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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, December 15, 2004 Volume 100 • No. 1133 50¢ Daily • 50¢

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Police investigating armed robbery

Officers seek man who confronted convenience store clerks late Monday night

Pampa police are investigating a report of an armed robbery which occurred at 11:38 p.m., Monday, Dec. 13, at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks. Police were called to the store after store clerks had been confront-

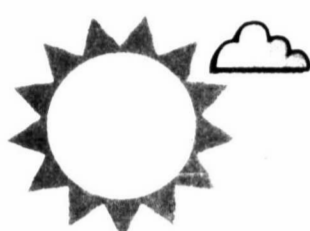
ed with an armed black male. The man "initially intimidated the clerks" by making references to a handgun, and the clerks "were coerced" into giving him some Skoal snuff and beer, said Lt. Fred

Courtney in a news release. "When the suspect started to leave, he thought one of the clerks was getting a weapon, and he raised his shirt, showing a gun in his belt," Courtney said.

The case remains open, and police are pursuing several leads concerning the suspect's identity, Courtney said. No arrests had been made as of press time today.

—Marilyn Powers, staff writer

Today's weather



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Deaths

- Joel Lynn Harmon, 43, lifelong Pampan.
- Flora Mae Kelley, 95, educator.
- Jack W. Nichols, 82, educator.
- Robert F. 'Bob' Walker, 65, contract pumper.

Morris to step in for city mgr.

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

City of Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris was named acting city manager at yesterday's city commission meeting in City Hall.

Morris will serve as city manager during the medical leave of absence of City Manager John Frost, who underwent coronary bypass surgery Dec. 8 at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo.

"John's doing very well. He's at home," said Ward 2 Commissioner Ray Boring.

Two agenda items concerning the city's conjunctive use groundwater supply agreement with Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA) were approved.

Resolution 04-108 authorizes an increase in the amount of project construction costs. Amendment No. 2 spells out the increases. All member cities must agree to the increase, which is an additional \$50 million for construction costs and an additional \$7 million for additional financing costs.

Pampa's share of the increased costs will be approximately \$3,823,321 over 20 years.

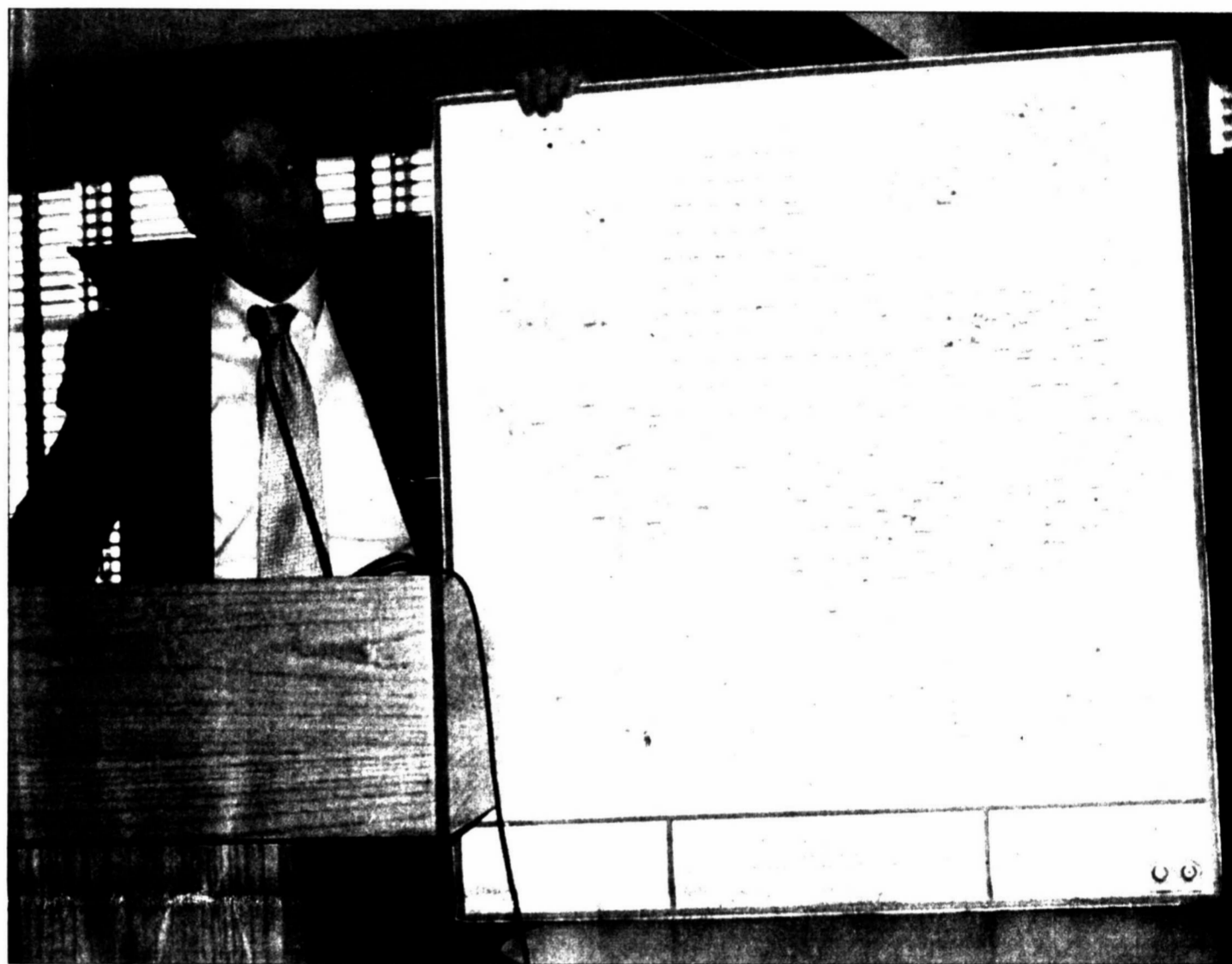
"It seems to me that we're just signing a blank check here," said Ward 1 Commissioner Jeff McCormick.

"In this resolution, we have to agree to it. We have no choice," said Ward 3 Commissioner Robert Dixon.

"The question of participating in the CRMWA additional water rights is probably the most important one we will face this fiscal year. This issue will affect debt service for the next 20 years and our water supply for the indefinite future," said Horst in an interoffice memorandum to commissioners prepared Nov. 22.

The issue of how to fund the increases was not addressed at yes-

See CITY, Page 3



(Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS)

State Senator Robert Duncan displays a map of the State of Texas, with each state senate district marked in a different color. Duncan's district, which includes Gray County, is colored blue. He was in Pampa yesterday for a town hall meeting at Gray County Courthouse, where he discussed school finance, water issues, workman's compensation and raises for state employees.

Duncan says 'tough year' ahead for Texas legislators

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

State Senator Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, has named four issues facing state legislators at their next session, which begins in January 2005. Duncan was in Pampa for a town hall meeting in Gray County Courthouse Tuesday.

School finance, water, worker's compensation and raises for state employees are the major issues Duncan listed.

"It's going to be a very tough year," he said of 2005, which is also an election year for several state offices.

"I don't need anyone to tell me that the system's not working. It doesn't matter if it's ruled unconsti-

tutional or not, it needs to be replaced," Duncan said of the current school finance system.

Costs of education have risen, such as insurance, utilities, and fuel for buses. The current tax system is inadequate to fund the costs, Duncan said, and most school districts have already reached the maximum allowable property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. The state legislature aims to get the tax rate down to \$1.10.

"A major overhaul and reform of our tax system is required," he said.

Some suggested changes in school finance include a state House of Representatives proposal for a payroll tax.

"I'm not so sure it works real well for all of us. It's kind of like an income tax paid by the employer. It discriminates against businesses that are labor intensive, and might encourage folks to cut back on job creation," Duncan said.

A revision of the franchise tax has the support of Lt. Governor David

See DUNCAN, Page 3

Egypt charts new course for peace in Middle East

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt is generating new hope for Mideast peace after four bleak years, transforming Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon from pariah to peacemaker and seeking to draw Arab leaders and a wary public into its efforts.

The peace drive has included appeals to Arab rulers to support the new Palestinian leadership and an economic deal Tuesday that

is arguably the biggest step in Israeli-Egyptian relations in 25 years.

Egypt appears determined to show Israel and President Bush, who has said a Palestinian state by 2009 is realistic, that the matter can be settled in 2005.

Egypt's plan is to follow an old one — the internationally backed "road map" for peace — and every step holds the potential for a set-

back, though it is making fresh commitments to lessen risks.

"We are trying to prepare the atmosphere (so) that the two parties can sit down and start to talk," said Mohammed Bassiouni, Egypt's former ambassador to Israel, who insists Egypt's goals are realistic.

Egypt's diplomatic efforts envision, according to Bassiouni, a March meeting

Fans mourn slain guitarist at service

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The smoke was thick, the music loud. The rum and the bourbon flowed, and so did the tears.

Guitar-shaped funeral wreaths lined the stage as thousands of grieving fans, many wearing concert T-shirts, gathered Tuesday night to remember slain rock star "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott.

"This guy was full of life. He lived and breathed rock 'n' roll," guitarist Eddie Van Halen said in a profanity-laced tribute to his heavy metal friend.

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Duncan

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Dewhurst. Duncan said most corporations, which are the target of the tax, have found ways around paying it by operating as limited partnerships.

A rise in the state sales tax is not the answer to school financing, Duncan said.

"Texas has the fifth high-

est sales tax in the nation. It's a regressive tax. One notion is to expand the sales tax base to services, and a bill doing that was passed 31-0, but that was before a lot of people had read the bill. Internet sales are hurting us because you can't charge sales tax on Internet sales," he said.

A plan which Duncan said had state Senate support was a tax on franchise and other business productivity, including a tax on services,

which are not currently taxed.

"This is a fair, even, level playing field type of system," Duncan said. "What we have now is an unfair tax on business."

Allowing video lottery terminals, or slot machines, to be placed at racetracks has also been proposed to raise education funds.

"Basically, we would be approving gambling in the State of Texas, and I don't think Texas is ready for gam-

bling," he said.

Whichever measure or measures are adopted, not everyone will be happy, Duncan said.

"If you operate a business, you're not going to be happy at times with what we're going to do," he said.

The water issue is important to the Pampa area as well as statewide. Duncan said the legislature should strengthen the ability of local ground water conservation districts to protect against

unfair and unreasonable markets, ward off legal challenges and practice conservation.

"I think it's very important for us to manage our own water supplies and do it in a reasonable way. We do not want Austin allocating our water for us," Duncan said.

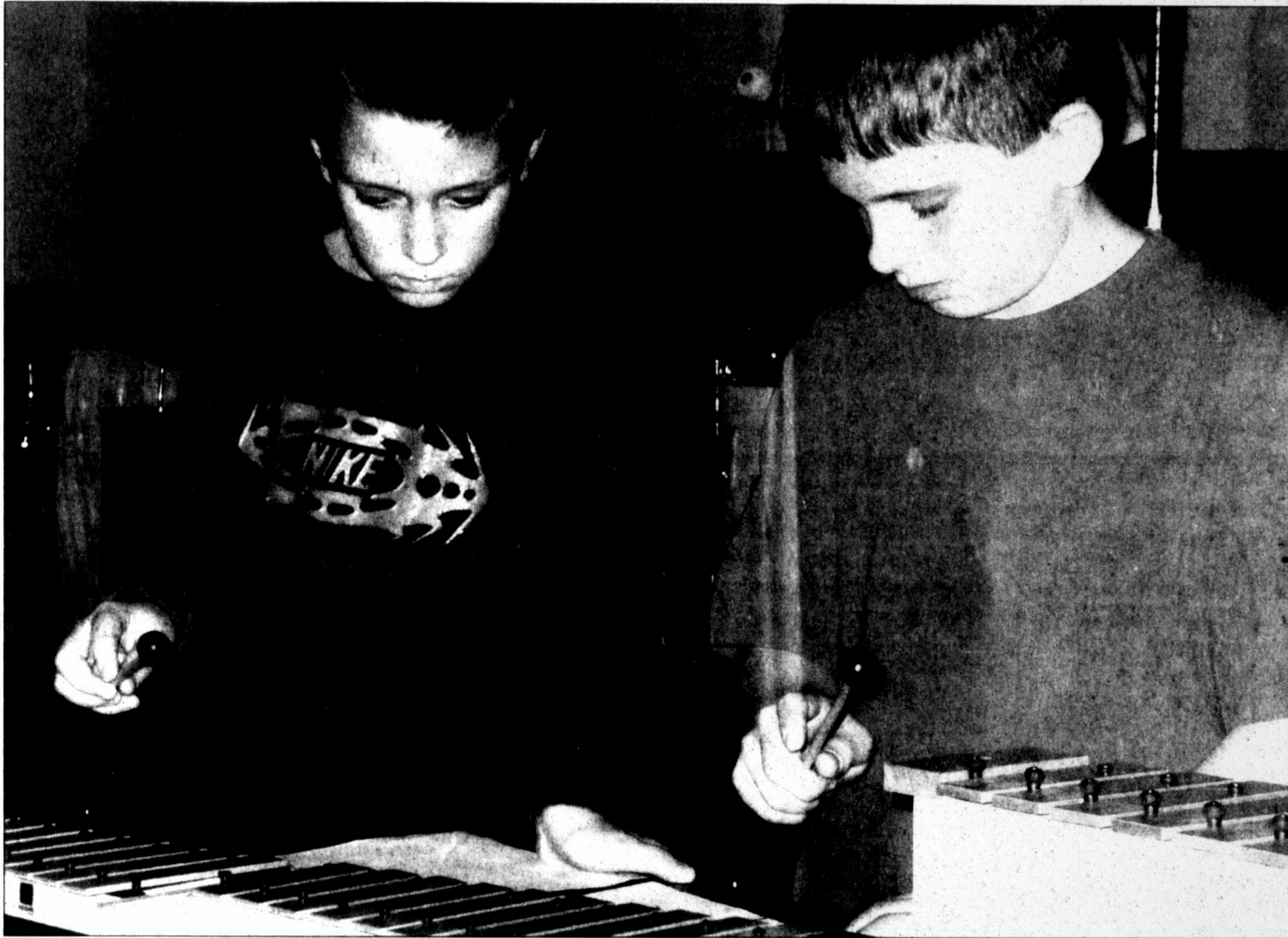
A balance needs to be found between health care providers and employers regarding workman's compensation, he said. One step toward better balance could

be achieved by changing the makeup of the state commission, Duncan said.

State employees deserve a raise, which hasn't been granted them in three years, he said.

"These are the guys who make \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. If we don't give them a raise, we'll have turnover and the services you receive will suffer," Duncan said.

About 25 attended the town hall meeting, which lasted for about one hour.



Create-A-Beat musicians

Ryne Davis and Larry Ragan demonstrate their newly acquired ability to play the glockenspiel. More than 30 other students also took part in the Create-a-Beat Christmas program Monday evening to show parents and supporters the work and talents of the approximately 55 children enrolled in the "after school arts" program directed by Julie Long.

City

Continued from Page 1

terday's commission meeting. Horst had listed several possibilities in the Nov. 22 memo, including a two-cent increase in the tax rate, a 17-cent increase in the water rate, reduce minimum water usage billed, reduce the administration fee from the water and wastewater fund paid to the general fund, or transfer sales tax collected above the budgeted amount to the water fund.

The 2004 tax roll was unanimously accepted. Total appraised value of property inside city limits is \$491,037,527, of which \$401,195,434 is taxable. The tax levy due is \$2,788,311.17.

Commissioners approved sending three firefighters to the Kilgore Fire Academy.

A bid of \$105 by Eric Ballew, 825 S. Banks, for delinquent tax property at 827 S. Banks was accepted.

A memorandum of agreement regarding the R.L. Franklin project at Lovett Memorial Library was approved. The project concerns a statue to be placed in

the courtyard of the library. The statue is to be created by David Frech and will depict "the strength of early pioneer women who settled in this area and all that they brought to family and educational life in the Texas Panhandle," according to the memorandum. In addition to donating the sculpture, Franklin will also donate required installation and landscaping.

Recreation Superintendent Shane Stokes reported that repairs to the roof of M.K. Brown

Civic Auditorium were completed, with a two-year warranty on the labor and at 15-year warranty on materials. Total cost of the project was \$111,700.

City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers reported that Jackie Harper has inspected every restaurant in town, and we are moving forward very positively. We now have a baseline when we start renewing health certificates in April.

Animal Control Officer Sandy Burns reported that Dr. Ron Easley, a local veterinarian, has offered to donate his services to a search and rescue dog which has been offered to the city. Documentation on

the dog has been received, she said. The city's only expense regarding the dog will be the cost of training its handlers.

"This is a forensic scent-trained dog. It will mostly be used to help fire and police personnel in activities such as finding a lost child or a person escaped from custody," Burns said.

"What will be the costs of training? We need to know that up front," said Boring. No action was taken concerning the dog pending further information on training.

In their last official act of 2004, commissioners voted unanimously to cancel their Dec. 28 meeting.

Tuesday's meeting had been moved from 4 p.m. to 3 p.m. so as not to conflict with a town hall meeting by State Senator Robert Duncan, which was held at Gray County Courthouse. Commissioners adjourned after a 29-minute session.

'This is a forensic scent-trained dog. It will mostly be used to help fire and police personnel in activities such as finding a lost child.'

—Sandy Burns
Animal Control Officer

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52. Wind chill values between 13 and 23. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Increasing clouds, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 45. Wind chill values between 19 and 29. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 26. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 51. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 56.

West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52. North northwest wind around 15 mph becoming southwest.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 26.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 50.

Baptist-St. Anthony's West.

Correction

In the final paragraph of the Walter William's column that ran on the Viewpoints page Thursday, Dec. 9, Franciscan University is located in Steubenville, Ohio, according to a correction posted by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

Record

Continued from Page 2

4:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to 22nd and Nelson and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to

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Pet of the Week



...Ornery

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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

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Viewpoints

Mid-term exams prepare for what's to come

In my first period class today, I opened to the index page of my economics textbook trying to hunt down the definition of the phrases, "inferior goods" and "market elasticity" along with 98 other terms.

All the while, I was madly trying to scribble down the notes that were being given to my class from our instructor about the proper role of the government in the world's four major economic systems and how govern-

ment often abuses that role.

In one short class period I had to refresh my member about everything I have learned in the class since the beginning of the year.

It was chaotic to say the least. The hectic situation was a sure sign of the most dreaded time of the year for students — mid-term examinations.

With such large amounts of material to review, the stress leading up to the exam can be grueling.

Especially when you are facing seven finals within two days of each other.

Each year during the week preceding the finals the stress which the student body feels seems to grow. As we try to remember everything that we have learned in our classes so far, the task can seem insur-

mountable; however, there are several key ways that students have found to deal with it.

The first method many use is not one I recommend.

It is the "forget about studying" method, most commonly found among those who do not care about grades.

The next is to simply study for one test at a time and work hard at time management. This system seems to work well for anyone who chooses it.

Regardless of what way each student finds to alleviate their stress, it is important that each one does find a way.

Because, after all, these tests consist of nothing more than what we already know, and that can't be too stressful.

But, more importantly, I have to think that in just one short year, I will be taking midterms on the college level.

Then I will be in appreciation of the stress which came with the mid-terms of this week because I know it is only preparing me for what is to come.

Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School and an intern at The Pampa News.



Ben Briscoe
News Intern

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 15, the 350th day of 2004. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1944, a single-engine plane carrying band-leader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

On this date:

- In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.
- In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police.
- In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the World War I Battle of Verdun.
- In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C.
- In 1944, American forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines.
- In 1944, the Senate approved the promotions of Henry H. Arnold, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall to the five-star rank of General of the Army and the nominations of William D. Leahy, Ernest J. King and Chester W. Nimitz as Admirals of the Fleet.

In 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court.

In 1964, Canada's House of Commons approved dropping the "Red Ensign" flag in favor of a new design.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6 and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

In 1979, the deposed Shah of Iran left the United States for Panama, the same day the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that Iran should release all its American hostages.

Ten years ago: President Clinton, in a 12-minute prime-time address, presented a package of tax cuts for middle-income families raising children, and outlined deep reductions in government programs to help pay for them.

Five years ago: With President Clinton's close mediation, Syria reopened peace talks with Israel in Washington.

One year ago: Iraqi leaders exuberant over the capture of Saddam Hussein said they wanted to send the former leader to a quick trial with an eye toward executing him by summer. But U.S. officials signaled the Iraqis would probably have to wait. Former nurse Charles Cullen was charged with murder after telling prosecutors he had killed 30 to 40 severely ill patients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey since 1987 by injecting them with drugs. The late Sen. Strom Thurmond's family acknowledged Essie Mae Washington-Williams' claim that she was his illegitimate mixed-race daughter.

'History is the record of an encounter between character and circumstances.'

— Donald Creighton
Canadian historian



Jeff Parker
caglecartoons.com
THE PAMPA NEWS
DECEMBER 15, 2004
PAMPA, TEXAS

People power now taking over

The election of 2004 will be seen historically as the beginning of a dramatic reshaping of the techniques, methods and tactics of American politics.

This year, the nation's political process was turned upside down as the elites lost power and the masses of average voters gained it.

"Mass communication" usually denotes the few speaking to the many through the journalistic and electronic media that they control. Now it must be redefined as the masses communicating and imposing their views on the elites, often over the furious objections of their former masters.

The defeat of the networks in the war of CBS versus the bloggers is one of

the most dramatic illustrations of this new political dynamic. All of Dan Rather's men could not put over a forgery of Bush's National Guard record on America's bloggers, who eventually forced the CBS anchor from his perch atop old politics.

The way a handful of Swift boat Vietnam veterans with only a few hundred thousand dollars among them were able to defeat the entire propaganda apparatus of the Democratic Party and nullify the effect of a four-day national convention with its extensive

panoply of stars and massive media coverage is another example of the emerging people power.

And when the national elite media broke the October surprise — The New York Times/CBS story of the disappearing munitions from an Iraqi storage site — the administration's denials and explanations were broadcast so widely by the talk radio hosts and Internet bloggers that the story first was blunted and then backfired on the Democrats.

The final manifestation of people power came on

Election Day, when Republicans rallied 1.4 million voters to work at getting out their voters in swing states. This massive outpouring of volunteers, reminiscent of the 1964 Goldwater and 1972 McGovern campaigns combined, has never happened in any campaign of the past 30 years. While Democrats relied mainly on paid workers and hired legions of lawyers to prepare for the challenges to voters that Republicans threatened but never actually lodged, the GOP created a gigantic national organization to funnel manpower into swing states, which generated a record turnout of GOP loyalists.

See PEOPLE, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



Putin marching opposite freedom

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently condemned any international interference in Ukraine's constitutional crisis, brought on by election fraud.

Putin then promptly dismissed the idea of repeating the flawed presidential runoff election a course that opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko demands, Ukraine's Parliament favors and its Supreme Court has ordered.

Putin apparently still regards Ukraine as a Russian province, or at least an inviolable sphere of influence. Putin's desire to keep Ukraine oriented toward

Russia rather than the West is understandable, given the long political and cultural attachment of the two countries and the rapid expansion of NATO to Russia's borders.

However, Russia cannot maintain its ties to Ukraine at the expense of democracy and honest elections.

As Ukraine's democratic institutions worked to relieve the crisis and ensure democratic rule untainted by voter fraud perpetrated by the government, Ukrainian

President Leonid Kuchma traveled to Russia to meet with Putin, as if the Russian autocrat's advice should have a bearing on the course of Ukrainian democracy.

Putin, himself democratically elected, has used his tenure in office and the excuse of Chechen terrorism to reduce state and local control by elected officials. He is also trying to re-establish government control over Russia's media and energy sector.

When Putin visited Houston and President Bush's ranch at Crawford in 2001, Bush said the more time he spent with Putin, the more he could see the latter's heart and soul, and the more sure he became that the two could form a relationship built on trust.

Bush should tell his Russian counterpart that the relationship also requires mutual reverence for democracy and fair elections.

At a time when Bush says freedom is on the march, Putin is all too willing to march in the opposite direction.

Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Bowling for toys

Local bowlers helped Harvester Lanes bowling center raise \$1,200 in scholarship funds for junior bowlers and 146 toys for Tralee Crisis Center during a tournament Dec. 11. Shown with the toys are, clockwise from top left, Santa Claus, youth bowling coach Vickie Long, Andy Dunn, Jason Hartune, youth bowling fundraising chairman Kristi Lee, Phillip Rodriguez, Andy Anderson, Nick Hess, youth bowling coach Carlton Cates, Atlanta Son, Zach Wilson, youth bowling coach Moriss Long, Scott Fowler, Cody Hess, Kelsi Hinds, Tralee Crisis Center Executive Director Kim Davis, Shayley Morriss, Aubrey Grubritz, Tyler Hughes, Jacee Hughes, Sean Skovbo, Nicholas Rodriguez, Stephen Nord, Bryce Parker, Christian Skovbo, Allen Osborn, Holly Osborn, Ryan Lee, Colton McPherson and Andrew Morriss. Forty-eight three-bowler teams, or a total of 144 bowlers, participated in the tournament.

Cheney says making tax cuts permanent critical for economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday it is critical to make President Bush's tax cuts permanent during his second term while achieving broader reforms in the tax code and bolstering Social Security.

Speaking at the start of a two-day White House conference on the economy, Cheney said the administration believed Bush's four tax cuts over the past four years had provided a badly needed boost to get the economy out of recession. But he said now the focus needed to be on making the tax cuts permanent.

'Fundamental tax reform is a top priority of President Bush's second term in office.'

— John Snow
Treasury Secretary

"We still have more work to do, but we believe we are on the right track," Cheney told the audience of business leaders, economists and Washington lobbyists.

The administration is hoping to build momentum for Bush's ambitious second-term agenda during the two-day conference sponsored by the White House.

Various panels were sched-

uled to address Bush's proposals on overhauling the tax code and Social Security as well as promoting freer trade and placing limits on lawsuits.

The effort is already facing major obstacles with such groups as AARP, which represents millions of retired people, and organized labor, represented by the AFL-CIO, vowing to fight Bush's proposals on Social Security reform in Congress.

Treasury Secretary John Snow, whom the president decided last week to keep on as his chief economic spokesman, told the conference that the administration was determined to enact an overhaul of the tax system in the coming term, calling the current system too complex.

"Fundamental tax reform is a top priority of President Bush's second term in office. This administration is committed to the task, and we will get it done," Snow said.

"A complicated code robs cit-

izens and business owners of precious resources, namely their time and money. And it also allows too many people to find loopholes, which undermines our system of voluntary compliance."

Harvard economics professor Martin Feldstein, participating in a panel on economic conditions, said he believes the country has emerged from the 2001 recession and the prolonged period of weak job growth.

"I'm pleased to say the economy is now in very good shape," Feldstein said. "National income is growing, growing at an above-trend pace, employment is rising, inflation is low. So by all of the key measures, we're in good shape."

Feldstein, a Republican who is a candidate to succeed Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, added, "The weakness of the economy we worried about a few years ago is now essentially all gone thanks to supportive, stimulative Fed policy and the combination of personal tax cuts and the tax incentives for business."

Feldstein plugged Bush's top domestic priority: reforming Social Security and including a private retirement account option. As he

spoke, Cheney sipped from a coffee mug and took notes.

Bush aides acknowledge new proposals aren't in the cards for the forum on Wednesday and Thursday at the Reagan federal office building near the White House.

Bush planned to listen to a panel on lawsuit reform Wednesday and deliver remarks closing the sessions Thursday afternoon.

People

Continued from Page 4

If people power was the big winner of the 2004 elections, money power was the big loser. With a record amount of money spent in the 14 swing states — and almost nothing in the other 36 — the vote tabulations show how little money mattered.

Bush ran 2.6 percent better in the swing states than he did in the same states in 2000 and 2.9 percent better in the non-swing states where no money was spent. All of George Soros's millions and the vast sums spent by the 527 committees, on both sides, made very little difference.

Indeed, the real losers of 2004 were the parties and the presidential campaigns. In past elections, the vast majority of inputs that determined the outcome of the vote came from the two party organizations or from the candidates and their committees.

But in 2004, the campaigns lost control over the election. Many new forces emerged, quite beyond their control, to shape the outcome and form public opinion.

Bookstores were filled in the past year with volumes on both sides of the struggle. Tatum O'Neal and Bob Dylan couldn't get a word in edgewise as the likes of Richard Clarke and the Swift boaters dominated the best-seller list. Michael Moore — a man neither political party wants to touch — showed his incendiary film, "Fahrenheit 9/11," to tens of millions with the complicity of liberal movie chains. Less well-endowed, his critics and I circulated hundreds of thousands of copies of the rebuttal "FahrenHYPE 9/11" (still available at www.overstock.com).

Talk radio, Fox News, and Newsmax.com all circulated an alternative view from the networks and the elite newspapers, creating a sort of Radio Free America that rebutted the distortions of the mainstream media.

And then there were the bloggers. Every week, every day, everybody got first a few and then a deluge of blogs from friends and family about the election. Websites offering daily commentary proliferated. These informal, unpaid, unedited, unsanctioned expressions of opinion, a kind of political spontaneous combustion, came to dominate the dialogue of 2004.

In a way, this mass expression of grassroots opinion has its parallel in the financial markets, which have put global economics out of the control of presidents, prime ministers, chancellors and even international bankers. The markets have ruled economics for a decade now. In 2004, public opinion, spontaneously generated, came to rule politics.

Dick Morris is a political analyst who was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

'Talk radio, Fox News, and Newsmax.com all circulated an alternative view from the networks and the elite newspapers, creating a sort of Radio Free America that rebutted the distortions of the mainstream media.'

Calendar items

VFW Bingo. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Danny Martin, (806) 835-2906.

WDLM Advisory Board. White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board meets at 4:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the museum, 116 S. Cuyler St., Pampa.

Butterfly Garden Club. The Butterfly Garden Club of America offers free butterfly garden seeds (with growing instructions). To receive a packet, send a long SASE with two stamps to: The Butterfly Garden Club of America, P.O. Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household. Additional packets are available for \$1 each.

Downtown Business Association. Pampa Downtown Business Association meets at 8:30 a.m., the first Thursday of the month at The Coffee Shop on Cuyler. All members are urged to attend.

Golden Spread Coin Club. Golden Spread Coin Club, originally Amarillo Coin Club, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month. GSCC is a member of American Numismatic Association. For more information, call (806) 352-8281 or (806) 342-9536.

Gray Co. Ass'n for Retarded Citizens.

Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

Gray Co. Extension Education. Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.

Gray Co. Genealogical Society. Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.

Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society. Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in the hobby of water gardening and fish keeping is welcome. For more information, contact Gary Stevens at 669-7956, Jack Chisum at 665-2878 or Debbie Davis at 665-0123.

Magic Plains ABWA. Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Clint and Sons Smokehouse, 1421 N. Hobart. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

Early Deadlines for Christmas

CLASSIFIED LINE ADS AND CITY BRIEFS

Insertion Date	Deadline
Mon., Dec. 27th	Fri., Dec. 24th, 10:00am
Tues., Dec. 28th	Fri., Dec. 24th, Noon

ROP DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED DISPLAY (Boxed Ads)

Mon., Dec. 27th	Thurs., Dec. 23rd, 3:00pm
Tues., Dec. 28th	Thurs., Dec. 23rd, 3:00pm
Wed., Dec. 29th	Fri., Dec. 24th, 10am

NO SUNDAY PAPER

THE PAMPA NEWS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24TH & CLOSED DECEMBER 27TH IN HONOR OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a female member of the military, stationed for the past nine months in Iraq. I recently received a letter from a friend who is having problems in her marriage. She has asked to move in with me when I return to the states in about three months. She says it's only until she gets back on her feet.

There's no way I can let that happen. She has too much drama in her life, and I have grown accustomed to living by myself. When I get home, all I want is peace and quiet. How can I tell her that I don't want a roommate without hurting her feelings? -- PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DEAR PEACE: Be direct, and don't go into detail. Tell her that your tour of duty has been stressful -- it's the truth -- and that when you return home you plan to live alone. Do not talk about the drama in her life. Talk about the drama that's been going on in your life. You have a right to peace of mind, and your friend should not expect you to straighten her life out for her. After a tour in Iraq, you've done enough.

DEAR ABBY: I was seeing someone in the apartment complex where I live. It was the maintenance man, "Stan." At first, we kept it quiet because of problems I have with my ex, "Mac." Mac and I have children together and he always finds ways to destroy my new dates -- so the less he knows, the better.

But I was falling in love with Stan, so one night we decided to go out in public. Mac found out and had a friend of his tell me Stan could lose his job.

Since I can't afford to move and didn't want Stan to lose his job, I started avoiding him. It's been six weeks, and I feel I have lost the best thing that ever happened to me. Please

tell me what to do. -- GRIEVING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR GRIEVING: The first thing to do is pick up the phone and contact the office of the building. Without being specific, inquire if there is any formal policy regarding residents fraternizing with staff.

If there is a rule that forbids it, rather than avoiding Stan, I advise you to have a serious chat with him. If you both want to pursue a relationship and moving isn't an option, perhaps he should find a job with another building. Good maintenance men are hard to find.

DEAR ABBY: I met someone almost a year ago. "Donald" and I dated for several months, but it ended badly. A few months ago, we started communicating again -- and I thought everything was going well. Then, all of a sudden out of the blue, he stopped calling.

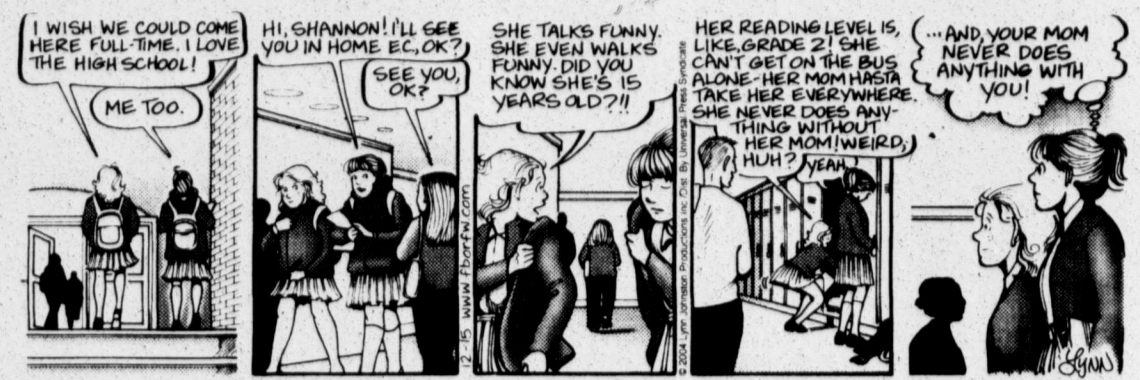
We were intimate each time I saw him. Now I am pregnant.

Abby, I'm 44 and have never had a child. Donald is 50 and has never been married or fathered a child either. I have left him several messages since I learned I was pregnant and have asked why he hasn't returned my calls. He has not contacted me.

I feel absolutely abandoned, hurt and betrayed. Donald is a wealthy playboy, and sometimes extremely selfish. I want this child, but need some sort of acknowledgement from him. What should I do? -- SHOCKED, DISTRAUGHT AND PREGNANT IN OHIO

DEAR PREGNANT: Pick up the phone and make one more call -- to an attorney. It will be a good investment. You may feel hurt, abandoned and betrayed, but I see child support in your future. It's time for the daddy-to-be to step up to the plate.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Singer Robert
 - 7 Tiff
 - 11 Atlas section
 - 12 Aspiration
 - 13 Flammable stuff
 - 14 Like some tea
 - 15 Biological groups
 - 17 Ordered, in olden days
 - 20 Fire starter
 - 23 Commotion
 - 24 Like very cold temperatures
 - 26 Dijen denial
 - 27 Mamie's hubby
 - 28 Zodiac cat
 - 29 Fishing boat
 - 31 Track trip
 - 32 To the time that
 - 33 May honorees
 - 34 Guarantee
 - 37 Refuse to go on
 - 39 Bath powder
 - 43 Eyeball
 - 44 Wake up
 - 45 Well-behaved
- DOWN**
- 1 Grasp
 - 2 Opposite of 26-
 - 3 Coffee holder
 - 4 Skiers' hangout
 - 5 Fencing weapon
 - 6 Sea flier
 - 7 Red wine
 - 8 Idaho city
 - 9 Mimic
 - 10 Cartoonist Key
 - 16 Glowing coal
 - 17 African tongue
 - 18 Decorate
 - 19 Florentine slang sculptor
 - 21 Coffee neighbor add-in
 - 22 Court sport
 - 24 Singer now nicknamed "Bubbles"
 - 25 Luau strings
 - 30 Was "Lethal flirtatious Weapon"
 - 33 Head, in
 - 35 California
 - 36 -avis
 - 37 Marsh
 - 38 Before
 - 40 Bossy's chew
 - 41 Work strings
 - 42 Gibson of

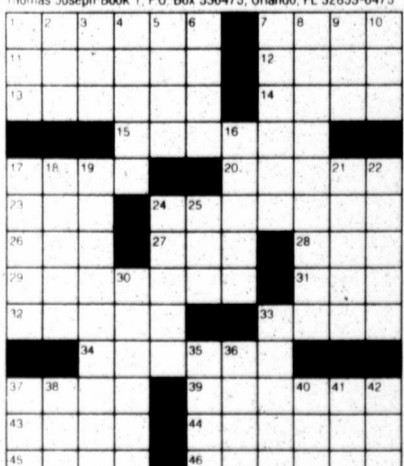
ROILS TRIPS
ERNIE HOVEL
BAKED POTATO
SLY AIM NEW
SNEAK
SHIPS SNAFU
PACE OXEN
AGENT STEED
TROTS
ASA ANY ASH
BAKED ALASKA
CLINE UNTIL
SENDS STONE

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Decorate
- 19 Florentine slang sculptor
- 21 Coffee neighbor add-in
- 22 Court sport
- 24 Singer now nicknamed "Bubbles"
- 25 Luau strings
- 30 Was "Lethal flirtatious Weapon"
- 33 Head, in
- 35 California
- 36 -avis
- 37 Marsh
- 38 Before
- 40 Bossy's chew
- 41 Work strings
- 42 Gibson of

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!

Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Books, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



B.C.



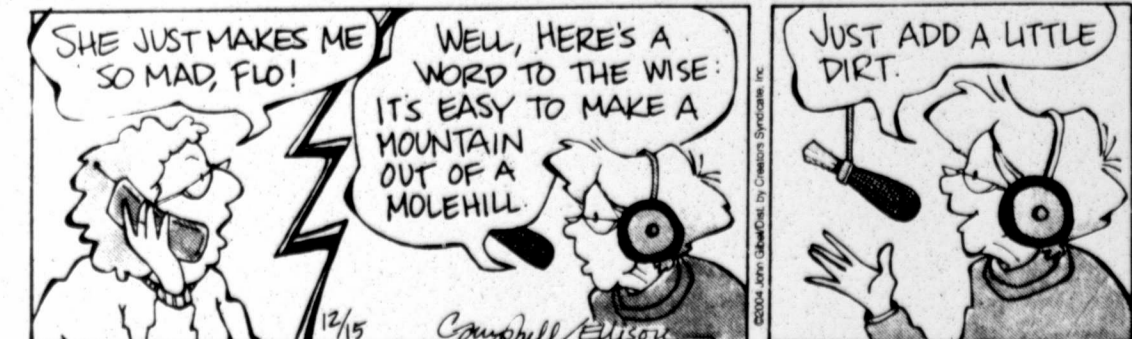
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

