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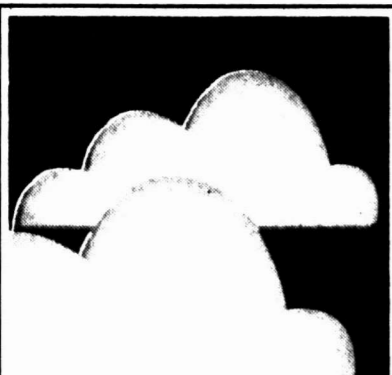
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Pampa

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High today, 28 degrees.
 Low tonight, 15 degrees.
 For weather details, see
 Page 2.

AUSTIN -- The winning numbers of Saturday night's Lotto Texas drawing from a field of 50 were: 4, 12, 32, 36, 37, 50.
 Estimated jackpot: \$7 million.
 Number matching six of six: 1.
 Winning ticket sold in: Denton.
 Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
 Estimated jackpot: \$4 million.

DALLAS (AP) -- Faulty holiday lights are blamed for a house fire that killed a Dallas couple on Saturday.
 Flames struck the one-story, wood-frame house in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas about 4:45 a.m. Saturday, said fire spokeswoman Annette Ponce.
 Leonardo Aguinaga and his wife, Paula Aguinaga, both 69, died in the blaze. Three others in the house managed to escape.
 Leonardo Aguinaga Jr., 10, was taken to Children's Medical Center of Dallas for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns.
 Investigators blamed faulty wiring of Christmas lights near a religious shrine in the house for the fire, Ms. Ponce said. Several lights were plugged into one outlet, she said.
 The house had no smoke detectors, Ms. Ponce said.

- George Bishop, 73, retired crane operator.
- Larry Orville Heiskell, 58, lifelong Pampa resident.
- Carroll F. Carr, 74, Canadian native.
- Marjorie Marie Back Turnage, 86, lifelong McLean resident.

Classified 9
 Comics 4
 Medical 5
 Sports 7

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season

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Pampa skies to light up on New Year's Eve

Pampa's New Year's Eve will feature a midnight fireworks show near the lake at Recreation Park, the site used for the city's regular Fourth of July fireworks show, city officials said this week.
 Community Services Director Bill Hildebrandt said there will be differences between the New Year's Eve show and the July 4 show, primarily parking locations and the length of the show.

With the large amount of lighted and non-lighted seasonal displays on display at the park for the Celebration of Lights, several areas will be roped or barricaded off to prevent trucks and cars from being damaged by the cables and ground stakes securing these displays.
 "There should still be plenty of parking in other areas of the park, and we're anticipating that most of the spectators will opt to

stay in their vehicles rather than fight the cold weather," Hildebrandt said.
 Due to the time the show starts as well as expected winter temperatures, the show will follow a faster sequence than the July 4 shows and there will be more effects detonated nearly simultaneously.
 The cost of the \$6,000 show is being underwritten by several organizations and individuals

including Celebration of Lights, Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, Warren Chisum, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Top O' Texas Rodeo Association, Pampa Board of Realtors, Jeff Catron and Operations Management, Inc., the city's contractor for water/wastewater treatment.
 Hildebrandt said donations are still being accepted for the show and those interested in assisting may send checks

payable to "City of Pampa Millennium Fireworks" account at P.O. Box 2499, Pampa, TX 79066-2499.
 City Fire Marshall Gary Stevens commented that, as in the case of the July 4 fireworks shows, the detonation of personal fireworks, including sparklers, Roman candles, bottle rockets and fire crackers, is prohibited within the city limits including Recreation Park property.



Brad Elliott, Linda Whatley and Loel Box are local volunteers who are helping prepare sacks of food to keep local residents from being hungry during this holiday season.

Pampa volunteers battle holiday hunger woes

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor
 Hunger is not only a problem in foreign countries or even in other areas of the United States. Lack of food is also present in Pampa.
 Some local residents are out of work while others are part of the working poor, who are usually working for minimum wage and do not make a high enough salary to pay rent and utilities and still be to buy enough food to eat.
 Two agencies in Pampa help the hungry throughout the year. During the holiday season a special attempt is made to help the local residents.
 Both the Harvest House and Good Samaritan Christian Services regard this service to local residents as a missionary project to keep the local residents from being hungry.
 John Norris, executive director of Good Samaritan Christian Services, said each month

the demand for food by local residents is larger than the previous month.
 Pampa is no different than other cities across the nation. Even though national statistics state there is a booming economy and low unemployment, the demand for emergency food and shelter grew again this year, according to a U.S. Conference of Mayors survey of 26 cities.
 According to this survey, the demand for emergency food assistance grew at its steepest pace since 1992.
 Reports from U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said that despite the rise in food requests, only about one-third of Americans eligible for food stamps aren't getting them.
 Welfare reform is blamed by some as a reason for the upward turn in people seeking help to eat.
 Tami Cervantes of the Department of Human Services in Amarillo said she isn't sure she

(See **FOOD BANK**, Page 2)

Inmates flee cells at South Texas prison

BEEVILLE (AP) -- Dozens of inmates escaped from their cells today at a South Texas state prison, where authorities say at least two correctional officers were injured less than a week after a guard was stabbed to death.
 More than 80 prisoners at the McConnell Unit "manipulated their cell doors and gotten out," said Glen Castlebury of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
 "We have regained control of the prison area where there were 80 cells," he said.
 Larry Todd, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Corrections, said the maximum security inmates escaped from their cells around 3 a.m.
 He said all 83 inmates in the prison area, called a pod, were involved in the disturbance.
 Prison riot teams moved in about 5 a.m. with tear gas and batons. Within 30 minutes, correctional officers had escaped from the disturbance, he said.
 One officer was taken to a local hospital with cuts on his hands. Another was being treated for minor injuries at the prison infirmary.
 "By 7 a.m. we were advised we had total control of the cell block," Todd said. "The unit is

now under lock down and we are assessing the cause and amount of damage."
 Todd said the unit has been "tense" since Friday night's stabbing death of a correctional officer.
 In the first deadly attack on a Texas correctional officer in 17 years, Daniel Nagle was found lying in a pool of blood Friday in a hallway of the unit. Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like a struggle before Nagle, 37, was stabbed multiple times with a thin metal rod.
 Prison officials believe the attack was planned and that Nagle was specifically targeted by inmates.
 A lockdown was in effect over the weekend at the prison.
 Castlebury said damage from the latest disturbance at the prison area was minimal. But he said prison officials were trying to determine how all the prisoners' cell doors opened at once.
 "When the inmates came out of their cells, three officers were blocked from getting out of the area," he said. "It was not a true hostage situation. But the officers managed to extricate themselves."
 Beeville is about 90 miles southeast of San Antonio.

PEDC to discuss legal and personnel matters

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation, Inc., is expected to spend much of its time today behind closed doors discussing legal and personnel problems.
 The PEDC was expected to go into executive session during its meeting this afternoon to discuss legal matters, personnel matters and economic development matters.
 During their regularly scheduled meeting at 4 p.m. today at their offices at 105 E. Foster, Suite 200, the PEDC was also expected to consider the 1998/1999 audit

by Brown Graham and Company, approve revisions to the Pampa Revolving Loan Fund and to consider prospect requests.
 Former PEDC Executive Director Bill Ready asked for a hearing to appeal his firing earlier this year. His lawyers indicated might sue the corporation under state whistleblower laws.
 Ready claims he was fired because he brought to light conflicts of interest by several board members.
 Board members said Ready was fired for using PEDC money for personal expenses.

County Commission approves two new dump trucks and vehicles for Sheriff's office

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor
 Gray County Commissioners this month appointed Dale Greenhouse and Dave Wavra as new members on the county airport advisory board for the upcoming year.
 Retiring from the county board are Denver Tucker and Jim Leverich.
 At their Dec. 15, meeting, the commissioners approved the purchase of two new dump trucks.
 Bruckner's Mack Truck of Amarillo was the only bidder for the purchase of two dump trucks to Gray County for Precinct 4. Commission members accepted the total bid of \$71,500, with each truck costing \$35,750.

Payment for the two vehicles will be made from this year's budget. The new budget year begins in January, 2000.
 McLean Feedyard was high bidder on both 1977 dump trucks being sold by Precinct 4. Vehicle number one's selling price was \$2,780 while vehicle number two was sold for a bid of \$3,200.
 One other bid was received on vehicle number one. It was from L. C. Vernon in the amount of \$1,250.
 Bids received on the second vehicle were from Rawhide Trucking, \$1,950; Gerald Johnson, \$2,150; L. C. Vernon, \$1,500; and Billy Jo Skipper, \$1,772.82.
 Approval was granted to Sheriff Don Copeland to purchase

three new vehicles for his department during the upcoming budget year.
 Sheriff Copeland requested two cars and one basic pickup. He said the cost of purchasing a pickup would only be \$600 more than a car.
 Copeland said the warranty would be an additional \$200 while the basic cost of the pickup will be \$400 over the price of a car.
 County Auditor Elaine Morris said the amount is in the sheriff's budget.
 Sale of two properties for delinquent taxes was approved by the commission.
 One of the properties is located in the 700 block of east Denver, and the other is in the 900 block of east Scott.

Santa makes early run in New England

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- When Santa Claus made an early circuit of toy-dropping stops off the Northeast coast this weekend, it wasn't Rudolph's nose so bright that guided him.
 Following a 70-year tradition, a volunteer Santa flew via helicopter to 10 Maine lighthouses with Christmas presents for the children of Coast Guard members.
 George Morgan of Hull, Mass., a white-haired, grandfatherly 66-year-old retired nursing-home administrator, has been carrying on the tradition since the 1980s.
 "Look at all these kids!" the toy-toting Morgan shouted to more than 70 children after landing at Portland Head Light on Saturday. "Did you all come to see me?"
 Most lighthouses are automated, and lighthouse keepers have all but disappeared. So the presents go largely to the children of the Coast Guard members who maintain the lights.
 The Flying Santa tradition got its start in 1929. A week before Christmas, cargo pilot William Wincapaw was lost in a snowstorm off the Maine coast, running low on fuel.
 A lighthouse helped establish his course and he followed the beacons home. A few days later, he loaded his plane with wooden boxes full of gifts and supplies and retraced his flight, dropping the packages for the lighthouse keepers who had

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TDH: Gift-givers beware of dangers associated with exotic pets

AUSTIN — The ultimate gift-giver may have endeared himself to his true love with swans, calling birds, French hens, turtle doves and partridge in a pear tree but experts at the Texas Department of Health say such living presents can be a problem.

"Buying or giving exotic pets such as monkeys, hedgehogs, prairie dogs, reptiles or other wildlife potentially can be dangerous to both humans and the animals themselves," said veterinarian Jane Mahlow, director of TDH Zoonosis Control Division.

These unusual animals can bring with them dangerous, sometimes deadly diseases. African pigmy hedgehogs and reptiles such as snakes, lizards, turtles and iguanas, for instance, carry strains of Salmonella bacteria in their intestines.

Salmonella bacteria do not make the animal sick but in people can cause serious cases of severe diarrhea, fever, vomiting, abdominal cramps or even death, especially in young children, the elderly and those with immune-compromised systems. A person does not have to have direct contact with the reptile but can get the bacteria from another person who handles the reptile or household surfaces the animal may have touched.

"Everyone who touches the reptile or its cage should always wash their hands afterward," Mahlow said. "Also, the kitchen sink is no place to bathe reptiles or to wash their dishes, cage or aquarium." Reptiles should not be loose to roam around the house, especially if young children are in the home. Salmonella can live on furniture and in car-

pets. "And reptiles should never be kept in child-care centers."

Monkeys, too, seem irresistible with their child-like qualities and humorous antics. However, macaques, Asian monkeys including the rhesus, commonly carry the herpes B virus.

Like Salmonella in reptiles, herpes B causes no noticeable disease in macaques. But in humans, the virus (also known as monkey B virus or simply B virus) leads to an illness that can cause death. Monkey bites are the primary way humans get herpes B virus.

Cute and curious, prairie dogs draw attention to their natural villages on the western plains of Texas. But these wild rodents come from the same area in the state where bubonic plague is found. People may become infected by being bitten by fleas

on the prairie dogs that are carrying the plague organism.

"Wild animals are best left in the wild," Mahlow said. They can be unpredictable, possibly posing a threat to people of severe attack. And rabies from wild animals is always a concern.

Wild animals themselves can face almost as many problems living in captivity. Most will not live long in an average household. Their diets are different from domestic pets, and the wrong food can lead to serious nutritional deficiencies. Many require as much care and attention as a human infant. And while cute and cuddly as a baby, an animal may become aggressive or moody as it matures.

Releasing a wild animal back into nature after months or years in captivity is usually a death sentence for the animal.

Complicating the problems for wild and exotic animals is the growth of sales on the Internet. Hundreds of sites offer all types of animals from alpacas to zebras. Sellers as far away as New Zealand or as close as West Texas can provide — for a hefty price — reindeer, llamas, camels, kangaroos, iguanas, parrots, pythons, marsupials or any of dozens of other creatures.

Various restrictions apply to owning and importing different animals. For instance, federal public health regulations prohibit selling turtles less than 4-inch-

es long because of Salmonella risks. Importing non-human primates into the U.S. as pets also is prohibited. There also are restrictions on owning endangered or fur-bearing animals such as raccoons, beavers, mink, muskrats, opossums and otters. Other regulations restrict importation of livestock as well as importing, exporting or transporting species of foxes indigenous to North America, coyotes or raccoons.

"Animals are not ornaments or oddities to show off," Mahlow said. "The selection of a pet needs to be based on family considerations, the time available to devote to the animal and the safety and health precautions required."

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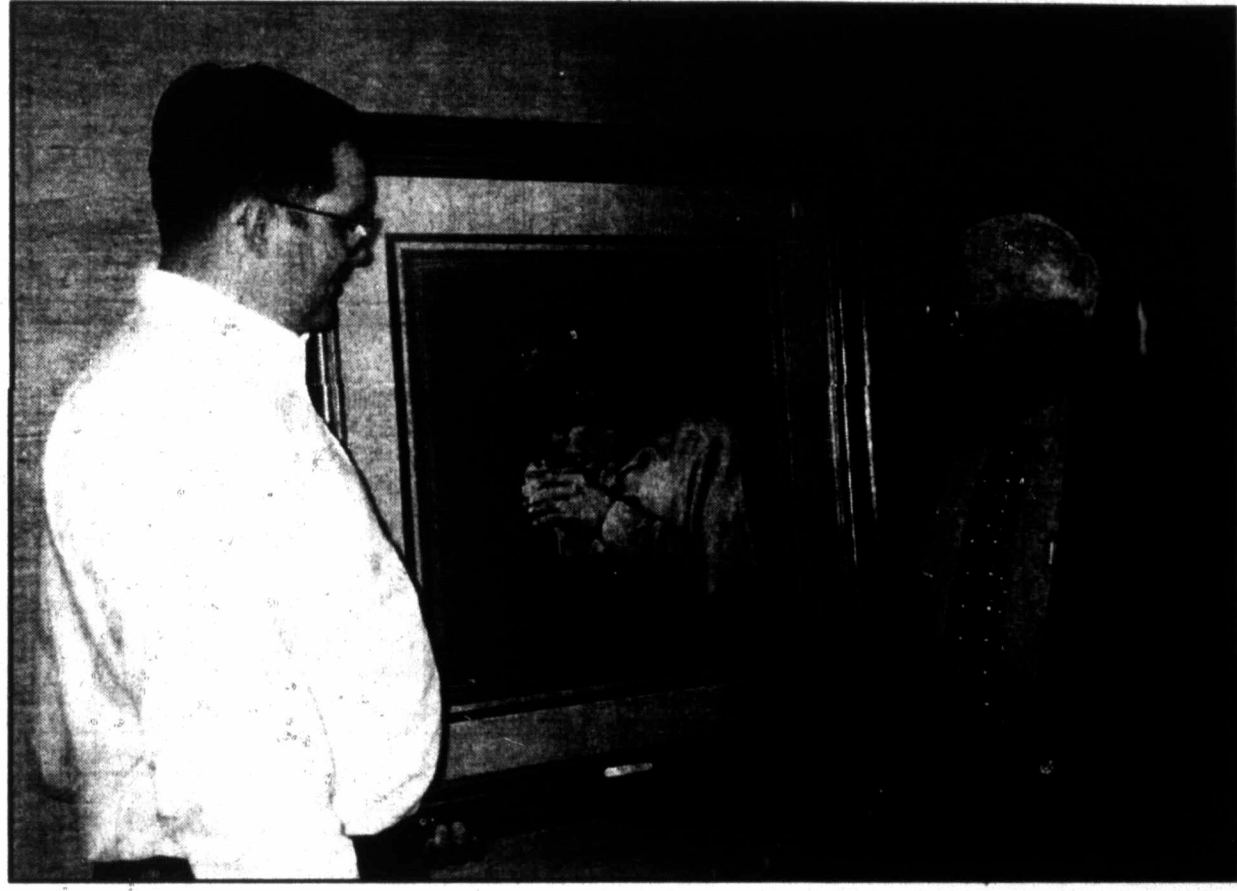
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(Special photo)

Dr. Joe Donaldson, right, presents a pastel painting by artist Kenneth Wyatt to Joe Kyle Reeve, dean of Clarendon College-Pampa Center, recently. The painting, a gift from Donaldson and wife Johnnie, will hang in the new campus building which is scheduled to open for classes Jan. 18. The portrait is of a cowboy who worked on the JA Ranch. Donaldson said he chose this painting to give to the college because of its "friendly atmosphere." The cowboy is "havin' a cup" of coffee.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. For more information, call Diane Wells at 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is extending clinic hours in Pampa. The clinic is now open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A. Special evening hours until 6 p.m. are available by appointment. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291.

AMERICAN GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

American General Life and Accident Insurance Co. is offering the American General Scholarship for the first time in Texas to recognize good character in high school seniors. ACS will award more than 160 one-year \$500 scholarships, plus an additional \$1,000 to top-ranked applicants in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia. Winners will be selected in March

2000 by an independent panel of educators. To qualify, students must rank in the top third of their senior class, must present evidence of good character in two letters of recommendation (from a high school official and a community leader). Students will be evaluated on involvement in extracurricular activities and on a written response to a question about character. The student's taxable family income cannot exceed \$50,000. Applications are due March 1. For more information, call (615) 320-3149.

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SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

Anyone Can Do It ... And It's This Simple
Just Fill Out The Following Questions (you do not have to answer all the questions to be a Sunday Snapshot) And Bring It To The Pampa News Office. We Can Take Your Picture In The Office Or You Can Bring A Favorite Photo With You.
It's That Easy ... And It's For All Ages!

- Name: _____
- Occupation/Activities: _____
- Birth Date & Place: _____
- Family: _____
- If I had a different job, I'd be a: "or" _____
- When I grow up I want to be: _____
- My personal hero: _____
- The best advice I ever got was: _____
- People who knew me in High School thought: "or" _____
- My classmates think of me as: _____
- The best word or words to describe me: _____
- People will remember me as being: _____
- The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: _____
- My hobbies are: _____
- My favorite sports team is: _____
- My favorite author is: _____
- The last book I read was: _____
- My favorite possession is: _____
- The biggest honor I've ever received is: _____
- My favorite performer is: _____
- I wish I knew how to: _____
- My trademark cliché or expression is: _____
- My worst habit is: _____
- I would never: _____
- The last good movie I saw was: _____
- I stay home to watch: _____
- Nobody knows: _____
- I drive a: "or" _____
- Someday I want to drive a: _____
- My favorite junk food is: _____
- My favorite beverage: _____
- My favorite restaurant is: _____
- My favorite pet: _____
- For my last meal, I would choose: "or" _____
- My favorite meal is: _____
- I wish I could sing like: _____
- I'm happiest when I'm: _____
- I regret: _____
- I'm tired of: _____
- I have a phobia about: "or" _____
- My biggest fear is: _____
- The electrical device I couldn't live without is: _____
- My most embarrassing moment: _____
- The biggest waste of time is: _____
- If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: _____
- If I had three wishes they would be: _____
- If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: _____

CINEMA

1st Run
Stuart Little (PG)
Fri. & Sat. 7:05 & 9:05
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:05 & 9:05
Daily Matinee 1:50

1st Run
Bicentennial Man (PG)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00 & 9:30
Daily Matinee 1:45

2nd Week
Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:10 & 9:00
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10 & 9:00
Daily Matinee 1:55

4th Week
Toy Story II (G)
Fri. & Sat. 7:05 & 9:05
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:05 & 9:05
Daily Matinee 1:50

Hotline Volunteers Get as Much As They Give by Helping Others

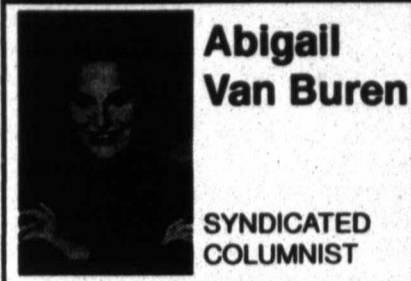
DEAR ABBY: Please print my letter about volunteering on suicide prevention/crisis hotlines.

Suicide affects most of us at some time in our lives. Most of us know someone who has considered suicide, attempted it or killed himself or herself. While it is a challenge to talk with someone about suicide, doing so opens communication in an amazing way. It is an enriching experience for both the person in crisis and the volunteer. I hope the U.S. surgeon general's recent statements on this issue will draw nationwide attention to its importance. There is something that can be done about it — become a volunteer! Contact your local suicide prevention/crisis hotline and find out how.

A VOLUNTEER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR VOLUNTEER: Your letter is an important one. I'm often asked to recommend worthy causes to which people can donate time or money. I can think of no more meaningful way to fill one's extra time than by literally saving the lives of others. It takes some time and training to become a hotline volunteer; however, the emotional payoff is beyond description.

DEAR ABBY: Here's how we solved the "appropriate gift" prob-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

lem for our elderly parents.

Knowing that my mother-in-law was having difficulty keeping her house cleaned (vacuuming, floor scrubbing, etc.), we decided to give them one gift that would last all year. We eliminated Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary and Christmas presents, and instead hired someone to come into their home and clean it once a month. My husband, his sister and I pay for the service each month.

We lost my mother-in-law last year, and the day after her funeral, my father-in-law asked if we could continue the service because it was so very much appreciated.

No longer do I have to wrack my brain to buy something I'm not sure would be wanted or needed.

ANN MANOS, GRAVETTE, ARK.

DEAR ANN: I can't think of a more practical gift. Thanks for an ingenious solution to a problem that crops up every year. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: A reader asked

you how to stop elderly relatives from sending useless gifts without hurting their feelings.

I would suggest that the reader tell them how much a record of their own history and personal recollections would mean to younger members of the family. These stories could be written or taped, but should always be identified as to who the person is and all the proper dates. They could also be recorded in installments and given on various gift-giving occasions. Many families would deeply appreciate such gifts. Historical societies could no doubt help the elderly with suggestions, if needed.

My mother was born in the late 1800s to pioneer parents. I am grateful that she allowed me to tape her recollections of her parents as well as her own experiences. Many children and other relatives would appreciate similar gifts.

HARRIET FROM TAMPA

DEAR HARRIET: That's a terrific suggestion. A collection of written recollections would make a unique bound volume after a few years — and the collection of tapes becomes a one-of-a-kind library or oral history.

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooks I and II, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61064-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Horoscope

TUESDAY, DEC. 21, 1999

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 could feel like you are in a pressure cooker as you attempt to clarify a problem. Misunderstandings happen because you aren't speaking the same language as another. Your determination helps you become a winner. Tonight: Partake in the season's cheer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

** Finish up last-minute details. Money dealings quickly get out of control. Keep your wallet close. Mistakes occur where you least expect it. Make a must appearance. Touch base with a boss or someone in charge. Play it cool. Tonight: Indulge yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** You might be out of sorts, feeling that you can't have things the way you want. Stop grumbling! Take a deep breath and direct your energy. Your challenge is to jump over a problem and find the solution. Don't get caught up in the immediate. Tonight: Opt for some Christmas fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

** Everyone is in a tizzy. You might feel a bit glum as the holiday approaches. Talk to a special friend or a partner. You can break past a pattern. You are simply

overwhelmed by what you need to do, but another will pitch in. Tonight: Say "thank you" in your customary style.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Clearly, you don't have the kind of control you would like. Meet another halfway. Know what is acceptable. Misunderstandings pop up from all different areas of your life. A partner, though sometimes bellicose, comes through for you. Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Attempt to build better relationships with those in charge, who are definitely uptight. Help them relax. It all comes back to you in multiples. Caring increases because of your generosity. Be willing to pitch in. Others will appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Working late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Just when you thought a misunderstanding was letting up, confusion runs amok. You cannot be sufficiently clear or direct. Others see situations differently than you do. Refuse to exaggerate. A child surprises you. Tonight: Detach, and keep an eye on your behavior as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You might not be as clear as you would like to be. Money agreements and decisions might be up for review. Refuse to get behind the eight ball with your spending. Family delightfully surprises you. Let a loved one express his ideas. Tonight: Time for a family chat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Another seems contrary, and your response does nothing to cool this situation off. Stay on top of problems. Be as generous and thoughtful as possible. Cut

as much slack as you can. Information you receive is very important. Tonight: Go with a spontaneous invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Dig into work. Be willing to say "mea culpa" to avoid a problem. You might know you aren't wrong, but opt for peace. Be careful with spending. Remain in touch with your long-term needs. Do a last-minute check so that you have all your gifts. Tonight: Keep at it and you will get everything done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Stay on top of problems. Don't get stuck like others. Use your independent mind to find the correct way to get past immediate obstacles. Be careful with a fragile relationship. Misunderstandings pop up from nowhere. Tonight: Make love, not war.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Family and those you care about could be testy. Examine long-term goals carefully; don't jump to unexpected conclusions. Stay calm; don't get triggered by the pre-Christmas frenzy. Others are clearly reacting to holiday pressure. Tonight: Head home.

BORN TODAY

Former TV host Phil Donahue (1935), actress Jane Fonda (1937), former tennis player Chris Evert (1954)

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For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Support

5 Salon offering

9 Lily variety

10 Reserved

12 Stellar hunter

13 "An Ideal Husband" author

14 Haunted house hanging

16 Conducted

17 Getting — years

18 Art stands

21 Burro

22 Grapefruit mishap

23 Source

24 "Calm down!"

26 Possessed

29 Fifth president

30 FDR's pooch

31 Building wing

32 Musical of 1975

34 Assumed name

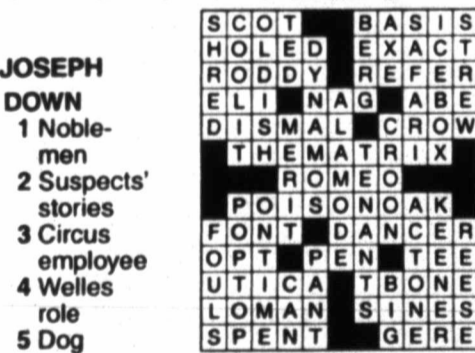
37 Wise saying

38 Dance for two

39 Destroys

40 Oboe part

41 Roof ornaments



SCOT BASIS
HOLED EXACT
RODDY REFER
ELI NAG ABE
DISMAL CROW
THE MATRIX
ROMEO
POISONOAK
FONT DANCER
OPT PEN TEE
UTICA TBONE
LOMAN SINES
SPENT GERE

Saturday's answer

20 Use a chair

22 Song for one

23 In support of

24 Shirt part

15 "Hush!"

19 Cousin's mother

25 Using the Internet

26 The Aloha State

27 Straightens

28 Stupéfies

29 Butcher's offering

30 Disgusted

33 Fast runner

35 Longevity

36 Turf

STUMPED?

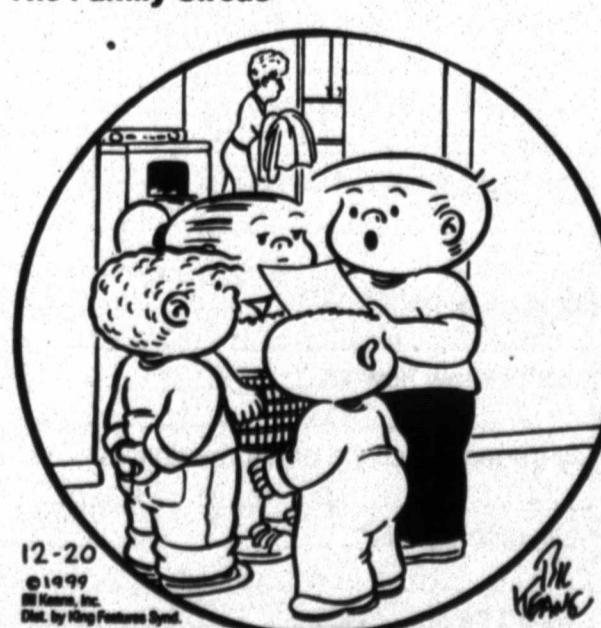
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7377. 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"What became of our Christmas decorations?"

The Family Circus



"Grandma's gonna be hard to buy for. She says she already has everything she needs."

MEDICAL

Health briefs

Children can make holiday baking fun, educational

HOUSTON — Holiday baking can be a fun way for children to learn about food preparation and nutrition. "Letting children get their hands dirty baking holiday goodies will help them learn a new skill, as well as teach them about the foods they eat," said Becky Gorham, a nutritionist with the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. It's important to choose simple recipes that offer a lot of opportunities to stir, add ingredients and decorate. Also, stick with nutritious foods such as fruit and nut breads, oatmeal and peanut butter cookies, and carrot and fresh apple cakes. Gorham believes children who learn how to cook at a young age might be more inclined to cook for themselves and be less dependent on fast foods as adults.

Many ways to transmit hepatitis C

HOUSTON — People with hepatitis C can pass the potentially fatal virus on to others in a number of different ways. "Things like dirty tattoo needles, or sharing IV drug needles with someone who is infected with the virus can increase the risk of exposure," said Dr. Rise Stribling with The Liver Center at Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital in Houston. "Helping someone who is bleeding can also put someone at risk." Hepatitis C is a virus that is primarily transmitted through blood or blood exposure and causes inflammation of the liver. The virus could be in a person's system for 20 to 30 years before they develop cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver. It takes about 80 to 90 percent of the liver to be affected before a person would see changes in the way the liver works.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can kill instantly

HOUSTON — Every year hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide poisoning, most while they sleep. "Carbon monoxide is an odorless, sightless gas that binds to the hemoglobin in the blood, which carries oxygen normally throughout the body," said Dr. William Ondo, a neurologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "So if you have a certain amount of carbon monoxide in your system, even if you're surrounded by oxygen, you will feel as though you are suffocating." Ondo says high level exposure to carbon monoxide can kill someone immediately. Minimal exposure can cause neurological damage, headaches, dizziness, sleepiness, and nausea. These symptoms usually do not surface until a couple of days after an exposure.

Delayed child birth might hurt chances to conceive

HOUSTON — Women who put off having a baby might be hurting their chances to conceive. "A woman is born with all the eggs she will ever have, so as she ages, the fertility and the health of the eggs begin to decrease," said Dr. Sandra Carson, director of the Assisted Reproductive Technology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Eggs from women at age 30 have about a 19 percent chance of being chromosomally abnormal, whereas at age 40, it's 39 percent. At age 40, fertility begins to plummet, the rate of miscarriages soar, and the rate of birth defects dramatically increases. However, all hope is not lost for women in their 40's. "A woman over 40 can still have a healthy pregnancy with eggs donated from a younger woman because the chances of pregnancy are related to the age of the egg, and not the uterus," Carson said.

Getting men to the doctor is not easy

HOUSTON — Getting men to go to the doctor is sometimes like pulling teeth. "Men don't need to go for yearly checkups like women, so many simply don't feel the need to go to the doctor," said Dr. James Bray with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "However, what many men don't realize is that when they let small, chronic problems build up, they can become very serious health problems." Bray believes other factors that keep men from going to the doctor include laziness, the fear of bad news, a bad experience with a doctor when they were younger, and the belief that you have to endure a certain amount of pain to be considered a "real man."

Southern comfort not helping battle against the bulge

By SHELLEY HILL
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The laid-back Southern lifestyle is impacting waistlines below the Mason-Dixon line. Southerners are less likely to hike, ride a bike, walk or join a health club than their counterparts in the rest of the nation. As a result, Southerners are tipping the scale at more than 30 percent of their ideal body weight.

In short, they're obese. A study released recently by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that the number of Americans considered obese soared from about one in eight in 1991 to nearly one in five last year.

In the Southeast, the obesity rate jumped 67.2 percent in that time frame, with Georgia leading the nation with a whopping increase of 101.8 percent. West Virginia led the nation in terms of an overweight population, with an obesity rate of 22.9 percent.

Two culprits were suspected for the change: urban sprawl and heat. Many experts in Georgia blamed the extra pounds on modern suburbs, with no sidewalks to encourage walking and long commutes forcing residents to spend hours in their cars instead of exercising.

"Atlanta is not a walkable community. We don't have sidewalks that lead anywhere," said Pam Wilson, a dietitian with the Georgia division of public health. "Even if we do find a sidewalk, they dead-end into an eight-lane highway."

The period measured in the study coincides with a time of rapid population growth around Atlanta. In 1991, Georgia had one of the lowest obesity rates in the country.

Dr. William Dietz, a co-author of the CDC study, said the sprawl around Atlanta keeps people trapped in their cars for hours, encourages them to eat quick meals of greasy fast food and prevents them from having enough time to exercise.

"People in Atlanta drive more than in any other urban area in the country," he said. "Community redesign may foster higher levels of activity and go a long way in preventing obesity."

Others blamed Southern weather, saying the summers are too hot for people to get outside. The lowest obesity rates in the nation, by comparison, were in New England and in the West, where people are more active and the weather is cooler.

Dr. William Dietz, a co-author of the CDC study, said the sprawl around Atlanta keeps people trapped in their cars for hours, encourages them to eat quick meals of greasy fast food and prevents them from having enough time to exercise.

"If they don't get out in the morning, they don't exercise," said Harry DuVal, director of the University of Georgia fitness center. "They go in and find air conditioning."

"It all adds up to a very unhealthy lifestyle," added Wilson. The CDC study, which is included in today's issue of Journal of the American Medical Association, was based on telephone surveys of more than 100,000 participants each year between 1991-98.

Younger adults, people with some college education and Hispanics showed the most drastic increases, but "a steady increase was observed in all states; in both sexes; across age groups, races, educational levels; and occurred regardless of smoking status," the study found.

Overall, the population of obese men and women in the United States increased from 12 percent in 1991 to 17.9 percent last year, according to the CDC survey, which said that figure might be conservative.

Another study in the journal attributed an estimated 280,000 deaths a year to being overweight, but said the figure could be more than 374,000.

Being overweight has been strongly associated with greater risk of certain illnesses, including heart disease, high cholesterol and blood pressure, diabetes, stroke and some cancers.

CDC Director Jeffrey P. Koplan said a national strategy is needed to combat obesity. He called for workplaces offer healthier foods and exercise facilities, more sidewalks and bike paths, and encouraging children to play outdoors instead of watching TV or using computers.

"In general, restoring physical activity to our daily routines is critical."

Rat study suggests becoming a mother improves memory

By The Associated Press

In rats, at least, motherhood may sharpen the mind.

Researchers at the University of Richmond say hormones produced by rats during pregnancy, combined with the stimulation gained from caring for offspring, apparently improve the animals' memory and learning skills.

The researchers suspect the rodents' brains make new neural connections as a result of sensory stimulation — sights, sounds and cuddling — provided by parenting.

And the benefits are not necessarily limited to biological mothers. Rats that had never given birth but served as foster parents performed better when finding food hidden in an enclosure.

The benefits of brighter mothers are obvious, even if the cause of the postpartum mental improvement isn't clear. Anything that makes a rat mother more efficient "translates into better survivability for her and her offspring," said Craig Kinsley, a professor of neuroscience who lead the research, published in a recent issue of the journal Nature.

Bruce McEwen, a professor of neuroendocrinology at Rockefeller University in New York, said the study is intriguing but doesn't prove a link between motherhood and actual changes in the rats' brains.

"They didn't really look into the brain. They just look at the ani-

mals' behavior, which is of course the first step. But there's a lot of information that we just don't have at this point," he said.

In one test that gauged memory, Kinsley's team placed three groups of rats in a circular enclosure with eight wells containing cereal. After eating their fill, the rats were removed and cereal was dropped into only one of the wells.

The rats were then periodically returned to the enclosure with the same well filled each time with cereal. The rats that had never given birth or cared for pups took the longest on average — 128 seconds — to find the food.

Rats that had never given birth but were protecting and keeping warm other rats' offspring found the food in about 55 seconds, while mother rats caring for their own young did so in about 43 seconds.

The research, of course, does not necessarily apply to humans. It's no secret that many women don't feel at the peak of their mental abilities after childbirth.

"Right after birth, so much of your energy goes into just learning to keep the baby alive, and of course you're incredibly sleep-deprived, more than any measure you've had before," said Lisa Bain, executive editor of Parenting magazine and a mother. "I can't imagine feeling smarter. I certainly didn't feel sharper."

In addition, a 1997 study found that women had a harder time

learning new information just before childbirth.

J. Galen Buckwalter, a gerontology professor at the University of Southern California who led that study, said he looked at verbal

memory, while the rat study focused on spatial memory. Still, he said, his research found that spatial perception improved in pregnant women and for six weeks after childbirth.

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Keystone Curriculum



(Special photos)

The students and staff of Travis Elementary School organized several acts of kindness this holiday season as part of its Keystone Curriculum. Mrs. Street's second grade class organized "Coats for Kindness" coat drive. Students from throughout the school donated sweaters, mittens, hats and blankets for the drive. Above: (top, left-right) Kara Stephens, Kristin Bivins, Gabriel Rodriguez, Joshua Ross and Zach Robles. The music class, under the direction of Mrs.

Pittman, collected canned goods with the goal for each grade, kindergarten through fifth, to be 200 cans. Over 1,200 cans were donated to Good Samaritan House of Pampa. Additional food items are to be donated to Salvation Army to be distributed to needy families during the Christmas holidays. Above: (bottom, left-right) Julie Crossman, Stephanie Jasso, Shealyn McGahen, Meleah Parr, Briana Stephens and Dakota Gilleland.

Celebrating holiday baking traditions; 1999 Bakeline offers tempting recipes, advice

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. — Ringing in the holidays with seasonal treats is a time-honored tradition. This year, with the millennium approaching and hectic holiday schedules, people don't have time to mull over a recipe or make baking mistakes. Getting help with holiday baking is fast and easy with the Land O'Lakes Holiday toll-free hotline (1-800-782-9606) that opens for the 10th consecutive year from Nov. 1-Dec. 24.

The Bakeline's trained home economists will be available to assist callers from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (CST), seven days a week. Consumers can speak with one of 27 Land O'Lakes baking experts, request recipes and get great baking tips and advice.

In honor of the many traditions of the season, Land O'Lakes offers "Baking Traditions to Last a

Lifetime," a new leaflet chock-full of time-saving tips and traditional recipes such as Santa's Sandwich Cookies and Festive Triangle Tarts. All Bakeline callers will receive a free copy of this leaflet, which also can be downloaded from www.landolakes.com.

Grandma's Old-Fashioned Oatmeal Cake

- Cake ingredients:
- 1 1/4 cups boiling water
- 1 cup old fashioned oats
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (10 oz.) jar (3/4 cup) maraschino cherries, drained, chopped

- Broiled topping:
- 1 1/4 cups flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup whipping cream or half-and-half

Heat oven to 350 F. Stir together boiling water and oatmeal in medium bowl. Set aside. Meanwhile, combine sugar, brown sugar and 1/2 cup butter in large mixer bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally, until well mixed (1-2 minutes). Beat in eggs until smooth (1-2 minutes). Add oatmeal mixture and all remain-

ing cake ingredients except maraschino cherries. Reduce speed to low; continue beating until well mixed (1-2 minutes). Stir in cherries by hand.

Pour batter into greased and floured 13 x 9-inch baking pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven.

Heat broiler directions: In medium bowl stir together all broiled topping ingredients. Spread over hot cake. Broil 4-5 inches from heat, watching closely, until bubbly and lightly browned (2-4 minutes). Serve warm or cool. Garnish with whipped cream, maraschino cherries and mint leaves.

For easier cutting, use knife dipped in hot water. —Makes 15 servings.

Celanese Comets



The Celanese Comets were the Pampa Optimist Girls' sixth-grade basketball regular-season and post-tournament champions in 1999. The Comets had a 10-1 record. Team members were (front row, from left) Jenee' Morris, Krista McClelland, Tanna Stowers and Courtney Ericson; (middle row, from left) Kara Lewis, Melinda Bell, McKinsie East and Andrea Hughes; (back row, from left) Hallee Green, Regan Meeks, Summer Cunningham, Destinee Manhart and Jackie Gerber. Not pictured is Brittany Taylor. The coaches were Terry Lewis (left) and Darryl Hughes.

Connecticut tops women's poll

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER AP Sports Writer

Connecticut kept the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press women's basketball poll without breaking a sweat.

The Huskies (7-0), who did not play during the past week, received 40 of 43 first-place votes from the media poll to remain firmly entrenched at the top. They've been ranked No. 1 all season.

With only three Top 25 teams losing in the past seven days, all to other ranked teams, there was little change in the poll. The Top Ten stayed the same and the poll had the same 25 teams as last week.

The biggest changes were Oregon dropping four places to 19th after losing to UC Santa Barbara, and Arizona climbing three places to 14th.

Tennessee (8-1) remained second after running its winning streak to eight with impressive

victories at DePaul and St. Joseph's. The Lady Vols received two first-place votes and No. 3 Louisiana Tech (7-1) had one.

Connecticut received 1,072 points in the voting, Tennessee had 1,025, Louisiana Tech 990 and No. 4 North Carolina State (9-0) 940.

Georgia was fifth and UCLA sixth, followed by Texas Tech, Auburn, Penn State and North Carolina. Texas Tech (9-0) and Auburn (8-1) were the busiest teams in the Top 25, each winning three times during the past week.

No. 11 Purdue and No. 12 Notre Dame traded places from last week and LSU remained at No. 13. Arizona moved to 14th and was followed by Rutgers, Iowa State, Duke, Illinois, Oregon and Old Dominion.

Mississippi State, UC Santa Barbara, Kansas, Tulane and Texas held the final five places.

Many teams played only once during the past week because players were taking final exams,

and Connecticut was one of three ranked teams that did not play at all. Duke and Old Dominion were the others.

Kansas and Texas were the only other Top 25 teams that lost in the past week. Kansas lost to Illinois 61-59 in Chicago and Texas lost at Rutgers 68-64, a game that gave Rutgers coach Vivian Stringer her 600th career victory.

Only Texas coach Jody Conradt and Tennessee's Pat Summitt, both with more than 700 victories, have more than Stringer.

Texas Tech has made major strides in the poll after starting at No. 22 in the preseason rankings.

Tech returned just one starter after winning the last two Big 12 championships, but the Lady Raiders got off to a good start by beating LSU in their opener and they're getting strong play from freshman center Plenette Pierson, who's among the league leaders in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage.

Feick lifts Nets past Hawks, 96-88

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Dikembe Mutombo stayed in the paint, allowing Jamie Feick to roam free on the perimeter.

Feick, never known for being more than a rebounding specialist, made him pay.

Feick scored a season-high 16 points, making seven jumpers from 16 to 21 feet away, as the New Jersey Nets beat Atlanta 96-88 on Sunday night for their fifth straight home victory.

"Shot-blocking centers don't like to leave the paint. So if Jamie can go out and knock down the 15-18 footer, it's a big advantage for us," said Keith Van Horn, who led the Nets with 20 points.

Feick finished 8-for-13 from the field and had 13 rebounds, the 18th time in 25 games that he has had at least 10 rebounds.

Kendall Gill added 15 points, Kerry Kittles had 14, and Stephon Marbury had 12 points and 11 assists to help the Nets (8-17) improve to 6-4 in December.

In the other games Sunday, the Los Angeles Lakers beat Toronto 94-88, and Vancouver edged the Los Angeles Clippers 85-84.

Feick, who joined the Nets on a 10-day contract last season and signed a six-year, \$15 million deal in the offseason, scored the Nets' final field goal on a corner jumper with 12 seconds left, surpassing his previous season-high of 15.

"I've got it. I just haven't used it much," Feick said of his jumper. "Mutombo was laying off me and I wanted to try to pull him out away from

the basket. (Coach Don) Casey told me before the game if I had the 15-18 footer to go ahead and take it."

Take it he did, over and over again. Five of Feick's jumpers were 19-footers, and his longest was from 21 feet.

"I didn't know he was capable of making shots from out there. I take my hat off to him," Mutombo said. "I didn't plan to chase him."

Power forward Alan Henderson, who guarded Feick when Mutombo was on the bench, was similarly impressed.

"We used to play year-in and year-out in college when I was at Indiana and he was at Michigan State, and he had about 8-10 foot range then," Henderson said. "Now he's shooting 18-19 feet and shooting it well. He got into a groove tonight and really was the key for them."

Isaiah Rider had 20 points for Atlanta, which lost its third straight.

Jim Jackson, Alan Henderson and Chris Crawford each had 13.

After blowing an early 14-point lead and falling behind by as many as eight, the Nets went ahead for good early in the fourth quarter.

A jumper by Feick from the corner put New Jersey up 83-79, and a driving layup by Gill upped the lead to six with 4:57 left.

After a four-minute rest, Rider checked back in with 4:36 left but couldn't rally the Hawks. A steal by Marbury led to a fast-break layup by Kittles with 3:19 left for an 89-80 lead that all but sealed it.

"Team chemistry has

improved, the confidence is good. We're playing at a high level right now," Feick said.

The Nets opened a 28-14 lead on a 3-pointer by Van Horn less than 10 minutes into the opening period, but Atlanta had caught up by the latter part of the second quarter en route to a 56-54 halftime lead.

Atlanta's lead grew to eight as Henderson scored on a put-back to make it 65-57, but the Nets surged back to send the game into the fourth period tied it at 73.

"Every game we've lost this year we've been in," Atlanta's Chris Crawford said. "Down the stretch we're just not doing what it takes to win. We're just not playing smart, and that's about it."

Lakers 94, Raptors 88 At Toronto, Kobe Bryant scored 26 points and Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points and 15 rebounds to help Los Angeles extend its winning streak to six games.

Glen Rice added 22 points for the Lakers, who have won 13 of 14 to improve to an NBA-best 21-5. Vince Carter had 29 points for Toronto, which has lost three straight and five of six.

Grizzlies 85, Clippers 84

At Vancouver, British Columbia, Michael Dickerson scored 26 points as Vancouver beat Los Angeles for Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins' first career victory.

Hollins was coaching his second game, and first in Vancouver, since taking over the team when Brian Hill was fired Thursday. Lamar Odom led the Clippers with 28

Board

PRO FOOTBALL table with columns for National Football League, American Conference, East, West, and various teams with W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA.

PRO BASKETBALL table with columns for National Basketball Association, Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, Central Division, and various teams with W, L, Pct., GB.

PRO HOCKEY table with columns for National Hockey League, Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, Northeast Division, and various teams with W, L, T, Pct., GF, GA.

TRANSACTIONS table with columns for American League, National League, and various teams with news snippets about player movements and contracts.

HARVESTER BASKETBALL



LADY HARVESTERS ...

FRESHMAN

NO GAMES SCHEDULED
THIS WEEK

JUNIOR VARSITY

NO GAMES SCHEDULED
THIS WEEK

VARSIITY

NO GAMES SCHEDULED
THIS WEEK

PAMPA HARVESTERS ...

FRESHMAN

NO GAMES SCHEDULED
THIS WEEK

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AT AMARILLO

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AT AMARILLO

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