight: Just ask, and be ready to receive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Think twice or decide to postpone a decision. You will be much happier that way. Ultimately, time spent pondering reality and your desires helps more than acting does. Follow your sixth sense with money decisions. Tonight: Get all the R and R vou can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your sensitivity comes through. Whether you touch a dear friend emotionally or make a point that resonates with many is irrelevant. The true you emerges more often than not right now. Others like what they see. Tonight: Go for what you want.

BORN TODAY TV host Jerry Springer (1944), singer Peter Gabriel (1950), singer Robbie Williams (1974)

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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

EGFK VME VJQGRI QG VJQI

MENFC DNB VEE IBNOEWI VE

YB PBIVBC EG: LEVDVEBI DGC

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CRYPTOQUOTE 2 - 12

Lions Club



Barry Owens and daughter Holly enjoy themselves at a recent Pampa Lions Club meeting. Holly is the local Lions' February Sweetheart of the Month.

PFAA



Pampa Fine Arts Association honored past Artists of the Year recently including Darlene Holmes, from left, 2006 Artist of the Year; Cile Taylor (1987); John Forister (1993); Janice Sackett (1999); Gerald Sanders (1979); Dona Cornutt (2007); Kaye Crouch (2000); Mimi Gross (2002); and Natalie Reeve (1980).

Eddie Murphy rules weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Movie fans couldn't pass up three Eddie Murphys for the price of one.

Murphy's comedy "Norbit," in which he plays three wildly different roles, opened as the top weekend movie with \$33.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The DreamWorks production easily beat the debut of the MGM-Weinstein Co. thriller "Hannibal Rising," a prequel about "The Silence of the Lambs" serial killer Hannibal Lecter that came in at No. 2 with \$13.35 million.

Murphy had not had a starring role in a movie since 2003's "The Haunted Mansion," but "Norbit" benefited from huge acclaim and publicity he has received for 'Dreamgirls," for which he is expected to win the supporting-actor Academy Award.

"He wasn't that visible on marquees in huge hits for a while, then suddenly every time you turn around, it's 'Wow, what a surprise. Eddie is great,"' said DreamWorks spokesman Marvin Levy.

But while it was the year's biggest opening so far, "Norbit" was not able to lift Hollywood out of its boxoffice funk that has seen revenues fall for six straight weekends. The top 12 movies took in \$91.3 million, down 10.5 percent from the same weekend in 2006, when "The Pink Panther" and "Final Destination 3" both debuted in the \$20 million range.

"Norbit" was the 14th No. 1 opening for Murphy and came in well above the expectations of distributor Paramount, which had projected the movie might pull in about \$25 million over its opening weekend.

The movie was trashed by critics, but the lure of Murphy again handling multiple roles as he did in "Coming to America" and "The Nutty Professor" proved irresistible. Murphy plays mild-mannered Norbit, his grossly overweight and overbearing wife and a Chinese orphanage owner who raised him.

"Dreamgirls," another Paramount-Dream Works release, also remained in the top 10 with \$3.1 million, lifting its total to \$97.1 million.



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Grammys embrace veterans

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY **AP Music Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clearly, the Grammys aren't concerned about bringing sexy back.

The Recording Academy embraced more serious fare by veteran artists on Sunday, showering the Dixie Chicks with five awards, including the rare trifecta of record, album, and song of the year. Mary J. Blige won three for her comeback record, "The Breakthrough," the biggest mainstream success in her 15-year career. And four trophies went to the Red Hot Chili Peppers for their hit album "Stadium Arcadium.

Meanwhile, Justin Timberlake — a major focus of the show with two performances and four nominations, including for album of the year — took home two trophies in littlenoticed side categories. British singer-songwriters Corinne Bailey Rae and James Blunt, both newcomers nominated for multiple awards, were shut out. And two of the year's biggest hits, "Hips Don't Lie" and "Promiscuous," didn't get any awards both lost out to a remake of Stevie Wonder's decades-old "For Once In My Life," performed by Wonder and 80-year-old Tony Bennett.

There were many such "Granny" moments at the 49th annual awards show. Despite flashes of youth in performances by Timberlake, John Mayer and Chris Brown, the show had a definite VH1 Classics appeal, from the kickoff by the reunited Police who were not nominated for any awards and had no purpose except to draw audiences ---to the tributes that lovingly recalled the fading music industry's golden years.

Perhaps the only moment that seemed to have any cutting-edge element was the "My Grammy Moment," in which three young women vied for a spot to sing with Timberlake. The winner, 19-year-old Robyn Troup, was determined by text messages and Internet votes. The contest was an obvious nod to "American Idol," the TV talent competition which crushed the Grammys when it went head-to-head on a Wednesday night last year, prompting the Grammys to flee back to Sunday.

The Dixie Chicks won all five awards they were nominated for, including album of the year for "Taking the Long Way," and record and song of the year for "Not Ready to Make Nice," their defiant anthem penned songwriter Dan Wilson. It was sweet vindication after the superstars' lives were threatened and their record sales plummeted when feisty lead singer Natalie Maines criticized

President Bush on the eve of the Iraq war in 2003. Almost overnight, one of the most successful groups of any genre was boycotted by Nashville and disappeared from country radio.

With "Taking the Long Way," the women relied on renowned producer Rick Rubin's guidance for an album that was more rock and less country. (Rubin, who also produced "Stadium Arcadium," was honored as producer of the year.)

The standing ovations the Chicks received Sunday illustrated how much the political climate has changed regarding the Iraq war, and even Bush.

"That's interesting," Maines crowed from the podium after the country award was handed out earlier in the night. "Well, to quote the great 'Simpsons' — 'Heh-Heh.'

"Just kidding," added Maines. "A lot of people just turned their TVs off right now. I'm very sorry for that."

Bandmate Emily Robison noted, "We wouldn't have done this album without everything we went through, so we have no regrets."

All the trophies collected by the Dixie Chicks, Blige and the Chili Peppers contributed to the evening's old-school feel. Though the show featured a medley with bright new stars such as double-winner Mayer, John Legend and Rae, it relied heavily on the classics: Nominee Lionel Richie sang his '80s hit "Hello" and Smokey Robinson sang his Motown classic "The Tracks of My Tears" in a tribute to R&B. Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Police, who split in 1984, reunited to kick off the show with their rendition of "Roxanne."

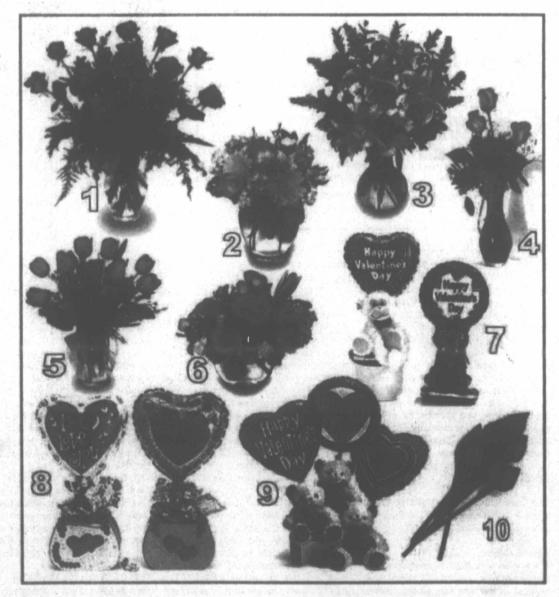
Even some of the more contemporary artists were relegated to singing songs that weren't their own. Christina Aguilera, a winner for female pop vocal performance, sang the late James Brown's "It's A Man's Man's Man's World" instead of her own nominated songs, while Carrie Underwood, the newcomer with one of last year's most successful albums, crooned The Eagles' "Desperado" and "San Antonio Rose" instead of her signature tune "Jesus, Take the Wheel," which was nominated for song of the year.

But new artists were celebrated, a bit. The teenage Brown injected some hot-footed funk with his "Run It," while Underwood was celebrated as the best new artist. And double winners included youngsters Underwood, Mayer, T.I. and Ludacris.

Blige was the overall nominations leader with eight.

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