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HIGH 45
LOW 25

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Sink hole

Schools dismiss early Thursday

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Pampa Superintendent Barry Haenisch would like to get the word out to parents and students that all Pampa schools will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. Thursday.

"The Pampa school district lost one of our great employees Monday when Debbie Robertson, who was executive director of special populations in Pampa, passed away," Haenisch said. "Out of respect for Mrs. Robertson and in her honor, we decided to dismiss school early to allow all teachers and students who would like to attend her funeral at 2 p.m. Thursday that opportunity."

Haenisch said Robertson's funeral is planned for 2 p.m. Thursday at Central Baptist Church.



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

This city trash truck sank in a hole in the alley of 21st Avenue. Tuesday afternoon. Public information officer Donny Hooper said that no one was injured in the incident. He believes that work was done by utility crews at this location and then after the heavy rains Monday it caused a sink hole to form. The trash truck was pulled out and sustained only minimal damage.

GCAD considers three new review board members

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Appraisal District's Board of Directors will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the conference room of the appraisal district offices at 815 N. Sumner to consider appointment of three appraisal review board members.

The terms of three review board members are expiring, said Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley, and appointments to new two-year terms for those three are expected to be made Thursday.

The review board's duties include hearing protests from property

owners concerning valuation of their taxable property, and creation and approval of changes concerning those valuations. The review board consists of five members.

Pregnancies of two appraisal district employees have prompted another agenda item concerning possible hiring of a temporary employee.

"We do a lot of data entry this time of year, and need temporary help," Bagley said. The temporary worker could answer the phone and do other general duties to free regular employees to work on

See GCAD, Page 3

CITY COMMISSION

City approves mesh network

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A lengthy discussion with differing points of view led to approval of a new mesh network for the City of Pampa by a three to two vote Tuesday afternoon during a city commission meeting in commission chambers at City Hall.

Ward 2 Commissioner Bill Allison and Ward 3 Commissioner Robert Dixon voted against acquiring the system, while Mayor Lonny Robbins, Ward 1 Commissioner Brad Pingel and Ward 4 Commissioner Neil Fulton voted in favor of the new system.

Price and priorities were two sources of

differing viewpoints concerning the network, which is a Motorola product. Representatives of Motorola, Centramedia and various city departments addressed commissioners about the network's features, possible problems and benefits to the city.

The network will consist of hardware and software to provide various information to laptop computers for city workers. Hardware includes 12 fixed cameras, three portable cameras, computer cards and fixed nodes, or repeaters. The nodes, which could number as many as 88, will

See COMMISSION, Page 3

Parade winners



Courtesy Photo

Girl Scout Troop 222 won first place in the non-commercial category of the Pampa Christmas Parade Saturday. They rode in the sleigh float and sang carols the entire parade route. First row from left are Heather Doucette, Cidnie Goodson, Michelle Goodson, Kallie Harding, Carolyn Golleher, Katherine Maxwell, Kaylee Robinson, Jazmin Guzman, Monique Rosalez, Nina Ketchum and Shelly Rogers. Second row from left are Chelsei Ross, Catherine Hopson, All Dancer, Jillian Hopson, Brianna Pickett, Molly Nelson, Taylor Lindley, Montaisha Brown, Iyanna Clarida, Pam Hopson and D'Asia Smith.

PISD to discuss new, old buildings

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Pampa school board members will consider a recommendation to construct a cafeteria at the new Pampa Junior High School and a request from the Pampa Optimist Club for the bleachers from Baker Elementary at a regular school board meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert.

The board will also hear a report on transportation and take possible action to purchase buses, cast votes for Gray County Appraisal Representative and possibly approve a proposal for a student information system.

A level three hearing is

scheduled.

A Dyslexia handbook may be approved by board members.

Also on the agenda is a library report, the second benchmark testing, procedures used to evaluate professional personnel and the 2008-2009 school calendar.

Board members will hear reports on the status of roofing projects at Lamar and Travis Elementaries.


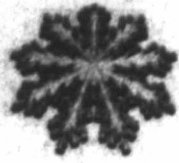

Construction bond issues will be discussed, along with monthly financial reports, board training hours and dress code violations.

Possible action will be taken to purchase a vehicle for the district and to approve a budget amendment.

CHAMBER LUNCHEON • DECEMBER 18 AT 11:45AM

Please join us in the MK Brown Room at the Chamber Building, 200 N. Ballard for a menu of baked chicken, potato, vegetable & salad provided by Pampa Country Club. The Entertainment will be the PHS Show Choir sponsored by National Bank of Commerce. The public welcome, please RSVP at 669-3241. Thank you to the luncheon sponsor: Accolade Home Care.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
Sunny	Partly cloudy	Sunny

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 45. Wind chill values between 16 and 26 early. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. East-southeast wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. North-northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. South-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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CITY BRIEFS

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DRAWING FOR \$500 in Downtown Bucks to be given away tomorrow at 7pm in front of Rheams Diamond Shop - Must be present to win! Also, PHS Band/DBA Raffle drawing, and Socks for Soldiers presentation!

JOY'S UNLIMITED, open late this Thursday. In-Store Specials! Downtown Bucks Drawing at 7pm.

LETTERS TO Santa, to be in "the Pampa News" the deadline is Mon. Dec. 17th, 5pm.

RHEAMS DIAMOND Shop open til 8pm. for your Christmas Shopping. Register to win a Diamond Ring from 6pm-8pm. every night!

SHOP DOWNTOWN Pampa each Thursday till 8:00 PM. Participate in contest and games- See Stores for details!

WEIGHT BENCH Punched in "the Pampa News" the deadline is Mon. Dec. 17th, 5pm.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

REEDER, Sudie A. — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa. Graveside services, 2 p.m., Ochiltree Cemetery, Perryton.
ROBERTSON, Deborah Elaine "Debbie" Earp — 2 p.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

Wanda Jean 'Bill' Fleming, 76

Wanda Jean "Bill" Fleming, 76, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 11, 2007, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.
 Mrs. Fleming was born May 18, 1931, in Twitty, Texas. She attended schools in the Shamrock area. She married Monta Fleming on Oct. 30, 1948, in Wheeler. He preceded her in death on May 26, 1999.
 Wanda had been a resident

of Pampa since the summer of 1955. She was a member of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ and was a homemaker.
 Survivors include two sons, Art Fleming and wife Melodie of Pampa, and James Fleming of Elkhart, Kan.; one sister, Willie Warren of



Fleming

Amarillo; two brothers, Virgil Clay of Shamrock and Chauncie D. Clay of Canyon; two granddaughters, Meredith Fleming of Pampa and Payton Fleming of Elkhart, Kan.; two grandsons, Jonathan Fleming of Pampa, currently serving with the U.S. Air Force, and

Parker Fleming of Elkhart, Kan.; and two sisters-in-law, Lois Harris and Mary Andrews, both of Pampa.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and five brothers.

MEMORIALS: A favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Sudie A. Reeder, 84

Sudie A. Reeder, 84, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 9, 2007, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Barry A. Loving, pastor of the First Christian Church, and the Rev. George Records, her brother, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at the Ochiltree Cemetery in Perryton to the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Reeder was born Sept. 26, 1923, in Perryton, to Paul A. and Susie Mae McLelland Records. She joined the First Christian Church at an early age.

Sudie attended schools in Canadian and Perryton, graduating from Perryton High School in 1941. She married her high

school sweetheart, Coast Guardsman Joseph E. Reeder, Jr., on March 2, 1943. He preceded her in death on March 8, 1994.

During World War II, Sudie helped the war effort by working on the assembly lines, building

bombers in Fort Worth, Texas, and Wichita, Kan. After the war, she and her growing family lived in Wichita, Kan., Perryton, Texas, Snyder, Okla., Vinita, Okla., and Mannford, Okla., where her husband was a division lineman on the Frisco Railroad. They had three children: J.E., III, Bobby G., and Carol S.

While living in Mannford, she served as the editor of the Keystone Lake Sports.

Sudie enjoyed family



Reeder

genealogy, being a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, gardening, canning, conducting family reunions and visiting kinfolks and old friends and classmates.

After rearing her children, she moved to Kerrville, Texas, where her father was in a nursing home. She then moved to Higgins, Texas, for a few years until her home roots caused her to move back to Perryton for several years.

She then moved to Amarillo, but after several years, the auto traffic got too fast for her taste and she moved for the last time to Pampa in 2002, where she contentedly lived until her death.

She was preceded in death by a son, Bobby G. Reeder; her parents; and two sisters, Christeen M. Dendy and Louisa A. Correll.

Survivors include one son, J.E. Reeder, III and wife Betty of Pampa; one daughter, Carol S. Durbin and husband Ted of Mannford, Okla.; one sister, Colleen Wheeler and husband Joe of Higgins; three brothers, Lt. Col. USAF Retired Francis A. Records and wife Margie of Pampa, Paul A. Records, Jr., of Fischer and the Rev. George L. Records and wife Joyce of Ottawa, Kan.; two grandchildren, Melanie Durbin and Matthew Durbin, both of Mannford, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Deborah Elaine 'Debbie' Earp Robertson, 59

Deborah Elaine "Debbie" Earp Robertson, 59, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 10, 2007, at Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor, and the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Robertson was born Jan. 8, 1948, in Pampa, to

W.H. "Hood" and Earlene "Ikey" Earp. She married David Robertson on Dec. 29, 1964. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Debbie completed all of her schooling in Pampa, graduating from Pampa High School in 1966. She received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree in 1970 from West Texas State



Robertson

University. She began her teaching career at Woodrow Wilson Elementary as a student teacher.

She received her Master of Education degree from West Texas State University in August of 1994. During her 30 years of service to Pampa

ISD, she taught at Wilson Elementary, Travis Elementary and Pampa Middle School. Debbie began her administrative career as assistant principal at Pampa Middle School, followed by principal of Wilson Elementary, and was currently serving as Executive Director of Special Populations of Pampa ISD. She also taught six years in Dalhart.

Debbie dedicated her life to teaching children and helping special needs children have the educational opportunities

in which they are entitled.

She was a member of the Pampa Classroom Teachers Association and the Texas Council for Administrators of Special Education. She was a former member of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Survivors include her husband David Robertson, of the home; daughter, Shelley Brantley and husband Ken of Amarillo; son, Rodney Robertson and wife Tonya of Pampa; her mother, Earlene "Ikey" Earp of Pampa; granddaughter, Emily Robertson of Pampa; grandson, Wesley Brantley of Amarillo; brother, Wyatt Earp and wife Raynetta of Pampa; sister, Jeanna Miller and husband Johnny of Pampa; niece, Jamie Winborne; and nephews, Jay Wyatt Earp, Jeremy Miller and Joshua Miller.

Debbie was preceded in death by her father, Hood Earp; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jack and Lois Robertson.

As a former Lovett Memorial Library board member, the family would appreciate memorials to Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston Street, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

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 Isaiah 9:6

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Commission

Continued from Page 1

be placed strategically around the city to act as signal relays.

City Public Information Officer Donny Hooper said that the network could be used to map various city features such as water and sewer lines and fire hydrants and have that information readily available by laptop to city workers. The information provided in the form of data tables would include such details as flow rates for hydrants, size and age of water lines, and when a particular street was last paved and sealcoated, Hooper said.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said that the mesh network could show firefighters where hydrants were located. The cameras used in the network could be attached to a firefighter at the scene of a fire.

"We would be able to follow a firefighter into a fire," she said. "Being able to track our trucks and personnel is a safety issue."

The system would also be an asset to law enforcement, according to Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner.

"What you can do with it is endless," he said. "A lot of it deals with safety and manpower."

The system could remotely read water meters accurately, for instance, Pitner said. City Manager John Horst said that in some areas of Pampa, two meter readers must go to certain addresses to read meters because of safety issues.

"It's not going to outdate itself quickly," Pitner said. "It doesn't all have to be installed at once, at the same time."

"I know the city runs with less and does more. We're

just trying to do that 'more' better," he said.

"We'll have to make upgrades along the way. That's inevitable," Hooper said.

Pitner said things like cables may need replacing from time to time.

"The software may be updated regularly," he said. "There may be a five- to 10-year range on the majority of it before being outdated."

'What you can do with it is endless. A lot of it deals with safety and manpower.'

— Trevlyn Pitner
Chief of Police

Cost of the mesh network is \$489,000, and installation of the entire system is another \$300,000, Horst said.

"Motorola offers a five- or seven-year lease purchase plan with \$200,000 down," Horst said. "This is a joint agreement by all the directors and myself that this would be beneficial to the community."

"I think we should be looking at this as an improvement," Pitner said. "I do not want to take away from anything else."

Horst recommended the lease-purchase plan, with the down payment to be made from the city's fund balance and the annual payments thereafter to be taken from the city's general fund, water and wastewater budgets. He estimated the annual payments to be approximately \$50,000.

"Are we going to get \$800,000 worth of good out of it?" asked Allison. "How many employees is this going to cut?"

"I don't recommend cutting any employees," Horst said.

"Our first priority should be getting our water and sewer lines replaced," Dixon said. "What good is that network going to be if we lose our whole infrastructure? We need a street improvement program. I can't believe Pampa Fire Department, with their trained personnel, would have trouble finding fire hydrants."

One reason for taking action on the mesh network at the 4 p.m. Tuesday meeting is a deadline to take advantage of a discount being offered by Motorola for the system, Pitner said.

A representative of Centramedia expressed concern about the frequencies to be used by the network which might interfere with frequencies already in use commercially.

"We're in the investigative stage right now," Robbins said. "We're not competing with commercial users."

At least part of the system will use frequencies in the 4.9 range, which is licensed solely for public safety use.

In other business, commissioners elected Darville Orr to the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors and approved Orr and Charles Henry as nominees for positions on the board.

Ordinance No. 1470 amending appropriations for the city's 2007-2008 fiscal year was approved on second and final reading. The ordinance raises M.K. Brown Auditorium's appropriation from \$291,320 to \$312,390. Ordinance No. 1471, which also concerned amending appropriations, died for lack of a second.

Lovett Memorial

Library's long-range plan for 2007-2012 was approved, as was cancellation of the city commission's next regular meeting, scheduled for Dec. 25. A contract with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P., for collection of court fees and fines was also approved.

Shane Stokes of the city's Recreation Department addressed commissioners concerning the marquee on Hobart Street near the auditorium. The proposed new marquee, to replace one which has quit working, will feature full color and animation and will cost approximately \$100,000. The Economic Development Corporation has expressed interest in sharing cost of the marquee equally with the city, Stokes said.

GCAD

Continued from Page 1

the data entry, he said, until all regular employees are back at work.

Wheeler Independent School District's request to pay their entire obligation to the district in one yearly payment rather than a series of payments will be heard by board members. The school district's obligation to Gray County consists of an area of about four sections and a total payment of about \$250 annually, Bagley said.

The four-section area is in Gray County but is part of Wheeler Independent School District.

Board members will also consider contract renewals for consulting services, changes in the district's retirement system, renewal of a bank depository contract, an investment report and chief appraiser's report.

Happy Holidays from The Pampa News

DOWNTOWN PAMPA
Thursday • December 13th

- Participate in the Reindeer Run contest for your chance to win the grand prize on Thursday, December 20!
- Register for door prizes at select businesses
- Receive a ticketed entry into the drawing for Downtown Bucks with each purchase made at participating downtown businesses
- Remember to Purchase a ticket for the PHS Band Booster Raffle!
- Register for the Santa Shout contest held on December 20th
- GATHER IN FRONT OF RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP AT 7 P.M. FOR THE DOWNTOWN BUCKS DRAWING (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN), PHS BAND BOOSTER RAFFLE DRAWING, & SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS PRESENTATION

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Viewpoints

Making sense: Where's the shining city?

Republicans keep longing for a reincarnation of Ronald Reagan to pop up and win the GOP presidential nomination, but thus far not one of the current candidates has shown that he has the vaguest notion of what made my father the great president he was — his vision of the America it is capable of becoming based on his unbounded optimism and faith in the ability of fellow Americans to do the right thing when told the truth.

They keep going off on tangents, arguing about the religious faith of one of their number, or about the legality of using lawn service companies that hire illegal aliens or how much a former mayor spent on security for himself and his mistress, but not a

single word about what matters most — a vision of what kind of America will result if they win the presidency.

The American people crave to see the vision of the shining city on the hill my Dad promised and went a long way towards creating, yet not a single one of the GOP candidates has said a word about how they plan to get us there, or even mentioned it's where they want to take us or what it would be like once we got there.

The voters are being left with a slate of candidates whose vision of the kind of nation they imagine remains a mystery. Instead they concentrate on attacking one another, thus violating my Dad's 11th commandment that Republicans must

refrain from going after their party rivals.

This is a serious defect. If the men who seek the opportunity to win the presidency either have no idea of what kind of America they want to help create as president, or worse, are afraid to explain their vision to the electorate, the Republican party will deserve to go down in defeat next year. A party that has no promises for a bright and attainable future is a party that has no promise.

Unless I am very much mistaken, the people are fed up with candidates'

grandiose schemes to make Washington more efficient, the economy stronger, our foreign policy more effective or how they would handle illegal immigration matters. They have been hearing those un-kept promises for years.

What they haven't been hearing from the people who want their votes is the promise of a future where America reaches the full potential the founding fathers envisioned over 230 years ago — a nation where equal opportunity is available for all, where government is once again the servant of the people and not

their master, where truth is more important than political correctness, where their hard-earned wages are not squandered on wasteful and foolish government programs, and where elected legislators and not unelected judges enact the laws.

This is an America where principles, not programs, govern our lives and political activities. This is a shining city on the hill.

The Republican candidates, for reasons I can't fathom, cannot see that shining city, or if they can, are unable to explain what it would be like under their administration.

On the Democratic side, there is no problem envisioning a future under their authority. Instead of envi-

sioning a shining city on a hill, they see a Marxist municipality which on close inspection turns out to be just another one of those socialist slums which litter the garbage bin of history.

If Republicans refuse to take the blinders off their eyes and look to a future in the shining city, they will lose the election next year, and the nation will begin its dreary trek to the socialist slums where everybody will have an equal opportunity to be miserable.

—Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Michael Reagan
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2007. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 12, 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

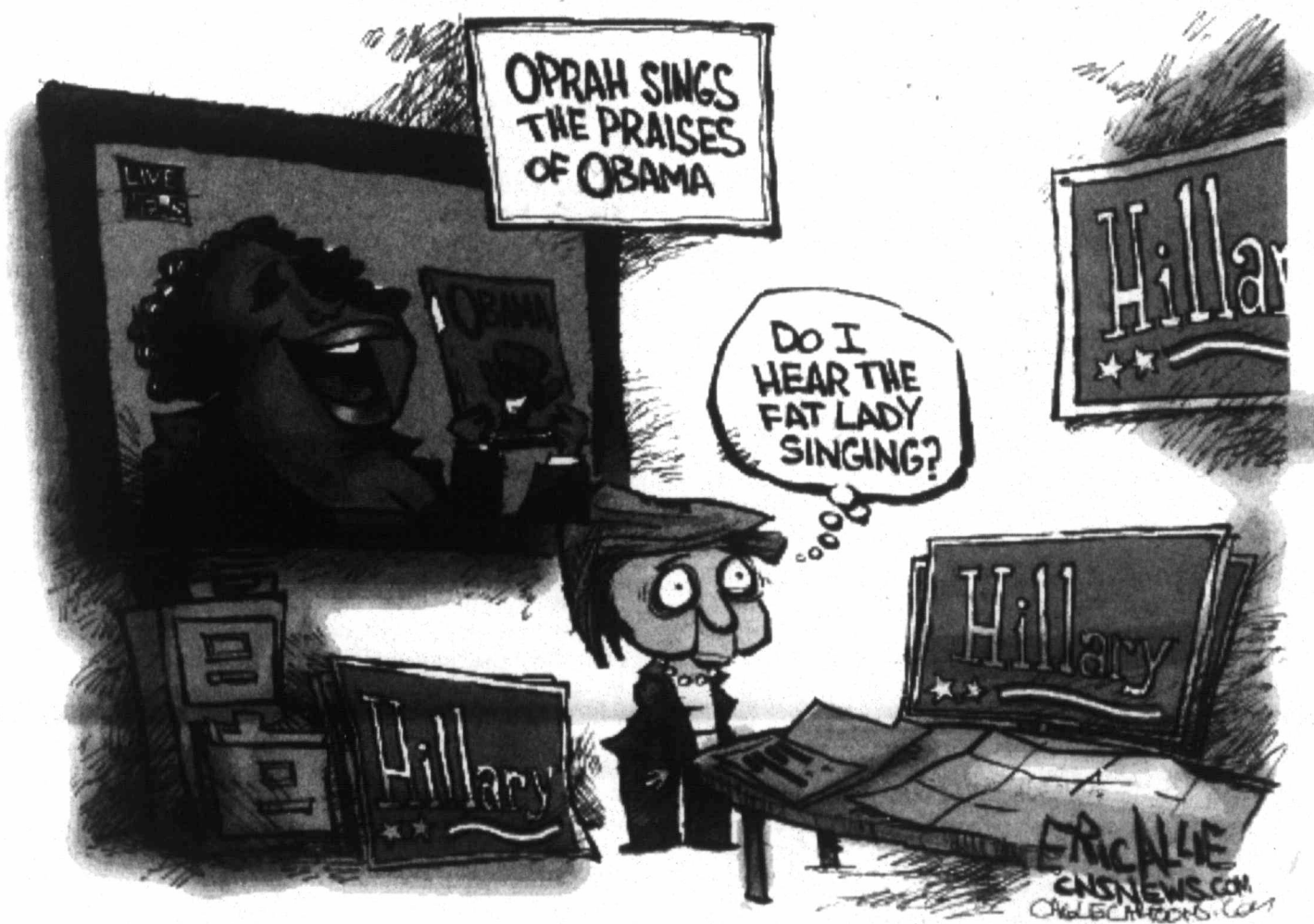
On this date:
In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.
In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1906, President Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be secretary of commerce and labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

'There are two cardinal sins from which all the others spring: impatience and laziness.'

— Franz Kafka
Czech author
(1883-1924)



Gun-control elitists skewed perceptions

People who believe in gun control are ignorant, superstitious or stupid. Violence is not caused by inanimate objects. Criminals, by definition, do not obey laws, including gun-control laws. Therefore, the only accomplishment of gun-control laws is to assure the criminals that their victims will be unarmed.

When the state of Florida was considering a law allowing honest citizens to carry concealed weapons, my liberal colleagues at the newspaper became virtually hysterical. They were certain the murder rate would skyrocket and that there would be shootings on every street corner and at supermarket checkout counters. The law was passed, and the murder rate did not skyrocket. Nor did hundreds of thousands of Floridians apply for con-

cealed-weapon permits. After all, lugging around a pound or so of iron is inconvenient.

What their hysteria revealed, however, was how far removed from reality elitists are. How could any sane person imagine that his fellow citizens would suddenly go berserk if they had access to a firearm? It shows you what low opinion elitists have of their fellow man.

Having been born in the Deep South by the grace of God and having lived in the South, by choice, my whole life, I have lived among people who had access to firearms. In the South, there is a cultural rule: Never

insult a man you are not prepared to fight, and never fight a man you are not prepared to kill. Southerners, unlike people in some parts of the country, all have lines they do not allow other people to cross.

I have been blessed to live with such people. I guarantee you that Southerners would not stand around and watch some criminal murder a woman, as happened in an infamous case in New York City.

On one of my visits to Georgia, I heard a local newscast about a man who attempted to rob a store and was captured by the store's customers. The news story said police planned to charge

the man "as soon as he is released from the hospital."

Another point to consider about gun control is that no criminal attacks an innocent person in the presence of the police. Even if the victim can get to a telephone, he has to deal with the criminal until the police arrive. So ask yourself: How do you plan to deal with a violent criminal? The best thing to do is shoot the villain.

A friend of mine, a South Korean taekwon do master and a former member of South Korean intelligence, was laughing one day about kung fu schools, which teach students the use of the broadsword and the halberd.

"Who is going to walk around carrying a broadsword?" he said. "Besides, if your life is in

Charley Reese
Columnist



See REESE, Page 5

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:
■ Dec. 1
San Antonio Express-News on the increasing rate of security breaches in the U.S.:
How many people know or pay attention to the difference between threat level yellow and threat level orange?
According to the Department of Homeland Security, the national threat level is yellow, or elevated. The threat level for all U.S. domestic and international flights is orange, or high.
If that's not perfectly clear and meaningful, you may be among the Americans who have become complacent or even cynical about security

threats. And government missteps feed that complacency and cynicism.

The FBI and CIA are supposed to be the experts when it comes to national security. Yet a recent report by the Washington Post reveals that even the experts get it wrong sometimes.

A Lebanese woman who gained U.S. citizenship through a sham marriage was able to land sensitive jobs at both agencies. She obtained security clearances that gave her access to classified information about Hezbollah.

She's not accused of passing information to the terrorist group. According to court documents, she only checked to see if family members in Lebanon had been linked to Hezbollah. But the potential for harm to the United States and its intelligence agents was great.

In the years leading up to 9-11, the Aldrich Ames, Harold Nicholson and Robert Hanssen spy scandals rocked the FBI and CIA. Those cases supposedly prompted enhanced background investigations and heightened security. Yet according to an October report from the Justice Department's inspector general, the FBI still hasn't implemented some key security measures.

That sounds like a good, apolitical issue for Attorney General Michael Mukasey to address. There are countless FBI and CIA success stories about which the public will never know. But when the security and counterterrorism professionals fail to heed their own warnings, it doesn't inspire confidence among the citizenry. URL: http://www.mysa.com

Six shot leaving school bus; officials tighten security

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Authorities were looking for two suspects Wednesday in the shooting of six young people at a school bus stop following a fight about a girl.

The six were shot Tuesday shortly after a group of Mohave High School stu-

dents got off a school bus in a working-class neighborhood in northeastern Las Vegas. The suspects were believed to have fled on foot.

An 18-year-old man was in critical condition and a 17-year-old boy was upgraded from critical to serious condition, both with gunshot

wounds to the torso, said Cheryl Persinger, a University Medical Center spokeswoman.

Four people, including at least two boys and a girl who are under 18, were treated for gunshot wounds to their arms and legs and were released, she said. All four

are students at Mojave High School who had just stepped off the bus, which was coming from the school, police said.

Authorities would not release any other information about the two victims who were still hospitalized, including whether they were

students or had been on the bus.

Police said they believed the shooting was linked to a fight at Mohave earlier in the day. The brawl had been contained by school police, who arrested three male students, officials said.

Sheriff Doug Gillespie did

not describe how he believed the incidents were connected. The fight at the school did not appear to be gang or race-related, he said.

"At this point, the indicators that we have found ... it's a dispute over a girlfriend," Gillespie told reporters.

BELTWAY

Pols bicker over middle-class tax relief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans say it's OK not to cover the \$50 billion in revenue losses from Congress' annual alternative minimum tax fix to hit more people so there's no reason to raise other taxes to make up for revenue losses "is the most disingenuous argument I've heard in my 19 years here," said Rep. John Tanner of Tennessee, a member of the House Democrats' fiscally conservative Blue Dog group.

Caught in the middle are millions of taxpayers who could see delayed refunds or a bigger tax bill because of the dispute. At stake is \$50 billion in higher taxes if Congress, now in the final hours of this year's session, fails to work out its philosophical differences over the AMT.

The Internal Revenue Service has already warned that, with the AMT question still up in the air, it will likely have to delay processing returns, and giving out refunds, when the tax filing season begins next month.

The AMT, which disallows most exemptions and deductions, was initiated in 1969 to catch some 155 super-rich people who weren't paying any taxes. But unlike several other taxes, Congress opted not to index the AMT for inflation. Consequently, every year more people are subject to it. The number was 4 million in 2006 and that could grow to 25 million, many in the \$75,000 to \$200,000 income range, if Congress doesn't act. The average increase for each of those taxpayers would be about \$2,000.

In recent years Congress has enacted one-year fixes to keep the AMT from expanding. Everyone supports another fix this year, the two parties are split over whether the \$50 billion should be made up elsewhere.

House Democrats, in one of their first acts upon assuming the majority last January, passed a "pay-as-you-go" or "paygo" rule requiring that new mandatory spending programs or tax cuts be offset by an equal amount of spending cuts or tax increases so as not to add to the deficit. The AMT fix passed by the House in November contains new tax revenue, much of it raised by closing a loophole that taxes investment fund managers at a lower-than-normal income tax rate.

"In my opinion, these are all phantom funds. We basically know the alternative minimum tax is not going to generate these revenues."

— Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H.

Senate Republicans, however, are using their filibuster powers to force the Senate into maintaining low rates for investment fund managers and accepting an unpaid-for AMT fix.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., on Tuesday came back with a new paid-for AMT bill that could be on the House floor Wednesday. He said his new plan found less controversial ways to offset the costs of the AMT relief, including closing a loophole that allows hedge fund managers to defer compensation to offshore accounts.

"In my opinion, these are all phantom funds," Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., top Republican on the Budget Committee, said during Senate debate. "We basically know the alternative minimum tax is not going to

generate these revenues." Republicans, said GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, "will not raise taxes in exchange for blocking a tax that was not meant to be."

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said raising taxes when the economy is shaky is a bad idea, and the White House said the president would veto any bill with a tax increase.

The problem is that the administration must adhere to current law in drawing up its long-term budgets. That means a steady growth of AMT revenues that will contribute to its goal of balancing the budget by 2012. The White House did include an AMT fix in this year's budget proposal, but assumes more than \$500 billion in AMT revenues through 2012.

Confessed killer studied law enforcement in college

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (AP) — In his early 30s, fresh off his release from prison on a rape charge(s), Timothy Krajcir enrolled in college to study psychology and the criminal justice system.

Like other students, Krajcir was seeking self-enlightenment, a detective said. But over the next six years, Krajcir murdered at least six women in two states, covering up his crimes in part by using what he learned at Southern Illinois University, authorities said.

"He said initially he was trying to figure himself out. But he failed, obviously," said James Smith, a Cape Girardeau police detective

who helped link Krajcir to five homicides here dating back 30 years.

Krajcir, now 63, confessed to nine murders earlier this month, Cape Girardeau County Prosecutor Morley Swingle said. He pleaded guilty Monday in Illinois to the 1982 murder of classmate Deborah Sheppard, and was charged later that day with five counts of murder and three counts of rape in Cape Girardeau.

Prosecutors are building cases in three other homicides Krajcir confessed to, which took place in states other than Missouri and Illinois, Swingle said. Police have released no details about those killings.

Public Defender Patricia Gross represented Krajcir in Sheppard's killing but would not comment Tuesday, according to her assistant. Krajcir doesn't have an attorney in Missouri, according to court filings.

Authorities say Krajcir is a rare specimen — smart enough to elude police during his crime spree, and apparently private enough to keep his deeds secret in the ensuing years. He eventually graduated from Southern Illinois with a degree in law enforcement.

"If he was studying criminal justice and law enforcement, he definitely would know what police were looking for and how to avoid detection," Smith said.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

danger, use a gun." Some years ago, a store owner in Texas, after several burglaries, decided to sleep in the store and eventually killed two armed burglars who broke in.

"Now I know what a conservative is," the store owner said. "He's a liberal who's been robbed one damned time too many."

The gun is the ideal self-defense weapon. It can be wielded by a woman, a child, an elderly person or even an invalid. There was an old saying in the American West: "God created men, but Sam Colt made them equal."


The Bill of Rights is crystal-clear. It guarantees the people, not the states or the militias, the right to keep and bear arms. Let's hope the Supreme Court justices understand plain English now and in the future.

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

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NJ donut shop employee clobbers thief

ELMWOOD PARK, N.J. (AP) — When a thief started taking cash from his register over the weekend, Dunkin' Donuts employee Dustin Hoffmann fought back by clobbering the man with a ceramic mug.

But Hoffmann admits he was less worried about the stolen cash than how he might look on the video-sharing site YouTube.

"What was going through my mind at that point was that the security tape is either going to show me run

away and hide in the office or whack this guy in the head, so I just grabbed the cup and clocked the guy pretty hard," Hoffmann told The Record of Bergen County.

The man came into the shop and ordered a pastry Sunday night, according to Elmwood Park Police Chief Donald Ingrasselino. Once Hoffmann opened the register, the man jumped over the counter and started taking cash.

MID-EAST

Peace talks resume after seven year freeze, violence

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israelis and Palestinians resumed peace negotiations for the first time in nearly seven years Wednesday, trying to reconcile conflicting claims and clashing dreams in a bid to end six decades of conflict.

The talks went ahead despite a new outbreak of violence in the Gaza Strip. Early Wednesday, Palestinian militants fired 16 homemade rockets toward Israel, causing minor damage and slightly wounding one woman, Israeli officials said.

Gaza, along with a plan to expand a neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem, prompted Palestinian charges that Israel was sabotaging the atmosphere even before the talks began. Israel rejected the charges.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel said the talks got under way around midday. He said both sides wanted to keep the meeting "low key," but there were hopes to "jump start" the peace process.

The talks took place at a Jerusalem hotel and lasted about 90 minutes. The lead negotiators, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and former Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, drove away from the building without commenting to reporters. There were no

immediate details released. Israel is pursuing peace with the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, who rules from the West Bank. At the same time, it continues to battle the Hamas militant group, which has ruled Gaza since defeating Abbas' forces in June.

Israel regularly carries out brief ground incursions and airstrikes in Gaza in a bid to stop Palestinian rocket and mortar attacks on southern Israeli towns.

The Islamic Jihad militant said it fired nine of the rockets to avenge Israel's incursion. "The resistance is going to escalate the

'The resistance is going to escalate the operations targeting the Zionist colonies in the coming hours.'

— Abu Ahmad

operations targeting the Zionist colonies in the coming hours," said Abu Ahmad, a spokesman for the group.

Tuesday's operation, in which tanks and bulldozers pushed 2 1/2 miles into southern Gaza, was the broadest push since the Hamas takeover. Early Wednesday, the troops had withdrawn to a buffer zone along the Israeli border.

The Israeli forces left behind heavy damage to al-Fukhari, a farming community near the southern town of Khan Younis.

About 75 acres of olive trees and orange groves were uprooted, greenhouses and the outer walls of homes were damaged, and homes were left without power, said Ouda Alomar, mayor of the community. Repair crews were trying to restore electricity and reopen roads that were closed with dirt mounds put up by the troops, he said.

Celebration of Lights

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November 17th thru December 31st

Sunday thru Thursday 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Friday and Saturday 6:00pm to 11:00pm

"TRALEE TREE OF BLESSINGS"

November 27th thru December 15th

sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING TOUR

December 15th at 8:00am

at The Optimist Club

Events calendar

• **Red Hat Dollies** of Pampa will meet at 9 a.m. Dec. 13 at Sisters Spudnut in Pampa. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

• **The deadline to purchase tickets** for First Assembly of God's Christmas banquet is Dec. 14. Tickets are available at the church office, 500 S. Cuyler, and must be picked up on or before the 14th. The banquet will kick-off at 6 p.m. Dec. 16 and will feature vocalist Jack Stone. For more information, call 662-1445.

• **Peace River Productions** and Quanah Historical Museums will hold their second annual quilt show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 15 at Quanah Depot Museum in Quanah. The event will include quilt demonstrations, music, chuckwagon cooking and more as well as a cowboy ball in the evening. For more information, call (940) 663-2040, (940) 663-5959, (940) 839-7332, e-mail info@peasriverproductions.org or log onto www.peasriverproductions.org on the Internet.

• **Madeline Graves Dance Studio** will stage "Scrooge - All Jazzed Up Like the Dickens" at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. A spaghetti meal is scheduled prior to the show at 5:30 p.m. Admission to the program/meal will be \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. Children 3 and under are free.

• **Applications for Miss Teen Gray County 2008** will be accepted until Dec. 17. The title-winner will represent the county at the Miss Teen Texas Pageant in April at San Antonio. To find out more, call (210) 403-0589 or log onto www.misstentexas-international.com on the Internet.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa will stage its December "Story Time" at 10 a.m. Dec. 19

at the library. Story Time is open to children between 18 months and 4 years of age. A Christmas party is planned the 19th. For more information, call the library.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chicken-pox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 19, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

• **Pampa Book Club** will review the following books in the coming months: "Memory Keepers Daughter" by Kim Edwards, Jan. 9; "I Heard That Song Before" by Mary Higgins Clark, Feb. 13; "Night" by Elie Wiesel, March 12; "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, April 9; and "Walking Drum" by Louis L'Amour, May 14. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

• **The 2008 High Plains Irrigation Conference & Trade Show** will be Jan. 16 at the Amarillo Convention Center in Amarillo. The event will be presented by Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Agriculture Irrigation Association. CEUs for pesticide applicators, certified crop consultants and certified irrigation designers will be available. For more information, call (806) 677-5600.

British PM says former Afghan insurgents can win role in country's future

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Wednesday that former insurgent fighters in Afghanistan can win a role in the country's future if they renounce violence.

Brown told lawmakers that Britain would support work by Afghan President

Hamid Karzai to bring those who have previously targeted international forces into mainstream politics.

"If they are prepared to renounce violence and abide by the constitution and respect basic human rights then there is a place for them," Brown said.

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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Two Pampa men injured in rollover

By JORDAN REAGAN Sports Editor

Two Pampa men were injured in a one-car accident Tuesday morning in Gray County, 9 miles east of Pampa on Highway 60.

The driver, Harlan Sothman of Pampa, and passenger David Bowers also of Pampa were transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

According to a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson, Sothman was eastbound on Highway 60 when he was distracted by his cell phone ringing.

When he attempted to receive the call, he veered into the southbound lane of traffic, and turned hard to the right, overcorrected and rolled the vehicle twice.

The vehicle came to a stop facing northwest with its top on the ground.

CC to hold first nursing graduation

By KERRI SMITH Managing Editor

Cherokee College will hold its first vocational nursing graduation ceremonies in Pampa at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pampa Junior High School, 3491 Charles.

Thirty-three graduates from around the area will participate in the ceremony. The guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Bobby W. Smith, general surgeon.

The instructors for this year's class were David Williams, Peggy Stewart, Phyllis Norwood and Jennifer Black. Clinical instructors were Mindy Burrows, Connie Beem and Connie Ferrar.

Local graduates include:

Kathryn Apperson, McLennan	Lauren Bowen, Pampa
Patricia Brown, Groom	Jordan Douglas, Pampa
Alicia Driscoll, Pampa	Jennifer Harper, Pampa
Ashley Huff, Miami	April Martineau, Pampa
Kristy Monette, Pampa	Letitia O'Leigh, Miami
Tiffany Prusso, Pampa	Lashonda Robichaux, Pampa
Christy Shook, Pampa	Katrina Somers, Miami
Falkin Soto, Pampa	and Erika Trevino, Wheeler.

For more information about the graduation or vocational nursing classes, contact Jennifer Black at Cherokee College Pampa Center, 665-8801.

GCSO warns residents of possible identity theft operation via phone

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about a possible identity theft operation in which the person is asked for information concerning their bank account.

At least one local resident has reported receiving a call from someone claiming to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service, said Sheriff Don Copeland. The caller claimed that the IRS had a refund to send to the person, and asked for the person's bank routing number and bank account number in order to deposit the refund in their account.

This information may be used by the caller to remove money from the account and may also lead to identity theft.

Copeland said.

The IRS warns all citizens not to give personal information over the phone, they have initiated the contest or they are sure they know who they are dealing with. The IRS does not ask for personal or financial information in this way; such information is sent in writing.

See IRS, Page 3

Cable ONE announces 2008 price adjustments

Logo designers

After not raising television rates for nearly two years, Cable ONE is introducing changes to its 2008 pricing.

Adjustments will become effective Jan. 1 for various television programming packages. While there are several different programming packages, on average, customers will see a 6.2 percent increase.

Since Cable ONE's rates have not been adjusted since

Accident

Two Pampa men were injured in this one-vehicle rollover Tuesday morning on Highway 60 East. According to a DPS report, the accident occurred when the driver tried to answer his cell phone.

Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

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All Business: UnitedHealth's CEO pay giveback doesn't go far enough

NEW YORK (AP) — Take the money and run.

That's the message that corporate chieftains may be getting from UnitedHealth Group CEO William McGuire's \$420 million settlement for his role in a stock-options backdating scandal that still leaves him with several hundred million dollars in hand.

When it was announced last week, it was billed as the largest corporate giveback ever,

as if that was supposed to assuage shareholders of the nation's second largest health insurer who lost big because of McGuire's stock-options shenanigans. That payback, along previous deals with McGuire and other executives, brings the total being returned to UnitedHealth to nearly \$1 billion.

While that sounds like no small change, then compare it with this: He still keeps all cash paid to him during his 15-year tenure at

the company's helm and is likely to retain stock options that today have an \$800 million value.

"If this penalty is returning unjust enrichment, then where is the sting?" asked Charles Elson, director of the Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance at University of Delaware. "A penalty should crimp an individual's lifestyle, but this punishment certainly would not."

That's not to say that this victory isn't an important one. As some governance experts note, at least money is flowing back to this company at a value rarely seen.

The issue here has to do with "backdating," whereby corporate insiders manipulated the grant dates of stock options to when the company's share price was depressed.

See BUSINESS, Page 12

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Three traffic stops were made.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Kentucky and Hobart streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Cuyler and Kingsmill streets, and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 2100 block of North Nelson, the 800 block of Duncan, the 900 block of Alcock, the 200 block of Henry and the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway.

Agency assistance was rendered on Highway 60 West.

Found property was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. A purse and contents were found.

A welfare check was made in the 500 block of Magnolia.

A civil matter was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Browning and Francis streets, and the 1000 block of Darby.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 700 block of Murphy.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 700 block of North Hobart and the 3000 block of Rosewood.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Zimmers.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1100 block of Juniper and the 700 block of East Frederic.

One open door was checked.

Theft was reported in the 2800 block of Charles. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of Juniper. Taken were two electronic game devices, a compact disc player, a DVD and a football game. Estimated value of loss is \$320.

Telephone fraud was reported in the 500 block of Yeager.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported at Cudd Pressure Control, 2841 Perryton Parkway. Taken were three laptop computers and a briefcase with various books. Estimated value of loss is \$5,000.

PPD reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Fifteen traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the 700 block of Brunow.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 300 block of North Dwight, the 500 block of North Sumner and the 200 block of West 28th. At least one arrest was made in connection with the accident on North Dwight Street. Driving while intoxicated, and a hit and run were reported in connection with the accident on North Sumner Street.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1900 block of North Christy, the 300 block of Anne, the 2400 block of Charles, the intersection of Market and Nelson streets, the 1100 block of Huff Road, twice in the 3100 block of Perryton Parkway, once in

the 600 block of East Francis, the 2200 block of Evergreen, the 1400 block of West Somerville, the 600 block of North Dwight and the 300 block of West Albert.

A runaway was reported in the 2200 block of North Nelson.

One suicide attempt was reported.

A welfare check was made in the 2100 block of North Nelson.

Four attempts to serve papers were made.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 100 block of Western.

Civil matters were reported in the police department lobby and the 2600 block of Seminole.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Atchison and Frost streets, the 500 block of East Francis, and the intersection of Thut and Somerville streets.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1700 block of Coffee and the 2600 block of Seminole.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 600 block of Plains.

An information report was taken in the 1700 block of Coffee concerning a verbal domestic incident.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 800 block of Beryl and the 400 block of Oklahoma.

An offense against family and children was reported in the 2300 block of Primrose.

One alarm was reported.

Gas drive-offs were reported in the 2800 block of West 28th and at Mufflers Unlimited Conoco, 300 N. Hobart, where fuel valued at \$59.01 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of Miami. Taken were electronics, money, a painting, cologne, a tool box and tools, and three rings.

Burglary was reported in the 2600 block of Seminole.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Dogwood. Taken were four credit cards, a book of checks, a Texas driver's license, a cell phone valued at \$100 and a digital camera valued at \$200.

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

Monday, Dec. 10

Falon Lourraine Ramirez, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 2800 block of Charles by

Pampa Police Department for two counts of theft over \$50 and under \$500. One of the counts is an Ector County charge.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Shane Allen Douglas, 22, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for theft by check.

Jimmy Fitzer, 46, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for theft under \$50.

Richard Leger, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of Dwight by PPD on a Hemphill County charge of driving while license is invalid.

Oscar Ivan Prieto-Aguilar, 18, of Odessa was arrested in the 2700 block of Perryton Parkway by PPD for no driver's license, no insurance, expired registration and stopping in the roadway.

Ryan J. Wohlford, 22, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for tampering with evidence.

Anthony Ryan Ferrell, 24, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for tampering with evidence.

Kenneth Putman, 25, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for tampering with evidence.

Allen Lee Roberts, 39, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of North Sumner by PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Sine Lauree Tivet, 42, homeless, was arrested by GCSO for public intoxication.

Megan Elaine Robinson, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of East Harvester by PPD for speeding, consumption of alcohol by a minor and two counts of public intoxication.

Megan Noel Joslyn, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of East Harvester by PPD for consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Pampa Police Department reported the following vehicle accidents today.

Saturday, Dec. 8

8:06 p.m. — A 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt, driven by Adam Ernesto-Tyson Estrada, 18, of White Deer and a 1999 Jeep Cherokee, driven by Keelan Scott Patton, 16, of 2548 Beech, collided at the intersection of Brown and Hobart streets. No injuries were reported. Estrada was cited for failure to yield right of way while turning left.

10:33 p.m. — A 1981 Ford F100 pickup, driven by Kenneth Ray Akins, 63, of

1037 S. Clark, and a 2005 Toyota Tacoma, driven by Kenneth Ray Bagley, 36, of 2500 Evergreen collided at the intersection of Alcock and Francis streets. No injuries were reported. Akins was cited for driving while intoxicated and no insurance.

Sunday, Dec. 9

12:20 a.m. — A 2007 Saturn Aura, driven by Jason Shane Thomas, 33, of 1217 N. Russell, collided with the curb at the intersection of Craven and Cuyler streets. No injuries were reported. Thomas was cited for unsafe speed.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 10

7:30 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 900 block of Barnes on a trash fire.

12:04 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of South Christy on a call for medical assistance.

12:46 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 200 block of East Atchison on a public service call.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

12:07 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1400 block of North Wells on a call for medical assistance.

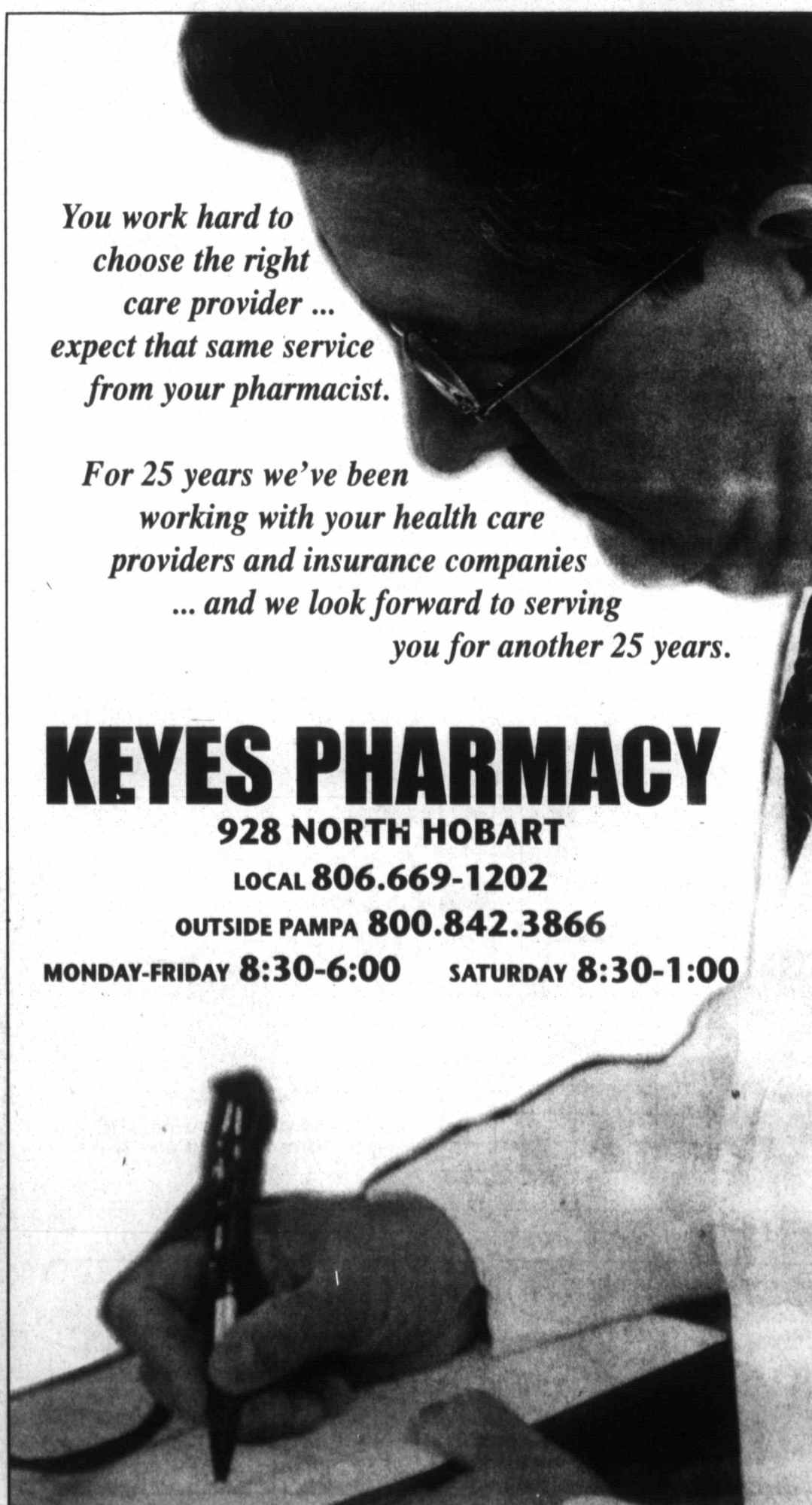


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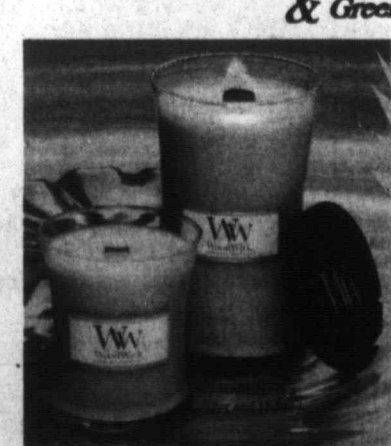
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

I am a happily married mother of two -- a girl, 9, and a boy, 7. My problem is my older sister is married to a pedophile. "Frank" went to jail after pleading guilty to sexual interference with a young girl. (It was not his first offense.) My sister and Frank have no children and live a five-hour drive away. They plan to visit us at Christmas, but not stay at our house. My husband and I are extremely worried about how to handle this situation. Our children don't remember Frank because he has been "away" for a couple of years. How do we make sure they will be safe? Do we tell them to stay away from him and then have to explain why -- or reinforce what we have already taught them about private parts of their bodies and inappropriate touching? It's a given that everyone will be on "red alert" the entire time he is around. This is especially difficult for me because I was sexually abused as a child. I know how quickly and easily predators can do things to children. With professional help I have dealt with my past so I could be a healthy parent. How can I get through Christmas with my sanity and my children unharmed? -- WISHES SISSY WAS SINGLE, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR WISHES: I assume that your sister and Frank will be visiting more relatives than you and your husband because, under the circumstances, I cannot believe you would have invited them. Because of your personal history, your alarm is understandable. And considering Frank's history, I am sure the adults in the extended family will watch him like hawks. However, your children should not only be reminded about

inappropriate touching, you should also make clear to them that your sister's husband did some things he should not have to other children, and warn them to keep their distance and not trust him regardless of how "nice" he may seem. P.S. I don't know what the laws are in Canada, but in the States, as part of his release from prison, Frank might not be allowed to be around minor children. Check it out with the authorities in your community.

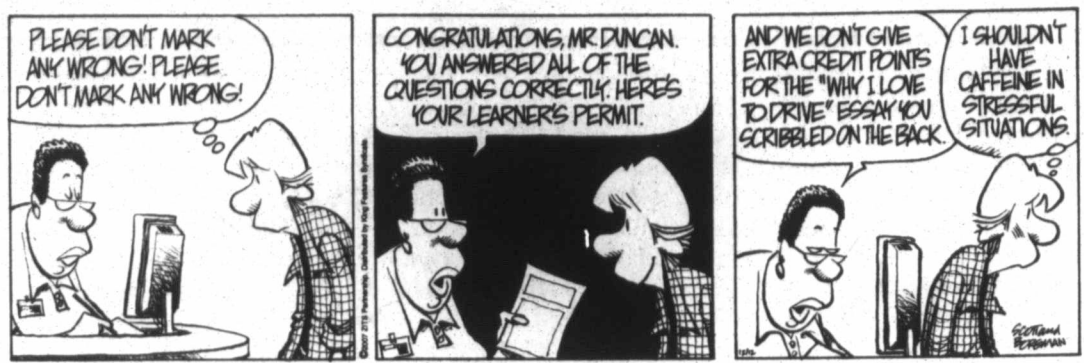
DEAR ABBY: I need your help with a serious problem. I steal. I'm in my 60s and have done it since I was a teen. I have never been caught because I do buy things. I am well-educated and have a nice way with people. I need to stop because one day I know I could be arrested and bring shame to myself as well as my husband and family. I don't steal expensive things, and sometimes I exchange price tags. No one notices it. What causes this behavior? I am financially well off and have no need for half of what I take. It's an impulse I just can't control. I am ashamed of myself for doing it, and I pray for help, but nothing works. Can you help me, please? -- SINFUL SENIOR IN FLORIDA

DEAR SINFUL SENIOR: I don't know why YOU are doing it, but sometimes people steal in an attempt to make up for something they feel is missing in their lives. Others do it for a "thrill." If you are sincere about wanting to know what's driving your impulse to take things you don't need, you should consult a psychotherapist to help you get to the root of it.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



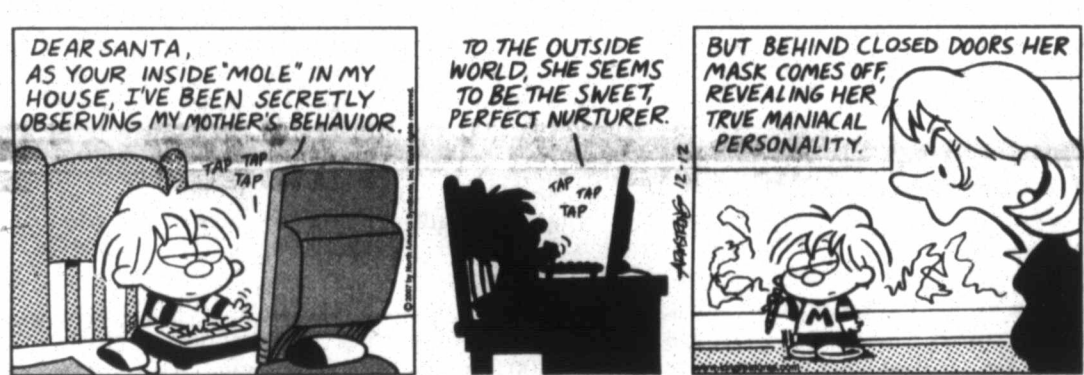
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



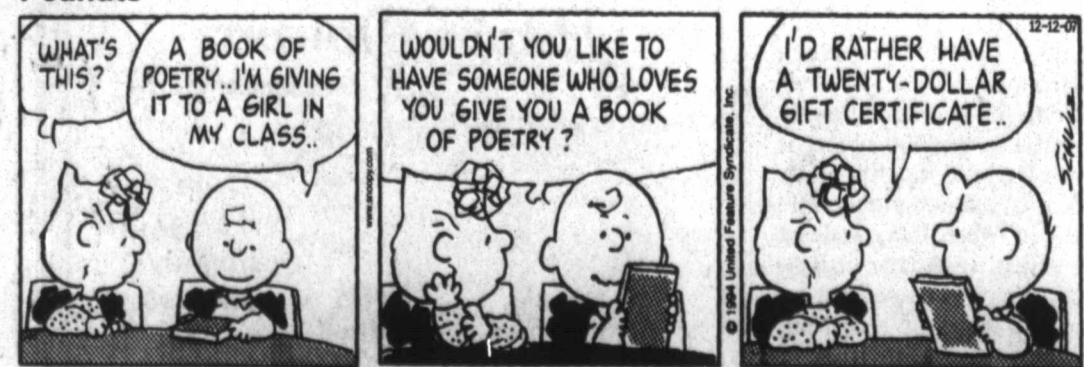
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

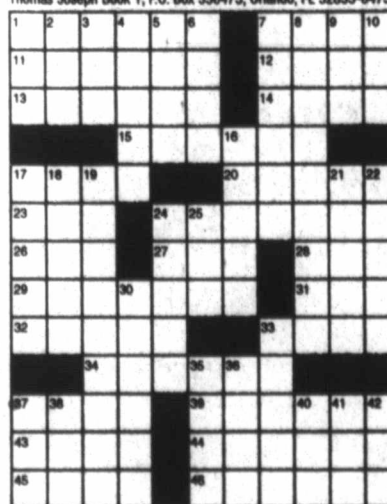
- 1 Set upon
- 7 "Lohen-grin" lady
- 11 Tidy up
- 12 Mark as deleted
- 13 Feed like a duck
- 14 Sound
- 15 Busy
- 17 With skill
- 20 Surprised sounds
- 23 In addition
- 24 "Absolute-ly!"
- 26 Court
- 27 "Norma --"
- 28 Congregant's seat
- 29 Short socks
- 31 Course area
- 32 Stop-watch button
- 33 Investor's buy
- 34 Sneaker feature
- 37 Fourth-down play
- 39 Totaled
- 43 Opposed to
- 44 Comfortable
- 45 Awl or ax
- 46 Admits

TENTS CASTS
OCEAN ONCUE
SHIP OF STATE
SON WIT MUD
METAL
GOBAD RABID
ARES YOKO
SANTA TUXES
STOOP
ACT MAO TAU
SHIP OF FOOLS
TONES ANNIE
OPART RESTS

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Hog the
- 8 Respects
- 9 Nearest
- 10 Had chow
- 16 Story
- meanies
- 17 Fighting
- 18 Kentucky
- 33 "John
- hero
- 19 Investi-gates
- 35 Exam
- type
- 36 Overdue
- 37 Trite
- 38 Half of
- dos
- 40 Empty
- talk
- 41 GI-enter-taining org.
- 42 Corral

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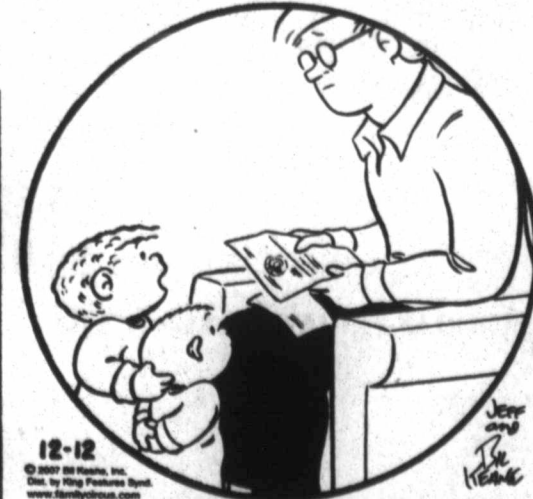
Marmaduke



"May I make a gift suggestion for that hard to please family member?"

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"If Mommy didn't see PJ before he was born, how did she know it was him?"

Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports

Boys, girls count losses at Borger

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

The Borger Bulldogs picked up a revenge victory over Pampa Tuesday night as they defeated the Harvesters in overtime 61-57.

The loss brings Pampa's record to 9-5 on the season, as Borger improved to 6-5.

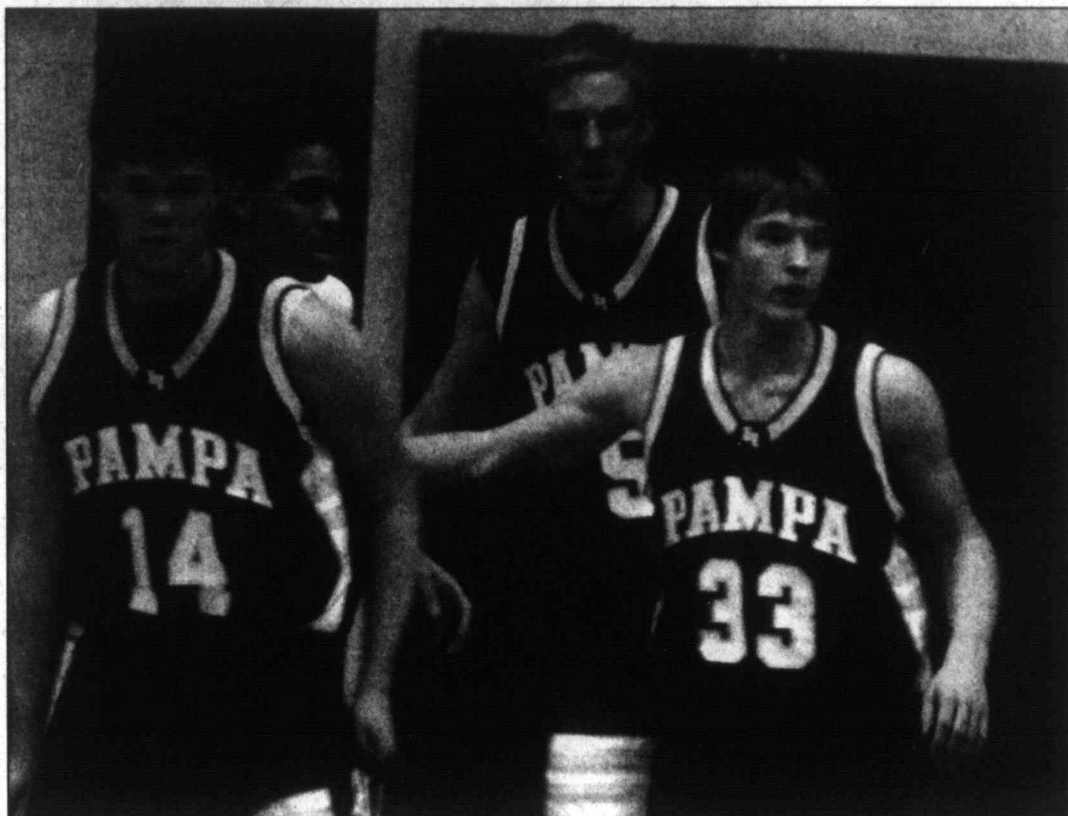
In the closely-matched game, the Harvesters outscored the Bulldogs 11-10 in the first quarter to take an early, but not particularly strong lead.

Borger caught back up in the second quarter as they took a two-point halftime lead, 20-18.

Pampa outscored Borger after halftime to tie the score at 32 going into the final period.

After back and forth scoring from both sides of the court, both teams found themselves tied again at the end of the fourth quarter, 49-49.

See BORGER, Page 10



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pictured here are sophomore Alex Clendening (14), junior Matt Smith (5) and junior Heath Skinner (33) at this past weekend's Brooke D. Nichols Memorial Shootout in Garland. Clendening led the Harvesters with 23 points in Tuesday night's 61-57 loss to Borger.

IOC formally strips Marion Jones of Sydney Olympic medals

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The IOC formally stripped Marion Jones of her five Olympic medals Wednesday, wiping her name from the record books following her admission that she was a drug cheat.

The International Olympic Committee also banned the disgraced American athlete from attending next year's Beijing Olympics in any capacity and said it could bar her from future games.

Jones had already handed back the three gold medals and two bronze she won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Last month, the International Association of Athletics Federations erased all of Jones' results dating to September 2000, but it was up to the IOC to formally disqualify her and take away her Olympic medals.

The decision was announced by IOC president Jacques Rogge at the end of a three-day executive board meeting.

Jones won gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 1,600-meter relay in Sydney, and bronze in the long jump and 100-meter relay. She was the first female track and field athlete to win five medals at a single Olympics.

In addition to those medals, the IOC also disqualified Jones from her seventh-place finish in the long jump at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

8th grade basketball



Courtesy photo

Pictured here is the 8th grade A basketball team. Top row, (L-R) Collin Killgo, Jaden Howard, Trace Carter, Sam Cain and Coach Kaleb Snelgrooves. Bottom row, (L-R) Daniel Hulsey, Laketon Harris, Cole Engle, Dusty Spears, Brendon Burrell and Zac Hernandez.



Courtesy photo

Pictured here is the 8th grade B basketball team. Top row, (L-R) Cody Parks, Jesus Cabrales, Reid Miller, Landon Powell, Jacob Frost, Brandon Cox and Jesse Cruz. Bottom row, (L-R) Tommy Weeks, Latigo Collins and Taylor Kennedy. Not pictured is coach John East.

Warriors snap Spurs' five-game winning streak

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Baron Davis had 18 points, six rebounds and six assists and the Golden State Warriors took advantage of Tim Duncan sitting out another game for San Antonio, beating the sloppy Spurs 96-84 on Tuesday night.

Stephen Jackson had 20 points, five assists and five boards and Matt Barnes added 16 points and eight rebounds as the Warriors used a big second quarter to snap the Spurs' five-game winning streak.

San Antonio hadn't lost since its last trip to Northern California — a 112-99 defeat at Sacramento on Nov. 26.

Duncan walked gingerly to the court before the game and was in uniform, but he missed his third straight game with a sprained right ankle sustained in a Dec. 2 win over Portland. And the Spurs are far from the same team without him: They committed a season-high 21 turnovers.

Matt Bonner led the defending NBA champion Spurs with career highs of 25 points and 17 rebounds on a night leading scorer Manu Ginobili was held to 13 points on 4-for-14 shooting after recording back-to-back 37-point performances Dec. 5 against the Dallas Mavericks and Dec. 7 versus Utah.

Andris Biedrins added 14 points and seven rebounds and Kelenna Azubuike had 16 points and nine boards for the Warriors, who play at Portland on Wednesday night before returning home to face the Lakers again Friday.

The Warriors are in the middle of one of their best stretches ever. They are 12-3 over their last 15 games, the franchise's best such stretch since also going 13-2 from Dec. 6, 1975, to Jan. 3, 1976.

Ginobili had three points and five turnovers in an unproductive first half, and Tony Parker had a sub-par game with 11 points, six assists and six turnovers. San Antonio (17-4) was trying to extend its franchise-best start.

The Spurs cut the Warriors' lead to 81-70 on Bonner's basket with 9:21 to play, then he hit a 3 with 6:39 left that made it 83-74. But Davis scored on a driving layup moments later.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Tiger Woods wins another Player of the Year award

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — No one came close to matching Tiger Woods on the PGA Tour, which is becoming as predictable as Woods being voted the PGA Tour player of the year.

With seven victories and another major championship, Woods won the award Tuesday for the third straight season and the ninth time in his 11 years since he turned pro. The only questions now are whether he's playing his best golf, and how much better he can get. "Is he spoiling everyone?" Brad Faxon asked after a pro-am round at the Target World Challenge. "I don't see anyone close. I don't see who the next guy is."

Phil Mickelson was the only other player on the

PGA Tour ballot with three victories, including The Players Championship. Woods won the money title by more than \$5 million over Mickelson, and Woods' stroke average was 1.4 shots per round lower than Ernie Els.

But when asked to review his year, Woods spent a lot of time looking at lost shots.

He was tied for the lead at some point in the final round of the Masters and U.S. Open and was a runner-up in both of them by a combined three shots. And the only tournament he failed to win during the PGA Tour Playoffs was at the Deutsche Bank Championship, where he took nine more putts than Mickelson in the final round and finished two back.

Borger

Continued from Page 9

The Harvesters were outscored once more in overtime as they were defeated by the Bulldogs, 61-57.

Sophomore Alex Clendenen led the Harvesters with 23 points scored, and senior Mark Stone had 11 points.

The JV boys defeated Borger 52-48.

Next on schedule for the Harvesters will be welcoming the Plainview Bulldogs to McNeely Field House Monday.

The varsity boys will play Plainview at 7:30 p.m. Monday and the JV boys will play at 6 p.m.

Lady Harvesters

The Lady Harvesters were defeated by Borger Tuesday night, 59-42.

The loss brings Pampa's record to 1-13 on the season, and the Lady Bulldogs improved to 8-4.

Pampa's Amber Brown and Shelbie Watson led the Lady Harvesters with eight points scored each.

Pampa led in the first quarter against the Lady Bulldogs 12-11, but were



Courtesy photo

The Pampa JV girls take a timeout during a recent game. The JV girls defeated Borger's JV 56-36 Tuesday night.

outscored in the second quarter as Borger caught back up for a 31-25 halftime lead.

The Lady Bulldogs strengthened their lead after halftime as they took a commanding 48-31 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Both teams scored 11 points in the final period as

Borger won the game, 59-42.

The JV girls defeated Borger's JV 56-36 to improve to 8-5 on the season.

Freshman Aubrey Dowdy led the team with 20 points and six rebounds in her first JV game since being moved up from the freshman team. Ashley Facio had eight

points and Brooklyn Barker had seven.

The JV girls will play again this Thursday and Saturday at the Amarillo High tournament, taking on Hereford in the first round at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The varsity girls will play Lubbock Estacado at 6 p.m. Friday at McNeely Field House.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

12-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

P VEAU KLRULG FTJZT KECN

WUGUK GE WPI WPOM ZPL

PMFPIN SUWULS EL GTU

NOWWEKG EQ WPOM

— VUEKVU CUKLPKS NTPF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE CAT COULD VERY WELL BE MAN'S BEST FRIEND, BUT WOULD NEVER STOOP TO ADMITTING IT.

— DOUG LARSON

Cowboys sign Ball off practice squad, release Ayodele

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Rookie cornerback Alan Ball was signed by the Dallas Cowboys off their practice squad Tuesday.

The Cowboys made room on their

53-man roster by releasing nose tackle Remi Ayodele, the brother of Dallas starting linebacker Akin Ayodele. Remi Ayodele had five tackles in seven games this season.

Ball, a seventh-round pick out of Illinois in April, has been on the Cowboys' practice squad all season.

Heisman winner Tebow, McFadden highlight the AP All-American team

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to being an All-American, Darren McFadden doesn't have to settle for second.

The Arkansas running back and two-time Heisman Trophy runner-up was one of four players voted to The Associated Press All-American team for the second consecutive season.

Michigan offensive tackle Jake Long, LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey and Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis were the other two-time first-team AP All-Americans on the team released Tuesday.

Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow joins McFadden in the backfield along with Central Florida's Kevin Smith,

who leads the nation with 2,448 yards and 30 touchdowns. Smith is the first All-American from UCF, which began playing major college football in 1996.

Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel, who finished fourth in the Heisman voting, was voted to the second team. Hawaii's Colt Brennan, third in the Heisman voting, was the third-team quarterback.

McFadden set school records with 1,725 yards rushing and 2,172 all-purpose yards, breaking the marks he set last year. He scored 16 touchdowns and threw four TD passes, working as a quarterback out of Arkansas' shotgun Wild Hog formation.

Bobby Petrino resigns as Atlanta Falcons coach after 13 games, heads to Arkansas

ATLANTA (AP) — Bobby Petrino thought he was getting one of the best coaching jobs in the NFL. Without Michael Vick, it wasn't worth keeping for even one full season.

Just 13 games into a miserable debut as Atlanta Falcons coach, Petrino stunningly announced his resignation Tuesday and returned to the college ranks at Arkansas.

Petrino left Louisville for Atlanta in January, agreeing to a five-year, \$24 million contract handed out by a team that felt he could help Vick reach his full potential.

"I believe this is truly the best football job in the NFL," Petrino said at his introductory news conference. "It was an easy decision for me."

Of course, he had no idea what Vick was doing in his spare time.

A few months later, the star quarterback came under investigation for a grisly dogfighting operation that led him to plead guilty to federal charges. He was sentenced Monday to 23 months in prison without ever taking a snap for Petrino, who left with a 3-10 record.

Arkansas had been looking for a coach for two weeks to replace Houston Nutt, who resigned after a tumultuous season and took the head coaching job at Mississippi.

The Falcons declined further response beyond a terse, two-para-

graph statement released Tuesday night. Owner Arthur Blank and general manager Rich McKay were scheduled to hold a news conference Wednesday.

There was no immediate word on who would take over for the team's final three games, though defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer and offensive coordinator Hue Jackson would be the most logical candidates.

"Today was a day of decision," Petrino said at a late-night news conference in Fayetteville, Ark. "It was difficult on one side, very easy on the other. It was difficult to leave Atlanta, the staff, players, fans. The timing of it probably is the thing that made it most difficult. Coming to Arkansas was the easy part."

Petrino got a five-year deal worth \$2.85 million per year to take over the Razorbacks, according to an athletic department spokesman.

Just two weeks ago, Petrino said he had no interest in any of the high-profile college jobs that had opened up, and he apparently told Blank in recent days that he would be staying with the Falcons.

"I haven't given it one bit of thought," Petrino said Nov. 26. "I certainly don't want to get into any speculation and rumors and having to deal with that. I'm focused on our football team here."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007.

The potential of this year could dissolve if you don't take action soon enough to milk all the rewards. Curb an indulgent or lazy side that prevents you from moving forward. Intellectualizing is great, but acting is better. Romance knocks on your door if you are single. You might not want the world to know about this bond just yet. For your sake, verify that this person is emotionally free to enter a relationship. If you are attached, you will have an opportunity to increase your closeness if you schedule special times just for the two of you. Make those time-outs a must, and you will both be happier. AQUARIUS is naturally intuitive about you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ With friends' support, your sense of confidence makes you feel like a king or queen. Meet with associates and have an inspired discussion about what might happen if you work as a team. Tonight: Whatever makes your world smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Investigate possibilities and know that you might be a lot luckier and more fortunate than you believe. You have pushed yourself very hard. Know what it is you want. Laugh and relax accordingly. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ How you visualize the big picture could make a huge difference in how you deal with quite a few people.

Take the high road. You have style and a way of talking to others. Tonight: Reach for the different.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Look at your many choices. How you handle someone near and dear could change dramatically. He or she is finally far more willing to give and reveal him- or herself. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Encourage a chat about life and even dreamier circumstances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others walk toward you. You question your direction. Listen, observe and make your decision only when you are good and ready. Allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Be agreeable but don't feel as if you have to be committed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ An easy pace does a lot for many of you. If you are going to get past a problem, you might need to sit back and question your alternatives. Also, even if you are nibbling here and there, make sure it is healthy. Tonight: Run Santa errands.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to laugh and dance to another tune allows you to flex in what many would think is a tough situation. You like the assortment of people and different possibilities. Enjoy looking at a loved one through rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to think through a decision more carefully. Listen to your sixth sense with a child or loved one. Listen to others' ideas, perhaps with an eye to security and mental strength. Say what you think. Tonight: Head on home, but stop on the way there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your verbal capacities hit a home run. Don't exaggerate what you need to do and why. If you do, ultimately you might be sorry. Consider your options more carefully with an eye to making dreams real. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your time with a situation that impacts your finances. You might not realize what is happening. Touch base with your sixth sense if you are questioning a financial decision. You might be picking up on what others are missing. Tonight: Treat yourself and/or a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You are the cat's meow. Others start treating you as you like. An increased sense of well-being and happiness takes you to a new level of understanding. Investigate an offer with an eye to productivity and success. Tonight: As you like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take this opportunity to play reclusive. Listen carefully to someone you like and respect. Your vision of possibilities makes a big difference. Listen to feedback. You might need to take in some information that you know, but have not acknowledged. Tonight: Some time just for you.

BORN TODAY

Actor Jamie Foxx (1967), guitarist Ted Nugent (1948), singer Amy Lee (1981)

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

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PARKVIEW Hospital now accepting appli. for Full-Time Registered Nurse, for the 7pm-7am shift. Competitive salary. Exc. benefits. Mileage pd. Call Sue Stiles, DON, or apply in person, 901 Sweetwater St., Wheeler, Tx., 806-826-1370.

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Brother & Sister...
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Another winter storm brewing up; more than 1 million without power

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Another wintry blast was brewing over the southern Plains Wednesday, a day after a system that socked the nation's midsection with ice, sleet and snow finally tapered off. Up to a million homes and businesses lost power after heavy ice brought down power lines.

The new system was expected to bring more sleet and freezing rain to Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas, but not nearly as much as the previous storm, according to the National Weather Service.

"It will still be cold and nasty outside and may slow efforts to restore power and remove tree limbs and such," said Patrick Burke, a weather service meteorologist in Norman, Okla.

Ice ranging from a quarter-inch to an inch thick glazed roads in much of the central

'It will still be cold and nasty outside and may slow efforts to restore power and remove tree limbs and such.'

— Patrick Burke
Meteorologist

Plains and Midwest. At least 24 deaths — mostly traffic accidents — have been blamed on the storm since it developed last weekend.

Forecasters said more snow, sleet and freezing rain could develop across the northern Ohio Valley and from Pennsylvania into New England on Wednesday.

The power outage was the worst ever in Oklahoma, with more than 618,000 homes and businesses without electricity late Tuesday. Officials said it could be a week to 10 days before power is fully restored.

"We're relying on people to look after each other," Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett said. "At the end of the day, this comes down to the strength of your people. ... People who have electricity ought to be sharing it with people who don't."

Elsewhere, nearly 350,000 customers were affected by outages in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Illinois. Some schools in southern Iowa canceled classes on Wednesday for a second day.

Lesley Owczarski, owner of Big Apple Bagels in Ottumwa,

Iowa, said the power was on at her shop, but many of her customers weren't so lucky.

"Most of the places don't have power so a lot of people have been coming to the bagel shop," she said. "If they can come in and get warm and have a hot coffee and a latte, why not? I can understand it's boring sitting at home."

Most people decided to stay home and bundle up rather than go to shelters.

"We've got kerosene lamps and a fireplace," said Charita Miller of Oklahoma City. "We're OK. We can't watch TV. Oh well, you can't have everything. It's just me and my husband. My husband said, 'There's food in the freezer.'"

Sonya Kendrick, who spent Monday night at one of several American Red Cross shelters set up in Oklahoma City, said a tree ripped the electrical box off the side of her house, and she needed a warm place

to take her three children until repairs could be made.

"When I got in here yesterday, I was totally distraught. I was like, 'Why me? Why me of all people?' I look at it this way, too: I'm not the only

one," Kendrick said Tuesday. "There's other people here that I got to know in less than two days, literally. All of them have been through the same thing, and everybody here just understands everybody."

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Business

Continued from Page 7

Such practices made it more likely that executives would be able to pocket outsized and potentially illegal profits that were never disclosed to shareholders.

Hundreds of companies have been investigated for backdating, dozens of executives have lost of their jobs, and more than 10 executives have been criminally charged.

Corporate supporters have long argued that backdating concerns were overblown by investors and the media because they were a known practice at many companies. While that may be true, it doesn't make the practice right.

Still, there has been little recourse for investors who not only were duped by backdating but then had to stomach huge earnings restatements by companies needing to rectify such behavior in their finances.

Before last week, the biggest payback was at Mercury Interactive, which earlier this year agreed to pay \$117.5 million to settle lawsuits relating to backdating. The company, in 2006, had restated earnings from 1992 to 2004 downward by more than \$500 million.

That's why the case at UnitedHealth has gotten so much attention. McGuire is going to pay big, the headlines read, for the damage done while he was CEO.

The stock, which trades around \$57 a share now, still is below where it was in the weeks before the backdating was first revealed in March 2006. UnitedHealth has restated \$1.52 billion in earnings dating back 12 years through 2005 due to backdating and took a \$55 million charge to settle claims with the Internal Revenue Service.

The settlement announced Thursday resolves a lawsuit brought by shareholders on behalf of the company, as well as a civil complaint by the SEC. McGuire did not admit or deny guilt.

The settlement includes a \$7 million civil penalty for the SEC and reimbursement to

UnitedHealth for all incentive- and equity-based compensation he received from 2003 through 2006.

McGuire will return \$320 million in stock options and forgo more than \$99 million in other retirement and executive savings benefits in a settlement. A previously announced repricing of stock options cost him another \$189 million.

McGuire's attorney, David Brodsky, noted that the former CEO paid back almost four times the amount of the backdated portion of his options and there is no vestige of any backdating left in any of his options.

"The fact that there are some who think he should have paid more and some who felt he paid too much is confirmation of the settlement's fairness," Brodsky commented to The Associated Press.

Still, this backdating mess and what has followed has turned McGuire's legacy on its head. Once a lauded corporate leader who built UnitedHealth from a regional player into an industry powerhouse, he now will be known for claiming the largest penalty assessed against a person in a backdating case and for making the largest giveback by a corporate executive in history.

The settlement was trumpeted as precedent setting, leading shareholders everywhere to now have a reason to be more optimistic that executive pay misdeeds will be redressed.

Yet UnitedHealth also let McGuire retain options on 24 million shares, worth more than \$800 million. His ability to cash those options is now in the hands of U.S. District Court Judge James Rosenbaum in Minneapolis.

Rosenbaum barred McGuire from exercising his options at least through Wednesday. McGuire's attorney had asked for permission to exercise options that weren't part of last week's settlement, a move opposed by the plaintiffs in one lawsuit against McGuire.

If the judge decides to unfreeze the money, which legal experts say is likely, the "sting" officially will be drawn out of this settlement. That sends the wrong message to the corporate class about what happens when they play games by their own rules — not much.

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