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The Pampa News

Pampa, Texas.

MONDAY, December 19, 1994

25c

Good Evening!

LOCAL

PAMPA — All Angel Tree gifts should be turned in to the Pampa Salvation Army by Tuesday. Lt. Tony Housley, commander of the Salvation Army, said every angel was taken from the tree, and "we are very grateful for that."
But not all the gifts have been turned in. He said the gifts will be distributed at 9 a.m. Wednesday to the needy children whose names were on the angels.
People who have not turned the gifts in may do so today and Tuesday either at the Salvation Army, 701 S. Cuyler, or the Wal-Mart Discount City, 2225 N. Hobart.

PAMPA — Police today were investigating a reported aggravated assault by a motor vehicle against a Tennessee woman in Pampa Saturday night. Officers said Dr. Vicki Lynn Odgen, 32, of 2630 Emory, Nashville, Tenn., told them she was in the driveway at 1601 W. Somerville about 2 a.m. Sunday when the driver of a red and white Chevrolet Blazer swerved and hit her.
She was treated at Coronado Hospital for minor wounds and released, law enforcement officers said.

STATE

By The Associated Press

One ticket bought in the San Antonio area correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.
The jackpot is worth an estimated \$10 million. The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 4, 13, 15, 28, 40 and 43.
In addition to the jackpot winner, there were 169 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth \$1,539. There were 8,813 tickets with four of six numbers, with each winning \$106. And there were 168,334 tickets sold with three of six numbers, with each worth an automatic \$3.
Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Wednesday night's game will be \$3 million.

NATION

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Deaf children who can't whisper into Santa's ear are signing like mad with a special Santa Claus.
Kassandra Schrienk, who set up the signing Santa, still remembers how frustrating it was as a child, trying to lip-read and get a word in between the ho-ho-hos.
"Santa couldn't understand me because my speech wasn't nearly as good as it is now, and I couldn't understand him because of that big beard," said Schrienk, community resource coordinator for the Deaf Services Center. "There were just a lot of smiles and the flash of the camera. I never really got to tell Santa what I wanted."
The center's St. Nick, Marvin Stitt, is visiting with the hearing impaired at the Columbus City Center shopping mall.
"The real Santa can hear and sign," signed Jason Babb, 9, as his aunt, Brenna Roth, interpreted.
Third-grader Nathan Boatman also was excited.
"If you don't see him, then Santa Claus won't know what you want," Nathan said. "I asked for a Miami Dolphins jacket, hat and clothes."

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A pilot for a traffic-reporting service dodged cars, trees and electrical wires as he crash-landed a single-engine plane this morning near Fairmount Park.
Michael Belton, 25, escaped serious injury in the accident, which occurred about 8:30 a.m. when he tried to make an emergency landing on a field outside the Methodist Home for Children.
"It happened so fast and it's very lucky that no one was injured on the ground," said Kenneth Heckman, president of the group home.
The plane flew under tree branches, clipped a light, missed power lines, crossed over a road during the height of rush hour and landed upside down on a ramp to a state police barracks near the park.

WEATHER

Tonight **28** Tomorrow **60**
Weather details. See Page 2

INSIDE TODAY

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Warplanes set gas refinery ablaze

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian warplanes set a gas refinery ablaze today in a bombing raid on the outskirts of the Chechen capital. Chechen authorities rushed reinforcements to the village, where heavy fighting between rebels and Russian troops was reported.
Chechen firemen at the scene in Dolinsk, 15 miles northwest of the capital, Grozny, said they saw corpses on the road next to charred cars. The firemen said the bodies of four civilians had been dumped in a canal along the road.
In Grozny, two people were wounded when an electric power plant several miles from the city center was bombed. A water reservoir nearby also was damaged.
On the main square in the capital, Chechens were praying to Allah. Hand-lettered posters called on the Russians to withdraw and refrain from spilling blood in the breakaway republic 1,000 miles southeast of Moscow.

Russian troops, sent into the Caucasus Mountain republic on Dec. 11, were encountering heavy resistance as they approached Grozny, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.
The troops had been dug in outside Grozny while Moscow gave Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev until midnight Saturday to disarm his forces. He refused, demanding that the troops pull out, and efforts to restart peace talks failed Sunday.
In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin faced increasing opposition to his decision to send soldiers into the southern republic. Worried parents bombarded the government with telegrams asking for information about their sons.
Yeltsin's former prime minister urged the Russian people to take to the streets in protest. Armored personnel carriers assumed positions on a road on the outskirts of Moscow to protect the Russian

capital against possible terrorist attacks. Russia's parliament met to discuss the crisis, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin chaired an unusual joint session of Yeltsin's hawkish Security Council, the Cabinet of Ministers and Yeltsin's administration. The session was devoted to developments in Chechnya, ITAR-Tass said.
Yeltsin has staked considerable political capital on resolving the conflict quickly and with minimum casualties. The offensive in the mostly Muslim republic of about 1.2 million people is generally unpopular with the public and among Russian troops.
Some Russian soldiers have vowed not to advance, even if ordered. One commander was recalled Saturday after promising villagers his tanks would not storm Grozny.
Moscow sent 10,000 to 40,000 troops into Chechnya to re-establish its authority

in the republic, which declared independence in 1991.
The population of the small mountainous region suffered heavily under Soviet leader Josef Stalin. Thousands of Chechens were forcibly relocated in 1944. Russian officials have painted Chechnya as a nation of criminals, drug runners and arms dealers, but Chechens say the charges mask Russia's aim to reassert rule over them.
At about 2 a.m. today, there were missile strikes on Grozny itself, ITAR-Tass said. The blasts were heard in the center and broke windows of apartment buildings.
Two rockets reportedly exploded in Dudayev's neighborhood, the report said. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.
The Interfax news agency cited Chechen officials as saying helicopter gunships attacked villages on the eastern outskirts of Grozny early today.

Fund raisers



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Members of the Senior Developmental Class at Pampa High School show a jersey signed by Dallas Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman that will be given to the winner of a raffle on Feb. 6 to help raise money for the class. Front row from left are Mindy Hervey, Jaime Arebalo and Mary Helen Rivera; back row are Amy Hammer, Noemi Silva, teacher assistant Amy Poole, Ricky Mullen, Jennifer Lambright and teacher assistant Denise Eppison. Tickets will be sold in the Vocational Building, Room 9, or call 665-4941 after 5 p.m. The class also will be having a Mexican meal and entertainment at Kevin's in the Pampa Mall on Tuesday evening as a fund raiser.

Clinton pushes for pilot's release

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton vowed today to press for an "early resolution" in winning the release of an Army helicopter pilot downed in North Korea, although said he had no details to offer at this time.
Clinton also said he had called the families of the two aviators earlier today, offering condolences to the family of the one who was killed.
U.S. officials, meanwhile, voiced hope that the incident does not need to unsettle fragile diplomatic relations with the communist state.
North Korean officials, communicating through a U.S. congressman visiting Pyongyang, say one pilot of a U.S. Army helicopter was killed and the other captured when the chopper strayed across the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas into North Korean territory Saturday.
The death of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon of

Clarksville, Tenn., was the most serious U.S.-North Korean military incident since the 1970s, and came at a time of tentative steps toward normalization of relations and negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program.
"I called the families of the two soldiers involved today to express my concern and in the case of the gentleman who was killed, my condolences to the family," Clinton said.
"I told them what I can tell you: I've worked on this all weekend. I'm going to keep working on it. We're working toward an early resolution on it and we're doing the very best we can."
He said he had no further details to offer at this time.
"I have nothing else to say at this time except that it's a high priority, we're working on it and we're going to do our best to resolve it," he said, taking a single question on Korea at a news conference called to outline his spending-cut proposals.
The administration was pressing for the prompt return of Hilemon's body and the

release of the second pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Fla.
Clinton avoided any public criticism of North Korea's handling of the matter. "This tragic loss of life was unnecessary," the president said earlier in a low-key statement.
"We're going to continue to press very hard for the return of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon's body and Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall," press secretary Dee Dee Myers said today.
"We're hopeful this will be resolved quickly and it will not have an effect on the nuclear agreement," she said.
CIA Director James Woolsey, speaking on CNN's *Late Edition*, said Sunday there was "no indication at this point" that the North Korean military had responded to the incident by going on alert or initiating troop movements.
Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., who happened to be visiting Pyongyang when the helicopter went down, has become the main contact between the two sides.

While North Korean military officials, in talks Sunday at the Panmunjom truce village, refused to divulge information on the pilots, officials in the capital told Richardson that Hilemon had died and that Hall had survived without injury.
Clinton said Richardson "is staying in North Korea for now" to help resolve the matter.
Details of the incident remained sketchy. North Korea said an "enemy" aircraft was shot down Saturday, after the OH-58C helicopter wandered across the heavily fortified border.
South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, quoting an unnamed source, said North Korean troops opened fire when the U.S. helicopter tried to take off after landing on the northern side of the border.
U.S. officials stressed that the unarmed observation helicopter was on a routine mission when it apparently strayed across the border. The officials said they had no independent confirmation the helicopter was shot down.

Man injured by gunshot hand wound

Pampa police today were investigating a weekend shooting in which one man suffered a gunshot wound to the hand.
Nathan Williams, 17, of 1161 Varnon Dr., suffered a gunshot wound to his left hand about 6 p.m. Saturday.
Officers said they responded to a call about 6 p.m. Saturday night concerning shots fired in the 1000 block of Neel Road.
When a police officer arrived, he reported a crowd but no one involved in a fight. The officer checked at the house from which the emergency call was made, and the residents told him that someone had come to the door requesting help. A trail of blood led from the porch of the home toward the south, the officer said.
At 6:30 p.m., Coronado Hospital personnel reported to police that a man suffering a gunshot wound to the hand had come to the emergency room.
Williams told police that he had seen two women fighting in the middle of the street in the 1000 block of Neel Road. When a man began beating one of the women, he said, he tried to break it up. In the ensuing brawl, Williams told police that he saw what he described as a small silver pistol with black grips nearby. As he tried to push it away, it discharged, hitting him in the hand.
Hospital officials said the bullet entered the left forefinger on the palm side and went out the back of the finger. Medical personnel also said Williams suffered a broken bone in the right hand. Williams was released after treatment for his injuries.

600 evacuated after leak from ammonia tank

WYLIE, Texas (AP) — A leaking anhydrous ammonia tank on a nearby farm forced officials to evacuate about 600 people from a mobile home park, authorities said.
A malfunctioning valve was believed to be cause of the leak that began about 6 p.m. Sunday and kept residents away from their homes for about seven hours.
Wylie Fire Chief Shan English said emergency squads from Wylie, Lucas, Murphy, Garland and Richardson took about 30 minutes to evacuate the residents.
No one was seriously injured, but two residents were momentarily overcome by fumes. They were treated at an emergency evacuation center set up at the First Baptist Church of Wylie.

D E C 1 9 9 4

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BUMSTEAD, Anne Perkins — 10 a.m., Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston.

HALE, Ralph Benton 'Monty' — 2 p.m., Victory Memorial United Methodist Church, Guymon, Okla.

HOLLINGWORTH, Jack — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Hale Center.

TIBBETS, Ruby Inez — 2 p.m., Assembly of God Church, McLean.

Obituaries

ANNE PERKINS BUMSTEAD

HOUSTON — Anne Perkins Bumstead, 61, a former Pampa resident and daughter of a Pampa woman, died Saturday, Dec. 17, 1994. Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston. Burial will be at Memorial Oaks Cemetery under the direction of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Bumstead was born Nov. 26, 1933 in Pampa. He was a graduate of Pampa High School and Texas Tech University. She was a longtime resident of Houston, where she was a member of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Houston Junior Forum and Texas Association of Realtors.

Survivors include her husband, John A. Bumstead, of the home; her mother, Ida Perkins of Pampa; her daughter and son-in-law, Missy and James Shelton; her son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Deborah McMurry; stepdaughters, Kathryn Bumstead, Alden Womack and Evelyn Jewell; her grandson, Marshall McMurry; and several nieces and nephews.

The family requests memorials be to CanCare of Houston Inc., 9575 Katy Freeway, Suite 240, Houston, Texas, 77024, or to a favorite charity.

RALPH BENTON 'MONTY' HALE

GUYMON, Okla. — Ralph Benton "Monty" Hale, 76, of Guymon, stepfather of a Pampa woman, died Friday, Dec. 16, 1994 in Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Victory Memorial United Methodist Church in Guymon, with the Rev. Mike Chaffin, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Elmhurst Cemetery under the direction of Bunch-Roberts Funeral Home.

Mr. Hale was born April 3, 1918 in Hansford County, Texas. He grew up and attended school in Goodwell, and graduated from Panhandle State University. He married Erma Lorene Weikle Elliott on July 10, 1979 at Richardson, Texas. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Navy for 11 years. He was a clerk with the U.S. Postal Service in Guymon before his retirement in 1971. He was a member of Victory Memorial United Methodist Church and Adobe Walls VFW Post 1789 in Borger, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Erma, of the home; two stepsons and daughters-in-law, Charles Eugene and Leigh Ivie of Lakeside, Ariz., and David Mark and Chin Ivie of San Antonio, Texas; three stepdaughters and sons-in-law, the Rev. Mildred Lorene and the Rev. Phillip Ovalle of West Valley, Utah, Mary Rosette and Sidney Robinson of Pampa, and Shirley Ruth and Loraine William of San Antonio; four brothers, Aaron Raymond "Coach" Hale of Springfield, Colo., William Washington "Bud" Hale of Dumas, Texas, Mose Von Hale of Woodland, Texas, and Ted Lee Hale of Amarillo; four sisters, Hattie Bernice "Pat" Dixon of Colorado Springs, Colo., Viola Toy Abbott of Amarillo, Mary Glenna Phelps of Weatherford, Okla., and Lafey Wray Webster of Darrouzett, Texas; 14 step-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made to help the family or to favorite charities, in care of Bunch-Roberts Funeral Home, Box 1112, Guymon, OK 73942.

JACK HOLLINGWORTH

HALE CENTER — Jack Hollingworth, a former Pampa resident, died Sunday, Dec. 18, 1994 — his 86th birthday. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church of Hale Center, with the Rev. Gene Meacham, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Hale Center Cemetery under the direction of Freeman Funeral Home.

Mr. Hollingworth was born Dec. 18, 1908 in Caney, Kan., where he attended school. He married Jackie Brown on Feb. 3, 1950 in Borger. The moved to Pampa from Borger in 1950, and lived in Pampa until moving to Hale Center about four months ago. Mr. Hollingworth served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a member of the Pampa Army Airfield Reunion Association.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie, of the home; two sons, Bob Brown of Hale Center and Bill Brown of Amhurst, N.Y.; two daughters, Betty Koonz of Houston and Patricia Hollingworth of Hale Center; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

NORA LEE PRICE

SHAMROCK — Nora Lee Price, 98, of Shamrock, died Saturday, Dec. 17, 1994. Graveside services were to have been at 2 p.m. today in Shamrock Cemetery, with the Rev. Kris Riggs, pastor of Eleventh Street Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements were by Wright Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Price came to Shamrock in 1908 from Oklahoma. She had worked at U Drop Inn, Sunset Motel and Lucy's Cafe.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Willie McKinney and Charles William Price, and by two daughters, Lillie Jewel McKinney and Ethel Mae McKinney, and two sons, Roy McKinney and Millard Vance Price.

Survivors include two sons, Clint McKinney of Amarillo and Art Price of El Reno, Okla.; a half-brother, William Tallman of Washington; a half-sister, Louise Thompson of Washington; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Calendar of events

PAMPA TOASTMASTERS

Pampa Toastmaster's Club is to meet at 6:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the private dining room of Coronado Hospital. For more information, call Nathan Hopson at 669-5700.

H.E.A.R.T. SUPPORT GROUP

The H.E.A.R.T. Support Group for Women meets Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Tralce Crisis Center office at 119 N. Frost.

Obituaries

RUBY INEZ TIBBETS

McLEAN — Ruby Inez Tibbets, 68, died Sunday, Dec. 18, 1994. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in McLean Assembly of God Church, with the Rev. Z.A. Meyers, evangelist, and the Rev. Dean Williamson, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery by Lamb-Ferguson Funeral Home.

Mrs. Tibbets was born in Hillsboro, Texas. She married Oscar Tibbets in 1966 at McLean. She was a homemaker and a charter member of the McLean Assembly of God Church. She was a member of the Senior Citizens Association and the Young at Heart Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include a son, Charles Leroy Griffin of McLean; a grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests in the 40-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

A violation of a court order was reported in the 700 block of North Gary.

Roy Tice Milton, 837 Malone, reported a theft.

Sonya Marcie Powell, 720 Hazel, reported a theft.

Peter Denny, 709 Mora, reported criminal mischief.

Danny William Kohler, 717 N. Christy, reported criminal mischief.

Christopher Alvin Cox, 2128 N. Zimmers, reported criminal mischief.

Joel Eastland, 1056 Huff Road, reported unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18

Wayne E. Cockrell, 113 Thut, reported \$300 damage to his fence from a hit and run driver.

Nathan Williams reported a gunshot wound to the hand.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of Terry.

Barbara Louise Kidd, 1816 N. Wells, reported a theft.

An assault was reported in the 500 block of South Barnes.

Kyle Caraway reported criminal mischief at the Taylor Food Mart at 600 E. Frederic.

Isidro Rodriguez, 1121 S. Christy, reported criminal mischief.

Family violence was reported in the 400 block of North Davis.

The city reported criminal mischief at Terry Road and Rosewood.

The city reported criminal mischief at Tyng and Gillespie.

An assault was reported in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive.

Dr. Vicki Lynn Odgen, of Nashville, Tenn., reported an aggravated assault at 1601 W. Somerville.

MONDAY, Dec. 19

Floyd Sackett with the Pampa Independent School District reported criminal mischief.

Arrests

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

Gary Michael Loftis, 40, of 1164 Varnon Dr., was arrested in connection with an assault. He was transferred to county jail.

Arrests

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Man faces court martial for copter downing

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Air Force radar plane officer will be court-martialed in connection with the downing of two U.S. helicopters over Iraq that killed 26 people, the Air Force announced today.

But charges against four other officers on the radar plane have been dismissed, the service said in a statement.

The decision to court-martial Capt. Jim Wang, who commanded the weapons controllers aboard the AWACS was made by Lt. Gen. Stephen Croker, commander of the 8th Air Force.

Croker is responsible for the Air Force's Airborne Warning and Control Systems aircraft.

If convicted on the three charges of dereliction of duty, Wang could be imprisoned for several months and dismissed from the service, Air Force officials have said.

Wang said today in a statement that he was not derelict in duty.

"I acted in accordance with the training I received and with the tools I was provided," Wang said. "Failures that occurred were the

result of systemic failures in the operation to which I was deployed." Wang said the operation was "tremendously flawed and destined for tragedy."

"While the evidence will show that there was an absolute failure of command, it appears as if I am the only military member facing a court-martial," Wang said. "Responsibility by those in charge has not, as would be expected, been acknowledged."

The Army Black Hawk helicopters were shot down in the "no fly" zone over northern Iraq on April 14 by two Air Force F-15 fighters. The F-15 pilots believed the Black Hawks were Iraqi craft violating the restricted zone.

The AWACS officers were accused of failing to warn the jet pilots that U.S. helicopters were in the zone, failing to ensure that the helicopters broadcast correct identification codes and failing to monitor the area properly. All five were accused of dereliction of duty.

The AWACS crews were part of a squadron from Tinker Air Force

Base in Oklahoma City.

The helicopters were carrying members of an international group that had been working with Kurds in northern Iraq since the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Fifteen U.S. citizens, military officers from Britain, France and Turkey, and five Kurdish workers employed by the United States were killed.

Charges were dismissed against 1st Lt. Joseph Halcli, Maj. Douglas Martin, Maj. Lawrence Tracey and 2nd Lt. Ricky Wilson, who held a variety of posts on the aircraft.

One of the F-15 pilots, Capt. Eric Wickson, testified under a grant of immunity at a hearing for the AWACS officers. He was not charged.

The other pilot, Lt. Col. Randy May, based at Spandahlhem, Germany, was charged with 26 counts of negligent homicide and dereliction of duty.

A military judge urged the dismissal of charges against May, but a final decision hasn't been announced in his case.

Booker man in critical condition after accident

BOOKER — A Booker man was in critical condition in an Amarillo hospital today with injuries suffered when his car flipped end over end near this northern Texas Panhandle town.

Abdon Medina Ponce, of Booker, was in critical condition today at Northwest Texas Hospital after being airlifted from Hemphill County Hospital late Sunday night following an automobile crash that injured him and his son.

Robert Martin Ponce, 10, was in satisfactory condition at Northwest

Texas Hospital today with head injuries and a broken left leg.

Department of Public Safety troopers said Ponce was driving a 1979 Ford passenger car north on Texas 23 between 10 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. when he failed to negotiate a curve in the road.

Officers said Ponce apparently left the eastside of the road a little over 18 miles south of Booker, hitting a post and then a dirt embankment.

"He apparently nosed into an embankment on a lease road and went end over end," said Depart-

ment of Public Safety Trooper Larry Dunham of Canadian.

The car came to rest on all four wheels, straddling a fence, Dunham said.

Both father and son were thrown from the car, officers said.

"The boy was conscious when we arrived," Dunham said.

Ambulances transported both victims to the Hemphill County Hospital Sunday night. Ponce was airlifted by helicopter to Northwest Texas Hospital while his son was taken by ambulance.

Sheriff's Office

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents and arrests for the 40-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Steve McMahon reported a burglary.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18

Gray County Sheriff's deputies responded to a complaint on public intoxication at City Limits.

Arrests

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Ramon Ortega, 47, 1157 Huff Rd., was arrested in

connection with a public intoxication complaint. He was released to pay fine later.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18

William C. Stephens, 27, 808 N. Christy, was arrested for failure to appear.

Danny Ray Boyd, 47, 715 S. Barnes, was arrested in connection with a public intoxication complaint.

Gary Michael Loftis, 40, was arrested in connection with a reported assault charge. He was released on a bail bond.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 38-hour period ending at 9 a.m. today.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

7:51 p.m. — A fire alarm went off at Keyes Pharmacy, 928 N. Hobart. Three units and seven firefighters responded. Investigators determined that the alarm had malfunctioned.

6:22 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a medical assistance call at 1200 N. Wells.

MONDAY, Dec. 19

8:03 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to a medical assistance call at 218 N. Russell.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reports the following accidents in the 40-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

FRIDAY, Dec. 16

A white Chevrolet Silverado pickup driven by William Rick Thomas Jr., 17, 421 Red Deer, was in collision with a parked 1984 red Chrysler New Yorker four-door sedan owned by Frances Hines of 2121 Coffee. Thomas was cited.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

A 1988 Blue Ford LTD four-door sedan driven by Roger Douglas Smith, 60, of 726 Lefors, was in collision with a 1973 White Chevrolet Chevette three-door driven by Randy Lynn Freudenrich, 32, of 1517 Dogwood Lane at the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan. Freudenrich was taken to Coronado Hospital and released after treatment. Smith was cited for failure to yield right of way.

Hospital

CORONADO HOSPITAL Admissions	Juanita J. Hoyt
Pampa	Mobeette
Johnny D. Harper	Katie Jo Mabry
Groom	Miami
Randy Neil Johnson	Annie Marie Voss
Dismissals	SHAMROCK HOSPITAL Admissions
Pampa	Shamrock
Robert L. Pepper	Inez Gauding
Euna Beatrice Swafford	Katie Close
Leon Higgins	Dismissals
Noah L. Sutherland	Shamrock
Canadian	Inez Gauding

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Wheeler-Evans of Pampa.	Chevron.....44 1/8	dn1/8
Wheat.....3.65	Coca-Cola.....51 3/8	dn1/8
Milo.....3.82	Diamond Sham.....24 7/8	up1/4
Corn.....4.22	Enron.....29 3/4	up1/4
	Halliburton.....34 3/4	NC
	HealthTrust Inc.....30 3/4	NC
	Ingersoll Rand.....30 1/4	dn1/4
	KNE.....23 1/4	up1/8
	Kerr McGee.....45 1/8	dn3/8
	Limited.....19 5/8	dn1/8
	Magco.....50 3/4	dn1/4
	Massey.....3 5/8	NC
	McDonald's.....28 5/8	dn3/8
	Mobil.....84 5/8	NC
	New Alcoa.....17 5/8	dn1/8
	Packard & Parley.....22	up1/4
	Pennsylvania.....41 5/8	NC
	Phillips.....33 7/8	dn1/8
	SLB.....52	up3/4
	SPG.....27 1/4	up1/8
	Tenneco.....40 5/8	dn5/8
	Traco.....61 1/8	dn1/4
	Wal-Mart.....22 3/4	dn1/4
	New York Gold.....379.25	
	Silver.....4.74	
	West Texas Crude.....16.76	

Correction

Karissa Intemann was left off the Honor Roll listing for Travis Elementary School for the second-six weeks grading period. She made the A Honor Roll for the fourth grade.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Sunny days and clear nights through Tuesday. Daytime highs near 60; overnight lows in the upper 20s. Gusty southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. The high Sunday was 60; the overnight low was 38.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Legislature to look at getting welfare lifers off rolls

HOUSTON (AP) — Next month, the Texas Legislature will try to grapple with the state's ever-growing welfare rolls, looking for ways to turn residents off public assistance and guide them towards employment.

In the 1993-94 fiscal year, one in six Texans received food stamps, according to the Texas Department of Human Services.

Experts predict that by the century's end, nearly 20 percent of Texans will fall below the national poverty level and one-third of all children will live in impoverished conditions.

The majority of those on welfare in Texas are single parents, most of them mothers.

In the 1993-94 fiscal year, an average of 751,000 single parents or guardians received Aid to Families With Dependent Children benefits in Texas, compared with 35,442 two-parent households getting assistance, according to state records.

Nationally, 75 percent of people on welfare are in the program because their family situation changed, according to the Center for the

Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas.

A report from Comptroller John Sharp's office on welfare is due by the first of the year, said Tamara Plaut, senior economist for Sharp.

Sixty percent of Texas welfare recipients are "cyclers," who see welfare as a form of unemployment insurance and cycle on and off, according to Ms. Plaut. Those recipients tend to be high school graduates with strong work histories and relatively small families. For them, welfare is something they know is available and dip into as they need it.

About 25 percent of Texas welfare clients are long-term recipients who have been getting assistance for five years or more.

Most of those clients gave birth to their first child as teen-agers, dropped out of high school and went directly to welfare.

While Congress debates whether to dismantle social programs and replace them with block grants that would give states far more leeway in assisting the poor, Texas lawmakers are push-

ing ahead with their own ideas on reform.

Most of the impetus is expected to come from Gov.-elect George W. Bush, who made welfare reform a top campaign issue; Sharp, the state comptroller; and the House Human Services Committee, chaired by Kerrville Republican Harvey Hilderbran.

The chief problem is Texas' benefit level, one of the lowest in the country.

AFDC recipients receive an average of \$57.44 per month, and the level has not changed since 1986. Only Alabama and Mississippi provide less assistance to the poor. A welfare family of three can earn about \$9,500 a year in AFDC, Food Stamps and Medicaid assistance, well below the national poverty level of about \$13,000 a year.

One reason Texas ranks so low is that it has not adjusted the income level on which assistance is based since 1985, according to the House Research Organization.

Bush's welfare reform package consists of five proposals:

- Establish a two-year limit on benefits to all except guardians of children under age 3, pregnant women and those temporarily incapacitated by age or physical or mental impairments.

- Ban additional benefits for children born to women already on welfare. Critics say this unfairly implies that welfare mothers in Texas now have a financial incentive to have more children, when in fact they get only about \$25 a month for each additional child.

- Increase efforts to collect child support from absent parents.

- Set up mandatory job training or educational programs aimed at getting welfare recipients into the work force.

- Hold recipients to an "Independence Contract" in which they would, among other things, pledge to remain drug free, immunize their children and work or attend school.

"The whole point is to change people's behavior," said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes.



(AP photo)

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, left, is welcomed by Col. Jamie Daniel upon his arrival at Sarajevo airport Sunday.

Carter brings peace plan to Bosnian Serb leader

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press Writer

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Jimmy Carter met Radovan Karadzic in his headquarters village today, hoping to persuade the Bosnian Serb leader to sign onto a peace plan his people have repeatedly rejected.

Carter's initial comments were conciliatory. The former president arrived in Bosnia on Sunday on a mission that has confounded every other diplomat.

Karadzic spoke of traditional Serb-American friendship forged in two world wars this century, and a Serb feeling that their reputation has suffered because of unfair media coverage.

"It may be that today is one of the rare chances to let the world know the truth and explain the commitment of the Serbs to peace," Carter responded.

"I cannot dispute your statement that the American people have heard primarily one side of the story."

Carter's self-assigned task was not an easy one — convincing the Serbs, who have dominated the 2 1/2-year war militarily, to back a plan that cuts their holdings from more than 70 percent to 49 percent of Bosnia.

So far, Carter has had a mixed welcome. Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, were greeted with large floral wreaths, smiles and handshakes when they arrived in Pale, nine miles southeast of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital. They were to return to Sarajevo later in the day.

But as the couple entered Sarajevo on Sunday, French anti-sniper patrols traded fire with Serbs in one of their heavier exchanges recently. High levels of gun- and rocket-propelled grenade fire were reported, and two French peacekeepers and a

civilian were wounded. U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said today fighting continued around the northwest Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa, which fell over the weekend to the renegade Muslim forces of Fikret Abdic.

Abdic has sided with Bosnian and Croatian Serbs in the fighting that has torn apart the region.

Grimes said U.N. personnel in the town were confined in their quarters, but U.N. observers had seen many refugees fleeing Velika Kladusa south toward the government-controlled area of Bihac.

U.N. military spokesman Maj. Koos Sol said today 11 U.N. planes had landed at Sarajevo over the weekend, eight of them Sunday, and some food and fuel convoys reached the city and Muslim eastern enclaves of Bosnia. He was not more specific.

"That's a little improvement," he noted, referring to the dozens of times Serbs had blocked and harassed U.N. peacekeepers.

In what could be a last-ditch attempt to avoid withdrawal of the humanitarian mission in Bosnia, nations providing peacekeepers there opened talks at the Hague today to consider ways to shore up the U.N. force, which has been subjected to repeated Serb harassment.

Among the possible moves under consideration are changing the rules that limit the freedom of U.N. troops to fire back when attacked, deploying peacekeepers in more secure positions, extending NATO air protection and creating a fortified supply corridor from Sarajevo to coastal ports.

Despite Carter's best efforts, those on both sides of the front line were skeptical of his mission.

"Jimmy Carter?" asked Gojko Cvoro, a Bosnian Serb soldier in Pale. "Who's he? A former U.S. president? Who cares?"

Homeless advocate found killed

DALLAS (AP) — A homeless man who filed a lawsuit against the city of Dallas in an attempt to stop demolition of a shantytown near Interstate 45 has been found shot to death in a house where he had been staying, police say. Prince Johnson, 34, was found Sunday night in a house in the Oak Cliff section of the city, according to Dallas police detective Ken Wigington.

There were no witnesses and no one was arrested, Wigington said. The house where Johnson was found was owned by Common Ground, a housing advocacy group.

John Fullinwider, director of the group, said Johnson had been living in the house on and off while doing some repair work.

"He was really dedicated to the homeless cause," Fullinwider told the Dallas Morning News. "He made a lot of sacrifices."

Johnson was at the center of the debate between city officials and the homeless over the proposed destruction of the shantytown near downtown Dallas. It was eventually destroyed earlier this year, but Johnson fought against it.

Technician may have spread hepatitis C

FORT WORTH (AP) — An outpatient surgical center waited two years to tell some 500 patients that a technician might have exposed them to hepatitis C, an incurable and sometimes deadly virus, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

The Mid-Cities Surgi-Center in Bedford since has learned that 15 people, including a baby, may have been infected through contact with a drug-addicted, ex-convict.

In his voluntary statement to Bedford police and in his sworn statement in prison, David Wayne Thomas said he would remove vials of fentanyl, a pre-anesthesia narcotic, which he describes as synthetic heroin, in the newspaper reported Sunday.

Thomas said he dotted vials above and below a line, where he then snapped them open. He withdrew the narcotic with a syringe, replacing it with a saline solution using a second

syringe, he said. Thomas would then match the dots, reseal the vial with Superglue and put it back in the narcotics box.

During Thomas' tenure as a surgical technician, from December 1991 to March 1992, about 500 patients passed through the center, most for routine, minor surgery. An undetermined number of them were administered drugs from vials tainted by Thomas.

Marianne Sisson had surgery at the center in January 1992 after a miscarriage and apparently was infected at that time. During a later pregnancy, she passed it to her now 14-month-old son, Garrett. Both show no symptoms, but doctors say their livers are likely to fail in two to 20 years.

"Anger has entered our home," said Mrs. Sisson's husband, John Sisson, a former North Richland Hills resident who lives in Jefferson City, Mo. "You've got a woman here

who goes in for a miscarriage; it was a baby that we wanted very deeply. It was a loss that devastated us. We were trying to knit our lives back together."

When the surgical center did send letters in May 1994 informing patients of the possible exposure, many patients said the center downplayed the risk. The letter spoke of a "remote" danger of infection.

In June, a spokesman answered a Star-Telegram inquiry after the letters went out, saying the center had only recently learned that an employee had tested positive for hepatitis C. But documents obtained by the newspaper show that the center had the positive results of Thomas' test 23 months earlier.

Lawsuits have been filed on behalf of those infected against the surgical center, and its current and former owners.

Guerrillas announce troop mobilization

VICENTE GUERRERO, Mexico (AP) — Indian rebels in southern Mexico today announced that thousands of their troops have slipped out of guerrilla-held territory and infiltrated 83 communities in Chiapas state.

Subcomandante Marcos, speaking at an early morning news conference in the Lacandon Jungle, said the troop mobilization was the first major "military action" he had taken since the New Year's uprising.

There were no immediate reports of shots fired, or of fighting, but there were reports of numerous highway blockades by Indian peasants, some wearing the trademark rebel ski masks in outlying communities of Chiapas.

Marcos told reporters that the rebels had surreptitiously slipped out of the Chiapas jungle between Dec. 11 and Dec. 14, entering communi-

ties which are heavy supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

He said those communities in Chiapas state were being "fortified" today by the rebels for possible attacks by Mexican army troops. He did not say how the troops were getting out nor give evidence of those troop movements.

But his announcement came amid a surge of reports of Indians, some carrying rifles and wearing the bandannas of Zapatista rebels, blockading numerous highways around the state.

However, it was not immediately clear if many of the peasants were members of Zapatista army, whose 12-day shooting war with the Mexican army cost more than 145 lives before a mid-January ceasefire.

The dozens of peasants, many

wearing ski masks and the brown fatigue uniforms of the Zapatistas, began placing stones and tree trunks across highways on Monday morning.

One of the highway barricades was reported to be on a road leading from the colonial town of San Cristobal de las Casas to the capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, the state capital 430 miles (690 kms) southeast of Mexico City.

"In this free and rebel territory, we prohibit the entrance of military personnel, of public security, judicial police... or any person from the government," read one banner.

There were no incidents late Monday morning. Military planes overflew over San Cristobal and adjacent indigenous areas. Three huge banners on the highway to the state capital proclaimed: "Welcome to Zapatista territory."

Hunt continues for assassination suspect

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The hunt for a former Mexican congressman suspected of organizing the assassination of a top official in that country's ruling party has extended to San Antonio, according to a published report.

The Mexican government has offered a \$1 million reward for information leading to the capture of Manuel Munoz Rocha, a former congressman from Tamaulipas.

Munoz Rocha has been charged with the Sept. 28 murder of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the No. 2 official of Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party and governor of the Mexican state of Guerrero from 1987-93.

An official with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has called Munoz Rocha the "intellectual author" of the slaying.

More than a dozen people, including the alleged triggerman, have been arrested, but Munoz Rocha remains at large.

Meanwhile, continual rumors and a rash of sightings in San Antonio have focused attention here, and led to confusion among the investigating agencies.

"There is no doubt that Manuel Munoz Rocha was in San Antonio. He was seen here in October," a Mexican diplomat told the San Antonio Express-News in Sunday's editions. The diplomat asked not to be identified.

"This is a very crucial moment in the investigation. The investigators are collecting all these testimonies, the recollection of witnesses. Even the witnesses wanted anonymity," he said.

A meeting involving an unnamed, high-ranking Mexican official and Mexican and U.S. government attorneys was called Saturday to compare notes and straighten out certain logistical problems, a source close to the investigation told the San Antonio Express-News.

"There is too much confusion and there are too many sightings. A \$1 million reward tends to fog one's vision. Everyone wants to collect the big, fat one," the source said.

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The Pampa News

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This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Give Texans right to home equity loans

In 49 states homeowners may borrow against the equity in their homes to finance medical expenses, the college educations of their children and many other worthwhile projects. The lone exception is Texas, which allows home equity loans only for the purpose of improving the homestead.

This is the result of the Homestead Act of 1839, passed in a spasm of populist fervor by well-meaning lawmakers who wished to inoculate a largely uneducated and unsophisticated citizenry against unscrupulous lenders.

Today the law is a blunt reminder of the partitioning attitudes of 19th-century politicians as well as a continuing infringement of individual rights.

Why should Texas homeowners be barred from using their property as they see fit? Are Texans inherently less able to manage their financial affairs than the residents of the other 49 states?

We believe it is time for the Legislature to revoke this dubious law, and allow the citizens of Texas the same property rights enjoyed elsewhere in the United States.

There are indications it may finally come to pass. During a recent legislative issues conference in Austin, House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, who opposes changing the homestead law, nevertheless said he would not stand in the way if the House wished to do so.

"I believe it would be an abuse of my powers to block a constitutional amendment affecting the entire state," he said. State Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, included home equity lending among the agenda items he believes will receive a priority in the next Legislature.

Critics of home equity loans have raised the specter of wholesale foreclosures, of families and the elderly being thrown into the street because they can't repay the money.

The fact is, every financial investment comes with a level of risk. That does not mean the state should keep its citizens from taking that risk.

Allowing Texans to borrow against their home equities also will be good for the economy. In years to come, billions of dollars in paper assets will become working capital, increasing the tax base and producing thousands of jobs.

After 155 years, it is time for the state of Texas to stop treating homeowners as if they were children. If it is legal to invest the family fortune in an ill-considered business venture, it should be legal to borrow money against one's home to send junior to college.

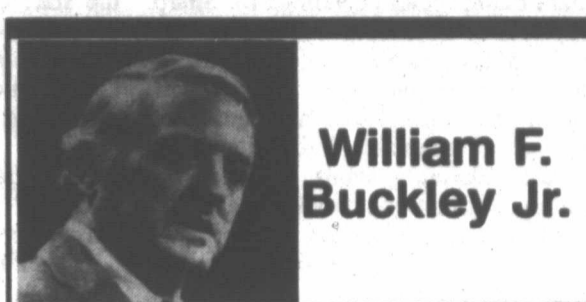
Let's consider the Alpha laser

News of the potential of the Alpha laser reaches us at a despondent moment in international diplomacy. Bosnia is in ashes; Bihac, whose survival as a free city everybody in sight had pledged, threatens to collapse in the very near future. Mr. Clinton flew 9,000 miles in less than 24 hours for the privilege of hearing Boris Yeltsin denounce NATO and the United States, hinting (to the extent Mr. Yeltsin is capable of hinting) that we desire to run the world, reminding us that Russia is the prime agent of Europe's destiny. But through that girdle of cement a blade of grass protrudes, and lo! we have the alpha laser.

What it is, is an unexpected, ovulated egg of Star Wars: an anti-missile missile that is hotter than the sun, whose destiny, if the political establishment uses its sense, is to circle the globe prepared to knock down any missile at the moment it rises above cloud level.

Alpha is not designed as a space shield to guard against such a massive threat as we faced in the Cold War. But the objective today isn't protection from 10,300 nuclear warheads. The single reassuring note on the international scene is Ukraine's full partnership in the missile reduction plan. Ukraine, along with Kazakhstan and Belarus, will agree to embark on the program of reduction.

The threat — the very real threat — is of nuclear weapons on the North Korean model — one, two, a half dozen. It requires only a single missile to affect the politics of the region. We don't know exactly what it is that the North Koreans have, but the strategic policies of Japan and China, no less, will be affected — are already affected — by the North Korean potential.



William F. Buckley Jr.

Now any time anti-missile defense is brought up we trigger the chorus of skeptics, for whom the question is a matter of dogma. For such as the Federation of American Scientists space is a sacred membrane, the deflorator of which is a violation of the moral code. Nonsectarians ask a different question, and it has to do with Salt II. Alpha contemplates space research with the objective of realizing an anti-missile; and, ultimately, of a missile in space instructed to destroy only missiles whose obvious design is aggressive. What is desirable is an OK from Russia to proceed notwithstanding the negative provision in Salt II.

Why would Russia acquiesce in such an arrangement?

Because Russia would stand to benefit from its fruits. There is no prospect of a return to massive nuclear antagonism on the scale of the Cold War. For one thing the war is over; for another, that which deterred during the war would still deter after the missile reductions contemplated. Twenty-five percent of existing stocks are enough to give us back the balance of terror.

The net of which is that Russia cannot reasonably come up with a reason why the devel-

opment of Alpha could harm Russian prospects. Our petition for a waiver would obviously come with an offer to share the technology achieved. Means by which to assure the sharing of such technology are obvious, including a prospect of Russian scientists working alongside our own in California. What Russia has to worry about in the not too distant future isn't 5,000 missiles in Nebraska, but four or five missiles in Iraq or Iran or Libya. Already we reasonably assume Pakistan and Israel have such a supply and, of course, India. It is reassuring that these are at the disposal of sensible men and women. Such assurance can't be taken for granted elsewhere.

There is of course an alternative to waiting on the graces of Mr. Yeltsin. It is to exercise our rescission rights, a matter of starting the clock that ticks away for the stipulated six months. Caspar Weinberger, when he was secretary of defense, came close to advising President Reagan to proceed with rescission, and soon after leaving office, regretted he had not done so.

It is hard to imagine an excuse for not proceeding as quickly as possible. We have spent a mere \$1 billion on Alpha itself. President Clinton in effect closed down Star Wars in 1993, but inertial activity gave us Alpha. If there were no financial impediments in the way of its development, it would require five years to be operational. And, in the end, the stations in space would require \$50 billion.

Over five years that is a modest sum with which to offer to the world effective protection from such as Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong Il.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 1994. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 19, 1843, Charles Dickens' classic Yuletide tale, *A Christmas Carol*, was first published in England.

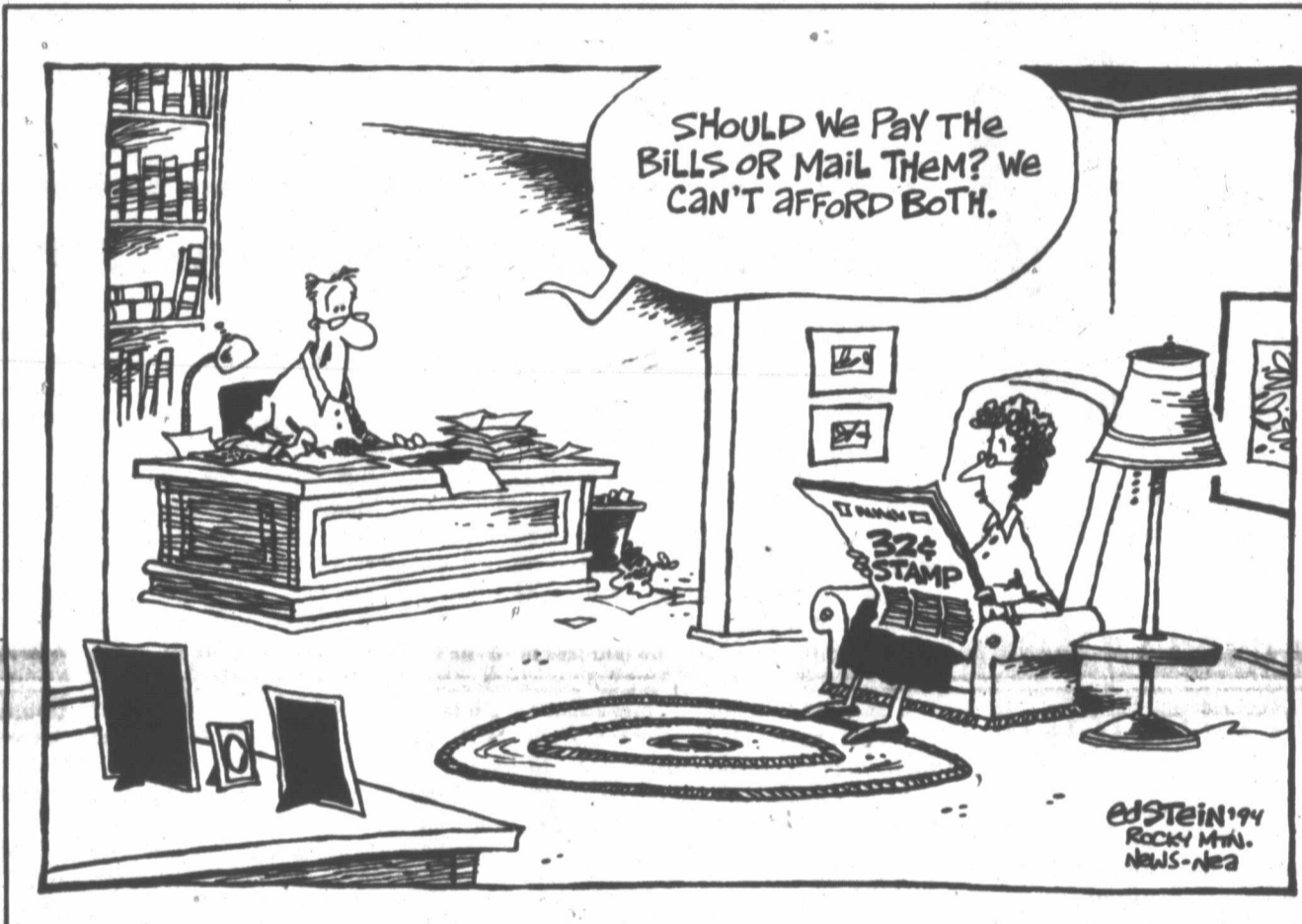
On this date: In 1732, Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac* in Philadelphia.

In 1776, Thomas Paine published his first "American Crisis" essay, in which he wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls."

In 1957, the musical play *The Music Man*, starring Robert Preston, with book and songs by Meredith Willson, opened on Broadway.

In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned landings on the moon.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 55. Singer Maurice White is 53. Actor Tim Reid is 50. Anthropologist Richard E. Leakey is 50. Actress Elaine Joyce is 49.



Being on the right end of the rope

The world is hearing about Azle, Texas. You take the Jacksboro Highway 199 northwest from Fort Worth, you come to a town that still is like Texas once was. It's where kids ride before they walk and the breakfast hangout is Pat's Country Kitchen. It's not fancy, but the tables have four legs and you don't get coffee with a plastic lid.

Azle's one high school has a football team called the Homets. They are pretty good.

The town is somewhere shy of 9,000 people, and everybody knows what everybody else is doing, but they all take the Azle News just to see who got caught at it.

So, here we have a town so tiny that when you plug in your electric razor, the street lights go dim. And yet, all over the world, at this moment, people are reading and talking about Azle, Texas.

They are reading about Azle in Hawaii and Latin America, in the Far East and the Near East. Because Azle is 15 miles from Springtown, Texas. And in Springtown is where Gary Cottar lives. And because Gary Cottar, when he was younger, was a rodeo cowboy. He made his living on the circuit, roping. And



Paul Harvey

Gary made his own lariar rope.

And other rodeo riders and ranch hands liked his just-right-waxed-firm rope and began asking him if he would make another for them — then another and another.

Before Gary knew it, he was busy making ropes. First, he gave them away to friends, and then, he began selling them.

Even after he left the rodeo circuit for five years of education as a civil engineer, he still preferred making rope.

But with his engineering education, he was able to design rope-making machines. Soon, he needed an extra barn in back of the house for his rope-making business.

And the barn that was 700 square feet is now 9,000, and his rope business is still expanding, turning out 60,000 ropes a year — mostly mail order — from ranch hands all over the world.

With five full-time employees and four or five high-schoolers during summertime, Gary Cottar is turning out polygrass ropes, which champion calf ropers call the best anywhere.

Making a good roping rope is a 21-step process that takes six to eight weeks to complete.

The Cottar Rope Company then packs these world-famous ropes for safe delivery all over the world by wrapping them in newspaper. In the daily newspaper published down the road in Azle.

And that's how it is that at this moment, people in Brazil, Argentina and British Columbia, and people in Spain, Hawaii and Timbuktu, are unwrapping their roping ropes and reading about the most famous little town in the world — Azle, Texas.

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Berry's World



Liberals looking to horrify welfare reform

The new Republican Congress is being set up for one of the great bashings of all time. It can be countered, and it had better be, or the GOP may wind up being thrown out of office in 1996 as briskly as it was thrown in in 1994.

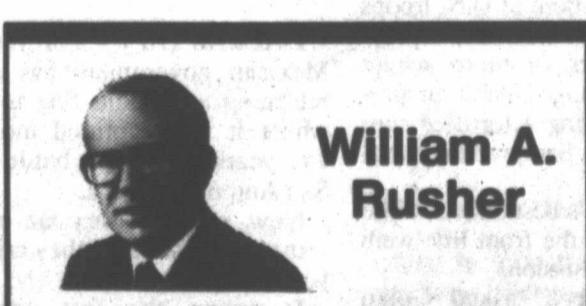
One of the chief policy objectives of the coming Congress, and rightly so, is serious welfare reform: a major effort to reverse the notorious Democratic welfare policies that have destroyed millions of American families, most of them black, and all but bankrupted the country.

Basically, the GOP proposal is to turn over responsibility for welfare to the individual states, where governors like Engler of Michigan and Thompson of Wisconsin are already pioneering new and better ways of coping with the problem. In return, Washington would assume the burden of Medicaid, under which the states are currently staggering.

For the Democrats and the liberal media, however, the propaganda possibilities of such a reform are virtually endless. As Mickey Kaus exulted in the Dec. 5 issue of the New Republic, "There will be countless horror stories. Take it away, Peter Jennings."

Even before Jennings could get his first horror story on the air, however, the liberal media were off in full cry: The Republicans want to bring back "orphanages!"

What happened was that, in deciding to stop welfare payments to unmarried teen-age mothers who refuse to work, the Republicans ran into



William A. Rusher

the problem of what to do with their children. Borrowing an idea floated by social commentator Charles Murray, Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich observed that they might be put in "orphanages."

Now, the word "orphanage" has been a no-no in welfare circles ever since Charles Dickens described David Copperfield's grim stay in one. Murray, let alone Gingrich, ought to have known that, and certainly the liberals do. As a result, there hasn't been a day since Gingrich spoke on which Democratic politicians and liberal journalists haven't accused the GOP of wanting to revive the orphanages and other welfare institutions of Dickensian England. It's a good question how much of this the women of America can stand before the gender gap starts to widen again.

There are, of course, plenty of solid answers to the charge. There are children being well cared for in government institutions all over the

country; they just aren't called "orphanages." And do compassionate liberals really think a child is necessarily worse off in one of them than with its unmarried teen-age mother, who may be both crack-addicted and abusive?

But the good answers won't have a chance if the Republicans don't devise, fast, some mechanism for getting them out in time to be included in that first Jennings program.

What the GOP needs is a permanent, full-time Truth Squad. When the barrage landed on Gingrich after his "orphanage" remark, all it would have taken was one phone call to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, who, as the prospective chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, is in charge of designing a Republican welfare reform bill for the Senate. Sen. Kassebaum knows all about modern child-care institutions, and also about some of those mothers with whom the liberals are so eager to leave vulnerable children. A statement by her, or by Gingrich, or even a mere press release by the Truth Squad itself, would have gone far toward laying the whole matter to rest.

But the attack is already under way. The TV cameras are out there, looking for gaunt children and tearful mothers and pathetic oldsters to interview about how they like the Republican welfare reforms. The resulting programs will break the hearts of about 10 percent of the voters who voted Republican last month — unless the GOP is ready with fast responses.

In Pampa

Future flyboys of the Panhandle



Photos by Melinda Martinez



Several youngsters attended an aerospace workshop sponsored by the Pampa Chapter Club of Scientific Hobbies this past Saturday at the Lovett Memorial Library. The workshop included discussion on NASA, rockets and aircrafts with some hands-on demonstrations. Students of the workshop made helicopters and gliders out of paper. They also made what Sam Aldouri, president of the Texas Panhandle Area COSH, and Amarillo geophysicist, termed as "aircraft without wings." The aircraft students made was a flying object consisting of a straw with three paper rings around it. This workshop sponsored by COSH is to encourage students in the area of science. COSH is open to youths ages 9-18.

Top photo: Cameron Cargill tests out a paper glider he made. Above: Mike Eskridge watches the paper helicopter he threw in the air decline.

Left: Sam Aldouri (right) guides Matt Foust as he makes a paper glider.

Right: Justin Brothers lets loose a paper helicopter and watches it spin as it descends.

Chic or not, hats are a must in the winter time

By FRANCINE PARNES
For AP Special Features

Any Russian novel worth its "sol" is brimming with characters braving the blustery elements in Cossack hats.

And for good reason. When the cold bites, in the Ukraine or elsewhere, you need to do more than button up your overcoat and put on your mittens.

You need a hat. Not a fedora, pillbox or ubiquitous baseball cap. Choose one that comes down over your ears. Maybe a comfy-cozy fleece, felt, cashmere, or velour. Or a to-the-minute shearing, mohair or chenille. Or anything in fake fur. For evening glamour, go retro with a black velour cloche and add a rhinestone hat pin.

"Considering that last year here on the East Coast we had a very cold winter, we are thinking of hats that are chic, but also warm and protective," says Patricia Underwood, New York milliner. "These are hats that won't let you get caught short on a freezing day."

"Whatever, a proper topper should do more than protect your head. It should accessorize your winter coat, frame your face, add a dash of color and a dose of attitude.

Nippy weather invariably ushers in a darker palette, and brown, Underwood says, is the latest color story. It runs the gamut from wheat to wood to walnut.

"Brown — deep, dark chocolate brown — has turned into one of the strongest colors for us," she says. "And why not? Brown eyes, brown hat ... We also like hats in sage green or luggage tan since there happen to be quite a few green-eyed or hazel-eyed ladies."

Chanel, meanwhile, looks to lollipop brights such as a candy-pink and lime oversized newsboy cap in oh-so-trendy fake monkey fur. The hat also comes in black with blue, pink or white, \$585 at select Chanel boutiques.



Brown tones, such as this hazel wool knit helmet and rib cap with matching scarves, are fashionable for Winter '95 headgear. These two warm styles are from Patricia Underwood Too, the milliner's bridge line. (AP photo)

"It's warm, it's fun," says Anne Fahey, public relations director at Chanel in New York.

But face it. Nothing beats cashmere.

"It's the ultimate for warmth, plus it is comfortable to wear and the yarn is so light," Underwood says. "When you're wearing something on your head for an extended period, you want to pick something like cashmere that is very soft on the skin. Besides, it's versatile for travel because it's so packable."

Underwood cashmeres run from about \$200 to \$500 in black, chocolate, burgundy, sage green, and oatmeal. Less expensive is a V. Fraas cashmere beret, \$25 in about a dozen colors at Lord & Taylor.

If winter really gets rough, forgo fashion and opt for a balaclava, or ski mask that covers your face as well as your head. A balaclava in fleecy stretch Polartec is \$17 from L.L. Bean's catalog.

Or try an alpaca ski cap whose yarn comes from the long, thick fleece that the Peruvian llama grows as protection from the harsh Andes cold. The fleece is sheared, and the undyed fibers are hand-spun and hand-knit by local artisans. The cap is \$30; matching mittens, \$25, from The Nature Company catalog.

And now a word about ear flaps. They may be the look you love to hate, but they're sensible in extreme cold, even chic this season in shearing. Surrrell offers a shearing hat with flaps for \$115 at Neiman Marcus.

If you're truly bent on beating Arctic blasts, go for Timberland's "musher hat" with ear flaps. The waterproof nylon hat has a brown leather brim to ward off driving snow, convertible ear flaps with Polartec lining and Velcro fasteners. It's \$35 from The Nature Company.

Wife is not of good cheer over husband's Christmas tradition

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem that recurs every year, and I would like your opinion.

My husband (I'll call him Paul) and I have been married for eight years. We have a good marriage, but here's the problem: Paul has a son by a previous marriage. (His former wife has not remarried.)

After their divorce, it was their tradition for Paul to get together with his ex-wife and "little Jeff" on Christmas morning to have breakfast and watch Jeff open his gifts.

Well, "little Jeff" is now 21 years old, and that tradition is still going on. My own grown children also have commitments elsewhere, so we usually get together later in the day — which means that since my marriage, I have spent every Christmas morning alone.

At first, I could understand trying to make the idea of his father's remarriage easier for his young son, but he's an adult now, and the "adjustments" have been made. Jeff and I are cordial, as are the ex-wife and I, and we do see each other occasionally throughout the year.

My husband thinks I'm out of line to feel hurt about being excluded every year and he can't see anything rude about their behavior.

Abby, if you think I'm being too sensitive, I'll try to adjust my thinking, and I just get used to being alone every Christmas morning.

NAMELESS, PLEASE

DEAR NAMELESS: "Little



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Jeff" is a grown man, and I agree, the adjustment should have been made by now. It's time you were made welcome to join your husband, and his "ex" and Jeff — instead of being left alone every Christmas morning. The squeaking wheel gets the grease — so "squeak up" louder.

DEAR ABBY: Here's another viewpoint on giving the first wife's jewelry to the second wife:

When my mother was dying, she said, "Dotty, please see that your father marries again — he can't live alone." (She really meant it.)

Within a year, Dad met Grace — a lovely woman — and after asking for my approval, he proposed marriage to her. He could not afford to buy her a ring, because my mother's illness had been so costly, he had to mortgage the house. He then asked me if I would allow him to take the diamond out of Mother's ring and

have it reset for Grace. I agreed without a moment's hesitation.

Years later, when Grace learned where the diamond in her ring came from, she and Daddy surprised me by giving me Mother's ring back. When I opened the box, Grace said, "Now, both your mothers have worn it!"

MRS. DOROTHY SWAN, OLD SAYBROOK, CONN.

DEAR DOROTHY: You and Grace possess something more precious than diamonds — a flawless sense of values.

Your father and Grace were both loving and generous to have returned your mother's diamond to you. It is twice-blessed.

DEAR ABBY: Our 6-year-old grandson, Ryan, was looking at the newspaper with his mother. When he saw your picture, he turned to her and said, "Mom, that lady's picture has been in the paper for years. What in the world did she do?"

JANET PHILLIPS, HAMILTON, OHIO

For Abby's favorite family recipes, send a long, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet No. 1, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope



Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1994

In the year ahead, collaborations might prove more profitable than solo projects, particularly if you've already started something with others that's going well so far.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Focus on grandiose schemes instead of detail-oriented, mundane plans. Big is your buddy at this time. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, NY 10163.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Lady Luck might favor you indirectly today. Something advantageous has been developing behind the scenes, and soon you'll be aware of what it is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Commitments or agreements made today should turn out well for all concerned, especially if the people you're dealing with are of high caliber.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) In competitive career developments today, do not think of yourself as the underdog. The odds favor you going in, so make the most of it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stay particularly alert today and listen carefully. An acquaintance might reveal something that could add to your know-how and resources.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Contrary to your first impression, changes due to outside circumstances today could prove beneficial to you in the long run. Go with the flow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your luck

could significantly improve today in selling your ideas to your superiors, colleagues, friends or mate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Financial or material matters that you initiate today will be luckier for you than someone else's ideas. Let your mind work freely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Small projects might fall flat today, but big, important ones will succeed. You will be able to handle things on a large scale skillfully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Early indicators might lead you to believe that things won't work out as you'd hoped; but don't despair! Lady Luck may come to your aid in later rounds.

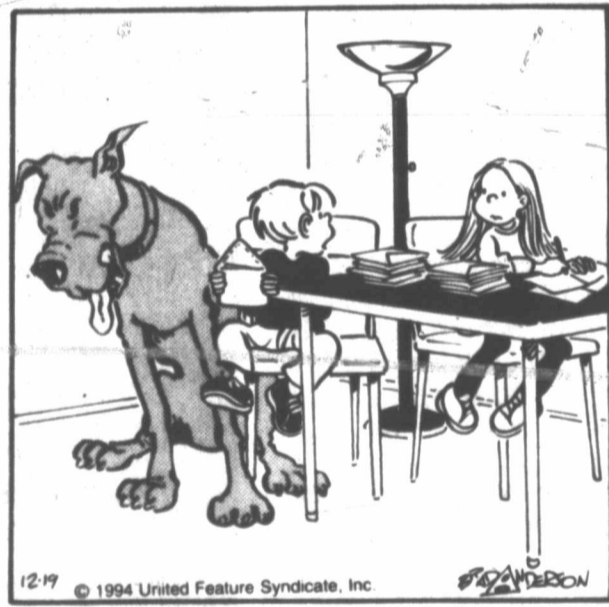
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Take advantage of opportunities today to meet new people. Your current cycle leads to valuable contacts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Your general conditions are favorable today, but arrangements concerning your resources or your reputation may be particularly lucky. Concentrate on these.

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"Are the ones that blink called flashlights?"



"I don't think he likes the taste of the glue on these envelopes either."

The Family Circus



Marmaduke



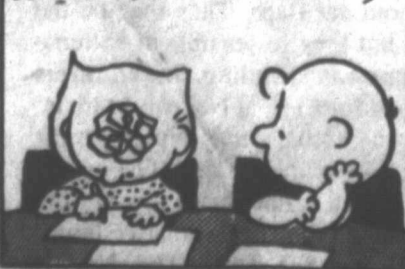
Grizzwells



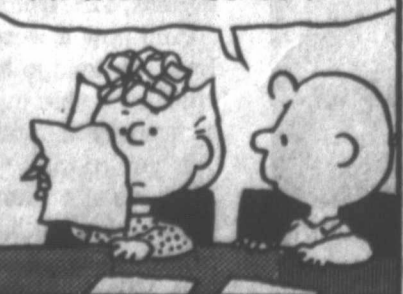
Alley Oop



Dear Monsieur Claus,



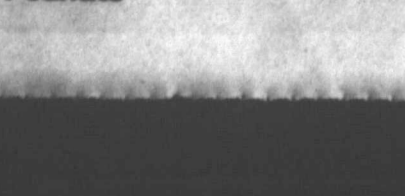
"MONSIEUR" CLAUS?



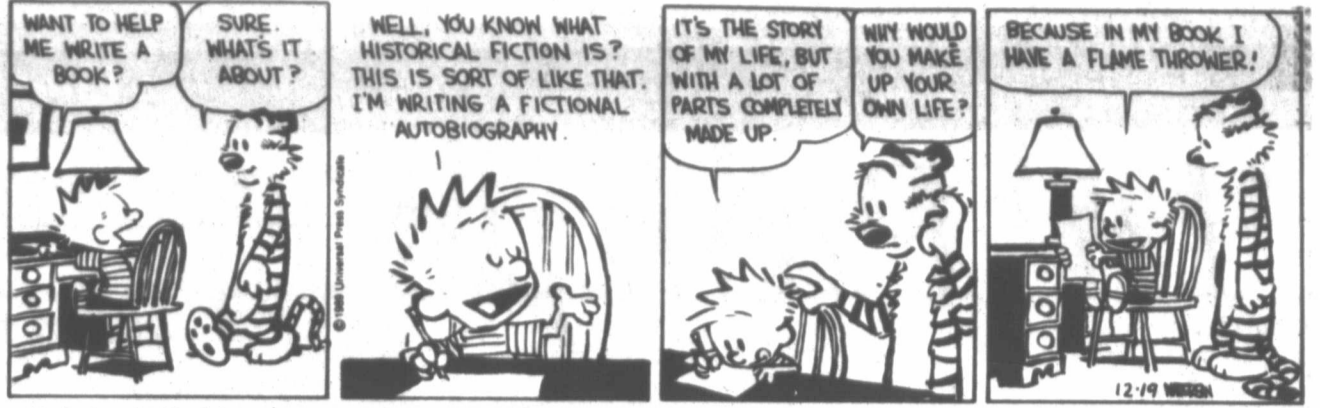
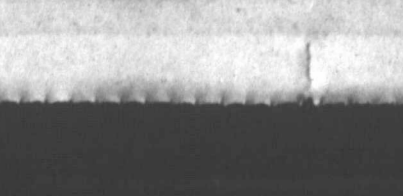
I SUPPOSE IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT HE MIGHT BE FRENCH...



Peanuts



Mallard Filmore



Calvin & Hobbes



Arlo & Janis



Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



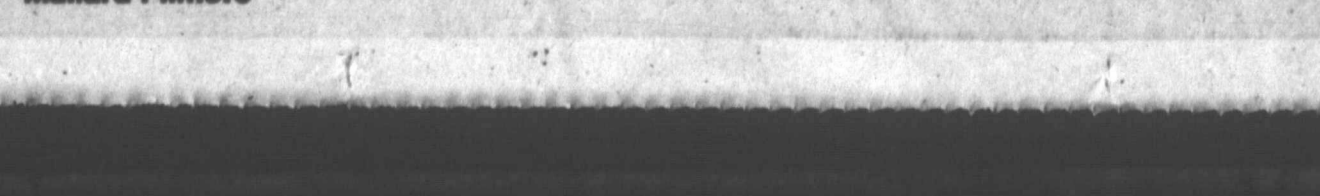
The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore



Sports

Notebook

GOLF

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (AP) — U.S. Open champion Ernie Els of South Africa shot a 2-under-par 69 for a six-stroke victory in the Johnnie Walker World Championship on Sunday.

Els, who started the 24-man tournament with a pair of 64s, had a 16-under 268 total on the Tryall Course. He earned \$550,000 from the \$2.5 million purse.

Nick Faldo and Mark McCumber shot 67s to finish at 274. Paul Azinger, who set the course record with a 62 on Saturday, closed with a 68 to tie for fourth with Brad Faxon and Ian Woosnam at 275. Faxon shot a 64 and Woosnam 68.

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — England's Laura Davies tied the record for the lowest 72-hole score by woman, shooting a 6-under-par 67 on Sunday for a 20-under 272 total in the Australian Masters.

Davies, who defended her title with a four-stroke victory over Australia's, is the first player to win tournaments on five tours in a year. She won three events on the LPGA tour, two on the European tour and one each on Australian, Japanese and Asian circuits.

BASKETBALL

North Carolina and UCLA held the top two spots in The Associated Press college poll for the third straight week today.

North Carolina (6-0) received 57 first-place votes and 1,616 points from the media panel, while UCLA (4-0) had five firsts and 1,518 points.

Arkansas (6-1) is third, followed by Massachusetts (5-1), Kentucky (5-1), Arizona (7-1), Kansas (5-1), Florida (5-1) and Connecticut (4-0).

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Roy Tarpley, who returned to the NBA after a three-year "lifetime" ban for substance abuse, rejoined the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday night after a one-game suspension.

Tarpley, who had 21 points and 16 rebounds in Dallas' 106-87 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers, was suspended for arguing with coach Dick Motta during Tuesday night's game with the Los Angeles Lakers.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Golden State coach Don Nelson was released from Summit Medical Center on Sunday after four days of treatment for viral pneumonia. Nelson, 56, hopes to return to the team by Jan. 1.

FOOTBALL

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Mark Brungard scored on 2- and 39-yard runs and threw a touchdown pass as defending champion Youngstown State beat Boise State 28-14 in the NCAA Division I-AA title game Saturday.

Youngstown State (14-0-1) won its third title in a record-tying four consecutive championship appearances. Boise State finished 13-2.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Andy Blatt rushed for 128 yards, scored a touchdown and threw a 60-yard TD pass as Westminster of Pennsylvania beat Pacific Lutheran 27-7 on Saturday for its sixth NAIA Division II title.

The Titans (12-2) lost to Pacific Lutheran 50-20 in last year's championship game. Pacific Lutheran finished 11-2.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — The Friday deadline for a deal between players and owners may be flexible if the talks show progress toward an agreement, acting commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday.

Selig, speaking from his home in Milwaukee, said the deadline stood as of now. But he said the final decision would depend on how negotiations proceed when they resume today in Washington.

Owners voted last Thursday to give the ruling executive council, headed by Selig, the authority to declare an impasse and impose a salary cap if there isn't a deal by Thursday.

SKIING

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Switzerland's Michael Von Gruenigen beat Norway's Kjetil-Andre Aamodt by 0.94 seconds in a World Cup giant slalom Sunday with a two-run time of 2:25.90.

Italy's Alberto Tomba, who leads Von Gruenigen 250-249 in the overall standings, did not compete in the second heat because of a bruised rib.

In Saturday's downhill, Austria's Armin Assinger edged teammate Patrick Ortlieb by 0.39 seconds with a time of 1:56.07.

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider won her 53rd World Cup race Sunday night, edging Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg by 0.87 seconds in a slalom with a two-run time of 1:37.55.

HOCKEY

NHL owners and players have yet to schedule the next round of bargaining, with the next move up to the lead negotiators.

The lines of communication remained open Sunday, the day after "some progress" was made in a five-hour meeting in Toronto of two negotiators for both sides. The lockout entered its 79th day today.

OLYMPICS

ATLANTA (AP) — Vice President Al Gore called for sanctions against coaches, trainers and administrators who assist athletes in using banned drugs.

Gore delivered the keynote address Saturday during the joint meeting of the IOC executive board and the general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees.

Saints face Cowboys, slim playoff hopes

By MARY FOSTER
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Saints' playoff possibilities are slim but not gone — and a victory over the Dallas Cowboys Monday night would certainly brighten those hopes.

"We're not out of it," Saints coach Jim Mora said. "We're 6-8 and it's not likely, but don't rule us out until we're dead. We won't."

Staying alive past Monday night, Mora acknowledges, will take an outstanding effort, even for a team that has come alive over the past six weeks. After all,

the Cowboys are the two-time defending Super Bowl champions and are 11-3 this season, having clinched the NFC East title.

The Saints have won four of their last seven games, including the last two. It's the first time in 25 games they've managed to put together consecutive victories.

Mora said after each that his team played its best overall game of the season.

Dallas, coming off a 19-14 upset by Cleveland, has lost only two games in December since 1991 and needs a victory to clinch a first-round bye in the playoffs and the home-field edge in a divisional game. Dallas trails

San Francisco by 1 1/2 games for the homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

"Not that they need incentive," quarterback Jim Everett said. "Dallas is a team that carries its incentive around with it. I'm sure they will want a win to put that loss behind them though and get on a roll for the playoffs."

The Cowboys have the No. 6 offense in the NFL, No. 5 in rushing thanks to Emmitt Smith's 1,410 yards, who is second in the league. Smith is first in the NFL with 21 touchdowns — three short of tying the league single-season record of 24, set by

Washington running back John Riggins in 1983.

"Emmitt is better than I thought he was when I came here," Dallas coach Barry Switzer said. "Because I did not realize — until you get to see him in practice — his lateral quickness. I thought he was a guy that just ran north and south and broke tackles and ran through people because of his great leg strength."

Smith also has six 100-yard games this season despite teams keying on him.

"It's tough running against teams that are geared up to stop the run," Smith said. "This

whole preseason, all people talked about was stopping our run. They went out to try to do it, and they've slowed it some because of that."

The Saints are 26th in the league in defense, 19th against the rush, although they have been better recently.

"They'll run Emmitt 25, 30 times," Saints safety Vince Buck said. "They're going to keep giving him the ball until he finds a spot and he's very good at finding a spot. If we want to slow their offense, we've got to slow him. If we can't, we can quit thinking about avoiding a losing season this year."



Junior forward Coy Laury scored 22 points and had a team-leading 9 rebounds in Pampa's win over Amarillo High last Friday night. The Harvesters host Dimmitt at 7:30 Tuesday night. (Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Buffalo won't be making another Super Bowl trip

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — New England coach Bill Parcells has ushered the Buffalo Bills to elimination twice in the past five years — once in the Super Bowl, and now, once in the regular season.

It seems fitting that he delivered the eulogy for the Bills on Sunday after his Patriots beat the four-time defending AFC champions 41-17 to knock them out of the playoff race.

"I know the season is over for them. But it doesn't end without a tremendous respect ... for what these guys here accomplished," Parcells said. "I just think it is truly amazing what the Buffalo Bills have done."

"Quite frankly, I don't think they have gotten the credit or respect that they deserve. But I know firsthand that their accomplishments are really quite dramatic," he said. "So I wish them luck."

New England converted four consecutive Buffalo turnovers into 24 points, scoring 38 unanswered points after trailing 17-3 to earn its sixth straight victory.

The rising Patriots (9-6) can clinch their first playoff berth since 1986 with a victory over Chicago on Saturday. For the Bills (7-8), the loss was an embarrassing end to a remarkable, though unsatisfying, string of success.

"It was a good, long ride for us," Bills linebacker Cornelius Bennett said. "Everybody has to step down at one point in time. I didn't want it to happen this year, but it's happened."

Parcells was there at the beginning of the ride, coaching the New York Giants to victory in the 1991 Super Bowl and sending Buffalo to the first of an unprecedented four consecutive Super Bowl losses.

And he was there at the end, which may have come on Sunday, when the Patriots forced five turnovers and held the Bills scoreless for the last 43

minutes to keep them out of the playoffs for the first time since 1987.

"Other than the Super Bowl losses, I can't remember a game where I've been more disappointed, or feel worse about, than this one," Bills coach Marv Levy said.

"It's a feeling of sadness that we are not the team we have been. Reality tells you that. ... But I am not going to take that sense of sadness to the rocking chair on the porch and say, 'Boy, those were the good old days.' ... I don't want to give in to that, and I won't."

The Bills led 17-3 with 5:53 gone in the second quarter before the Pats tied it on Drew Bledsoe's touchdown passes to Ben Coates and Vincent Brisby. On the second play of the third quarter, Carwell Gardner fumbled a screen pass and Ricky Reynolds returned it 25 yards for a touchdown.

When the Bills got the ball back, Frank Reich hit Andre Reed on third-and-4 for an apparent first down. But safety Harlon Barnett knocked the ball loose and Reynolds fell on it at the Buffalo 47 — just 89 seconds after his first fumble recovery.

Bledsoe, who finished 22-of-31 for 276 yards and three touchdowns, hit Brisby again for a 6-yard touchdown to make it 31-17. Then Reed fumbled again — this time killing a drive at the Patriots' 5 yard-line. New England moved easily downfield before Marion Butts ran it in from the 1 to make 38-17.

"All teams get beat like this every now and then. It's how you react after it's over," defensive lineman Bruce Smith said. "If you get knocked down, are you going to get back up and stand on your two feet like a man, or are you going to stick your head in your ... and just mope and gripe about it?"

"We got beat, and we got beat very badly. ... But it's how you get back up. I don't care how many times I get knocked down, I'm going to get back up."

Harvesters host Dimmitt

The Pampa Harvesters get ready for their last homecourt game of 1994, taking on Dimmitt at 7:30 Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Harvesters, led by the 1-2 punch of juniors Coy Laury and Rayford Young, rolled past Amarillo High, 76-55, last Friday night at McNeely. It was the Harvesters' fourth win in their last five games.

Pampa, boasting an 11-3 record, is ranked No. 8 in Class 4A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

Dimmitt evened its record at 7-7 by beating Nazareth, 62-55 last Friday night.

The Bobcats, who went to the playoffs for

the 19th consecutive time last season, are led again by sharpshooting guard Derrick Thomas, who made the all-state as a junior last season. Thomas is aided by 6-0 junior Justin Newman and 5-8 junior Joe Larra.

Led by Laury and Young, Pampa surged past AHS in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Sandies, 30-17. Laury and Young finished with 22 points each. Six other Harvesters made the scoring column. J.J. Mathis chipped in 9 points and Jason Weatherbee added 8.

The Harvesters enter the Lions Club Tournament in Fort Worth on Dec. 28-30. Pampa finished third in last year's tournament.

Pampa girls fall to WT High

STINNETT — West Texas High broke open a close game to defeat the Pampa Lady Harvesters, 44-27, Saturday night.

For three quarters it was a close contest. West Texas led by just three going into the fourth quarter.

Jody Avent was WT's top scorer with 20 points.

Tashia Wilson led Pampa with 7 points, followed by Serenity King and Jennifer Jones, 6 points each; Kristi Carpenter 4, Misty Scribner and Jane Brown, 2 each.

WT High's record is now 10-4 for the season while Pampa is 4-9.

Pampa hosts Dimmitt at 6 Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

Bucks push record to 10-4

WHITE DEER — White Deer won its tenth game of the season compared to just four setbacks Friday night, defeating Fort Elliott, 78-68.

Dewayne Coffey paced the Bucks in scoring with 18 while Willie Herring added 16. Justin Westbrook paced Fort Elliott with 27 points.

Coach Tom Johnson can't help but be pleased with the Bucks' record since Coffey is the team's lone returning starter.

"We don't have much experience, but the kids have really been playing well," Johnson said. "They're working extremely hard. We've been stressing defense, but the kids have really been coming around on offense, also."

The Bucks have been shooting around 50 percent for the season, Johnson said.

White Deer's next action is in the Groom Invitational Tournament, starting Dec. 28.

New Mexico state coach picks up 400th victory

By PETE HERRERA
AP Sports Writer

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Milestones and Neil McCarthy — a match made for The Pit.

The New Mexico State coach achieved his 400th career win Saturday in the same arena where a year ago he became the winningest coach in school history.

And the No. 21 Aggies (7-2) again made New Mexico (3-4) the centerpiece of McCarthy's latest coaching achievement, rallying from a 14-point deficit for a 96-89 win. It was the Aggies' fourth straight win over the Lobos and ninth in the last 12 games.

The win also was the 200th for McCarthy at New Mexico State and gave him an overall 400-189 mark in this his 20th year as a head coach.

The Pit, the Lobos' homecourt for nearly three decades, traditionally has been a house of horrors for visiting teams, but it has failed to dent the Aggies' toughness in recent years.

Last year, New Mexico State won here 112-104 in double overtime, erasing a nine-point New Mexico lead in regulation and a seven-point deficit in the final 47 seconds of the first overtime.

New Mexico had beaten the last four ranked teams it faced at home, including then No. 12 Arizona State, 87-71, on Dec. 3. But the standing-room only crowd of 18,018 Saturday was taken out early in the second half by the Aggies' intimidating defense and flurry of 3-pointers.

Forward Thomas Wyatt's 12 points in the first 5 1/2 minutes of the second half keyed the 17-2 run by the Aggies that erased New Mexico's 57-43 halftime lead.

The Aggies made short work of the deficit as Wyatt and backup point guard Skip McCoy hit three straight 3-pointers to start the rally. Defensively, the Aggies switched from a zone to a man-to-man and New Mexico's offense, which had hit 18 of 27

shots in the first half (.667 percent) went dry. The Lobos missed their first 10 shots in the second half and by the time they got their first field goal — a running jumper by Charles Smith with 12:41 left — the Aggies were back within a point and full of momentum.

New Mexico regained its shooting touch long enough to build another lead of 77-70 with 8:23 left, but a 10-1 run by the Aggies put New Mexico State in front for good.

"During the run, we had a smaller lineup and it gave us more quickness on the floor," said McCarthy of the Aggies' blazing second half start. "We changed from the zone to the man and changed the tempo."

"They (Lobos) started to become cautious. They had the lead and I guess they wanted to protect it," McCarthy said. "That helped us and got us loose."

It also turned the Aggies' trio of Wyatt, Rodney Walker and Troy Brewer loose offensively.

Wyatt, who scored 18 points in the Aggies' 74-65 win over the Lobos at Las Cruces a week earlier, scored 12 of his 23 points over the first 5 1/2 minutes of the second half.

Walker and Brewer each scored 18 points and McCoy finished with four 3-pointers. Brewer hit all six shots he took and was 5-for-6 at the foul line in his best offensive game of the season.

New Mexico coach Dave Bliss disputed McCarthy's assessment that the Lobos had played too cautiously in the second half.

"We were just trying to get a good shot," Bliss said. "They came out of their zone and that bothered us. We got to standing around and let them back in the game."

New Mexico was led by Smith with 23 points, but 20 came in the first half. Center Brian Hayden scored 18 and true freshman Clayton Shields 12.

Shields, a spark of consistency in the Lobos' rocky start, has scored in double figures in all seven games.

A&M women roll past Oklahoma

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Lisa Branch paced the Aggies with 26 points.

Branch hit 4 of 5 from 3-point range and all 10 of her free throws. She also had eight assists and seven rebounds for the Lady Aggies (5-1).

Martha McClelland's basket with just over 10 minutes remaining helped seal Texas A&M's 99-74 victory over Oklahoma.

The goal came at the end of a 17-7 run on Sunday. McClelland ended with 20 points.

Scoreboard

PRO FOOTBALL									
Eds: Tied teams order based on playoff tiebreakers.									
National Football League									
By The Associated Press									
All Times EST									
AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East					West				
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x-Dallas 11 3 0 .786 380 217 N.Y. Giants 8 7 0 .533 284 295 Arizona 8 7 0 .533 229 257 Philadelphia 7 8 0 .467 278 275 Washington 2 13 0 .133 296 391 Minnesota 9 6 0 .600 335 300 Detroit 9 6 0 .600 337 315 Chicago 9 6 0 .600 268 294 Green Bay 8 7 0 .533 348 268 Tampa Bay 6 9 0 .400 232 317 x-San Francisco 13 2 0 .867 491 275 New Orleans 6 8 0 .429 302 355 Atlanta 6 9 0 .400 307 379 LA Rams 4 11 0 .267 265 341									

Chiefs overwhelm Oilers

By CRAIG HORST
AP Sports Writer

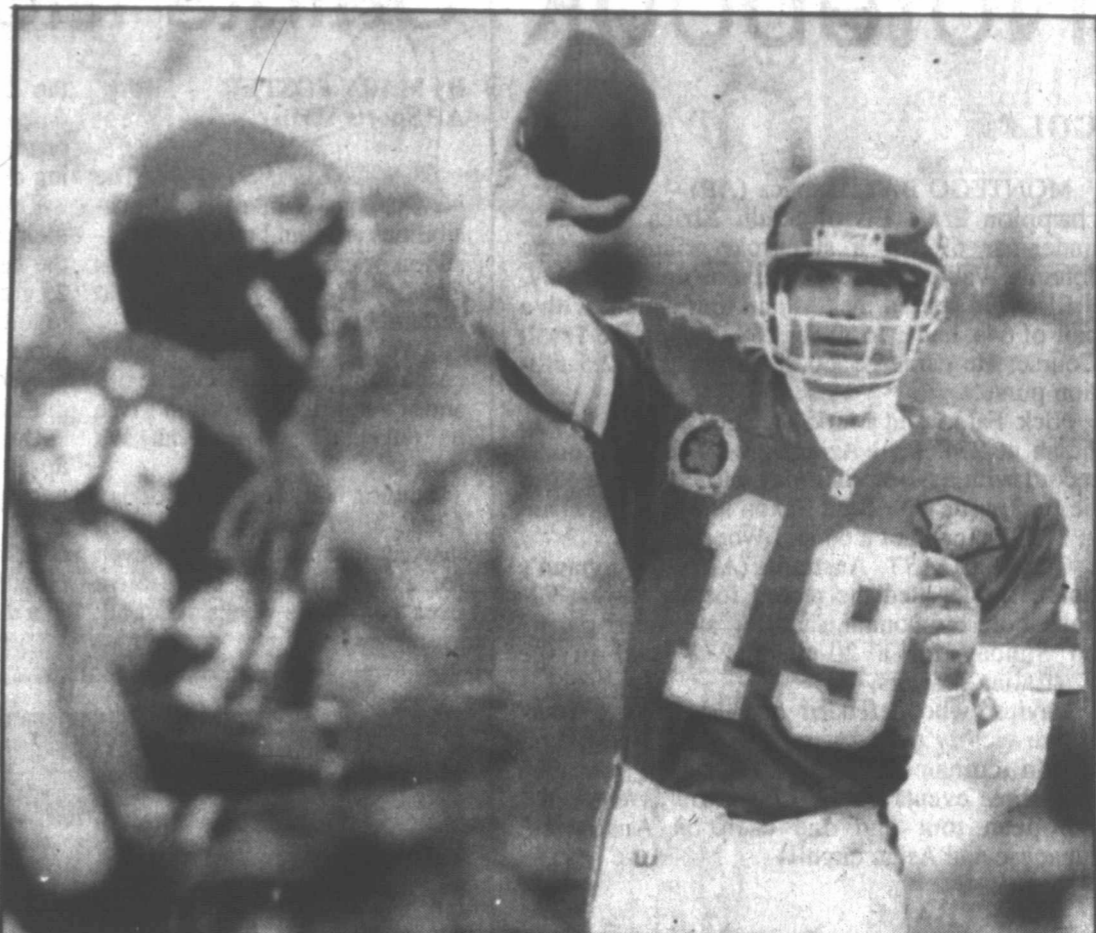
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs got past Houston easily enough. Next up is a winner-take-all game against the Raiders on Christmas Eve with a playoff berth at stake.

The Chiefs overwhelmed Houston in the second half Sunday for a 31-9 victory, giving the unhappy Oilers their 11th straight loss.

New England, the Raiders and the Chiefs are vying for two wildcard spots. The Raiders edged Seattle 17-16 Sunday night, setting up a critical game next week for the folks in Kansas City who came out of training camp in July with the sincere belief they had a Super Bowl candidate.

Joe Montana, out for two games with a sprained foot, threw poorly in the first half but suddenly found his touch in the third quarter as the Chiefs blitzed Houston for two touchdowns. One score was an incredible pass to rookie Lake Dawson that somehow snaked through two defenders and Montana's intended receiver in the same area.

"I had seen Lake but the guy was up on top of Lake," Montana said. "So I went back inside to the tight end. One thing about Lake, he likes the ball. He goes and gets it wherever it is."



Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana (19) tosses a pass to running back Marcus Allen in the first quarter Sunday against the Oilers. The Chiefs won, 31-9. (AP photo)

Houston was feeling pretty good about itself after trailing only 7-3 at the half, but Montana completed some of the longest downfield passes that he has thrown all season in the second half as the Chiefs had 363 yards in total offense.

Kansas City scored on Dawson's 25-yard reception on the first drive of the third quarter, and then drove 82 yards to a 12-yard touchdown run by Donnell Bennett with 4:24 left in the period.

"They made a couple of big plays in the third quarter," said Oilers coach Jeff Fisher, now 0-5 after taking over from Jack Pardee. "We went into the half thinking we could run the ball effectively and keep the game close and then it slipped away from us. It's disheartening."

The Oilers turned the ball over five times, two of them on questionable calls by the officials. Quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver fumbled twice as he was hit, but on each occasion it appeared his arm was moving forward and the play could have been ruled an incomplete pass.

"I know the ball was coming out," Tolliver said. "They call it the way they see it. It's just the choice they make."

Tolliver said nobody on the Oilers had quit, but some other team members disagreed. "You just wish you had more time to turn it around," Tolliver said.

But linebacker Al Smith said he questioned "if some guys want to finish out the season." Running back Lorenzo

White said there was "one more game and the nightmare is over."

Montana passed for 235 yards and two touchdowns, passing Johnny Unitas for fourth place on the all-time yardage list. The Chiefs, who have struggled to find a running game all season, gained 135 yards against the league's worst defense against the run, but most of that came in the fourth quarter when the Oilers were worn down and Kansas City was running down the clock.

The Oilers go home to finish against the Jets, and the Chiefs have to beat the Raiders to extend their season.

"If we win, we're in," Montana said. "If not, we're basically out of it at that point."

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MIDWEST									
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Steelers top Browns to gain playoffs

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers did what they had to do to beat the Cleveland Browns, who did everything possible to beat themselves.

The result Sunday: a 17-7 win by the Steelers to ensure themselves the easiest possible road to the Super Bowl. It's a trip the franchise hasn't taken in 15 years.

Pittsburgh won Sunday on the arm of Neil O'Donnell and the back of Barry Foster, who ran for 106 yards despite two broken vertebrae. They also got plenty of help from the Browns, who had three turnovers and 10 penalties for 96 yards, including two that led directly to two Pittsburgh touchdowns in the first quarter.

"We're not going to say we're not the best. When you've won, you've won," Pittsburgh linebacker Greg

Lloyd said. "You can't say we got lucky, because we won the game."

The win, Pittsburgh's seventh straight, left the Steelers at 12-3 and clinched both the AFC Central title and home field advantage for the conference playoffs. In six of the last seven years, the AFC team with the home field advantage has gone on to the Super Bowl. The Steelers themselves were the lone exception — two years ago.

Cleveland (10-5) is in the playoffs as a wild-card.

"There's a distinct advantage to being home. There's an energy we draw from the crowd today," Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher said of the 60,808 fans, the largest crowd ever at Three Rivers.

"Hopefully, that's a sign of what's going to take place in the future." Sunday's could be divided into two

distinct parts — the first quarter, when the Steelers jumped to a 14-0 lead and outgained Cleveland 155-14, and the final three, when Pittsburgh sat back and watched Vinny Testaverde and the Browns self-destruct time after time.

The self-destruction actually started on the game's first possession, when Cleveland's Benny Thompson jumped offside on a Mark Royals punt on fourth-and-1 from the Browns' 45, giving Pittsburgh a first down. On the next play, Neil O'Donnell found Yancey Thigpen deep for a 40-yard touchdown pass as the ball went right through the hands of Cleveland safety Stevon Moore.

It continued on the second series when an interference call on Don Griffin set up a 1-yard TD run by Foster. Then it was Cleveland's time to

figure out ways to lose on offense, including:

- An interception Testaverde threw to Gary Jones to deprive the Browns of an almost sure field goal;
- Another interception by Chad Brown that set up Pittsburgh's other score, a 49-yard fourth-quarter field goal by Gary Anderson. "The ball was wet," said Testaverde, who was 21 of 42 for 250 yards;
- A taunting penalty on rookie Derek Alexander that stopped Cleveland's opening drive of the second half — just when the Browns seemed to have momentum. They had scored to close the first half on a 14-yard TD pass from Testaverde to Mark Carrier and the Alexander had just caught a 14-yard third-down pass to the Pittsburgh 39 when he drew the flag by spiking the ball near Lloyd.

Ex-Cowboys coach Johnson says he will stay with Fox

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

The last time a live television audience was treated to a hoax on this order, Gerald Rivera was blasting his way into Al Capone's vault. And it turned out to be just as empty as Jimmy Johnson's announcement that he was re-upping for three more years with Fox.

What a surprise. For one week and 47 minutes, from the opening skit of its pregame show last Sunday until the final quarter of yesterday's hour-long show, Fox and its p.r. department ran a shameless con on the network's viewers.

We won't know whether it succeeded until the upstart network publishes the ad rates for its 30-second spots. But Fox won't have failed for lack of effort. Some television series don't get the kind of launch it gave this one episode of "NFL Sunday."

Fox took out quarter-page newspaper ads in some of its biggest markets to hype the "To Coach or Not to Coach" plot line. It very willingly made shells of studio cohorts Terry Bradshaw, James Brown and Howie Long. And reminding us there is no business like show business — or monkey business, for that matter — the creative people somehow convinced Johnson, who is already short on credibility, to perform in a couple of sketches that were painfully long on shtick.

Last week, he was trying on the

couple of the Philadelphia Eagles and Tampa Bay Bucs — two teams whose coaches were, figuratively speaking, trying to hang onto their heads. That was bad enough. But this week, in successive skits, Johnson took the costume bit much farther.

He appeared in the first wearing a wig and rolling dice, wearing a turban while consulting a psychic during the second, and finally, sitting alongside Santa Claus in nothing goofier than a business suit. The point of each was Johnson's indecision over whether to keep his cushy studio job at Fox or return to the coaching profession he left last March after winning consecutive Super Bowls in Dallas and feuding with meddlesome owner Jerry Jones.

Familiar as the facts of Johnson's rise and fall are by now, that last little bit of background at least provided the show with one comic bit that wasn't hopelessly lame.

While going over his wish list, Jimmy tells Santa: "I've got to have an owner who keeps his nose out of the coach's business. And it has to be warm because I hate the cold. And no quarterbacks who want to call their own plays."

"You thought about Dallas?" Santa asks.

"You haven't been following football," Johnson replies, "Have you?"

A little perspective here. If all Fox and Johnson had done with this thing was try to get a few laughs or burn a few minutes on a

couple of pregame shows, it could have been filed in the "no-harm, no-foul" folder and forgotten.

It seemed like a lot of time and effort to find out that Johnson, like his helmet of hair, was going to stay in the same place. And if all he wanted was to play the fool, that is his right or — considering that the network encouraging his behavior is also paying him a reported \$1 million a year — his privilege. But this episode has already had a much wider impact.

In the past, when coaches sought network jobs as temporary refuge from the wackiness of their profession, there was a certain protocol observed. Like basketball's Pat Riley and his football predecessors, Bill Walsh and Bill Parcells, Johnson's track record makes him a viable candidate for every job opening that comes along. But unlike him, they did their layovers at NBC with considerably less fanfare and considerably more tact.

Parcells, in particular, would have gnawed off his arm rather than take part in the spoofs that have so delighted Johnson and the people at Fox and must have made Philadelphia coach Rich Kotite and Tampa Bay coach Sam Wyche squirm.

While still coaching, Johnson said several times that he was less concerned about the truth of what he said to the media than he was about its effect on his team. It made him seem less trustworthy then and now that he has become a team unto himself, in one important sense, nothing has changed.

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1989 Mercury Grand Marquis LS.....\$6,995
1989 Ford F150 Supercab (Blue & Beige Colors).....\$6,995
1988 Lincoln Town Car (Leather Interior).....\$6,995
1986 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series.....\$5,995
1986 Oldsmobile 98 (Sharp Car).....\$5,995
1986 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Real Sharp.....\$3,995
1984 GMC Custom Van (Real Nice).....\$4,995

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ACROSS
1 Pick a candidate
5 Blank
9 Naval addr.
12 Freshwater porpoise
13 Tropical tree
14 Meadow
16 Dashboard opening
18 Ignorant
18 Basement opening
20 Animal docs
21 Barbara Geddes
22 Monk's title
24 Bread cakes
27 Persian
31 Footwear
32 You, in France
33 Common ailment
34 Hotshot

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
Please bring me some toys.
Zackery

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Please bring me a remote control train and a big dump truck. I will leave you some cookies and milk.
Special kiss,
Ryne

Dear Santa,
We have been a good boy and girl. I would like a sega, watch, train, remote control car, talking battle ship. Krysta would like a doll, doll bed, kitchen, doctor barbie, remote control car.
Thank you,
Krysta and Justin
Lane

Dear Santa claus,
I want a micra Bake for chrimas and a red, and blue hair bow, for chrimas too and I want a new born baby for chrismus and I want a candle for chrimas to.
PS
Love Amber Rene
Jenkins
I will leave you some cookies and milk
Good bye Santa
Claus

Dear Santa
My name is Gavin. I am 5 years old. I would like for you to bring me WHITE TIGERZOID I LIKE SABA SWORD TOY TRUCK We will leave you some cookies & Dr. Pepper by our tree.
Don't forget all the other children.
Love,
Gavin

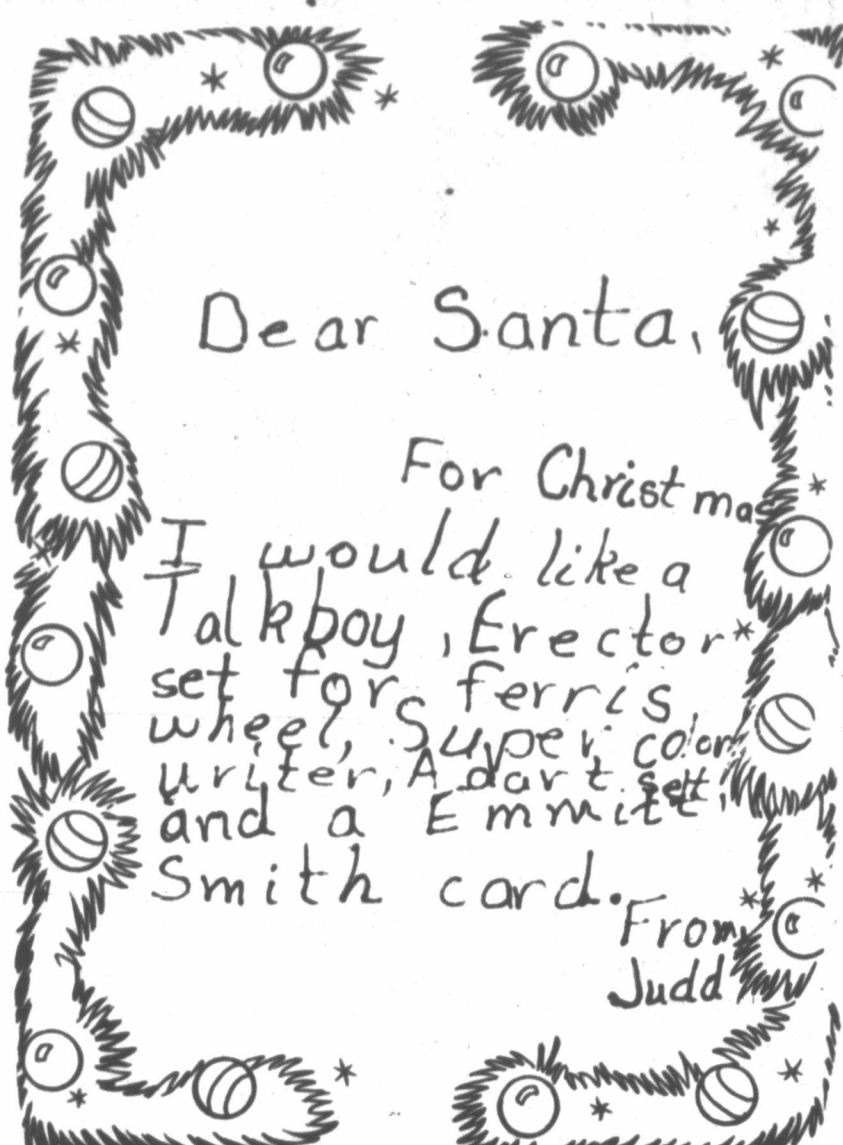
Dear Santa,
My name is Samantha. I am 5 years old. I have been a good girl this year.
For Christmas I want my size Bride Barbie, moon shoes, sticker books, Katie Kiss, Super Talk Barbie, and glitter gel.
When you come on Christmas Eve we will have milk and cookies and a present for you.
Love,
Samantha Suterfield

Dear Santa,
I am 1 year old. I have been a very good girl this year. You can ask my mommy and daddy. Would you please bring me a baby doll.
I love you
Caylee Steward
1 year old

Dear Santa,
My name is Paige Hargus. I am 2 years old. I would like a bicycle and a Power Ranger toy for Christmas. I have been a good girl this year. Please bring my mommy and daddy something, too.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Paige

Dear Santa,
I am a good girl. Please bring me a Barbie Dream Bdat.
Bring brother a car. Take care of Lance & Sheri & Clayton.
Love,
Danielle Frazier
Age 4

Dear Santa
Santa what I want is clothes and toys for x-mas. I have my stocking up, for you to fill it with goodies. I



will leave you a cup of coffee and cookies on the table.
Thank You
Adrian Puentes

Dear Santa I Want Bull Horn. Python. chainsaw truck remote control. Fire truck. rePeating Bird. steel teck little.char Geable Batteries. Jurassic Park tape
From: Brian haddock
To: santa I hop you like the cookies. Bn

Dear Santa,
My name is Blake. I am 2 1/2 years old. I have been a good boy. Please bring me some balls - a soccer ball and a Mr. Bucket game. Thank you for remembering me. You may bring me some other things also.
Your friend,
Blake Morse

Dear Santa,
For christmas I want a Talkboy and a Baby Check up, and I want a Soccer Buddy McDonald's and a drink fountain.
From Jordan

Dear Santa,
My Name is Kyle Hargus. I am 5 years old. I would like a bicycle and a Power Ranger toy for Christmas. I have been a good boy this year.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Kyle

Dear Santa,
My name is Chad and I am 4. I would like a football, Turtle Pocket, Tiger Sword and Power Ranger stuff & Batman stuff and new Playdough.
We will have some milk & cookies waiting for you and rudolf.
Love,
Chad
P.S.
Don't forget my Brothers.

Dear Santa,
My name is Shelby and I am 3. I

want Polly Pockets and new clothes, play dishes, and bring my mom a new magnet for the icebox. Bring my dad some new tools & bring my brother Kevin a remote control car. And bring my friend Kathy a Polly Pocket too. And I also want a Play Grill.
Love,
Shelby
P.S.
I'll have some cookies for you & Rudolf.

Dear Santa,
I have been mostly good this year. I hope you get my letter. I would really like Jennic Gymnast. If you can't get me that, just get me some clothes. I could need some paints. I like mermaids so, you mite get me something like a mermaid. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. I will leave you a snack. Oh my little brother Jimmy can't write. So he would like Teddy Ruxpin and a airplane. He has been mostly good this year, too. I hope all the raindeer are doing well. I just can't whate for Christmas to come.
Your friend,
Meagan Craig
P.S. Have a Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,
My name is Garrett. I am 4 yrs old I would like you to bring me White Tigerzoid Power Rangers Stuff Saba Sword Green Ranger I will leave you some cookies & Dr. Pepper by our tree.
Don't forget all the other children in the world.
Love,
Garrett

Dear Santa,
I hope you get what you want for Christmas. I want Mr. Bucket, a big truck, and a helicopter. Be careful on Christmas Eve.
Love,
Zaca Wilson

Clinton takes aim at budget

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Locked in a contest of budget one-upmanship with Republicans, President Clinton met with his economic team today and reviewed plans to cut money spent on roads, nuclear cleanup, public housing and other federal programs.

Clinton, who has promised to cut taxes on middle-income earners by \$60 billion, was unveiling his blueprint today to pay for the package.

Much of what Clinton was presenting today stems from Vice President Al Gore's "re-inventing government" initiative aimed at streamlining the bureaucracy. Many other proposals were made public in the days leading up to Clinton's address to the nation last week.

But the White House hopes the magnitude of the reductions will convince Congress and constituents that Clinton is serious about carving the fat out of government.

Making the rounds of TV talk shows three days after Clinton's address, several Republicans promised a more aggressive set of budget cuts to pay for their pricier middle-class tax cut.

"I'm not going to even consider what tax cuts we're going to do until I see budget cuts that will match them," Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., said Sunday on NBC.

Even Democrats wonder about how serious Clinton is about cutting spending.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., said of Clinton's tax-cutting plan: "I'll go along because this is support-your-president week — if they're paid for."

Clinton says he can cut \$76 billion from the federal budget in five years to pay for his program, saving \$16 billion for deficit reduction. But \$52 billion of the cuts are unspecified and would not take effect until 1999 and 2000.

That leaves \$24 billion in agency cuts that Clinton will outline today. He also will give Gore 90 days to come up with more cuts for future budgets.

His primary targets are the departments of Energy, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development — along with the Office of Personnel Management and the General Services Administration. After meeting with economic advisers today, Clinton planned to talk briefly with the heads of the targeted agencies before conducting the budget-cutting ceremony.

Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity Sunday, said Clinton has a long list of ideas to eliminate, reduce or sell off government programs, including:

— Transportation would cut its staff roughly in half over five years, from 106,000 to 54,000, and would consolidate its 10 agencies into three. That would save about \$6.7 billion over five years.

Potential Losers: Amtrak, whose federal subsidy would be trimmed by \$500 million this year and potential-

ly eliminated in five years. The air traffic control system would become a government-run corporation, taking 40,000 employees off the federal payroll. Federal outlays for infrastructure, like roads and bridges, would be reduced by about \$5 billion over five years — with states given more flexibility for spending the money.

— Energy would trim \$22 billion over five years from its \$18.5 billion annual budget, including as much as \$10 billion by selling four electric power agencies that provide wholesale electricity from federal dams in the West and South.

Potential Losers: The rest of the money would come from various programs, including those that help poor people winterize their homes, promote scientific research and pay for cleanup at nuclear weapons plants.

— HUD would cut about \$700 million from its nearly \$30 billion budget, consolidating 60 programs into a handful of block grants to cities. Local governments could take over some of HUD's duties, such as maintaining housing projects or providing rent supplements to poor families. The Federal Housing Administration, a Depression-era body that guarantees mortgages, could become a quasi-independent entity.

Potential Losers: Mayors whose cities benefit from the HUD money fear the "mega-block grant" concept will lead to overall reductions of housing aid.

Former Communists win Bulgarian elections

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgaria's Socialists — the renamed Communists — solidly won parliamentary elections, propelled into power by discontent over political instability and sinking living standards.

Sunday's elections brought the fourth former Communist Party back to power in Eastern Europe, after Hungary, Poland and Lithuania. It also could break three years of political stalemate that has blocked badly needed economic and social reforms.

With 84 percent of the votes counted, the the Central Election Commission said today the Socialists gained 43.7 percent of the vote while the staunchly anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) received 23.7 percent.

Zhan Videnov, the 35-year-old Socialist leader, said voters had punished the UDF for "its unproductive, confrontational policy, its lack of competence."

The Popular Union was a distant third with 6.5 percent, followed by the mainly Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms with 5.4 percent.

The Bulgarian Business Bloc of George Ganchev, a flamboyant businessman who spent years in Britain and the United States, just cleared the parliamentary hurdle of four percent, gaining 4.6 percent.

The Democratic Alliance received 3.9 percent of the vote. If they fail to make 4 percent, the Socialists would

stand an even better chance of emerging with an absolute majority of more than 50 percent.

Some 40 minor parties shared about 12 percent of the vote. Those seats will be divided among the parties that cleared the 4-percent threshold.

About 75 percent of the 6.6 million Bulgarians eligible to vote cast their ballots.

Political observers blamed part of the UDF's election defeat on its leader, Filip Dimitrov, whose uncompromising style prompted splits in the alliance and alienated voters.

Ognyan Minchev, a political scientist, said another reason for the anti-Communists' poor showing was the slow pace of reforms and that "voters identified the democratic process with the crisis and all negative phenomena arising from it."

Bulgaria's new government, whatever its makeup, faces an uphill battle against rampant crime and corruption that threaten to undermine the still shaky democratic system.

Another top priority is economic recovery after years of stagnation.

Bulgaria's annual inflation is expected to reach 120 percent by the end of the year and its national debt is \$12 billion. Some 70 percent of its 8.4 million people live on the verge of poverty, and about 740,000 are jobless.

Young cousins' bodies found near park

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The bodies of two young cousins were discovered this weekend, dumped near a park after the pair apparently were strangled.

Sarah Beth Gonzales, 13, and Priscilla Almares, 12, both of San Antonio had been planning to sing Christmas carols with a church group over the weekend.

A missing boot was one of few clues in their deaths.

A boy and his mother, who were following a deer, stumbled upon the bodies around 10 a.m. Saturday on a quiet stretch of road just west of Rodriguez County Park.

"A young woman and her son were walking by when the boy noticed a deer. They went looking for it and found something a lot worse," said police Sgt. Jerry Villarreal.

The girls' necks were covered with marks after apparently being strangled by hand, Villarreal said.

Investigators believe the girls were killed in the predawn hours, then dumped near the park.

"We don't know what the motive could be," Villarreal said. "There were no signs of sexual assault or robbery."

The cousins were scheduled to join their church group Friday night for Christmas carols, but failed to show up, their pastor's wife said.

The pair were last seen walking along the road near Miss Gonzales' home about 5 p.m. Friday. Miss Gonzales' 27-year-old sister,

Annette Lynds, said the telephone at the family home may not have worked, and the girls may have gone out to make a call.

Miss Almares, a cheerleader at Pease Middle School, would have turned 13 just three days

after Christmas.

Miss Gonzales, a Jones Middle School student, played on the volleyball team, Villarreal said.

"Everyone has been saying they were good students and sweet, sweet girls," he said.

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All other DEADLINES will remain at their regular times.
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