

WASHINGTON

White House seeks to redo way HSD money distributed

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York, Los Angeles and more than two dozen other metropolitan areas will be eligible for federal grants to counter terrorism and other dangers under a program the Homeland Security Department said today it is changing to direct more money to cities facing multiple threats.

Communities in 29 states plus the District of Columbia would be eligible for the grants in 2006, nearly all of which qualified last year, according to a list provided by the department. Added this year was the Memphis area in Tennessee.

Some of the metropolitan areas that would be eligible include: Chicago, Phoenix, Denver, Washington, D.C., Miami, Atlanta, Indianapolis,

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was announcing which cities will receive part of \$765 million in annual Urban Area Security Initiative grants during a news conference today.

Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Dallas and Philadelphia. Also on the list were Boston, Detroit, Las Vegas,

dozens of communities near the metropolitan areas. The list did not give reasons why these areas were qualified for the funding.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was announcing which cities will receive part of \$765 million in annual Urban Area Security Initiative grants during a news conference today. The change, outlined in

departmental documents sent to state and local officials, addresses both the destruction and lack of preparedness seen during Hurricane Katrina.

It also reflects Chertoff's efforts to give his department an all-hazards mission, even though it was created as a direct result of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Obituaries

Chester Allan Crutcher, 85

McLEAN — Chester Allan Crutcher, 85, City, Okla. Services are pending with of McLean, died Jan. 2, 2006, in Oklahoma Bailey-Ware Funeral Home in McLean.

Ben Sparks, 66

BIG SPRING — Ben Sparks, 66, of Big Spring, died Dec. 31, 2005, at a hospital in the Big Spring area. Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubela officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Big Spring.

Mr. Sparks belonged to National Rifle Association and St. Thomas Catholic Church, serving as a lay minister, Eucharistic minister and lecturer.

Survivors include his wife, Christine, of Big Spring; four sons, Randy Sparks of Big Spring, and Clint Sparks, Mark Sparks and Tracy Sparks, all of Phoenix, Ariz.; two daughters, Tonia Sparks and Stephanie Sparks, both of Big Spring; and nine grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

gone to the nationals in bowling and had been a pitcher with Cotton Mize's fast-pitch teams.

Darlene Davis Usleton, 50

CANYON, Texas — Darlene Davis Usleton, 50, of Canyon, died Jan. 1, 2006, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Canyon Ward (8400 Hunsley Rd), with President Bruce Tate officiating. Graveside committal will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday at Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon.

Arrangements are by Brooks Funeral Directors of Canyon.

Darlene Usleton was born on Oct. 12, 1955, to Charles and Nancy Walker Davis at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, Calif. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1974 and graduated from Amarillo College in 1976.

Darlene enjoyed music, playing the clarinet in high school, and was a past president of Canyon High School Band Booster Club. She married Tommy Dale Usleton in 1979 and has since divorced. Tommy is now married to Glenda Fessler.

Darlene was a great-granddaughter of W.L. Bill Lohberger, an early settler of Wheeler County. She enjoyed working with Affiliated Foods for 20 years in HBC and Tobacco Purchasing Department.

Darlene had been a resident in Canyon for

20 years. She was preceded in death by grandparents, Clarence and Louise Davis; an uncle, Jim Walker; an aunt, Ellie and her husband George Wilkinson. She went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 1, 2006, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Survivors include a son, Sean Usleton and wife, Becky, of Canyon, Texas; a grandson, Blake Usleton of Canyon, Texas; parents, Nancy and Charles Davis of Clarendon, Texas; grandparents, George C. and Dorothy Walker of Wheeler, Texas; a sister, D'Anne Woods and husband, Doug, of Pflugerville, Texas; two brothers, Danny Ray Davis of Amarillo, Texas, and Don Alton Davis of Pampa, Texas; sister-in-law, Dianne Davis of Amarillo; two nieces, Tiffany Baldwin and husband, Donnie, of Point Mugu, Calif., and Julie Anne Marie Woods of Pflugerville, Texas; four nephews, Stephen Woods of Pflugerville, Texas, Joshua Davis of Amarillo, William Davis of Amarillo, and Dylan Woods of Pflugerville, Texas; and three close friends, Janice Blandford of Amarillo, Connie Clark of Canyon, and Cindy Craig of Canyon.

The family suggests memorials be to Odyssey Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson St., Amarillo, TX 79101.



Usleton

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Friday, Dec. 30

Four traffic stops were made and one forgery complaint was received.

A report of a prohibited substance in a correctional facility was received in the 200 block of North Russell.

A drag racing complaint and possession of less than 2 oz. of marijuana was investigated. Thefts were reported in the police department lobby, the 100 block of West 30th, and the 800 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance call was received from the 2600 block of Seminole.

A 911 hangup call was received from the 900 block of North Fisher.

A traffic accident was investigated in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Warrant service was attempted at five locations.

There were two incidents of assisting other agencies.

One suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

Saturday, Dec. 31

Twelve traffic stops were made and two traffic complaints were received.

Thefts were reported in the police department lobby, the 700 block of North Banks where fencing materials worth \$175 were taken and the 500 block of North Doyle where a forgery was reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle reports were received in the 1100 block of Alcock where an air tank and a high lift jack worth \$95 were taken, and the 1000 block of East Kingsmill.

A burglary was reported in the 1200 block of Darby where a television, lamp and a mattress worth \$700 were missing.

Disorderly conduct calls were reported in the 400 block of North Lowry and the 2300 block of North Navajo.

Four reports of violation of a city ordinance were taken from the 700 block of East Frederic, the 1200 block of North Duncan, and two reports in the 200 block of North Summer.

A disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Carr and two domestic disturbance calls were received in the 1000 block of Dwight and the 2000 block of Duncan.

Warrant service was attempted at two locations.

An alarm call was received in the 600 block of South Cuyler.

A welfare check was made in the 1100 block of Dwight.

Found property was reported in the 600 block of Hobart.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

One traffic accident was investigated in the 1000 block of North Russell.

Reports of 911 hangup calls were received in the 400 block of Naida and the 900 block of East Barnard.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of East Frederic.

One report of assisting another agency was noted.

Sunday, Jan. 1

Nineteen traffic stops were made and five traffic complaints were received.

Assault were reported in the 1300 block of Terrace and the 1200 block of East Foster.

Theft of a cell telephone was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart and a theft report was made in the police department lobby.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was investigated in the 100 block of North Faulkner where two vehicles had windows broken and sunglasses were taken. Estimated loss was \$220.

Criminal mischief was reported in the

1300 block of Garland where a vehicle window worth \$150 was broken.

Violations of a city ordinance were reported in the 300 block of Jean, the 600 block of Wells, the intersection of Finley and Osborne, the 700 block of East 14th and the 600 block of North Wells.

Suspicious persons were reported in the area of Christy and Gwendolyn and the 1100 block of North Terrace, a prowler was reported in the 300 block of South Anne and suspicious vehicles were reported in the 700 block of North Nelson and the 1200 block of East Foster.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1300 block of North Garland.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart and the 600 block of North Wells.

An animal complaint was received in the area of 23rd and Evergreen.

Open doors were checked in the area of Alcock and Zimmers and the 1000 block of South Faulkner, and welfare checks were made in the 1900 block of Grape and the 1600 block of North Somerville.

An alarm was investigated in the 800 block of West Francis.

One report of assisting another agency was noted, and a motorist was assisted in the 300 block of East 17th.

Missing person reports were received from the 1100 block of Crane and the 1700 block of North Coffee.

Two civil matters were reported in the police department lobby.

Monday, Jan. 2

Sixteen traffic stops were made. A runaway report was made in the 500 block of North Red Deer.

Traffic accidents were reported on Highway 273 north of Lefors, the 600 block of North Frost and the 400 block of North Nelson.

Harassment calls were received from the 400 block of North Russell and the 2100 block of North Dwight.

Alarm calls were investigated in the 2400 block of North Hobart, the 100 block of East Foster and the 1600 block of North Nelson.

One report of assisting other agencies was made and two escorts were provided.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of East Foster and an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2200 block of North Hamilton and prowlers were reported in the 300 block of South Anne and the 400 block of Crest.

A medical assist was provided in Lefors.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Red Deer.

Two violations of a city ordinance were reported in the 1400 block of North Evergreen.

Sheriff

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

Sunday Jan. 1

Justin Wayne Womack, 21, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of theft by check.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Juan Manuel Martinez, 36, of Pampa was arrested on charges of DWI with a child passenger and criminal mischief for damaging a door and televisions at a residence in the 400 block of Crest.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Jan. 2

12:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2700 block of Hobart and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

6:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

7:09 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Lea and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

7:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer.		
Wheat	3.45	
Milo	2.96	
Corn	3.94	
Soybeans	4.89	
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		
OXY	83.33	+3.45
BP PLC ADR	65.92	+1.70
Cabot Corp	35.51	-0.29
Celanese	18.96	-0.16
Cabot Oil Gas	45.83	+0.73
Coca Cola	40.52	+0.21
VLO	53.95	+2.35
HAL	63.80	+1.84
TRF	38.78	-0.45
KMI	92.87	+0.92
XCEL	18.36	-0.10
Kerr McGee	92.95	+2.09
XOM	57.38	+1.21
Nat'l Oilwell	64.44	+1.74
Limited	21.72	-0.63
Williams	23.67	+0.50
MCD	33.35	-0.37
Atmos	26.24	-0.08
Pioneer Nat	52.10	+0.83
JCP	54.70	-0.90
COP	59.12	+0.94
SLB	100.24	+3.09
Tenneco	19.78	+0.17
CVX	57.85	+1.08
Wal-Mart	45.84	-0.96
OKE	26.88	+0.25
NS Grp	42.63	+0.82
New York Gold	517.00	
Silver	8.82	
West Texas Crude	61.04	

Northern California residents clean up, assess damages after storm passes

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — As soon as the water receded, Dave Roberts began hosing the mud off his bar and sweeping water out the doors, vowing to start serving again within hours.

The owner of Wild Jane's Bar and Restaurant, whose business was drenched in 2 1/2 feet of water just the night before, seemed to take the flooding in stride. A pair of storms flooded Northern California's wine country before moving south Monday.

"We're used to this," Roberts said. The 20-year resident of this town along the Russian River had survived worse flooding before. "After all, it's just mud and water, easily cleaned."

The break in the weather meant residents finally were able to focus on initial cleanup and damage estimates after two powerful weekend storms barreled through the area dumping up to 8 inches of rain in some parts.

Rain washed mud down hills and onto homes and highways. Levees breached or weakened and forced evacuations of dozens

of residents. At least three deaths were blamed on the storm — all from falling trees.

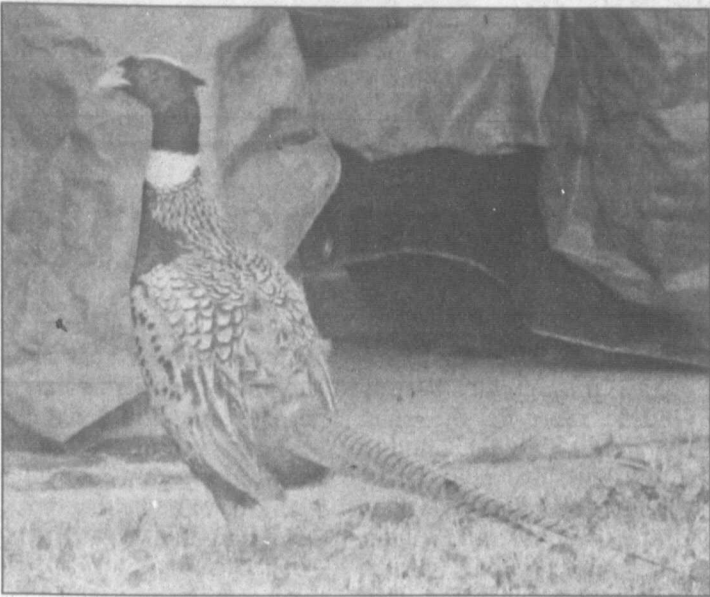
On Monday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in seven counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Napa, Sacramento, Sonoma and Trinity. Initial estimates put the damage in two towns alone at more than \$100 million.

As the second storm moved south Monday, bringing heavy rain but little damage to the Los Angeles area, officials up north shifted into cleanup mode.

"We're continuing to work our way toward the light at the end of that tunnel," said Rob Hartman of the National Weather Service's California-Nevada River Forecast Center in Sacramento.

In Napa, where the river had inundated several downtown blocks, Schwarzenegger toured the flood-damaged areas Monday afternoon. A layer of mud and debris still coated city streets, but most flooded roads had been reopened.

Pheasant on the grass



Courtesy photo

This pheasant visited the neighborhood in the 1500 block of North Wells on Friday. Lee Carter followed him into a neighbor's yard to get this photo.

Families face decisions after destructive fires

RINGGOLD, Texas (AP) — Coylee Grimsley braced her 88-year-old frame against a cane and bent to pick up a penny in the parking lot of the Red Cross assistance center outside of Ringgold, charity-provided bananas poking from her purse. "That's good luck," Grimsley said Monday, holding up the coin and smiling before explaining how she planned to leave fire-ravaged Ringgold, her home for the past 72 years after watching it burn to the ground. "Nothing to go back there for," Grimsley said. "It's sad ... you don't know what to think."

The New Year's Day grass fire, one of dozens in drought-stricken parts of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, destroyed most of the ranch and cattle town of about 100 residents near the Oklahoma border, burning about 50 homes and 40,000 acres as the wind swept the fire 13 miles from Ringgold to Nocona. Grass fires in the state since December have killed three people, burned more than 200,000 acres and destroyed at least 250 homes, according to the Texas Forest Service. All major blazes were mostly contained Tuesday, but conditions were expected to worsen later in the day.

A National Weather Service "red flag warning" was in effect for Tuesday afternoon, meaning heat, low humidity and wind could create conditions for wildfires that could quickly spread. Temperatures in the 70s were forecast in the region experiencing on of its worst droughts in 50 years. Perry declared Texas a disaster area last week because of the fires and drought, and he said the declaration will help people to receive federal aid to rebuild. No deaths were reported as a result of the nearly 60 fires that began burning Sunday in North and West Texas. Weary firefighters —

including crews from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and Wisconsin — worked Monday to contain several of those fires. By late Monday, the 35,000-acre blaze near the small towns of Carbon, Gorman and Desdemona, had been beaten back to just a few hundred acres of mostly open ranch land, said Mark Pipkin of the Eastland Fire Department. Eastland City Manager Don Wilson, said officials will investigate the cause of the fire.

Construction spending hits all-time high in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — Construction spending hit an all-time high in November as government spending to build schools, highways and sewer systems offset a slight dip in home building. The Commerce Department reported that total building activity rose to a record \$1.146 trillion at an annual rate in November, up 0.2 percent from the October pace.

Through the first 11 months of 2005, construction spending is 9 percent above the pace set in 2004 as a boom in housing helped to push construction activity to record levels. However, home building by the private sector was essentially unchanged in November, which could be a harbinger of the expected slowdown in this sector as rising mortgage rates cool housing activity. A closely watched gauge of manufacturing slowed a

bit in December but remained at a level indicating manufacturing will continue to expand in coming months. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index turned in a reading of 54.2 last month, down slightly from the November reading of 58.1. The 0.2 percent rise in housing construction in November was below the 0.5 percent increase that Wall Street economists had been

forecasting and reflected a weaker-than-expected showing in home building, which was flat after having posted a 0.9 percent gain in October. It was the weakest showing for housing in five months, since a 0.4 percent decline in June. Analysts believe that housing, which is on track to set a fifth consecutive year of record sales in 2005, will slow considerably in 2006 under the impact of rising mortgage rates.

The Federal Reserve is expected to boost rates at least two more times this year as the central bank strives to slow economic activity enough to keep inflation in check.

Fraud

Continued from Page 1

believed to be focusing on as many as 20 lawmakers and aides. To each of the three charges, Abramoff said, "I plead guilty, your honor." U.S. District Court Judge Ellen Huvelle and lawyers in the case referred to restitution possibly reaching \$25 million in the case. Court papers detailed lavish gifts and contributions that it said Abramoff gave an unnamed House member, identified elsewhere as Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Administration Committee, in return for Ney's agreement to use his office to aid Abramoff clients. Abramoff agreed with the judge when she said that he had engaged in a conspiracy involving "corruption of public officials." The lobbyist also agreed when she

said he and others had engaged in a scheme to provide campaign contributions, trips and other items "in exchange for certain official acts." Ney's lawyer, Mark Tuohey, said today that the charges against Abramoff were "nothing new." He said they repeated information in the November plea agreement from Abramoff's lobbying partner, Michael Scanlon. Court papers said Abramoff corruptly gave "money, meals, trips and entertainment to public officials and their relatives with the intent to influence and in return for agreements to perform official acts" benefiting Abramoff, Scanlon and their clients. The papers said Abramoff caused former congressional aides to lobby their former bosses within a one-year window of employment, during which they are barred from such activities. Several members of

Congress have refunded contributions made by Abramoff or his lobbying associates and clients. Among them, North Dakota Sen. Byron Dorgan, the top Democrat on the Senate committee investigating Abramoff's tribal lobbying, announced last month he would return \$67,000 in response to Associated Press reports that he collected Indian money around the time he took actions favorable to those Abramoff clients. Dorgan said he never met Abramoff and didn't take any action at his behest, but would return the donations to avoid any appearance that tribal money was directed to him by Abramoff. Others refunding Abramoff-related contributions or donating them to charity include Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont.; Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.; and Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla.

Burns

Continued from Page 1

The purpose of the prescribed fires is to reduce the buildup of grassy fuels that typically feed a wildfire and to return the mesquite grasslands to their natural cycle of growth. The reintroduction of fire into the ecosystem will help traditional plant distribution and reduce the danger associated with wildfires, including protecting communities and ranch lands and increasing firefighter safety in the event of wildfires. Fire crews began preparing burn units on Oct. 1,

2005, and will spend several months removing brush and other fuels from the perimeter of the burn units. The burns will be a cooperative effort sponsored by the National Park Service with assistance from local ranchers and local and Federal agency fire departments. Extensive fire management plans have been created that will guide the placement of fire crews and engines based on weather and expected fire behavior. Lake Meredith began its prescribed fire program in 1999 and has successfully burned approximately 36,000 acres to date. During those controlled

burns some areas of the park will be closed to the public. Travelers should use caution by reducing vehicle speed and turning on their headlights when smoke is present. The burns are designed so that most of the smoke will move toward the waters of Lake Meredith, which may briefly affect boating activities in the area. The staff of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area apologizes for any temporary inconveniences that may occur during the burns. For more information, contact park headquarters at 806 857-3151.

County

Continued from Page 1

and general manager of Government Services Automation, spoke to commissioners concerning possible expansion of his company's software programs to additional county offices. Offices already using the program include the district clerk and the county judge. The district attorney's office recently was added to the list, with cost of the program to be paid for out of the office's forfeiture funds. Commissioners tabled any action on the proposed expansion and asked

Crawford to return at a future meeting with information on cost of such an expansion. Crawford was given permission to discuss the program with various county offices, including justices of the peace, the county attorney and the sheriff's office. An increase in the cost of autopsies performed by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Lubbock which had been requested by the center was agreed upon by commissioners. Cost of a Level 1 autopsy will be \$2,460 including transport, and cost of a Level 2 autopsy will be \$2,960 including transport.

One recent autopsy performed by the Lubbock center cost \$1,200 for the basic autopsy, plus another \$160 to \$195 for a toxicology screen, plus transportation costs, according to an employee of the county auditor's office. Other costs associated with an autopsy might include X-rays, the employee said. Commissioners approved Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright's request to seek bids for a new tractor for his precinct. Bids will be due by Feb. 15. Bills totaling \$361,064.48 and salaries of \$227,606.18 were approved for payment.

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Viewpoints

Burn ban makes good sense for Panhandle

A new year is here, ushered in this time by acres of flames rampaging across parts of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Very dry, very windy, low-humidity conditions have set the stage for disaster in a number of areas of all three states. The towns of Cross Plains, Kokomo and Ringgold are among those hit the hardest in Texas. Last week, Cross Plains and Kokomo were ablaze, followed by Ringgold over the holiday weekend.

More than 90 homes plus a church burned down in Cross Plains and Kokomo. Ringgold lost about 50 homes.

In the past seven days,

according to one national news network, over 80,000 acres of grassland have burned since Dec. 26 in Texas. In Oklahoma, over 70,000 acres went up in flames. Another 80,000 acres fell victim to fire in southeastern New Mexico over the New Year's holiday.

Locally, grass fires have erupted in the Texas Panhandle, but fortunately no loss of life has yet been reported as a result.

Elsewhere, several deaths and the loss of hundreds of buildings, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of damaged acres, have been blamed on the flames.

Less destructive and less devastating, but of economic

impact, is the condition of ski resorts in the mountains of New Mexico, which have seen relatively little snow this winter. Much of the skiing surface at some resorts is man-made, and many of the ski trails are not even open.

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer

closing of more than one area highway.

Are we all in for a fire fight, or another Dust Bowl, or both?



The Old Farmer's Almanac states that the most well-known drought in the United States was the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. An estimated 97 million acres of land were affected in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles and parts of Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico.

The almanac cites the April 14, 1933 dust storm of

Pampa as one of the worst of the period. This event reportedly prompted Woody Guthrie to write the song "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You."

John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," later made into a movie, is also based on the Dust Bowl conditions, which prompted some from the affected areas to abandon their farms and head west in hopes of making a living off the fertile lands of southern California.

We may not be able to make the wind stop howling or the dust stop blowing, but we can help make the flames stop spreading.

I noted with dismay last week that at least one area

fireworks stand planned to open for the New Year's holiday and sell its wares. I heard on the scanner Monday morning that at least one local controlled burn was to be held.

Add to this the unextinguished smoking materials that sometimes go flying out of windows as vehicles move down the highway, and we're asking for it.

Gray County commissioners were scheduled this morning to consider a burn ban for the county. We should take extra precautions to prevent fires, whether or not a burn ban is enacted.

If we don't, we may wind up like Ringgold and Cross Plains.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2006. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

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

On this date:

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

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

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

'To have reason to get up in the morning, it is necessary to possess a guiding principle. A belief of some kind. A bumper sticker, if you will.'

— Judith Guest
American author

In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

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

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

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

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

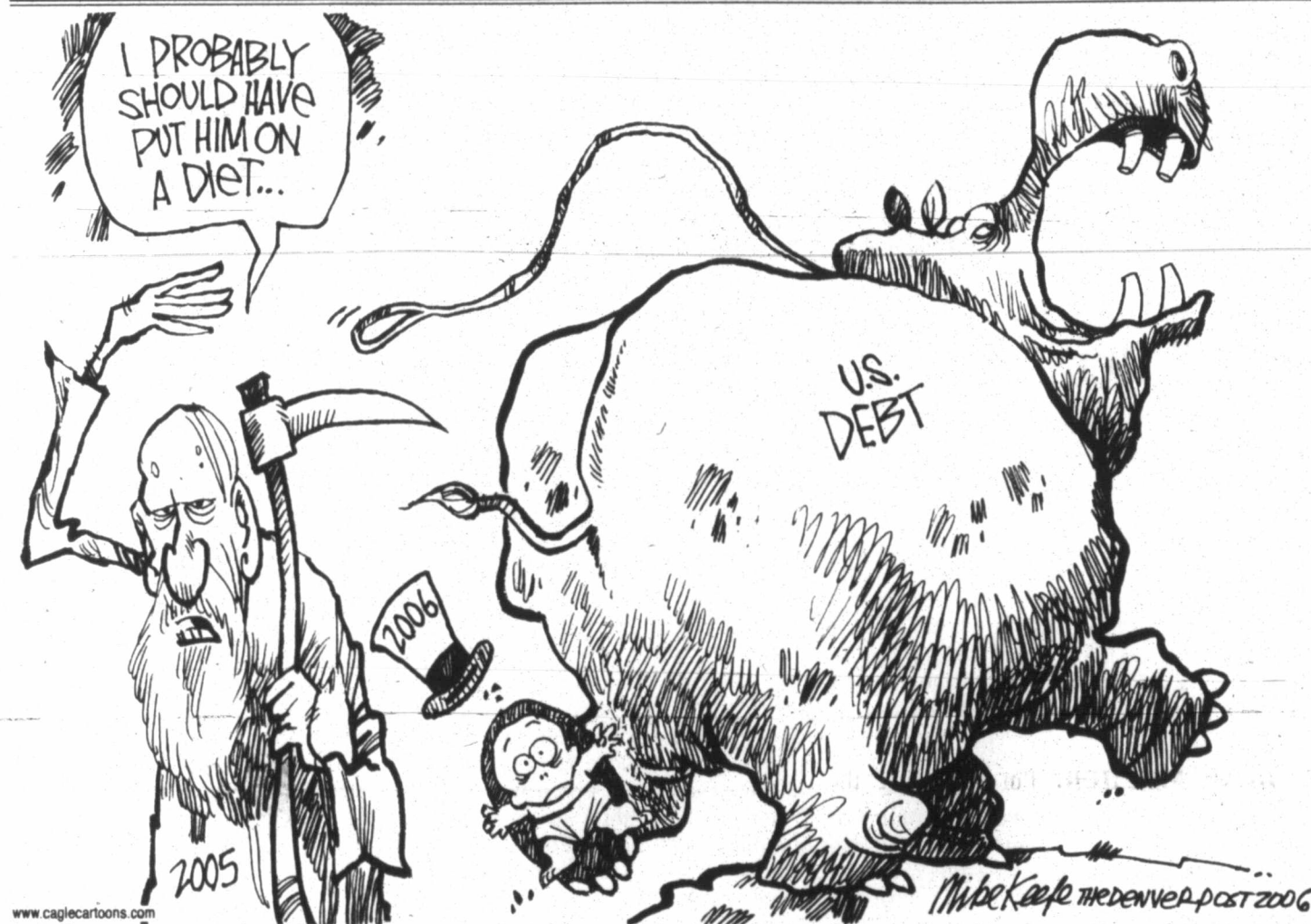
In 1993, President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.

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

Ten years ago: As a partial government shutdown spilled into its record 19th day, stubborn House Republicans rebuffed a Senate bill that would have immediately returned idled federal workers to their jobs.

Five years ago: The 107th Congress opened with the Senate split evenly down the middle. Eleven people died in a house fire in Delaware. Oklahoma defeated Florida State, 13-2, to win the Orange Bowl and capture college football's Bowl Championship Series title game.

One year ago: President Bush tapped his father, former President Bush, and former President Clinton to help raise tsunami relief funds.



The gradual erosion of national liberty

Philosopher David Hume warned that, "It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once." That's why we should guard against any encroachment on liberty, no matter how small. Let's look at a couple of instances where, at our peril, we've failed to do so.

The Christmas season reminds many Americans of the attack on religion. A number of stores have caved in to pressures to ban Christmas celebrations, greetings and symbols, among them: Target, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Kmart, Sears, Costco, Kohl's, Barnes & Noble, Toys 'R' Us, and Walgreens. Cities have banned nativity scenes. Some schools have banned the singing of Christmas carols.

Much of the attack on religion had its birth with the 1963 Supreme Court decision in *Murray vs. Curlett*, which banned organized school prayers. For a moment, let's ignore the

debate on whether that decision was right or wrong and instead focus on tactics.

Suppose, in 1963, America's atheists had revealed and demanded their complete agenda: elimination of religious Christmas symbols in public places, elimination of the words "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance, elimination of "In God We Trust" from our currency and elimination of caroling in public schools. There would have been so much resistance that they wouldn't have achieved any of their agenda, including the ban on prayers in school.

Given our weak resistance, you can bet the day will come when the attack on religion will include demands that crosses be removed from Arlington and Normandy cemeteries and

bans on religious television or radio broadcasts.

While many Americans are disturbed by the ongoing attack on religion, they applauded the identical strategy when it was the attack

on cigarette smokers. In the 1960s, when the anti-tobacco zealots started out, they only demanded

"reasonable" things like no smoking sections on airplanes.

Suppose they started out revealing their complete agenda: no smoking in airports, restaurants, places of employment and parks, confiscatory taxes on tobacco products, and multibillion-dollar suits against tobacco companies. There would have been so much resistance that the anti-tobacco zealots wouldn't have succeeded with no smoking sections on airplanes.

The institution of private property offers the liberty-oriented solutions to both the school prayer and the smoking issues. I believe it's a parental right to be able to decide whether one's child will, or will not, say a morning prayer. Conflict emerges because of government-produced education.

While there might be an argument for government financing of education, there's absolutely no argument for government production of education. Therefore, if each parent were given an education voucher to pay for education, those parents wishing prayers, or those against prayers in school, could enroll their children in the school that meets their preference. Thus, conflict would be eliminated. Of course, a superior solution would be getting government entirely out of education.

Private property would solve the smoking issue.

See LIBERTY, Page 10

Walter Williams

Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 26

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the YWCA's plan to cut a youth program:

Pop quiz: A popular Fort Worth program aimed at keeping teenage girls from getting pregnant and keeping girls in school is ending this month because:

- 1.) It has been so successful that it is no longer needed.
- 2.) Teens are no longer tempted to experiment sexually because of a basic change in the teen psyche.
- 3.) There was no indication that the program was having any impact.

4.) All of the above.

5.) None of the above.

The answer is No. 5.

Officials at the YWCA of Fort Worth told the Star-Telegram that the program — the Achievement Initiative and Motivation program, or AIM — is being cut because of a lack of funds.

It's been running for 10 years. About three-fourths of the money for the program comes from local fundraising — and that's getting more and more difficult, Judi Bishop, executive director of the YWCA in Fort Worth, told the newspaper. It takes about \$300,000 per year to operate the program.

There's never enough money to prevent problems — but somehow there's

always funding to clean up after the fact.

Some general things we know: Teenagers who have children are likely to consume more social services than those who do not; they're less likely to earn college degrees or even high school diplomas, the ticket in this society to a better standard of living; and their children are more likely themselves to have issues that in turn cause societal problems.

It's like Mr. Goodwrench says: Pay me now or pay me later.

Except that later costs a whole lot more than earlier.

We never seem to learn this.

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 403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
 806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
 Fax: 806-669-2520
 email: editor@thepampanews.com
 Publisher: Sean Smith
 Editor: Dennis Spies
 Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
 Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook
 Circulation Manager: Leon Watson

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I turned 21 on the 11th of last month, and my friends wanted me to celebrate with "21 shots" of liquor. But after reading your columns about the 21 deadly birthday shots, I told them it was one tradition I wouldn't be trying. Thank you for addressing this issue and printing the letters from the parents. I decided that my life is more important than impressing my friends. Your article was a sign from God to me. My thanks also to all the concerned parents who wrote to you. — **TARA IN CLINTON, MISS.**

DEAR TARA: I'm pleased beyond words that the column helped you to make that wise decision. Too many young adults cave in to peer pressure and put their lives at risk when a "shot" of common sense would prevent it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The other night, my 19-year-old daughter, "Erin," told me about a "game" some teens are playing for kicks. She didn't seem to realize it could get her killed. Abby, Erin jumped on the hood of a friend's truck and he took off as fast as he could. He was unaware that she didn't have her grip. When he slammed on the brakes, she went flying and landed on her back. She hit her head, scraped her back, backside and elbows, then hit her head again. She got up and nearly fainted, but no one bothered to call an ambulance or take her to the hospital. Talking with people, I'm hearing that this game is not uncommon. I'm still shaken about how close I came to losing my daughter. Please, Abby, warn kids that these games are life-threatening, that burying a child or caring for one who is brain-damaged for life IS a big deal. — **STUNNED MOTHER, ESCONDIDO, CALIF.**

DEAR MOTHER: I'm spreading the word in the hope that it will cause some of the risk-takers to wake up and realize that no one is invincible. However, strongly as

I might stress that message, the following letter that arrived in the same batch as yours may be even more compelling. My advice to you is to do whatever you must to get your daughter away from the immature and irresponsible crowd she's hanging around with. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Last weekend, a 16-year-old young man was killed when he fell off a moving car while "body-surfing" on the roof of the vehicle. The police think the teenager had been lying on the roof of the car when he fell and struck his head on the pavement and a guard rail. The driver told police that his friend had seen "car-surfing" on an MTV show called "Jackass." What a senseless waste of a life! That boy had his whole lifetime ahead of him. People should be educated in the laws of physics. If they were, perhaps a tragedy such as this one could have been averted. — **STEVE IN COOKEVILLE, TENN.**

DEAR STEVE: My deepest sympathy goes to that boy's family. I'm sure that when he decided to repeat a stunt he saw on television, he had no clue it would cause his own death and his family a lifetime of heartbreak. After reading your letter, I spoke with Roberto Peccei, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research at UCLA, who kindly explained that the law of physics you mentioned is the Law of Inertia. It means that unless you are secured to a moving object (i.e., a car), you will continue moving forward at the same speed the car was going if the driver slams on the brakes! That's why it's so important that passengers wear seat belts. I only hope that any teen who sees this and is tempted to car-surf will think again.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

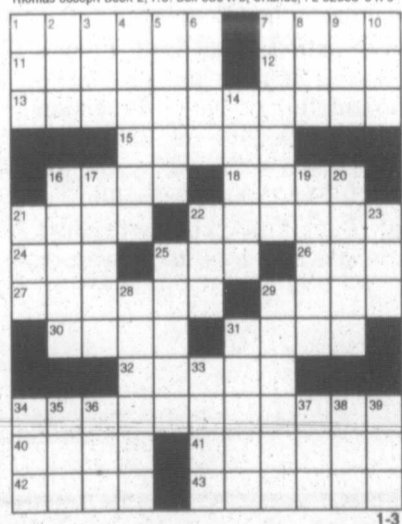
- ACROSS**
- 3 Cruise on film
 - 1 Dyes, in a way
 - 7 Lose
 - 11 Steamy
 - 12 Mountain cat
 - 13 "Give me your tired..." poet
 - 15 Solitary sort
 - 16 The one here
 - 18 Teacher's reward
 - 21 Stylish
 - 22 Claim markers
 - 24 Track act
 - 25 Ante up
 - 26 Diamond stat
 - 27 Idiomatic
 - 29 One-sided victory
 - 30 Peak
 - 31 Retreats
 - 32 Man of morals?
 - 34 "Miss Peach" cartoonist
 - 40 "I cannot tell..."
 - 41 Stand up to
 - 42 Even
 - 43 Cleopatra's love
- DOWN**
- 1 Garden visitor
 - 2 Sleeve fill

PLAYS	GALAS
RENEE	EXALT
ONTAP	NERVE
RARE	DAM
SMALL	FRY
HOP	KIEFER
EVEN	CARVE
LEDGER	REIN
SEAT	BELT
ADS	SHOO
MULCH	ROPED
IDAHO	SKATE
DEBIT	OSCAR

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Half a Heston title
- 9 Ostrich's cousin
- 10 "Survivor" network
- 14 Full of flavor
- 16 Letter before
- 17 Approach for a loan
- 19 Soap Box Derby setting
- 20 Picture puzzle
- 21 "Survivor" network
- 22 Blue
- 23 Plop
- 25 Computer puzzle
- 28 Rang
- 29 Meal
- 31 Egg buy
- 33 Mystery writer
- 34 Small rug
- 35 Yale student
- 36 Fib
- 37 Mardi Gras city
- 38 Ensign's org.
- 39 Pork place

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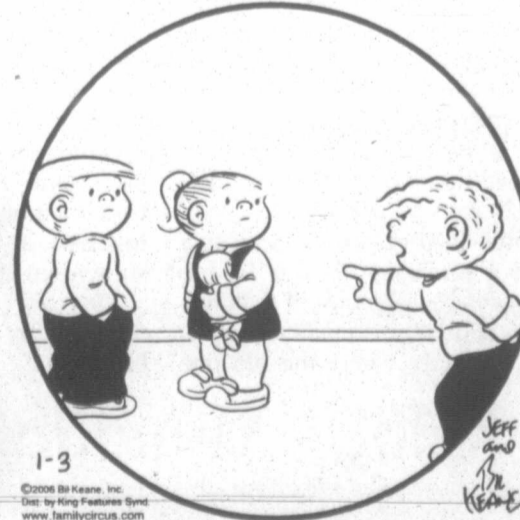
Marmaduke



"A Christmas gift from Aunt Helen. A knitted leash."

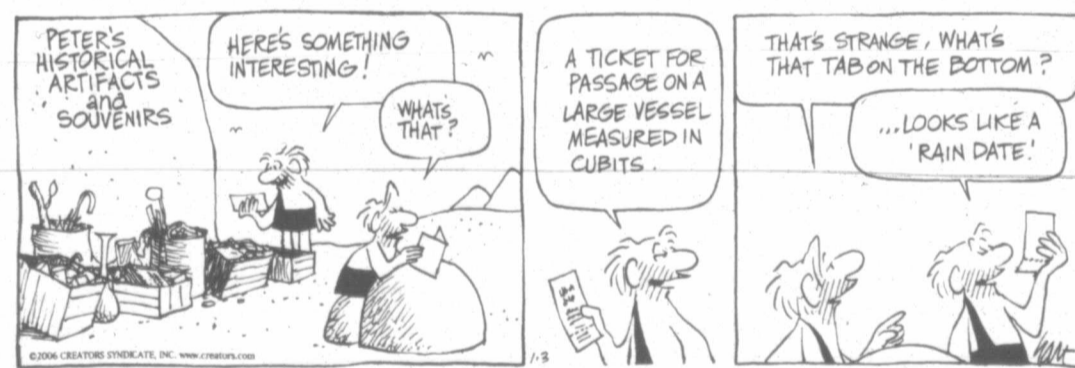
The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"I heard that out of the corner of my ear."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



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Bath Fitter gives facelifts to worn-out tubs, showers

Bath Fitter offers common sense solutions to remodeling bathrooms – solutions that help make dreams become reality.

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Ideas may come easy, but making an idea become a reality, may not be. That's where Bath Fitter's approach to bathroom renovation begins to make sense.

Several problems can be associated with bathroom remodeling. The bathroom becomes unusable for weeks, and sometimes months, during the construction process; construction debris disrupts the whole household; and construction costs can be prohibitive.

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For more information about Bath Fitter's revolutionary and money-saving solution to bathroom remodeling, call Precision Construction & Remodeling at 355-4978, toll-free at 1-888-465-4978, or visit the showroom at 9120 FM 2590 in Amarillo.

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Sports Day



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa head coach Dustin Miller gets clarification on a call Friday during the Milk Cow Classic championship game.

Bus ride not necessary for tonight's meeting between Pampa and Amarillo High School

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Be it cliché, there is no place like home. Pampa opened the season 7-0 — including an undefeated run in the Lions Club Invitational Nov. 25-26. That was the last time the Harvesters played before a home crowd.

No bus ride required when Pampa faces Amarillo High tonight, the same team they opened the regular season against Nov. 15. The Harvesters and Sandies will square off at 7:30 in McNeely Field House.

"We have been waiting for this for what seems like forever," said Pampa head coach Dustin Miller. "It will be nice to have a crowd cheering for us and giving us that little advantage. We have really missed McNeely."

Since defeating the Sandies in the first meeting, Pampa has spent much of its time on a bus and on unfriendly floors. The last three games alone have involved trips to Lubbock, Plainview and Clovis. That being said, is this Harvesters team the same one the Sandies saw the first time? Said Miller, "We have become battle tested, having played in some extremely hostile environments. The level of play has picked up and I think we are a much better team than we were on Nov. 15."

Have the Sandies changed since Nov. 15? "I know they picked up their quarterback off of the football team who is a really good guard who can shoot the ball well. He seems to have been their leading scorer lately," Miller said.

As the season has progressed for Miller and his Harvesters (13-4), there have been a number of bright spots, especially when it comes to the bench. Among those who spell the starters when called upon is senior Ryan Torres. He's that kind of player that doesn't make a lot of noise, just comes in to the game and gives his team everything he's got. What has Torres meant to Pampa so far this year? "Ryan has been solid all year," Miller said, noting Torres' ability to play guard or post. "He stepped in at Clovis and played a huge role in us even having a chance in that game." Miller also mentioned Torres keeps the mood on the team light with his personality.

So far as injuries entering tonight's game, Miller says Tyler Hall is still dealing with an injury sustained in Clovis and will not play tonight. Freshman Matt Smith has been under the weather recently but will suit up and start tonight.

Pampa will face Plainview at home Friday night before opening district play at Randall Jan. 13.

ORANGE BOWL

Game features granddaddies of them all

MIAMI (AP) — It's not often the coaches on the sidelines get more attention than the players on the field.

Then again, it's not often Bobby Bowden and Joe Paterno play each other.

Try as they might, the two winningest coaches in major college history can't hide from the hype. Even their players know where the attention will be when No. 3 Penn State and No. 22 Florida State meet Tuesday night in the Orange Bowl. "For somebody to say it's not a big deal, I think they'd be lying," Florida State running back Lorenzo Booker said. "This is like a once-in-a-lifetime deal, and it's not going to happen for another century. We won't be alive, because you have to coach a long time to do what these guys have done."

"It's something you can tell your grandkids," Booker added. "That you actually played for the guy that won the most and played against the guy that was second on the list."

At 79 and 76, respectively,

Paterno and Bowden are the patriarchs of the college coaching profession. Bowden has the most victories with 359, while Paterno is right behind at 353. They're both in their 40th year as head coaches, with Paterno spending all of his time at Penn State and Bowden in his 30th season in Tallahassee.

They've become good friends through the years, traveling together with their wives at coaching seminars in the offseason.

Despite all that, they rarely play each other. Only seven times in 40 years, and the last meeting was way back in 1990. Paterno, by the way, has won all but one of their meetings.

"I'm going to look across the sidelines and say 'That's JoePa,'" Seminole running back Leon Washington said. "I'm just proud to be a part of it. I can tell my son or my daughter that I played in that game. I can tell my grandkids that I played against JoePa."

See, it's that kind of talk that makes Bowden and Paterno cringe.

Ever since their Orange Bowl matchup was announced last month, the two coaches have been trying to deflect the attention from themselves. They realize their rare meeting is a point of interest, but they want the focus to be on the players.

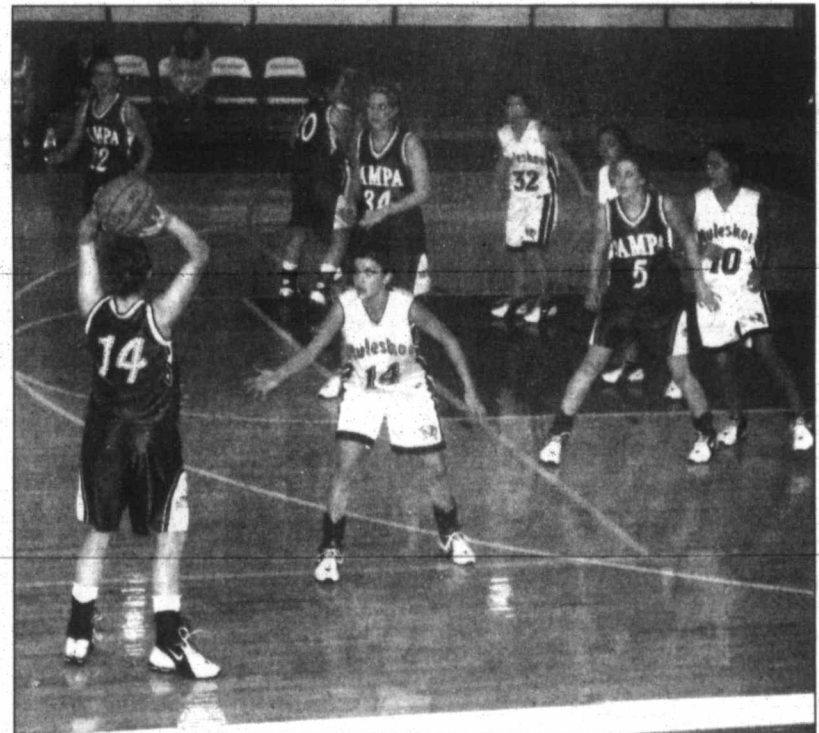
Both teams have struggled lately, and winning this game would bring a measure of redemption for each.

"I don't look at it as something personal," Paterno said Monday. "All I wanted to do was make sure everyone knew that we have a good football team."

But that's part of what makes this matchup so special.

For decades, Paterno and Bowden's programs were among the best in college football. Bowden's team finished in the top five every year from 1987 to 2000, and he won two national titles during that run. Paterno's 1982 and 1986 teams were national champs, and four other squads were unbeaten. He had one losing season in his first 34 years of coaching.

Final tune-up



Courtesy photo

Pictured in a game against Muleshoe Friday, the Lady Harvesters (dark uniforms) are off until Friday when they open the district schedule at Palo Duro.

Central Hockey League standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Northeast Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Bossier-Shreveport	13	11	3	29	89	82
Memphis	11	14	1	23	74	87
Youngstown	11	17	1	23	89	104
Fort Worth	9	17	4	22	77	111

Northwest Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	23	6	1	47	116	87
Wichita	16	8	5	37	114	102
Oklahoma City	17	11	1	35	106	91
Tulsa	13	12	3	29	82	92

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Southeast Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Laredo	19	8	3	41	112	82
Rio Grande Valley	16	11	1	33	102	88
Corpus Christi	12	15	1	25	81	93
Austin	10	17	2	22	73	109

Southwest Division

	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Odessa	18	8	3	39	101	84
Lubbock	14	14	1	29	82	79
Amarillo	12	13	2	26	88	95

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for loss in overtime or shootout. Overtime or shootout losses are only denoted in the OTL column, not the loss column.

Monday's Games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games

Youngstown at Bossier-Shreveport

Memphis at Fort Worth

Wednesday's Game

Tulsa at Colorado

No. 13 Alabama 13, No. 18 Texas Tech 10

DALLAS (AP) — Jamie Christensen predicted he'd kick the winning field goal for Alabama.

He just never said anything about how it would look.

Christensen's low and wobbly kick from 45 yards out somehow twirled far enough to sneak inside the goalpost as time expired, giving No. 13 Alabama a 13-10 victory over No. 18 Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl on Monday.

Ugly as it was getting there, the end was uplifting — just like the journey for Alabama's seniors, who endured three coaching changes, NCAA probation and the Mike Price scandal before leading the Crimson Tide (10-2) to their 28th season of double-digit wins.

"When you go through some tough times together, you find out a lot about each other," said Alabama coach Mike Shula, whose team ended the regular season with two losses. "There's a lot of different ways you can go, and this team pulled together. And this was the result of it: 10 wins."

It was the most dramatic finish in the 70-year history of the Cotton Bowl since Joe Montana's game-tying touchdown pass as time expired in 1979, when the extra point put Notre Dame past Houston 35-34.

Christensen, a sophomore

who'd won consecutive games in October in the closing seconds, said he didn't doubt the kick's accuracy despite its peculiar trajectory. Confident his approach was flawless, Christensen only wondered about distance and whether he could tell freshman kicker Andrew Friedman he was right all along.

With Alabama leading 10-3 in the second half, Christensen laid out for Friedman how the game would end.

"I told him if they score a touchdown, I'm going to kick the game-winning field goal," said Christensen, who earlier missed a 39-yarder and had a 38-yard attempt blocked. "He said they weren't going to score a touchdown. I said, 'We'll see.'"

He was right. Texas Tech (9-3), flustered by Alabama's constant pressure and resilient man-to-man coverage, finally got the ball into the end zone with 2:56 remaining on Jarrett Hicks' 12-yard touchdown pass from Cody Hodges.

The drive came after Hodges sat out the previous series because of a sore right knee. Appearing on crutches and with an ice pack taped to his leg after the game, Hodges said team trainers suggested he may have torn his MCL.

"I had 3 1/2 minutes left in col-

lege football," said Hodges, a senior. "I wasn't going to spend it on the sideline."

The game was billed as Alabama's stingy, second-ranked defense versus Texas Tech's high-scoring passing offense ranked No. 1 in the nation.

But the typically big-play Red Raiders, who had 45 plays of 25 yards or longer this year, had only one against the Crimson Tide. Hodges was held to a season-low 196 yards, more than 170 yards below his season average.

Instead, it was Alabama making the big plays. Quarterback Brodie Croyle, who finished 19-of-31 for 275 yards and one touchdown, had a 76-yard touchdown to Keith Brown on Alabama's second play from scrimmage. He also had a 50-yard completion to Matt Caddell.

Croyle is one of Alabama's 11 seniors who started under now-Texas A&M coach Dennis Franchione in 2001, went through the Price debacle and endured two years of being banned from bowls because of recruiting violations.

"We had a rough go of it," Croyle said. "But just to say we went out 10-2, won our last game and got it going back in the right direction, well, that will make the rest of our lives a lot easier."

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NOTICE... All Real Estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



FOR RATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL 669-2525

WINTER SPECIAL

4 LINES FOR 4 DAYS \$14.00
8 LINES FOR 4 DAYS \$18.00

DAYS MUST BE CONSECUTIVE

PAID IN ADVANCE • VISA & MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

THE PAMPA NEWS

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
 FAX 806-669-2520

5 Special Notices

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

10 Lost/Found

LOST brindle and white Pit Bull, male, 1 yr. old. Reward. Call 662-0326.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement windows, steel siding & trim Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

HANDYMAN, home maintenance, Small jobs or you just need a hand, call Mike 595-0219.

NEW Const., remodeling, replacement windows. Shawn Deaver Constr. 662-2977, 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14c Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost... It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new const., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

14t Radio/Tv

QUALITY TV Service, 827 W. Francis, Pampa. Specializing in large screen and projection Tv Repair. Professional Service. Call 665-0010 or 662-0652

21 Help Wanted

CRALL PRODUCTS Immediate Openings •Welders •Painter/Sandblaster 40hrs + wk. Salary based on exp. Apply in person: W. Hwy 152, Pampa

LVN needed for 3-11, Full-time w/benefits differential. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, (806)537-3194.

PHYSICIAN Assistant wanted for busy orthopedic practice. Salary is competitive and insurance will be provided. Please send resume to Box 06, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX. 79066-2198.

TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service-Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd, Pampa.

21 Help Wanted

C.N.A. needed. Full-time w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. 537-3194.

FULL Time Teller / Scanner. Please apply at Bank of Commerce, 201 N. Main, McLean, Tx.

Fleet Mechanic

Diesel Mechanic with Tank Exp. & Tools A-CDL-X a plus Competitive Salary Great Benefits, 401K Pampa Terminal Call Johnny or Steve 806-669-9091

Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC Career Opportunities

Road Construction General Laborers & Road Flaggers in Canadian, Texas

CDL Drivers Positions in Canadian & Clarendon

Accounting Clerk In Wheeler For Feed Lot. Degree or Exp. Req. Turn-Key Experience a Plus Competitive Pay

Utility Assistants Based in Pampa Some travel & overnight stays required

Contact Us Today NBC Plaza II, Suite 11 1224 N. Hobart Pampa, TX 79065 806-665-2991 www.issllc.com

No Fees To Applicants EEO EMPLOYER

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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 CDL required. Call 806-669-9091

CTW Brake Rims Inc. Is now accepting applications for welder/fabricators • competitive pay • 50+ hrs./week • health insurance • paid holidays Apply in person @ 8855 County Rd 12 1/2 Hwy 60 East. 665-0289

FULL-TIME Yard/Delivery Worker. Must have good driving record. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard.

AMARILLO COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Part - Time Teller Position Available. Looking for a smiling face, with a positive attitude to fill this position. Cash handling experience a plus. Hours scheduled to work will be Monday through Friday Noon until 6 P.M. and every other Saturday 9 A.M. until Noon. Pick up application at 900 N. Hobart

21 Help Wanted

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

R.N. needed for night shift on Fridays and Saturdays. Alternating weekends can be arranged. St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Panhandle, 537-3194.

NEED Exp. Cook. Apply in person at Granny's Home Cookin', 328 E. Frederic. No Phone Calls

W & W FIBERGLASS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CDL TRUCK DRIVERS Field Labor/Swamper Fiberglass Manufacturing General Labor +40 + hrs./wk *Salary based on exp. Apply in person: 100 N. Price Rd., Pampa

HOSTESSES & Kitchen Help Needed. Apply In Person Only At Dyer's BBQ.

Nurse Aid \$300 Sign-On Bonus Wheeler Nursing and Rehabilitation is seeking caring, dedicated employees for the position of 6-2 P.M Nurse Aid (will certify). Please apply in person to Donna Cox RN DON, 1000 S. Kiowa

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

TRUCK DRIVER New Pay Increase! 401k, medical ins. & pd. vacation. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record. **BOURLAND LEVERICH SUPPLY** Hwy. 152 West Pampa, Tx. Apply in person 8 am-5 pm., Mon.-Fri.

21 Help Wanted

CALDWELL Production needs Oilfield Pulling Unit Operator. Paid holidays, 1 wk paid vacation per yr. Top wages for top operator. Hwy. 60 West, Pampa, 665-8888.

WAIT Staff needed. Apply in person before 11 am. or after 2 pm. Dixie Cafe, Pampa.

JOB Opening for Assembly Work. Must Have Integrity, Be Punctual & Reliable. Will Train. Valid Texas Drivers License & Background Check Required. Call Jim @ 665-5010.

FULL TIME DEPENDABLE SALES PERSON NEEDED Apply in person at Rheams Diamond Shop 111 N. Cuyler, Pampa

CALDWELL Production needs Secretary. Oil & gas related exp. preferred. 1 wk. vacation, 6 pd. holidays. Hwy 60 West, Pampa, 665-8888.

OILFIELD Trucking Co. needs Truck Pusher and Winch Truck Drivers. 806-669-3133, 866-415-4104

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

D.E. CHASE, INC. 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx.

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED

4 days on / 2 days off Medical & Dental Ins. Uniforms Monthly Safety Bonus Retirement Plan

Requirements: CLASS A CDL DOT Physical Tanker Endorsement Must pass DOT Drug Screen

Apply in person NO PHONE CALLS!

RN Position Available: Meredith House Assisted Living Residence. Please bring your resume & pick up an application Monday- Friday, 8am-5pm. 812 W. 25th, Pampa TX. 79065.

DRIVE OUR VAN Hours vary. Must be reliable, with good driving record & valid Texas driver's license. EOE/MFHV. For info., call (806)273-3785, or apply in person, Administrator, BORGER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1316 S. Florida, Borger, TX 79007

21 Help Wanted

PART Time Home Provider needed M-F. Must be dependable. 1-800-892-3301, call M-F, 8-5.

CSR needed for local insurance agency. Please fax resume to (806)665-4443.

CERTIFIED Pharmacy Tech. Full time with exc. hours. Resume to Box 08, c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066

Dumas, Texas. Buried Telephone Cable Construction Company Needs Full Time Equipment Operators & Laborers. Must be willing to work out of town. CDL license is desired. Must have clean driving record. Must pass drug & alcohol tests. Call 806-674-4796. Week days 9am-5pm.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

69 Misc.

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

WANTED: Responsible party to take on small monthly payments on High Definition Big Screen TV. 1-800-398-3970.

77 Livest/Equip.

FREE FISH For Pond, Lake, & Tank Stocking. ONE WEEK ONLY 10", 12", 14", 16" Larger size fish available for immediate delivery. Due to late summer spawn in 2005, we are stuck with over 10 million 10"- 16" fish that we must place somewhere, somehow, during the next 10 days, in order to make room for our smaller fish!!! OUR LOSS IS YOUR GAIN.

We just have too many fish to eat, and we can't afford to feed them all until early summer when early market is better!!! You may pick and choose from: Channel Catfish, Bass, Black Crappie, Hybrid Bluegill, Coppernose Bluegill, Redear, or Triploid Grass Carp!!! FREE Delivery Too. All Fish Are Delivered Direct To Your Pond, Lake, or Tank!!! All Fish Are Guaranteed To Live, Thrive & Reproduce.

NOW is the perfect time of the year to stock for early spring fishing! All fish are big enough to catch & eat in 60-90 days. Let us turn your pond or lake into a trophy fishing hole!!! HELP US... And Help Yourself. **No Limit, No Minimum.** Will stock any size pond, lake, or tank. Call Today. Arkla-Texoma Fish Hatchery. Lonoke, Arkansas. Phone: 1-501-538-1261

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

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.

80 Pets & Suppl.

GREAT DANE puppies, brindle, registered. \$350. Call 806-335-9090 or 806-679-7504.

ADORABLE Bichon Frise-Poodle Puppies \$150. All white, no shedding, very mellow. Good for people with allergies. Born Thanksgiving Day. Call 806-662-7988 anytime.

95 Furn. Apts.

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DUPELX: 3 bdr., 2 ba., fireplace, double gar. \$695 mo., \$350 dep. Call 665-5315 or 665-4726.

2 br., gar., work shop, lrg basement for extra bedroom. OWC. 662-7557

2BR., 1ba., ch/a, siding, storm windows, 236 Henry, and only \$400 per month. Call 665-1665.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

100 Rooms For Rent

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

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

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.

103 Homes For Sale

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

129 Walnut Drive, "Walnut Creek" Home. 3 br., 3 b., 4 c g; storm cellar; more. By appt. 868-6971 Lorene Paris or 665-3761 Shed Realty

96 Unfurn. Apts.

3/2 Brick Home. Fireplace. 1501 Zimmers. Call 806-665-0891, 806-282-4448.

LARGE, spacious rooms. Harvester St. Condo 2 bdr., 2 ba., ch/a, fence. Realtor C-21, 665-4180

MAD? Banks don't give house loans due to credit problems. I do! LD Kirk Homeland Mortgages (254)947-4475

Owner Will Finance

Low Down Low Monthly 1129 Juniper 3br., 1ba., ch/a, fp., Tile & Carpet Floors Call Milton (806)790-0827

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.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos

2002 Chev. Suburban Z71 pkg., 4x4, quad leather seats, cd & cassette, pewter, 60,000 miles. Light hail damage to hood. \$19,000. Jason Abraham 323-8260 or 323-2700.

121 Trucks

1987 white Dodge Ram. Camper shell, V6. Good shape. \$1200 obo. Call 665-5473.

NATIONAL OILWELL VARCO

In order to keep up with our increasing demand for oilfield services, National Oilwell Varco's Service Dept. is looking for welders, shop mechanics, and field service employees. If you have mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic repair skills, or are trainable in these areas, and are looking for a company that offers a positive work environment, a great benefit package with retirement, paid holidays, vacation, and uniforms, fax resume to 806/669-9825 (Pampa, TX).
 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006:
 You are a powerhouse this year. Your words get reactions and, more often than not, the results you desire. You must know what you want, as you are likely to manifest just that. Network and increase your immediate circle of friends and associates. You can have what you want, though you will have to define that objective. Once directed, you pull white rabbits out of black hats. If you are single, a relationship develops mid-birthday year because of a friendship. If you are attached, your relationship will improve because of more sharing, both socially and emotionally. PISCES makes you chatter.

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)
 *** You might be more mellow than you have been in a long time. A partnership enhances your sense of well-being. Do share more of what you consider to be a high priority or critical for you. Others are most receptive. Tonight: Schedule a personal night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ***** Your efforts to contact someone at a distance pay off. You might feel much better than you have in a long time. A partner is only too pleased by your efforts, and visa versa. Step into the winner's circle. Tonight: Don't be shy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ***** Others want your attention, at any cost. Fortunately, you have the energy you need to be anywhere and everywhere. Others admire your vigor. Just

make sure you follow through. Your instincts serve you well. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ***** Tune in to your intuition, and you can hardly go wrong. Enjoy yourself, and follow through on key priorities. Your humor helps you jump through hoops. Creativity could warm up your personal life. Tonight: May there be music around you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ***** Your instincts are right on target regarding a financial partnership or a personal matter. You come from a positive space. Act on your thoughts, and you might be quite pleased with the end results. You build on security. Tonight: Be with someone you counts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ***** Others are too pleased to hear from you, or you them. In either case, communication finally flourishes, and you feel better than you have in a long time. It is time to express your deeper feelings. Don't hold back. Tonight: Clear the air.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ***** Your sixth sense homes in on an opportunity. How you see a situation could change dramatically, allowing you to gain both financially and professionally. Plug into your sixth sense, and you are nearly guaranteed a home run. Tonight: You might be putting in some extra hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ***** You have periods in which you are unusually lucky. Today is one! Let what needs to happen simply occur spontaneously. Let go of your strong need to control. Your imagination and luck merge. What more could you ask

for? Tonight: So what if it is Wednesday night? Act like it is Friday evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ***** You are coming from a stable point of view. Think in terms of what you need to do in order to make yourself comfortable. A discussion with a time-honored friend or adviser helps you center even more. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ***** Meetings and crowds in general stimulate your thoughts. You are lucky with many people. Pick up the phone. Make it OK to take an extra-long lunch. Tonight: Say what is on your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ***** You might decide that spending a little on your image is very helpful. Sometimes you don't realize the impact of first impressions. Realize that you have to get more into the swing of things (which, in your case, might be acting a bit more conservatively). Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ***** Claim your power and know what you want to do. Only you can stop yourself, with the Moon in your sign. Positive news comes from a distance. Ask questions if feeling doubtful. Yes, you are lucky. Tonight: Top dog.

BORN TODAY
 Heavyweight boxer Floyd Patterson (1935), actress Jane Wyman (1914), Louis Braille (1809)

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

1-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

M N R I E R F X Z R : P E X A R P G
 S N Y T A X Y Y O X A E Z K X M T A A X F
 Z A M X Z I E N Y X Y E T Y G P A
 X U H X A Y X Z I G N A R .

— Y H X Z Q X F N A Q A G P A
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN I WAS SIX, I MADE MY MOTHER A LITTLE HAT — OUT OF HER NEW BLOUSE. — LILLY DACHE

Birthday girl



Bessie Davis is turning 100 Thursday. She has lived in Pampa since 1979. Family and friends are hosting a reception for her from 2-5 p.m. Saturday in fellowship hall of Central Baptist Church. Mrs. Davis has four children, 18 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren. Her children are son, Nelson Davis of Saline, La.; and three daughters, Geneva Johnston of Conchas Dam, N.M., Peggy Hall of Pampa and Carol Downs of Fritch.

GLOBAL

Russia, Ukraine to resume gas talks to settle dispute

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian and Ukrainian officials agreed Tuesday to resume talks on resolving a dispute over the price of natural gas that has reverberated across the continent and left Ukraine cut off from its supplies.

Sergei Kupriyanov, a spokesman for Russia's state-owned gas monopoly Gazprom, told The Associated Press that Ukrainian officials were on their way to Moscow. He did not specify who would be taking part but said the talks would be "at a sufficiently high level."

Gazprom cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine on Sunday after the country refused to meet its demand for a fourfold price increase. Other European countries also reported drops in their supplies and Gazprom accused Ukraine of siphoning off gas bound for Europe — a charge Ukraine denied.

Russia supplies about one-quarter of the gas consumed in Europe and 80 percent of that goes through Ukraine.

Gazprom promised to turn up the volume to compensate for the falloff and the European countries most affected — Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia — reported supplies were back to normal Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov called on members of the European Union to press Ukraine to ensure that natural gas crossing the country reaches Europe.

Liberty

Continued from Page 4

Suppose you owned a restaurant, and you didn't wish to permit smoking. How would you like it if people used the political system to enact laws that forced you to permit smoking?

I'm sure you'd consider it tyranny, and I'd agree. But there's symmetry. It's just as much tyranny to use the political system to enact laws to force a restaurant owner who wished to permit smoking to ban smoking.

The liberty-oriented solution might be to post a sign saying you don't permit smoking, and customers wishing otherwise wouldn't enter. The same principle would apply to restaurant owners who wished to permit smoking.

I fear that too many Americans have contempt for the principles of liberty and opt for solutions that employ the political arena to forcibly impose their wills on others. If that's the preferred game, then those Americans shouldn't whine when others employ the same tactic to impose their wills.

Mining exec 'discouraged' by air tests

By JENNIFER C. YATES
Associated Press Writer

TALLMANSVILLE, W.Va. (AP) — Rescuers trying to reach 13 trapped miners punched a hole into the mine early Tuesday, but a company executive said he was "very discouraged" by air quality tests.

Carbon monoxide levels measured 1,300 parts per million, exceeding the 400 parts per million maximum safe level, said Ben Hatfield, chief executive officer of mine owner International Coal Group Inc.

"We are very discouraged by the results of this test," Hatfield said.

Still, Hatfield said the trapped miners could still be alive.

"They could be in another location or

Earlier Tuesday, rescuers had penetrated more than 9,000 feet into the Sago coal mine but were ordered to return to the surface Tuesday before the drilling crew punched into the mine.

they could be barricaded somewhere," Hatfield told reporters.

The test results were announced after crews drilled the hole. They also sent a camera down the 6 1/4-inch hole to look for signs of life, and planned to move in a camera-equipped robot, Gov. Joe Manchin said.

After the test, family members, who had been optimistic and talkative earlier, retreated into a nearby church with-

out making any comments.

The blast occurred at about 6:40 a.m. Monday, trapping the miners 260 feet below the surface of the mine, located about 100 miles northeast of Charleston.

Earlier Tuesday, rescuers had penetrated more than 9,000 feet into the Sago coal mine but were ordered to return to the surface Tuesday before the drilling crew punched into the mine.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Tsunami Relief

© 2005 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 22 No. 2

We helped with a game called PENNY WARS! In Penny Wars, each class competes against other classes. Each class tries to have the smallest amount of money in its class bin at the end of the week. How? Students donate money to another class's bin to make the amount in the other bins higher than the home class bin. We hoped to raise \$400 in the week-long competition. Thanks to generous donations, we raised 5 times our goal, a total of \$2,184.60!

Justin, 6th grade
Pennwood Middle School
Urdley, PA

Mrs. Giles	\$2.75
Mr. Greene	\$3.75
Ms. Wilford	\$1.54
Ms. Chan	\$1.08
Mr. Kocher	\$2.04

Which teacher's jar has the most money? Do the math to find out.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve problems using plus and minus.

We are donating Teddy bears and money to the tsunami victims. It's working very well! Everybody in our school has given at least \$1. Imagine how much we can raise!

Ashlea, 4th grade
Murlee Elementary School
Lubbock, TX

Find each Teddy bear's identical twin.

Standards Link: Investigation: Compare common objects.

Kid Scoop Readers Care!

Just over a year ago, a huge tsunami (tidal wave) caused a staggering amount of damage in several countries in Asia and Africa. People around the world sprang into action, and Kid Scoop readers like you did, too.

Thanks to all your efforts and generosity, people are rebuilding their communities, homes and lives. Below are letters and e-mails from Kid Scoop readers telling how they helped victims of the Asian tsunami disaster.

The thing that I did to help the tsunami fund was to have a garage sale. My family and I made \$148. I felt that I should help and I did!

Morgan, 6th grade
Harvest Middle School
Napa, CA

Garage Sale Spenders

Phil has \$6.05 to spend at the garage sale. Janey has \$5.85. Draw a box around the items Phil buys to exactly total the amount of money he has to spend. Circle the items Janey can buy. Use an item only once. (Example: Phil and Janey can't both buy the same lamp.)

Beach ball	25¢	Shirt	55¢	Shoes	75¢	Umbrella	75¢
Helicopter	\$1.25	Lamp	\$1.15	Swan	50¢	Flower	\$1.75
Trunk	\$1.25	Necklace	\$2.25	Shorts	\$1.45		

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve problems using money.

Extra! Extra! Generous News

Look through today's newspaper for one or more examples of people being generous. Find the following information and write it on a chart:

WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY HOW

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify answers to text.

I have basketball games each Saturday and I have decided to pledge \$1 for each point I score. So, if I score 15 points, I give \$15.

Kennedy, Grade 6
Sinsheimer School
San Luis Obispo, CA

Help the basketball player make a slam dunk.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

TSUNAMI
DISASTER
IMAGINE
MONEY
HELP
GENEROUS
ACTION
FAMILY
TEDDY
SALE
WAVE
CLASS
ASIA
PENNY
LAMP

Standards Link: Letter sequencing; Recognized identical words; Skim and scan reading; Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop Helping Out

Look through today's newspaper for the names of organizations that help people in your local community. Cut out the information and start a scrapbook of these organizations. Select one organization your class could help.

Standards Link: Social Science: Know the responsibilities of citizenship.

Write On! Kids Care

Tell about a time you helped another person. It could be something you did as an individual or as part of a group. How did it make you feel? What did others say about it?

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Find and circle the seven errors in the paragraph below. Then, rewrite it correctly on another piece of paper.

Tsunami Relief One Year Later

UNICEF says that one year after the tsunami, most children are now back in at least temporary schools. Many families separated in the tsunami have been reunited and much construction to replace destroyed buildings has begun. But a lot of work remains to be done, and donations are still needed. It will take many years to complete all these projects and better prepare the areas for future tsunamis.

Standards Link: Writing Strategies: Revise drafts.

UNICEF

UNICEF is the United Nations' organization that helps make life better for children in need around the world and responds to crisis situations like the Asian Tsunami disaster with food, shelter, clothing, medicine and more.

www.unicefusa.org

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross provides help to victims of disaster, and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

www.redcross.org

CARE

CARE works with poor communities in more than 70 countries around the world to find lasting solutions to poverty.

www.care.org

What a Character!
Generosity is ...

... making an effort to help other people.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS
This week's word: **GENEROUS**
The adjective generous means being willing to share or be unselfish.
Bill was generous and bought the man lunch.
Use the word generous in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.