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inside

Social Security

and you by Tom Margenau

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Nominations Needed! Business of the Year & Citizen of the Year



TODAY IN SPORTS

**Bowled** 

Andrew Glover:

Page 8

Bowl season

predictions,

Part Two

over



The Pampa News file photos; staff photos by David Bowser and Andrew Glover

Carlyn Teichmann (clockwise from left), the PHS volleyball team, the city's proposed tax hike and the lesser prairie chicken made local headlines in 2010.

# We count down the year's top stories

Another year is almost in the books for Pampa and Gray County, and it certainly was something.

There was no shortage of local water cooler material over the last twelve months. Intense debates were sparked over planned rehab facilities, proposed tax increases and tiny flightless birds. New education buildings were built, while questions about old ones remain. A new quarterback led the Harvesters onto the field, and the softball and volleyball teams held spirited postseason charges.

It's always difficult to encapsulate a whole 365 days in one story, so we're not going to try. Over the next three days, The Pampa News will be counting down our Top Ten stories of 2010, recapping a year that, if anything, kept us plenty busy over its course.

Double feature

Teichmann, Eubank earn All-State nods

A pair of Lady Harvester athletes were inducted into a pretty lofty club in 2010.

Carlyn Teichmann, now a freshman at Howard Junior College, and Tarvn Eubank, a senior at Pampa High School, earned All-State honors in their respective sports this past calendar year — Teichmann on the diamond and Eubank on the vol-

levball court. Teichmann's arm was a big factor in the softball team's run to the postseason in the spring. Sporting a 6-1 record in district play and 2-1 in the postseason, she only allowed six runs against district rivals and polished off her Harvester career with over 500 strikeouts on the plate. She helped her own cause with her bat, too, as one of the team leaders in RBIs.

Eubank, on the other hand, became the first Lady Harvester volleyball player to earn an All-State selection since 1964. A threeyear starter and four-year varsity member, Eubank was a constant force for the Lady Harvesters her senior year. Throughout the season, Eubank led the team in assists and developed into a vocal leader. She earned district MVP and team MVP. Eubank will continue her playing career at Hardin University in Arkansas.

 Andrew Glover and Arnie Aurellano

TEN cont. on page 5

If you are a subscriber to the online edition of The Pampa News who is still experiencing issues with accessing the service, please send an e-mail to editor@thepampanews.com.

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# One dead after crash near Groom

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

A New Mexico man was killed when his truck rolled on Interstate

40 just before Christmas. Kevin Shane Wood, 50, of Roswell, N.M., was killed Thursday when the pickup truck he was driving rolled on Interstate 40 about five miles west of Groom

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Daniel Hawthorne said Wood was eastbound when the accident occurred about 6 p.m. Thursday.

The 2008 Ford F150 was in the left lane of Interstate 40 when Wood apparently lost control of the pickup, overcorrected to the left and rolled about five times, coming to rest in the westbound

lanes of the highway. Hawthorne said Wood was wearing his seat belt at the time of the accident.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez pronounced Wood dead at the scene about 6:40 p.m. Thursday

Memorial visitation is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel in Roswell.

Wood was a safety specialist in the oil field.

According to LaGrone Funeral Chapel, Wood married Donna Brown on Dec. 1, 2008, in San Patricio, N.M.

Wood is survived by his wife, a stepson, a former wife and their five children, eight grandchildren, mother and step father, two sisters and a brother.

# McDonald: Dispatch can be stressful, but rewarding

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Debbie McDonald admitted that it takes a special kind of person to work as

McDonald, 43, has been behind the microphone at the dispatch desk deep in the basement of Pampa City Hall for almost a decade now. Her calm voice has directed officers and emergency crews to murders, wrecks and lost children. There has been boredom and moments

bordering on panic. It comes with the job. Originally, Pampa was home for McDonald, but she got married and moved to McLean.

"I commute back and forth," McDonald said. McDonald started working May 11,

1990, for the City of Pampa. "I started in animal control," she said. When the city began cutting its work-



force a decade later, McDonald was transferred to dispatcher for the police department.

"I transferred here Sept. 4, 2001," she said, sitting in the windowless room of the dispatch office.

In January, 2009, she was promoted to chief dispatcher.

That's a long time in the dispatching business, which can be very stressful, she admitted.

"It is at times," McDonald said. She said that it can be very boring or

everything is coming apart. "That's exactly how it goes," she said, MCDONALD cont. on page 2



staff photo by David Bowser

Debbie McDonald has been a police dispatcher in Pampa for almost a decade.



To be awarded at the Annual Banquet on March 24, 2011 Deadline: December 31

Please email erica@pampachamber.com or call 669-3241 for more information and ticket reservations

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lead you home.

# Fortherecord

#### PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday Tuesday

Low 30

Thursday

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Low 36

Tuesday: Cloudy, with a high near 44. Wind chill values between 22 and 32. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Windy, with a southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Windy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

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#### Last Minute

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement.

EARLY CLASSIFIED & Last Minute Ad (on pg. 2) Deadlines due to New Year Holiday! For Thurs. Dec. 30 deadline is Wed. Dec. 29 at noon, for Fri. Dec 31-Jan 1 Weekend combined edition deadline is Wed. Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. Happy New Year from the Pampa News to all of vou!!

## **Obituaries**

#### Clayton Oscar Noblitt, 84

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Clayton Oscar Noblitt, 84, formerly of Clarendon, died Thursday, December 23, 2010, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, December 27, 2010, in Memory Gardens Cemetery Mausoleum in Pampa with Rev. Darrell Burton, officiating.

Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa with military honors by the U.S. Army. Arrangements were under the direction of Robertson

Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Mr. Noblitt was born May 25, 1926, in Pampa to William Emory and Lily Potter Noblitt. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during World War II from 1942-1949. He had been a resident of Clarendon before moving to Albuquerque several years ago. He worked in the oilfield and with a Water Well Company prior to his retirement. He enjoyed leather working and was a member of the Moose Lodge. He was a Christian.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Ivan and Leon.

Survivors include two daughters, Dianne Stout and sonin-law Donny and Teena Noblitt all of Albuquerque; two sons, Sandy Noblitt of Mexico City and Marshall Noblitt of Odessa; two grandsons, Jason and Justin Stout both of Albuquerque; and a great-grandson, Nathaniel Noblitt of Albuquerque.

The family request memorials be to a favorite charity.

#### Bill Frank Deaton, 79

Bill Frank Deaton, 79, died December 24, 2010, in

There are no services scheduled. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatlev Funeral Directors.

Mr. Deaton was born November 9, 1931, in Beggs,

Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 2005, moving from Houston. He was an overland truck driver and security guard. Bill attended Central Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict.

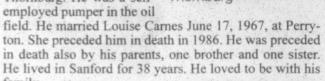
Survivors include his nephew, Jim Hollingwood and wife Nancy of Pampa. He was preceded in death by a nephew, Bob Deaton; a brother, Jack Deaton; and a sister, Evelyn Hollingwood.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

#### Guy Daniel Thornburg Jr., 76

SANFORD-Guy Daniel Thornburg Jr., 76, of Sanford, died Saturday, December 25 at Borger. No services are scheduled. Cremation is under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Guy was born February 6, 1934, at Deal, to Guy Daniel Thornburg Sr. and Mary Elmina Morgan Thornburg. He was a self- Thornburg employed pumper in the oil



Guy is survived by his daughters Theresa Lillard and husband Kevin of Borger, Vickey Bouldin and husband Victor of Borger, Donda Marsh and husband Mike of Lubbock, and Deni Sklocic of St. Louis, Mo.; one brother Tommy Thornburg of Skellytown; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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### EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents over the holiday weekend.

Police reported 29 traffic-related calls and five ac-

cidents. Animal control reported

17 animal-related calls. Pampa EMS reported 21 ambulance calls. The Lefors Volunteer EMS reported one medical call.

Thursday, Dec. 23

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

Lost property was reported in the 2100 block of Dogwood.

Officers assisted another agency in the 1300 block of North Williston.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of North Zimmers.

A threat was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Officers had escort duty in the 600 block of North

Fire investigations were launched in the 100 block of West 30th and in the 1200 block of East Francis. Officers assisted another agency in the 300 block of

Carbon monoxide was reported in the 700 block of North Russell.

A threat was reported in the 500 block of North Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Officers assisted another agency in the 1100 block of West Alcock

Friday, Dec. 24

A domestic disturbance was reported to police.

An alarm was reported in the 2700 block of North

Navajo. A gas drive off was reported in the 1000 block of

West Wilks. Criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of

South Faulkner. Water was shut off in the

1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block

of Graham and in the 1100 block of South Varnon. A fire investigation was

launched in the 800 block of East Beryl. A suspicious person was

reported in the 100 block of East Harvester. Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1800 block of North Christine.

Saturday, Dec. 25 A suspicious vehicle was

reported in the 900 block of South Wells. Officers assisted another

agency at Price Road and U.S. Highway 60. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 300 block of North Cuyler and in the 400 block of North Magnolia. A prowler was reported

in the 1400 block of North

the 2/00 block of Navajo. A structure fire was re-

ported in the 200 block of West Craven.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Bond and Sum-

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 2000 block of North Coffee and in the 500 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of North Duncan.

Alarm was reported in the 2200 block of Willis-

Officers checked buildings at 400 West Foster and at 100 East Craven.

Sunday, Dec. 26 An alarm was reported in the 400 block of Ballard.

A suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of

East Frederic.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of

West Foster. An alarm was reported in the 1300 block of North

Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of

North Rosewood. Officers performed a welfare check in the 3400

block of North Duncan. Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1800 block of North Sumner.

Water was shut off in the

1800 block of North Wells. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2200

block of North Mary Ellen.

Water was shut off in the 300 block of Roberta. A violation of city ordinances was reported at 70

North Texas Highway 70. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2200 block of North Christine and in the 1900 block of North

Dogwood. Disorderly conduct was

An alarm was reported in reported to police. A handicapped parking violation was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Officers assisted another agency at Barnes and Al-

Water was shut off in the 1100 block of North Stark-

weather. Monday, Dec. 27

A burglary was reported

in the 400 block of South A suspicious person was

reported in the 400 block of North Somerville.

#### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests over the holiday weekend

Friday, Dec. 23

Jesus Manuel Leal, 49, was arrested by deputies on charges of public intoxica-

Luis Angel Lopez, 21, and Christopher Robert Driscoll, 24, were arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Saturday, Dec. 24 Eric Lee Munday, 22, of Perryton, was arrested by deputies on charges of public intoxication.

Justin Billy Adams, 28, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated.



SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED.

# McDonald

"but I wouldn't change it for anything." She said that some days are harder than others. Being from Pampa, she's usually

dealing with people she knows. "I'm dealing with my generation and my generation's children," McDonald said. "and kids that my kids went to school with."

When the city began cutting staff, McDonald said she had a choice.

"I like animals," she said.

She hated leaving animal control. With a smile, McDonald said she went through withdrawal because with animal control she was outside and dealt with

people in person. When she moved over to dispatching, she said she dealt with the same people, but it was over the phone and from an enclosed

"I wouldn't change it now," McDonald said.

It took a while to adjust, she admitted. "I do sometimes miss the summertime outside," she said wistfully

But in McLean, she's on the volunteer fire

department. "Back in the wildfires," McDonald said, "I was out there with my mother-in-law and my father-in-law.

Her husband Robert was up here in Pampa. He is a Pampa firefighter. "That's an experience that I don't ever

want to go through again," she said of the wildfires. "It was real scary between here and McLean.' Her father-in-law, Clifford, is the McLean

"I guess emergency services must run in the family," McDonald said. "I have a daughter that's a nurse.'

She also has a son that's a police officer in Muleshoe. "My son-in-law is an EMS director in

Shamrock," McDonald said. Her youngest son, who's still in school at McLean, said he's going to be a firefighter. But then again, her "family" includes all the emergency and law enforcement officers

in the area, she said. "You can't get into this and not be a family," McDonald said.

She said that what she does is not a job. It's a way of life, but it's a life that has to be learned.

A person can't just walk in and start dispatching. It comes with experience. When she first started, McDonald said she

didn't think she could do it. "I was working my very first night on my cont. from page 1

own," she said, "and we had a homicide north of town. Now, when they have a bad night, McDonald worries about the dispatchers

Anytime something bad happens, McDonald said she steps in to help her dis-

"I've been through it," she said. "I know

McDonald said that often the dispatcher doesn't know how the different situations turn out, unless someone calls them and lets

them know But her dispatchers keep coming back, she said. That's when she knows they're okay.

The worst call McDonald said she had was a burglary that had resulted in a shooting. "I was scared to death," she said. "I was so scared.'

McDonald said that after such an incident,

she sometimes cries. "That's all you can do," she said. "You've just got to shake it off."

The hardest calls are the ones concerning people she grew up with and know well. "It's hard," she said. "You've just got to stay focused. But there are happy endings, she said.

"We've had some kids get lost that have turned out well," McDonald said. Kids have wandered away "That's really stressful when you know those little kids are so young," she said. "There have been times, we've wanted to go

But the happy times are when everybody is reunited, she said. Despite the stress, McDonald said the city doesn't have a big turnover with the dispatchers.

out there and help look."

of excitement.

"One we hired transferred to the water department for better hours," McDonald

She said the girl they hired to replace her has done a wonderful job. "I don't think we could run her off," McDonald laughed. "She's already been

here almost two years." With a smile, McDonald added that a lot of the dispatchers are adrenaline junkies like

ing for Pampa, but she has no plans to retire. "I'm too young," McDonald said. "I'd get bored. I'd call up here just to see what's going on."

# AFTERNOON RUSH

#### MN leads nation in tornadoes

ALBERT LEA, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota led the nation for having the most tornadoes in 2010.

According to the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center, the state had 145 tornadoes. The state with the second highest total was Texas, which had 105

The Albert Lea Tribune reports that the figures aren't official until they are reviewed next year by the National Climate Data Center, but they aren't likely to change enough to bump Minnesota.

Wisconsin tied for sixth place with 68 twisters.

Forty-eight tornadoes were spotted in the state June 17, making it the day with the most tornadoes in Minnesota history. Turns out that day had the most tornadoes for the entire country, with 115.

Minnesota totaled 24 tornadoes in 2009 and 43 in

#### Christmas fire claims man

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SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A man has died in a predawn fire Christmas morning near San Antonio after going back into his burning home to try to rescue his dogs.

Bexar County officials said the man was alerted to the fire about 3:30 a.m. Saturday by relatives who lived next door in a rural area east of San Antonio. After helping his wife and a niece escape, 62-year-old Frank "Poncho" Kruse died trying to find his 13-year-old Labrador, Sugar, and another dog.

Both dogs died in the blaze.

Bexar County Detective Frank Stubbs said arson wasn't suspected. County fire marshal spokeswoman Laura Jesse said the cause was undetermined.

Stubbs said firefighters found Kruse's body in the kitchen. Relatives said Kruse was a retired plumber frequently seen in the neighborhood with Sugar by

#### Bowl players can't cross border

EL PASO (AP) - Players from Notre Dame and Miami will not be allowed to cross the border into one of Mexico's most dangerous cities during their free time before the Sun Bowl.

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly took his team's passports before the Fighting Irish flew to El Paso as a precaution. The Hurricanes didn't bring passports, either, and met with both local law enforcement and the FBI on Sunday shortly after arriving in Texas to further underscore the potential dangers of crossing the border.

Fans from both schools have also been urged to be cautious. El Paso borders the Mexican city of Cuidad Juarez, which is wrapped in a drug war. Officials say more than 3,000 people have been killed there this year alone, and the vast majority of crimes in the city are never investi-

The Sun Bowl is Friday.

#### OKC crime rate falls

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - The rates of murders, rapes and robberies dropped in Oklahoma City during the first six months of 2010 compared to the same period last year.

Data released by the FBI indicates that murders in Oklahoma's largest city fell from 32 to 23, rapes from 171 to 165 and robberies from 599 to 499

The only violent crime category to rise was aggravated assault, which is intent to commit bodily harm. Aggravated assaults increased 12.1 percent during the first six months of the year, giving the city an overall 3.7 percent increase in violent crime.

Violent crime rates in Tulsa, the state's second largest city, dropped by 5.6 percent in the first half of 2010. But the FBI says Tulsa experienced a 40.9 percent jump in robberies during the period.

#### NM city may banned 'syn. pot'

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) - Farmington city councilors are to vote Tuesday whether to ban synthetic marijuana.

Officials in the northwestern New Mexico city say it's marketed as incense but when burned and inhaled can be more potent than THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Synthetic marijuana, also known as salvia divinorum, is sold under names such as K-2, Spice, Genie, Zohai, Sage and Yucatan Fire.

Farmington's proposed ordinance says the risk posed by the substances creates a danger to public health, welfare and safety.

Councilman Dan Darnell has said synthetic marijuana is

not a major problem in Farmington, but the city is seeing it. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced Nov. 24 it would strictly control five chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana for at least a year while studying a permanent ban.

#### Teen killed by stray bullet

TYLER (AP) - A 15-year-old East Texas girl has died after she was struck by a stray bullet during a shooting on Christmas Eve.

Authorities say Nicole Cartwright of Longview was with friends in the parking lot of a Tyler fast food restaurant when gunshots were reported about 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Tyler police Sgt. Matthew Smyser tells the Tyler Morning Telegraph that officers found the victim at the scene with a single gunshot wound. Smyser said the girl was taken to a hospital, and police were later told she had died from injuries sustained in the shooting.

Sgt. Bobby Perkins said witness accounts indicate two groups got into a disturbance somewhere else and met again at the restaurant, where one person fired at another. Perkins said investigators are trying to determine a

#### Wildflowers less showy this year

DALLAS (AP) - While it's still early to say for certain how this spring's wildflower crop will do, the small amount of rain this fall likely means the showing will be less than spectacular, one expert said.

Damon Waitt, senior botanist at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, said the young plants that produce spring's flowers should be about the size of a dinner plate by winter. But the rosettes he saw on a recent trip into the field were "very, very small."

"I attribute that to the lack of fall rain. It's kind of a shame, because last year was so spectacular," he told The

Dallas Morning News. More than half of Texas is in an official drought, and forecasters don't expect relief till the warmer months, which is too late for many spring flowers.

# Your ex doesn't have to be dead to get his Social Security

Creator's Syndicate

Q: In your Social Security guide for women, I think you made a mistake. You said a divorced woman can get Social Security from her exhusband while he is still living. But I was told by friends, who know these things, that the only way a divorcee can get Social Security is when her ex dies. Do you need to make a correction?

A: You need to go back and correct the "friends who know these things." Tell them that your ex-husband does not have to be dead in order for you to get any of his Social Security. And if my e-mail inbox is any indication of the public's knowledge of this issue, then you and your friends are not alone in thinking incorrectly about a divorced woman's possible eligibility for Social Security from an ex-husband.

Just as some currently married women might be eligible for a wife's benefit on their alive-andwell husband's Social Security account, a divorced woman also can qualify for similar benefits from the still-breathing ex — assuming she meets all the eligibility rules. Here are some of those rules:

 A divorced woman must have been married to her ex for at least 10 years.

She must be currently unmarried (even if she remarried after the divorce, she would still be eligible for benefits if the subsequent marriage has ended).

She must be at least 62 years

She must not be due higher benefits on her own Social Security record.

There are also a couple rules that apply to the ex-husband. He must be at least 62 years old, meaning he is old enough to qualify for Social Security. But he does not have to be actually getting Social Security benefits. In other words, a divorced wife (unlike a currently married wife) can receive Social Security from her ex, even if he

Social Security 3 and you

isn't receiving Social Security himself. That rule was put in place to prevent a man from not claiming Social Security benefits just to keep his ex-wife from drawing anything on his account. Amazingly, these kinds of shenanigans actually used to happen. (I guess more than a few couples end their marriages very bitterly - and that bitterness carried over to attempts to get revenge by trying to withhold Social Security benefits.)

Another part of the eligibility rules conce ning the ex pleasantly surprises many divorced women. And that is the fact that it doesn't matter if the ex has remarried. A divorced woman claims her benefits from the ex-husband independently of any other activity on his account. A guy could potentially have two or three women getting benefits on his Social Security record, and each would qualify for full benefits. Payments to each divorced wife do not offset any other payments made on the account.

And on a related note, here's a bit of good news for some of the divorced men out there. Anything paid to your ex-wife (or wives) does not reduce your Social Security benefits in any way. I've mentioned before that throughout my 32-year career with the Social Security Administration, I ran into many situations where a man had a clause similar to this inserted into his divorce decree: "I don't want my ex-wife to get a nickel of my Social Security benefits." That clause isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

One final note: Many women, whose ex is still alive, don't qualify for Social Security divorced wife's benefits for the same reason that many currently married women don't get a regular wife's benefit from their husband's account. And that's because they are often

due higher benefits on their own Social Security record. Because the benefit rate payable to a wife (or ex-wife) can only be as high as one-half of the husband's Social ecurity and is frequently as low as one-third (depending on the age at which a woman starts her benefits) - a woman who has worked any decent amount of time outside the home will generally get a Social Security retirement benefit that exceeds any spousal benefits she is due.

In other words, if you're a working woman, your husband (or exhusband) usually isn't worth much to you - from a Social Security perspective. That is while he is alive. But once he dies, and much higher widow's benefits kick in, he finally can mean real bucks to you.

Q: My ex-husband, to whom I was married for about 15 years, has remarried three times since our divorce. And he's currently living with yet another woman. Because I never remarried, I know I am eligible for some of his Social Security. But can all these other women get money from him, too?

A: It's possible but unlikely. If some of those subsequent marriages didn't last 10 years, the ex-wives involved won't qualify for benefits. Those women who remarried (and are still married) won't qualify. If any have worked and earned higher benefits on her own record, she won't qualify. So again, the chances are pretty slim that all of these women will get benefits on your ex's Social Security account.

Because of the prevalence of divorces and remarriages, people always say, "No wonder Social Security is going broke. They're paying all those benefits to so many ex-wives." But as I tried to illustrate above, benefit payments to multiple divorcees are not as common as people think.

If you have a Social Security question. Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

# Stocks slide after China raises rates

NEW YORK (AP) - Stock indexes fell in midday trading Monday after China moved to raise interest rates to combat spiking inflation.

A blizzard in the Northeast is making this a quiet day on Wall Street by disrupting commutes for many people who in the financial industry. Trading is expected to be light throughout the week as the New Year's holiday approaches.

A year-end rally based on improving economic reports and the extension of tax cuts for another two years has pushed stock indexes to two-year

In midday trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 34 points, or 0.3 percent, to 11,540. The Standard and Poors 500-stock index fell 2, or 0.2 percent, to 1,255. The Nasdaq composite index fell 14, or 0.5 percent, to

China's move over the weekend is the second time in three months that the country has taken steps to slow the pace of its economic expansion. Inflation jumped to its highest levels in two years in November. Any slowdown in China can affect stocks

worldwide. Bank of America Corp. estimates that emerging markets like China account for 80 percent of the world's economic growth.

Shares were down sharply overseas. The Euro Stoxx 50, which tracks blue chip companies in countries that use the euro, fell 1.2 percent. Asian stock markets closed down less than 1 percent.

Eight of the 10 company groups in the S&P 500 fell. Financial companies, which rose 0.6 percent, had the largest change of any group.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose slightly to 3.41 percent.

Heard Jones

# **Year End Clearance** specials good thru December 31st

Christmas Merchandise . 75% OFF (retail) Toys ...... 50% OFF (retail) Gift Department ..... 50% OFF (retail) Small Appliances .....1/3 OFF (retail) Nintendo Wii Remotes . 50% OFF (retail) Complete Stock of Puzzles ... 75% OFF (retail) 12 pack Coke, Dr. Pepper, Sprite and More ...... 3/\$9.99

# Viewpoints

# Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2010. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan, The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York City

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1970, "Hello, Dolly!" closed on Broadway after a run of 2,844 performances.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

In 2007, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Pakistan by an attacker who shot her after a campaign rally and then blew himself up.

Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton put the first black judge on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals serving several Southern states. (The nomination of Roger Gregory had been stalled in the Senate, but Clinton used a recess appointment to put him on the

Five years ago: Grass fires burned in droughtstricken Texas and Oklahoma (over the course of three days, nearly 200 homes were lost and the fires blamed for at least four deaths).

One year ago: Iranian security forces fired on Tehran protesters, killing at least eight and launching a new wave of arrests.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, is 86. Rockabilly musician Scotty Moore is 79. Actor John Amos is 71. Actress Charmian Carr is 68. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 67. Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 66. Singer Tracy Nelson is 66. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 62. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 61. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 59, Actress Tovah Feldshuh is 58. Rock musician David Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 58. Journalist-turnedpolitician Arthur Kent is 57. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 50. Country musician Jeff Bryant is 48. Actor Ian Gomez is 46. Actress Theresa Randle is 46. Actress Eva LaRue is 44. Actress Tracey Cherelle Jones is 41 Bluegrass singer-musician Darrin Vincent (Dailey & Vincent) is 41. Rock musician Guthrie Govan is 39. Musician Matt Slocum is 38. Actor Wilson Cruz is 37. Singer Olu is 37. Actor Masi Oka is 36. Actor Aaron Stanford is 34. Actress Emilie de Ravin is 29. Christian rock musician James Mead (Kutless) is 28. Rock singer Hayley Williams (Paramore) is 22.

Thought for Today: "A dollar saved is a quarter earned." - Oscar Levant, American composer, musician, actor (born this date in 1906, died in 1972).



# The silliest stories of the past year

2010 was a year consumed with silly stories. The more trivial the controversy, the more airtime it consumed. Although not all the silly stories made conservatives look stupid, the more a squabble tarnished the right, the surer it was to generate talking-head babble. And then they fizzle, as most non-stories do.

Where to begin?

The Quran burning.

After every media person in America dumped on Florida pastor Terry Jones for being a dangerous clown, and after two Quran-loving protesters died in Afghanistan, Jones didn't deliver on his threat to burn a Quran on the anniversary of 9/11. Yet a Nexis database search on "Terry Jones" and "Quran" shows the nonevent generated more than 2,900

Any story about Sarah Palin.

She's not Alaska's governor any more. She's not a declared candidate. She is a genius at getting on cable

Palin understands the trigger words -- for instance, when she told supporters in April, "don't retreat, reload" -- that can turn a Facebook post into a three-day, 24-hour debate. If she tweets, it's national news. When it became apparent her daughter Bristol couldn't dance, "Dancing With the Stars" became a news story

If the right person dishes Palin -- be it Oprah, Joy Behar, Andrew Sullivan or any other lib whom you'd expect to sneer at Palin -- somehow that's news, too.

Few expect Palin to run for president. But all she has to do is tease the press with the possibility that she might run in 2012, and she is rewarded with priceless book-promoting publicity. If she does run, only amateurs think she has a snowball's chance in Florida of winning the GOP nod. But it seems TV news producers -- and Palin haters eager for another fix -- just can't help themselves. It's like an addiction.

The incestuous relationship between "The View" and Fox News' Bill

O'Reilly.

"The View" ladies regularly scold O'Reilly; he airs video of what they said. Sometimes he invites a shecritic on his

show; they bicker, then make nice. Both sides manage to come across as preachy, insincere and smarmy.

DEBRA

**SAUNDERS** 

Larry King's retirement.

How can you tell?

Note to CNN execs: King's ratings were in the toilet before he announced in June he was retiring. So why did you devote hours of airtime covering the exit of a talk-show host -- whom Americans stopped watching because he was boring -- surrounded by the usual sycophants who made the show so irritating?

Why treat his retirement as if it were (a) important and (b) tragic? CNN's indulgent send-off to King wasn't news. It was self-promotion, and wrong-headed self-promotion at that. Any ratings gain from the last night is more than offset by the news network's nosedive in the credibility department.

Delaware tea party candidate

Christine O'Donnell. She never had a chance to win Veep Joe Biden's former Senate seat. But national news outlets were desperate for any hook to justify their excessive post-primary coverage of the gaffeprone "I am not a witch" Republican, so they tried to make it look as if O'Donnell had a shot. When she was "just 10 points behind" Democrat Chris Coons in the polls, National Public Radio reported a "surge" of voter support, with O'Donnell closing the gap.

Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally and Comedy Central's counter-rally.

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Attendees from both sides fold TV news crews that they showed up to prove they're not crackpots or extremists. Didn't work

Stories about Twitter. Anything over 140 characters is too long.

TSA pat-downs.

Or, as I like to call them, freedom fondles. (Just kidding.) Start with an absurd premise that TSA screeners want to get up close and personal with your average airline passenger. Then add the new national desire of partisans to paint themselves as victims.

You just knew some camera-phonetoting wannabe-oppressed person would pick a fight and start talking up his "junk." Presto: the sound bite that made Monica Lewinsky jokes seem quaint

Also predictably, some guy on the Internet urged the flying public to refuse body scans, which would subject them to time-consuming pat-downs, and thereby jam security lines on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. He proclaimed his stunt "National Opt Out Day."

Huge story that never happened. The flying public opted for security.

The Obama comeback.

I'm not saying it won't happen; it well may. But can't the pundits who wrote about the Dems' shellacking a month ago at least wait until the

Congress convenes before they decrare President Obama this year's political winner?

Can't the chattering class wait until major polls show that Obama's approval rating is above 50 percent? Are we boardwalk fortunetellers, or can we wait for something to happen, or at least appear likely to happen? .

You know the answer, and it's not



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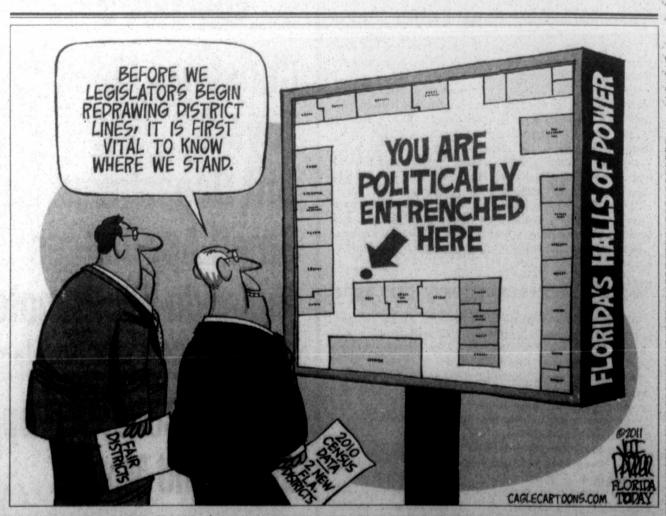
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MEMBER 2010

RESS ASSOCIATION





#### A hike not taken

Proposed property tax increase shelved amidst citizen concern

That taut cord that stretched across downtown Pampa in the fall? That was the budget tightrope the City Commission found itself bal-

Faced with preparing a budget for the new fiscal year, City Manager Richard Morris and Finance Director Robin Bailey initially crafted a plan in August that kept the city's compensation plan intact and allowed for a 20 percent increase in health insurance

The proposed new budget, though, hinged on a property tax increase to 65 cents, up from 62.693 cents per \$100 of valuation. Two cents and change may not seem like much in some situations, but in this one, it may as well have been a fortune. With valid arguments for both raising the tax rate and searching for alternative solutions, it was clear from the onset that this year's budgeting road would be a long one.

What followed was an arduous few weeks for city officials, as Morris et al worked feverishly to come up with a compromise that satisfied both fiscal concerns and an anxious

The issue came to a head at a special Monday afternoon session of the City Commission, a meeting attended by over 50 citizens and city employees. Those in attendance got some fireworks, too - impassioned speeches were heard from both sides of the debate.

As it turned out, Mayor Lonny Robbins decided that the best course of action was to leave the tax rate alone. Joined by Commissioners Robert Dixon and the late Bill Allison, Robbins voted for an amended resolution that eschewed the tax increase altogether.

The decision was made official at a regular Commission meeting in late September. Ultimately, the big tax rate change of 2010 turned out to be the rate change that wasn't, but for a few autumn weeks, city

officials (pardon the oncoming pun) were taxed plenty

- Arnie Aurellano



#### Chicken run

Prairie chicken saga continues to complicate development

As 2010 becomes 2011, the lesser prairie chicken remains a concern for the Gray County Commission, ranchers and the oil and gas industry in eastern Gray County,

The small game bird was once plentiful in the Panhandle, but as farmers broke out land for row crops, the bird's native habitat began to disappear — and take the bird with it. Now, the prairie chicken is a candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal government has already started the process to list the bird. In the meantime, the Texas Public Utility Commission has approved routes for electrical transmission lines that cross through the bird's habitat in Gray County. Officials with Cross Texas

Transmission, who will build transmission lines through Gray County, said they are not responsible to the federal government, only to the Texas Public Utility Commission, since no federal money is being used in the project and the project is entirely within the state.

Waiting could endanger the power line project since the bird is not yet listed and currently enjoys no federal protection. Once the bird is listed, it could complicate any future development in the bird's native range, since the bird doesn't nest near high structures such as power poles.

The Gray County Commission fears that building power lines through the habitat will cause longrange problems for ranchers and the oil and gas industry in the eastern part of the county. Many in those fields, along with county officials, have been working with the federal government for years to try to restore native habitat for the bird in

cont. from page 1

a bid to avoid listing. As the clock ticks toward 2011, the Texas Public Utilities Commission and contractors like CTT are racing to complete their projects before the federal government designates the bird an endangered species and slows or shuts down future projects.

- David Bowser



#### Special service

Pampa High School volleyball team enjoys stellar season

The Pampa Lady Harvesters volleyball team entered the 2010 season with the motto, "New team, bigger

At the beginning of the season, that dream seemed questionable, as the Lady Harvesters were 6-6 and struggling with team chemistry. But the team turned it on in the second half of non-district, entering their district slate with a 19-11 record. The Lady Harvesters won the River Road Tournament and placed third in a tournament in Clinton, Okla.

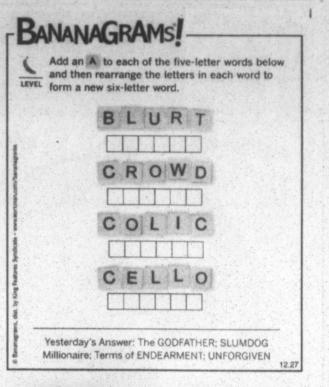
In district the Lady Harvesters went undefeated on the court, although a UIL violation led to two forfeits late. The team showed a knack for overcoming adversity, as five of its district matches went to four sets and one went to five. The Lady Harvesters won their first district title since the early 1990s and advanced to the regional quarterfinals.

The Lady Harvesters were ranked as high as 10th in the state polls and eight of the 10 players earned All-District recognition.

The future looks very bright for the Lady Harvesters as Taryn Eubank is the only senior. The junior varsity also won district and were undefeated on the court. Head coach Libby Garza may have said it best: Supporters should book their hotels for San Marcos next year in hopes of a run to state.

- Andrew Glover

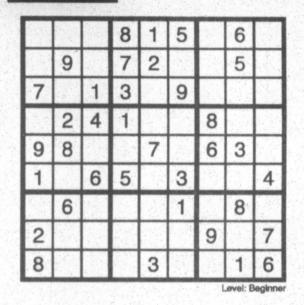
(Check out tomorrow's paper for the next step of the Top 10 Stories countdown.)



Sudoku

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

out of the U.S. for many years, I noticed upon returning that people here seem to be much fatter. I went to a family gathering, and virtually every formerly slim member of my family had also gotten bigger.

I quietly mentioned it to one of my sisters, and word got around that I had "no manners." My other sister, "Niki," who has a degree in psychology, told me in no uncertain terms that people never talk about such things with each other.

I explained to her that mentioning it once, or discussing the ballooning of America, can be appropriate. I believe our country has fattened up because of a lazy attitude toward exercise and calories. Niki vehemently opposes my discussing it.

I learned later that she neglected to invite me to her son's wedding for fear I would say something about you-knowwhat to her in-laws. I admit, I don't have a silver tongue - but I'm disappointed my favorite psychologist has blackballed me and cut off communication. It's sad to lose a sister this way. Please advise, Abby. -BROTHER BLACK SHEEP

DEAR BROTHER BLACK SHEEP: Why do I think there's more to this story than you have written? Obesity has become an epidemic in this country, and the reasons for it are more compli-

cated than a lazy attitude. You don't need a "silver tongue" to apologize to your sisters for having offended them. Perhaps your "favorite psychologist" would have invited you to her son's wedding if you had been willing to apologize.

People who have weight issues know

DEAR ABBY: After having been they are fat. They don't need to debate it. And they don't need you to remind them or imply they are lazy.

> DEAR ABBY: I'm a 45-year-old male reader. I have been friends with "Oscar" for 20 years. He asked me to be the godparent of his new baby girl. As you can imagine, I was overwhelmed when he asked. I have never been a godparent. We discussed it at length, and I told him I needed to think it over to be sure of my

> After a few days I was still indecisive. Part of me wanted to do it and part of me didn't. I told Oscar it was an honor, but that I felt unsure and not fully committed. I knew if I were to accept and then reconsider, it wouldn't be cool. So I bowed out to give him time to find someone else.

Oscar's reaction told me he was deeply angry and hurt. That night I hardly slept. I kept thinking how much I had disappointed my friend, his wife and their entire family. I feel terribly guilty. It's clear that Oscar was expecting me to say yes. Is it wrong to say no when someone asks you to be a godparent? - TRUE FRIEND IN WISCONSIN

DEAR TRUE FRIEND: No, it's not wrong if the person who is asked does not feel able to fulfill the obligations that go with that honor. Your friend may feel less hurt if you explain to him your reasons for not accepting and the fact that you wouldn't want to agree if you couldn't do everything that would be expected of you. Saying no sometimes requires tact, but I'll give you credit for being honest about your feelings.

#### By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 48 Plains

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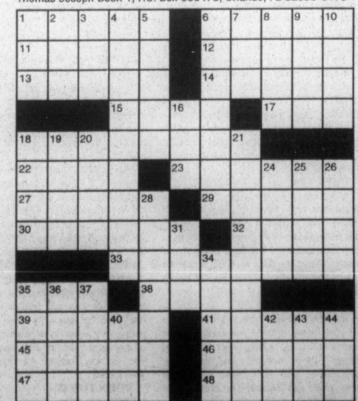
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The Pampa News



By Bil Keane



"Mommy! Can we start being naughty again or do we still need to be nice?"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads







WILEYINKCEAPTIFLIME NOT

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday,

Dec. 28, 2010: This year, many opportunities present themselves. Some of them might not be as easy as you might like. Whether they are worthwhile to pursue will be your call. Know that it is OK to say "no." If you are single, you'll meet someone more easily during the summer of 2011. This bond could develop into quite the romance. If you are attached, as a couple, plan a spe-

the summer heat! LIBRA can be difficult. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

cial vacation or trip in the summer. Add to

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Taking a stand and pushing for your goals comes naturally. The question remains whether this approach continues to be effective when dealing with certain people. An associate or close personal tie could close down. Tonight: Just say "yes."

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your vision continually gets thwarted, or at least that is how you feel. The best way to bypass the situation is to do only what is necessary. Stop aggravating yourself and others. Tonight: A close friend, loved one or partner is all ears.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your objectives remain clear. With the New Year entering, get to it and finish all paperwork and decisions needing action in 2010. Quite clearly you want to get into celebration mode! Tonight: Checking in with several friends about New Year's.

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Staying close to hearth and home comes naturally. You could be a bit closed down and need to think about doing something else. Even going to the gym or building snowmen will help refresh your energy. Anything done for too long can be a problem. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\* Letting others know before you act gives them a sense of comfort and control. If you simply act, you could create a lot of instability and distancing. Remember, you don't need to change your plans just because you share them! Tonight: Lightening up the night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\* No one is surprised that you might feel a bit tight financially. Remem-

ber, the New Year can be celebrated in many ways, some nearly cost-free. Use your imagination as you conjure up a fun plan. A family member or roommate responds with enthusiasm. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\* Like many, you are dragging. Stop and take a deep breath. Take a walk or have a conversation with someone who is high-energy. Exchange thoughts about a particular issue. Understanding evolves as you brainstorm away. Tonight: Catch up

#### on a friend's news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\* Quietly examine everything that is happening. Don't let others notice if you are skeptical or you don't agree. Check out an investment or costly idea on your own. You need to make decisions for you, and not be persuaded by someone

#### else. Tonight: Follow your instincts! SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\* Don't get stuck on one point at a meeting or with a key person in your life. That type of attitude will push away that which you desire even further. Communication can be on many levels. Be clear without an agenda. Tonight: Where you want to be.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\* Sometimes it is hard being the natural-born leader of your friends or the group. Your intuition plays a strong role as far as pointing you in the appropriate direction. Deal with a difficult person early on. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\* Keep reaching out for others, though someone at a distance could close off or be reticent. As a result, you might not get the response you desire. This is not the first or the last time. No one can control anyone. Tonight: Fun with a friend.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* Your ability to relate directly to key people separates you from many other associates and friends. Let someone have the space to close down and perhaps do what he or she needs. Listen to a younger person who frequently has good advice. Tonight: An important chat over dinner.

#### **BORN TODAY**

Magazine editor Gayle King (1954), actress Maggie Smith (1934), Oscar-winning actor Denzel Washington (1954)

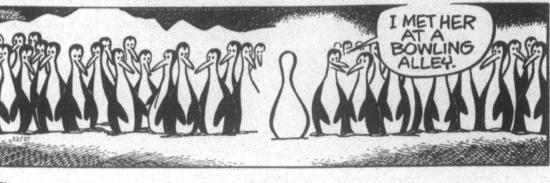
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#### 1 Public Notice

#### NOTICE TO

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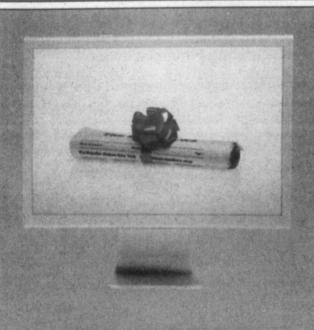
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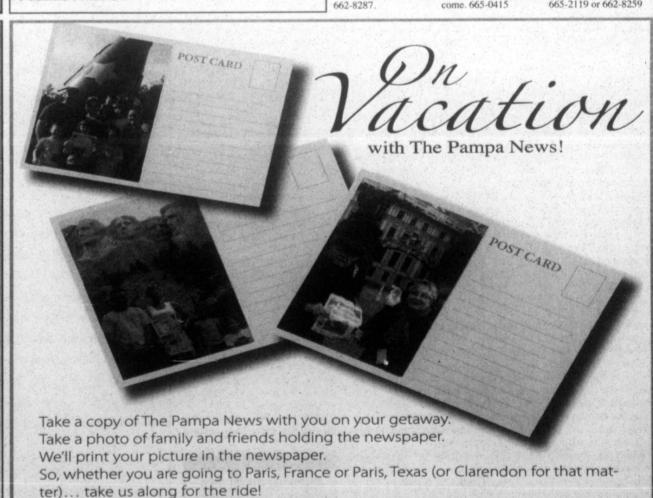
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# Sports

# Bowl Season: The most wonderful time of the year (Part 2)

tions have been fairly accurate with a record of 6-2.

Now the bowl season really heats up. Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl: Army Black Knights vs. Southern Methodist Mustangs, 11 a.m. Thursday.

Simulation: 28-23 SMU. This is another game with two teams scoring points in different ways. Army uses the running game and SMU uses the pass. Again looks like the pass will win out.

Offense: Army. The Black Knights average 28 points per game and are 10th in the nation in running the ball.

Defense: Army. Neither defense is all that good but the Black Knights average a few less points then the Mustangs.

ANDREW

**GLOVER** 

Strength of Victory: SMU. The Mustangs have victories against Tulsa, East Carolina and UTEP, who all went to bowl

Prediction: 27-26 Southern Methodist. Both teams are fairly equal but the Mustangs make one more play. New Era Pinstripe Bowl: Kansas State Wildcats vs. Syracuse

Orange, 2:20 p.m. Thursday Simulation: 29-25 Kansas State. Both teams have similar sto-

ries entering this game: strong starts and not so great finishes. Offense: Kansas State. The Wildcats average 34 points per game, 13 more than the Orange. Kansas State is 20th in rushing the ball and the Orange rank in the bottom 30 in offense:

Defense: Syracuse. The Orange only give up 18 points per game which is far less than the Wildcats who give up almost 30. Strength of Victory: Syracuse. The Orange beat South Florida, who is playing in the Meinke Car Care Bowl and beat West Virginia who was ranked 20th at the time. Prediction: 27-25 Kansas State. Offense wins out as the

Wildcats win a close one Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl: North

Carolina Tar Heels vs. Tennessee Volunteers, 5:40 p.m. Thursday

Simulation: 21-19 Tennessee. The Volunteers are virtually playing a home game with a fairly evenly matched opponent. Offense: Tennessee. The Volunteers average 27 points per game. Tennessee is 29th in the nation in passing

Defense: North Carolina. Both teams are mediocre at best on defense. The Tar Heels average slightly less points than their Strength of Victory: North Carolina. The Tar Heels were one

of four teams that beat Florida State. The Volunteers' best victory was against a 6-6 Kentucky Prediction: 24-23 Tennessee. The Volunteers use the 'home

crowd' to their advantage and assure a winning season. Bridgepoint Education Holiday Bowl: No. 18 Nebraska

Cornhuskers vs. Washington Huskies 9 p.m. Thursday. Simulation: 27-17 Nebraska. Thanks to USC being penalized the Huskies end up in this game. The actual score will probably

be three times this amount. Offense: Nebraska. The Huskers average 33 points per game

which is ranked 28th in the nation and significantly better than the Huskies 22 Defense: Nebraska. The Huskers only give up 17 points per game which is eighth in the country. The Huskies are one of the

worst defenses as they give up 31 points per game Strength of Victory: Nebraska. The Cornhuskers have victories over Oklahoma State and Missouri who were ranked 14th and sixth respectively when they played.

Prediction: 30-19 Nebraska, I think I made it quite clear the Huskers are going to win.

Meineke Car Care Bowl: South Florida Bulls vs. Clemson Tigers, 11 a.m. Friday

Simulation: 22-15 Clemson. The Tigers may have the worse record but played in a tougher conference.

Offense: Clemson. Neither offense wows but the Tigers are slightly better with 24 points per game and are a better passing team than South Florida.

Defense: Clemson. The Tigers only allow 17 points per game and are ranked ninth in the NCAA. The Bulls defense isn't to far off as they average 20 points per game. Strength of Victory: Clemson. The Tigers topped Maryland,

Georgia Tech and North Carolina State, who are all bowl eli-Prediction: 22-18 Clemson. Defense will be the show but the

Tigers' will be a little stronger Hyundai Sun Bowl: Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Miami

Hurricanes, 1 p.m. Friday. Simulation: 24-21 Miami. Back in the day this would be a

BCS bowl matchup. The Hurricanes end up the better of the Offense: 27-26. Miami. Both offenses are strong but the

Hurricanes are just a point better.

Defense: 21-20. Miami Both defenses are average but the Hurricanes average 0.8 points less than the Fighting Irish. Strength of Victory: Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish have

victories against Boston College and Pittsburgh who will be playing in bowl games. Notre Dame also knocked off Utah, who was ranked 14th at the time. Prediction: 24-22 Miami. The Hurricanes get a win to provide

some silver lining to a not so stellar season.

Autozone Liberty Bowl: Georgia Bulldogs vs. No. 25 Central Florida Golden Knights, 2:30 p.m. Friday. Simulation: 23-20 Georgia. This game matches up the best

Conference USA team against an average SEC team. Offense: 34-33 Georgia. Both offenses are dominant averag-

ing over 30 points per game. The Bulldogs only average 0.5 more than the Golden Knights. Defense: Central Florida. The Golden Knights only average

18 points per game and rank 12th in the NCAA.

Strength of Victory: Central Florida. Though the SEC is a tougher conference, Georgia's best wins were against Tennessee and Kentucky, both who are only .500.

Prediction: 26-25 Central Florida. The Conference USA Champion edges out the average SEC team.

Chick-fil-A Bowl: No. 20 South Carolina Gamecocks vs.

No. 23 Florida State Seminoles, 6:30 p.m. Friday. Simulation: 28-22 Florida State. This game matches up two teams that aren't too excited about playing in this game, since

both would rather be in a BCS bowl Offense: South Carolina. Both offenses are outstanding but the Gamecocks hold the edge with 0.2 points more.

Defense: Florida State. Neither defense is impressive but the Seminoles give up a little less than the Gamecocks.

Strength of Victory: South Carolina. The Gamecocks knocked off the last two national champions in Alabama and Florida.

Prediction: 27-25 Florida State. The Seminoles continue their bowl winning tradition under new leadership. TicketCity Bowl: Northwestern Wildcats vs. Texas Tech Red Raiders, 11 a.m. Saturday.

Simulation: 32-22 Texas Tech. Thanks to a pair of "great decisions" by the Tech administration last year Tech lands in the less prestigious Dallas bowl.

Offense: Texas Tech. Though under new leadership, the Red Raiders offense hasn't slowed down that much as they average 32 points per game and are ranked 16th in total yards.

Defense: Northwestern. Both defenses are an abomination. For Tech that could have been avoided if the administration and Tommy Tuberville kept a certain coach around (McNeill). If it comes down to defense, looks like the Wildcats get their first bowl victory since 1948.

Strength of Victory: Texas Tech. The Red Raiders knocked

off No. 12 Missouri and beat two other bowl teams in SMU and Baylor.

Prediction: 31-26 Texas Tech. The Red Raiders did allow Oklahoma State to win in Lubbock for the first time since 1944. But forget about that, Fight Raiders, Fight.

Outback Bowl: Florida Gators vs. Penn State Nittany Lions, 12 p.m. Saturday. Simulation: 19-14 Florida. This is another matchup that if it

was five years ago it could have been for the Sugar Bowl. Offense: 29-25 Florida. Both offenses are solid. The Gators average 29 points per game and are 44th in running the ball. Defense: 23-21 Florida. Neither defense wows but the Gators

only give up three touchdowns a game. Strength of Victory: Florida. The Gators' first four victories were against bowl eligible teams.

Prediction: 24-20 Florida. Head coach Urban Meyer's swan song ends on a high note.

Capital One Bowl: No. 16 Alabama Crimson Tide vs. No. 9 Michigan State Spartans, '12 p.m. Saturday.

Simulation: 27-13 Alabama. This isn't exactly where the Crimson Tide wanted to be and the Spartans ended up on the wrong end of a conference tiebreaker. Offense: Alabama. Both offenses are good but the Tide are

little better averaging 35 points per game and are 27th in total Defense: Alabama. Defense has been the Crimson Tide's

specialty. Alabama only gives up 14 points per game ranking them firth in the nation.

Strength of Victory: Michigan State. The Spartans gave Wisconsin their only loss but a loss against Iowa is why the Spartans are playing in Orlando and not Pasadena.

Prediction: 27-19 Alabama. Michigan State can't break the Tide's defense. Roll Tide, Roll.

Progressive Gator Bowl: No. 21 Mississippi State Bulldogs vs. Michigan Wolverines, 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Simulation: 32-26 Mississippi State. The Bulldogs and Wolverines return to bowl season after two year absences

Offense: Michigan, The Wolverines average 34 points per game with Denard Robinson running the show and are sixth in total vards.

Defense: Mississippi State. While the Bulldogs defense is average, the Wolverines' defense is just plain ugly

Strength of Victory: Michigan. The Wolverines opened the season beating the eventual Big East champion Connecticut and knocked off rival Notre Dame.

Prediction: 31-27 Mississippi State. This should be a competitive game but the Bulldogs will pull it out. This could be the end of the line for Michigan's Rich Rodriguez. Rose Bowl: No. 5 Wisconsin Badgers vs. No. 3 TCU Horned

Frogs, 4 p.m. Saturday Simulation: 29-21 TCU. The Badgers earned a trip with the

highest BCS ranking in the Big Ten while the Horned Frogs just missed a spot in the national championship. Offense: TCU. Both teams were dead even in points per game

at 43.3. The Horned Frogs are slightly better in running and passing the ball Defense: TCU. The Horned Frogs have the best defense in

the nation only giving up 11 points per game. Strength of victory: TCU. Almost half of the Horned Frogs

victories were against bowl eligible teams including a 40-point pounding of then-No. 5 Utah. Prediction: 31-25 TCU. This should be one of the best Rose

Bowl games we've seen in awhile and the Horned Frogs could be in a spot to split the national title.

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl: Connecticut Huskies vs. No. 7 Oklahoma Sooners, 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Simulation: 34-18 Oklahoma The Soc experience in these level of games than the Huskies. However Oklahoma had more experience than Boise State in the 2007

Offense: Oklahoma. The Sooners average 36 points per game and are the third best passing team.

Defense: Connecticut, The Huskies only allow an average of 20 points per game but it's doubtful they will hold the Sooners

Strength of Victory: Oklahoma. The Sooners blew out Florida State and edged out Texas, Oklahoma State and Nebraska. Prediction: 30-22 Oklahoma. The Sooners have lost their last

five BCS Bowl appearances but that will end this year. Boomer

Discover Orange Bowl: No. 4 Stanford Cardinal vs. No. 13 Virginia Tech Hokies, January 3, 7:30 p.m.

Simulation: 35-30 Stanford. This game should be a competitive battle as the Hokies have won 11 straight and the Cardinal are 11-1.

Offense: Stanford. Both offenses are great but Stanford is just a little bit better averag-

ing 40 points per game. Defense: Stanford. Not only are both teams offenses are great but they also sport some of the best defenses. The Cardinal average just over a

of Victory: Strength Virginia Tech. The Hokies beat three ranked opponents including Florida State in the ACC Championship game. The Pac-10 was a little weaker

than previous seasons. Prediction: 31-28 Stanford. The Cardinal will pull out a close one that could come down to the final possession.

AllState Sugar Bowl: No. 6 Ohio State Buckeyes vs. No. 8 Arkansas Razorbacks, 7:30

p.m. January 4. Simulation: 26-25 Ohio State. The Buckeyes have more BCS experience but have lost their last two meetings with the SEC in BCS

games. Offense: Ohio State. The Buckeyes average 39 points per game and are 18th in total yards but the Razorbacks aren't slouches averaging 37 points per game.

Defense: Ohio State. The Buckeyes have the second

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Edward Jones

best defense only giving up 13 points per game.

Strength of Victory: Arkansas. The Razorbacks beat Texas

A&M, who won a share of the Big XII South Title, No. 19 South Carolina No. 21 Mississippi State and No. 5 LSU.

Prediction: It will be close but the Buckeyes will finally down an SEC team in a BCS bowl. GoDaddy.com Bowl: Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders

vs. Miami Ohio Redhawks, 7 p.m. January 6. Simulation: 28-21 Miami Ohio. This will be the third MAC vs. Sunbelt matchup of bowl season. This is a game most will

Offense: Middle Tennessee State. The Blue Raiders are about a touchdown better on offense and are ranked 33rd in rushing. Defense: Miami Ohio. Neither defense is great but the

Redhawks give up five points less than the Blue Raiders Strength of Victory: Miami Ohio. The Redhawks knocked off Northern Illinois in the MAC championship.

Mon-Fri 9

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Prediction: 26-24 Miami Ohio. These teams seem evenly matched but the Redhawks are able to get the one stop they

AT&T Cotton Bowl: No. 11 LSU Tigers vs. No. 17 Texas A&M Aggies, 7 p.m. January 7 Simulation: 22-21 Texas A&M. This is probably the last

bowl matchup between quality teams before the national title. Offense: Texas A&M. The Aggies average 32 points per game with a spread attack and rank 13th in the nation in pass-

Defense: LSU. The Tigers only allow 18 points per game which is slightly better than the Aggies 20 points per game. Strength of Victory: Texas A&M. The Aggies were one of two teams that defeated the Sooners and one of three teams that

beat Nebraska Prediction: 24-23 Texas A&M. The Aggies grab a close first for the Big XII's first Cotton Bowl win since Missouri beat

Arkansas in 2008 BBVA Compass Bowl: Pittsburgh Panthers vs. Kentucky

Wildcats, 11 a.m. January 8. Simulation: 34-29 Pittsburgh. This game will be the last for Dave Wannstedt as the Panthers coach after

six sub par seasons Offense: Kentucky. The Wildcats average 33 points per game

and are 24th in passing. Defense: Pittsburgh. The Panthers aren't great but the

Wildcats are abysmal, giving up 30 points per game. Strength of Victory: Pittsburgh. The Panthers beat four bowl eligible teams including South Florida and Syracuse, who finished 7-5.

Prediction: 30-27 Pittsburgh. The Panthers are able to make one more play than the Wildcats and close the Wannstedt era on a winning note. Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl: No. 15 Nevada Wolfpack vs.

Boston College Eagles, 8 p.m. January 9. Simulation: 31-19 Nevada. This game features a strong WAC team vs. a mediocre ACC team.

Offense: Nevada. The Wolfpack are significantly stronger than the Eagles in offense averaging 43 points per game to Boston College's 19.

Defense: Boston College. Not great defenses but Boston College allows a couple points less than Nevada. Strength of Victory: Nevada. The Wolfpack are the reason

Boise State is not playing in a BCS bowl. Prediction: 31-20 Nevada. You might think that an ACC team would have no trouble with a WAC team-but not so fast my

friend. The Wolfpack will easily win. Tostitos BCS National Championship Game: No. 2 Oregon Ducks vs. No. 1 Auburn Tigers, 7:30 p.m. January 10. Simulation: 36-35 Auburn. It's a guarantee that points

be scored in probably one of the most competitive national title games since 2006.

Offense: Oregon. Both teams are unbelievable on offense. The Ducks are just a little stronger averaging a nation-best 49

Defense: Oregon. The Ducks are another one of those rare teams that has good defense to complent their offense, only allowing opponents 18 points per game Strength of Victory: Auburn. It's hard to determine a clear cut

winner in this category, but eight of the Tigers 13 victories were against bowl eligible teams. Prediction: 36-32 Oregon. LaMichael James scores a less minute touchdown to lift the Ducks to national supremacy.

Andrew Glover is the sports reporter at The Pampa News. He can be reached at aglover@thepampanews.com



#### **Local Church Offering Financial Peace**

Faith Bible Church, at the corner of Cuyler and Kingsmill, will be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) beginning Sunday, January 9th. This 13-week, life-changing program is led by, best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio host, Dave Ramsey on DVD. Ramsey authored the books "Financial Peace," "More Than Enough" and "The Total Money Makeover."

FPU is designed to teach families how to get out of debt and stay out of debt and includes small group discussions for accountability and discipleship. Topics such as cash flow planning, budgeting, dumping debt, saving, giving, understanding insurance, and much more will be covered. Everyone truly benefits from this program regardless of your age, income, financial position, or Whether you are single, married, divorced, with children or without everyone benefits from FPU! Join us Sunday, January 9th at 5:00 p.m. for the FREE "Super Saver" Lesson and get signed up. Classes will be offered on Sundays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning January 9th. Childcare and food will be provided. Membership kits can be purchased through Faith Bible Church at a discount and include a lifetime membership. If you have taken FPU at another location and already have a membership kit, there is no cost to take the

Learn more about Faith Bible Church at For more information about this course visit Dave Ramsey online at To signup today contact Clint Curtis, the FPU coordinator for this event, at 806-663-



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