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Florida breaks record

Gators gain 659 yards in Orange Bowl battle against Maryland, gathering more ground than any team had in 49 years.

Page 5


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LOCAL

Excel Energy gets 5-year exemption

AMARILLO — Although some electric utility companies in Texas were deregulated on Jan. 1, Excel Energy continues to operate in the High Plains of Texas as a price regulated utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

The company is not eligible to participate in Texas' deregulated electric utility market.

Texas lawmakers last spring selectively postponed deregulation of Excel Energy, then known as Southwestern Public Service Company, for at least five years, according to an Excel press release. On June 15, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed legislation that preserves Excel Energy as a price-regulated utility — not subject to deregulation — until at least 2007.

Excel Energy supported the legislation, the release stated.

Gary Gibson, Excel Energy state vice president for Texas, new Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas, said, "In the long term, a deregulated market can provide benefits to our customers; but in the short term it would be difficult to realize those benefits in this area, where costs of electricity from Excel Energy are already low."

LOTTERY

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

Winning numbers drawn: 2-15-20-27-45-47.

Estimated jackpot: $6 million.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Matching five of six: 43. Prize: $2,485.

DEATHS

Edwin F. 'Sonny' Lick, 60, retired pipefitter.

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West Texas LANDSCAPE
Residential & Commercial
669-0158 mobile 663-1277

First baby of 2002



(Courtesy photo by Terry Barnes)

Pampa's first baby for 2002 Shylynna Jean Sperry poses for her first portrait with her mom and dad, Tamera and David Sperry. Shylynna was born at 12:20 p.m., Jan. 1, at Pampa Regional Medical Center, the only baby born on New Year's Day here, hospital officials said. The Sperry family received $100 in Pampa Bucks from *The Pampa News* as winner of the First Baby of the Year contest.

Local DPS top area in drug busts

$6.9 million confiscated

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

When it came to taking drugs and drug money out of circulation in 2001, Department of Public Safety troopers in the local sergeant area ranked first in the 28 county Amarillo district.

Sgt. Don Cameron's area, manned with 10 troopers, includes Gray, Hemphill, Wheeler, Roberts and Lipscomb counties. All total, they confiscated drugs valued at $6,185,420 and seized $818,799 in cash, according to statistics provided by DPS Public Information Officer Lucinda Russell in Amarillo.

The 2001 drug seizures in Cameron's area accounted for 53 percent of the $11,683,939 in total value of drugs confiscated districtwide, Russell said. On the money side, local area troopers seized 42 percent of the $1,961,000 in cash.

Asked today to what he attributes the high numbers, Cameron said, "training and dedication. It tickles them when they can take that much dope out of circulation or take the drug dealer's money away. When you talk about that amount of money and drugs we know it puts a crimp in criminal operations."

The sergeant said District Attorney Rick Roach has provided funds that have enabled several troopers to attend special drug interdiction conferences in St. Louis and Nevada.

The funds used come from the district attorney's office share of confiscated cash, Cameron said. By law, a portion of drug or unaccounted for money seized must be used by the prosecutor for law enforcement purposes.

"Rick has been very proactive in helping us," Cameron said.

Additionally, Cameron said Amarillo District Capt. R.L. Davis provides drug and criminal interdiction training on a district level.

One example of how the training pays off came not long ago after one of the troopers

(See **BUSTS**, Page 8)

Six incumbents to face challengers

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

It's going to be an interesting election year in Gray County and across the state.

Deadline in filing for a position on the ballot for the elective positions in Texas and across the state expired Wednesday evening.

Several Gray County political races will be contested in Election 2002 along with races across the state, according to both Republican County Chairman Doug Ware and Democrat County Chairman Jim Osborne.

Incumbents in several local offices will be challenged in the primary elections on March 12 and at the general election in November.

A father and son each seek separate offices while another office which has possibly never been filled has two people seeking the position.

Incumbents County Judge Richard Peet, County Treasurer Scott Hahn, County Commissioners Jim Greene and James Hetley and Justices of the Peace Joe Martinez and Kurt Curfman all have opponents in the upcoming elections.

Peet is being challenged by Democrat Greg Kurtz in the general election. He does not have an opponent in the Republican Primary election.

Peet's son hopes to unseat incumbent treasurer Scott Hahn in the Republican primary. Hahn is also being challenged by Lee Cornelson for the position in that primary.

County Commissioner Precinct Two Jim Greene will not have an opponent in the Democratic primary in March, but will face the winner of the Republican primary in November. Gary Willoughby and M.W. (Bill) Horne are vying for that position.

In County Commission Precinct Four, James Hetley will know in March if he will be returning to the Commissioners Court for four additional years. He is being challenged in the March Republican primary by Ed Robinson.

Incumbent Justice of the Peace, Precincts 1 & 3, Joe Martinez is being challenged by Malcomb Ray "Rusty" Horton in the Republican primary. The winner of that contest will be faced by Democrat challenger Debbie Darby.

JP Kurt Curfman is being challenged by former Justice of the Peace Margie Prestidge in the Republican primary.

Two candidates are seeking the County Inspector of Hides and Animals position. John E. Radcliff and Bill R.

(See **ELECTION**, Page 8)

15-member hog facility study group is selected

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

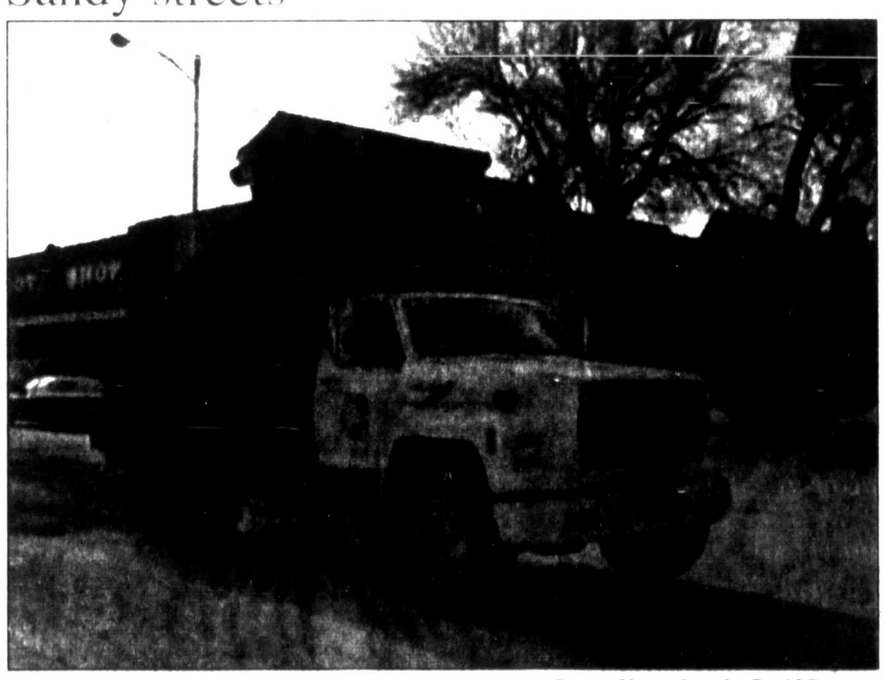
A committee to make recommendations regarding swine facilities to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission was appointed by Gray County Commissioners Court during their meeting Thursday morning.

Each member of the Commissioners Court submitted three names to the committee.

Dr. Brent Auvermann of the Texas A&M Research Center in Amarillo and C.E. Williams of the Panhandle Groundwater District in White Deer were suggested by County Judge Richard Peet.

(See **GROUP**, Page 8)

Sandy streets



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

City of Pampa dump trucks are busy sanding icy intersections in Pampa. A combination of packed snow and freezing temperatures made streets here dangerously slick this week. Temperatures today should see a clearing of icy conditions, but there is a chance frigid cold could return this weekend.

Jobless rate rises slightly in November

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Pampa and Gray County's jobless rate went up in November with both climbing four-tenths of a point, higher than the statewide out-of-work number that rose slightly by one-tenth of a percent.

In Gray County, the number of those without work climbed from 292 people in October to 333 in November, according to Texas Workforce Commission statistics. That sent the rate from 3.4 percent to 3.8 percent.

In Pampa alone, those out of work increased from 237 people in October to 279 in November. That reflects an increase from 3.3 percent to 3.7 percent.

The Gray County jobless rate was one of the highest in

(See **JOBS**, Page 8)

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

CORSE, Mary Aline Walker — 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, Mobeetie.
LICK, Edwin F. "Sonny" — 10 a.m., River of Life Assembly of God Church, Skellytown.

EDWIN F. 'SONNY' LICK
1941 – 2001

SKELLYTOWN — Edwin F. "Sonny" Lick, 60, died Monday, Dec. 31, 2001, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m., Friday in River of Life Assembly of God Church in Skellytown with the Rev. Danny L. Trussell, pastor of the church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Lick, born May 1, 1941, at Pampa, had been a lifelong Skellytown resident. He was a pipefitter in oil field construction for many years, retiring in 1979, and was a member of River of Life Assembly of God Church in Skellytown.

He was preceded in death by a son, Timothy Wayne Lick, in 1982; his parents; and a sister.

Survivors include a son, Eddie Lick of Tulia; a sister, Lois Jean Tietz of Fort Stockton; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to River of Life Assembly of God Church, 411 Chamberlain, Skellytown, TX 79080.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today, patchy fog and low clouds early otherwise mostly sunny and warmer with highs near 45. South winds 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight, partly cloudy with lows around 25. South winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light rain. Highs near 45. The chance of rain is 20 percent. South winds 5 to 15 mph.

Some of the coldest weather in years was reported across Texas early Thursday as a dome of Arctic high pressure lingered over North Central Texas.

STATEWIDE

Overnight temperatures fell into the single digits in the northwest corner of the Panhandle, into the middle and upper teens along the Oklahoma border, into the upper 20s along the Gulf Coast, and into the lower 30s in the Rio Grande Valley.

The National Weather Service said it will continue clear and cold across North Texas, with temperatures from the mid-30s in northern portions to near 40 in the southwest and far south counties. Winds will be light and variable.

Some patchy fog and low clouds were expected across the Panhandle on Thursday, with prospects of light snow continuing through Saturday morning at least.

The South Plains and the Permian Basin could get freezing rain or snow on Friday and Saturday.

South Texas can expect showers over the next two to three days, with temperatures generally in the 50s and 60s during daytime hours. Weekend highs should be in the 70s.

ON RECORD

POLICE

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Dec. 21

The City of Pampa reported a theft by check.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

A simple assault/domestic with no injuries was reported in the 1500 block of North Dogwood.

Terroristic threats and criminal mischief were reported in the 1000 block of South Farley where there was $525 in damages to a television, ceiling fan, pottery and a fish bowl. Stolen were keys and a cell phone.

The theft of $180 in cash was reported in the 800 block of West Francis.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 900 block of South Faulkner where three Playstation games valued at $120 and several checks were taken.

Thursday, Jan. 3

Assault by contact causing minor injuries was reported in the 900 block of South Sumner.

Allsups at 1025 W. Wilkes, reported two instances of beer thefts which a total of two 30 packs and two 12 packs were taken. The beer is valued at $39.98 and $21.38 respectively.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

10:51 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Sierra and transported one to PRMC.

8:25 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported one to PRMC.

9:55 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2400 block of Charles; no transport.

Thursday, Jan. 3

2:54 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of South Nelson and transported one to PRMC.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

9:45 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 600 block of North Faulkner. A small amount was detected in the home. Firefighters advised the family to leave the residence until the heating system could be checked.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.37	
Milo	3.33	
Corn	3.54	
Soybeans	3.33	
Oil Sunflowers	8.15	

The following show prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation.

Occidental	26.28	-0.23
Fidelity Mageln	104.56	
Puritan	17.67	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

BP	45.78	-0.27
Celanese	20.43	+0.28
Cabot Corp	35.49	+0.44
Cabot Oil Gas	23.49	-0.18
Coca-Cola	46.77	-0.70
Ultramar	49.48	NC
Enron Corp	0.68	+0.05
Halliburton	11.49	-0.78
Triad Hospitals	28.83	-0.15
NOI	19.45	-0.29
KMI	55.26	-0.59
XCEL	27.84	-0.37
Kerr McGee	53.72	-0.36
Limited	15.57	+0.05
Williams	25.64	-0.33
McDonald's	26.81	+0.32
Exxon Mobil	39.70	+0.10
Atmos	21.60	+0.15
Pioneer Nat	18.74	+0.28
Penney's	26.26	+0.06
Phillips	59.77	-0.35
SLB	53.00	-0.43
Tenneco	2.43	+0.13
CVX	89.30	-0.18
Wal-Mart	57.99	-0.06
OKE	17.43	-0.15

New York Gold	278.97
Silver	4.60
West Texas Crude	21.01

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 1

James Leroy Logan, Jr., 40, 1601 W. Somerville, possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Roger Bryan Doughtery, 28, Shamrock, speeding and no insurance.

Thursday, Jan. 3

Calvin Lee Myers, 26, 605 Sumner, arrested on a warrant charging him with allowing a child to ride unsecured.

Police investigate deaths of three found in north Dallas residence

DALLAS (AP) — Police provided more questions than answers after discovering three bodies in a north Dallas home.

The three were discovered Wednesday afternoon when police responded to a request to check on Ralph H. Throneberry and Joan L. Wildenhaus, who owned the residence and lived there but hadn't been seen since Dec. 15.

Dallas police on Thursday identified two of the three victims as Throneberry, 58, and Wildenhaus, 59. Medical investigators said it appeared that all three had been shot, according to The Dallas Morning News' editions Thursday.

Inger Buckner, described as a close friend of Throneberry and Wildenhaus, lived a few houses down on the same block. She and her oldest son, Michael Buckner, had also been missing since Dec. 15. His body was recovered Sunday from Lewisville Lake, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said. On Dec. 15, his car was found parked at the lake, and the family's power boat was adrift on the lake.

Officials said Buckner and her son were reported missing after she failed to show up at a Christmas party on Dec. 15.

Buckner and her husband, Horst Buckner, moved from Germany about 40 years ago and settled in Dallas. They founded a prosthetics clinic, Life-like Laboratories, in 1980 and developed a national reputation for making high-tech prosthetic limbs.

Michael Buckner took over as president of the company after Horst Buckner's death four years ago. His mother fired him in November after irregularities were discovered in the business operations. The mother filed a lawsuit demanding that her son return $60,000 taken from the business, along with company documents.

Dallas police spokesman Cpl. Steve Walthall said officers went to the Throneberry-Wildenhaus home at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday.

A couple of hours into the investigation, police substantially widened the crime scene, clearing reporters from the block and putting up yellow tape across the street at the end of the block. Walthall said police were searching for witnesses.

For hours, officers went in and out of the tree-shrouded, one-story brick house, where a Christmas wreath hung on the door.

U.S. District judge to step down

DALLAS (AP) — U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall, who became one of the nation's youngest federal judges when President George Bush appointed him in 1992, is stepping down at month's end to go into private law practice.

Kendall, 47, said he will resign as of Jan. 31 to join the Beaumont-based firm of Provost Umphrey, which has offices in seven states. The firm gained national publicity last year for helping the state of Texas win a record $17.3 billion settlement from the tobacco industry.

"It's what is in the best interest financially for my family," said Kendall, who is paid $145,100 annually. He declined to discuss his salary with Provost Umphrey.

Walter Umphrey, the firm's founder, said he gave his longtime friend an equity partnership to open a Dallas-area office and advocate for major commercial clients, mostly in federal courts.

"Joe is still a fairly young man. I think he's a brilliant lawyer, and we're tickled to death to get him," Umphrey said. "We need a presence in the Dallas-Fort Worth area."

Wyoming desert hills battleground for energy, environmental interests

FARSON, Wyo. (AP) — The Jack Morrow Hills are a sprawling landscape in southwestern Wyoming that contain desert, towering buttes, breathtaking vistas and a rare elk herd.

But the hills are also home to massive natural gas, coal and oil reserves that have made the terrain a battlefield for energy, environmental, recreation and ranching interests.

Debate over the hills, which lie mostly on federal land in the 4.5 million-acre Red Desert, heated up in 2000 when the U.S. Bureau of Land Management decided that 65 new oil and gas wells could be drilled there. The area already has 150 wells.

Environmentalists are seeking some type of federal protection to prevent additional drilling, while drilling companies say locking up the area would deprive America of large energy reserves.

Mac Blewer, of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, said too much of the Red Desert has already been developed.

"It's a world-class landscape," he said. "You can go from red-rock country into a sea of sagebrush and then into a landscape resembling Saudi Arabia. I know of no place in America where you can do that."

But drilling supporters say the area is so wide open that a few more wells won't spoil the view or harm the elk, mule deer, antelope and wild horses that roam the high desert.

"We honestly believe that we can have a balance between environmental protection and economic growth. We do it all the time," said Dru Bower, vice president of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. "There is a tremendous gas reserve in the Jack Morrow Hills, and we don't believe it should be withdrawn or excluded from development."

The potential for drilling new wells isn't the only thing that draws people to the hills. The terrain is popular among mountain bikers, hunters, anglers, backpackers, horseback riders, rock climbers and photographers.

They come for the picturesque views of the buttes, volcanic formations and the largest shifting sand dunes in North America. The elk herd that roams the desert is especially rare.

A handful of other groups have also staked out positions on the future of the Jack Morrow Hills, named after a hard-drinking thief and swindler who once killed a man in a gunfight. American Indians want their ancestors' religious sites protected, while paleontologists value the fossils. And historians want to preserve remnants of the Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails that pass through the hills.

Scott Kier, preparing to ride his all-terrain vehicle over dunes in the hills recently, said he doesn't want to see the area roped off.

"It needs to be a happy medium for everybody and it seems like a lot of environmentalists push for either their way or no way," said Kier, vacationing from Larkspur, Colo.

Bruce Babbitt, interior secretary under President Clinton, announced during in his last days on the job that he was rejecting the Bureau of Land Management plan to add wells. He ordered the agency to adopt a more conservation-oriented alternative.

During Clinton's tenure, the president protected 5.9 million acres of land by designating and expanding national monuments. But such a move wasn't an option in the Jack Morrow Hills because monuments cannot be declared in Wyoming without congressional approval.

Charged with trying to strike a balance among the competing interests is the BLM, which has been studying a 622,000-acre area encompassing the hills for four years.

After the bureau issued a draft of its initial plan in June 2000, it received more than 12,000 comments, the heaviest response in the agency's history. Most comments opposed further development.

A citizens' group comprising about 100 individuals and businesses then offered its own plan that would prohibit new drilling and mining, halt road-building, and restore habitat damaged by roads and pipelines.

In light of the public response, the BLM on Sept. 19 announced it was taking a new look at the hills. A final decision is expected in about 18 months.

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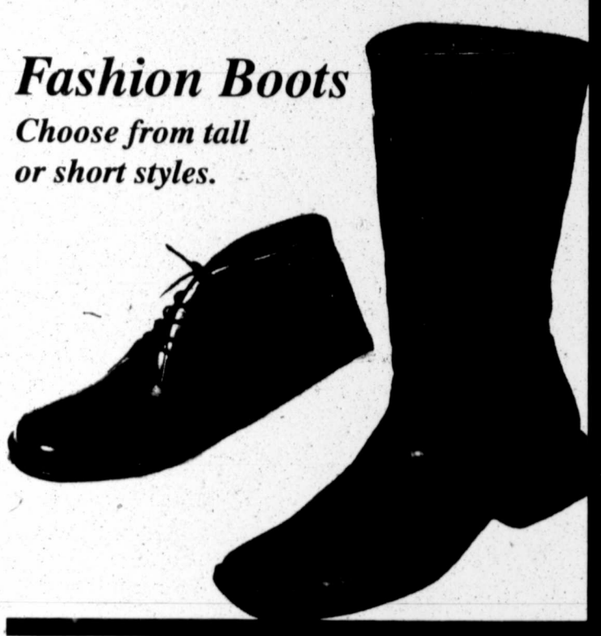
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PAMPA OPTIMIST Club volleyball league for 5th & 6th grade girls. Sign up Jan. 9-10 in the Middle School girls gym 9am to 3 pm. Cost - $20, (includes t-shirt, volleyball basics & games.) Games, begin week of Jan. 22, & will be played on Tues's. and possibly Thurs.'s at the Middle School. Call Kendra Reeves at 669-4900 ext. 37 (days) Coaches also needed.

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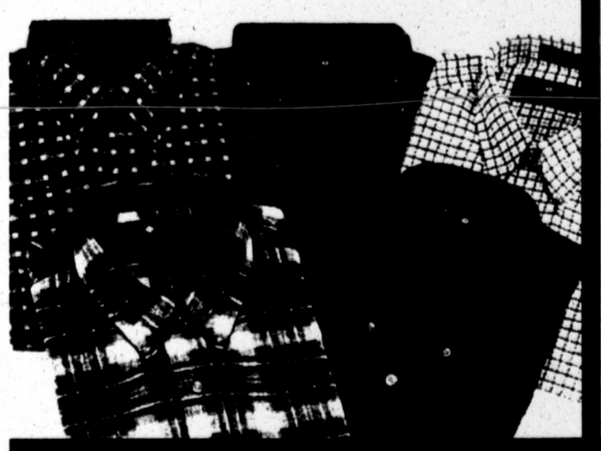
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TEXAS EDITORIALS

Bush off on the right foot

Waco Tribune-Herald on putting children first:

President Bush can start the new year off on the right foot when he signs into law the No Child Left Behind Act.

This bill fulfills Bush's primary campaign pledge and shows how both major political parties can work together for the nation's greater good.

Neither side got all it wanted out of the new education bill. But both parties worked together until they agreed on a bill that will help the entire nation.

Democrats wanted the bill to include more money. The final bill, however, hardly can be considered tightfisted.

Federal funds for the nation's schools will be $26.5 billion next year. Funds going to the Title I program, which helps high poverty schools, will see the greatest increase in history, 20 percent overall and an estimated 30 percent for poor schools.

The bill also gives the Elementary and Secondary Education Act a significant funding boost.

New funds also are provided for after-school programs and literacy instruction.

Arguments over proper government funding levels for public education have been ongoing for decades while academic achievement has deteriorated.

The more promising parts of the No Child Left Behind Act, however, include requirements for states to establish academic standards and methods to measure academic achievement.

The bill not only mandates annual testing of children in grades 3 through 8, it also provides for tutoring of children in chronically low-performing schools. In addition, it establishes a 12-year deadline to close academic achievement and meet proficiency standards set by the states.

The bill, which was modeled on statewide education reforms used in Texas, focuses on basic skills, primarily reading and math. It does not represent a well-rounded education. But it is a necessary start.

States and school districts must establish academic standards, end social promotions and implement accountability measures for students, teachers and schools.

If the national plan is based on the Texas model, then the Texas plan is based on the Waco Independent School District model.

States that implement the No Child Left Behind Act must closely monitor academic progress in the classrooms and provide tutoring, mentoring and after-school programs for children who start to fall behind.

Special efforts must be made to prevent school dropouts.

Children should not be held back on the basis of any one test. They should be given ample opportunities to show that they have mastered the material needed to be promoted.

In the future, standards should be set for subjects other than reading and math. Grades before 3 and after 8 should be tested.

Tests should be curriculum-based. Teachers and schools should be monitored to prevent wasting classroom time by teaching the tests.

The education bill represents a bigger federal role in public education. Still, federal funding represents no more than 8 percent of the total school bill.

The primary responsibility for providing a quality education for America's public school children remains in the hands of state and local officials, taxpayers, educators, parents and students.

The No Child Left Behind Act represents a welcome bipartisan first step toward a new emphasis in education measurable improvement in academic achievement.

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Washington Address: 131 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3706

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922
senator@hutchison.senate.gov

Another milestone reached



NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Today I reached another milestone in my life. I became the grandmother of a teenager.

Now, this doesn't mean I have acquired a new grandchild. It just means that he turned 13 today.

Zac has been with his family in Texas for three months. He arrived Sept. 30 to stay with us while his mom is serving her country with the U.S. Navy. She is half-way around the world on a ship near Afghanistan.

He is staying with my youngest daughter and her family in Borger while his mom is gone.

Early this morning I stopped by to wish him a "happy birthday" and he was all smiles.

This child is not a Little House-on-the-Prairie child. Horses, cattle, hay, and other agriculture interests are not his cup-of-tea.

Always being at a naval base his entire life, he's been accustomed to large cities. It's been quite a different atmosphere but he's proving he's up to the challenge.

He spent last weekend with me and upon arising Sunday morning he discovered snow. There is no child who has ever been more excited to see snow. His last exposure to the cold white stuff was when he was five and was then living with me while his mom was overseas.

Immediately upon seeing the snow he wanted to be out in it. For a child accustomed to living within walking distance to the ocean and beaches, this was quite an adventure.

Once out in the snow, his first reaction was to throw snowballs. Then off to build a snowman. The cold didn't even bother him.

I even broke him in to clearing sidewalks and driveways of the white stuff. He quickly became like Panhandle teens – that part wasn't as fun.

After a while he was ready to get warm by the fireplace. He even welcomed hauling the Christmas decorations to the attic for me. This child has really had some new experiences.

On Monday he went with his aunt, uncle and cousins to a family gathering and discovered the fun of 4-wheelers. Driving a 4-wheeler through the snow with a bunch of teens was the highlight of his new experiences.

This child logged more flight miles before he was four than most of us do in a lifetime. Living in Vallejo, Calif. when he was born, then on to Guam for three years and back to Corpus Christi and San Diego, he has had experiences we will never have.

He was in a car seat in their car when the San Francisco earthquake shook that area in 1989, and laughed, said his mom. He lived in Guam when Typhoon Omar went through there and he still doesn't like rain storms.

But there is nothing like the Panhandle snow for him. Well, he's likely to be getting more during his stay here. He probably would like that for his birthday.

So excited to be a teen, he didn't even mind returning to school today. In fact, he was eager to go. Happy Birthday, Zac.



In the interest of truth...



CHARLIE REESE
Columnist

It's been my habit for a number of years to file with my readers, so to speak, a conflict of interest statement. I think all columnists owe that to their readers, but so far as I know, I'm the only one who does it.

The financial part, as usual, is easy to dispose of. My only income is from writing columns for King Features Syndicate, from (hopefully soon) Social Security and occasionally rent from a little house I'm buying in Georgia. My retirement IRAs, such as they are, are managed by a broker. My main financial accomplishment has been to get out of debt and stay out. Other than the mortgage on the Georgia house, I don't owe anybody anything. I don't charge fees for speaking. It strikes me as ridiculous for journalists to do that. Besides, this way I speak only to people I like.

I'm registered as a Democrat, mainly as a result of procrastination. I was so disgusted with Al Gore's attempt to steal the election in Florida, I decided to change to Republican. Then the Republicans in Congress do something equally disgusting, and so I put it off. Neither party actually represents my political philosophy. I am opposed in principle to third parties.

The only organizations I belong to are the National Rifle Association, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the League of the South. The League has been slandered as a hate group and a racist organization by a professional name-calling outfit, but it is neither. It is a group of decent people interested in Southern history and culture, in reviving regionalism and, I confess, in tilting at windmills on occasion. I don't allow professional name-callers to manipulate me, and no one else should either. Everything the League does is public. All the speeches made at its meetings are recorded and available for sale, so anyone curious about it can go directly to the source. The Web address is www.dixienet.org.

Most people think of me as a political conservative, but I prefer traditionalist. My political philosophy is the same as George Washington's. I do not support managed trade mislabeled as free trade, nor do I support corporate welfare, which far exceeds the welfare benefits granted to poor people. I believe, as Washington did, that we should have commerce with all nations but entangling alliances with none. I believe the Constitution should be obeyed and strictly construed to mean what it meant to the people who wrote it and ratified it. The only legitimate way to change it is by amendment, not by judicial interpretation.

The things I believe are injurious to our interests are the North American Free Trade Agreement, the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The only thing that would really stimulate our economy would be to force the multinational corporations to bring back to the United States all those jobs they have moved to cheap-labor foreign countries. The chamber of commerce conservatives can believe as they are told to believe by their corporate funders, but my heart is with the kids who demonstrate against these international organizations.

I despise our imperialistic foreign policy and strenuously object to the habit of modern presidents declaring war in violation of the Constitution. Only Congress can declare war. James Madison was very clear on this. He wrote: "Those who are to conduct a war cannot in the nature of things be proper or safe judges whether a war ought to be commenced, continued, or concluded. They are barred from the latter functions by a great principle in free government, analogous to that which separates the sword from the purse, or the power of executing from the power of enacting laws."

As you can see, my philosophy is pretty much out of sync with the majority, but that doesn't bother me. My loyalty is to the Constitution, not to any political party or to any individuals temporarily occupying offices.

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2002. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as "shoguns."

In 1892, J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1938, the "March of Dimes" campaign to fight polio was organized.

In 1959, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state.

In 1961, the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In 1993, President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.

In 2000, the last new daily "Peanuts" strip by Charles Schulz ran in 2,600 newspapers.

SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — There will be organizational meeting for the Pampa Optimist boys' basketball program at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Optimist Club meeting room.

Anyone interested in coaching or helping with the program must be at the meeting.

For more information, call Jeff Skinner at 665-8120 and leave a message.

FOOTBALL

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Huskers vs. Hurricanes in the Rose Bowl — what a way to finish college football's craziest season.

No. 4 Nebraska challenges No. 1 Miami in the national title game of the Bowl Championship Series tonight, and the result will determine whether there will be one or two champions.

If the favored Hurricanes win, there's no debate. Miami (11-0) would finish as the nation's only unbeaten team and win its fifth national title, all since 1983.

Miami would collect trophies from the two polls that crown national champions, the AP media poll and the USA Today-ESPN coaches poll.

"Our goal is to win by one point," Miami rookie coach Larry Coker said, "and if we win by one point, we're the undisputed national champions."

Flashback

1972: Pampa defeated Canyon 27-7 in high school football action.

Richard McCampbell scored three touchdowns and led all rushers with 82 yards on 15 carries.

Mike Robbins scored Pampa's other touchdown.

Saying goodbye to 2001, hello to No. 60



By L. D. STRATE
SPORTS

How to say goodbye to a year I won't soon forget. This farewell is coming a little late, but better late than never as they say.

Why say so long to 2001? Well, it's kind of a sentimental thing, you see.

It's mainly because I won't ever be young again. Actually, I've been a senior citizen for quite sometime, but I'm heading swiftly toward the big 6-0, which must be close to qualifying for super senior status. At least my arthritic joints make me feel that way.

Since I won't be on the low side of that number again, I thought it might be nice to look back on a time when I wasn't so ancient.

Whenever I think of the No. 60, I visualize Babe Ruth hitting 60 home runs way back in 1927. That's the sporting mindset, I guess. The Babe's record stood for 34 years. I'm afraid I won't be 60 that long.

You'll just have to guess my exact birthdate. I'm trying to avoid having a ton of black balloons and a year's supply of denture cleanser arriving on my doorstep. If you can remember when the pinboys went on strike at The Pampa Bowl, you'll be close.

Anyway, here's a look back on 2001 from a sports perspective:

— The New York Yankees and Arizona Diamondbacks meeting in what could be the best World Series ever played. Just the summer before, we had been in the Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix, and never dreamed World Series games would be played in a stadium that had a swimming pool.

— Pampa beating Borger 20-7 to advance into the football playoffs. The Bulldogs had won in 2000 to keep the Harvesters from post-season play. It's always a real treat to beat Borger even when a playoff spot isn't at stake. We'll remember little quarterback Randy Tice sparking the Harvesters with a touchdown run and scoring pass.

— Pampa holding off Randall for a 20-19 win in the next-to-last game of the season. When it came to exciting plays, it was one of the better games I'd seen in a long time.

I was a little slow in picking up on the fact that Bobby Knight was really going to be Texas Tech's new basketball coach. When somebody said Knight was going to be coaching at Tech, I thought they were talking about Georgia Tech. A saint Knight ain't, but he can coach. And most of the guys who play for him walk away with a college diploma.

— International opera singer Jane Johnson of Pampa singing the national anthem at the Pampa-Amarillo High game on Sept. 14. What a moving experience that was as the community came together to show their support for America after the Sept. 11 disasters.

— My son, Shawn, being part of an unusual happening on the baseball field.

There were four seniors (Kyle Keith, Travis Lancaster, Adam Wright and Shawn Strate) on the 2001 PHS baseball team. In Pampa's final game, an 8-6 win over Borger, the four seniors combined to hit for the cycle. Travis hit a homer, Kyle a triple, Shawn a double, and Adam a single. The senior cycle might not qualify for Ripley's, but it was still noteworthy.

— We're hoping Shawn's friend, Casey Owens, keeps his hopes of becoming a pro baseball player alive. Scouts have shown an interest in his pitching ability. Casey, who is currently in his last year at Frank Phillips in Borger, played in a college level league last summer in Wisconsin.

— It's an Okie thing, you wouldn't understand. Watching Oklahoma State beat Oklahoma in football just about made my year. That happens about as often as I put up wallpaper.

Saw talented, tall Jana Francis play basketball at Canadian. Francis is a 6-foot, 3-inch post player who should be an outstanding collegiate player. Texas Tech better grab her.

— There's the sad moments that cast a shadow on those happy times. The passing of Pampa High tennis champion Michael Cornelison and Dallas Cowboys' football great Harvey Martin were two examples. Michael had a school-record 176 wins in his four-year career. Harvey had a team-record 114 sacks as a defensive end. May the young Harvester and the old Cowboy be long remembered.

Florida walks away with Orange Bowl win

MIAMI (AP) — Brock Berlin was decent, Rex Grossman was much better and speedy receiver Taylor Jacobs led a long list of talented players who could make any Florida quarterback look great.

Forced to watch from the sideline for the first 24 minutes of the Orange Bowl, Grossman again showed he belongs on the field Wednesday night. He led Florida to touchdowns on his first six drives, and the No. 5 Gators smashed No. 6 Maryland 56-23 on a record-setting night.

Grossman threw for 248 yards and four touchdowns. Jacobs caught 10 passes for 170 yards, both Orange Bowl records, and Steve Spurrier's quarterback shuffle turned into a stunning offensive highlight show.

"It looked like our wideouts were running past them pretty good," Spurrier said. "Defensively, we were the faster team."

Indeed.

Overall, the Gators unanimously agreed, Maryland (10-2) just didn't match up too well in its first bowl game in 11 years.

"I'm not proud of the way we played," said first-year Terps coach Ralph Friedgen, who led the surprising Terps to the Atlantic Coast Conference title. "I'm embarrassed. It's my fault. I'm embarrassed for the state of Maryland."

Jabar Gaffney caught two touchdowns passes for Florida (10-2), and tailback Earnest Graham ran for 149 yards and two scores. Florida gained 659 yards to break a 49-year-old Orange Bowl record, and the Gators showed they might, indeed, have the most talent in the nation.

But they won't be playing for the national title in the Rose Bowl due to a 34-32 loss to Tennessee on Dec. 1.

"I'll watch it with interest," Spurrier said. "But you can't look back. You never get them back. You just try to move on."

Jacobs caught two touchdown passes — one from Berlin, one from Grossman. Surprisingly, some people thought Spurrier's decision to bench Grossman for missing curfew would be a distraction.

"It didn't feel any different," Grossman said of coming off the bench. "I tried to get in there, score as many points as possible and give the team some momentum for the second half. We got on a roll. The defense got the ball back to us quickly and we made some plays."

The Heisman Trophy runner-up entered to big cheers with 6:03 left in the second quarter and showed exactly how he earned the starting position and kept it through all 11 regular-season games.

There were too many highlights to count, but the second touchdown — both the drive and the scoring pass — were testament to how he became Florida's No. 1 quarterback.

He directed a six-play, 64-yard touchdown drive that started with 1:25 left in the first half. The scoring play was a perfect lob in coverage to Gaffney, a pass that only a quarterback with perfect knowledge of his receiver's capabilities would dare throw. It gave Florida a 28-10 lead.

"Rex gave us a nice lift," Spurrier said. "Brock hadn't played much. We wanted to see what he could do. Then, it was time to get Rex in there. Rex was sharp. He may have played his best game of the year."

Berlin played about the way an untested sophomore would be expected to.

Berlin, strongly considering transferring to Miami next season, went 11-for-19 for 196 yards, with one touchdown and two interceptions, both the result of badly misjudged throws into double coverage.

His six drives to open the game produced two touchdowns and two interceptions, a bunch of nice passes and a handful of dreadful ones, and a slim 14-10 lead despite a prolific 224 yards in total offense.

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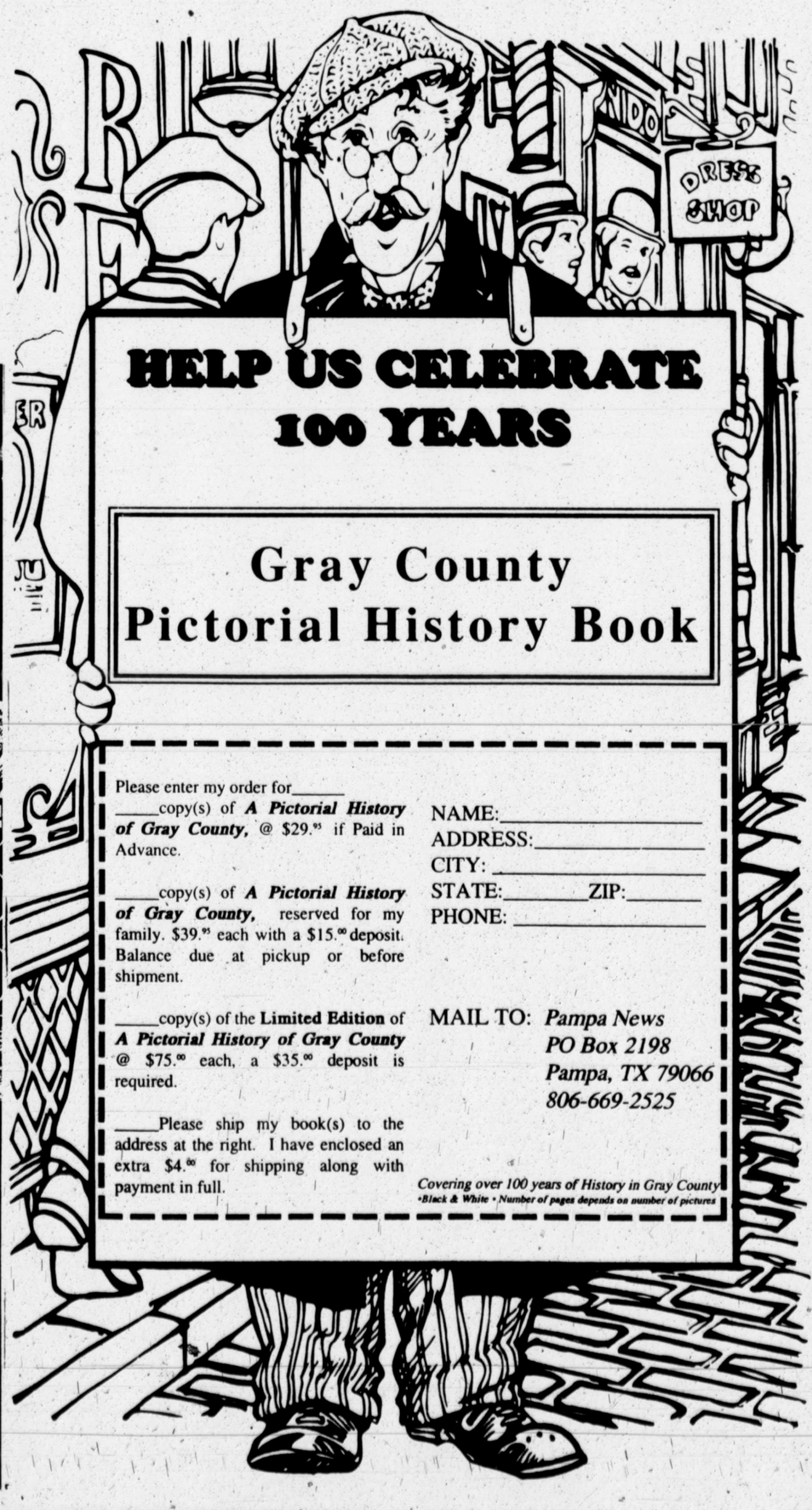
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DEAR ABBY written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

Mom Who Left Her Family Must First Gain Strength to Return

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to "Lost Mother in the Midwest," who ran away from her family and now yearns to return to the fold. She should see a counselor immediately and begin to climb out of the horrible pit she is in. I have been there and recognize the words "unneeded, disrespectful, ignored, my fault," and "don't deserve their forgiveness."

Her self-confidence is bankrupt, and professional help can guide her through rebuilding who she is. She must learn to care for and love herself before anyone else can love her. She must learn to confront and halt abusive treatment. She deserves better. Life outside the "pit" is worth living.

I wish her the joy I now have.

FREE IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR FREE: I received some criticism for calling what "Lost Mother" did "irrational behavior." While I do not believe that her leaving was irrational, I do take exception to the *way* in which she did it — leaving behind her clothes, mementos, friends and even her mother for a year without a word. She could have achieved the same effect without isolating herself. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: If that woman had been in a work setting and her boss had talked to her in irritated tones, and her co-workers were disrespectful or ignored her altogether, she would have cause for filing harassment charges.

Were she in a school setting and the teacher always spoke to her in irritated tones, and her classmates were disrespectful or ignored her altogether, you would have advised her to take the teacher to task and be concerned that her classmates were harassing her.

Is that behavior more acceptable in a family setting because the perpetrators are her husband and sons? Absolutely not!

It appears she was at the breaking point and escaped the only way she could. Many people have chosen suicide at that point, but she chose to run away from home.

She should seek counseling, but only to see if she would really care to go back to an abusive situation.

DISAPPOINTED IN NEILTON, WASH.

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I did not advise her to return to an abusive situation. I told her to seek counseling to be sure she was strong enough to face what might lie ahead. Once she was on firmer emotional footing, the counselor — or a clergyperson — could mediate and facilitate the family reunion. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Had her family been supportive and seen to it that she had been evaluated physically and mentally, maybe she would owe them an apology. But as it stands, the husband and the sons should be begging her for forgiveness. She should not return to them until the entire family has completed therapy. Only then will they deserve *her* forgiveness.

ROBYN IN TACOMA

DEAR ROBYN: On that point I certainly agree. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I would like to say to "Lost Mother": Get help, get strong — and *then* tell your kids how much you love them. It may take a while for them to fully understand why you left — but in time they will. Also, don't go back to your husband unless he is willing to admit that he was wrong and agrees to go to counseling, too.

Good luck. I'm rooting for you.

BEEN THERE, TOO

DEAR TOO: I hope "Lost Mother" sees your letter — and that she knows we are *all* rooting for her.

***

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips both share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

***

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Crossword Puzzle

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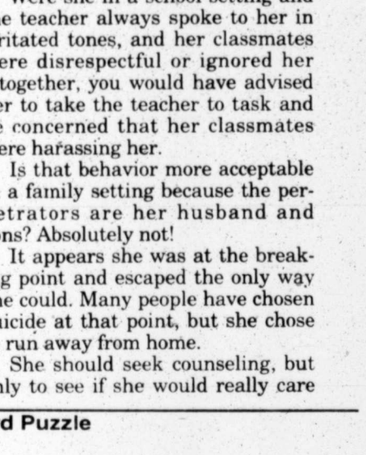
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Tailed toy
5 Discards
11 Stratford's river
12 Fill the trunk
13 Not lax
14 Cleopatra's love
15 Converts to code
17 TV's "— Haw"
18 Learning methods
22 Make broader
24 Actress Aimee
25 Altar words
26 Swiss canton
27 Salamanders
30 Strips for breakfast
32 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
33 Blond shade
34 Frequent flier units
38 French eatery
41 Coworker of Drew
42 Hosts
43 "Step —!"
44 Finds another purpose for
45 Dog docs

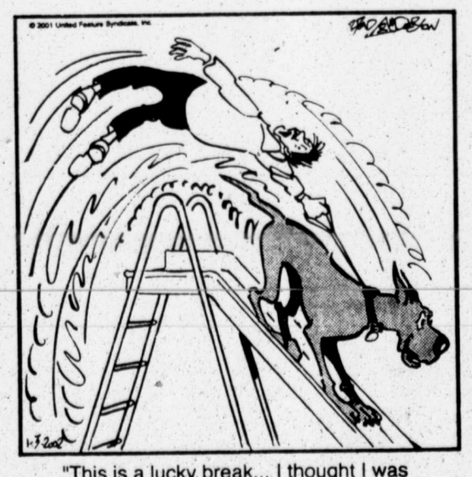
DOWN
1 Singer Smith
2 Notorious czar
3 Grid score
4 Menu choice
5 Fresh reaction
6 Nicaraguan fighter
7 Fingers
8 Fuss
9 Bit of wordplay
10 Bond, for one
16 Longing
19 Soccer field edge
20 Continental currency
21 Dermis
22 Flag waver
23 Concept: Prefix
28 Namely
29 Evening bash
30 Emeril catchword
31 "I, Robot" writer
35 Flag seamstress
36 Give out
37 Poses
38 Saloon
39 Dudgeon
40 Dallas sch.

B	A	J	A	■	H	A	R	A	S	S	
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Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



"This is a lucky break... I thought I was going to the moon!"

The Family Circus



"It's the only part of Christmas I don't like — untrimmin' the tree."

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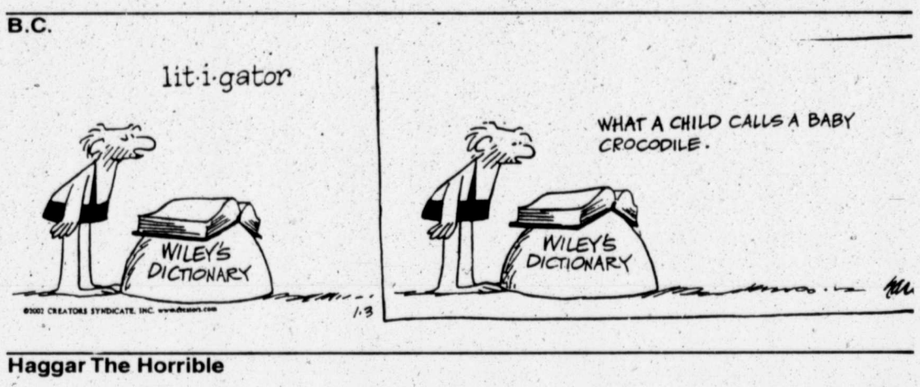
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B.C.



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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of W.F. STUBBS, Deceased, were issued on March 19, 2001, in Cause Number 8733, pending in the Probate Court of Gray County, Texas to JANYS STUBBS.

The residence of the Administratrix is 3020B Lasker Ave., Waco, Waco County, Texas 76706, and the post office address is:

c/o PHIL N. VANDERPOOL
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2455
Pampa, Texas
79066-2455

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 17th day of December, 2001.

/s/ JANYS STUBBS,
Administratrix of
the Estate of
W.F. STUBBS,
Deceased

K-63 Jan. 3, 2002

1 Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Panhandle Water Planning group (PWPG) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2002 to solicit public input on items for inclusion in the Regional Water Plan mandated by an action of the Texas Legislature. The region affected by this public meeting consists of the following counties: Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Oldham, Potter, Carson, Gray, Wheeler, Randall, Armstrong, Donley, Collingsworth, Hall, and Childress; and is referred to as the Panhandle Water Planning Ares (PWPA). The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m., February 5, 2002 at the following location: Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC), 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Texas. The hearing will be held in the Board Room on the First Floor. The PRPC is located on the corner if Eighth and Jackson in Amarillo, TX.

The specific purpose of this public hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding any items, information, or studies which should be considered for inclusion in the Scope of Work development for the next regional water plan for the Panhandle Water Planning Area. Only items, information, or studies which are included in the Scope of Work may be funded for further study in the development of the Regional Water Plan. If you or your organization has input or comments regarding the Regional Water Plan, please attend this meeting and submit your views. The process for submission of comment will be: (1) Oral comments presented during the course of the public meeting. Such comments will be recorded and considered by the Panhandle Water Planning Group; or (2) Written comments presented during the course of the public meeting; by mail prior to the meeting or that are received by February 20, 2002. Written comments will be accepted in any legible format presented. Written comments will be recorded and considered by the Panhandle Water Planning Group.

Requests for information or questions regarding this public hearing or the implementation of comprehensive water planning efforts in the PWPA may be addressed to Jarrett Atkinson, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, PO Box 9257, Amarillo, TX 79105. Telephone (806)372-3381, E-mail: jatkinson@prpc.cog.tx.us

K-64 Jan. 3, 2002

3 Personal

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3 bdr. br., 2 ba., dbl gar., lrg. cov. patio, Christine st., under $70's. C-21 Realtor 665-5436, 665-4180

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Horoscope

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2002
BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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)
★★★★ Throw yourself into your work. You'll find yourself entrenched in calming down an uproar or the "firestorms" that surround you. Think in terms of gain and opportunity. Catch up on news later in the day, both in and out of the office. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your playfulness could irritate someone when you don't mean to. You might have your hands full calming down someone. Speak your mind in a nice way. Communication becomes easier as the day grows older. Creativity flows. Listen to someone's suggestions. Tonight: Work late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Get down to the basics. Deal with a personal matter that might be tugging at you. Hot anger erupts from a boss or associate. Concentrate and focus. Someone's playfulness allows you to lighten up considerably toward the end of the day. Contact someone at a distance. Tonight: Flirt away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Reach out and communicate with others. New information that you need to integrate into your schedule comes forward. Your smile helps someone who could be a bit angry or off the wall. Take time to have a discussion with a partner. Discuss your plans. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Handle financial matters with your normal finesse. Your partner could give you a lot of flak about money decisions you make. Review your associate's ideas with respect, but also understand ultimately whose call this is. Communication opens up. Tonight: Frolic out the door.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You draw controversy whether you intend to or not. Deal with someone's dissatisfaction head-on. Air out difficulties, especially if these issues impact your day-to-day life. Know that there is always an alternative as long as you remain open. Finances play into a decision. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Step back if you find that you easily lose your temper or are accident-prone. You might need more downtime for yourself. Learn to express your aggravation in a manner that someone can hear. Recenter and step forward later in the day. Tonight: Talk through a problem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Aim for what you want. Allow your imagination to speak and use your creative insight. You might need to step back from a problem. Gain perspective through a discussion with a close friend or family member. Don't be intimidated by someone's temper tantrum. Tonight: Slow down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal with work head-on, and you'll achieve a lot. Think in terms of gaining quickly. You find out the hard way that a family member is on the warpath. You might not easily put a halt to someone's behavior. Your communication excels and helps you head off a problem. Tonight: Join your pals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Knowing where you want to go could be instrumental in the choices you make. Your determination forces an issue. You do your own research as you seek the appropriate path. Don't get into a quarrel; rather, bypass it. Play it smart with your actions and words. Tonight: Leader of the pack.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal with others on a one-on-one level, especially when it involves money matters. Not everything is as it seems. Remain optimistic and positive with a difficult associate. Through detachment and your intellect, you get what you want. Tonight: Take off ASAP!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You're reactive and strong-willed. In fact, without intending to, you could cause yourself a lot more flak than you anticipate. Think in terms of gain and the long term, you might choose other words as a result. A discussion on a one-on-one level clears the air. Tonight: Dinner for two.

BORN TODAY
German folklorist Jakob Grimm (1785), inventor of the Braille system Louis Braille (1809), boxer Floyd Patterson (1935)

★★★

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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

1-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

F M P N M F E O N D W Z A W R ' N O Z B B H H A , M P F Y Z E H L P D K H D W Z E O N D Y H . — S Z H R N F R B E F O X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A CANNER CAN CAN ANYTHING HE CAN, BUT A CANNER CAN'T CAN A CAN, CAN HE? — CAROLYN WELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BUSTS

attended the Nevada school.

Cameron said two troopers had stopped the same vehicle some time previously and though the "signals" were there that something was up, nothing was found.

Later, when the same Ford Explorer was making a multi-state trip and was stopped on another traffic violation, the sergeant said troopers were able to find the false compartment they missed at first. In it was 30 pounds of cocaine.

Cameron said it was in the local district in the 1980s that both criminal and drug interdiction tactics were pioneered.

"It's what we call looking beyond the initial violation," Cameron said. "It involves training and talking with those who are stopped ... it's not about being a speed cop."

Several times during the interview Cameron praised the troopers who work under his command and said, "I'm about as proud of them as you can be. I may be the one who encourages them and stands behind them but they are the ones doing the work ... they deserve the credit."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

JOBS

the area exceeded only by Borger, with 4.6 percent unemployed, and Hutchinson County which had a 4 percent unemployed rate.

Statewide, the rate climbed from 4.9 percent to 5.2 percent with the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate rising to 5.4 percent from a revised 5.3 percent October rate.

"The state's increase of one-tenth of a percentage point was modest in comparison to national unemployment, which rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent," said TWC Chairman Diane Rath. "The actual number of unemployed Texans rose by 18,600 out of a total labor force of nearly 10.7 million.

November was the second month in a row that Texas' unemployment rate was lower than the U.S. rate.

"The retail trade industry added 3,100 jobs in November," said Commissioner for Labor T.P. O'Mahoney, "the largest monthly gain of any major industry in Texas," and an indication that holiday shopping may have been stronger than previously expected.

Just how well merchants did with their holiday sales will become better known when the December sales tax figures are released in mid-February.

In other sectors, the construction industry added 400 jobs in November while there was a loss of 6,800 non-agricultural jobs in Texas.

The lowest unemployment rate among the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in November was 1.5 percent in Bryan-College Station. Lubbock was next at 2.2 percent, followed by San Angelo at 2.8 percent. Amarillo was fourth at 2.9 percent and Abilene next at 3.4 percent.

Some area county jobless percentages of interest for November include: Moore, 3; Dallam-Hartley, 1.3; Ochiltree, 2.3; Armstrong, 1.2; Carson, 2.4; Hansford, 2.1; Hemphill, 1.6; Lipscomb, 2.8; Roberts, 1; Sherman, 1.8; and Wheeler, 3.1.

CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

ELECTION

Reeves will face-off in the Republican primary.

Many political observers say they don't remember the position ever being filled.

County Clerk Susan Winborne, District Clerk Gaye Honderich, 31st District Judge Stephen Emmert, 223rd District Judge Lee Waters, and Justice of the Peace Precinct Four Mary Ann Carpenter are all seeking re-election, but will not be opposed at the polls.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

GROUP

He also placed himself on the list to study the matter.

Precinct One Commissioner Joe Wheeley appointed Charles Bowers, Rex McAnally, a local feedlot owner, and Danny Nusser, Gray County Extension Agent;

Precinct Two Commissioner Jim Greene appointed Dale Roth, Callens George, and and John Spearman, Jr.;

Precinct Three Commissioner Gerald Wright appointed Bill Musser, Duane Smith, and Ronnie Goode;

Precinct Four Commissioner James Hefley appointed Steve Bowlin and Neal Odom.

Chairman of the committee will be Commissioner Greene.

Approval was granted to two county constables to apply for a grant for a video camera and recording equipment from the Department of Public Safety.

Constable Chris Lockridge said the equipment is being installed in many law enforcement vehicles across the state due to the new racial profiling law which has gone into effect. He said if officers do not have the equipment utilized with each arrest, additional cumbersome paperwork will be required.

The grants to be awarded by the DPS will be $5,000 per unit. Commissioners expressed concern about who would be responsible for the maintenance costs after the one-year warranty expired.

Lockridge said he would install both his and Constable James Lewis' unit if the commission approved the request.

"If we have to replace the equipment when it goes out, it will be hard for me to support," Wheeley commented. "I can see the benefit for it, though."

District Attorney Rick Roach appeared before the commission to answer questions about the phone billing.

Peet said the commission had several questions, and Roach asked what those questions were. He said he had spoken with County Auditor Elaine Morris about the telephone situation and thought all questions had been answered.

Morris said the commission had questions about the billing.

Roach explained he has an additional office located in Wheeler, and that Lipscomb, Wheeler and Hemphill counties are supporting that office. He told the commission he went to the commissioners court of each of the eastern counties of his five-county district and all three counties agreed to fund the office including utilities. He said he did not ask Roberts County to participate because only one case is in that county at this time and the case load is always low.

He said 75 percent of the county-wide case load is from Gray County.

Roach said he didn't realize the phone billing would be a problem as there is not a long distance charge for phone usage between Wheeler and the main DA office in Pampa.

"I didn't realize the phone billing would be a problem, except that it is $4,500 less than before," said Roach. "My predecessor had a phone bill of $9,000 and mine was $5,000."

He added that was a factor in moving the office from Shamrock to Wheeler because of the long distance phone calls. He said Shamrock to Pampa is long distance while Wheeler is not. Also, he said a capital murder case during the former DAs tenure caused the phone bill to be hiked.

"They had a change of venue case and what I understand is that it couldn't be helped," he said.

Commissioners approved continued support in the National Watershed. Cost of member fee is $20 and a $50 organizational fee.

Four appointments were made to the White Deer Land Museum. Iris Ragsdale, Lee Frazier, and Wanda Carter were appointed along with Commissioner Wheeley. Wheeley is the county's representative on the board, said Peet.

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