

HOUSE HUNTERS - REALTOR
 Linda Laycock, Broker
 (806) 662-1312
 Jordan O'Neal, Associate
 (806) 670-6623
 Larry Hadley, Associate
 (806) 662-2779
 Tisha Holman, Associate
 (806) 440-4153

Doug
 Corner of Hwy 60 & 70
 806-669-6062
 Marc Visa & Mastercard Accepted • www.DougBoydMotors.com Steve

Free Floor
 FREE carpet pad with any in-stock, installed carpet
 FREE in-stock ceramic tile or in-stock laminate with any installed purchase
 Quality Flooring at Warehouse Prices!

Matthew 1:18-25
Hallelujah... our saviour was born!!
 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 10am-1pm
One STOP Flooring
 665-0995 • 1533 N. Hobart

The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS
Bowled over
 Andrew Glover: Bowl season predictions, Part Two
 Page 8

inside:
 Social Security and you by Tom Margenau
 Page 3

Monday, December 27, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 223 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

CHILDERS BROTHERS INC. HOUSE LEVELING
 Uneven Floors
 Floor Bracing
 Cracks In Bricks
 Sticking Doors & Windows
 Interior Wall Cracking
 FREE ESTIMATES
 1-800-299-9563
 WWW.CHILDERSLEVELING.COM

Vision
 COMPUTER SERVICES
 ihavecomputerproblems.com
 806-665-HELP(4357)
 Combs-Worley Building
 120 W Kingsmill Ave
 Suite 303

Nov. 15-Dec. 31
\$39
MASSAGE ADVANTAGE
 @ Ford Family Chiropractic
 Rehabilitation & Wellness Center
 Massage Safe-Great for Yourself or Gift!
 (806) 665-7261

CRAWFORD RESIDENTIAL ROOFING
 662-2029
 • Composition • Wood
 • 26 Gauge Metal
 • Stone Coated Steel
 • Bonded & Insured

FRESH CUT Christmas Trees In Stock!
 120 N. Hobart • 669-0158
 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Saturday 9am-4pm
 PAVESTONE WFL

National Bank of Commerce
 An office of First National Bank, N.A.
 1224 N. Hobart
 FDIC 806.665.0022

Texas FURNITURE
 PROUDLY SERVING PAMPA SINCE 1932
 1415 N. HOBART • 806-665-1623
 MONDAY-SATURDAY 9:00-5:30

Robertas FLOWERS
 217 N. Ballard
 669-3309
 Where Your Friends Buy Their Flowers
 www.robertasflowers.com

M & H Leasing TOP OF TEXAS
 Merry Christmas! May the star of Bethlehem lead you home.
 1945 N. Hobart • 665-2061

2010: The Year In News
THE TEN OF '10



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.

10 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 Taryn 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 volleyball 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 three-year 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.



One dead after crash near Groom

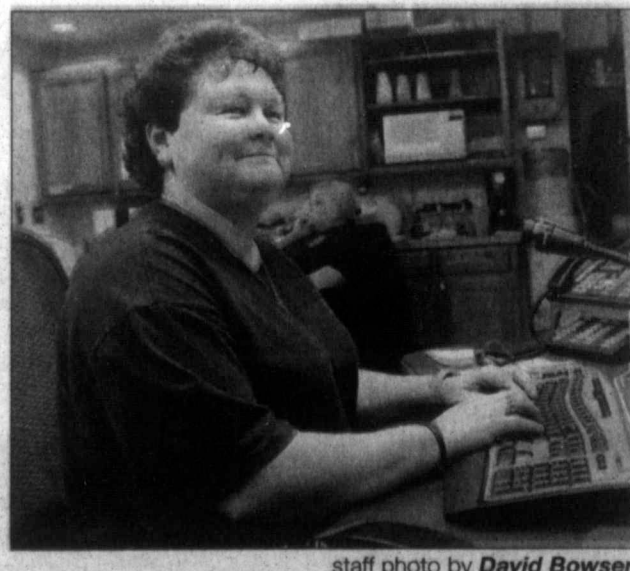
DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

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 an emergency dispatcher.
 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-

HOMETOWN HEROES
 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

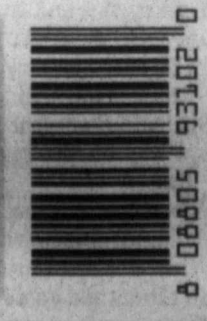


staff photo by David Bowser
Debbie McDonald has been a police dispatcher in Pampa for almost a decade.

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries 2	Viewpoints 4
Local Record 2	Puzzles/Dear Abby . . . 5
Weather 2	Comics 6
Afternoon Rush 3	Classifieds 7
Social Security & You. 3	Sports 8



For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 44 Low 30	High 60 Low 36	High 59 Low 29
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. North northeast wind around 5 mph.		
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.		

⓪ This information brought to you by...

PRESTIGE

AUTOBODY & ACCESSORIES

101 S. HOBART 806-665-3500

Thanks for everyone's business!
Have a great 2011!

LAST MINUTE ADS

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 you!

McDonald

cont. from page 1

"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 room.

"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 fire chief.

"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

own," she said, "and we had a homicide north of town."

Now, when they have a bad night, McDonald worries about the dispatchers on duty.

Anytime something bad happens, McDonald said she steps in to help her dispatchers.

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

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 out there and help look."

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.

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

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 she is.

Along with the stress, she said there is a lot of excitement.

In May, she just hit her 20th year of working 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."

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 son-in-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 Pampa.

There are no services scheduled. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately 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-whately.com.

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-employed pumper in the oil field. He married Louise Carnes June 17, 1967, at Perryton. She preceded him in death in 1986. He was preceded in death also by his parents, one brother and one sister. He lived in Sanford for 38 years. He loved to be with his family.

Guy is survived by his daughters Theresa Lillard and husband Kevin of Borger, Vickie 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.



Thornburg

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

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

Police reported 29 traffic-related calls and five accidents.

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 Ward.

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 Oak.

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 Lynn.

An alarm was reported in the 2700 block of Navajo.

A structure fire was reported in the 200 block of West Craven.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Bond and Sumner.

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-ton.

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 reported to police.

A handicapped parking violation was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Officers assisted another agency at Barnes and Albert.

Water was shut off in the 1100 block of North Starkweather.

Monday, Dec. 27

A burglary was reported in the 400 block of South Pitts.

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 intoxication.

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.

Thank you for not driving
buzzed and crashing into
my car last night.

Shoshanna Williams

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED.
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

U.S. Department of
Transportation

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 tornadoes.

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 2008.

Christmas fire claims man

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 his side.

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 Ciudad 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 investigated.

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 suspect.

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

TOM MARGENAU
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 ex-husband 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-and-well 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 old.

— 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

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 concerning 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 Security — 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 ex-husband) 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

highs. 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 2,653.

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.



114 N CUYLER • 669-7478

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.

On this date:

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.

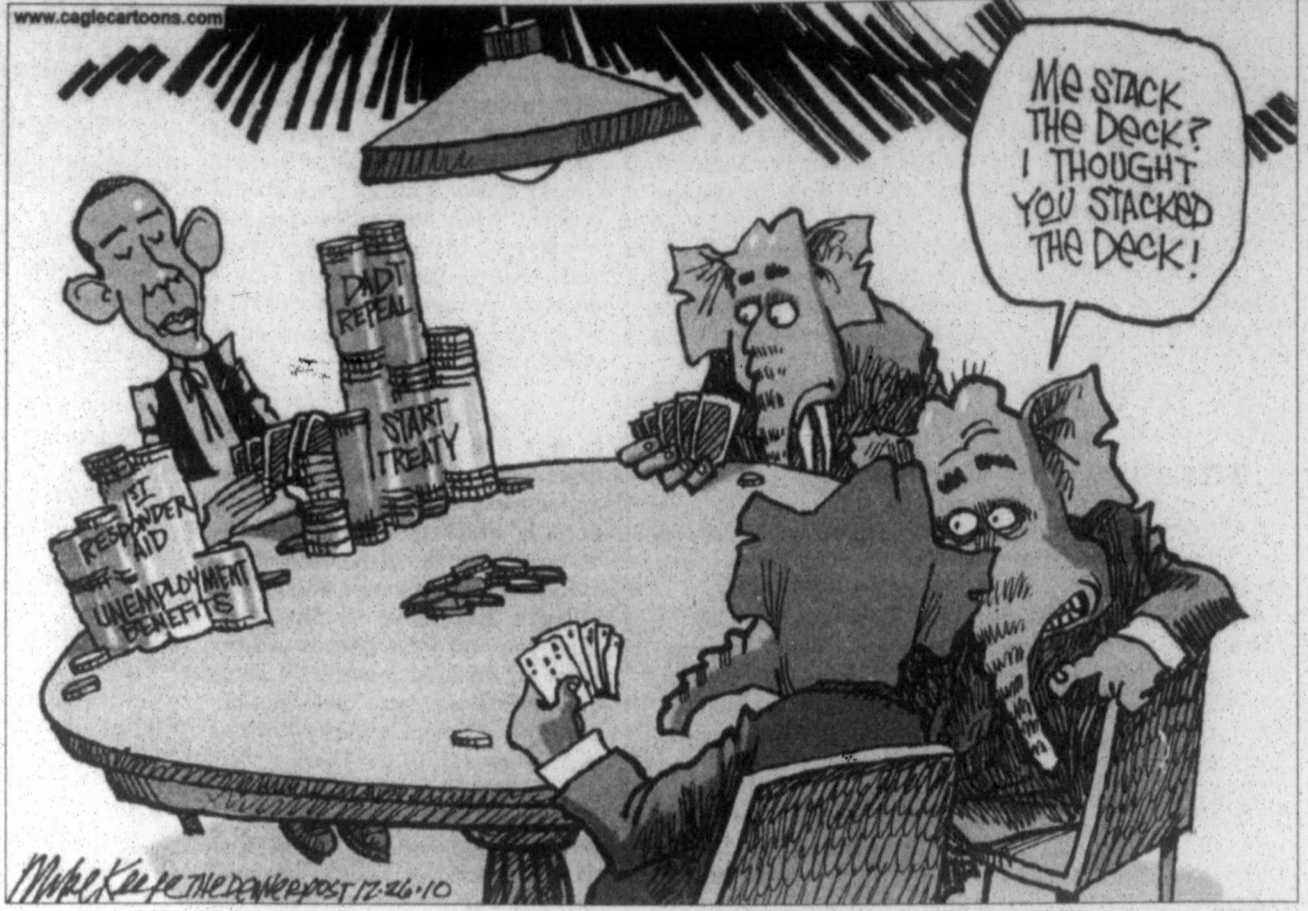
Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton put the first black judge on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals serving several Southern states. (The nomination of Roger Gregory had been stalled in the Senate, but Clinton used a recess appointment to put him on the bench.)

Five years ago: Grass fires burned in drought-stricken 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-turned-politician 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 (Daley & 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 non-event generated more than 2,900 articles.

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 TV.

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 she-critic 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 gaffe-prone "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.

Attendees from both sides told 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-photographing 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 declare 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 pretty.

The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525
Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher
rprbble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager
woods@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative
spribble@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising
classified@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent

Subscriptions
circulation@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager
Circulation2@thepampanews.com

Arnie Aurellano

Editor
editor@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter
aglover@thepampanews.com

Marijane Kent

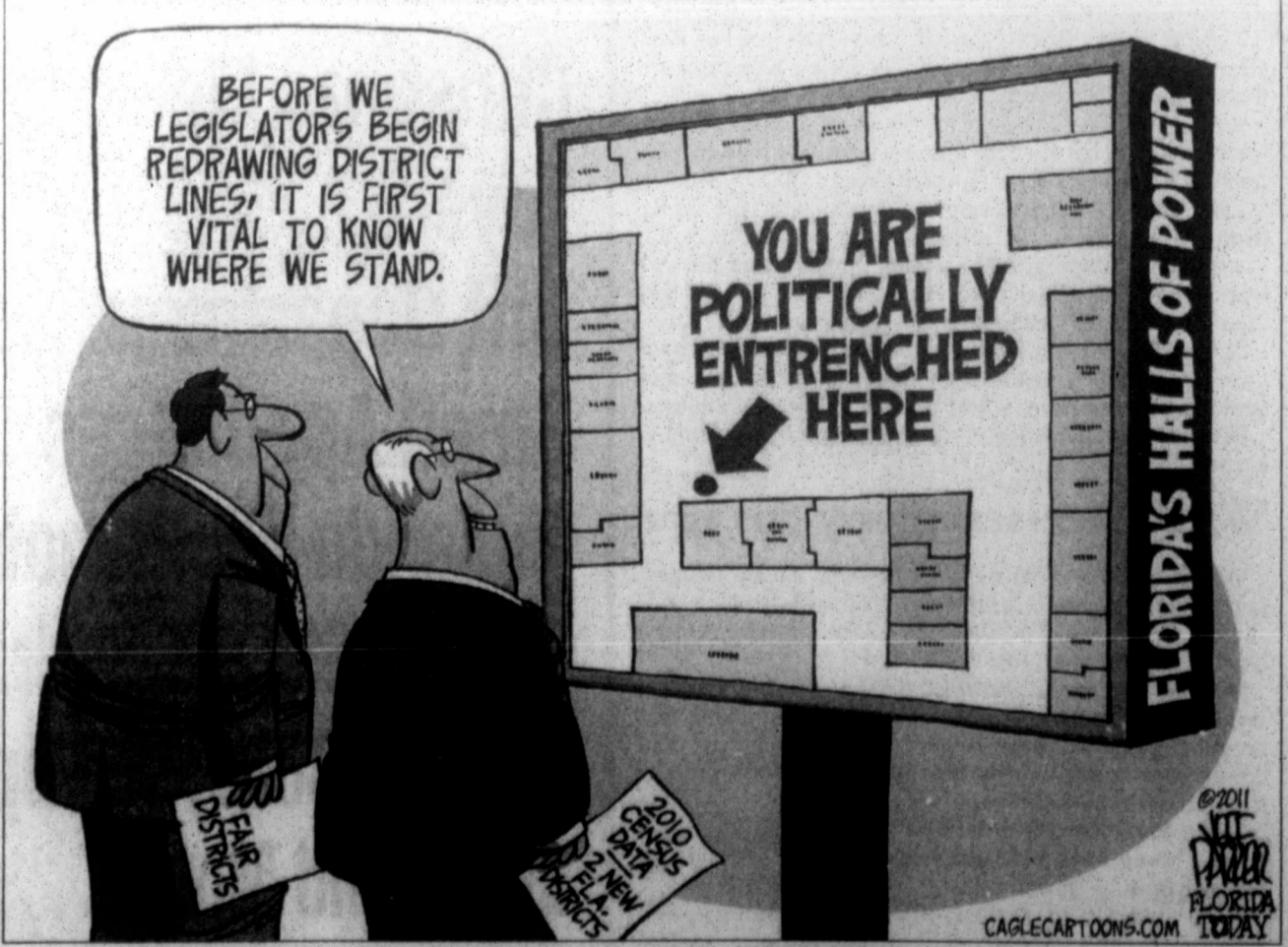
Composing
composing@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor
press@thepampanews.com

The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

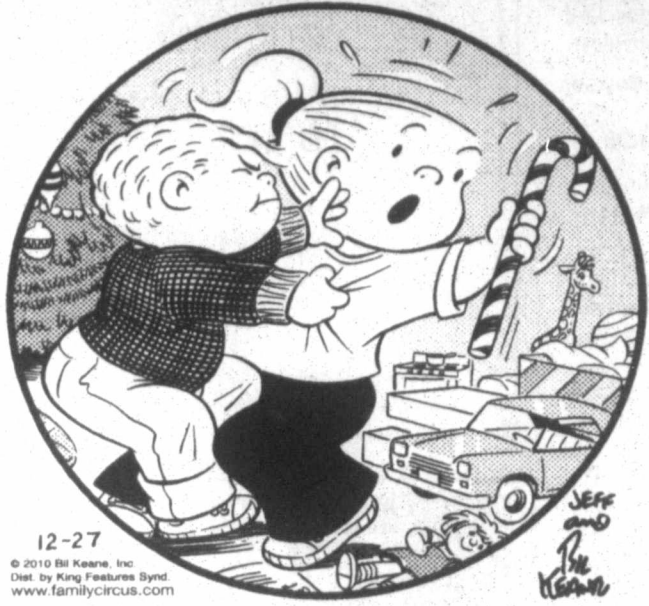
© 2010 The Pampa News



Ter
9
Tha
acros
That
City
ancin
Fac
the n
Richa
Robin
in Au
pensa
for a
insur
The
hinge
65 ce
\$100
chang
some
may
With
ing t
altern
from
geting
Wh
weeks
as we
with
both
popul
The
speci
of the
attend
emplo
some
speed
of the
As
Robbi
of act
alone
Rober
Allisc
amend
the ta
The
a reg
late S
tax ra
to be
but fo
DE
out of
upon
much
and vi
of my
I q
ters, a
manna
has a
no un
about
I
it onc
Amer
count
attitud
vehem
I
invite
I wou
what
silver
favori
and c
a sist
BRO
DI
Why
ry th
beco
and t
cated
Y
apolo
fende
psych
her s
ing to
P

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-27
© 2010 by King Features Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

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

Non Sequitur



LIKE THE ECONOMY, I'M SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED...

THE DRY HUMOR MARTINI

© 2010 by King Features Inc. 12-27
Dist. by King Features Synd. U.S. King Features Inc. www.kingfeatures.com

Nest Heads



GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT SO EARLY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. SON, IT SHOWS HOW YOU'RE GOING TO TACKLE THE NEW YEAR.

TAMMY AND I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE PARTY, SO WE'RE GOING TO CRASH NOW.

SAME TACKLING STRATEGY AS LAST YEAR, I SEE.

daily horoscope

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 special vacation or trip in the summer. Add to 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

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 stand 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.

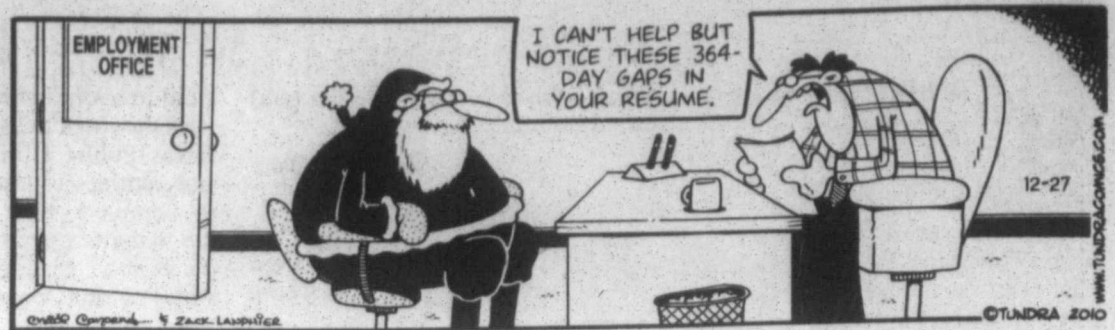
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ 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)

Tundra



I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THESE 364-DAY GAPS IN YOUR RESUME.

Shoe

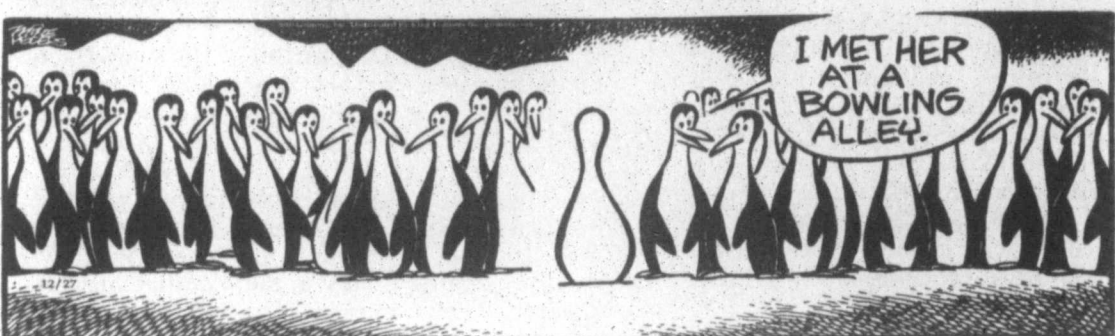


WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE AND ALL CRUMPLED UP?

I GIVE UP. WHAT?

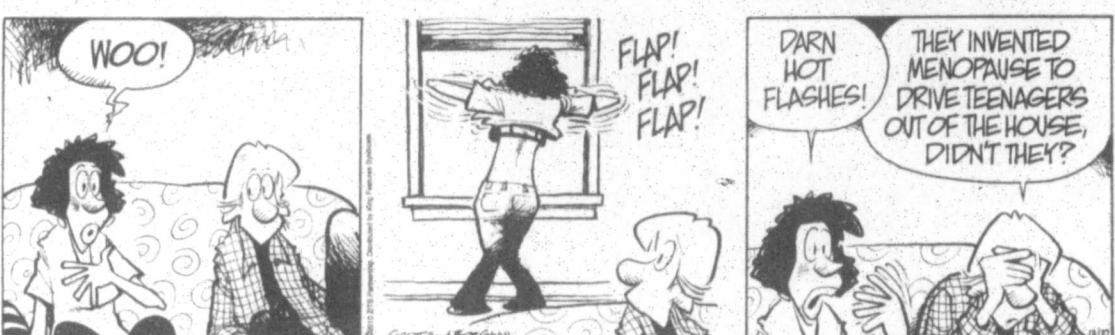
YOUR LATEST COLUMN.

Mother Goose and Grim



I MET HER AT A BOWLING ALLEY.

Zits



WOO!

FLAP! FLAP! FLAP!

DARN HOT FLASHES! THEY INVENTED MENOPAUSE TO DRIVE TEENAGERS OUT OF THE HOUSE, DIDN'T THEY?

Garfield



SO WHAT DOES AN ELF LIKE YOU DO WITH THE REST OF YOUR YEAR?

I SPEND IT WORKING ON MY GAME

AND THAT WOULD BE?

MINIATURE GOLF

BAH-PA BUM

Beetle Bailey



PAINTING IS AN ART

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

INSPIRATION!

YOUR MUSE IS ABOUT TO STRIKE

Marvin



WAKE UP, JEFF

GROAN

CHRISTMAS VACATION IS OVER. IT'S TIME TO GET BACK IN THE GAME OF LIFE

YEAH, I KNOW... TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Hagar The Horrible



OH, NO! WE'RE A THOUSAND MILES FROM SHORE AND WE'VE SPRUNG A LEAK!

AND THERE'S MORE BAD NEWS...

YOUR WARRANTY DOESN'T COVER WATER DAMAGE!

Peanuts



YES, MAAM... WELL, ORIGINALLY, I CAME IN WITH MY DOG TO GET HIM A LICENSE...

BY MISTAKE, I GUESS, HE GOT A TEMPORARY DRIVER'S PERMIT...

NO, WE HAVEN'T GOT THE DOG LICENSE YET... I THINK THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MISTAKE...

ISN'T THIS A FISHING LICENSE?

Blondie



NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE IN YOUR BATH SINCE WE INSTALLED THE NEW WATER SOFTENER?

NOTHING AT ALL?

NOTHING AT ALL?

WHOA! MAYBE ONE THING!

Loc full with Boogan Con tion Sen Fir
Pa C
TRAV 919 S 916 C 920 C 924 C 928 C 908 C 1509 1904 2132 977 C 1004 1808 1000 1816
WILS 420 R 509 L
OTHE 530 A 220 N 2270 I 845 S 1421 I Main 410 S 220 E 501 C 706 S
www.i

Sports

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

As of press time, my first bowl predictions have been fairly accurate with a record of 6-2.



ANDREW GLOVER

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.
Defense: 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 than the Mustangs.
Strength of Victory: SMU. The Mustangs have victories against Tulsa, East Carolina and UTEP, who all went to bowl games.
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 stories 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 Meineke 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 counterparts.
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 Huskies average 33 points per game which is ranked 28th in the nation and significantly better than the Huskies 22.
Defense: Nebraska. The Huskies 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 eligible teams.
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 reeling schools.
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 averaging 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 yards.
Defense: Alabama. Defense has been the Crimson Tide's specialty. Alabama only gives up 14 points per game ranking them fifth 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 yards.
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 Sooners clearly have more experience in these level of games than the Huskies. However Oklahoma had more experience than Boise State in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.
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 that low.
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 Sooner.

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 averaging 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 point less.
Strength of Victory: 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

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

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 passing.
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 will 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 points per game.
Defense: Oregon. The Ducks are another one of those rare teams that has good defense to complement 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

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

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 course again.

Learn more about Faith Bible Church at www.fbc.org. For more information about this course visit Dave Ramsey online at daveramsey.com. To sign up today contact Clint Curtis, the FPU coordinator for this event, at 806-663-0083.

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES. ONE-ON-ONE ADVICE.

Duane Harp
Financial Advisor
1921 N Hobart
Pampa, TX 79065
806-665-6753
www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH