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Pampa

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50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1



High today mid 30s
Low tonight mid 20s
For weather details see
Page 2.

PAMPA — Community Partners, the group of citizens and law enforcement officials developing strategies concerning substance abuse, will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 17, at City Hall in the Commission Chamber. The meeting will be from 7-9 p.m.

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The ticket would have been worth an estimated \$18 million. The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 4-5-9-27-31-50. Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$23 million.

DALLAS (AP) — A lawyer who had no official role in the Texas tobacco settlement is seeking \$519 million in fees, The Dallas Morning News reported today. Marc Murr, a friend and former business associate of Attorney General Dan Morales, made his request to a national arbitration panel. The panel will decide fees for lawyers who represented states that have settled lawsuits with the tobacco industry in the last year.

- Truman Olen Bradstreet, 82, farmer, rancher.
- Blanch Mae Overall, 88, artist.
- Darlene Spencer, 58, former hotel employee.

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City ponders parking restrictions

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Parking restrictions, designed to clear streets of motor homes, mobile homes, campers, utility trailers, tractor-trailers and the like are under consideration by the Pampa City Commission.

After reviewing ordinances from Lubbock - the most comprehensive - and Amarillo, City Attorney Don Lane gave the council a list of issues Tuesday he believes should be considered prior to the drafting of a proposed ordinance. They are:

- Should the ordinance be directed to specific types of vehicles and, if so, what types?

- Should restrictions be addressed only to all residential areas (or should some be excluded) or should the central business district and other similar districts be included?

- Should the restrictions apply only to public streets, alleys, etc. and parking areas open to the public?

- If there are comprehensive parking restrictions, should there be a phase-in period?

- If parking is regulated within the setback rules (normally 25 feet from the front property line) should there also be restrictions on parking in the rear of the the property?

- Should a violation be subject to fine only or, as in Amarillo's, the violating

vehicle will be towed?

- Should parking be restricted to the driveway only? (Lubbock) (No parking in the front yard).

After reviewing Lane's suggestions, Mayor Bob Neslage said, "I suspect each of us will have to look this over and at a future time come to a consensus."

Commissioner Jeff Andrews said, "I think we need public input at some point ... now, or after a proposal."

And it was Commissioner Faustina Curry's suggestion the best plan before a public hearing is to draft a proposal so the commission can give citizens a specific proposal.

"I know there are a lot of people out there who are frustrated," Neslage said.

"People leave trailers like those that haul wood sitting out there. It's not right. It's clutter and a safety hazard. We need to try and clean things up."

Specifically mentioned by Neslage was a lot on Randy Matson at Banks where flatbed trailers for rent are parked in a way that blocks one's view. "I can't see the cars coming, the view's blocked," he said.

In another instance, Neslage said, "I talked to a fellow the other day. His neighbor has a huge camper parked where it completely blocks this man's view."

Another topic that may be considered is tractor-trailer rigs that leave diesel engines running, sometimes all night.

Did judge, wife break law when stopping cars? Protest voiced in Skellytown

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Managing Editor

A question was raised by two Skellytown residents as to whether the city's judge and his wife broke the law when they stopped cars last weekend while allegedly looking for a man accused of stealing a white vehicle.

Karen and Jerry Evans told the Skellytown City Council Wednesday night that their 16-year-old son, Jerry "Cooter" Evans, was stopped Saturday night after being followed for several blocks, and being flashed by the car lights of a vehicle driven by the city judge's wife, Terrie Cullon.

The youth, legally driving Karen Evans' white 1995 Mercury Sable, reportedly decided to stop after being flashed several times, and he was then questioned by Cullon.

She told him she was looking for someone who had stolen a white

(See SKELLYTOWN, Page 2)

Molester gets county time, but not prison

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

A Pampa man on deferred adjudication for indecency with a child will spend Christmas and New Years in jail but will not be sent to prison for violating probation.

David Reames, 19, of Pampa, was convicted of indecency with a child Feb. 9, and given 10 years probation with deferred adjudication. Deferred adjudication means if a defendant successfully completes probation the conviction is removed from his record.

Probation officer Cal Holwick testified Wednesday that Reames

(See MOLESTER, Page 2)

Drug dealer's van now city police unit

Anyone seeing a nice black van around town with police lights and DARE logos may wonder how the department can buy such a vehicle. They didn't, a drug dealer gave it to them.

Give may not be totally accurate since it was seized by court order from a drug dealer and turned over to the police.

Additionally, many local businesses did give goods, services and money to help fix it.

The van has enough room to haul DARE program supplies and its used sometimes as a patrol unit.

Corporal Donny Brown, DARE officer, drives the van and said over \$9,500 in cash and

goods were donated. He said Celanese and Columbia Medical Center were the biggest cash contributors giving \$1,000 each. Dorman Lines, Rick's Body Shop and Culberson Stowers, among others donated goods and labor.

In all, 43 businesses and individuals donated to help make the car safe, presentable and ready for police use.

Others who contributed are Cabot Corporation, Robert Knowles, the City of Pampa, District Attorney John Mann, Mojave Petroleum, Utility Fire, Milton Davis Roofing, and Like New Beauty Corner.

Also making donations were

(See VAN, Page 2)



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

Brian Joseph, an artist from Austin, painting a mural in cafeteria individual to the students of Pampa Middle School.

Artist brings pupils joy, color with mural project

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Managing Editor

"What's your favorite color?" one Pampa middle school student asked.

"What do you think?" artist Brian Joseph asked back as he continued to paint, sitting on a scaffold high in the air.

The room full of middle school art students got quiet.

Everyone, including the teachers standing alongside, looked up at the large wall-size mural Joseph was painting on the south side of

the cafeteria.

So many colors to choose from. Brilliant blues and purples, bright and flamboyant reds and greens and yellow. Lots of yellow interspersed throughout.

"Yellow?" The student replied after a moment of contemplation.

"Yellow," nodded Joseph in agreement.

A joyful exuberant color ... yellow. Much like the art and the vision behind the work of Brian Joseph.

In town for four days, Joseph made himself at

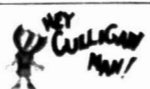
(See ARTIST, Page 5)



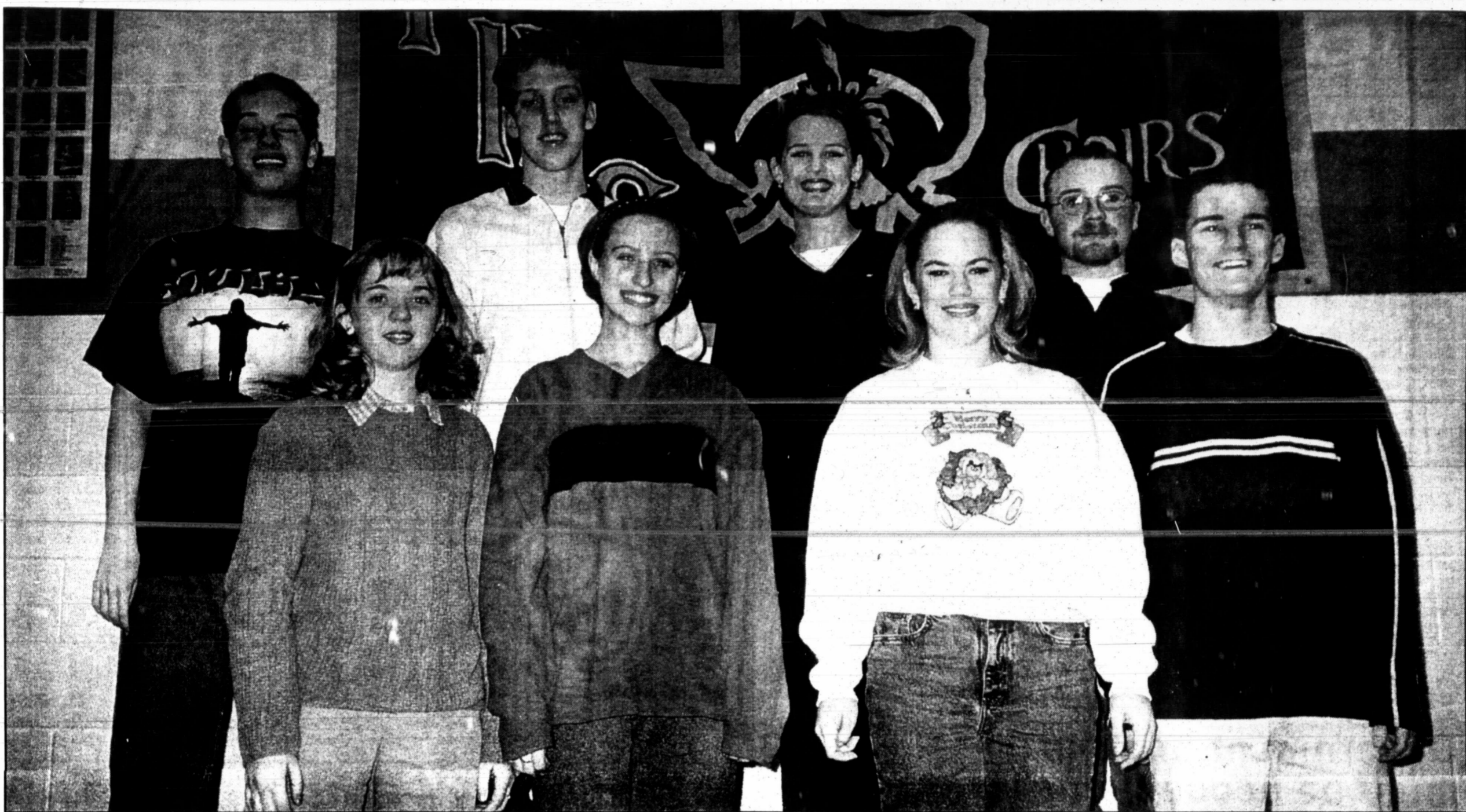
(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Several contributors to refurbish a van for police use came to take a look at the vehicle. Daniel Dreher (left) of Celanese, David Rea, Celanese, Dedria Bynum, Cabot, and Mike Gatlin, A. Neel Locksmith.

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Pampa High School's members of the all-area choir include, back row from left, Thann Scoggin, Andy Fernuik, Traci Shelton, Dillon Hill. Front row from left, Chesney Driggs, Meredith Hendricks, Rose Fruge and Josh Gibson. Also a member is Cory Bigham. (Community Camera photo)

Pampa High School choir students make All-Area Choir during Amarillo competition

AMARILLO — In auditions recently at Tascosa High School, nine Pampa High School choir students earned places in the All-Area Choir. They are: Soprano one — Meredith Hendricks, first alternate; Rose Fruge, second alternate; Alto one — Chesney Driggs, fourth chair; Alto two — Traci Shelton, second chair; Tenor one — Andy Fernuik, second chair; Tenor two — Josh Gibson, second chair. Bass one: Dillon Hill, first chair;

Thann Scoggin third chair; Bass — Cory Bigham, fourth chair. To prepare for this audition, the students learned "Singet dem Herrn" by Hugo Distler and "Chichester Psalms" by Leonard Bernstein. Both works are generally performed by college or professional choirs and to learn them is an impressive achievement for high school students.

There will go to Midland Lee High School on Jan. 9 for the final audition for the T.M.E.A. All-State Choir. There they will compete against students from the three other regions in Area A which includes Lubbock, Midland-Odessa, and El Paso.

The will go to Midland Lee High School on Jan. 9 for the final audi-

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum to present lecture, seminar

CANYON — Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will host a lecture by Barbara Brenner of Taos at 3 p.m. in Hazlewood Lecture Hall. The lecture will be in conjunction with the reception for the museum's exhibition "Berninghaus: Taos Founder/Taos Son" at 2:30 p.m. which focuses on the work of the Taos father/son artists, Oscar E. and J. Charles Berninghaus. Brenner is the granddaughter of Oscar Berninghaus and the niece of Charles Berninghaus.

Born and raised in Taos at a time when all the "founders" of the art colony were still living and working in Taos, Brenner knew all the founders, although of some she only has childhood memories.

In 1985, Barbara Brenner researched, edited, and published a book on Oscar Berninghaus. Mrs. Brenner studied at Colorado College and she and her husband raised two daughters in Taos. Mrs. Brenner's mother and father, both daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandsons all live in Taos. Among her many civic achievements are her service on the boards of the Millicent Rogers Museum, the Kit Carson Historic Museums, the Taos Art Association, and the Taos Opera Guild.

Brenner also helped found the Taos Arts Festival and was elected Volunteer of the Year in 1982 and Woman of the Year in 1992. Works loaned by Mrs. Brenner and her daughters form the foundation for the exhibition "Berninghaus: Taos Founder/Taos Son."

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Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:55
1st Run
Psycho (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:05
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:55
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Texas roundup

Texas Executions

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Joseph Stanley Faulder doesn't deny killing a Texas woman 23 years ago but thinks he should be treated like he would in his native Canada, which prohibits capital punishment.

Authorities in Texas, the most active state for capital punishment, disagree.

Spurning the efforts of death penalty opponents and the Canadian government, which also enlisted the support of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Texas believes Faulder should receive lethal injection tonight for killing a 75-year-old woman during a robbery at her Gladewater home.

"I have seen no new evidence that questions the jury's verdict that he's guilty of this crime," Gov. George W. Bush said, reacting to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles' decision Wednesday denying Faulder's request for a commutation.

While his innocence was not at issue, the Texas commutation process was under attack by Faulder's attorneys, who won an order Wednesday from U.S. District Court Judge Sam Sparks to halt the execution, set for after 6 p.m. CST today.

State attorneys appealed to the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which considered the same arguments in another Texas death penalty case to stop an execution that had been set for Wednesday night. In that case, condemned prisoner Danny Lee Barber avoided execution.

Black Santa Claus

AUSTIN (AP) — A man who says he was turned down when he applied for a job as a mall Santa Claus because he is black has filed a discrimination lawsuit.

DeWayne Lofton, 32, said he applied for a job as Santa Claus with Santaplus, a Missouri-based company that contracts with local malls to fill Santa positions. He also filed the lawsuit against Barton Creek Square Mall, the mall where he wanted to work.

Lofton said Wednesday that when he applied for the job, he was met with stares and told about a policy against hiring minorities to play Santa.

Santaplus representatives say they have no such policy and that told the Austin American-Statesman they did hire Lofton, but that he failed to show up for his training session.

"I always thought that Christmas was for all children in Travis County," said John W. Thomas, an attorney who filed the lawsuit for Lofton on Tuesday.

Students-Impeachment

DALLAS (AP) — Students studying late at Southern Methodist University seemed more troubled by semester exams than the continuing saga of sex and alleged lies in the White House.

Few of the students at the Jake & Nancy Hamon Arts Library had heard Wednesday night that Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee had drafted four articles of impeachment against President Clinton.

Even fewer were willing to express their opinion of the situation.

Two international students, from Italy and South Africa, said they had no comment on U.S. politics.

Other students questioned on a cold, drizzly night had trouble warming up to the subject.

Red River Desalination

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — A federal project to reduce salt levels in the Red River and Wichita River basins is still several years away, a project manager says.

The Red River Chloride Control Project was started in 1957 by the U.S. Public Health Service. Corps of Engineers project manager Richard Bilinski said at an information meeting Wednesday that, if the project continues at all, construction for the necessary facilities is still years away.

"If it wasn't for interest in this area we would have probably stopped the project altogether for

lack of funding," Bilinski said.

The project was originally designed to improve water quality by removing chlorides, or salt contaminants.

Completion of the Wichita River Basin portion would provide chloride-free water for cities, agriculture interests and industries throughout North Texas.

Space Station

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — With most of their outside work done, Endeavour's astronauts prepared to go inside the international space station for the first time today to turn on the lights and prepare the outpost for future assembly crews.

"I think this is a very significant and almost momentous event," NASA's lead flight director, Bob Castle, said of the first in-orbit sojourn into the belly of the fledgling outpost 250 miles above Earth.

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the crew of five American astronauts and one Russian were to begin opening a series of hatches that connect shuttle Endeavour with the two-part, seven-story space station.

Using flashlights to guide them, they were to float one by one into the first piece of the outpost, the American-made Unity module. The 36-foot cylindrical chamber will be pitch black, so the astronauts' first official act is to flip on the lights.

The astronauts will share the moment with the world: They will have a camera that should provide everyone back on Earth with the first look inside the space station since it's been in orbit.

Gymnast vs Parents

HOUSTON (AP) — Gymnast Dominique Moceanu is relieved to have won court protection from her father, who she claims stalked her and tried to have her friends killed.

But the Olympic gold medalist holds out hope of an eventual family reconciliation.

"I was sad," Ms. Moceanu told The Associated Press late Wednesday, hours after a state district judge ordered Dumitru Moceanu to stay away from his daughter for a full year. "It was a sad day."

"I love my mother and sister and, deep down, my dad. ... Maybe in a year he'll change."

Judge John D. Montgomery issued his ruling after four hours of testimony that included innuendo from Dumitru Moceanu's attorney that the gymnast has been romantically involved with a married man.

Elsewhere

TOBACCO FALLOUT: With private lawyers seeking billions of dollars in fees from the state's settlement with tobacco companies, Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, introduced a bill Wednesday that would set guidelines for deciding contingency fees in future state litigation. The bill would not interfere with the fees in the tobacco settlement. ...

WELFARE SURVEY: Child-care and demand for a high-school equivalency diploma are among the needs identified in a state survey of people who chose not to apply for welfare benefits or stopped receiving them. Of those surveyed, 55 percent reported working at the time of the interview and another 13 percent had been employed. They worked an average of 34 hours a week at \$6.28 an hour. ...

FAULKNER RELEASE: D.L. "Danny" Faulkner, who helped bilk taxpayers out of more than \$1 billion in savings and loan scams, reportedly has terminal cancer and is trying to gain release from prison. Faulkner was linked with the Interstate 30 condominium frauds of the early 1980s. ...

BORDER AGENT SHOOTING: The police officer/father of a man who gunned down two Border Patrol agents in an ambush at the officer's home did not allow the agents into his home and later drew his weapon when the gunfight began, an FBI report states. Details of the report, obtained by the (Harlingen) Valley Morning Star, were published Wednesday.

ARTIST

home at Pampa Middle School last week while getting acquainted with the students. It's all part of the process he uses to paint school murals.

Joseph was hired in part by the district and the middle school's booster club to paint a mural in the school's cafeteria.

Within the mural one can find pictures depicting students playing with other wheelchair bound students—indicative of Pampa Middle School's inclusion program. There are also pictures of children playing with yo-yo's, the current fad at the school, said art teacher Barbara Bigham.

"The thing I noticed most about this school is that the kids are very confident, there are a lot of extroverts, and it gives me a good energy," Joseph said.

This is his 15th mural. He also did one previously at Lamar Elementary. He said murals are time consuming, but he manages to make his way around in addition to many other projects, including running his own retail gallery in downtown Austin.

Most recently, he's been designing book covers, "another type of challenge," he said.

If you look closely at his drawings, it's apparent that the multi-colored children on the wall don't have facial characteristics, and their feet are shells.

That's because Joseph's creation is full of what he

refers to as BYDEE people, an acronym which stands for Bringing You Delightful Entertaining Experiences. They are a happy people who show you how to live, according to Joseph.

"They live inside seashells, encouraging us to come out of our shells ... that's how they came to this world," is his story behind his art.

Their yellow hats spurt curls of joy. They have no faces, because you don't have to be beautiful to be happy, he says.

An Austin resident since the early 1985, Brian Joseph got tired of the bureaucracy and stress as a city employee and went home one day to crayons. Out of his frustration the Bydee were born. And he's never studied art.

A sociology and anthropology major, Joseph went on to get a master's degree in urban studies. Originally from the Caribbean, the artist said he does get comments from now and then from those with master's degree in art who ask him how he became successful. Sometimes they mock his success.

But for those who might wonder if the Bydee's success keeps Brian Joseph too busy to do what he wants, rest assured, he remains true to the vision behind his work.

"Simply, my goal is to live a stress-free life ... I've learned to say no to the things that complicate my life," he said. "I try to stay true to my message ... I feel I am very blessed to be doing what I am."

Court approves settlement of heiress's estate

MARTINEZ, Calif. (AP) — A judge has approved an out-of-court settlement over an estimated \$5 million left by the late newspaper heiress Margaret Leshor Thorstenson to her husband, buffalo wrangler Collin "T.C." Thorstenson.

Mrs. Thorstenson, 65, drowned in May 1997 while camping at a lake near Phoenix, seven months after her marriage to Thorstenson, then 38.

The death was ruled an accident.

Lawyers declined to provide details of the settlement, approved Tuesday, because of a confidentiality agreement. But both sides said they were satisfied.

"It's a fair settlement for all the parties, and hopefully now everyone can get on with their lives," said Louis Schofield, a lawyer for Leshor's trustees.

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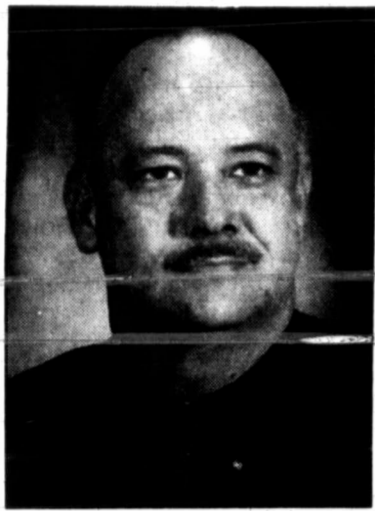
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Pirate Pride

Teacher's Pen

Submitted to the Teacher's Pen
By Mr. Rick Pierce



Texas Trivia

General Santa Anna was 5 feet 10 inches tall, and was one of the tallest men in his army. He was an opium addict.

The Mexican army of 1836 had many American and European soldiers - one of its best snipers was an Illinois rifleman named Memory Johnson.

Sam Houston's youngest son, Temple, served as District Attorney in Wheeler county.

Alphonso Steele died near Kosse, Texas, on July 7, 1911, at the age of ninety-four. He was said to be the last known survivor of the battle of San Jacinto.

Stephen F. Austin died from pneumonia in 1836. Sam Houston also died from pneumonia at his home in Huntsville in 1863. Santa Anna died in Mexico City in 1876. Mirabeau Lamar died in Richmond, Texas in 1859.

staffwriter
Chris Alexander

Merry Christmas

Vidbits

December

- 12th JH One Act Play Performance In Petersburg, TX
- 14th H. S. Choir goes to bank 10:30-12:30
- 14th Elem. Christmas Program 7:00pm
- 15th Secondary Christmas Program 7:00
- 16th -18th JH and HS Finals
- 17th Pirates play Ft. Elliott (Here)
- 18th Early release
- 18th Pirates play Miami (There)

January

- 4th Bandits play Samnorwood
- 5th Pirates play Alamo Catholic (Here)
- 8th Pirates play Hedley (Here)
- 12th Pirates play McLean (There)
- 15th Pirates play Groom (Here)

David G. Burnett died in 1870. Thomas J. Rusk, deeply grieved by the death of his wife, shot and killed himself in his home at Nacogdoches in 1857. Erasmus "Deaf" Smith died of consumption in 1838. Lorenzo De Zavala died on his plantation across from the San Jacinto battleground in late 1836.

The San Jacinto Monument is 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument. The star that tops the monument is 35 feet high and weighs 220 tons.

The original Alamo bell, cast in 1722, is among the relics at the J. Evetts Haley Historical Center in Midland.

On November 21, 1831, Jim Bowie and 10 others held 164 Indians off at Calf Creek. After 80 Indians were killed, the rest retreated. The Bowie Battleground Monument is at Brady.

It is likely that David Crockett killed the first Mexican soldier during the 13 day siege of the Alamo.

According to one story, Jim Bowie did not invent the Bowie knife-it was his brother Rezin Bowie.

The youngest combatant to die in the battle of the Alamo was William Philip King of Gonzalas - he was 16. The youngest non-combatants to die at the Alamo were two brothers with the last name of Wolf. Mexican soldiers stormed the chapel toward the end of the battle and bayoneted the 11 and 12 year old boys.

The Battle of San Jacinto began at 4:30 p.m. and lasted only 18 minutes, however, Mexican soldiers were chased and killed all across the area until sundown. The Texan army lost 9 men in the battle - the Mexican army suffered 630 killed and over 200 wounded.

The Pirate Pride news staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely:

Jeremy Pierce, Pirate Pride editor
Dee J Preston, Pirate Pride assoc. editor
Chris Alexander, staff writer
Heather Howard, staff writer
Amanda Sprouse, staff writer

This will be the last issue of Pirate Pride in 1998. Our next issue will be on Thursday, January 21st, 1999.

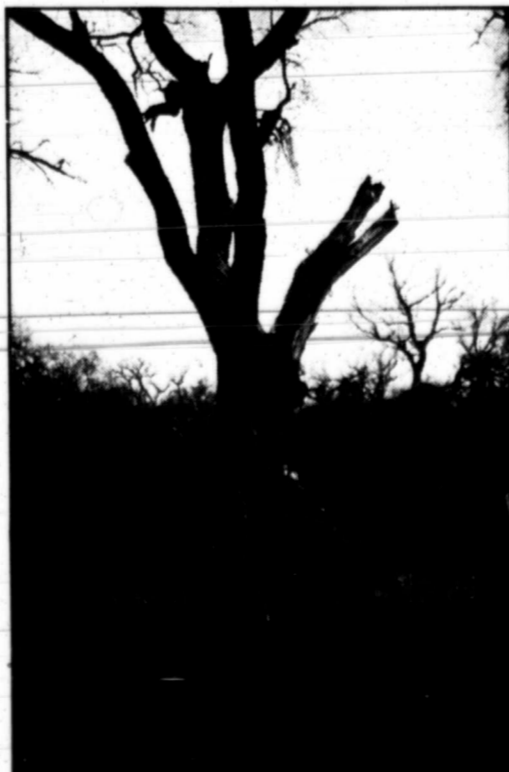
assoc. editor
Dee J. Preston

This immense cottonwood is a Texas land marker yet not many people have knowledge of it.

The landmark cottonwood has stood in Hemphill County for over a century. The tree stands near the Stageline Trail on the south of the Canadian River.

The tree's circumference measures approximately 21 feet.

The tree served as a landmark for people such as Indians, pioneers, and buffalo hunters, from 1870 through 1890. Not only



Indians, pioneers, and buffalo hunters used the tree as a landmark but the military units and stage drivers also used the tree as a mark of safe crossing of the Canadian. It is said the mail carriers usually spent their first night of their trip to supply camp in the neighborhood of the tree.

The tree was recorded as a landmark in 1969.

Isn't that something? You would be amazed at what you could learn by a little reading.

It shall be a Merry Christmas for the Pirates Ho Ho Ho!

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

The Pirates know the season, and no, it's not Christmas, but rather basketball season. The Pirates played Bible Heritage at Amarillo on the 1st of December. The Bible Heritage Eagles were heavy favorites going into this game, and the Pirates aren't known for their come from behind wins...or are they?

Bible Heritage's starting five were all 6' or taller, including two persons around 6'5". Compared to the Pirates, who only have three persons over 6', these guys were huge. That didn't phase the Pirates, they are used to playing those who are of a bigger size.

Michael Steele jumped for the ball, and won, he has not lost a tip yet. For the first two minutes both teams searched the other for weaknesses, both teams hesitant to take a shot. It went three minutes and either team had only scored four points, with the Pirates putting points on the board first.

Then it got nasty. The Eagles exploited the Pirates 2-3 zone defense by putting a double post, or stack, on the right side. They scored at will with this offense. The Pirates defense wasn't executing, for the zone defense is designed to stop inside penetration and easy chip shots, yet the Eagles continued to score. The score at the half was Bible Heritage 18, Lefors 6. That's right, 6.

Fighting Lady Pirates Basketball

staff writer
Amanda Sprouse

The Fighting Lady Pirates pulled off a stunning victory against the Bible Heritage Eagles 39-21.

In the first quarter the ladies kept the Eagle offense from making a basket. The Lady Pirates were doing well on both offense and defense. They were hustling down yet

Coach Moore said a few words of "inspiration" and sent his team back on the court. The Pirates' spirits were down, but not out. They wanted to win, and bad. This time the Pirates sent their low zone defensive player to the top of the free-throw line to cover the stack. The Pirates dared the Eagles to shoot from outside, but they couldn't. With the inside shots stopped, Bible Heritage had a hard time scoring any points. Any points they had came from fast breaks or free throws. The Pirates then started to press. The old fashioned 2-1-2 press. A new weakness is found: the Eagles can't handle a press. The Pirates had many points and foul shots off of the press. The Pirates had begun a comeback.

The fourth quarter was crazy. The Pirates spent most of the time on the free-throw line. They finally tied the score at 28-28. The Pirates' fans went crazy! To have their team comeback from such a point deficit and tie the game, it was unbelievable! The Pirates then took the lead with a couple of free throws, and never looked back. The Eagles had the ball with two seconds left and time only for a desperation toss. They threw it in for a lob, and Kody Franks grabbed it out of the sky and took it down as the buzzer sounded to end the game. The Pirates came out with a victory, 35-34! The Pirates next game will be against the same team at Lefors. This will be a game to watch, will the Pirates again come out victorious, or will the Eagles gain Revenge?

the court to increase their lead, while working hard on their press and zone to keep their opponents from scoring. At half the score was 21-8 for the Pirates.

The second half started with a bang. The Eagles were trying to increase their score and the Pirates were just a little bit more intelligent and kept them from making too many points.

In the end all of the Eagles' attempts to beat the Pirates had failed, as the Fighting Lady Pirates of Lefors returned home victorious again.

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Clinton voices support for SS investments

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is endorsing stock market investments as one way to help make up for cash shortfalls Social Security is expected to face in the future.

"The mechanism for doing that obviously remains a controversial issue, but I do believe there is growing consensus, which the president is part of, that we do need the type of investment options that would bring higher returns to Social Security," said Gene Sperling, the president's top economic adviser.

Sperling said Clinton shared that view at a private meeting with lawmakers Wednesday. The president has called repeatedly for lawmakers to safeguard Social Security, but previously has not been specific about his preferences for bolstering the nation's retirement program.

Lawmakers left the closed-door meetings — held on the second day of a White House-organized conference on Social Security — saying they have new optimism they can reach a compromise next year.

"In some ways the respective parties to this possible agreement are not as far away as people might think that they are," said Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C.

Social Security is now financed by taxes deducted from workers' paychecks. Without changes, the program is expected to run short of cash by 2032, after more than 75 million baby boomers begin collecting benefits.

Clinton has not decided how Social Security stock market investments should be made — by individual Americans in private accounts or by the government investing their payroll tax contributions in bulk, his advisers said.

That will remain one of the more contentious issues as lawmakers seek compromise.

"What he did say was he thought that as this discussion carried forward that policy makers like himself had to be very straightforward with the American people about what the risks are with seeking higher returns," Sperling said.

One advantage to making the investments in bulk would be less risk to individuals, but critics are wary of having the government own stock in private companies.

Sperling said in any case, additional steps likely will be needed to make up the cash shortage looming for Social Security, possibly including an infusion of money from government surpluses.

Other changes, such as raising the retirement age or a Social Security tax hike for the wealthy, also remain under consideration.

But adding to growing agreement that the stock market can provide at least a partial solution, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., also for the first time offered his conditional support for private investment this week.

"What I am open to and interested in is what I call a voluntary and supplemental contributions to retirement funds that could be on top of the basic Social Security benefit," Gephardt said. "I don't rule out, although I have grave concerns about, individuals somehow investing part of their part of the Social Security trust fund in stocks and bonds."

Americans in the past have proven resistant to any changes in the government's biggest benefit program, and interest groups already are mounting aggressive lobbying and grassroots campaigns.

Oregon court orders benefits for partners of lesbian state workers

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon court has done what state lawmakers have been unwilling to do for years — ban discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace. The Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that the domestic partners of three lesbian employees at Oregon Health Sciences University were entitled to the same benefits given to the spouses of married employees.

The "denial of insurance benefits to the unmarried partners" of homosexual employees violated the equal protection provisions of the Oregon Constitution, the three-judge panel wrote.

Though the university and Oregon state government voluntarily began offering benefits to unmarried partners last June, the court ruling nailed down the obligations.

The ruling could require other state government entities to provide benefits to same-sex domestic partners, and to the thousands of teachers, police officers and others who work for local governments. Private employers were not specifically required under the ruling to offer the benefits.

A state official didn't mince words about the ruling. "This tells Oregonians that discrimination based on

sexual orientation in employment, public and private, is illegal," said Deputy Attorney General David Schuman.

It was unclear whether the state will appeal the ruling. The Oregon Constitution states that no law shall grant "any citizen or class of citizens privileges or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens."

The court concluded that homosexuals are a distinct class and that it's beyond dispute that they "have been and continue to be the subject of adverse social and political stereotyping and prejudice."

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DECEMBER 10 1998

Anniversary Remembrance Gives Comfort To Widows

DEAR ABBY: I have a bone to pick with you. I am a widow living in a seniors building. One of the residents brought your column on sending anniversary cards to a surviving spouse to the community room.

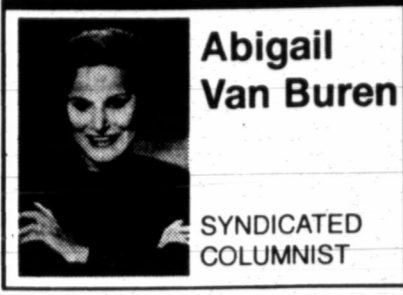
Your advice was wrong! There are eight of us here who should know. Speaking for myself, I would not want to receive an anniversary card, because one person cannot celebrate something that two people should. The day should be remembered because it is important, but instead, take the surviving spouse to dinner or to an event to show that you remember.

EIGHT WIDOWS, VAN DYKE CENTER, DETROIT

DEAR EIGHT WIDOWS: Thank you for offering an opposing viewpoint that was not reflected in the mail I have received. Most widows and widowers who wrote expressed sadness that friends and relatives ignored the anniversary after the spouse died. Sending a card is less expensive than entertaining — and can mean just as much. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The recent letter from "Concerned Sister-in-Law" moved me to write. She said her mother-in-law had died in 1989, but her sister-in-law still sends anniversary cards to her father. She asked if that was healthy and normal.

Abby, your answer was right on! It is healthy and normal. My hus-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

band died three months before our 55th wedding anniversary. On our anniversary, our daughter gave me a gift, a potted plant and a coffee mug with her father's name on it. It made a lonely day a little brighter.

"Concerned" should be thankful that her sister-in-law shows her love for her father by celebrating the memory of her mother.

JERRIE FROM VALRICO, FLA.

DEAR JERRIE: Many widows and widowers wrote to confirm that such thoughtful gestures make a sad day more bearable. Read on for a letter from a widow who was less fortunate than you:

DEAR ABBY: I have followed your column for many years, but have never written because I've had a beautiful life and few complaints. I had a marvelous husband for 28 years — until cancer took him from me.

We had three wonderful sons who never gave us a minute's trouble. They married terrific wives and

gave us beautiful grandchildren. So why am I writing? Let me tell you:

Yesterday was my 33rd anniversary, and not a soul mentioned it. When I went to bed last night, I hugged my husband's picture and recalled the happiness of our wedding day. Tears streamed down my face because no one remembered. Even though my spouse will never be with me again on this special date, it's still our anniversary and always will be.

A YOUNG WIDOW IN GEORGIA

DEAR YOUNG WIDOW: Perhaps your letter will be the catalyst that inspires others to do something positive on those special occasions.

Readers: Now you have both sides of the story. It's up to you to decide if cards, flowers or even a telephone call is thoughtful and appropriate on a birthday or wedding anniversary if one spouse is deceased. I'm confident that you will conclude it is.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



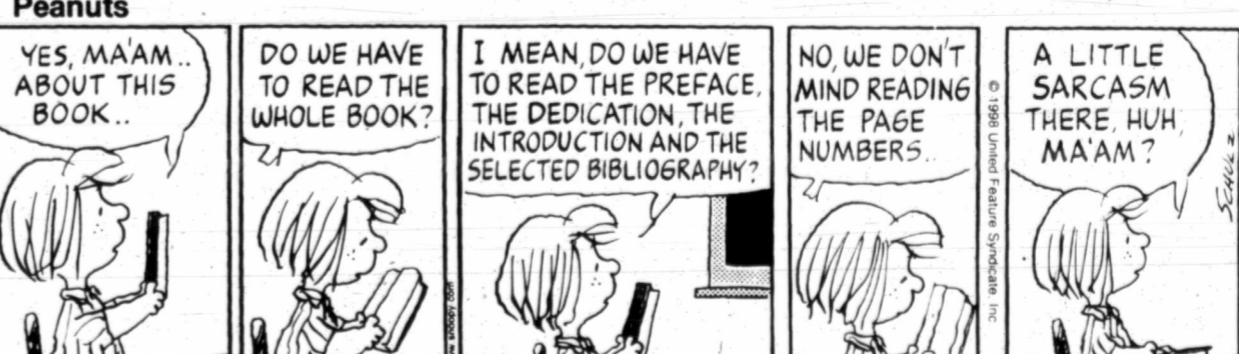
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Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 1998

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** You find clarity, though solutions don't necessarily easily appear. Others open up, allowing you to make headway. Options appear because of your ability to understand and empathize. Stay on top of work, despite the impending holiday. Tonight: Dine with a partner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Pace yourself, and get as much done as you can. A oved one makes a confession. Attend to finances; balance your budget, even with the holidays approaching. Somehow, you spread yourself between various friends, meetings and happy moments. Tonight: Holiday cheer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** You deal well with chaos, especially if you see it as instrumental to clearing the air. You will resolve recent misunderstandings and move forward. A partner lets you know how much you light up his life. If single, someone special is near. Tonight: Join friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Anchor in, and be realistic. You are unsure of what to do with someone who's at a distance. Be

spontaneous. Let someone have greater input into a work decision. Talks clear the air. Someone might have a crush on you. Let more creativity in your life. Tonight: Work on Santa stuff!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You might have your hands full with all that goes on. An associate offers a plethora of opportunities; it might be difficult to choose. A co-worker chips in and makes that extra effort. Perhaps there is more going on with this association than you realize. Tonight: Out the door!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Clarity replaces confusion, but you still have a lot to sort through. A budding relationship piques your interest. Intuition is right on with money and gift buying. You don't need someone's advice. Sort through invitations; prioritize your time. What is important to you? Tonight: Shop away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Timing could make or break you. Use the afternoon to launch projects, especially emotional ones. You could be overwhelmed by all that you have to do. Don't spend time fretting, just start moving. Don't be a last-minute shopper. Tonight: Dote on a deserving family member.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Open doors, and allow more information in. Hunches could be right on. Concentrate on one item at a time. You easily could get overloaded and distracted. Communicate with openness and gentleness. You gain important insights. To-

night: Add mystery to your image.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Talking clears up a lot of work-related problems. You didn't understand, or someone didn't communicate well. Imagination leads you on an interesting hunt. Follow through on a gift idea. Unexpected opportunities pop up from out of the blue. Tonight: Make an extra effort at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Travel plans can be confirmed and solidified. Still, don't play into office gossip. Your awareness is high when dealing with others; you intuitively know what they want. Your softer side emerges. Show caring in a way that someone can hear. Tonight: Out and about until late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Straighten out partnership issues: Financial news has you making progress. Don't resist an opportunity to make money. Discussions prove important. You find your feelings rather tender. You could exaggerate someone's reaction, however. Tonight: Catch a holiday concert.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Others have many requests; you wonder which to fulfill. Listen to someone's opinion, especially a boss's. You gain because you are willing to put yourself on the line. Recognize what you would like to change. Present your case. Tonight: Light the fires of romance.

BORN TODAY

Actress Donna Mills (1943), actress Rita Moreno (1931), filmmaker Susan Seidelman (1952)

Crossword Puzzle

Marmaduke

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Quiche base
- 5 Fiddle-string material
- 11 Collected legends
- 12 Repeful
- 13 Tart
- 14 Lathered
- 15 Navy bigwigs
- 17 Cote cry
- 18 Permitted
- 22 Political gathering
- 24 Thin groove
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 Tack on
- 27 Washer cycle
- 30 Christened
- 32 Mystery-writing award
- 33 Planet
- 34 "Jump" band
- 38 Words of contingency
- 41 Bitterness
- 42 Cosmetic buys
- 43 Printer's needs
- 44 Optimally
- 45 Epochs

DOWN

- 1 "Born Free" lioness
- 2 Well-behaved
- 3 Mal-content's forte
- 4 Continuing story
- 5 Hacienda house
- 6 Bikini and others
- 7 Fancy service
- 8 Interstice
- 9 Avail
- 10 Newsmen
- 11 Koppel
- 16 Devilfish
- 19 Louisiana college
- 20 Helper
- 21 "Shane"
- 22 Steak order
- 23 Dry
- 28 Wild
- 29 Clears
- 30 Japanese drama
- 31 Mecca setting
- 35 Lair
- 36 Actress Sommer
- 37 Costner role of
- 1987
- 38 Writer
- 39 Negating word
- 40 New reporter

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ACHE	AROUSE
WRAP	PRIMER
LEI	DEAL
NEEDY	VAT
ROMAN	SCOPE
ERAS	RISE
BAITS	PACES
ALL	ADOBE
SLOT	MOB
WASHUP	BALE
AVIATE	AIDA
RANGES	GLEN

Yesterday's Answer

star	36 Actress
service	22 Steak
8 Interstice	order
9 Avail	23 Dry
10 Newsmen	28 Wild
Koppel	29 Clears
16 Devilfish	30 Japanese
19 Louisiana	drama
college	31 Mecca
20 Helper	setting
21 "Shane"	35 Lair
	40 New
	reporter



"Don't worry...he's only waiting to lick your dish."

The Family Circus



"Why did you tell PJ his legs are just like cooked spaghetti?"

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SPORTS

Notebook

FOOTBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — After a meeting with NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and other league officials, the Houston millionaire seeking an expansion team said he believes Houston still holds an edge over Los Angeles.

"The challenge is to stay ahead, but I also think the NFL wants to be in Houston and in Los Angeles," Bob McNair said in an interview with television station KRIV. "Everyone's trying to figure out a way to have that happen."

The two groups seeking a team for Los Angeles haven't advanced their cause very much in terms of securing additional financing, McNair said.

"I think that's the big stumbling block for them," he said.

BOXING

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Durable in the ring, charismatic and somewhat mysterious outside it, Archie Moore left a remarkable legacy.

Moore died Wednesday at age 84; remembered as much for being a great person as a great boxer.

He won the light-heavyweight title at age 39 and had a record 141 knockouts. He knocked down undefeated heavyweight Rocky Marciano before losing, and was nearly 50 and just months from retirement when he lost to Muhammad Ali.

Known for his ready smile and his knee-length boxing trunks, Moore also had a soft spot for youth, having spent 22 months in a reformatory after being caught stealing three times. He spent his retirement cautioning young boys to stay away from drugs and set up a mentoring program to help disadvantaged youth.

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars needed a little time to bounce back from their long road trip.

The Stars finally hit full stride in the second period Wednesday night, rallying from a two-goal deficit for a 3-3 tie with the San Jose Sharks.

Dallas returned home from a 3-1 road trip at 4 a.m. Tuesday, and coach Ken Hitchcock was pleased under the circumstances to come away with a point.

"We were tired," Hitchcock said. "That was a great point for us. We could have made every excuse in the book, but we found a way to get a point knowing we were going to struggle to get energy."

Darryl Sydor and Tony Hrkac scored power-play goals in the second period to tie it after San Jose grabbed a 3-1 lead in the first period.

"We had to regroup and that's what we did," said Sydor, who added two assists. "We had to match their start. This is a good point for us after falling behind like we did."

Patrick Marleau, Owen Nolan and Mike Ricci scored for San Jose.

"They were all over us early," said Stars left wing Jamie Langenbrunner, who assisted on Dallas' first-period power-play goal by Jere Lehtinen. "We knew we had to play better and we had 40 minutes to do it. Our key was to get after them, get some turnovers, and that's what happened."

Dallas is 4-1-1 over six games and 9-2-2 at home.

The Sharks are in a 1-6-3 slide, and coach Darryl Sutter took little comfort from earning a point against one of the league's best teams.

"We got a point and that's all," Sutter said. "We didn't solve anything. We're in the same boat again."

Dallas and San Jose met for the fifth time this season, with one regular-season game left between the Pacific Division rivals. The Stars lead the season series 3-1-1.

Pampa gymnast has successful season

PAMPA — Alyssa Bromwell, member, completed a successful season at the Level 6 Texas State Championships in Coppell on Dec. 6.

Alyssa came away with three medals and the honor of being one of the top Level 6 gymnasts in the state.

Texas started the season with over 500 Level 6 contestants and narrowed them down through a qualifying process. Bromwell was one of four gymnasts representing District One in the 12 year old division and finished higher than all District One gymnasts entered in the State Championships.

In only her first year as a Level 6, gymnast, Alyssa has proved herself a tough competitor. Her outstanding bar routine earned

her an 8.9 and a 15th place medal. She also earned a 15th place medal on balance beam with an 8.35 score.

She narrowly missed placing on vault with an 8.65 and on floor exercise with an 8.675.

Her solid all-around performance earned her the 18th place medal with a 34.575.

"Alyssa did a great job at state," said coach Kristi Fatheree. "Many of the gymnasts at state were second and third-year Level 6's, and Alyssa proved she could hang in there with them. To medal at the state tournament is a great achievement. I'm very proud of her."

Three of Alyssa's teammates, Morgan Meharg, Amy Youree and Ashlee Ferguson, are entered in the Level 5 State Championships in Austin on Saturday and Sunday.

Clay gets his chance

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tight end Hayward Clay becomes the latest Dallas reserve to get a chance because of the injury bug that has hit the Cowboys.

Clay, who is from Snyder, Texas and played collegiately at Texas A&M, will be activated in place of David LaFleur for the Kansas City game on Sunday.

LaFleur suffered a knee injury in last week's 22-3 loss to New Orleans. LaFleur could be out two weeks. Eric Bjornson will

likely start in LaFleur's place although Clay could be a starter if Dallas goes to a two tight-end set.

LaFleur had been steadily working into the Dallas offense as a receiver. He had caught 20 passes for 176 yards and had two touchdowns.

Coach Chan Gailey claimed Clay off waivers on Aug. 31 after he had gone to training camp with Chicago and was released on the final cut down.

Unbeaten Aspermont favored by 1 over No. 5 Wheeler in Class 1A state semifinal tilt

WHEELER — The latest Harris Rankings has Aspermont favored by 1 over Wheeler in Friday night's Class 1A state semifinal game in Vernon.

Being the underdog is nothing new to Wheeler, but the Mustangs have a strong tradition on their side. Wheeler has won three state championships and advanced to the state finals a year ago.

Wheeler (11-2) beat O'Donnell, 36-21, last weekend while Aspermont (14-0) was breezing by Menard, 35-8, in the quarterfinals. Harris has Aspermont ranked No. 3 in Class 1A while Wheeler is No. 5.

This is Wheeler's third straight trip to the state semifinals, beating Munday, 35-12, last season. Granger ended Wheeler's fourth title hope, 40-0, in the championship game.

Aspermont is in the playoffs for the second year in a row.

This is Wheeler's third straight trip to the state semifinals, beating Munday, 35-12, last season.

The Hornets claimed the District 5-1A title a year ago, but lost to Alvord, 21-14, in the first round of the playoffs.

The Hornets are sparked by running back Zach Hunter and quarterback Josh Hale. Linemen Carmen Garcia and Jody Clark lead the defense.

Wheeler, led by a massive rushing performance by sophomore running back Caleb Finsterwald, handed O'Donnell only its second loss of the season. Finsterwald rushed for 308 yards on 21 carries and scored on long-distance runs of 84, 75 and 83 yards.

Junior running mate Casey Childress added 151 yards on 24 carries. Senior quarterback

Aaron Dunnam added two more touchdowns on sneak plays.

Solid blocking up from by offensive linemen Bruce Copeland, Will Woollard, Ben Dollar, Ben Britt and Bret Goad helped Wheeler produce 508 yards of total offense and 16 first downs. Woollard and Copeland are both seniors while Dollar is a junior and Goad a sophomore.

Wheeler's defensive front, consisting of Brett, Michael Montgomery, Kyle Masters and Copeland, make it tough for opposing backs to find much room up the middle. Most of O'Donnell's 282 yards of total offense came in the first half as the Eagles were held scoreless the second half by a strong Wheeler defense which forced four turnovers.

No. 1 ranked Tenaha (14-0) meets No. 2 Iola (13-0) in the other semifinal game Friday night in Crockett.

Whitetail buck



Wendell Mayberry of Pampa displays an 8-point whitetail buck he shot recently near the north Canadian river. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the deer population weathered the 1998 drought well.

Adding more spice to your barbeque

By ED SCHUYLER JR.
AP Sports Writer

Music has long been a staple at sports events. Now it can be part of your tail-gate party or liven up a game of hoops in the backyard.

Just slip a disc into a portable CD player and listen to an Alphabet City sports recording.

Michigan fans can add some spice to their barbecue while waiting for the big game to start by listening to "Go Blue: The Ultimate Michigan Sports CD: Stadium Anthems & Hit Songs That Rock the Wolverines."

After an opening montage by the Alphabet City All-Stars and Vicki Sue Robinson's rendition of "Turn the Beat Around," you hear a radio sportscaster screaming: "The longest run in the history of Michigan football" as he describes Butch Woolfolk's 92-yard run against Wisconsin on Nov. 3, 1979.

That's how it goes — descriptions of Michigan sports highlights alternate with songs. A segment called "Glenn Rice 3-point Explosion (1989) is sandwiched between the Pointer Sisters singing, "I'm So Excited" and Buster Poindexter doing "Hot Hot Hot."

Alphabet City Records, a subsidiary of Marquee-Alphabet City, was founded by two 30-year-olds — Kenny Dichter and Jesse Itzler, who also signs and raps as Jesse Jaymes.

The company has provided music videos of teams' theme songs that are shown in at least 25 arenas on both the col-

lege and pro levels.

"We got the idea (for the team CDs) from fans response to theme songs," said Itzler, the executive producer, who wrote and also performs some of the songs on the various CDs. "We went first to the Knicks. We put radio play-by-plays calls in between songs to reach sports fans as well as music fans."

The CDs are sold through Footlocker sports apparel outlets, alumni groups and college bookstores.

"The idea was not to go through traditional music outlets," Dichter said. "The Footlocker situation was right for us."

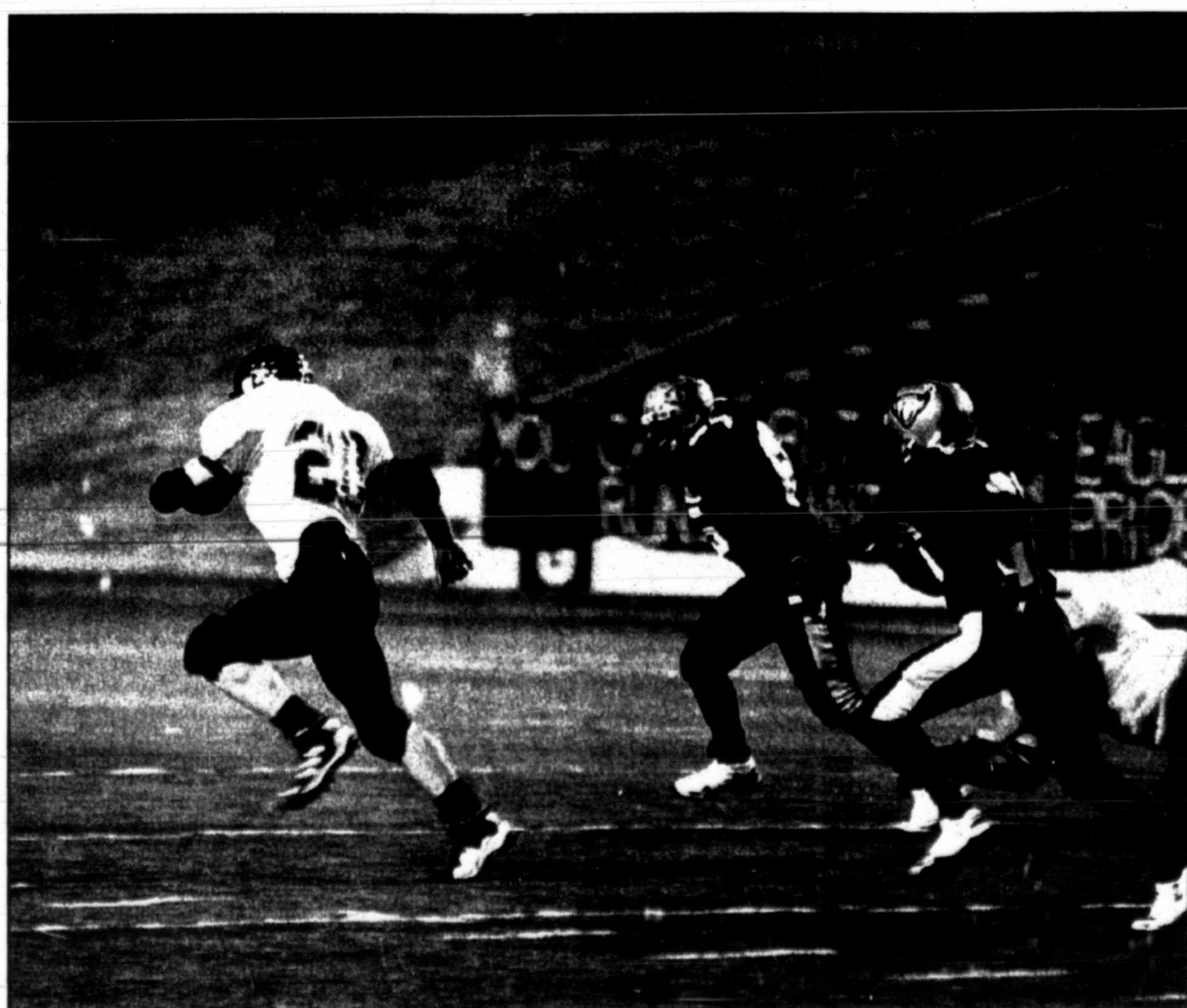
People see the CD's next to hats, jackets and T-shirts, said Dichter, Alphabet City president. "They treat it like it's a hat. We came to realize our core customer was the male sports fan."

A CD sells for \$14.95.

Currently, Alphabet City has produced 20 CDs that include the NBA Chicago Bulls, the NFL Green Bay Packers and Denver Broncos, the baseball New York Yankees and the universities of Michigan, Nebraska and Kentucky.

In the process of being produced are CDs on the Minnesota Vikings, Dallas Cowboys and New England Patriots and a volume 2 of the Yankees. One on Ohio State also is planned.

"We're just going to continue to do as many as we can without affecting the quality of the production," Itzler said of his and Dichter's marriage of music and sports memories — a chance to live vicariously to a beat.



Wheeler running back Casey Childress breaks into the open against O'Donnell in last week's state quarterfinal game.

Aggies trim Tulane, 69-63

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Clifton Cook scored 18 points and Michael Schmidt added 14 Wednesday night, leading cold-shooting Texas A&M in a 69-63 victory over Tulane.

The Aggies (7-1), who led 41-33 at halftime, held on despite hitting just 29 percent (6 of 21) from the field in the second half.

Morris Jordan led the Green Wave (3-3) with 20 points and 8 rebounds. Sterling Davis added 13 for Tulane.

Texas A&M has already won as many games as all of last season and is off to its best start since 1980-81.

Shanne Jones joined Cook and

Schmidt in double figures for the Aggies with 12 points.

Tulane got off to a fast start and led 16-9 on Davis' jumper with 12:52 left in the opening half. The Aggies took their first lead, 26-25, on Schmidt's layup with 4:36 to go. Texas A&M then went on a 15-8 run before halftime.

The Aggies maintained a comfortable lead through much of the second half. Tulane's Dylan Osean hit a 3-pointer that brought the Green Wave within 63-61 with 32 seconds to go.

But A&M hit all six of its free-throw attempts — four by Cook and two by Chris Clayton — down the stretch to seal the win.

Palestinian ex-fighters to be out in force for Clinton visit

By LAURA KING
Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — It's not exactly the kind of company President Clinton normally keeps.

In the Gaza Strip, the welcome mat is out not only for the American leader, but for hundreds of now-aging veterans of the era when Palestinians pressed their cause the world over by hijacking airliners, shooting up airports and staging guerrilla raids.

The centerpiece of Clinton's visit to Gaza on Monday is a meeting of the Palestine National Council, a nearly 600-member parliament-in-exile, which along with other Palestinian groups is to reaffirm in his presence that the Palestinians have renounced the goal of destroying Israel.

Like much else connected with the visit — and the Wye River land-for-security accord Clinton is coming here to promote — the Gaza gathering is viewed very differently by the two sides.

Palestinians consider the ex-fighters attending the session to be heroes of a national struggle that they hope will culminate in Palestinian statehood.

Israel, however, is all but holding its nose at the prospect of bringing together what it regards as a notorious who's who of terrorism, a rogues' gallery responsible for taking hundreds of innocent lives.

"It's certainly not a group or body that we value, to say the least," Israeli government spokesman

Moshe Fogel said of the Palestine National Council. Some former guerrillas are boycotting the meeting to express their continuing opposition to any

Palestinians consider the ex-fighters attending the session to be heroes of a national struggle that they hope will culminate in Palestinian statehood.

peace with Israel.

"What will happen in Gaza does not represent the real will of the Palestinian people," said PNC member Leila Khaled, a onetime Palestinian commando who hijacked airliners in 1969 and 1970.

Those expected to attend include Mohammed Abbas, who oversaw the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in which an elderly American passenger was shot dead in his wheelchair, and Mohammed Oudeh, implicated by Israeli and American intelligence experts in planning the botched hostage-taking at the 1972 Munich Olympics that left 11 Israeli athletes dead.

Using its security veto over who enters Gaza, Israel has banned some ex-fighters now living abroad, including members of the radical Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine, from attending the session.

But Israel cannot keep too many PNC members away or it will defeat the main purpose of the meeting, which Israel itself insisted upon: amending the Palestinian national charter to nullify clauses calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

There is sharp disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians over how exactly that should be accomplished.

The Palestinians say they already renounced the offending clauses in a 1996 meeting of the PNC and in a subsequent letter from Arafat to then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Reflecting that, official Palestinian invitations to the gathering merely ask those attending to listen to a speech by Clinton in support of the peace accords.

Palestinian leaders have said the abandonment of a call to arms against Israel will be affirmed by acclamation, not by an actual vote. But Israel wants a formal tally, and warns that without one, the peace accord is off.

"We're not going to accept any halfway, vague actions by the PNC," said Fogel, the Israeli spokesman.

Whatever distaste Israel has about the session is amply reciprocated by some of the former Palestinian fighters who plan to attend.

Oudeh, the reputed Munich mastermind who is better known by his code name of Abu Daoud, singles out Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon,

whom many Palestinians blame for the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon by Israeli-allied Christian militiamen.

"Who is he to talk about us having blood on our hands?" he said.

Some of those who will be rubbing elbows with Clinton at the Gaza gathering have distanced themselves from past acts of violence.

Abbas, who oversaw the Achille Lauro hijacking, has said publicly for several years now that the operation was a mistake.

Other PNC members remain defiant, insisting their bloody tactics were a legitimate means of bringing the Palestinian plight to the world's attention.

Leila Khaled, now a 54-year-old women's activist and mother of two children, said she had no regrets about her hijacker past.

"Not ever — never ever," she said in a telephone interview from Amman, Jordan, where she now lives.

Oudeh, 61 and a lawyer in the West Bank town of Ramallah, was never charged in the Munich massacre and does not acknowledge direct involvement in it. But he says attacks like it ultimately led to peace negotiations with Israel.

"It was a field of struggle," he said. "Maybe we fought too much, but we suffered too much, too. Now we've come halfway across the bridge. It's time the Israelis did, too."



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Baby's First Christmas 1998

The first Christmas is a special one. On December 23rd, The Pampa News will have a special space just for babies celebrating their first Christmas. The cost to have a picture and brief information about your little one is \$15 paid in advance. The Pampa News must have picture and information by noon, December 18th.

Kate Elizabeth Dickson

Born... October 11, 1998

Parents... John & Angela Dickson Jena, Louisiana

Great Aunt... Kate B. Dickson Pampa, Texas

Example

Think. Buckle that seat belt.

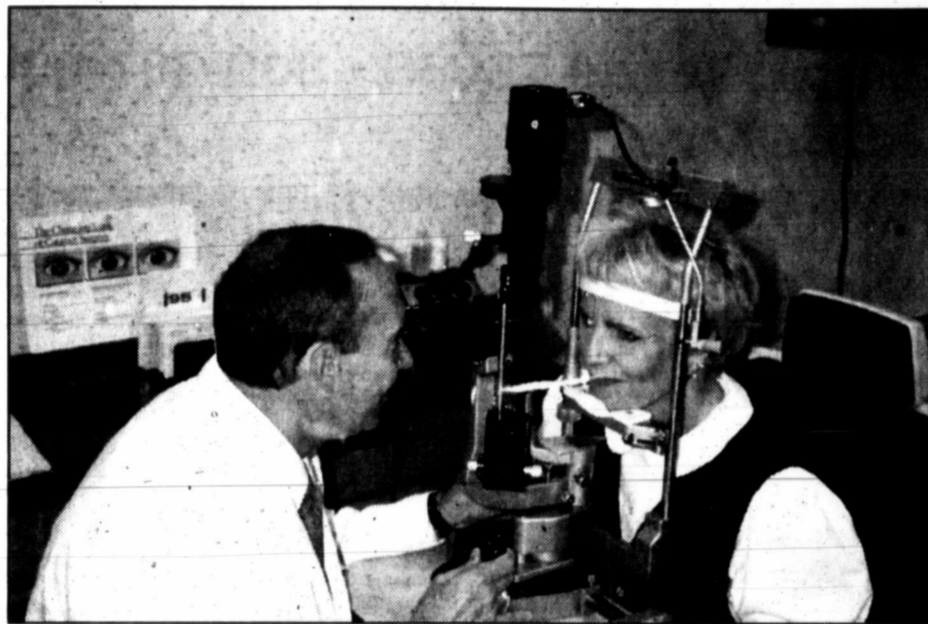
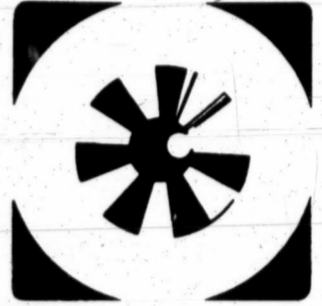
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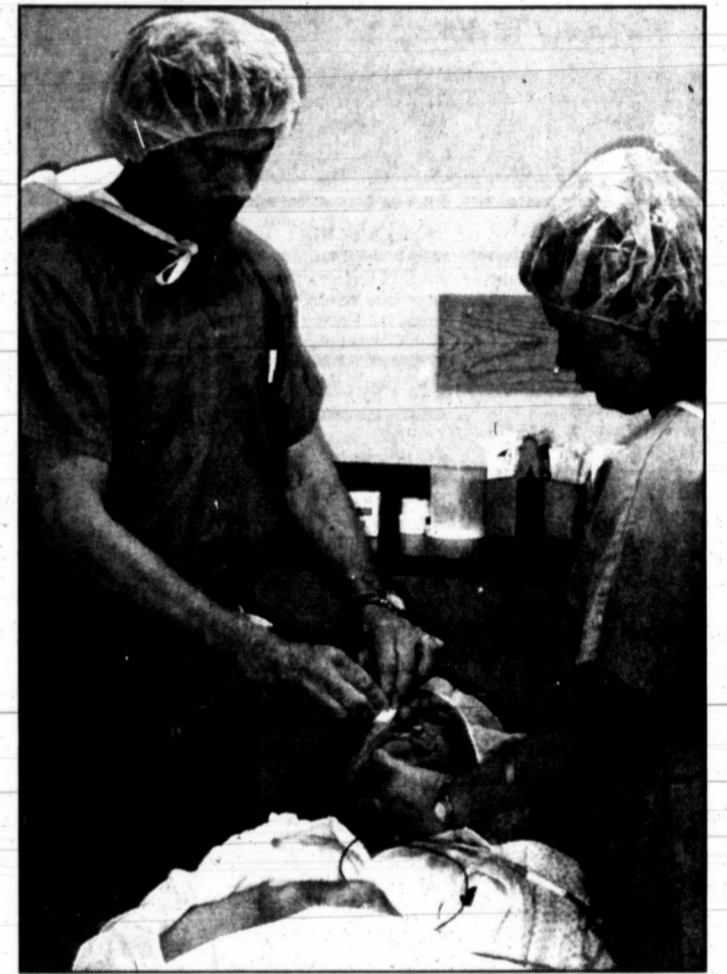
Doctors and Staff of Regional Eye Center Wish Everyone a Happy Holiday

Dr. George R. Walters and Dr. Tom Baker have 50 years combined experience in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases and surgery of the eye. Regional Eye Center houses the Panhandle's first Medicare approved outpatient facility for ocular surgery. Services provided at Regional Eye Center include diagnosis and treatment for cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and routine eye exams for glasses and contacts. Our full service optical shop offers a wide variety of frames and has an expert staff to assist you. Laser Vision Correction for nearsightedness, astigmatism, and farsightedness, is performed by Dr. George Walters at the Amarillo Branch of Regional Eye Center.

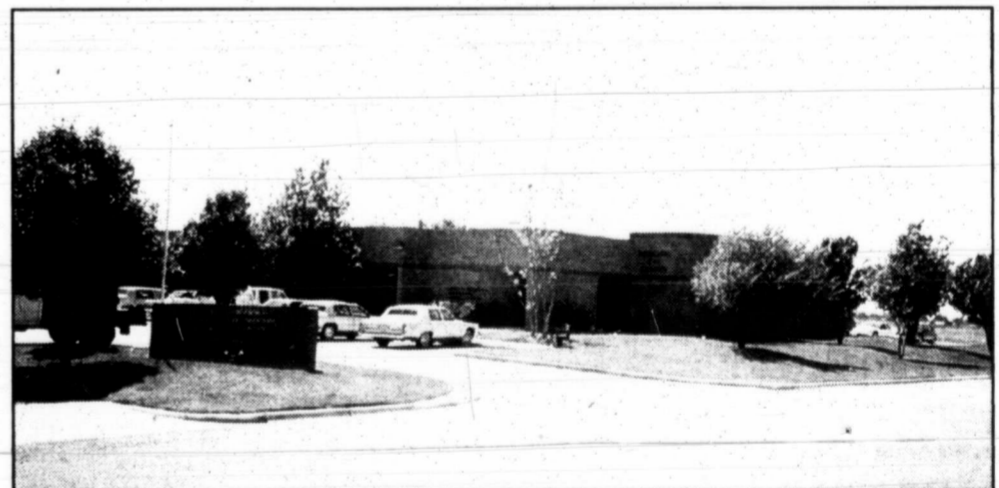


Dr. Tom Baker examining a patient's eyes in the Pampa Clinic

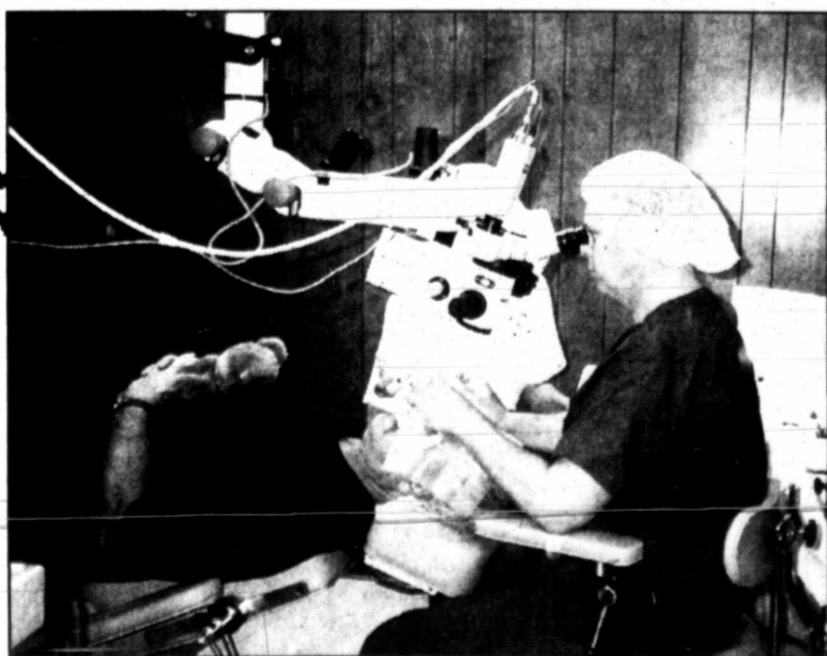
Vickie Beuke assists John Offutt in preparing a patient for cataract surgery at Regional Eye Surgery Center



Sandra Snow and Becky Potter help patients with their glasses in the full service optical shop at Regional Eye Center in Pampa



Regional Eye Center • Pampa Branch



Dr. George Walters performing Laser Vision Correction on a patient in the Amarillo Office



Regional Eye Center • Amarillo Branch

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