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SEE PAGE 5



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Monday, December 12, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1439

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Pampa's future on agenda

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer
The future of Pampa will be the focus of the city commission's meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The Pampa City Commission will meet in executive session to interview applicants for the new economic development board of directors and discuss appointments to the board. The commission will reconvene in open session to make any appointments.

The commission isn't expected to go into open session until 5:30 p.m.

The economic development board has to be named before the commission can approve and submit the articles of incorporation for the city's economic development corporation.

The city commission will consider a resolution approving the Pampa economic development corporation, according to the com-

mission's agenda.

They will also vote on the second and final reading of an ordinance creating the Working for Progress Advisory Board.

The board will consist of one member from each of the four wards in the city and one at large member. The city manager will serve as a non-voting member of the board.

The Working for Progress See CITY, Page 3

EDC board hopefuls' interviews scheduled

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will begin interviewing applicants today for Pampa's new economic development corporation.

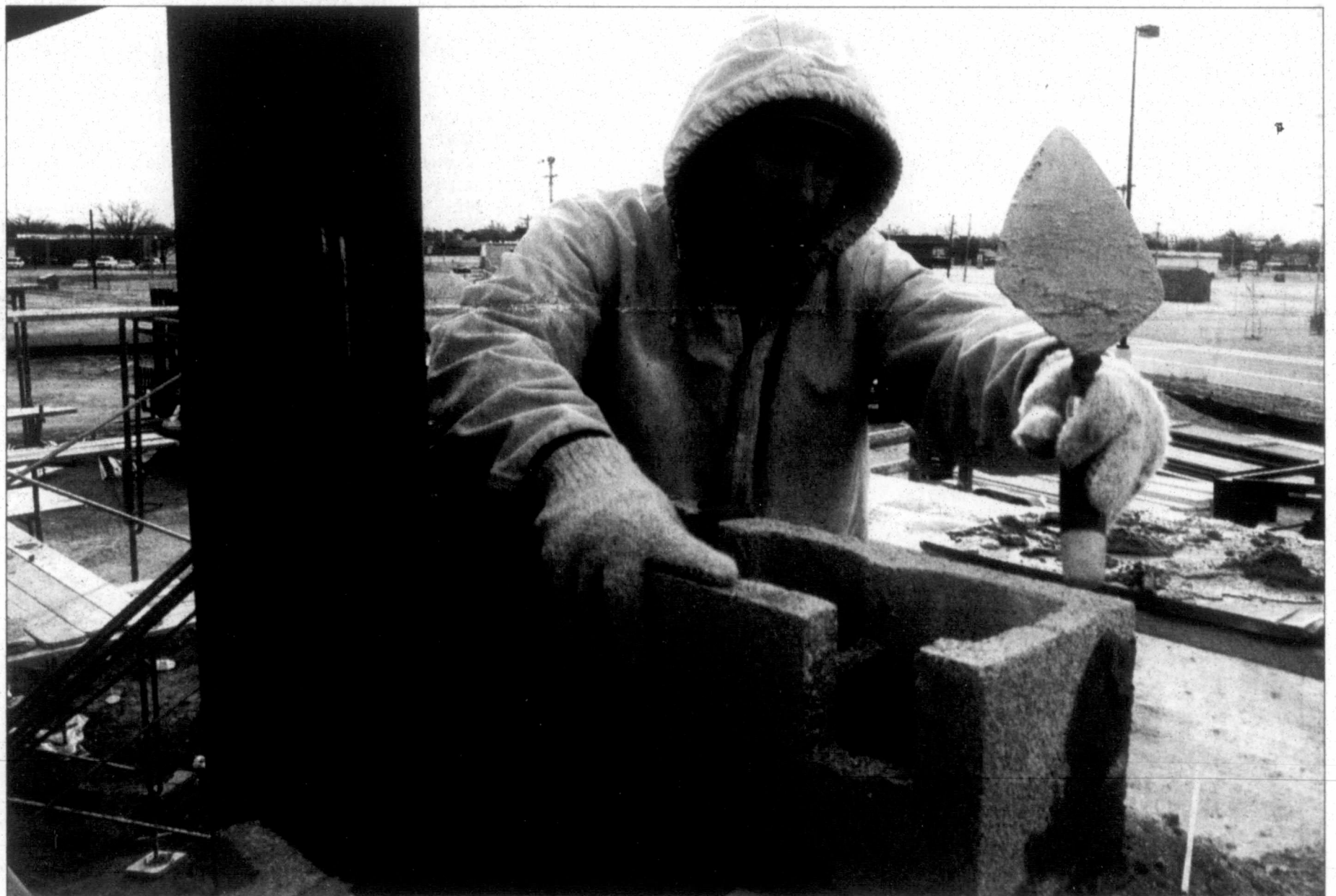
Interviews begin at 6:30 p.m. today at city hall and continue at 4 p.m. Tuesday. Monday night's interviews

will run until 10 p.m.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said today that 21 people had applied for the seven member board of the new economic development corporation.

Candidates to be interviewed today are Sean Smith, Lance DeFever, See BOARD, Page 3

Chilly job



Kenneth R. Branum with Buccola Masonary Inc. of Amarillo is bundled up against brisk morning temperatures today as he lays concrete block at a new strip shopping center in North Pampa. Temperatures this week are expected to warm up slightly from the frigid weather of last week.

Weekend's Shopping Tour all about giving

"The Children's Shopping Tour is all about giving," was the way General Chair David L. Cain summed up the 43rd annual tour Saturday.

The 118 children who participated did not purchase gifts for themselves, but bought gifts to give to 245 members of their households.

Approximately 225 volunteers gave their time to take the children shopping, to help them wrap their packages and to give gifts to each child on the tour.

The volunteers included about 100 students of Pampa High School and Pampa Jr. High School who unanimously agreed that it was fun

to give their time to help others at Christmas.

There were 60 organizations, businesses and individuals who gave a record \$16,000 so that the children could experience giving at Christmas.

The children grasped the concept of giving at Christmas. One child told Santa Claus, "I have toys at home. I don't need anything. What I want for Christmas is for my mother to have a really good Christmas."

It was a time for giving thanks. "Thank you for everything you are doing to make our Christmas much better," said a thank you note from three children who were excit-

ed about being able to give presents to others in their households.

It was a time for joy.

Smiles were universal at Wal-Mart, which contributed \$3,000 to the project and gave a 10 percent discount on all purchases. The smiles grew even larger at the Optimist Club, where the shoppers were given wrapping paper, Scotch tape, ribbons, cards, boxes and other wrapping materials to wrap what Opti-Mrs. Chair Whitney Davis estimated as 1,000 presents, up almost 50 percent from last year.

It was a time for serving. Kevin Davis led a group of Optimists who served 340 hamburgers to the chil-

dren and the volunteers.

It was a time to reflect.

The Rev. Jeff Taylor gave a talk on the "Reason for the Season."

It was a time to reach out.

Children from Lefors, Miami and Skellytown were invited to participate.

It was a time for memories.

The Pampa High School Cheerleaders took pictures of each child with Santa and gave them to the children as a keepsake for their involvement in the shopping tour.

It was a time for showing feel-

See TOUR, Page 3

White Deer Land Museum New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31, 2005 • MK Brown Heritage Room • 8:00 pm to Midnight

Silent Auction and Dance • Tickets \$35.00 per person

for more information call 669-8041 or 662-2727

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests for the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thirty-nine traffic stops were made. Motorist assistance

was rendered in the 700 block of East Foster, the intersection of Alcock and Nelson streets, and at one other location.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart, the 1000 block of North Hobart and the 200 block of East

Harvester.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered in the 2300 block of Alcock.

Two alarms were reported.

Welfare checks were made in the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of East Tuke and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

A runaway was reported in the 1200 block of Darby.

Warrant service was attempted at one location, resulting in an arrest.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1400 block of Gwendolyn, the 1200 block of East Foster, the 1100 block of East Browning and the 1200 block of Duncan.

A prowler was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy.

Civil matters were reported in the 1200 block of South Hobart and the 800 block of East Frederic.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 1200 block of North Christine and the 700 block of North Somerville.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of Bradley Drive, the 700 block of North Wells and twice in the 700 block of Davis.

Criminal mischief was reported at First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. A glass door was broken. Estimated cost of damage is \$200.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson and the 900 block of South Nelson.

Theft was reported in the 1600 block of Dogwood, the 700 block of North Russell and the 2800 block of West 28th Avenue.

Theft was reported in the 1800 block of West Alcock. A PlayStation PSP and PlayStation game were taken, for an estimated loss of \$308.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. A cell phone valued at \$300 was taken in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Theft was reported at Dollar General, 105 N. Cuyler. Taken were batteries, socks, a belt, a Sharpie, pens, vanilla cream and a brush, all valued at \$26. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1200 block of Duncan, the 900 block of East Foster and the 700 block of North Russell.

Assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th, the 700 block of North Nelson and the 100 block of South Starkweather.

ARRESTS

Saturday, Dec. 10

David Lee Sieber, 43, 1229 E. Foster, was arrested in the 300 block of North Hobart on capias pro fines for no seat belt and no driver's license.

Rick Lynn Callaway, 50, Lefors, was arrested in the 100 block of North Cuyler for theft under \$50.

Rhonda Kay Spotts, 39, Pampa, was arrested in the 100 block of North Cuyler for theft under \$50.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Obituaries

Vircie Lee Twigg, 72

Vircie Lee Twigg, 72, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2005, in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Twigg was born Sept. 8, 1933, in Vinita, Okla. She married Jimmie Twigg on Dec. 19, 1953, in Clovis, N.M. He preceded her in death in 1995.

She was the owner of the Rathskeller restaurant in Pampa from 1982 to 1993. She was a lifelong member of the Moose Lodge in Pampa, a loving and dedicated mother, grandmother and aunt.

Her life revolved around her grandchildren. She was loved and will be missed by

all. As an active boilermaker's wife, she could pack and move the family at a moment's notice.

Survivors include a daughter, Cheryl Ammerman of Pampa; a son-in-law, Dirk Ammerman of Pampa; two sisters, Beverly Knipfer and Sue Hyslive of Oklahoma; three brothers, J.D. Armstrong and Freddie Armstrong, both of Pryor, Okla., and Billy Don Armstrong of Arizona; three grandsons, James Twigg and Ted Ammerman, both of Pampa, and Jeff Twigg of Anchorage, Alaska; two granddaughters, Liana Ammerman and Tiffany Britton, both of Pampa; one cousin, Lou Ellen Collins of Missouri; three nephews, Bobby Armstrong and Raymond Armstrong, both of Pampa, and Jimmy Hunt of Elk City, Okla.; and four nieces, Rebecca Mullins and Peggy Ivey, both of Pampa; Dalena Blaylock of Amarillo and Deborah Hunt of Houston.

The family requests memorials to Pampa Meals on Wheels, 302 E. Foster, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com



Twigg

Dorothy Worley, 77

AMARILLO — Dorothy Worley, 77, died Dec. 9, 2005.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2005, at Cox Funeral Home Benton Chapel with the Rev. Robert Field officiating. Cremation is by Cox Funeral Home.

Mrs. Worley was born April 25, 1928, in Bowers City and raised in the Texas Panhandle. She lived in Pampa for many

years before moving to Amarillo in 2002. She was in the restaurant business for many years. She operated the Canteen at Lake Greenbelt and also managed the country club at Howardwick. Mrs. Worley also sold real estate and had a recycling business. She loved to fish, sew, and loved to cook for her family. She was a Christian. She was preceded in death by one son, Bill Davis in 1992.

Survivors include two daughters, Becky Cota of Amarillo and Andy Reed of Pampa; one son, Alfred "Al" Davis of Richardson; one sister, Helen Brock of Bartlesville, Okla.; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.



Worley

Norma Sue Holt, 68

Norma Sue Holt, 68, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005 in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Holt was born Dec. 13, 1936, in Erick, Okla. She attended Pampa schools. She had been a longtime resident of Pampa before moving to Grapevine. She had been a resident of Grapevine for 34 years before returning to Pampa. She married R. Howard Holt on Oct. 29, 1953, in Pampa. She was a

former member of the Central Church of Christ in Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, R. Howard Holt of the home; three sons, Alan Holt and wife Athena of Haltom City, Joel Holt and wife Falene of Grapevine, and Chet Holt and wife Betty of Argyle; two brothers, Robert Cobb of Spring, and John Cobb of Austin; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

Services tomorrow

TWIGG, Vircie Lee — 2 p.m. Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
WORLEY, Dorothy — 2 p.m. Cox Funeral Home Benton Chapel, Amarillo.

Monica Elaine Combs, 30, 501 1/2 N. Ward, was arrested in the 300 block of Davis on capias pro fines for no seat belt and no valid driver's license.

Monday, Dec. 12

Michael Lee Dittbener, 24, 604 Bradley, was arrested in the 1200 block of North Hobart for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Eddie Scott Graham, 17, 2236 Dogwood, was arrested in the 1200 block of Garland for assault causing bodily injury, evading arrest/detention, no driver's license, and a bond surrender for driving while license is suspended.

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

Sunday, Dec. 11

Paula Denise Baker, 44, McLean, was arrested on a sentence for a probation violation for possession of marijuana.

Christy Blaylock, 29, McLean, was arrested on a probation violation for possession of under two grams of a controlled substance.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

4:52 p.m. — A 1999 Chevrolet Lumina, driven by Joy Kay Hart, 18, 704 Lefors, and a 1995 Honda

accord, driven by William Ronnie Wood, 63, 2533 Fir, collided in the 2100 block of North Hobart. No injuries were reported. Hart was cited for failure to control speed and no valid driver's license.

5:30 p.m. — A 1984 Chevrolet Suburban, driven by Tabitha Ann Epperson, 17, Skellytown, and a 1997 Chevrolet Z71 pickup, driven by Don Charles Hickman, 71, 1122 Mary Ellen, collided in the 900 block of West 23rd Avenue. No injuries were reported. Epperson was cited for failure to control speed.

Thursday, Dec. 8

See **SERVICES**, Page 3

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high near 57. North-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Wind chill values between 26 and 31. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 56. Wind chill values between 23 and 28 early. Windy, with a south

west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 29. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north northwest.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 40. Windy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph.

CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement.

CLOTHING ROOM Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ (bldg. across the street, South of Pampa High School) Open Tues., Dec. 13th, 9-1 p.m. 665-2373, lv. msg.

KELLY CULVER and About Town Dog Grooming have come back to Pampa. She will take appointments starting Dec. 13. Former customers as well as new ones are welcome. To schedule an appt. please call 665-5959. After being away for awhile it is sure nice to come back home!

MASSAGE THERAPY Special-Christmas Gift Certificates! Cathy Potter or Holly Coutts 669-0013, 1224 N. Hobart Ste. 9, NBC Plaza II

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Alibany Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	3.16
Milo	2.75
Corn	3.73
Soybeans	4.56

Kerr McGee	92.56	+0.68
XOM	58.64	+0.14
Nat'l Oilwell	NA	NA
Limited	23.01	+0.16
Williams	23.53	+0.97
MCD	34.66	-0.18
Atmos	26.46	+0.01
Pioneer Nat	53.11	+1.51
JCP	54.82	+0.52
COP	61.06	-2.01
SLB	99.25	-0.58
Tenneco	18.01	-0.05
CVX	58.99	+0.17
Wal-Mart	48.47	+0.39
OKE	27.71	+0.34
NS Grp	42.84	+0.61
New York Gold	526.40	
Silver	9.00	
West Texas Crude	59.39	

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THIS REMINDER FROM THE PAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT - BECAUSE WE CARE!

Services

Continued from Page 2

7:20 a.m. — A 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Ina Marie Rochelle, 43, 617 Bradley, collided with the curb in the 800 block of East Kentucky and then flipped, coming to rest on its passenger side. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Saturday, Dec. 10

7:20 p.m. — A 1999 Chevrolet 1500 pickup, driven by Rick Ray Parnell, 57, 106 W. 26th Ave., and a 1990 Mitsubishi Mirage, driven by Sylvia Venzor, 40, 1402 E. Francis, collided at the intersection of Harvester and Duncan streets. No injuries were reported. Venzor was cited for failure to yield right of way while making a left turn, and no valid driver's license.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 10

9:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of North Doucette. No transport.

2:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa

Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital.

5:05 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded Highway 152. No transport.

Sunday, Dec. 11

0:55 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of North Doucette. No transport.

8:05 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Roberta and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:05 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of Doucette. No transport.

9:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No transport.

9:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Lefors. No transport.

11:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded PRMC and transported a patient to the 500 block of North Wells.

4:04 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of Lowry and trans-

ported a patient to PRMC.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 10

1:37 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1700 block of Chestnut on a medical assist.

7:23 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Duncan and Harvester on a vehicle accident.

9:31 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1400 block of Williston on a gas investigation.

Sunday, Dec. 11

1:55 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the rodeo grounds on a Lifestar standby.

4:13 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Gray 8 1/2 and McMullough on a grass fire.

10:16 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of North Wells on a medical assist.

4:01 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to 1/4 mile east of the loop on Highway 60 on a grass fire.

5:16 p.m. — Two units and eight personnel responded to the 300 block of North Banks on a false alarm.

Lefors ISD meets Tuesday

Lefors Independent School District board of trustees will discuss legal updates, personnel and school board resignations at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Meeting at the Lefors High School Library, 209 E. Fifth St., the school board will review school finances

Judge orders extension of FEMA hotel program

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A government program that put Hurricane Katrina evacuees in hotels while they sought other housing must be extended a month beyond the deadline set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a federal judge ruled Monday.

Judge Stanwood Duval extended the program until Feb. 7.

The temporary restraining order came from a class action lawsuit filed in November by advocates for hurricane victims.

and updated legal policies following this year's Texas Legislative session. They are expected to bring local policies in line with any changes in state law.

The board will also hear from the Lefors School Superintendent Gary Jameson and an Academic Excellence Indicator System, or AEIS, report before going into executive session to discuss personnel and options for board member resignations.

City

Continued from Page 1

Board is to study and propose programs to enhance the city's environment and research opportunities for grants.

In other business, the commission will consider a resolution to execute a deed without warranty to transfer all or portions of three lots in the Cherokee Addition to Rusty Stevens.

The commission will also vote on Hollie Carter's bid of \$100 for delinquent tax property at 744 E. Scott.

The Pampa City Commission will discuss low to moderate income housing and a Canadian River Municipal Water ground water program. The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority is planning to buy more water rights and build a new aqueduct between Amarillo and Lubbock.

The commission will meet beginning at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the city commission chambers of Pampa City Hall. They are expected to cancel their regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 27 because of the holidays.

Board

Continued from Page 1

Jeanee Townson, Kenneth May, Renee Brown, Gary Sutherland, James Bradley, Phillip Conner, John Curry, Jimmy Humphrey, Ray O'Quin, Shawn Clifton, Dwight Fiveash, Carl O'Neal and Dalton Lewis. Tuesday afternoon, Kathy Cota, Bill Berry, Glennette Goode, Bill Allison, Robert Dixon and Jeff Andrews are to be interviewed.

All interviews will be in executive session.

Tour

Continued from Page 1

ings. When Judy Warner took the packages into the home of the three children she helped with shopping and wrapping, every member of the household gave her a joyful hug.

It was a time for community cooperation.

The Children's Shopping Tour was sponsored by the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, the Pampa Kiwanis Club, the Salvation Army, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, the American Red Cross, Tralee Crisis Center, the Energizer and Aldersgate Sunday School classes of the First United Methodist Church, Jr. Service League, First

Baptist Church, Body of Christ Church at Pampa, First Presbyterian Church, Calvary Baptist Church and Moose Lodge No. 1385.

Other sponsoring groups included PHS Football Team, PHS Basketball Team, Lady Harvester Basketball Team, PHS Cheerleaders, PHS Student Council, Drug Free Youth in Texas, ASTRA Club, National Honor Society, Pampa Police Department, Gray County Sheriff's Office, Roberts County Sheriff's Office, the Miami Area Youth Organization, First Christian Church, the Disciple Women's Ministry and the Lamplighter Sunday School Class of the First Christian Church.

It was a time of peace on earth and good will toward all who were touched by this project.

Top court to review redistricting

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said today it would consider the constitutionality of a Texas congressional map engineered by Rep. Tom DeLay that helped Republicans gain seats in Congress.

The 2003 boundaries helped Republicans win 21 of the state's 32 seats in Congress in the last election—up from 15. They were approved amid a nasty battle between Republican leaders and Democrats and minority groups in Texas.

The contentiousness also reached Washington, where the Justice Department approved the plan although staff lawyers concluded that it diluted minority voting rights. Because of past discrimination against minority voters, Texas is required to get Justice Department approval for any voting changes to ensure they don't undercut minority voting.

Justices will consider a constitutional challenge to the boundaries filed by various

opponents. The court will hear two hours of arguments in four separate appeals. Lawyers have been told the case will be argued March 1, so the outcome could affect 2006 elections.

The legal battle at the Supreme Court was over the unusual timing of the Texas redistricting, among other things. Under the Constitution, states must adjust their congressional district lines every 10 years to account for population shifts.

But in Texas the boundaries were redrawn twice after the 2000 census, first by a court, then by state lawmakers in a second round promoted by DeLay.

DeLay spokesman Kevin Madden said Monday, "The effort to deliver a new congressional map was founded in the belief that a history of gerrymandering efforts by Democrats in Texas had resulted in an unfair representation of Texas voters."

Pampa

Pampa Independent School District

Watch this space every Sunday for a weekly listing of non-athletic events from every campus in our school district

Pampa ISD Events For The Week Of December 12 - December 16

Pampa High School

December 15 • Basketball Booster Club • 6:00PM

December 15 • 1st thru 4th Period Semester Exams

December 16 • 5th thru 7th Period Semester Exams

Pampa Learning Center

December 16 • Graduation/Awards Celebration • 10:30AM

Pampa Junior High School

December 13 • 7th & 8th Grade Band Christmas Concert • Audit. 8:30PM

December 13 • Choir Christmas Concert • First Baptist Church

December 14 • Semester Test • Science and English

December 15 • Semester Test • Math and Reading

December 16 • Band Deadline for Solo and Ensemble Entries

December 16 • Semester Test • History

Austin Elementary

December 16 • Classroom Parties • 2:00PM

Lamar Elementary

December 13 & 15 • Kid's Cafe • 5:30PM to 6:30PM

December 13 & 15 • Family Literacy Night • 6:00PM to 7:30PM

December 13 • 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade Christmas Play • 10:00AM

December 15 • 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Christmas Music Program • 1:00PM

December 16 • Head Start Christmas Activities • 8:00AM

December 16 • K-2nd Grade Christmas Program • 10:00AM

December 16 • Classroom Parties • 2:00PM

Travis Elementary

December 13 • 5th Grade Choir Christmas Program • 1:30PM

December 14 • PHS Band Christmas Concert • 8:15AM

December 14 • Kindergarten Caroling • 9:15AM-10:30AM

December 15 • 4th Grade Caroling • 8:55AM-11:00AM

Wilson Elementary

December 12 & 14 • Family Literacy Night • 6:00PM-7:30PM

December 12 & 14 • Kids Cafe • 5:30PM-6:30PM

December 13 • PHS Christmas Band Concert • Gym 8:10AM

December 13 • Parent Make and Take • 9:00AM-2:00PM

December 13 • Kindergarten Parent Meeting • 5:30PM

December 14 • ESL • 1:00PM-3:00PM

Dec 15 • Volunteer Appreciation • Family Literacy Center 9:00AM-2:00PM

December 15 • Christmas Music/Band Program Cool Yule (GYM) 1:30PM

December 16 • Classroom Parties • 2:00PM

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DECEMBER 19 - JANUARY 2

For the most up-to-date Pampa ISD information, Go to the school website at www.pampaisd.net. From the parent information drop-down menu, click on the Pampa ISD Event Calendar



The Gift Shop

at Pampa Regional Medical Center

SALE

December 12th-22nd

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Viewpoints

Medicare strides forward into the New Year

When the confetti falls and toasts are made to the New Year on Jan. 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage will begin. Prescription drugs have revolutionized healthcare. Many illnesses that previously required regular and expensive trips to the doctor or even surgery now can be treated by taking prescription drugs.

Heart bypass surgery can cost \$60,000-80,000. It risks further endangering a patient's life, can be a traumatic experience, and requires substantial time for recovery. But the advent of many new prescription drugs has eliminated the need for many people to undergo serious procedures by lowering cholesterol before such surgery is needed.

Preventing the full onset of heart disease and other illnesses simultaneously improves an individual's health and lowers the total cost of treatment. Most health insurance plans help pay for such drugs. Yet, many people have found that when they retire and move from their employer's insurance coverage to Medicare, they lose their prescription drug coverage.

In Texas, 57 percent of the Medicare population — primarily anyone 65 or older — was without prescription drug coverage. They were forced either to pay out of pocket for drugs their doctors recommended or to wait until their condition worsened and required surgery.

Recognizing the need to change the status quo,

President Bush and Congress discussed ways to provide our seniors with better health-care options at more reasonable prices. Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act and the president signed it into law. The centerpiece of this act, the Prescription Drug Benefit, more than doubles the number of people with drug benefit coverage, jumping from 43 percent of the Medicare population to 96 percent.

The new prescription drug coverage, referred to as Medicare Part D, increases the focus on preventive care

and disease management. It is expected to reduce seniors' annual pharmaceutical spending by more than 50 percent. Under the act, insurance companies and other private companies are working with Medicare to negotiate discounts on drug prices. Those with the lowest incomes will not have to pay a monthly premium or annual deductible. Others will have an average monthly premium of approximately \$32 and an annual deductible of \$250.

Some critics claimed that the plans offered would not be affordable. But the increased competition has resulted in greater savings for consumers, making plan costs more reasonable. Monthly premiums are 13.5 percent lower than originally anticipated, with beneficiaries in Texas having access to at least one plan with premiums below \$20 per month. Under current estimates, the new coverage will save a typical individual 44 percent on their out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs. Low-income individuals will save substantially more.

To maximize your benefits, take a moment to learn about your options and consider which plan will benefit you the most. There are a number of Web sites designed to help you compare. The place to start is

www.medicare.gov. There you will find the different plans available in Texas, as well as the deductible and fees associated with that plan. You can even enter a list of drugs you take regularly, enter your dose of each drug and have the Web site create a list of plans that offer your drugs.

If you do not have Internet access or you have trouble using the Web site, you might visit your local library, where a librarian can assist you in navigating the site. Consider consulting your local pharmacist. Some pharmacies will look at your current prescriptions and help you with your choices. Alternatively, you can learn about the new benefits by

See HEALTH, Page 8

Kay Bailey Hutchison

U.S. Senator



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2005. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 12, 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

On this date:

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the Mona Lisa, stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In 1937, a Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan

'Experience has taught me that the only cruelties people condemn are those with which they do not happen to be familiar.'

— Ellen Glasgow
American author
(1874-1945)

apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1947, the United Mine Workers union withdrew from the American Federation of Labor.

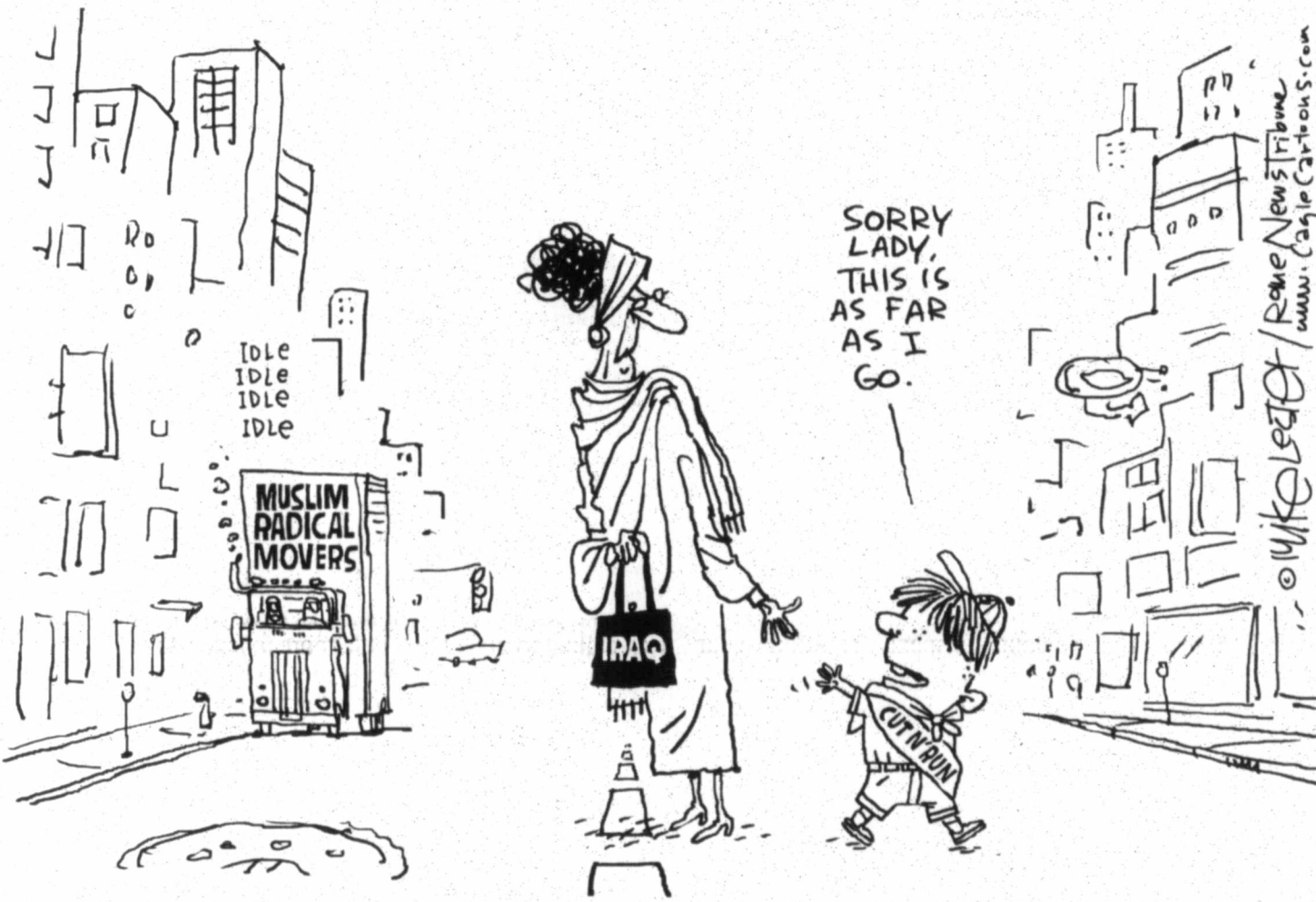
In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore pleaded guilty to a charge of trying to kill President Ford in San Francisco the previous September.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

Ten years ago: By three votes, the Senate killed a constitutional amendment that would have given Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration against Old Glory. Two French airmen shot down over Bosnia arrived home after nearly four months as captives of the Bosnian Serbs.

Five years ago: A divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election, transforming George W. Bush into the president-elect. The Marine Corps grounded all eight of its high-tech MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft following a fiery crash in North Carolina that killed four Marines. General Motors announced it would phase out its Oldsmobile division.



I'm old enough my wants don't hurt

There have been some stories lately about layoffs at various large newspapers. One of my colleagues in the punditry racket even wrote a column headlined "How to save the newspaper business from its owners." Such lamentations and perorations are all in vain.

Let's see if we can ground ourselves in reality. Owners own, and employees work for owners. Nothing employees can do or will do or would hope to do will have the least effect on the owners' decisions when it comes to profits and losses. They, the owners, hire and they fire, and that's all there is to say on that subject. Since the pernicious practice of giving top people stock options has taken over, there is an inordinate interest in maintaining profit margins. Those margins depend on cutting expenses and/or rais-

ing prices, though price increases are somewhat limited by the market competition.

Of course newspapers are in decline. Newspapers require readers, and by that I mean people who not only can read, but also enjoy reading. These people, I fear, are scrolling off life's screen. When my daughter was in high school, I used to ask her classmates when they came over what they were reading. The answers were always "Nothing," followed by "I don't like to read." These were kids from upper-middle-class families, all bound for college. My daughter's "honors English literature" class required the students to

read only one novel during the year.

There was a time, when discourse was more honest in this country, that kids who didn't like to read would be actively discouraged from wasting their parents' money on college. These days, however, one can now successfully attend and graduate from many colleges and universities with very little reading on any subject, or so it appears, judging from the general ignorance displayed by many college graduates.

Television, of course, has eaten into newspaper readership. It is frankly a lousy and often unreliable source of information, but the people and the sets are pretty, and

no intellectual effort is required to sit in a zombie-like state and let one's brain be filled with trivia.

Now, of course, the Internet has taken another bite out of newspaper readership. True, one has to read, but not that much. You can scan the top stories in the major newspapers in a matter of minutes, and there's no bulky stuff to fill up your trash can.

Most people desire a great deal less information than most journalists would like to believe. That's why politicians who stick to platitudes, bromides and clichés are so successful. If any of them made an intelligent speech, he or she would lose three-quarters of the audience.

Some fault lies with newspaper management. What is required for a successful

Charley Reese

Columnist



See REESE, Page 8

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 5

The Dallas Morning News on Texas legislators coming to terms on school finance:

If Oprah and Dave can mend fences, why not Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst?

People will say that's being overly optimistic about Texas' most celebrated political feud. They will point to the men's bitter dealings over the supercharged issues of tax reform, money for schools and the strings that should be attached.

For those watching the feud at home,

this is how we size things up:

Having given up on a joint effort, Mr. Dewhurst is about to announce a special Senate panel on school-finance reform. He foresees "putting new money into the classroom."

Those words are key. Texas schools get just barely enough money to carry out their mission, according to a Texas Supreme Court decision of two weeks ago.

We joined those who were disappointed that the court stopped short of the educator's-eye view that classroom achievement is minimal and that expensive improvements are called for.

That requires better, better-paid educators certified in their fields who can benefit from smaller classrooms and sound facilities.

Senators also will be zeroing in on improved "academic and financial accountability" both needed if Texans are to support more money for schools.

And on the House side? Mr. Craddick's education chairman, Kent Grusendorf, has begun focusing on fundamental reforms in spending areas. Some ideas like consolidating some of the state's 1,037 school districts are daring but worth discussion. Consider that 80 percent of the districts have 1,200 or fewer students.

But pledges for new cash for schools are hard to come by in the House. Mr. Grusendorf wrote last week that he aims for "money well spent, rather than just more money."

See SCHOOL, Page 8

Sports Day

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Optimist Club registrations; girls softball umpires needed

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

POYC Baseball

Registration for Optimist Boys' Basketball will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the main Optimist building, according to Ronnie N. Haynes, Optimist President.

The league will be divided into two divisions: third and fourth grades and fifth and sixth grades.

A playing fee of \$35 will be requested. Practices and games will start next month.

Umpires Needed

A meeting for current and prospective umpires for the 2006 High School Girls Fastpitch Softball season will be held Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the Kid's Inc. Warehouse located at 2201 East 27th in Amarillo.

All interested parties should attend this meeting. For more information call Kevin Cotter, (806) 499-3746.

Lady Harvesters fall to Coronado

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Foul trouble in the first half hurt as the Lady Harvesters fell to Lubbock Coronado 71-56 Friday.

Pampa (6-8) entered the game looking to even its record on the road against the Lady Mustangs.

Head coach Troy Fry said his team was able to take the game over in the second half, outscoring Coronado 36-28, but just not able to overcome the foul problems of the first half.

Still, Fry was very pleased with his team's performance. "It was a hard fought battle the entire game."

He noted how this game should help his team later in the season. "It was a good game for us to be involved in. Coronado pressed us the whole game and was very physical. I feel this should help us down the road," said Fry.

Fry also praised his bench for its solid play, coming in while Pampa was in foul trouble. "They did a great job," Fry said.

In summarizing Friday night's game, Coach Fry said, "All in all I know this game was a learning experience for the entire team on how to play on the road against a tough opponent."

Both the boys and girls varsity and junior varsity basketball teams will begin Borger Tuesday night.

The Lady Harvesters varsity game will begin at 6 p.m. as will the junior varsity boys game.

The varsity boys and junior varsity girls games will start at 7:30 p.m.

Scoring

Britteni Rice had 19 points for the Lady Harvesters in the game. Callie Cobb 15. Jackie Gerber scored 15 and Audrey Dunn added seven.

Bush beats Young for Heisman

NEW YORK (AP) - Southern California's incomparable junior tailback Reggie Bush won the Heisman Trophy as college football's best player in a landslide Saturday night over Texas quarterback Vince Young and USC quarterback Matt Leinart, last year's winner.

Bush and Leinart will be the first Heisman winners to play for the same team in a college game when USC goes for a third straight national title against Texas in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 4.

Bush received 2,541 points to finish 933 points ahead of Young, with Leinart a distant third.

Winning isn't everything, but it's at least worth a try

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Your team has just poured its heart and soul into a game. A game filled with emotion.

Your bunch held a lead late, but allowed the opponent to come back and tie you.

You have the ball on your own 20-yard line with the game clock showing just over one minute to work the ball into field goal range for the win.

One minute and timeouts unspent. You like your chances, especially given that you are on your own field and the home crowd is loud.

Your field goal kicker paces the sidelines in anticipation, wanting the chance to send his team off the field winners.

You can feed off the emotion. You may not win in regulation, but it will not be due to a lack of effort.

The adrenaline level is sky high. Coach sends in the play and your quarterback relays it to the team. "OK fellas, we have just over one minute and the home field advantage is on our side. Now let's go take a knee and head into overtime. Ready...break."

This is how the NCAA Division I-AA semifinal game between Texas State and the University of Northern Iowa ended Friday night.

UNI tied the game late but left State plenty of time to get

into field goal position to win.

Then the Bobcat's head coach David Bailiff instructed his guys to take a knee.

The look on his player's faces was priceless. The ESPN cameras caught a fan who left lip readers little doubt as to how he felt about the call.

Every one in the Bobcat's stadium, including the announcers were stunned.

More than a minute to play with timeouts still in the bank and you ask the team that just gave you all it had and was willing to give you a little more to take a knee?

Texas State lost that game as soon as Coach Bailiff made the call. Unfortunally, he made the call on national television for every one, including possible recruits to see.

And what they saw was a coach that didn't believe in his team enough to at least give it a chance to win.

Coach Bailiff would say after the game he feared what would happen if his team were to turn the ball over on their side of the field trying to go for the win, knowing the UNI kicker had decent range.

He also noted how hard it is for a team to score, let alone from 80 yards away.

Problem is, his guys only needed a field goal, not a touchdown.

Better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all.

Cowboys survive Chiefs, 31-28

IRVING, Texas (AP) - Drew Bledsoe didn't see the penalty flag. He had already knelt to the ground and was taking his helmet off after the incompletion on fourth down, thinking the Dallas Cowboys had wasted another late chance.

Except, they got another one - and Bledsoe made it count.

"I thought the game was over," Bledsoe said. "I didn't know that we had another shot."

Two plays after a defensive holding call against Kansas City revived the Cowboys' final drive, Bledsoe threw a 1-yard touchdown to blocking tight end Dan Campbell - the last of several unusual plays by Dallas in a much-needed 31-28 victory Sunday.

"This game gives us a lot of momentum," said Campbell, who had just his third catch of the season, and first touchdown since November 2003. "We need that."

The Cowboys (8-5), whose next two games are on the road, ended a two-game losing streak to remain within a game of the NFC East-leading Giants. New York followed its victory over Dallas last week by beating Philadelphia in overtime Sunday.

Dallas also got touchdowns from Terry Glenn on a 71-yard flea flicker and a

6-yard end around run, capitalizing on coach Bill Parcells' aggressive game plan that was needed to keep pace with the Chiefs (8-5).

"The offense knew they were going to have to do something today or we weren't going to win," Parcells said. "They answered the challenge. I told them Wednesday exactly how we were going to play the game."

Parcells knew they had to score a lot of points, which meant not being able to force the running game like the coach has mostly preferred in a season of close games. All but two of Dallas' games have been decided by six points or less, with two of the last three losses on field goals as time expired.

Bledsoe threw for 332 yards with three TDs and the Cowboys had 445 total yards, their second-best effort this year. Glenn had six catches for 138 yards, and Jason Witten caught seven passes for 93 yards, with a 26-yard score just before halftime that put Dallas ahead.

The Chiefs wasted 340 yards passing by Trent Green and the team-record sixth straight 100-yard rushing game by Larry Johnson, who had 143 yards and three touchdowns. They had a three-game winning streak snapped and missed a

chance to move up in the AFC wild card chase after division rival San Diego lost.

"I don't know if that makes us feel better or if it makes us madder," Green said. "It was a frustrating day."

Green's 47-yard TD to Eddie Kennison with 3:55 left put Kansas City up 28-24. But the Cowboys then went 68 yards in 14 plays, a drive Bledsoe kept alive

with two third-down completions before Marion Barber III turned a short pass into a 21-yard gain to the 6.

They were still there when Witten missed a fourth-down pass at the goal line. But defensive holding was called against safety Greg Wesley, though replays showed linebacker Derrick Johnson was to blame.



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Until now, I had a perfect life with a wonderful husband and a great 16-year-old son. My husband of 10 years, "Keith," has raised my son, "Mike," and loves him as his own. Mike grew up knowing that Keith was not his birth father, but has always treated him as if he were. My ex-husband remarried and now has three daughters. I never hid this from my son. But now, my ex-husband's daughters have "found" Mike on the Internet. They have been talking for a couple of weeks now, and Mike actually talked to his birth father on a couple of occasions. Mike now treats Keith very badly, and Keith doesn't know why. I knew about the conversations with his "sisters," but I did not know about the conversations with his father. Why would a man who abandoned me and his infant son 16 years ago all of a sudden want to come into his life now and disrupt our lives? We have a great family, and I get very uncomfortable when Mike slips in things that happened 16 or 17 years ago, because he heard it from his father. Also, I do not like his father talking to him one-on-one without me. What can I do? -- **WORRIED ON THE WEST COAST**

DEAR WORRIED: I can think of one reason why the man who abandoned you and your baby boy is now disrupting your life. The answer is, he "only" had three girls and would now like to have a son. After all, all the work of raising this young man has been done. Your son may be 16, but he is still a minor. I recommend you discuss this entire matter with an attorney who can tell you what your rights are as your son's custodial parent. (I am assuming you never received child support for the boy. If your ex wants "in" now, perhaps he should share some of the financial responsibility that Keith has shouldered for so many years.) And while you're at it, I urge you to consider family counseling for you, your husband and your son. I don't know what your ex may have been telling the

young man, but I guarantee it'll be better if it is put on the table by YOU, with a trained therapist who can help you to iron out the "wrinkles" before they become permanent. Please don't put it off.

DEAR ABBY: Every year at Christmas, my four longtime girlfriends and I "promise" not to buy each other expensive gifts. We all have large families, so it is a cost-saving measure. However, invariably at least one of us ends up ignoring the rule and buys lavish gifts anyway! The small gift-givers end up feeling embarrassed, and the expensive gift-givers end up feeling guilty for violating our pledge. Please help us stop this self-defeating cycle! -- **"B" IN UNIONVILLE, IND.**

DEAR "B": I have a suggestion: Make a pact this year that your only "gifts" will be in the form of letters to each other, describing a special memory of your friendship. Embellish the letters with all the traits your friends have that you admire. I promise you, the recipients will treasure it. If anyone breaks the pact, the others should not feel guilty for having kept the promise and given a gift of "self."

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 13-year-old boy with a problem. My mother won't stop using my underwear. If that's not bad enough, she only uses my NEW underwear. I constantly ask her to stop, but she won't. What should I do? -- **ANGRY IN HARTFORD, CONN.**

DEAR ANGRY: At 13, you are old enough to have things of your own. Your mother shouldn't be using your underwear without your permission. The next time it happens, try this: Say you'd like to borrow some of hers.

For Better Or Worse



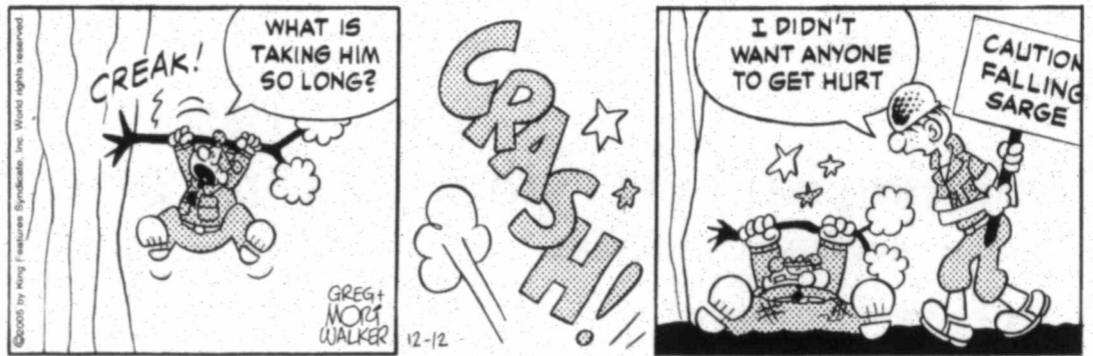
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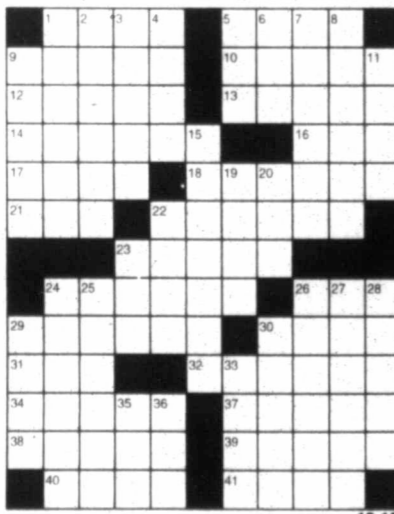
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Broken, in a way
 - 1 Radar-screen
 - 40 There are seven in this puzzle
 - 5 Horn sound
 - 41 Downhill glider
 - 9 Statement of belief
 - 10 Cheering loudly
 - 12 Nigerian city
 - 13 Marilyn Home, for one
 - 14 Funnel-shaped flower
 - 16 Menagerie
 - 17 Photos
 - 18 Fanatic
 - 21 Devious
 - 22 Enjoys the rink
 - 23 Be
 - 24 In the neighborhood
 - 26 Maze runner
 - 29 Target at a fiesta
 - 30 Office note
 - 31 Quantity. Abbr.
 - 32 Chewy candy
 - 34 Pumped up on caffeine
 - 37 Award
 - 38 Comic Martin
- DOWN**
- 1 Rio setting
 - 2 Inheritance
 - 3 Objects of adulation
 - 4 Play the model
 - 5 Sandwich meat
 - 6 Bonanza stuff
 - 7 Hose part
 - 8 Hummers' instruments
 - 23 Lamb
 - 9 Applauds
 - 11 Weed part
 - 15 Prison in the Harry Potter books
 - 19 Simple Court worker.
 - 20 Court worker.
 - 22 Copier function
 - 23 Lamb
 - 24 WWII admiral
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 - 29 Hound's hands
 - 30 Wall art
 - 33 Chooses
 - 35 Time of planning
 - 36 — Moines

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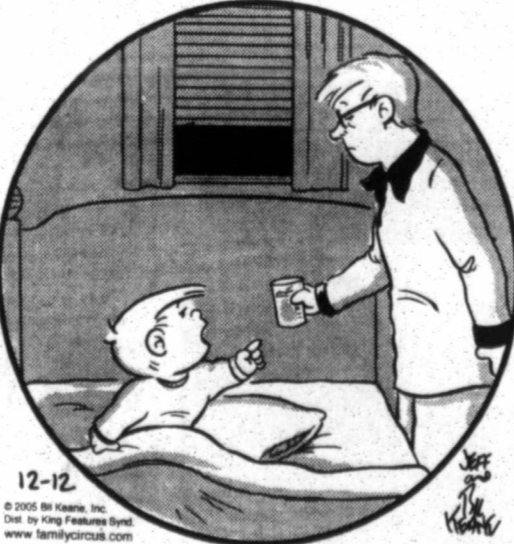
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



B.C.



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NOW hiring Asst. Management trainees. Come join our dynamic team! National consumer finance co. with over 425 locations. Full benefits pkg., vacation, paid holidays, medical & life ins., 401k retirement, excellent training program. No finance exp. required. We are looking for qualified candidates with a desire to succeed & advance. Professional appearance & automobile. For info, or to schedule an interview, please call 665-6442.

Hiring Company Drivers Earn \$700-\$1300 per week. Local hauling / 5 day work week, day shift. Great benefits. Paid weekly-direct deposit. Paid vacation. 401K. Dedicated tractors. Class A CDLX required. Call 1-800-737-9911 Ext. 200

21 Help Wanted

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

UPS has immediate openings for Seasonal Driver Helpers. Details and applications at upsjobs.com

Part-Time Clinical Nursing Faculty:

The Division of Nursing at West Texas A&M University seeks part-time clinical instructors in Maternal Child and Medical Surgical nursing for the Spring 2006 semester. BSN required; MSN preferred. Call Heidi Taylor, Division Head, 806-651-2630, for information. Texas law requires that males, age 18 through 25, be registered w/ Selective Service System. AA/EOE.

Wheeler Nursing & Rehab. Dietary Position-Nursing Home. FT Cook & Dietary Aide. Competitive wages, exp. preferred but will train. Apply in person to Megan McKinley 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler Tx

RN, LVN & Nurse Aid

Wheeler Nursing and Rehabilitation is seeking caring, dedicated employees for the position of 2-10 and 10-6 Charge Nurse. Please apply in person to Donna Cox RN DON, 1000 S. Kiowa

NOW hiring all positions at Pizza Hut Delivery. Inquire within @ 1500 N. Banks. Good attitude req.

TRUCK Driver needed. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record. Apply in person 8 am-5 pm., Mon.-Fri., Bouldand Levech Supply, Hwy. 1522 West, Pampa, Tx.

FT kitchen help needed at Dixie Cafe. Apply within at 2537 Perryton Pky, after 2pm. & before 5pm. No Phone Calls Please.

PARTS Associate. Exp. preferred but not necessary. Reply to Box 5 c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

TEXAS Rose needs wait staff. Must be 18. Apply in person from 2-5. No Phone Calls Please.

EXTREMELY friendly medical office personal needed for a Pampa medical office. Office experience a plus! Excellent salary! No phone calls please. Fax resume to (806) 274-2531.

SONIC DRIVE-IN is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crewmembers for all shifts, all positions. Apply in person at 1404 Hobart EOE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

for Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2005: This year could be a mixed bag. Sometimes you are focused on work; other times, you might be unusually verbal and social. This profile might feel like how you are now. Prepare to become even more like this in the next year. You will be unusually active mentally. You might want to take a hard look at your life and consider what you want to change. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone through your day-to-day travels. You might grow a lot through this bond, but there could be quarrels or intrinsic disagreements. If you are attached, be nurturing and, if you can, less dominant. GEMINI often challenges you.

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)

Take care of a gift or special token of affection before lunch. Highlight communication this afternoon. You might think you or someone else is speaking gibberish. Instead of reacting, work for clarity. Tonight: Hang out with a friend and share your day and general news. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Act in the morning, when you can do no wrong — well, nearly. Your smile is also exactly what you want. You can find out more than you originally anticipated. Confusion surrounds finances. Say no this afternoon. Tonight: Your treat. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might be slow to get your day going. Caring evolves, especially this

21 Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED Payroll Administrator with good Excel and Word skills. Full time position with competitive pay and benefits. Send resume Attn: Controller, P.O. Box 501, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

STOP LOOKING AND GET TO WORK Tired of looking for just a job? Call us TODAY and begin a Career. If you are self-motivated and have a sales personality; you may be what we are looking for. Call now to find out how you can support your family in today's job market. Only serious inquiries please. 669-7605 or Fax Resume to 665-4376.

OUTREACH Health Services has immediate openings for attendants in the Pampa area, 40+ hrs, Mon.-Fri. & some weekends. Must be 18 +, no exp. necessary. Please contact Regina Perry, 800-800-0697.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household

MATTRESS SALE 3 weeks Only! Xtra Thick Pillow Top w/Box Twin \$189 Full \$229 Queen \$259 King \$319 806-677-0400

HOT TUBS

Closeout on all 2005 Models. Full Warr. Lounger, Redwood Cab. Ozonator, Aroma Therapy, Waterfall, Cover, Starter kit 6 person-\$3600 SAVE \$\$\$\$ while supplies last! 806-670-9337

ROPER elec. 220V dryer, good working order-\$100. 5 captains chairs-\$20 ea. All cash. 2714 Comanche

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News **MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.**

SEASONED Oak Firewood, delivered and stacked. 779-3284.

The joy of giving can be yours, give 45 min. of your time, wkly. to Meals on Wheels, 669-1007.

EDDIE Bauer Pak N Play Baby Crib, Hi- Chair, Toddler Bed, Stroller, Swings, Car Seats, Desks, Walkers, Baby Needs, Changing Table, Bedding. Spoiled by Right 302 W. Foster 665-0990

PEDDLE Kids Golf Cart Harley Motorcycle Brio Train Table w/ Lots of Trains, Novelty Toy Boxes, Electric Guitar, Step 2 Slide Spoiled by Right 302 W. Foster 665-0990

69 Misc.

Little Tikes: Washer/Dryer, Kitchen, Beauty Shop, Vanity, Doll House, Stable, Horses, Playhouse Garage, Turbo Merry Go Round, Workshop, BBQ Grill 302 W. Foster 665-0990

LITTLE Tikes Twin Cottage Bed, Race Car Bed, Toddler Race Bed, School Uniforms, Movies, Computers, Dolls, Trucks, Lots of New Toys. Spoiled By Right 302 W. Foster 665-0990.

69a Garage Sales

DEBBIE'S Bits & Pieces. We buy & sell used furniture & estates. 1 piece or complete house. 903 S. Main, Borger, 273-2905. Open 10-6 pm. Tues-Sat.

80 Pets & Suppl.

FREE KITTENS Call 665-5852 or 662-1571

MINIATURE Dachshund puppies for sale. 8 wks. old. Call 669-0641.

95 Furn. Apts.

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts. 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt avail Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

MOVE -In Special. 1st 90 days \$250 per mo. Fresh paint, appliances inc. Come check out the New Coffee St. Duplexes \$250 1st mo. ("Going Fast!") Call Candy 433-6939 or 665-4274.

NEWLY remodeled. New ownership. Security Officer on duty. 1 bdr.-\$385, 2 bdr.-\$490, all bills pd. Limited openings. Courtyard Apts., 669-9712.

95 Furn. Apts.

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$360. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

95 Furn. Apts.

M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

95 Furn. Apts.

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$360. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

96 Unfurn. Apts.

CAPROCK APARTMENTS 1, 2, & 3 bdr. Starting at only \$320. 6 mo. lease available. * Pool * Laundry * Wash/dryer hook-ups * Club room * On-site management * SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

96 Unfurn. Apts.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt avail Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

3 Br, 2 Ba, Brick, Dbl Gar. Ch/a. Christine St. Price Reduced! Realtor C-21. 440-1100, 665-4180

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

3/2 Brick Home w/ fpl. 2 Car Gar., Lrg Lot, Patio. 2529 Aspen Blvd. By Appt. Call 806-231-1438.

BY Owner. 3 bdr., 2 3/4 ba., 2 liv. areas, dbl. gar. 1701 Grape. 665-4961, 290-2803, by appt. only.

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98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston, Pampa. Update each Fri.

LRG. 1 bedroom house, \$225 month, 1420 E. Browning. 665-4842.

(2) 3 bedroom homes for rent, in excellent condition. Call Shed Realtors, 665-3761.

UPDATED 3 bdr. w/ laundry rm. in great neighborhood. 2122 Hamilton., \$750 mo. 665-5667

3 bd., w/d hookup, c. heat, new paint/carpet. 328 Sunset. \$450 mo., \$350 dep. 665-8550, 662-4675

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

HOTEL DAVIS 116 1/2 W. Foster 440-1066 Rooms \$80 wk., bills paid

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in City! Downtown locations, stores, warehouses, rec. facilities. Call 665-4274.

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104 Lots

2 Mausoleum Crypts Side by Side \$3995.00 Call 440-2449

106 Coml. Property FOR Lease Warehouse on N. Hobart. 1500 sq. ft. Call Jannie Lewis Broker, 665-3458.

99 Chrysler Concord, leather, sun roof, loaded. Pay it off. 665-0008 or 806-282-5205.

1996 Ford Mustang GT. Call (806)663-6904.

First federal Vioxx trial ends in hung jury

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial today in the first federal lawsuit over the once-popular painkiller Vioxx.

Merck & Co. emerged from its third Vioxx trial today with a hung jury when the panel failed, in about 18 hours of deliberations over three days, to side with the drug maker or the widow of a 53-year-old Florida man who died after taking Vioxx for about a month.

The jury resumed what was to be its fourth day of deliberations today, but within about 20 minutes, U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon called the jurors in and reminded them they had agreed to reach a verdict in a "reasonable time."

"It has now been a reasonable time. We cannot get a verdict," Fallon said, declaring a mistrial. Federal litigation requires a unanimous verdict.

The panel was at odds over whether Merck was liable in Richard "Dicky" Irvin's 2001 death and whether the company failed to issue safety warnings that the drug could have serious cardiovascular repercussions.

The unexpected outcome leaves Merck with a 1-and-1 record in state trials and an undecided in the first of four federal trials overseen by Fallon. The company faces about 7,000 pending state and federal lawsuits and its liability has been estimated at up to \$50 billion.

Merck was expected to have an edge because federal courts are often viewed as business-friendly and disciplined, and less tolerant of attorney theatrics and flimsy evidence than state courts.

In the first case, a Texas state jury slapped Merck with a \$253 million verdict for negligence and for failing to

warn of Vioxx dangers in the 2001 death of a Texas man who took the drug for eight months. In November jurors in Merck's home state of New Jersey absolved Merck of liability, leaving nothing for an Idaho man who survived a heart attack after taking the drug intermittently for two months.

The crux of the federal case was whether Vioxx could be dangerous with short-term use.

Merck pulled the painkiller from the market in September 2004 after a long-term study showed it could double the risk of a heart attack or stroke if taken for 18 months or longer.

Merck argued that Vioxx was not a factor in Irvin's death because he took the drug for a few weeks. The company blamed his death on clogged arteries and a blood clot that led to the heart attack.

Irvin got a prescription for Vioxx from his son-in-law, an emergency-room physician, without a medical checkup.

His widow, Evelyn Irvin Plunkett, testified that her husband, a former college football player who managed a wholesale seafood company in St. Augustine, Fla., was "a big, strong, healthy guy" when he died at his desk a few hours after kissing her goodbye on his way to work. She alleged that Vioxx — which inhibits an enzyme that promotes inflammation and thins the blood — led to the clot formation.

Of the 21 witnesses who testified in the case, four testified on Merck's behalf, and none of those were cardiologists. The plaintiff's witnesses included Dr. Eric Topol, chairman of the cardiovascular medicine department of the

Cleveland Clinic and a vocal critic of Vioxx, who said the drug can cause heart attacks any time after a patient begins taking it.

On Thursday, the New England Journal of Medicine said authors of a report about a 2000 Merck-funded clinical study failed to disclose heart attacks suffered by three patients. The publication also alleges the study's authors deleted other relevant data before submitting their article.

In a statement, Whitehouse Station, N.J.-based Merck said it "promptly and appropriately" disclosed the study results.

Testimony in the federal case ended in less than two weeks and was heavily abbreviated in comparison to the Texas and New Jersey state trials, which lasted six and eight weeks, respectively. Fallon, who oversees all federal Vioxx litigation, limited evidence — though much of it mirrored what had been presented in the state cases — and required both sides to hammer out what will be presented long before a jury was chosen.

Texas caps on punitive damages will cut the Texas state case's award to no more than \$26.1 million, and Merck is expected appeal.

Fallon has told attorneys that once the fourth trial ends, he intends to meet with lawyers on both sides to gauge the possibility of crafting a global settlement of all pending federal Vioxx litigation.

The next federal trials are slated for next year, but no specific dates have been set, nor have cases been selected to be tried.

LONE STAR RESTAURANT
Coronado Shopping Center
Pampa, TX
DINNER SPECIALS
5:00PM TO 8:00PM

Monday & Tuesday		Thursday	
KC Strip 8 oz. \$8 ⁵⁰	New Chili Relleno w/drink \$7 ⁵⁰	Catfish w/drink \$7 ⁹⁵	
Wednesday		Friday & Saturday	
Chicken Fried Steak w/drink \$7 ²⁵		Carna Asada NY Steak Ranchero Prime Rib \$10 ⁹⁹	
Sunday			
Mexican Combo w/drink \$7 ⁵⁰			

BUFFET

MON - SAT 11-2 \$5⁷⁵ SUNDAY 11-3 \$7⁵⁰

Health

Continued from Page 4

calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.) You can also obtain information from the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or

by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov. The sooner you sign up for the prescription drug program, the sooner you can start exercising your program benefits. Those who sign up by Dec. 31 will have their coverage start on Jan. 1, 2006. Even people who already have coverage under their current plan should at least look into the new options to see if they can do better. Those currently holding a Medicare-approved discount drug card will see that card expire on May 15, 2006. And individuals presently eligible who fail to sign up before that date will see their premiums rise. Begin to investigate your options now to avoid higher costs later.



Vacation?



New Car?



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No matter what your plans are we can help. We have low rate loans to fit your needs. Come see a loan officer today.

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Reese

Continued from Page 4

publication is for people to want it, and they will want it only if it gives them useful and entertaining information they can't get anywhere else. What newspapers can provide that no one else can is thorough coverage of their particular communities in all their complexity. Some years ago, the marketing people discovered that young people

were no longer reading newspapers. Too many newspapers tried to correct that with heavy emphasis on entertainment and celebrities. A newspaper, however, cannot compete with celebrity magazines and television, and all that stuff just discouraged serious readers. The marketers wrote off the serious young people in favor of those who mumble "you know" and "he goes" and "I go." In case you don't understand, "go" is a common substitute for "said" among the illiterati. The problem with that failed marketing campaign is that newspapers pre-suppose thoughtfulness — thoughtful writers and thoughtful readers. Blank brains are simply not interested and never will be. As for thorough local coverage, that costs money in terms of reporting staff, and that's just what newspapers tend to reduce every time their double-digit profit margins edge toward the high teens. I love the inky old things, and I would hope they all rebound and prosper under independent owners. But as my daddy taught me, I'm old enough for "my wants not to hurt me."

School

Continued from Page 4

Unlike Oprah and Dave, the two top legislative leaders have an imperative to

get together on things the Supreme Court's June 1 deadline to overhaul the tax system for schools. Sadly, their icy dealings are about where they were in the summer, after three failed legislative sessions to solve the school-finance puzzle. There may be one way to bring these leaders together and solve the people's business in a rational way: Call Dr. Phil!

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. This changes to 12 noon Tuesday on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Meeting the deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Pampa Art Club
Pampa Art Club met Dec. 6 at the home of Betty Fletcher with President Carol Peet presiding. Fourteen members were present. The following business was conducted and announcements made:
—Pat Kindle, acting for Secretary Norma Hinkle, called roll, read minutes from the previous meeting and delivered the treasurer's report.
—Amy Winton will conduct a painting workshop with pastels and oils March 2-4.
—The club was recently invited to host the Christmas

Tree Show. After a vote, members declined the offer. The club will meet at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 20 at the home of Dona Cornut for a Christmas party.



Do you have questions about title insurance and closing?

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GREAT PLAINS ABSTRACT & TITLE
Shelly Cook Escrow Officer

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Senior Savers Day!



Seniors Save an Extra 15% off Entire Purchase

This Tuesday it pays to be 55 or older!

Open at 10:00 am

DUNLAPS

*Excludes: Hot Buys, Doorbusters, Cosmetics, Fragrances, Brighton, Jon Hart, Calphalon, Dooney & Bourke and Krups. Discount cannot be combined with any coupon or other special offer and may not be used on prior purchases.