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Pampa

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County swaps worker's comp coverage

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

The Gray County Commissioners Court's long-standing relationship with the Texas Association of Counties (T.A.C.) changed a little bit last week when commissioners accepted a \$42,493 worker's compensation insurance bid from Duncan, Fraser and Bridges Insurance over a \$44,407 bid from T.A.C.

Prior to this 3-2 decision, the county had received the insurance from T.A.C. for at least the last decade, according to County Treasurer Scott Hahn.

The decision to change over was not accepted until both sides had been heard. Representatives from each agency presented similar proposals with equal options

for an approximate \$2,000 difference.

At one time, no one was interested in presenting the county with workers comp proposals except T.A.C., said Judge Peet.

But after a past county insurance bid meeting in November, interest was expressed for bids to be taken again for workers compensation insurance and "we wanted the possibility of offering for proposals," Peet said.

The longevity of the relationship between the court and T.A.C. was a primary issue in the court discussion.

"I hate to change for \$120 a month when we know most of the counties across the state are with them (T.A.C.). We've established a history and I hate to give it up," said Commissioner Joe Wheeley.

"They know county government. They have safety training designed for counties only, not just for businesses in general. And I know through the years that without T.A.C., we wouldn't have the safety programs we have. They know the county problems," said Commissioner Gerald Wright, who also chairs the county safety committee.

Bill Bridges, the representative present from Duncan, Fraser and Bridges Insurance addressed the court, assuring them that his agency would offer the same type of safety training programs and provide them with the same satisfaction as best as possible.

"And I've been beat (for insurance proposals) in this room for \$3. I don't understand," said Bridges.

See COUNTY, Page 2



High tonight mid 20s.
High tomorrow mid 40s.
For weather details see Page 2.

PAMPA — The NAACP Pampa Branch meeting scheduled for tonight has been canceled. Regular monthly meetings will resume in February.

PAMPA — Early voting is under way for the half-cent sales tax referendum. The tax is used to fund the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. Early voting will continue in room 204 across from the administration office at City Hall. Voting is allowed from 8-5 Monday through Friday.

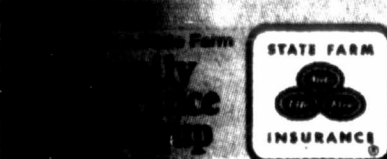
DALLAS (AP) — Singer John Gary, who recorded 49 albums including the successful "Catch A Rising Star," has died after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 65. Services were scheduled Saturday in Dallas with a memorial service in Los Angeles later in the month. Gary died early Sunday at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

At age 11, he won a scholarship to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York as a soprano.

After his first album, "Catch A Rising Star," Gary signed a contract with RCA Records. He recorded 24 albums for RCA and 25 other albums.

- Ruth Madden Barrett, 88, former Pampa resident.
- Claudy B. Brotherton, 88, farmer, church deacon.
- Uial T. Lamb, 90, retired Amoco Oil pumper.
- Rev. Douglas Mould, 75, retired Episcopal priest.
- D.J. Shaw, 12, Lefors Elementary School honor student.
- Ephriam Ernest Sisemore, 81, former grocer, decorated WW II veteran.

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Comics 6
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Sports 7



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Girl, 4 backs car into home

The best age for someone to learn to drive may be debated but it probably isn't 4 years old. That didn't stop a young Pampa girl from trying this morning.

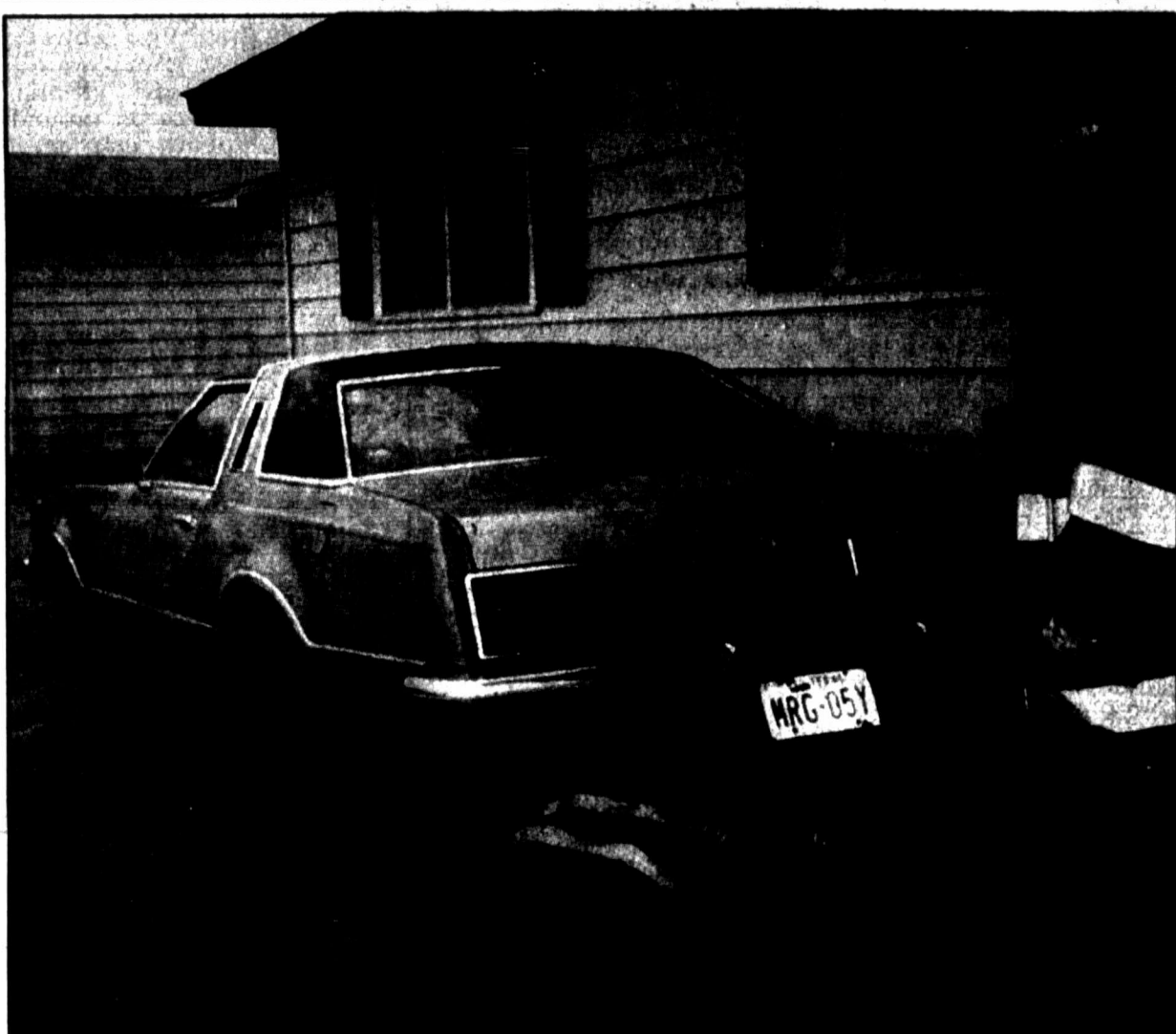
Just after nine Janet Keeney and her young daughter, Jessica, were about to leave her house on South Nelson but apparently the mother had to run back into the house for a minute.

Pampa police said the little girl apparently put the car in reverse, backed into the driveway across the street and made a sharp turn across the yard at 1124 S. Nelson, scraping down the front of the house before over the porch handrail of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fortin where the car finally came to rest.

Keeney said the car did not belong to her but to her stepfather, who was loaning it to her while hers is in the shop.

Mrs. Fortin said she heard a terrible noise and she and her husband walked out to find the car resting on her porch and against the siding on her house.

There were no injuries or charges.



Firefighters inspect to see if it is safe to pull the car away from the house without causing further damage to the structure after a 4-year-old girl backed the auto across the street and hit the home.

(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Oprah case

Pretrial hearings begin in defamation suit

By MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer

AMARILLO (AP) — Pretrial hearings began today in Texas cattlemen's federal defamation lawsuit against Oprah Winfrey and an anti-meat activist who said on her show that mad cow disease was a potential threat to beef supply in the United States.

Attorneys for both sides met behind closed doors with U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson to discuss evidentiary motions, including requests by Ms. Winfrey's attorneys for Ms. Robinson to lift a gag order or to move the trial from Amarillo to Dallas to escape the heart of cattle-feeding country.

The judge did not immediately rule on the motions. Because of the gag order, none of the attorneys would comment on the proceedings. Ms. Winfrey did not attend.

Meanwhile, a lone demonstrator from

The lawsuit, filed by Amarillo cattle feeder Paul Engler and joined by others in the business, is based on a 1995 Texas law that protects agricultural products from slander. Twelve other states have similar laws, but Texas is the only state where Ms. Winfrey faces a challenge.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals picketed the courthouse entrance wearing a Holstein cow suit. Nathan Dinneen held up a sign that read: "Go Oprah Go Veg."

The dispute stems from an April 16, 1996 segment of the "Oprah Winfrey Show" in which anti-meat activist Howard Lyman said that feeding ground-up animal parts to

cattle could spread mad cow disease to Americans.

Ms. Winfrey responded: "It has just stopped me from eating another burger!" Already slumping cattle prices plunged soon after, taking two weeks to recover.

The lawsuit, filed by Amarillo cattle feeder Paul Engler and joined by others in the business, is based on a 1995 Texas law that protects agricultural products from slander. Twelve other states have similar laws, but Texas is the only state where Ms. Winfrey faces a challenge.

Engler said he lost \$6.7 million because of negative market reaction related to the show. He and the other cattlemen sued Lyman, Ms. Winfrey, her Harpo Productions Inc. and distributor King World Productions.

Ms. Winfrey defended the show shortly after its airing but has since refused to discuss it.

Lawmaker's son may be paralyzed

Church van wreck kills 2

DALLAS (AP) — The 14-year-old son of state Rep. Kenny Marchant may be left paralyzed from the waist down from a weekend church van accident in Mexico that killed two and also injured four others, including his mother and 12-year-old sister.

Kenny "K.J." Marchant Jr. and his mother, Donna Marchant, 40, of Coppell, were critically injured Saturday morning when the van

went off a narrow highway and into a ditch, Mexican authorities said.

Mrs. Marchant and her children will survive, but K.J. suffered a spinal injury and apparently has no feeling below the waist, relatives said.

Mrs. Marchant, who suffered head injuries and two broken collarbones, was upgraded Monday to serious condition as the state legislator prepared to move his wife and son from a Harlingen hospital to better-equipped facilities in Dallas.

Dallas Marchant suffered a bro-

ken leg, but was expected to be released today from the hospital, a family spokesman said.

Mrs. Marchant, 40, and her two children were part of a 200-member missionary trip to rural Mexico sponsored by Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in the Oklahoma City suburb of Bethany.

An older brother told The Dallas Morning News that K.J. was awake and talking on Monday.

"It's starting to sink in that he has serious injuries but that survival isn't a question anymore,"

said Matthew Marchant, a 21-year-old senior at Southern Nazarene University near Oklahoma City, his parents' alma mater.

The Rev. James Lee Johnson, 50, and Dr. Frederick Siems Jr., 39, died in the accident. Officials said Johnson apparently lost control of the van near the town of San Fernando in Tamaulipas, about 85 miles south of Brownsville.

Amanda Siems, 9, and Liz Fennly, 74, also were injured in the accident.

The victims were first taken to a nearby Mexican hospital.

Artrain helpers needed

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

The Pampa Fine Arts Association is looking for volunteers to help with school and public tours of the Artrain coming to Pampa in February. Twelve volunteers each day are needed to help with the tours, with each volunteer working a half-day shift.

A short training session by a member of the national Artrain staff will prepare prospective volunteers for work on the train. The session will be offered two different times on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

The Artrain is a train with five historic railcars carrying special exhibits from the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. The exhibit, "Art in Celebration," contains paintings, lithographs and prints by American artists like Georgia O'Keefe, Dan Namingha and children's illustrator Tomie de Paola.

First Organized in Michigan over 20 years ago, the Artrain is partially funded nationally through the National Endowment for the Arts, with Chrysler Corporation as the national title sponsor. The nation's railroads also provide

See ARTRAIN, Page 2

Fine arts group gets recognition

The Pampa Fine Arts Association (PFAA) has received several publication design awards from the Texas Alliance for Education and the Arts.

The announcement of the 1997 "Sheila Y. Fox Publication Design Awards" brought the PFAA five awards from the alliance. There were ten different categories ranging from newsletters and posters to news reports. Eligible organizations were divided into four different divisions based on annual operating budgets.

The PFAA entered a total of five publications in four different award categories in the Group two division — those groups with annual operating budgets of \$5,000 to \$50,000. Pampa's art council received awards on all the submitted entries and the awards are as follows:

- Program Design - First Place
Event: "Sing-Along Messiah 1997"
- Flyer - Second Place
Event: "Artrain - Feb. 19-23, 1998"
- Flyer - Third Place
Event: "Chautauqua 1997 Festival"
- Newsletter - First Place
- Annual Report - First Place

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BARRETT, Ruth Madden — 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Pampa.
BROTHERTON, Claudy B. — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Mobeetie.
SHAW, D.J. — 2 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Pampa.
SISEMORE, Ephriam Ernest — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Shamrock.

Obituaries

RUTH MADDEN BARRETT

DALLAS — Ruth Madden Barrett, 88, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 1998. Services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday in First Presbyterian Church of Pampa with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor, and the Rev. William Barrett Tucker officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Barrett was born Oct. 5, 1909, at South Bend, Ind. She had been a Dallas resident since 1947, moving from Pampa. She had been a member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas for the past 50 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, C.N. Barrett, in November of 1947.

Survivors include two daughters, Betty Barrett Tucker and Ruth Barrett Hempel; a sister, Louise Myers of Southern Pines, N.C.; a brother, Col. James P. Madden of Melbourne, Fla.; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors between noon and 3 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home in Pampa.

CLAUDY B. BROTHERTON

WHEELER — Claudy B. Brotherton, 88, died Monday, Jan. 5, 1998. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in First Baptist Church in Mobeetie with the Rev. Johnny Crawford and the Rev. Aaron Laverty, of Mobeetie, officiating. Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mr. Brotherton was born March 15, 1909, to Lee Roy and Nollie Brotherton. He married Ina Mae Vise on Oct. 19, 1928, at Anson. The couple lived in Hemphill County and had been Wheeler residents since 1961. He was a farmer and was a deacon at First Baptist Church of Wheeler. He was currently a member and deacon of First Baptist Church in Mobeetie.

Survivors include his wife, Ina Mae, of Wheeler; two daughters, Dorothy Honath of Amarillo and Doris Finsterwald of Mobeetie; a son, C.B. Brotherton of Wheeler; six grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church of Mobeetie or to a favorite charity.

UIAL T. LAMB

SKELLYTOWN — Uial T. Lamb, 90, died Monday, Jan. 5, 1998, at Bartlesville, Okla. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel in Pampa with Dr. Derrell Monday, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Lamb was born July 21, 1907, at Gassville, Ark. He had been a resident of Skellytown and Spring Creek for 57 years, moving to the area from Arkansas in 1926. He married Nina Marlar in 1927 at Arkansas; she died in 1969. He later married Jessie Stevens in 1971 at Skellytown; she died in 1988. He was a pumper for Amoco Oil for 38 years and was a member of First Baptist Church of Skellytown.

He was preceded in death by a son, Harold Lamb, in 1979.

Survivors include a daughter, Sue Dolan of Orange; three sons, E.A. Lamb of Bartlesville, Jimmie Lamb of Sunray and Preston Lamb of Pampa; three sisters, Gladys Williams of Oklahoma, Ethal Powell of Texarkana and Edna Covington of Borger; 14 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

REV. DOUGLAS MOULD

WICHITA, Kan. — The Rev. Douglas Mould, 75, father of a Pampa resident, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 1998. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in Grace Episcopal Church in Hutchinson, Kan.

The Rev. Mould was born Feb. 13, 1922, at Walls-End, England to Edward Mould and Edna Mae Hunter. He was a retired Episcopal priest and had served as rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Hutchinson from 1965 until 1985 and had been a priest at the Episcopal church in Kingman.

Survivors include a daughter, Dian Bachenberg of Wichita; two sons, Dr. David C. Mould of Chickasha, Okla., and of Pampa, and Dr. Douglas E. Mould of Benton, Kan.; his mother, Edna, of Albuquerque, N.M.; a brother, Edward C. Mould of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and five grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be in lieu of flowers to St. Matthews Episcopal Day School Building Fund, Pampa.

D.J. SHAW

LEFORS — D.J. Shaw, 12, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 1998. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Pampa with Bishop Roger Roundy officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. MST Thursday at Sandia Memory Gardens Cemetery at Albuquerque, N.M. with Peter C. Webb and Jack Waddell officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

D.J. was born Feb. 13, 1985, at Albuquerque. He had been an Albuquerque resident until moving to Pampa in 1993. He moved to Lefors in 1995. He attended sixth grade at Lefors Elementary School and was an honor student and a football player. He was a deacon in Aaronic Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints.

Survivors include his parents, Calvin Thigpen, II, and Jamie Kaye Thigpen of Lefors; his father, Dwayne Shaw of Albuquerque; three brothers, Billyjack Shaw and Richard Thomas Thigpen, both of the home, and Justin Daryl Thigpen of Albuquerque; and his grandparents, Jack and Bobbie Waddell of Algodones, N.M., and Mae and Gary Shaw of Tijeras, N.M.

EPHRIAM ERNEST SISEMORE

SHAMROCK — Ephriam Ernest Sisemore, 81, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 1998. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jack Lee officiating. Burial will be in Shamrock Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mr. Sisemore was born at Dutton, Ark. He had spent most of his life in Shamrock and worked as a grocer for many years. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in Normandy during World War II. He received the Victory Ribbon, the American Theater Campaign Medal, the EAME Campaign Medal, two Bronze Stars, the Bronze Arrowhead, the Good Conduct Medal and a Purple Heart.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Coral Clynch Sisemore, in 1996.

Survivors include two stepdaughters, La Vern Boren of Arlington and Bessie Randall; three stepsons, Charles Jackson of Mesa, Ariz., Bennie Jackson of Chillicothe and Bob Clynch of Arlington; two sisters, Lola Carmichael of Chicago, Ill., and Margarie Hendricks of Spearman; a stepsister, Eunice Mayfield of Arkansas; two brothers, Loyd Sisemore of California and Sid Sisemore of Fort Smith, Ark.; 21 stepgrandchildren; 27 stepgreat-grandchildren; and a stepgreat-great-grandchild.

Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, January 6

Pampa Police blame dense fog for an accident at the corner of Wilks and N. Hobart. Robert Oval Clements was attempting to make a left turn in his 1997 Escort from Wilks onto N. Hobart and apparently did not see the 1979 Datsun pickup driven by Kenneth Ray Jones, 41, Allison Texas, who was traveling west on Wilks. No injuries were reported.

Ambulance

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, January 5

2:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 6:05 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of W. Wilks. No one was transported.
 7:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Tuesday, January 6

1:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Nadia and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, January 5

5:48 p.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to the 1000 block of E. Browning on a welfare check.

Tuesday, January 6

1:58 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 600 block of N. Nadia on a medical assist.
 6:23 a.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to the intersection of Highways 60 and 70 on an automobile accident.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.89	Chevron	74 3/4	dn 15/16
Milo	4.03	Coca-Cola	65 15/16	dn 1/2
Corn	4.62	Columbia/HCA	29 1/2	dn 1/4
Soybeans	6.09	Enron	38 7/8	dn 1/8
		Halliburton	46 1/16	dn 13/16
		IRI	13 1/4	dn 5/16
		KNE	52 3/4	dn 5/8
		Kerr McGee	61	dn 7/16
		Limited	25 3/8	NC
		Mapco	47 11/16	dn 1/16
		McDonald's	47 1/2	NC
		Mobil	59	dn 1 11/16
		New Atmos	28 1/8	dn 1/2
		NCE	46 13/16	dn 3/8
		Pennco	59 1/2	dn 7/16
		Phillips	45 7/8	dn 1/4
		Pioneer Nat. Res.	26 11/16	dn 3/4
		SLB	73 3/4	dn 3/8
		Tenneco	40	up 1/4
		Texaco	51 1/4	dn 1 1/2
		Ultranar	31 3/4	dn 5/16
		Wal-Mart	39 1/4	dn 1/2
		New York Gold	282.60	
		Silver	6.03	
		West Texas Crude	16.92	

The following show the prices for which these securities could have traded at the time of compilation:

Occidental	27 15/16	dn 7/8
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The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Magellan	95.72	
Puritan	19.51	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Amoco	82 3/4	dn 1/8
Arco	74 1/2	dn 2 1/16
Cabot	27 3/8	dn 1/4
Cabot O&G	18 1/16	dn 7/16

Calendar of events

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Are you or someone you know in an abusive relationship? Tralee Crisis Center is offering a women's support group Wednesdays at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. All inquiries will be kept confidential. For information call 669-1131.

TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Furrs Cafeteria.

PAMPA CHESS CLUB

The Pampa Chess Club will meet at the Coronado Inn to hold challenge matches for the club ladder event. Players in the club ladder must be members of the Pampa Chess Club. (Other events for nonmembers) Novices and nonmembers are very welcome! For more information contact James A. Shook at 669-0227



COUNTY

"We're members of T.A.C., we pay a membership fee to T.A.C. Just because we aren't buying their insurance doesn't mean we can't watch their safety videos or get training. It's about a \$123 a month difference a year for taxpayers," Commissioner Jim Greene said.

Commissioners James Hefley, Jim Greene and County Judge Richard Peet voted in favor of the Duncan, Fraser and Bridges Insurance Bid.

Commissioners Gerald Wright and Joe Wheeley voted against it, in favor of the T.A.C. proposal.

Commissioner Wright disagreed with the decision. He stayed in favor of remaining with the Texas Association of Counties and he based his opinion on what he said had been a successful relationship between T.A.C. and the county.

"T.A.C. is also a great deal," Wright said. "The cheap price is not always the answer. I believe in this case, T.A.C. was the best bid."

"We'll see down the road," added Commissioner Joe Wheeley.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ARTRAIN

engines, train crews and rights-of way for the train.

During Artrain's Pampa visit, the Burlington-Northern/Santa Fe Railroad Company will be responsible for transportation and Atterbury Grain Company will provide the rail siding for the train stop.

Local funding to date consists of \$5,000 from the David and Nona Payne Foundation, \$3,000 from the M.K. Brown Foundation, \$4,000 from the

Texaco Foundation, \$1,300 from the Tourism Committee of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce and several other contributions from area businesses and individuals.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Artrain tours or to make a contribution to the Artrain Pampa tour should contact Pampa Fine Arts at 806-665-0343.

Should more funds be received than are needed for this project, the additional money will be used to establish a scholarship fund for visual or performing art majors from the area.

Judge had given approval Michael Kennedy divorce pact

BOSTON (AP) — Michael Kennedy and his wife had been granted a divorce at the time of his death in a skiing accident, but it hadn't taken effect and was nullified when he was killed, The Boston Globe said today.

Kennedy, son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed when he skied into a tree Dec. 31.

He and his wife, Victoria Gifford Kennedy, sought a divorce on grounds of irreconcilable breakdown of their marriage, the Globe reported.

On Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving, Judge David H. Kopelman approved the petition, granting the divorce. In Massachusetts, divorce does not become final for 90 days.

"It allows for a cooling-off, or warming up

period," Boston University School of Law Professor Julius B. Levine said. "The state does not like to see families breaking up, and if there's a chance of a reconciliation, the state wants to do everything to encourage it."

The Globe said it was told by an unidentified source that Michael and Victoria Kennedy had been discussing reconciliation.

Kopelman also approved a divorce agreement, and lawyers for both Kennedys said the division of the couple's assets under that agreement remains in effect. Details were not made public.

The Kennedys, who have three children, separated in April shortly before it was reported that Michael Kennedy had had an affair with a teenage babysitter.

Medicare expansion targets some of the toughest to insure

By ALICE ANN LOVE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Early retirement would be an option for more Americans because they would be assured access to health insurance under a White House plan to let people 62 through 64 buy into Medicare.

The proposal, to be announced today by President Clinton, is similar to an option offered by Social Security, in which people can spread their pension benefits over a longer period, starting at age 62 instead of 65.

The idea would be to let some Americans who are 62, 63 or 64 pay a monthly premium — likely to be between \$300 and \$400 — to get government health insurance through Medicare. Also, once they became fully eligible for Medicare at age 65, people who bought in early would pay slightly higher out-of-pocket fees than those who didn't.

"It would be a major help for anyone in this age group who is not in a group (health insurance) plan," said John Rother of the American Association of Retired Persons. "This would definitely be a much more affordable option than most private individual policies."

But Republicans on Capitol Hill have expressed doubt that the Medicare buy-in could work without additional government spending.

"Taxpayers always have a lot of reasons to be

cautious when the government announces programs are not going cost anything," said Ari Fleischer, spokesman for the House Ways and Means Committee.

And health policy experts noted that a Medicare buy-in program would do little to thin the ranks of America's uninsured.

Only about 900,000 of the 41.4 million Americans without health insurance are between the ages of 62 and 64, according to estimates based on a 1997 Census Bureau survey.

"If you assume that you get everyone in that pie, it's still going to be a very minimal effect," said Paul Fronstin, a health economist with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. "And you're still talking about only opening the door to access if people can afford it."

But compared to many younger people in good health who go without insurance by choice, access can be a bigger problem for older people. Not quite 60 percent of the 5.8 million Americans 62 to 64 have group-discount insurance through a current or former employer. About 13 percent privately purchase individual policies.

A healthy 63-year-old can probably find a private individual health insurance policy for about the same \$300 to \$400 a month as the proposed Medicare buy-in, said AARP's Rother. But, "if you are sick already, finding anyone who will sell you a policy at any price is tough," he said.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Tonight, partly cloudy and colder with lows in the mid 20s. Mostly sunny tomorrow with a high in the mid 40s. Yesterday's high was 59; the overnight low, 32.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS — Panhandle/Low Rolling Plains — Tonight, mostly cloudy east, partly cloudy west. Lows lower 20s to lower 30s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Permian Basin/Upper Trans Pecos — Tonight, mostly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. Lows in the lower 30s to mid 40s. Wednesday, becoming partly cloudy. Highs 45-50. Concho Valley/Edwards Plateau — Tonight, mostly cloudy. A chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s to near 40. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — Tonight, mostly cloudy. Lows,

mid 20s to upper 30s.

SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Flash flood watch in effect today and tonight. Tonight, occasional showers or thunderstorms, locally heavy rain and flooding possible. Breezy and turning colder with temperatures lowering into the 40s. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Flash flood watch in effect today and tonight.

Tonight, occasional showers or thunderstorms, some possibly severe with locally heavy rain and flooding possible. Breezy and turning cooler with temperatures lowering into the 50s. Wednesday, cloudy, breezy and quite cool with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Temperatures holding in the 50s to near 60 coast. Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Plains — Tonight, occasional showers or thunderstorms. Breezy and turning cooler with

temperatures lowering into the 50s.

NORTH TEXAS — Flash flood watch today and tonight northeast and south. Tonight, cloudy with rain and thunderstorms likely. Becoming windy and turning colder west and central. Lows 35 northwest to 57 southeast.

BORDER STATES

NEW MEXICO — Tonight, cold. Fair to partly cloudy west. Mostly cloudy east. Chance of flurries northeast and east-central plains. Chance of snow showers southcentral mountains and southeast plains. Lows single digits below zero to teens north and mountains, teens to around 30 south.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, cloudy. Showers and a few thunderstorms south central and southeast. Low in the 30s. Wednesday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. High in the 40s.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, January 5

Mae Dennis Conner, 50, 1104 E. Foster, was arrested for theft by check and a warrant out of Randall County.

Farris Glenn Reeves, 43, Plainview, was arrested for violation of probation.

Justin Mark Welch, 17, 1816 Beech, was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Michelle A. Stillwell, 23, 12355 Finley, was arrested for violation of probation.

Michael Sandoval, 25, Phoenix, was arrested on bond surrender.

City briefs

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

EMERGENCY JAIL Release. 24 hrs. Jack Ward, 669-9911. Adv.

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Birthday party for Jesus



(Community Camera photo)

Kindergarten and first grade students at Community Christian School recently held a birthday party for Jesus. Each pupil brought a baby gift to donate to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Above are (back row, left-right) Brittany Chisum, Spencer Bachler, Thomas Fraser, Lilly Price, Kim Laycock, director, Alice Taylor, Jennifer Haley, Emily Wilson, Eden Green, (front row, l-r), Gabby Powell, Megan Gragg, Savannah Smith, Jocelyn Kennedy, Luke Watson, Corbin Clifton, Corban Brown and Blake Chisum. First grader Emily Watson, who also participated in the event, is not pictured.

Telecom ruling: Government urged to create more local competition

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now that a federal court in Texas has given at least two regional Bell telephone companies a clear path into the long-distance business, the government should consider new ways to make the Bells open their local phone markets to rivals, AT&T's chief said Monday.

As key provisions of a 1996 law have been struck down by the courts, AT&T has had trouble building its local phone business. Although the company has stopped marketing local service, AT&T has said it will not abandon the business. It has spent \$3 billion to \$4 billion on it.

The latest blow to AT&T and other local phone competitors came Wednesday when a federal judge paved the way for San Antonio-based SBC Communications and US West to offer long-distance service to their local customers.

"I would submit that the industry and the government need to step back in the midst of all this and discuss alternatives to accomplishing opening markets, having choice and creating local competition," said AT&T Corp. Chairman C. Michael Armstrong.

"I would welcome that opportunity," he added, responding to the court decision in a conference call with analysts.

Armstrong did not say what specific alternatives he has in mind.

AT&T took a beating on Wall Street Friday, with its shares falling 4.1 percent amid worries the No. 1 long-distance company could be facing more competition after last week's ruling.

Still, AT&T executives played down the long-term impact of the decision, saying they are confident it would not take effect and would be overturned on appeal.

AT&T, Sprint and MCI asked

U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall of Wichita Falls, Texas, to defer his decision. The U.S. government is likely to make the same request on Tuesday, said Federal Communications Commission and Justice Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mark Rosenblum, AT&T's vice president of law and government affairs, said: "Stays are granted almost as a matter of routine to allow full review of the constitutional challenge by the court of appeals and, if necessary, by the Supreme Court."

If the case goes to the Supreme Court, the earliest the high court would decide it would be 1999, he said.

Kendall ruled that a key portion of a 1996 telecommunications law discriminates against the Bells because it does not apply to many other local phone companies, such as GTE Corp., Southern New England Telephone Co. and Frontier Corp.

The overturned provision required the Bells to open their local phone markets to competitors as a condition of winning federal approval to provide long-distance service to local customers.

"We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to be prepared when an economically viable means of doing local business is available and we have systems and resources people set up all over the country to take that step when it offered," Armstrong said.

Drilling Intentions

Intentions to Drill

CARSON (WEST PANHANDLE) J.M. Huber Corp., #1A Chapman, 330' from South & 1550' from West line, Sec. 7,3,AB&M (BHL: 2480' from North & 2500' from West line of Sec.) TVD 2850', MD 4800'. Horizontal well. Replacement well for #1 Chapman

DONLEY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gray Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #2 Brown 'A', 1320' from North & East line, Sec. 16,23,H&GN, PD 3000'

GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gray Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #2 Glass, 610' from South & 454' from West line, Sec. 8,3,H&GN, PD 3000'

GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gray Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #2 Hibler 'A', 1000' from North & 2500' from West line, Sec. 66,E,D&P, PD 3000'

GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gray Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #2 Willis 'A', 784' from South & 1024' from West line, E.V. Oliver Survey, PD 3000'

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Douglas) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #3-17 Shell Fee, 990' from North & 1320' from East line, Sec. 17,41,H&TC, PD 8200'

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & VIKING Upper Morrow) Apache Corp., #4-35 Chandler, 2400' from North & 467' from East line, Sec. 35,OS-2, John Chandler Survey, PD 15375'

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & VIKING Upper Morrow) Apache Corp., #4-35 Chandler, 2400' from North & 467' from East line, Sec. 258,C,G&MMB&A, PD 15900'

HUTCHINSON (PANHANDLE) J.M. Huber Corp., Herring 'A&B', E. Almaguie Survey, PD 3500', for the following wells:

#A-22, 995' from North & 4257' from West line of Survey. #A-23, 2410' from North & 3838' from West line of Survey. #A-24, 3576' from North & 3806' from West line of Survey. #A-25, 5050' from North & 3728' from West line of Survey.

#A-26, 6223' from North & 3698' from West line of Survey. #A-27, 6462' from South & 3728' from West line of Survey. #A-28, 5311' from South & 3559' from West line of Survey.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & HANSFORD Lower Morrow) Crescendo Resources, L.P., #1 Lips Ranch 'D', 1250' from North & 1400' from West line, Sec. 172,C,G&M, PD 8700'

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Upper Morrow) Unit Petroleum Co., #3 Vollmert 'B', 975' from North & 1025' from West line, Sec. 9,C,BS&F, PD 11300'

WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Universal Resources Corp., #2-45 Britt Ranch 'B', 1420' from South & 1320' from West line, Sec. 45,A-3,H&GN, PD 12600'

WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Universal Resources Corp., #3-35 Britt Ranch 'C', 2640' from North & 1320' from East line, Sec. 35,A-3,H&GN, PD 12600'

Amended Intentions to Drill GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gray Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #2 Fowler 'C', 1980' from North & East line, Sec. 30,R, A. Rowe, PD 2750'. Amended to change well

location, lease name & well number

Oil Well Completion GRAY (PANHANDLE) Bradley Operating Co., #16 Gething, Sec. 14,A-9,H&GN, elev. 2791 gr, spud 11-7-97, drlg. compl 11-10-97, tested 12-11-97, pumped 16 bbl. of 43.5 grav. oil + no water, GOR 625, TD 2785', PBTD 2785'

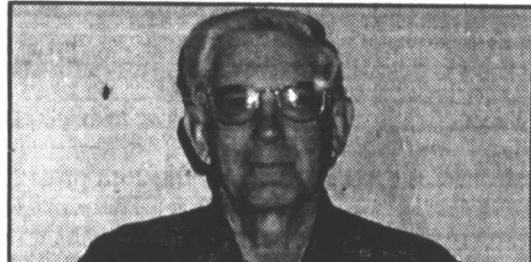
Gas Well Completions HEMPHILL (WILDCAT) The Wiser Oil Co., #1 Mustang, George Diggs Survey, elev. 2412 gr, spud 12-27-96, drlg. compl 3-30-97, tested 10-2-97, potential

6800 MCF, TD 16700', PBTD 12965' —

HEMPHILL (ALLISON PARKS Upper Morrow) Sonat Exploration Co., #2522 Bowers, Sec. 252,C,G&MMB&A, elev. 2459 kb, spud 9-12-97, drlg. compl 10-23-97, tested 12-1-97, potential 6500 MCF, TD 14535' —

ROBERTS (N.W. MENDOTA Moore Co. Line) Seagull Midcon, Inc., #607 Flowers 'D', Sec. 7,B-1,BS&F, elev. 2779 kb, spud 10-2-97, drlg. compl 10-28-97, tested 11-6-97, potential 1380 MCF, TD 10500', PBTD 4165' — Plug-Back

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VIEWPOINTS

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
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Let Peace Begin With Me

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

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

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

L.W. McCall
Publisher

Kate B. Dickson
Associate Publisher/Editor

Opinion

Irradiating food makes sense

The most natural response to the news that the federal Food and Drug Administration will allow beef producers and processors to use irradiation to zap E.coli and other bacteria is "it's about time."

The technique has been around for decades and has been used satisfactorily on pork, poultry, wheat, wheat flour and medical products.

Why did it take so long for the government to allow its use on beef, which many people prefer rare and which thus presents more serious risks of bacteria-driven illness than do some other foods?

Part of the answer lies in the well-documented, slow-motion approach of the FDA and, perhaps to an equal extent, in the resistance of consumers themselves.

The word itself evokes fears and images, old and new, associated with radiation, from poisoning to mushroom clouds to lead vests to Hiroshima.

And a few activist groups, averse to leaving safety to industry, have played on those apprehensions and have held up a flag of caution over the years.

The simple truth is, irradiation does not make food radioactive, but simply kills bacteria.

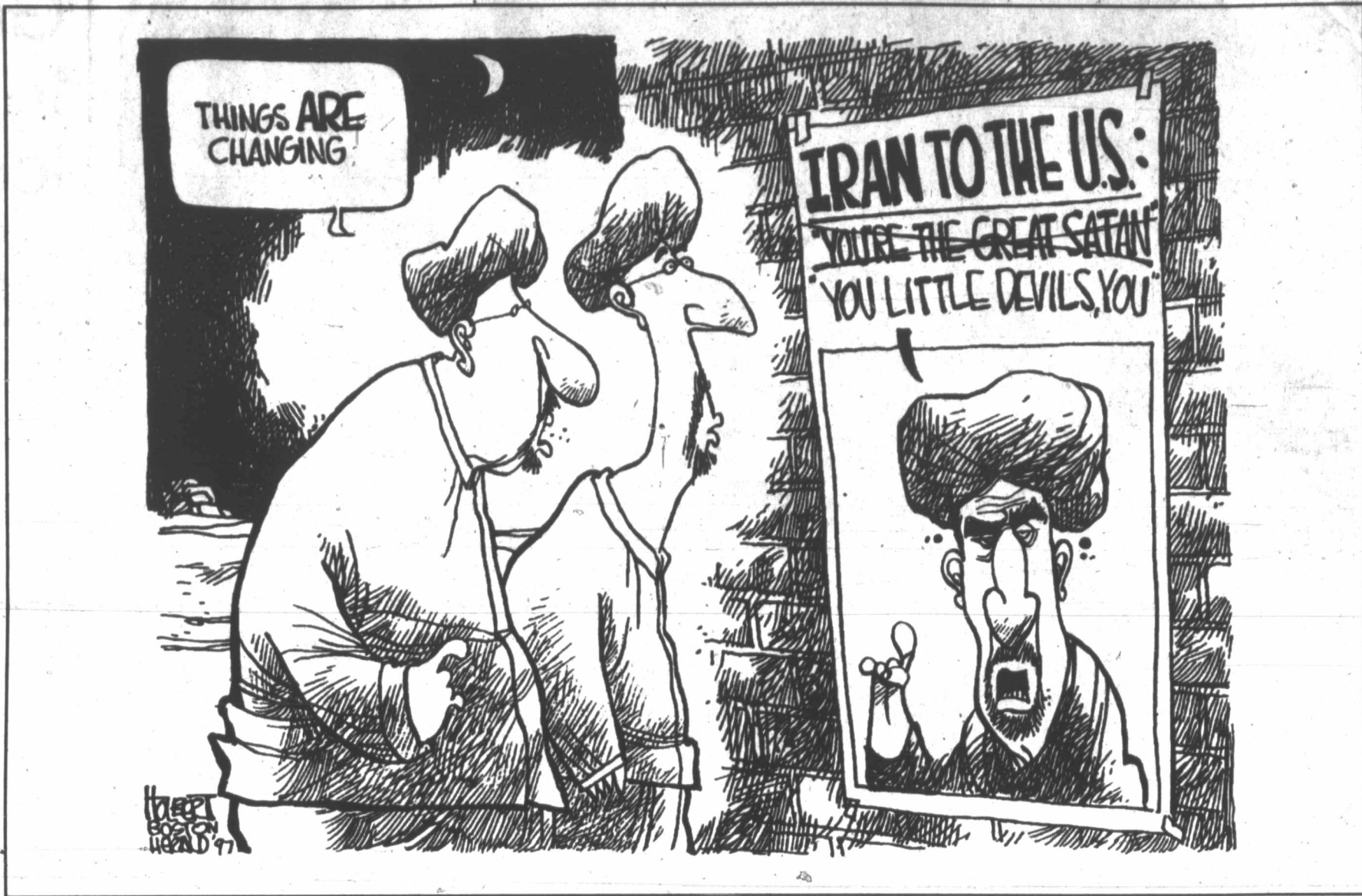
The watershed event for public sentiment — and the FDA — was the government's recall last summer of 25 million pounds of possibly tainted hamburger meat. At the time, the FDA had been processing for three years a petition from a company that wanted to expand its medical-irradiation business to include meat irradiation.

As the evidence accumulated that irradiation is effective at destroying bacteria without cooking or altering the taste of meat, the FDA finally gave in.

Consumer resistance is likely to remain even in the wake of the FDA's belated approval of the technique for beef. It might take months or years of education, followed by experience of eating irradiated food with no ill effects, for people to become wholly comfortable with irradiation.

With the FDA's decision, however, consumers can begin to determine whether they are willing to trade off the almost certain elimination of risks due to E.coli and other bacteria, against vague fears of anything that has anything to do with the radiation scare-word.

—Odessa American



SF thinkers aren't in the tank

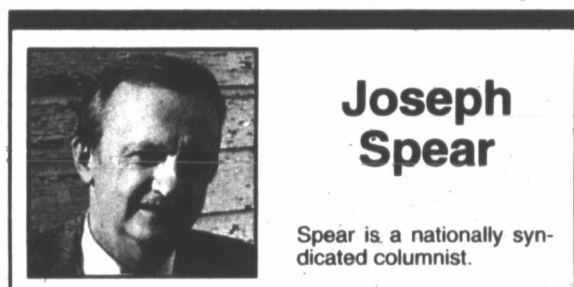
Thanks to a painful downsizing, you haven't heard much lately from the Spear Foundation. This does not mean we haven't been hard at work. Unlike the affluent think tanks with which we compete, we cannot produce studies and reports at the pace we once did, but we have been striving to keep up the quality.

For example, our Idea Assessment Team, which is sort of a clearinghouse for concepts, has surveyed the idea literature and is ready with an update. Herewith, a half dozen of the finest notions to come down the pike in the past 18 months:

(1) Cut candidates out of the political market. This superb idea, thought up by visionary columnist Dave Barry, is premised on the fact that our elected officials are routinely purchased by wealthy campaign donors, and we the people get nary a cent of it. Barry suggests that we remove the names of politicians from the ballot and list instead the donors who are buying the government. When we pull a lever beside one of their names, cash would come out of a slot in the voting machine.

This is a radical notion, and it may take a while to catch on. As an interim step, I would suggest that political donations be taxed at the rate of, oh, 10 percent, and that the proceeds be distributed to those of us who cannot afford a member of Congress. Call it a Deserved Earnings Credit or some such thing.

(2) Mine the sky. University of Arizona professor John S. Lewis is a pioneer on this one. Asteroids and other heavenly bodies are in fact



Joseph Spear

Spear is a nationally syndicated columnist.

a vast reserve of minerals. Mining the iron alone, says Prof. Lewis, would provide \$8 billion for every person in the world. Mining the gold, platinum, silver and other minerals would provide more than \$100 billion for each person on Earth. We could even pay off the national debt.

(3) Eat insects. Think of the crops that could be saved and the poor who could be fed if bugs could be eaten instead of sprayed and stomped. Actually, they can be. Here are the highlights of a recipe for "Spicy Crickets," published by the Department of Agriculture: Freeze crickets for eight hours. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour, or until crisp. Remove legs and marinate in a blend of olive oil, lemon juice, parsley, thyme, chives and hot sauce. Bake again. Can be eaten warm or cold, as a topping, as a meat or as a tasty snack.

(4) Develop lands and worlds in Nevada. Investors are said to be searching for property in Nevada on which they can build a "Holy Land" theme park. This is a divine idea and,

one hopes, the start of a major new industry in the Sagebrush State.

Regular readers will recall my proposal that Nevada, most of which is owned by Uncle Sam, be walled off and turned over to nativists, moralists, anarchists and people who like to tool around in camouflage clothing. I suggested the state then be renamed the Nation of Fruitcake, but there is no reason this couldn't be done on a smaller scale. Let's have a Flake Land and a Wonderful World of Wackos, some places like that.

(5) Eliminate real sex. No more teenage pregnancy. No more sexually transmitted diseases. Robotic sex partners will accomplish these things says Joel Snell, a teacher at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It may not be long, he wrote in *The Futurist* magazine, before "an entire generation of humans may grow up never having had sex with other humans."

(6) Find new uses for chicken manure. Is this an idea or a plea for ideas? Oh, well: On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where I am from, as well as in other parts of the country, chicken farming is a big industry. But there is an attendant problem: The manure is spread on fields and the runoff might be killing fish. They are already composting the stuff as a potting mixture, but there is an acute need for more solutions. Barbecue briquettes, lawn ornaments and garden gnomes, perhaps.

Chicken doo will be a gold mine for somebody. Go for it.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 1998. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 6, 1412, according to tradition, Joan of Arc was born in Domremy.

On this date: In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married.

In 1838, Samuel Morse first publicly demonstrated his telegraph, in Morristown, N.J.

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, N.Y., at age 60.

In 1942, the Pan American Airways "Pacific Clipper" arrived in New York, the first commercial plane to make a round-the-world trip.

In 1945, George Herbert Walker Bush married Barbara Pierce in Rye, N.Y.

In 1967, U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Deckhouse V, an offensive in the Mekong River delta.

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg

by an assailant at Cobo Arena in Detroit. (Four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, were later sentenced to prison.)

Ten years ago: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted by the Afghan news agency as saying the Kremlin wanted to pull an estimated 115,000 soldiers from Afghanistan in the coming year.

Five years ago: Ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev died in Paris at age 54. Jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie died in Englewood, N.J., at age 75. Authorities rescued Jennifer Stolpa and infant son after her husband found help after an

eight-day ordeal in the snow-covered Nevada desert.

One year ago: House Speaker Newt Gingrich met behind closed doors with Republican lawmakers, answering questions about admitted ethics violations and appealing for support in the upcoming speaker's election.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Loretta Young is 85. Pollster Louis Harris is 77. Bluegrass performer Earl Scruggs is 74. Former automaker John Z. DeLorean is 73. Author E.L. Doctorow is 67. Singer Doris Troy is 61. Actress Bonnie Franklin is 54. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 47.

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Berry's World



Lorna Wendt's victory is complete

The divorce case of Lorna and Gary Wendt has sparked a national debate about the value of a stay-at-home wife's work.

And the conclusion appears to be that it's worth quite a bit. A Connecticut judge granted Lorna Wendt half of all the hard assets of the union, estimated to be about \$20 million. Gary Wendt, GE Capitol Services Chairman, argued that his ex-wife should not receive half of the marital estate because he was the one who brought home the bacon.

But the judge rejected this argument, and recognized that Lorna's contributions to the family — such as putting her husband through business school, raising the children and hosting corporate dinners — were of equal value to Gary's.

This recognition of the value of traditional women's work is extremely heartening, especially as it appears to have elicited wide acceptance from the public. It appears that the stereotype of the stay-at-home wife who lounges around watching soaps and eating Oreos may be on its way out.

But there is another, equally important issue that needs to be addressed. Many believe that Lorna's victory was a partial one, since Gary was granted the right to keep all of his unvested stock options (though Lorna receives payment for a portion of his vested ones) as well as



Sara Eckel

Eckel is a nationally syndicated columnist.

his entire 401(k) retirement plan. The argument was that Lorna should not be entitled to Gary's future earnings.

Now, no one is going to sob into their pillow on Lorna Wendt's behalf, and indeed, overall she is satisfied with her settlement. However, the issue of future earnings is one that should be explored.

Because on the surface it makes sense: Why should the money a husband earns after a divorce be paid to his ex-spouse? After all, the marriage is over and the former spouses should be free agents, as it were.

Here's the problem: Most women aren't ending their marriages with golden parachutes worth millions of dollars. So let's forget about the Wendts for a minute and bring this issue into the real world. Consider a couple that is dividing up thousands, rather than millions, of

dollars after a 30-year marriage. Merely dividing the assets in half might seem fair until you consider the position that it puts a traditional wife in: After three decades out of the workforce, she now faces the daunting task of not only finding a job but also of building a retirement fund.

And that's the point that is so often missed: By staying home, a traditional wife is not only denying herself present-day income, she is also denying herself future income in the form of retirement savings, Social Security and, perhaps most important, earning power. A 50-year-old woman entering the workforce for the first time will never come close to matching the income she would have earned if she had been working for the entirety of the marriage. Similarly, denying a wife the benefit of her ex-spouse's retirement plan and other deferred payments rests on fallacious reasoning that the family breadwinner earns this income on his 65th birthday, as opposed to over the course of his entire career.

Once again, it is definitely reassuring to see stay-at-home wives receive some much deserved recognition for the work that they do. However, we must continue to ensure that women who choose to stay home with their families can do so without jeopardizing their future security.

At the box office: 'Titanic' in first for third straight weekend ...

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *Titanic* kept steaming full speed ahead at the box office, finishing on top of the weekend box-office charts by a wide margin.

The disaster epic enjoyed its best day yet on Saturday — 15 days after it opened — taking in an estimated \$12.7 million. During the first weekend of the new year it earned \$33.3 million.

The movie has grossed \$157.5 million to date and could end up netting more than \$250 million at domestic theaters.

No other movies opened in wide release. *The Boxer* performed well in limited release but the turnout was less impressive for *Oscar & Lucinda*.

Kevin Costner's costly flop *The Postman* fell out of the Top 10 in just its second weekend out. *Tomorrow Never Dies* was strong, and should pass the \$100 million mark by next weekend.

As *Good As It Gets* performed well in about 1,500 locations — about half the number of theaters as the box office leaders.

Following are the top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, with studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Entertainment Data.

1. *Titanic*, Paramount, \$33.3 million, 2,727 locations, \$12,217 average, \$157.5 million, three weeks.
2. *Tomorrow Never Dies*, MGM, \$13.8 million, 2,807 locations, \$4,916 average, \$92.4 million, three weeks.
3. *As Good As It Gets*, Tristar, \$12.2 million, 1,579 locations, \$7,738 average, \$40.7 million, two weeks.
4. *MouseHunt*, DreamWorks, \$8.4 million, 2,213 locations, \$3,804 average, \$40 million, three weeks.
5. *Scream 2*, Miramax, \$7.28 million, 2,688 locations, \$2,710 average, \$85.5 million, four weeks.
6. *Jackie Brown*, Miramax, \$7.26 million, 1,629 locations, \$4,460 average, \$27.2 million, two weeks.
7. *Amistad*, DreamWorks, \$4.47 million, 726 locations, \$6,167 average, \$26.7 million, four weeks.
8. *An American Werewolf in Paris*, Buena Vista, \$4.44 million, 1,731 locations, \$2,566 average, \$20.1 million, two weeks.
9. *Flubber*, Buena Vista, \$4.40 million, 1,957 locations, \$2,250 average, \$83.1 million, six weeks.
10. *Mr. Magoo*, Buena Vista, \$4.1 million, 1,857

BOX OFFICE	
Top weekend movies	
Weekend of Jan. 2-4, 1998	
All dollar figures in millions	
Gross to date, weeks in release, number of screens	Weekend gross
1 <i>Titanic</i> \$157.5, three weeks, 2,727 screens	\$33.3
2 <i>Tomorrow Never Dies</i> \$92.4, three weeks, 2,807 screens	\$13.8
3 <i>As Good As It Gets</i> \$40.7, two weeks, 1,579 screens	\$12.2
4 <i>MouseHunt</i> \$40, three weeks, 2,213 screens	\$8.4
5 <i>Scream 2</i> \$85.5, four weeks, 2,688 screens	\$7.28
6 <i>Jackie Brown</i> \$27.2, two weeks, 1,629 screens	\$7.26
7 <i>Amistad</i> \$26.7, four weeks, 726 screens	\$4.47
8 <i>An American Werewolf in Paris</i> \$20.1, two weeks, 1,731 screens	\$4.44
9 <i>Flubber</i> \$83.1, six weeks, 1,957 screens	\$4.40
10 <i>Mr. Magoo</i> \$15.6, two weeks, 1,857 screens	\$4.1

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

locations, \$2,210 average, \$15.6 million, two weeks.

11. *Home Alone 3*, 20th Century Fox, \$3.8 million, 2,106 locations, \$1,818 average, \$24.3 million, four weeks.

12. *The Postman*, Warner Bros., \$3.5 million, 2,107 locations, \$1,677 average, \$14.3 million, two weeks.

13. *For Richer or Poorer*, Universal, \$3.1 million, 1,954 locations, \$1,600 average, \$24.5 million, four weeks.

14. *Good Will Hunting*, Miramax, \$2.3 million, 164 locations, \$14,259 average, \$7.5 million, five weeks.

15. *Anastasia*, 20th Century Fox, \$2.1 million, 1,549 locations, \$1,372 average, \$53 million, eight weeks.

16. *Deconstructing Harry*, Fine Line, \$2.1 million, 443 locations, \$4,700 average, \$4.9 million, four weeks.

17. *Wag the Dog*, New Line, \$1.2 million, 69 locations, \$17,322 average, \$1.4 million, two weeks.

18. *L.A. Confidential*, Warner Bros., \$578,000, 302 locations, \$1,914 average, \$38.3 million, 16 weeks.

19. *John Grisham's The Rainmaker*, Paramount, \$576,000, 827 locations, \$697 average, \$44.4 million, seven weeks.

20. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, Warner Bros., \$494,000, 556 locations, \$888 average, \$23.6 million, seven weeks.

Kaczynski tries to fire lawyers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Moments before opening arguments in Theodore Kaczynski's federal trial were to begin, the Unabomber suspect paralyzed court proceedings by renewing his demand to fire his attorneys.

Now, his whole trial may be in jeopardy, experts said after Kaczynski's unexpected actions Monday.

"At this point, the court is in a real pickle," said former U.S. Attorney Joe Russoniello of San Francisco. "The judge wants to be dispassionate and fair to Kaczynski, but at the same time he has to make sure that the trial is not compromised."

Kaczynski delayed opening arguments by protesting his lawyers' attempts to portray

him as a madman. U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. quickly ordered a closed-door meeting with Kaczynski and his lawyers, excluding the prosecution.

After meeting for nearly five hours, Burrell delayed opening statements until at least Thursday.

Kaczynski and his lawyers were expected to continue trying today to resolve the impasse.

Bringing in a new attorney at the last minute is unlikely, especially with the 55-year-old former math professor facing the death penalty, experts said.

More likely would be an agreement to let Kaczynski represent himself, with the judge insisting that current defense attorneys Quin Denvir and Judy

Clarke stay on as legal advisers, Russoniello said.

Or, the judge simply could rule that a year of trial preparation makes any change in attorneys too disruptive, Georgetown University constitutional law expert Paul Rothstein said.

"If it would cause an extreme breakdown of the system, the judge is within his rights to say, 'You have made your choice — now live with it,'" Rothstein said.

But that path is fraught with legal peril, he warned, because some appellate courts insist that a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to counsel of his choice is so basic that a judge must bend over backward to indulge it.

Dr. Craig Shaffer announces his association with Dr. Simoneta Soriano

Simoneta Soriano, MD
Family Practice

Doctor of Medicine and Internship: Manila Central University, Calcoocan City, Philippines.

Residency: Southside Hospital, Bay Shore, New York.

Office Address: 3023 N. Perryton Parkway #201.

Appointments: 806/665-0550.



The public is invited to meet Dr. Soriano at an open house

Wednesday, January 7, 1997

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Columbia Medical Office Bldg. - North
3023 N. Perryton Parkway, Suite 201
Pampa, Texas

Refreshments - Door Prizes

Volkswagen introduces new Beetle

DETROIT (AP) — It's a sequel to "The Love Bug" that Volkswagen hopes Americans will love more than the original.

The Beetle, that quirky car once beloved by beatniks, is back with more power and less flower — although the dashboard bud vase, an option in the old days, is standard now.

On Monday, two decades since the last newly built Beetle was sold in this country, Volkswagen rolled out the re-styled line of the car that became an improbable, wheelie-popping film star named Herbie in the 1969 Disney movie "The Love Bug."

The automaker, which unveiled the new model at the North American International Auto Show, expects to sell 50,000 in its first production year. It will be available in the United States and Mexico in March.

"It's the rebirth of a legend, a love affair continued, a dream come true," Volkswagen AG board member Jens Newmen said.

The car, designed in California, will be made in Mexico.

The 1999 model has the lady-bug shape of its predecessor but adds some modern safety devices: antilock brakes and dual front and side air bags that were not part of the original Beetle.

The new Beetle is larger inside

and out than its predecessor — and more costly with a base U.S. sticker price of \$15,200.

Thirty years ago, it went for less than \$2,000, or less than \$10,000 in today's dollars, adjusted for inflation.

The original Bug's unconventional air-cooled, rear-mounted engine has given way to one of three modern water-cooled, four-cylinder engines in the car's front to drive the front wheels.

Even so, the Beetle borrows some quirky retro touches from the old Bug: big, round

speedometers and gauge pods, bulbous fenders, passenger grab handles and built-in running boards.

"We cannot deny (the old Beetle's) origin or the magic of its shape," said Volkswagen AG Chairman Ferdinand Piech.

The move to resurrect the Beetle marks a big change for a company that for years tried — with limited success — to divorce itself from its econocar heritage that began with the humble Bug born in 1938 under Adolf Hitler's guidance.

Crown of Texas Hospice

Neighbors Caring for Neighbors

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372-7696 or 1-800-572-6365

Jo Logue, LVN, has joined the staff of Crown of Texas Hospice. With more than 10 years of hospice experience, she is a member of a team of committed professionals who provide quality Hospice care in Pampa and surrounding communities.

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Adoption Involves Two Sets Of Parents. Two Acts of Love

DEAR ABBY: I am adopted, and my heart goes out to "Still Wounded by Adoption," who said adoptees search for their "real" parents because they need a sense of connection to the universe, and branded adoption as "barbaric."

Abby, I have never searched for my birth parents. My "real" parents are the mom and dad who raised me, stayed up with me when I was sick, taught me to read and write, and worried about me when I stayed out past my curfew. They are the couple who attended my football games and involved themselves in everything that was important to me, who scrimped and saved to send me to college and help me through law school, and are still there for me. I have two parents who love me, and that's all I could ever ask for.



Abigail Van Buren
 SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR MICHAEL: Your letter echoes the sentiments of most adoptees. Thank you for re-emphasizing that adoption was an act of love on the part of your birth parents, as well as your adoptive parents.

DEAR ABBY: I must respond to "Still Wounded by Adoption" who complained bitterly about adoption, stating that many adoptees want to locate their birth parents to find a genetic connection from their roots to the rest of the universe.

I've got news for "Wounded": All of us, adopted or not, are searching for our connection to the universe. This search has spawned our religions and challenged some of the most inquiring minds. Abby, this connection isn't found in someone else, nor is it found in wealth, beauty, fame or power. It's found within ourselves.

"Wounded" stated that human beings are the only species that

willingly give away their offspring. Wrong! I'm not trained in biology, but I know that the female cowbird places its eggs in the nests of other birds, thereby allowing her offspring to be adopted by the nest owners. A quick reference check found that the Old World common cuckoo also exhibits this behavior.

"Wounded's" bottom line for the "adoption problem" is that "men should do a better job of guarding their sperm." The implication is that men are solely responsible for all unwanted pregnancies. Well, the last time I checked, it still takes two to tango. Women should take responsibility for their actions also.

"Wounded" seems to be deeply wounded, all right, but I'm not sure that adoption is the root of the problem.

FRANKLY FRANK
 IN MILWAUKEE

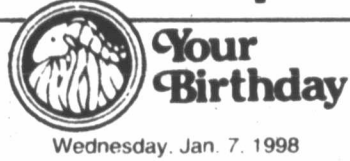
DEAR ABBY: We have a problem and need a tactful solution, and are hoping you can help us.

We recently installed an expensive parquet floor in our home, and we would like to keep spike heels off it. How can we tell our guests in a nice way?

MRS. B. FROM N.C.

DEAR MRS. B.: Keep a collection of bedroom slippers in all sizes near the front door. It's subtle, non-offensive, and should solve your problem.

Horoscope



Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1998

You have acquired some valuable friends over the past few years. In the months ahead, they'll reveal just how much you mean to them both socially and personally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Grab the reins today in an endeavor you think you can steer better than your peers. You can handle this transition without offending others. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be realistic regarding the objectives you set for yourself today. Do not establish goals your common sense tells you are out of reach at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Conditions that are out of your control might cause you to alter your plans today. If you keep cool, things will sort themselves out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Joint endeavors must be consistently monitored and evaluated today or else you might come out on the short end. Move cautiously.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Strive to be self-reliant today. If you depend too heavily upon others and they can't assist you, retracing your steps could be an awkward move.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You are more likely to help others today if you feel you are doing so of your own volition. When demands are made on you, you'll resent the bidder.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Generally you enjoy social events, but today you might attend a gathering where someone you don't like is present, and this could

put a damper on your fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Although you are capable of outstanding achievement today, you might be plagued with self-doubts. When the going gets tough, you could toss in the towel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are likely to hold strong opinions today, and this is OK if your purpose is constructive. If not, don't try to force your views on the unreciprocative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you are called upon to help another today, try to do so with his or her resources. Do not get in a position where you're expected to pay the freight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Do not anticipate the actions of others in a negative manner today. This could create complications that are totally unnecessary and avoidable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Spend time today involved in activities that provide you with gratification, but don't neglect your duties where others are depending upon you.

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For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



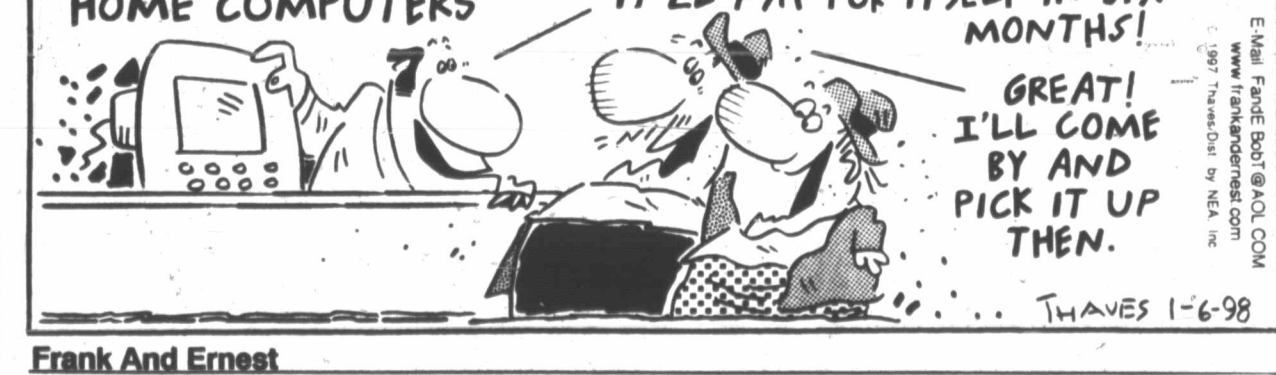
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Home Computers



Frank And Ernest



"Well, you're right, Mother. It IS how the big kids are wearing them these days."



"Marmaduke heard you talking about El Niño. He thinks he needs a new roof."

The Family Circus



Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech guard Rayford Young has quite a hot streak going at the free throw line.

The Pampa sophomore has hit 24 consecutive free throws in 11 games this season. Young was 6 of 6 from the line in the Red Raiders' 66-55 win over Iowa State last Saturday in a Big 12 Conference opener for both teams.

Young had 11 points against the Cyclones. Ross Carmichael also had 11 points while Cory Carr led Tech in scoring with 20 points.

Texas Tech has a 7-4 record for the season and is 1-0 in Big 12 play. Iowa State is 7-7 and 0-1.

Texas Tech continues conference action Saturday at Oklahoma State in Stillwater.

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's basketball leagues for ages 16 and up. Men's Competitive, Recreational and Women's Open divisions will be offered.

Entry deadline will be Jan. 14 at 5 p.m. and the season will begin on Jan. 21.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is \$200 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of 10 players.

Roster forms, fact sheets and league by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart.

For more information, please contact Shane Stokes at 669-5770 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DALLAS (AP) — Baylor senior Patrick Hunter was named player of the week in the Big 12 Conference while Iowa State freshman Marcus Fizer was named rookie of the week.

Hunter won in a split vote over Oklahoma State guard Joe Adkins, the conference said Monday.

Hunter, a 5-foot-9 guard from Ashdown, Ark., scored 40 points last week as Baylor defeated Pacific and Texas. He scored 16 points and made the winning 3-pointer in overtime against Pacific. He followed up with 24 points against Texas.

Fizer, a 6-7 forward from Arcadia, La., had 21 points and 10 rebounds in a victory over New Orleans and had 26 points in a loss to Texas Tech.

BRISCOE — Fort Elliott visits Samnorwood tonight in non-district basketball contests. Gametime is 6:30.

Samnorwood boys won the Fort Elliott Invitational last week, defeating Claude, 61-54, in the finals.

Fort Elliott boys won the consolation championship with a 57-54 win over Miami.

Curt Smith and Michael Hilburn led the Cougars' scoring attack with 15 points each.

Miami's leading scorer was Bradley Hale with 16 points. Blake Hurst followed with 11.

In the girls' division of the tournament, Fort Elliott slipped by Samnorwood, 58-57, for third place.

Amanda Shields had 15 points and Susie Luttrell 11 to lead Fort Elliott.

Booker captured the girls' championship.

CANYON — The West Texas A&M University athletic department will continue its youth special promotion through this Sunday, Jan. 11.

All youngsters, high school age and below, will be admitted free to the Buff and Lady Buff basketball games when accompanied by a paying adult. WTAMU hosts double-headers on Thursday and Saturday this week against Midwestern State and Tarleton State, respectively.

The Lady Buffs tip off at 6 both nights, while the Buffs follow approximately 20 minutes after the women's contest. Further, the Lady Buffs host Texas Women's University on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

All WTAMU home basketball games are played at the WTAMU Fieldhouse on campus.

Big 12 coaches have unsettled lineups

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Teams with great depth can survive injuries to a great player — even if that great player may be the best in the country.

So Kansas, which dropped from No. 2 to No. 4 in the poll Monday, likely can wait out the five weeks it will take for Raef LaFrentz' broken finger to heal.

Teams without that depth likely are in trouble when a key player is felled by injury, and the news is grim at Texas.

The Longhorns' star junior forward Kris Clack may have a torn anterior cruciate ligament, and may be lost for the season if not for his career, coach Tom Penders said Monday during the weekly telephone news conference.

"I said early in the year it's a rebuilding year and now it's official," Penders said. "He was our only proven veteran player who has produced in the past."

Making matters worse, Texas headed into Monday night's game at Missouri with guard Luke Axtell suffering from a sprained ankle. Axtell didn't make the trip north.

"Eighty percent of the plays we run are designed for Axtell and Klack," Penders said. "We'll just have to play a lot of people and see who is playing the best. I'm going to let my manager pick my lineup out of a hat."

Texas' problems were evident as the Tigers ran away 91-69.

Kansas has 7-foot Eric Chenoweth to step in for LaFrentz, and Lester Earl became eligible just in time to help the Jayhawks play through an injury

to T.J. Pugh. Pugh, who has a stress fracture in his right foot, could be cleared to begin practicing this week, but coach Roy Williams said he was probably about a week or 10 days away from playing.

Williams said there was no comparison to the injuries of this year to the injuries suffered by Jacque Vaughn before the start of last season and by Scot Pollard near the end of the league season.

"(Vaughn's injury) happened at the start of the non-conference season and teams didn't know us that well anyway," Williams said. "This year, we're in the conference season and teams know us so well."

Missouri also is trying to fight through injuries. Brian Grawler has a thigh bruise and Albert

White just can't seem to get over his sprained ankle.

"We're just going to let everybody get well and if we have to take some lumps, we'll take them and let everybody get well," coach Norm Stewart said.

"Of course, that was one big lump the Tigers took at Kansas State on Saturday in their Big 12 opener.

"I think there are some strange things going on," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said of Missouri's 111-56 loss to the Wildcats. "I'm sure something bizarre happened up there in Manhattan."

Baylor coach Harry Miller acknowledged his team's win at Texas was a bit of an oddity as well. The Bears have fought through injuries to go 6-5.

"What's happening now is we're getting healthier," Miller said. "Our attitude has been positive through all this. The win at Texas is significant — it's significant to open up with a win on the road.

"We only won one game on the road last year and that was at K-State and they were at the bottom of the league. It's been hard to get a measure of our team because we've been playing so many guys. We've played a much more demanding schedule than we did last year and we've been hurt. We're going to have to do some significant winning in conference to make up for it."

Sutton's Cowboys just missed cracking the Top 25 with 142 votes, and Kansas State got mention with 17 votes.

Clack feared lost for year

AUSTIN (AP) — Injuries to the Texas Longhorns' top two scorers and 7-foot center have left coach Tom Penders saying that this season will be nothing more than a rebuilding year.

Texas lost Kris Clack (knee) and Luke Axtell (ankle) to injuries in an 87-81 loss at home to Baylor on Saturday, and 7-foot center Chris Mihm reinjured his thumb on his shooting (right) hand.

Clack was feared to have been lost for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

The 6-foot-5 junior guard, who was averaging 16.6 points, nearly six rebounds and almost three steals per game, had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam Monday, but the results were not released.

Something could be known by today.

Axtell, who was averaging 14 points per game, suffered a severely sprained right ankle. X-rays Sunday showed no break, and Penders hopes the hot-shooting freshman guard might be available when No. 2 Kansas visits Austin on Saturday.

"It's now officially a rebuilding season," Penders said.

As the Longhorns prepared to play at Missouri Monday night, Penders was asked who his starters would be.

"We may just draw five names out of a hat," he joked weakly.

Mihm, bothered by stretched ligaments in the thumb most of the season, played without a protective cast for the first time against the Bears but lasted only six minutes before re-aggravating the injury.

"I thought I was back to 100 percent, but now it's back to where it was before," Mihm said. "I'm just going to have to deal with it all year, I guess."

Penders said he has no idea how his team will make up the 30 points per game he was getting from Clack and Axtell.

"We're not Kansas or Duke. We don't have their depth or the 50 years of tradition behind us that creates that kind of depth," Penders said. "We're just going to stress that this is an opportunity for players to get some time and valuable experience."

Soccer season starts



(Pampa News photo)

Lucas Jaramillo, who was the leading scorer for the Pampa boys' soccer team a year ago, leads the Harvesters into the 1998 season today against Amarillo Tascosa in Amarillo. Pampa and Tascosa girls also open the season today.

Upgrading the Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP) —

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says he's spending more time trying to put together his roster for next season than he is trying to put together a coaching staff.

During his weekly radio show on KLIF-AM, Jones said Tuesday he's working hard to re-sign Pro Bowl offensive tackle Larry Allen, one of the top free agents this offseason.

"It's no secret we want him back," Jones said. "We hope to have good news soon."

As for other players off other rosters, Jones said, "We're seeing if we have an opportunity to upgrade at

key positions."

Coaching may be another key position the team may be looking to upgrade. Head coach Barry Switzer is widely expected to be let go or reassigned, with the fate of his assistants mostly unknown.

"It probably will be well after the Super Bowl," Jones said of any decision involving the coaching staff. "It could be leaning towards the end of February ... (before there is) any decision."

Jones said he's not worried about his assistants looking for other jobs, adding that they are "still being evaluated."

Harvesters battle Herd in district basketball

PAMPA — Both the Pampa High boys' and girls' basketball teams return to basketball action tonight, traveling to Hereford for a pair of District 1-4A contests.

The Harvesters, 7-11 overall, reached the consolation finals at the Lions Club Tournament in Fort Worth last week.

Though the Harvesters boast a rich winning tradition, this year's team suffers from a lack of experience.

"They're a young team," said head coach Robert Hale. "It's obvious we're not a powerhouse and that's tough to carry when we've been to state three times in the '90s. I'm not emphasizing that, but I'm saying it's hard for them to perform under that pressure."

Hale explains this year's situation further. "We do need more experience, and we need more skill," he said. "A lot of our young men have missed the opportunity to play JV ball, and that's so important. They have average skills and average maturity, but it's what you do with it that counts," he said.

Hale said Pampa's greatest victories may not show up on the scoreboard when the game is over. "I'm proud because this group of young men have been so diligent to do the things basketball stands for: to give the

best you have, athletically, academically and emotionally," he said. "I'm impressed with the character and heart that they show. That's the essence of what sports brings out in young men."

Despite their youth and inexperience, Pampa opened the district season on Dec. 16 with a 58-54 win over Borger.

"Our goal this year is to try, and be as competitive as we can in this league. We have to take it one game at a time," he said.

Hereford's record is 7-10 and the Whitefaces are coming off a 67-62 loss to Lubbock High.

The Lady Harvesters, 1-2 in district, are matched up against a tough Hereford girls' club, which is off to a 3-1 start in district.

The Lady Whitefaces are led by 5-9 seniors Julie Rampley and Katie Betzen. They scored 17 points each in Hereford's 86-60 win over Hobbs, N.M. over the weekend.

Jordanna Young (5-8 sophomore) and McKinley Quarles (5-7 senior) have been Pampa's scoring leaders. Young is averaging around 9 points per game and Quarles 8 ppg.

Tonight's games start at 6 (girls) and 7:30 (boys).

(Sara Sepulveda of the Amarillo Globe-News contributed to this report.)

Spurs out-defense Magic

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — David Robinson can sum up the difference between the sputtering San Antonio Spurs and the first-place San Antonio Spurs in one word: Defense.

"Now I feel like when the game is on the line, when we need some stops, we'll get some stops," Robinson said after Monday night's 74-69 victory over the Orlando Magic. "We didn't feel that way for a long stretch."

After a 10-10 start, the Spurs have won 11 of their last 12 games to climb atop the Midwest Division standings. Against the Magic, they overcame poor fourth-quarter shooting with tough defense that keyed a 12-3 game-ending run.

Robinson had a subpar night offensively, taking only two shots in the second half and going scoreless from the field after the first quarter. But he made six free throws and had four blocks down the stretch to shut down Orlando's Rony Seikaly.

Early in the game, Seikaly was really aggressive getting the ball down low, so I knew that was one of things they were going to look

for," Robinson said. "I really didn't get a chance to contribute much offensively, so I wanted to do something defensively. I took that on as a challenge."

Tim Duncan was 9-for-12 from the field, and led San Antonio, which trailed most of the game, with 20 points.

The loss was the ninth in 10 games for the injury-depleted Magic, who missed 22 of 27 shots in the fourth quarter and stumbled after leading 66-62 with 5:34 to go.

Darrell Armstrong, starting in place of the injured Mark Price, led Orlando in scoring (21), rebounding (9) and assists (6) despite being the Magic's smallest player on the floor at 6-foot-1.

"That is an incredible story in itself," Orlando coach Chuck Daly said. "This guy has a heart bigger than his body and does not know how to quit."

Seikaly had 12 points for Orlando, but did not score in the fourth quarter until just 9.3 seconds remained.

By that time, the Spurs had gone up 74-66 despite getting just two field goals.

NHL owner negotiating to purchase baseball Rangers

DALLAS (AP) — A group led by Dallas Stars owner Tom Hicks is bidding to purchase baseball's Texas Rangers, a spokeswoman for the businessman confirms.

"The only thing I can say is to confirm that discussions have been under way for some months," Hicks spokeswoman Lisa LeMaster told The Associated Press Monday night.

"It's a done deal. It should be announced by Wednesday or Thursday," a source described as knowledgeable about the negotiations told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The newspaper said in today's editions that the sale

price is approximately \$150 million.

A deal would have to be approved by three-fourths of the 29 other major league baseball teams.

Hicks headed a group last August that paid \$1.7 billion for LIN Television, the production company that owns the rights to the Rangers' broadcasts. A source close to Hicks said he looks at the Rangers as a way to enhance his broadcast interests, the newspaper reported.

Asked if a deal was imminent, Ms. LeMaster said she could not speculate.

"There are a whole lot of people involved," she said, listing current owners, Hicks' group and Major League Baseball owners among them. "There's nothing to announce."

Dallas television station WFAA first reported the talks Monday night, citing a spokesperson for Hicks and a current investor in the team.

Rangers president and general partner Tom Schieffer declined to confirm the talks.

"From time to time, people have approached the Rangers about their desire to own the team, and we have never dis-

cussed any of those approaches publicly," Schieffer said. "I don't think it would be appropriate to do that now."

The Rangers are now owned by a group of 28 limited partners, including Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

The investors' group led by Bush and Edward W. "Rusty" Rose purchased controlling interest of the team in 1989 from Eddie Chiles, who bought the Rangers in 1980.

Chiles sold controlling interest for an estimated \$46 million, but the asking price now is bound to be much steeper.

The Rangers opened a new \$189 million stadium in 1994, and a club-record 2.9 million fans went to The Ballpark last season despite the team's losing record.

Neither Hicks nor Rose returned telephone calls from The AP on Monday night. Karen Hughes, a spokeswoman for Bush, referred calls to the team.

Rangers spokesman John Blake said he had no information.

Oklahoma media magnate Edward Gaylord, who owns a portion of the team, said Monday night that he knew nothing about the discussions.

No. 12 New Mexico gets career-high night from Shields

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Center Kenny Thomas once again failed to perform up to expectations in a big game, and Clayton Shields once more found a way to bail out New Mexico.

Shields' career-high 34 points and school record-tying eight 3-pointers carried No. 12 New Mexico to a 98-77 win over TCU on Monday night.

Shields' best night of the season more than made up for Thomas' worst. In foul trouble in the first half and ineffective throughout the game, Thomas finished with three points and five rebounds — a shadow of his season averages of 19 points and nearly 10 rebounds.

Shields, by contrast, plays well in big-game situations. Two years ago, his 55-foot shot at the buzzer beat New Mexico State, and in the NCAA tournament two years ago, he scored 25 points against Kansas State and 19 against Georgetown.

On Monday, the nation's highest scoring team was no match for Shields' 3-point rainbows. "We just got our butts beat," was the only comment TCU coach Billy Tubbs delivered after the game.

New Mexico (11-1) hit 14 of 26 3-pointers, handled TCU's full-court pressure and held the Horned Frogs to their lowest point total of the season.

Shields, who had hit just 35 percent of his 3-point shots going into the game, made eight of nine and tied the school 3-point record set by Marlow White in 1993 against Simon Fraser. He scored 21 points and had five 3-pointers at halftime.

"I knew my shot would come back one of these days. I was hoping it would tonight," Shields said. "I just took my open looks."

New Mexico also got huge contributions from guards Lamont Long and David Gibson, reserve guard Kevin Henry and backup center Ben Baum. The 6-foot-4 Long hit 10 of 19 shots for 27 points and had 12 rebounds. Gibson scored a season-high 11 points, Henry scored 12 points and Baum scored six points.

TCU (11-4) got 25 points from center Lee Nailon and 23 from guard Mike Jones. But Nailon had to take 26 shots to get his points and Jones put up 19 shots.

Thomas picked up his third foul with 11:24 left in the first half and TCU leading 18-16. But the Frogs couldn't capitalize on Thomas' departure and the Lobos turned adversity into advantage behind the trio of Shields, Long and reserve guard Kevin Henry.

Long scored 10 points, Henry nine and Shields eight in the final 11 minutes of the half, and the Lobos outscored TCU 12-2 in the final three for a 50-39 lead.

TCU needed less than three minutes to erase most of that deficit. The Frogs scored the first 10 points of the second half to make it 50-49 with 17:10 left. But New Mexico rebuilt the lead just as quickly.

Henry and Shields hit back-to-back 3-pointers and Long added a three-point play. TCU's Prince Fowler countered with a 3-pointer, but Shields and Gibson put the Frogs away for good with two more 3s.

TCU took a 9-1 lead three minutes into the game, and only Shields' shooting kept New Mexico close. He scored 13 of the Lobos' first 16 points.

"Sometimes you have to be backed into a corner to get out of a slump," New Mexico coach Dave Bliss said. "We would have been out of the game for sure if he hadn't hit the 3s. He found the holes and made the shots."

Rockets suffer pain of Hakeem's absence

HOUSTON — To say the Rockets are going through turbulent times is like saying exuberant Christmas shoppers are having a little trouble with January credit-card statements.

The Rockets are close to being in over their heads as they go north of the border for an important two-game trip, their first of the season to Eastern Conference locales.

"For a while, they thought they were doing well in their survival mode. Six weeks ago, Hakeem Olajuwon had knee surgery. The Rockets knew they would have tough periods while their All-Star center was sidelined. They just hoped they could minimize the down times.

"Through most of December, they did. But in the past two weeks, the Rockets have seen their short-handedness catch up with them.

"It (a difficult stretch) is going to happen when you have a main guy out," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said as the Rockets turned their attention to Monday night's opponent, the Toronto Raptors. "If we play hard, that's all you can really ask of your team, and for the most part, we have done that.

"But our defense has to pick up if we're going to survive this deal. We've got to weather this storm. And there are hurricane warnings up."

The Rockets' trouble started at San Antonio on Dec. 20. After going 8-2 in their first 10 games after Olajuwon's injury, the Rockets had back-to-back games in which they couldn't reach 90 points against the Spurs and Los Angeles Lakers. A Christmas Day visit to Utah didn't help matters.

The only real success the Rockets have had since the start of

the slide was a 111-101 win over Washington at Compaq Center.

They followed that with a 19-point loss to Charlotte, then needed overtime to squeak by Denver by one point. Denver (2-28) has the worst record in the NBA. When Portland busted the Rockets on Saturday night, it meant the Rockets had lost five of their last seven. Their record without Olajuwon dipped to 10-7 after the impressive start.

Clearly, the Rockets are beginning to fall behind the optimistic curve they hoped to maintain without Olajuwon.

"We actually had a chance to gain on the curve," Charles Barkley said. "We lost a couple of tough games that we probably should have won. We've played well at times without Hakeem. But we could have played better."

And they will have to, or things likely will go from bad to worse. Toronto (4-28) has the second-worst record in the league. And after Denver took the Rockets to overtime, they can take nothing for granted.

"Teams know when you're down and struggling," Eddie Johnson said. "And they try to take advantage of that. They're not going to hand you anything.

"And then things seem to start going against you. When it rains, it pours."

Right now, it's a deluge on the Rockets.

"You can't make excuses," Barkley said. "You have to be a man about it."

If nothing else, the past two weeks have proved to the Rockets they can't afford anything less than a heroic work ethic and solid execution if they expect to beat anybody without Olajuwon. The grace period, when adrenalin and a soft schedule carried them, is over.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL				NFL Playoffs				At A Glance			
By The Associated Press								Wild Cards			
Saturday, Dec. 27								Minnesota 23, New York Giants 22			
Sunday, Dec. 28								Denver 42, Jacksonville 17			
New England 17, Miami 3								Tampa Bay 20, Detroit 10			
Divisional Playoffs								Saturday, Jan. 3			
Pittsburgh 7, New England 6								San Francisco 38, Minnesota 22			
Sunday, Jan. 4								Green Bay 21, Tampa Bay 7			
Denver 14, Kansas City 10								Dallas 5, 27, 156, 16			
Denver 2, 28, .067, 18								Pacific Division			
Seattle 26, 6, .813, 2								L.A. Lakers 24, 8, 750, 2			
Phoenix 19, 10, .655, 5 1/2								Portland 19, 12, .613, 6 1/2			
Sacramento 13, 20, .394, 13 1/2								L.A. Clippers 8, 24, 250, 16			
Golden State 7, 22, .241, 17 1/2								Sunday's Games			
Washington 109, Phoenix 99								Seattle 120, Vancouver 108			
Sacramento 106, Charlotte 92								Philadelphia 113, L.A. Lakers 107			
Monday's Games								Houston 120, Toronto 96			
Washington 113, New York 106								San Antonio 74, Orlando 69			
Milwaukee 98, Portland 92								Tuesday's Games			
Phoenix at Indiana, 9 p.m.								Houston at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.			
L.A. Lakers at Vancouver, 8 p.m.								Boston at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.			
Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.								Philadelphia at Utah, 9 p.m.			
Charlotte at Seattle, 10 p.m.								L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.			
Wednesday's Games								Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.			
Orlando at Toronto, 7 p.m.								New Jersey at New York, 7:30 p.m.			
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.								Chicago 3-13-4-11, Lawson 0-0-0-0, Maxwell 0-0-0-0, Totals 28-82-10-15-89			
San Antonio 16, 23, 18, —, 74								Orlando 21, 21, 16, 11, —, 69			
3-Point goals—San Antonio 2-10 (Geary 1-1, Jackson 1-5, Person 0-4), Orlando 3-13 (Evans 2-4, Harper 1-4, Armstrong 0-1, Wilkins 0-2), Fouled out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 52 (Duncan, Robinson 11), Orlando 53 (Armstrong 9). Assists—San Antonio (Johnson 4), Orlando 17 (Armstrong 6). Total fouls—San Antonio 17, Orlando 19. Technical—Coach Daily, A—17, 248 (17, 248).											
COLLEGE BASKETBALL								Monday's Major College Basketball Scores			
By The Associated Press								EAST			
Buffalo 79, S. Utah 55								Cent. Connecticut 57, Robert Morris 58			
College of N.J. 80, Salisbury 60								Glenville St. 76, Columbia Union 33			
Gwynedd Mercy 60, Delaware Val. 45								St. Francis 89, California 63			
John Jay 80, Old Westbury 58								Lycoming 88, Dickinson 38			
Marshall 73, E. Michigan 70								Mercury, N.Y. 76, Queens Coll. 60			
Montclair St. 76, Stockton 60								Moravian 58, Franklin & Marshall 45			
Mount St. Mary, N.Y. 83, Long Island U. 77								Phila. Textile 73, Southampton 57			
Ripon 62, Albright 53								Slippery Rock 86, Geneva 71			
St. Francis, Pa. 50, Fairleigh Dickinson 40								Stonewall 73, Le Moyne 63			
St. Francis, N.Y. 81, St. Francis, N.Y. 42								SOUTH			
Ala.-Huntsville 60, Valdosta St. 58, OT								Albany, N.Y. 52, Alabama A&M 47			
Campbell 69, Fla. International 67								Clayton St. 51, Shorter 38			
Clemson 74, Virginia 57								Clint Valley 89, W. Virginia St. 81, OT			
Coll. of Charleston 65, Florida Atlantic 51								Columbus St. 100, Berry 77			
E. Illinois 88, Morehead St. 64								E. Kentucky 97, SE Missouri 58			
E. Tennessee St. 98, Wolford 77								Eckerd 84, Worcester St. 70			
Florida Southern 65, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 51								Francis Marion 61, Kennesaw 56			
Furman 86, W. Carolina 53								Ga. Southwestern 81, Brewton Parker 46			
Georgia Coll. 70, North Georgia 65								Georgia Southern 67, Chattanooga 54			
Hampton U. 51, N. Carolina A&T 39								Henderson St. 61, Miss. U. for Women 52			
Howard U. 69, Florida A&M 42								Liberty 74, New Orleans 73			
McNeese St. 82, SE Louisiana 56								Mid.-E. State 84, S. Carolina 52			
Miss. Valley St. 73, Ark.-Pine Bluff 53								Morgan St. 58, Bethune-Cookman 53			
N.C. Charlotte 64, Ala.-Birmingham 56								N.C.-Pembroke 79, St. Andrew's 62			
NE Louisiana 80, Texas-San Antonio 70, OT								Tenn.-Martin 67, Middle Tenn. 32			
Tennessee St. 83, Belmont 77								Tennessee Tech 83, Murray St. 55			
Troy St. 94, Samford 71								Tusculum 72, Piedmont 66			
Tuskegee 58, Prairie 57								West Florida 101, North Alabama 88			
MIDWEST								Akron 77, N. Illinois 57			
Bowling Green 92, Cent. Michigan 82								Bradley 57, Wichita St. 53			
Ill.-Chicago 83, Wright St. 81								Elmhurst 73, Blackburn 58			
Florida Atlantic 77, Jacksonville St. 71								Ferris St. 92, Pittsburg St. 81			
Furman 46, E. Tennessee St. 44								George Mason 78, N.C.-Wilmington 74			
Georgia St. 76, Cent. Florida 70								Howard U. 73, Florida A&M 61			
McNeese St. 85, SE Louisiana 83								Middle Tenn. 66, Tenn.-Martin 46			
Morgan St. 71, Bethune-Cookman 67											

Sutton elected to baseball Hall on fifth try

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Sutton needed 23 years to amass 324 wins. He needed five to gain election to the Hall of Fame.

"I had tears and goosebumps when I found out, but I didn't have the anticipation for it," Sutton said Monday after his election by baseball writers. "I revere Cooperstown. It is a sacred place where the holy grail of baseball is."

Sutton, who fell nine votes short of the required 75 percent last year, was listed on 386 ballots this time (81.6 percent), 31 more than the 355 needed for election. Tony Perez was second with 321; no others appeared on more than half the ballots cast by 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"There have been a lot of tears shed and before this night is over, there will be a lot more," Sutton said from Marietta, Ga. "I'm proud that this has allowed me to enjoy a little different life than maybe the son of a sharecropper in south Alabama should enjoy."

Sutton, tied with Nolan Ryan for 12th place on the career victory list, had a 324-256 record in 23 seasons. He compiled a 3.26 ERA and finished with 3,574 strikeouts, fifth on the career list.

Sutton and Ryan, a shoo-in to be elected next year when he appears on the ballot for the first time, are the only pitchers not inducted into the Hall among the 20 with 300 wins.

Sutton received news of his election when a cell phone rang

while he was at the 14th tee of the White Columns Golf Course.

"I was having a good day, and then I got the call and it was even a better day," he joked.

Sutton was 1-under par when he received the news. He bogeyed No. 16 and finished at

the Hall at Cooperstown, N.Y., this summer along with any selections by the veterans committee, which meets March 3 in Tampa, Fla. Bill Mazerowski, Gil Hodges and Larry Doby will be among the top candidates.

Sutton, a four-time All-Star, becomes the 233rd member of the Hall and the 176th player.

Sutton, a four-time All-Star, becomes the 233rd member of the Hall and the 176th player. He had a career pitching record of 324-256 in 23 seasons.

even-par 72.

"It cost me a fistful, too," he said.

Last year, fellow 300-game winner Phil Niekro was elected, also after missing his first four times.

"It diminished the anticipation. It didn't diminish the thrill," Sutton said.

When balloting was announced last year, Sutton was at a hospital with his infant daughter Jacqueline, born 16 weeks prematurely on Nov. 3, 1996. She has improved significantly and is well these days.

"A lot of things pale in comparison to what we've gone through with Jackie," Sutton said. "Her odds were 1 in a 100. And I think last year on this night I don't think that it ever dawned on me until the next morning that somebody said 'Hey, you didn't make it into the Hall of Fame,' because there was too much else going on..."

Sutton will be inducted into

the Hall at Cooperstown, N.Y., this summer along with any selections by the veterans committee, which meets March 3 in Tampa, Fla. Bill Mazerowski, Gil Hodges and Larry Doby will be among the top candidates.

Sutton, a four-time All-Star, becomes the 233rd member of the Hall and the 176th player.

Sutton, a four-time All-Star, becomes the 233rd member of the Hall and the 176th player. He had a career pitching record of 324-256 in 23 seasons.

He was with the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1966-80 and again in 1988, also spending time with the Houston Astros, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics and California Angels.

Detectors said he was very good, but never great. While he won 14 or more games each year from 1969-78, he never won a Cy Young Award and won 20 games in a season only once, going 21-10 in 1976 for the Dodgers.

Perez, on the ballot for the seventh time, is 16th on baseball's career RBIs list with 1,652, and every player ahead of him is already in the Hall. Last year, he was 43 short of the necessary 75 percent. This time, his percentage increased to 67.9.

"I'm very happy for Don Sutton. He definitely deserves it," Perez said in a statement. "As for me, I came closer this time than I did a year ago. But I'll just have to wait another

year and see what happens."

Ron Santo, a nine-time All-Star appearing on the BBWAA ballot for the 15th and final time, was third with 204 votes — 151 short. Jim Rice was fourth at 203 followed by Gary Carter at 200, the highest vote total among the nine players eligible for the first time.


Steve Garvey was sixth at 195, followed by Bruce Sutter (147), Tommy John and Jim Kaat (129 each) and Dave Parker (116).

Pete Rose, left off the ballot because of his lifetime ban from baseball, was written in by 12 writers even though the votes didn't count.

Rose received 41 votes in 1992, which would have been his first season of eligibility, but the BBWAA has told writers who listed him that they risk disqualification of their entire ballots.

Players who failed to receive 24 votes, 3 percent of the record-tying 473 cast, will be dropped from future ballots: Jack Clark (7), Pedro Guerrero (6), Willie Randolph (5), Carney Lansford (3), Brian Downing and Mike Flanagan (2 each) and Rick Dempsey (1). The 26-player ballot was the smallest in the 62 years of voting by the BBWAA.

Next year, a stellar quintet will appear on the ballot for the first time: Ryan, George Brett, Robin Yount, Carlton Fisk and Dale Murphy. Jack Morris and Rich Gossage become eligible the following year, and Kirby Puckett, Don Mattingly, Dave Winfield and Kirk Gibson join the ballot in 2001.



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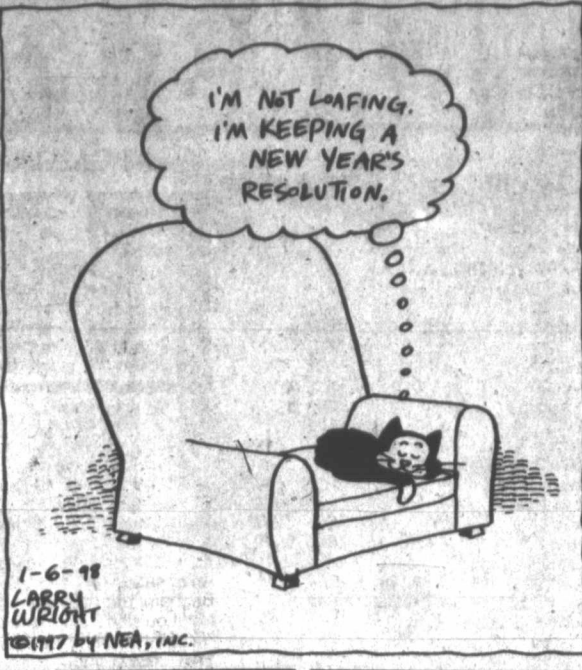
NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS 1 Exuberance 5 Wooded valley 9 British Navy abbr. 12 California wine valley 13 First-rate (2 wds.) 14 - Claire, Wis. 15 Hawaiian instruments 16 Zola heroine 17 Roman 1,002 18 Looking 20 Pressing 22 Mae West role 23 Same (comb. form) 24 Ancient empire 28 Colorful fish 31 Sing under the breath 33 Western hemisphere 34 Jackie's 2nd husband 35 Before (poet.) 36 Wheel

DOWN 39 Wedding-page word 40 Row of stables 42 Built 44 Actress 47 Small island 48 Canine tooth 51 Silenced 55 Airline info 56 Desert in Asia 58 Actress 59 - Aviv 60 Oil exporter - La 61 Douce 62 Type of curve 63 Eyeglass part 64 Kind of fuel

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-64.

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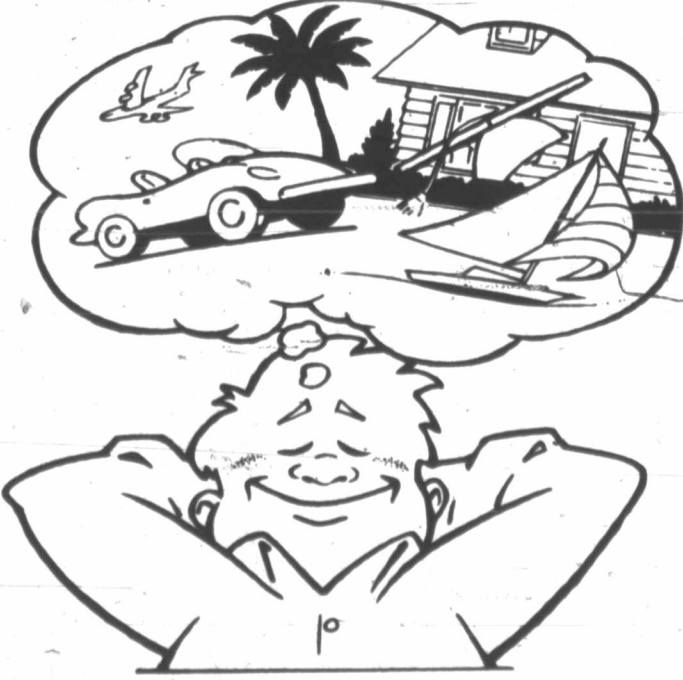
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Sonny Bono, pop star, funny man, politician, dies in ski accident

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — Sonny Bono, the mustachioed, self-deprecating straight man for Cher who put together a string of hit songs highlighted by the duo's *I Got You, Babe* before turning to politics, was killed after skiing into a tree. He was 62.

Bono, an avid skier, had been reported missing two hours before his body was found Monday afternoon at Heavenly Ski Resort on the Nevada-California state line, some 55 miles south of Reno. An autopsy was planned.

It was the second high-profile skiing death in less than a week. Michael Kennedy, the 39-year-old son of the late Robert F. Kennedy, died Wednesday after crashing into a tree in Aspen, Colo., while playing football on skis.

Bono had just started to ski down an intermediate slope, Upper Orion, when he hit a tree, said Stan Miller, Heavenly's main lodge manager. Bono — who had skied at the huge resort for more than 20 years — was alone at the time of the accident, the resort said.

Cher, his ex-wife and ex-singing partner, had no comment, said a London spokeswoman for Cher's record company, WEA. "Of course she is upset by the news," spokeswoman Barbara Charone said.

A Bono spokesman, Frank Cullen Jr., said the California congressman was at the resort with his wife, Mary Whitaker, and their two children, 6-year-old Chianna and 9-year-old Chesare.

"They were enjoying a family vacation," Cullen said early today. "He was a very proficient skier. He skied frequently with his family and, yes, he was an athletic guy — he skied and played tennis."

Two years ago, Bono received a deep gash on his chin after he and another skier collided at the Big Bear Lake area east of Los Angeles. He ended up with 11 stitches.

"I hit somebody or they hit me, so it was their fault," Bono joked at the time.

Born in Detroit on Feb. 16, 1935, Salvatore Bono moved to California with his family during the 1940s, when he was 7, and turned to songwriting after high school. He drove a meat delivery truck, squeezing in trips to record companies to drop off songs.

As a songwriter and singer, he worked with Phil Spector and the Righteous Brothers. His first hit was *Needles and Pins*.

It was with girlfriend Cheryl Sarkisian that things took off. In 1964 the recording of *Baby Don't Go* turned

quickly into huge success for the quirky, offbeat duo. *I Got You, Babe* hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts on Aug. 14, 1965, and other hits followed — *The Beat Goes On*, *It's The Little Things*, *It's A Beautiful Story* and *Laugh At Me*.

Sonny and Cher, now married, turned to television, with a hit variety show, *The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour*, on CBS from 1971-74 and then again during the 1976-77 season, after their divorce.

The show, with on-stage bickering between the husband-wife team as much of a show as the music, proved to be a hit. Bono was well-known for his droopy mustache, bell-bottoms and playing the fall guy to his much taller and sharp-tongued wife.

After they were divorced in 1974, Bono all but dropped out of show business, other than a few guest spot on shows such as *Fantasy Island* and *The Love Boat*. He worked as a restaurant owner and management consultant from 1982 to 1995.

Angry at City Hall bureaucrats for stopping his building plans, he plunged into politics. He was elected mayor of Palm Springs in 1988 and served until 1992. He claimed responsibility for erasing a \$2.5 million deficit without raising taxes and starting a local film festival.

He ran for the Senate in 1992, finishing a weak third in the Republican primary — and again became the butt of jokes.

In 1994, Bono won the GOP primary easily in California's 44th District and rode the Republican tide with a 56 percent to 38 percent win over Democrat Steve Clute. He won reelection in 1996.

"The last thing in the world I thought I would be is a U.S. congressman, given all the bobcat vests and Eskimo boots I used to wear," Bono said in January 1995.

At one point after going to Congress, he was the second-most requested draw at members' events behind House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Bono married Ms. Whitaker in 1986. He had one child with Cher — lesbian activist Chastity Bono — and two children with Ms. Whitaker. Bono had one child, Christy, with his first wife, but details on that marriage were not immediately known.

Bono announced last June that he would not run for Senate this year, saying he didn't want to take that much time from his family.

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Dylan, McCartney nominated for Grammys

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Dylan and Paul McCartney, two veterans of 1960s rock who made comebacks with strong discs last year, were nominated for Grammy Awards today for album of the year.

Dylan's *Time Out of Mind* album and McCartney's *Flaming Pie* will compete for the best album award with discs by Babyface, Radiohead and Paula Cole.

The televised Grammy Awards ceremony will be held in New York City's Radio City Music Hall on Feb. 25, with *Frasier* star Kelsey Grammer as host.

Nominees for record of the year were *Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?* by Paula Cole; *This Fire* by Shawn Colvin; *Everyday is a Winding Road* by Sheryl Crow; *MMMBop* by Hanson; and *I Believe I Can Fly* by R. Kelly.

Teen rockers Hanson, rap

impresario Puff Daddy and singers Fiona Apple, Erykah Badu and Cole will compete for best new artist.

For the second straight year, the versatile Kenneth *Babyface* Edmonds earned the most nominations, with eight. Last year, *Babyface* won two awards after being nominated 12 times.

Puff Daddy and Cole had seven nominations apiece, while R. Kelly and Badu each were nominated for five awards.

Song of the year nominees included *Don't Speak*, written by Eric Stefani and Gwen Stefani, performed by No Doubt; *How Do I Live*, written by Diane Warren and performed by both LeAnn Rimes and Trisha Yearwood; *I Believe I Can Fly*, performed and written by R. Kelly; *Sunny Came Home*, written by Shawn Colvin & John Leventhal and performed by Colvin; and *Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?*, written and performed by Cole.

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