

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 35
LOW 21

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Grass fire



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Pampa firefighters assisted Hoover Volunteer Fire Department with a grass fire on the Gray/Roberts County line Sunday around 5 p.m. No structures or people were threatened by this blaze. Gray County is currently under a burn ban so residents are prohibited from all outdoor burning.

Immunizations, flu shots available

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

For those adults and children who are in need of flu shots or other basic immunizations for children of all ages, a clinic will be available Wednesday and again on Feb. 20.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is traveling around the Panhandle to offer immunizations to local residents.

When they come to Pampa, they will be at the Harvest House at 736 S. Cuyler. The hours are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

A representative from the State Health Services office in Canyon said that

the fees for these immunizations vary based on an individual basis.

"We would like for anyone that needs immunizations for their children to stop by and talk to us on Wednesday," a State Health Services representative said. "People should not worry about the cost of these without stopping by to visit with us first."

Adult flu shots will also be available for a \$10 donation and the office said it is not too late to still get this shot.

For more information on this clinic, call 806-655-7151 or 806-665-4752 and ask for the immunization department.

LICENSE PLATES

Texans get the chance to choose new license on-line

HOUSTON (AP) — If Texans think their license plates are boring, they'll get a chance to do something about it starting Monday.

The Texas Department of Transportation is conducting a weeklong vote at www.txdot.gov that could decide whether Texans keep the current plate or choose one of four new, fancier designs.

The new plate will come out in 2009.

Whatever Texans choose, the new plates will add a seventh digit because the state is running out of six-digit combinations, said Rebecca Davio, TxDOT's director of vehicles, title and registration.

By law, the Texas Transportation Commission must approve the state's general-issue plate. TxDOT officials believe commissioners will pick the plate that Texans endorse.

"We're trying to listen to what our customers are saying," Davio said. "In case Texans really like the existing plate, they can choose that."

The agency did not release advance photos of the new designs but offered a quick peek. All feature the state's name on top and "The Lone Star State" on the bottom.

The four new choices are:

— New Texas. This red, white and blue plate features a composite of skylines from several Texas cities at the bottom and the word "Texas" in black script at the top.

— Traditional Texas. This plate features blue highlights and a stark, white background with a gold Texas star at the bottom and a bold, red "Texas" in capital letters at the top.

— Lone Star Texas. A white star stands out in the top left corner along with wide brushes of

red and blue against a large Texas sky. A low-lying mountain range runs along the bottom.

— Natural Texas. The plate is covered with wildflowers.

For the purposes of the vote, TxDOT named the current plate "My Texas."

The state's plate design hasn't changed much over the years. For most of the 20th century, Texas stuck with black-and-white plates, followed by blue and white in the 1970s. In 1986, they became red, white and blue.

Except for the occasional appearance of a small Texas flag in the 1990s and today's design that features a space shuttle and a cowboy, there's been little in the way of splashy graphics.

District attorney unopposed in upcoming election

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Lynn Switzer hopes to continue the work she has begun in the 31st District Attorney's office by being re-elected to the post.

Switzer has worked in the 31st District Attorney's office since 2003, when she was hired by former DA Rick Roach to be his assistant DA. She took over the reins of the office upon Roach's arrest in January 2005 and was soon named 31st District Attorney by the governor and state legislature. She was sworn in on March 12, 2005 and was unopposed in a 2006 election to fill the remainder of Roach's term. She is currently unopposed in the March 4 primary election.

Her accomplishments as DA

include clearing the backlog of cases that existed before she headed the office, the establishment of a sexual assault response program, develop-

ment of a multi-agency case review process and implementation of a computerized system to better handle the movement of cases through the judicial process.

The sexual assault response program enables sexual assault victims to avoid traveling to Amarillo for exams and evidence collection after an assault. The program also provides support to the victims including acute crisis intervention at the time of the assault and advocacy for the victim.

"It was a concerted effort by several factions," Switzer said of the sexual assault response program.

"I want to continue to build on the interworking relationship between all agencies and the DA's office," she said. "I want to set up a major case review similar to what we do with sexual assault cases, where the agencies compare and share information and make suggestions on which direction to go with the case."

"I'm looking forward to continuing to improve the efficiency of the office by moving cases through the office," she said.

Switzer is a native of Wichita Falls and a graduate of Crowell High

School. She earned an undergraduate degree in accounting from the College of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M., and her law degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

"My first case was as a defense attorney. The prosecutor was asking for a life sentence, and I got the defendant 50 years," Switzer said.

She later became a prosecutor herself, and was assistant district attorney in Tom Green County, which includes the city of San Angelo, when she was hired by Roach.

The 31st District covers Gray, Hemphill, Wheeler, Roberts and Lipscomb counties and includes the 223rd District, which serves Gray County.



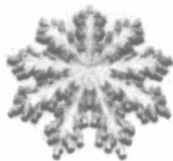
Switzer

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Snow chance Mostly sunny Mostly sunny

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of snow, mainly before noon. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 35. Wind chill values between 16 and 23. Windy, with a north northwest wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. South wind around 10 mph becoming west.

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Obituaries

Troy L. 'Tweedlelo' Bennett, 87

Troy L. "Tweedlelo" Bennett, 87, died Feb. 3, 2008, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Bennett was born Aug. 13, 1920, in Dougherty, Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1934. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving in the 634th Tank Destroyer Division during World War

II, and was discharged as a corporal.

He married Jean Rhoden on Feb. 1, 1951, in Tucumcari, N.M. Troy worked as a boilermaker for Vaughn & Taylor for 35 years and worked for Nelson-Sikes Pipeline for 15 years. He was a member of the Boilermakers Local #531 in Amarillo, and was a member of the Pampa Moose

Lodge. Troy was a Baptist.

Troy was preceded in death by a grandson, Justin King in 1994; four sisters, Lillian B. Owens, Evadean Herring, Nadean Morse and Bobbe Jo Moore; and three brothers, twin brother Roy C. Bennett, Boyd L. Bennett and William Bennett.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Bennett of the home; three daughters,

Debbie Farrar and husband Larry of Southlake, Denise Pfitzenreuter and husband Howard of Austin, and Darla Hoskins of Thorndale; one brother, Jimmy Bennett of Northglenn, Colo.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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

Josie Helen Phillips, 89

Josie Helen Phillips, 89, of Pampa died Feb. 3, 2008, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Phillips was born July 15, 1918, in Preston. She married Harold Phillips on Oct. 31, 1933, in Lark, Okla. He preceded her in death on June 21, 1998. Josie had been a resident of Pampa since 1975. She was

a member of Fellowship Baptist Church. She was a homemaker and enjoyed bowling for many years. Josie made lots of friends at church and her TOPS Club. She was very faithful and loved studying



Phillips

and reading her Bible.

Survivors include one son, Bill Phillips and wife Sandy of Kingston, Okla.; four daughters, Laura Vandever of Mobeetie, Sue Barns and husband Jimmy of Bridgeport, Kay

Barton and husband Donnie and Elizabeth Johnson and husband Jimmy, all of Pampa; two sisters, Nettie Mae Sanders and Inez Petty, both of Borger; 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

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

William J. Potter, 87

William J. Potter, 87, of Pampa died Feb. 2, 2008, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

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

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Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Saturday, Feb. 2
 Lenor Helfer, 25, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of South Hobart by Pampa Police Department on a warrant for issuing a bad check.

Sunday, Feb. 3
 Jorge Garcia, 38, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Jayson Williams, 34, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of West Brown by PPD on a bond surrender for criminal mischief.

Pampa PD

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

Friday, Feb. 1
 Thirteen traffic stops were made. A stop at the intersection of Barnes and Murphy streets resulted in at least one arrest.

Traffic complaints were received from the 2200 block of North Nelson, the 2800 block of Charles and the intersection of Brown and Gray streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2800 block of Charles, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Love and Wilks streets, the 300 block of East Brown and the intersection of Huff Road and McCullough Avenue.

Animal control officers made stops concerning

animals in the 300 block of North Somerville, the 1100 block of Crane Road, the 500 block of North Somerville, the 700 block of West Wilks, the 1200 block of South Barnes, the 700 block of North Russell and the 2600 block of Duncan.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

Welfare checks were made in the 800 block of South Barnes and the 300 block of South Houston.

Warrant service was attempted on two occasions.

A missing person was reported in the police department lobby.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1300 block of Mary Ellen.

A follow-up investigation in the 1300 block of Coffee resulted in at least one arrest.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Somerville and the 300 block of Miami.

Public intoxication was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of Campbell. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

One alarm was reported.

Fraud was reported in the police department lobby.

Forgery was reported in the 1400 block of Hamilton.

Theft was reported at The Shoe Department, 2733 Perryton Parkway. A pair of baby shoes valued at \$22.99 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of East Francis.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Sandlewood.

Saturday, Feb. 2
 Forty-two traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 300 block of North Davis and the 2700 block of Rosewood.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of 25th Avenue and Perryton Parkway, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Information on reckless driving was received in the 500 block of Gillespie.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of Wilks, the intersection

of 18th and Sumner streets, the 400 block of East Foster, the 1900 block of North Christy, the 1900 block of North Faulkner and the 600 block of Hazel.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2100 block of West Kentucky, the 2300 block of Alcock and County Road 9.

Lost property was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Found property was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A welfare check was made in the 600 block of North Christy.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 2000 block of Williston and the 1600 block of North Hobart. The incident in the 2000 block of Williston resulted in at least one arrest.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 900 block of Fisher.

A threat was reported in the police department lobby.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart, the 2800 block of Charles, the 1100 block of Varnon Drive and the 1000 block of Varnon Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North Wynne, the intersection of Francis and Somerville streets and the intersection of Evergreen and Mora streets.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill.

Assault was reported in the police department lobby.

One alarm was reported.

One building check was made.

Theft was reported in the 1900 block of North Banks. Taken were a metal yard table and two metal yard chairs. Estimated value of loss is \$130.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Finley.

Burglary was reported in the 400 block of Maple. Burglar bars on a window and a steel bar on a door were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$150.

Sunday, Feb. 3
 Fifteen traffic stops were made. Stops on two occasions in the 300 block of West Brown resulted in at least two arrests.

A traffic complaint was received from the 100 block of North Dwight.

A vehicle accident was

See **RECORD**, Page 7

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Authorities ask for help identifying boy found in trash

HOUSTON (AP) — Investigators on Monday made a passionate plea for help identifying a malnourished young boy whose withered body was found in an apartment complex trash bin nearly five years ago.

The boy, dubbed "Beloved Doe" and "Amado Angelito" (Beloved Little Angel), was wrapped in an afghan blanket inside a checkered red and white bag. He was wearing nothing but a disposable diaper.

A maintenance worker at the complex found his body, but police have had no luck finding anyone who knew him. On Monday, the FBI joined the Houston Police Department and Crime Stoppers of Houston to urge anyone with information to come forward.

"This case has been unsolved for long enough," said Katherine Cabaniss, executive director of Crime Stoppers of Houston. "It's time for justice for Beloved Doe."

Officials are hoping renewed attention on the case, along with \$25,000 in reward money, will help solve the mystery. The FBI is offering a \$20,000 reward, and Crime Stoppers is offering \$5,000.

The investigation into the identity of the murdered 2-year-old girl dubbed "Baby Grace" brought renewed attention to this boy's death, said Houston Police Detective Rick Moreno. The girl's remains were found in October in a plastic box that had washed ashore in Galveston Bay.

She was later identified as Riley Ann

Sawyers, of Spring, and her mother and stepfather have been charged with capital murder in her beating death.

After a Houston Chronicle story about other unsolved child murders, police received several tips about women who may be Beloved Doe's mother or missing children who look like him, Moreno said. Investigators are running DNA tests to check on those leads.

An autopsy showed the boy died of dehydration and malnutrition and probably had been mistreated for at least six months to a year, Moreno said. However there were no other signs of abuse or injuries.

The child, believed to be a white male, possibly of Hispanic descent, might have had medical treatment. He had a surgical scar on the right side of his neck and two vertical scars on his abdomen, most likely from the insertion of a feeding tube, Moreno said.

He also had a small mole on his right forearm, close cropped hair, bushy eyebrows and his right ear was larger than his left.

A photo of the boy, the blanket and bag and other information is available on the FBI's Web site. Anyone with information is being asked to call the FBI's toll-free hot line, 1-888-324-4336, or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477.

"We know there's someone out there who knows what happened," Cabaniss said. "If you know who did it, it is your duty to call."

Judge to hear arguments why BP plea deal should be rejected

HOUSTON (AP) — After months of debate, a federal judge was set to conduct a hearing Monday on a highly criticized guilty plea resulting from the federal government's probe of BP PLC's deadly 2005 plant explosion.

U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal was originally set in November to accept the oil giant's guilty plea, which would require the company to pay a \$50 million fine and be on probation for three years for its role in the explosion.

But several attorneys for victims of the blast, which killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others, objected to the plea, calling the proposed fine "trivial." They also said the deal doesn't push to improve safety at the plant or fully detail BP's history of safety violations.

The judge agreed to let them voice their complaints and delayed her decision on whether to accept the plea.

Several relatives of workers killed in the accident as well as some injured workers have asked to speak against the plea during Monday's court hearing.

"I think this plea agreement stinks. Fifty million dollars is less than one month's worth of profit for

this one BP plant," Eva Rowe said at a news conference before the hearing. Her parents, James and Linda Rowe, were killed in the blast.

The plea agreement does not provide any incentive for BP to take action in order to prevent more deaths, said David Senko, a project manager for construction company JE Merit. Senko supervised 11 of the workers who died.

At the hearing, Rosenthal could do one of three things: accept the plea, reject it or order a presentence report, further prolonging the case.

Such reports are standard in criminal cases and offer a judge a wide range of information, such as a defendant's criminal history, that is used in determining a final sentence.

BP and the Department of Justice, who don't want such a report to be done, have defended the plea agreement, saying it's the harshest option available in assessing criminal punishment for the blast.

The fine and plea were part of an October agreement by BP to pay \$373 million to settle various criminal and civil charges.

In defending the plea agreement, BP has said it

has accepted responsibility for what happened, worked hard to improve safety at the plant and has fully cooperated with the criminal investigation.

BP has said it has paid more than \$1.6 billion to compensate victims.

The explosion at the plant, about 40 miles southeast of Houston, occurred after a piece of equipment called a blowdown drum overfilled with highly flammable liquid hydrocarbons.

The excess liquid and vapor hydrocarbons then were vented from the drum and ignited as the isomerization unit — a device that boosts the octane in gasoline — started up. Alarms and gauges that were supposed to warn of the overfilled equipment did not work properly.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, one of several agencies that investigated the accident, found BP fostered bad management at the plant and that cost-cutting moves by BP were factors in the explosion.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students

The Community Christian School of Pampa, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions, policies, scholarship, and loan programs.

A-21 Feb 4th

Karaoke breaks traffic monotony for Dallas passengers

DALLAS (AP) — It isn't easy entertaining seven women while negotiating a slowdown on Central Expressway, but Francisco Loaiza did his best.

As the proprietor and lone driver of the Karaoke Yellow Cab, Loaiza kept a hand on the wheel, a foot on the brake and an eye on the road, while taking photos with a digital camera, showing one of the passengers how to punch up a song on the keyboard of the microphone and sipping a cup of coffee. "It's called multitasking," he said.

During weekdays, Loaiza, 47, has the much less demanding job of ferrying Medicaid patients. But at night, chiefly on weekends, Loaiza's cab becomes a party on wheels, providing transportation before, after and during bachelorette parties, weddings, proms, concerts and simple nights on the town.

The ceiling of Loaiza's cab is decorated with silver compact discs and tubes of black and plasma lights. Under the seat is a flashing red police light, and on the floor by the driver is a Tech Magic Sing ED-11000 — "the best karaoke machine in the world," Loaiza said — programmed with 3,600 songs in English and 1,600 in Spanish.

He uses the same cab for his Medicaid patients but says they don't use the karaoke machine.

"They're too old or they're sick," he said.

In either case, he charges only normal cab fare. But the tips are good.

"I drove a guy two blocks one time," Loaiza said, "and he tipped me \$70."

He does no advertising, but by relying on word of mouth and an occasional notice in the media or on the Web, Loaiza can have up to 15 runs a night. He usually books in advance.

"People call me up at the last minute and I say, 'I'm busy. It would take two hours before I could get to you,'" he said. "They say, 'That's all right. I'll wait two hours.'"

Recently, Brandi Balfour booked the cab for an all-women birthday celebration for her friend Angela Provenzano. The itinerary ran from a pre-party at the Phoenix apartments near

Mockingbird Station to the main event at the W Hotel's Ghostbar.

For Loaiza, who has had fares last up to 10 hours, this was a short trip. It lasted pre-

"I think it's the best job any human being could have,"

— Francisco Loaiza
Cab driver

cisely long enough for "Holiday" by Madonna, "Gloria" by Laura Branigan and about two-thirds of "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson plus a few seconds of a Christian rock song that was punched up by accident and left everyone momentarily befuddled.

Brandi and her friends sang all the way into town, with little time lost discussing song selection.

"I need an alto, not a soprano," one said.

Near the end of the ride, Provenzano leaned toward the driver's seat.

"Sir, you have the coolest cab ever," she told Loaiza.

It helps to stay on his good side.

Loaiza keeps a VIP list on his cell phone for repeat customers and good tipppers, but also a black list for someone

who books a ride and doesn't show. A place on the VIP list can get you a booking on an otherwise busy night. If you're on the black list, you may never get a ride in the karaoke cab again unless you apologize, Loaiza said.

There are some downsides to the job.

"If you get a flat tire, the business shuts down," he said.

In addition, while every cab driver sees his share of drunks, Loaiza's passengers usually aren't on their way to a business meeting.

One woman was so drunk she curled up and fell asleep in the back of the cab, he recalled.

"We tried for 30 minutes to get her up, and finally a neighbor picked her up and pulled her out like a sack of potatoes," Loaiza said.

One time, he dropped off an intoxicated passenger and she walked off with his microphone. "I never did get it back," he said.

Still, he loves his work.

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Sweets for the Sweet!

Viewpoints

The end of one chapter in life, the beginning of another

In just a couple of days, one of the greatest chapters of my life will come to a close as I say good-bye to The Pampa News.

One year may not seem like a very long time to be employed at one particular business, but for this 20-year-old, it's the second-longest amount of time I've ever had a job, and it's by all means the best thing I've done with my life so far.

The experience I've gained is extraordinary, and the memories I've made in gaining that experience are priceless.

However, in an effort to give the college try another college try, I'm packing my things and moving to the big city of Amarillo to get settled there before attending school in the fall.

By far one of my favorite

things about this job is basketball season. My very first game to cover, before I got hired for this job, was the boys' game against Amarillo Tascosa at McNeely Fieldhouse early in December.

Tascosa, who was seen by many as the "better team," for whatever that's worth, was defeated by the Pampa Harvesters, 64-61.

The rest of that season was just as exciting for me, and so has this season.

As a person in my position, nothing beats standing near the court and taking pictures of an exciting Pampa Harvester basketball game on a Friday night.

All of the parents involved in this program have been great to visit with at these games and wonderful in helping me out, especially

with getting scores or photographs from the sub-varsity games, most of which I am unable to attend.

One of the most full-of-life teams I followed in my time here, and possibly in Pampa history was the 2007 Lady Harvester softball team.

They started out with a successful regular season, but set out to accomplish greater things as they entered into district competition.

A record of 10-0 in district was a goal they set early on in the season, and under the guidance of head coach Bobbi Gill, they accomplished that goal, seemingly without effort.

They went deep into the playoffs, and in Oklahoma City late in May, the Lady Harvesters were defeated by Denton Ryan, which is where apparently the descendants of Richard Kiel go to raise their daughters.

Unfortunately, I won't be around to cover the team this year, but I'm sure they'll give district 3-4A as well as the entire state a run for their money.

I think my favorite times here in Pampa was the time I got to spend with my brother, Payton.

We didn't get to see as much of each other as I would have liked growing up during our teenage years,

since both of us chose to live with different parents, but catching up on lost time with him has been some of the greatest times in my life.

Working as the Sports Editor of The Pampa News, I got to follow him around in a lot of his endeavors as a PHS athlete, and was there to capture all of his proud accomplishments as a team member and individual in track and football.

Of course, I would have attended his games regardless of whether or not it was my job to do so, and I would have cheered for him whether he would have been the worst player on the PHS chess team or the best lineman for the Pampa Harvester football team.

He's my brother and I love him, but I really hope I haven't been too obvious in

my bias towards him and his teammates in my writings.

Soon, you'll be hearing from my replacement here at the News, Katherine Flanary - she graduated from the school I tried to go to in the fall of '06, Abilene Christian University.

She's smart and funny, and will probably do a much better job than me, so Pampa Harvester parents and fans have something good to look forward to in the weeks to come.

My time here was well spent, but it's time for me to try college again, and hopefully, you'll see me on CNN one of these days.

Thanks for everything.

Jordan Reagan
Sports Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2008. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States. (However, the results of the balloting were not counted in the U.S. Senate until two months later).

On this date:

In 1783, Britain declared a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colonies, the United States of America.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states met in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.

In 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

In 1948, the island nation of Ceylon — now Sri Lanka — became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1983, singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, Calif., at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, Calif., home at age 67.

Ten years ago: More than 2,300 people were killed when an earthquake hit northeast Afghanistan with a magnitude of 5.9, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Five years ago: President Bush visited the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where he led a tribute to the lost crew of the shuttle Columbia and rededicated the nation to space travel. A rare television interview with Saddam Hussein aired in which the Iraqi leader charged that U.S. claims of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in his country were a pretext to seize Iraq's oil fields. Lawmakers formally dissolved Yugoslavia and replaced it with a loose union of its remaining two republics, Serbia and Montenegro. Opera singer Jerome Hines died in New York at age 81.

One year ago: The Indianapolis Colts won Super Bowl XLI, beating the Chicago Bears 29-17. Singer-actress Barbara McNair died in Los Angeles at age 72.

'No human creature can give orders to love.'

— George Sand
French author
(1804-1876)



Book identifies, defines Utopian neo-cons

If you wish to know how we got into the Iraq War, then read the new book by Jacob Heilbrunn. The title is "They Knew They Were Right: The Rise of the Neocons."

It's an excellent short history of the whole movement, with mini-biographies of the principal players.

It begins with the young Jews in New York in the 1920s enamored of Leon Trotsky, himself a Jewish intellectual and a rival of Josef Stalin, who later ordered Trotsky's murder in Mexico. For the first few decades, these young Jewish intellectuals, many of them stung by the snobbishness of the WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) establishment, were the intellectual firebrands of the political left.

Some peeled off as the crimes of Stalin began to

leak out, but the big break with the left came in the 1960s, when the so-called New Left took up the cause of the Palestinians and began to criticize Israel. Most of the Jewish neocons are

fiercely attached to Israel, and the non-Jewish neocons tend to share that passion. This is the reason behind the cries of anti-Semitism you hear from the neocons, but if you don't understand the role of Israel in this movement, as well as the Jewish experiences of the movement's intellectual leaders, then the Iraq War, as well as the antipathy toward Iran, won't make any sense. Heilbrunn, by the way, is not hostile to the neocons, though he doesn't shy away

from the facts that many of them would consider unflattering. The neocons are more than anything else elitists who think the common people are too stupid to make any decisions and therefore

deserve to be deceived whenever the elitists think it appropriate. They are also aggressive street fighters who don't hesitate to smear their opponents.

That is the source of the arrogance of intellectuals like Paul Wolfowitz, David Frum, Douglas Feith, Norman Podhoretz, the late Leo Strauss (a sort of German godfather to many of them), Richard Perle, William Kristol and others. They were spread throughout the Bush administration

like the pox, and they are still around and still influential.

The author describes the movement this way: "It isn't about the left. It is about a mindset, one that has been decisively shaped by the Jewish immigrant experience, by the Holocaust, and by the twentieth-century struggle against totalitarianism. ... The neocons claim to be an intellectual movement with no ethnic component to speak of. But neo-conservatism is as much a reflection of Jewish immigrant social resentments and status anxiety as a legitimate movement of ideas. Indeed, however much they may deny it, neoconservatism is in a decisive respect a Jewish phenomenon, reflecting a subset of Jewish concerns."

See REESE, Page 7

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 28
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on duty and death in the military:

The fact that federal law requires the secretary of veterans affairs to contact the family of a soldier killed in combat to collect an outstanding VA debt is incomprehensible to most Americans.

But it's just one more unforeseen consequence of calling U.S. military personnel back to duty after they've completed their tours and attempted to move on with their lives.

As Title 38 of the U.S. Code stands today, if a member of the armed forces dies — the specifics of the cause of

death don't matter — and owes money to the VA, the secretary is required to contact the family for repayment.

Twenty-two families have been asked to pay mostly GI bill education debt from the estates of loved ones who died in combat or of a service-connected injury incurred in a combat zone.

Rightfully outraged by this development, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas last week filed the Combat Veterans Debt Elimination Act to remove the provision that requires the VA to seek collection of unpaid debt from the families of soldiers who die from combat-related injuries. Hutchison, who has been joined by Sen. John Cornyn as a co-sponsor, is asking to make the law retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

Hutchison's legislation applies to veterans' education benefits and does not apply to money owed the United States under housing and small-business benefit programs.

The Texas senators are pushing to bypass the usual legislative channels of assigning the bill to committee and waiting what can be a tortuously long time before a bill comes to the full Senate for consideration.

Americans can help make this happen by contacting the Senate majority and minority leaders — Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, respectively — about fast-tracking this bill to passage.

Regardless of one's support for or opposition to the wars in Afghanistan

See DUTY, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

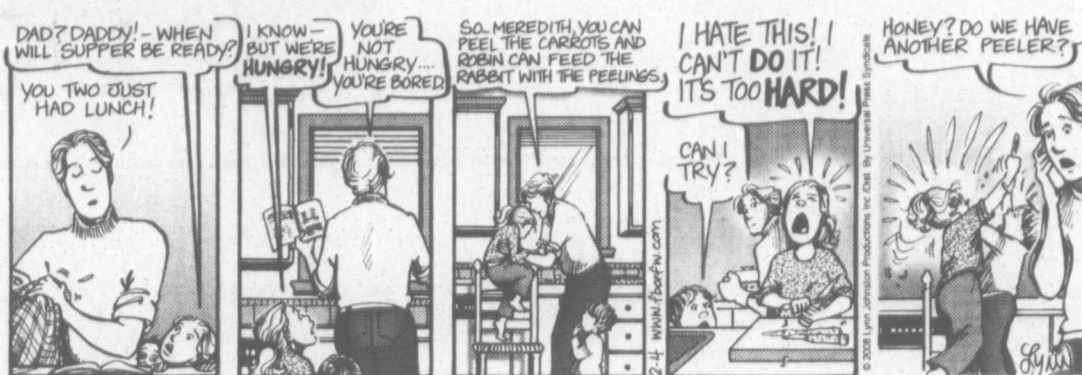
DEAR ABBY: I have a big problem. I am 16 years old, have a good job and do well in school. I go to a Christian non-denominational church every Sunday and enjoy that, too. The problem is my pastor. "Reverend Ron" is 48, married, and has children and grandchildren. We have become attracted to each other and have secretly become a couple since last fall. Every Monday night, after I get off work, I go over to my church and meet Reverend Ron in his office where we have sex. We agreed to tell no one, so as not to shame ourselves or our families. Six weeks ago, I found out I was pregnant. I haven't told him yet, and we continue with our Monday night meetings. Abortion is not an option, but neither is shaming my family, much less the whole church. Abby, what do I do? — IN TRUE LOVE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR IN TRUE LOVE: The first thing you must do is tell your mother what you have told me. If there is any "shaming," it should not be directed at you, your family or your church. You are 16, idealistic and inexperienced. "Reverend Ron," however, is an adult who has literally abused his "sacred" trust to you, his congregation and his God. He had so little concern for your welfare that he didn't even use birth control. This is not how grown men show "true love." You cannot hide this secret forever. At some point the truth will be revealed. Tell your mother now, so responsible adults who love you can give you the support you so desperately need. If you're afraid to speak to your mother alone, then have a friend with you when you do it. The only thing you CANNOT do is remain silent.

DEAR ABBY: My family is protesting a request I have made regarding the birth of my first child. I would prefer that my husband and I be alone with our newborn for at least the first 24 hours after the baby is born. I would like to contact my family the day after to invite them to the hospital. Both our families can be very loud, as I witnessed firsthand last week when my sister-in-law had her first child. There were at least 20 relatives in her room after her C-section. It became so loud at one point that the nurse had to ask everyone to either leave the room or keep their voices at a moderate level. I also saw how overbearing my mother was with my sister when she had her son several years ago. Mom says I'm "taking this experience away" from her, but I don't think it's her experience. It's my husband's and my experience. I truly feel it will be more peaceful if it's just my husband, me and our baby that first day. My husband has agreed to go along with whatever I request, but I know he'd prefer his family be present. Your thoughts, please? — NO VISITORS IN LOUISIANA

DEAR NO VISITORS: Your reasons for wanting peace, quiet, rest and time to recuperate are valid, and you should communicate them to your obstetrician and the nurses at the maternity ward — just in case news of your labor and delivery "slips out" prematurely. While I understand your husband's wish to have his family present, unless he's willing to undergo the procedure in your place, he should not only respect your wishes but make sure they are carried out.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

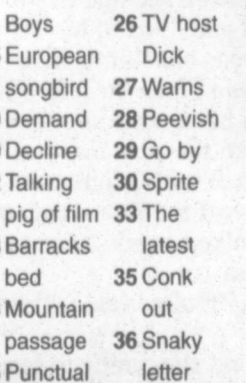
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

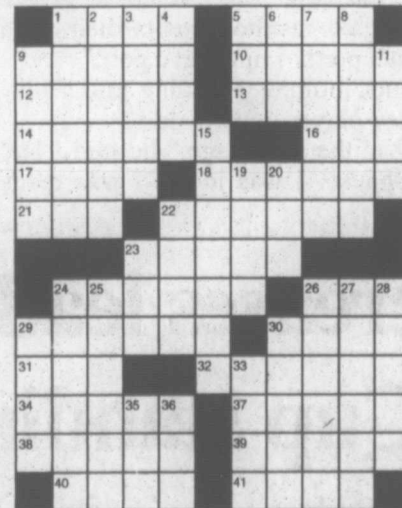
- ACROSS**
- 1 Vend
 - 5 Stage item
 - 9 Entertainer
 - 10 Kidney-related
 - 12 Without others
 - 13 Musical drama
 - 14 Apple drinks
 - 16 Mom's mate
 - 17 At any time
 - 18 Massage
 - 21 Kidney-related
 - 22 "Adieu!"
 - 23 Writer Carr
 - 24 "What a shame!"
 - 26 Siamese or Burmese
 - 29 Football kicker
 - 30 Wan
 - 31 Small worker
 - 32 Cutlery
 - 34 Sarcastic
 - 37 Wield
- DOWN**
- 1 Digestion aid
 - 2 Wore
 - 3 Cruise ship
 - 4 Lusty look
 - 5 Paid player
 - 6 Agent, for short
 - 7 Eventually
 - 8 March
 - 9 Spiked passage
 - 11 Boys
 - 15 European
 - 19 Demand
 - 20 Decline
 - 22 Talking
 - 23 Barracks
 - 24 Mountain
 - 25 Punctual
 - 26 TV host
 - 27 Warns
 - 28 Peevish
 - 29 Go by
 - 30 Sprite
 - 33 The latest
 - 35 Conk
 - 36 Snaky



Saturday's answer



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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Sports

Friday Night



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN
A Whiteface defender attempts to block a shot by Pampa junior Hayden Skinner during Friday night's game at Hereford. The Harvesters will play again Tuesday as they welcome the Randall Raiders to McNeely Fieldhouse in Pampa.

Manning leads Giant upset over Patriots at Super Bowl

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — One perfect spiral and it was over for the New England Patriots. Forever, fans would remember who lost this Super Bowl, as much as who won.

Eli Manning looked every bit like his older brother, throwing that beautiful fade route. Plaxico Burress backed up his brazen prediction, catching the 13-yard touchdown pass with 35 seconds left.

And with that thunderbolt, the New York Giants became NFL champions Sunday night. With the crowd standing and roaring for the entire fourth quarter, they startled the heavily favored Patriots — and themselves, a bit — with a 17-14 victory.

"Even when my parents were telling me, 'You're going to win, I don't know if I believed them,'" said defensive end Michael Strahan, who postponed retirement in late August to try for this trophy.

The previously unbeaten

Pats? They finally felt the pressure. Not from their gaudy record, but from the kind applied by the Giants' relentless pass rush.

"Tonight doesn't take away from anything we have done over the course of the season," New England quarterback Tom Brady said. "We had a great year. It's just unfortunate that tonight turned out the way it did."

The 1972 Miami Dolphins didn't seem to mind too much. They're protective of their 17-0 mark that season and don't want anyone to match their unblemished record.

"The Patriots had a great season, but it shows just how difficult it is to go undefeated," said then-coach Don Shula, who was in attendance. "Our players and our fans feel that much more proud of our accomplishment."

Gone was the Patriots' chance to be the first team to finish 19-0. Also lost was their chance to win their

fourth title in seven seasons. Instead, they found another way to be marked.

While many Super Bowl losers simply are forgotten, a few are destined to be a part of NFL lore. Almost 40 years ago, the mighty Baltimore Colts fell victim to that other New York team and its pool-side prognosticator, the Jets and Joe Namath.

"We had an opportunity to be special, and we let it slip away," Patriots defensive lineman Richard Seymour. "We came so close to being special. Now, we're second class."

Burress saw the Giants' third Super Bowl title coming.

Last week, he predicted New York would win 23-17. That guess drew Brady's attention.

"We're only going to score 17 points?" he said then. "OK. Is Plax playing defense? I wish he had said 45-42 and gave us a little credit for scoring more points."

Optimist boys basketball back in action, will continue tonight

Optimist boys basketball continued on Thursday and Friday night with three 3rd and 4th grade games and two 5th and 6th grade games.

Thursday's game's got started at 6 p.m. with the Great Plains Abstract and Title Buckeyes defeating the Douglas Paint and Body Tarheels 53 to 11.

Cade Engle's 14 points and eight assist as well as Solon Wilson's 19

rebounds and 17 points led the way for the Buckeyes.

David O'Rear led the charge for the Tarheels with four points.

In the 7 p.m. game Brandon Stokes tossed in 14 points to lead the Alvey Law Mavericks over the Clifton Supply Pistons 46 to 9.

High point for the Pistons was Alec Hendricks with three points.

In the late game Bryson Burrell

scored 8 points for the Roden Oilfield Aggies who were defeated by the Fenton Motor Cowboys 34 to 19.

Josh DeLoach set the pace for the Cowboys with 17 points.

The 6pm game on Friday saw the Willis Oilfield Nuggets come out on top over the Celtics by a score of 23 to 8.

Braxton Maul, Justin Velasquez,

Ceygan Jameson and J.C. Allen each had two points for the Celtics.

Leading the way for the Nuggets was Damon Walker with 16 points.

The last game of the night featured the Embridge Longhorns defeating the Douglas Paint and Body Tarheels by a score of 29 to 14.

The Longhorns were lead by Cory and Bryce Chidester with

each dropping 12 points in the basket.

The Tarheels attack was led by Brendon Woelfle with eight points.

The boys basketball season will continue on Monday Feb. 9 with nine games scheduled for the week.

The Pampa Optimist Club is a United Way Organization.

Little Dribblers



Photo by LENDI JACKSON

The Junior & Senior classes of Lefors High School sponsored a Little Dribblers tournament last weekend. Twenty-one teams with players aged Kindergarten through 4th grade competed. Pictured are the champions of the 3rd-4th grade boys division. The team is sponsored by 7H Cattle. Back: Coach Roy Lott, Jacob Gething (Lefors), Colten Thompson (Pampa), Kyndan Lott (Lefors), and Bryson Burrows (Pampa). Front: Jared Lake (Miami), Travus Zeek (Lefors), Adam Zuniga (Pampa), and Rhett Harden (Pampa).

J.B. Holmes regroups, beats Mickelson in playoff at FBR Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — J.B. Holmes came back from the brink of defeat to win the FBR Open for the second time in three years, beating Phil Mickelson on the first hole of a playoff Sunday.

Holmes birdied the 18th twice in a matter of minutes, first with a 13-foot putt to force the playoff, then with an 8-footer after a monster, 359-yard drive.

"I can play under pressure, I guess," he said.

Holmes, whose victory as a rookie at the FBR in 2006 is his only other PGA Tour win, had blown a four-stroke lead and was one shot behind going in to the 18th. The far more seasoned Mickelson seemed destined for his third victory in the tournament and 33rd of his career.

But the 25-year-old Kentuckian smashed a 350-yard drive that landed near a fence far left of the fairway. He was given a drop, then hit his second shot out of the rough 13 feet from the pin to set up the putt that put him at 14-under 270 and forced the playoff with Mickelson.

Holmes' playoff tee shot went straight and deep down the fairway. He walked away from the drive like Barry Bonds after a home run.

"I smoked it," Holmes said. "I thought it went farther than it did."

Holmes second shot came to rest just 8 feet from victory.

"Starting the day, I would have gladly taken getting into a playoff," Mickelson said, "but I've got to give J.B. a lot of credit for birdieing the last hole and birdieing again to get in the playoff. That's pretty impressive golf."

Holmes was not intimidated going into a playoff against the second-ranked player in the world.

"I felt like I had the advantage," he said. "He'd been sitting in the clubhouse. I was loose. I was ready. The hole favors me."

Mavericks have worst offensive game of season against Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Clank! The Detroit Pistons held Dallas to its worst game offensively this season and Rasheed Wallace backed up his talk with 21 points and nine rebounds in a 90-67 win Sunday.

The Mavericks had their lowest scoring game while making a season-low 30 percent of their shots.

Dallas missed 16 straight shots — spanning 8 1/2 minutes in the first and second quarters — leading to scoring a season-low 38 points and shooting a season-worst 29 percent in the first half.

"We were active and switched more than

we usually do," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "And, we threw a couple zones in."

Dallas had a rough day at the other end of the court, too.

Wallace said the Pistons had to take advantage of the undersized Mavericks by going inside, and he did.

The bombastic center scored over Dirk Nowitzki on a fadeaway late in the third quarter as Detroit pulled away, and Wallace had more to say to the Mavericks.

"He can't guard me!" Wallace screamed toward Dallas' bench.

Bode Miller increases lead in overall World Cup standings

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Bode Miller was far from his best in the slalom portion of Sunday's World Cup super-combi, and that might be why the American won both the race and clinched the discipline title.

"I was at 40 percent in the slalom," Miller said after winning in a combined time of 2 minutes, 18.45 seconds. "I know that if I'm at 100 percent in the slalom, chances are that I won't finish."

The American skied the Face de Belvedere downhill leg in 1:33.88 in the morning, 1.37 seconds faster than second-place Didier Defago of Switzerland. Most of the slalom specialists trailed by more than a

second.

"I've understood that when I'm at 100 percent in the downhill, it gives me more maneuvering room over my opponents," Miller said. "I can then adjust in the slalom."

Miller's 30th win on the World Cup circuit, and fifth this season, was enough to give him his third super-combi title with 410 points. He won the discipline in 2003 and 2004.

The win also increased Miller's lead in the overall World Cup standings.

"There are still four or five guys who can win the overall title," said Miller, who won the top trophy in 2005.

