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## Street sign thefts causing hazards

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com

the stealing of street signs. Donny Hooper, interim director of public

works, said it presents both a financial problem and a safety problem.

street sings. He said replacing a sign can cost as much as \$300 per sign.

Safety is another concern.

signs are stolen, Hooper said the likelihood of an emergency call," Hooper said.

an accident increases.

Three people were killed in Florida about five The City of Pampa is reporting an increase in years ago, he said, after thieves stole a stop sign. A driver rolled through the then unmarked intersection and collided with another car killing three 18-year-olds.

Police tracked down three people who were Hooper said it costs the city hundreds of accused of taking the stop sign. Each was thousands of dollars a year to replace stolen charged in the deaths of the teenagers, convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

"There is also the potential for danger when. emergency responders cannot locate a street When yield signs, stop signs or directional because a sign is missing while responding to

Interfering with ambulance, fire or police calls carry tougher legal penalties.

"The City of Pampa along with the Pampa Police Department will be stepping up their efforts to catch those responsible for stealing street signs within the City of Pampa."

Ed Turner, street superintendent for the city, said stop signs, yield signs and street signs are popular among thieves. He said his department saw a large increase in the number of signs being stolen over the holidays.

Hooper said anyone with information on stolen signs should call the Pampa Police Department, 669-5700.

## White Deer teen makes All Star Rodeo team

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com A White Deer girl has been named to the National High School Rodeo Association's Wrangler Division All Star Rodeo Team.

Lesley Chester, 14, earned a position on the team based on leadership, academics and athletic achievements, according to Jeff Chadwick, special events manager for Wrangler Rodeo.

"She's the only Texan in the family," said her mother, Gayla Chester, as Lesley put her horse Socks through her paces at the family horse operation west of Pampa.

The Chesters, Mrs. Chester said, moved to the Pampa area from Frederick, Okla., before Lesley was born.

"We've been here 15 years," Mrs. Chester said.

With the spring rodeo season about to begin for the Wrangler Division, Lesley's life is about to get a whole lot busier.

"They have their own rodeo, Mrs. Chester said of the Wrangler Division of the high school rodeo association.

The Wrangler Division is specifically for middle school students. They have rodeos in 50 states,

including

Australia. See Teen, Page 3

Hawaii, plus



subnitted photo

Lesley Chester and her horse Socks round a barrel. Chester has been selected for the Wrangler Junior High Division All Star Rodeo Team

## Texas House speaker throws in the towel

AUSTIN (AP)— Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, the longest serving Republican in state elective office, has given up his hard-fought bid for a

fourth term. Craddick aides and allies said the Midland oilman, the first Republican to lead the House since the Civil War era, told his supporters that he did not have enough votes among his fellow members to remain in the powerful job.

"I talked to the speaker. He has dropped his candidacy and released his Rep. pledges," Hartnett, longtime a Craddick supporter, said Sunday. "He just decided it

was getting too tight." paigning for another term as the presiding officer over the 150-member chamber, election on Jan. 13. but his dwindling support became insurmountable as Rep. Joe Straus, a relative arena, gained strength.

surrender spread, Straus, R-San



**Texas House Speaker** Tom Craddick, R-Midland, in Austin, Texas. Craddick, the Will first Republican speaker in modern times, is dropping is bid for a fourth term.

Craddick had been cam- Antonio, released a list of 85 pledges of support, more than enough to win the

"It is time for a new tone and an atmosphere of trust in the Texas House of newcomer to the political Representatives," Straus said, upon announcing that Shortly before word of he had secured enough support to win the race. "Having received the com-

mitment of a strong majority of my colleagues, it is my goal to restore civility, fairness and transparency the House Representatives and its public-policy making process.

Republicans hold a 76-74 majority in the House. The narrow partisan split and divided GOP loyalties mean House Democrats will play a decisive role. All but four House Democrats endorsed

Straus. Most Republicans threw their support behind veteran Amarillo Republican Rep. John Smithee, who entered the race Sunday.

"We're going to need a little bit of help from a higher power and that's where we're looking,' Smithee said after members of the Republican caucus meeting Sunday night

Hartnett, who said he would be supporting Smithee, said Straus is inexperienced and "virtually unknown in the House." "Smithee is known, he's

voted to support him.



Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, talks to wellwishers from a downtown office Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009, in Austin, Texas. Straus becomes the top Republican to replace Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland. The vote officially takes place on Jan. 13, opening day of the next legislative session. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)

known, trusted and respected and I think everyone in the House would feel comfortable with him as speaker," said Hartnett, R-Dallas. "Obviously, it's a horserace right now but Smithee is very popular."

Craddick's allies said he also endorsed Smithee.

Hartnett told reporters he

thought Craddick would return to the chamber as a rank-and-file member and serve out his two-year term. At a downtown Austin

steakhouse, where Craddick addressed the House Republican caucus, Craddick rushed through a

See Speaker, Page 3





Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous 2009!

-From the Executive Director and Staff of the Chamber of Commerce







High 64 Low 32



Thursday

High 62 Low 34

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Wind chill values between 15 and 25 early. North-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 16 and 21. North-northwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 64. West wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32. West-southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north-northwest.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 62. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



#### **Lotto Texas results**

AUSTIN (AP) Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-12-15-21-22-29. Number matching six of

Number matching five of six: 33. Prize: \$1,242.

Number matching four of six: 1,735. Prize: \$35. Number matching three of six: 30,717. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$7 million.

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#### Pic 3 results

winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-9-2. Sum It Up: 19

(eight, nine, two. Sum It Up: 19)

### Daily 4 results

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

Copyright 2009 The Associated Press.

(one, six, three, eight. Sum

Copyright 2009 The

It Up: eighteen)

#### Associated Press.

1-6-3-8. Sum It Up: 18 Cash Five results

AUSTIN (AP) in: Dallas Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 16-17-21-25-26.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$26,783

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Edward Jones

Winning number sold

Matching four of five: 89. Prize: \$135

Matching three of five: 2,747. Prize: \$10

Matching two of five: 27,760. Prize: \$2

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night. Copyright 2009 The Associated Press.

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Obituaries

### Services tomorrow

BROWN, Dorothy Norene - 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

#### Dorothy Norene Brown, 90

Dorothy Norene Brown, 90, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 4, 2009, at McLean, Texas.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Albert Maggard, pastor of the First Pentecostal Holiness Church, officiat-

Burial will be Hillcrest Cemetery in McLean under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Brown was born

Oct. 28, 1918, in Sayre, Okla., to George and Ollie Mae Nichols. Dorothy married Herman M. Brown on Jan. 15, 1938, in Wheeler. He preceded her in death on April 25, 1990. She has been a resident

of Pampa since 1945 moving to Rowlett, Texas, three years ago to be with her daughter.

Mrs. Brown was a seamstress in Pampa where she owned her own upholstery business. She also was a partner with her husband in H.M. Brown Tax Service for many years. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 15 years, a member of the Rebekah Lodge and she was Pentecostal.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her son, Herman Maurice Brown Jr.; a daughter, Linda G.

Seitz; and a grandson, Bryan Thomas Seitz.

Survivors include one brother, Wayne Nichols of Amarillo; three sisters, Lola Allen of Ft. Collins, Colo., Bonnie Keller of Tacoma, Wash., and Pauline Hinkle of Liberal,

-Sign the on-line regbook ister www.carmichael-whatlev.com.

#### Kathy Jean McDade, 57

SKELLYTOWN, Texas serving Kathy Jean McDade, country, 57, of Skellytown, died 2009, Skellytown. Services are pending family.

with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. McDade was born

Jan.

Dec. 11, 1951, in Amarillo and was a 1970 graduate of Amarillo High School. She attended Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, earning a degree in Psychology. Kathy joined the U.S.

Navy in 1977, and after

she returned to the Panhandle to be closer to her She lived for her family and will greatly be missed. Kathy is with

our Lord and McDade endures no more pain. She was preceded in death by a sister, Billie J. Parker; and brother-in-law,

Mark Parker.

Survivors include her



Skellytown; two brothers, Roger Kennard of Kansas and Eddie Rodgers of Spearman; niece, Kala Tice of Skellytown; four nephews, Kory Tice and mother and stepfather, wife Kara, and Mikah

Walter

Mike

sister, Lee Tice

and husband

of

Tice, all of Skellytown, and LoVell Kennard and Mark Parker and of Skellytown; David Parker, both of New her father and Braunfels; and great-niece, stepmother, Breklyn Tice Skellytown. and Grace McDade MEMORIALS: of Spearman;

American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, TX 79065, or City of Pampa Animal Control, Fund 12, P.O. Box 2499, Pampa, TX 79066-2499.

-Sign the on-line regbook ister www.carmichael-whatley.com.

#### Elizabeth Holden Pepper, 82

Elizabeth Holden of Pampa since 1959, Pepper, 82, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 4, 2009, at Pampa. Services are pending

with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Pepper was born

Jan. 30, 1926, in Balko, of Balko High School. She married Floyd Pepper on July 13, 1954, in Miami. He preceded her in death on July 7, 1990.

She had been a resident

moving from Borger. She was a member of the Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star and was on the board of Phil-Pet Credit Union.

Elizabeth was always involved in her children's Okla., and was a graduate activities such as Cub Scouts and Brownies, and she loved to garden. She was a former beauty

operator and cosmetologist in Miami. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include one son, Jim Pepper and wife Robbie of Pampa; daughter, Jan Morrow and husband Kenneth of Decatur; brother, Chet Holden of Dumas; sister, Anna Holden of Denver, Colo.; sister-in-law, manita Holden of Surprise, Ariz.; granddaughter, Stacy Pepper of Fort Worth; two grandsons, Aaron Pepper ister of Evanston, Ill., and Matt Nichols and wife Amber of

Felipe Romero

and wife Regina

Manuel Romero

Romero, both of

Cuahtemoc,

Mexico; three

sister-in-law,

Pampa,

Ramon

Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, 79101; American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 50433, Amarillo, TX 79159: or First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065. book

In lieu of flowers, the

Alzheimer's

family requests memorials

the

www.carmichael-whatley.com.

#### Jose Dolores Romero, 49

Jose Dolores Romero, 49, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 3, 2009, at Dallas, Texas. Memorial services will be at a later date.

Mr. Romero will be available for viewing Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, and Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direc-Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Romero was born Oct. 8, 1959, in Favela, Chihuahua, Mexico. Jose

married Lucille Davis on June 5, 1978, in Pampa. He was a resident of Pampa

for 31 years. Mr. Romero was a foreman for West Texas Landscape. Jose was a member of the First Pentecostal Holiness Church

Survivors include his wife, Lucille Romero, of the home; one son, Romero Nicholas of Pampa; three brothers,



Romero

sisters, Socorro Romero and Alicia Romero, both Mexico, Favela of Chihuahua, Mexico; two grandchil-

Pampa;

and

of Cuahtemoc, and Herlinda dren, David Lloyd and Mercedez Romero, both of

Amanda Smith and husband Luke of Pampa; brother-in-law, Ray Davis of Pampa; mother and father-in-law, Wanda and Johnny Davis of Pampa; and many nieces and nephews.

MEMORIALS: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202. -Sign the on-line reg-

ister book www.carmichael-whatley.com.

### Emergency Services

#### Sheriff

Saturday, Jan. 3

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

Kyle Lee Boaz, 18, of Grand Prairie was arrested Pampa Police Department for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, minor in consumption of alcohol and on bond forfeitures for running a stop sign, no driver's license and failure to appear. Hugh Jackson Parman,

20, of Pampa was arrested

by Pampa PD for posses-

sion of marijuana and pos-

session of drug parapher-

Grain prices

of the last open market day.

Wheat. . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5.29

Milo..... 5.40

Corn. . . . . . . . . . . . . 7.18

The following grain quotations are provided

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Eleazar Soto Jr., 45, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for possession of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicatedthird or more offense, no valid driver's license and no insurance.

Charles Franklin Mejia, 23, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD on a bond forfeiture for theft of services out of Potter County.

#### Pampa PD

Pampa Department reported the following incidents and calls Friday, Jan. 2.

Friday, Jan. 2 Officers conducted 29

traffic stops. A stop in the 700 block of West Brown resulted in at least one arrest. A total of 11 calls

and/or stops concerning animals was reported. A sexual offense was reported in the 1000 block

of South Farley. An alarm was reported in the 400 block of North Somerville.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 900 block of East Frederic, at Darby and Lefors streets, and in the 1400 block of North Evergreen.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 900 block of North Gray. Stereos were reportedly taken from two vehicles.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of East Tyng.

Theft was reported at Fenton Motors, 100 N. Hobart. License plates were reported stolen from a vehicle.

Theft was reported at

A traffic complaint was reported at Gwendolyn and Faulkner streets.

Motorist assistance was provided at 23rd and Primrose streets. Theft was reported at

25th and Comanche streets. Found property reported at the PD.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1600 block of North Sumner.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of North Nelson. Disorderly conduct-lan-

guage was reported in the 500 block of North Powell. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block. of South Varnon Drive, the .

1300 block of North Starkweather and the 300 block of South Miami. Domestic disturbances were reported in the 300; block of North Warren and

Rosewood Lane. A prowler was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

the 2600 block of North

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## Senator seeks end to straight-ticket

AUSTIN (AP) A San Antonio state senator wants to revive efforts to eliminate the straight-ticket voting option, even after Texans hit a 10-year high in the percentage of ballots sticking entirely with one party.

Republican Sen. Jeff Wentworth plans a second run at deleting the straight-ticket option during the legislative session that starts Jan. 13. His repeal proposal didn't advance in 2007.

"Both political parties need to stop being quite so partisan," Wentworth said in Sunday's editions of the Austin American-Statesman.

Texas Democratic Party spokesman Hector Nieto said straight-ticket voting was "a good thing for both parties" and accused Republicans of trying to disrupt the inroads Democrats have made in urban counties, notably Harris and Dallas counties.

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"It's clear Republicans have seen Democrats organizing in a better manner and using straight-ticket voting to our advantage," Nieto said. "Instead of competing, they just want to do away with it."

Wentworth said his proposal had nothing to do with giving either party an advantage. Rather, he said, Texas needs to join the majority of U.S. states in not allowing straight-ticket voting. Nationally, 16 states offer the option. Five states have repealed it since 1994.

The straight-ticket option has been mentioned in Texas law since 1911.

If a voter wants to favor every Republican or Democrat on a ballot, "that's fine with me," Wentworth

"I'm not trying to tell them how to vote," he said. "I'm just saying they ought to be more informed by seeing the name.'

Wentworth acknowledged that his interest in the issue goes back three decades when he was running for Bexar County Commissioners Court. Despite working for support from black voters, he said he didn't draw much. He found out later that some who voted a straight ticket said they would have voted for him had they seen his

The state GOP had no comment on Wentworth's proposal. Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas, said his party supports removing the straightticket choice.

"It's not a monumental issue," Dixon said. "But the sense is when a lot of people vote, they check the party and don't go down the ballot and look at the candidates. We think people should value the candidates more than the party.

Straight-ticket voting represented nearly 58 percent of votes cast in Texas in November, according to Austin Community College's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies. Voters going straight Republican outnumbered those on the Democratic side by 1.3 percent. That was the GOP's smallest straight-ticket edge since 1998, the center said.

## Fire fatalities at homeless shelter

PARIS, Texas (AP) — organization. more than one person was Cross has moved about 26 killed at a fire at a home-

less shelter. Fire Chief Ronnie Methodist Church of Paris. Grooms confirmed the fatalities to The Associated age to the southern part of Press in the fire early Monday morning, but he ture near downtown that would not say how many. He said that they got the alarm at about 3 a.m. He said the shelter is run by a faith-based nonprofit

The fire chief in Northeast The Paris News reports Texas town of Paris says that the American Red people to an emergency shelter at the First United

A firewall confined damthe building, a brick strucwas formerly a business.

Grooms says no cause has been determined.

Paris is about 100 miles northeast of Dallas.



staff photo by David Bowser Lesley Chester with her horse Socks.

1871.

limitations.

Ronald

Craddick, an oilfield mud

salesman, to be their leader

Aî and Texas' first

Republican speaker since

Since the GOP glory

days of 2003, the party's

majority has shriveled to

In his first term, Craddick quickly pushed

through a conservative

agenda of congressional

redistricting and lawsuit

has served with distinction

in the Texas House for four

decades," Straus said. "I

have great respect for him

personally, and honor his

Craddick's tenure has

been marked by com-

plaints from Republicans

and Democrats that he

rules the chamber like a

dictator and forces law-

makers to bend to his will.

Straus served in the pres-

idential administrations of

George H.W. Bush.

Reagan and

service to the state.'

"Speaker Tom Craddick

the narrow 76-74 lead.

## Continued from Page 1

throng of reporters to get into the restaurant.

Republican Rep. Leo Berman, of Tyler, said the caucus members were not deterred by Straus' hefty list of supporters. He said they would start calling them to bring them to their side. Berman said he wasn't worried that they were already pledged to Straus because he said they had previously been pledged to Craddick.

He said Straus didn't stand for Republican val-

Craddick has been a lightning rod of controversy in Austin. He famously faced down a rebellion at the end of the 2007 session after replacing his rules advisers and claiming "absolute" authority to brush aside challenges to his rule.

When first elected in 1968, Craddick became one of only eight Republicans in the 150member chamber. The longest-serving member of the Legislature, Craddick's adept fundraising skills helped the Republicans win an 88-62 majority in the House in 2003. It was the first time the GOP led the chamber in more than 130 years. His grateful colleagues promptly chose

Continued from Page 1

"They're separate from the high school rodeos," Mrs. Chester said.

Each state has a fall and spring season with the top eight state finalists going to the state finals. The top four from the state finals go to the national finals in Gallup, N.M., in August.

Lesley competes in barrel racing, pole bending, goat roping, breakaway roping, and ribbon roping. Last year, Lesley went to the state finals in

Gonzales, but in the second go round, hit a barrel. "That knocked her out," Mrs. Chester said.

Right now, Lesley is leading region one in the state race in barrel racing and pole bending. She's fourth in goat roping, fifth in breakaway roping and ribbon roping.

More importantly, Lesley is second in the all around contest.

Lesley has only been riding for a little over four years.

Her best friend is Socks, a 10-year-old mare that Lesley rides in competi-

"Now and forever." Lesley said as Socks nuz-

zled her. The family bought Socks five years ago, but Lesley wouldn't ride her for a year. Then one day, Lesley came home from school, saddled up and took off.

"She got off the school bus," her mother said, "and decided to ride.

Since then, Lesley's won five saddles and 20 belt buckles.

"She's doing well," Mrs. Chester said.

Lesley Panhandle Barrel Racing Association's All Around Cowgirl in 2007 and 2008. In addition to being

active in various riding and rodeo groups, Lesley plays eighth grade basketball at White Deer and is a cheerleader. She also runs track and is on the crosscountry team.

## The Christmas Shop is having a **BIG** Sale

Starting Monday January 5th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 211 N. Cuyler

## Hispanic radio pioneer dies

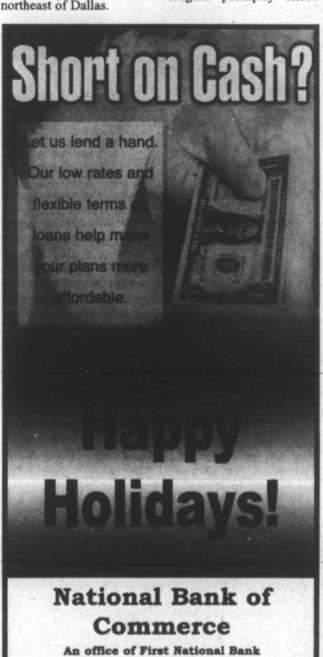
HARLINGEN, Texas (AP) — McHenry Taylor Tichenor Sr., who helped develop the Hispanic radio industry in the United States, has died at the age of 76.

Tichenor died Saturday in Round Rock of natural His family owned Tichenor Media Systems, which merged in 1997 with Heftel Broadcasting to create what was then the nation's largest Hispanic radio group with 38 stations spanning every major Hispanic market in the U.S.

Tichenor worked in sales at TMS and later managed the company's Spanish radio and CBS television station, both with the KGBT call letters. He became president of the company in 1967 and led company expan-

He was survived by long-time companion Priscilla Flores, five children and numerous grandchildren.

Graveside services are set for Wednesday in San Benito.



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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2009. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1896, an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse, reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as "X-rays."

On this date:

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

In 1809, the Treaty of the Dardanelles, which ended the Anglo-Turkish War, was concluded by the United Kingdom and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1925, Nellie T. Ross became governor of Wyoming; she was the first female governor in U.S. history. (She succeeded Frank E. Lucas, who had served as acting gov-

'The most certain sign of being born with great qualities is to be born without envy.'

> Rochefoucauld, French author

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

ernor following the

death of Ross' hus-

band,

Ross.)

William B.

In 1949, in his Francois de La. State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression; this became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home. UMW President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turnedpolitician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; he was 62.

Five years ago: NASA released a 3-D, black-andwhite panoramic picture of the bleak surface of Mars snapped by the newly landed rover Spirit. Baseball pitcher Tug McGraw died near Nashville, Tenn., at

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 81. Actor Robert Duvall is 78. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 77. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 71. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 6%. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 63. Actor Ted Lange is 61. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 60. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 59. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 56. Actor Clancy Brown is 50. Singer Iris Dement is 48. Actor Ricky Paull Goldin is 44. Actor Vinnie Jones is 44. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 43. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 40. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 40. Actress January Jones is 31. Actress Brooklyn Sudano is 28.

## Other editors say

Daily News, New York, on Israeli raids on Gaza:

There is terrible guilt to be ascribed in Israeli raids on Gaza ,Aî and it falls squarely and solely on the shoulders of the death-to-Israel fanatics of Hamas.

It was rocket-firing, suicide-bombing Hamas that broke a six-month-long truce by raining missiles down on southern Israel, necessitating a stern ,Äî and remarkably precise, Aî military response.

The predictable cries of outrage across the Arab world notwithstanding, two of the most interested parties in that axis ,Aî Egypt and Palestinian President Authority Mahmoud Abbas ,Äî took the remarkable step of pinning blame for the Palestinian lives that have been lost and the Palestinian blood that has been shed on the terror gang that rules Gaza. ...

With the death toll standing at approximately 300, Hamas forces transformed themselves in front of television cameras from defiant fighters into supposed victims of supposed Israeli excess.

It was the same old story line, the one about brutal, brutal Israel, and it just doesn't wash. Israel's actions were, in fact, quite measured. ..

There is no doubt civilians are among the dead or wounded. And there is guilt for that carnage.

It belongs to Hamas, which has woven terrorism into the very fabric of life in the Gaza Strip, placing mortar-firing militants side by side with children and exposing them to the risk of harm by a country forced to defend its own people.

Pensacola. Journal. Florida, on President Bush's role in the transition to a new administration:

It has been widely reported and noted by commentators, but it bears President repeating: George Bush is presiding over one of the smoothest administrative transitions in U.S. history.

And not by accident. By all accounts Bush is determined to smooth the way for the incoming administration as much as possi-

It is Bush's finest hour since his initial display of leadership immediately after 9-11, when the nation was still in shock and he delivered the best speech of his presidency.

And it's not just symbolic. Bush's handling of the proposed auto bailout is an example.

After Congress rejected the bailout proposal, Bush authorized a stopgap measure: He dipped into previously authorized funds for iust enough money to keep the Big Three auto companies alive until next year; but not as much as they wanted, or as had been proposed in Congress.

Why? Bush noted that while ultimately the right decision might be to let the auto companies fail, "I feel an obligation to my successor. I've thought about what it would be like for me to become president during this period. ... I believe that good policy is not to dump him a major catastrophe in his first day of office."

Yes, Bush has like presidents before him proposed a blizzard of last-minute rules changes to satisfy his

News corporate and ideological supporters, many of which the Obama administration will reverse.

> But otherwise, Bush is acting presidential in his final days in office.

Chicago Sun-Times, on Illinois Gov. Senate Blagojevich's choice:

The people of Illinois didn't need another reason to throw Gov. Blagojevich out of office.

They had plenty already. But on Tuesday, the governor gave the state one more excellent reason, this time by going back on his word and appointing a replacement to President-elect Barack Obama's Senate seat.

doing Blagojevich stole from the voters the chance to select their own senator through a special election.

And whom did the governor choose? Just another Illinois politician, Roland Burris, the former attorney general whose political career is notable only for its lack of notable achievements. .

We don't know why Blagojevich chose Burris, who as Illinois comptroller was the first African American elected statewide office. ...

But this is not about race, though Rush is right appalling about the absence of African Americans in the Senate. This is about a political-

ly and ethically bankrupt governor making a decision that should have been turned over to the voters. We don't know what

will happen next. Democratic leaders have vowed to refuse Burris his

seat, they may not have constitutional authority to do so.

All we can predict with confidence is that the entire matter will wind up in court.

Every day that Rod Blagojevich remains governor is another bad day for the state.

Worth-Star Fort Telegram, Fort Worth, Texas, on the saga of Bernard Madoff:

Investors ranging from wealthy individuals to charities were once mad about Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff Äî mad as in crazy about the guy ,Aî because of the stellar investment returns he produced for them.

Those investors continue to be mad about Madoff Äî but it's now a far different mad, as in angry and resentful.

astonished As Americans learn of the enormous damage wrought by the \$50 billion Ponzi scheme that prosecutors say was perpetrated by Madoff, timeless aphorisms come to mind. They might be cliches, but that doesn't make them any less worthy in terms of lessons learned and relearned.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Investors enticed by the lure of exceptional doubledigit returns year after year Madoff's firm ignored this adage at their

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Some investors and long-standing charitable and humaniorganizations tarian entrusted virtually all their money to Madoff, rather than spreading the risk. ...



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#### Letter to the editor

Dear editor,

Whilst waiting in line to wash my auto this past Saturday afternoon, I couldn't help but notice, as the strong southwest wind was bending the trees, an inordinate amount of trash ablowing northward up Hobart Street. Let me restate - In another city, the amount of trash ablow would be inordinate. In Pampa, it's quite the norm... I was four deep in the line to wash my car, and as time went by, so did alot of trash, including an obviously sated white plastic bag full of - trash...

Await with window down, I felt the sudden cold blast from the latest cold front's north wind; which inturn, was equally as strong as the southwest wind it replaced. It was

amazing folks, all the trash ablow northward up Hobart, was now ablow southward, down Hobart! Still awaiting my turn, I then noticed - the sated white plastic bag of trash, also atumble southward...

Without a doubt, Pampa has been in the throes of a litter crisis of Biblical proportion for much to long a period of time. It is time folks, for those of you qualifying as a litterer, to stop the nonsense and use the appropriate container. It is time, Pampa businesses, to mandate that your employee's properly dispense your waste by crushing boxes and insuring that your dumpster lids are always closed. It is time, City of Pampa, to enforce

the anti-litter laws on your

books, as well as those

mandated by the state.

When litter is no longer a problem in Pampa, I will cease to honor the city's current flag - the white plastic bag hooked and aflap in the highest possible branches of my elm tree, and will once again honor Pampa's lawful flag - If we have one?

3

**Dennis Palmitier** Pampa

#### We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the fol-

lowing guidelines: \*Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will edited for length and clarity.

·All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

·Defamatory comments will not be published. · E-mail submission s are welcome.

## Comics

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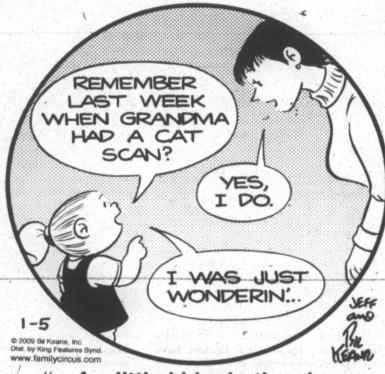
to mad ney doff bout the



"I suppose if I was a dog, I'd wonder, too, why we bring it in for a few weeks, then take it out."

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



... for little kids do they have kitten scans?"

#### **Daily Crossword Puzzle**

#### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 

41 Sailors, in 1 "Memory" slang

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3 Melodies

4 Went fast

5 Place for

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fashion 17 Wallet

bills 18 Recently

21 Leather shade **22** Wall

paintings

23 Used oars 24 "Scram!"

26 Spinning

toy 29 Year parts

30 Short skirt 31 Quarterback Manning

32 Lead

34 Painter Degas

37 Licoricelike herb

38 Musical pace

39 Ranch -beast 40 Velocity

#### ARENA ONION LORDS STONE ONEPET RINSEDBEAR CAPRICORN ASFOR IREIRONS TECONAIR ZEN DDE EVILS TENET MELBA UNION

STAGE TESS Saturday's answer

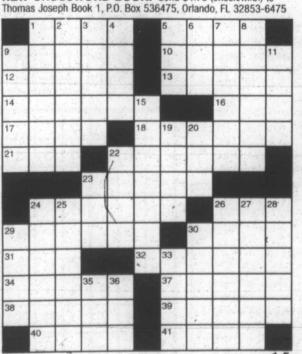
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24 More site 35 Fitting brassy 25 Puzzle 36 Sturgeon

11 Surrender 26 Neater eggs NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to



#### For Better Or Worse





#### Zits









#### Garfield







#### **Beetle Bailey**





#### Marvin









#### B.C.

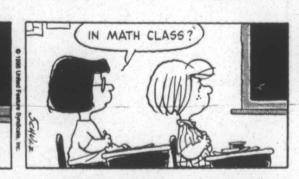






#### **Peanuts**





#### **Blondie**







#### Flo & Friends





# Sports

## JV and Freshman boys compete in Perryton

While some were enjoying a relaxing New Years Day the Freshman and JV Perryton,

Perryton and left with a 2-1 record. The first game Pampa played Spearman JV. Pampa began the contest by outscoring Spearman 20-17. The second period saw Pampa play better defense allowing only six points to take a 36-23 half-time lead. stretched their lead to 46-30. Spearman outscored the Harvesters in the final quarter but the lead would be too great to overcome. Pampa won 58-46.

The final game found Pampa against a familiar opponent in district foe Dumas. The third quarter the Harvesters Dumas took a 25-24 half-time lead. Coach Snelgrooes made some adjustments at the half and the Harvesters led 42-31 after the third quarter. The teams traded leads during the fourth quarter but games in Perryton. The first was against

The second game the Harvesters took Pampa lost the game 50-49, after miss- Spearman. Pampa would play very on Canadian JV. The Harvesters' fell ing a last second three-point field goal tough all game long and would be boys basketball teams were playing in behind in the first quarter, trailing 11-6. from half court. Scoring for the week- rewarded with a 51-49 win. The second After a huddle with the Coach end: Garrett Ericson, 48; Latigo Collins, game was against Perryton. Playing Snelgrooes, Pampa played much better 33; Reid Miller, 23; Jonathan Polasek, against the home team proved difficult The Pampa JV played three games in and led 25-21 at the half. The Harvesters 16; Brandon Chairez, 12; Zac Murray, and they fell 61-37. The final game saw started the third quarter fast and built a 11; Reid Bradley, 9; Joeseph Mechelay Pampa playing Dumas. This game was 20-point lead by the end of the third, 48- and Chase Ferguson, 7 and Mitch very close all four quarters but Dumas 28. Pampa closed out the game with a Simon, 2. The games this weekend left the JV with a 9-5 record as they begin district play with the Varsity Tuesday Dumas Monday to start district play. night at 6 and 7:30, respectively, at McNeely Fieldhouse against the Dumas Demons.

Freshman Boys The Freshman boys played three

prevailed 46-38. The Freshman ended the weekend 1-2 and will play Dumas in Scoring for Pampa would be Carter, 32; Killgo, 2; Engle, 22; Hulsey, 8; Harris, Howard and Powell, 7; Cabrales, 6; Kennedy, 3; Cox and Parks with 2.

## Gators, Sooners can settle debate: SEC or Big 12?

Game will air at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 8, on the Fox Channel

Fla. (AP), Offense or defense?

Speed or precision? Heartland The Dixieland?

The Big 12 or the Southeastern Conference? ball's best conferences this season, so it's only fitting their champions will decide Florida plays Oklahoma in 34. Miami.

college football, and espeleagues, it's a way to help settle a debate that's raged Friday's game. all season: Which conference is better?

The players understand SEC was best by far. that angle, too.

and you always want to see with Georgia on top and your conference do good in Florida, LSU and Auburn NCAA record. games," bowl Oklahoma tackle Phil Loadholt said.

Boasting the last two was from the SEC national champions, folks

FORT LAUDERDALE, proud of their football.

they're better than every- and LSU faded. body else. It's OK. We're going to have our turn," Glenn Rhea, a 33-year-old Bowl against ranked overall. Cotton Mississippi.

the national title when Mississippi 47, Texas Tech Tech and Oklahoma, were

"The Big 12 is at least, For those who follow by far, the second-best consaid Logan ference," cially fans of the two Walker, a 24-year-old Ole Miss fan visiting Dallas for

into the season was the

The AP preseason poll "I've watched the games, had six SEC teams ranked, in the top 10.

season, half of the top 10 McCoy.

to take over as SEC powers "They always think such as Auburn, Tennessee

After Texas Oklahoma on Oct. 11 to take the No. 1 ranking away Texas Tech graduate, said from the Sooners, the Big as he prepared to root on 12 had five of the top 11 They've been college foot- the Red Raiders at the teams in the nation and six

Three teams from the Score one for the SEC: Big 12 South, Texas, Texas in the thick of the national title race into November. And, wow, were those

Big 12 games entertaining. Led by an unmatched collection of experienced and talented quarterbacks, The consensus heading Big 12 teams blew up scoreboards.

> Heisman Trophy winner Bradford Oklahoma led the way, scoring 702 points, an

The Heisman runner-up By the third week of the was Texas quarterback Colt Texas Tech's record-breaking passer But when October rolled Graham Harrell couldn't in the SEC are loud and around, the Big 12 started even make second-team all-



Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops speaks during media day at Dolphin at Stadium in Miami Monday Jan. 5, 2009.

conference. Missouri's Chase Daniel, fourth in the Heisman voting last season, became an afterthought in his own league.

Six of the top 12 teams in the country in total offense are from the Big 12. Ten

be asked: Great offense or bad defense?

ranks 63rd.

Even Florida quarterback Tim Tebow has said of those forgiving Big 12 pass defenses.

"I think they're having a great year, their quarterattacks," Florida linebacker Big 12. "They're tearing it

But, Spikes said, "Offense sells tickets and defense wins championships.'

The Gators are one of five SEC teams ranked in the top 15 in the nation in total defense, and 11 of the 12 SEC teams are in the top 50 defensively.

Of course, it's only fair teams from the Big 12 are to point out that eight SEC ranked in the top 50 in total teams juggled quarterbacks But the question had to members ranked 97th or hold. worse in total offense.

If Bradford epitomizes Texas, with the 50th the Big 12 with his preci-

ranked defense in the coun- sion passing and smart try, has the No. 1 defense in direction of the Sooners' the Big 12. Oklahoma no-huddle offense, maybe Spikes should be the SEC's poster boy.

The All-American is big, he'd like to see what he can strong and fast. The SEC, do going up against some despite what many fans and pundits say, does not corner the market on fast football players. A few minutes spent watching Oklahoma's backs and their offensive Manuel Johnson and Juaquin Iglesias run by Brandon Spikes said of the defenders will quickly debunk that myth.

Though the SEC does seem to have a few more guys such as Spikes ,Aî linebackers and defensive ends who move like running backs ,Aî than the other leagues.

One game, even one as big as Florida-Oklahoma, is really not a fair or accurate way to determine which is the best conference. But for the fans of the

conference that comes out this season and six of its on top, it's a nice card to

### Emergency Services

#### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today. Friday, Jan. 2

9:49 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of East 15th and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical

12:49 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit respond to the 1100 block of Huff Road. No transport.

2:49 p.m. A mobile ICU unit responded to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo and transported a patient to a local nursing facility.

3:06 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1600 block of Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

Saturday, Jan. 3

- A mobile 7:12 a.m. ICU unit responded to the 100 block of Hobart. No transport.

11:01 a.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to a patient to BSA Hospice in accident. No injuries or 'Amarillo.

6:46 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2700 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:15 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to 400 block of West Foster and transported a patient to PRMC

Sunday, Jan. 4

10:54 a.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2000 block of Coffee and transported a patient to

10:59 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 900 block of Barnard. No transport

Monday, Jan. 5

12:37 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Barnes and transported a patient to PRMC

#### Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Jan. 2

5:55 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Holly Lane on a carbon monoxide investigation. Nothing was found.

7:05 p.m. - Three units and seven personnel responded to the 1900 block of Evergreen on a structure fire. A storage building was on fire in the backyard of a residence.

10:09 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 2700 block of Navajo on a call for lifting assistance.

Saturday, Jan. 3

12:34 a.m. - Two units and six personnel responded to the 1100 block of Huff Road on a possible fire or a "smoke scare."

3:35 p.m. – One unit and four personnel responded Cuyler and Brown Clarendon and transported streets on a motor vehicle hazardous material spills were reported.

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

Saturday, Jan. 3

Kyle Lee Boaz, 18, of

#### Sheriff

Grand Prairie was arrested Pampa Department for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, minor in consumption of alcohol and on bond forfeitures for running a stop sign, no driver's license and failure to

Hugh Jackson Parman, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for possession of marijuana and possession of drug parapherna-

Eleazar Soto Jr., 45, of Pampa was arrested by

Pampa PD for possession of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicatedthird or more offense, no valid driver's license and no insurance.

Charles Franklin Mejia, 23, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD on a bond forfeiture for theft of services out of Potter County.

Sunday, Jan. 4 Stormy Ray Estes, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for prohibited eaponswitchblade/knuckles and for a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Jorge Alejandro Perez, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for invalid driver's license, no insurance and failure to appear for possession of marijua-

Adrian Oswaldo Garcia, 17, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated, no driver's license and no insur-

Richard Olney Stark, 41, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of block of North Sumner. less than one gram of a controlled substance.

Jesus Abel Chavez, 21, of Pampa was arrested by DPS for driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container-second offense.

Police Pampa Department reported the following incidents and

#### Pampa PD

calls between 7 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2 and 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Friday, Jan. 2

Officers conducted 29 traffic stops. A stop in the 700 block of West Brown resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of 11 calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

A sexual offense was reported in the 1000 block of South Farley.

the 400 block of North Somerville.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 900 block of East Frederic, at Darby and Lefors streets, and in the the 1400 block of North Evergreen.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 900 block of North Gray. Stereos were reportedlytaken from two vehicles.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of East Tyng. Theft was reported at Fenton Motors, 100 N.

reported stolen from a vehi-Theft was reported at the

A traffic complaint was

Hobart. License plates were

reported at Gwendolyn and Faulkner streets. Motorist assistance was provided at 23rd and

Primrose streets. Theft was reported at 25th and Comanche streets. Found property

reported at the PD. Telephone harassment was reported in the 1600

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct-language was reported in the 500 block of North Powell. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block

1300 block of North Starkweather and the 300 block of South Miami. Domestic disturbances were reported in the 300 block of North Warren and

of South Varnon Drive, the

Rosewood Lane. A prowler was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

the 2600 block of North

Saturday, Jan. 3 Officers conducted 52 traffic stops. Stops in the 600 block of North Lefors and the 1800 block of West 23rd resulted in at least one

A total of five calls and/or stops concerning

An alarm was reported in animals was reported.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of North Gray, the 1100 block of South Varnon Drive, the 1500 block of North Wells, 2600 block Rosewood Lane and the 1500 block of North Wells.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 400 block of West Brown, at Hobart and Perryton Parkway streets, the 1400 block of North Hobart and the 3100 block of North Perryton Parkway. A domestic disturbance

block of South Henry. Alarms were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 600 block of East Frederic and the 800

was reported in the 200

block of West Kingsmill. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2300 block

of North Primrose Lane. A prowler was reported in the 1800 block of North Hamilton.

A welfare check was performed in the 1800 block of North Coffee.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North Nelson, where paint balls were reportedly shot at a house and truck.

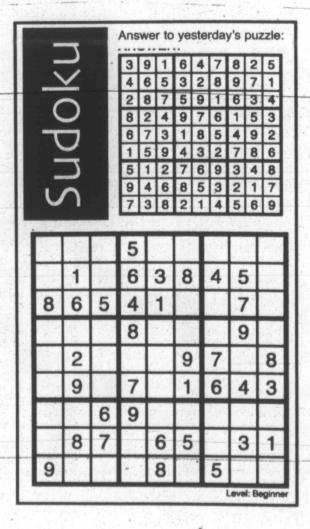
Traffic complaints were reported in the 1500 block of North Zimmers and the 600 block of North Dwight.

Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, where shoe polish and paint balls were reported on the doors of the building.

A vehicle accident was reported at Cuyler and Brown streets. A civil matter was

reported in the 500 block of North Frost. Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block

of North Hobart. An assault was reported in the 400 block of West Foster.



# IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

SBR DZLB QXUDBAHE XAF

HKB YKLCEHDXE OLBEBAH UZW

RCSB IXGB UZWL RCMM TB

LBMCBGBF KWETXAF Saturday's Cryptoquote: TAKE AWAY THE NEWSPAPER AND THIS COUNTRY OF OURS WOULD BECOME A SCENE OF CHAOS. HARRY CHANDLER

It's not just getting a mortgage it's building your future.

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	3/2.5/2 - 2474 SF/GCAD
12004 White Acres\$209,900	
2332 Cherokee\$187,500	3/2/2 - 2654 SF/GCAD
2745 Aspen \$1\$165,000	3/2.5/2 - 2088 SF/GCAD
	4/1,.75,.75/2 - 2315 SF/GCAD
2235 Christine	3/2.5/1 - 2326 SF/GCAD
	4/2/2 - 1914 SF/GCAD
2401 Mary Ellen\$129,500	3/1.75/2 - 1846 SF/GCAD
2525 Charles\$112,500	3/2/2 - 2019 SF/GCAD
1020 Mary Ellen\$111,500	, 3/1.75/1 - 1811 SF/GCAD
2530 Mary Ellen\$95,000	4/1.75/1 - 1684 SF/GCAD
1602 N Charles	3/2.5/2 - 1947 SF/GCAD
1239 Williston	
1510 Williston\$59,900	4/1/1 - 1404 SF/GCAD
1344 Garland\$23,000	2/1/1 - 888 SF/GCAD
LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT	South West
1141 S Christy\$35,000	3/1/1 - 1520 SF/GCAD

TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT	West and North West
2120 Lynn\$135,000	
2100 Lea St \$125,000	
2112 Lynn\$120,000	
1133 Willow	
1605 N Sumner\$85,900	
2137 N Faulkner\$82,000	3/1.75/1 - 1475 SF/GCAD
2900 Rosewood Ln\$64,500	
1928 N Banks\$65,000	3/2/2 - 1373 SF/ GCAD
1145 Seneca Ln	3/1/0-1369 SE/GCAD
WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT	South East
437 Jupiter	
1408 Browning	

1001 E Foster 1048 Neel 415 Starkweather	
OTHER AREAS	Outside Pampa City Limits
640 Acres, Magic City 530 Acres Near Lefors 6232 FM 291, Alanreed	\$530,000

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Jim Davidson (BKR/OWNR) . .662-9021 Robert Anderwald .........665-3357 Katrina Bigham ...........898-8510 Christa Carpenter. . . . . . . . 664-0463 Twila Fisher (BKR) ..........440-2314 John Goddard (BKR) . . . . . . . . 595-1234 

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My son says I scold him so often it has given him a complex. He constantly loses things -- coats, lunch boxes, expensive toys, games -and damages property such as computers, my furniture, etc. He doesn't do it on purpose. It "just happens" (I think) because he is clumsy and heavy-handed, sort of a bull in a china

He often bumps into people -- including me -- and never says "Excuse me," or even appears to notice. At first I would speak to him about these incidents and make him apologize, but after a while I lost my patience and started getting angry. His behavior has continued through high school.

My son is now 19 and still living at home, and these things are still happening. What am I supposed to do? Sit back and say nothing? This morning we were getting into the car to go to work, and he swung his lunch bag around and hit me in the head with it. It contained cans of soda, and it hurt. When no reaction or apology was forthcoming, I said, You hit me in the head with your lunch bag," and he went off again about always being a failure and everyone always finding fault with him. -- FRUS-TRATED MOM IN VIR-**GINIA** 

DEAR FRUS-TRATED MOM: It may seem a little late to suggest this, but have you ever had your son evaluated for a psychological or neurological disorder? There may be a reason for his constantly losing things. As to his clumsiness, has his vision -- specifically his depth perception -- been checked by an eye-care specialist? Yes, accidents happen, but when they happen repeatedly, there may be an explanation for it other than klutziness or forgetfulness.

DEAR ABBY: I recently married a man my family and friends, and I, all thought was the perfect man/husband for me -- or anyone, for that matter. We have been married less than two months, and I have undeniable proof that he is married to another woman in another state.

We received gifts from two showers -- one given by some friends and another given by my coworkers. Should I give them back? I want to do the right thing. There are about 20 gifts and a small gift certificate.

So far, people who know my situation say I should keep them, but are they just being polite? --EMBARRASSED AND HEARTBROKEN IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR EMBAR-RASSED AND HEART-BROKEN: If they have not been used, the gifts should

be offered to the people who gave them to you. However, if you have already done this and were told you should keep them, then that's what you should do. The gifts are yours to' keep or dispose of as you wish, if you would prefer not to have hurtful reminders around.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 54 years. She is now 90 and I am 87, although we could both pass for 70. We have made love about once a week since the day we were married -- yes, about 2,800 times. Is there any correlation between frequency of sex and lack of apparent aging? -- FEELS LIKE A KID IN ARIZONA

DEAR KID: From everything I have read, regular cardiovascular exercise, lack of stress and a happy marriage contribute to a couple's health and well-being. Because a healthy sex life falls into all three categories, I think you're onto something.

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### DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 6,

Make it your practice this year to view possibilities with an open mind. Learn to not put people, situations or ideas into categories. The more fluid your thinking, the higher your success ratio will be. Rely on yourself, as others demonstrate an unusual changeability. Others see you as quite unique and very desirable. If you are single, you might have some surprising choices. People will be drawn to you because of who you are, not what you have. If you are attached, open up to your sweetie, and don't automatically react to new energy or different perspectives. Be willing to do some errands and exchanges differently. CAPRICORN understands more than you think.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\* Your finances remain a major preoccupation. Fatigue could play into you decision-making. Knowing this, slow down and take one situation at a time. The unexpected occurs, at least in your mind. Tonight: Make sure all the bills are paid.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\* You are still in the pink. Your creativity could be stronger, but your ability to see past the obvious allows you to step out way ahead of others. Friends might surprise you with their ideas.

Listen and brainstorm. Tonight: A must appearance.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\* Say less and listen more. Bosses do the unexpected, and you need to roll

with the moment. You might want to come from a stronger sense of wellbeing. Creativity surges when intellectual conversation and brainstorming occur. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\* You might want to rethink a meeting or what you are going to contribute to this situation. Sudden insights take you in a new direction. Keep conversations flowing, understanding what others say. That doesn't mean you agree! Tonight: Where the gang is. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\* Accept a budding responsibility, at least for today. You also realize your limits and understand what others offer. Don't give away all your power, but see delegating as different and important. Tonight: Try not to burn the candle at both ends.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\* Reach out for others, sceking

answers. You understand far more than you realize. A brainstorming session opens many doors. Creativity and understanding help your day-to-day life. Tonight: Hop on the computer or find someone to play Scrabble with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\* Work with one partner, especially as you see this person holds all the

cards. Being smart and not bucking the obvious proves to be a great idea. Observe the results. Creativity plays a role, but allow others to test your ideas. Tonight: Swap news with a friend. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\* \* Others continue to call the shots.

no matter what you do. Try not to buck

the status quo; accept a quieter role. Your

imagination easily goes haywire. Avoid

risking and keep your feet on the ground.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\* Get into work or your daily rou-

Tonight: Sort through what you hear.

tine. How much you can get done could change radically, as many surprising events could stop you dead in your tracks. Refuse to commit to spending any money until you are sure of the wisdom of an idea. Tonight: Try to cut work and relax

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\* Let your imagination and drive merge. Know when to nix what appears to be a great idea if the budget

might not be stable. Your sense of what works can make a difference. Tonight: Brainstorm away. Then go for some play. AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\* Listen to basics. Family and home remain high priorities, even if you would like to concentrate on other matters. Suppressed anger might be driving you a

lot harder than you realize. Think posi-

tively. Tonight: Order in. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\* Look to a more positive event, and worry less about a lingering problem or issue. You cannot change what is happening. Display your unique flexibility and ability to see beyond the obvious.

**BORN TODAY** Writer Carl Sandburg (1878), author Kahlil Gibran (1883), founder of the Unification Church Sun Myung Moon

Tonight: Return calls.

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## More schools getting in tune with mariachi

with his grandfather, who there's an influx emigrated from Mexico Mexican immigrants. years ago and feared his didn't appreciate the sacrifices his family made. Then the teenager started playing the music of the elder's homeland.

Perez, 14, took a mariachi music class at his Fort Worth high school, and gained a cultural connection to his grandfather as he learned how to strum the five-stringed vihuela (pronounced vee-way-la).

"He used to always yell at me because I didn't want to do my chores," Jose said. "But as soon as I got into mariachi, I guess we developed a better relationship."

Mariachi not only gave Perez closer ties with his family, it gave the North Side High School freshman one more reason to stay in school.

With soaring dropout rates among Hispanic students, mariachi education programs, long popular in parts of South Texas and California, are springing up in schools across the country to help keep the nation's largest and fastest-growing ethnic group academically engaged.

'You don't have to worry about your kids joining gangs, we provide the said William Gradante, a master mariof the National Association School for Music Education's Dallas. Mariachi Advisory Committee.

Daniel Sheehy, director and curator of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings in Washington, D.C., said hundreds of public schools have mariachi education programs. They're striking a hopeful chord in some some of the best violins in unlikely places, from the world: a Stradivarius Washington state and Idaho and a Guarnerius.

DALLAS (AP) — Jose to Illinois, Virginia and the Perez often butted heads Carolinas, often wherever

Aside from encouraging American-born grandson Hispanic students, mariachi is bringing parents into schools who might have been too intimidated to visit before. School concerts are often packed with parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who know all the old songs and are often heard singing along.

When their children come home donning traditional mariachi garb and asking their advice on proper pronunciation of Spanish songs, the music becomes "a kind of cultural glue or family glue in some cases," Sheehy said.

"Families come from Mexico and don't speak English and two generations later their kids don't speak Spanish," he said. "Mariachi is kind of a bridge."

Mariachi is an alternative to traditional band, orchestra or choir for students who already love the music or seek exposure to something new. Ensembles typically include a couple of trumpets, a guitar, violins and ethnic instruments: two vihuelas (resembling little guitars) and a guitarron, the big-bellied bass.

'It's really a very high art form that requires virtuosity playing," said Alan Lambert, mariachi director achi teacher and chairman for the Grand Prairie District, near

> Lambert, who launched the mariachi program in his district two years ago, said most people in America have not been exposed to the music's serious side. He shadowed a mariachi group in Guadalajara last summer where musicians played

## **EARLY MORNING ANTICS**



staff photo by David Bowser

Horses play in the cold, early morning air just north of Pampa.

many mariachi festivals and "the level of musicianship is incredibly high," said Donna Emmanuel, a music education professor at the University of North Texas who teaches the history of mariachi to teens at a mariachi summer camp.

In Texas, where 500,000 students participate in music classes, mariachi ensembles are competing for the first time this year for bragging rights through University

Interscholastic League. Although some see the sanctioned statewide competition as further proof of mariachi's acceptance, oth-

ers say it comes at a cost.

The Southwest hosts musician to musician because little was written and improvisation played a role. Some purists worry that the budding standardization in the classroom will kill the celebratory, spontaneous nature of the music, in the way that jazz has become more academic.

Others point to the more pressing challenges these programs face as they

Beyond the expense of instruments and uniforms, there is a shortage of degreed music instructors with a strong understanding or appreciation of mariachi music, experts say. There's also a dearth of sheet music and mariachi method Traditionally, mariachi books, though some scholstems from an aural tradi- ars are scrambling to fill

"It's very popular," said Marcia M. Neel, a music educator who helped start Clark County School District's mariachi program in Las Vegas in 2001. It has grown to include more than 2,000 students. Greg Chavez, a sopho-

more at Sam Houston High School in Arlington, Texas, began playing the guitarron last year. His parents. played mariachi music, but he said he never paid attention until he got older.

"I really love the music," said Chavez, a 15-year-old first-generation Mexican-American. "I just wanted to try something different and traditional to Mexico.

"Some kids, they're like What? Mariachi? Why do you play that?" he said. 'Well, it's fun to play."

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