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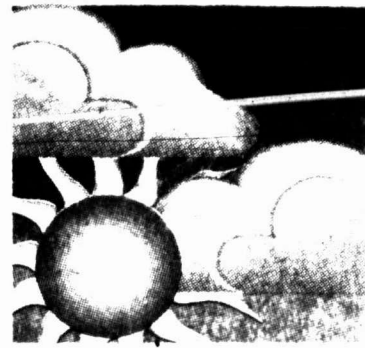
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Pampa

Vol. 91 No. 227 • Pampa, Texas
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High today 60.
Low tonight 30.
For weather see page 2.

DALLAS (AP) — Electronic Data Systems has received a \$100 million contract to help ensure the 2000 Census' accuracy with a state-of-the-art telephone assistance network.

At least 11 million incoming calls in six different languages are expected during a five-month period next year as census information is gathered.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census, which awarded the two-year contract to the Plano, Texas-based information technology and service company late this month, is trying to prepare for an accurate 2000 census.

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

A matching ticket would have been worth an estimated \$14 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 7-15-19-26-31-39.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$18 million.

- Clarence M. 'Bud' Evans, 92, driller.
- John D. Glenn, 90, former president of First State Bank in Canadian.
- Izah Phillips, 83, retired Cabot employee.
- John Eugene Rice, 49, stepfather of a Pampa resident.
- Hugo A. Riemer, Jr., 75, rancher.
- Mollie Marrie Robinson, 64, homemaker.
- Doris Mae Maxey Talley, 89, Clarendon pharmacy clerk.
- G.L. 'Buster' Walker, 71, Navy veteran.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Medical 4
Sports 7

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(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Randy Mask and Duane Waldrop prepare some new pipe to go under Foster Street, one of at least three breaks Christmas Eve.

City water lines bust over holiday vacation

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

While visions of sugar plums may have been dancing in the heads of most Pampans the night before Christmas, for many of the people in the city's Water Distribution Department the visions were of broken water mains.

Since the big freeze last week, there have been eight broken water lines, and at least three of them occurred Thursday. One of them at Foster Street was a major break and the repairs took until early Christmas morning to repair. Several homes were without water part of Christmas day as a result.

Adding to the normal problems of having to dig up a street and make repairs in the dark, the temperature was well below freezing with the wind chill around the zero mark, making working in the water even more uncomfortable, if not dangerous.

Director of Public Works Richard Morris said the problems usually involve the old cast iron pipes that were laid in the 1930's. He said when the ground freezes and then thaws, the ground can shift enough to

See WATER, page 2

Pampa Police Department prepares for review

Sgt. Terry Young, was working hard today getting ready for guests next year.

Three men will come to town in January to inspect the Pampa Police Department. "We'll have an on-site assessment," said Young, the Pampa Police Department's training officer.

The assessment will be part of the accreditation process the department faces in 1999. The Pampa Police Department was first accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA, five years ago.

The commission was first established in 1979 as an independent, tax exempt, non-profit corporation through the combined effort of four law enforcement executive membership associations, the International Association of

Police Chiefs, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum. Its role, according to Young, is to improve the delivery of law enforcement services.

In order to be accredited by the commission, the Pampa Police Department must meet more than 400 criteria set down as standards for law enforcement agencies internationally. "We're up for reassessment," Young said.

The on-site inspections are performed every five years. The inspection team will look at every aspect of the department.

On Jan. 23, a team of three veteran

law enforcement officers will arrive in Pampa to begin the process. Chief Wayne McCoy of the Worthington, Ohio, Police Department will be the team leader. He will be joined by Capt. Bodar Lawson of the Sullivan County, Tenn., Sheriff's office and Asst. Chief Terrell Holbrook of the Roanoke, Va., Sheriff's office.

The three will begin their assessment on Jan. 24. At 7 p.m. on Jan. 25, they will hold a public meeting in the Pampa City Commission Chambers for public comments.

From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 26, there will be a phone line set up for public comments.

"It will be unscripted and unrecorded," Young said.

The team will have an exit interview with Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris on Jan. 27, before leaving.

"After the on-site assessment," Young said, "they will let us know if we passed or if there are areas we need to work on before they leave Pampa."

The department will know in March, following a final interview with a panel in Denver, whether their accreditation will be renewed.

The accreditation process is based not only on the department's written policies addressing the CALEA guidelines, but also on the department's compliance with those policies.

"They will be looking for tangible proof we are in compliance," Young said of the assessment team due in January.

Warplanes fire on Iraq; Clinton says pilots acted in self defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said U.S. warplanes patrolling the skies over northern Iraq were protecting themselves when they fired missiles and precision-guided bombs at an Iraqi anti-aircraft site today.

Iraq said U.S. planes fired first, but Clinton disputed that, saying it was a matter of self defense.

"Our pilots have the authority to protect themselves," Clinton said in brief remarks before addressing a White House event on the Year 2000 computer bug.

Clinton said the attack was in an area of northern Iraq which American and British air crews regularly patrol to prevent Iraqi warplanes from flying. "They were fired on by Iraq surface to air missiles," he said. "They took evasive action, returned fire on the missile sites and returned safely to their base in Turkey."

Of the American pilots, Clinton said "They attacked."

See IRAQ, page 2

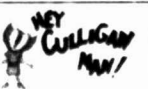
Over 1,000 cans collected ...



(Community Camera photo)

Pampa Middle School Mayor Ashley Willis and Karissa Intemann admire the assortment of canned goods collected. The school's holiday food drive goal was 1,000 cans and the week before school let out a total of 1,215 cans had been collected.

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

EVANS, Clarence M. — 10:30 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
PHILLIPS, Izah — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
RIEMER, Hugo A. Jr. — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Stinnett.
ROBINSON, Mollie Marrie — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, McLean.
TALLEY, Doris Mae Maxey — 10 a.m., Robertson Chapel of Memories, Clarendon.

Obituaries

CLARENCE M. 'BUD' EVANS
WHITE DEER — Clarence M. 'Bud' Evans, 92, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 1998. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Robert P. Kelly, minister of White Deer United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Garden Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Mr. Evans was born in Indian Territory, Okla. He had been a White Deer resident since 1929. He married Golda Gibson in 1936 at Hereford. He was a driller, truck driver and tool dresser in the oil fields for many years, retiring from W.E. Wagoner Well Service of Pampa in 1968.
 He was a Methodist and a member of White Deer Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II.
 Survivors include his wife, Golda; and three sisters, Hope D. LaShier and Inez Evans, both of Amarillo, and Hazel Parker of Hugo, Colo.
 The family requests memorials be to White Deer Volunteer Fire Department; White Deer Senior Citizens Association; or to a favorite charity.

JOHN D. GLENN
CANADIAN — John D. Glenn, 90, died Friday, Dec. 25, 1998, at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospice in Amarillo. Services were Sunday in First United Methodist Church with Dr. Lewis Holland, pastor, officiating. Burial was in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Stickle-Hill Funeral Directors of Canadian.
 Mr. Glenn was born March 28, 1908, at Wellington, to Charles Joseph and Mary Florence Arnold Glenn. He graduated from high school at Wellington. He married Elizabeth Howard on June 21, 1931, at Childress; she died Dec. 5, 1995. The couple lived in Childress until 1935 and moved to Canadian from Wellington on March 15, 1953. He was formerly president of First State Bank in Canadian and was a member of Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and First United Methodist Church.
 Survivors include a son, John Glenn, Jr. of New Orleans, La.; and a grandchild.
 The family requests memorials be to Edward Abraham Memorial Home or to First United Methodist Church of Canadian.

IZAH PHILLIPS
 Izah Phillips, 83, of Pampa, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 1998. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Melvin E. Harris, pastor of Priest Park Church of God, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Mr. Phillips was born at Sulphur Springs, Okla. He married Hazel Cooper in 1936 at Miami; she died in August. The couple had been Pampa residents since 1942. He worked for Cabot Corporation, retiring in 1977 after 35 years of service.
 He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II and receiving a Purple Heart.
 He was preceded in death by two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.
 Survivors include three daughters, Martha Organ of Pampa, June Basham of Phoenix, Ariz., and Carolyn Goodner of Guthrie, Okla.; a son, Joe Phillips of Pampa; eight grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

JOHN EUGENE RICE
DENISON — John Eugene Rice, 49, stepfather of a Pampa resident, died Friday, Dec. 18, 1998, in an automobile accident near Wagoner, Okla. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Criswell Funeral Home Chapel at Ada, Okla., with the Rev. Ed Johnson officiating.
 Mr. Rice was born Sept. 19, 1949, at Erie, Pa., to John and Shirley Rice. He was a longtime City of Ada employee. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.
 Survivors include his wife, Michelle Rice, of the home; a son, John Kenneth Rice of Ada; two stepdaughters, Sherri White of Pampa and Kerri Hartwig of Ada; a sister, Debbie Davis of Clyde, N.C.; and five grandchildren.

HUGO A. RIEMER, JR.
STINNETT — Hugo A. Riemer, Jr., 75, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 1998, at St. Anthony Hospice in Amarillo. Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Wyatt Carpenter, the Rev. Bob Green, the Rev. Elvis Peck and the Rev. Jerry Phillips officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.
 Mr. Riemer was born at Spearman. He married Beatrice Wetsel on Aug. 15, 1942, at Alanreed; she died July 2, 1994. He was a rancher and held a bachelor of arts degree from West Texas State University. He was a member of Stinnett Christian Church and was active in Gideons and prison ministry.
 Survivors include three sons, Kenneth Riemer and Jimmy Riemer, both of Stinnett, and Billy Riemer of Sacramento, Calif.; a sister, Irene Williams of Stinnett; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
 The family requests memorials be to Memorial

Bible Fund of Gideons, P.O. Box 5800, Borger TX 79007.

MOLLIE MARRIE ROBINSON
McLEAN — Mollie Marrie Robinson, 64, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 1998, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Quinton Newton officiating assisted by the Rev. James Martindale. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery under the direction of Lamb Funeral Home of McLean.
 Mrs. Robinson was born April 4, 1934, at Prestonburg, Ky., to Mack and Maudie Lewis. She married B.F. Robinson in 1988. She was a homemaker and had been a McLean resident for the past 12 years.
 She was preceded in death by a son.
 Survivors include her husband, B.F. Robinson of McLean; a son, Elmer Parratt of Oklahoma City, Okla.; a stepdaughter, Rose Mary Robinson of Amarillo; two stepsons, Frank Robinson of Amarillo and Robert Robinson of San Diego, Calif.; three sisters, Ellen Taylor of Cleveland, Ohio, Corena Scott of Willard, Ohio, and Johnetta Graybeal of McLean; three brothers, Donald Lewis of Myrtle Beach, Va., Bill W. Lewis of Chillicothe, Ohio, and Mack Lewis Jr. of Saline, Mich.; and three grandchildren.
 The body will be available for viewing at the funeral home in McLean.

DORIS MAE MAXEY TALLEY
CLARENDON — Doris Mae Maxey Talley, 89, stepmother of a Canadian resident, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 1998. Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Robertson Chapel of Memories with the Rev. Truman Ledbetter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clarendon, officiating. Burial will be in Citizens Cemetery.
 Mrs. Talley was born in Cook County and had been a longtime Clarendon resident. She married William Oscar Maxey in 1926 at Clarendon; he died in 1954. She married John Chester Talley in 1956 at Clovis, N.M.; he died in 1984. She was a clerk at a pharmacy in Clarendon for many years prior to retiring. She was a member of First Baptist Church.
 She was preceded in death by a son, Richard Maxey.
 Survivors include two daughters, Joveta Young of Amarillo and Lillian Johnston of Frith; a stepdaughter, Mary Beth Childs of Amarillo; three stepsons, Billy Jack Talley of Joshua, John Chester Talley Jr. of Canadian and Robert Thomas Talley of Weatherford; a brother, Max Cash of Washington, Texas; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.
 The family will receive visitors Tuesday morning at the funeral home and requests memorials be to Medical Center Nursing Home of Clarendon or to Citizens Cemetery.

G.L. 'BUSTER' WALKER
AMARILLO — G.L. 'Buster' Walker, 71, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 1998. Graveside services were to be at 3 p.m. today in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery at Canadian with Bishop John C. Hunt, of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Stickle-Hill Funeral Directors of Canadian.
 Mr. Walker was born Aug. 31, 1927, at Gem City, to William Noel and Dorothy Lucile Ramsey Walker. He attended school at Canadian and graduated high school at Pampa. He was a truck driver and resided in the Amarillo area. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II.
 Survivors include two daughters, Margie Freer Eunice Crumpton; two sons, Jimmy Baker and Dale Estep; a sister, Lynis Hefner of White Deer; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.
 The family requests memorials be to Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo.

Sheriff's Office
 The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Saturday, December 27
 12:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of S. Hobart and transported one to a local nursing facility.
 12:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of N. Zimmer and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 1:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Kingsmill and Starkweather. No one was transported.
 9:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 11:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.
Sunday, December 27
 4:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 526 Doyle and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 10:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 11:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.
 12:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Ambulance
 The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Saturday, December 26
 9:19 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of S. Hobart and transported one to a local nursing facility.
 12:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of N. Zimmer and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 1:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Kingsmill and Starkweather. No one was transported.
 9:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
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 11:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.
 12:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Water

— break the pipes. The broken pipes are replaced with modern plastic pipes that can better stand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the shifts. Because of the number of breaks, the entire Water Distribution department was called out, except for one vacationing employee. Thousands of gallons of water

were lost, but Morris said the only bright spot is that this is not a heavy water usage period. Morris also said that more breaks are likely as the freezing and thawing continue.

Iraq

because they were attacked, and they did the appropriate thing." At the Pentagon, spokesman Col. Richard Bridges called the incident, which lasted half an hour, "an act of aggression" by Iraq and he described the U.S. response as "an act of self defense."

"The Iraqi action was what caused our reaction," Bridges said. No U.S. aircraft or crew were harmed during the incident, which began at about 1 p.m. local time, or 4 a.m. Washington time, just north of Mosul, the Pentagon said. Bridges said the administration was still assessing any Iraqi damage. In Baghdad, the Iraqi military said — the U.S. attack action against the air defense site killed four Iraqi soldiers and injured seven others. Iraqi air defenses fired back in response, forcing the warplanes to flee, the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Information Ministry reported in a statement. Clinton was briefed on the situation early this morning by Donald Kerrick, a deputy national security adviser, the White House said.

Four types of U.S. aircraft were involved in the incident — F-15E, F-15C and F-16C fighters jets and an EA6B prowler, a radar-jamming aircraft — according to the Pentagon. Such warplanes often fly in pairs while on patrol, but Bridges couldn't say exactly how many aircraft were involved in the attack against the Iraqi target.

The Iraqis fired surface-to-air missiles from an anti-aircraft site while the U.S. warplanes were flying as part of Operation Northern Watch, said Bridges. In response, the American jet fighters fired HARM missiles and precision-guided munitions. The Pentagon didn't say how many missiles or bombs were fired against the Iraqis. "There was a hostile Iraqi

action, an act of aggression, against U.S. aircraft flying as part of Operation Northern Watch," Bridges said. "The U.S. took appropriate action under their rules of engagement. It was an act of self defense."

British planes were not involved in the incident, according to a spokesman for the British defense ministry in London and the Pentagon. U.S. and British jets patrol the "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq that was set up in 1991 to protect Iraqi Kurds after they failed in an uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The last time the U.S. and Iraqi militaries exchanged fire in Operation Northern Watch was in September of 1996, according to the Pentagon.

The incident comes less than two weeks since American and British forces conducted four days of airstrikes against Iraqi targets to punish Saddam for not cooperating with U.N. weapons inspections.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST
 Partly cloudy today with a high of 60 and a low of 30. Tomorrow, partly cloudy with a high in the upper-50s and Wednesday, partly cloudy again with a high of 60 and a low of 27. Yesterday's high was 53 and the low was 28.

REGIONAL FORECAST
WEST TEXAS — Panhandle — Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows around 30. West winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 5-15 mph, becoming south late. Extreme Southern Panhandle/Low Rolling Plains — Tonight, fair. Lows 30 to 40. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs 60 to 70. Tuesday night, fair. Lows in the 30s. Permian Basin/Upper Trans Pecos — Tonight, fair. Lows near 40. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night, fair. Lows upper 30s to lower 40s. Concho Valley/Edwards Plateau — Tonight, fair. Lows near 40. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows 40 to 45. Far

West Texas — Tonight, fair. Lows in the lower to mid 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Tuesday night, fair. Lows in the 30s. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — Tonight, fair. Lows from the mid 20s higher elevations to near 40 along the Rio Grande. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs from lower 50s mountains to the lower 70s along the river. Tuesday night, fair. Lows upper 20s to near 40.

NORTH TEXAS — Tonight, fair to partly cloudy. Lows 38 to 43. Tuesday, morning low clouds and fog east then partly cloudy. Mostly sunny elsewhere. Highs 60 to 69.
SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Tonight, clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Tuesday, sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night, clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Tonight, clear. Lows in the lower to mid 40s inland and in the mid 50s at the coast. Tuesday, sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 60s at the coast to the lower 70s inland. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s inland to around 50 at the coast. Coastal Bend and the Rio

Grande Plains — Tonight, clear. Patchy fog possible over the crossroads and coastal bend. Lows in the mid 40s to near 50 inland to the lower 50s at the coast. Tuesday, sunny. Highs in the lower to middle 70s inland to near 70 along the coast. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows near 50 inland to the mid 50s at the coast. Deep South Texas — Tonight, foggy. Lows in the 50s. Tuesday, sunny. Highs in the 70s and 80s. Tuesday night, foggy. Lows in the 50s.

BORDER STATES
NEW MEXICO — Tonight, fair skies. Lows 10 to mid 20s mountains and northwest, Mid 20s and 30s elsewhere. Tuesday and Tuesday night, fair skies. Highs 40s to mid 50s mountains and northwest, upper 50s to around 70 east and south. Lows teens and 20s mountains and north with mostly 30s lower elevations central and south.
OKLAHOMA — Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the 50s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy and cooler. Lows from the lower 20s north to the lower 30s southwest.

Engine flames force plane evacuation

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — A Delta airplane stopped short of taking off from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Saturday evening

after crew members of another plane reported seeing flames shooting out of the jet's engines. The crew ordered the plane's 47 passengers to evacuate, but officials said no fire was found. Delta spokesman Clay McConnell said the flames that were seen in the engine were sparked by residual gasoline and were not dangerous.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

"As it turns out, it appears it might not have been necessary to evacuate that aircraft, but you have to make a prudent decision," McConnell said. "At the time, that was the prudent decision." The plane was headed to Cincinnati and was about one-third full. Authorities said a few passengers suffered minor injuries sliding down the MD-88's inflatable evacuation chutes, and two people were taken to a hospital for minor ankle injuries.

12:42 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded west on Kentucky on a reported grass fire.
 2:39 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Kingsmill and Starkweather on an automobile accident.
 4:40 p.m. — Two units and five personnel responded to Ballard and Browning on an automobile accident.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and reports during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Saturday, December 26
 Ernest L. Huff, 53, 514 N. Frost, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.
 Burglary was reported in the 500 block of W. Brown.

Sunday, December 27
 Mark G. Watkins, 46, 110 E. 27th, was arrested on warrants.
 Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Huff.
 Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of N. Frost.
Monday, December 28
 Dillon N. Best, 18, 312 Ward, was arrested on charges of failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of tobacco by a minor.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa			
Coca Cola	69 1/16	up 1/4	
Columbia/HCA	23 3/16	up 1/16	
Enron	57 7/8	dn 7/16	
Halliburton	32 5/8	dn 5/8	
Milo	3 9/16	dn 1/8	
Corn	3 6/16	dn 2 1/4	
Kerr McGee	36 3/4	dn 1/2	
Laminated	28 1/16	dn 1/8	
McDonald's	36 3/4	up 7/16	
Mobil	88 3/16	dn 9/16	
New Atmos	31 5/8	up 1/8	
NCE	47 5/16	dn 3/8	
Penney's	48 1/4	dn 7/16	
Phillips	42 1/2	dn 1/8	
Pioneer Nat. Res.	8 1/2	NC	
SLB	46 9/16	dn 1 7/16	
Tenneco	32 1/2	up 1/16	
Texasco	51 7/16	up 1/8	
Ultramar	22 5/8	up 3/16	
Wal-Mart	80 9/16	dn 9/16	
Williams	31 1/2	up 5/16	
New York Gold	286.90		
Silver	4.89		
West Texas Crude	11.00		
Chevron	84	dn 11/16	

City briefs

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

BEST KEPT Secrets Sale - 50% off Christmas decorations, 25% off Bella Casa and Milson-Lewis dishes. Closed Mon. Dec. 28th, open 10 a.m. Dec. 29th, 1925 N. Hobart. Adv.
NEW YEAR'S Party - party favors, food, Southern Comfort band at OCB, 2302 Alcock, reservations 665-0165, \$8 advance. Adv.
SHOP SAND'S Fabrics Inventory Reduction Sale, 225 N. Cuyler Adv.
ROLANDA'S CUSTOMER Appreciation sale, Tues. & Wed. 20%-50% off most merchandise, 301 W. Foster. Adv.
CLEARANCE SALE - Carousel Expressions, 1600 N. Hobart. Adv.
AFTER CHRISTMAS Sale at the Gift Box Christian Bookstore, 50% off all ornaments, 1999 Planners, Calendars. 117 W. Kingsmill, downtown Pampa. Adv.
SONG OF THE Cimarron, by Kelly R. Stevens, local author, available at The Gift Box Christian Bookstore, 117 W. Kingsmill. Adv.

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Keeping an eye on Texas

Deer undaunted by drought

The adaptable Texas deer population weathered the 1998 drought well. The animals came through last fall and early winter in very good condition, so antler volume and size are expected to be normal or above normal.

Ecological zones and 1997 deer population

- High Plains: 167
- Blackland Prairies: 15,885
- Rolling Plains: 206,529
- Cross Timbers and Prairies: 354,477
- Trans-Pecos, Mountains and Basins: 13,659
- Edwards Plateau: 1,439,093
- Pinelands: 484,699
- South Texas Plains: 465,846
- Post Oak Savannah: 295,962
- Gulf Prairies and Marshes: 82,704

Deer population in millions

1987: 4.5, 1992: 4.0, 1997: 3.5

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Ultramar calls for entries in statewide 'Hooray for Excellence' program

AMARILLO — Schools across Texas are invited to showcase their academics and earn cash awards in the process through the innovative "Hooray for Excellence" program sponsored by Ultramar Diamond Shamrock. Teachers, parents and students are expected to set their sights on the \$1,000 top prizes to be awarded to 10 schools. However, the greatest benefit of Hooray for Excellence may be public recognition of academics.

"Publicity has played a key role in building the support enjoyed by athletics," says Roger Hemminghaus, chairman and CEO of Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp. "We believe putting similar efforts into recognizing academics will result in a winning situation for schools and more importantly, for students. This is why we are proud to again offer students and teachers the chance to tell the public about their successes through Hooray for Excellence."

Hooray for Excellence allows teachers to select an academic program and then share its merits during a one- or two-minute

audio recording. Teachers usually involve students in producing and starring in their production.

Entries are submitted to Hooray for Excellence radio station partners that select tapes for on-air play and then designate local winners in three grade divisions: elementary, middle school and high school.

Public and private schools are encouraged to submit tapes to the Hooray for Excellence radio partner in the area. In Amarillo, the partner radio station is KGNC Talk Radio 71 and KGNC FM 98. Schools in areas not served by participating radio stations can enter tapes in the Hooray for Excellence at-large category.

According to Gene Smith, manager of jobber communications for Ultramar, one of the big changes this year is in entry deadline. Smith says, "We have kicked-off the 1999 program early to accommodate a window of entry that stretches from December 1998 through Feb. 12, 1999. This is to encourage teachers to consider entering Hooray for Excellence as a first semester or second semester project, or both."

Every class submitting an entry will receive a certificate of participation. Local winners and at-large winners will receive \$50 each for their schools and an advance to regional competition. Each regional winner's school will receive \$100 and advances to the final level of competition. The 10 schools selected as Hooray for Excellence state winners will each receive \$1,000.

The final entry deadline is Feb. 12. To request an entry form or to obtain additional information, call 1-800-8004HFX. The program also has a new website: www.hoorayforexcellence.com.

AIFS seeking hosts for foreign exchange students from Brazil

Brazilian students with good English skills and motivation are arriving this January to experience the "American way of life." Families in Pampa willing to open their hearts and homes to a student are invited to participate. Call today to be a part of this exciting opportunity to host a Brazilian student and learn about Brazil, its culture and language without leaving your home. Many wonderful students are eager to hear which special family has chosen to host them!

Academic Year in America (AYA), sponsored by the not-for-profit American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS) Foundation, has been bringing international students and American families together for the past 17 years. Students range in age from 15 to 18 years old and arrive from Brazil and many other countries, such as Germany, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Iceland. They attend the local high school for a semester and have their own medical insurance and spending money.

Both families and students benefit from the exchange experience. The host family can learn about another culture, make a special friend and earn a scholarship worth up to \$500 on a variety of college or travel-study programs or academic year/semester high school study abroad programs. The international students have the opportunity to participate in the "American way of life," something many of them have always dreamed about.

"I wish every family would host a student, then they would realize how rewarding the experience is and how much love they receive," Laura Weir, an AYA host mother comments. "You wouldn't trade the experiences and memories of hosting these kids for anything in the world. They come into your life as strangers and leave as a member of your family."

If you would like to volunteer to open your heart and home to one of our international students or know of someone who would, please call Andrea Baskinger at 1-800-322-4678 ext. 6078 or e-mail abaskinger@aifs.com. Your decision to host will benefit your family and make an international exchange student's holiday wish come true.

Association of At-Home Mothers offers helpful guides

FAIRFIELD, Iowa — According to a recent article in "At-Home Mother" magazine, when true job costs are tallied, many families with working mothers would actually be better off financially if mom stayed home.

"I was working for less than a dollar an hour without realizing it," commented Cheryl Gochbauer, author of the article "How Leaving My Job Saved Us Money." Gochbauer added up all of the costs of working outside the home including the obvious ones like childcare for two children, a car payment, lunch money and clothes. She also uncovered many hidden costs like co-worker gift pools, family dinners eaten out to save time and higher taxes due on two incomes. She found she was actually clearing \$39 a week — less than \$1 an hour — at her job!

And, after tearing apart her family's spending habits, "I uncovered huge amounts of discretionary expenditures, like eating out, entertainment and 'mad money,'" Gochbauer noted. Analyzing her family's spending habits, she identified \$1,586 a month in expenses her family could save by living more simply and eliminating the costs associated with a second job. As a result, Gochbauer's decision to leave her paid job to become a full-time at-home mom was simple.

"Not every mother has the option to be an at-home mother, but we have found that many two-income families can actually achieve a better quality of life by living on one income and having mom stay at home to raise the kids," said Jeanette Lisefski. Lisefski, the editor of "At-Home Mother," said, "the false assumption that two incomes are necessary to survive these days, prevents many mothers from opting to stay at home."

The National Association of At-Home Mothers, publisher of the magazine, also provides a newsletter and a series of practical Information Guides to help families who want support for full-time parenting. To request a free copy of "At-Home Mother Magazine," with information on how to join the association, write to National Association of At-Home Mothers, 406 E. Buchanan Ave., Fairfield, IA 52556 or send e-mail to ahmrc@lisco.com with "at-home" in the subject line.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas Tomorrow Fund controls rising college expenses

College tuition outpaces other household expenses, but the Texas Tomorrow Fund, the state's pre-paid college tuition program, is one way to help families by locking in tuition and fees at today's prices. For the first time, Texas Tomorrow Fund is available for corporations, school districts, and civic organizations to purchase and award to deserving students. For more information call 1-800-445-GRAD.

Category	Percentage Increase (1980-1994)
Tuition	234%
Medical care	182%
New car	106%
New house	101%
Household income	82%
Food	66%

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Consumer Price Index and other federal sources.

Area grocery stores to support Special Olympics fund-raiser

AMARILLO — Proctor & Gamble's 1999 national promotion to benefit Special Olympics will last from now through March 15. The "Keeping Their Dreams Alive" campaign will carry pictures of nine Texas athletes on printed items such as posters, coupons and other promotional and point-of-sale pieces. These materials will be displayed in participating grocery stores across the United States to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

There are various ways to support the campaign. Many retailers will display counter coupons offering customers the opportunity to make a contribution to Special Olympics by adding .50 cents, \$1 or \$5 to their grocery bill. All funds raised in this area will benefit local programs and will be matched — penny for penny — by Proctor & Gamble.

Participating stores in the panhandle include all United Supermarkets, participating Homeland Stores and all area supermarkets served by Affiliated Foods, Inc.

Another popular way to support this effort is by redeeming Proctor & Gamble coupons. These coupons will be enclosed

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas citrus makes snappy holiday gift

Citrus make up 75 percent of Texas' citrus crop and the very best are picked for the gift fruit market. Some orchards allow visitors to the Rio Grande Valley to pick their own fruit. For more information call the Texas Gift Package Shippers Association 956/581-8632, or TexaSweeT Citrus Marketing at 956/580-8004 or visit their website: www.texasweet.com/gifts/shippers.

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Valley Citrus Committee, and Texas Gift Package Shippers Association.

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THE Pampa NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
Ass. Publisher-Editor: Kate B. Dickson
Managing Editor: Miranda G. Bailey
Advertising Director: Rick Clark
Office Manager: Helena McKnight
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3	THURS., DEC. 31, 1 P.M.
MONDAY, JANUARY 4	THURS., DEC. 31, 4 P.M.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 4	THURS., DEC. 31, 4 P.M.

All other DEADLINES will remain at regular times.
We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your friends a safe and happy holiday.

MEDICAL

First Lyme disease vaccine formulated

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans who live in tick-infested regions can start getting shots to protect themselves against Lyme disease: The government approved sale of the world's first Lyme vaccine. SmithKline Beecham's long-awaited LYMERix will help prevent the serious disease, the Food and Drug Administration said recently, but it won't eliminate the threat.

"It is important for people to realize (the vaccine's protection) is never going to be 100 percent," stressed FDA immunologist Karen Elkins.

Plus, it takes three shots over a full year to build optimal immunity — meaning if people start getting the required LYMERix doses this winter and spring, they won't have maximum protection until the year 2000 tick season.

"You'll have to continue to use insecticides, continue to check for and remove attached ticks," Elkins advised. As one researcher put it, she added,

"People should not consider this a license to run willy-nilly through the woods."

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium carried by pin-sized ticks that live in wooded and grassy areas nationwide ...

The FDA approved LYMERix for vaccination of people ages 16 to 70 who live or work in grassy or wooded areas where Lyme disease-bearing ticks are present. Although doctors say a Lyme vaccine is urgently needed for children, SmithKline is still studying whether LYMERix is safe in children and adequately protects them.

Another big question is how long the protection offered by those first three LYMERix shots will last. SmithKline is studying whether people will need yearly booster shots.

SmithKline said it will ship the vaccine to doctors' offices in a few weeks, but refused to disclose the price.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium carried by pin-sized ticks that live in wooded and grassy areas nationwide, but especially in the Northeast and upper Midwest. The government counted about 16,000 new cases in 1996, the latest figures.

Typically, Lyme disease causes a telltale bull's-eye rash plus fatigue, chills, fevers and joint pain. Antibiotics can cure it. But if it's left untreated, Lyme disease can severely damage the heart and nervous system.

Until now, doctors' best advice was to use insecticide, watch for ticks and, when venturing into tick-prone areas like unmowed grass or brush, wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks or boots.

But that's hard advice to follow since ticks are most active in the summer. In addition, the tiny ticks are hard to spot and some patients don't suffer early Lyme symptoms, so not everyone at risk knows to seek help.

SmithKline's LYMERix offers the first immune protection. The vaccine creates antibodies that recognize an outer protein of the Lyme bacterium, called Osp-A.

Unlike typical vaccines, LYMERix can fight the bacterium while the germ is still inside the tick — before the victim is infected. When the tick sucks a

vaccinated person's blood, it will ingest the antibodies, which can neutralize Lyme germs inside the tick.

In a study of almost 11,000 people in high-Lyme states, volunteers received three shots: Two given a month apart anywhere from January to April, just before the Northeast's peak tick season, and a third shot a year later.

During that first summer tick season, when patients had received only two LYMERix shots, the vaccine proved 50 percent protective.

But after the third shot, during the following summer, patients who got LYMERix had 78 percent fewer cases of Lyme disease than people who got three dummy shots.

LYMERix offers no protection against other tick-borne diseases, another reason people who get vaccinated still must watch carefully for ticks, said Dr. Allen Steere of Tufts University, who helped test the vaccine.

LYMERix's main side effects were soreness and swelling at the injection site and occasional muscle and joint pain, the FDA said.

And the vaccine cannot be used by everyone.

The FDA said LYMERix should not be taken by pregnant women, people with such joint problems as rheumatoid arthritis, or people with chronic illnesses related to prior Lyme infections. SmithKline has not studied the vaccine's safety in those people.

Scientists believe nerve may hold key to boosting memory

NEW YORK (AP) — Remember your first real kiss?

OK, do you recall the last time you changed a light bulb? Or licked a stamp? Or stood in line at the supermarket?

A new study may help explain why emotionally charged events like falling in love, being insulted and family deaths stick in memories while everyday recollections — like where you ate lunch last week — don't.

Scientists found that memory can be improved by stimulating a nerve that runs to your brain from deep in your innards.

Researchers already know that memories are part of the body's response to emotional arousal: The body releases adrenaline and other hormones into the blood.

But for the most part, those hormones can't get into the brain. So how could they influence memory? The new work points to the vagus nerve, which extends from the brainstem to most of the body's internal organs.

The results are presented in the January issue of the journal *Nature Neuroscience* by psychologist Robert Jensen of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and colleagues. Scientists have begun studies in rats to see if stimulating the vagus nerve could speed up recovery from a stroke or other brain damage.

"This is exciting new information that provides an important piece of the puzzle" of how the hormones affect memory, said James McGaugh, director of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory at the University of California, Irvine.

The vagus (pronounced VAY-gus) nerve is kind of a two-way street. It relays orders from the brain to regulate things like heart rate, while keeping the brain informed about what's going on in the organs, such as whether the stomach is full.

The researchers looked at 10 people involved in a medical study that was aimed at seeing if an implanted device that stimulates the vagus nerve

could suppress epileptic seizures. The device was approved for that use by federal regulators last year. Its maker, Cyberonics Inc., provided some support for the memory study.

Participants were tested before and after they got the nerve stimulators implanted. At each session, they read a series of paragraphs that included a total of 42 words highlighted with a yellow marker. In tests after implantation, the vagus nerve was stimulated soon after they read individual paragraphs.

A short time later, they were tested on whether they could recognize the target words in a list of about 250 words. They scored about 36 percent better on recognizing words they'd read just before nerve stimulation, compared with their performance before getting the implant.

Since the stimulation came after the words were read, it indicates that the nerve helps the brain store the memory of something that just happened, rather than alerting the brain to pay attention to what's coming up.

The study also included some phony stimulation procedures, which showed that the memory boost after real stimulation wasn't just a psychological effect of thinking the nerve had been activated.

McGaugh said emotional arousal affects memory routinely, not just during extremely emotional events. Day to day, it's a way to help the brain separate the wheat from the chaff of life: If something important has just happened, the body gets aroused enough to cue the brain to remember it, he said.

Jensen doubts that nerve stimulation could help people with Alzheimer's disease or students cramming for tests.

His study found that too much nerve stimulation wipes out the benefit on memory. When cramming, "your level of arousal is already up at optimum," he said. Stimulating the nerve even more might actually make it harder for a student to remember the lessons, he said.

Study of British aristocracy finds link between fertility, life span

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press Writer

Mothers who give birth to their first child later in life tend to live longer than those who start large broods early on, according to researchers who reviewed the British aristocracy's 1,200 years of genealogical records.

They found that long-lived married women tended to have later first births and fewer children than other women.

This is the latest study in the past decade to back up what researchers have long suspected — that fertility and longevity are linked. The reasons for the link are not so apparent.

Some researchers say that giving birth and raising a family simply take a physical toll on the body that shortens a woman's lifespan. But the authors of the latest study say that deliberately delaying motherhood will not necessarily make a woman live longer.

Instead, they argue that there is a genetic tradeoff between fertility and longevity in women: Those who are programmed to live long lives are less fertile.

"If you have to invest such an enormous amount of energy into maintaining the body for a long life, there must be a cost. And the theory says there's a

cost in fertility," said researcher Rudi G.J. Westendorp of Leiden University Medical Centre in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Similarly, fruit fly studies conducted in the early '90s found that insects bred for a long life were less fertile.

The new study was published in a recent issue of the journal *Nature*. Westendorp and Thomas B. L. Kirkwood of the University of Manchester in England studied the computerized records for 13,667 married female aristocrats born in Britain between the years 740 and 1875.

Women who died between age 50 and 80 had an average of 2.4 to 2.6 children each, while those who lived into their 80s averaged 2.1 children and those who reached their 90s averaged 1.8 offspring.

Westendorp also found a link between lifespan and a woman's age when she gave birth to her first child.

Those who died between age 50 and 80 had their first child on average at age 24.3. But women who lived into their 80s gave birth to their first child about age 25.1, and those living into their 90s had their first child at an average age of about 27.

The study only briefly touched on married women without children. It said almost half the women who lived past

81 had no children and fewer than one-third who died before that age were childless.

Dr. Thomas Perls, a geriatrician at the Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, said differences in the number of children were not that significant to support a big link between longevity and reproduction.

But Perls said his own research last year suggests women who give birth for the first time in their 40s have an increased chance of living to 100. He suggested their biological clocks are ticking slowly — their fertility peaks later in life, and they age more slowly.

Other researchers said Westendorp's findings hint that there may be an optimal number of childbirths beyond which women pay a physical toll.

"It suggests that if you have a lot of kids at a young age there's a drain on your resources and your life span is not as long," said Caleb Finch, a professor of gerontology at the University of Southern California.

Whatever the numbers show, they may only reflect the story of the British aristocracy long ago — a time of drafty manors, poor diet and primitive medicine, said Richard Suzman, associate director for behavioral and social research at the National Institute on Aging.

Sudden-death disorder gene being traced

DALLAS (AP) — Researchers say they have all but located a gene responsible for a heart-rhythm abnormality that can cause young, seemingly healthy people to drop dead without warning.

The disorder, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, or ARVD, could be responsible for 5 percent to 15 percent of sudden deaths among people under 35.

People who are diagnosed with the disorder can be treated with implanted defibrillators, drugs and, occasionally, surgery. But often, ARVD goes unnoticed until a person drops dead.

Researchers found the gene's approximate location by studying seven generations of a large Canadian family that included 10 people with ARVD. They hope to isolate the gene and then clone it — perhaps within a year or two — and develop a blood test to identify carriers of the deadly flaw.

"The immediate benefit is you can then screen people who have the bad gene, and they can have a defibrillator put in," said Dr. Robert Roberts of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. A defibrillator shocks the heart to restore a normal rhythm.

The findings were published in a recent issue

of *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

Roberts' team studied DNA from 149 members of the family and narrowed down the location of the mutant gene to an area of chromosome 3.

The findings were welcomed by the mother of Andy Stoppelman, who was 17 when he collapsed and died at a high school yearbook signing party in 1993.

"Now that we can identify it, I hope the next step is to remedy it if not reverse it, so that we can hold onto young lives and not lose them," said Lynn Stoppelman of Reston, Va., who started an Internet support group for victims of the disease.

Dr. Hugh Calkins, director of electrophysiology at Johns Hopkins University, called the findings "a very significant breakthrough."

In ARVD, the muscle cells of the right ventricle, which pumps blood to the lungs, die and are replaced with fatty, fibrous tissue.

It is believed to be rare, afflicting one in every 5,000 people. Dr. Douglas Zipes, director of the Krannert Institute of Cardiology in Indianapolis, said the disorder may be more common than doctors realize because diagnosis is difficult and often is confirmed only by autopsy.



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Nurses vs. doctors in operating rooms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anesthesiologists and nurses are spending millions of dollars fighting each other about who should put patients under before surgery. It has become the most contentious issue in a set of proposed new rules for hospitals caring for Medicare and Medicaid patients. The battle shows how lobbying groups roll into action when their interests are threatened — and the disparities that can exist between them.

Both sides in the doctor-nurse battle have met with federal health officials, written letters and persuaded congressional supporters to intervene as they try to shape the Health Care Financing Administration's final rule.

They also have piled up lobbying expenses and boosted their political contributions, according to federal records.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists spent \$1.2 million on lobbying in the first half of this year — more than five times the \$222,316 that the doctors' group spent during the same period in 1997.

The nurse anesthetists' group increased its lobbying, too, on a smaller scale. The nurses spent \$335,000 over six months, 16 percent more than the \$290,000 they spent in the first half of 1997.

Over the last two years, the anesthesiologists have made more than \$1 million in political action committee donations to lawmakers, and the nurses have given \$650,504.

While the doctors have far outspent the nurses, "we have certainly been competitive," said David Hebert, chief lobbyist for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

The proposal at issue would allow states to decide whether nurse anesthetists should be allowed to work on their own, without being supervised by anesthesiologists. The federal government now requires doctor supervision when a nurse anesthetist is used during surgery on a Medicare or Medicaid patient.

Eliminating the requirement could encourage hospitals to hire more nurse anesthetists — who earn about one-third as much as anesthesiologists — and decrease work for the doctors.

But neither side discusses economics. Rather, the nurse anesthetists call for returning power to the states, while the anesthesiologists worry about a patient's health if a doctor is not there to supervise.

The nurse anesthetists support the proposed change and the anesthesiologists oppose it. Officials of the Health Care Financing Administration said they do not know when a final decision will come.

HCFA has received 60,000 comments on its package of proposed changes to

Medicare and Medicaid rules; 30,000 of them addressed the anesthesia issue.

Letters were sent by some 200 members of Congress, including Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over health care legislation; and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

Two congressional supporters of the anesthesiologists — Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., and Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla. — introduced legislation blocking HCFA from issuing any rules that eliminated the requirement that doctors supervise nurse anesthetists.

"Millions of elderly beneficiaries receiving critical care have benefited from the knowledge and expertise of a nurse and physician working as a team," said Weldon, a physician.

Faircloth, who lost re-election in November, tried unsuccessfully to put the provision into the omnibus spending bill at the end of the congressional session, settling for nonbinding language that said HCFA should examine the relevant data before issuing a final rule.

The anesthesiologists' political action committee boosted its contributions to \$1,021,134 for the 1997-98 election cycle, a 39 percent increase over the \$737,153 in contributions it made during the same period in 1995-96.

"Political contributions help you to gain a voice," said Dr. John Neeld of Atlanta, president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. "You never buy votes, but you do buy an opportunity to make your point."

The society also held a reception for Weldon during its Washington legislative conference in June.

Nurse anesthetists boosted their PAC contributions by 20 percent, from \$543,142 in 1995-96 to \$650,504 in 1997-98.

The nurses' donations included \$15,000 to the North Carolina Democratic Party. In November, Democratic challenger John Edwards defeated Faircloth, who had taken the doctors' side.

Both sides in the doctor-nurse battle have met with federal health officials, written letters and persuaded congressional supporters to intervene as they try to shape the Health Care Financing Administration's final rule.

Violent crime rates lowest in 25 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plunge in robberies helped drop violent crimes overall to their lowest levels since the government began surveying Americans about their experience as victims a quarter-century ago, the Justice Department says.

Rape and sexual assaults were the only categories not to show declines in 1997, said a study released Sunday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

A household survey reported nearly 35 million crimes against people and property in 1997. That was down from 37 million in 1996 and from 44 million in 1973, when the annual surveys began.

The nation's violent crime rate declined nearly 7 percent in 1997, the survey found, to an estimated 39 violent crimes per 1,000 U.S. residents over age 12.

The rate dropped from 42 per 1,000 in 1996. In 1973, the figure was 48.

The rate has been dropping since 1993, after roughly a decade of substantial increases.

In the current survey, a steep 17 percent decline in the robbery rate was largely responsible for the across-the-board drop in the violent crime rate. The rate of assaults decreased only slightly, and the rate of rapes and sexual assaults did not change from the previous year.

President Clinton claimed a measure of credit for the decline, saying in a statement that "these new figures again show that our strategy of more police, stricter gun laws and better crime prevention is working."

"Every 1 percent drop in crime means 90,000 fewer violent crime victims," Attorney General Janet Reno said.

The National Crime Victimization Survey charts a drop in violent crime of 21 percent the 1993 peak, when national crime rates were more heavily influenced by drug- and gang-driven crime.

The survey also showed nonviolent crime rates declined by 7 percent from 1996 to 1997, and a 22 percent drop since 1993. Nonviolent crime rates are also at their lowest rates since 1973.

There were an estimated 248 attempted or completed property crimes per 1,000 U.S. households last year, compared to 266 per 1,000 during 1996. The figure was 319 in 1993 and 554 in 1973.

The survey involved about 80,000 people in 43,000 households. It covers robbery, rape, assaults and lesser property crime. The intent is to gauge how many people are crime victims, regardless of whether they report the incident to police.

The survey excludes killings, because it asks individuals about their own experiences, but FBI statistics show murders were down 8 percent in 1997. The 18,210 homicides recorded nationally marked a 28 percent drop from the number five years earlier.

Despite billions in saving, Alaska faces budget crisis

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska has more than \$28 billion tucked away for a rainy day and this year gave more than half a million residents \$1,540 apiece just for living here. So why is the state facing a budget crisis?

The short answer: Cheap oil. Oil provides about two-thirds of Alaska's general revenue, and the price slipped under \$9 a barrel this month, a record low for a commodity that usually sells for about \$16 a barrel.

Every time the average annual price for a barrel of North Slope crude drops a dollar, Alaska loses about \$95 million. This year, the state will take in about \$1.4 billion

and draw nearly \$1 billion from cash reserves to balance the budget.

"Us complaining about lost oil revenue to outsiders would look like one of the Kennedys complaining that his income went down from \$1 million to only \$500,000 a year," says Rick Halford, a Republican state legislator who this year offered a prayer for higher oil prices on the floor of the Senate.

When the Prudhoe Bay oil fields were discovered in 1967, Alaska took in about \$112 million annually, mostly through income tax. Fifteen years later, the state took in \$4.1 billion, 87 percent of it from

oil royalties and taxes.

"We had a lot of money, everybody knew it," said Ray Metcalfe, who was a Republican state representative from the boomtown of Anchorage in those days. "It seemed as though anybody who asked got just about anything they wanted."

Alaska spent lavishly, building schools for its children and rest homes for its elderly while establishing programs that continue to cost millions each year. In those same years, Alaskans also did three things that have now come back to haunt them.

In 1976 the people voted to establish the Alaska Permanent

Fund, putting a percentage of royalties away against the inevitable decline in oil money. In 1980 the Legislature abolished the income tax. And two years later, the state began paying each qualified Alaskan the annual dividend from the permanent fund — \$1,540 this year.

But since 1986, oil revenue has dropped while population has increased, leaving state programs strapped for money while schools and other public facilities deteriorate. Meanwhile, Alaskans pay few taxes while taking home the dividend every year, now the most sacred of political cows.

"In the beginning, the rationale

was to save the money for the future," said Dave Dittman, a longtime Anchorage pollster. "Now the most common response is to keep the money out of the hands of the politicians."

Winning politicians cater to that view, promising to guard the cash reserves, which have soared thanks to investments in booming markets. Proposing a raid — even for the noblest of causes — is considered political suicide.

"Anyone who uses the issue, goes on, where near it, is dead meat," said Ivan Moore, a political consultant who watched one of his clients lose this year after proposing a dividend deduction to pay for education.

Now Gov. Tony Knowles, a Democrat, and the Republican-controlled Legislature are trapped between two things Alaskans love: their dividends and their low taxes.

Lower oil prices are expected to generate billion-dollar shortfalls in each of the next three years, all but wiping out the state's cash flow. Without the cash reserve and the income it generates, the state budget has a built-in shortfall of at least \$250 million even when oil prices are at normal levels.

Republicans, who have cut the budget every year since winning control of the Legislature in 1994, want still deeper spending reductions before imposing a tax or tapping the permanent fund.

Knowles infuriated GOP leaders this month by proposing more spending instead of less, along with an increase in the state gasoline tax, one of the few levies Alaska puts on its citizens.

U.S. top monitor in Kosovo optimistic about peace

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — After four days of clashes left at least 13 people dead in Kosovo, the head of the organization overseeing a fragile truce is questioning whether the peace mission can continue without cooperation by the warring sides.

International peace verifiers reported the province quiet today following a Christmas Eve offensive by Serbian forces.

In a sometimes-fierce battle Sunday, artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire sounded for hours across the snowy fields of rebel-controlled territory as the two sides fought from trenches, villages and dirt roads.

At least five people — three Serb policeman, a Serb civilian and a Kosovo Liberation Army fighter — were reported wounded as the worst period of violence in months continued in the secessionist province of southern Serbia.

William Walker, the American diplomat who heads the Kosovo Verification Mission, countered assumptions that a return to war is inevitable by stressing that the scope of violence remains limited.

"This is what I would call sporadic fighting," he told CNN after Sunday's clash ended. "Both

sides are being relatively cautious" and not using full firepower, he said.

"We're trying to talk to both sides, get them to stand down, show some humanity ... in terms of getting the wounded out," Walker said.

Verifiers from the 54-nation peace mission, led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, mediated the evacuation of two wounded Serbs and one ethnic Albanian after the firefight.

Despite Walker's comments, the chairman of the OSCE, Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, said the fighting raised doubts about the commitment to peace on both sides and questions on the effectiveness of the international verification force.

"This spiral of violence puts in danger the perspective of a peaceful solution to the conflict in Kosovo," Geremek said. "If the bloodshed and violence escalate, the OSCE would have to reconsider the forms of its activities in Kosovo in the context of a broader involvement of the international community in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict," he said.

Sunday's clash was attributed to the funeral of a Serb farmer killed by rebels the previous day. The Serbs said they needed to ensure the

safety of other civilians while evacuating the body; the KLA complained the heavy Serb buildup was a provocation preventing civilians who fled the previous fighting from returning.

A new trouble spot emerged Sunday night when Serb police sealed off a suburb of Kosovska Mitrovica and began searching for "terrorists," their term for the rebels. The Serb-run Media Center said men in KLA uniforms had shot dead three Gypsy men, also known as Roma, in the town 25 miles northwest of the capital, Pristina.

Shootings blamed on the rebels have resulted in harsh crackdowns backed by tanks and artillery.

Four days of clashes, centered on the KLA stronghold of Lapastica and neighboring Obranca, have tested an already shaky truce that has held through the late fall and winter across Kosovo, a secessionist province of Serbia, the dominant republic left in Yugoslavia.

Despite an October agreement that halted more than seven months of fighting, neither side has shown a willingness to negotiate a settlement.

Iraq adamant it won't extend oil-for-food program

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq has declared that it will refuse to extend a program that brings crucial food to families struggling under U.N. sanctions, striking another blow in its latest confrontation with the United Nations.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said Sunday that Baghdad will ask the approximately 400 U.N. workers who monitor the U.N.-approved oil-for-food program to leave, but he did not give a date.

The latest six-month phase of the program, which allows Iraq to sell \$5.2 billion in oil for needed supplies, doesn't expire until next May.

Saleh's announcement was the latest Iraqi response to the four-day U.S. and British bombing campaign that ended Dec. 20. Washington and London launched the airstrikes after U.N. weapons inspectors

reported Baghdad had not kept its promise of full cooperation in the search for weapons of mass destruction.

U.N. officials declined to comment Sunday on Iraq's declaration.

Baghdad's first response to the airstrikes was to ban the inspectors from returning to Iraq. And on Saturday, Iraq said it would fire on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling skies over northern and southern Iraq.

The Iraqi government also has criticized its traditional allies on the U.N. Security Council — Russia, China and France — for not doing enough to prevent the airstrikes.

At a meeting of Arab legislators from 16 nations in Amman, Jordan, Iraq's parliament speaker, Saadoun Hammadi, called for a resolution demanding that economic sanctions against Baghdad be lifted.

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Teen Stuck in Dreary Job Seeks Out Brighter Lights

DEAR ABBY: I am 17, almost 18, out of high school, and working at an advertising agency. My aunt and someone I knew there got me the job.

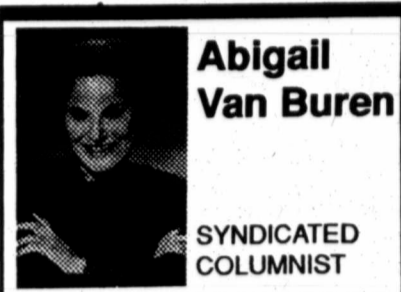
When I took the job, I thought it would be glamorous. Wrong. It's boring. I do the job well, but I don't enjoy working behind a desk seven-plus hours a day. I am very outgoing and want to work in the entertainment field.

Abby, I would like to go to college and study music, but my parents are so proud of me for having this job that I'm afraid it would break their hearts if I gave up this opportunity. I don't want to hurt them, but I don't want to be stuck here forever. How can I handle this without disappointing my family?

WANNA BE A STAR

DEAR WANNA BE: I'm sure your parents consider it a feather in your cap to be in advertising at your young age. However, as parents, they would not want you to waste away at a job you dislike. Be honest with them. Tell them you want to go to college and pursue a career in entertainment. They may caution you that the field is risky, but if you promise to also prepare in college for a secondary career in a more stable field, your parents will probably support your decision.

DEAR ABBY: We don't own a computer, but the Internet has had



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

an effect on us. Our daughter lives 300 miles from us, and until our last visit, we always enjoyed the time we spent with her and her family. This time, however, they spent more time on the chat lines than they did with us. We were deeply hurt that the chat lines were more important than we were.

As we returned home, we discussed staying home in the future, rather than driving all that distance only to be put in front of a television set while they sat in front of their computer.

Unfortunately, many people ignore their guests in favor of Internet friends; they see nothing wrong with it.

We hope they recognize themselves in your column and take the message to heart.

STAYING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DEAR STAYING HOME: Don't count on it. The guilty rarely recognize themselves in my column and change their ways. I understand that some

people get "hooked" on chat lines, but that's no excuse for ignoring guests.

If it's not inconvenient, consider inviting your daughter and her family to spend the holidays at your home occasionally, where no computer can interfere with the celebration or conversation.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single parent, a father raising a 6-year-old boy. My father also lives in our home. My son gets a lot of attention from Dad and me, and he also has everything money can buy.

My friends have advised me to marry as soon as possible so that my son will have a mother. Should I rush into a marriage, or wait until I find someone very special? (I would rather wait.)

How will living in an all-male household affect my son?
WONDERING DAD

DEAR WONDERING: Although it's ideal for a child to have two parents in his life, the wrong mother is worse than no mother at all. Children are adaptable, so take your time and listen to your intuition.

Should you notice signs that your son is "missing" something, enlist the help of a female relative to provide some female influence. Or consult a child psychologist to advise you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Work is demanding, though you know you can do it! You are covering a lot of ground and have a lot to do. Indulge someone; make an effort to buy a card or reach out for him. Caring flows between you and someone special to you. A loved one reveals news. Tonight: Slow down.

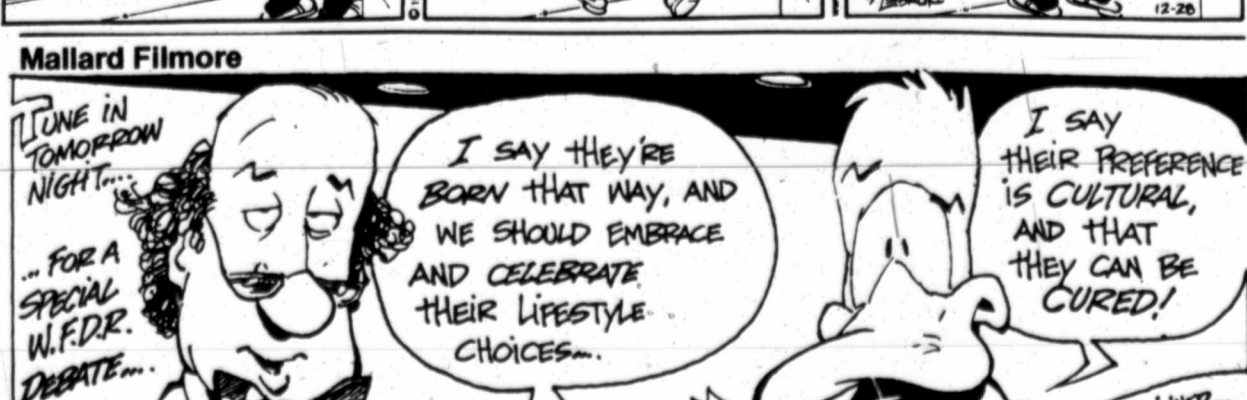
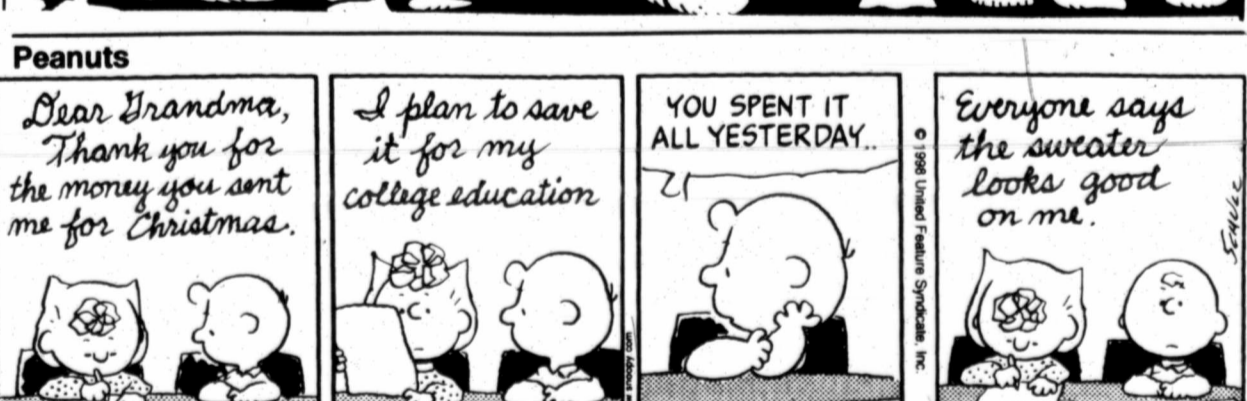
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Your imagination knows no limits. However, be careful dealing with family members. You are operating from a place of stability. Sort through messages, keep communications up to date. Special news lands on your desk. Express your feelings. Tonight: Full of energy!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Important news comes to light. Evaluate your investment in your home. You might want to think before putting more emotional energy in a present situation. However, you do care about the quality of your life. Caring is very intense with a family member. Tonight: Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** You are ready to roll, though a money situation continues to irk you. Consider revamping your budget. Meanwhile, make calls, clear up errands and stay on top of work. Do something special for a pal or loved one. Your actions mean more than you know. Tonight: Chat with a friend.

BORN TODAY
Actor Ted Danson (1947), singer Marianne Faithfull (1946), actor Jon Voight (1938)

For Better or For Worse



Horoscope

TUESDAY, DEC. 29, 1998

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** A clearing becomes evident. Deal directly with someone. You might also need to go within to find answers. Intuition guides you with money and investments. You are in the limelight. Use good sense dealing with funds and others. Tonight: Pay bills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You are feeling better than you have. Make the best of what is happening. Make choices accordingly. Be honest with others. Behind-the-scenes negotiations at work could be very important. A relationship has a strong influence on a decision. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Clarity is restored to a friendship. How you view others affects your social life. A key organization may be involved. Think before you leap into action. Gather information. An associate provides feedback about which way to go professionally. Tonight: Take a night off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Be imaginative dealing with a boss. You get useful information as a result. Take a deep breath

and approach someone you look up to. Consider a trip. Listen carefully to a partner who really helps you more times than not. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Take time with those in charge. They need your input and attention. News from a distance reveals another slant in an ongoing situation. A partner comes through for you. Recognize your feelings with those people in your day-to-day environment. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Objectivity helps you uncover a partner's true motivations. Read between the lines with this person; he really does mean well. Opportunities come from understanding each other better. Your feelings open up an unexpected door. Family plays a key role in the outcome. Tonight: Happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Keep communications one-on-one if you want to succeed. Undisclosed information now comes out. You might need to sit back and think through your choices. You now know you have misread a situation. Honor what is going on with a partner. Tonight: Call it as you see it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Let others declare their position. Be open to expansion in your professional life. You view an offer in new light; work is changing. Make a resolution about your daily routine. A new exercise program is just what the doctor ordered. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Work is demanding, though you know you can do it! You are covering a lot of ground and have a lot to do. Indulge someone; make an effort to buy a card or reach out for him. Caring flows between you and someone special to you. A loved one reveals news. Tonight: Slow down.

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BORN TODAY
Actor Ted Danson (1947), singer Marianne Faithfull (1946), actor Jon Voight (1938)

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Debussy work
6 Jazz phrase
10 "a Parade"
11 Bide one's time
13 Queues
14 Carried
15 Honest president
16 Here, to Henri
18 Atlas page
19 Landmark film of 1941
22 Actress Ruby
23 Pleasant
24 Place
27 Gives over
28 Shove
29 Mine rock
30 Creator of 19-Across
35 Count start
36 Bullfight cry
37 In the style of
38 Trio tripled
40 Discussion group
42 Bolivian city
43 Build
44 Brewed drinks
45 Takes it easy
- DOWN**
1 Purple shade
2 Suspect's story
3 "Impression: Sunrise" painter
4 Night before
5 Made larger, perhaps
6 He shared a Peace Prize with Ararat
7 — Jima
8 Annual charity concert
9 Supply
25 Attendance for
26 Gist
27 Vine, e.g.
29 Night flyer
31 Memos
32 Highway divisions
33 Vote in
34 Sailors
39 Historic time
41 Exist



STUMPED?
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Marmaduke



"I realized he was picky, but he's eating only the triangular pink pieces."

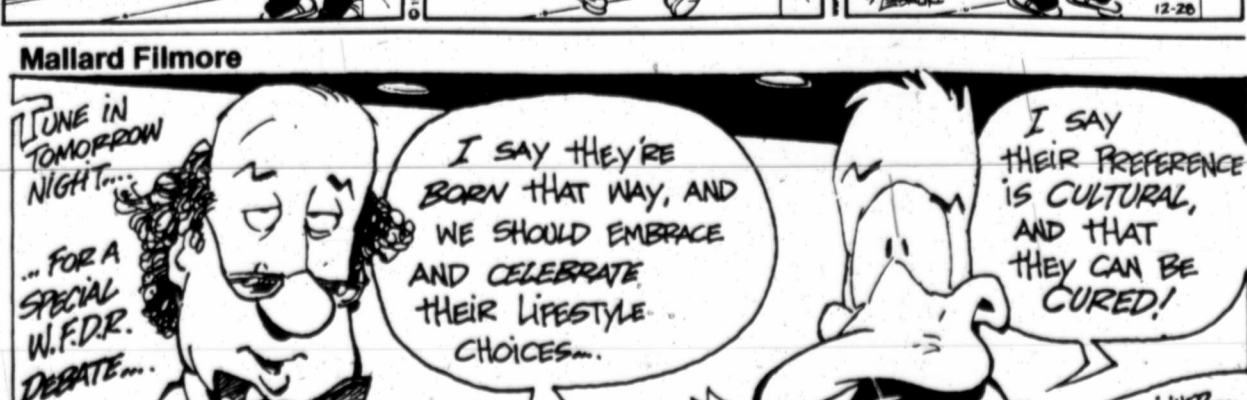


"Me next, Daddy! Will you fix the ka-ching on my cash register?"

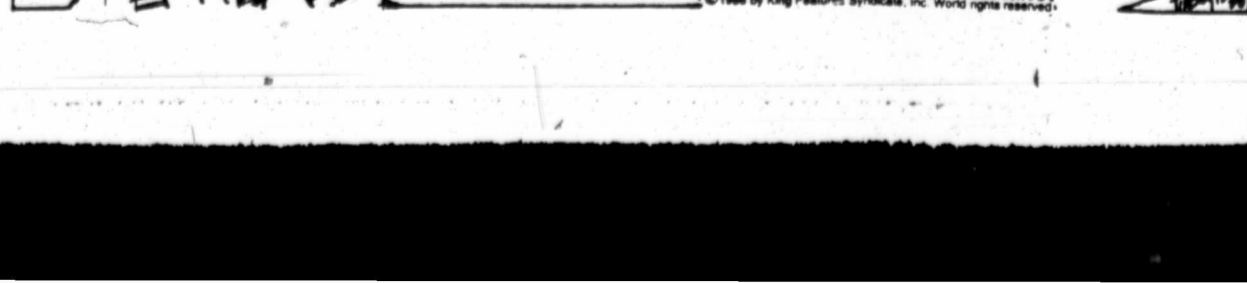
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



SPORTS

Notebook

CINCINNATI REDS—Promoted Larry Barton Jr., Bob Boone and Gene Bennett to special assistants to the general manager, Chief Bender to senior advisor for player development and Brad Kullman to director of baseball operations.

FOOTBALL National Football League CHICAGO BEARS—Re-signed P Todd Sauerbrun to a one-year contract and OT Jimmy Herndon to a three-year contract. Agreed to terms with LB Lemanski Hall. Signed G Aaron Taylor from the practice squad.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Placed QB Jeff Blake on injured reserve. Added FB Clif Groce to the roster.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Activated WR Kaipo McGuire from the practice squad. Placed LB Andre Royal and DE Kendel Shello on injured reserve.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Placed DL Renaldo Wynn on injured reserve. Signed LB Erik Storz from the practice squad. Signed DB Heron O'Neal to the practice squad.

FOOTBALL—College SAN ANTONIO—They're returning as defending champions, but the Purdue Boilermakers don't expect this Alamo Bowl to resemble the last one. For one, Purdue beat Oklahoma State team in 1997. On Tuesday, the unranked Boilermakers face heavily favored No. 4 Kansas State, which is playing for the first time since a devastating double-overtime loss to Texas A&M in the Big 12 title game. Naturally, the implications are ominous.

DALLAS—In his first season coaching Texas, Mack Brown has turned a 4-7 team into an 8-3 squad that boasts victories over Nebraska and Texas A&M. His star running back was named college football's best player and a red-shirt freshman has emerged as the quarterback of the future. "It's been fun," Brown said, "probably as much fun as I've ever had in coaching." If there weren't another game to be played, Brown could to look back fondly and consider it a major success.

NEW ORLEANS—Texas A&M was to hit the field in full gear today. The question was — would they be at full strength? In the first day of practice since arriving for the Sugar Bowl, the Aggies were missing linebacker Dat Nguyen. And quarterback Randy McCown practiced only on a limited basis. "So far, we're just enjoying New Orleans," coach R.C. Slocum said after a light workout in shorts Sunday.

HOCKEY National Hockey League NHL—Suspended Tampa Bay C Chris Gratton for three games for spitting at referee Paul Stewart in Wednesday's game at Buffalo.

DALLAS STARS—Recalled F Kelly Fairchild and D Brad Lukowich from Michigan of the IHL.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Named Jacques Lemaire consultant to the general manager and signed him to a three-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Recalled G Jean-Sebastien Aubin from Kansas City of the IHL.

Purdue faces tough opponent in No. 4 Kansas State

By KELLEY SHANNON
AP Sports Writer
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — They're returning as defending champions, but the Purdue Boilermakers don't expect this Alamo Bowl to resemble the last one.

For one, Purdue beat Oklahoma State team in 1997. On Tuesday, the unranked Boilermakers face heavily favored No. 4 Kansas State, which is playing for the first time since a devastating double-overtime loss to Texas A&M in the Big 12 title game.

Naturally, the implications are ominous.

"They will be out to prove a point," predicted Purdue quarterback Drew Brees. "They probably want to go out there and win by the biggest margin they can. ... They are definitely going to be ready to play us."

After the loss to Texas A&M, Kansas State (11-1) got snubbed by bigger bowls, and the disappointed Wildcats accepted an invitation to play Purdue in the Alamo Bowl.

Purdue (8-4) is appearing in a bowl game for only the second time since the 1980s. Coach Joe Tiller, in his first season at Purdue, led the Boilermakers to a 33-20 defeat of Oklahoma State in last year's game.

Kansas State is the highest-ranked team to play in the Alamo Bowl in its six-year history.

Wildcats quarterback Michael Bishop insists his team is past its emotional reaction to bowl selection weekend.

"It's not in our minds right now," Bishop said. "You can't let the bad things keep you from getting out the next day and wanting things to be better."

Purdue offensive coordinator Jim Chaney said the Kansas State defense — ranked third in the nation in total defense — is the toughest the Boilermakers (8-4) have faced.

"From front to back, they're the best we've played. They are very physical on the play and they attack," Chaney said.

Keys for Purdue will be the passing accuracy of Brees and getting wide receiver Isaac Jones open.

"This game will be a status game for us, that we can compete with the elite teams in college football," said Jones, a senior who is fifth on Purdue's all-time receptions list with 143 and ninth in receiving yards with 1,665.

Brees, a sophomore from Austin Westlake, has caught the attention of Kansas State coaches and players, who are vowing not to take Purdue for granted.

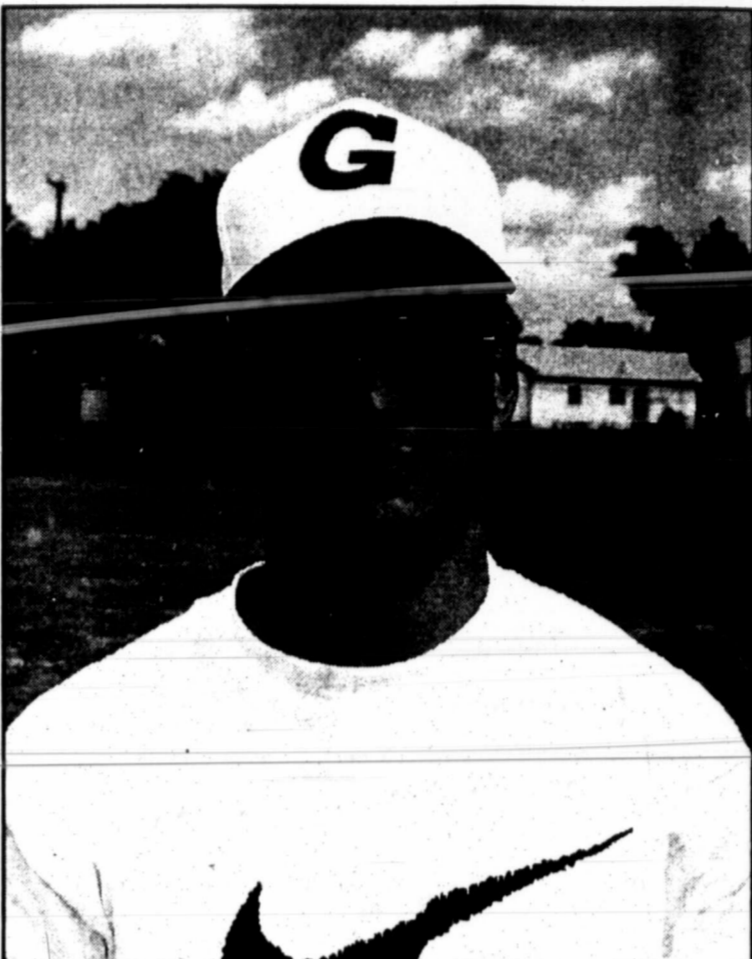
"They do everything — they're a great passing team, they run the ball well. It's hard to stop them," said Kansas State linebacker Jeff Kelly.

Brees completed 336 of 516 passes (65 percent) for 3,753 yards this season with 36 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. He holds Big Ten season records for attempts, completions, yards and touchdowns.

"We're going to have to put a lot of pressure on the quarterback," added Wildcats defensive coordinator Mike Stoops. "We have to limit his opportunities. If he's on the field, he's strong."

Of course, so is Bishop of Kansas State, the Heisman Trophy runner-up who has been quietly preparing for the Alamo Bowl amid all the talk about Brees and his passing abilities.

Six-man's top coach



Groom's Jim Reid was honored by the Amarillo Globe-News as the 1998 Super Team Six-Man Football Coach of the year. Reid guided the Tigers to a 12-1 record and into the state quarterfinals.

Secret meeting held in Denver, Stern makes 'final' offer

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — David Stern says he has made his "final" offer.

If so, the rest of the NBA season may indeed be canceled. Stern and union director Billy Hunter met for five hours Sunday at a hotel near Denver's airport, with each side making concessions to try to end the nearly six-month-old lockout.

The league improved its proposal in several areas, and the union offered further restrictions on the salaries of the highest-paid players. Still, the concessions were not enough to make either side happy and the talks broke up.

"I really don't think there will be a season," said Jeffrey Mishkin, the league's chief legal officer. "We've gone as far as we can go. We're done."

Hunter flew to New York afterward and Stern returned to his vacation home in Aspen, Colo. No further talks are scheduled.

"We're not that far apart. Whether we have a season or not is up to them," Hunter said. "We've shown a willingness to negotiate."

There remains time to save the season. The league's Board of Governors will meet Jan. 7, and the commissioner has said he will recommend canceling the remainder of the season if no accord is reached by that date.

The dispute is threatening to cause the first cancellation of an entire season for the first time in the history of North American professional major leagues.

"We advised the union that no further offers will be made," Stern said.

Hunter said the league was "obviously in gloom-and-doom mode. That's the spin they want to put on it."

"We offered a comprehensive proposal to the NBA," Hunter said. "The NBA countered our proposal and we indicated to them that we were willing to negotiate further, which unfortunately they were unwilling to do at this time."

Cowboys 23, overtake Washington Redskins, 7

IRVING, Tex. (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys proved they were the beast of the toothless NFC East.

The playoff-bound Cowboys became the first team to sweep all of its NFC East games in a season by whipping Washington 23-7 Sunday night behind Emmitt Smith's two touchdown runs, giving him the NFL career record.

Dallas finished the season 10-6 overall and 8-0 against the NFC East, sweeping Washington for the first time since 1994. The New York Giants almost accomplished the eight-game sweep last season, but they were 7-0-1.

Under new coach Chan Gailey, the Cowboys turned their record around from a 6-10 season that cost Barry Switzer his job. Washington had a four-game winning streak snapped and completed the season at 6-10 under Norv Turner.

Dallas will meet Arizona (9-7) in Texas Stadium on Saturday in a first-round NFC playoff game. The Cowboys beat their NFC East rivals 38-10 and 35-28 in the regular season. The Cardinals have lost nine consecutive games in Texas Stadium.

Smith broke the NFL record for career rushing touchdowns on a 1-yard run to cap a 65-yard drive in the second quarter. A 51-yard pass from Troy Aikman to Michael Irvin set up the score, the 124th rushing TD for Smith, breaking a tie with Marcus Allen.

The league improved its offer in several areas:

— On the percentage of revenue to be shared with players, the league moved one point to 53 percent in year four, 53.5 percent in year five and 54 in year six.

— The league agreed to keep the \$1 million exception in its current form, whereby it can be used once every two years to exceed the salary cap to sign an additional player.

— Owners agreed to the union's proposed limit of a 10 percent escrow tax on player salaries in years four, five and six of the agreement.

— The NBA increased its proposed minimum and maximum salaries, with the biggest increases for players with between seven and nine years of experience.

— Owners offered a 25 percent raise for players under the rookie scale who have their option picked up for a fourth year.

"Unfortunately, this was not enough for the union," Stern said.

The players changed their offer on a maximum salary to include all players with less than 10 years' experience instead of seven years' experience.

Hunter said the union moved on its desired percentages, asking for 56 percent in year four and 57 percent in year six. He said the league refused to budge off many of its demands, including an end to opt-out clauses and sign-and-trade deals, changes to the group licensing agreement and a loss of Larry Bird rights for any player traded during the final year of his contract.

Plans for Sunday's meeting weren't finalized until Saturday night, the league said. The NBA was represented by Stern, deputy commissioner Russ Granik and special assistant Bob Lanier. The union was represented by Hunter, president Patrick Ewing and chief outside lawyer Jeffrey Kessler.

The meeting developed following Wednesday night's secret session in Los Angeles between Stern and Hunter.

A deal must be made by mid-January to salvage a 45 to 50-game schedule.

Connecticut stays No. 1, Cincinnati up to No. 3

Connecticut and Duke held the top two spots in The Associated Press college basketball poll for the third straight week today, while Cincinnati moved up to No. 3, its highest ranking since being No. 1 two seasons ago.

The Huskies (9-0), who beat Fairfield by 35 points in their only game last week, were No. 1 for the fifth straight week, receiving 63 first-place votes and 1,763 points from the national media panel.

Duke (11-1) won one of the season's biggest matchups with a 71-60 victory over Kentucky last week and had six No. 1 votes and 1687 points, 52 more than the Bearcats (11-0).

Cincinnati, which had two No. 1 votes, moved up one place from last week after beating Houston by 37 points and Dayton by

two. The Bearcats were No. 1 in the preseason poll and for the first two weeks of the 1996-97 season.

Maryland and Stanford each moved up one spot to fourth and fifth, while Arizona jumped two places to sixth.

Kentucky, which also lost to Louisville last week to drop two straight games for the first time since 1994, fell from third to seventh.

Indiana, which had been 10th, North Carolina, which fell two places after losing to Georgia Tech, and UCLA, which jumped two spots, were eighth through 10th.

Purdue, which lost to Providence on Sunday, dropped two spots to lead the second 10 and was followed by St. John's, Michigan State, Clemson, New Mexico, Minnesota, Auburn, Kansas, Wisconsin and Arkansas.

Iowa, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Texas Christian and Oklahoma State rounded out the Top 25.

Texas Christian (10-2) returned to the rankings at No. 24 and on a five-game winning streak. The Horned Frogs were ranked 25th in the preseason poll then fell out after losing their opener to Rhode Island.

Oklahoma (7-3) was ranked for the last two weeks, but the Sooners fell out from No. 23 after losing consecutive games to Mississippi and North Carolina State in the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic. The only game the Sooners won last week was a 2-0 forfeit over American University of Puerto Rico.

Kansas (8-3) lost to Saint Louis last week and dropped from No. 13 to 18th, the Jayhawks' lowest ranking since they were No. 18 on Feb. 5, 1991.

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Khmer Rouge defectors to escape trial

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Prime Minister Hun Sen defied growing pressure today to bring two Khmer Rouge leaders to trial for genocide, saying they would not have to appear before an international tribunal or a Cambodian court.

"If we bring them to trial, it will not benefit the nation. It will only mean a return to civil war," Hun Sen said before a Cabinet meeting. "We should dig a hole and bury the past and look toward the future."

The Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, remained holed up in the ex-rebel stronghold of Pailin in northwestern Cambodia, where they were staying in guest houses under the protection of old comrades who defected to the government two years ago.

The pair agreed to defect — in effect, to surren-

der — in a phone call with Hun Sen on Christmas Day, exactly 20 years after Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia to topple the bloodstained Khmer Rouge regime.

The government slammed the door on intense international demands for a trial for Khieu Samphan, the official leader of the Khmer Rouge, and political chief Nuon Chea.

"Should we kill Khieu Samphan or welcome him for national reconciliation?" Hun Sen asked. "This deal is a bouquet of flowers for this pair, not a bullet or a pair of handcuffs."

Over the past two years, the government broke the back of the Khmer Rouge by offering amnesty to its leaders in exchange for their ending civil war, bringing peace to large areas of Cambodia for the first time in a generation.

With the movement now all but extinct — only

one leader, the one-legged general Ta Mok, and perhaps 100 followers are still at large — demands are growing for someone to be held accountable for the reign of terror that left as many as 2 million people dead.

Hun Sen said today that he would never make a deal with Ta Mok, known as "The Butcher" for his revolutionary brutality. He once said the same thing of Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea.

Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge official who fled bloody purges in 1977, said peace was more important than prison.

"This is a purely Cambodian solution," Hun Sen said. "We know the right medicine to use to cure this problem. If any foreigners try to add something, it will never go away."

Hun Sen said he had the support of King Norodom Sihanouk.

In Washington, the State Department noted Sunday that the Cambodian government has repeatedly asked for — and received — help aimed at bringing top Khmer Rouge leaders to justice.

"We trust that no actions will be taken by any party that could preclude achieving this goal," spokesman Lee McClenny said. "Justice in Cambodia has been long delayed, but must not now be denied."

United Nations legal experts recently visited to assess the possibility of creating an international tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders for crimes against humanity.

Almost one Cambodian in five perished of disease, overwork, starvation and executions after the Maoist revolutionaries won a civil war in 1975 and forced the population into labor camps.

While mother in hospital for birth, six children die in home blaze

DETROIT (AP) — Feameeka O'Steen was recovering in her hospital room two days after giving birth to her eighth child when images of a local house fire flashed across her television.

The 27-year-old recognized the home as her mother's and fainted. Six of her children who were trapped upstairs died in Sunday's blaze.

"She was flipping through the television," relative Terrence O'Steen told the Detroit Free Press. "After she realized that it was her mother's house, in her hospital bed she passed out."

Ms. O'Steen's mother, two sisters and one of her children — a 10-year-old girl — managed to escape after the fire started in a downstairs closet. One of the sisters was eight months pregnant and mis-

carried after jumping from a second-story window.

"Oh God, no! No! No!" neighbor Carolyn King screamed and fell to her knees as a medical examiner carried the first of six body bags from the house.

The fire, which trapped the children by destroying stairs leading to the second floor, appeared accidental, but the cause was still under investigation, said fire Lt. Katrina Butler.

Bobby Turner was driving by in his Detroit Newspapers delivery van when he saw the flames. He said he climbed up to a rear Plexiglas window and tried to break in, burning his hands in the process.

"I was banging on the window, saying 'Anybody in there?'

Anybody in there?" Turner said. "I hit it and hit it and hit it."

Fire Chief Lee Moore identified the victims as Shameeka, 11; Shauniqua, 8; Anthony, 7; Taniquia, 6; Desree, 5; and Ashaunta, 2.

The victims' 10-year-old sister, Shacoya, escaped injury. Maternal grandmother Hanna O'Steen, 47, and her daughters Makeba, 20, and Latoya, 15, were injured.

Latoya was in good condition at Henry Ford Hospital Sunday night, nursing supervisor Meredith Meyer said. A Detroit Receiving Hospital spokeswoman said Hanna O'Steen had been treated and released, and Makeba O'Steen, who lost her unborn child, was in serious condition after surgery.

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