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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

NEWS Vol. 50 No. 507 Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1

WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **56** LOW **28**

LOCAL

Prairie Rivers musical free to public, Feb. 15

CANADIAN — Monthly production of Prairie Rivers Musical will be staged at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15, in Canadian Middle School Auditorium in Canadian. Admission is free and concessions will be available during the show. For more information, contact Director Jay Godwin at (806) 323-6213.

STATE

Police nab sleepy burglar after break-in

FORT WORTH (AP) — A burglar was arrested Saturday morning when he was found taking a nap after breaking into a Mineral Wells store owned by the wife of the county district attorney, police said. "I think he was a pretty dumb burglar," employee Janie Sidener said. "Of all the places in town he has to break in to, he picks the DA's wife's shop." Sidener found the burglar when she arrived at 9 a.m. to find the store, A Little Bit Country, in disarray. She said she heard a man snoring in a big bed that is part of a bedroom suite for sale.

DEATHS

Robert Paul 'Bob' Certain, 74, Miami native.
 Ralph Palmer, 87, retired Celanese employee.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
 It's Tree Planting Season...
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Surprise snow socks city



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Taylor Ranney, 7, adds more snow to a snowman, one of twin snowmen she is building with Kelli Ranney in their front yard on Harvester Street Sunday.

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Pampa's weatherman said today that he was as surprised as everybody else by the eight inches of snow that residents woke up to Sunday morning. "Nobody was predicting that Friday," said Darrell Schorn of KGRO-KOMX radio in Pampa. He said most forecasts called for a dusting to two inches of snow, which is what most of the Texas Panhandle received, but Pampa, and to a lesser extent White Deer, received much more. Schorn termed the heavy snow a freak storm. "I'm calling it a snow burst," he said. Pampa received an official 7.6 inches early Sunday morning. White Deer reported five inches. Miami reported an inch. The phenomena that led to Pampa bountiful snowfall, Schorn said, was an instability in the atmosphere that in the summer would lead to a thunderstorm. In the winter, it often results in heavy snowfall accompanied by thunder and lightning, but this time, he said, there was no thunder or lightning. "It just dumped a lot of



(Pampa News photo by Dean Lynch)

Dan Bachler of America on Lawns, clears the Bank of America drive-thru with a snowblower Sunday morning.

snow in a hurry," Schorn said. The snow started falling shortly after midnight Saturday. The heaviest snow, Schorn said, was between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday. "There were big wet flakes," he said. "We got seven or eight inches in seven or eight hours." Even more unusual, Schorn said, was the melting effect Sunday. "I can't ever recall, since I've been here, that much snow melting that quickly," Schorn said. By this morning, there were only a few patches of snow left. "We got a lot of good moisture," he said. Schorn said the next few days ought to be sunny and relatively warm, but another cold front is expected later in the week. "By Thursday or Friday," Schorn said, "we could see some more rain or snow."

One indicted in White Deer probe

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

PANHANDLE — A Carson County grand jury returned two indictments Friday on a 20-year-old White Deer man. Shelton Watson, 20, White Deer, was indicted by the 100th Judicial District Grand Jury for sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault in connection with a Carson County Sheriff's Department investigation which began in early December. Carson County Sheriff Gary Robertson said in January the investigation involved seven males who are

17 years of age to early 20s. The men were investigated following accusations of having sexual relations with girls under the age of 14. He said five females, 14 years and younger, were involved. He said that while the sheriff's department is not currently pursuing an investigation there may be further indictments in the future as determined by the District Attorney's Office. No cases presented to Friday's 100th District Grand Jury session were no-billed, according to officials. Robertson said the investigation began after a counselor notified the sheriff's office. He said one of the

girls told the counselor about the alleged incidents, and the counselor in turn notified law enforcement authorities as required by law. The sheriff said the vast majority of alleged encounters reportedly occurred in White Deer. He said the incidents were alleged to have happened over a time frame of a year to 18 months. Robertson told The Pampa News in January that there was no ring or gang involved. "We thought maybe it was a prostitution right at first, but upon investigation the deputies determined it wasn't. It was a happenstance type of thing. Technically, by law, it is against the law because of the age of the victims," the sheriff said. He said upon investigation there was no force involved. "Maybe coercion, but not force," said Robertson. He said it was consensual sex because there was no force. "That's why they have the law," he said. Watson is out on a \$15,000 bond set by Justice of the Peace Phyllis Tyler in mid-January. 100th Judicial District Attorney Stuart Messer was unavailable for comment Monday morning as he was in court in Panhandle.

Powell criticizes NATO allies for declining to help Turkey

By WILL LESTER
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is prepositioning military troops in civilian areas to use them as shields in the event of war, a White House official said Monday. Spokesman Scott McClellan, accompanying President Bush on a trip to Nashville, Tenn., cited intelligence information but did not elaborate. He said Bush would present the allegations in a speech later Monday to a convention of religious broadcasters. "This is a brutal dictator with a long history of using civilians to further his own purposes," he said. Speaking with reporters aboard Air Force One, McClellan voiced disappointment at a move within NATO to block the alliance from helping Turkey to defend itself in the event of war with neighboring Iraq. Asked about published reports that the United States and Britain might propose an ultimatum that would give Saddam 48 hours to leave Iraq, McClellan said "There are a lot of diplomatic efforts going on right now." Reacting earlier to a move by France, Germany and Belgium to blocked NATO the

commencement of planning for possible Iraqi attacks against Turkey, Secretary of State Colin Powell said NATO has a legal obligation to assist Turkey when it asks for help. The alliance should make sure that Turkey "is not put at any risk," Powell said Monday. In brief remarks to reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, he said: "I hope that NATO will now realize that they have an obligation to assist a NATO member." Powell cited Article 4 of NATO's mutual defense treaty, which provides for all members of the military alliance to consult when a member is threatened. Turkey has requested emergency consultations under the treaty, the first time a North Atlantic Treaty Organization nation has done that in the alliance's 53-history. The dispute deepens divisions in NATO over Iraq. Germany and France have mounted a campaign in the U.N. Security Council to deter the United States and Britain from using force to disarm President Saddam Hussein. President Bush, who was to see close ally Howard later Monday, has said the United States would act without council approval to

Laws, bids top city's agenda

Ordinances and bids top the Pampa City Commission meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, at City Hall. The first reading of ordinances dealing with internal shifting of city funds and penalties for late payment, reconnections and returned checks are on Tuesday's agenda along with a seal coating bid and a bid on tax delinquent property. In other business, the city commission will consider proposed antenna policy and lease rates; consider the PEDC sale of a second crane in the U.S. Bus building, 822 E. Foster; consider reappointing six people to the Construction Board of Appeals, and consider canceling the regularly scheduled city commission meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, and holding a special meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, instead. Mayor Lonnie Robbins and City Manager Mitch Grant will be in Austin to meet with legislators at the State Capitol Building on Feb. 25. The city commission is also expected to set May 3, as election day for the mayor's race, city commission Ward 1 and city commission Ward 3, and approve interlocal agreements for animal control services with White Deer, Skellytown, Lefors, Miami and Groom. During their 5 p.m. work session prior to the regular session, the commissioners are expected to discuss scheduling a goal-setting session, landfill fees and vacancies on advisory boards and commissions.

(See NATO, Page 3)

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Shuttle investigative board steps up mission

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The board investigating the Columbia shuttle disaster will speed up its efforts in the coming days as it embarks on a whirlwind fact-gathering mission that may ultimately determine what caused the spacecraft's destruction.

Board chairman Adm. Hal Gehman said the panel would meet with engineers at Johnson Space Center on Monday before fanning out to other NASA centers. He said the pace of the probe will triple after Monday because members will split into three teams, each taking on different aspects of the complex investigation.

The NASA-appointed board has less than two months to complete the investigation, but Gehman said that deadline may be extended because "the first imperative is to get it right."

Gehman said Sunday that investigators were looking into data from military radar of an object detected speeding away from Columbia on Day 2 of its mission. Gehman said the object — detected by Air Force Space Command radar — could have come from the spacecraft and could be ice, but emphasized that more study is needed.

"These reports are emerging right now," he said. "It's top early to say they mean anything."

NASA began a detailed search for evidence

that ice may have formed on the shuttle's waste water vent during its mission — a problem that plagued a Discovery mission in 1984.

The vent, which is under the shuttle cabin in front of the left wing, is used to expel into space both urine and surplus water generated from the shuttle's fuel cell power system.

Usually the water shoots into the cold vacuum of space as a spray of crystals, but on at least one shuttle mission, in 1984, the water formed a basketball-sized chunk of ice on the lip of the vent. At the time, NASA engineers were so concerned the ice could damage the shuttle wing during re-entry that they ordered the astronauts to use the shuttle's robot arm to break off the ice ball.

That heavy robot arm, which wasn't necessary for Columbia's 16-day science mission, was left off so more experiments could be added, and the waste water vent could not be seen from the cabin by the seven astronauts. NASA spokesman Kyle Herring said it's possible ice could have formed and not been detected, even though heaters were installed on the waste water dump valve after the 1984 mission.

When Columbia fired its rockets to drop out of orbit, it could have sent any accumulated ice slamming into the wing where other data sug-

gest there was severe damage to the thermal protection tiles. The theory is unproven and is only one of a number of scenarios being probed by engineers.

NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe said Sunday that no theory has been excluded.

"Nothing is off the table," he said on CNN. "We're going to let the Columbia accident board guide us in terms of their findings about what caused this accident."

More than 12,000 pieces of debris have been located in Texas and Louisiana, including a 2-foot piece of one wing, an attached chunk of thermal tiles, and a 300-pound cover of a landing gear compartment. Officials were unable to say whether those pieces came from the shuttle's left side, which would make them significant in their investigation.

Identification of the wing part is made more difficult because the 2,500-degree temperatures of re-entry burned off many of the catalogue numbers stenciled on the thermal tiles, said NASA spokesperson Catherine Watson.

One object, which appears to be a hatch door with a hydraulic opening and closing mechanism, was found Sunday. O'Keefe said the debris will be transported to Kennedy Space Center starting this week where investi-

gators will attempt to reassemble as much of it as possible.

"There is certainly no way we are going to be able to reconstruct it. The pieces are just absolutely mangled," O'Keefe said. "It's an awful lot of tangled stuff."

The wing segment and landing gear compartment door found in Texas have captured the attention of engineers because they could have been near areas where the shuttle registered a rapid temperature rise during the last minutes of flight Feb. 1.

Mission Control received data from Columbia that showed a sudden rise in temperature in the left landing gear compartment and along the left side of the fuselage. The data also shows increased wind resistance from the left wing, forcing the autopilot to rapidly move control surfaces and fire jets to maintain stability. The craft seemed to be losing the control battle, engineers said, just before all communications with Columbia stopped.

NASA's shuttle missions are on hold now, but O'Keefe said Sunday that the agency is still preparing to resume flights as soon as the cause of Columbia's breakup is determined and any shuttle flaws are fixed. "We've still got folks aboard the international space station," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

NATO

disarm Iraq if the council did not support the use of force.

Bush says the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks redefined America's approach to international affairs and increased the urgency of dealing with growing threats abroad.

Powell meanwhile warned that if Saddam did not begin cooperating fully and quickly with U.N. weapons inspectors, the White House will seek a U.N. resolution authorizing a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Powell said that if the U.N. inspectors' report, which is due Friday, shows Iraq is still not cooperating, "then the Security Council will have to sit in session immediately and determine what should happen next" and "start considering a resolution that says Iraq is in material breach and it is time for serious consequences to follow."

The president, at a policy conference of Republican members of Congress at a West Virginia resort Sunday, explained his reasoning for expanding the war on terrorism to Iraq.

"Prior to September the 11th, there was apparently no connection between a place like Iraq and terror," he said. There were concerns about terrorists in Iraq, but no fear about a threat to the American homeland. "... We

were confident that two oceans could protect us from harm."

But, Bush added, "the world changed on September the 11th."

"It used to be that we could pick or choose whether or not we would become involved," the president said, but the direct potential of an attack on the United States has changed that philosophy.

Bush spoke as chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said in Baghdad that he saw a beginning of Iraq's understanding that it must seriously observe demands for disarmament. U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei said he expected the Security Council to give the inspectors more time "as long as we are registering good progress."

Blix and ElBaradei are to make their next report to the U.N. Security Council on Friday.

Powell said a reported French-German proposal to increase the number of weapons inspectors in Iraq in hopes of averting U.S. military action is "a diversion, not a solution" to disarming Saddam.

"The issue is not more inspectors. The issue is compliance on the part of Saddam Hussein," he added.

The plan would call for the deployment of thousands of U.N. soldiers, reconnaissance flights and a tripling of the number of weapons inspectors, according to the German news magazine Der Spiegel.

New Mexico man recovers from bubonic plague bout

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Mexico man who was hospitalized in New York City for more than three months with bubonic plague left the hospital to fly home on Monday, a spokesman said.

John Tull left Beth Israel Medical Center at about 7 a.m., hospital spokesman Mike Quane said. Tull was admitted to Beth Israel on Nov. 5.

Tull, whose feet were amputated due to extensive tissue damage, will begin physical therapy in Albuquerque, N.M., Quane said.

Disease investigators believe Tull and his wife, Lucinda

Marker, contracted plague from infected fleas on their Santa Fe, N.M., ranch. They became ill after arriving in New York on Nov. 1 for vacation.

Marker was released after less than two weeks in the hospital.

On a Web site she established to update friends on her husband's progress, Marker posted an update Sunday that described three months filled with "very late night conversations with doctors, sleepless nights, tears of great relief and of sadness."

"Love to all and we shall return to this fine city soon," Marker wrote. "Thank you for taking care of us."

Ridge calls latest terror warning most serious since Sept. 11 attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Monday the latest terrorism alert issued by the Bush administration represented "the most significant" such warning since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"One of the reasons that we raised it is that because we believe the threat has substantially increased in the last couple of weeks," Ridge said on CBS' "The Early Show."

The administration last Friday, citing intelligence that it said suggested a growing threat from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, increased the level of alert from yellow to orange.

On the five-step alert scale, red is the highest, but no such terrorist warning level has yet been issued.

Asked Monday what U.S. citizens are expected to do in response to such warnings, Ridge said, "When we raise the level of alert, when we raise the national consciousness about the level of attack, that in itself, is a deterrence. ... Just being more ready, being more prepared, is a deterrent in and of itself."

Ridge was questioned about the seriousness of the warning, which remains in effect.

"In discussing this matter with people that have been around the White House longer than I have, it is universally agreed that this is the most significant set of warnings that we've had since before Sept. 11," he replied.

Asked about critics' accusations that

the alert might have been tied to President Bush's warning to Saddam Hussein that time is running out on Baghdad avoiding war, Ridge said, "Well, I regret that interpretation."

Appearing on NBC's "Today" program, Ridge said the warning was based on "the accumulation of credible corroborated sources, none of which are connected to the possibility of military involvement with Iraq."

Ridge said it was not possible to be more specific about possible targets.

"We get general information and specific information, but none of the specific information talks about time, place or methods or means ... We don't get the specificity that we would all like to have in order to prepare," he said.

Iraq approves inspectors' use of U-2 surveillance planes, ambassador says

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq sent a letter to U.N. weapons inspectors Monday approving the use of U.S.-made U-2 surveillance planes and pledged to pass legislation next week outlawing the use of weapons of mass destruction, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations said.

"The inspectors are now free to use the American U-2s as well as French and Russian planes," Ambassador Mohamed al-Douri told The Associated Press.

Iraq had blocked the use of the planes, which inspectors said they needed in their search for banned weapons.

Al-Douri delivered the letter to the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, run at U.N. headquarters by Hans Blix, the chief weapons inspector.

Blix was on his way back to New York after a two-day visit to Baghdad, where he met with Iraqi officials in an effort to iron out problems and

try to enhance Iraqi cooperation with inspections.

Inspectors had made the issue of the U-2 plane a key demand along with other issues, including Iraq's failure to pass legislation on weapons of mass destruction.

Al-Douri said the legislation would be passed next week and that Iraq would continue to encourage scientists to accept private interviews with inspectors seeking information about Iraq's weapons programs.

The letter was written by Amer al-Saadi, an adviser to Saddam Hussein and Iraq's liaison to the inspectors, al-Douri said.

Blix's counterpart at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said earlier Monday that he expected the Iraqis to agree to the reconnaissance flights.

Speaking in Vienna after his return from the Baghdad trip, ElBaradei said that the Iraqis had also agreed to other

key demands which he and Blix had pushed for during their trip.

"There was a commitment they will fully comply" with the inspections regime, said ElBaradei, the top nuclear inspector. "We made progress on all the areas we asked for."

He said the Iraqis also promised to pass a law banning proscribed weapons.

"I think we got, at least in the area I'm responsible for — nuclear — commitment for all that we asked for. But we have to test that of course," ElBaradei said.

ElBaradei's spokesman said Iraq had agreed to allow U.N. inspectors to analyze the sites where it claims to have destroyed old chemical and

biological weapons.

"Iraq has offered to allow the inspectors to thoroughly investigate and analyze the sites where they claim to have destroyed chemical and biological weapons," said Mark Gwozdecky, the spokesman.

Iraq said the inspectors, accompanied by Iraqi officials, would be allowed to drill and analyze the findings, Gwozdecky said.

Over the weekend, the Iraqis gave the chief inspectors more documents pertaining to Iraq's past chemical and biological weapons, prompting the top inspectors to say they sensed a "good beginning" and a "positive attitude" in Baghdad.

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THE Pampa NEWS COMICS

MONDAY • FEBRUARY 10, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Send A Valentine Greeting To Our Troops Overseas

DEAR READERS: Friday is Valentine's Day. While we celebrate that special day with cards and flowers, remember also to send a message from home to our brave young men and women in the military who, in great numbers, have been deployed to places far away from loved ones.

Regardless of one's personal political beliefs, our troops deserve all the support we can give them. So don't forget to join me in sending a Valentine's Day greeting via www.OperationDearAbby.net.

DEAR ABBY: All too often, ignorant people make racist jokes or comments to me, assuming I won't be offended because we are of the same race (Caucasian). They may be co-workers, classmates or others with whom I must remain civil.

The truth is I am highly offended by any racist comment. I have an African-American brother-in-law and a biracial nephew, both of whom I love dearly. It is because of them that I have become acutely aware of the damage that disparaging remarks "of color" can do. However, each time it happens in my presence, I never know how to respond. Normally I just shrug and say nothing, then end up feeling terrible about my silence. How would you suggest I respond next time, Abby?

FEELING UNTRUE TO MYSELF IN MARYLAND

DEAR FEELING UNTRUE: Tell it like it is: I'm sorry you feel the way you do. My brother-

er-in-law is African-American and my nephew is biracial, and what you're saying certainly isn't true of them.

DEAR ABBY: I am an ambitious 22-year-old college senior. Two years ago, I met the man of my dreams. His name is "Wayne" and he's a youth minister. I feel like I've met my life companion.

The problem is that Wayne has a huge fear of commitment. On two separate occasions, we were engaged and about to make the announcement. However, at the last minute Wayne changed his mind and broke

off our entire relationship with, "I need time."

Please tell me what to do. I am beginning to have difficulty trusting him with my feelings because he has hurt me twice by bailing out.

HEARTBROKEN AND CONFUSED IN ALABAMA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN AND CONFUSED: Wayne may be the man of your dreams, but he clearly is not ready to make a lifetime commitment. Give him credit for being honest and all the time he needs, but in the meantime, date others and don't isolate yourself. "Mr. Right" for you may be just around the corner and as ready as you are to settle down.

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading your column for as long as I can remember. Now I'd like to tell you our story:

Close to Christmas, my husband received a telephone message from a woman in Tennessee. She said she had "a special something for him." Of course, all kinds of thoughts raced through our heads. My husband returned her call and was told that she had purchased a box of books several years earlier and had found his baby book among them. She had been trying to contact him ever since. She asked if he would like to have it back.

Apparently, when my husband's family moved years ago, the book had been misplaced. So on his birthday this year, he was reunited with his baby book after 58 years. Our heartfelt thanks to our "Angel in Tennessee" for caring enough to go that extra mile to track down my husband. We are truly grateful.

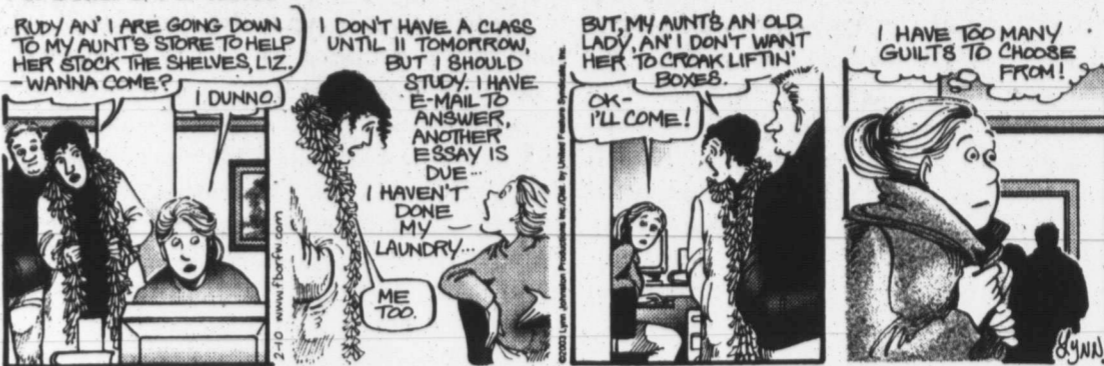
HELEN AND MONTY HARMON, PHOENIX

DEAR HELEN AND MONTY: It's nice to be reminded that people are willing to go out of their way to do kind things for strangers. It's the highest form of giving.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) for Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Wound reminder

1 Hearty dish

5 Fast planes

9 Motif

10 Ledger of "A Knight's Tale"

12 Arrested

13 Rowdy fellow

14 Grown-ups

16 Ailing

17 Flat-bottomed boat

18 Tried the soup

21 Ram's mate

22 Substitute

23 Feminine

24 Prudish

26 Member of the force

29 Male kangaroo

30 Use a VCR

31 Sleeve filler

32 "Absolutely!"

34 Packing box

37 Silly

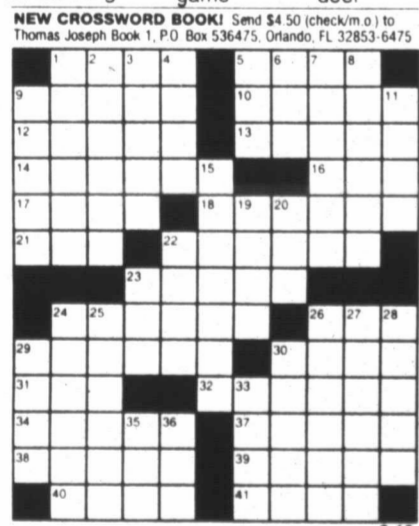
38 Travel stop

39 Cruise ship

40 Policy whiz



DOWN
1 Tail
2 Prof
3 Writer
4 Departed
5 Bashful
6 Mermaid's home
7 Where Gauguin painted
8 Hot
9 Barter
11 Ship
15 Use a wok
19 Friend
20 Cunning game



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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



"How 'bout havin' the United Nations do the inspectin'?"

Flo & Friends



BASKETBALL

PAMPA

be looking to playoff seed 3-4A when host Plainview Tuesday night Fieldhouse.

Pampa is strict race go row night's basketball final (3-8) gave problems in the Harveste round game.

Plainview may not be time around.

are coming o win over Dur

Zavaier has been in Bulldogs. H points in the Dumas.

Plainview the season is is 13-14 over

AUTO RA

DAYTON

Fla. (AP) — Brothers finish the Daytona cashed in the and immediately their father th owed him.

A year aren't nearly Eddie and

back at Dayton an driver R major comm

sponsor Mot ton of supp Motor Comp

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father Glen Leonard the NASCAR wa

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