


Tomorrow's Weather



HIGH 31
LOW 21

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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Car/train victim dies from accident injuries

By **KERRI SMITH**
Managing Editor

A Pampa man died Tuesday from injuries he sustained from a car/train accident on Dec. 8.

According to Pampa Police Sgt. Donny Brown, Antonio Miera, 30, died at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo Tuesday. Miera had been in the hospital since the accident.

Miera was a passenger in a 1994 Ford Explorer that was struck by a BNSF train at 2:30 a.m. Dec. 8 at the railroad cross-

ing at Starkweather and Atchison.

"The SUV was traveling southbound across the tracks," Brown said. "The driver of the vehicle disregarded the crossing gates and continued across the tracks where it was struck by the train."

Brown said that when emergency personnel arrived at the scene of the accident, Miera was the only occupant in the vehicle. PPD officers are still investigating how many other occupants were in the vehicle at the time of the accident and who was driving.

Ten year water quality report done by PGWCD

By **DAVID BOSWSER**
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER -- There's no legal requirement for the report, but Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District officials wanted to know what was going on.

For some 10 years, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District has sampled specific wells across the eight-county district for various minerals. Now, the district staff has taken that data and put it into an informational report.

The data is collected from different wells in alternate years.

"Basically," said Amy Crowell, hydrologist for the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, "we're measuring the even state well numbers on the even years and the odd state well numbers in the odd years."

Using 10 years of data, she said that in a perfect world she'd have five years of data on every well.

"We all know that this isn't a perfect world," Crowell said.

If some of the annual records were

See **WATER**, Page 3

Car fire



Pampa News Photo by REDONN WOODS
Pampa Fire Department was called to a car fire in the 700 block of North Hobart around 10 a.m. today. The fire was quickly extinguished. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

State sees highest Yuletide gas prices ever, despite 3-week decline

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas is seeing its highest Yuletide retail gasoline prices ever, despite three straight weeks of declines, according to a weekly gasoline price survey.

The AAA Texas survey released Friday showed regular self-serve was averaging \$2.85 per gallon, a penny less than last week but 64 cents higher than last year. The national average remained unchanged at \$2.99 per gallon.

"Gasoline prices remain at unprecedented levels for this time of year with prices of \$3 a gallon or more a common sight across much of the U.S.," said auto club spokeswoman Rose Rougeau. "Despite current gas prices, more than 86 percent of Texas travelers, or nearly 4.5 million, will drive to their holiday desti-

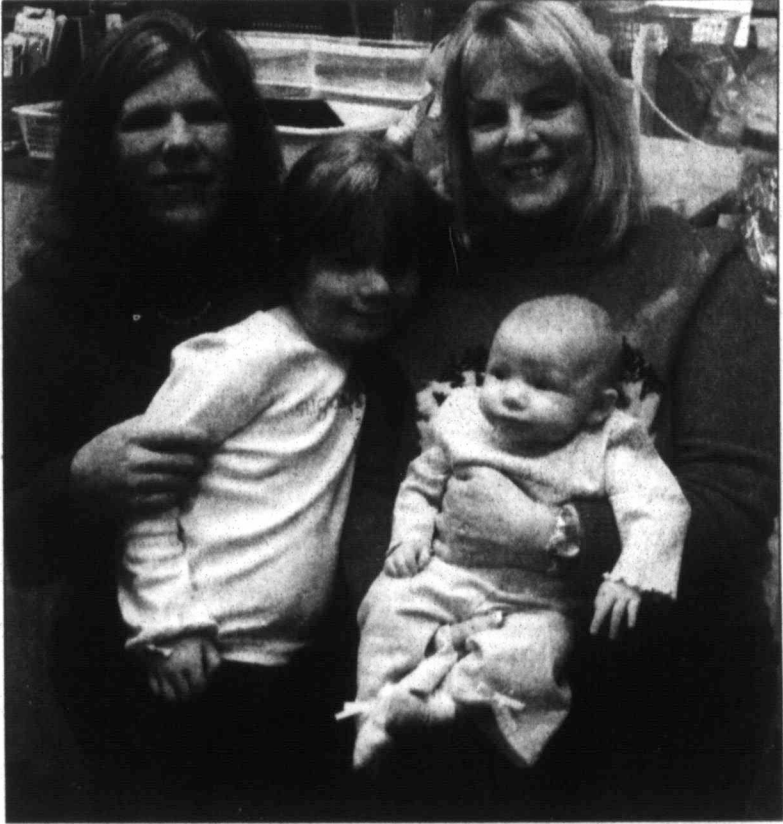
nation — an increase of one percent compared to 2006."

The cheapest gas prices in Texas was in Houston, where the average retail price of regular self-serve fell a penny to \$2.81 per gallon. The most expensive was in the Austin-San Marcos area, where the average price fell about a penny to \$2.91 per gallon.

These are average per-gallon prices of regular, self-serve gasoline in Texas and nationally, as well as the change from last week, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch released Friday:

Amarillo — \$2.835, down 2.1 cents
Dallas — \$2.822, down .02 cent
Fort Worth — \$2.810, down .02 cent
Houston — \$2.807, down 1.0 cent
San Antonio — \$2.876, down 1.6 cents

Family



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Emiley Porter's Pre-K class at St. Matthew's School had a Christmas party Wednesday. Attending and helping with the party was mom Angela, left, Nana Brenda Frazier, right, and 2-month-old sister Abbey.

Texas tops nation for hunting, fishing funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A ranking of states in categories including total number of hunters and anglers, spending by sportsmen, jobs supported, taxes generated, number of days spent hunting and fishing and the most traveled to states by hunters and anglers has been released for the first time.

Nationally, Texas is at the top of the pack. It is No. 1 in total hunters and anglers (2.6 million), money spent (\$6.6 billion), jobs supported (106,000) and tax revenue generated (\$1.3 billion). Florida lands the trophy for the No. 2 spot.

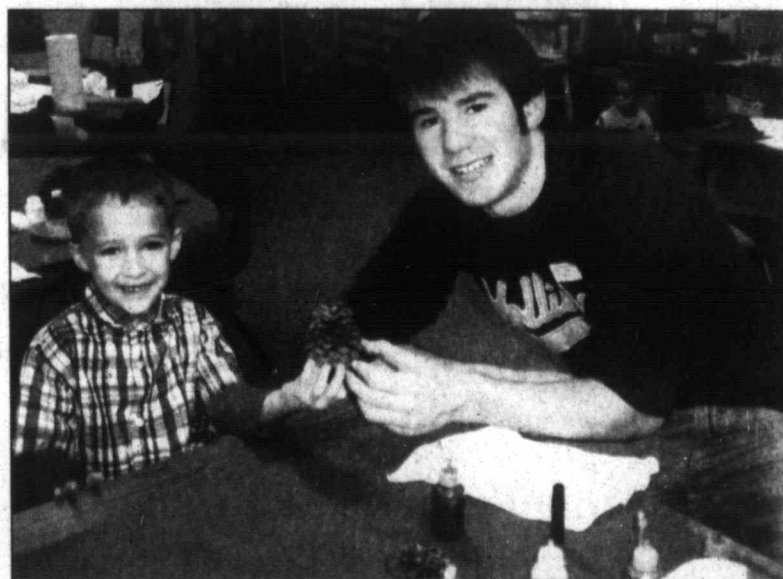
The new state-by-state rankings were compiled to complement a national report, "Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy — A force as big as all outdoors," which spotlights the immense impact hunters and anglers have on the economy at the national and state level, as well as a constituency.

What states have the most hunters and anglers? Texas is No. 1 (2.6 million), Florida No. 2 (two million), California No. 3 (1.7 million), Ohio No. 4 (1.48 million) and Pennsylvania No. 5 (1.41 million).

What states are the big spenders? Texas is No. 1 (\$6.6 billion).

See **HUNTING**, Page 3

Ornaments



Courtesy Photo
PHS Senior Jad McGuire helps Kindergartner Kayden Burgess paint his Christmas ornament. McGuire was exempt from his finals on Wednesday and volunteered in a Kindergarten classroom at Travis Elementary.

Have A Safe & Happy Holiday!

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

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Free To Everyone

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny

Saturday: Periods of snow. High near 31. Wind chill values between 12 and 20. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New snow accumulation of around 1 inch.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Wind chill values between 11 and 16. West-northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-southwest.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. East-northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south-southeast.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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Obituaries

W. 'Vivian' Griffin, 88



Griffin

W. "Vivian" Griffin, 88, of Pampa, died Dec. 20, 2007, at Panhandle. Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Griffin was born Aug. 3, 1919, in Mangum, Okla. She married Boise Griffin on May 14, 1937, in Mangum; he died May 29, 2001.

Mrs. Griffin was a homemaker. She moved to Pampa in 1951 and belonged to Briarwood Church.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dale Griffin in 1989; 10 siblings; two grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Survivors include two daughters, Ronda Rider of Odessa and Wilma Blackwood of Moore, Okla.; a sister, Fern

Reister of California; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: Briarwood Church, 1800 W. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Emergency Services

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

Twenty-three traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Wilks and Huff streets and the 500 block of East Francis.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 400 block of

North Warren, the 1900 block of Fir and the 1100 block of South Sumner.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1300 block of Duncan, the 800 block of East Browning, the 1900 block of Hamilton, the 400 block of Hughes, the 500 block of North Somerville and the 300 block of Miami.

A welfare check was made in the 400 block of Buckler.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Hobart and Somerville streets.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion and resulted in at least one arrest.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 800 block of North Somerville, the 1600 block of North Hobart, the intersection of 19th and Banks streets, the 700 block of East Frederic, the intersection of Starkweather and Foster streets, the intersection of Harvester and Charles streets, and the 1100 block of Varnon Drive. Arrests were made in connection with the incidents in the 1100 block of Varnon

Drive and the intersection of Harvester and Charles streets.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 100 block of Huff Road.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 400 block of Oklahoma.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Naida, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 700 block of Sloan.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North Naida.

Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. A side window of a vehicle was broken out. Estimated cost of damage is \$500.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of East Harvester. A passenger window of a vehicle was shot full of holes. Estimated cost of damage is \$250.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of East Francis.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Assault was reported at

Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of Sloan. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Two alarms were reported. Forgery was reported in the police department lobby. The incident involved a check written for \$1,910.50.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 800 block of South Sumner. A pit bull dog valued at \$400 was taken.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1200 block of South Nelson. A camera valued at \$264.99 was taken.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1700 block of Beech. Diamond earrings valued at \$2,500 were taken.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Dwight. Taken was a bicycle, valued at \$250.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart. Cash valued at \$700 was taken.

Burglary was reported in the 1600 block of North Christine.

A gas drive-off was reported at Murphy USA, 2801 W. 28th.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Dec. 20
 8:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North West and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a local nursing facility.

3:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

6:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo.

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- Choose to eat a moderate-fat diet. Some research has shown a link between high fat diets to several types of cancers, as well as heart disease and other chronic diseases.
- Become physically active and maintain or reach a healthy weight, which is an important part of a cancer free lifestyle.
- Obesity and lack of physical activity causes 25 to 30 percent of colon, breast, endometrial, kidney and esophageal cancer.
- Obesity causes an estimated 14 percent of cancer deaths in men and 20 percent of cancer deaths in women.
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"We fill stockings each year."

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"We have family & friends in during the holidays."

Happy Holidays from the staff of The Pampa News

Water

Continued from Page 1

missing, she said she didn't use the records from those wells.

"If there were fewer than four records, I decided there were enough records to give me a good back ground average," Crowell said. "I wanted four records or more."

On some of the wells, particularly those from the City of Amarillo and from the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, she said she'd have as many as 20 records. She used those, but didn't want to use wells where information was lacking.

"I wanted four of more records to get my average," Crowell said.

She looked at five main minerals - chloride, nitrates, sulfate, fluoride and iron -- that are naturally occurring in the district, but these minerals can also be added to the aquifer through industrial, agricultural and domestic processes.

Crowell said there wasn't anything in the chloride study that she didn't expect.

Chlorides can be introduced into groundwater from oilfield and industrial brine, causing water to taste salty and become corrosive.

The secondary drinking water standard for chlorides is 300 milligrams per liter.

The data shows high chlorides off of the caprock or out of the Ogallala Aquifer.

"There are places out there that really have chloride problems," Crowell said.

She said there is a known chloride issue around Pampa because of the early days of the oil and gas industry.

"It's an old problem," she said.

Crowell said when someone comes in to get a water well permit in one of those areas, they are told of the issue.

She said there is a similar issue with sulfates in the oil and gas contamination around Pampa. Sulfates make the water taste bitter or have a laxative effect. The drinking standard for sulfates is 250 milligrams per liter.

"It's nothing we didn't expect," Crowell said.

Nitrates are produced by decaying organic matter, including plants and sewage. They are also used in fertilizers and can be stored in the soil for years.

"Where we have nitrate problems in the aquifer is where we have shallow groundwater," Crowell said.

Nitrates in high concentrations can be dangerous because they inhibit the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Excess nitrogen in water causes unpleasant odors and taste.

The drinking water standard for nitrates is 10 mil-

ligrams per liter.

There are some nitrate issues in Donley and Wheeler Counties, but there is nothing really out of whack, she says.

"There's only one well that over state standards," Crowell said.

But the problem is that with nitrates, even though a well may be below standards, it can still affect the elderly, immune compromised and small children.

The non-Ogallala water, she said, is of poor quality and quantity in most cases.

She said that there was some data that showed wells over the Ogallala formation had some poor quality, but she thinks that the drillers might have gone through the Ogallala and into another formation. The Ogallala is very thin where these wells showed poor water quality.

"Not always," she said, "but some times I can look at water quality and figure out where the water is actually being produced from."

There is one well near the Donley-Collingsworth County line that shows heavy concentrations of chlorides, sulfates and nitrates. Although the may indicates that it in over the eastern edge of the Ogallala Aquifer, Crowell said she suspects the well is actually producing from another aquifer below the Ogallala.

"I want to do some further checking and see if there is something going on out there," Crowell said.

She said that is the reason they decided to do the water quality study, to look for anomalies.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element.

"I don't know of any way for fluoride to be artificially induced to the aquifer in this

area," Crowell said.

The heaviest concentrations of fluoride are in the southeastern part of the district, although there is one spot in the CRMWA Roberts County well field that shows a high concentration of fluoride.

Crowell said it may be that fluoride had settled at the bottom of the aquifer and now that it's being pumped heavily, the fluoride may be showing up.

On the iron, Crowell said there are many more wells that are over state standards than any other minerals.

"The thing with iron," she said, "is that a lot of the wells that we do water quality measurements on are windmills, and if you have a rusty pipe, the iron will measure high. Who knows how old the windmill is, and how long that pipe has been there."

She said there are also high concentrations of iron in the monitored wells around Pampa, but iron is not a problem in the petroleum industry.

She points out, however, that often the chemicals and minerals in the petroleum industry are corrosive and that may translate into iron from corroded pipes showing up in the water quality analysis.

"Chloride and sulfates can corrode your pipes," Crowell said.

She said that the study has given the district some things to look at.

"Do we have some things going on that we didn't know about?" Crowell said.

She said she expects to take a closer look at some of those areas. Crowell also said she plans to track the data annually to determine if there are any trends that

Hunting

Continued from Page 1

billion), Florida No.2 (\$4.8 billion), California No. 3 (\$3.6 billion), Pennsylvania No. 4 (\$3.5 billion) and Minnesota No. 5 (\$3.4 billion).

What does this spending support? Jobs of course. Texas is No. 1 (106,000 jobs), Florida No. 2 (85,000), Wisconsin No. 3 (57,000), Minnesota No. 4 (55,000) and California No. 5 (53,000).

However, when it comes to who spends the most time in the field and woods, Pennsylvanians beat out Texans, spending 16 million days hunting compared to the 13.4 million that Texans spend.

Leaving a wide wake, Florida is out in front for the number of days spent on the water (41.5 million), compared to the No. 2 state, Texas, with 38.9 million days. Not surprisingly, Florida is also the No. 1 destination state for fishing, with North Carolina show-

ing up at No. 2.

When it comes to the most traveled to state for hunting, Georgia is No. 1, followed by Colorado in the No. 2 spot. It is a simple fact: hunting and fishing have a major impact on every state in the country. When you analyze the amount of money spent on these activities, as well as the jobs and taxes created, the impact becomes much more tangible. Every single state makes a contribution through revenue, taxes and jobs.

"The economic impact that sportsmen have on state economies should be a wake-up call to state governments to welcome and encourage hunting and fishing in their state," commented Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

"The evidence is clear: states that encourage hunting and fishing by providing access and maintaining healthy habitats and fisheries benefit many times over through jobs and taxes as well as

enjoying a boost to travel and tourism.

When you compare spending by hunters and anglers to other sectors, their impact on the state's economy becomes more tangible. Here are a few highlights:

-- Sportsmen support more than twice the jobs in Texas than Dell Computer Corp., Lockheed Martin, Electronic Data Systems and Dow Chemical Co. combined (106,000 jobs vs. 49,000).

-- Sportsmen support more jobs in Florida than Disney World (85,000 jobs vs. 61,000).

-- Pennsylvania sportsmen outnumber the combined populations of Allentown, Erie, Pittsburgh, Reading and Scranton two to one (1.4 million vs. 680,297).

-- Michigan sportsmen annually spend more than the combined cash receipts for dairy, greenhouse/nursery, corn, soybeans and cattle -- the state's top five agricultural commodities (\$3.4 billion vs. \$2.9 billion).

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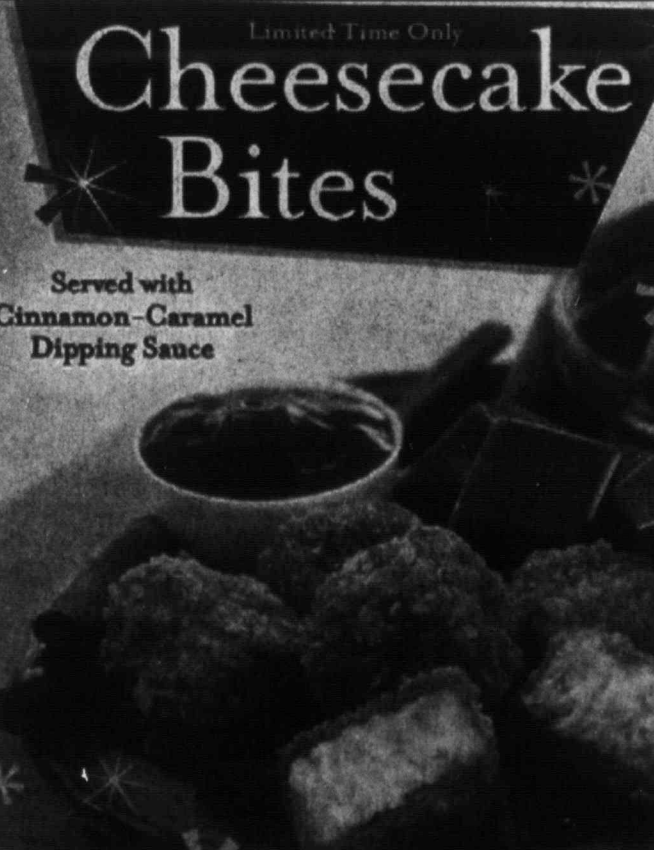
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Viewpoints

Marketers pushing makeup for men

Ah, the holiday season is upon us. So what to get for the modern man who has everything?

Makeup. According to The Washington Post, eyeliner — the fellows who wear it call it “guyliner,” the twits — is the latest trend in “boys behaving girly.”

As it goes, Pete Wentz, the pretty-boy bassist for pop-punk band Fall Out Boy, has become the guru of guyliner. The high-fashion fellow recently explained the proper way for males to apply the stuff.

“Smear it because when you’re a guy, you don’t really want your makeup to look perfect,” he says.

Of course. It’s not like

you’d want to look like a woman or anything.

Men are buying all kinds of cosmetic gunk now: wrinkle-control lotions, shine-reduction powder, clay masks, body-sculpting gel for the abs. According to Euromonitor International, the male makeup market will top \$25 billion annually by 2011.

But don’t accuse makeup-wearing men of being metrosexuals. They’re not metrosexuals anymore. They’re Ubersexuals.

According to askmen.com, “Ubersexual” is derived from the German “uber,” which means “the greatest.” The term was coined by advertising giant JWT. Three JWT executives

introduced the term in “The Future of Men,” a marketing book that explains how to tap the changing identities of the sexes to make corporate dough.

“Ubersexuals are the most attractive (not just physically), most dynamic, and most compelling men of their generations,” says Marian Salzman, a JWT executive who co-authored the book. “They are confident, masculine, stylish and committed to uncompromising quality in all areas of life.”

And they wear makeup.

Take Dustin Schaad, a 22-year-old fellow from Silver Spring, Md. According to the Post, he started wearing makeup in high school because “a little concealer goes a long way when you hit puberty.”

My friend, the only thing you’ve been concealing is your Y chromosome.

Look, men, we’ve got to get hold of ourselves. It was bad enough when male magazines began running headlines from female magazines: “How to Trim that Belly to Improve Your Self-Esteem and Make Her

Happy.”

It was bad enough when men began getting face wraps and pedicures. It was even worse when men started carrying purses.

But makeup? Enough is enough.

Men, the marketers are pushing the fiction that the modern male has evolved to a point where he can be manly AND wear makeup. They are doing so because there’s big dough in it.

But it’s nonsense.

What men and women are is not so complicated. We are more primitive than we think we are — our DNA was designed to help us survive our early days, and there’s no escaping that fact.

We no longer need adre-

naline in our systems, but our predecessors needed it to survive. You better be able to fight or run fast when a prehistoric creature is about to have you for supper.

Michael Gurian, author of “What Could He Be Thinking? How a Man’s Mind Really Works,” says survival was the reason the male and female minds evolved as they did. The male mind was geared toward open spaces (the ability to track animals), whereas the female mind was designed to multitask (the ability to manage numerous details that kept the family alive).

And though we no longer

See PURCELL, Page 5

Tom Purcell
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2007. There are 10 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date:

In 1804, British statesman Benjamin Disraeli was born in London.

In 1937, the first feature-length animated cartoon in Technicolor, Walt Disney’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” had its world premiere in Los Angeles.

In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

In 1948, the state of Eire, or Ireland (formerly the Irish Free State), passed an act declaring itself a republic.

In 1967, the comedy-drama “The Graduate,” starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft, was released.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.

In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant broke apart near Nantucket Island almost a week after running aground, spilling 7 1/2 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

In 1987, in New York, three white teenagers from the Howard Beach section of Queens were convicted of manslaughter in the death of a black man who was chased onto a highway, where he was struck by a car; a fourth defendant was acquitted.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

Ten years ago: President Clinton, accompanied by his wife and daughter, left for Bosnia to spread holiday cheer — and to carry the news that he wanted U.S. troops to remain there indefinitely as the region recovered from its devastating war.

Five years ago: A military helicopter crash in Afghanistan killed seven German peacekeepers who were on board and two children on the ground; a U.S. soldier was killed in combat. President Bush received a smallpox vaccination, fulfilling a promise he’d made when he ordered inoculations for about a half million U.S. troops.

‘It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them.’

— Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais
French author and dramatist (1732-1799)



Nothing human is, or ever will be, perfect

The office of the president is a secular office in a secular government. There is not a word in the Constitution that authorizes the president or anyone else in the federal government to make a religious decision.

Why then are both voters and candidates wasting their time talking about religion? The personal religious beliefs of the candidates should be considered irrelevant. Furthermore, people should not forget that there are a lot more professors of religion than practitioners. What a person claims to believe and how that person leads his or her life are often quite different.

Laws are, in the final analysis, words on paper. They cannot and do not control human behavior. If they could, there would be no crimes. Americans, especially politicians, have devel-

oped the bad habit of thinking that there ought to be a law to cover every conceivable human action. Consequently, there are so many laws today that no human being can possibly know what they all are. This defeats one of the useful purposes of laws, which is to educate the public.

As for religion, people should recognize that all the world’s religions have failed to eliminate sin, and therefore no one should expect the government to do that. Christianity in particular is based on the twin concepts of sin and forgiveness. Governments are better at finding sin than at forgiving. Religion has a legitimate

role in our society. George Washington said religion is the best way known to instill virtue in masses of people.

That is job enough for religion, and religion should stay out of politics as an

organization. Religious individuals, of course, have the same rights and duties as any other

citizen.

Religion itself has enough problems to solve. Christian Zionists, for example, are a heretical cult without any biblical foundation and with a political agenda. Other Christians have perverted the religion into a weekly course on how to be rich and happy. Christianity, in fact, teaches that it is easier to pass a camel through the eye

of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Militant Christianity is a contradiction in terms.

If you are trying to find someone actually practicing Christianity, whom would you choose — a preacher with a six-figure salary, a limousine and a private jet or an actor, like Brad Pitt, who has committed \$5 million of his own money to build homes for people in New Orleans’ 9th Ward?

In judging human affairs, always look for actions, not words. What a person says tells you nothing reliable; what a person does gives you a better clue as to what kind of a person he or she is. At the same time, don’t forget the dual nature of human beings.

One can find faults with all religions. One should not

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas: n Dec. 7

Austin American-Statesman on Secretary of Defense Robert Gates:

Robert Gates, the former Texas A&M University president who decided to take on a less demanding job as secretary of defense, can deliver a pretty good punch line when the occasion calls for it.

In a recent speech at Kansas State University, he said the United States needs “a dramatic increase in spending” on civilian tasks usually carried out or overseen by the State Department.

Gates noted that he was “well aware

that having a sitting secretary of defense travel halfway across the country to make a pitch to increase the budget of other agencies might fit into the category of man bites dog or for some back in the Pentagon, blasphemy.”

In the same speech, he said his 94-year-old mother attended his swearing-in ceremony a year ago in Washington. “That night Conan O’Brien remarked on the fact that I had announced that my 94-year-old mother was there and then he said, She came up to me and said Now go beat the hell out of the Kaiser.”

And Gates couldn’t resist using this old but wonderful line: “For the first six months you’re in Washington, you wonder how the hell you ever got there. For the next six months, you wonder

how the hell the rest of them got there.”

One spicy meatball. A new strategy in the ongoing battle of wills that we call human relationship emerged in court documents this week. You might have read it about it in Tuesdays editions, but in case you didn’t, here’s the story: Anthony Chiofalo, a 22-year veteran of the New York Police Department was fired in August after failing a drug test. Marijuana was detected in his system.

In the suit he filed to get his job back, the ousted anti-terrorist detective claims that his wife spiked his meatballs with enough pot for six cigarettes. Seems she wanted him to retire and he wouldn’t. According to the suit,

See GATES, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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PUTIN'S CHOICE

Can Dmitry Medvedev run the Kremlin?

By MIKE ECKEL
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin's candidate for president is equal parts shrewd lawyer, loyal aide and government technocrat. What Dmitry Medvedev has never been is a political leader.

After his endorsement this month by President Vladimir Putin, Medvedev is almost certain to be elected Russia's next president on March 2. Putin in turn has agreed to serve as Medvedev's prime minister.

In the days since Putin chose the 42-year-old St. Petersburg native as his pre-

ferred successor, Medvedev's political character has become the focus of debate over whether he'll always defer to Putin or become a power in his own right.

Medvedev's reputation as a moderate has been welcomed in the West, where he is seen as more sympathetic than most Kremlin colleagues toward political pluralism and free markets. But in Russian politics, a talent for compromise can be seen as a sign of weakness.

"He's not just a weak man, he's an indecisive man," said Stanislav Belkovsky, a political analyst.

Medvedev's reputation as a moderate has been welcomed in the West, where he is seen as more sympathetic than most Kremlin colleagues toward political pluralism and free markets.

Medvedev, the only child of two university professors, came of age during the turbulent 1980s. The state loosened its suffocating grip on society, Russia's tycoons began making their first millions, and the USSR staggered toward its collapse.

As Marxist ideology evaporated, Russia's educat-

ed younger generation, Medvedev included, turned toward capitalism with enthusiasm.

Medvedev's first brush with power came in the early 1990s after receiving his law degree from what was then Leningrad State University. Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, a liberal reformer, hired the young lawyer to

work in the foreign affairs department of St. Petersburg's city government. Putin, another Sobchak loyalist, also worked there.

Ruslan Linkov, a prominent St. Petersburg rights advocate who met Medvedev while he worked at city hall, remembers him as a "quiet, calm and polite man" who broke the mold of stern Soviet-era bureaucrats.

In 1993, while still in the St. Petersburg government, Medvedev became the legal affairs director of Ilim Paper, Russia's largest timber producer. He continued to work in the paper indus-

try after Sobchak lost his reelection bid in 1996, while Putin moved to Moscow.

When then-President Boris Yeltsin appointed Putin as prime minister three years later, Putin hired Medvedev as his deputy chief-of-staff.

Eventually, Putin elevated Medvedev to chairman of OAO Gazprom, a state-controlled gas and oil company that by some accounts has become the world's third-largest corporation.

In a book published before he was first elected president in 2000, Putin named Medvedev as one of the three people he most trusted.

Events calendar

- **Zion Lutheran Church**, 1200 Duncan, will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and a Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9 a.m. Dec. 25. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 669-2774.
- **First Baptist Church**, 203 N. West, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Dec. 24. The service will include carols and the reading of the Christmas story. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 669-1155.
- **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 Wiesell, 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.

• **The 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.**, open to Airborne veterans from the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, 101st and today's special forces, will hold and/or celebrate several national activities including Static Line Awards, April 9-12,

Atlanta, Ga.; All American Week, May 19-25, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and National Convention, Aug. 13-16, St. Louis, Mo. The only requirement for members is that they have their jump wings. For complete details and material for membership, call or e-mail, 1-937-898-5977 or Srgabn@aol.com. The association consists of 100 chapters across America and 30,000 active members.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

Purcell

Continued from Page 4

need many of the instincts and impulses that are built into our DNA, the unpleasant fact is they are still there. The unpleasant fact is that the game of mating is still rooted in our basic primitive make-up.

Thus, in a general sense, women are still attracted to masculine men who can go out into the fields and kill dinner. And

men, generally, are still drawn to young, healthy, feminine women.

Thus, women used to doll themselves up with paints and perfumes to attract men. And we used to chase them — until they caught us. We can pretend otherwise, but human DNA isn't so advanced as we'd like it to be. That's why women wear makeup and men don't.

In any event, please get your modern man something else for Christmas this year.

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

forget, however, that the same can be said of all secular philosophies, ideologies and institutions. Nothing human is or ever will be perfect.

As for the presidential candidates, people should be asking not what these people claim to believe about God, but what have they actually done? How do their lives measure up to their speeches? Do they demonstrate a belief in and a con-

cern for the Constitution? Do they have a wide knowledge of the world as it truly is? Are they catering to special interests? Are they independent thinkers or followers?

The presidential race is, after all, a search for a secular leader, not for a pope or ayatollah. The United States is in deep trouble politically, financially and economically. It will take a smart, sane and courageous person to get us out. Opportunists and people who sell their souls for campaign contributions may well preside over our national collapse.

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

Gates

Cont. from Page 4

Catherine Chiofalo figured that if her husband flunked the drug test, he'd have to retire.

In the suit, Chiofalo said his wife smokes marijuana to alleviate back pain but added that he doesn't know where she gets it.

Nobody has been charged with anything, but the detective had to sue because the police commissioner refused to reinstate him even after an arbitrator ruled on the former officers' behalf.

It might have been easier to talk things over but pot affects your hearing, or so they say.

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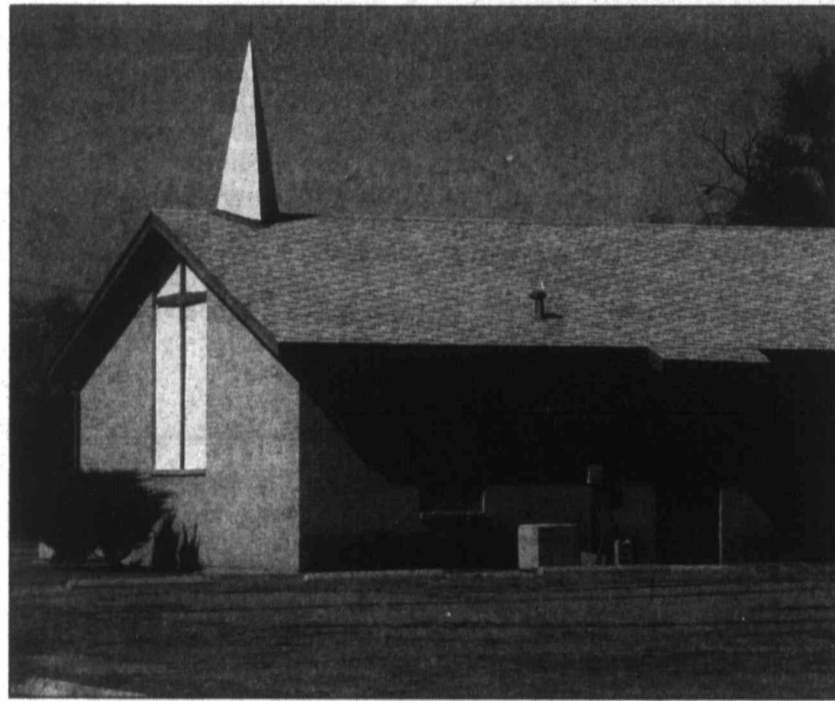
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St. Mark's CME

Church name: St. Mark's CME Church, 406 Elm Ave., 669-6743.

Minister: Pastor Raymond McKeever.

Services: Sunday — 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Morning Worship; Tuesday — Membership class; Wednesday — 7 p.m. Bible Study.

Activities: Choir practice, 7 p.m. Friday.

Members: 43.

Denomination: Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

How long here: 77 years.

Goals: To save many souls for Christ.

Main goal: To save souls.

Church message: Our main message is to save souls.

Responsible parties: Pastor Raymond McKeever, 1129 Neel Rd., Pampa, Texas 79065; Phone 669-7394, Fax 669-1968.

Information: The church is to save souls and see about the needy.

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Religion

Minister's Musings: Old legend hints at a Christ-less world

There is a strange old legend of a world that grew colorless in a single night. The clouds became lifeless, spongy vapors. The waves turned pale and motionless. The fire fled from the diamond and light from every

Dr. Jimmy Flynn
Evangelist



stone. Those who dwelt upon it were saddened and bewildered at the change and

never ceased to mourn for the beautiful tints of flowers and grasses and the vanished hues of the sunset clouds.

All nature was in mourning and wore a leaden-colored robe. Nevermore should diamonds sparkle nor

rubies shine nor dewdrops glisten in the morning light. Nevermore should there be a

See FLYNN, Page 9

Dixie Melody Boys



COURTESY PHOTO

Jerry Smith will present "The Dixie Melody Boys" in free concert at 7:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium in Borger. The Dixie Melody Boys gospel quartet has earned more than 20 Top 40 hits including eight Top 10 releases. The group consists of vocalists Ed O'Neal, Andrew King, Dustin Sweatman and Dan Keeton. "The thrill and excitement of performing experienced by each Dixie Melody Boy night after night is most evident at each concert," a news release on the quartet said. "Their goal of delivering a first-class performance filled with excitement, energy and lots of great traditional Southern Gospel music are traits which have proven to play an essential role in the success they have enjoyed. These characteristics, united with their desire to never compromise their responsibility to spread the gospel through Southern Gospel music in a Christ-like, professional manner have allowed The Dixie Melody Boys to firmly establish their place at the forefront of Southern Gospel music."

CHURCH BRIEF

Annual candlelight, advent service in offing

Calvary Baptist Church's annual advent and candlelight service is scheduled for 6 p.m. is this Sunday, Dec. 23, at the church, 900 E. 23rd. The one-hour service will focus around the lighting of the five candles of the advent. The service will conclude with a candle-lighting ceremony by everyone in attendance. Solos and Christmas carols will be sung.

"Candles and candle lighting have always been popular during the Christmas season because God, the Father, sent His son, Jesus as a light to the world," a news release from the church said. "Just as light will spread through the Calvary Baptist sanctuary as the candles are lit Sunday night, the light of Jesus Christ is spread by Christians."

A nursery will be provided for children 3 and under.

Sonic will be open Christmas Day 1PM-10PM!

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"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

This carol was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. The original opening line was "Hark! How All the Welkin Rings," but many alterations have made it what it is today. Wesley envisioned the lyrics to be sung to the same tune as his Easter hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." The tune that is now almost always used for this carol is based on a chorus composed by Felix Mendelssohn in 1840, which is part of his cantata "Festgesang" (Festival Song) to commemorate the printer Johann Gutenberg and his invention of the printing press.

Ref: Wikipedia

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Give Jesus a deeper consecrated life

I know nothing better to write about than Jesus, our Lord. I readily acknowledge the virgin birth of Jesus. The holy Father, who told Moses "I am that I am," sent His best choir to sing praises for the holy child He sent to earth for the redemption of fallen man.

Archie Cooper

Pentecostal Holiness



The birth of Jesus made Him a little lower than the angels that He might make an everlasting sacrifice for man's sins and exalt him above the angels. Jesus as exalted to the place of receiving all power.

God, the Father, announced more than once, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

Jesus never displeased God with one word or deed despite the cruelty and false accusations.

See COOPER, Page 9



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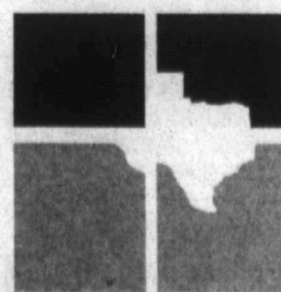
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The children of **Rex and Pat Britton** cordially invite you to attend a **SUPRISE** Anniversary Party honoring their parents 55 years of matrimony on Sunday December 23, 2007 from 2 to 5 pm at The Britton home 1229 Darby Pampa, Tx.

Please remember this is a surprise! So do not mention it to Rex or Pat

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: While my daughter and I were at the supermarket, we ran into Santa at the deli! You can't imagine my daughter's surprise -- not to mention my own. There he was, with his perfect bowling ball head and full white beard. He had a jolly big belly, rosy cheeks, even small square wire-framed glasses. He wasn't dressed in his traditional holiday outfit; he was casually dressed. My daughter, who is 9, had started having serious doubts about Santa last year, but she sure does believe now. She ran up to him and said, "I knew it! I knew you were real! Where's your sleigh? Where's your reindeer?" The man winked at me, looked down at my daughter and said, "Sweetheart, they're at the North Pole. I'm in the area checking things out before Christmas." Then he asked her if she had been a good girl. When she said yes, he advised her to write him a letter. It was wonderful. I know some people don't believe, and I know some feel it is technically lying to children, and not everyone shares the same religious beliefs. I respect their right to celebrate the holidays in their own way. I grew up poor. I knew when Christmas morning came it would be no different than the year before on Christmas Day -- there would be nothing. I missed out on so many wonderful things in my childhood. Like many parents, I want my kids to have the childhood I didn't have. I studied hard, got a good education, met a wonderful man and married. We have two beautiful daughters, 9 and 11. We're not rich, but we're comfortable and don't want for much. Every Christmas, my children and I go to the local mall and visit the Orphan Tree. Each of them chooses an orphan and buys him or her whatever is on his/her list. I explained when they were younger that sometimes even Santa needs a

helping hand. I also point out how fortunate they are -- and when you are fortunate, you must give something back. To you and your readers: Whether you choose to believe or not -- I wish you happy holidays.

— STILL A BELIEVER IN OHIO
DEAR STILL A BELIEVER: It is a wise parent who not only enjoys the holiday season, but also uses it as a teachable moment to show children the true spirit of giving to others. Happy holidays to you, too -- and to my readers as well.

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Phil" books an annual trip every year for a closely knit group of 12 friends. We pay him by check and eventually receive flight schedules, hotel reservations, etc. We have recently learned that Phil receives about \$500 a year in perks and credit card points for booking these trips. He never mentioned it to any of us. Instead, he makes believe that we're indebted to him for his service. Isn't it customary and ethical to redistribute such money to everyone in one form or another? Should we confront him about this? --

COUSIN ROB IN NEW YORK
DEAR COUSIN ROB: I see no reason to confront Phil. Nor do I see why he should compensate you and the others for any money he received for doing all the work of arranging the trips. The arrangement you have described is not uncommon. However, if you and the others feel cheated because Phil was compensated for something you assumed he was doing for nothing -- then each of you should take turns making the travel plans so the perks and airline points are automatically divided among you. (When you do, you may find that Phil worked hard for the money.)

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

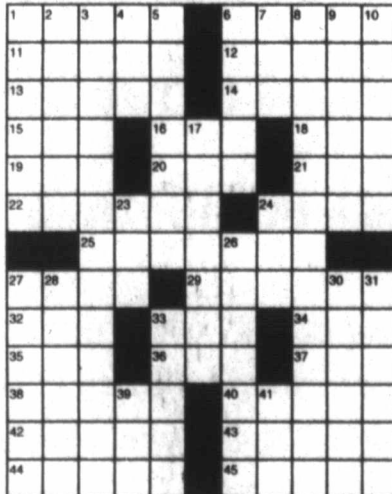
- ACROSS**
- 1 Is missing
 - 6 Succulent
 - 11 Pale
 - 12 Take — (guess)
 - 13 Slow tempo
 - 14 Masked hero
 - 15 Bordeaux buddy
 - 16 Re-porter's question
 - 18 Road-house
 - 19 — Cruces
 - 20 Holstein comment
 - 21 Behold
 - 22 Reindeer feature
 - 24 Wise Men's beacon
 - 25 Low number
 - 27 Exchange
 - 29 Mexican revolutionary
 - 32 Treasury Dept. div.
 - 33 Gift-tag word
 - 34 Poivre partner
 - 35 Fathom bunch
 - 36 Powerful bunch
 - 37 Maze runner
 - 38 One of Donald's exes
 - 40 Came up
- DOWN**
- 1 "Deck the Halls" snippet
 - 2 Taylor Caldwell's "Answer"
 - 3 Yule plant
 - 4 Gun-powder container
 - 5 Winter creations
 - 6 River of Mississippi
 - 7 GI-entertaining org.
 - 8 Yule plant
 - 9 Eye part
 - 10 Penitent person
 - 17 Sunrise site
 - 23 Gloss target
 - 24 Eat late
 - 26 Sicilian wine
 - 27 Greek letters
 - 28 Holiday ring
 - 30 Serving need
 - 31 Makes over
 - 33 Decreases
 - 39 Young buck
 - 41 Mug



Yesterday's answer

- 7 GI-entertaining org.
- 8 Yule plant
- 9 Eye part
- 10 Penitent person
- 17 Sunrise site
- 23 Gloss target
- 24 Eat late
- 26 Sicilian wine
- 27 Greek letters
- 28 Holiday ring
- 30 Serving need
- 31 Makes over
- 33 Decreases
- 39 Young buck
- 41 Mug

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Flynn

Continued from Page 7

rainbow on the cloud or a silver in the falling rain-drops.

The expanse of lake or ocean should nevermore reflect a blue heaven, the stars nor the sun. The world had passed into eclipse — into the shadow of death.

This old legend is a parable. It suggests to us a picture of the world without the Christmas Christ.

What a dark, dead, dismal world this would be. What an awful world it would be if in total eclipse of a Christ-less condition.

What if there had been no Savior?

We celebrate the day of Christ's birth — Christmas — the gladdest, brightest, hap-

piest day of all the year, but will it not be all the happier if we prepare for it by at least a little time thinking of what the world would be if there had been no Savior?

The bright scene will be all the brighter for having in the background this heavy, dark curtain of the thought of a Christ-less world.

Others have had this thought. Job had it. He saw man a sinner and asked how it was possible for him to be justified before God.

The apostle John had it and said he who believeth not is condemned already. The writer of the epistle to the Romans had it when he told of the awful sins of men and added that God would render to every man according to his deeds.

The apostle Paul had it when he told the Ephesian Christians that before they

had been quickened by Christ they were "dead to trespasses and in sin."

A Christ-less world! If there had been no Savior! No eclipse could be so dark as that.

It would mean a heathen world. Read pagan history.

It would mean a hopeless world. Christ put hope into the world. Christmas Day has well been called the birth day of hope.

It would mean a paralyzed world, for where there is no hope there is no action.

It would mean a lost world. Lost. A lost world! If there had been no Savior!

Are you ready to appreciate the Christmas message? The good news of the gospel? Are you ready to yield yourself wholly, heartily, gladly to Christ, let Him be your Savior?

Cooper

Continued from Page 7

tions He suffered in the last days of His life.

What a challenge for God's redeemed people to do as Christ has done. St. Peter wrote: "Even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps."

God began to give some signs to believers about the fulfillment of His promise to make a new covenant with His people. The wise men knew that a king was to be born. When they searched for this newborn king, they brought gifts to honor Him. The giving of gifts became a tradition that continues today by a habit of giving one to another, not to Christ.

There is a great need of giving to Christ. The unsaved come to the kingdom by repentance and faith. We should never bypass repentance when advising people how to be saved. Among those who preached repentance were John the Baptist, Jesus, St. Peter, St. Paul and many others.

The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.

It is not the will of God that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Jesus, John the Baptist, St. Peter or St. Paul or any of the apostles never intended that we minimize the way to the new birth by omitting the need of repentance.

St. Peter's first sermon included, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

Christians can make gifts to Jesus this Christmas by dedicating themselves to a more fulfilled life of service. The Holy Spirit wants every Christian to have a strong desire to do more for Jesus and His church. No earthly group has a monopoly on Jesus' church.

Christians, remember: Jesus expects every believer to gain more talents that He gave out.

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep, let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness." (James 4:8-9)

To resist the devil is not a laughing business. This year, give Jesus a deeper consecrated life. God bless you in your efforts.

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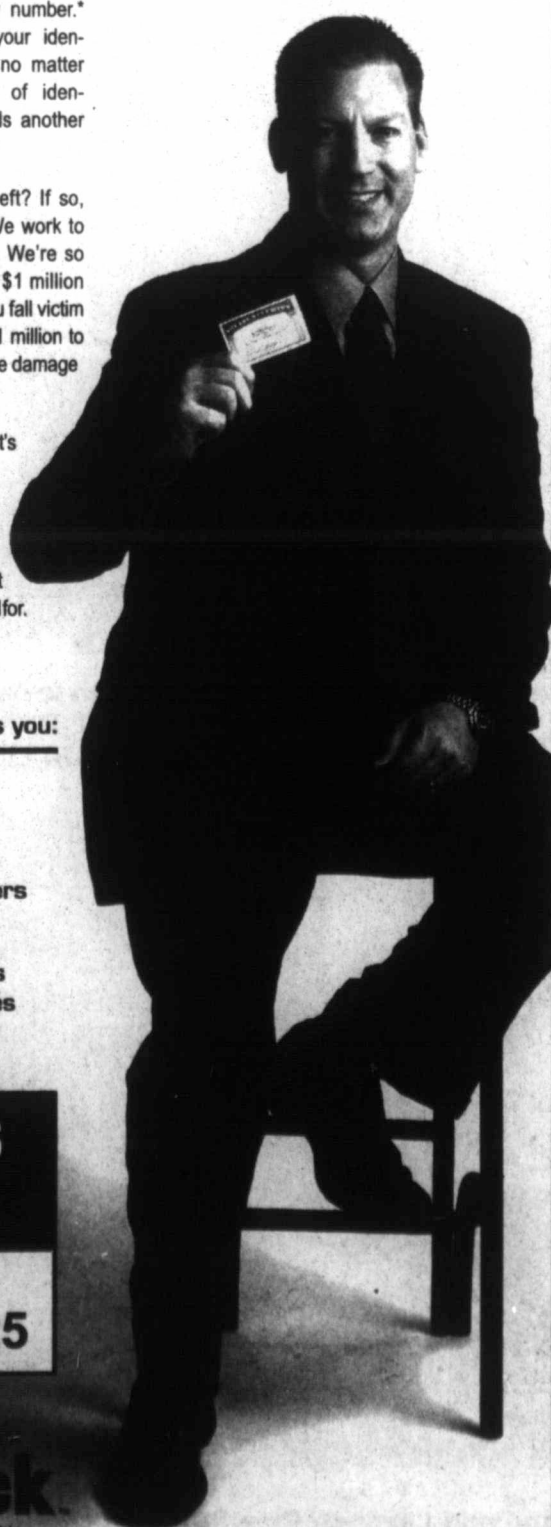
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Sports

Canadian to wrap up successful season Saturday

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

Success can be defined in many different ways. Some would call making the playoffs a success, and some would call sweeping district a success, but success never speaks for itself so explicitly as it does in the form of a battle for the state championship.

The Canadian Wildcats will embark on that battle Saturday as they take on the Elysian Fields Yellow Jackets for the 2A Division II State Title.

While Elysian Fields is favored to win by four points, the Wildcats are no stranger to playing as the underdog this season.

Canadian was picked to be defeated by Childress in week 1, Idalou in week 4 and Cisco last week in this season's playoff run, but came out on top of every game.

The Wildcats ended many teams' seasons along the way, and Saturday, their season will come to a close with or without the state title.

Head coach Kyle Lynch, with the help of his coaching staff, has led the team to their success this season, but he's not new to going deep in the playoffs.

Lynch has taken three teams into the state quarterfinals and two teams into the semifinals, including this season's.

This season is not only Lynch's first time to take the Wildcats to the state championship, but it's also Canadian's first time to see their team go this far.

Canadian residents and fans from other communities alike will gather to see the action in Brownwood as the game takes place at 2 p.m. Saturday.



The Canadian Wildcats get together for a team picture prior to starting their exciting season this year.

Courtesy photo

Hard work, family fuel first Texas AP player of the year

HOUSTON (AP) — Some people crumble when faced with obstacles. Others make those obstacles crumble.

Count Jacquizz Rodgers among the people who crush roadblocks into dust.

The 17-year-old running back who helped lead Lamar Consolidated to its first state championship and became the state's touchdown record-holder has been bulldozing barriers since childhood.

On Friday, Rodgers, who finished his high school career with a Texas record of 136 touchdowns and more than 8,000 yards, was named the first Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Player of the Year.

The offensive and defensive players of the year from the five APSE all-state teams were eligible for the award, which was chosen by a panel of sports writers.

Accolades and honors are just one part of life for Rodgers, who learned

early on that academic achievement and athletic victories don't come without hard work.

"Every day, I just try to get better, whether it's making blocks or getting good grades," said Rodgers, whose nickname is "Mr. Touchdown."

Raised in the Houston suburb of Richmond, Rodgers soldiered past the ragged streets and drug-infested corners of his neighborhood by focusing on the future and adhering to the values sculpted by a strict but loving family.

Tasha Williams, a mental health aide at Richmond State School, was a single mother who taught Rodgers and her three other children that homework was their first responsibility.

"I made sure they put business before pleasure, and didn't let anything come between them and school," she said.

Bad grades just weren't tolerated.

Bringing home a "C" meant a six-week grounding, recalled James Rodgers, Jacquizz's brother who played with him at Lamar and is now a freshman at Oregon State.

Their mother had some help driving home the message from a pair of watchful uncles who helped raise the children. Her brothers, Michael Lewis, a safety with the San Francisco 49ers, and Rodney Williams, a Houston attorney, dispensed unapologetic discipline and generous rewards.

Their actions helped compensate for the void left by Rodgers' father, who drifted in and out of prison for dealing drugs. James Rodgers Sr. has been in prison since 2001 on drug charges.

Rodney Williams often sat with his nephews while they did homework at the kitchen table. Lewis spent hours running James and Jacquizz through drills on the football field. Both uncles stay in constant contact with the two.

Hidden Hills results

Seniors Scramble
Hidden Hills
Golf Course
Dec. 19, 2007

1st Place (61)
Pat Montoya
Jerry South
Waldon Haynes
Marvin Allison

2nd Place (63)
Bill Hammer
Carroll Pettit
Nathan Lancaster
Harvey Malone

3rd Place (64)
Jim Brashears
Dick Dunham
Dwayne Stile
Richard Abbott
Travis Johnston

4th Place (64)
Tom Lindsey
Howard Wells
Norman Willingham
B.F. Dorman

Cloest to the Pin
James Richardson (#6)
Jerry South (#13)

North Texas defeats Centenary

DENTON, Texas (AP) — Dez Willingham scored 14 points and North Texas remained unbeaten at home with a 76-54 win over Centenary on Thursday night.

Willingham contributed eight points in the opening minutes as North Texas (8-2) jumped out to a 14-4 lead.

Centenary pulled to within five points, but the Mean Green broke away with a 24-6 run.

North Texas led 47-24 at halftime and never trailed in the game.

Keith Wooden scored 12 points for North Texas, going 4-for-5 from the field.

Parcells signs 4-year deal to lead Dolphins' football operations

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Wayne Huizenga gave an extremely simple description of Bill Parcells' new job with the Miami Dolphins.

"He's got the ultimate responsibility," said Huizenga, the team's title-starved owner.

Parcells welcomes the challenge.

The two-time Super Bowl champion coach signed a four-year contract Thursday to become the Dolphins' executive vice president of football operations, a fancy title meaning he'll oversee "anything that has to do with football, directly or indirectly," Huizenga said.

The two-time Super Bowl champion coach will report directly to Huizenga, whose affinity for big-name help has led him to a 66-year-old former coach of four NFL clubs who owns a home in South Florida and now has a

job there, too.

"I'm honored to join such an illustrious franchise as the Miami Dolphins and to work for one of the best owners in the league in Wayne Huizenga," Parcells said. "He shares my same commitment to winning, and I told him I would do everything I can to help turn around the team's fortunes."

That will be a massive undertaking — much like when Parcells went to the Giants, the Jets, the Patriots and the Cowboys.

His coaching plan helped turn those teams around.

Miami hopes Parcells can do the same thing from the front office.

"The guy's a legend," running back Lorenzo Booker said. "There's no doubt about it. He knows what he's doing. Obviously, his resume is a mile long. But I'm a new guy in this league, so I don't

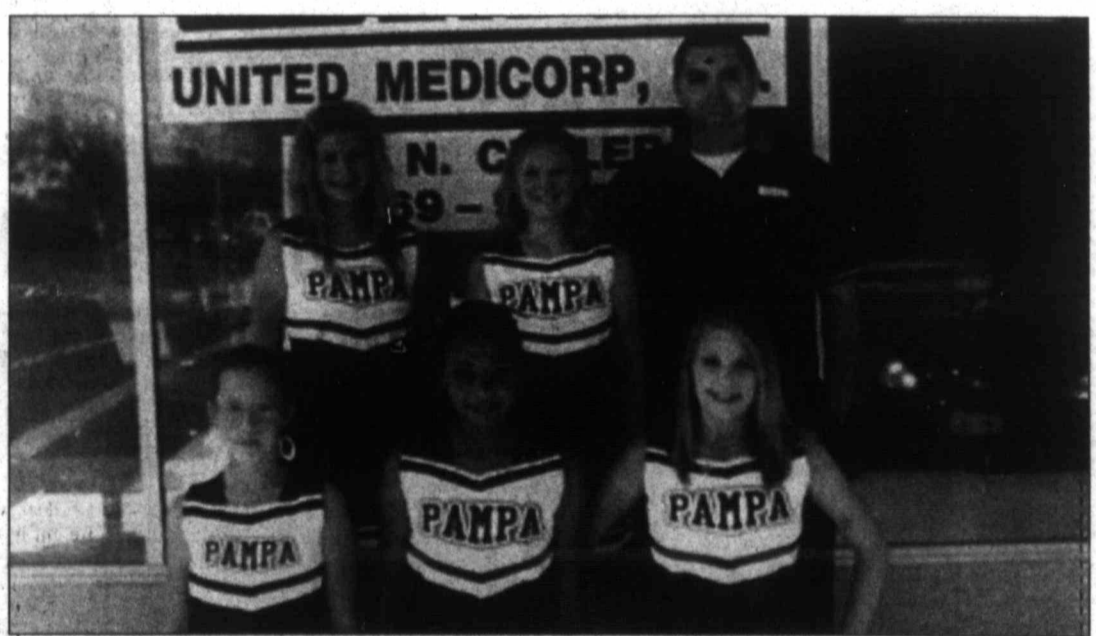
even know what a vice president does, to be honest with you."

On Wednesday, many believed Parcells would take over in Atlanta. By afternoon, that deal fell apart, and the Dolphins and Parcells closed in on a contract Huizenga started brokering before the Falcons contacted the former coach.

They met in upstate New York — the former coach has a home in Saratoga Springs — last week, around the time Huizenga was reportedly considering selling the team for \$1.1 billion. But Parcells said he was assured the owner would remain in control of the franchise, whether he takes on minority shareholders or not.

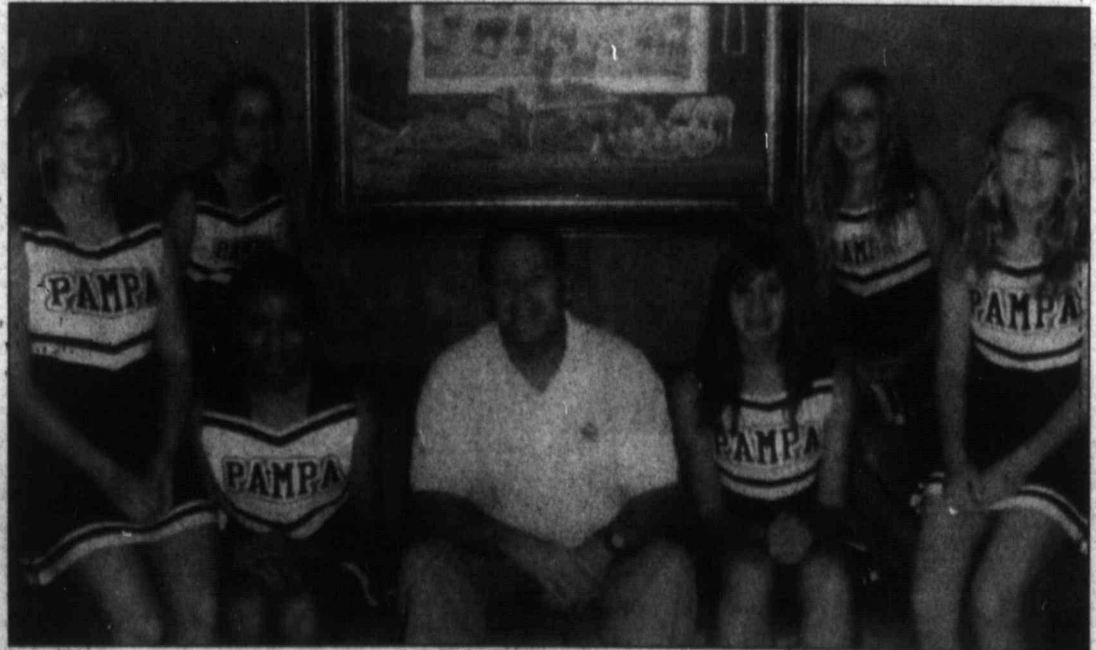
"That was a very, very big factor because I did not want to go work for somebody I didn't know," Parcells told ESPN.

Helping hands



UMC recently made a generous donation to Gymnastics of Pampa's "House of Cheer." Pictured here are: Top row, (L-R) Kelley Malone, Karami Rice and UMC's Michael Chavez. Bottom row, (L-R) Lindsey Saxour, Danielle Wall and Amanda Bennett.

Courtesy photo

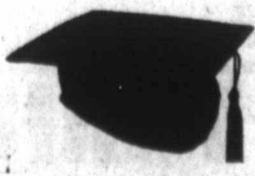


Bourland and Leverich Pipe Supply recently made a donation to the "House of Cheer." Pictured here are: (L-R) Kelley Malone, Lindsey Saxour, Danielle Wall, Rick Leverich, Ashtin Sackett, McKinlee Stokes and Karami Rice.

Courtesy photo



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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2008 for Plumbing at PHS Football Stadium Concession Stands and General Plumbing Services as needed. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806)669-4700.
H-99 Dec. 21, 23, 2007

5 Special Notices

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13 Bus. Opp.

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14n Painting

INVITATION TO BID

Caprock Apts. is accepting bids for a paint contractor. 5-10 apts per month. Sq. ft. is 519-1053. Bid should be with and without ceilings. Paint is furnished by the apts. To qualify to bid, contractor must have valid General Liability insurance. Worker's comp insurance is applicable and references. Fax bids to 1-866-311-7899. Bids accepted until Jan. 7, 2008.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new constr., & septic sys.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

19 Situations

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21 Help Wanted

NOTICE
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21 Help Wanted

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 21, 2007:

You could be full of energy this year. Though dynamic, often your ideas fall on deaf ears, which sometimes frustrates you. Learn to let others take credit for your ideas, and suddenly you'll get results. Lead others to your conclusion. Allow your ego to take a step back. If you are single, many people might demonstrate more than a casual interest. Pick and choose with care. If you are attached, allow your sweetie to play a stronger role in your bond. Remember, it is a partnership! GEMINI can be challenging or nurturing.

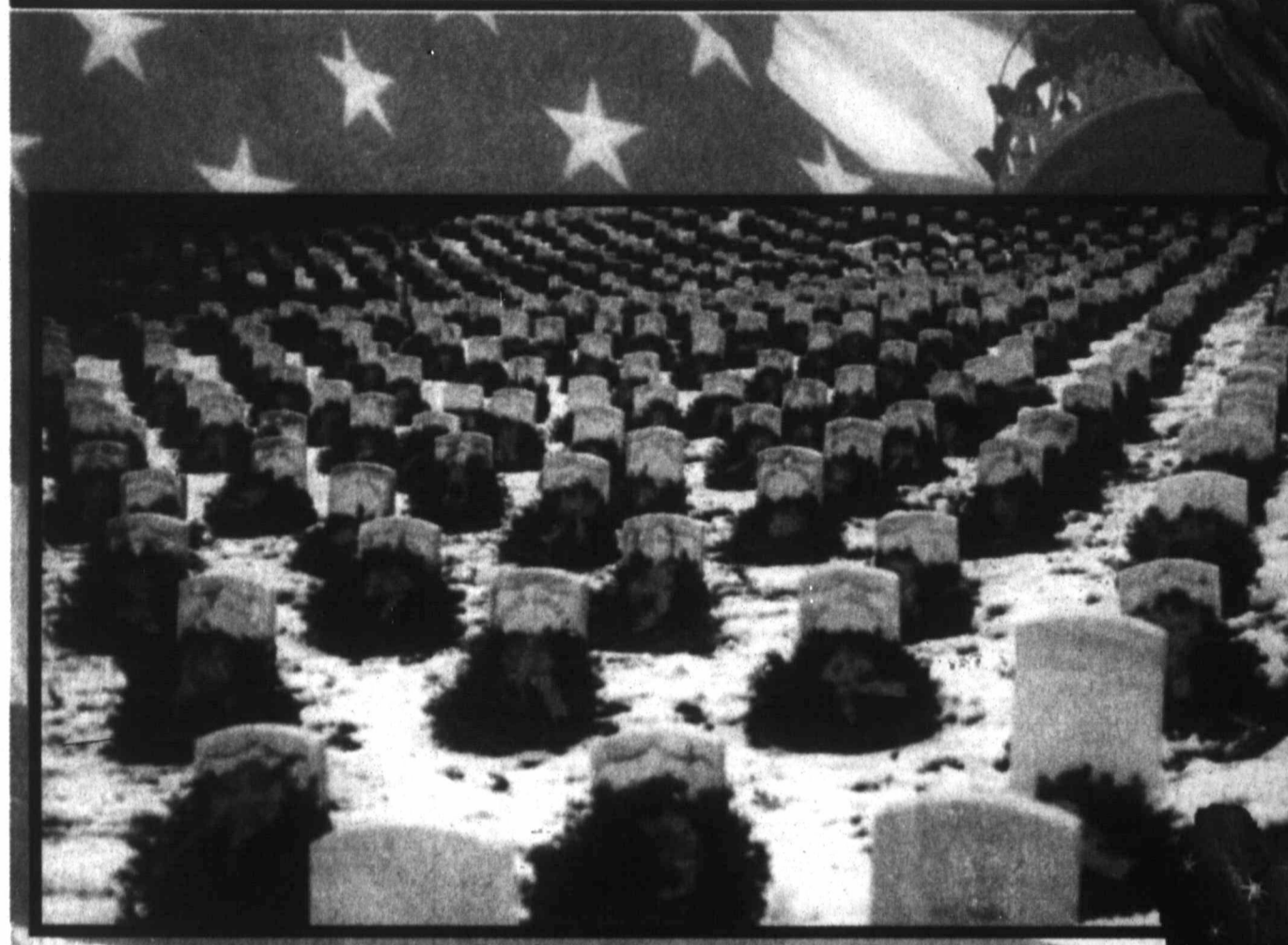
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

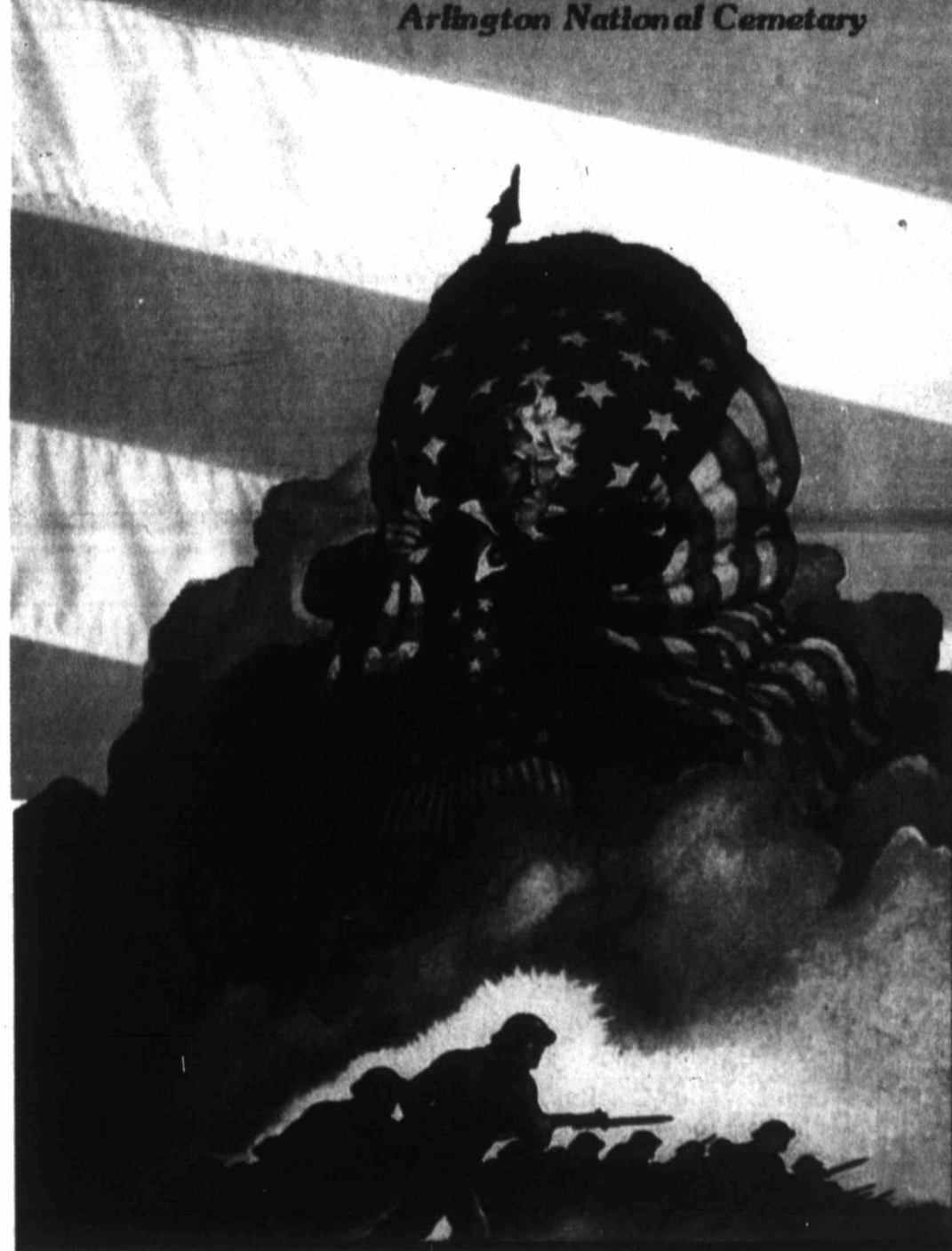
★★★ You could feel vaguely out of sorts for a good part of the day. Ideas stream in from out of left field, and you also might be uncomfortable about the coasts. Mid-afternoon, you get a second wind. Postpone as much as possible. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

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Arlington National Cemetery



*For Liberty and
Peace on Earth*

Honoring Those Who Defend Our Nation-

"...O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen."

*- Franklin Delano Roosevelt
June 6, 1944*

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