

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 46  
LOW 24

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Catered by The Texas Rose Steakhouse.  
Tickets are \$25 (not sold at the door)

## Early morning house fire results in fatality

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

A Pampa woman died early today at her home when she succumbed to the effects of a fire which was reported at 4:18 a.m. to Pampa emergency communications.

Connie Faye Pipkin, 91, of 1032 Charles was pronounced dead at the scene at 5:09 a.m. by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman. There was no one else in the home at the time of the fire, said Curfman and Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell.

"Firefighters smelled smoke when they arrived, and upon entering the residence, they found the victim already deceased," Powell said.

An autopsy has been ordered by Curfman. The state fire marshal arrived in Pampa at around 11 a.m. today to investigate the fatal fire.

Four PFD units and 10 personnel responded to the scene at the time of the emergency call, along with other emergency service agencies including Guardian Ambulance EMS Service.



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH  
**One person died in an early morning fire at this house, 1032 Charles. State investigators are still investigating the cause of the fire.**

## School board hears reports on construction, TAKS

By **KERRI SMITH**  
Managing Editor

School board members discussed the 2008-2009 school calendar and heard reports on construction at the high school and TAKS trends for Pampa schools at a regular meeting held Thursday evening.

Representatives from all of the school campuses have been meeting with the superintendent to work on two calendar drafts for the 2008-2009 school year. According to Superintendent Barry Haenisch, over 200 teachers and administrators have had input on the calendar.

"The calendar draft that is before the board tonight was the one that 79 percent of those involved preferred," Haenisch said. "This calendar has the first day of classes on Aug. 25 and the last day on May 29. The only downfall with this calendar

is there are no holidays from Sept. 1 through Thanksgiving, but if we add in any holidays then the classes will have to continue into June."

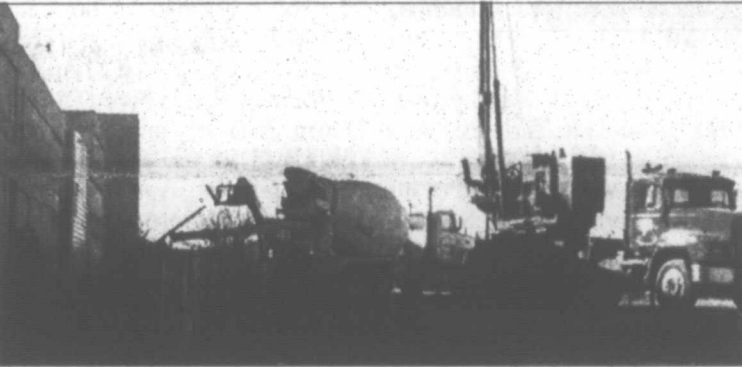
Board member Mark McVay said the only problem he has with this calendar is the snow day that has been

lot of families," McVay said. "Many families, including my own, make plans to do things together on that weekend. I think a different day should be picked as a snow day."

The board will consider this calendar again at a later date and there will be a chance for the public to have input before the calendar is voted on.

during this process. Their attitudes have been great. At the Feb. 7 construction meeting, the board will be reviewing approximately \$13 million in proposals for work to begin on the high school.

"Western Builders took bids last week from subcontractors from around the area and they were pleased with the preliminary figures that have been coming in. Soon, we should also have roofing contractors coming to discuss roofing at Lamar and Travis Elementaries."



**Pouring piers at Pampa High School**

Randy Stephenson gave a report on how construction and renovations are going at Pampa High School.

"Most of the pier holes have been drilled, but workers still have a few to complete," Stephenson said. "I think the high school teachers should be commended on how well they are putting up with the noise

Board members heard a report from administrators on the correlation between TAKS passage or failure and the end of course passage or failure. An example of figures

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3

## Vehicle chase leads to arrest of two Pampanos for drugs

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

Parking in the middle of the road resulted in the arrest of the driver and his passenger Thursday evening after they were spotted by Gray County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Douglas.

Douglas saw the vehicle at about 8:30 p.m. just west of Price Road on Kentucky Avenue. When he approached, the vehicle began to move west on Kentucky, still in the

middle of the road, said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoad.

"Douglas followed and the vehicle evaded," Hoad said. By this time, Douglas had turned on his flashing lights and was attempting to stop the vehicle. The driver was throwing things out of the window during the pursuit, according to GCSO reports.

"The chase started at Plum Street and Kentucky, and ended just past

See **DRUGS**, Page 3

### CHARITY

## United Way to make changes to by-laws

By **KERRI SMITH**  
Managing Editor

Pampa United Way will have an annual meeting and awards luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Jan. 29 in the large meeting room of the Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. This is a catered luncheon by Rustler's from White Deer and reservations are required by Jan. 22, and can be made by calling Katrina Bigham at the United Way office at 669-1001.

During the meeting, companies and individual contributors will be recognized. Also, the United Way will vote on a change to their By-Laws. The changes to the By-Laws are:

Article V, Section 1 - The

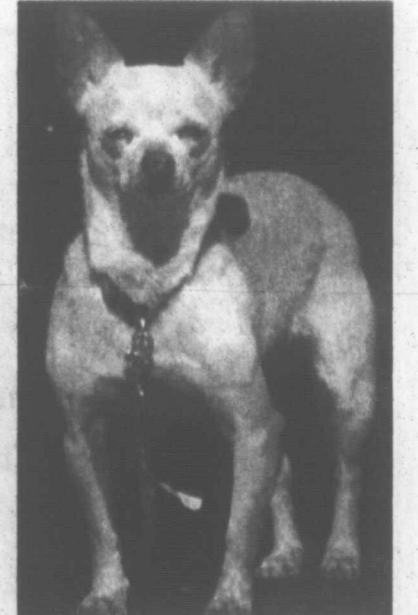
management and administration of the affairs of this organization shall be in and by a Board of Directors consisting of a minimum of 15 elected members to 21 of whom shall be elected each year to a term of 3 years, at the annual meeting of the members. The chairperson of the constitutional committees who are not already serving on the Board of Directors shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors in addition to the 15-21 members provided for above.

Article X, Section 2 - A quorum for any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of at least eight of the voting members of the board.


### Guard dog

Pampa News photo by **MARILYN POWERS**

**This small dog keeps guard over his home while soaking up some sunshine before the latest cold front arrived. Pet owners should monitor pets during periods of dangerous wind chills, such as those in recent days. Arctic air which has since invaded the Pampa area is expected to retreat Sunday, when sunny skies and a high of 53 are forecast.**



**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. Wind chill values between 9 and 19 early. North-northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west-southwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 12 and 22. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. West-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. West-southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. Northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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**Gerold E. Huckins, 78**

Gerold E. Huckins, 78, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 16, 2008, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Casey Stafford, Mr. Huckins' grandson, officiating.

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

Mr. Huckins was born Oct. 29, 1929, in Hutchinson County. He

married Naomi Joy Bigham on July 12, 1950, in Sidney, Neb. He had been a resident of Pampa for 23 years.

Gerold worked for Skelly Oil as an oilfield mechanic, retiring from Texaco in 1990. He was a member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his wife, Naomi Joy Huckins, of the home; two daughters, Emily Smith of Galveston and Donna Rowland of Woodland Park, Colo.; four grandchildren, Kevin Enger of Charlotte, N.C., Casey Stafford of College Station, Tracy Smith and Amanda Smith, both of Galveston; one great-grandson, Kyle Reece Enger of Charlotte, N.C.; one brother, Norvel G. Huckins of Skellytown; and one sister, Barbara Snodgrass of Duncan, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cleon G. and Gertrude Huckins; two brothers, E.T. "Jack" Houston and Sam Houston; and one sister, Brooksye Boughan.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

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**Obituaries**

**Services tomorrow**

**ELLIS, Jon Clyde** — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Frisco Bible Church, Frisco.  
**HAWKINS, James E. "Jim"** — 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Mausoleum, Pampa.  
**HUCKINS, Gerold E.** — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

**Effie Viola Crow, 82**

Effie Viola Crow, 82, of Pampa, died Jan. 17, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**James E. 'Jim' Hawkins, 71**

James E. 'Jim' Hawkins, 71, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 17, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, of the Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Hawkins was born June 6, 1936, in Big Spring. He was reared in Pampa, graduating from Pampa

High School in 1955. He married Jan Smithhisler on June 30, 1955, in Pampa.

Jim was employed by Harbison-Fischer Manufacturing Company for 40 years in Farmington, N.M., Casper, Wyo., and Odessa, Texas, as district manager. He retired in 1995 and returned to Pampa in



Hawkins

1996. Jim enjoyed spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Jan Hawkins, of the home; two daughters, Debbie Alcaraz of Pampa and Judy Hawkins, of the home; one sister, Robbie

Lynch of Alvord; one grandson, Lino Alcaraz of Pampa; and numerous nieces and

nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Coleta Bretthauer and Billie Vickery Porterfield.

MEMORIALS: Highland Baptist Church Building Fund, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065, or the American Heart Association, 6605 I-40 West, Suite A-6, Amarillo, TX 79106.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Gerry Ned Ingram, 60**

MIAMI, Texas — Gerry Ned Ingram, 60, of Miami, Texas, died Jan. 15, 2008, in Gray County, Texas.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, at the First Christian Church in Pampa with the Rev. Barry A. Loving, pastor, and Pastor Kenneth W. Tidmore, of the First United Methodist Church of Springer, N.M., officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Ingram was born June 18, 1947, in Pampa, to George and Viola Ingram. He grew up farming and ranching east of Pampa.

Gerry was a 1965 graduate of Pampa High School, and also graduated from West Texas State University

and Oklahoma State University. He married Yvonne Danford on May 14, 1966.

She preceded him in death on Aug. 17, 2005.

Gerry started his own farm and ranch east of Pampa in 1971, working up until the time of his death. He had been a resident of Miami since 1997 and was a member of both First Christian Church of Pampa and First Christian Church of Miami.

Gerry was involved in the Farm Bureau, supporter of both the Miami and Pampa Stock Shows, ASCS Board, and many more organizations.

He enjoyed his grandchild-



Ingram

dren, camping in the mountains, taking photos, working the land, caring for his cattle and horses, being with his family and friends, and he was always willing to help a neighbor in need.

His family expresses their deep gratitude to Miami and surrounding communities for their loving care and concern.

Survivors include two daughters, DeAnn Bivins and husband Reeves of Pampa, and Denise Howard and husband Scott of McLean; his parents, George and Viola Ingram of Pampa; one brother, Larry Ingram of Pampa; five grandchildren

(who called him "Dado"), Jerrod Bivins, Kristin Bivins and Jeramie Bivins, all of Pampa, and Suzanne Howard and Bradley Howard, both of McLean; nieces and nephews (who called him "Uncle Ned"), Brandi Yee of Hawaii, Geordan Montalvo and Larie Pidgeon, both of New York, Christian Ingram of Colorado and Kevin Danford of Amarillo; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and a host of good friends and relatives.

MEMORIALS: First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065, First Christian Church, 201 Tascosa St., Miami, TX 79059, or a favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Kevin Dale Taylor, 48**

Kevin Dale Taylor, 48, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 17, 2008, at Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Taylor was born Jan. 15, 1960, in Pampa where he had been a resident most of his life. He married Denise

in 1996. Kevin was a member of Highland Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Denise Taylor, of the home; three daughters, Sydney Taylor, of the home, Kendra Myers and husband Calvin of Pampa, and Chelsea Luster of Arlington;

two sons, Jeffrey Taylor and wife Amanda and Jason Taylor, all of Amarillo; father, Eugene Taylor of Pampa; one sister, Janet Tomme and husband Mike of Amarillo; two brothers, Steve Taylor of Pampa, and Keith Taylor and wife Beverly of Howardwick; and

three grandchildren, Madison Bolch and Evan Meyers, both of Pampa, and Kayson Taylor of Amarillo.

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

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Emergency Services**

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

Eighteen traffic stops were made. Stops at the intersection of Tuke and Russell streets, the 1400 block of North Russell and the intersection of Hobart and Wilks streets resulted in arrests.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Barnes and Frederic streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Hobart and Foster streets, the 2100 block of Duncan and the 2200 block of Williston.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 200 block of West 28th, the 800 block of Locust, the 1000 block of Neel Road and the 1800 block of Hamilton.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Kentucky Avenue and County Road 4.

Found property was reported at the intersection of Foster and Hobart streets. A suspicious person call was received from the 800 block of East Kingsmill.

A prowler was reported in the 1800 block of Holly.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 300 block of North Christy.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of West Buckler and the 800 block of North Nelson.

Telephone harassment was reported in the police department lobby.

Sexual assault was reported in the 300 block of North Ballard.

One alarm was reported. Theft of service was reported in the 800 block of South Sumner. City water valued at \$49.99 was taken.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road. Miscellaneous elec-

tronics, furniture, food and pictures were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$30,000.

Burglary was reported in the 1500 block of North Christy. Three rings with a combined estimated value of \$1,055 were taken.

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

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
 Amy Jo Brassfield, 25, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for fraudulent possession of identifying information, parent contributing to non-attendance and failure to appear.

Edward Holt, 56, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on bond surrenders for assaulting a public servant and five counts of theft.

Phounce Khotsaengsy, 36, of Fresno, Calif., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of 50 or more pounds but less than 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

Sadavong Phimmason, 38, of Fresno, Calif., was arrested by DPS for possession of 50 or more pounds but less than 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
 Matt Maul, 36, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for evading arrest/detention with a vehicle, possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and tampering/fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair an investigation.

Stephanie Thomas, 26, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance.

Manuel Chavira, 29, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of West Tuke by Pampa Police Department for no valid driver's license.

Justin Sealman, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 1400 block of North

Russell by PPD for no valid driver's license.

Jose Rodriguez, 36, of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of South Hobart by PPD for no valid driver's license and no seat belt.

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

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
 8:04 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 800 block of North Nelson on an odor investigation.

8:51 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Crane on a call for medical assistance.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
 4:18 a.m. — Four units and 10 personnel responded to the 1000 block of Charles on a structure fire. One fatality was reported at this incident.

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

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
 8:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Anne and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

6:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Hamilton. No transport.

8:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Crane Road. No transport.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
 4:09 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Jean. No transport.

4:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Charles. No transport.

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# What do you think?

Who do you hope gets the presidential nomination?



**Orval Farrar**  
Retired

"On the democratic side, I think John Edwards is the best choice. I don't think America is ready for a woman president right now. On the republican side, I think McCain would make the best president."



**Charles Owens**  
Wal-Mart maintenance

"On the republican side, I think McCain would be good, although he's kinda old. On the democratic side, I think Obama is a better choice than Hillary. I'd vote for Oprah before Hillary."



**Gary Smith**  
Wal-Mart Greeter

Gary - "I think McCain is the best choice because he is a highly decorated vet. I have a lot of respect for him."

**Clayton Lock**  
Retired Army

Clayton - "I like McCain or Huckabee, because I think we need more christians in office."



**Derrell DeLoach**  
Nurse Practitioner

"I think McCain is the best choice because he has impeccable integrity and he's the only one that is fit to be the commander in chief."



**Paul Nies**  
PJHS Principal

"I think Edwards is the best. I like him better than any of the candidates. I usually vote Republican, but I think he's the best bet right now."

## CHARGES DISMISSED

# Judge dismisses charges against Texas Supreme Court justice

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge Friday dismissed indictments handed up a day before against Texas Supreme Court Justice David Medina and his wife that accused them of burning down their suburban house in the midst of financial troubles last summer.

Medina was indicted Thursday on charges of evidence tampering. His wife, Francisca, was charged with arson in the June 28 blaze.

"There was not enough evidence at this time to go forward," Harris County assistant district attorney Vic Wisner said. "It shouldn't be construed as in any way absolving anybody of any crime or any indication that they will

not ultimately be brought to account for these offenses."

State District Judge Brian Rains dismissed all the charges on motions from the prosecutor's office at a brief hearing.

Wisner said the investigation was continuing.

"Our office, my colleagues, my supervisors, as well as the investigators in the Harris County Arson Bureau all feel that the case is best handled at this point in time in an investigatory stage rather than a prosecution stage," Wisner said. "Nothing more, nothing less."

But grand jury foreman Robert Ryan was riled and said the dismissal was politically motivated.

"The district attorney made it very clear to the members of the grand jury that if we handed up a true bill, it would be (dismissed) today," said Ryan, a veteran of five grand juries. "The gauntlet was thrown down by the DA to the grand jury."

Ryan said prosecutors' opposition to an indictment became apparent after Medina testified.

"It was the district attorney's office that brought the case to the grand jury, but midway through it, the tenor changed," he said.

Ryan disputed the contention by Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal that the evidence was insufficient.

The district attorney

did not attend any of the sessions. He did not hear one word of evidence. He's speculating," Ryan said.

The foreman said he would propose to other grand jury members that they reconvene next week and subpoena a half-dozen witnesses who weren't produced in the first session.

John Parras, an associate of Francisca Medina's lawyer, Dick DeGuerin, said the dismissal was not unusual and brushed aside any accusations of cronyism between Medina, a Republican appointed to the state's highest court in 2004 and elected in 2006, and Rosenthal, also a Republican.

# Couple leaves \$1.6M to friends, neighbors

LOWELL, Mich. (AP) — Farmer Willis Hatch and his schoolteacher wife, Arlene, lived simply but blissfully together for 57 years before dying in an auto accident in November.

Now, about 70 of their friends and neighbors are surprised to find themselves a collective \$1.6 million richer as the beneficiaries of the late couple's frugality and generosity.

The recipients of their generosity were bequeathed certificates of deposit ranging in value from \$5,000 to more than \$100,000. The couple's estate was valued at \$2.9 million and included the CDs, the farm and some stocks.

"Isn't that something?" said Sandra VanWeelden, 72, whose family, including three grown children, received about \$250,000 from the Hatches, who never had children of their own and lived into their early

90s. Before they retired, Willis — known to his friends as "Ish" — worked their 80-acre farm just south of Lowell, and Arlene taught at Lowell Middle School.

The couple went everywhere together: church services, community pancake breakfasts, school plays. They enjoyed winter trips to Brownsville, Texas, but allowed themselves few other luxuries.

"They was normal people, good people," Harry Erickson, 72, told The Grand Rapids Press for a story published Thursday. "And it didn't matter to them if you had one dollar or 10, they'd be your friend."

Judging by the amount of money they doled out, the couple had many friends, including fellow parishioners at Alto United Methodist Church, where many of the beneficiaries are members.

# Drugs

Continued from Page 1

County Road 4 on Kentucky, approximately two miles later," Hoard said.

Matthew Maul, 36, of

Pampa was taken into custody when the vehicle stopped. A bag of food which he had thrown out of the vehicle during the chase was recovered. At least one other bag was not found, Hoard said.

"Supposedly, it was marijuana, according to information we have," he said of the contents of the

bag. A search of Maul's vehicle yielded a controlled substance believed to be methamphetamine, according to GCSO reports. The passenger, Stephanie Thomas, 26, of Pampa was taken into custody as a result.

Both Maul and Thomas were charged with posses-

sion of less than one gram of a controlled substance. Maul was also charged with evading arrest/detention with a vehicle and tampering with physical evidence with intent to impair an investigation. They were booked into Gray County Jail at 8:55 p.m., according to jail records.

# School

Continued from Page 1

ures discussed is that 47 fifth grade students failed the science portion of the

TAKS tests, but passed their science course.

One reason given that this may be happening is that the tests are cumulative from the past few years of classes and many of the students may not retain some of the previous information. Most of the

numbers showed that students that failed a portion of the TAKS test did in fact pass the course.

The board also heard a report on school enrollment, which is up 55 students from this time last year. The totals for the schools are as follows:

Austin, 393; Lamar, 489 (which includes Pre-K and Head Start); Travis, 402; Wilson, 386; Pampa Learning Center, 46; Pampa Junior High School, 745; and Pampa High School, 968.

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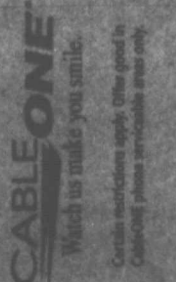
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# Viewpoints

## Abner and Little Sisters of the Poor minister to elderly

Gorman Johnston couldn't bear the thought of parting with his dog, Abner.

His story dates back to 1998. Gorman and his wife, Doris, took a drive to the country. They visited a farmer who'd bred a litter of Brittany spaniels.

Doris had been battling cancer for 11 years. She needed to get more exercise. Perhaps a dog would give her more incentive to take walks every day.

There were only three puppies left when they arrived. One ran to Doris and immediately made his affection known. Gorman and Doris knew right away they'd found their pup. Doris named him Abner after her childhood dog.

Abner produced the desired results — Doris took him for a long walk every morning. The two were soon inseparable. As she sat on the couch reading, Abner lay at her feet. As she lay in bed sleeping, Abner kept watch at the foot of her bed.

In January 2005, Doris' cancer finally caught up with her. The day she died, Gorman was so busy tending to the necessary arrangements, he didn't realize Abner was missing. He searched all over the house before he found him.

Abner was sitting on Doris' side of the bed, panting nervously.

Gorman did his best to carry on after Doris was gone, but it wasn't easy. They'd been married 53 years, after all. He missed her desperately. Thank goodness he still had Abner.

But his health began to deteriorate. He'd had heart issues for years, but he was so busy caring for Doris, he had no choice but to keep going. Without her, his heart weakened rapidly.

Gorman knew he couldn't take care of himself anymore, but he didn't know where to turn. He'd have to find a retirement home, but what to do with Abner?

Most homes don't allow pets. The thought of parting with Abner weighed heavily on Gorman's mind.

That's when Providence intervened. For nearly 20 years, Gorman had been a volunteer at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Pittsburgh, Pa. The home provides high-quality care and compassion to the elderly poor. The sisters there had cared for Gorman's mother in her last days. He began volunteering shortly after she died.

Gorman performed a variety of odd jobs over the years — whatever the sisters needed. In the process, he befriended many. Two good friends, Dan and Kitty Hilinski, began volunteering in 1994, after the sisters cared for Kitty's mother. Dan and Kitty were aware of Gorman's predicament. They had the perfect solution.

You see, after so many years of giving, Gorman was suddenly in a position in which he needed to receive. Just as he was no longer able to care for himself, a space opened up at the Little Sisters' residence. Gorman had found his home.

Abner did, too. Dan and Kitty adopted him. And because they spend four days volunteering every week, Abner visits Gorman plenty. In fact, Abner has become the house dog, bringing cheerfulness to many residents at the home.

Though there's no shortage of cheerfulness at the Little Sisters of the Poor. Since it was founded in France in 1839, its mission has been to give dignity and love to the elderly poor — to people of every background

and religion.

And, boy, do the sisters deliver.

Sister Regina took me on a tour of the residence. I was struck by the laughter and camaraderie on every floor — even in the infirmary, where people are near their end, the joy was abundant.

You can advance more joy. Instead of donating money to the latest trendy cause this year, why not improve the lives of elderly folks instead? The sisters get by without a dime in government handouts. They literally beg for food, clothing and funding to aid the residents in their care.

To offer your assistance, contact the sisters at [adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or 412-307-1268. Or, to find the Little Sisters residence nearest your town, go to [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org).

The next time you pass through Pittsburgh, be sure to pay a visit to the home. If you're lucky, Sister Regina will take you on a tour. You'll be moved by the grace and dignity you'll encounter.

Don't forget to bring a treat for Abner.

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

**Tom Purcell**  
Columnist



## Finite Earth: The perpetual growth myth

The Earth is finite. All of the natural resources on it are also finite. That means if we keep using these resources at the current rates, we will eventually move from more to less to none. That will be an evil day for the human race.

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



Perpetual growth is a myth. The belief that technology can overcome scarcity is a superstition. The belief that the growth of the human population is not a problem is an example of denial. The Earth has a finite carrying capacity. When we exceed that, very bad things begin to happen. There is probably even a tipping point beyond which recovery is impossible.

There is no medical cure for starvation, and all that is necessary for starvation to start killing people is for the price of food to rise beyond their means. Whenever there have been famines, there has always been food somewhere in the world. It just wasn't available or affordable to the people who were dying. Depending on altruism is putting your hopes in a leaky bucket.

Since human life absolutely depends on food and clean water, you would think that agriculture would receive more attention than it does. The past few administrations have seemed to think that subsidies to corporate agribusinesses are all that is necessary. But agriculture is a great deal more

complex than the buying and selling of commodities. There is the matter of preserving the land and its fertility. There is the matter of producing food that is uncontaminated by chemical pesticides

and herbicides. There is the matter of preserving access to water in the more arid areas. There is the matter of religious faith in free-market capitalism.

The value of the latter depends on what is meant by free-market capitalism. Private ownership by an occupant who works the land and intends to preserve it for his heirs is a great system. Private ownership by an absentee corporation that intends to extract the maximum amount of profits in the shortest possible time without regard for the future is a bad system. Business expansion financed by savings and retained earnings is good; business expansion financed by loans and highly leveraged financial schemes is not so good.

The theory that the selfish man working for his own profit "accidentally" creates benefits for others is much more limited than we are led to believe. To expect corporate executives to be good citizens and conservators is, with rare exceptions, to expect the highly unlikely. As an English clergyman once put it, the trouble with corporations is that they have neither a body to kick

nor a soul to damn.

All the pressure on the corporate executive is to make a profit and to boost the stock's value. The welfare of employees, who have been reduced to "human resources," is not a consideration. We are seeing more and more corporate executives willing to close their American plants and con-

tract out their manufacturing to cheap-labor countries.

This increases corporate profits, but it reduces the standard of living for Americans.

Private capitalists are notorious for demanding favors from communities in exchange for promises of jobs — promises that often are broken. They are equally

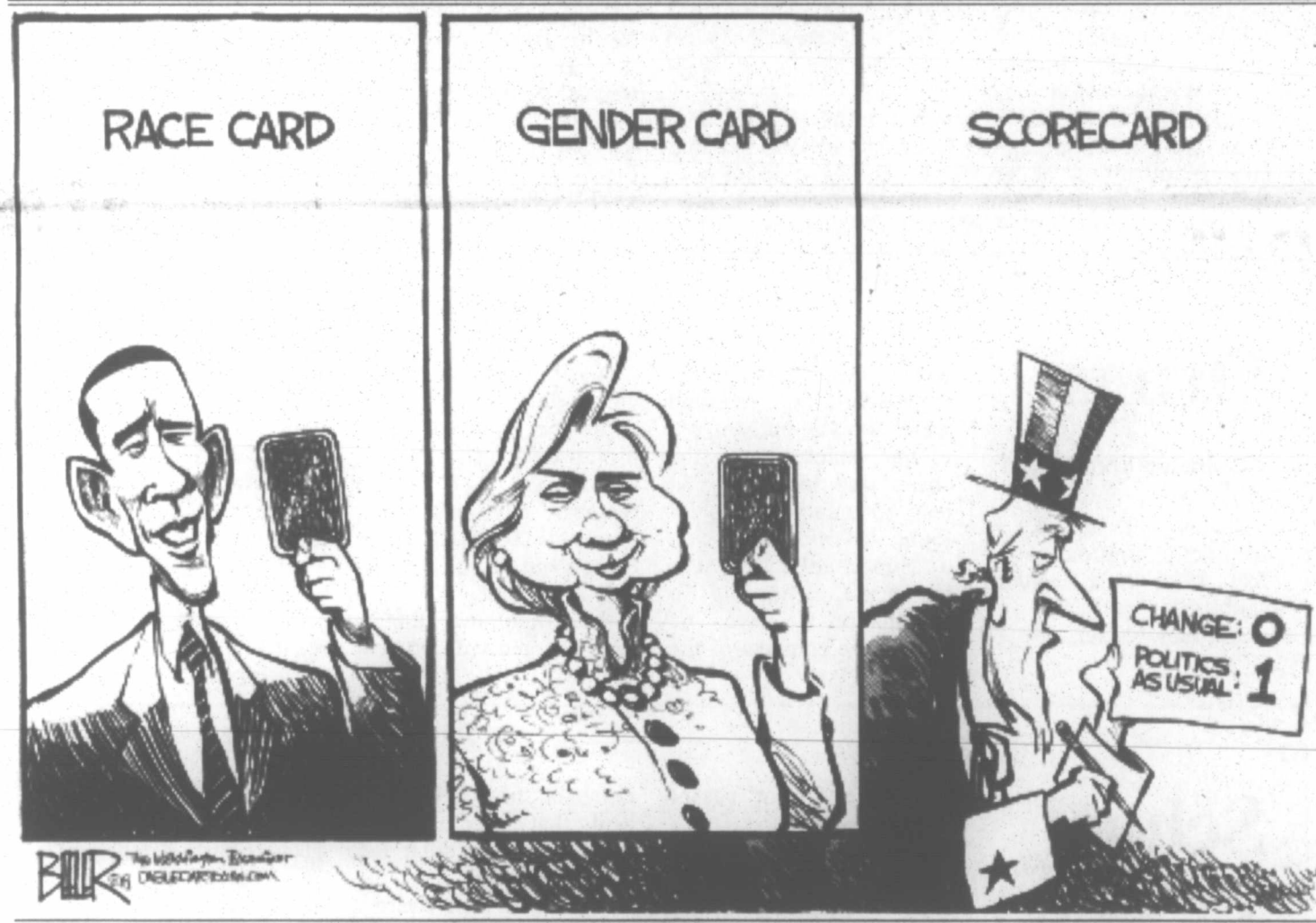
notorious about shifting their costs onto the public.

Substituting plastic and aluminum containers for reusable glass bottles is a prime example. Glass bottles were recycled by the manufacturer. Plastic and aluminum are recycled by the public or stored in public dumps.

Perhaps we should find

some biologists to run for public office rather than lawyers and businessmen. Both the House and the Senate could stand a little juicing up of its average IQ and knowledge base.

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



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2008. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
On Jan. 18, 1912, English explorer Robert F. Scott and his expedition reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had beaten them to it. (Scott and his party perished during the return trip.)

On this date:  
In 1778, English navigator Capt. James Cook reached the Hawaiian Islands, which he dubbed the "Sandwich Islands."  
In 1862, the 10th president of the United States, John Tyler, died in Richmond, Va., at age 71.

In 1871, William I of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor in Versailles, France.

In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference, held to negotiate peace treaties ending World War I, opened in Versailles, France.

In 1936, author Rudyard Kipling died in Burwash, England.

In 1943, a wartime ban on the sale of presliced bread in the U.S. — aimed at reducing bakeries' demand for metal replacement parts — went into effect.

In 1943, during World War II, the Soviets announced they

had broken through the long Nazi siege of Leningrad (it was another year before the siege was fully lifted).

In 1957, a trio of B-52's completed the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

In 1967, Albert DeSalvo, who claimed to be the "Boston Strangler," was convicted in Cambridge, Mass., of armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. (Sentenced to life, DeSalvo was killed in prison in 1973.)

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckley and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckley, of 52 child molestation charges.

Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II named 22 new cardinals, including Archbishop Francis Eugene George of Chicago and James Francis Stafford, the former archbishop of Denver. The motion picture "Titanic" won four Golden Globes, including best drama and best director for James Cameron; "Ally McBeal" beat out "Seinfeld" as the best TV comedy.

Five years ago: Top U.N. officials warned Iraq it was running out of time to cooperate and avoid war. Protesters nationwide and overseas demonstrated in opposition to possible war in Iraq.

Michelle Kwan won her sixth straight U.S. Figure Skating Championships title and seventh overall; Michael Weiss won his third U.S. men's title.

One year ago: Truck driver Tyrone Williams was spared the death penalty and sentenced in Houston to life in prison for his role in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a sweltering tractor-trailer. The heated controversy at ABC's top show, "Grey's Anatomy," boiled over as the network rebuked co-star Isaiah Washington for an anti-gay comment and Washington issued a lengthy apology.

### THE PAMPA NEWS

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# Religion

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Christians: Be wary of being unequally yoked in marriage

She was a beautiful 17-year-old, blonde-haired daughter of God from Oregon, and she was crying her eyes out, and the moment I saw her I knew that my sermon was probably why she was crying.

For several years, I had the privilege to speak at the Nationwide Youth Round-up held near Sedalia, Colo. I loved the inspirational mountains, but even more the magnificent young people who came from many parts of the USA for Christian fellowship, fun and teaching.

In 1988, I preached a sermon titled "What Does A Real Christian Teenager Look Like?"

One of the major points in the lesson was this: A real-deal, genuine Christian teenager would never have a serious dating relationship with or marry anyone who wasn't a real-deal, genuine Christian.

The main scriptures were:

2 Cor 6:14-17: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.' 17 Therefore, 'Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'"

1 Cor 15:33: "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"

After everyone had cleared out from

the outdoor sanctuary, she was still there at the back crying her eyes out. I walked over and sat down next to her and waited. After several minutes, she said through her tears, "I have to go home and break-up with my boyfriend, and I don't know if I am strong enough to do it. He isn't a Christian, and he doesn't like me being one."



**Mike Sublett**

Hi-Land Christian

We talked quite a while that day. We parted ways with a hug, and I have never seen her since that day.

As a preacher, you sometimes catch yourself wondering if anything you ever say really does

anyone any good — at least I do.

Then one day in 1993 my office phone rang. A young man asked if I was the Mike Sublett that used to speak at NYR. I told him that I was. Then he asked, "Do you remember a pretty, blonde-haired girl from Oregon who was crying after one of your lessons?"

I told him that I not only remembered her, but that I had wondered often what happened to her.

"Well, Mr. Sublett, we are getting married next month. We are both dedicated believers, and I just wanted to thank the man who gave me my wife. She listened to you that day, went straight home, broke up with that guy, called Columbia Christian College, and that's where we met. I just wanted to say 'thank you.'"

I told him, "You will never know how much this call means to me. God bless you both."

So if you ever had a preacher impact your life in a good way, make that phone call or write that letter TODAY! That preacher just might need your encouragement, so return the favor. God bless.

## Religion news ...

### School districts shying away from Bible classes

MACON, Ga. (AP) — A growing number of Georgia public school systems are shying away from developing state-approved Bible classes.

The state school board finalized curriculum for the elective classes in March, but some districts say they'd rather leave that instruction to churches.

Other districts say they don't have the money for materials and staffing of a class on the Bible, or would have a difficult time finding a teacher who can teach the course without injecting religious views, a stipulation of the state.

"We found that since many of our students have such a strong spiritual upbringing that is firmly grounded in Christianity, there was very little interest on the part of the students to take such a class," said L'Angra Webster, a spokeswoman for the Hancock County school system.

Just a handful of the state's 180 school districts have agreed to offer the elective classes so far, but it's difficult to confirm just how many.

State officials say they'll have a better picture of what districts are offering the courses in June when systems send the state student records detailing what class-

es they are taking. Georgia's school systems are the first in the nation to offer publicly funded Bible classes after lawmakers passed a bill allowing the courses in 2006.

Supporters say fully understanding history, literature and political science requires knowledge of the Bible. But critics such as the American Civil Liberties Union fear the classes could turn into endorsements of Christianity.

Lawmakers in Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas have considered similar plans this year, although none has received final approval. One proposal in Texas would require all high school students to take a Bible class.

<http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/>

### Ore. school district rejects class motto as too religious

BLUE RIVER, Ore. (AP) — A rural school district has banned a proposed motto for a graduating high school class because it contains a religious reference.

Some of the 90 seniors at McKenzie High School had been inspired by a Bible verse quoted at the August funeral of a classmate killed in an all-terrain vehicle accident.

The entire verse was: "They that wait upon the

Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles."

It was read at the memorial service for Ryan Snapp, who died Aug. 10 after hitting a tree in the alcohol-related crash. The students deleted any references to God in the proposed motto.

But McKenzie School District officials rejected the motto as too religious: "They that believe shall mount up with wings as eagles."

Brianna Rux, 17, one of the seniors, said the verse seemed fitting, given the school's mascot is the Eagles, and that class members have pulled together to rise above their grief.

"Ourselves being Eagles, it seemed a good way to describe who we are that no matter what we believe in, we can overcome," she said.

But the district's attorney, Bruce Zagar, advised that the motto not be allowed because both the U.S. and Oregon constitutions prevent public entities from taking any action that establishes, sponsors, supports or condones a religion or religious belief. Zagar said omitting the reference to God from the verse doesn't alter its origin — the Old Testament.

The senior class adopted a replacement motto: Nothing we do changes the past; everything we do changes the future.

## Church briefs

Zion Lutheran Church of Pampa will host Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin on Monday, Jan. 21. Bishop Lytkin is the head of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and also is the pastor of his congregation in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

Zion Lutheran supports the work and ministry of the Siberian Lutheran Church that

covers 3,000-miles in Siberia.

The evening will begin with Vespers at 6 p.m. featuring Bishop Lytkin. A meal will follow. After the meal, Bishop Lytkin will speak to all those gathered. The public is invited. Participants are asked to RSVP the church office at 669-2774 if planning to attend the meal.

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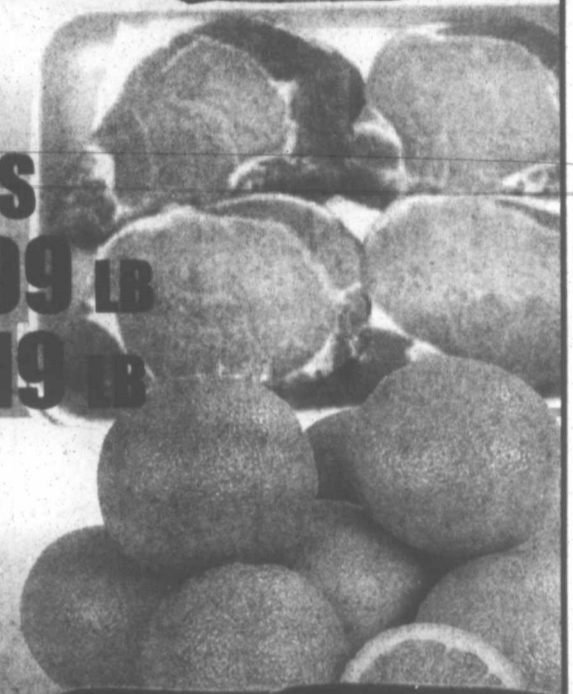
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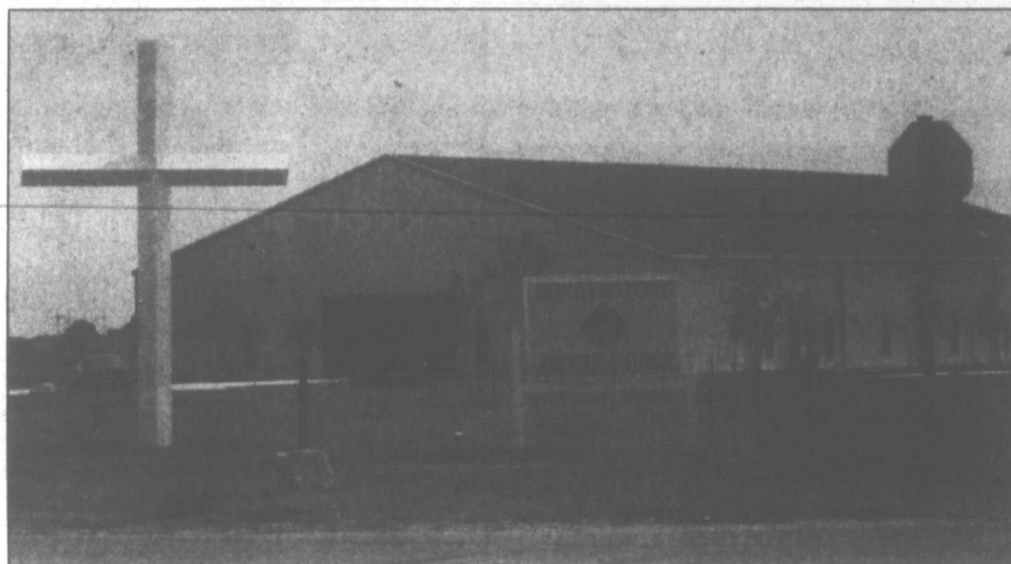
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# Praise & Worship

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## Cornerstone Baptist Church

**Church name:** Cornerstone Baptist Church, 2410 W. 23rd St., 669-6509. Web site: [www.cbcpampa.com](http://www.cbcpampa.com).

**Minister:** Pastor Doug Hixson.

**Services:** Sunday -- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 10:50 a.m. Morning worship, 5 p.m. Discipleship 6 p.m. Evening worship; Wednesday -- 7 p.m. Prayer meeting, Team Kids (K-5th grade); Fuel Youth Program (6th-12th grade).

**Activities:** Vacation Bible School and Youth Camp in summer, children's events quarterly, senior adult dinners monthly, ministry outreach events.

**Members:** 175, with approximately 100 attending worship.

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist.

**How long here:** 5 years.

**Goals:** Outreach to unchurched and younger families and to be able to serve our community with the love of Christ.

**Main goal:** Loving God and loving people. We want to lead people to love God through their lives and to love people as Jesus did. In this, we want to lead people to a personal relationship with Christ.

**Church message:** If you are looking for the perfect church, this is not it. We are just ordinary people that have been extraordinarily changed by God's grace and believing that our supernatural God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

**Responsible parties:** Pastor Doug Hixson.

**Information:** We are a friendly church seeking to make a difference in the lives of people. We want to do more than just go through the motions of "doing church." We want to be effective and have purpose in all we do.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I'll be brief. I am in love with a woman who has multiple personality disorder. My friends tell me I'm a fool for falling in love with such a woman. I love her with all my heart and soul. I know I have a lot to handle, but my love for her is strong, and I know we can prevail. What do you think? — **TRUE LOVE TEXAN**

**DEAR TEXAN:** I'll be brief. I think you had better be absolutely certain that you love every facet of her splintered personality before any or all of you make a lifelong commitment.

**DEAR ABBY:** Have I committed a social error? The 97-year-old mother of an in-law of ours died recently. The family asked that memorials be sent to the local hospice in her memory. I sent a sizable check, but because we loved her like our own mother, I wanted also to send flowers. I went to our florist and personally selected a beautiful vase that I thought the daughter could keep, and had it filled with flowers. After the funeral service, as I walked by the casket, the daughter said to me, "Mother wanted memorials made to hospice." (Right! "Mother" was so out of it for several months that she didn't even know she was under hospice care.) I spent a lot of money on that funeral and don't regret it. But why did the daughter make me feel so bad? She lashed out at me for doing something out of love for her and her mother. When we left the church the flowers were sitting there with our card still attached. Obviously, they didn't want them or the vase, so I brought them home to enjoy and will give the vase to one of my daughters. Should I say anything, or should I consider the source? — **DONNA IN AKRON, OHIO**

**DEAR DONNA:** You should consider the circumstances. People who are grieving are not usually at their best or most gracious.

The daughter may have been under the impression that the family's wishes had been ignored, and you had sent flowers instead of donating to the group that had helped and supported them and their mother during that critical time. If the daughter hasn't already been notified about your generous gift (most organizations do inform the family of the deceased about donations received in their loved one's memory), I see nothing wrong with straightening out the misunderstanding. But do it gently and without anger.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently let a friend borrow a bracelet of mine. I left it at her house and asked that she return it the next time we saw each other. That was Sunday morning, and I even called ahead of time to make sure she remembered. When we met, she told me she had forgotten to bring it. A few days later I was at her house again. When she gave me the bracelet, it had been completely destroyed by her cat. She apologized and said she'd replace it. I said it was OK, and then asked if she would really buy me a new one. "No," she replied, "my cat did it, not me." I decided not to push the issue. The bracelet wasn't too expensive, but I feel I deserve some sort of payment because the cat didn't know any better. What should I do? — **AT A LOSS IN MINNESOTA**

**DEAR AT A LOSS:** The bracelet may not have been "too expensive," but chalk this up as a valuable lesson. Your "friend" is irresponsible and not entirely truthful. Unless you're willing to risk losing what you lend her, refrain from making that mistake again.

## For Better Or For Worse



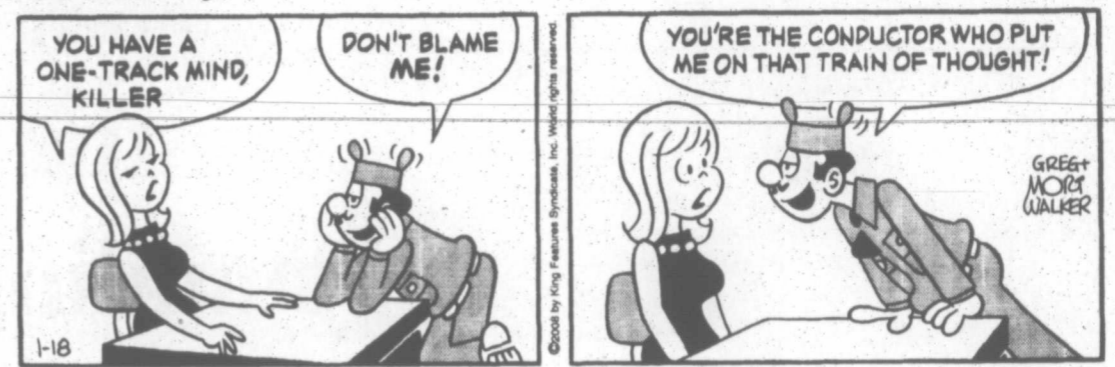
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## Garfield



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## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 — We Trust!
  - 1 Domestic birds
  - 6 New mom
  - Year's games
  - 11 Freeze muscles, for short
  - 12 Staggering
  - 13 Theater feature
  - 14 Penned
  - 15 Laugh sound
  - 16 Ripken of baseball
  - 18 Misery
  - 19 Serpent's victim
  - 20 Ones with power
  - 21 Squirrel snack
  - 22 Humiliate
  - 24 Lawyer: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- 7 Bruins
  - 1 Used a pier
  - 2 Music range
  - 3 2006 Matthew McConaughey film
  - 4 Galoot
  - 5 Exceptional
  - 6 Blubbers
  - 7 Bruins great
  - 8 2007 Joaquin Phoenix film
  - 9 Release
  - 10 Like winter weather
  - 17 Ring-shaped
  - 5 Exceptional
  - 23 Greek vowel
  - 24 Deed
  - 26 Kid's afternoon break
  - 27 Hit high
  - 28 Fit for farming
  - 30 — Mr. Nice Guy!
  - 31 Merchant winds
  - 33 Strong
  - 39 Blotto
  - 41 Palindromic nickname

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## Marmaduke

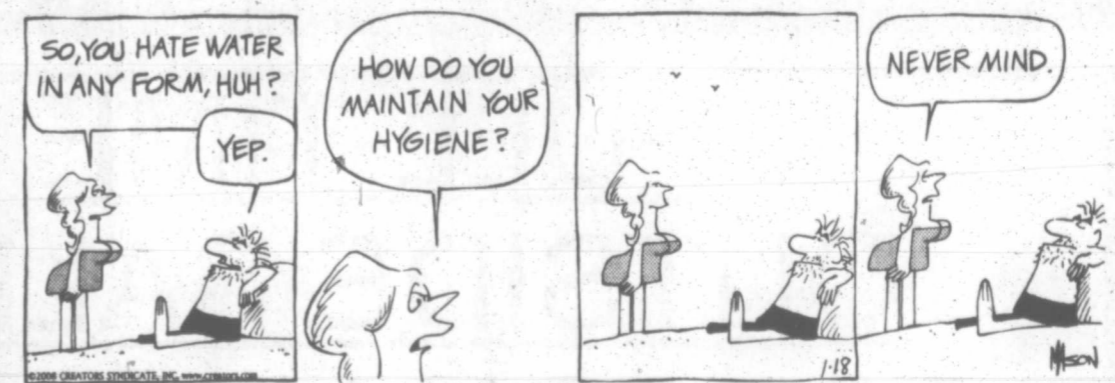


## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Sports

## James' 27 points leads Cavaliers over San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LeBron James wasn't looking forward to a fourth overtime in three games.

So when San Antonio's Manu Ginobili shot the ball for the chance to tie with just seconds remaining, all James could do was hope the Spurs star missed.

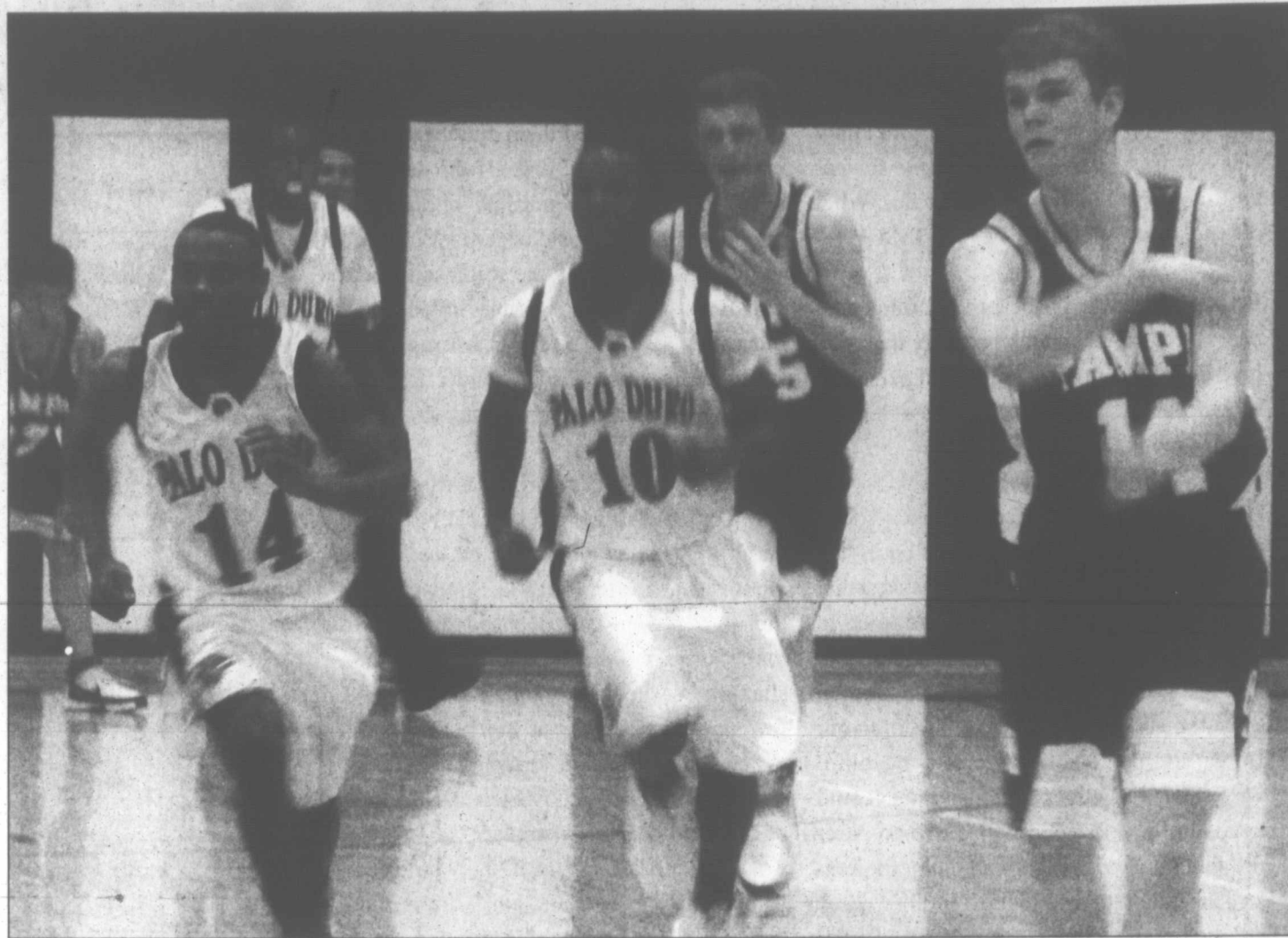
Ginobili did, and James was able to breathe easy. "You know it was down to the last shot again for us going into overtime," said James, who scored 27 points in the Cavaliers' 90-88 victory Thursday night. "It was big to see the ball not go in with no time on the clock. Big win."

And while the Cavs were careful to treat the matchup like any other in the regular season, it could not have escaped anyone's attention that the win came against the team that swept them in last season's NBA finals.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 17 points for Cleveland, which has won three in a row, and Anderson Varejao scored 12 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in their first meeting with the Spurs since June's finals.

"The finals are over and done with," James said. "One thing we did tonight, we got defensive steps and we made plays down the stretch. We've just got to continue to play well. We've been playing great basketball lately."

Ginobili scored 31 points for the Spurs, and Tony Parker added 23 points but missed two free throws with 29.4 seconds to play that would have tied the game at 90.



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Sophomore Alex Clendening (far right) passes the ball inward to an unseen teammate during last Friday's game against the Palo Duro Dons. Also seen here is teammate, senior Mark Stone, following close behind.

## Pampa hopes to improve district standings over Randall tonight

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvesters took on a hard loss on their home court Tuesday as they were defeated by the Hereford Whitefaces in their second district match-up of the season.

The two point loss brought Pampa's record to 0-2 in district and 9-13 on the season.

Tonight, they travel to Amarillo to

take on the Randall Raiders in hopes of making their district comeback and ending their losing skid.

The Raiders currently stand at 2-0 in district and 20-3 overall after defeating Dumas 85-51 Tuesday.

The Lady Harvesters have one win to boast in district over the Caprock Lady Longhorns, and currently have a district record of 1-3, 3-14 on the season.

Tonight, they will face the Lady Raiders at Randall, who currently stand at 2-1 in district, 15-7 overall.

The Lady Harvesters will go on first today, playing at 6 p.m. at Randall, and the varsity boys will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The JV boys will take on Randall at 6 p.m. and the JV girls will play at 7:30 p.m.

AXYDLBAA XR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

1-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

IO SKKVMLL SL JBM DA IO

JANDAP'L SVLSLDMVNM DEZD S

JPSVH ISKH. Z CESDM TKBSJ

DEMO TAPNM JACV EMKWMLL

XZXSML — C.N. TSMKJL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TRAFFIC IS SO SLOW IN NEW YORK CITY THAT THE TAXI METERS RUN FASTER THAN THE TAXICABS. ANXIOUS

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