



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 31  
LOW 18

See expanded weather on Page 2

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

## Cleaning the spill



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Ronnie Preston with the Texas Department of Transportation watches as a state highway department truck spreads potash along the southbound lane of Price Road today after a tanker spray the road with hydrochloric acid.

## Acid spill shuts down Price Road early today

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

Pampa firefighters and police reacted quickly to a hazardous chemical spill today.

Within an hour, Texas Department of Transportation crews and trucks were spreading potash over the spill to neutralize it.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said a service line on a tanker truck apparently wasn't secured and sprayed 60 to 80 gallons of hydrochloric acid about 9:40 a.m. today along Price Road from just

south of Kentucky Ave. to Alcock Street.

Firefighters and police officers had the southbound lane of Price road blocked off at mid-day as state highway department crews spread potash on the spill to neutralize the acid.

Powell said that although the acid was neutralized, the clean up would some time and the southbound lane of Price Road would remain closed until the clean up was finished.

## City to discuss new electronic marquee

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will hear on second and final reading one resolution and two ordinances this week.

The resolution concerns an agreement between the city and the Pampa Economic Development Corporation with regard to replacing the electronic marquee on Hobart near M.K. Brown Auditorium.

One ordinance concerns the transfer of money to pay for the electronic sign.

The other ordinance concerns a

settlement with ATMOS Energy for infrastructure adjustments for 2006.

The commission will also consider calling a special meeting at 11 a.m., Monday Jan. 28 to hear the first reading on an ordinance ordering an election for a tax freeze and to award a bid for aerial photography and mapping.

A piece of property at 712 Malone that had been struck off the tax rolls as delinquent will likely be returned to the rolls since the property over laps the property next door. At least that is the recommendation of the county tax officials.

## New sign would advertise upcoming local events

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

By this summer, Shane Stokes hopes to have a new electronic sign towering over Hobart Street.

Stokes, director of community services, said it will likely take about 90 days to go through the ordering process and another 90 days for the company to customize a new sign and get it installed.

The electronic sign on Hobart in front of M.K. Brown Auditorium died last fall.

Stokes said the city bought the electronic sign used in the 1980s along with a service contract. The company that had made the sign and maintained it notified the city last summer that they could no longer get parts for the sign and were canceling their maintenance contract. The sign died a few days later.

It will now be replaced with a newer sign featuring new technology, Stokes said.

The new sign will be larger and

will weigh only half as much. The old sign was four feet high and 15 feet wide. The new electronic marquee will be eight feet high and 15 feet wide. The new sign, Stokes said, will have video, animation and color.

"It will give you the look of a flat screen TV," Stokes said.

The sign will be used to announce activities through the community, not just at M.K. Brown, he said.

To replace it, Stokes said would cost about \$74,000. Shipping, installation and a contingency fund will bring the total cost to nearly \$100,000. The City of Pampa contributed \$50,000 and the Pampa Economic Development Corporation said it would make a matching grant of up to \$50,000 toward the sign.

The Gray-Pampa Foundation also contributed some money toward the new sign, Stokes said.

The city's agreement with the economic development corporation for a matching grant give the EDC final

See SIGN, Page 3

## ELECTION

## Two races contested in March primary

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Gray County voters may have a slew of candidates to choose from for President in the March primary elections, but there are only two local races with more than one candidate.

Sheriff Don Copeland, incumbent, is being challenged by Vincent M. "Sonny" Marasco. Incumbent Don Fletcher is facing Chris Broaddus for the office of Precinct 4 constable.

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Gerald Wright is not running for re-election. The only candidate who has filed for his position is John Mark Baggerman.

Incumbents running unopposed for re-election in county-wide races are 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer, County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye

Whitehead, County Attorney Josh Seabourn, Precinct 1 Commissioner Joe Wheelley, Precincts 1 and 3 Constable James Lewis, Precinct 4 Constable Chris Lockridge and Republican Party Chairman Doug Ware.

State Rep. Warren Chisum (R - Pampa) is up for re-election to once again represent District 88 in Austin. He is unopposed.

All local candidates on the ballot are Republicans. Presidential candidates on Texas ballots will include 10 Republicans and six Democrats, according to information available through the Texas secretary of state's office's web site. There are no Libertarian or independent candidates in either the Presidential or local races.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, U.S. See ELECTION, Page 3

## Career Day



Pampa News Photo by SEAN SMITH

Rebecca McCall, sales associate for Pampa Realty, speaks to an Austin Elementary kindergarten class during career day Friday.

**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**



**Mostly sunny    Mostly sunny    Snow chance**

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 31. Wind chill values between 5 and 15. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. East wind around 5 mph becoming south.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-east.

**Thursday:** A slight chance of snow before noon, then a slight chance of rain and snow between noon and 2pm, then a slight chance of rain after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Thursday Night:** A slight chance of snow, freezing rain, or sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. South wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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**Paula Key Gorby, 63**

Paula Kay Gorby, 63, of Pampa, died Jan. 19, 2008, in Pampa. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.



Gorby

Mrs. Gorby was born Jan. 7, 1945, in Cushing, Okla. She was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. She was preceded in death

by her parents and one brother, Russell Faye Brown, Jr.

Survivors include her husband, Leon Gorby, of Pampa.

Memorials can be sent to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 727 W. Browning, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

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**Obituaries**

**Services tomorrow**

**JOINER, Danielle** — 4 p.m., Mary Ellen Harvester Church of Christ, Pampa.  
**TRIMBLE, Reba Percy** — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

**John E. 'Jack' Frost, 91**

Happy — John E. "Jack" Frost, 91, of Happy, Texas, died Jan. 18, 2008, in Happy. Services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church in Happy with Rev. Tom Stribling officiating. Burial will follow at Happy Cemetery in Happy, Texas. Arrangements are by Brooks Funeral Directors of Canyon, Texas.

Jack was born on Nov. 30, 1916, in Vigo Park, Texas, to the late William Lenord and Frances Esma Frost. He grew up in Happy and grad-

uated from Happy High School.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Ruby Mae Sackett, in Vega, Texas, on Nov. 26, 1936. Jack farmed and ranched at Happy and Endee, N.M., all of his adult life.

He was a lifetime member of the First United Methodist Church. He served as a Randall County ASCS Board member for 20 years



Frost

and he was a 32nd degree Mason for 62 years.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth.

Survivors include his wife Ruby of Happy; four sons, Bill Frost and wife Linda of Pampa, Bob Frost and wife

Jane of San Jon, N.M., Len Frost and wife Vicki of Tucumcari, N.M., and Zeke Frost and wife Susie of Happy; 11 grandchildren

and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family received visitors at the Community Center in Happy after the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to one of the following: First United Methodist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 56, Happy, Texas 79042; Happy Community Center, P.O. Box 392, Happy, Texas 79042; or Happy Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 216, Happy, Texas 79042.

**Danielle Joiner, 20**

Amarillo — Danielle Joiner, 20, of Amarillo, died Jan. 19, 2008, in Amarillo. Services will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ with her uncle Monty Joiner of Wells Street Church of Christ officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Danielle was born Dec. 28, 1987, in Amarillo. She attended Pampa schools before moving to Amarillo in 2004, where she was currently attending Tascosa

High School.

She loved music and spending time with her family. She enjoyed having manicures, pedicures and rides in the car. Her favorite TV shows to watch were Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, and she especially loved to attend school.

She was our angel. She was loved very much and will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death



Joiner

by her paternal grandfather, Bob Joiner.

Survivors include parents, Dee and Denise Joiner of Pampa; twin brother, Dusty Joiner of Amarillo; maternal grandparents, John and Kathleen Chaney of Pampa; paternal grandmother, Marquetta Joiner of Pampa; maternal great-grandparents, Wayne and Juanita St. Clair of Gretna, La.; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family will receive friends at 2205 Evergreen.

Memorials can be sent to one of the following: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St., Dallas, Texas 75219; Ronald McDonald House, 1501 Streit Dr., Amarillo, Texas 79106; or BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

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

**Connie Faye Pipkin, 91**

Connie Faye Pipkin, 91, of Pampa died Jan. 18, 2008, in Pampa. Graveside services were at 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, at Fairview Cemetery with Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Church officiat-

ing. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Pipkin was born on Sept. 4, 1916, in Montague County, Texas. She had lived in Pampa most of her life.

She was preceded in death

by her husband, Roy Pipkin, in 1973, and a son, David James Pipkin, in 1991.

Survivors include two sisters, Alice Flack of Burkburnett and Ruby French of Lubbock; and one brother, J.E. Latta of

Portales, N.M.

Memorials can be made to a favorite charity.

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

**Reba Percy Trimble, 73**

Reba Percy Trimble, 73, of Pampa died Jan. 20, 2008, in Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Rev. Richard Bartel, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Trimble was born Jan. 3, 1935, in Coleman Co., Texas. She had lived in Pampa since 1958. She married Ed Trimble May 14, 1994, in Pampa. She worked for Energas as a clerk for 20 years and she was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her son Toby Percy in 1995.

Survivors include her hus-

band, Ed Trimble of the home; one daughter, Jana Brown and husband Dwayne of Roswell, N.M.; one son, Curtis Percy of Beeville, Texas; one step-daughter, Cheryl Bridge and husband D.J. of Pampa; two stepsons, Monty Trimble and wife Ann of Pampa and Robert Trimble and wife Marty of Front Royal, Va.; two sisters, Dot Compton

and husband Joe of Lampasas and Sara Lunsford and husband Roy of Odessa; one brother, James Medcalf and wife Sharon of Shelton, Wash.; 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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

**Emergency Services**

**Ambulance**

Guardian EMS Ambulance Service reported the following calls.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

11:07 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 800 block of West and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:14 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 700 block of Campbell and transported one patient to PRMC.

2:09 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transported one patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

5:30 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Rd. and transported a patient to Lubbock.

6:27 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1000 block of McCullough, with no transport reported.

7:15 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 800 block of South Sumner and transported one patient to PRMC.

**Sunday, Jan. 20**

1:32 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1500 block of Kentucky and transported one patient to PRMC.

1:55 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 400 block of Gray and transported one patient to PRMC.

5:26 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported one patient to PRMC.

11 a.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transported one patient to a local nursing facility.

12:26 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 2500 block of Christine,

with no transport reported.

12:37 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 800 block of Scott and transported one patient to PRMC.

3:44 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 900 block of Mary Ellen and transported one patient to PRMC.

4:45 p.m. — A MICU responded to the intersection of Loop 171 and Highway 60 and transported one patient to PRMC.

6:36 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1100 block of South Dwight and transported one patient to PRMC.

8:58 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 800 block of Nelson and transported one patient to PRMC.

**Sheriff**

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

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

Donald Anders, 26, of Las Vegas, Nev. was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of five pounds or more but less than 50 pounds of marijuana.

David Siegler, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury/family violence and expired registration.

Christopher Gibson, 36, of Oklahoma City, Okla. was arrested by GCSO for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Ashley Cornish, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of South Gray by Pampa Police Department for no valid driver's license and failure to appear/bail jumping.

Omar Eladli, 25, of Palos Verdes, Calif. was arrested by GCSO for possession of five pounds or more but less than 50 pounds of marijuana.

**Sunday, Jan. 20**

Stanley Nash, 52, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Huff Road by PPD for evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.

Kevin Kirkham, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of West 20th by PPD for driving under the influence -- minor and no valid driver's license.

Cody McKay Ellis, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a warrant for driving under the influence -- minor and a bond surrender for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

**Monday, Jan. 21**

Angela Faye Duncan, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Brenda Elizet Perez, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Huff Road by PPD for no valid driver's license.

Pampa Police Department

**Pampa PD**

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

**Friday, Jan. 18**

Nineteen traffic stops were made. Stops in the 800 block of South Barnes, the 900 block of East Francis and the 800 block of East Foster resulted in arrests.

A traffic complaint was received from the 2800 block of Charles. Motorist assistance was ren-

dered in the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway and the 1700 block of Duncan.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 700 block of North Hobart.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 200 block of Tignor, the 800 block of Locust, the 900 block of Campbell, the intersection of Starkweather and Browning streets, the 400 block of Hill, the 800 block of Scott, the 1600 block of Coffee, the 2400 block of Charles, the intersection of 18th and Banks streets and the 1600 block of Dogwood.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 900 block of Love.

Five attempts to serve papers were made.

A civil matter was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

A suspicious person call was received from the intersection of Prairie Drive and Crawford Street.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the police department lobby.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1900 block of Duncan and the 800 block of North Nelson.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Wells, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. Valve stems were taken from two tires. Estimated value of loss is \$5.

A narcotics violation was reported at PHS.

Three alarms were reported. Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Huff Road. Speakers and miscellaneous lights were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$1,500.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

Twenty-seven traffic stops were made. One stop in the 500 block of South Gray resulted in at least one arrest.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of 23rd and Hobart streets.

An abandoned vehicle was reported at the intersection of Rham and Sumner streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 800 block of East Craven, on two occasions in the 1600 block of Dogwood, the 1900 block of Grape, the 1100 block of Darby, the 900 block of Campbell, the 500 block of North Wells, the 1000 block of Darby and the 2500 block of Fir.

Agency assistance was rendered on two occasions in the 200 block of North Russell.

Four attempts to serve papers were made.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Welfare checks were made at the intersection of Campbell and Reid streets and the 2800 block of Charles.

A civil matter was reported in the 500 block of North Dwight.

See RECORD, Page 3

ANIMALS

## Stock show sale tonight

The sale for the Gray County Junior Livestock Show is tonight at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the sale immediately following at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend this event, which supports local students and their animal projects.

# Group takes statements about UFO sightings

DUBLIN, Texas (AP) — Interviewers with the Mutual UFO Network met with about 200 people who said they saw something mysterious in the night skies over Stephenville in late December and early January.

"We believe there is some sort of phenomenon in action here," said Kenneth Cherry, director of the network's Texas chapter. "We see a pattern. But it will take months to investigate."

The network is dedicated to "scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity," according to its Web site.

While members of the organization met Saturday with the witnesses, at least a couple hundred onlookers gathered as well, some wearing aluminum-foil hats.

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.

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

James Huse, a retired electronics technician, said what he saw on Jan. 8 was neither a helicopter nor a plane.

Steve Allen of Glen Rose, who said he was a pilot, said the lights he saw while sitting around a campfire were brighter than the glare from welding.

"The first time we saw it, the duration was

three minutes; then it started slowing down and passed us, and the lights in the back reformed into an arc shape, and they would flash on and off with no particular pattern," he said. "Then those changed into two vertical lines. It was totally silent."

Network investigators asked the witnesses to sketch what they saw and to answer questions about the direction, distance and flight of the object they saw.

Cherry said the organization will study the material and release its findings on whether what happened in Stephenville can be explained.

"We do not promote the existence of alien ships," Cherry said. "All we are trying to do is figure out if we can explain it or not, and then we'll let the chips fall where they may."

## Questions surround state meth program

AUSTIN (AP) — A \$2 million state program that offers an obscure medical therapy touted as a cure for methamphetamine addiction has yet to get off the ground, and some experts question whether Texas should be involved in an unproven treatment.

The \$1 million-per-year pilot treatment program was added to the Texas budget last year with little notice and no objection.

The drug therapy, called Prometa, is a costly combination of drugs and nutritional supplements each approved by the Food and Drug Administration individually, but never evaluated as a combination to treat substance abuse. Many drug treatment experts fear that the regimen was rushed to market and that Texas lawmakers fell for the marketing pitch, The Dallas Morning News reported Monday.

But officials of Hythiam Inc., the company that licenses Prometa, say they are not marketing the medication — that they're merely selling information to doctors. Once the FDA approves a drug, a doctor can prescribe it for anything, but it can only be marketed for its original purpose.

The Prometa protocol is still awaiting the results of several

major clinical studies.

The state Prometa program was intended to curb meth addictions in the largest counties, particularly in North and East Texas. But when state probation officials offered up the money to local adult probation departments, hardly a single large county bit.

*The \$1 million-per-year pilot treatment program was added to the Texas budget last year with little notice and no objection.*

Several smaller probation departments have applied to offer the drug therapy as a condition of release for convicts. State officials awarded more than \$500,000, about half of what they intended to spend this year on the program, to Collin, Lubbock, Caldwell and Nueces counties.

"To invest time and money on Prometa at this time, in my opinion, is premature," Dallas criminal

district Judge John Creuzot wrote in a July e-mail to the director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Creuzot refused to participate in the program. He suggested that the buzz about Prometa was "lore and perceptions" and warned of possible lawsuits if "someone is hurt or injured because of Prometa."

He said money shouldn't be spent on something that hasn't been clinically researched to be safe and effective. He said the company marketing the treatment "did a great sales job on some well-intended legislators in Texas."

Rep. Jerry Madden, the House Corrections Committee chairman who requested funding for the program, said only time and results will show whether Prometa does what its supporters say. An ardent advocate for rehabilitation, Madden, a Plano Republican, said he won't take criticism for trying a treatment many addicts swear by.

In the meantime, Madden has been fielding calls from Wall Street investors and his name has been used as a seal of approval on Prometa marketing materials. Madden says he has no financial ties to the company.

DISEASE

## Chicken pox cases up despite vaccine

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Texas recorded a 41 percent increase in cases of chicken pox from 2005 to 2007, despite an eight-year-old requirement that children be vaccinated before they can enter kindergarten.

Texas enacted the vaccine requirement for the 2000-2001 school year, but has not mandated a booster for children between the ages of 4 and 6.

A federal advisory committee recommended last year that children get the second dose, after an initial dose at age 1. Texas Department of State Health Services officials said they will study the booster this spring to decide if it too should be required in schools and day care centers.

San Antonio pediatrician Dr. Dianna Burns said she has started seeing a few cases of the virus this season, which normally lasts from late winter through spring. She said most parents agree when she offers the booster.

"The problem is, we've had a shortage of the chickenpox vaccine," Burns said. "That hit us just about at the beginning of school. We've had to prioritize to make sure everybody had at least one dose, so we prioritize toward the front."

Chicken pox, known medically

as varicella, is a viral illness marked by a low-grade fever and small blisters that break open and crust. Children with the virus are normally asked to stay home from school for a few days while they're contagious.

Shirley Schreiber, director of health services with the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, said vaccinated students who get chicken pox end up staying home the same number of days as they would have without the vaccine.

"Parents would get very frustrated when the youngsters would come down with a case and it would be a milder case of varicella, because they had been vaccinated," she said.

In Bexar County, the number of recorded chicken pox cases grew from 420 in 2003 to 520 in 2006 and 861 last year.

"Most of the time, we ask them: 'Did you get the vaccine?'" said Roger Sanchez, an epidemiologist with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. "Virtually all of them say yes."

The vaccine has been successful at reducing the severity of chicken pox, said Dr. Marietta Vazquez, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine.

## Election

Continued from Page 1

Rep. Mac Thornberry and State Sen. Robert Duncan are also up for re-election this year. All, along with Chisum, are Republicans, and all represent Gray County in their respective offices.

The deadline to file for a place on the ballot was Jan. 2. Residents who wish to vote in the primary election must be registered to vote by Feb. 4.

Those wishing to submit mail-in ballots must have their requests in by Feb. 26.

Early voting begins Feb. 19 and continues through Feb. 29. Election Day for the primaries is March 4.

April 8 is scheduled as the runoff date if any runoff elections are required, according to the secretary of state's office. The general election will be held Nov. 4.

Elections for Pampa city and school board officials will be May 10. Persons wishing to be on the city and/or school board ballots have from Feb. 9 through March 4 to file for a city position, according to City

Secretary Karen Price, and Feb. 9 through March 10 for a school board position, according to a school district spokeswoman.

Two seats on the city commission will be decided in the city race, those of Wards 2 and 4. Current commissioners are Bill Allison, Ward 2, and Neil Fulton, Ward 4.

Three board positions will be listed on the school board ballot for Pampa Independent School District. Those whose terms are expiring and will appear on the ballot are Derrell DeLoach, Place 1; Lance DeFever, Place 2; and Dana Terry, Place 3.

## Sign

Continued from Page 1

approval on the selection of the marquee and involves them with the engineering plans and installation of the sign.

The city and EDC will jointly

develop a policy regarding the sign's use, but the city will own the sign and maintain it, according to the agreement.

Ken May, president of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, told the Pampa City Commission early this month, when the agreement was approved, that he hoped it was just the first of many projects on which the two entities could work

## Record

Continued from Page 2

Found property was reported in the police department lobby.

Lost property was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. A car key with remote start was lost.

A suspicious person call was received from the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 900 block of Denver, the 600 block of Talley, the intersection of Thut and West streets and the intersection of Ballard and Browning streets.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of Beryl, the 1100 block of Juniper and the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1100 block of Darby. The incident involved threatening calls.

Harassment was reported in the 1300 block of North Christine.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 700 block of Bradley Drive and the 1900 block of North

Dwight.

Simple assault was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

Assault was reported in the 2100 block of North Russell.

Two building checks were made.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of West Foster.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 100 block of East Randy Matson. A vehicle window valued at \$100 was shattered, and a set of speakers valued at \$100 was taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 100 block of East Randy Matson. A vehicle window valued at \$100 was broken, and a stereo, amplifier and woofers with combined estimated value of \$570 were taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2800 block of Charles. A purse with miscellaneous items was taken.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Sixteen traffic stops were made. A stop in the 500 block of West 20th resulted in at least one arrest.

A traffic complaint was received from the 2700 block of Nevada. Motorist assistance was

rendered at the intersection of Albert and Tignor streets.

A pursuit was reported at the intersection of Crawford Street and Huff Road. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1200 block of North Russell, the 2100 block of North Wells, the 500 block of North Somerville, the 1900 block of North Christy and the 1100 block of Darby.

Civil matters were reported in the 600 block of East Browning and the 1900 block of Fir.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2300 block of Alcock.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 600 block of South Gray, the 2800 block of Charles and the 900 block of East Francis.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1300 block of Coffee and the 800 block of South Sumner.

One alarm was reported.

One open door was checked.

Theft was reported at Subway Sandwiches, 2141 N. Hobart. Taken was \$251.34 in cash.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 500 block of Doyle. Cigarettes, a cordless drill and drill bit set were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$275.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Charles. Sunglasses, a coat, an infrared temperature gun, school books and notes were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$700.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1700 block of Chestnut. Utility bags, a transmitter and two leads were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$3,580.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2500 block of Mary Ellen. Two electronic music storage devices, a transmitter and 25 compact discs were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$530.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of Williston. Three CD cases containing 200 CDs, one portable DVD player, one DVD and a cell phone charger were taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported on

two occasions in the 1400 block of North Russell.

Monday, Jan. 21

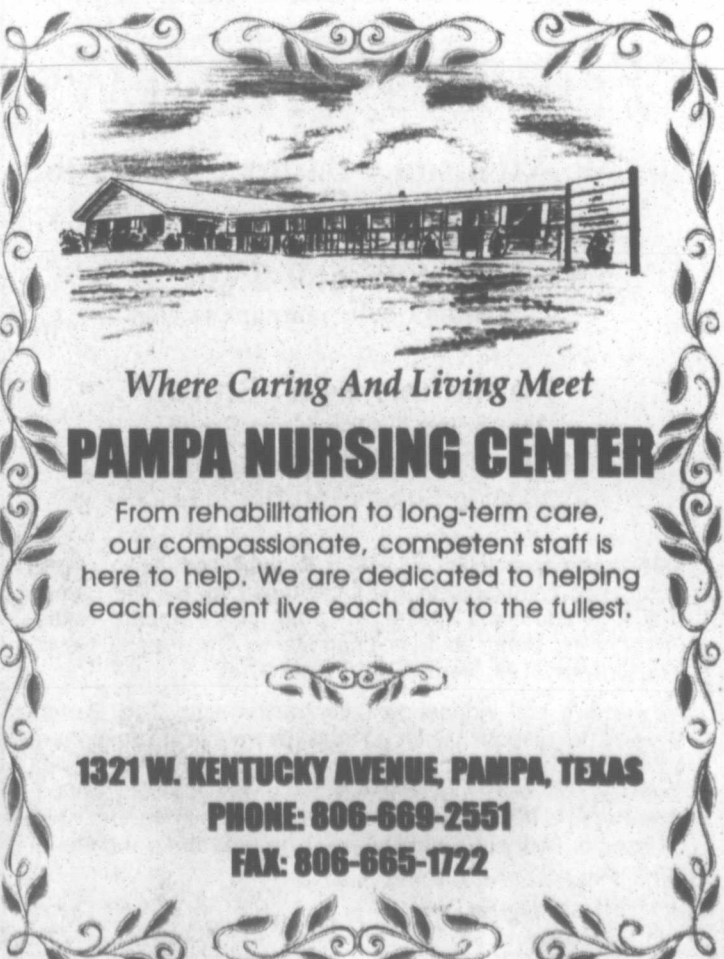
Three traffic stops were made. A stop in the 1100 block of Huff Road resulted in at least one arrest.

One open door was checked.

Silent/abusive 911 calls

were received from the 1000 block of Sirroco and the 2400 block of Dogwood.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 900 block of Christine. No damage was reported, and no items were reported taken in connection with the incident.



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# Viewpoints

## America's best new reality show: 'Who Wants to run this Country?'

This Presidential election is considered by many to be "the most important election of our time." I don't know about that, but it's the most important one I've been a part of so far, being as this will be my first time to be able to vote. The candidates this time around are diverse to say the least, but that doesn't mean that any of them are stand-up men (or women).

This election to me seems more like a reality show that's played on all of our major news networks. They behave like cast members of MTV's "The Real World," but they dress like they're on "The Apprentice." Sometimes, I wish they would all be stuck on an island and vote each other off, "Survivor" style. Unfortunately, these people

are real, and one of them will soon become the most powerful person on the planet. All the while, we, as Americans, get to sit at home on our couch and try to find the lesser of the evils.

John Edwards quite a likeable guy, if you like class-action lawyers. The man is a shoo-in as the democratic vice-presidential candidate, depending on who between Clinton and Obama kills the other first. The poor boy from the South is not much of a threat to anyone as far as getting the nomination goes, but I think we're all going to miss out when the vice-presidential debates roll around and we don't get to see him call Dick Cheney's daughter a lesbian again.

Governor Mike Huckabee is a man of sound beliefs and strong convictions, and

apparently he believes that our constitution needs some more amending, in the event that he is elected President. He thinks that babies born in the U.S. shouldn't automatically be granted citizenship, and he thinks that Congress needs to waste their time trying to define marriage. He still thinks Iraq was a good idea, and he probably still believes in the tooth fairy.

Senator Barack Obama brings to the table a message of hope, but what exactly can America hope for if we elect the junior senator for Illinois. At 46 years young, how much experience can the four-year U.S. senator

possibly have to run this country as our President? Oprah says he's ready, but Oprah also gave Rachel Ray another TV show, if that says anything about her taste.

Rudy Guliani is slowly coming to the realization that he can't ride the coattails of 9/11 any longer. Nearly seven years after the worst day in American history, Guliani has only one thing going for him - the fact that he led that city the best he could during that time of great tragedy. It's not that people don't remember and appreciate him for that, but maybe people are beginning to realize that the United States of America is a

little bit larger than New York City.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton recently hopped on to the "change" bandwagon that's being driven by her fiercest competitor, but the change she wants to bring about could make communist China look like Sesame Street. Although the power-hungry dictator side of her consumes most of her cold robotic heart, she does have a soft side that breaks down and cries when she can't handle the pressure of running in an election.

Governor Mitt Romney, of all of the candidates, is a most true personification of what the Republican party has become over the years. He loves giving corporate executives tax breaks, he can't relate to the middle class, and he flip flops on

issues like John Kerry. And if you've seen the vicious ways in which he attacks the other candidates in his TV ads, just imagine how vindictive he'll be toward any country that hurts his feelings as President.

This election has almost caused me to give up all hope for our country. However, there are still a few things that could happen that could change my mind. The debates, for instance. Politicians don't like telling the truth, unless you get some alcohol in their system (Ted Kennedy), so I propose that some major news network hosts a "Never Have I Ever Debate." Never Have I Ever is a drinking game in which one person, the moderator in this case, would

See REAGAN, Page 12

**Jordan Reagan**  
Sports Editor



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2008. There are 345 days left in the year. This is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 21, 1958, Charles Starkweather, 19, killed the mother, stepfather and half-sister of his 14-year-old girlfriend, Carl Ann Fugate, at her family's home in Lincoln, Neb. (Starkweather, who had also killed a gas station attendant the previous November, and Fugate went on a road trip which resulted in seven more slayings. Starkweather was executed in 1959; Fugate, who maintained she had been Starkweather's hostage, was convicted of murder and sentenced to life; she was paroled in 1976.)

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis the XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1858, Felix Marma Zuloaga became president of Mexico upon the ouster of Ignacio Comonfort.

In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public.

(However, the measure was vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. two weeks later).

In 1915, the first Kiwanis Club was founded, in Detroit.

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin died at age 53.

In 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, was found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury. (Hiss, who always proclaimed his innocence, served less than four years in prison.)

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton, Conn. (However, the Nautilus did not make its first nuclear-powered run until nearly a year later).

In 1968, the Battle of Khe Sahn began during the Vietnam War as North Vietnamese forces attacked a U.S. Marine base; the Americans were able to hold their position until the siege was lifted 2 1/2 months later.

In 1968, an American B-52 bomber carrying four hydrogen bombs crashed in Greenland, killing one crew member and scattering radioactive material.

In 1976, the supersonic Concorde jet was put into service by Britain and France.

Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton angrily denied reports he had had an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and then tried to get her to lie about it.

*'Too bad all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxi cabs and cutting hair.'*

— George Burns  
American comedian (1896-1996)



## 'War on terror' is a faulty metaphor ...

The thing to remember, despite the rhetoric to the contrary, is that we are not at war with Islam. The "war on terror" is a faulty metaphor. The only terrorist group with whom we have a score to settle is al-Qaida, and al-Qaida is not a country. It has no state, no army, no large popular support. It is, in fact, nothing more than a criminal gang of fanatics.

The current presidential election should not be thought of as choosing a warrior in chief. Our most pressing problems are mainly domestic - though to be sure, part of solving those domestic problems is extracting ourselves from Iraq and Afghanistan and thus stopping the enormous drain on our treasury.

The potentially most dangerous candidates are Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, both of whom have

surrounded themselves with the same fanatic advisers who pushed us into war with Iraq and tried to get us into a war with Iran. Mitt Romney, in my judgment, is also dangerous because he seems to be as naive and ignorant of the world outside our borders as George W. Bush was.

John McCain, though sensible at the moment, is too old. A clear mind and high energy are always at risk at his age, especially in the case of a man who has been through what he had to endure. We would be gambling against the odds that he could hold up in such a stressful job.

The Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary are mainly media events and

yield few delegates. The point is to not count anyone out until the big states have voted. The only polls that count are the results of voters who actually turn out and cast their ballots. Iowa and

New Hampshire notwithstanding, the nominees of the two parties are yet to be chosen.

But back to the domestic problems, the main domestic blunder committed by President Bush was to cut taxes and get us into two expensive wars at the same time. Thus, the federal debt has zoomed to about \$9 trillion, a number almost incomprehensible. Unless remedial steps are taken, it won't be long before Social Security, Medicare,

Medicaid and interest on the debt will consume the entire federal budget. Clearly, tax increases are on the horizon, and the chief task of the new president will be to devise and push through Congress a fairer and more equitable tax system.

Another problem the new president will face is to devise a system that will provide disincentives for American industry to move their manufacturing jobs overseas to cheap-labor countries. No country with a service economy can maintain a high standard of living. I would favor punitive tariffs on American-brand products being shipped back to the United States by the multinational companies. Free trade, for example, with wholly owned Japanese products would amount to

See REESE, Page 12

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



## THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 14  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Texas public schools and accountability:

One of the biggest accountability days for Texas public schools falls on March 4 - the date for primary voting by Democrats and Republicans.

Students in grades three through five and seven through 11 will be taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in reading, writing or English language arts.

Considering the ramifications for testing, Fort Worth school administrators made a hard choice: They denied the Tarrant County Elections

Department's request to use 34 schools, mostly elementaries, as polling places. Despite the logistical difficulties this raises, it was a justifiable decision.

TAKS carries enormous consequences. Schools are evaluated by the state and federal government and the public based on the results. High school students must pass it to graduate.

The TEA tells districts to provide a nondisruptive testing environment. Irregularities or security breaches can bring sanctions. But the primaries will attract hundreds of people to the polls throughout the day.

"We don't even allow our people to cut the grass that day," Ron Wilson, the district's chief financial officer, said in a phone interview.

"It's not that we don't support the spirit of democracy in action," he said. But, he added, "no one can tell me it's not disruptive" to have crowds of voters in school buildings.

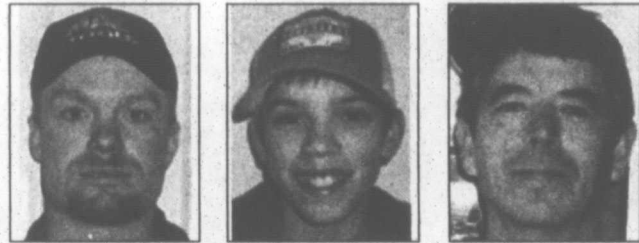
The testing calendar (www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar) is devised three years ahead, posted on TEA's Web site and revised after public hearings. The Legislature toyed with moving Texas' primaries to February but didn't. Lawmakers did push the school start date to late August, which resulted in TAKS moving two weeks.

A school district spokesman said Friday that district and county officials will look at each school and determine

See SCHOOLS, Page 12

# PLAY WHO'S WHO AND WIN \$100 PAMPA BUCKS HERE'S HOW


1. Match each face with the corresponding name and rectangle in the advertisements found on the following pages in today's edition of THE PAMPA NEWS.
2. Cut out each face and tape it in the corresponding blank rectangle in each ad. All entries must be original newspaper - no photo copies accepted. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE IS TO GO TO THE BUSINESS AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! BUT... some of these businesses might be inaccessible to the public, so rely on friends and family to solve this puzzle.
3. The Who's Who contest will appear in the January 21, January 25, January 28 and February 1 issues of The Pampa News. A drawing will be held from the correct entries the morning of February 4 to determine the winner. Bring entries to The Pampa News office at 403 W. Atchison or mail to PO Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066. Entries must be received by 5:00pm on February 5. Label your entry with your name, address and phone number so the winner may be notified.
4. Employees of The Pampa News and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
5. The Who's Who contest will be solved in the February 8 edition of The Pampa News.




+



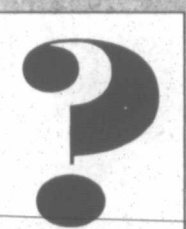
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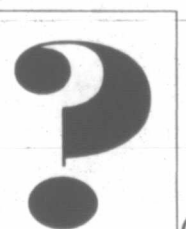
  
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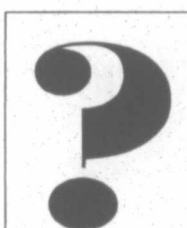




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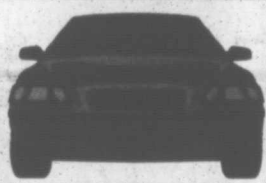
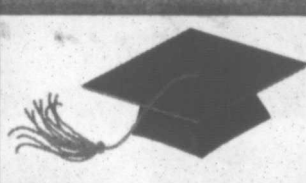


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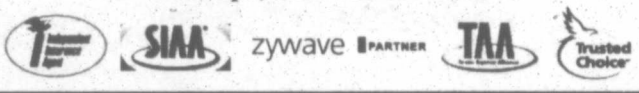
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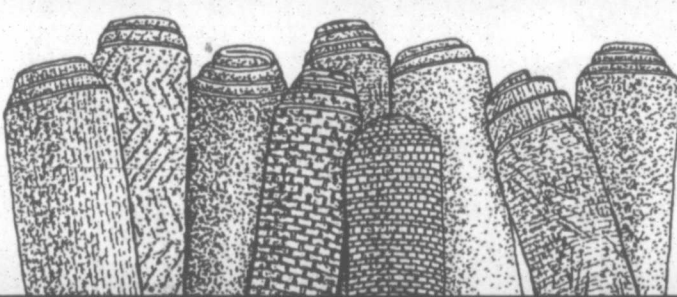
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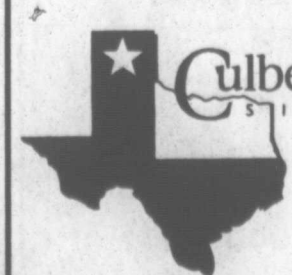
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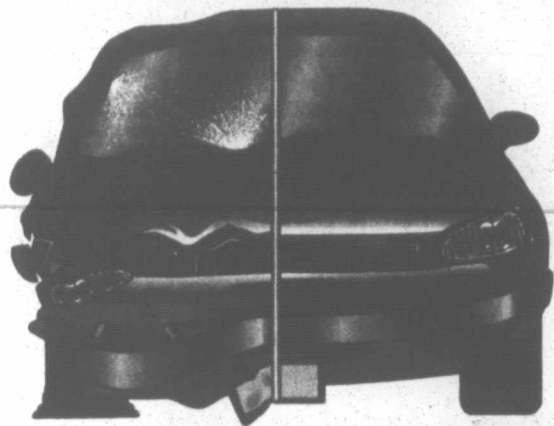
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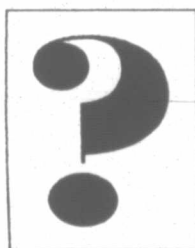


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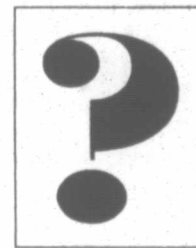
Buddy McNelly



Brig Martinez



Chuck Worley



Lupe Larrazolo



Jannis Schoonover

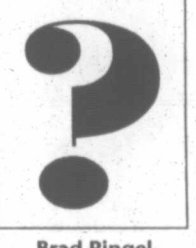


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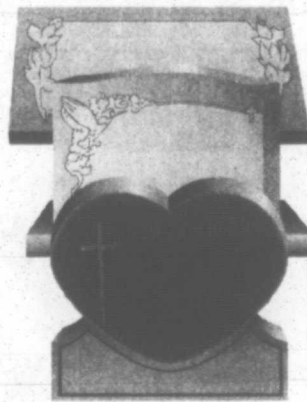


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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter, "Bailey," will be 4 soon, and will be having a birthday party. We have been to a few of Bailey's friends' birthday parties, and present-opening turns into chaos. The birthday child doesn't have a chance to really look at the gifts, other children crowd closer and closer to the present-opener to get a better look, and some children cry about the gifts the birthday child has received while their parents promise to buy them a "better one" on their next outing. I make sure my daughter is well-behaved when it comes to present-opening, but not all parents seem to feel the need to curb this behavior on the part of their children. Would it be acceptable to wait to open Bailey's presents until after the guests have left? — **WANTS TO BE A COURTEOUS HOSTESS**

**DEAR WANTS TO BE COURTEOUS:** Children learn what is acceptable behavior and what is not because their parents take the time to explain to them what is expected, and correct them when they make a mistake. The parents you have described were either too ignorant or too lazy to do their job. Although some "birthday mommies" provide gift bags or party favors for all the children to unwrap, most people consider the present-opening ritual to be part of the fun of the birthday celebration and expect it. A better solution would be to hold smaller birthday parties for your daughter so things don't get out of hand. According to the chapter "Table and Party Manners" in "Emily Post's Etiquette": "One guest should be invited for each year of a child's age, plus one."

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter-in-law, "Daisy," is a reckless driver who lives in a large metropolitan area surrounded by expressways. She tailgates, weaves in and

out of traffic and passes cars at high speeds, often using her cell phone while driving. Daisy has had several tickets. Despite this and pleas from my son and others to slow down, nothing has changed. I find this odd, because Daisy is otherwise a responsible person — an executive with a large company, an excellent mother and a loving wife. However, she appears to have a blind spot about the risks she takes when she's behind the wheel. She justifies her speed as necessary in order to keep up with the demands of her schedule. She would be grief-stricken if she had an accident that involved anyone, especially her infant daughter who is often in the car. Will the only wake-up call come in the form of a serious accident? — **DISTRESSED PAPA IN MAINE**

**DEAR DISTRESSED PAPA:** Probably — that or a near miss. However, I view your daughter-in-law in a different light than you appear to. A mother who drives aggressively with a child in the car and talking on her cell phone does not strike me as Mother of the Year. Studies have shown that drivers on cell phones are as impaired as those who have been drinking. She's being childish, selfish, foolish and irresponsible and should be ashamed of herself.

**DEAR READERS:** Today we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was martyred in the cause of civil rights in 1968. His words ring as true today as when he first uttered them: "Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough, and morality enough, to cut off the chain of hate." He was a voice of reason in a time of insanity, silenced too soon.

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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## Marmaduke



"Poor baby hasn't had a wink of sleep since that big yellow cat began walking through our back yard."

## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"...But he never brings them back. He just eats them."

## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



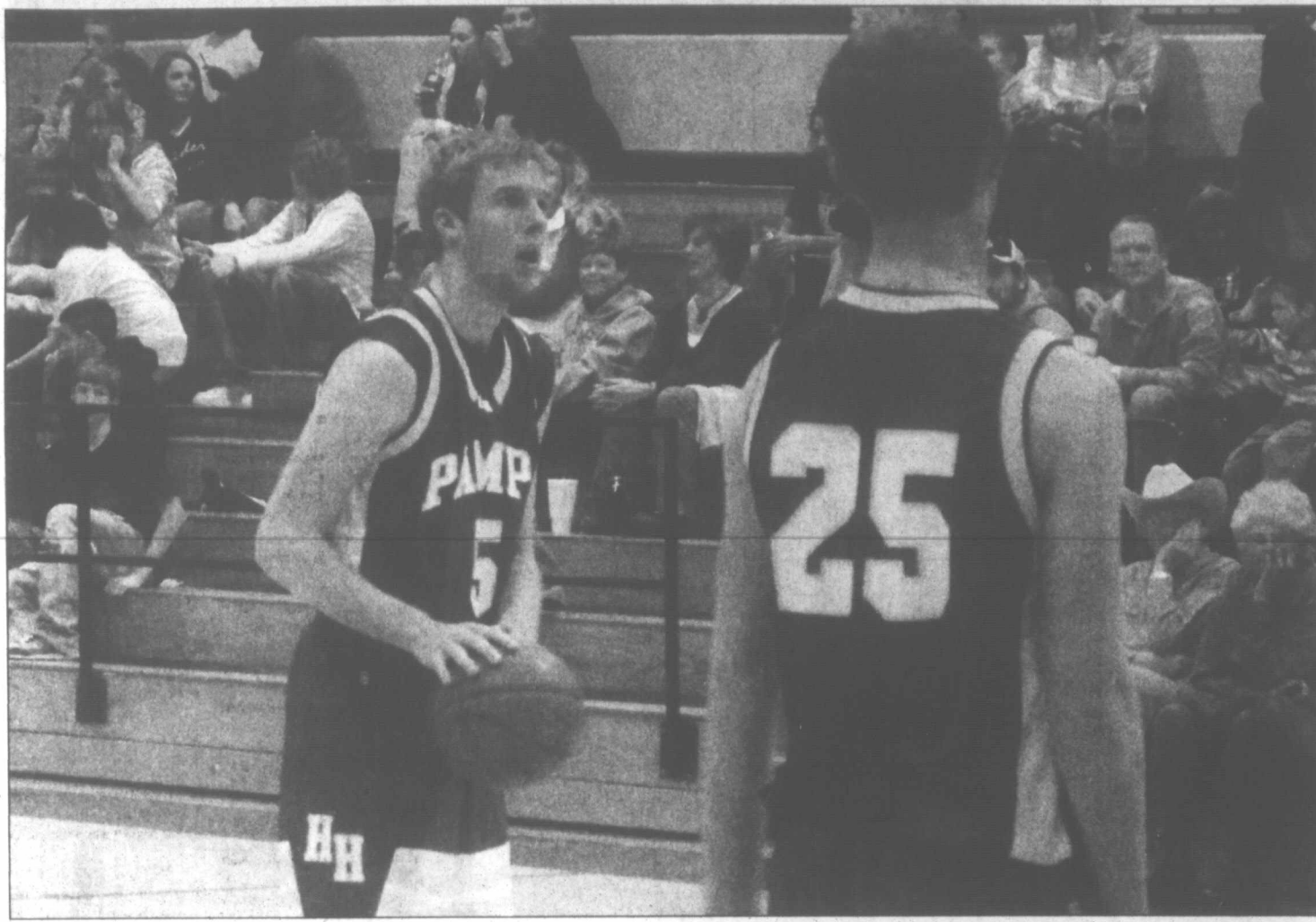
## Flo & Friends



## Blondie



# Sports



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa junior Matt Smith prepares to shoot a free throw late in the third quarter of Friday night's game at Randall. Also pictured here is senior Mark Stone, ready to pull down an offensive rebound.

## Pampa basketball fans invited to come 'Pack the Pit' Tuesday

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

As the Lady Harvesters play their sixth game of the district season, and the Harvesters play their fourth, all Pampa fans are encouraged to attend Tuesday night's games against the Dumas Demons and Demonettes.

Tuesday night is "Pack the Pit," a night in which the basketball boosters throw fun and prizes into the mix of a home game at McNeely Field House.

The first 300 fans to show up to "Pack the Pit" Tuesday night will receive free spirit poms as they enter, and several door prizes will be given away throughout the night.

Door prizes include an iPod, a digital camera and much more.

Over \$1,000 worth of prizes are to be given away.

In order to win these prizes, fans must arrive

before halftime of the girls game, and be present to win when their name is drawn.

The Lady Harvesters will hit the court first at 6 p.m. as they hope to avenge an early district loss to the Dumas Demonettes.

The varsity boys will follow at 7:30 p.m. as they play their fourth district game, and hope to pick up their first district win.

A full crowd, or a fully packed Pit will be a great help to the Pampa Harvesters, according to a few of the players themselves.

"It feels great to have a huge crowd out there, and everyone yelling your name," Lady Harvester Amber Brown said.

Tons of door prizes, great food and better basketball is what "Pack the Pit" is all about Tuesday night at McNeely Fieldhouse.



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa's Jessica Miner (22) is fouled by a Randall defender during the third quarter of Friday night's game against the Lady Raiders at Randall.

## Federer and Blake meet in Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer sure didn't want to put in another 4 1/2 hours.

So he made fast work of Tomas Berdych 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-3 Monday to continue his march to a third consecutive Australian Open title and narrow his pursuit of Pete Sampras' record 14 Grand Slam titles.

"It throws off your rhythm a little bit, playing a five-setter," said top-ranked Federer, who barely avoided being an upset victim in the previous round, when he survived a 10-8 final set against Janko Tipsarevic.

"I like this one today better," he said after reaching the quarterfinals. "I'm quite pleased with the result, pulling up from a tough match."

Federer next faces American James Blake, a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 winner over 19-year-old Croatian Marin Cilic, advancing past the fourth round here for the first time and matching his best Grand Slam showing.

Fifth-seeded David Ferrer, who lost to Federer in the Masters Cup final in November, beat fellow

Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. He will play third-ranked Novak Djokovic, who ousted the last Australian hope when he defeated No. 19 Lleyton Hewitt 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Hewitt didn't have his usual high energy level after beating Marcos Baghdatis in five sets in his previous match, which didn't end until 4:33 a.m. Sunday. That match was delayed by the length of Federer's victory over Tipsarevic.

Venus Williams, the eighth-seeded woman, realizes she needs to get over her slow starts. She had to fight back twice from service breaks in the first set before advancing to the quarters with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Marta Domachowska, a qualifier from Poland.

She next faces No. 4 Ana Ivanovic, who put together a 6-1, 7-6 (2) win over Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki. No. 8 Daniela Hantuchova beat No. 27 Maria Kirilenko 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 and will next play Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, who upset No. 14 Nadia Petrova 1-6, 7-5, 6-0.

## Stoudemire leads 6 in double figures as Phoenix rout Nets

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns are beginning to feel like themselves again, just in time for a four-game road trip.

The Suns romped past the struggling New Jersey Nets 116-92 on Sunday, two nights after a similar rout of the lowly Minnesota Timberwolves.

The competition was less than impressive, but even though the Suns have the best record in the Western Conference, their lack of consistent effort has been a matter of much self-criticism. The recent performances left a better aftertaste.

"I just feel the mood's bet-

ter," coach Mike D'Antoni said, "and now we get another road trip coming up, and we're going to take care of business. It feels pretty good."

Starting with a victory over the Lakers in Los Angeles, Phoenix takes a three-game winning streak into a four-game trip that starts Tuesday night in Milwaukee. The Suns could have Grant Hill back for that game. He's been sidelined for seven games while recovering from an appendectomy.

He will join a team gaining confidence.

## Giants, freezing fans at Lambeau Field watch overtime thriller

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The NFL championship games started c-c-cold and ended with a frigid overtime thriller.

Lawrence Tynes kicked a 47-yard field goal to give the Giants a 23-20 victory over the Green Bay Packers in the frosty NFC title game Sunday night after the New England Patriots topped the San Diego Chargers 21-12 in the AFC game.

As soon as Tynes hit his kick, he bolted from the field.

"I just wanted to get out of the cold," Tynes said.

At kickoff, the temperature was 1 below zero with a wind chill of 23 below. The temperature dropped slightly over the course of the evening in the second-coldest

home game in Packers' history behind the Ice Bowl at 13 below and the third-coldest game after the 1981 AFC championship game in Cincinnati, where it was 9 below zero.

Afterward, Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce said he wasn't sure when the smile would come off his face.

"It's still cold out here, so I don't know if it's from being frozen or from being happy," Pierce said. "But we're going to Arizona, and it's a lot warmer out there."

While players and fans were cold, Packers officials said emergency personnel treated 12 to 15 fans for minor cold-related issues. A local group handed out 30,000 packets of hand warmers, while

videographers had quilts and blankets over cameras in an effort to keep them functioning.

The players said the weather didn't bother them, even though Giants quarterback Eli Manning said it did affect them during warmups, forcing him to cut them short with receivers Amani Toomer and Plaxico Burress.

"Me and Amani and Plaxico came out about two hours before the game to do our warmups," Manning said. "We said, 'Hey, we've got to go in.' My left hand was numb, my receivers, they didn't have any hand warmers, their hands were done."

During the game, Manning ran in place at times and kept his hands buried in his jersey pouch in an

effort to stay warm, and his teammates were huddled in heavy overcoats.

"On the sideline, they had the heaters, I stood by that the whole game," said Manning, who went 21-for-40 for 254 yards. "I never took my helmet off, I just stood by the heaters, stayed warm, had big gloves around my hands to keep my hands warm, that was the most important thing."

It was 23 degrees at kickoff of the AFC championship game in Foxborough, Mass., the same temperature as North Pole, Alaska. Though much warmer than Green Bay, it was the lowest temperature for any of the three AFC championship games played in Foxborough over the years. The

wind chill was 9.

No matter the temperature in Green Bay, fans were determined to have a good time, taking what little snow wasn't shoveled out before the game to make snow balls.

Steve Redlin said he bought a pair of tickets for \$1,040 off an online site. Wearing an authentic Brett Favre jersey, he said he dressed with four layers on the bottom and six layers on top to watch his favorite player.

"I'm like the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man," he said.

Herb Kochon, a lifelong Packers fan from Atlantic Highlands, N.J., attended his first game at Lambeau Field.

## Perfect Patriots overcame shaky Brady to beat San Diego

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — "Now we can look ahead."

Bill Belichick, a coach of few words, said it all with that sentence after his New England Patriots claimed the AFC championship trophy.

Looking ahead means only one thing: A trip to the Super Bowl, and a chance to give their perfect record a whole new meaning.

Despite a shaky Tom Brady, the Patriots were still too much for the banged-up San Diego Chargers, pulling

out a 21-12 victory Sunday that sent them back to the NFL title game for the fourth time in seven seasons.

"There was history on the line," Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "We recognize it, we acknowledge it."

Brady made several stunningly poor throws that fluttered in the wind, Randy Moss was a non-factor for the second straight game and the highest-scoring team in NFL history sputtered all afternoon. Instead, the

Patriots (18-0) relied on Laurence Maroney's spins, cuts and helmet-rattling runs.

With injured Chargers star LaDainian Tomlinson reduced to mostly watching in a parka, the Patriots moved on to a Feb. 3 matchup in Glendale, Ariz., against the New York Giants.

The Giants beat Green Bay 23-20 in overtime for the NFC championship. New England closed out its regular season by beating the Giants in a 38-35 thriller.

Yet for all the Brady Bunch has accomplished — they're the only team in NFL history to start out with 18 straight victories — the Patriots are well aware they must win that final game to avoid being relegated to a footnote.

"We'll try to elevate our game for one last performance," said Brady, MVP in two of the three Super Bowls he's won.

Brady, coming off a record-setting 50 TD passes, threw for two scores. He also

tossed a season-high three interceptions.

No matter, New England took care of the nuts and Bolts on a most chilly day. The sellout crowd at Gillette Stadium chanted "Super Bowl! Super Bowl!" in the closing minutes, anticipating the Pats' first appearance in the big game since the 2004 season.

Belichick's team eclipsed the 17-0 mark of the champion 1972 Miami Dolphins, and he'll soon try for his fourth NFL title.

"I think there will be a time to sit back and reflect," Belichick said. "We'll certainly enjoy this for a few days."

Brady earned his 100th career victory and advanced without a hint of girlfriend drama — taking notes, Tony Romo? The dimpled Patriots quarterback will bring true glam to Super Bowl: Imagine the paparazzi buzz if Brady is sighted with Gisele Bundchen.

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OPERA

## Man creates costumes for Amarillo Opera

CANYON, Texas (AP) — Gene Murray's upstairs workroom is outfitted for outfitting.

Fabric hangs over tabletops. A stack of sketch paper contains Murray's latest designs. Unclothed mannequins wait in the corner for their next fitting.

From the spare bedroom-turned-costume shop, Murray, 73, designs and builds every garment for Amarillo Opera's productions.

"Costumes complete the character," he said. "It feels good to know I can give the performers a peek into who they portray."

Murray began making costumes full time for Amarillo Opera about six years ago.

A singer and actor, Murray performed in several operas before opting to dedicate his efforts primarily to making costumes.

"Gene is a joy to work with," said Mila Gibson, founder of Amarillo Opera.

"He is always humble and kind and dependable. And, of course, all his costumes are quality — every detail is exceptional," she said.

To date, Murray has single-handedly created attire for about a dozen operas.

His only training as a tailor was in the U.S. Army, when he altered uniforms during his service in the 1950s.

Over the years, he has taught himself the details of embroidery as well as how to design original patterns.

Elayne Shults, a longtime member of the Amarillo Opera chorus, knows the quality of Murray's work firsthand.

"To have such stunning costumes is an integral part of each production," Shults said. "Gene's work is marvelous. There's nothing he cannot do."

Outfitting an opera is no simple undertaking.

The process takes many months. As soon as one production closes, Murray begins studying the score of the next opera.

Scrutinizing the opera scene by scene, Murray lists all the characters

and their actions from start to finish. He determines how many costumes each character requires.

"Some characters will go the whole opera in one outfit, but some will require eight different ones," he said.

After compiling the character list, Murray researches clothing fashions for the time period when the opera is set.

He then draws his own patterns based on the historical data.

Once the opera's roles are filled and cast member measurements are submitted, Murray sets to work on creating the garments.

For this April's production of "Cold Sassy Tree," Murray will design 22 dresses, plus several pieces for men. The dresses alone will require more than 100 yards of fabric.

Murray's familiarity with each opera's story allows him to design costumes that truly fit each character.

For instance, Murray always tries to match the colors of the costumes with the personality of the character.

Bright and cheery characters are garbed in yellow, perhaps. Passionate characters receive red or orange costumes. Greedy characters wear green.

"Colors can help relay a character's personality," he said. "Also, by keeping a character in the same colors throughout the opera, audiences can easily identify who people are."

Murray was introduced to opera as a child growing up on a farm in Childress.

As Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida" played through the family's battery-powered radio one night, Murray was charmed by the sounds.

"I remember crying and thinking that the music was so beautiful," he said. "It just grabbed me, and from that moment on, I haven't gotten enough of it."

A longtime lover of the art form, Murray taught music and drama in area schools for 45 years, and he has written many of his own operas.

"Gene is the quintessential Renaissance man," Gibson said. "I've always thought that he can do anything."

## South Texas mayor accused of taking neighbor's dog

ALICE, Texas (AP) — The mayor of this South Texas town has been indicted after neighbors accused her of taking their dog while she cared for it during their vacation.

Grace Saenz-Lopez was indicted Friday on two felony counts of tampering with physical evidence related to the Shih Tzu, according to jail records.

A jail official said Saenz-Lopez and twin sister Graciela Garcia, who was indicted on a similar felony charge, had been released on bond. The dog was found at Garcia's house.

"She loves the little dog," said Homero Canales, who represents the mayor and her sister. "She told me that if she were a single woman, she would not care if she went to jail for the rest of her life before she would give the dog back."

This summer, the mayor agreed to watch the dog belonging to Rudy Gutierrez and Shelly Cavazos. A day after her neighbors left with their kids for vacation, Saenz-Lopez called to tell them that Puddles had died, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times and the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Three months later, a relative of Cavazos saw Puddles — renamed Panchito — at an Alice dog groomer. When Saenz-Lopez refused to return the dog, the family filed a criminal complaint and a civil lawsuit against her.

Friday's indictments followed a police report filed Monday by the mayor in which she said the dog was missing. Then a television crew found the dog at the Garcia's home in Ben Bolt, about 10 miles from Alice.

Garcia, who said a "myste-

rious lady" had found the dog and dropped it off, was indicted on a felony count of concealing evidence, said District Attorney Joe Frank Garza.

A hearing is set for Feb. 4 in the civil lawsuit against Saenz-Lopez, where state District Judge Richard Terrell will decide the custody battle over the dog, said DeeAnn Torres, the attorney for Gutierrez and Cavazos.

"We just wanted the puppy back," Torres said.

Canales said his client "will not give the dog back unless there is a legitimate court order that says she has to."

"The taking of the dog was to save it from certain death," Canales said. "It was going to die. They had left the dog with her to take care of it. She took it to the doctor. She decided if she gave it back it would die."

## Suzanne Pleshette dies at age 70

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Suzanne Pleshette, best known for her role as Bob Newhart's wife on television's long-running "The Bob Newhart Show," has died, just days before a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Pleshette, who underwent chemotherapy for lung cancer in 2006, died of respiratory failure Saturday evening at her Los Angeles home, said attorney and family friend Robert Finkelstein.

The beautiful, husky-voiced TV, film and theater star was set to attend the Jan. 31 ceremony, her 71st birthday.

"She was a pro's pro," Bob Newhart said. "Although we knew she was quite sick, she

was one of those people that you thought would go on forever."

"The Bob Newhart Show, a hit throughout its six-year run, starred comedian Newhart as a Chicago psychiatrist surrounded by eccentric patients. Pleshette — as his sardonic wife — provided the voice of reason.

Four years after the show ended in 1978, Newhart went on to the equally successful "Newhart" series in which he was the proprietor of a New England inn populated by more eccentrics. When that show ended in 1990, Pleshette reprised her role — from the first show — in one of the most clever final episodes in TV history.

It had Newhart waking up in the bedroom of his "The Bob Newhart Show" home with Pleshette at his side. He went on to tell her of the crazy dream he'd just had of running an inn filled with a cast of odd characters.

"If I'm in Timbuktu, I'll fly home to do that," Pleshette said of her reaction when Newhart told her how he was thinking of ending the show.

Born Jan. 31, 1937, in New York City, Pleshette began her career as a stage actress after attending the city's High School of the Performing Arts and studying at its Neighborhood Playhouse. She was often picked for roles because of her beauty and her throaty voice.

## Schools

Continued from Page 4

whether a polling place can be set up that won't be disruptive. If not, a nearby alternative will be found.

There's understandable concern about accommodating voters, especially given the buzz about this year's presidential candidates. But none of them will be held accountable for TAKS scores. The Fort Worth schools will. URL: <http://www.star-telegram.com>

## Reagan

Continued from Page 4

say, "Never have I ever (voted to go to war with Iraq, hired a hit-man,

etc.)" The candidates who never have done what the moderator says are exempt from having to take a drink, but those who have must take a drink. No giving the candidates a chance to explain themselves, just yes-or-no questions, in which yesses are answered by a shot of tequila.

All of the candidates would agree that America needs a good dose of change, but at this point, I'm not so sure I've found anybody worth changing over to. Maybe Hulk Hogan should run, or Bruce Willis. I'd vote for either one of them in a heartbeat.

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

fair trade, since their wages are practically on a par with ours. But what are really intracorporate transfers, such as an American company farming out its manufacturing process to a cheap-labor country like

China, should be penalized.

America was built on hope — hope that a family that worked hard could provide a better future for its children. With the massive loss of manufacturing jobs, that hope is waning among more and more American families. In many cases, their children are not better off and can't find good-paying jobs. It is a simple economic fact that only value-added manufacturing jobs can provide decent wages for most working-class Americans. Cheap labor is the crack cocaine of capitalists, and the gov-

ernment has a legitimate role in breaking them of their addiction.


Somebody needs to tell the manufacturers that if you want to manufacture your shoes in Thailand, then count on selling them in Thailand, because you aren't going to ship them back to the United States without a penalty so heavy as to make them uncompetitive. It's long past time to forget war and put Americans first.

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

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