

**Tomorrow's Weather**

**HIGH 25**  
**LOW 13**

See expanded weather on Page 2

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## Accident



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A white Chevrolet pickup was loaded onto a wrecker after being involved in an accident during the noon hour Monday in the 2200 block of Alcock street. Pampa Police Department, Pampa Fire Department and Guardian EMS Ambulance Service responded to the scene, although no one was transported by ambulance as a result of the wreck. Eastbound traffic on Alcock was blocked briefly until the pickup could be removed and emergency services personnel completed their work. The other vehicle involved in the accident is believed to be a red GMC Yukon.

## County commission approves burn ban

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Gray County is now under a burn ban, effective indefinitely, which was approved by county commissioners at their 9 a.m. meeting today in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Continued dry weather with low humidity, dry vegetation and frequent high winds were cited as reasons for imposing the ban.

The ban prohibits outdoor burning anywhere in the county, including rural residents' household refuse, due to the high risk of fire.

"We have an elevated fire danger today due to a cold front coming in with high winds and little or no moisture," said County Judge Richard Peet.

"Potter County initiated a burn ban yesterday, to cover 90 days. Other counties have burn bans in place."

"The moisture content of the grass and other vegetation is totally dry," said Hoover Volunteer Fire Chief and Gray County Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Millican. "We had several fires last weekend, and have had a few trash fires since Christmas."

The burn ban will be an action item on each commissioners' meeting so that commissioners may consider whether to continue or lift the ban. Commissioners meet every two weeks, on or near the first and 15th days of each month.

County Treasurer Scott Hahn

See COUNTY, Page 3

## Region A water meeting includes management plan

BY DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

AMARILLO -- The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District is expected to pass its new management plan today, but concerns were aired last week at a regional groundwater meeting here about that plan.

Still, officials with the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, officially Region A, reported no conflicts between the district's rules and the regional water plan.

There were inconsistencies, said C.E. Williams, chairman of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, but none rose to the point of conflict.

Steve Walthour, general manager of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, presented an outline of the new rules at the meeting last Thursday and asked the regional water planners for their input.

The major concern was that while the Dumas-based water conservation district had agreed to the 50-50 rule, that is, 50 percent of the water would still be in storage in the aquifer at the end of 50 years, a goal set down by the regional water plan, that 50 percent would be averaged across the entire district.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, by contrast, holds each landowner or holder of the water rights to the 50-50 rule on contiguous acreage.

Those concerned about North Plains' new rules say it could be an invitation for water marketers to drain the water from the eastern side of the district so long as no water was pumped on the western side of the district.

North Plains district stretches across the top tier of counties in the panhandle from Dallam to Lipscomb and the adjoining counties in the western and central panhandle of Hartley and Moore.

See WATER, Page 3

## BSA Hospice offers class for volunteers

BY KERRI SMITH  
Managing Editor

BSA Hospice is planning to offer a volunteer training and community education class starting next week, "The Hospice Approach to Living with Dying."

This class is for anyone who is interested in becoming a hospice volunteer or for anyone who is interested in learning more about hospice care. Those who have previously gone through the class say that it has provided personal growth and enrichment in their lives.

These classes will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Jan. 21 through Feb. 6. This training will be held at the BSA Hospice office at 800 N. Sumner.

Those interested in taking this class need to register with Janet McCracken at 665-6677 or 1-800-658-6985.

## Girl Scout cookie sales, a long tradition continues

By KERRI SMITH  
Managing Editor

Girl Scout cookie sales are once again underway, continuing a tradition that dates back as early as 1917.

According to www.girlscouts.org, cookie sales were started as a way to raise funds to help finance troop activities. This started only five years after Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scouts in the United States in 1912.

The first mention of cookie sales that has been found is in December 1917, when the Mistletoe Troop from Muskogee, Okla. baked and sold cookies in the high school cafeteria.

In July 1922, "The American Girl" magazine, which was published by the Girl Scout national headquarters, featured an article by Florence E. Neil which included a cookie recipe. During the 1920's and 1930's, the girl scouts baked homemade cookies and packaged them in wax paper bags.

These were sold door to door for 25-35 cents per dozen.

The Greater Philadelphia Council was the first one to sell commercially baked cookies in 1934. By 1937, more than 125 girl scout councils were selling cookies to raise funds for their groups.

Cookies were sold annually until World War II, when sugar, flour and butter shortages led to an end of this practice for a while. To raise funds during this time, the girl scouts sold calendars.

By 1948, there were 29 bakers around the country which were license to bake Girl Scout cookies. In the early 1950's, there were three varieties, sandwich, shortbread and chocolate mints. By 1956, four varieties were available since the sandwich cookies were offered in vanilla or chocolate.

When the baby boomers expanded the girl scout membership in the 1960's, cookie sales grew significantly. During this time, the 14 licensed bakers started a new practice of wrapping the boxes in printed aluminum foil or cellophane to protect the cookies and preserve the freshness. The peanut butter sandwich variety was added in 1966.

Many changes were made to the process of making girl scout cookies during the 1970's. In 1978, the

See COOKIES, Page 3



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**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
Partly cloudy	Sunny	Sunny

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a temperature falling to around 25 by 4 p.m. Wind chill values between 11 and 16. Windy, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Wind chill values between 2 and 7. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 37. West-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. North-northwest wind around 5 mph.

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# Obituaries

## Services tomorrow

MAPLE, Jim — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

### Donna Marie Davis, 64

SKELLYTOWN — Donna Marie Davis, 64, died Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, at Amarillo.

Services were Monday afternoon at Church of Christ in Borger with Neville Buchanan, minister, officiating. Interment was in "The Garden of Good Shepherd" at Westlawn

Memorial Park under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Mrs. Davis was a clerk for the city of Skellytown. She was a member of



Davis

the Chickasaw Nation.

Survivors include her husband, Jim Davis, of the home; two sons, Brian Barbour and Brent Barbour, both of Borger; two daughters,

Tamara Cox of Borger and Amber Nicole Friend of San Francisco, Calif.; two brothers, Benny Wilson of Liberal, Kan., and Burl Wilson of Hugo, Okla.; a sister, Clara Rine of Dumas; 16 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

### Jim Maple, 77

Jim Maple, 77, of Pampa, Texas, died Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Paul Nactigall, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, officiating.

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

Mr. Maple was born July

22, 1930, in Delaware, Okla. He married Martha Bullard on Dec. 20, 1957, in Pampa.

He has been a resident of Pampa since 1940. He graduated from Lefors High School in 1948.

He was a member of the Highland Baptist Church and was an



Maple

Instrument pipe fitter through the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union #196 in Amarillo for 50 years.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Maple, of the home; one daughter, Connie Rippetoe and husband Roy of

Pampa; one son, Kenny Maple and wife Tammye of

Pampa; one sister, Nina Pearl Dawes of Pampa; one brother, Don Maple of New Martinsville, W.Va.; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Edna Maple; and a brother, Melvin Maple.

MEMORIALS: Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

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

Twenty-eight traffic stops were made, resulting in one arrest.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 1100 block of Alcock, and at the intersection of Hamilton and 22nd.

Accidents were reported in the 2400 block of Charles, and at the intersection of Brown and Russell.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 500 block of Somerville, the 1100 block of Seneca, the 1000 block of Neel, the 1100 block of Sandeewood, the 100 block of South Sumner, the 2500 block of Charles and the 900 block of Schneider; and twice in the 800 block of Locust, the 2100 block of North Wells and the 200 block of West Brownings.

Lost property was reported in the police department lobby.

Agency assistance was provided in the police department lobby.

Welfare checks were made in the 200 block of North Sumner, the 2900 block of Perryton Parkway, the 800 block of South Hobart, the 400 block of Crest and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

A civil matter was reported in the 900 block of Love.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 800 block of South Hobart, the 1900 block of Holly and the 2300 block of Primrose.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 1600 block of Highway 60 East and the

1200 block of South Dwight. Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Brown where two windows valued at \$700 were damaged.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Magnolia.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of Sierra.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 1100 block of North Hobart.

A runaway was reported in the police department lobby.

One suicide attempt was reported.

An assault was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

One alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby where miscellaneous tools valued at \$133 were stolen from a vehicle.

### Sheriff

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

#### Monday, Jan. 14

Johnny Duane Williams, 51, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

David Robinson, 25, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on a probation violation for driving while license invalid.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 15

Christopher Brian Bell, 20, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of less than 2-ounces of marijuana.

Allan Doyle Keeton, 54, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of less than 2-ounces of marijuana.

### Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Monday, Jan. 14

9:39 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the south central portion of the city to investigate smoke.

11:52 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 200 block of North Wells on a smoke investigation.

12:12 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2200 block of Alcock on a motor vehicle accident.

1:19 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 900 block of South Banks on a carbon monoxide check.

### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

#### Saturday, Jan. 12

7:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to N.W.H. Sunday, Jan. 13

1:50 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Browning and Doucette streets and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a local nursing facility.

3:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded on a mutual aid call with Miami.

3:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Murphy and Henry streets and transported a patient to PRMC.

7 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Somerville and transported a patient to PRMC.

#### Monday, Jan. 14

6:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:45 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Hughes and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Red Deer and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

12:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Alcock. No transport.

1:21 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of East Brown and transported a patient to PRMC.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 15

1:11 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Tignor and transported a patient to PRMC.

## Economy: Wholesale prices in 2007 at fastest pace in 26 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale inflation last year

### Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by **Ashley Grain of White Deer**

Wheat	8.53
Milo	8.25
Corn	9.15
Soybeans	11.07

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

OXY	72.96	-2.39
BP PLC ADR	68.14	-2.09
Cabot Corp	30.59	-1.19
Celanese	37.80	-0.57
Cabot Oil Gas	42.89	-0.69
Coca Cola	64.01	-0.29
VLO	55.50	-4.37
HAL	35.66	-0.83
XCEL	22.55	-0.01
Anadarko	63.22	-1.66
XOM	88.99	-1.84
Nat'l Oilwell	70.74	-1.86
Limited	15.08	-0.33
Williams	34.81	-0.90
MCD	54.52	-0.44
Atmos	27.65	-0.22
Pioneer Nat	45.21	-2.95
JCP	36.74	-1.71
COP	81.84	-1.55
SLB	91.96	-3.57
Tenneco	23.81	-0.63
CVX	89.35	-1.56
Wal-Mart	46.95	-0.72
OKE	49.15	-0.06

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shot up by the largest amount in 26 years while retailers suffered their worst December shopping season in five years as mounting economic woes caused consumers to put away their wallets.

The Labor Department reported that wholesale inflation was up 6.3 percent for all of 2007, reflecting a huge increase for the year in various types of energy costs ranging from gasoline to home heating oil.

Meanwhile, retail sales fell by 0.4 percent in December,

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the worst showing in six months, the Commerce Department reported. Consumer confidence has plunged, reflecting the worsening housing slump and a lingering credit crisis.

In a third report, the government said that inventories held by businesses rose by 0.4 percent in November, reflecting big increases in stockpiles held by manufacturers and wholesalers. The 0.4 percent rise matched a similar increase in September and was in line with expectations. Inventories had risen by a much smaller 0.1 percent in October.

The poor showing for retail sales and a disappointing quarterly report from Citigroup Inc. renewed recession worries on Wall Street. In early morning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was down more than 100 points.

"Consumers held tight to their wallets in December,

raising questions about

**The Labor Department reported that wholesale inflation was up 6.3 percent for all of 2007, reflecting a huge increase for the year in various types of energy costs ranging from gasoline to home heating oil.**

whether household spending will be enough to keep us out of a recession," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

For inflation, the year ended on a more positive note

with wholesale prices falling by 0.1 percent in December. That reflected decreasing costs last month for gasoline and other energy products. It was a significant slowdown after prices had soared by 3.2 percent in November, which had been the biggest one-month increase in 34 years.

The combination of rising inflation pressures and a weak economy represent a dilemma for the Federal Reserve over whether to cut rates to boost economic growth even at the risk of making inflation worse.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke last week sent a strong signal that the Fed is more worried at the moment about weak growth than inflation — given a series of weaker-than-expected data in recent weeks. He is certain to quizzed on those comments when he testifies Thursday before the House Budget Committee.

The economy skidded to a virtual standstill in the final three months of last year, raising fears the country could fall into a recession, unable to withstand the multiple blows from the prolonged downturn in housing, a severe credit crisis and soaring energy costs.

Already, unemployment is rising. The jobless rate jumped to 5 percent in December, up from 4.7 percent in November. That was the biggest one-month surge in unemployment since October 2001 in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The various economic threats have sent consumer confidence plunging and pushed the economy to the top of voters' concerns. Political leaders have responded, with President Bush, Democrats in Congress and presidential candidates from both parties putting forward economic stimulus proposals.

Snowman



Courtesy Photo

This tall snowman was built in 1966 by Terry Madeira and Prudy Skelly, pictured, who were Pampa High School students at the time. The snowman stood watchover 914 Somerville after a big snow storm. Pampa may be in for another snow storm Wednesday if weather reports are correct.

# Cornyn discusses open government proposal

AUSTIN (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced plans Tuesday to push for federal legislation to make government spending information more accessible to the public, much like what Comptroller Susan Combs has done in Texas.

Cornyn is proposing an expansion of the national government spending Web site that allows people to search federal contracts and grants. A pilot program would allow searches of such expenditures as government staff salaries and travel costs.

The national Web site [www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov) resulted from the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which had bipartisan backing in Congress.

Combs and Laura Lee Prather, vice president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, joined Cornyn at a University of Texas news conference, where he touted his work in sponsoring recently signed legislation toughening the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Along with establishing a hot line service

and ombudsman to help information seekers, the law also places a 20-day time limit for federal agencies to respond to requests and places a presumption that agencies should release information on request unless there is a finding that disclosure could do harm.

Combs, after taking office in 2006, began posting the expenditures of her agency and others online. "Taxpayers expect and deserve it. It's their money," she said.

Cornyn said his new proposal, based in large part on Combs' work, is aimed at helping Texans who feel frustrated by "wasteful Washington spending."

On the campaign front, Cornyn said he believes the public is entitled to hear a debate between him and his March 4 Republican primary opponent, Larry Kilgore.

He also said he supports making his campaign finance reports available to the public sooner than required by law after a finance period ends, although he said it does take some time to process the numbers before they can be released.

SPORTS

## Girl dies after basketball game

HITCHCOCK, Texas (AP) — A middle-school girls basketball player collapsed and died near the end of a game, school officials said.

Kailynn Bocclair, 13, collapsed with about a minute remaining in the game Monday. An automated external defibrillator was used to get her heart beating, but paramedics could not get her breathing again, said Michael Bergman, superintendent of Hitchcock schools.

Kailynn collapsed around 6:45 p.m. and was pronounced dead at a hospital about 30 minutes later.

Kailynn's family told Bergman they

were unaware of any medical conditions that might have caused her death.

"The girl's mother and grandmother were at the game, and I spoke to the grandmother at the hospital," Bergman said. "She was taken totally by surprise. They thought she was in perfect health."

Bergman said grief counselors would be at Crosby Middle School on Tuesday. He said he asked the superintendent of a neighboring district for additional counselors.

"A teacher I spoke with said she was one of the greatest kids — a great student, great person," Bergman said.

## County

Continued from Page 1

was authorized to file the quarterly request for county reimbursement from the state concerning juror fees. Hahn replaces District Clerk Gaye Honderich with Honderich's approval, Hahn said.

The reimbursement consists of \$34 of each \$40 for second and subsequent days of jury duty which is

paid to jurors. The \$40 amount is required by state law.

Honderich will provide Hahn with the necessary information in order to send in the quarterly claim, he said.

Hahn also gave the county treasurer's report and quarterly investment report.

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland submitted a racial profiling report from his office for calendar year 2007. The report shows that 282 persons were stopped by deputies during the year. Of those, 212 were male and 70 were female.

During the stops, deputies con-

ducted 97 searches of vehicles and persons. Fifty-nine of the searches were with the person's consent, and 38 of the searches resulted in arrests.

The 282 persons stopped in 2007 by county deputies were 12 blacks, or four percent; 240 whites, or 85 percent; 28 Hispanics, or nine percent; and two Asians, or two percent.

A bond for Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman in the amount of \$2,500 was approved. Also approved was a loan and fund transfer from general funds to the debt service fund, and payment of bills and salaries.

## Man dies from injuries on job at BP refinery

HOUSTON (AP) — A man has died from injuries he suffered on the job at the BP refinery in Texas City.

BP issued a press release saying the man was injured near the refinery's Ultracracker process unit about 4 p.m. Monday.

BP has begun an investigation into the accident and

has notified the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Houston Chronicle reported in a story on its Web site Monday.

The victim's name has not been released. He died after being taken to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

## Water

Continued from Page 1

While irrigation is widely used in the central and western counties, Lipscomb remains mostly rangeland and water marketers have reportedly been buying water rights in Lipscomb County.

In other business, the regional water planners heard a report on groundwa-

ter recharge in Roberts and Hemphill Counties by Bridget Scanlon of the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology.

"She told us pretty well what was known previously," Williams said.

He said the hope was that the soil types where the survey was conducted might be better and there might be more recharge than expected. There had been some hint of that in preliminary studies, but it was not the case, Williams said.

"What it showed was just about what it showed forever and ever," he said glumly.

The study showed little or no recharge of the aquifer.

Williams was reelected chairman of the Regional Water Planning Group. Roberts County Judge Vernon Cook was reelected vice chair. David Landis of Perryton was elected secretary.

John Williams with the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and Nolan

Clark with United States Department of Agriculture were reelected to the executive committee.

Chairman C.E. Williams assigned the executive committee along with any volunteers to the scope of work committee for the next round of funding assistance from the Texas Water Development Board.

Williams said Region O, the South Plains Regional Water Planning Group out of Lubbock, was working on an inter-regional coordina-

tion and cooperation plan. Williams said they were close to having a final draft.

The plan includes teleconferencing.

"It can be up to 400 miles from our northern tip to their southern tip," Williams said.

The teleconferencing could ease travel costs, he said.

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## Cookies

Continued from Page 1

licensed bakers were narrowed down to only four to ensure uniform quality and packaging. The national organization, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., started supplying the bakers with standard package layouts and pictures. For the first time in history, all of the boxes featured the same designs.

During the 1980's, the pictures on the boxes depicted girl scouts participating in many different activities. A maximum of seven cookie varieties were manufactured and there were three which were mandatory, Thin Mints, Sandwich and Shortbread. In the early 1990's, two

licensed bakers supplied all of the cookies, which now included low-fat and sugar free varieties. In 1998, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. introduced awards and pins which could be earned from cookie sales.

According to Marsha Goebel from the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, the goal of girl scouts in this area is to sell a total of 300,000 boxes of cookies. The new cookie this year is Cinna-Spins, which are in 100-calorie packs. The price per box remains the same at \$3 each. The cookie sales program runs through Feb. 25.

Goebel said that less than one-third of the price for each box goes to pay for the cookies. The remainder of the purchase price supports local Girl Scout programs, which help to build courage, confidence and character.

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# Viewpoints

## The human paradox: Homo sapiens do funny things

Human beings can be very strange creatures.

We pay our top athletes and entertainers astronomical amounts of money and place them up on pedestals. Then we proceed to take great delight in watching them fall off, sometimes assisted by our own actions and opinions.

One recent example of this is the Jessica Simpson/Tony Romo affair. When the Dallas Cowboys lost 21-17 to the New York Giants last Sunday, it was attributed to the "Jessica Jinx." Simpson, a singer/actress who has been dating Dallas quarterback Romo, attended Sunday's game, and some say that's why the Cowboys lost. Others say it's because

before the game, Romo and Simpson jetted off to a resort in Mexico to spend a lazy weekend together.

Simpson was also reportedly in attendance when the Cowboys lost to the Philadelphia Eagles earlier in the season.

Simpson and Romo have lots of company on the unfavorable side of celebrity. Others who have become household names for all the wrong reasons include Paris Hilton and Britney Spears.

Hilton, another singer/actress, has been panned for her sometimes less-than-articulate conversation. She was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol in 2006, and her driver's license was suspended.

In 2007, Hilton was pulled over for driving with a suspended license and later for driving 70 miles per hour in a 35 mph zone. She was sentenced to 45 days in jail for violating the terms of her probation.

**Marilyn Powers**  
Staff Writer



Hilton's troubles with conversation, alcohol and the law make headlines because she is a celebrity. Her release from jail after serving her 45-day sentence was a major media event, although I failed to see what all the fuss was about.

Someone apparently much more troubled than Hilton is singer Britney

Spears. Her activities have included shaving her head, attending drug rehabilitation centers, fighting for custody of her two children, setting skin-baring fashion trends

for small-fry females, attacking the paparazzi with an umbrella, attempting to perform while obviously in no condition to do so, and driving with her young son on her lap. All despite the fact that she is only 26 years old.

And who can forget Anna Nicole Smith? Before dying last year at the age of 39, she had been a model, 1993 Playboy Playmate of the

Year, and widow of billionaire J. Howard Marshall, who was 63 years older than her. Ugh!

Smith and Marshall married in 1994, when she was 26 and he was 89. He died in 1995, and the battle for his estate began between Smith and other family members.

Smith gave birth to a daughter in 2006, and there was much speculation as to who the father was. Shortly after the baby was born, Smith's 20-year-old son died after ingesting a lethal combination of drugs which included Zoloft, Lexapro and methadone, which is used to treat heroin and morphine addiction.

Smith followed her son in 2007 when she died of "combined drug intoxica-

tion." Her life and legal battles were so much a part of the daily news broadcasts for a time that I grew heartily sick of hearing her name. I could have cared less who fathered her daughter or to whom the foolish old billionaire left his fortune.

The fact that celebrities have feet of clay just like everyone else is a good reason not to do or believe something just because a famous person says so. I don't plan on voting for Sen. Barack Obama because Oprah Winfrey endorsed him, and I don't think anyone else should vote for him for that reason, either. If he can't get votes on his own merits, he shouldn't make it to the White House.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2008. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

On this date:

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The tiny republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1844, the University of Notre Dame received its charter from the state of Indiana.

*'The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.'*

— Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

In 1908, 100 years ago, nuclear physicist Edward Teller was born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary.

In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru was named to succeed Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1947, the mutilated remains of

Elizabeth Short, the 22-year-old aspiring actress now known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1978, two students at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Lisa Levy and Margaret Bowman, were murdered in their sorority house. (Ted Bundy was later convicted of the crime, and executed.)

Ten years ago: Henry Cisneros' ex-mistress, Linda Medlar Jones, pleaded to misleading federal authorities investigating the former U.S. housing secretary's payment of alleged hush money to her. (Jones served nearly 18 months in prison; she was later pardoned by President Clinton.) Labor Secretary



## The future of black colleges not clear ...

The Lincoln Review, a Washington-based black think tank, published an article titled "What Does the Future Hold for Historically Black Colleges?" in its September/October 2007 edition. It recalled the experiences of Bill Maxwell, a St. Petersburg Times columnist and editorial board member, when in 2004 he took a huge pay cut to teach journalism at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

He wanted to fulfill a promise he made to professors who taught him during the 1960s at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla., two historically black colleges. He was in for surprise and disappointment.

Professor Maxwell recalls his experiences in the St. Petersburg Times. The first column, "I had a dream"

(www.sptimes.com/2007/05/13/Opinion/I\_had\_a\_dream.shtml) discusses the non-academic environment at Stillman College. His first day in his English class, Maxwell had to shout to get the class to come to order. He assigned a 500-word essay.

When he read the essays, he said, "During my 18 years of previous college teaching, I had never seen such poor writing — sentence fragments, run-on sentences, misspellings, wrong words and illogical word order."

One paper read: "In my high school, prejudice were bad and people feel like nothing." In another: "Central High kids put there nose in other people

concern."

Maxwell says that only a few students bothered to take lecture notes. He had to teach basic grammar lessons and teach students how to use a dictionary, lessons that should have been learned in elementary or junior high school. The college issued free laptops to students who maintained a passing grade-point average.

Some used their computers in class for text messaging. When Maxwell confronted the students, he was met with hostility. A few students left during class to make calls or send text messages. Two female professors were threatened by two male students when they were told to put away their

laptops in class.

Professor Maxwell's second column, "A dream lay dying" relates more of his experiences at Stillman (www.sptimes.com/2007/05/20/Opinion/A\_dream\_lay\_dying.shtml). He recalls, "... nothing was more appalling than the students' disregard for college property."

He recalls the time when the Tuscaloosa Fire Department had to put out trash can fires in King Hall, saying, "I was angry and embarrassed to see a team of white firefighters trying to save a dormitory named for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that black students had trashed." A white firefighter asked him, "Why do they do this to their own buildings?"

Touring the building, Maxwell said that even without the fire it looked like a

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 6  
Austin American-Statesman on caring for our veterans:

President Bush has a new cabinet secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs who appears to be eminently qualified for the job.

Secretary James Peake is a retired three-star general and a physician with more than three decades of experience in the Army's medical system. He is a former surgeon general of the Army and once led the U.S. Army Medical Command at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Peake has promised to fix the prob-

lems causing so much heartache for America's veterans, particularly those returning from fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has plenty to do. Care for veterans has been generally dreadful since the war in Iraq began, from the disgrace of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the shocking number of veteran suicides. VA care varies by region and by hospital and clinic, but too many veterans aren't getting proper care.

First, Peake must smooth the transition of veterans from the military to the VA. The backlog of disability claims is shameful, and staffing problems at some centers have caused veterans to wait months for an evaluation.

At the same time, there has been a

shortage of mental health care though the suicide rate for veterans is twice that of the general population. One estimate found that more than 125 veterans of all wars kill themselves each week in the United States.

That is an appalling figure that shames us as a nation. Up to 30 percent of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are believed to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, often requiring some mental health intervention. The suicide rate for Army veterans is above 17 percent per 100,000 people, the highest percentage in 26 years of record keeping.

Peake says he understands the gravity of the situation. He was wounded

See VETERANS, Page 5

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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MID-EAST

# Bush wants OPEC to up oil output

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Bush urged OPEC nations on Tuesday to put more oil on the world market and warned that soaring prices could cause an economic slowdown in the United States.

"High energy prices can damage consuming economies," the president

whether an attack against an American vessel resulted from an order by the government in Iran or a rash decision by an Iranian boat captain.

"It's not going to matter to me one way or another," Bush said. If the Iranians hit a U.S. ship, "there are going to be serious consequences," he said.

U.S. officials claim Iranian speedboats swarmed three Navy warships in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway that is the only entry and exit to the Persian Gulf. They said U.S. Navy commanders were considering firing warning shots, before the retreat of the five Iranian speedboats,

*'... Paying more for gasoline hurts some of the American families, and I'll make that clear to him.'*

— President Bush

told a small group of reporters traveling with him in the Mideast.

"It's affected our families. Paying more for gasoline hurts some of the American families, and I'll make that clear to him," said Bush, heading into more talks with Saudi King Abdullah. Shortly after Bush spoke, the Saudi oil minister said the kingdom, responsible for almost one-third of the cartel's total output, would raise oil production when the market justified it.

In a stern warning to Iran days after a Jan. 6 confrontation with U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, Bush put Tehran on notice that it needs to be careful. The president said it would not matter to him

which the Pentagon said were operated by the elite Revolutionary Guards.

Iran has denied that its boats threatened the U.S. vessels, saying the incident was a normal occurrence, and accused Washington of fabricating video and audio it released. Iran's government has released its own video, which appeared to be shot from a small boat bobbing at least 100 yards from the American warships.

The president spoke to reporters before meeting late Tuesday with Abdullah, whose country holds the world's largest supply of oil. Bush said U.S. consumers are feeling the pain of rising oil prices, which topped \$100 a barrel this month.

## Lions Club Sweetheart

Krishna Henderson, daughter of Keenan and Susan Henderson, is the November Pampa Lions Club Sweetheart of the Month. Her honors, activities and accomplishments include varsity volleyball (three years), varsity basketball (two years), club volleyball (five years), club volleyball national 2005 third place champion team member, Pampa High School volleyball MVP, volleyball and basketball PHS athlete of the week and PHS Student Council secretary. She has volunteered with the Children's Shopping Tour and belongs to Church of Christ. After graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in either physical therapy or accounting while continuing to play volleyball in college.



## Williams

Continued from Page 4

war zone. "Holes had been kicked and punched in the walls. Windows were broken, floors were scarred and most of the furniture was damaged. The two dorms routinely underwent major repairs after each semester."

A week before leaving Stillman for good, Maxwell saw a group of male students who habitually hung out in front of King Hall. He approached

the group and asked, "Why don't you all hang out somewhere else?" "Who you talking to, old nigger?" one replied. Maxwell said, "You give the school a bad image out here." They laughed and dismissed him with stylized waves of the arm.

At a time of gross discrimination, black colleges were crucial. Their graduates played a vital role in the unprecedented socioeconomic progress made by black Americans. Today, there's a question about the value of most, but not all, black colleges. According to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, the 2005

graduation rates at black colleges ranged from a high of 77 percent at Spelman College to a low of 7 percent at the University of the District of Columbia.

Only seven black colleges, out of 53 listed, had a graduation rate of higher than 50 percent. Given these numbers, the preparation and performance of students at most black colleges, one has ask whether these colleges have outlived their usefulness.

—Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

## Writers' group to host Q&A

AMARILLO — Panhandle Professional Writers is pleased to announce that Terry Burns, author and literary agent, will offer an agent's question and answer session during the regular Jan. 19 meeting of PPW.

Burns writes inspirational fiction and is an agent to some 40 authors with Hartline Literary. Burns has 22 fiction, non-fiction and short story collections in print. His novel "Mysterious Ways," first in the series by the same name, was a nominee for the American Christian Fiction Writers book of the year and the Christy Award, and was recently published in Russian.

Other fiction includes "Trails of the Dime Novel," "To Keep a Promise" and

"Don't I Know You?" All three will be available in audio book formats this year. Burns has published four nonfiction books, has a small book of cowboy poetry entitled "Cowboys Don't Read Poetry." He is a popular speaker at workshops across the country and his available works as well as a daily blog can be found at [www.terryburns.net](http://www.terryburns.net)

The morning-only program will begin at 10 a.m. at Amarillo Senior Citizen's, 1217 S. Tyler, in Amarillo. Lunch is \$8 and cost of the meeting is \$5 for non-PPW members. This fee will be waived for those who choose to join PPW.

To register for lunch, phone Jerome Doerrie at 806-658-2264 or e-mail [ppw@lunch@yahoo.com](mailto:ppw@lunch@yahoo.com) by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15.

## Veterans

Continued from Page 4

while serving as an infantry officer in Vietnam and has said he wrestled with post traumatic stress afterward.

Returning veterans must know they can get quick, effective help from Veterans Affairs when they are troubled. They shouldn't have to wait

for two or three months for an evaluation. This is an issue Peake must address immediately.

Many Americans don't realize the size and scope of Veterans Affairs. It is the second-largest employer among the presidents cabinet posts, with nearly 250,000 employees and an \$82 billion budget.

More than 5.5 million veterans receive care at the systems 153 hospitals and 900 clinics. It is imperative that the system be able to treat those

men and women returning from battle overseas who need help at once. And not just for physical problems but for mental ones, too.

Peake sailed through his confirmation process in Congress, promising to address the problems besetting the Department of Veterans Affairs. He should know that veterans deserve decent treatment when they return from war. They earned it. URL: <http://www.statesman.com>

## Humorist Keillor sues neighbor to block garage addition

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Humorist Garrison Keillor and his wife have filed a lawsuit intended to stop their

next-door neighbor from building a two-story addition they say would block their access to light and air.

The lawsuit was filed Monday in Ramsey County District Court by Keillor, the host of "A Prairie Home

Companion" and creator of fictional Lake Wobegon, and his wife, Jenny Lind Nilsson.

They want neighbor Lori Anderson to stop building the 1,900-square-foot addition to the home she has owned since 1999. She lives there with fiance Paul Olson.

Both homes are in St. Paul's Ramsey Hill historic

district.

Olson said he and Anderson were vacationing in New Zealand Nov. 29 when they got an e-mail from Keillor accusing them

of building a carriage house. He said they ended their vacation early and returned home, hoping to talk to Keillor and Nilsson to work things out.

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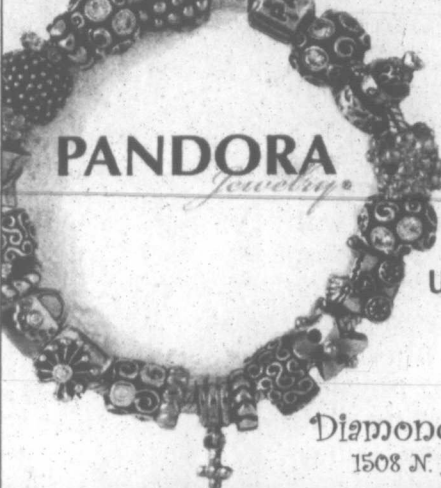


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FRIENDS

# Neighbors help farmer after tornado destruction

CHICAGO (AP) — Neighbors live five miles apart in northern Illinois' Boone County, but they come running when called.

The rare winter tornado that cut a 13-mile path of destruction Jan. 7, leveling houses and derailing a freight train, spared dairy farmer Brenda Kastning and her family. But its 140-mph winds ripped apart their barn, which held 16 calves.

It turned out the calves were fine — they had run off and were found unharmed — but the destroyed barn left Kastning with nowhere to put the part of the herd that lived in it.

A larger, second barn that survived the tornado had room for about 50 animals, but another 75 or more would get sick and die if they didn't have shelter by the time freezing temperatures returned.

Kastning's neighbors quickly brought over trailers and loaded up the cattle.

"They were on the phone to each other right away," Kastning said.

Three other dairy farmers volunteered to shelter many in the Kastnings' herd — no small commitment since some cows need to be milked and others are expected to calve between February and March.

"This isn't just bringing a casserole, although we've got dozens of casseroles in our freezer," Kastning said. "They've offered to help us for who-knows-how-many months."

Third-generation dairy farmer Brent Mueller is milking 16 of the Kastnings' cows, which meant first teaching them a different milking system. Mueller uses a milking parlor, in which the farmer stands in a recessed pit below the cows. The Kastnings' cows were accustomed to a stanchion barn, with farmer and cows on the same level.

"So far they've been adjusting very well," Mueller said.

Bob Donley, another third-generation dairy farmer, took in more than 50 dry cows and heifers.

"I had more than enough room for them," Donley said. Caring for the new animals adds about an hour to his already long day, and that's before calving. "Given the situation, you do what you got to do."

About half the animals are pregnant, and Donley must watch them carefully in case of complications.

Several county granges organized a work day to help the Kastnings clear debris. Volunteers will muck out calve pens, tear down a damaged corn crib and dismantle the mangled remains of out-buildings.

"That's kind of how everybody is around here," Mueller said. "If something goes bad, you don't want to face it alone. It's definitely good to have good neighbors."

# Famed cancer researcher dies

BOSTON (AP) — Dr. Judah Folkman, a groundbreaking cancer researcher whose work cured the disease in mice and gave hope for a cure in humans, has died. He was 74.

Children's Hospital Boston spokeswoman Elizabeth Andrews says Folkman died late Monday.

The cause of death wasn't immediately available.

Folkman was director of the vascular biology program at the hospital.

Folkman's research, which focused on cutting off the blood supply that cancer cells need to grow, cured mice of the disease.

That success could not be

carried over into humans, but his discoveries prompted pharmaceutical companies to pursue research in the area. Some drugs produced as a result of that research have succeeded in extending the lives of patients with advanced cancer.

# Apple's CEO Steve Jobs confirms iTunes movie rentals, iPhone upgrades

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple Inc. Chief Executive Steve Jobs confirmed the tech giant's foray into online movie rentals Tuesday, revealing an alliance with all six major movie studios to offer first-run films over high-speed Internet connections.

The announcement during the Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco capped months of speculation that an Apple movie rental service was in the offing. The service launched Tuesday in the United States and will roll out internationally later this year.

The Cupertino-based company will have more than 1,000 movies for online

rental through iTunes by the end of February, with prices of \$2.99 for older movies and \$3.99 for new releases. Users can watch instantly over a broadband Internet connection, or download and keep the movie for 30 days while having 24 hours to finish the movie once it's started.

Apple is partnering with 20th Century Fox, Warner Brothers, Walt Disney, Paramount, Universal and Sony.

Jobs also unveiled a string of new features for the iPhone, showing how users of the combination iPod-cell phone-Internet surfing device can now pinpoint their location on Web maps,

text-message multiple people at once and customize their home screens.

Jobs also said Apple has sold 4 million iPhones during their first 200 days on sale.

A packed auditorium cooed and applauded when Jobs demonstrated mapping upgrades to the iPhone. Other features rolling out Tuesday included the ability to switch around icons on the iPhones home screen. Users also can create up to nine home screens.

Jobs also unveiled new software for the iPod Touch music player. New models will have be able to process e-mail and perform new mapping functions.

# Dennis Quaid says LA hospital slow to tell him of twins' overdose

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dennis Quaid said staff at the prestigious Cedars-Sinai Medical Center misled him while his newborn twins were being treated there, telling him the children were "fine" even as doctors scrambled to reverse a blood thinning medicine overdose.

Quaid told the Los Angeles Times in an interview published Tuesday that he called the hospital the night of Nov. 18 and was assured that his children with his wife, Kimberly, were "fine."

But about two hours before that call, nurses had noticed his daughter oozing blood from an intravenous site on her arm and a spot on her heel, state records show. The Quaid

said no one notified them, and they feel betrayed and misled.

"Our kids could have been dying, and we wouldn't have been able to come down to the hospital to say goodbye," Quaid told the newspaper.

Hospital spokesman Richard Elbaum declined to address most of the Quaid's allegations directly.

"Throughout the course of their children's hospitalization and continuing today, we have reached out to the Quaid to discuss any concerns or questions they have," Elbaum said. "We would like to continue to discuss all of these and any other concerns directly with the Quaid to identify and resolve any

questions."

The Quaid's sued the makers of heparin last month, saying Baxter Healthcare Corp., based in Deerfield, Ill., was negligent in packaging different doses of the product in similar vials with blue backgrounds. Three patients, including the twins, received vials containing 10,000 units per milliliter of heparin instead of vials with a concentration of 10 units per milliliter.

Baxter spokeswoman Deborah Spak said last month the problem was "improper use of a product." In February, the company sent a letter warning health care workers to carefully read labels on the heparin packages.

**This Week: Ice Hockey**

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www.kidscoop.com

The Kid Scoop Poll: How do you like to enjoy hockey?

Take the poll on the KIDS page at www.kidscoop.com

**The Kid Scoop Puzzler**

**Icy Art** Can you redraw the pattern a skater left on the ice without crossing over any lines or removing your pencil from the page?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Hockey!

Swish, click, swoosh. Swish, click! Click! CLACK! "GOAL!"

These are the lively sounds of a hockey game!

Who were the first people to play hockey? No one knows for sure. But for many hundreds of years, kids have been sliding stones and other objects across ice with sticks and tree branches. Over the years, in different parts of Europe, a variety of games played on ice with sticks and sliding objects were created.

**WHACK!** A hockey puck slammed into the article about pucks, scattering the letters a, b and c. Can you put them all back where they belong?

Ho\_key pu\_ks weren't \_lw\_ys m\_de of \_l\_k ru\_er like they \_re tod\_y. The e\_rly pu\_ks were pro\_ \_ly \_lls\_ at other obje\_ts, su\_h\_s stones, lumps of \_o\_, or frozen \_ow or horse poop were \_lso used. Wooden pu\_ks were used for m\_ny ye\_rs. Mothers sometimes put hot \_ked pot\_toes into their \_hildren's sk\_ets so th\_t the sk\_ets would \_e\_ozy \_nd w\_rm when the \_hildren re\_hed the rink or pond. The pot\_toes were not thrown \_w\_y. They eventu\_ly froze and were used \_s pu\_ks. Although ru\_er w\_s invented in 1839, it w\_sn't until the \_e 1880s th\_t someone thought of m\_king ru\_er pu\_ks.

European settlers in Canada developed the game of hockey as we know it today. The first rules of the game were published in a

**PENSEWARP**  
Unscramble the answer!

Source: Backcheck: Hockey for Kids Library and Archives Canada

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

HOCKEY	S H L F T P O L C E
STICKS	K R S A R H U I K M
PUCKS	A O E E O O I C I A
ZAMBONI	T T S C O C Z N K G
PENCIL	E N K T Y T O E C S
INVENTOR	S E N U I B A P Y D
POTATOES	Y V I P M C I T Z N
COZY	S N R A S T K A O O
SKATES	N I Z L E Y S S C P
GAME	
RINK	
THIN	
FROZE	
POND	
COAL	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!**

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the eight errors you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the article.

**A Long Overtime**

A hockey game is usually plays in three 20-minute periods.

But in the 1936 Stanley Cup between the montreal Maroons and the detroit Red Wings, the score was tied at the end of the three periods. The game goed into overtime.

The teams battled for 116 minute and 30 seconds before Detroit's Modere "Mud" Bruneteau scored the won goal in a 1-0 victory.

---

**Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to edit written work.**

## The Zamboni® Ice Resurfacing Machine

Ice hockey players push off and skate in bursts of speed up to 30 miles per hour! These quick starts, stops and turns chew up the ice very quickly.

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**Extra! Extra! Hockey Words**

Look through today's newspaper for words that go with the game of hockey. The words can be nouns, verbs or adjectives. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing. Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

**FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY**

**Good Sports**

List characteristics of someone displaying good sportsmanship. Ask students to look in the newspaper for a picture of an athlete demonstrating good sportsmanship and explain why they chose that picture.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the elements of socially acceptable conflict resolution in physical activity settings.

---

**Write On!**

**Hockey Happiness**

Write an alliteration about ice hockey. Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words. Example: *Awesome ants always agitate!*

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: OBJECT**

One meaning of the noun object is any solid thing that can be seen or touched.

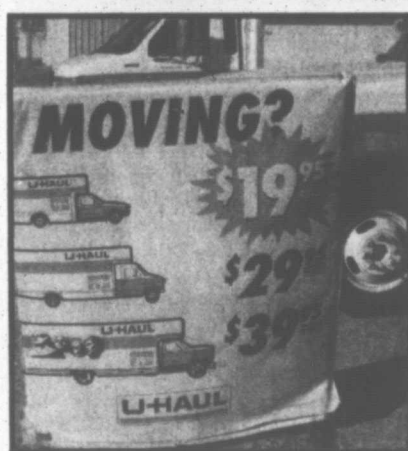
Sally looked for an object to slide across the ice.

Try to use the word object in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

# BUSINESS REVIEW



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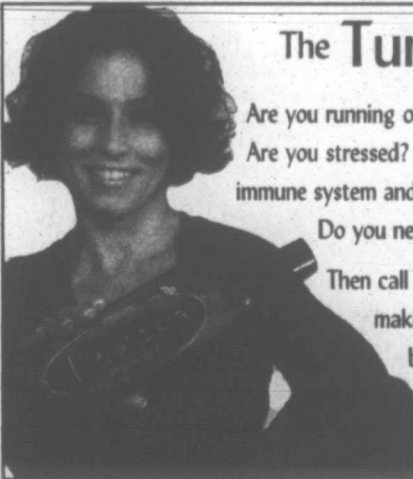
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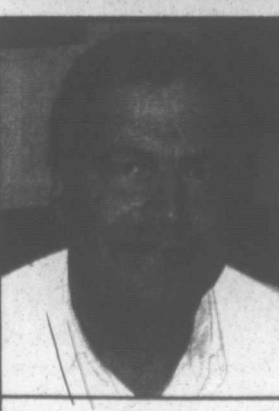
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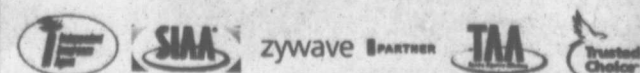


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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Please advise "Has Issues in New Hampshire" (Dec. 5) to speak up now. My husband and I were married when my daughter was 8. He adopted her, but even after that, when his family took photographs, she was excluded. She's now 29 and still remembers those hurtful occasions when she was not included. Ironically, the sister who did it every year is now married and has an adopted son, so things have changed. But I deeply regret not saying something years ago because it affected the way my daughter feels about her aunt. — **WISER NOW, FARWELL, MICH.**

**DEAR WISER NOW:** While most readers agreed that what the unofficial family photographer did was wrong, in fairness, not everyone did. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** I see nothing wrong with taking photos of various family groups. Both my family and my husband's do it. We take pictures of everyone -- just the siblings; the parents and children; the parents, children and spouses; all the grandchildren; etc. "Marian" took pictures that included all the children, so stop whining. — **NINE IN PLEASANT GAP, PA.**

**DEAR ABBY:** "Marian" is the one who should be excluded, for her stupidity. Our family is comprised of several blended families. We never use the words "step" or "half" -- ever. It is always "my sister," "my brother," "my mother," "my father." When a sister died suddenly at 47, we all grieved. When another was brutally murdered at 41, we all grieved. Both times, all the sisters approached to place a rose into the casket to honor our beloved sibling. Each time I turned around I saw my beloved "blended" family grieving as one. My advice to "Marian" would be to buy a camera with a really wide-angle lens and leave nobody out. — **ELIZABETH IN WOODVILLE, TEXAS**

**DEAR ABBY:** The letter about the stepmom who insists on taking a yearly photograph of "blood" family members only made me chuckle. Years ago, when our daughter was 6 weeks old (her brother was almost 2), we made the four-hour drive to attend my husband's family reunion. The baby screamed the whole last half-hour of the ride. I nursed her as soon as we arrived and handed her off to a cousin so I could eat. Before I could finish, we were "summoned" to the back yard, where several aunts were taking family pictures. I decided they would just have to do without our sleeping daughter. My husband and I posed with our son, but before we could get away, the cousin ratted us out. The baby, now screaming again, was presented to be added to the picture. The ladies were annoyed that they'd "wasted a shot," but aimed their cameras again. Afterward, I looked down and was horrified to see our son had been picking his nose. So our branch of the family was recorded with a screaming infant, a daughter-in-law who was angry enough to chew broken glass, and a 2-year-old with both index fingers buried in his nose. — **DEL IN MOBILE, ALA.**

**DEAR ABBY:** Out of my parents' six grandchildren, only two are biological; however, my parents make no distinction. "Marian" needs to be reminded that family is family. As far as our family is concerned, the "bonus children" are just as much "Calhouns" as the other grandkids. One of my favorite quotes is by Goldie Nash, who said, "Blood may be thicker than water, but love is thicker than blood." — **BRENDA Z., STAUNTON, VA.**

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



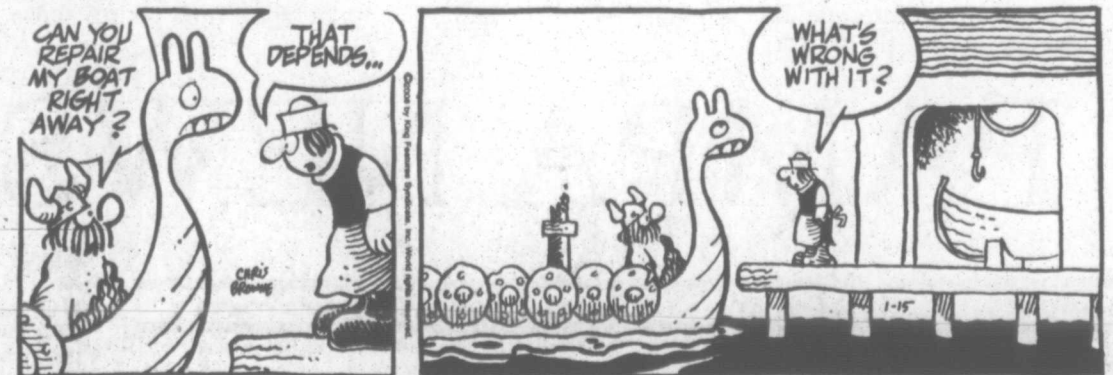
## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



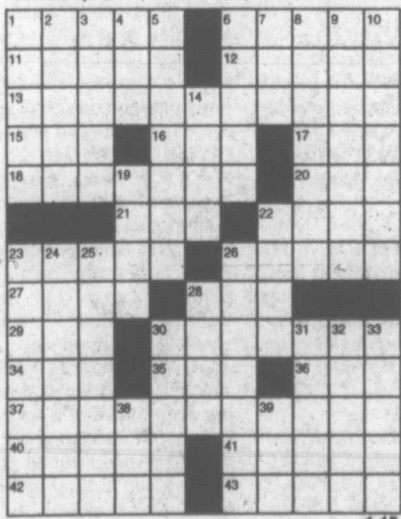
## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hard to see
  - 6 Number unit
  - 11 "Lou Grant" star
  - 12 Massey of TV
  - 13 1948 Ray Milland movie
  - 15 That woman
  - 16 Neckline shape
  - 17 Scottish river
  - 18 Patriotic tunes
  - 20 B & B
  - 21 "— a deal!"
  - 22 Cuban coin
  - 23 Coarse files
  - 26 Out of bed
  - 27 Aphrodite's love
  - 28 Hair goo
  - 29 Receipt line
  - 30 Most honorable
  - 34 Drama division
  - 35 United
  - 36 Cattle call?
  - 37 1983 Kevin Kline movie
- DOWN**
- 1 Nickname for Earl Hines
  - 2 Pallid
  - 3 Sluggish
  - 4 S. Dak. neighbor
  - 5 Hot dishes support
  - 6 Chops up
  - 7 Under the weather
  - 8 Treats
  - 9 Fragrant smoke
  - 10 Hired
  - 14 Sparklers
  - 19 Where some jeans hug
  - 22 Pharmacy unit
  - 23 Jack-hammer
  - 24 Weaver of myth
  - 25 Singing groups
  - 26 Oscar-winning
  - 19 Where Hitchcock film
  - 28 Big ringer
  - 30 Loud
  - 31 Post of politeness
  - 32 Figure out
  - 33 Apartment window sign
  - 38 Wager
  - 39 Owns

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## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



## Flo & Friends



# Sports



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN  
Pampa's Cobran Harris (22) jumps for a shot over a Palo Duro defender during Friday's game. Also pictured here is teammate Garrett Eggleston (40).

## Delving into Mitchell Report, Congress asks Justice Dept. to investigate whether Tejada lied

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress began its public examination of the Mitchell Report into baseball's steroids era by calling Tuesday for the Justice Department to look into whether former AL MVP Miguel Tejada lied to committee staffers when questioned in connection to the Rafael Palmeiro perjury case in 2005.

At a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing in the same, wood-paneled room where Palmeiro, Mark McGwire and others testified three years ago, congressmen mixed criticism of baseball and its players with praise for commissioner Bud Selig and union leader Donald Fehr for progress on the sport's drug-testing program.

"The illegal use of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs was pervasive for more than a decade, Major League Baseball was slow and ineffective in responding to the scandal, and the use of human growth hormone has been rising," said committee chairman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat.

"The Mitchell Report also makes it clear that everyone in baseball is responsible: the owners, the commissioner, the union and the players."

After standing and raising his right hand to be sworn in, former Senate majority leader George Mitchell outlined his inquiry in broad strokes during a two-hour appearance.

"Now it's up to the commissioner, the clubs, and the players to decide how they will proceed," said Mitchell, a director of the Boston Red Sox.

It took more than 1 1/2 hours for the first mention of Roger Clemens, the star pitcher who figures prominently in the Mitchell Report and is scheduled to testify before the committee on Feb. 13, along with his former trainer, Brian McNamee. It was McNamee who told Mitchell that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone, charges Clemens repeatedly has denied.

"You continue to feel comfortable with Mr. McNamee's credibility?" Waxman asked.

"We believe that the statements provided to us were truthful," Mitchell said.

Lawmakers said they wanted to hear about further changes that could be on the way, including the Mitchell Report recommendations.

To that end, Selig vowed in his prepared statement to develop a program "to require top prospects for the major league draft to submit to drug testing before the (amateur) draft." He also reiterated his willingness to support use of a test for human growth hormone "when a valid, commercially available and practical test for HGH becomes reality, regardless of whether the test is based on blood or urine." The union has said in the past it would agree to a urine test, but it has not committed to a blood test.

## Harvesters, Lady Harvesters to welcome Hereford tonight

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvesters started off slow last week in their district opener against the Palo Duro Dons, but they have a chance to cancel out the loss tonight as they welcome the Hereford Whitefaces to McNeely Fieldhouse in Pampa.

The Whitefaces also stand with a record of 0-1 in district after their 85-36 loss to the Randall Raiders Friday, which brought their overall record to 7-14.

Tonight, Pampa hopes to end their losing streak and put Hereford behind in District 3-4A with a 0-2 record.

The Lady Harvesters are also coming into tonight's game off of a loss to Palo Duro, but the Lady Whitefaces also suffered a loss Friday to the Randall Lady Raiders, and currently stand with a record of 1-2 in district and 12-9 overall.

Pampa hopes to improve their district record to 2-2 tonight with a win.

The Lady Harvesters will hit the court at 6 p.m. today at McNeely Field House, and the varsity boys will follow at 7:30.

The JV boys will play at 6 p.m. at the MPAC gymnasium and the JV girls will follow them at 7:30.

## Salmons, Martin lead Kings past Mavericks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — After missing nearly six weeks with a groin injury, Kevin Martin still thinks he needs more time to get back up to speed. It's hard to imagine him playing much better than he did in his second game back from the injury.

Martin scored 39 points in just under 28 minutes

and John Salmons hit a game-winning drive with 2.4 seconds remaining to help the Sacramento Kings snap the Dallas Mavericks' seven-game winning streak with a 122-120 victory Monday night.

"For me it's just basketball," Martin said. "I always felt like I could come back and play. It was

just a matter of where my wind was. I told coach, 'I can only give you 28 minutes a night right now.' He said, 'As long as they're good.'"

Those minutes were nearly perfect against the Mavericks, putting the Kings in position to win it at the end.

## Ginobili's late burst leads Spurs to 89-82 win over 76ers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — During a tight fourth quarter against the Philadelphia 76ers, Tim Duncan twice told San Antonio Spurs teammate Manu Ginobili to pass the ball.

One couldn't blame Duncan for his advice as Ginobili had gone 0-of-6 from the field through the

first three quarters of the game. Ginobili didn't listen to the Spurs' star center.

The Spurs' super sub hit four 3-pointers in the period, his only field goals of the entire game, to lead the Spurs to an 89-82 victory over the 76ers Monday night.

"I think I was talking in the middle of his shots ... two of his shots, telling him to swing the ball," Duncan said. "And he's firing away anyway, and they go down for him. So he felt it. And he gets one to go down, he gets two to go down. All of a sudden he's on a hot streak and you want him taking those

shots." Ginobili scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, highlighted by the two pairs of consecutive 3s.

"I heard him," Ginobili said of Duncan's counsel. "But I told him that I was feeling good and I was going to take them."

"He never listens to me,"

Duncan joked. Duncan added 18 points and 16 rebounds and Michael Finley and Tony Parker scored 14 points apiece to give the Spurs their second straight win.

Willie Green led Philadelphia with 21 points and Andre Iguodala scored 19. Samuel Dalembert added

12 points and 20 rebounds for the skidding 76ers, who have lost seven straight.

"We played good basketball up until the last couple of minutes," said Philadelphia guard Andre Miller, who sat out the entire second quarter after getting poked in the eye in the first.

# PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008:

Many opportunities will land on your plate this year. Stay centered knowing your limits and restrictions, and choose what works for you. You'll be successful with what you focus on. Inner creativity and a desire to accomplish as much as possible merge, creating a strong centering. You enter a new luck cycle this year. If you are single, by your next birthday a very interesting person will have entered your life. Deciding if this person is right for the long term is the call. If you are attached, your sweetie loves fun and romance. Infuse even more into your relationship. TAURUS adds to your zest for life.

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)

\*\*\* Making money can happen if you choose the right opportunity. Listen and think before you commit. You cannot investigate your options too much. Sometimes a holding pattern works best. Given time, you might see a situation a lot differently. Tonight: Gather your bills. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* Your smile is a sure-bet winner. If you want to experiment with a new approach, now is the time. Don't expect everyone to agree with you, and you won't be disappointed. Universal agreement might be difficult to achieve today, which is even more important. Tonight: The only answer is yes. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\* Slow down and understand what makes a situation work. If you feel that some information is being withheld,

wait. Give others time to reveal their true colors. Success comes from working with authenticity. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\* Zero in on what is important. Your way of handling a problem might not be another's fashion. The end results are what count. Step back and look at exactly that. Confusion might surround your plans. Tonight: Happy where the crowds are. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Dance to another's tune. Be willing to answer to someone you look up to. Don't think it means anything about your ability; someone else's position has to do with his or her history and perspective. Tonight: You shoulder even more responsibility.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Take an overview and understand what might be happening with different parties or about a key question. If you're feeling insecure, stop and get more information. The more you know, the better your decisions will be. Tonight: Investigate rather than judge. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\* Defer to a partner. Get to the bottom of a situation and discuss solutions. Creativity comes out when brainstorming. You'll understand much more when opening up conversations. Togetherness works for you. Tonight: Talk up a storm. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Defer to someone you care about. Your vision points in a new direction. Creativity swarms around relating. Network, return calls and speak your mind. The end results will be dynamic if you team up with another person. Go with the flow. Tonight: Say yes to another's request.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\* Dive into work and accomplish more, if possible. Touch base with your priorities. You will not make a mistake. Evaluate how much you are willing to put into a project. How you see an evolving situation could change. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Your perspective changes dynamically. If you choose to work well with associates, you'll gain. You find paths that work. Often, others back off when hitting an obstacle. You are the mountain goat that keeps climbing. Remember that! Tonight: Put some spunk into your step. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\* Restraining yourself from revealing every detail of a project or plan could be tough. Listen to news that heads your way. You might not be getting the whole story. Keep asking questions. Stick to facts as opposed to assumptions. Tonight: Your home is your castle. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* Your words have impact. Others will listen and adjust ideas or plans. You might need to deal with quite a few people, many different moods and sometimes confusion. Stay centered, and none of these quick changes will affect you. Tonight: Out and about.

### BORN TODAY

Author Dr. Laura Schlessinger (1947), dancer, actress Debbie Allen (1950), singer Ethel Merman (1908)

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

**1-15 CRYPTOQUOTE**

S F D G B T D Y P D L W Q  
S C D Q P F D C L O G N Q Y B G S L  
V D W D Q C D A D Z D Y N L C D  
S F Q Y F B G R L C A G . — H C D D M  
U C L Z D C V  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HATE THE POLLYANNA PEST WHO SAYS ALL IS FOR THE BEST. — FRANKLIN P. ADAMS

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UFO SIGHTING

# Rural Texas town abuzz over dozens of UFO sightings

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP) — In this farming community where nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

*Locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane.*

"People wonder what in the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it's the end of times," said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. "It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts."

While federal officials insist there's a logical explanation, locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said the object's lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane. People in several towns who reported seeing it over several weeks have offered similar descriptions of the object.

Machinist Ricky Sorrells said friends made fun of him when he told them he saw a flat, metallic object hovering about 300 feet over a pasture behind his Dublin home. But he decided to come forward after reading similar accounts in the Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

"You hear about big bass or big buck in the area, but this is a different deal," Sorrells said. "It feels good to hear that other people saw something, because

that means I'm not crazy." Sorrells said he has seen the object several times. He said he watched it through his rifle's telescopic lens and described it as very large and without seams, nuts or bolts.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were in the area the night of Jan. 8, when most people reported the sighting.

Lewis said the object may have been an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes. Lights from the aircraft would seem unusually bright and may appear orange from the setting sun.

"I'm 90 percent sure this was an airliner," Lewis said. "With the sun's angle, it can play tricks on you."

Officials at the region's two Air Force bases — Dyess in Abilene and Sheppard in Wichita Falls — also said none of their aircraft were in the area last week. The Air Force no longer investigates UFOs.

One man has offered a reward for a photograph or videotape of the mysterious object.

About 200 UFO sightings are reported each month, mostly in California, Colorado and Texas, according to the Mutual UFO Network, which plans to go to the 17,000-resident town of Stephenville to investigate.

Fourteen percent of Americans polled last year by The Associated Press and Ipsos say they have seen a UFO.

Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan said that he first saw red glowing lights and then white flashing lights moving fast, but that even with binoculars could not see the object to which the lights were attached.

"I didn't see a flying saucer and I don't know what it was, but it wasn't an airplane, and I've never seen anything like it," Gaitan said.

# New berry packs healthy wallop

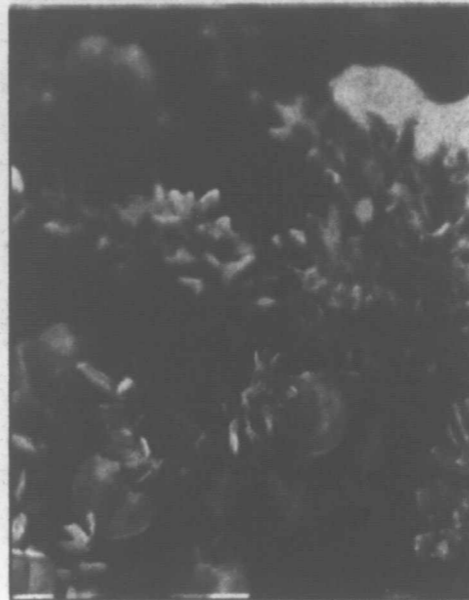
By Rosalie Marlon Bliss  
USDA News

Juice drinks, saucy relishes and dried fruit products may one day boast a new cranberry variety with a readily absorbable dose of healthful antioxidants. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and colleagues are using traditional breeding methods to suit up a wholesome new cranberry line with just such a genetic trait.

Plant pathologist James J. Polashock, with the ARS Genetic Improvement of Fruits and Vegetables Laboratory, and Nicholi Vorsa, with the Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension at Rutgers University, are collaborating on the project. Both scientists are located at the center in Chatsworth, N.J.

Since brightening up the first Thanksgiving celebration nearly 400 years ago, the typical American cranberry variety has only recently been bred to develop hybrids. The team found an attractive cranberry species from Alaska that is genetically similar enough to the American cranberry to produce fertile progeny.

The Alaskan species is also attractive



Courtesy photo by KEITH WELLER

**Cranberries vary in antioxidant bioavailability based on the sugars their anthocyanins are bound to.**

because some of the fruit's many healthful chemical compounds — called anthocyanins — are glucose-linked. In nature, most anthocyanins are bound to

sugars. Those that are bound to glucose sugar are relatively high in antioxidant capacity and are well absorbed in the human gut. In contrast, the anthocyanins found in the American cranberry are mainly bound to other kinds of sugars, so they are less easily absorbed.

The researchers found that, compared to the typical American cranberry's anthocyanins, which are 3 to 5 percent glucose-linked, the anthocyanins in hybrids from the first breeding cross were 50 percent glucose-linked.

The progeny of these crosses deliver two benefits: the proanthocyanidins long known for inhibiting bacterial E. coli from sticking to the lining of the urinary tract, and higher amounts of the potentially well-absorbed antioxidative anthocyanins, according to Polashock. The next step is to move the traits for glucose-linked anthocyanins from the experimental cranberry line into a horticulturally acceptable variety that can be used by growers for market.

Read more about this research in the January 2008 issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.



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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Richard Davila

## Business: Citigroup down in 4th quarter

NEW YORK (AP) — Citigroup Inc. lost almost \$10 billion in last year's final three months, the largest quarterly deficit in the bank's 196-year history, and slashed its dividend as it recorded a mammoth write-down for bad bets on the mortgage industry.

The nation's largest bank wrote down the value of its portfolio by \$18.1 billion. It also boosted loan-loss reserves by \$4.1 billion, signaling further problems in its consumer businesses as deflated home prices, high energy and food costs, and rising unemployment weigh on people's ability to make their loan payments.

To bolster its capital, the bank also said Tuesday it has lined up \$12.5 billion in new investments from sovereign wealth funds and existing shareholders.

That includes \$6.88 billion from the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. for a 4 percent stake. Other investors were Capital Research Global Investors, Capital World Investors, the Kuwait Investment Authority, the New Jersey Division of Investment, shareholder Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of

Saudi Arabia and former chief executive Sanford Weill and his family foundation.

The \$12.5 billion in fresh equity adds to the \$7.5 billion that Citi got in November from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority in exchange for a 4.9 percent stake in the company.

Citigroup's shares, which were trading around \$55 a year ago, fell 70 cents to \$28.36 in premarket trading on Tuesday.

The financial services company made no mention in its earnings report about job cuts beyond the 17,000 announced in the spring, a disappointment to some investors who were looking for a big downsizing. That means Chief Executive Vikram Pandit, who replaced Charles Prince in December, hasn't yet decided whether any of the global bank's core operations need to be cut or sold.

Pandit, calling the fourth-quarter results "clearly unacceptable," said in a statement Tuesday that "in an uncertain environment, these actions put us on our front foot," focused on capturing opportunities that earn attractive returns for our shareholders."

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