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The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS



Making a statement

Andrew Glover: Pampa hoops teams declare themselves

Page 8

inside:

Social Security and you by Tom Margenau



Monday, January 3, 2011 Volume 106 • No. 228 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

County wraps up 2010; Hefley retires from post

DAVID BOWSER
 In their last meeting of 2010, the Gray County Commissioners' Court finished the county's business for the year before saying goodbye to one of their own.
 On Friday morning, the commission approved a contract with Panhandle Employers Services for drug testing and accepted a donation from the Leggett Foundation for heavy equipment in precincts one and four.

County Judge Richard Peet said the commission had been approached by the foundation in connection with the wildfires of 2006 that swept across the Texas Panhandle, burning off a million acres of grassland, destroying property



commission had been approached by the foundation in connection with the wildfires of 2006 that swept across the Texas Panhandle, burning off a million acres of grassland, destroying property

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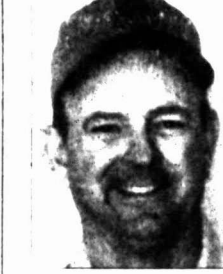
TAKING OFFICE



County Treasurer Scott Hahn (left) signs a document with County Clerk Susan Whitcomb (right) at the Gray County Courthouse on Monday.

Officials urge care as burn ban instituted

DAVID BOWSER
 "We setting up for another fire season," Gray County Emergency Coordinator Joe Millican said the county commission is "100 percent" to a close.



Millican

Millican said that conditions of late 2010 and early 2011 are starting up to look much the same, leading to heightened awareness around the county. The Commission instituted a burn ban on Friday as a precautionary measure.

Jernigan eases in at EMS

DAVID BOWSER
 Starley Jernigan is not part of the medical staff at the Emergency Medical Services Foundation of Texas, but without her, the medical staff would have a difficult time operating.
 At a time that most people are thinking of retiring, Jernigan is beginning a new career. This one is in the administration of the city's medical services.
 Jernigan, 60, is a Pampa native. She went to all of the elementary school except for Austin.
 "I went to junior high at Robert F. Lee," she said.
 It later became Pampa Junior High, but at the time there were two junior high schools in Pampa.



Jernigan

1969
 "I went to work for Culberson Stowers when I was in high school," Jernigan said.
JERNIGAN cont. on page 5

NEW YEAR'S BABY FIRST OF THE YEAR



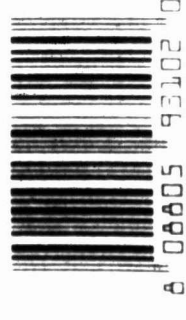
Cecilio A. Ponce, delivered by Dr. Dianne Eversing Simms at 4:12 a.m. on New Year's Day, is our first baby of 2011. The son of Milton & Leonela Ponce, Cecilio weighed 7 pounds and 6.5 ounces.

TOP OF TEXAS

Nominations Needed!
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 Deadline extended to: January 10
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IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	2	Social Security & You	5
Local Record	2	Puzzles	5
Weather	2	Comics	6
Afternoon Rush	3	Classifieds	7
Viewpoints	4	Sports	8



AFTERNOONRUSH Ciudad Juarez bloodiest border town

Survey suggests growth

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Organizers say a regional survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states suggests the region's economy will continue to grow at a healthy pace in the first half of the new year.

The Business Conditions Index for the Mid-America region rose to 57.5 in December from 55.9 in November and 52.3 in October.

December was the 13th consecutive month that the index came in above growth neutral.

The survey and report use a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth in the next three to six months, while a score below 50 suggests a contracting economy.

States in the survey are Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Airport getting \$52M facelift

AMARILLO (AP) — A \$52 million renovation of Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport is expected to put a new concourse into operation by May.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported Monday that city aviation director Pat Rhodes says they're "down to putting the final pieces together."

Terminal project general contractor Western Builders has moved its focus to the inside of the new concourse and to reconfiguring the terminal airline ticket counters.

Western Builders in December completed the roof on the new concourse. Rhodes says the current concourse eventually will be demolished.

The bulk of the project is being paid for with federal funds.

Hearing planned on nuke waste

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge in Austin will consider challenges to his blocking of a proposal that could allow dozens of states to dump radioactive waste in far West Texas.

Last week's temporary restraining order issued by State District Judge Jon Wisser sided with environmentalists.

Wisser planned a hearing Monday on the injunction against the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission.

The commission on Tuesday was scheduled to vote on rules to expand how much waste could be processed at a dump in remote Andrews County.

Environmentalists, who sought last Thursday's court ruling, have accused regulators and Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists of rushing through the dump expansion proposal during the holidays. A company spokesman denies the allegations.

The site currently accepts waste from Texas, Vermont and the federal government.

Public comment ban lifted

GILMER (AP) — Officials in an East Texas county have lifted a three-month-old ban on public comment that led to a protest in which some residents covered their mouths with duct tape.

The Upshur County Commissioners Court voted 3-2 Thursday to overturn their September decision to stop hearing public comment. At least five people with tape on their mouths removed it after the vote was taken, according to the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

The vote came a day after a grand jury indicted sheriff Anthony Betterton and two members of the commissioners court on misdemeanor charges of official oppression, the newspaper reported. The charges stemmed from the removal of a man from a meeting last month after he placed duct tape over his mouth.

Betterton declined comment to the newspaper.

River Walk drained for cleaning

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — This week's draining of the San Antonio River through the downtown business district will include more extensive cleanup of sediment.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has scheduled the draining of the river, through San Antonio's famed River Walk, to run through Jan. 11.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reported Monday that excavators could remove up to 3,000 tons of sediment from areas not previously scoured because they have a natural river bottom, not the concrete base found elsewhere along the River Walk.

Downtown operations director Paula Stallcup says years ago a previous attempt to clean the natural river bottom ended when a tractor got stuck in the silt. She says this time city workers will put down rock to support special heavy equipment.

Company orders deepwater rig

NEW YORK (AP) — Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc. said Monday that it will spend \$590 million on a new drilling rig that's capable of operating in 12,000 feet of water.

The Houston oil and gas driller said a subsidiary has hired Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. to build the ultra-deepwater drillship. The rig is expected to be completed in 2013.

Diamond Offshore operates around the world, including off the coasts of Brazil, Indonesia, Australia and the U.S. When the U.S. shut down deepwater operations last year, the company moved two of its Gulf-based rigs to foreign waters.

The company didn't say where its new rig would go. A call to the company was not returned.

40 years for road rage fugitive

AMARILLO (AP) — A 27-year-old man who fled to Mexico after a deadly road rage incident has been sentenced to 40 years in the death of a Panhandle teen.

Emanuel Vasquez also received a 20-year sentence on an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charge Thursday.

Vasquez pleaded guilty to killing 18-year-old Andrew Santos and injuring Davina Tisthammer when Vasquez slammed his SUV into a car carrying the pair in 2008.

Potter County District Attorney Randall Sims says the sentences are concurrent and Vasquez must serve at least 20 years before he is eligible for parole. He must also pay \$7,000 in fines.

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — The embattled border city of Ciudad Juarez had its bloodiest year ever with 3,111 people killed in drug violence, an official said Saturday.

The city across from El Paso, Texas, has seen its homicide rate soar to one of the highest in the world since vicious turf battles broke out between gangs representing the Juarez and Sinaloa cartels in 2008.

That year, 1,587 people were killed in drug

violence, and the toll increased to 2,643 in 2009.

Ciudad Juarez's bloodiest month last year was October, when 359 people were killed, said Arturo Sandoval, a spokesman for prosecutors in Chihuahua state, where the city is located.

Sandoval did not give statistics on murders unrelated to the drug war.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in drug violence nationwide since President Felipe

Calderon launched an offensive against the cartels after taking office in December 2006.

In the southern state of Guerrero, four members of a family were killed Saturday when gunmen

opened fire at a New Year's celebration in the town of Piedra Iman.

State investigators said the four men, ages 80, 60, 32 and 17, were slain at a party on a basketball court.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor "Marlon" and I have been "friends with benefits" for almost two years. We hang out every day and our kids are friends. We talk about everything. Really, we are best friends. We have attempted to hide our affair from our children (8 years old and under) and from our exes. Many of our friends know, but it is never discussed.

My problem is, Marlon recently mentioned that he wants to find a "good woman." It upset me because I'm in love with him. At the same time, he makes no effort to meet anyone. He is always with me — when you'd think he'd be out trying to meet women. Although we agreed to be "FWBs," I don't want to be Marlon's security blanket. How do I let him know I want more? — LOVES MY NEIGHBOR

DEAR LOVES YOUR NEIGHBOR: Revisit the subject with Marlon and ask him how many "good women" he thinks he can handle, because he already HAS one. It couldn't hurt to mention that you are in love with him and have taken your relationship seriously.

If one woman isn't enough for him, you will have to start looking for a good man — one who won't monopolize your time and take you for granted. Please understand that if Marlon is serious about looking elsewhere for someone to settle down with, you cannot invest any more time or emotion in him.

DEAR ABBY: I am in my 40s and voluntarily quit my job several months ago. My husband and I can afford it, and my job was making me miserable.

My problem is the reaction I get when I tell people. I hear, "Oh, how could you quit your job in this economy?" or, "Aren't you bored?" I volunteer as well as participate in social activities I didn't have time for when I was working. I feel my decision is no one's business, but what do you suggest I say to those who give me negative reactions? — TIRED OF THE GRIEF IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TIRED OF THE GRIEF: Perhaps you should resist the urge to announce that you quit your job because it made you miserable. Few people can afford to do that these days, much as they might like to. When you are asked if you are employed, say that you are not. Do not be defensive. If you are questioned further, explain that you do not have a job outside the home, but that you do volunteer work for causes that interest you. If that creates a negative reaction, let it be the other person's problem and not yours.

DEAR ABBY: I became a grandmother a year ago. My son told me I have to join a social networking site if I want information about, or to see pictures of,

my grandson. He claims I can find out all I need to know on his profile page.

Abby, I'm not asking for pictures to be sent in the mail, nor am I requesting constant calls about what is taking place. I'm not completely computer illiterate, but I do have an aversion to being grouped with everyone else. I am his mother, but I don't feel as though he thinks of me as someone special.

Am I totally out of touch with today's technology? — OLD-FASHIONED GRANDMA IN MONTANA

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: You're not out of touch with today's technology, but you are out of touch with the place that it holds in the lives of people of your son's generation — as well as many of your own. If you feel in some way disrespected by your son, work it out with him. But please do not allow this to be turned into a power struggle, because you will only alienate yourself from him.

Happy New Year

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"I didn't know how I would manage on my own."

Speaking from the heart

I already had a doctor for my diabetes and another for my heart problems, but after I fell, they said I would need physical therapy. I didn't know how I would manage it all on my own. So I talked to my doctor, and he explained my options. I chose Accolade HomeCare.

When I met Kathy, the nurse from Accolade, she taught me how to manage everything from the doctors and medications right down to my lifestyle, like what foods could help me. I had no idea Accolade did so much. Thanks to Kathy, I'm moving around again and am even healthier than before.

Let Accolade's qualified healthcare professional take you or your loved one through a screening that can indicate whether you should seek medical follow-up. Alzheimer's and any other type of dementia can be overwhelming, but with help from Accolade, it doesn't have to be.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2011. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 3, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba, citing a move by the Cuban government to limit the number of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Havana to 11 persons.

On this date:
In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.
In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The Delaware House and Senate voted to oppose secession from the Union.

In 1911, the first postal savings banks were opened by the U.S. Post Office. (The banks were abolished in 1966.)

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

In 1949, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court said that states had the right to ban closed shops.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed 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.

Ten years ago: The 107th Congress opened with the Senate split evenly down the middle.

Five years ago: Lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to providing gifts to officials in exchange for their help; he agreed to cooperate in investigations of corruption in Congress.

One year ago: The U.S. closed its embassy in Yemen, citing ongoing threats by the al-Qaida branch linked to the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt of a U.S. airliner headed to Detroit. Britain also shuttered its embassy. A Rutgers University doctoral student breached security at Newark Liberty Airport to kiss his girlfriend goodbye, prompting a six-hour shutdown. (Haisong Jiang (hy-song gee-ong) later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor, and was fined.)

Today's Birthdays: Record producer Sir George Martin is 85. Actor Robert Loggia is 81. Actor Dabney Coleman is 79. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 75. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Hull is 72. Musician Stephen Stills is 66. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 65. Actress Victoria Principal is 61. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 55. Actress Shannon Sturges is 43. Jazz musician James Carter is 42. Actor Jason Marsden is 36. Actress Danica McKellar is 36. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 35. Singer Kimberley Locke ("American Idol") is 33. NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lloyd is 25. Actor Alex D. Linz is 22.

Thought for Today: "The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't."
Henry Ward Beecher, American clergyman (1813-1887)

NEXT...TOP TEN SPORTS STORIES OF 2010...
THEN...TOP TEN HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS OF 2010...
...TOP TEN TALENTLESS DIVAS OF 2010...
TOP TEN OPRAH MOMENTS... TOP TEN CAT PHOTOS...
TOP TEN COMMERCIALS FEATURING A GECKO...
TOP TEN JERKS... TOP TEN DISASTERS...
TOP TEN TWEETS...
TOP TEN JOE BIDEN GAFFES...
TOP TEN REMAKES...
TOP TEN BAILOUTS...
TOP TEN MISSPELLED TEA PARTY SIGNS...
TOP TEN BRETT FAIRE TEXT PICTURES...
TOP TEN TOP TEN LISTS...
TOP TEN WAYS TO FILL CONTENT WITHOUT ORIGINAL MATERIAL...



Hey Uncle Sam, hands off the Internet!

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wants to get its grasping hands around the throat of the Internet, the international town hall where Americans have been free to express their opinions without Big Brother's permission or interference.

That makes the FCC unhappy. It seems that this taxpayer-supported, intrusive federal agency simply can't bring itself to allow anything having to do with Americans communicating with each other in public without their lordly oversight or permission.

The Internet -- despite Al Gore's absurd claim he used his political powers to invent it -- is largely free of U.S. or foreign government regulation or interference. In its present form, free from any government's rules or regulations, it's the finest example of what freedom of speech is all about, on a worldwide scale.

That seems to irk the compulsive regulators at the FCC, hence their determination to drag the Internet into their regulatory lair.

According to Rasmussen Reports, American voters believe free-market

competition will protect Internet users more than any government regulations. Moreover, they rightly fear government regulation will be used to push what is certain to be a leftist political agenda.

A national telephone survey conducted by Rasmussen revealed that only a scant 21 percent of likely U.S. voters want the FCC to regulate the Internet as it already does radio and television. Fifty-four percent are opposed to such regulation, while only 25 percent are not sure. That's a pretty healthy percentage that thinks the government should keep its sticky hands off the World Wide Web -- a percentage that the FCC will ignore at its own risk.

The compulsive regulators at the agency need to keep in mind that within a few days the U.S. House of Representatives will be under the control of Republicans, and that the House controls the nation's purse strings.

It would be very unwise for the FCC regulators to fail to recognize that at the moment Congress reconvenes in early January their financial future will be in the hands of a party largely composed of glorious



MICHAEL REAGAN

skinflints, most of whom view a n y g o v e r n m e n t r e g u l a t o r y p o w e r a s inherently dangerous and in need of the most careful oversight.

And that's what they are going to get.

Much of that oversight will focus on the fact that the FCC decision, based on a party-line vote, decided to impose what they termed "net neutrality" regulations on the World Wide Web. This despite the fact that by a whopping 52 percent to 27 percent margin, Americans are convinced that more free-market competition is far better than having more regulations that allegedly protect users of the Internet.

As shown by Rasmussen, Republicans and unaffiliated voters overwhelmingly share this view, yet a plurality of the Democrats among them -- some 46 percent -- think that more

regulation is better. As a veteran radio broadcaster, I relish the freedom to express my opinions without some would-be, present-day version of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels looking over my shoulder and telling me what I can say and what I can't say. That's not what America is all about.

Americans need to keep in mind the fact that government regulators use the time-honored tactic of tightening their grip on the citizenry one small step at a time. It appears that in the case of the FCC's power grab, they would like Americans to believe that they are only seeking to protect us from some unnamed abuse of the freedom of speech and not in imposing government censorship on the Internet.

They should recognize that we are not that stupid, something the new GOP-controlled House hopefully will teach them starting next month.

Happy New Year!

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan and a political consultant. He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation.

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- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

Gang announces truce

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — A letter purportedly signed by La Familia drug cartel announcing a one-month truce circulated Sunday in the western state of Michoacan.

In the one-page message, distributed by e-mail and in some cities door by door, the gang claims it will halt all crime activity during January to demonstrate that the cartel "is not responsible for the criminal acts federal authorities are reporting to the media."

Prosecutors have not verified the letter's authenticity, according to an employee of the Michoacan bureau of the federal Attorney General's Office who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The government says La Familia has been weakened by a recent string of arrests and deaths of top leaders.

In another letter that circulated in November, La Familia purportedly offered to disband.

Last month, gunmen torched vehicles across Michoacan and used them as barricades to block all entrances into the state capital of Morelia after federal police killed alleged La Familia leader Nazario Moreno Gonzalez.

La Familia has occasionally made public pronouncements seeking to convince the public that it is defending Michoacan against other drug gangs.

Federal officials, however, say the cartel has terrorized the state with kidnappings, extortion, hundreds of murders, decapitations and drug trafficking.

More than 30,000 people have died in drug-related violence nationwide since President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown on cartels after taking office in December 2006, first deploying hundreds of soldiers and federal police to his home state of Michoacan.

On Sunday, Calderon said in a New Year's broadcast that his administration will continue to fight organized crime.

"We all know it is necessary to rid Mexico of crime, impunity and corruption, which had been rooted in our society and our institutions," he said. "I can assure you we are on the right path and we will defeat the criminals, to ultimately build a Mexico of peace."

Burn

are in place."

The spring 2006 wildfires were sparked by a downed power line and fanned by high winds and dry conditions similar to the conditions that Gray County faces in the New Year.

Gray County Commissioner Joe Hefley said that while many of the wildfires in the county are started by downed power lines, poor safety steps taken while burning trash can also have a devastating effect.

Millican said that he has worked with the Gray County Sheriff's Office on tracking all controlled burns in the county. He said there are about 20 controlled burns a month in Gray County.

"All the controlled burns are documented," Millican said.

He said that as some land comes out of the federal government's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), there will be more controlled burns as landowners clear weeds and grass off land for cultivation.

"At some point in January or February,"

County

cont. from page 1

and killing several people.

The foundation gave the county \$2,500 for the assistance county employees gave them during the wildfires.

The commission also instituted a burn ban across the county as high winds and dry conditions continue into the New Year (see related story).

In other business:

The commission also said goodbye to County Commissioner James Hefley. He is retiring from the commission and will be replaced by Jeff Haley, who was sworn in as Commissioner of Precinct 4 on Saturday morning, Jan. 1.

Commissioners delayed action until Jan. 14 on a proposed oil and gas lease on school land the county owns in Gaines County.

A company had approached the county with an offer to lease the land earlier this year for \$175 an acre. In 2008, the county leased land in the area for \$150 an acre.

The money, Judge Peet said, would go to the school systems in the county, not to the county itself.

Social Security update for 2011

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Social Security and you



For most of the past 12 years, it has been my custom to write a year-end column that summarizes the Social Security changes and updates scheduled to take place the following year. Usually, that means I give the planned cost-of-living adjustment amounts, the earnings penalty limitation increases, and other revisions that are based on increases to the government's inflation measuring stick called the "consumer price index." But for the second year in a row, the CPI hasn't budged an inch. So, for the second year in a row, there are no cost-of-living adjustments or other increases that I need to report.

That means that for two years running, there will be no COLA increases for Social Security beneficiaries. This will trigger many letters of complaint to my column along these lines: "What do they mean there was no inflation last year? All they have to do is look at my higher rent payments, my increased grocery bills, and my escalating drug costs to know that there certainly was an increase in the cost of living." All I can say is that the official mechanism the government uses for measuring inflation didn't go up. If you want to learn more about this measuring stick, check out the website of the folks who maintain it: the Bureau of Labor Statistics. You'll find them at www.bls.gov.

Another measuring stick called the "national wage index" is used to set increases to other provisions of the law, which impact Social Security beneficiaries and taxpayers. But average national wages didn't go up during this measuring period. In fact, they went down. Therefore, there will be no increase in the amount of earnings a Social Security beneficiary under age 66 can make before he or she starts losing benefits.

The earnings penalty threshold will remain at \$14,160 in 2011 — the same level it has been at since 2009. What that means is that if you are under age 66 and getting Social Security, but still working, you will lose \$1 from your benefits for each

\$2 you earn over \$14,160 next year. In the year you turn 66, you can make up to \$37,680 from January of that year up to the month you reach 66. From age 66 on, there is no limit on your earnings.

If you are getting Social Security disability benefits and try to return to work, you get a nine-month "trial work period" — during which time you generally can earn as much money as you want with no impact on your eligibility for disability payments. But after those nine months, if you are making what the law calls "substantial gainful" earnings, you may lose your benefits. That substantial gainful level remains at \$1,000 per month in 2011, the same level it was at in 2010.

There are normally a couple of Social Security changes each year that impact people who are still working and paying Social Security taxes. One is the "quarter of coverage" amount. You generally get one-quarter of coverage, or one Social Security credit, for each "x" amount of earnings you have. That "x" remains at \$1,120 in 2011. Because no one can get more than four "quarters" or Social Security credits in any one year, that means once you've made \$4,480 in 2011, you've earned your maximum four credits for the year. This really isn't an issue for most people because they are already "insured" for Social Security benefits.

You generally need only 40 credits to be eligible for Social Security retirement payments — and that translates into 10 years of work. So if you've worked for more than 10 years and continue to work, you're still earning Social Security credits, but they really aren't doing you much good.

Another annual change usually brought about by increases to average national wage is a ratcheting up of the

amount of earnings subject to Social Security tax. But due to wage stagnation, that level remains at \$106,800 for the second year in a row. In other words, if you're working and making that kind of money, you will pay Social Security taxes only until you earn \$106,800. After that, you're off the payroll tax hook, or at least the Social Security part of the payroll tax. As in the past, you will continue to pay Medicare taxes on all of your income.

There is one major potential change to Social Security payroll taxes that has nothing to do with CPIs or COLAs or the wage index — but has everything to do with politics. As I am writing this, Congress and the president are contemplating lowering the Social Security tax rate for one year: from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. Because there is a bit of lead time involved in getting this column into newspapers, and because this is major news, you will undoubtedly know the outcome of this proposal by the time this column reaches your newspaper.

Assuming the bill passes, you may be scratching your head just as I am. I'm not an economist, and some mighty influential people — who are a lot smarter than me — are making what seem like sound fiscal arguments for including a one-year reduction in the payroll tax as part of a tax cut and economic stimulus package. But everyone knows Social Security faces long-range funding problems because of the on-going and ever-increasing retirement of the baby boomers generation. And everyone knows there are only two answers to those problems: We will either have to cut Social Security benefits or raise Social Security taxes. Obviously, cutting Social Security payroll taxes now only exacerbates that long-range problem and will force us to make even bigger benefit cuts or even higher Social Security tax increases later on.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

cont. from page 1

Millican said, "we are going to start having more controlled burns."

He said he's worried about welders working on pipelines in dry conditions on windy days.

There is also danger with rural homeowners burning household trash on windy days.

County Commissioner James Hefley, who retired at the end of 2010, said he thinks that since the wildfires of 2006, rural residents are much more careful with regard to fire.

"You can't be too careful," Hefley cautioned.

The commissioners instituted a burn ban throughout the county effective Saturday, Jan. 1.

The PAMPA NEWS

New ownership for Bourland and
A SOURCE YOU CAN TRUST

BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of 10 tiles below contains two common five-letter words. The letters of the first five-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find them and rearrange them to spell a word. Cross out those letters and imagine that the five remaining letters are now consecutive. These remaining letters can now be rearranged to spell the second word.

LEVEL

CRROOLCYIL

YAHHNCTODN

EWEWLDLDEG

Yesterday's Answer: NOUVEAU AVIATOR

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

7	9	8	4	6	1	5	3	2
6	1	2	3	5	7	8	9	4
5	3	4	8	2	9	6	1	7
1	6	5	9	8	4	7	2	3
4	7	9	5	3	2	1	8	6
8	2	3	1	7	6	4	5	9
3	5	7	6	9	8	2	4	1
2	8	1	7	4	3	9	6	5
9	4	6	2	1	5	3	7	8

7	5			8		9	1
4		2		5			
		9	1	5			
5	3	8	2		4		
				6	1	7	3
6	4		1		3		
		8	6	4			
	2			9			5

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Fake
- 5 Eager
- 9 Scarlett's last name
- 10 Fathered
- 12 Skin openings
- 13 Cutlery piece
- 14 Wallet bill
- 16 Confession item
- 17 Jane Austen novel
- 18 Impassioned
- 21 — Moines
- 22 Fold
- 23 Internet connection
- 24 Helix shape
- 26 Animation frame
- 29 Leapt
- 30 Mexican peninsula
- 31 Discoverer's cry
- 32 Football team
- 34 Permitted
- 37 Wonderland visitor
- 38 Faithfully
- 39 Louver parts
- 40 Long swimmers
- 41 Mariners

J	O	S	H	L	A	M	A	S
A	N	T	E	D	A	V	A	N
P	A	R	M	A	V	E	R	N
A	L	A	Y	M	A	R	U	E
N	O	D	S	T	O	T	O	A
G	A	T	O	R	B	O	W	L
S	U	G	A	R	B	O	W	L
P	A	N	E	E	D	S	E	L
A	F	T	A	D	O	N	A	T
C	A	R	O	N	L	E	T	M
E	R	U	P	T	E	A	T	A
D	I	E	T	S	R	O	S	S

Saturday's answer

- 1 Missouri
- 2 Groups of women
- 3 Sports
- 4 Ship pole
- 5 Inquire
- 6 — ordinaire
- 7 Van Gogh subject
- 8 Give the meaning of
- 9 Made a choice
- 11 Car ding
- 15 Running back's gain
- 19 Film unit
- 20 River blocker
- 22 Succotash half
- 23 Farrow of films
- 24 Orb
- 25 Czech capital
- 26 Expensive spread
- 27 Throws out
- 28 Bowling spots
- 29 Shaker fill
- 30 "Twilight" heroine
- 33 Final
- 35 Everything
- 36 Fleur-de-

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9				10			11	
12				13				
14				15		16		
17				18	19	20		
21			22					
			23					
	24	25				26	27	28
29						30		
31				32	33			
34			35	36		37		
38						39		
	40					41		

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO PROPOSER
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., January 18, 2011, for High School Uniforms. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director, at (806)669-4700. 6-31 Dec. 30 Jan. 3, 2011.

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 around Duncan Louisiana male Cream color Pomeranian. Call 595-0203, 665-7404.

13 Bus. Opp.

APTS. 48 units. \$1,555,000. NOI \$206,000. Financing avail. 817-909-4766

14d Carpentry

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE CRACKING! Bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563.

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

CERAMIC tile work Remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen, texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Burtaza.

14s Plumbing

JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat

BROWNING Heating & Air Cond. 665-1212. Free est. on new equip. We service all brands!

19 Situations

K&S Services House cleaning, painting, general repairs. Pecans for sale. 806-664-4817.

21 Help Wanted

BACKHOE Operator Class A CDL and Exp. required. Apply in person Top O Texas Oil field, 408 S. Price Rd.

21 Help Wanted

MAINTENANCE Man needed. Must have current dr. lic., own tools & pass drug test. Apply at Gwendolyn Plaza Apts, 800 N. Nelson.

NEED mature, exp. office help Must live on property. Apply at 1347 Coffee St. 1-806-534-1626.

J&M Waterhailing looking for exp. driver's Comp. wages, day & night shift. BJ vac aft 1 yr. Must pass drug test. Brandi 806-662-5155.

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

HOT Order Operator Experience required. Apply in person Top O Texas Oilfield, 408 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

MUST HAVE VALID DRIVERS LICENSE-CDL PREFERRED Must be able to pass drug test. Call BRB at Cannon 806-322-9885.

SE. Ann's Nursing Home Burschle has an opening for a Part-time Van Driver to transport residents. For more info 537-3194.

NOW Hiring Restorative Aides at St Ann's Nursing Home in Pampa. 537-3194

EXP. Leasing Agent part-time temporary position. Apply in person Hampton Villages, 100 Hampton Ln., Pampa or fax resume to 888-547-1653.

21 Help Wanted

LIVE-IN Inn Keeper Position: Room, board, phone, internet, car, etc. Wage for right person. No exp. nec. Will train. 806-339-6211.

21 Help Wanted

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

LOCAL Delivery Drivers for Pampa, TX. Class A CDL req with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. Salary based on exp. Health & Dental ins., 401K and uniform provided. Call 806-662-9831 Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30pm.

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SE. Ann's Nursing Home Burschle has an opening for a Part-time Van Driver to transport residents. For more info 537-3194.

NOW Hiring Restorative Aides at St Ann's Nursing Home in Pampa. 537-3194

EXP. Leasing Agent part-time temporary position. Apply in person Hampton Villages, 100 Hampton Ln., Pampa or fax resume to 888-547-1653.

21 Help Wanted

TRUCK Driver needed. Must have CDL and pass drug screen. Apply at D.E. Chase, Inc., 1-806-669-3219.

69 Misc.

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

QUALITY Mattresses 1 or Prices! Red Barn. Closed until Jan. 8th.

FIREWOOD For Sale \$160 a rick delivered. Call 664-1900 or 664-1901.

80 Pets & Suppl.

YORKIE puppies, 2 males, 1 female, Tail docked, dew clawed. \$400; now taking deposits. Avail Christmas. 595-0811, 595-0597.

18M Yorkie male, 8 months old, 3 lbs. \$600. Call 665-6295.

2 really sweet dogs to be given away to good home. 1 Boston Terrier, 1 English Mastiff. Would like for them to go together. Please call 806-665-6936 or 806-662-8287.

89 Wanted To Buy

NEED Money Now? We will give you top \$5 for your house. Call us today. 665-1875.

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1 bdrm's avail starting \$435/mo. \$100 off 1st mo. rent w/ 7 mo. lease. Corp. units: utilities, linens, basic cable. Caprock Apts. 665-7149.

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96 Unfurn. Apts.

\$100 off 1st Mo. Rent 1 bdr starting \$395 / mo. On-site laundry. Caprock Apts. 665-7149.

1 and 2 bdr. avail now at the Gwendolyn Apts. Call today, they won't last long! 665-1875.

2 & 3 bdr starting at \$559 / mo. \$150 off 1st mo. Rent w / 7 mo lease. Wild hookups in all units. Caprock Apts, 665-7149.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

102 Bus. Rental

DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823.

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103 Homes For Sale

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112 Farms/Ranches

160 Ac. Silver Spring Ranch, Wheeler. 5300 sq ft, 3 bdr, 6 ba., home, fpl., 4 porches, 3 ponds, 13,000 sq ft horse barn, caretaker quarters. Broker 806-679-1852 www.davisvernon.com

115 Trailer Parks

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

120 Autos

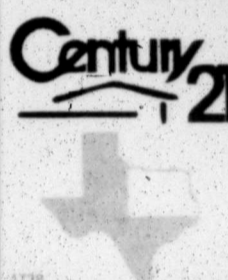
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121 Trucks

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Pampa Realty Inc. 669-0007

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- Linda Lapacka 662-9611
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2421 Duncan	\$184,900	5/2.75/2	2895 SF/GCAD
2600 Dogwood	\$177,500	3/2/2	2258 SF/GCAD
12012 White Acres	\$161,600	3/2/2	2098 SF/GCAD 1.4 acres
2600 Evergreen	\$159,900	4/2/2	2216 SF/GCAD
1901 Fir	\$146,500	3/2/2	2102 SF/GCAD
2528 Charles	\$138,500	3/1.75/2	2132 SF/GCAD
1206 Mary Ellen	\$136,350	5/3.5/2	3381 SF/GCAD
2720 Seminole	\$133,500	3/2/2	1416 SF/GCAD
2405 Navajo	\$89,900	3/1.75/2	1472 SF/GCAD
2239 Duncan	\$85,900	4/1.75/1	1780 SF/GCAD
2132 Hamilton	\$79,000	4/1.75/1	1536 SF/GCAD
1445 Russell	\$62,000	3/1.75/2	1504 SF/GCAD
716 E 15th	\$59,000	4/1/1	1196 SF/GCAD
1008 Somerville	\$55,000	5/2/0	2758 SF/GCAD
700 Somerville	\$42,500	3/1.75/0	1650 SF/GCAD
1316 Duncan	\$35,000	3/1/0	1006 SF/GCAD
Chaumont	\$35,000	Lots 1 & 2 Block 2	
1911 Coffee	\$27,500	2/1/0	780 SF/GCAD

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT Southwest

945 S Faulkner	\$35,000	2/1/0	746 SF/GCAD
1133 S Banks	\$35,000	2/2/2	1008 SF/GCAD Mobile home

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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

V G K I E Y B L C W V V E B D K

H E M K D K M V G K I E Y B L C V E

A M K Y V K C E Q K V G L W I V G Y Y

U L B B A G N A Z X Y B Y G W L N Z

Saturday's Cryptoquote: BE AT WAR WITH YOUR VICES, AT PEACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND LET EVERY NEW YEAR FIND YOU A BETTER MAN. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

THE PAMPA NEWS

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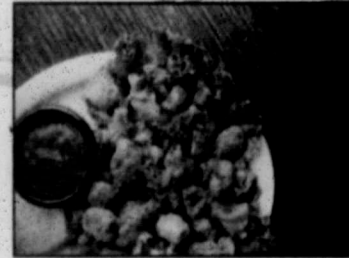
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Sports

PHS gains momentum after Caprock Tournament

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters entered last week's Caprock Tournament looking to enter the last portion of non-district with momentum. Both teams did exactly that.

The boys won three games and advanced to the championship. The girls won two out of three and took the consolation bracket.

The Harvesters entered the tournament with the goal of winning the tournament. Though they came up short, they still fared well. Pampa started the tournament by easily dismantling Midland Christian, Wednesday against Floydada, the Harvesters overcame a challenging post player and a four-point third quarter to win. The Harvesters took the White Deer Bucks seriously and didn't really allow them to get into the game. Though they lost Thursday's championship against Wall, Pampa did outscore them in the second half after trailing by 31.



ANDREW GLOVER

As expected, junior guard Latigo Collins and senior Garrett Effeson led the Harvesters' offensive attack. Pampa got some support from the bench. Senior's forward Joseph Mechelay scored six points against Floydada and eight against Wall. Mechelay was the only bench player to score against White Deer. Sophomore post and forward Derrek Pollard scored eight against Midland Christian and six against Wall. Junior guard Cole Engle scored 10 against Floydada.

If the Harvesters can have a balanced scoring attack, they are going to be a tough team to stop in district. With these

victories, Pampa definitely has some momentum heading into their last three non-district games.

The Lady Harvesters Caprock Classic got off to a rough start as they didn't score in the first quarter against Quanah. After that loss the Lady Harvesters regrouped and came together as a team. Pampa went on to beat Midland Greenwood and district rival Borger.

The game against Borger was a character building game for Pampa. The Lady Harvesters trailed most of the game and were down by 12 at one point in the fourth. If this was a game earlier in the year, we probably would have left Lubbock Trinity High School with a 15- to 20-point loss. However, this is a different Lady Harvester team. Pampa rallied back. With the victory they showed they can match play with one of their district opponents. If Borger, Dalhart and Perryton thinks their road to the playoffs

is two wins against Pampa they should think again.

As usual, junior guard Kirsten Kuhn led the Lady Harvester offense. However, she did have support.

Junior forward Delaney Clendening led the team in scoring with 15 against Midland Greenwood. Junior guard Caitlin Sieck scored 12 against Midland Greenwood. Junior guard Lindsay Brown scored seven against Midland Greenwood and six against Borger. In both games combined, Brown hit three three-pointers. Sophomore guard Taylor Morgan scored 11 points against Borger including a game-tying three-point shot.

The Lady Harvesters have one last non-district test Tuesday at Bushland. Hopefully they can continue their momentum in to the January 11 district opener at Borger. Remember this is around the same point our volleyball team turned their season around.

We want your photos!

If you travel with local teams to local events, The Pampa News could use your photos!

Send your unedited photos to Andrew Glover at aglover@thepampanews.com the night of the game or first thing the morning after. Please include player identification. The Pampa News does not guarantee publication.

athletes of the week



Kirsten Kuhn
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior basketball player **Kirsten Kuhn** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Kuhn scored 17 against Quanah, 13 against Midland Greenwood and 17 against Borger. Kuhn hit the game-tying layup and game-winning free throw with 0.9 seconds left against Borger Thursday to give Pampa the consolation championship.



Joe Mechelay
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Joseph Mechelay** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Mechelay scored two against Midland Christian, six against Floydada, two against White Deer and eight against Wall. Mechelay was the only bench player that scored against White Deer. The senior has been a strong contributor off the bench all season.

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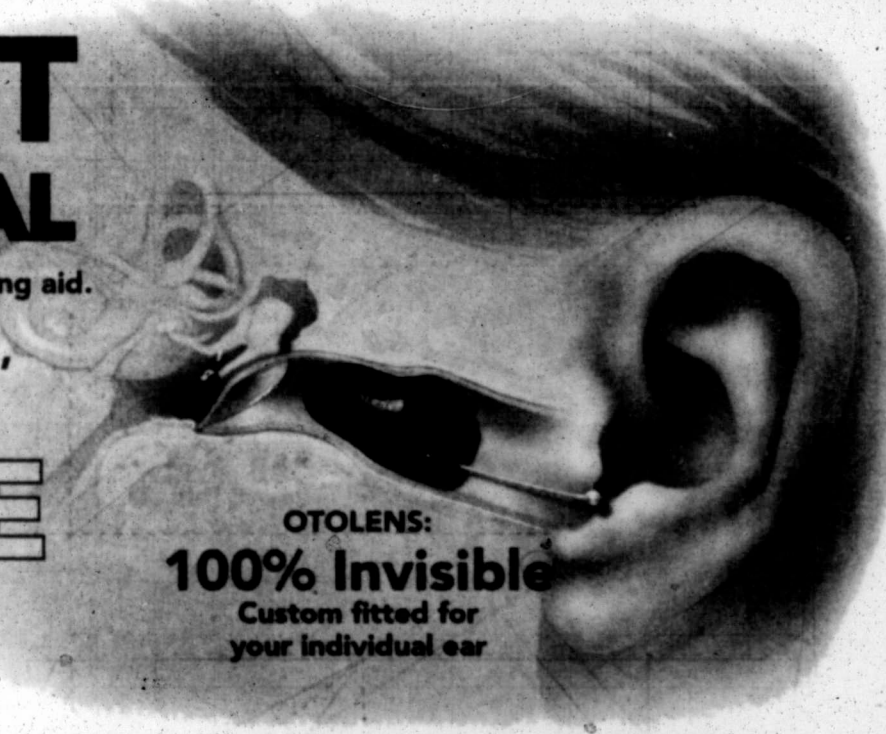
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