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# THE PAMPA NEWS

January 13, 2005

Volume 100 • No. 1187

50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1

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## Petition to remove Roach filed here

District Attorney staff member states in affidavit that she witnessed drug use

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

A petition for removal of Rick Roach from the office of 31st and 223rd District Attorney was filed at 3:36 p.m., Wednesday, in the 31st District clerk's office, with

Rebecca Bailey, an employee in Roach's Pampa office, as plaintiff.

Bailey stated under oath in a written affidavit that she had seen Roach inject himself with "a substance he represented to be, and which I believed to be, metham-

phetamine, a controlled substance" on Dec. 16, 2004 and on Jan. 3 at the Caprock Apartments, 1601 W. Somerville.

Bailey swore that on Jan. 7, she observed Roach in possession of "a substance he represented to be, and

which I believed to be, methamphetamine, a controlled substance" in the 31st District Attorney's office.

Gray County Attorney Josh Seabourn prepared the petition, which cites the Texas Local Government Code concerning an action

for removal of a district attorney.

"Pursuant to 87.011 of the Texas Local Government Code, Defendant must be removed from office for incompetency and official

See PETITION, Page 3

### Today's weather



H 43 L 20

### Deaths

Bill Lambright, 76, oil-field worker and farmer.

### Local Briefs

#### County Commission faces short agenda

Gray County commissioners have a relatively short agenda posted for their next meeting at 9 a.m., Friday, Jan. 14, in the second-floor courtroom of Gray County Courthouse.

One item, listed as old business, is approval of elected officials' bonds. Some bonds were approved at the commissioners' last meeting on Dec. 31, 2004. County and district officials elected in the November 2004 general election were sworn in as of Jan. 1.

New business on the agenda includes a county treasurer's report; payment of bills and salaries as approved by the county auditor; a tax bid on Block 64, Lots 18, 19 and 20, Original McLean, in McLean; and recognition of the county treasurer's continuing education.

#### PHS student leaders to be honored Jan. 20

Pampa High School's student leaders and their parents are to be honored Thursday, Jan. 20, with a reception at the PHS library.

The reception, hosted by Superintendent Barry Haenisch and PHS Principal Evan Smith, begins at 5 p.m..

The Student Leader's Reception is a program that serves to thank the students who volunteer their time and effort to work with PHS organizations and activities.

#### Incubator Project topic of CofC meeting

Don Taylor of West Texas A&M University Enterprise Network (Business Incubator Project) will be guest speaker at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Jan. 18, in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building. Cost for the meal, sponsored by United Supermarket and catered by Texas Rose, is \$7 per person. For reservations, call 669-3241.



### Basketball royalty

This week has been designated as "Basketball Homecoming Week" at Pampa High School. Basketball Homecoming King and Queen nominees were decided in an election held in homeroom earlier this week. Winners will be announced during halftime of the boys game against Randall at McNeely Field House. The nominees are as follow: front row, Teryn Garner, Brittin East, and Jaclyn Spearman; back row, Ricky Harvill, Anna Schafer, and Tyler Doughty. The varsity girls team is scheduled to play at 6 p.m., Friday, and the varsity boys game is set for 7:30 p.m.

## PHS students raise money for victims of quake, tsunamis

By BEN BRISCOE  
News Intern

The further she drove, the higher the death toll rose.

Lesley Gershmel, Pampa High School Safe and Drug Free Campus Coordinator, first heard about the trip to Montana visiting her husband's family.

"It seemed unbelievable. The natural disaster was such a large catastrophe," Gershmel said. "It did not seem possible."

During her two-day, 18-hour drive back home, Gershmel was addicted to news radio.

"Each time we crossed another state border, the radio reported more destruction discovered from the storm. It was about the time we reached Texas that I knew there had to be some way to help out these victims," she said.

Six days later, Gershmel decided

that she would use a group of high school students, called The Challengers, to help raise money for aid relief in conjunction with the Red Cross.

The Challengers are part of an organization made up of 70 students and 17 adult facilitators which originated early in the fall semester when the high school partook in an anti-bullying program called Challenge Day. The program, organized locally by Gershmel, taught students to except diversity and help each other when in need.

"It just seemed to me that the program's goals clicked perfectly with the task of raising money. It was a natural connection," Gershmel said.

Although the AP reported Tuesday afternoon that more than \$4 billion dollars have been pledged worldwide, Jan Egeland,

*'... I knew there had to be some way to help out these victims.'*

Lesley Gershmel  
PHS Safe and Drug Free  
Campus Coordinator

See STUDENTS, Page 3

## Three more charges levied against Roach

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Three additional counts involving firearms and narcotics violations have been added to a federal indictment against Rick Roach, 31st and 223rd District Attorney.

William E. Kelly III, an Amarillo attorney, has agreed to represent Roach. Kelly confirmed by telephone today.

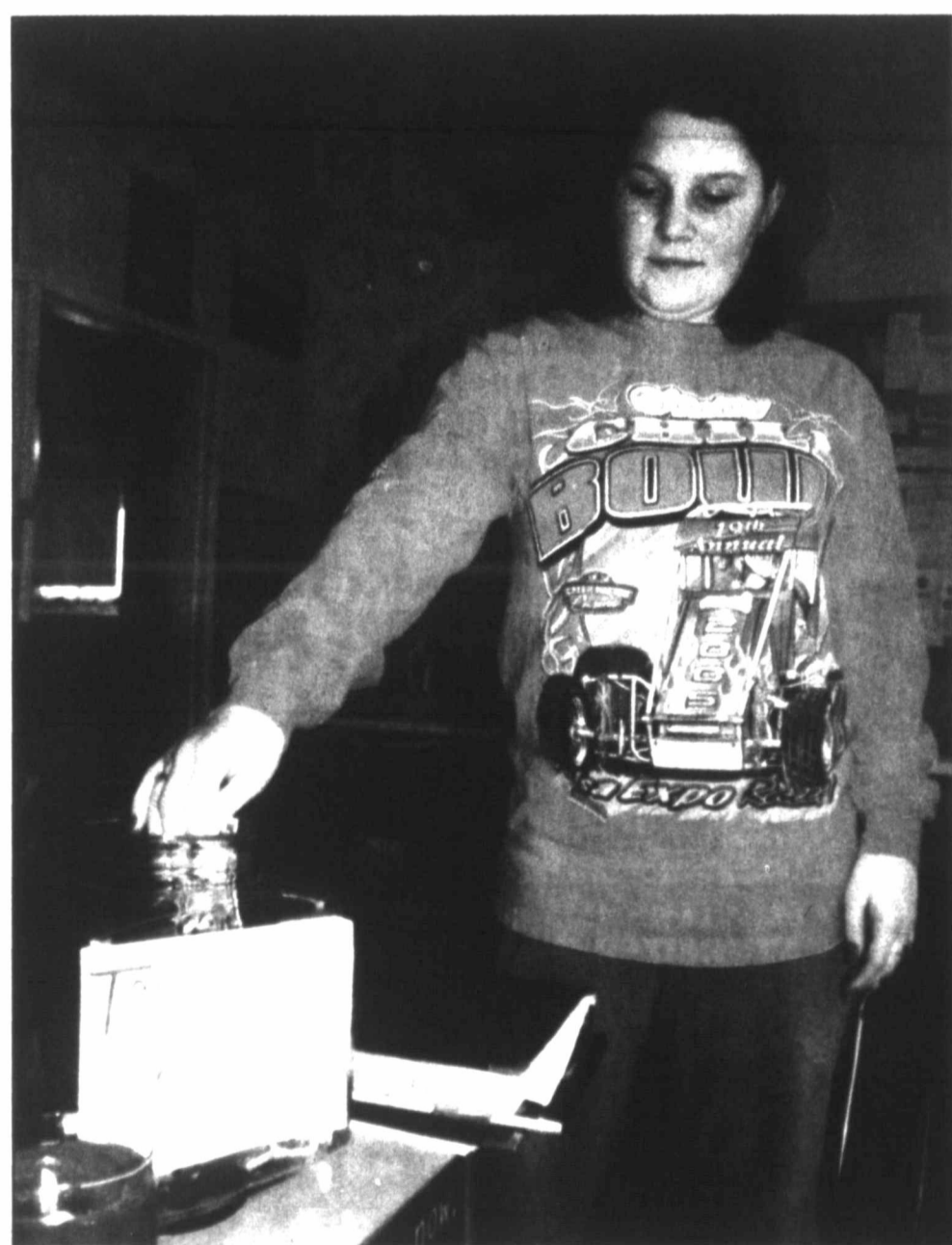
"I've known him, just primarily through the legal profession, for quite a few years," Kelly said. Roach approached him about the representation, he said.

Count 1 of the federal indictment charges that Roach, allegedly being "an unlawful user and then being addicted to a controlled substance," "did knowingly and intentionally possess firearms, to wit: a Beretta .380 caliber, semi-automatic pistol . . . and a Smith & Wesson, model 915, 9mm pistol . . . that had been shipped or transported in interstate commerce."

See CHARGES, Page 3

*'It's my understanding that he's currently at the Dickens County (jail) facility.'*

—Christy L. Drake  
assistant U.S. attorney



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Pampa High School Senior Melyssa Flaharity drops a donation into a relief fund collection jar in a Challenge Day adult facilitator's classroom.

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# December retail sales solid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retail sales, helped by sizzling activity in auto showrooms, jumped by 1.2 percent in December, providing a solid finish to a year in which sales climbed at the fastest pace since 1999.

The December increase in retail sales pushed total spending for the month to a seasonally adjusted \$349.4 billion, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

The December gain followed a much smaller 0.1 percent rise in November and reflected the fact that consumers were spending heavily on new cars in response to the return of attractive incentive programs.

Spending on car purchases shot up 4.3 percent last month after having fallen by 1 percent in November.

Excluding autos, consumer spending rose by a more moderate 0.3 percent in December, slightly lower than the 0.4 percent increase excluding autos in November.

Analysts said that spending would have been better last month if it had not been for a big drop of 2 percent in sales at gasoline service stations, a decline that was seen as positive for the economy because it reflected lower gasoline pump prices rather than weaker demand.

For the year, retail sales climbed a solid 8 percent, the best performance since an 8.5 percent rise in 1999 and a performance that

analysts hailed as showing that consumers, who have been the star performers in this recovery, are still willing to spend.

"All this worry about consumer being overwhelmed by debt and threatening to pull back is very much overblown," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. "We have got job growth and people are out spending. We really do have some momentum to the economy."

The 1.2 percent jump in overall sales in December showed that retailers did indeed have a solid Christmas sales season, helped by a surge of shopping just before and after the holiday that helped to alleviate worries about a slow start to the holiday season.

"Households spent a ton in December and it was not just gift cards that they were buying," said Joel Naroff, head of Naroff Economic Advisors.

In a second report, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose by 10,000 last week to a three-month high of 367,000. The four-week moving average, which smooths out weekly fluctuations, rose to a three-month high as well of 344,000.

Analysts cautioned that the jobless figures often produce misleading signals in holiday weeks.

## Obituaries

### Bill Lambright, 76

Bill Lambright, 76, of Pampa, Texas, died Monday, Jan. 10, 2005, in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of the Central Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Lambright was born May 12, 1928, in Eastland County, Texas, the youngest child of James Monroe and Lydia Viola Cochran Lambright. He married Frances Edna Dickey on March 21, 1945, and they remained married until 1970.

He had been a resident of Pampa since 1947.

He worked in the oilfields with the Chennie Torpedo Company and later with

his own B.J. Lambright & Son Trucking Co. His semi-retirement years were spent on his farm south of Pampa.

Survivors include a special friend, Melba Sorrell of Pampa; one daughter, Patricia Ann Bolln and husband Barry of Hilo, Hawaii; one son, Jerry Don (J.D.) Lambright and wife Belinda of Montgomery; 15 nieces and nephews from the Burkburnett area, and also two nephews, Donald Ray Barnhill and wife Sharon of Texas City and Jimmie Lee Holder of Eugene, Ore.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Claude Lambright and Wesley Lambright; and two sisters, Daisy Carrie Jones and Ruth Etta Weaver.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79176.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).



Lambright

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 12

Matthew Glen Bolch, 22, 855 Banks, was arrested for driving while license suspended.

Police officers served three warrants, made eight traffic stops, responded to four civil matters and one business alarm, and performed one welfare check.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart Street, the 100 block of North Cuyler St., and the 200 block of West Kingsmill Avenue.

A traffic complaint was taken at Buckler and Christy streets.

Public intoxication was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester Ave.

An animal complaint was taken in the 500 block of Oklahoma St. concerning a German Shepherd hanging through a fence by its collar and a chain. The canine was reported as still alive by the complainant.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill by two separate complainants.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received in the 1700

block of North Banks, in the 900 block of S. Gray, the 500 block of North Lowry, the 900 block of Varnon Drive and the 1200 block of North Wells.

A narcotic drug law violation was reported in the 300 block of Jean Street.

Disorderly conduct - fighting was reported in the 2400 block of Charles Street.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill and in the 1000 block of Huff Road.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 1600 block of North Dwight, the 600 block of East Foster, and at Wilks and Faulkner streets.

Harassment was reported in the 1600 block of North Zimmers.

A runaway was reported in the 300 block of South Cuyler.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of East Francis and the 1800 block of North Banks.

Criminal mischief was reported at Starkweather and Yeager streets.

### Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 12

Magaline Taylor, 41, 327 N. Dwight, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety on Wheeler County warrants for tampering with government records, possession of marijuana and a probation violation.

#### Thursday, Jan. 13

Leander Feltner, 21, Lefors, was arrested for public intoxication.

### Fire

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

#### Wednesday, Jan. 12

8:15 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a vehicle fire, one-quarter mile west of Pampa on Texas Highway 152. The fire was out on arrival, extinguished by the owner.

8:40 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 1100 block of Somerville on a carbon monoxide check. None was found.

#### Thursday, Jan. 13

5:55 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a LifeStar medical helicopter standby at One Medical Plaza.

## Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Wind chill values between 10 and 20. North northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 20. Wind chill values between 8 and 18. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 39. Wind chill values between 7 and 17. South southwest wind around 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 per-

cent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 14. Wind chill values between zero and 10. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east southeast.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high around 29. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 19. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Monday: Cloudy, with a high near 32. East northeast wind around 15 mph becoming south.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low near 23.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 46.

## Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Antebury Grain of Pampa:

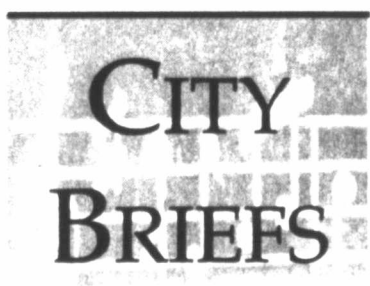
Wheat	3.17
Milo	3.17
Corn	3.67
Soybeans	4.64

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

OXY	56.60	-0.07
BPPLC ADR	57.66	-0.14

Cabot Corp	35.50	+0.20
Cabot Oil Gas	42.50	+0.26
Coca Cola	41.04	-0.12
VLO	46.69	+1.33
HAL	40.11	+0.59
TRI	39.84	NC
NOI	35.10	+0.25
KMI	72.85	+0.04
XCEL	17.84	+0.14
Kerr McGee	58.49	+0.30
XOM	50.79	+0.20
Limited	22.40	+0.03
Williams	16.19	+0.20
MCD	31.14	-0.20

Atmos	26.27	-0.07
Pioneer Nat	33.72	-0.08
JCP	41.94	+0.58
COP	87.80	+0.53
SLB	64.43	+0.40
Tenneco	15.60	+0.05
CVX	52.33	-0.16
Wal-Mart	54.12	+0.04
ORKE	27.19	+0.08
NS Gp	26.47	+0.41
New York Gold	426.15	
Silver	6.69	
West Texas Crude	46.37	



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PHS CHOIR Gar. Sale, Sat., Jan. 15, MK Brown, 9-3 p

REWARD \$\$ for person or persons who ran into the OCB, Fri. night Jan. 7. Suspect believed to be driving darker color Cougar or Thunderbird. Any info. please contact Deputy Larue, 669-8022

## Baylor suing former seminary pupil over alleged lewd e-mails

WACO, Texas (AP) — A former Baylor University seminary student who lost his scholarship because he is gay is accused of sending lewd e-mails to employees and their families.

Baylor filed a lawsuit Wednesday alleging that beginning last fall, James Matthew Bass sent more than 1,000 e-mails containing pornographic images and messages. Baylor officials also obtained a restraining order Wednesday against Bass, prohibiting him from sending e-mails to Baylor officials and their families.

Bass could not be reached for comment.

The action updates a petition Baylor filed in November against a defendant identified as John Doe. At the time, Baylor's attorney said officials did not know who sent the e-mails to administrators at the world's largest Baptist university.

The lawsuit says many e-mails were sent under the names of Baylor employees or their family members, and one purported to be from an unidentified Baylor employee's child who implored the parent to stop committing sexual abuse.

Some e-mails referred to

sexual activities by Jesus Christ, and others contained racial epithets, according to the suit.

One group of e-mails incorrectly reported the death of a faculty member who recently had a stroke, and an obituary for an administrator was sent to news organizations, according to the suit.

Another e-mail, sent in the name of a George W. Truett Theological Seminary administrator, reported to one of Baylor's accrediting agencies that the seminary was involved in a cheating scandal involving faculty and students, according to the suit.

Baylor spokesman Larry Brumley said university officials would not comment on the case.

In the lawsuit, Baylor asks for unspecified damages caused by the e-mails and reimbursement for costs incurred from the school's efforts to track and limit the number of e-mails.

The petition also asks the court to require Bass to produce his computer equipment for inspection by Baylor representatives, and to prohibit him from changing any data stored on that computer.

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Texas Legislature

# Senators unveil state school finance plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate has unveiled a school funding plan it says will pump billions of dollars into schools, but the proposal's fate in the Legislature is far from certain.

The proposal would reduce local property taxes by a third, replacing the lost revenue with a restructured business tax and a variety of other revenue sources such as the sales tax, cigarette tax and motor vehicle tax.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst laid out the plan Wednesday, claiming that all 31 senators have signed on to the proposition.

Dewhurst unveiled the plan the second day of the legislative session, touting a \$6.7 billion increase in new money for schools over the next two-year budget cycle. However, the plan would only generate about \$1.6 billion per year in state funds after accounting for the property tax reduction.

Dewhurst said the plan would close loopholes in Texas' main business tax, forcing all businesses except sole proprietors to pay.

The franchise tax, which five of every six Texas businesses currently avoid paying, would be reduced by more than half. Other money for schools would be generated from a combination of a higher sales tax, motor vehicle tax, cigarette tax and alcohol tax, though details still need to be worked out, the senators said.

The proposal, which still must make its way through the Legislature, replaces the current property tax with a reduced statewide property tax, which ultimately would have to be approved by Texas voters.

"This is meant to be a starting point. Our feet are not in concrete, but that's the legislative process," Dewhurst said, noting that the Senate is committed to working with Gov. Rick Perry and members of the House. Perry also said he looked forward to working with the House and Senate on the bill.

Dewhurst has been holding closed-door meetings with senators throughout the week to reach agreement on the plan.

House members have not yet said what sort of school funding proposal could win support in their chamber.

"It is my goal to create a school finance system that provides the necessary tools for every school child in Texas to succeed, while at the same time reducing property taxes," House Speaker Tom Craddick said. "I commend the Senate for the work they have done thus far, and my fellow members and I look forward to working with them to ensure the youth of this great state receive the education they need to excel and to secure a bright future."

Earlier this week, Perry declared school funding an emergency issue for the Legislature, which hopes to overhaul the \$30 billion system during their 140-day session.

Rich and poor school districts agree it needs repair, and a judge last fall ruled the system unconstitutional and ordered the state to pump more money into public schools.

"No responsible Texan can take a serious look at the current school finance system and conclude we can maintain the status quo," said Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine. "The plan unveiled today provides significant property tax relief, focuses dollars into the classroom and calls for accountability with taxpayer dollars."

The plan calls for \$3.2 billion to be dedicated to education reform initiatives.

One such initiative would include bilingual and special education training for teacher certification.

Education advocacy groups, which have dismissed previous attempts to overhaul the system as chicanery, hailed the proposal as the first "real plan."

"The lieutenant governor and the Senate have finally provided bipartisan leadership that the state of Texas badly needs and on the second day of the session ... put forward a plan, that's a real plan that has numbers behind it that we can work with," said Brock Gregg, a lobbyist for the Association of Texas Professional Educators. "That's more than we can ask for and teachers really appreciate it."

*The proposal would reduce local property taxes by a third, replacing the lost revenue with a restructured business tax and a variety of other revenue sources.*

*'This is meant to be a starting point. Our feet are not in concrete, but that's the legislative process.'*

— Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

## Charges

Continued from Page 1

Count 2 states that Roach allegedly "did knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute and dispense, approximately one ounce of methamphetamine."

Count 3 alleges that Roach "did knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute and dispense, approximately one ounce of cocaine."

Count 4, the first count on which Roach was arrested Tuesday morning in Gray County Courthouse, states that Roach allegedly "did knowingly and intentionally possess methamphetamine."

Christy L. Drake, assistant United States attorney in Amarillo, said this morning that the maximum penalties

for all four counts total over 50 years in prison. The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court clerk's office in Amarillo.

Maximum sentence on the gun charge is 10 years, Drake said. Counts 2 and 3 concerning one ounce each of cocaine and methamphetamine carry a maximum penalty of 20 years each. The punishment for Count 4 is up to one year, she said.

Various fines may also be levied on each charge upon conviction or a plea of guilty, she said.

Roach appeared before U.S. Magistrate Nancy M. Koenig at 10 a.m. yesterday in Lubbock for an initial appearance concerning the indictment. He had been arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents between 8:30 and 9 a.m. Tuesday in

the district courtroom at Gray County Courthouse.

He was booked into Randall County Jail at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, said Danny Alexander, public information officer for Randall County Sheriff's Office.

"It's my understanding that he's currently at the Dickens County (jail) facility," Drake said this morning. "We had to take him to Lubbock because our judge is gone this week."

Roach's next court appointment is at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, in U.S. court in Amarillo. He will be brought back to the Amarillo area prior to the hearing, Drake said, which will be an arraignment on the indictment.

The range of punishment for the charges will be explained to Roach, and a deadline for any motions to be filed will be set, Drake said. Information will be gathered to help determine whether to hold Roach without bond or to set bond, she said.

*Roach's next court appointment is at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 18, in U.S. court in Amarillo.*

## Legal Aid to sponsor divorce seminar

AMARILLO — Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas in conjunction with Panhandle Family Law Association will present a yearly free seminar called Pro Se Divorce from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Bank One Building, 9th floor conference room, Amarillo.

Topics will include: "Things to know before starting a divorce"; "Starting a divorce"; "Issues concerning children"; "Marital property"; and more.

According to a press release from Legal Aid: "Judges, district clerks and Legal Aid have long recognized the need for training of individuals so situated. This seminar will help people determine whether they have the knowledge and ability to carry out their own divorce, or make an informed deci-

sion that the services of an attorney are justified."

For more information, call (806) 373-6808.

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## Students

Continued from Page 1

U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, also stated in the same article by Jonathan Fowler that much more money will be needed.

In order to help fill that void, The Challengers have set the goal of raising \$2,000 by their Friday deadline.

Challenge Day participant and student fundraiser Monica Johnson feels this is an obtainable goal.

"The people I have asked

to donate seem surprised that someone so young could take an interest in this cause, but most are very willing to give money," she said.

Gershmel also has experienced an outpouring of donations.

"As people walk by the table we have set up during lunch, almost everyone drops something in, whether it be the change in their pockets or a five dollar bill. It is clear that the students of our school care

about helping other people," she said.

However there is one particular charitable act that is dear to Gershmel.

"There was one student who I know does not have very much money. He dropped \$27 in our collection bucket," she said. "I told him, 'You need that money.' It was then that he just smiled at me and simply said, 'The tsunami victims need it more.'"



## Petition

Continued from Page 1

misconduct as set forth in the affidavit attached as Exhibit A," the petition reads.

"I have personal knowledge that there is an ongoing Federal investigation of RICHARD J. ROACH for Federal firearm violations misappropriation of funds," Bailey swore in the affidavit.

The petition asks for temporary orders suspending Roach from acting as or discharging the duties of the office of district attorney, prohibiting Roach from "having any contact in any manner or means or through any agent with any employee of the 31st Judicial District Attorney's office," and appointing another person to perform the duties of district attorney pending resolution of the situation.

Actions requested in the petition "on final trial" are an order removing Roach from office, an order for

Roach to pay the plaintiff's costs of the suit, and to "grant Plaintiff any other relief, at law or equity, to which Plaintiff is entitled."

A copy of the petition for removal was sent by certified mail yesterday to Roach at Randall County Detention Center, 9100 S. Georgia, Amarillo, by Seabourn, according to the last page of the petition. Exhibit A of the petition also stated that Bailey is currently an employee of the 31st Judicial District Attorney's office and has been employed there since Aug. 16, 2002.

An order of recusal by

31st District Judge Steven R. Emmert was filed at the same time as the petition for Roach's removal. The order of recusal exempts Emmert from hearing the suit involving Bailey's petition, and refers it to Judge Kelly G. Moore, presiding judge of the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region, for assignment to a judge.

Roach was arrested Tuesday morning in Gray County Courthouse by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on a charge of possession of methampheta-

*'I have personal knowledge that there is an ongoing Federal investigation of ... Federal firearm violations misappropriation of funds..'*

— Rebecca Bailey statement in removal petition affidavit



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# Viewpoints

## A stunning revelation about ... sauerkraut

Today I'd like to divulge a not-too-deep, not-too-dark culinary secret, the likes of which I'm sure you didn't know. That secret pertains to (laugh) a quaint, well-known German dish called sauerkraut.

Now, brace yourself, for this may come as a big surprise.

You see, the secret is ... sauerkraut is sexy.

Yes, believe your eyes. You are not hallucinating. Sexy. Sauerkraut is sexy.

Don't believe me? Well, then, don't take my word for it. I don't even like sauerkraut. No, for the real authority see Lindsay Kahn, associate media architect for BIG FRONTIER

Communications.

Associate media architect?

Well, never mind.

"Here is the latest press material regarding the National Sexy Sauerkraut Campaign," Kahn writes in the introduction to her press release recently received via e-mail here at The News. "The Fremont Company, one of the worlds (world's) leading sauerkraut producers, has recently developed a campaign to re-brand kraut and make it appealing and 'hip' to a younger generation. The first step was creating the K Tini, a kraut stuffed olive mixed with vermouth and vodka."

Intoxicating and sexy?

Wow. I may experience a change of heart about kraut.

"The K Tini is a continuous success and the next step of the campaign is to inform the world about the wonderful health

benefits and importance of including kraut in the diet," Kahn continues. "Studies have shown that this neglected garnish fights cancer!"

The opening of the proceeding news release declares: "From cancer fighting agents to vitamins, you cant (can't?) beat sauer-

kraut for a health boost!"

Oddly enough the following press release does not lead off with the good news about kraut and cancer. Instead, it touts a book by



Skyla Bryant  
City editor

some one named Heidi Klum entitled "How to be a Supermodel." What, you ask, does sauerkraut and being a supermodel have in common? I'm afraid that has me wondering, too.

But, of course! Heidi, the news release explains, "includes her grandmothers (grandmother's?) recipe for Sauerkraut Soup in her new

book."

I figured that all along.

"The American Cancer Society\* recently reported that sauerkraut has cancer fighting agents due to its unique processing. Sauerkraut is actually," the release claims, "healthier than raw or cooked cabbage because its fermentation process produces an anti-cancer compound called isothiocyanates. This compound terminates cancer growth in the breast, colon, lung, and liver in animal studies."

Alas, it may behoove me to develop a taste for sauerkraut, but what if (gasp) it's just too "sexy" for me? "Sauerkraut," the release

notes, "is far more than just a garnish for hot dogs or Reuben sandwiches. The Fremont Companies

(Company's) website is populated with dozens of exciting recipes ... These include sauerkraut chocolate cake, sauerkraut soup, Reuben dip, and krauted chicken parmesan" and, lest you begin to despair, the recipe for the infamous K Tini.

Ever wonder just exactly how much kraut can be contained in a single olive?

For those of you who already like and appreciate sauerkraut, the release urges you to visit [www.sauerkrautrecipes.com](http://www.sauerkrautrecipes.com), the home of other, delightful kraut recipes. Enjoy!

## Today in History

By the Associated Press

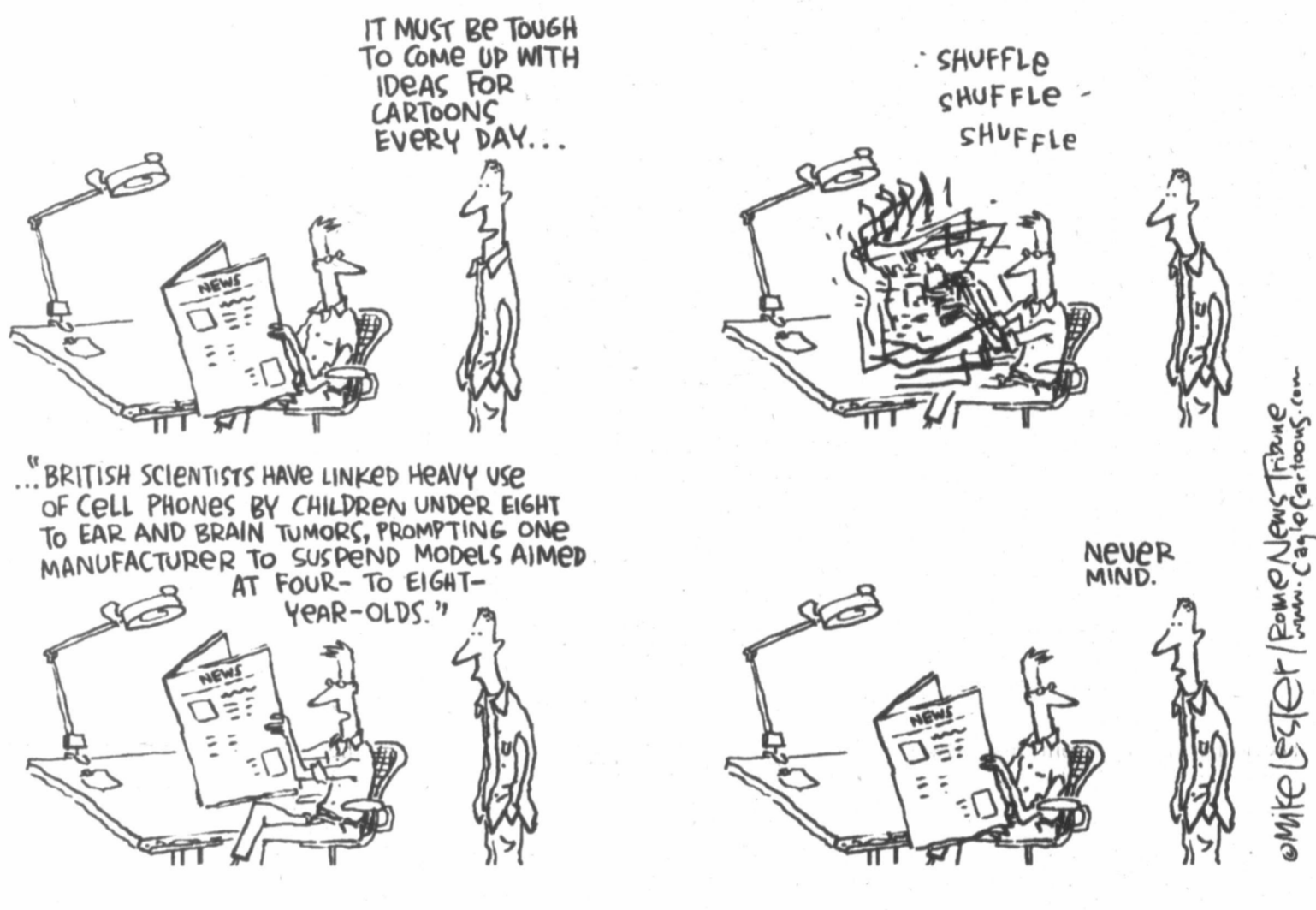
Today is Thursday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2005. There are 352 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 1794, President Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

### On this date:

- In 1864, composer Stephen Foster died in New York.
- In 1893, Britain's Independent Labor Party (a precursor to the current Labor Party) held its first meeting.
- In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.
- In 1941, novelist James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland.
- In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles.
- In 1966, Robert C. Weaver became the first black Cabinet member as he was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Johnson.
- In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minn., at age 66.
- In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge after takeoff and fell into the Potomac River, killing 78 people.
- In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.



## Our readers write

### DA arrest shocks former resident

The recent events surrounding DA, Rick Roach, absolutely shocks me. As a resident of Pampa years ago, I have to wonder where the justice truly lies.

Roach faces UP to a year in prison, yet he is the same man that has sent countless men and women to prison for many more years than that for the same offense.

Is it because he holds a public office that he is given preferential treatment? This is a tragedy of justice if that is the case. Maybe, just maybe, one day Pampa will

be a place that children can grow up and know the public officials are walking the same line they are. Until then, the city lacks any hope of diminishing the apparent drug problem.

It should have been obvious to the citizens that the same people could be arrested and re-arrested for drug charges, yet never get into trouble. Sort of hard to convict the people that know you are in the drug circle, don't ya think?

Former resident that is embarrassed, disgusted, and humiliated,

Amy Henderson  
Los Angeles, Calif.

## Health care system far from broken

"The Dog and His Bone" is one of Aesop's many instructive fables. It's about a dog carrying a bone in his mouth. As he was crossing a footbridge over a stream and happened to glance into the water, he saw his own reflection. Thinking it was another dog with a bigger bone, the greedy dog growled and said to himself, "I'll get that bone, too." When he opened his mouth to take the bone, his own bone fell into the water, never to be seen again.

You say, "Williams, that's a nice story, but what's the relevance?" Its relevance has to do with the myths and some of the discussion about what to do about our health-care problems. The recently published "Miracle Cure," by Sally Pipes, president of the San Francisco-based Pacific Research Institute,

exposes health-care myths while explaining why the sometimes-touted Canadian style health care isn't the answer. Myth: Uninsured individuals have no access to medical care. Fact: It turns out that in 2004 uninsured Americans received \$125 billion of health care, of which \$41 billion was provided totally free of charge.

Myth: Skyrocketing prescription drugs are driving health-care spending up. Fact: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a whole, Americans spend about 1 percent of their income on drugs. Seniors spend about 3 percent on drugs, less than the amount

they spend on entertainment. Spending on drugs, as a percent of total health-care spending, was 10 percent in 1960. It's roughly the same today.

The fact of business is, pharmaceutical spending actually lowers total health-care spending. It often replaces expensive and invasive surgical procedures and the time spent in the hospital. For example, in a yearlong disease-management program, Humana Hospitals studied 1,100 congestive heart failure patients. While pharmaceutical costs increased by 60 percent, the medications reduced hospital costs by 78 percent — a net savings of \$9 million.

Among other myths exposed in "Miracle Cure" is the myth that our health-care problems derive from the fact that we have a free-market health-care system. Little can be further from the truth. The government has been the largest participant in our health-care system since the 1960s. Today, the government directly pays for 45 percent of health-care spending. Government intervenes in the form of tax subsidies and costly regulations on private insurers. Regulations imposed on medical practitioners are oppressive. According to a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, for every four hours that a physician devotes to caring for a Medicare patient, hospital administrators spend 30 minutes on Medicare paper-

See MEDICINE, Page 5

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## Conservative commentator crosses line

Armstrong Williams, a nationally syndicated radio, print and television personality, is deservedly condemned for taking money from the Bush administration to promote the president's No Child Left Behind Act and give media time to Education Secretary Rod Paige.

Williams, a noted black conservative commentator, crossed the line between enthusiastic advocate and paid parrot when he accepted \$240,000 from the U.S. Education Department to advance the Bush administration's educational agenda. In doing so, Williams further distorted the already blurry

line between mainstream news media and talk show commentators and partisan ideologues masquerading as fair and balanced and independent journalists.

According to reports, Williams' company, the Graham Williams Group, contracted with the Education Department to produce radio and TV ads that promoted the No Child Left Behind Act and featured one-minute "reads" by Paige. The deal also allowed Paige and other department officials to appear as studio

guests with Williams serving as the host conducting ostensibly impartial interviews.

Much like a criminal who is apologetic only after getting caught, Williams, worried about his livelihood, has expressed contrition. Tribune Media Services already has dropped his syndicated column, which appeared in several mainstream and black newspapers around the country.

In his defense, Williams unpersuasively contends

there is a fine line between what he does as an independent commentator and what mainstream journalists do. But commentators, like reporters, also are forbidden to receive money from the subjects of their commentary. The supposed inability of government and business to buy favorable coverage in the press is an important distinction that separates this country from many others.

Williams said he "should be held to the media ethics standard." What Williams did is clearly a reputation-ruining offense that should result in dismissal.

See LINE, Page 5

## Milit

BANDA AU — Indonesia foreign aid devastated Aceh military escortence by insu vice president fire offer by death toll from more than 15' Relief grou any security where rebels

## British

## Jew crit

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## Line

Continued

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# Military escorts needed in some areas of tsunami-stricken Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia on Thursday ordered foreign aid workers in tsunami-devastated Aceh province to have military escorts in areas facing violence by insurgents, even as the vice president welcomed a cease-fire offer by the rebels. The total death toll from the disaster rose to more than 157,000.

Relief groups have not reported any security problems in Aceh, where rebels have fought a low-

level separatist war against government troops for three decades, and some worried that the new restrictions could harm their reputation for independence.

"We discourage such actions because it blurs the distinction between humanitarian and military efforts here," said Eileen Burke of Save the Children.

Indonesian military spokesman Col. Ahmad Yani Basuki said in a telephone interview that the army

considers only the areas around the provincial capital Banda Aceh and the stricken coastal town of Meulaboh safe for foreigners.

"Other areas aside from that are potential trouble spots," he said. Anyone going to the troubled zones must take military escorts. But Basuki warned: "We don't have enough personnel to secure everyone."

Health officials planned a massive spraying campaign starting

Friday in Indonesia's disaster zone to head off the threat of malaria, which one expert said could kill up to 100,000 people in the coming months if authorities don't act quickly to kill mosquitoes.

Indonesia's Social Affairs Ministry raised the country's official death toll from the Dec. 26 disaster to 110,229, an increase of nearly 4,000. Sumatra island's Aceh province was worst hit, with the number of people missing there

at more than 12,000, with 703,518 homeless survivors.

Death tolls also went up in India — by 345, to 10,672 — and in Sri Lanka — by six, to 30,899. The overall toll across 11 nations stands at 157,642.

Indonesia's restrictions highlight its sensitivity over foreign involvement in the humanitarian effort, especially that of troops from the United States, Australia, Singapore and Japan.

## British boo-boo

### Jewish groups and lawmakers criticize prince's Nazi costume

LONDON (AP) — Jewish groups and lawmakers criticized Prince Harry on Thursday for wearing a Nazi uniform to a costume party, with one group urging him to visit the Auschwitz death camp, despite an apology from the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II.

The 20-year-old prince apologized Wednesday in a statement after a British newspaper printed a picture of him clutching a cigarette and a drink and wearing a swastika armband.

"I think a lot of people will be disappointed to see that photograph and it will cause a lot of offense," said Michael Howard, leader of Britain's main opposition Conservative Party.

"I think it might be appropriate for him to tell us himself just how contrite he now is," added Howard, who is Jewish.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles expressed outrage and urged Prince Harry to travel to Poland later this month to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

"There he will see the results of the hated symbol he so foolishly and brazenly chose to wear," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the center.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's office was reluctant to get involved. "Clearly an error was made," Blair's official spokesman said. "That has been recognized by Harry, and I think it is better that this matter continues to be dealt with by (Buckingham) Palace."

Jewish groups in Britain were more moderate in their criticism.

"The fact that the palace has issued an apology indicates that this was a mistake by the prince," said Rabbi Jonathan Romain, a spokesman for the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. "But having being given, the apology should now be accepted."

A spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews said the costume "was clearly in bad taste, especially in the run-up to Holocaust Memorial Day" on Jan. 27. He added: "The board is pleased that he's apologized for the incident."

## Gunmen kill representative of top Shiite cleric in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Gunmen killed a representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric, along with the aide's son and four bodyguards in a town south of Baghdad, an official in the cleric's office said Thursday.

Insurgents trying to derail Iraq's Jan. 30 elections appeared to be sending a message to al-Sistani, who strongly supports the vote. Insurgents have targeted electoral workers and candidates.

Gunmen opened fire on a minibus picking up a Turkish businessman from the Bakhan Hotel in central Baghdad on Thursday, killing six Iraqis and kidnapping the Turk, who reportedly ran a construction company that worked with U.S.-led occupation authorities.

Sheik Mahmoud Finjan, al-Sistani's representative in the town of Salman Pak, 10 miles southeast of Baghdad, was shot dead Wednesday night as he was returning home from a mosque where he performed the evening prayers, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The aide's son and four bodyguards also were killed,

the official said at al-Sistani's office in the Shiite holy city of Najaf.

Shiites make up 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people and are expected to dominate the 275-member National Assembly in the first free elections held in Iraq since it became independent in 1932.

Some Sunnis fear a loss of the dominance and privilege they enjoyed for decades. Sunni clerics have called for a boycott.

Al-Sistani has urged Iraqis to vote, calling it a religious duty for every man and woman.

The cleric is not running himself but is backing the 228 candidates from the United Iraqi Alliance, a coalition of 16 groups that includes Iraq's largest Shiite political party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

If many Sunnis do boycott the vote, the United Iraqi Alliance stands to dominate the assembly, whose main job

will be to write a permanent constitution.

The Turkish businessman, identified by police as Abdulkadir Tanrikulu, was abducted and the pavement in front of the hotel was stained with blood. Six Iraqis on board were killed, police Lt. Bassam al-Abed said.

*If many Sunnis do boycott the vote, the United Iraqi Alliance stands to dominate the assembly, whose main job will be to write a permanent constitution*

A Turkish news channel said the construction company they were working in Iraq with Americans. A hotel employee who gave only his first name, Alaa, said he had been in Iraq for about a year.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib also met police chiefs from around the country on Thursday to discuss security for this month's election.

"I would like to assure the Iraqi people that we will protect every citizen who will come forward to vote in the elections," al-Naqib said before the meeting.

## Line

Continued from Page 4

Right-wing commentators will charge that the "liberal media" is piling on Williams because he is a conservative, but they are wrong. By accepting money from his subject while pretending to be independent, Williams committed dishonest journalism.

Williams' disgrace coincides with the release of an independent report concerning a CBS News blunder during the presidential campaign. The network used unauthenticated and probably forged documents to support allegations that President Bush received favorable treatment in the

Texas Air National Guard. CBS's mistake resulted from misplaced zeal, carelessness and incompetence, but at least the network

was not acting as the paid agent for Bush's political opponents. Even so, CBS fired a producer and asked three executives to leave.

In Williams' case, Education Secretary Paige and the department he led also should be held to account. No official should use tax dollars to corrupt the nation's free and responsible press. The department also

paid to have newspaper coverage of the law ranked, with points awarded for stories that said Bush and the

Republican Party are strong on education. Those spending decisions are rightly being investigated by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' auditing arm.

Government programs should stand or fall on their merits. When tax dollars are used to plant positive stories to sway public opinion, they create an unholy alliance between government and those who are supposed to be the public's watchdogs.

*No official should use tax dollars to corrupt the nation's free and responsible press.*

## Calendar of Events

• **The Texas Department of Health** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Jan. 5, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and 12:30-4 p.m., Jan. 10, City Hall, Canadian.

• **Several courses, worth varying continuing education units,** will be offered in the area for individuals with pesticide applicator licenses. The courses will include the following: Crop Production Clinics on Jan. 13 in Spearman and on Jan. 14 in Panhandle; West Rolling Plains Chemical Conference, Jan. 18, Dickens; Ornamental & Turf, Jan. 20, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center; Right of Way, Jan. 25, TAMREC; Hemphill County Ag Day, Jan. 27, Canadian; and Grain Elevator Workshop, Feb. 8, Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo. For more information, contact Gray County Cooperative Extension office at 669-8033.

• **The next Pampa Area Singles dance** is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15 at the

Sportsman Club on South Barnes Street. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. Snacks welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **The Contract Procurement Center** in Amarillo will sponsor a business luncheon for small, minority and women entrepreneurs from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20, at Western Sizzlin' Steak House, 2921 I-40 West, Amarillo. The guest speaker will be Al Sammann, regional director of Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center in Lubbock. For reservations or for more information, contact Edmond Esparza, (806) 372-3381.

• **The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Jan. 31, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

## Medicine

Continued from Page 4

work. For emergency room care, it's one hour spent on paperwork per one hour spent caring for a patient.

Is Canada better? In her book, Sally Pipes reports the case of 58-year-old Canadian Don Cerniz, who noticed blood in his urine. It took three weeks to get his first test and another month for an MRI, and treatment for his cancer didn't begin until six months later.

According to the Vancouver, British Columbia-based Fraser Institute's yearly survey of medical waiting times, Cerniz was lucky: "The median wait for an MRI across

Canada was 12.6 weeks. Patients in Prince Edward Island experienced the shortest wait for an MRI (six weeks), while Newfoundland residents waited longest (33.5 weeks)." Overall, Canada's total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner to treatment averaged about 18 weeks in 2004.

Americans shouldn't imitate Aesop's dog by looking to Canada's socialized medicine as a solution to our health-care problems and lose what we have. A much smarter move is to repeal previous government-created "solutions" that have marched us nearer to socialism in the provision of medical services.

In a word or two, get government out of our hospitals and doctor's offices.

Heard-Jones



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<p><i>Dr. Abraham's</i> <b>Immuna-flu</b>™ <b>\$19.95</b> Fight Colds and Flu Naturally BUY 3 BOTTLES GET 1 FREE</p>	<p><b>Gatorade</b> 32 Oz. Asst. Flavors <b>\$1.00</b></p>	<p><b>Heinz KETCHUP</b> 20 Oz. <b>79¢</b></p>

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JAN 13 2005

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Confused in Quito, Ecuador" complained that when she says, "I love you," her boyfriend's response is, "I love you more." She asked what made him feel he had to "best" her in this. Please let her know it's possible he's only repeating an endearment that means, "My love for you is so immense it has no bounds."

I'd bet my next paycheck that the young man has no intention of trying to "top" her, but instead feels he's giving her the highest compliment he can. -- RUTH IN BRANDON, MISS.

DEAR RUTH: I agree. However, you would not believe the letters and e-mails that "Confused's" question generated!

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Confused" shouldn't be offended. I have a 10-year-old son, and that is one of our standard routines at bedtime. We always tell each other we love each other when we kiss goodnight. The fun is seeing who can tell the other that we love each other more, until finally one of us says, "I love you more than anyone can love anyone in the whole wide world."

Please urge "Confused" not to make a competition out of it, and just enjoy the fact that he "loves her more." -- LOVED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR LOVED: My mail indicates that the "I love you more" game is a tradition in many families.

DEAR ABBY: "Confused" should listen to her instincts. If her boyfriend feels the need to compete with her and "win" in other areas, too, it could be a warning sign of a potential abuser. When I was a domestic violence advocate, this was one of the "little" signs we told clients to watch out for. -- SHERRI IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR SHERRI: Thank you for lending another point of view

DEAR ABBY: I hope "Confused" ends her relationship

with that young man and allows him the freedom to find someone who truly appreciates him. Shortly before my daughter's wedding, she and her fiance were in her car driving home when she said, "I love you." He replied, "I love you more." Thus was born the theme for their wedding. They had their wedding bands engraved with the phrase, and I embroidered it on the ring bearer's pillow. Two children later, they're still saying it and blissfully happy. -- JOAN IN WATKINSVILLE, GA.

DEAR JOAN: What a beautiful way to memorialize a wedding ceremony.

DEAR ABBY: I sure wish I had that girl's problem. My husband of 27 years hasn't said "I love you" to me in more than 20 of them. He tells our sons and our dogs how much he loves them, but I never receive any words of affection from him. What I wouldn't give to hear my husband say those three little words. -- LONELY IN LAGUNA

DEAR LONELY: There is a reason why, seven years into your marriage, your husband withheld and became emotionally withholding. Until you bring the issue out into the open, nothing will change. Not only do you need to understand the reason for your husband's behavior, it would also be helpful to understand why you have tolerated it for so long. Offer him the option of discussing it with a marriage counselor. If he refuses, go without him. I guarantee you'll get an education.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and my husband had the same ritual. Whichever one said, "I love you," the other would respond, "I love you more."

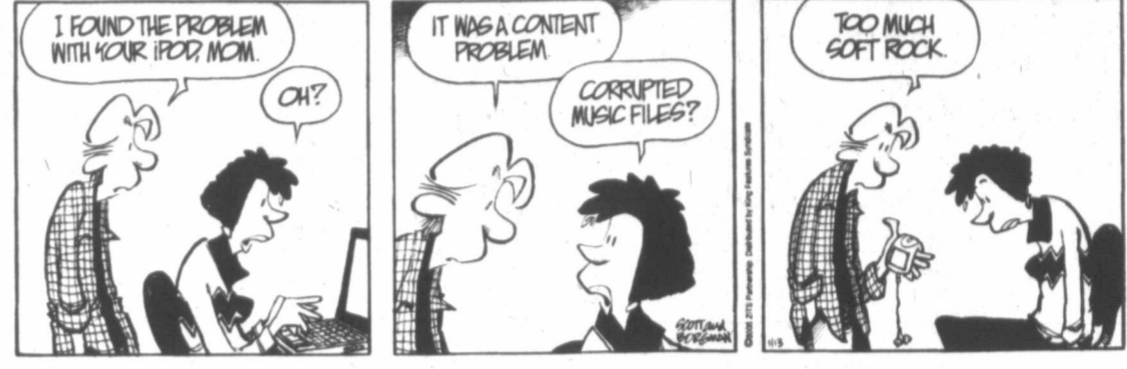
After raising eight children, my husband died of cancer at the age of 59. On his tombstone, in addition to the date, is the endearment "MORE." -- MARJORIE IN ELGIN, ILL.

DEAR MARJORIE: And a fitting epitaph it is.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

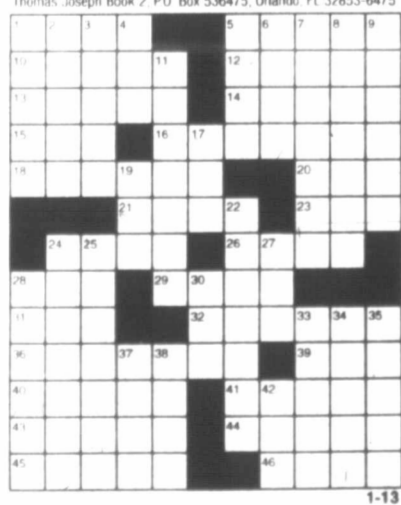
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 45 Chop-house member
  - 5 Israel's Yitzhak
  - 10 Books, slangily
  - 12 Battle site of 1836
  - 13 Puzzled
  - 14 Pink shade
  - 15 Save piece
  - 16 "Good job!"
  - 18 Swift
  - 20 Long of "Soul Food"
  - 21 Takes to court
  - 23 Terminate
  - 24 Leaves
  - 26 Staff item
  - 28 Fishing aid
  - 29 Warty critter
  - 31 "All in the Game"
  - 32 News brief
  - 36 Kid transports
  - 39 Beastly home
  - 40 Sung story
  - 41 Wolf pack member
  - 43 Healthful drink
  - 44 Race prize
- DOWN
- 1 Mecca residents
  - 2 Abate
  - 3 Critical asset
  - 4 Pindar
  - 5 Risqué
  - 6 Heaps
  - 7 Knight's superior
  - 8 Lennon song
  - 9 Commission-free
  - 11 Shop waste
  - 17 "Yes, Captain"
  - 19 Jargon suffix
  - 22 Buys greedily
  - 24 Deteriorate
  - 25 Filthy offering
  - 27 Unusual accessory
  - 28 Intolerant sorts
  - 30 Ump's call
  - 33 Cherish
  - 34 Make sport of
  - 35 Keyboard key
  - 37 Bocelli
  - 38 Pool table accessory
  - 42 Vase item



Yesterday's answer

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## The Family Circus



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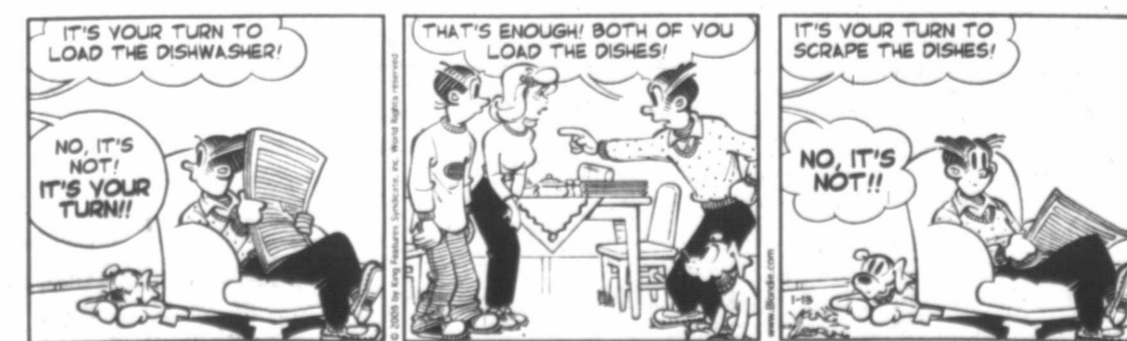
## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



## PASTIME

# The f

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Poker. Once dimly lit smoky become big bus cities of Las V Mecca's. But it grown into a sp the television a And tonight, I have nothin Vegas, I like to ing my stack as some friends to food. A guy's n means. What I am n is a sport. I was taken : tive who, durin

# PJH

Here are the the Pampa v wrestling du night at Mc House as p Harvester Hea Cadenhead. Junior High Pampa 41, I Pampa trade the 76, 86, an weights. At 102, (102lb.) starte with a win by Luna in the Michael Tay added another pinning Jesus the beginning period. Jere (118lb.) tacke six by pinn DeLeon in the increase Pamp 0.

Another tra came in the weight class. Garrett Fath defeated Quin the 3rd perio technical fall. (142lb.) pin Rivera in the increase the Hereford to 29 Another tra at 152 pounds. Keith Stev wrestled Miel and it took aln three peric Vasquez was Stevens. Here six points after Millikan (185l forfeit from Jonathan Ol pinned Larry 1st period to v ccessful dual v Junior High S Exhibitions Michael Ta was defeated Salazar, 17-2. Jeremy Ma

# Par

By MIC

The Pampa wrestling tear compete in Junior Varsity Matches w morning. The varsity the weekend f

# Sports Day

## PASTIME OR PROFESSION

### The future of sports just not in the cards

Jan went "All In" after realizing she was holding a suited King and Queen. The "Flop" was friendly, offering another King and Queen (unsuited) and the seven of spades. She edged on "Maniac" in anticipation of the "Turn" and the "River". Something of a "Call Station", "Short Stack" Jack was forced to "fold". Marcus meanwhile, having nothing in the "Pocket", continued to "Tilt". If Jan takes the "Pot", how much "Toke" should she leave behind?

**Michael J. Stevens**  
Sports Editor



Poker. Once a well-known but private pastime played in dimly lit smoky back rooms and basements, has suddenly become big business. Not in the glittering, neon light filled cities of Las Vegas, Reno, Atlantic City or other gaming Mecca's. But in homes all across America. Poker has now grown into a sport. Enough so that you can hardly turn on the television and not surf across a tournament or two.

And tonight, ESPN will ante up its offering — Tilt. I have nothing against poker. I sort of enjoy it. When in Vegas, I like to relax by sitting at a Blackjack table, stretching my stack as far as I can. I have recently been invited by some friends to join them for a big night of Poker fun and food. A guy's night out kind of thing. I am not good by any means.

What I am not sure of however, is whether or not Poker is a sport.

I was taken aback by the comments of an ESPN executive who, during an interview, spoke of how popular Poker

is today. In his comments he said, "Kids are even playing it which the parents love because it keeps them home and off the street." (Your opinion goes here). What was really surprising is how no one even noticed it.

So for fun and giggles, I went to my favorite Internet search engine, Google.com, and entered a few 'sports' to see how many 'results' each would net. Here is what I discovered:

- Baseball, (about) 49,300,000 (results)
- Youth Baseball, (about) 7,960,000 (results)
- Wrestling, (about) 15,700,000 (results)
- Youth Wrestling, (about) 2,700,000 (results)
- Bowling, (about) 18,200,000 (results)
- Youth Bowling, (about) 2,970,000 (results)
- Youth Sports, (about) 27,600,000 (results)
- Poker, (about) 78,700,000 (results)**

Even "Youth Poker" netted 1,400,000 results. One must keep in mind, there will be a good share of repeats and same-site results. And not all are actually associated with the intent of the search. The results for "Youth Poker" for example, listed a number of links to sites meant to deal with youth gambling as a problematic condition.

Still, the emphasis on Poker as a sport instead of a pastime is not only growing, but should be a little troublesome. Some might suggest Poker could be a teaching tool of sorts. It certainly helps in fractions and ratios (I'll give you 2:1 odds Tommy, who only wins 35% of the time, will take the hand). Also helps with adding and subtracting. That may be stretching it a little.

Bicycle makes playing cards, not Flash Cards. Is Poker a sport? I'll leave that up to you to decide. If it is, can Bingo be far behind?

### PHS football players honored at banquet

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

During the Pampa High School football banquet last night, a number of players were recognized for their efforts during the past season. Included among those receiving honors were:

- The Nick Hopkins Award (Loyalty)** — Brittin East
- The Vance Bruce Award (Spirit)** — Cam Seger
- The Kevin McKinney Award (Toughness)** — Q.B. Cobb
- The GT El Norma Award (Leadership)** — Shea Brown
- The Fighting Heart Award (Unselfish Devotion)** — Ricky Harvill

Congratulations to these and all the Pampa Harvesters for another great season of Pampa football.

### Williams making comeback

NAMPA, Idaho (AP) — Jayson Williams was so happy to be playing basketball again — and so anxious to avoid offending anyone — that he was as generous with his handshakes, hugs and thank yous as he once was with his comical one-liners. Hoping to return to the NBA, Williams began his comeback bid Wednesday night by scoring two points and grabbing four rebounds in limited action just hours after signing a contract with the Idaho Stampede of the Continental Basketball Association.

Williams, who turns 37 next month, quit professional basketball in 2000 because of knee problems.

"Interested NBA teams want assurances that I am fully recovered and can withstand the rigors of daily competition," Williams said in a statement Wednesday. "The very competitive CBA will provide me with this opportunity."

The 6-foot-10 forward did not start Wednesday's game against the Yakima Sun Kings, but was the first man off the bench in both halves of Idaho's 117-109 win, playing more than nine minutes. He drew a polite cheer from the announced crowd of 2,367 when he first took the floor about midway through the first quarter.

### PJHS wrestlers dominate Herd

Here are the results from the Pampa vs. Hereford wrestling dual Tuesday night at McNeely Field House as provided by Harvester Head Coach Josh Cadenhead.

#### Junior High

**Pampa 41, Hereford 6**  
Pampa traded forfeits in the 76, 86, and 94 pound weights.

At 102, Zach Doan (102lb.) started Pampa off with a win by pinning Julian Luna in the 1st period. Michael Taylor (110lb.) added another six points by pinning Jesus Gonzales at the beginning of the 3rd period. Jeremy Maxwell (118lb.) tacked on another six by pinning Nathan DeLeon in the 1st period to increase Pampa's lead to 18-0.

Another trade in forfeits came in the 126 pound weight class.

Garrett Fatheree (134lb.) defeated Quinton Wood in the 3rd period, 17-0 by a technical fall. Jordan Eakin (142lb.) pinned Mario Rivera in the 1st period to increase the margin over Hereford to 29-0.

Another trade in forfeits at 152 pounds.

Keith Stevens (165lb.) wrestled Michael Vasquez and it took almost the entire three periods before Vasquez was able to pin Stevens. Hereford collected six points after the pin. Nick Millikan (185lb.) received a forfeit from Hereford. Jonathan Olsen (275lb.) pinned Larry Pesina in the 1st period to wrap up a successful dual for the Pampa Junior High School.

#### Exhibitions:

Michael Taylor (110lb.) was defeated by Manual Salazar, 17-2.

Jeremy Maxwell (118lb.)

pinned Cody Evensor in the 2nd period.

Garrett Fatheree (134lb.) pinned Jared Beavers in the 3rd period.

Jordan Eakin (142lb.) pinned Brian Brockman in 50 seconds.

Keith Stevens (165lb.) was pinned in the 1st period by Grant Griffith.

Jonathan Olsen (275lb.) was pinned in the 3rd period by Garza.

#### Coach Comments:

"I was exceptionally pleased in the way our Junior High performed tonight. We came out very aggressive, took great shots, and pinned their wrestlers when we got them on their backs."

"I have really stressed how important it is to not give up six (points), and to take advantage of the other wrestler when he is tired and be aggressive. I am really proud of the way we got after Hereford tonight. The boys wrestled tough."

#### Varsity

**Pampa 9, Hereford 69**  
Both teams traded forfeits at 103 pounds.

Scotty Brown (112lb.) wrestled Matt Pena and was pinned in the first period. Matt Railsback (119lb.) was defeated by Norman Grumbach late in the 3rd period by a pin. Trevor Collins (125lb.) was pinned by Victor Mendoza in the 1st period.

At 130, Pampa forfeited to Rafael Saucedo (130lb.). Michael Moore (135lb.) wrestled Edward Guterrez and was pinned in the 1st period.

Pampa forfeited to A.J. Poack (140lb.).

Jimmy Logan (145lb.) was defeated by Nathan Alaniz in the 2nd period by a pin. John Burns (152lb.)

was defeated by Juan Alvarez (A state qualifier last year) in the best match of the night, 9-4. Stephen McCarly (160lb.) wrestled Epi Medina in a tough match before being pinned late in the 2nd period.

Pampa forfeited to Jose Higarra (171lb.).

Both teams traded forfeits at 180 and 189 pounds.

Chris Veal (215lb.) wrestled Elies Rivera and defeated him in the 3rd period, 11-5. Matt parks (275lb.) wrestled Adriel Gonzales and was disqualified during the 3rd period for technical violation, losing the close match, 5-7.

#### Coach Comments:

"Our guys went to battle tonight, but just came up short. We committed several mistakes and got caught on our backs too many times. We were very aggressive and usually took the first shots in the match. But unfortunately, we did not take enough shots and ended up on our backs. We are still showing improvements in some smaller areas and our matches are lasting longer than they did before Christmas."

"We are a young team, but we are gaining experience in every match which helps us mature as a team. The guys have positive attitudes, which will keep their intensity up at practice. We are going to really to focus on being mentally tough for all three periods and continue talking as a team about our goals."

"We want to be at our best when districts begin in February because that is what the guys work so hard for in every practice, a chance to place in district. I am really proud of the way we never gave up and even

though we did not win the dual, we showed improvement and are better now than we were at the beginning of the season."

Our next tournament is this weekend, Jan. 14-15, at The Red River Classic in Vernon.

Still downhill all the way!

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### Pampa teams in action

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School junior varsity wrestling team will in Amarillo today to compete in the Amarillo High School Junior Varsity Tournament.

Matches were to begin at 9 a.m. this morning.

The varsity team will be in Vernon over the weekend for the Red River Classic.

A full slate of basketball on tap tomorrow night at the MPAC building and The Pit when Pampa plays host to Randall. For the boys, it will mark the beginning of District 3-4A competition. It is also Homecoming.

- Game times are as follows:
- JV boys @ 6 p.m. (MPAC)
  - Varsity girls @ 6 p.m. (The Pit)
  - JV girls @ 7:30 p.m. (MPAC)
  - Varsity boys @ 7:30 p.m. (The Pit)

J  
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AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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.

**1-13 CRYPTOQUOTE**

CGYQKYS CGL RIFFPL IR  
BKJN EGZJR, MIJ JNW  
VWRIPJR, WUWY KE JNWL  
GTVWW BKJN FVWUKXIR  
XYWR, CIRJ MW JNW BXVQ  
XE XIV CKYS. — SKRVGWPK

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** BLESSED IS HE WHO DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO GREAT AND NOBLE ENDS, AND WHO FORMS HIS WELL-CONSIDERED PLANS WITH DELIBERATE WISDOM. — ST. AUGUSTINE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 14, 2005:**

You state what you want in a manner that others can't say no to. Keep up with an unusually hectic, fast-moving pace this year. Maintain precise communications, don't forget to return calls and keep plans up to date. Others might distance themselves if you don't give 100 percent in this area of your life. Deal with financial changes, which could be quite beneficial if you put in that extra effort professionally. If you are single, meeting people comes naturally to the gregarious Goat. You might not want to commit this year. Get to know a new friend very well. Go through the four seasons together. If you are attached, your relationship will blossom with attention and sharing talks. PISCES makes you smile.

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)**

\*\*\* Listen to others and understand where they are coming from. Willingly change plans rather than be forced to. Avoid gossip. You could be fed misinformation. Look for the facts only and cut out someone else's drama. Tonight: If you don't have great expectations, you won't be upset.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

\*\*\*\* Aim high and skip over someone's interference by looking at your ultimate goals, especially with this person. A project pays off. Your positive yet serious attitude speaks wonders. Your message will be received. Tonight: Where the party is.

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

\*\*\* Others test their limits. Avoid getting caught up in their stuff. You'll

be a lot happier if you do what you want to do. Play the conservative role with finances and bosses. Concern yourself with your public image and responsibilities. Tonight: Don't let another person squeeze or push you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Investigate an opportunity that will help you grow and establish greater security. You understand much more than you realize about a troublesome situation or person. Claim your power and move past this hassle. Tonight: Off to a movie or to hear favorite music.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Work with others, but don't cave in to a power play. You want peace, but at what cost? Once you determine the answer to this question, you'll make suitable choices. One key person helps support you in the decision-making project. Tonight: Be a duo.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Others could wreak havoc on your plans. Pull back and realize that only you can determine the course of your plans. Take a stand, honoring your priorities. Count on flak -- anything less will be a pleasant surprise. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
\*\*\* Concentrate and don't get too enthralled with the weekend. Otherwise, you might find the next few days devoted to work and not what you would like. Close your door, screen your calls and do what's necessary in order to accomplish your must-do's. Tonight: Clear the decks. Tomorrow you will want to be free.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
\*\*\*\* Dealing with a money snafu can be easy if you use your creativity but at the same avoid any risks. Hop over problems in an unprecedented

manner. Acknowledge your abilities by using them. Remember, you aren't like anyone else. Tonight: Continue using your unusual imagination, please.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
\*\*\* Anchor in and refuse to be triggered by others. Your family could have your feathers ruffled. A serious conversation helps you jump over a problem. Security issues emerge. Decide how best to deal with an uproar. Tonight: Give serious thought to cocooning!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
\*\*\*\* Though you might be reactive, you steer clear of a major issue. Speak your mind only after you have taken a personal inventory and thought through a knee-jerk reaction. Make calls. You cannot avoid a serious conversation. Tonight: Out on the town.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
\*\*\* Indulge yourself, though do use some discretion. Spending could be getting out of hand, as you decide to leave work and let go of a dreary few days. In fact, you could be ordering in and making plans at work. Tonight: Your treat.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
\*\*\*\* Where bosses could be difficult and others fussy, you appear to be on cruise control. Friends make a special effort to draw you into their plans. Why not? A meeting transforms into a weekend celebration. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

**BORN TODAY**  
Physician, musician, philosopher, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer (1875), actress Faye Dunaway (1941), rapper LL Cool J (1968)

\*\*\*  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>

# Rockets 124, Mavericks 114

DALLAS (AP) — Tracy McGrady's left big toe was bothering him so much that he took off his shoe during the second quarter and limped to the sideline figuring he was done for the night.

The Dallas Mavericks weren't that lucky. Halftime treatment and good news from an X-ray got McGrady back onto the court, and he decided to push himself. The result was a tremendous third quarter that carried the Houston Rockets to a 124-114 victory Wednesday night that ended the Mavs' six-game winning streak.

"When I went to the bench, I was going to shut it down," McGrady said. "But at halftime, we put ice on it and more padding in my shoe. It wore off a little bit,

but I was still in pain." Houston outscored Dallas 37-24 in the third, with McGrady putting up 13 points and eight assists. He added 10 points in the fourth, finishing with 30 points and 11 assists, matching his season high. The Rockets scored their most points of the season for the second straight game while beating the Mavericks for just the second time in 11 tries.

"I was in one of those zones," said McGrady, who was 6-of-8 on 3-pointers, making all three he tried in the third. "When I saw daylight, I was confident I was going to knock the shot down."

The Mavericks had won their last six games by at least 14 points, so this was their first tight game since before Christmas —

and they didn't have enough offense to keep up. That's right, a team that was averaging 114.3 points in its last seven games couldn't find a consistent scorer, at least not when it mattered most.

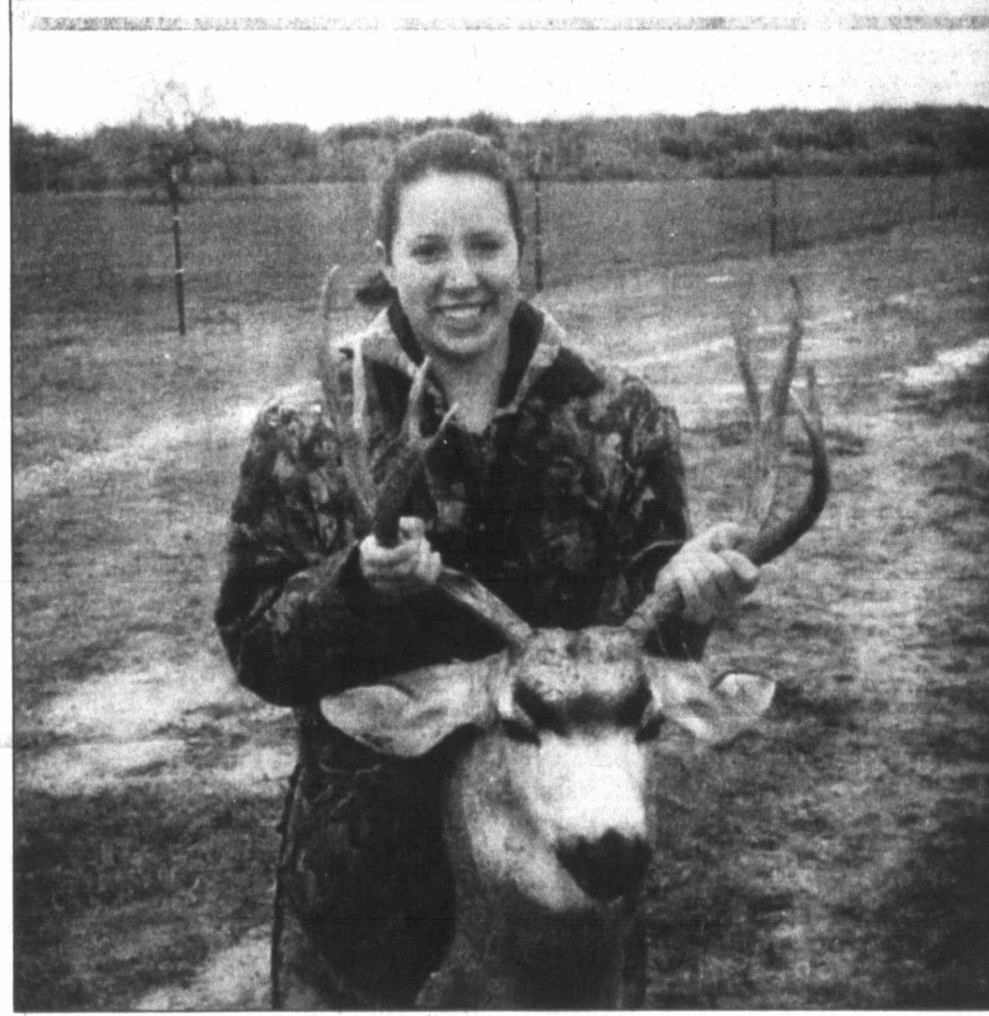
Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 28 points, but had an 18-minute scoreless drought over the middle two periods. Michael Finley, coming off a season-best 33 points, missed nine of his first 10 shots. He finished with 14 thanks to three baskets long after the outcome was settled.

The Rockets took advantage with an 11-2 run early in the third quarter to go ahead for good, then closed the period up nine; they shot 70 percent in the period, down from 72 in the first, and finished at an impressive 61 percent.

## Holiday hunt



12 year old Brooklyn Barker enjoyed a successful Thanksgiving holiday hunt. She took the 8-point Whitetail (above) at 120 yards. Barker fell the 4x4 Mule Deer (below) from 175 yards. Barker, a seventh grade student at Pampa Junior High School, is the daughter of Jimmy and Lori Barker of Pampa.



## Inaugural Texas Tour bike race postponed

LUBBOCK (AP) — The inaugural United Texas Tour, a bicycle stage race that American racing officials had hoped would become a showcase domestic event in a sport concentrated in Europe, has been postponed indefinitely.

Race organizers said Wednesday they were reluctant to ask for sponsorship money at a time the world is sending massive amounts of aid to the relief effort for the devastating tsunamis in South Asia.

"We are simply uncomfortable asking companies to fund the race when those dollars could be used for more immediate social concerns," said Eddie Owens, executive director of the United Texas Tour.

Organizers had raised about half of the \$4.5 million needed for the race and would refund money already collected, race spokeswoman Kim Davis said.

area and meandering through western Texas. The title sponsor was to be United Supermarkets Ltd.

"We've all put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this," Davis said. "Everything was completely on schedule."

Organizers had hoped to attract as many as 20 domestic and international teams to six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong's native state and had just sent out invitations last month. The race was also to have a tie-in with Armstrong's foundation for cancer research and survivorship programs.

"There are many people in cycling who want to visit there, given the legend of Lance," said Sean Petty, chief of staff for USA Cycling.

"We're certainly disappointed. We hope they can get it resurrected," Petty said.

Armstrong was training in California on Wednesday and could not immediately be reached for comment, a spokesman said.

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## FDA considering allowing OTC sale of cholesterol drug

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is considering whether a drug for a serious chronic condition — high cholesterol — should sit on drugstore shelves alongside medicines for headaches, allergies and athlete's foot.

Supporters say making a low-dose cholesterol medicine available without a doctor's prescription would help get needed treatment to millions of Americans who are at risk of heart disease.

"There's a huge treatment gap," said Jerry Hansen, vice president of marketing at Johnson & Johnson-Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co., a joint venture that is asking the Food and Drug Administration for permission to sell a low-dose version of Mevacor over the counter.

The drug, he notes, has been on the market for a long time and has proven quite safe.

But opponents say selling directly to the consumer allows patients to skip doctor visits, where they might be told to change their diet and exercise — both crucial in the effort to lower cholesterol.

"This is going to encourage people to take medication rather than alter other parts of their lifestyle," said Dr. Michael Schloss, clinical co-director of the Cholesterol Treatment and Research Center at New York University.

A panel of FDA scientific advisers was considering the request Thursday and Friday. The FDA usually follows the recommendations

of its advisers.

The FDA turned down a similar request in 2000. In the years since, the drug companies have tested the idea through consumer surveys, focus groups and mock pharmacies, hoping to prove that average patients can figure out for themselves whether they need the drug at all and, if so, if the non-prescription strength is right for them.

*'This is going to encourage people to take medication rather than alter other parts of their lifestyle.'*

— Dr. Michael Schloss  
Co-director of the Cholesterol Treatment and Research Center

But in documents released ahead of the meeting, the FDA detailed numerous flaws with these studies. For instance, the agency said, a study of how well people could understand the label that would be on the drug found that just 1 percent of people who said they could start using Mevacor "right away" were appropriate candidates for the drug. The other 99 percent did not meet the criteria or had a medical condition that made the drug wrong for them.

The drug is only meant for a slice of the population: men 45 and over and women 55 and older whose LDL — low-density lipoprotein, or "bad" cholesterol — count is between 130 and 170.

## Judge refuses to hold closed hearing on alleged past abuse

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — The judge in the Michael Jackson child-molestation case has ruled that a hearing about allegations of past sexual misconduct by the singer will not be held behind closed doors.

The ruling Wednesday by Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville was a victory for the news media and the prosecution, which both opposed a defense motion to hold a hearing on the issue away from reporters.

"I was very pleased that the judge recognized the California Supreme Court ruling that hearings such as admission of evidence be held in open court," media attorney Theodore Boutros Jr. said.

The judge said he will schedule the arguments after the jury is selected. Jackson's lawyers had contended that holding an open hearing on the alleged prior offenses would influence prospective jurors.

Jackson was not present Wednesday. The 46-year-old pop star is charged with plying

a boy with alcohol and molesting him. Jury selection begins Jan. 31.

Pretrial hearings have been set for Jan. 21 and Jan. 27 to consider issues including whether a child-abuse expert can testify, the questionnaire to be given to jurors and other motions on admission of evidence.

The judge has also ordered TV correspondent Martin Bashir to come to California to testify in the trial on March 1. Bashir produced the 2003 TV documentary in which Jackson said that he let children sleep in his bed but that it was not sexual.

Bashir is now a correspondent for ABC News, which said Wednesday it will fight the subpoena.

"We feel strongly that the California shield law protects the rights of journalists who cannot be — or be perceived to be — arms of either the prosecution or defense as they pursue the news," ABC News Vice President Jeffrey Schneider said.

## Prairie Rivers Musical in offing

CANADIAN — Prairie Rivers Musical will present its first show of the new year on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. The performance is scheduled in the usual location, Canadian Middle School Auditorium, 404 S. 6th St.

"It is probably bad luck to talk about not having any bad weather cancellations in five and one-half years. If, however, conditions should appear really bad on Saturday, those from out of town may want to call me at (806) 323-6213 about the show," advised Jay Godwin, one of the original organizers of Prairie Rivers Musical. "We are optimistic that the show will go on as

usual with just cold, crisp January weather," he added.

Most of the regular performers are scheduled to perform. These include Frankie McWhorter, Lonnie Cox, Hank & Venita Mcpherson, Wayne Wright, Scott Campbell, Mary Lynn Schafer, George Briant, Phil Ridgway, and Jay Godwin.

Prairie Rivers music venue is one of classic country, western swing, old time gospel and a little rockabilly. There is no admission charge and the auditorium features theatre-type seating in an alcohol- and smoke-free environment.

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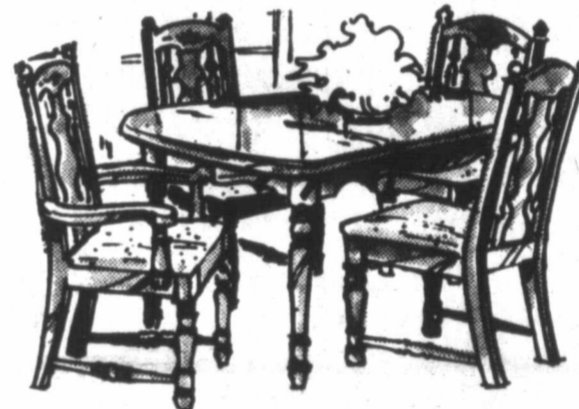
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