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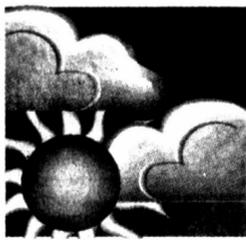
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For weather details see
Page 2.

PAMPA - A bid for new band instruments will be among the items discussed at the regular meeting of the Pampa ISD Board of Education 6 p.m. Thursday.

The High School Distinguished Achievement Program and an elementary construction report will be discussed.

Other items on the agenda include the district financial audit for 1996-97 and a vacancy on the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

School board meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month in the Carver Center Conference Room, 321 W. Albert.

PAMPA - Report forms for the 1997 Agriculture Census are going out to farmers and ranchers for the twenty-fifth time since the first Ag Census in 1840. The census includes number of farms, farm size, operator characteristics, crop and livestock production, agricultural product sales and production expenses of farmers and ranchers. Report forms will be mailed late in December to collect data for the 1997 calendar year. Farmers should return their forms by Feb. 2, 1998.

LEFORS - First Baptist Church of Lefors will present a live nativity from 6:30p. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday in front of the church. At 7 p.m. Thursday the children's choir is scheduled to sing. At 7 p.m. on Friday, puppets are scheduled to perform.

PAMPA - The Pampa Area Cancer Support Group will meet from 7-8 p.m. Dec. 18 in the cafeteria of Columbia Medical Center. Students from Austin Elementary School will sing Christmas carols under the direction of Wanetta Hill.

- John Prentis Ball, 71, a retired electrician and a Pampa resident since 1977.
- Anna Marie Bauer, 96, a Canadian resident since 1990.
- Daisy Ann Brines, 71, a longtime Miami resident.
- Ona Rae Hall Lefebvre, 81, a former Pampa resident.
- Jose Renteria, 69, father of a Shamrock resident.

Classified8
Comics6
Editorial4
Sports7

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Pampa hotel owner faces federal charges in credit card scam

A trouble-plagued Pampa hotel took another hit this week as a federal grand jury indicted one of its owners for fraud in connection with a credit card scheme.

Laurel Parker was indicted by a federal grand jury in Amarillo on one count of mail fraud and 23 counts of wire fraud.

Parker is owner with her husband Michael of the Grand Coronado Hotel in Pampa.

The indictment is the culmination of a six month long investi-

gation by local and federal law enforcement officers into a credit card scam.

Parker is accused of having defrauded Nona Gray of Pampa and American Express Inc.

Law enforcement officials said today it appeared that hotel guests were overcharged on their credit cards.

Gray works at law firm in Pampa.

U.S. District Court records in Amarillo also accuse Parker of making false and fraudulent

statements to perpetuate the scheme. According to the indictment, the scheme netted more than \$70,000 in fraudulent charges at the hotel.

The Grand Coronado Hotel was built in the early 1960s after Pampa citizens banded together to form The Community Hotel Corporation. The organization was formed to build a major convention hotel in Pampa. The hotel, a building of civic pride, sold in the mid-1970s to a couple in Clinton, Okla.

Laurel and Michael Parker bought the hotel in May, 1989.

Earlier this year, the couple sold the hotel to a Dallas man who operated it on a management contract until financing could be arranged. When the man's financing collapsed, the Parkers resumed management of the hotel.

According to Gray County records, two tax liens, one for \$10,315.60 and one for \$49,479.79, were transferred to the Pampa Economic

Development Corporation in July 9, 1996. The PEDC guaranteed a note at the Bank of the Southwest, now FirstBank Southwest, for \$100,000.

The PEDC holds a first lien on the hotel property for security, PEDC officials said today. Economic development officials said should the business close, the debt to the PEDC will be the first paid.

The hotel, PEDC officials said today, is current with the bank on loan payments.



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

Volunteer drivers at the Panhandle Community Services get ready to take Pampa seniors out on a tour of the town's lights. Bill O'Dell (left), Peggy Hall, Clifford Searl, Carol Dout and Wilbur Ferrell.

Community service volunteers fill a variety of voids

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

Volunteers could give Pampa seniors a tour the city's Christmas lights over the holidays if there are enough requests.

Seniors who have no transportation got a chance to see the Celebration of Lights Christmas displays and lighted homes in the area last weekend thanks to the folks at Panhandle Community Services on North Cuyler Street.

"I call us the best kept secret in town," said Claire Ann Edwards, the center's coordinator.

Edwards said today more Christmas tours may be planned over the holiday season if there is a need.

"We can do it again if we get enough requests," she said.

The agency is responsible for a number of community programs including HUD rental assistance, job assessment and training, a retired and senior volunteer program, and a transportation system.

"We get a budgeted amount of money each year to provide Gray County with these services," Edwards said.

Their transportation system, including five vehicles, picks up seniors in town who need help getting around to do things such as grocery shopping or going to the doctor here and in Amarillo, she said.

"This is a way for the elderly to have their independence," Edwards added.

However, children are also among the population who use the transportation system. Edwards said they have a waiting list of low-income children who are taken to and from school. She said these are children in the community who have to walk a long way to get to school because their parents or guardians may not have vehicles.

In bad weather, the kids may not make it to school at all, she said. That's where the panhandle services transportation services come in.

"We'd love to do more, but we do all we can do," she said. "We are federally funded and are given only so much money a year."

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 2

Highland Park to be home of super playground

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

Despite predictions that the location would be the most controversial aspect of the project, Highland Park is now scheduled to be the future home of Pampa's premiere super playground.

The project is being sponsored through the cooperation of representatives from the Pampa Rotary Club and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

Rotarian Chuck White, chairman of the Rotary playground sub-committee, addressed the park's board Monday night with an update on the site selection and continued progress of the project.

The super playground could potentially consist of a "themed" playground with either single or multiple modular units containing as much as 20 play activities.

Although it is still only speculation about whether the playground will be constructed of

wooden, metal or plastic materials, the fact remains that safety is on the top of the list.

"Safety is not an issue, because it will be safe," White said.

Parks board member Eileen Kludt, also a member of the playground sub-committee, emphasized the significance of safety in the project by telling of the response she received when the committee was surveyed on why they were involved in the project.

"That was our main focus. We were there for the children and we were there for their safety," Kludt said.

Exactly where the playground will go at Highland Park is still unclear, though White, Kludt and City Parks Director Reed Kirkpatrick all mentioned the viability of placing it in the vicinity of Frost street - north of Clarendon College. However, four spots in the park have also been determined as adequate sites, White said.

Judy Elliott, parks board chair-

man, approached the subject of parking. She presented the opinion that parking is somewhat limited at Highland, although overall she did indicate she was in approval of the site. Parking availability was also discussed when Kludt suggested making a small parking lot at the dead end portion of Frost Street.

Other factors, such as price and whether the playground would be one unit or several, were discussed in passing. White reminded the board repeatedly that there is still much to be considered.

"We're no where near a proposal," he said.

He did indicate that a basic unit with up to 20 play activities could be anywhere between \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Before ending the discussion, Elliott questioned White on why Highland Park had been chosen. At the early November meeting, White and the Rotary Club were

Pampa teens decorate nursing home



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)
Rudolpho Ramirez and Albert Lopez were two members of the teen leadership class from Pampa High School that recently went to Coronado Health Care and Pampa Nursing Center to hang Christmas decorations on the residents' doors.

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301 Low Ann - Miami - \$77,500
2317 Rosewood - \$32,500
504 Lowry - \$32,000
500 Lowry - \$36,000
1520 N. Dwight - \$75,000
1615 N. Russell - \$120,000
209 N. Faulkner - \$29,900
1220 Kingmill - \$25,500
1000 Block Dwight - \$17,500

1344 Christine - \$17,500
641 Roberts - \$16,000
1137 Sierra - \$23,000
1312 Charles - \$64,900
1242 S. Dwight - \$24,500
1240 S. Dwight - \$34,900
1105 E. Foster - \$33,000
1815 Williston - \$34,000
1225 Duncan - \$28,950
1908 Christy - \$45,500
2534 Aspen - \$108,000
515 West - \$14,000
108 W. Browning - \$9,000
412 S. Main (Miami) - \$80,000

629 N. Sumner \$33,500
1101 S. Dwight - \$17,500
418 & 422 Hill - \$22,500
1010 Charles - \$41,900
2221 N. Christy - \$35,000
521 Doucette - \$19,000
1425 N. Russell - \$35,000
330 Jean St. - \$23,900
409 Jupiter - \$66,500
1913 N. Faulkner - \$34,500
1510 Sumner - \$35,900
1433 Williston - \$37,500
220 N. Nelson - \$21,000
1811 Charles - \$145,000

#60 at Gray 19 South - \$135,000
1316 Garland - \$24,900
636 S. Somerville - \$12,500
2201 Hamilton - \$26,500
1504 Hamilton - \$25,000
801 Crawford - \$76,000
Lot at Walnut Creek - \$10,000
900 S. Sumner - \$2,500
1000 E. Foster - \$18,300
1412 Williston - \$56,000
712 E. 2nd Lefors, Tx. - \$85,000
705 E. Frederic - \$9,000
Loop 171 - \$118,900

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Henry Gruben (BKR)... 669-3798
Sue Baker... 669-0409
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Good Samaritan donation



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

Continental Credit gives a portion of every loan they handle throughout the year to Good Samaritans. Shawn Treat, left, Jeremy Baker and Cara Talley presented Reed Echols, center, with a check of this year's contributions recently.

Pampa Middle School sponsors food drive

Pampa Middle School recently sponsored a food drive with a goal towards donating 1,000 cans of food to the Salvation Army. Patriot Student Council reports the goal was met and exceeded by over 200 cans. Each class participated with the following results:
—Sixth grade collected 650 cans.
—Seventh grade collected 300 cans.
—Eighth grade collected 200 cans.
PMS Student Council spear-headed the campaign, placing posters in homerooms all over the school, and Teen Leadership Class spoke to each homeroom during the food drive. The Student Council praises the students and their efforts to provide food for the needy this holiday season.

A TIME-TRAVELING CHRISTMAS by Jack & Carole Bender



New Internet web site offers 'one-stop' access to federal consumer information

WASHINGTON - The first Internet site to provide "one-stop" access to federal consumer information resources is ready for visitors. Located at www.consumer.gov, the site, named U.S. Consumer Gateway, offers information by subject rather than by federal agency. Each of the site's 10 major categories, including food, health, money, product safety and transportation, has its own subject areas, allowing consumers to locate and link to appropriate and late-breaking information quickly and easily. Topics are cross-linked to encourage and enhance access. Among the site features are "Scam Alert!" which provides information about current law enforcement efforts and tips on how to recognize - and avoid - fraudulent and deceptive practices in the marketplace, and "Of Special Interest," timely and new information on a variety of topics. The website is a cooperative effort among federal agencies. Charter partners include the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The initiative to develop the U. S. Consumer Gateway at www.consumer.gov was led by the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. As the "host" agency, the FTC maintains the site server and provides all technical support.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

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

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

L.W. McCall
Publisher

Kate B. Dickson
Associate Publisher/Editor

Opinion

Yeltsin doing credible job

It's not so terribly unusual this time of the year to give rueful thought and a bit of planning to some of the new taxes we'll have to pay next year. Usually such taxes are approved openly. But telephone users will face a new tax next year put in place by an unelected regulatory and administrative agency, the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC and the Clinton administration would prefer that you not know about this tax, that it be hidden in small print on a lengthy telephone bill. But some phone companies, facing competition from cable companies and the digital communications crowd, are thinking about breaking out the new tax prominently on the bill, so consumers at least will know that the extra \$25 to \$50 per year comes courtesy of the government, not the phone company. We hope they do it.

How did the FCC manage to lay an extra "user fee" that is really a tax on telephone bills? Well, the 1996 Telecommunications Act included a revision of language on "universal service," a program to subsidize rural phone users that has been around for decades (and should be ended, not extended). Then former FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, a close friend and ally of Vice President Al Gore, stretched that language to cover hooking up every school and hospital in the country to the Internet. The administration couldn't get Congress to pass such a program and nobody wanted to talk about how much it might cost when the idea was in the news last May. So Hundt and the FCC decided to do it by edict.

Now some details, dug out by the *Washington Post's* James Glassman and Virginia Republican Rep. Tom Bliley, among others, are coming to light. The program is projected to cost about \$2.25 billion per year for the next four years, plus another \$400 million a year to wire rural hospitals, and the FCC will simply collect the money from phone companies, which will collect it from their customers.

As we said in May, hooking up schools to the Internet — though hardly the cure-all for inadequate basic education some would hope — is not a bad idea. In fact, about two-thirds of the nation's schools already have Internet access, according to a 1996 study.

So it's very questionable whether a federal program is needed to "give" schools Internet access. In fact, considering the swiftness of the trend and the inevitable paperwork that accompanies any federal program, a federal program might actually slow the process, while costing telephone customers a bundle.

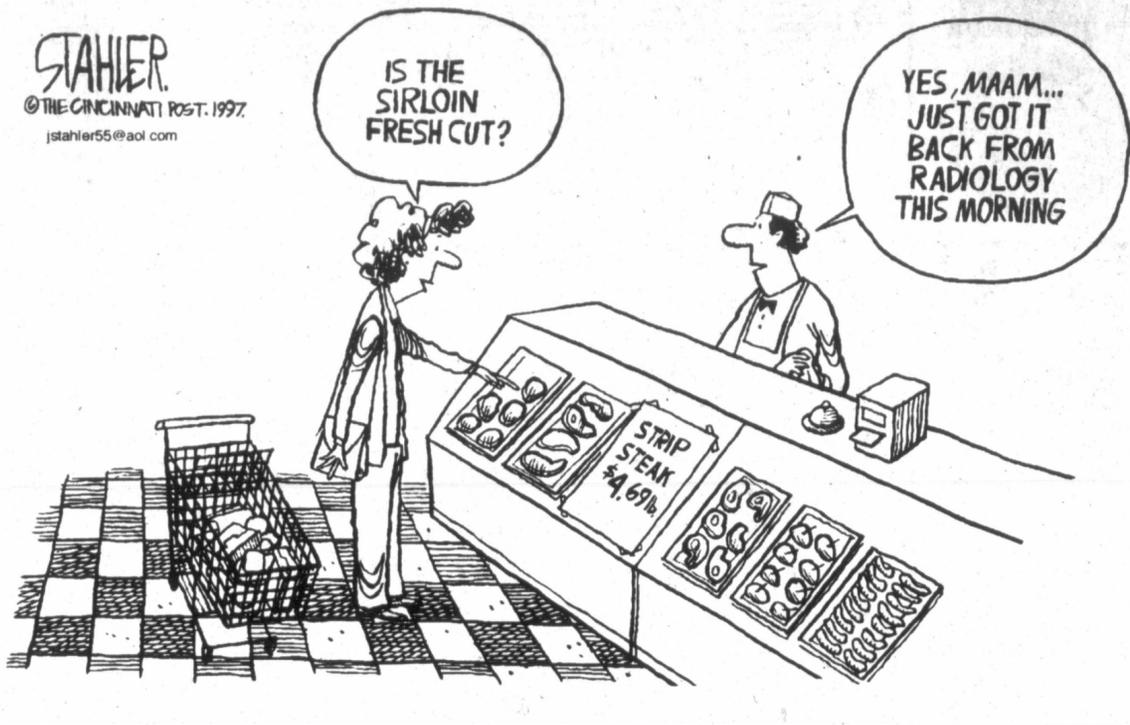
To have the taxes — that is the proper term when the government imposes mandatory payments — laid on citizens by a regulatory body with no accountability to voters makes the program doubly objectionable.

The FCC is said to be angry at a few phone companies who plan to make this new "contribution" a separate, easy-to-decipher line item on the phone bill. Much better to make it difficult for people to know how much they're paying for social engineering programs so come election time voters can thank Al Gore — or not thank him — for getting the schools hooked up without considering whose money he used or how necessary the project was.

For the rest of us, however, it's much better to shine lights on these behind-the-scenes machinations.

—Odessa American

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Outsiders don't be dissing D.C.

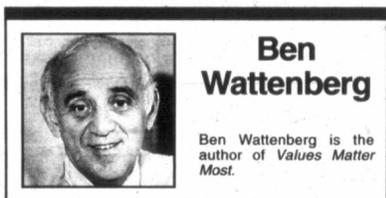
Americans are crudely skeptical about their capital city, my adopted hometown of Washington, D.C. It's called the crime capital of America, and Chocolate City. It's said that its bloated government is a debt-ridden one-party bumbling kleptocracy, running a city where nothing works. Famous joke: Washington is the only city whose mayor made his own license plates.

Washington was never quite like that. Anyway, your capital is changing. The visible symbol is the sparkling new MCI Center, home of the NBA Washington Wizards and the NHL Capitals. On opening night, the Wizards creamed the Seattle Sonics. Situated between Capitol Hill and the White House, the new structure anchors a rejuvenated area with hot restaurants, new office buildings, a soon-to-come new convention center, galleries, stores, and some, but too few, apartment houses. Violent crime in D.C. in 1997 is down 14 percent; homicide is down 25 percent.

Something else happened the night the arena opened. David Catania won a special election for a vacant at-large seat on the D.C. Council. Democrats in Washington have an 11-to-1 registration edge over Republicans. No Republican had ever won a citywide election before. Catania is openly Republican, conservative, white, gay, young (29) and articulate. He even admits to being a lawyer.

Democrats offered alibis: low turnout, two black Democrats splitting the Democratic and black votes blah, blah, blah. But something else was at work. Voters anywhere, including those in D.C., can only be pushed so far before saying, "I'm fed up and I'm not going to take it anymore," and acting upon that sentiment.

Marion Barry, called "Mayor for Life," seems likely to run for re-election next year. He has done some very good things for Washington, like push for the MCI arena, but he is tarnished goods. In 1994 Republican Carol Schwartz lost



to Barry 56 percent to 42 percent, less than a landslide. Since then, the bankrupt city has endured a humiliating but necessary takeover by a congressionally appointed control board. New scandals are uncovered daily. If an additional seven percent of Barry voters decide they won't take it anymore, wouldn't that be interesting?

Catania thinks big. He is helping to put together a joint Baltimore-Washington bid to host the 2012 Olympics. Don't laugh. D.C. already accommodates 21 million tourists a year. There are, or soon will be, four new sports venues in the area: the MCI Center, a stadium for the Redskins (who will beat the Giants on Sunday to make the NFL playoffs), a facility for the new NFL Baltimore Ravens, and Camden Yards — the elegant home of the Baltimore Orioles. (By 2012, Cal Ripken, age 51, will have played in 4,908 consecutive games.)

Washington gets a bad name in part because it is a statistical anomaly. It encompasses only 61 square miles, compared to New York's 309, Los Angeles' 469, Chicago's 227, Houston's 540, Detroit's 139, Philadelphia's 135, Dallas' 342 and San Diego's 324. Most American big cities have troubles in their center core. But geographically big cities have typically annexed some of their suburbs. That boosted their overall statistics. With federal status, and squeezed between Virginia and Maryland, the city of Washington could not expand. D.C. has 567,000

people, ranked 20th in America. But the booming Baltimore-Washington Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) has 7.1 million people, is the fourth largest in the nation (behind New York and Los Angeles) and is likely soon to surpass slo-gro third place Chicago (8.5 million).

The Baltimore-Washington CMSA is one of the most prosperous, variegated, cosmopolitan and creative parts of the nation. Maryland has 250 biotech firms, mostly located in the 1-270 corridor of suburban D.C. Half of America's Internet traffic courses through the telecommunications hotbed in the Virginia suburbs.

Washington is regarded as Out of Touch. Wrong. Your capital may be America's most representative city. Senators and Congressmen come from all over. Several thousand trade and special-interest groups are located in the area, speaking for, and to, doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, gambling interests nervous about Indian chiefs, ball-bearing manufacturers, labor unions, the pro-choice and pro-life movements, pro- and anti-gun-control cause groups and so on. Can your typical town say that?

Greater Washington has a good mix of Americans: 62 percent white, 27 percent black, six percent Hispanic and five percent Asian. It is the intellectual capital of America. It has no Harvard or Stanford, but does Boston or San Francisco have the National Institutes of Health, the Census Bureau, the National Academy of Sciences, the World Bank, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, 157 foreign embassies and 116 think tanks?

Washington was a stealth great city before the recent developments. With healthy and temporary federal intervention, with a glimmer of bipartisanship, with downtown revitalization, the big rush is on in your capital. The 2012 Olympics will be the frosting on the cake. So stop dissing us. We're fed up and we're not going to take it anymore.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 1997. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright took the first suc-

cessful man-powered airplane flights, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

On this date: In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1830, South American patriot

Simon Bolivar died in Colombia.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted of insubordination at his court-martial.

In 1939, the German pocket battleship Graf Spee was scuttled by

its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the Rio de la Plata off Uruguay.

In 1944, the U.S. Army announced the end of its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

This year's ASP nominations are in

We loathe conspiracy theories, but it does seem that some people contrive to get an Outrageous Personage nomination.

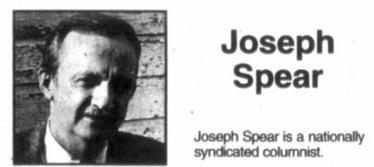
Take author Kathryn Harrison. In a memoir called *The Kiss*, she detailed an alleged affair with her father. The book was widely condemned by critics (*The Washington Post's* Jonathan Yardley called it "slimy, repellent, meretricious, cynical" and "trash from first world to last"). Then at an awards dinner last month, Harrison read another confessional. She once stuck a finger in an urn containing her grandmother's ashes, she said, then licked it off. She liked the flavor so much that she dipped all five digits into the remains for a more extensive snack.

We ask: Why would anyone admit to such odious behavior — unless they were desperate for an OP award? We leave it to you.

In any case, Kathryn Harrison got the nod. She is now a leading candidate for a top prize in the 1997 OP competition.

The Ninth Annual Outrageous Personages contest, sponsored by the Spear Foundation and the Association of Sagacious Pundits, is quickly drawing to a close. The ASP awards, as they are often called, will be handed out in January, but no nominations will be accepted after the ball falls on New Year's Eve.

Remember, we seek to honor the most asinine, hypocritical, preposterous, ridiculous people to strut across the public stage in the year 1997. Foreign nationals are not eligible. Nor are groups, and neither (sorry, ditto-heads) is yours truly.



Among the luminaries who have been nominated so far are jocks Dennis Rodman and Charles Barkley; preachers Lewis Farrakhan and Pat Robertson; performers Charlton Heston, George Clooney and Will Smith; Sens. Jesse Helms and Robert Torricelli; Reps. Tom DeLay, Dan Burton, Bob Barr, Gerald Solomon and Tom Coburn; President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore; cybergossip Matt Drudge; talkmeisters Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy; Attorney General Janet Reno; independent counsel Kenneth Starr; opportunist Paula Jones and her tart mouthpiece, Susan Carpenter-McMillan.

To this list of notables, we add: —Former Golden State Warriors guard Latrell Sprewell, who choked coach P.J. Carlesimo and threatened to kill him.

—The Cemetery Gang who falsely accused Bill Clinton of "exchanging" plots in Arlington National Cemetery for political donations. We can't give group awards, so individual nominations are accepted for Terry Everett, the Alabama congressman who

fomented the libel, and for Liddy and Limbaugh, the exalted "truth seekers" who gleefully promulgated it.

—NBC sports broadcaster Marv Albert, who pleaded guilty to assault in a bawdy sexual encounter and then commenced a media tour to make the case that his accusers were liars.

—South Carolina Board of Education member Henry Jordan who erupted when critics objected to the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools, allowed he was getting "tired of cults" and added: "Screw the Buddhists and kill the Muslims."

—Washington, D.C., charter school principal Mary Anigbo, who was convicted of assaulting a *Washington Times* reporter and then claimed her persecution put her in some august and even lordly company. "I can name Jesus the Christ," she said. "I can name Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey, Sojourner Truth."

—Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas, a member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, who visited the Mars Pathfinder mission control center in Houston and asked if NASA's cameras had spotted the flag planted by Neil Armstrong in 1969.

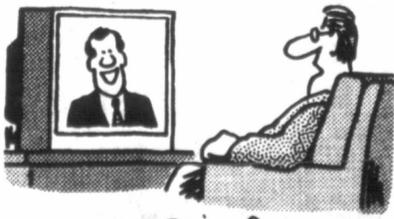
—Billionaire financier Donald Trump, who flirted with bankruptcy in 1990 and was put on a bare-bones allowance of \$450,000 a month and has now written a book (*Trump: The Art of the Comeback*) bragging about his return from the gutters.

Send your nominations to me, care of Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016.

Berry's World

COMING UP, ANOTHER HOLIDAY TRADITION — LAYOFFS JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

HO! HO! HO!



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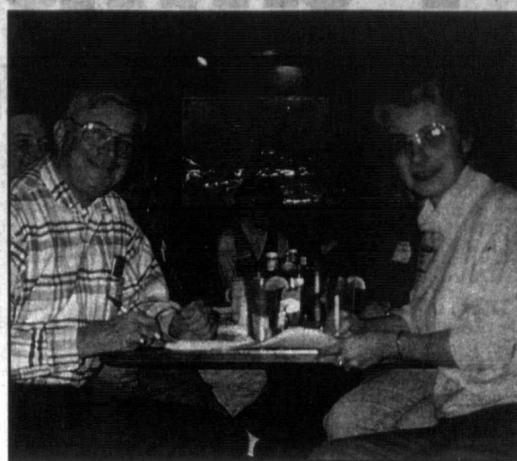
Spreading good cheer



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

A group of eighth grade students went to Coronado Healthcare and sang Christmas Carols to the residents last week. Students included Brad Britton, Nikki Brown, Tatum Brown, Abbi Covalt, Caleb Darling, Chelsey Davis, Amber Freeman, Zach Hucks, Cody Jenkins, Benny Martinez, Lindsay Musgrave, Stephanie Nelson, Erin Norris, David Perez, Nerissa Perry, Tisha Platt, Chansity Proctor, K'Lee Ratzlaff, Robin Reidle, Micahel Shaw, Jera Skinner, Jenny Waggoner, Sarita Ware, Jacob West, Greg Wiley and Marcos De Leon.

Artrain



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

During a recent breakfast of the Pampa Fine Arts Board, Mayor Bob Neslage and PFA President Loralee Cooley signed a contract to bring Artrain into town in mid-February. Artrain is a traveling art museum featuring art exhibits from places like the Smithsonian. The event will be free to the public.

Letters to Santa

To Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,
My Name is Eric Likes. I live at 1132 S. Sumner. I am five-years-old. For Christmas I would like a guitar, a four wheeler, a typewriter and some gloves. I have been a good boy this year. Please bring some tools to my dad John and some knick-knacks for my mom. Thank you.

Eric Likes

Dear Santa,
I've been a good girl all the year. I'm 4 1/2 years old. My little sister, Madison, is 1 1/2 years old, and she has been good, too.

For Christmas this year, I would like a Doodle Bear, a Dentist Barbie, a toy cash register and a Sega Pico computer game. Madison would like a toy box, a tape player and a train set.

Thank you, Santa, for coming to our house. We will have a nice snack waiting for you. We love you and hope you have a very happy Christmas!

Sydney and Madison Minchin

The following letters are from Wilson Elementary School:

Dear Santa,
How are the reideer?
I hope you worked hard this year. May I please have this for Christmas. I want a Giga pet, a T.V. a stereo, a bike a skateboard, and a CD player.

Lidia Salazar

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Please send me a Ninetindo 64, a skateboard, a new bike, and a red modle car.

Jacob Jenkins

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? Can I please have some skates? Also a Ninetindo 64, a BB gun, a trampoline, a skateboard, a C.D., and a computer. have a safe trip.

Derek Wilson

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can I please have a game named Subzero? Can I please have a bike? Can I please have a modle? Can I please have a ball? I hope you have a good Christmas.

Ryan Rivera

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? May I please have a CD player and a Ninetindo? How are the elves? How is Rudolph?

Matthew Hernandez

Dear Santa,
How are you?
I hope you have a merry Christmas too. Will you please bring me a Ninetindo 64? Will you please bring me a C.D. player? How is Rudolph doing? I hope you get my things?

Daniel James

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? How is prancer? Can I have a Casey Cartwell, a sega, and a piano, and a gigeper, and new brown diper sprius, a swimming aril, rollerblads, a CD player, and a bike.

Kaci Maddox

Dear Santa,
How are you?
I hope you haive a merry Christmas Too. I want a doll, a toy car, a stuffed bear, a stuffed puppy, and a mermaid.

I like your reideer. I like Rudolph.

Nikki Jones

Dear Santa,
Are you feeling good?
How are the elves? Please may I have Giga pet, a skateboard, a C.D. player, a bike?

I hope you have a good night? I hope you don't get sick!

Arin Jamie Dallas

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are your reideer? I want some roller blades, a new skateboard, and a Ninetindo 64. Would you please send me these?

Cody Pander

Dear Santa,
Are your reideer ok? My favorite reideer is Rudolph. will you please get me a few CDs and a CD player? Will you please get me a few madle cars? I like your reideer. Hope you have a nice trip.

Jerid Oxley

Dear Santa,
I hope I get to see you. I hope you have a happy Christmas. I want a new bike, a new Barbie doll, and may I please have a Giga pet? And may I please have a C.D. player? Hope you have fun. Merry Christmas, Santa.

Crystal Blanco

Dear Santa,
How are you today? I hope the reideer are okay. Please can I have a C.D. player for Christmas? And a Giga pet. How are the elves? How is Mrs. Claus?

Heather Addington

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Can I have a stereo or a crash-back? Can I have a new bike? Can I have a new T.V.? I can't wait until Christmas! I hope you have a good Christmas.

Josh Pryor

Dear Santa,
I love you.
Will I get to see you tonight? May I please have a jeep? Where are you? How are you?

Daniel Beavers

Dear Santa,
I want a skateboard please Will you give me a doll?
I want a bike.

I want a Tyco, and a Barbie.

I am going to get you some cookies and milk.

I wand a CD player.

Brianna Graham

Dear Santa,
My favorite reideer is Blitsan. How is Mrs. Claus?
May I please have a C.D. player? May I please have a Tyco R.C.?
The one with the spitting dinasaur? I like Dancer too. I hope I am on the good list.

Jacob Davis

Dear Santa,
How are you today? How is Mrs. Claus? Please can I have a Ninetindo and bike for Christmas?

James Cooper

Dear Santa,
How are your reideer? Are you ok? I want some roller blades and a Ninetindo 64. Please, I also really want a new house and a Giga pet. Pretty please!

Johnny Dee Pairsh

Dear Santa,
How are you?
How are your reideer?
Please may I have a modle car, a soccer ball, a Giga Pet, and a CD player?

Jacob Phillips

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus doing? Are the elves doing ok? May I please have a puppy, a Gigaapet, a skateboard, a swimming Ariel, a Barbie car, a Barbie house, and a Jewelry box?

Alicia Staab

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Sufferers Of Bipolar Disorder Should Learn About Support

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old woman who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder (manic depression) four years ago. The doctor said the medication would take care of it, then he sent me home to deal with it.

The medication helped for a while; however, I became resentful and unhappy with the side effects and quit taking it. I seemed to be fine for the first six months, then boom — manic city! I ended up at a psychiatric center for five days.

I voluntarily attended the two-week intensive outpatient program. I am back on lithium and feel good.

During the program I learned there is a mountain of information about this disorder and also support groups on chat lines. What a relief it was to learn I was not alone.

Abby, please tell your readers who suffer from bipolar disorder that there is more help available than just taking medication, and urge them to avail themselves of everything they can to cope with their manic depression. You may use my name.

JILL E. HAYES, SACRAMENTO

DEAR JILL: Although the symptoms are different from physical illnesses, mental illnesses are conditions for which treatment is often effective. Just as one would see a doctor and take medication for pneumonia, one should see a counselor or psychiatrist for treatment of mental illness.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Readers, if you suffer from manic depression or any other mental disorder, please don't hesitate to talk to your physician about getting help.

DEAR ABBY: I can bear it no longer. I want to know what other people think of "clapping" in church after the choir — or an individual — sings. I am so weary of it.

I always thought that you sang in church to praise the Lord, not as entertainment. Most choir numbers or solos are very moving. Then to hear this rousing applause just galls me. People never used to clap in church after performances. Why have they started now?

I think it is rude rather than complimentary. A church should be a place of worship where people offer their talent to God — not an entertainment center.

After the service ends, there is plenty of time to say you enjoyed their singing.

P. MEYERS IN MISSOURI

DEAR P. MEYERS: A spontaneous outburst of applause in appreciation of the choir — or soloist having delivered an exceptionally moving performance — is understandable, although I have never witnessed it.

Discuss your concerns with your pastor and church leaders. If they find it objectionable, they can pass the word to the congregation that applause during a worship service is inappropriate.

DEAR ABBY: My problem is I curse way too much. I truly would like to stop, because I hate cursing.

I am 36 years old and have three young children, all under 10 years old. I lose my patience with my kids, and that's when I use the worst of words.

I'm a good parent otherwise, and I love my children very much. But I need to quit cursing. Please help!

CURSING MOM

DEAR CURSING MOM: When you feel like cursing, substitute an acceptable word or phrase for the curse words. I had a neighbor who, when angered, would shout, "Holy Moses!" and, "Gosh darn son-of-a-sea-cook!"

someone in a small fib, don't inflate the issue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Others will find you an agreeable companion today because of your strong desires to cooperate. Every compromise you make will be matched.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Establish meaningful objectives today where your job is concerned. Big things can be accomplished if you have a mind to do so.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have the ability to absorb knowledge like a sponge today. Find a way to observe someone you admire in action and imitate him or her later.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The end results should work out as you expect today, provided nothing is left to chance. You can control events and not be controlled by them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Sunshine should start to break through the clouds in several situations today. What develops will stimulate your enthusiasm and lift your spirits.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Financial prospects look encouraging today, especially in arrangements where you offer your services. Rewards will be proportionate to your productivity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today you might be inclined to put more emphasis on your personal interests. You will be able to do so in a manner that will gain support, not opposition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Conditions in general might be more favorable for you today than they will be tomorrow. Focus your day's efforts on finalizing assignments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) This could be an enticing day for introducing a new endeavor that involves several close friends. All can make definite contributions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You could be luckier than usual today in important material arrangements. Something that looked only moderately interesting could turn out large.

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For Better or For Worse



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B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank & Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope

Thursday, Dec. 18, 1997

Because horizons will be expanding the year ahead, you will be tempted to do things you've never tried previously, and your efforts will be successful. Think positively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) An old friend who lives far away has been neglected lately. A brief phone call could put matters right and bring about advantageous results.

SAGITTARIUS, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mail, \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o the newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will not take what associates say as gossip today. However, if you catch



"It'll look better when it gets all dressed up."



"He's very popular with the kids. He eats their vegetables."

The Family Circus



Grizzwells



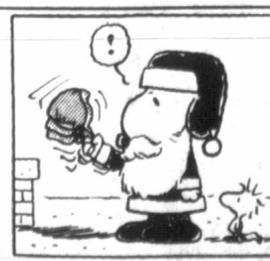
Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peanuts



SPORTS

Notebook FOOTBALL

DALLAS — White Deer defensive back Nick Knocke has been named to the first-team Class 2A All-State Football Team by Associated Press Sports Writers.

Knocke snared 10 interceptions and recorded eight other pass breakups this season. He also made 24 tackles. Knocke averaged 24 yards on 10 kickoff returns and 8.8 yards on 14 punt returns.

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — Pampa played Borger in middle school boys' basketball action Monday night.

Results are as follows:

7th Grade
Borger C 34, Pampa C 27
Pampa high scorer: Matt Jamison 6.

8th Grade
Pampa C 36, Borger C 20
Pampa high scorers: Matt Brown 8, Erik Brown 6.

7th Grade
Pampa B 50 Borger B 39
Pampa high scorers: James Silva 26, Chance Crain 11.

8th Grade
Borger B 36, Pampa B 34
Pampa high scorers: Chad Platt 15, Matt Crow 8.

7th Grade
Borger A 54, Pampa A 42
Pampa high scorers: Jordan Klaus 12, Max Simon 9, Ryan Zemanek 9.

8th Grade
Borger A 39, Pampa A 38
Pampa high scorers: Kyle Francis 7, Matt Driscoll 6, Gonzalo Salazar 6.

OLYMPICS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Tennis star Pete Sampras, ranked No. 1 in the final ATP Tour rankings for the fifth straight year, was honored today as the U.S. Olympic Committee's SportsMan of the Year.

Sampras, the first tennis player to win the award, received 400 points in voting by the media, the USOC Board of Directors, and the organization's Athletes' Advisory Council. Track star Allen Johnson was second with 376 points, and figure skater Todd Eldredge third with 315.

Sampras, 26, won the Australian Open for the second time in January, and added his fourth Wimbledon title in July. He has 10 Grand Slam titles, two shy of the record held by Roy Emerson.

Track star Michael Johnson won the 1996 award.

Sampras and figure skater Tara Lipinski, selected the SportsWoman of the Year on Tuesday, will receive their awards April 4 during the USOC Board of Directors meeting in Portland, Ore.

The USOC is scheduled to announce the Team of the Year on Thursday.

GENERAL

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Dean Smith, who had more victories than another college basketball coach when he retired in October, was honored Tuesday as Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year.

The ceremony took place at the basketball arena that bears his name.

"Any honor for a coach is really an honor for all the people who have played and worked with him," Smith said. "That's obviously the case here, and I want to share this award with them."

Smith, who won 879 games in 36 years at North Carolina, was the fifth coach honored by the magazine.

Sports Illustrated managing editor Bill Colson presented Smith with a replica of an ancient Grecian amphora.

Other leading contenders were Evander Holyfield, Jeff Gordon and Michael Jordan.

Smith's won-loss record of 879-254, 65 NCAA tournament victories and 96.6 player graduation rate were cited as his major accomplishments.

Pampa outlasts 'Dogs in thriller

By **MATT HUTCHISON**
Sports Writer

PAMPA — The Pampa Hustlin' Harvesters went face to face with District 1-4A rival Borger Bulldogs Tuesday night in The Pit and successfully claimed a piece of the district lead, downing the Dogs, 58-54, in a close contest.

Led by Reggie Briggs, the Bulldogs jumped out to the early lead and for the first several minutes of the contest remained just one step ahead of the Harvesters. Borger's lead dwindled toward the end of the first quarter as Shawn Young came out firing for the Harvesters, sinking a clutch three-pointer to boost Pampa to an 11-10 lead. But Young's biggest bucket of the night ended the first quarter when he threw up a desperation shot with time running out and nailed it from the other side of the court. The shot got the crowd into the games as the Pit erupted into a mix of cheers and jeers by the fans.

The momentum of the contest shifted dramatically following Young's long distance shot, and Pampa was

able to take a more commanding 29-21 lead by the halftime break.

In the second half, Borger's athleticism was matched only by Pampa's determination and will to win. Young continued pouring down threes and post Zane Powers came alive, draining baseline shots for 7 points to lend a helping hand in maintaining Pampa's lead.

"I was really proud of how well our guys played tonight under these circumstances," coach Robert Hale said. "This was the first Pampa-Borger game in a lot of years that wasn't a sellout, but our guys still went out there and played their guts out."

The Harvesters' hustle gives them a chunk of the district lead and confidence going into the Fort Worth Lions Club Tournament over the Christmas break and a more immediate Palo Duro contest Friday night in The Pit. Pampa's record improved to 5-8 overall, 1-0 in district.

Young finished with 21 points to lead the Harvesters, followed by Lynn Brown's 13.

Briggs led Borger with 17 points and Lance Bradley added 15.

Borger girls go 2-0

PAMPA — Borger defeated Pampa, 47-34, Tuesday night in a District 1-4A girls' basketball contest.

Borger, 5-4 overall, boosted its district mark to 2-0. The Lady Bulldogs are tied with No. 3-ranked Randall for the early district lead.

Pampa is 6-6 for the season and 1-2 in district.

Brandi Page had 16 points and Maggie Sauls 11 to lead Borger in scoring. Yvette Brown had 7 points and Jami Wells 6 to lead Pampa.

Pampa held a 6-5 lead at the close of the first quarter, but fell behind by nine (21-12) at intermission. Shooting problems hurt the Lady Harvesters

throughout the game.

Also scoring for the Lady Harvesters were Jordanna Young with 5 points, Kelsey Yowell and LaShanna Holmes 4 apiece; McKinley Quarles 3; Lisa Dwight and Heather Petty 2 apiece; Faustine Curry 1.

Pampa did have a 31-26 rebounding edge on Borger. Yowell had five rebounds to lead the Lady Harvesters.

The Lady Harvesters host Amarillo Palo Duro at 6 Friday night in McNeely Fieldhouse. The Lady Harvesters are entered in the Slaton Tournament Dec. 29-31.

Their next district action won't be until Jan. 6 at Hereford.

49ers' Rice sidelined again with knee injury

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Steve Mariucci has no interest in second-guessing Jerry Rice's ill-fated return from major knee surgery. Rice himself has no regrets.

"We all wished it wouldn't have happened," said Mariucci, the San Francisco 49ers coach.

Rice suffered a season-ending fracture to his left kneecap when he was tackled after catching a touchdown pass in Monday night's 34-17 win over Denver, which clinched home field for San Francisco throughout the NFC playoffs.

It was his first game back since tearing two ligaments and sustaining cartilage damage in the same knee during the Aug. 31 season opener at Tampa Bay.

Team physician Michael Dillingham, who reconstructed Rice's knee the day after the first

injury, operated again Tuesday and inserted screws into Rice's broken kneecap to help it heal properly.

"The thing went well," Rice told KGO-TV as he left the hospital Tuesday night. "It was unfortunate what happened, but I wouldn't go back and change nothing."

Mariucci said he has no regrets about allowing Rice to return from his first injury, which was initially believed to be season ending. Rice spent 3 1/2 months rehabilitating the first injury, and he received medical clearance from Dillingham and a confirming clearance from San Diego Chargers team physician Gary Losse.

"If we had to do it again, we would do the same thing," Mariucci said. "He was cleared to go. He felt good."

Switzer: Don't blame him

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Barry Switzer isn't blaming himself, so the Dallas Cowboys' 1997 collapse must be players' fault.

"I did as good a job as when we won the Super Bowl, probably a little bit better considering some of the younger players," Switzer said Tuesday in assessing his performance.

Dallas has won three Super Bowls in the 1990s, including one in Switzer's second year.

This season, a combination of injuries, age and undisciplined play has led to a 6-9 record and jeopardized Switzer's job. Owner Jerry Jones has steadfastly refused to say Switzer and his assistants will be back.

Only six teams in the NFL have a worse record than the Cowboys do entering Sunday's game with the NFC East champion New York Giants.

Facing perhaps his last week as coach of the Cowboys, Switzer was in an almost jolly mood at Valley Ranch. He was wishing everyone "Merry Christmas" and said a big priority next week was shopping.

"You know, I live by myself, so I have to do my own shopping,"

Switzer said. "I've only got a couple of days."

Switzer said all the speculation about his ouster hadn't hurt him. "It hasn't bothered me at all, not one bit," Switzer said. "It's probably affected my family members more than anyone else."

Switzer talked some about the meaningless game with the Giants on Sunday. New York will host a wild-card team in a first-round game, and that won't change regardless of a loss.

A loss for Dallas could help propel the Cowboys to the top 10 on draft day and give them a fourth-place finish and a much easier schedule next year.

Switzer said the Cowboys, although they will play some young players, will go all out.

"We're going to try to win a football game," Switzer said. "It's not like this is an exhibition game."

Switzer said the careers of several veterans, such as tackle Mark Tuinei and special teams star Bill Bates, could be winding down.

"This is a business," Switzer said. "Some of the guys had great careers but it comes a time when every (player) has to move on."



Pampa sophomore Russell Robben (right) has possession of the ball against Borger Tuesday night.

Signings continue in Baseball

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

The St. Louis Cardinals, frustrated in their bid to sign Andy Benes, have Kent Mercker in the fold.

The 29-year-old left-hander agreed Tuesday to a \$3.75 million, two-year contract. He was 8-11 with a 3.92 ERA in 25 starts and three relief appearances last season with the Cincinnati Reds.

"Mercker has proved to be one of the most versatile left-handers in the league," Cardinals general manager Walt Jocketty said. "He gives us a solid two-way option as both a starter and a reliever, and his experience far outweighs his age."

Mercker made \$1.7 million in 1997 and will get \$1.25 million in 1998 and \$2.5 million in 1999. His salary in the second year could increase to \$3 million, depending on performance. Mercker's option for 2000 is at \$1.75 million to \$4.5 million, depending on performance.

Baseball's Player Relations Committee voided the Cardinals' \$30 million, five-year contract with Benes, deciding it occurred after the Dec. 7 deadline. The players association may file a grievance and a hearing may be scheduled for Friday. If arbitrator Dana Eischen rules against the union, the Cardinals can't re-sign Benes until May 1 at the earliest.

San Diego also added a starter, re-signing right-hander Pete Smith to a \$850,000, one-year contract that gives him the chance to make \$400,000 more in incentives.

He was 7-6 with a 4.81 ERA in 1997 and is projected as the No. 5 starter behind Brown, Hamilton, Andy Ashby and Sterling Hitchcock.

Minnesota, which probably will have one of the oldest rosters in the majors, agreed late Monday to a \$1.45 million, one-year contract with 38-year-old right-hander Mike Morgan.

Morgan, 9-12 with a 4.78 ERA last season for Cincinnati, has a team option for \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million, with the amount depending on his performance next season. If the option isn't exercised, the Twins would have to pay a \$150,000 buyout under the terms of the deal agreed to late Monday.

Morgan will join the recently signed Otis Nixon (37), the recently re-signed Paul Molitor (41), pitcher Bob Tewksbury (37), reliever Rick Aguilera (36) and catcher Terry Steinbach (35) on the Twins.

Seattle agreed to one-year deals with left-hander Tony Fossas (\$700,000) and infielder Pat Listach, and Detroit agreed to a minor-league contract with infielder Bill Ripken.

Oakland agreed to one-year deals with left-hander Mike Mohler (\$525,000) and infielder Mike Blowers, and Anaheim agreed to a \$475,000, one-year contract with switch-hitting catcher Matt Walbeck.

Texas signed five low-profile free agents to minor-league deals: infielder Bret Barberie, outfielders Warren Newson and Les Norman, right-hander Terry Clark and left-hander Scott Watkins. The

Rangers also sold the contract of right-hander Keiichi Kojima to the Chunichi Dragons of Japan's Central League.

To complete the Nov. 11 trade

in which they acquired outfielder Moises Alou from Florida, the Houston Astros sent right-hander Mark Johnson to the Marlins.

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Sutton, Asbury not worried their teams being unranked

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Between them, Oklahoma State and Kansas State are 14-0 and still not ranked.

But you won't hear their coaches scream and yell. Not yet, at least.

"I don't know about that," Tom Asbury said when asked if his 7-0 Kansas State team should be ranked. "I don't worry too much about that. We haven't played the greatest of schedules. It's probably fair we're not."

Eddie Sutton takes the same approach with the Cowboys, who still have not played a game outside the state of Oklahoma.

"I don't think we've proven we merit being in the Top 25 until we go on the road and win some

games," Sutton said Tuesday. "I am pleased with the progress we're making. But ... we've got two more home games and then we get a good test and go down to TCU. They're a very good basketball team."

Four other Big 12 teams this week, in what could be a sign of things to come, welcome transfer players who become eligible at semester's end. These include Lester Earl at Kansas and Albert White at Missouri, who could both make a quick impact.

Earl, a 6-foot-8 power forward who transferred from LSU, could improve an already tough backcourt for the second-ranked Jayhawks. White, 6-4, is a transfer from Michigan.

"Ours was a very unusual situation because the youngster didn't even finish his freshman year," said Kansas coach Roy Williams. "He had a lot of desire to come to Kansas to begin with, but he didn't make that decision for whatever reason."

Both White and Earl have been out of game competition for more than a year.

"I'm sure there's going to be some rustiness on his part," Missouri assistant coach Kim Anderson said of White. "But he's practiced with us. We've worked him into our drills and our offense. I think he'll bring some intensity to our team. He loves to play."

Texas Tech is getting 6-7

Da'Mon Roberts back from an academic difficulty which sidelined him the first semester. But Red Raider coach James Dickey foresees more players changing schools.

"Things have changed over the years," Dickey said. "At one point, players just wanted a scholarship. Then they wanted an opportunity to play. Then they wanted to know how many minutes they would play. Then they wanted to know if they would start. Now they want to be the star. There's only 200 minutes to be pass around during the game. It's not a new problem. It's just been magnified over the course of TV exposure and the greater interest in college basketball."

At Texas, Ivan Wagner, a transfer from North Carolina State who won the NCAA high jump, will become eligible this week.

"He came in here to run track and decided to come out for basketball this year," said Texas coach Tom Penders. "Last year he didn't even practice with us. He's very physical and athletic. Obviously, he can jump."

Wagner will be just the second player in Penders' 10 years to join the team at the start of the second semester, but that doesn't mean he'll be the last.

"Today is the day of instant gratification," Penders said. "If kids aren't playing somewhere, not projecting themselves as (NBA) lottery picks after their

freshman year, they think it's the coach or the system. So they move on."

Aaron Jack, a 6-8 forward, will be playing for Texas A&M after transferring from Penn State.

A&M coach Tony Barone says the reduced recruiting time coaches are allowed is at least partly to blame for players wanting to transfer.

"I do think it's going to be a trend," said Barone. "The trend in recruiting is to give us less time in dealing with the kids. I do think you're going to see an excessive number of transfers. I don't know if kids are going to transfer as often as semester. But I do see transferring becoming more in vogue than it is now."

Granbury coach to be second woman at 1,000-victory mark

GRANBURY, Texas — They came to play each Sunday afternoon — never sooner than church let out and chores were completed — from Granbury, Tolar, Lipan and other outposts of Hood County.

The court was a rutted, gravel surface at the Rains farm near Granbury. There, pickup basketball games in the 1940s and early '50s were as common as church socials and trips to the soda fountain.

Back then, the unstoppable Rains sisters, Leta Mae and Shirley Ann, were poised to take on all comers, boys or girls. Leta, a 5-foot-4 dribbling prodigy, and Shirley, the 5-foot-8 inside presence, were a formidable pair.

Leta and Shirley grew up to be girls basketball coaches, each coaching for more than three decades. Leta, the most fiery of four Rains children, should add a historical highlight to the family legacy of coaching this week.

In her 36th career season and 10th at Granbury High School, Leta Rains Andrews is poised to become the nation's 12th high school basketball coach to record 1,000 career victories. She could hit that mark Friday against

Waco Midway. "I've been blessed with good health, a supportive husband and family and good parents," said Andrews, 60. "When I started out, I knew I wanted to work with young people. My first degree was in elementary education, but I found out real fast what I really wanted to do."

Andrews leads the nation's active girls coaches in career victories and will be only the second woman to reach 1,000. Bertha Teague of Byng High School in Ada, Okla., compiled a 1,152-115 mark from 1928 to 1970.

To family members, former players and colleagues, Andrews' impending milestone is recent news. They were unaware of it until word spread through newspaper stories.

But conversations with her peers steer more toward Andrews' long, marvelous career, and its effect on her children, relatives and players. Everyone is proud of the milestone. But everyone knows there's more to Leta Andrews than an impressive win-loss record.

Clyde Rains, whom Leta calls the hardest worker she ever knew, instilled a fierce competitiveness in his two daughters and

younger sons Walter and George. Their mother, Alba Rains, had grown up with four brothers. That her daughters would be competitors only seemed natural.

Clyde Rains says Leta was the consummate "go-getter." He held Shirley, now 61, out of school one year so the girls could play together through all four years of high school.

In the days of half-court, six-on-six girls basketball that allowed limited dribbling, Leta and Shirley led Granbury to the state tournament in 1954 and 1955. Both times, the Pirates lost to Dimmitt in the Class A championship. Leta later went on to play at Weatherford College as a rover, a player who could move freely on both offense and defense in six-on-six games.

Decades later, Clyde Rains, who still runs the family's 250-acre farm, isn't surprised that Leta became a coach.

"She learned early in life how to work and she's been working ever since," said Clyde Rains, 85, who along with his wife, Alba, 80, attends every Granbury home game. "It's determination, I guess. She's just willing to stay with it and work at it."

Even with Brodeur off, Devils are on their game in National Hockey action

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Hockey Writer

Martin Brodeur had an off night. Still, it was a good night for the New Jersey Devils.

"I'm glad we came out on top in a game like that. I didn't feel sharp out there," Brodeur said after New Jersey beat the New York Rangers 4-3 Tuesday night for its sixth straight victory and 15th in 19 games.

The Devils, off to the best start in their history, improved their record to 23-9-0 despite a subpar performance by Brodeur. The NHL's leading goalie came into Tuesday night's game with a 1.63 goals-against average. But he allowed three goals on only 17 shots by the Rangers.

"Everyone is doing their job," Devils captain Scott Stevens said, explaining why the team has been so successful. "We have a good feeling right now and we want to keep it going."

Meanwhile, the Rangers continued to struggle as they started the first of a three-game road trip. They have lost three straight and have won only once in the last 12 games (1-7-4).

Elsewhere, it was Pittsburgh 1, Tampa Bay 1; New York Islanders 2, Washington 2; Carolina 2, Ottawa 1; Calgary 4, Chicago 3 in overtime; and San Jose 5, Detroit 1.

Rookie Sheldon Souray scored his first NHL goal with 4:58 to play to give the Devils the lead for good.

Before the goal, New Jersey was in danger of having its perfect streak with the lead entering the third period broken. The Devils went into the game 20-0-0 when leading after three periods, but Kevin Stevens tied the game

3-3 for the Rangers at 1:36 of the third period.

"I just wanted to hit the net," Souray said. "I was just happy to be playing that late in the game when the game was on the line after they scored on the other two."

Dave Andreychuk, Doug Bodger and Brian Rolston also scored for New Jersey, now 14-4-0 at home. Brian Leetch and Alexander Karpovtsev scored the other goals for the Rangers.

"We did a lot of good things against their systems," Rangers coach Colin Campbell said. "It wasn't meant to be."

Penguins 1, Lightning 1
Tom Barrasso made 35 saves as Pittsburgh tied Tampa Bay, settling for one point against the NHL's worst road team.

The Penguins entered the game on a 9-1-1 streak. Tampa Bay has the NHL's lowest point total on the road with a 2-16-2 mark. Tampa Bay is 1-4-1 in the last six games overall.

Jaromir Jagr scored midway through the second period to help the Penguins salvage a tie in their only home game in a 20-day stretch. Rob Zamuner scored his third short-handed goal of the season to give Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead at 11:53 of the first period. **Islanders 2, Capitals 2**

Tommy Salo stopped Peter Bondra's point-blank shot with 11 seconds left in regulation to force overtime, then stopped four more shots in the extra period to help the Islanders earn a tie at Washington.

Salo finished with 28 saves and Olaf Kolzig had 25 for the Capitals as both teams went scoreless after the second period. Jan Bulis and Adam Oates scored for the Capitals, and Peter

Bondra had an assist to give him a point in 15 consecutive games.

Mariusz Czerkawski and Sergei Nemchinov scored for New York.

Hurricanes 2, Senators 1
Nelson Emerson had the game-winning goal as the Hurricanes snapped a four-game winless streak and extended their home dominance of Ottawa.

Emerson gave the Hurricanes a 2-0 lead early in the second period, helping them improve to 13-1-0 at home against Ottawa, including victories in their last six games.

Carolina's Trevor Kidd had nine saves in the third period to help the Hurricanes snap a three-game losing streak and drop the Senators to 0-15-1 when they trail after two.

Flames 4, Blackhawks 3
Michael Nylander scored 3:42 into overtime to lead Calgary over the visiting Blackhawks for its fourth straight victory overall and NHL-leading fourth overtime victory.

The Flames, who trailed 3-1 at one point, also got goals from Jonas Hoglund, Theoren Fleury and Derek Morris. Eric Daze, Brent Sutter and Tony Amonte scored for Chicago, winless in its last six (0-4-2).

Calgary tied the game 3-3 at 3:23 of the third period on Hoglund's fifth goal.

Sharks 5, Red Wings 1
Al Iafate scored his first goal in 11 months as San Jose extended its season-best undefeated streak to five games.

Iafate missed the final 30 games of last season and the first 28 games of this season while recovering from back surgery.

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So that our employees may spend the Christmas Holiday with their families we will observe the following...
EARLY DEADLINES
WE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
Day of Insertion Deadline
FRIDAY, DEC. 26..... TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 12 NOON
SUNDAY, DEC. 28..... WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 12 NOON
CLASSIFIED LINE ADS
Day of Insertion Deadline
FRIDAY, DEC. 26..... WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 4 P.M.
All other DEADLINES will remain at their regular times. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your friends a safe and happy holiday.

SuperSonics win
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gary Payton scored 25 points and Dale Ellis added a season-high 23 as the Seattle SuperSonics won their fourth straight, 109-94 over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.
Brent Barry scored 21 points for the Clippers.
Ellis scored six of Seattle's first 10 points of the fourth quarter, pushing the lead to 86-73.
Rookie Maurice Taylor scored six points as the Clippers pulled within eight, but then he got a technical foul and Ellis made the free throw and followed with a basket to put Seattle up 92-80.
The Sonics led by 16 in the third quarter. Barry's 3-pointer with six-tenths of a second left cut the Clippers' deficit to seven heading into the final 12 minutes.
The Clippers trailed by 11 points in the first quarter, then ran off 11 straight to force the game's only tie. They played catch-up the rest of the way.

CLASSIFIED INDEX
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1 Card Of Thanks	14a Air Conditioning	53 Machinery And Tools	99 Storage Buildings
2 Museums	14b Appliance Repair	54 Farm Machinery	100 Rent, Sale, Trade
3 Personal	14c Auto-body Repair	55 Landscaping	101 Real Estate Wanted
4 Not Responsible	14d Carpentry	57 Good Things To Eat	102 Business Rental Property
5 Special Notices	14e Carpet Service	58 Sporting Goods	103 Homes For Sale
7 Auctioneer	14f Decorators - Interior	59 Guns	104 Lots
10 Lost And Found	14g Electric Contracting	60 Household Goods	105 Acreage
11 Financial	14h General Services	67 Bicycles	106 Commercial Property
12 Loans	14i General Repair	68 Antiques	110 Out Of Town Property
13 Business Opportunities	14j Gun Smithing	69 Miscellaneous	111 Out Of Town Rentals
14 Business Services	14k Hauling - Moving	69a Garage Sales	112 Farms And Ranches
		70 Musical Instruments	113 To Be Moved
		71 Movies	114 Recreational Vehicles
		75 Feeds And Seeds	115 Trailer Parks
		76 Farm Animals	116 Mobile Homes
		77 Livestock	117 Grasslands
		80 Pets And Supplies	118 Trailers
		84 Office Store Equipment	120 Autos For Sale
		89 Wanted To Buy	121 Trucks For Sale
		90 Wanted To Rent	122 Motorcycles
		94 Will Share	124 Tires And Accessories
		95 Furnished Apartments	125 Parts And Accessories
		96 Unfurnished Apartments	126 Boats And Accessories
		97 Furnished Houses	127 Scrap Metal
		98 Unfurnished Houses	128 Aircraft

Christmas Greeting Special
Wish someone Happy Holidays with a 1x1 1/2 display ad in the December 21st issue of The Pampa News, for the special price of \$5⁰⁰. Deadline is December 18th at 12 noon.
Come by the office at 403 W. Atchison and ask for Beverly or Barbara.
Ads must be paid for in advance. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

1 Public Notice
CLUB BIARRITZ HAS FILED FOR APPLICATION WITH TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION AT THE LOCATION OF 1101 N. HOBART, PAMPA, GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS, 79065. OFFICERS BEING MICHAEL JAY PARKER, PRESIDENT, LAUREL PARKER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND ROBBIE GAIL SPARKS, SECRETARY. D-27 Dec. 16, 17, 1997

5 Special Notices
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.
PAMPA Lodge #966- Stated Business meeting, Thursday, Dec. 18th, 7:30 p.m.
TOP O Texas Lodge 1381, study and practice, Tuesday night 7:30 p.m.

10 Lost and Found
LOST black long hair male Greyhound, Price Rd & Borger Hwy, Reward, 665-5196.
FOUND: Black male dog with tags, 600 blk of N. Banks. 669-6078
LOST black & white male kitten Mon. Dec. 15 morning. No collar. 1900 bl. Chestnut Dr. 669-1925.

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MARY Kay Cosmetics and Skin-care. Facials, supplies, call Deb Stapleton, 665-2095.
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22 Puppy sound 23 Sleep noises 24 Formulated 25 Tennis term 26 (2 wds.) 27 Author 28 English school 29 Type of earring 30 De — (old car) 31 important time period 32 Hospital doctor

1 Songbird 2 Architect 3 Saaninen 4 Future LL.Bs.' exam 5 Smyrna figs 6 Fiddle 7 Author 8 — Lingus (airline) 9 Guardian spirit 10 Australian birds 11 9th mo. of ecto 12 Bohemian 13 Compass pt.

1 up (gushed) 7 Poland's 13 Repair (shoes) 14 Juice extractor 15 Chalkboard necessity 16 Burst suddenly 17 Ready or — 18 Candy flavor 20 Pippen 21 Internal organs 24 Lion's pride 27 Strange-ness 31 Seaport in Arabia 32 African primate 33 TV's Sawyer 35 Disastrous defeat 36 Coming In 40 Opposite of ecto 41 Cavalry soldiers 43 Consumed

46 Singer La — Jackson 47 CIO's partner 50 Sing 53 — Nevada 55 Walk heavily 56 Spotted 57 Former Soviet leader 58 Property

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30 Sewing Machines WE service all makes and models of sewing machines and vacuum cleaners. Sanders Sewing Center. 214 N. Cuyler, 665-2383.

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68 Antiques WANTED: Antique furniture and anything western. Call Jewett 665-8415 or at 302 W. Foster.

69 Miscellaneous **CARRIERS WANTED!!** Apply Pampa News Circulation Department No Phone Calls Please

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Grooming and Boarding Jo Ann's Pet Salon 669-1410

CREATURE Comforts, pet grooming, tropical fish, pet supplies, special orders. 669-Pets.

BORDER Collie puppies out of working parents. \$50 each. 665-6109

CREATURE Comforts Order special items Now. Lg. fish tank setup. Special price. 115 N. West.

1 miniature female dachshund 8 month old \$50. 1 male & 1 female Bassett Hound 1 & 2 years old \$50 both. 665-3654

21 Canine 38 Sgt., e.g. hotel 39 Old Faithful, e.g. sound 42 Elevate 43 Pointed 44 Tense 45 Columbian 46 Bombbeck 47 Seed covering 48 Worry 49 — and the 50 Barrel (abbr.) 51 Lusa necklce 52 Clean-air agcy.

22 Puppy sound 23 Sleep noises 24 Formulated 25 Tennis term 26 (2 wds.) 27 Author 28 English school 29 Type of earring 30 De — (old car) 31 important time period 32 Hospital doctor

1 Songbird 2 Architect 3 Saaninen 4 Future LL.Bs.' exam 5 Smyrna figs 6 Fiddle 7 Author 8 — Lingus (airline) 9 Guardian spirit 10 Australian birds 11 9th mo. of ecto 12 Bohemian 13 Compass pt.

1 up (gushed) 7 Poland's 13 Repair (shoes) 14 Juice extractor 15 Chalkboard necessity 16 Burst suddenly 17 Ready or — 18 Candy flavor 20 Pippen 21 Internal organs 24 Lion's pride 27 Strange-ness 31 Seaport in Arabia 32 African primate 33 TV's Sawyer 35 Disastrous defeat 36 Coming In 40 Opposite of ecto 41 Cavalry soldiers 43 Consumed

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69 Miscellaneous

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

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PIANOS FOR RENT New and used pianos. Starting at \$40 per month. Up to 9 months of rent will apply to purchase. It's all right here in Pampa at Tarpley Music. 665-1251.

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CANE Hay for sale, \$25 per bale. Call 669-0027. Delivery available.

77 Livestock & Equip.

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80 Pets and Supplies

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22 Puppy sound 23 Sleep noises

Wheeler



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