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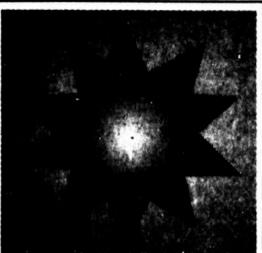
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Pampa

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High today 58
Low tonight 29
For weather details see Page 2

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth must provide benefits to the families of two firefighters who died while battling a church blaze as volunteers for another city, a board has ruled. The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission said Thursday it found a Fort Worth Fire Department regulation that requires firefighters to protect the public at all times, opening the door for compensation to the families.

Fort Worth's pension board in March voted against providing full death benefits for the families of Phillip Dean and Brian Collins because the men were volunteering for the River Oaks Fire Department when they died Feb. 15. Sansom Park fireman Garry Sanders also died trying to save the Precious Faith Temple in Lake Worth.

Despite the commission's ruling, Fort Worth spokesman Pat Svacina said, "The city still feels like the firemen were working for River Oaks and therefore it's River Oaks' responsibility to provide coverage for injury or death."

The ruling, which Fort Worth officials can appeal, comes after Democratic state Sen. Mike Moncrief offered in March to mediate the pension dispute among the cities of Fort Worth, Lake Worth and River Oaks and to forge an agreement that would provide the victims' families with full benefits.

- W.J. "Bill" Houghton, 76, retired operator and field man for Getty Oil Co.
- Betty Ruth Scott, 65, life-long Pampa resident.
- Wanita Janice Taylor, 60, licensed vocational nurse.

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Culprits, reasons for cattle shootings sought by lawmen

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

One Panhandle county law enforcement agency said his agency believes two head of cattle found dead on area ranches two months ago are linked to the Canadian River land issue. Another area lawman says he has not had any dead cattle reported in his county, nor any problems reported regarding the Canadian River land issue.

Roberts County Chief Deputy Dana Miller said Friday morning two head of cattle were found dead the week before the River Rally held Oct. 17.

The rally was held to generate support to fight a court ruling awarding 13,000 acres of land along the banks of the Canadian River to land owners whose property borders the river. Over 500 people showed up for the rally held near the old Plemons townsite in Hutchinson County.

He said the first dead bovine was located under a bridge and was found by the ranch manager of the 2-B Ranch when he was gathering cattle to be shipped from the ranch. Miller said the cattle were shot with a very large high-powered rifle as the entrance hole was approximately the size of his index finger. He said the exit hole was about the size of his fist.

Miller said the 900-pound steer had been dead about one day when it was found about 250 yards off of Highway 60. "The only people who go down

Hunting activist Neal Farmer of Borger said any time a cow is shot the hunters are blamed. "If it was hunters upset about the Canadian River hunting issue, I wouldn't think they would stop (with killing) with two head (of cattle)."

in that area are hunters," he said.

The 2-B Ranch is owned by oilman T. Boone Pickens of Dallas. Pickens, along with Bea Pickens, is among the 30 land owners who are listed in the lawsuit which awarded the formerly public land along the river banks in Hutchinson and Roberts counties to the land owners. A former Amarillo resident, Pickens attempted an unsuccessful takeover of Phillips Petroleum Company in the early 1980s.

The other dead steer was located a day or so later on the Tolbert Ranch. The chief deputy said it appeared the cattle had been shot about the same time due to the decomposition state of the carcasses. No autopsy was performed on the cattle.

(See CATTLE, Page 2)

Timely warning ...



(Pampa News photo by Keith Anderson)

As the holiday season continues and a special New Year's Eve approaches, good sport Shanna Clark demonstrates a consequence of drinking and driving. Officer Beverly Chace holds the suspect rootbeer while Officer Danny Stewart cuffs the rootbeer-drinker. As always, law enforcement officers won't be taking a break and will be on the lookout for dangerous drunken drivers.

Contest winners!

It's time to take a holiday weekend drive. The Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce 1999 Christmas Lighting Contest has been judged and the winners are:

- Area 1 — David and Billie Steele, 513 N. Christy.
- Area 2 — Roger and Peggy David, 2750 Aspen.
- Area 3 — Keith Arnzen, 434 North Hill.
- Area 4 — Robert and Mary Hartley, 936 Campbell.
- Commercial — Best Kept Secrets, 1921 N. Hobart.

Altered crops yielding divided Texas opinions

DALLAS (AP) — The growth of genetically modified crops from the agricultural lab to the world's farms has sparked a debate. Opposition largely has come from the European Union, where activist groups, retailers and consumers want mandatory labeling of foods containing genetically engineered products.

And although the U.S. government has not determined that biotech foods are harmful, the stakes in the debate are high for growers in Texas, where more than half of the corn, soybeans and cotton comes from genetically altered seed.

"I'll do whatever is necessary to make our product agreeable to the consumer," said Harlan Huffman, who farms with his wife, Hope, and son, Kevin, near McGregor in Central Texas.

"In some cases, perception is reality. I'm very concerned about what our customers want and say," Huffman told The Dallas Morning News.

Companies such as Monsanto and DuPont have spent hundreds of

(See CROPS, Page 2)

President, Chelsea take yearly holiday gift buying outing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president, the first lady and daughter Chelsea attended services at Washington National Cathedral after spending Christmas Eve having dinner at the home of longtime friend Vernon Jordan.

Clinton received communion from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who presided over the service.

Earlier on Friday, Clinton made Christmas telephone calls to six members of the military serving overseas, including Anthony J. Petroccia, 29, an army specialist stationed in Egypt, far from his wife and children in Columbia, S.C. The president was expected to make four additional calls today.

Clinton and Chelsea also joined the throng of last-minute shoppers during a three-stop gift-buying spree.

The First Shopper couldn't stop himself from shaking hands and holding a few babies along the way, but he quickly got down to business. The president kept the goodies he purchased a secret, but books and jewelry appeared to top his shopping list.

Stopping first at the Discovery Channel Store, he examined some African pottery and children's atlases and books, lingering at one point while Chelsea appeared to read to him.

The president spent some time next to a \$1,600 man-sized Egyptian dog-god statue, but left with just one small bag of purchases.

A few blocks away at Union Station, father and daughter took a

(See PRESIDENT, Page 2)

Sunday snapshot



Name: Kelli Willson.
Occupation/activities: Student at Austin Elementary

School:
Birth date and place: March 16, 1990, Pampa.
Family: Tim Willson, dad, and Kim Armstrong, mom.
When I grow up I want to be: A veterinarian.
My personal hero: God.
The best advice I ever got was: Do your best at everything.
My classmates think of me as: As weird and funny.
The best word or words to describe me: Honest.
People will remember me as being: Fun.
The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: Britney Spears, Mariah Carey, Shania Twain and Elvis.
My hobbies are: Doing beads.

My favorite sports team is: Pampa Harvesters.
My favorite author is: E.B. White.
The last book I read was: "Hello, Mrs. Piggie Wiggle."
My favorite possession is: All my shoes.
The biggest honor I've ever received is: Being saved.
My favorite performer is: Britney Spears.
I wish I knew how to: Drive.
My trademark cliché or expression is: "Yeah, right."
My worst habit is: Putting my feet on the coffee table.
I would never: Do drugs.
The last good movie I saw was: "Toy Story 2."
I stay home to watch:

"Rugrats."
Nobody knows: And nobody's going to.
Someday I want to drive a: Convertible.
My favorite junk food is: Pizza.
My favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper.
My favorite restaurant is: McDonalds.
My favorite pet: My rabbit Brown Sugar and my dog Babes.
My favorite meal is: Sloppy Joes.
I wish I could sing like: Mariah Carey.
I'm happiest when I'm: At home.
I regret: My friend, Carla, moved.

I'm tired of: Taking showers.
I have a phobia about: Grasshoppers.
The electrical device I couldn't live without is: The phone.
My most embarrassing moment: When my friend pushed me into the boys bathroom.
The biggest waste of time is: Watching football on TV.
If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: Well, I can't buy tickets so it does not matter.
If I had three wishes they would be: To give every one else three wishes.
If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: Put in a mall.

Culligan

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Daily Record

Services

HOUGHTON, W.J. "Bill" — 2 p.m. Tuesday at Frist Baptist Church, Skellytown. Burial in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa, under the directions of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

SCOTT, BETTY RUTH — 2 p.m. Monday at Carmichael-Whitley Colonia Chapel. Burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Obituaries

W.J. 'BILL' HOUGHTON

SKELLYTOWN — W.J. "Bill" Houghton, 76, died Friday, Dec. 24, 1999, at Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church of Skellytown, with Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Houghton was born Nov. 16, 1923, at Smackover, Ark. He had been a Skellytown resident since 1948. He married Paulene Flippo on Dec. 2, 1949, at Skellytown. He was an operator and field man for Skelly-Getty Oil Company, retiring at the end of 1983 after 35 years of service. He was mayor of Skellytown for two terms — from 1967-71 — and was a member of White Deer Independent School District School Board from 1971-75.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II.

He belonged to First Baptist Church of Skellytown and volunteered with Good Samaritan House in Pampa.

Survivors include his wife, Paulene, of the home; a son, Gregory Dale Houghton of Skellytown; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Jeffrey Bill Houghton, on June 8, 1983.

The family requests memorials be to Mission Fund of First Baptist Church of Skellytown.

BETTY RUTH SCOTT

Betty Ruth Scott, 65, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Carmichael-Whitley Colonia Chapel with Rev. John Glover, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Scott was born July 11, 1934, at Pampa and had been a lifelong Pampa resident, graduating from Pampa High School in 1952. She married Donald Scott on June 23, 1952, at Clovis, N.M.; he died in 1966. She belonged to First Baptist Church and to Women of the Moose.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Dan Tucker of Pampa; a son, Rick Scott of Pampa; two granddaughters, Tracy Bruton of Abilene and Mandy Clark of Canyon and a cousin, Johnnie Mae Whitehead of White Deer.

The family requests memorials be sent to a favorite charity.

The family will be at 1800 N. Russell in Pampa.

WANITA JANICE TAYLOR

Janice Taylor, 60, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 24, 1999, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral

Directors

Mrs. Taylor was born May 24, 1939 in Borger. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1975. She married Ed Taylor, Jr., on April 26, 1958 in Amarillo. She was a licensed vocational nurse and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Teresa Carroll of Center, Colo., and Karen McKee of Amarillo; two sons, Edward Glen Taylor of Athens, Ga., and Kenneth Taylor of Center, Colo., and 10 grandchildren.

The family requests any memorial be sent to BSA Hospice, Box 2795, Pampa, TX 79065-2795, or the First Baptist Church, 203 N. West, Pampa, TX 79065.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls and arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

A burglary was reported at Clark Tire, 841 Cuyler, in which eight tires, valued at \$1,100, were taken. Entry was gained through a north door.

Friday, Dec. 24

A boys bicycle was taken from the back of a pickup truck in the 2200 block of Hobart.

James Nathaniel Kirkland, 19, 125 S. Wynne, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and theft under \$50.

Thomas Ray Carver III, 900 Burnow, was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces and disorderly conduct.

Sheriff's Office

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

Saturday, Dec. 25

Gregory S. Robertson, 29, no address given, was arrested by the DPS and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Omar Gutierrez, 22, 739 N. Wells, was arrested by the DPS and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Fires

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

Friday, Dec. 24

9:45 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a fuel spill west on Highway 60.

10:35 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to an auto accident at 19th and Zimmers.

1:55 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded 1712 N. Hobart where a gas meter had been struck by an auto.

2:40 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to 1104 Terrace on a smoke scare.

7:12 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded west on Highway 60 on a hazardous material call.

Saturday, Dec. 25

12:41 a.m. — Two units and five personnel responded to 215 Hickory on a false alarm.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CATTLE

The Tolbert Ranch is not involved in the land issue as it does not border the river bed, said Miller. He said the dead steer on that ranch was also shot and was located approximately one to one and one-half miles away from the first one.

Miller said his department usually has several reports of unauthorized hunting each year, but they have received none this year. "It has been real peaceful," said Miller. "We've been patrolling pretty steady this year since the ruling. There's not hardly been any activity."

Hutchinson County Sheriff Mickey Blackmon said his department has not had problems in that county. He said that an anonymous call was received several weeks ago which stated several head of cattle were dead under a bridge in Hutchinson County. Blackmon said a thorough search under bridges in that county revealed no dead cattle.

He added another anonymous caller contacted an Amarillo television station stating a dead body was under a bridge in Hutchinson County. The sheriff said that call, too, was determined to be unfounded after investigation.

Hunting activist Neal Farmer of Borger is upset that allegations are being made towards the hunters. "Just because the cattle were shot doesn't mean it was because of the Canadian River controversy," said Farmer.

He said any time a cow is shot the hunters are blamed. "If it was hunters upset about the Canadian River hunting issue, I wouldn't think they would stop (with killing) with two head (of cattle)," said Farmer.

Following the court decision, area hunters secured a hunting lease for area hunters near Clarendon.

Area residents have hunted the area for several decades. While there was hunting in the area prior to the construction of the Sanford Dam in 1965, the recreation use expanded after the water which had flowed down the river was dammed. After the water was dammed, mesquite trees and ground cover grew where the river once flowed as wide as 100 ft. Once the foliage grew up in the river bed, deer, turkeys, and other wildlife flourished in the area.

A request was made a few weeks ago by the Land Commissioner's office for a rehearing on the 9-0 decision by the Texas Supreme Court.

Farmer was among a delegation representing hunters and outdoor recreationists who traveled to Austin seeking a rehearing. None of the parties involved expect a reversal by the Supreme Court on their previous decision.

The matter is awaiting action by the state's highest court which could come in the next few months. Until then, no hunting is allowed in the affected areas in the two counties.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CROPS

millions of dollars to develop seeds with traits that protect plants from pests, herbicides and pesticides. As a result, farmers now rely upon biotech strains of corn, cotton and soybeans that help reduce costs of fighting weeds and pests.

But recently, some manufacturers such as baby-food makers Gerber and Heinz have said they would try to keep their products free of genetically modified ingredients. And Archer Daniels Midland Co., an international food-processing conglomerate, has instructed suppliers in the Midwest to segregate biotech grain from that grown conventionally.

In Texas, most farmers aren't cutting back just yet on planting the biotech strains of key crops, according to The News.

"I think there is concern among producers that the dialog is more fear-based than science-based," said Steve Verett, executive vice president of Plains Cotton Growers Association in Lubbock. "The level of concern is much higher now than it was six months ago."

Most of the cotton grown on the West Texas high plains is from modified seed, which Verett said would likely continue in 2000 and beyond.

However, he thinks the biotech issue is making producers "assess the need for it."

In a Monsanto survey of about 100 Texas cotton producers who have used biotech seed, 97 percent said they intended to replant the crops.

While the biotech crops have not been proved harmful, there are plenty of concerns.

Some observers worry that insects could build up a resistance to bio-engineered crops, and some scientists believe that the genetic process could have the unintended effect of boosting natural toxins or reducing nutrients in some foods. Others fear that some people could be allergic to certain proteins introduced into biotech foods.

Several years ago, soybeans altered with a gene from a Brazil nut caused a reaction in individuals who were allergic to Brazil nuts — and therefore were never marketed.

Earlier this year, researchers at Cornell University determined that pollen from the so-called "Bt" corn can kill monarch butterflies, a cousin of the corn borer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PRESIDENT

break at Cafe Renee Coffee; the president ordered a tall coffee while Chelsea opted for cappuccino.

Resuming their shopping, the president stopped at the U.S. Mint, a gift booth at the entrance to the station's East Hall, but did not appear to buy anything. Then, he ducked into a little shop called President Cigar.

He spent more time at Aurea, a jewelry store, lingered at nearby kiosks and stooped to shake

hands with several groups of about 100 gawking shoppers.

Lauren and Aaron Weinkrantz, two grade-schoolers visiting from San Antonio, Texas, pushed to the front of the crowd, just behind the Secret Service agents, hoping to catch a glimpse of the president. A few minutes later Clinton came closer and shook their hands.

As Clinton left Union Station to his limousine, onlookers pressed forward to touch him, and parents lifted their children above their heads to catch a glimpse.

After Chelsea returned to the White House, the president headed off to Border's Books and Music a half dozen blocks away.

People near the store stood in line to get inside. Reporters were kept outside, but Clinton could be seen strolling past copies of "Hillary's Choice" by Gail Sheehy and on to the Latin music section.

A planned two-hour Christmas shopping trip had stretched into its fourth hour. Leaving the store, Clinton turned to reporters and said, "Let's go ... it's cold."

Business briefs ...

Campaign cost \$100 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — The financial industry spent \$100 million this year in its successful effort to get Congress to knock down Depression-era barriers and let banks, securities firms and insurance companies merge and sell each other's products.

The price of persuasion for a coalition of health, insurance and business groups opposing new regulations on managed care health plans: \$30 million during the first six months of 1999.

Health care and banking were two top issues of the just-concluded congressional session, and the industries most affected by the legislation spent millions of dollars during the year in lobbying expenses and campaign contributions.

USDA investigates Perdue Farms

DOVER, Del. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investigating whether Perdue Farms Inc. has violated federal law by shortchanging farmers who grow chickens for the company, a USDA official said Friday.

If the investigation determines Perdue has violated federal law, the matter will be handed over to the U.S. Justice Department for possible prosecution.

Tita Cherrier, a spokeswoman for Perdue, based in Salisbury, Md., said she did not know about the investigation, but said she knows some growers under contract to raise broilers for Perdue are unhappy.

Dallas firm to cut jobs

DALLAS (AP) — Flowserve Corp., an international industrial plumbing contractor, plans to cut about 600 jobs early next year as part of a restructuring program, or about 9 percent of its work force of 7,000.

Flowserve, in a statement released Friday, did not say whether the reductions would be made through attrition or layoffs, but promised to provide more information in two weeks. A company spokeswoman did not return a call seeking comment.

Flowserve makes pumps, valves and seals for petrochemical refineries, electric power plants and other large processing plants. It operates in 29 countries and reported 1998 sales of \$1.1 billion.

Big phone deal in works

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — The Panamanian government has proposed selling its 49 percent stake of Instituto de Telecomunicaciones SA, or Intel, the country's only phone carrier.

Economy and Finance Minister Victor Juliao on Thursday submitted a bill to Congress seeking permission to sell the government's remaining shares, which he said could be worth about \$800 million.

The holding would either be sold through auction or on the Panama stock exchange.

Cable and Wireless of the United Kingdom bought 49 percent of Intel in 1997 for \$652 million and has management control. Employees own the remaining 2 percent.

The company enjoys exclusive rights to operate Panama's basic local and long-distance services until Dec. 31, 2002.

Beanie Babies. What's up?

CHICAGO (AP) — At first, Ty Inc. made a cryptic announcement that it would "retire" Beanie Babies on New Year's Eve. A few months later, Ty made it official: it would stop making the toys altogether. Now, the company will let collectors decide. Beginning Dec. 31, collectors can cast ballots on the official Ty Web site, for 50 cents a pop.

Ty Warner, owner of the Oak Brook, Ill.-based company, said he was "overwhelmed" by letters and Internet messages asking him to reconsider his decision to the end of the wildly popular Beanie Babies stuffed animal line.

Toy analysts and collectors disagree on whether Warner ever intended to retire the Beanies. Many believe he planned to continue Beanies in some form — Warner has expanded his factories and has several trademark applications pending — but they say it wasn't clear how different they would be from the current ones.

Stock market reports

Stock market records fell Friday in Hong Kong, London and Paris, extending a pre-Christmas global rally. The new high in Hong Kong is the first since August 1997, before the worst of the Asian financial crisis set in.

U.S. financial markets were closed in advance of Christmas after staging a broad and powerful rally Thursday in which the Dow industrials, Nasdaq composite and Standard & Poor's 500 all reached new highs.

Boosted by Thursday's record-shattering day on Wall Street, Hong Kong stocks soared. The Hang Seng Index soared 3.3 percent, to 16,833.28, surpassing the previous record finish reached in Aug. 7, 1997 — just as crisis was flaring up.

In Paris, stock prices soared on a strong retail outlook and speculation about a bank takeover. The benchmark CAC-40 index of most actively traded stocks jumped 2.1 percent.

London shares also rose, pushing the market's benchmark index to its second straight day of record finishes. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-Share Index gained 29.7 points at 6,806.5. Trading volume was extremely thin in the half-day session.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, sunny with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 29. Tomorrow, another sunny day with a high of 58 and a low of 28.

STATEWIDE

Only West Texas had snow falling Christmas morning as light snow fell in parts of the Upper Trans Pecos. The region was also had rain in an area from the far west to the Big Bend. North Texas on Christmas

morning brought scattered showers and areas of light rain west of the Pecos River, with variable winds at less than 10 mph.

Temperature readings ranged from 25 at Dalhart to 45 at Midland.

Judge James training

Cale

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CASA of the High Plains



Judge Lee Waters recently swore in new CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the High Plains volunteers James Murrill, Joe Hall, Erin Rohrbacher, Martha Silva and Rita Pearson. The volunteers completed 20 hours of training to qualify as CASA members.

(Pampa News photo Michele Estes)

TFB seeking farm, ranch heroism award entries

WACO — Entries for the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council's 1999 Rural Heroism Award are now being accepted, according to Ben Bullard, Council President.

To qualify, a candidate must have performed a heroic act of human lifesaving within Texas during 1999. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching. The 1999 recipient will be announced April 3, 2000, at the Texas Safety Association annual Texas/Southwestern Conference and Exposition, to be held at the Convention Center in Fort Worth.

The nominations must be submitted and postmarked on later than Feb. 1, 2000. Send all nominations to the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council, P.O. Box 5539, Waco, TX 76708.

The letter of nomination should include a written account of the incident and names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons involved. Newspaper clippings and photos should also accompany nominations when available.

The 1998 winner was Craig Wright of Livingston who attempted to rescue Sam "Trigger" Moore from raging floodwater after horse and rider had been swept away while rounding up cattle.

Bullard has been president of the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council for 23 years and is retired from the Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.

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Highland Baptist Church
1301 N. Banks
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No Gifts Please

Calendar of events

- T.O.P.S. #149**
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #149 meets at 6 p.m. Monday at 513 E. Francis. Call 669-2389 for more information.
- T.O.P.S. #41**
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #41 meets at noon Monday at 511 N. Hobart. For more information, call 665-3024.
- AL-ANON**
Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky.
- VFW CHARITY BINGO**
The Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, will be having Charity Bingo every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. The public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9.
- CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS**
The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at Warren Chisum's Office, 100 N. Price Road. Anyone wishing to help with the project is invited to attend any work session.
- PAMPA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**
The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Marie Jamieson at 669-2945.
- PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL**
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.
- HARVESTER BOOSTER CLUB**
Harvester Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday of each week in the Ready Room located in the Athletic Building at Pampa High School. For more information, call 665-7149.
- SINGING CADETS**
Amarillo Aggie Moms Club and Amarillo A&M Club will jointly sponsor the Singing Cadets of Texas A&M University "Voice of Aggieland" concert at 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at Tascosa High School Auditorium in Amarillo. Tickets are \$6 each and may be purchased at all branches of First National Bank in Amarillo.
- TREASURES OF THE TEXAS COAST ART CONTEST**
The Texas General Land Office is sponsoring "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest. The competition is open to students in K-6th grade. The deadline for entries is Feb. 1. Two winners will be selected from each of 24 state planning regions. Winning pictures will be incorporated in a poster to be distributed statewide. Artwork must be submitted on a plain sheet of white 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper and can be any medium (except computer-generated) including 3-dimensional. The entry should depict why the Texas coast is special. For more information, call 1-800-85-BEACH or visit the GLO website at www.glo.state.tx.us.

1999

Last Sale Of 1999

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- Sterling Silver Ball Rings **\$99**

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Texas Editorials

Austin American Statesman on light rail:
 Local leaders wondering how to achieve widespread "buy in" on a plan to bring light-rail transit to the Austin area might check the 2-to-1 runaway vote.

How were Denver voters, wary of rail in the past, persuaded to support a major expansion of the city's system of lightweight urban trains?

"Analysts said the success in the Denver metro area was due to a giant

bipartisan political push, really bad traffic and the right combination of a road-and-rail package," the Denver Post reported.

Transportation writer Ricky Young tried to answer this question: Why did light rail get an enthusiastic thumbs up in Denver on Nov. 2 when similar measures were defeated in Kansas City, Mo.; Columbus, Ohio; Virginia Beach, Va.; and Aspen, Colo.?

Denver's world-class gridlock helped. The city has lots more traffic than the cities that said "no."

A no-new-taxes theme was important, the post-election analysts said.

Denver's new rail line will be paid for mainly with borrowed money and a

federal grant. No big tax increase was attached to the plan.

Pairing the rail initiative with a big highway construction package also helped win voter sympathy.

Mass transit boosters and road builders, not always on the same team, joined forces to get Denver's double-header proposal approved at the polls.

The Denver Chamber of Commerce reportedly was a key player in rallying support for rail. The chamber "commandeered the light-rail portion of the campaign," the Post said.

The chamber controlled "the money and the message."

Light rail also got significant support from a political odd couple: Colorado's Republican governor and the city's Democratic mayor. Gov. Bill Owens and Mayor Wellington Webb campaigned together for rail-and-roads relief in the big city.

A widespread desire to preserve Colorado's natural beauty and make its environment healthier also helped persuade voters to get serious about tackling traffic problems. Residents of scenic Colorado, perhaps more than voters in most states, understand the importance of clear vistas and clean air to people and to the economy.

Austin could learn from Denver's experience. This city obviously needs to assure its future with better roads, improved mass transit and major changes in commuting habits. Gridlock is going to get worse, the experts say. The best we can hope for is to mitigate the mounting problem.

Getting the governor, the mayor, business leaders, environmentalists and distressed drivers all traveling in the same direction — as apparently happened in Denver — sounds like a wonderful start.

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Understanding the WTO ruckus

The World Trade Organization's meetings in Seattle recently drew howls of protest and riots against free trade. To figure out what some of the ruckus is about, let's consider a few economic principles.

Imagine 10 sweaters a day could be produced using one machine and one high-skilled worker who's paid \$40. Or, 10 sweaters a day might be produced, maybe in another country, using one machine and four low-skilled workers who're each paid \$11 a day. It follows, then, that an employer would use the high-skilled worker production technique. Doing so would mean labor costs of \$40 rather than \$44 if he used the four low-skilled workers — and would mean higher profits.

If you were the employer, and the high-skilled worker demanded \$50 a day, what would you do? You'd probably tell him to go play in the traffic and use the low-skilled worker production technique. After all, paying a labor cost of \$44 would leave you with more profit. But the high-skilled worker is not stupid. So before demanding higher wages, he'd attempt to eliminate his cheaper-priced competition, but he'll conceal his agenda.

He'd make a pretense of humanitarian concerns such as the need to end "sweat shops," stamp out slave labor, pay "living wages" and above all save the world's children by ending child labor. If he's successful, say forcing U.S. companies to pay poor workers in a poor coun-

Walter Williams
 Syndicated columnist

try \$15 a day, it makes it more likely he can get away with his \$50 wage demand. Why? The labor costs of using the low-skilled production technique is now \$60.

Have I correctly identified the intentions of labor unions, who are the major proponents of higher wages for foreign workers? In terms of effects, it makes no difference whether the intention is a sincere concern for foreign workers or a cynical monopolistic ploy to benefit union workers. In either case, low-skilled foreign workers have reduced opportunities. After all, the reason a person works for a wage that we might consider substandard is because he doesn't have a higher wage alternative. In other words, it's the best he can do. How compassionate is it for us to destroy that poor person's best alternative?

Labor unions aren't by themselves seeking collusive measures against poor countries and their people. U.S. corporations that face a bevy

of costly environmental and workplace regulations emanating from the Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other agencies want these costs exported to other countries. EPA and OSHA have no jurisdiction in Africa, Asia and Latin America. As such, companies that locate in those countries don't bear all production costs borne by American firms. That gives them a competitive edge.

Whether our business and labor regulations are good or bad for us is one question, and their cost is another. One benefit of free trade is that regulatory costs are revealed. Trade restrictions kill the messenger. If the production cost of a pair of sneakers is \$15 in one country and \$30 in another, we could chalk the difference up to "slave" labor if we want but surely some of the cost differential has to do with regulations.

By the way, neither the agreements with the World Trade Organization nor those associated with the North America Free Trade Agreement is truly free trade. These agreements contain thousands of pages of specifications. You don't need thousands of pages to tell people they can trade freely.

Here's a free trade agreement I like. It's from Article I, Section 9 of our Constitution: "No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State." That's an agreement that helped make us a rich nation and, if applied to the world, we and everybody else would be richer.

Texas representative is no slouch

If there were such a thing as the Most Valuable Player award for politicians, I'd nominate Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas.

Paul, a physician, is a true American libertarian. The last time he ran for office in a district already gerrymandered to defeat him, that greatest phony of all time — Newt Gingrich — tried to defeat him by supporting a liberal Republican in the primary election.

You can thank Paul that the federal government's plans for a national identity card were defeated. A 1996 bill had required every state to make their driver's licenses conform to federal mandates, but Paul and others killed it in this past session before it could take effect.

He also led the fight against a bank regulation that would have required banks to spy on their customers and report to the federal government any "unusual" transactions. He has introduced a bill to repeal the Bank Secrecy Act under which this odious regulation was spawned. Let's all hope that, in the next session, he's victorious.

Paul also succeeded in getting the U.S. House of Representatives to end the needless military-draft registration, but someone slipped it back into the bill along with financing for it in the Senate. Our draft-dodging president, of course, signed it into law. This despite the fact that the Pentagon says this program is a waste of money.

Paul has always been a fighter for liberty,

Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

and I've always admired him. The first time I ever saw him was when he single-handedly opposed increasing by \$8 billion the U.S. contribution to the World Bank, a rat hole if ever there were one.

Paul ran for president one year on the Libertarian Party ticket, but, of course, the majority of Americans are not Libertarians. Like all the other Libertarian nominees, he was ignored by the media. And, in fact, he is ignored by the media even as he serves as a Republican.

One of the things that annoys me about members of the national press is that they do not cover Congress anymore except in the most superficial and biased manner. Every story is written as a partisan battle instead of a conflict over substantive ideas, and only the media's pets get invited to be talking heads on the national TV shows. You will play heck trying to find out what a proposed bill actually

would do from television or newspapers.

There are, in fact, some admirable people serving in the House and the Senate — people who are genuinely conservative — but you would never know that they exist if you watch the national TV shows. There are, in fact, important battles fought over important issues, but you would never know that, either, from watching the TV shows. If it isn't about partisan politics or sex, the TV shows aren't interested.

I am confident and sad that, when future historians write about the decline of the United States, the failure of the press to inform the people will be counted as a principle cause.

The great Alexander Solzhenitsyn, another man the press chose to ignore after he blasted them, said that the press, in absence of violence by the government, censored itself by adhering so closely to what was fashionable. Referring to the press' ritualistic croaking about the people's right to know, Solzhenitsyn said that the people also have the right not to have their divine souls stuffed with garbage.

Unfortunately, in most cases you can find out more than you want to know about athletes, entertainers and actors but far less than you need to know about the good leaders who are struggling to preserve liberty and to restore integrity to government. Rep. Ron Paul is one of those leaders. I hope you appreciate him.

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Public broadcasting stations launching statewide initiative

AMARILLO — The first installment of "First Impressions" entitled "Ready for Life" will be broadcast at 7 p.m. Jan. 12 on KACV-TV, public broadcasting affiliate in Amarillo.

The Meadows Foundation, a private philanthropic institution benefiting the people of Texas, has awarded a \$350,000 grant to KERA 13-Dallas/Fort Worth, to help fund "First Impressions," a multi-year media initiative to focus attention on the importance of early childhood development.

The grant will help KERA 13

reach millions of households across Texas through a programming and outreach initiative beginning with the Jan. 12 installment "Ready for Life." The one-hour program, to be aired on 13 Texas public television stations, will provide an intimate look at the journey through the first five years of life as seen through the eyes of children in six Texas families.

"The Meadows Foundation's generous funding of 'First Impressions' is a powerful step toward improving the future for millions of Texas children," said KERA CEO Cheryl Craigie.

While recent television stories and headlines tell alarming stories of children gone wrong, "Ready for Life" tells another story. "Ready for Life" examines how parents and caregivers provide the crucial foundations of emotional development, despite the sometimes intense pressures of their daily lives.

"This grant will help Texas public broadcasting organizations partner with community agencies and organizations to provide vital messages about the critical importance of our children's earliest years, and

information that will help parents and caregivers make the most of those years."

While recent television stories and headlines tell alarming stories of children gone wrong, "Ready for Life" tells another

story. "Ready for Life" examines how parents and caregivers provide the crucial foundations of emotional development, despite the sometimes intense pressures of their daily lives. It is an intimate look at how Texas families are doing their best to love their children well enough to make them caring human beings.

The Meadows Foundation grant will help fund a "First Impressions" toll-free statewide telephone information and referral service for all Texas parents, caregivers and interested citizens. Information

will be available in English and Spanish 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (877) 315-5437. Referrals will be made on everything from services such as childcare resources or parenting classes to more specialized counseling opportunities.

In addition, the grant will fund "First Impressions Parent Connection," an interactive website located at www.firstimpressions.org that will offer a directory of Texas social, health, educational and recreational services and child advocacy agencies, tips and networking opportunities as well as skill-building activities. The "First Impressions" website is scheduled for launch this spring.

The Meadows Foundation is among the most recognized private philanthropies in the country. Since its inception, it has dispersed more than \$400 million in grants and direct charitable expenditures to more than 2,000 Texas institutions and charities. Foundation grants support work in the fields of art and culture, civic and public affairs, education, health and human services. The foundation has particular interests in imaginative, innovative ways to solve community problems through projects leading to organizational self-sufficiency and in capital plans which enable projects to flourish.

The statewide "First Impressions" initiative is has also received grants from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, the Ralph B. Rogers Foundation, the Ed Haggar Family Foundation and the Stemmons Foundation.

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LETTERS

No. 4. Mr. Anderson questions the alleged establishment of a "Republican Protestant Right Wing" church-led government like unto the religion-run (not church-run) governments of Iran and Afghanistan that terrorize their countries, equating religion with terror! I won't even go there.

Our government (in the USA) is not religion-run or church-run, but it is God-based. I'm sure that much to Mr. Anderson's chagrin, the Ten Commandments are still, to this day, etched in stone at the Supreme Court Building. Prayer to God is still prayed before each and every session of the Senate. Every president, all of them, from Washington to Clinton, have put their right hand on the Holy Bible and sworn to God (not to Allah, Buddha or the Rev. Moon) to fulfill the office to which they were elected. Our currency still has on every coin, every bill, the words, "In God we trust."

Finally the Declaration of Independence, our nation's first official document makes reference to our creator (in the very first sentence), and that He gave us inalienable rights. The last sentence asks for divine protection. Mr. Anderson is obviously and blatantly anti-Protestant, anti-Republican, anti-conservative and anti-church.

So much for the liberal Democrat tolerance viewpoint, but, hey, this is America — you got rights — even to be wrong!

Dan Bachler
Pampa

CONT. FROM PAGE 19

FARM

"The more variables you can look at the better job you can do," he said. "We're not over fertilizing areas that don't need it and it's more environmentally responsible."

The Rulons now have five GPS receivers — two on a pair of combines also equipped with yield monitors and one each on a planter, fertilizer spreader and an all-terrain vehicle.

The savings from reduced chemical outlays have paid for the high-tech gadgets over the years. The yield monitors cost about \$2,000 each, while the five GPS receivers range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 apiece.

Rulon, who can trace his family's farming roots back to 1837, knows he and his partners will need even more technology in years ahead.

"When you were farming only a couple hundred acres it was a lot easier to keep track of things. You knew that ground well," he said. "But as farms keep getting bigger being able to keep track of everything is important."



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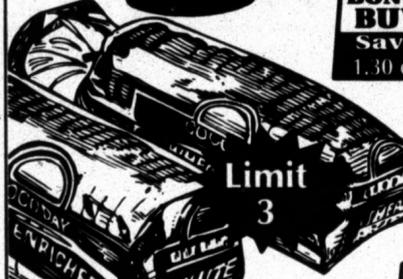
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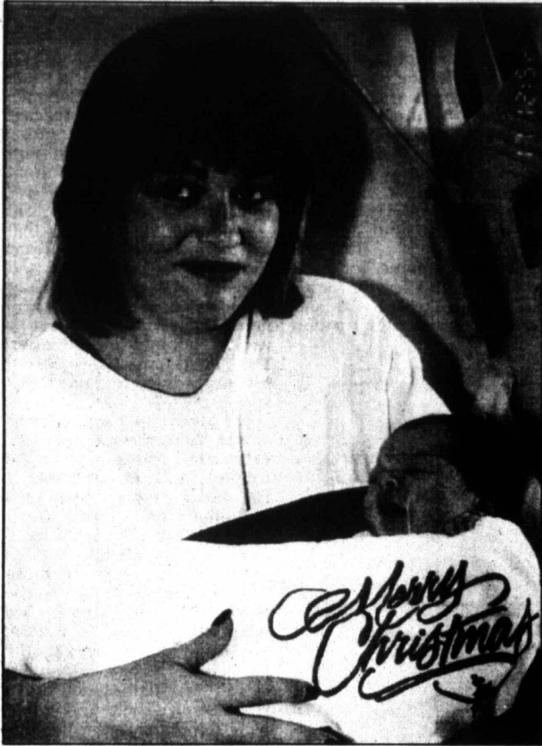
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Christmas babies



Melissa Waldrip's baby boy (left), Brandi Rabel's baby girl (center), and Christy Parker's baby boy (right) were all born the same day — Dec. 16 — at Pampa Regional Medical Center. (Special photos)

Letters to the editor

Christmas was much simpler when I was growing up

To the editor,
 Christmas is a time for all to be happy, content and thankful. It's the most joyful part of our entire year.
 But, I wonder if somehow the gaudiness of toys, lights and presents has overshadowed the true meaning of Christmas.
 I remember celebrating Christmas living in the country with less of everything but still enjoying this holiday more!
 Our home in the country didn't have all the comforts we have now but I can't recall missing them.
 I had a playground not more than 20-yards from our home that provided me and my playfriends with a never-ending source of entertainment. A sandy creek bed that sometimes flowed furiously with upstream rains changed constantly and kept boredom at bay.
 On the banks of the creek, grew wild plums and grape vines. These, with a little help from us but mostly Mom's cooking skills, made the most delicious jellies and jams I've ever tasted.
 Summertime always seemed too short for me. There were many, many things to do.
 Long whiskered catfish swam lazily in stock ponds, luring us with cane poles and bobbers every day while school was out.
 Other times, we would ride horses and head for the nearby hills to look for arrow heads or shiny rocks.
 Even helping Mr. Rice with cotton polling, hoeing and other small jobs became an enjoyable game to us. Mr. Rice was our postmaster who also farmed and provided us with fresh churned butter and fresh laid eggs along with some other necessities and always some candy and gum.
 Often, he and Mrs. Rice would let us turn the big crank on the separator that held the milk which made our butter. Mr. Rice would also let us help with the mail bag that was suspended from a tall steel pole along the railroad tracks for the mail car to pick up. The train of 10 would not stop but a man in the mail car would snag the mail bag with a hook as the train passed. When there were several packages to be left — then the train would stop.
 Summers raced by. Fall came too soon. But with fall season's arrival would be the arrival of Christmas. Before Thanksgiving, all students in our one-room schoolhouse began practice for our Christmas play. Poems, songs and skits were memorized.
 At this time, we also began working on our tree decorations and our presents to our parents and each other. We were not allowed to exchange store bought gifts. But every gift was useful and different. Our tree decorations were made of multi-colored chains made from strips of construction paper. The bells and other tree decorations were also made from the paper.
 We had no electric tree lights and none of the gaudy hanging tree decorations that are in use today. Our school Christmas tree was cut from the hillside where many evergreens grew.
 In early December, all students, grades first through eighth, were allowed time after lunch to look and find that one special tree. Of course, we made sure not to find that one tree until that day's remaining school time had passed.
 Once standing in school, we set upon it with our own-made decorations. We, students would fuss and argue some but soon our Christmas tree would be decorated and it was beautiful!
 For most families living in our small country community, our school tree was their's also. There usually were no trees set up in our homes. But some Christmas decorations were set up.
 The train began to make regular stops about this time and left packages containing usually new clothes and one toy for each of us small children.
 I always wished for a toy truck and it always was there on Christmas Day.
 Special eats just for Christmas were also enjoyed. Food items were usually exchanged among families. These were homemade jellies, jams, sewed items and extra cuts of meat from farm animals we raised.
 Our special gift among our families was the visits exchanged where there was usually some singing and much laughter.
 But my summer times and my country Christmas's came to a sudden end because of what happened on Dec. 7, 1941.
 Due to a shortage of teachers caused by the war, we had to move. I was mad. I didn't understand what was happening and why! I didn't want to move. I loved my country home and Christmas times there.
 As our old car made its way up and around the last hill before it came to the highway that was taking me to my new home, I looked out the back window and promised myself I would be back. And when I return everything will be just as it was when I left.
 I celebrated my 67th Christmas Day this year and I know it won't be very long now until I return. Merry Christmas from my country home!
Ray Velasquez
 Pampa

Christmas party was not a night of elegance

To the editor,
 On the evening of Dec. 10, 1999, an employer gave an annual employee service awards and dinner at M.K. Brown for both present and retired employees and their spouses.
 Another couple, along with my husband and I, looked forward to the dinner which was delicious.
 We enjoyed the presentation of awards and everything went well until the comedian entertainer got on stage. His language was revolting and offensive. I kept thinking someone in authority would stop him. No one did.
 We had planned on staying to play bingo but felt out only option was to leave.
 Not everyone enjoys such crude, rude and filthy remarks. It definitely was not a night of elegance.
 As Christians — and it being the season of our Lord's birth — we felt it necessary to leave.
LaVerne Bradsher
 Pampa

'Read to Baby' packet helping promote literacy

To the editor,
 I read with interest the article in the Nov. 29 edition which Nancy Young wrote. It was about the implementation of the balanced literacy program in grades prekindergarten through fourth grade. The article said, "Reading to young children before they are old enough to read to themselves is one of the best ways to get involved and keep them interested." The school program will be used to help keep students at those grade levels involved and interested in school.

I would like to tell you about the "Read to Baby" program St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School began in January, 1995. The program began with the help of the Pampa Retired Teachers Association. Funding was provided by their group and several local foundations including the M.K. Brown Foundation, the H.E. and Inez B. McCarty Foundation and the David D. and Nona S. Payne Foundation. Funding has also been received from the Church Periodical Club affiliated with the National Episcopal Church.

When babies are born at Pampa Regional Medical Center, they receive a "Read to Baby" packet. The packet includes a book — "My First Little Mother Goose Book" — a bib and printed material about the importance of reading to babies. We keep the hospital nursery supplied with packets. Since the program began, we have given out about 1,080 packets. Several children currently enrolled in our school have been recipients of these packets. At St. Matthew's, we are strong advocates of reading to young children and we encourage it daily in our curriculum.

Natalie Reeve
 St. Matthew's Day School
 (See, LETTERS, Page 7)

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CONT. FROM PAGE 6

LETTERS Volunteers deserve credit

To the editor,
I would like to say how much I enjoy going every year to Recreation Park to see the lights. They are always so beautiful. There is one thing that upsets me though.

There are two workers that did not get mentioned. They did all of the barriers and the big displays. They put in a lot of hours. So here is my thanks. Thank you, Jodi Miller and Tammy Kohler. You both do a great job. My hat goes off to you.

Ann King
Pampa

America has Christian roots

To the editor,
This letter is in response to the editorial by Keith Anderson on Tuesday, Dec. 14. He doesn't seem to be fully informed on the issues he talks about.

Our nation was clearly founded on traditional Judeo-Christian values. The Bible was the school textbook of choice and prayer was unashamedly a given in the everyday life of a school. Now all of this was going on when the authors of the constitution decided to "make no law respecting religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." They did this to protect what had already been set in motion in every aspect of life in this young Christian nation. So it appears to me that Congress is breaking the law as they make laws "prohibiting religion and the free exercise thereof."

To put it another way, Buddhists, Muslims and every religion under the sun have a right to worship the god of their choice in this Christian nation. This is their freedom. But let me remind you — this nation was purchased with the blood of Christians, for the cause of Christ and a place to worship Him freely. If other religions choose to worship their god in our Christian nation, we will not persecute them, expel them or sentence them to death. (Which is consequently exactly what happens in Muslim nations and in China and India.) You see, in this Christian nation you are free to worship the god of your choice, but you are doing that in our Christian nation. So with that said, you should not be offended if our Christian nation does what a Christian nation is supposed to do.

Let's look at it from one more angle. Pretend you have a Christian school. By and by other religious groups begin sending their children to this school — does this school have to adapt to these other beliefs? No. These other groups chose the Christian school (for the quality of education.)

This is in essence what has taken place over the span of 200-plus years. Ironically, it should have been the other religious groups or atheists building their private schools. After all, our Christian nation decided that we would make no laws "prohibiting religion and the free exercise thereof." That means you, too, even if you don't accept the beliefs of this Christian nation.

Angela Bachler
Pampa

The right to be wrong

To the editor,
I wanted to address a few of the points in Keith Anderson's column of Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1999.

No. 1. The issue in question is not school-led prayer, but student-led prayer.

No. 2. Mr. Anderson lists 12 religions that would be offended by a protestant prayer. Arguably, six of the 12 claim to worship the same God Protestants worship.

No. 3. Mr. Anderson says, "Prayer will not eliminate violence in our schools," that there will, "... always be violence, suffering and inhumanity." What Mr. Anderson fails to see is that the "panacea" of prayer is what gets us through the difficult and sometimes violent times of our lives. While the government counselors sat idle in Littleton, Colo., pastoral counselors ministered to those who needed help with their grief.

(See, LETTERS, Page 22)

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Legacy of Teen Solvent Abuse Is Life of Craving and Despair

DEAR ABBY: When I read your column about "huffing" chemicals, I had to respond.

I was a teen-age solvent abuser. For most of my early school days, I was an overachiever. I was not popular, but I had one or two good friends and was active in Scouting and volunteer activities. Because I was into books and getting good grades, by junior high I was teased and beaten up by my schoolmates. High school brought more of the same merciless harassment. I began to withdraw into solitary activities and discovered model building.

My descent into hell began innocently. I loved to build model cars, boats and planes. I discovered that the fumes from the glue gave me a buzz. Soon I was buying as much as a tube of model glue a day and huffing the fumes. I staggered around in a fog most of the time, couldn't remember things, and my grades slipped badly.

I heard something on the news about kids who had died as a result of sniffing Pam. I decided to try that as well, secretly hoping it would kill me: I huffed a number of other aerosol products, too. In my depression, I tried to kill myself by taking an overdose of aspirin. No luck. After the second overdose, a friend began dragging me along to activities and events and focused my attention on other things. My depression lifted, I managed to pull myself together, and I finished high school near the top of my class.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

A couple of years later depression set in again. I dropped out of life and began huffing glue again. I huffed myself into unconsciousness and even a couple of seizures. Paranoia and hallucinations became the norm. I woke up once and found myself carrying on a conversation with a tree — yes, it was answering back! The police were called when I was found running around with a knife, sure someone was out to get me. I was hospitalized on at least three occasions.

Fast-forward 20 years. What do I have to show for my stupidity today? I stutter, and confuse similar-sounding words in conversation. My hands shake. I frequently have problems remembering things for more than a few minutes. Worse yet, I'm now allergic to fragrances including fabric softeners, detergent, hand lotion, perfume, cologne, hairspray and household cleaning items. Did you know that perfumes contain toxic chemicals such as toluene — the same stuff that's in model glue?

Even though chemicals make me

horribly ill, the craving to abuse them never quite! On a good day, I hate myself for the damage I've done to my brain and body. On a bad day, I wish I had succeeded in committing suicide years ago.

Parents: Pay attention to your children and their behavior. Have your children taken an unusual interest in being alone? Does their breath, clothes or room smell funny? Do they have balance problems while walking across a room? Difficulty sleeping? No appetite? Paranoia? Grades falling? Apathetic? Personal hygiene lacking? Do you find plastic bags with strange-looking dried-up white stuff in them? Your children could be abusing glue or aerosol products!

Get them help — and don't take "no" for an answer. Abusing household products is as dangerous as abusing illegal drugs.

SENSELESS IN SEATTLE
DEAR SENSELESS: You may never know how many people you have helped today by giving such a graphic warning to teens and their parents. Your letter is unmistakable proof that substance abuse may mask an even deeper problem, and a caring, tuned-in parent should not minimize or ignore it.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, 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, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

MONDAY, DEC. 27, 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)

*** Getting into any routine presents a challenge. Still, focus on what must be done. Creativity builds as the day goes on. You are a tornado at work as you cruise through problems. Everyone needs one of you around! Be optimistic. Tonight: Still catching up on others' news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You might not be in the mood for work, but you are in the mood for play. Insights are strong, despite a sparring match with a partner. Realize that you might read a loved one better than he does. Be sensitive when approaching what might be a real bugaboo. Tonight: The good times roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Others are contrary this morning, and whatever you do makes little difference. Reach out for friends; share good news. Go to important meetings. Don't worry about a tendency to mix business with pleasure. For now, it is OK. Tonight: Last-minute Y2K errands.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Make calls and clear off your desk. Others always count on you to get important projects done. Ask questions.

Explore options at work. What has been a barrier can be worked around. Tackle the problem, knowing that there is a solution. Tonight: Take time to visit with an older relative.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Dealing with a child is a full-time job. A love relationship could also be a bit out of kilter. You might find another person controlling. Pull back and think about where he is coming from. Be understanding. Take time to write an important note. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Put your best foot forward, despite a cantankerous family member. You might be best off out and about. Review expectations that involve an associate's financial obligations. You easily read between the lines. Tonight: Togetherness goes far.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You might be more introverted than usual. Do a reality check, because on some level you might be making up or exaggerating a situation in your mind. Let someone demonstrate just how much he is there for you. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Aim for what you want but use care financially. You might have gone overboard recently. Your resources remain high. Add to the budget. Be willing to go that extra step. Network and make sure meetings. Your terms finally are met. Tonight: Get some errands done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Though you are out of sorts, you deal with others well. Sometimes your expectations ruin the perfection of the

moment. Be grateful. Integrate the spirit of Christmas into your life. Brainstorm with a boss or associate. Explore dynamic ideas. Tonight: Enjoy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Take a risk. Though you might feel uncomfortable, it pays off. Think before you make a definitive statement, but seeing the whole picture may be difficult. You are jovial, especially when acting with spontaneity. Tonight: Take an overview.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You like working with others as a team. However, a friend may beg off and disappoint you. Exchange ideas. Be willing to change your course if need be. Build with a partner; ask key questions. You might need to revamp your path. Tonight: Could be toasty!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Ask others for feedback, since you'll hear their opinions anyway. You might as well as be politically correct! Bosses may need information concerning finances. Be direct about what you need here. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

BORN TODAY

Actor Gerard Depardieu (1948), actress Tovah Feldshuh (1952), fashion designer Bernard Lanvin (1935)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

For Better or For Worse

FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE... AND FOR WHAT SOME OF US HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED... MAY THE LORD MAKE US TRULY THANKFUL.



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Luggage

1 Blacken

5 Faux

9 Plant

10 Grannies

12 Martin

16 Actress

17 "Golly"

18 Thiamin

20 Bus spot

22 Faxed

23 Stand

25 Iowa

28 Fanatic

32 We

34 "Exodus"

35 African

36 From

38 Deli

40 Corduroy

41 Esteem

42 Baja

DABS SAWS
ARLES THREE
NOONE REALM
CUT EXAMPLE
ENTERED PEN
DINED BIRD
NOD BAN
FIGS BERGS
IMP DEADPAN
SPARING ABO
TAPER LAPEL
SCENT EBERT
TREY ERSE

Yesterday's answer

1 Red

2 More

3 Elvis's

4 Was too

5 Stuck-up

6 Track trip

7 Eventually

8 Contributed,

9 Croaking

11 Meager

15 Voter,

19 Drifting

21 Simplicity

24 Ladies

25 Embar-

26 School

27 Sevilla's

29 Boy

30 Salem

31 Makeshift

33 Layers

37 Carnival

39 Record

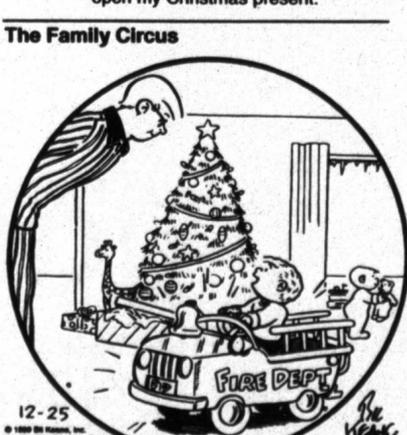
30 Record

39 Record

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



"Look, Daddy! The wish I made with the Thanksgiving wishbone came true!"

STUMPED?
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SPORTS

Pampa native has championship season

Notebook

FOOTBALL

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP) — The Art Briles era at Stephenville High School is over, now that the celebrated Yellow Jackets football coach has accepted a job on the staff of new Texas Tech coach Mike Leach.

However, Briles says its uncertain whether son Kendal, star quarterback for the Class 4A Division II champion Yellow Jackets, will stay in Stephenville for his senior year or follow his dad to Lubbock.

The 6-foot, 180-pound all-state quarterback had a junior year to remember. He led the Yellow Jackets to their second straight title and fourth of the 1990s this season, passing for 2,243 yards and 22 touchdowns and rushing for 844 yards and nine touchdowns on 99 carries.

"We certainly want Kendal up there with us, but we'll have to pay that by ear," his father and coach told the Stephenville Empire-Tribune for a story in its Friday editions.

"We want him to be adjusted and happy in Lubbock. Our approach is, 'You're going to do this one year earlier than you would have after graduation.' The last thing we want to do is ruin his senior year," Briles said.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Green Bay Packers receivers Antonio Freeman and Charles Jordan could face charges stemming from a car accident in which a woman was injured.

Freeman and Jordan could be charged with obstructing officers for switching vehicles after Freeman ran his car into a light pole Wednesday night, said Lt. Scott Semb of the Brown County Sheriff's Department.

Passenger Heather Molloy, 22, was injured when her head hit the windshield. She was listed in fair condition Friday at St. Vincent Hospital, where she was being treated for multiple lacerations.

COCOA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Florida State defensive end Chris Walker was charged with drunken driving, becoming the latest member of the nation's top-ranked team to run afoul of the law.

Walker was being held on \$500 bond. He is due in court Jan. 18 for a hearing. Florida State will play No. 2 Virginia Tech for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4.

GOLF
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jack Nicklaus' Golden Bear Golf Inc. has announced a proposed settlement of a class-action lawsuit that could result in the golfing great buying out his shareholders and taking the company private.

If the settlement is approved, the company would pay 75 cents for each of the 2.7 million shares now held publicly. Shareholders who lost money would be given an additional \$3.5 million total.

United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. sued Golden Bear and its subsidiary, Paragon Construction International, claiming the companies defaulted on millions of dollars of bonds on projects. Shareholders of Golden Bear accused former employees of falsifying Paragon's records to hide nearly \$22 million in losses.

FIGURE SKATING
MOSCOW (AP) — World silver medalist Yevgeny Plushchenko landed a quadruple and seven triples to win his second consecutive Russian Figure Skating Championship.

World champion Maria Butyrskaya, competing a day after her car blew up on a Moscow street, led the women's competition following the short program. The Sport Ekspress newspaper said witnesses saw two young people running away from the car shortly before it blew up Thursday night. There were no reports of injuries.

By L.D. STRATE
Sports Editor

When his basketball career was cut short by an injury, Karl Kitto would find success in another sport.

Earlier this month, the Pampa native coached Trinity of Midland to a 64-18 six-man win over San Antonio Town East for the Texas Christian Athletic League football title at Arlington. Winning first place in the TCAL is the equivalent of winning a state championship in the University Interscholastic League.

Trinity's title run was something of a personal triumph for Kitto, who had an athletic career come to an abrupt halt because of a severe ankle injury.

Kitto was a junior reserve on the Pampa Harvesters' state basketball champions in 1957-58.

While playing in a game at Lubbock, Kitto suffered knee and ligament damage, causing him to miss the remainder of the season.

"I tried to come back and play again that season, but I re-injured the knee," Kitto said. "I went through rehabilitation that summer to try and be ready for my senior year, but I could see it wasn't going to work out."

Kitto, who was sidelined for the entire 1958-59 basketball season, would miss out on being part of another state championship team. It was the school's fourth basketball title of the decade under coach Clifton McNeely.

With one door closed, another one would open for Kitto.

At McNeely's suggestion, he became an assistant coach at

Robert E. Lee Junior High School (now Pampa Middle School) and was able to earn college credits under the state's education rules of that era.

"I actually started my coaching career before I graduated from high school," Kitto added.

Kitto received his bachelor's degree from West Texas State and his master's degree from Sul Ross. The 58-year-old Kitto just ended his 34th year of coaching.

Kitto came to Trinity from San Jacinto Junior High where he had been coaching 11-man football. In Kitto's first season at Trinity in 1997, the Chargers won only two games while learning a new system. Trinity was on its way the next season and advanced to the state finals, losing to Galveston Heritage 56-28.

"The kids were so mad after that game that they wanted to go right back out and play Galveston again. That loss really stuck in their claw the rest of the year.

We started a strenuous conditioning program in the off-season, lifting weights and doing a lot of running. We scheduled some tough UIL opponents early in the season to help us get ready for district. We took our lumps, but we were head and shoulders above everybody else when district started," Kitto said.

Kitto learned about proper conditioning when he played for McNeely.

"We knew when we took the floor we were always going to be in better shape than the other team," Kitto said.

This year's championship contest between Trinity and San

Antonio Town East was called in the third quarter due to the 45-point mercy rule. It was the eighth game in which the Chargers had mercy-ruled an opponent.

"It was an exciting season," Kitto said. "Our team speed was tremendous. That was our strength. We alternated four backfields and just wore people down."

Next year, Trinity makes the jump from six-man to 11-man in Class 3A of the Texas

Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

"We have a lot of people coming back at the skilled positions," Kitto said. "We had a bunch of players who ran a 4.6 40 and they're all coming back."

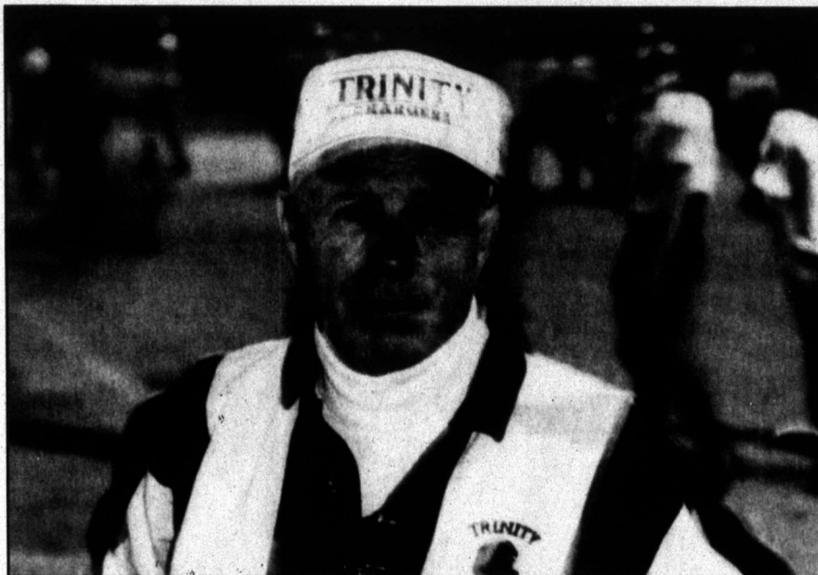
One of the returnees is Kitto's son, Clint, a sophomore running back who scored two touchdowns in only four carries in the state finals.

Another son, Kyle, is following in his father's footsteps. He's the defensive line coach at

Greenwood High School. Greenwood advanced to the state playoffs this season and lost to Childress in the Class 3A quarterfinals the same weekend Trinity won the state crown.

Ironically, Kitto didn't play high school football.

"I love football, but McNeely convinced me to concentrate on basketball. When the football team is 0 and 10 and the basketball team is winning almost every game, it wasn't a hard decision to make," he said.



Karl Kitto coached Trinity of Midland to the Texas Christian Athletic League title this season. (Special photo)

Saints loss continues dismal Cowboys season

By MARY FOSTER
AP Sports Writer

Saints 31, Cowboys 24

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jake Delhomme got his first chance, Mike Ditka apparently will get another chance, and the Dallas Cowboys might have no chance.

Delhomme, playing in his first NFL regular-season game, passed for two touchdowns and ran for one as the New Orleans Saints beat the Cowboys 31-24 on Friday.

After the game, Ditka said he will be back to coach the Saints (3-12) another year despite three straight losing seasons.

"I'll be back," Ditka said. "I've said that all the way, all along."

Dallas, which needed to win its last two games to guarantee a playoff berth, had its fate taken from its own hands.

"Right now, we're playing for pride," Cowboys coach Chan Gailey said of his 7-8 team. "That's what we're lining up playing for and that's not a lot of fun."

Delhomme, who played in the NFL Europe the last two years but had never even suited up since the Saints re-signed him four weeks ago, showed poise and a strong arm.

"We had nothing to lose," Delhomme said. "We just came out and played relaxed. We were joking in the huddle the whole game. That's what was fun about it."

Delhomme's first NFL pass was tipped at the line of scrimmage and intercepted, and he also lost a fumble when blindsided in the third quarter.

Fred Weary returned Emmitt Smith's fumble 58 yards to put the Saints up for good, and Keith Mitchell and Mark Fields teamed up for an interception in the end zone that clinched victory.

"I think we did well overall," Mitchell said. "And we got a young guy like Jake to step it up for us. We just needed somebody to come in and make it happen, really want it and just get out there and go for it. It was great."

New Orleans, which beat the Cowboys 22-3 last season, led in 10 of its 12 losses this season, but failed to hold on. The most productive outing previously was a 24-6 victory over San Francisco.

Against Baltimore last week, New Orleans scored eight points and had just eight first downs.

"It feels great to have an offense that can put some points on the board," Saints cornerback Fred Weary said.

The Saints led 10-7 at the half on Doug Brien's 32-yard field goal and Delhomme's 8-yard touchdown pass to Keith Poole. Dallas' only first-half score came on Smith's 1-yard run.

The Cowboys went ahead 17-10 in the third quarter on Jason Tucker's 20-yard reception and Eddie Murray's 33-yard field goal. New Orleans tied it twice more — 17-17 when Delhomme hit Eddie Kennison for a 51-yard touchdown, and 24-24 when Delhomme ran for a 4-yard score.

Then the Saints defense stepped up as cornerback Fred Weary grabbed Smith's fumble and returned it 58 yards to make it 31-24.

"They haven't played well all season," Cowboys defensive back Darren Woodson said. "We didn't know the quarterback. We figured he wouldn't be that good. But he was."

New Orleans, victimized by long passes this year, held on this time as Mitchell batted Troy Aikman's pass in the end zone into Fields' hands with less than a minute left.

Aikman was 23-of-39 for 246 yards and two touchdowns, with two interceptions. Smith finished with 110 yards on 23 carries.

The Cowboys had 11 penalties, including a holding call that nullified what would have been a 97-yard kickoff return by Tucker in the first quarter.

The Saints have not sold out a game in the 70,000-seat Superdome this year, and only 47,835 tickets sold for the Christmas Eve game. Actual attendance was at least 10,000 lower than that, but for a change the small crowd had a good time and stayed to the end.

Notes: With the loss, the Cowboys failed to assure a 29th winning season in 40 years. ... The Saints are suffering through their 28th non-winning season in 33 years. ... Every Saints home game this year has been blacked out locally. The last time the Saints sold out a game was Dec. 6, 1998, against the Cowboys. ... New Orleans played its 501st game on Friday, including playoffs the Saints have compiled a record of 192-304-5.

How did Top 25 teams fare?

(No holiday weekend games scheduled)

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll fared last week:

1. Stanford (9-0) beat Mississippi State 76-56.
2. Connecticut (8-1) beat Fairfield 84-60.
3. Arizona (9-2) lost to New Mexico 70-68.
4. Cincinnati (9-1) beat No. 21 Oklahoma 72-57.
5. Michigan State (8-3) lost to Kentucky 60-58.
6. North Carolina (8-4) lost to No. 20 Indiana 82-73; lost to Louisville 97-80.
7. Auburn (10-1) beat Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 109-52; beat Virginia Tech 73-63; beat Pepperdine 87-76.
8. Florida (9-1) beat Rutgers 85-65; beat North Carolina-Wilmington 80-53.
9. Syracuse (8-0) beat La Salle 68-52.
10. Duke (8-2) beat Davidson 109-65.
11. Tennessee (11-1) beat American, Puerto Rico

12. Kansas (9-2) beat Princeton 82-67.
13. Oklahoma State (10-0) beat Washington 84-72.
14. Texas (6-3) lost to Utah 79-73.
15. Illinois (6-3) lost to Missouri 78-72.
16. Ohio State (6-2) beat Toledo 64-61.
17. Maryland (8-2) did not play.
18. UCLA (6-2) beat Maine 83-62; lost to Colorado State 55-54; beat South Florida 103-98, OT.
19. Temple (5-2) beat Penn State 66-51. Next: at Cleveland State, Monday.
20. Indiana (8-1) beat No. 6 North Carolina 82-73.
21. Oklahoma (9-1) lost to No. 4 Cincinnati 72-57.
22. Gonzaga (7-3) lost to California 72-64.
23. Wake Forest (8-1) beat Arkansas 70-64.
24. DePaul (8-3) beat Northern Illinois 82-61.
25. North Carolina State (7-1) lost to Tulane 73-62.

College Bowl Games

All Times EST (Subject to change)

Saturday, Dec. 18

Las Vegas Bowl

At Las Vegas
Payoff: \$1.2 million

Utah 17, Fresno State 16

Heritage Bowl

At Atlanta
Hampton 24, Southern U. 3

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Mobile Alabama Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

Texas Christian 28, East Carolina 14

Saturday, Dec. 25

Blue-Gray Classic

At Montgomery, Ala.
Gray vs. Blue, Noon (ABC)

Aloha Bowl

At Honolulu
Payoff: \$800,000

Arizona State (6-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-5), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Oahu Bowl

At Honolulu
Payoff: \$800,000

Oregon State (7-4) vs. Hawaii (8-3), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 27

Motor City Bowl

At Pontiac, Mich.
Payoff: \$750,000

Marshall (12-0) vs. Brigham Young (8-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Alamo Bowl

At San Antonio
Payoff: \$1.2 million

Texas A&M (8-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Music City Bowl

At Nashville, Tenn.
Payoff: \$750,000

Kentucky (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl

At San Diego
Payoff: \$1.8 million

Kansas State (10-1) vs. Washington (7-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 30

Humanitarian Bowl

At Boise, Idaho
Payoff: \$750,000

Boise State (9-3) vs. Louisville (7-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN2)

Micronpc.com Bowl

At Miami
Payoff: \$750,000

Friday, Dec. 31

Insight.com Bowl

At Tucson, Ariz.
Payoff: \$750,000

Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl

At El Paso, Texas
Payoff: \$1 million

Oregon (8-3) vs. Minnesota (8-3), 2:15 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn.
Payoff: \$1.2 million

Colorado State (8-3) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Independence Bowl

At Shreveport, La.
Payoff: \$1 million

Mississippi (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 1

Outback Bowl

At Tampa, Fla.
Payoff: \$1.9 million

Georgia (7-4) vs. Purdue (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl

At Dallas
Payoff: \$2.5 million

Texas (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-4), 11 a.m. (FOX)

Gator Bowl

At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payoff: \$1.4 million

Georgia Tech (8-3) vs. Miami (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

Citrus Bowl

At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$3.8 million

Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Rose Bowl

At Pasadena, Calif.
Payoff: \$12 million

Stanford (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-2), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)

Orange Bowl

At Miami
Payoff: \$11-13 million

Michigan (9-2) vs. Alabama (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 2

Fiesta Bowl

At Tempe, Ariz.
Payoff: \$11-13 million

Nebraska (11-1) vs. Tennessee (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Sugar Bowl

At New Orleans
Payoff: \$11-13 million

Florida State (11-0) vs. Virginia Tech (11-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 15

East-West Shrine Classic

At Stanford, Calif.
4 p.m. (ESPN)

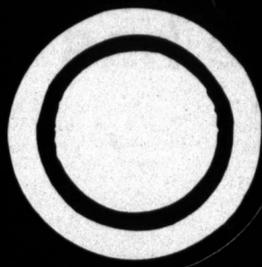
Saturday, Jan. 22

Senior Bowl

At Mobile, Ala.
2:30 p.m. (TBS)

Hula Bowl

At Kahului, Hawaii
4 p.m. (ESPN)



"We'll Be There"

CAVALIER SEDAN
White STK #C8274

\$12,302⁰⁰

CAVALIER COUPE
Red STK #C8280

\$12,852⁰⁰



"Like A Rock"

BLAZER 4x4
Red STK #C9014

SAVE \$2,300
NOW \$22,861⁰⁰

ALL 1/2 TON
SILVERADO PICKUPS

SAVE \$3,500⁰⁰

ALL SUBURBANS

\$6,500⁰⁰ OFF

TRACKER CONVERTIBLE
White STK #C9118

\$3390 SAVINGS
ONLY \$10,605⁰⁰

ASTRO VAN
Red/Autumnwood STK #C9074

WAS \$24,837
NOW \$21,837⁰⁰

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Green/Tan STK #C9027

SAVE \$3,000
ONLY \$25,748⁰⁰

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ALL 1999
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"Driving Excitement"

GRAND AM SEDAN \$19,320⁰⁰
Blue STK #P8019

SUNFIRE COUPE \$13,960⁰⁰
Red STK #P9017

SUNFIRE SEDAN \$13,142⁰⁰
Red STK #P9023

SUNFIRE COUPE \$14,085⁰⁰
White STK #P9013

FIREBIRD \$20,077⁰⁰
Red STK #P9003

FIREBIRD \$17,818⁰⁰
White STK #P9000

BONNEVILLE
Bronze Mist STK #P8013

SAVE OVER \$4,000⁰⁰
NOW ONLY \$21,999⁰⁰



"Start Something"

INTRIGUE GX SEDAN
Forest Green STK #O9022
WAS \$22,855
NOW \$19,365⁰⁰

INTRIGUE GLS SEDAN
Crimson STK #O9015
SAVE \$1,000
\$23,129⁰⁰

INTRIGUE GL SEDAN
Crimson STK #O9004
SAVE \$1,000
ONLY \$19,792⁰⁰

ALERO GLS COUPE
Red STK #O9009
\$18,586⁰⁰

ALERO GX COUPE
White STK #O9019
\$14,767⁰⁰

CUTLASS GL SEDAN
Cherry STK #O9007
\$16,888⁰⁰

CUTLASS GLS SEDAN
Teal STK #O9008
\$17,480⁰⁰

CUTLASS GLS SEDAN
Opal Blue STK #O9011
\$17,480⁰⁰



PARK AVENUE
Em. Green STK #B9032
\$5,500⁰⁰ SAVINGS

"Luxury, Pure And Simple"

CENTURY LIMITED SEDAN
Sand Drift STK #B8052
NOW \$19,873⁰⁰

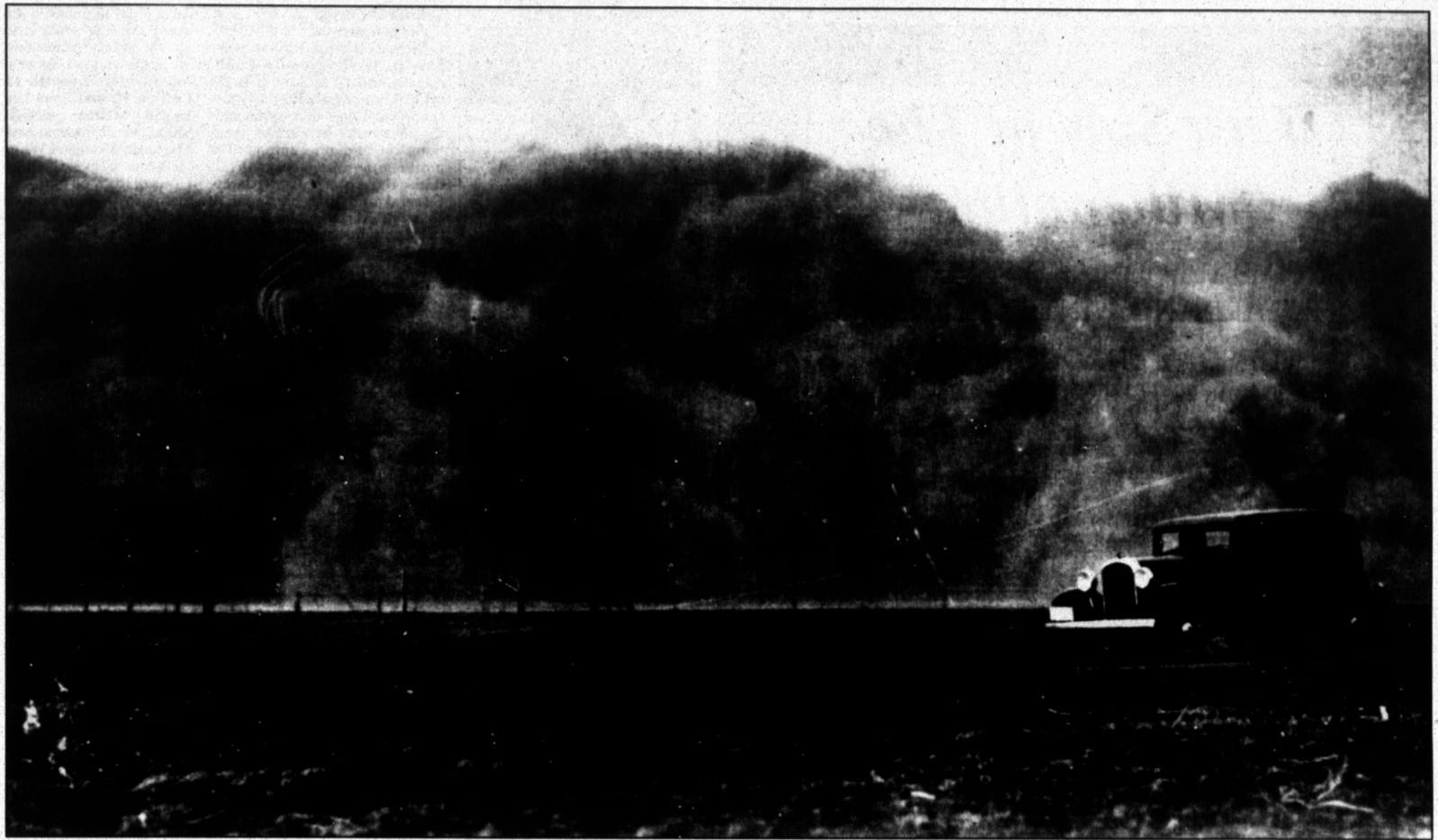
CENTURY LIMITED SEDAN
Sand Drift STK #B9011
NOW \$19,551⁰⁰

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Dust storms roll in on the Plains



(Photo courtesy of White Deer Land Museum)

This dust storm blowing into the area was a common sight in the 1930s in this area. Known as part of the Dust Bowl, early day residents were part of the historic dust storms which have been named the worst weather of the century. The Associated press has named this picture as one of the Select 100 photos of the century.

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

The Pampa area has been recognized in the Photos of the Century sponsored by the Associated Press.

Back in September, the AP asked their member newspapers to choose one photo—an image which was emblematic of a time or place, or an event of that area—and e-mail it to them.

The Pampa News selected the above photo based on a time which was most momentous of this area. It represented what pioneers have described as some of the blackest days in the Panhandle.

The photo, which belongs to the White Deer Land Museum, was featured in a recent special edition of the local newspaper and a copy was in our files. It visually displays the dirt billowing into the Pampa area as the motorists are trying to get away.

The Associated Press announced recently the Pampa photo is one of the Select 100 photos chosen by them. The 100 photos are an international selection of photos from AP members.

The 1930s brought the worst weather of the century to the Pampa area as well as the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle areas. It was called the Dust Bowl days.

The Texas Panhandle was ravaged by the storms. Local and area residents were housebound for many days as these storms occurred. When the storms were over, homes would be covered

with several inches of dirt. It was a time that oldtimers would never forget.

Weather experts rate the 1930s Dust Bowl as the worst weather event of the century. Weatherwise magazine requested about 30 of its contributing writers and editors to rate the worst weather of the last 100 years, and their selection was the Dust Bowl.

"More than any other weather or climate event, the 1930s drought shaped American society," causing the legendary flight from the plains to California, forcing changes in farm policy and compounding the Great Depression, the magazine reported in its November-December issue.

The Dust Bowl caused the establishment of soil conservation programs being born throughout the country. Emphasis is placed on the conservation of the soil with the planting of trees, shrubs and other types of vegetation to prevent the erosion of soil which occurred in the 1930s in the Pampa area and other areas in the country.

In a story written by Eloise Lane in January, 1988, A. D. Kirk gave a vivid description of the most memorable description of what he determined the most memorable dust storm of the "dirty thirties".

"Dust storms were no problem on the great plains area of the United States while the Indians and buffalo were the principal inhabitants. The Plains from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico were covered with a grass turf that protected the soil from strong

North winds.

"The white men drove the Indians out and killed the buffalo. The farmers plowed the prairie into fields and the ranchers overstocked their holdings with their cattle. The white settlers and their followers exploited the prairie lands for generations. Then came the long drought and depression of the nineteen thirties.

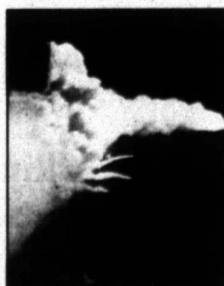
"The strong north winds picked up the top soil from farm fields and overstocked pasture lands to create the worst dust storms the country had ever experienced.

He said in the story which appeared in the Spring issue of Focus magazine in 1988 the day was a perfect day until the storm hit the area that Palm Sunday afternoon. Some people thought it was the end of the world, and others developed "dust pneumonia" after days of dust continuing to blow in and settle.

America's Heartland became the center of the Dust Bowl. Many broke men gathered their families and their possessions, migrating to other areas of the country. The government began measures to control soil erosion. While there were more dust storms through the years, especially during a drought period in the 1950s, the erosion controls established by soil conservationists have kept such drastic weather conditions from developing again.

While the "dirty thirties" are a folklore story to many, it was reality to others. That time in history helped to shape many people's lives as they are today.

Kent State became a household word after National Guardsmen opened fire on the campus killing four students as Viet Nam demonstrators were on campus. This photo at right became the focal point of the May, 1970, incident.



A bombing over Great Britain during World War II is viewed in the upper left photo. Bottom left, shows rescue workers in 1988 retrieving Jessica McClure from a shaft in the ground in Midland. The rescue was watched by people throughout the world. A young girl waving an American flag displays the pride of a nation as she welcomes her father back from the Desert Storm War in 1992. The Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986, stunned a nation as the entire crew was lost just as the space flight was beginning. A young science teacher was on board. All photos are among the Select 100 by the Associated Press for the 21st Century as they captured the many history-making events across the county and the world.

Hope You Have A Safe & Happy Holiday!

Last Sale of The Millennium

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TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DECEMBER 28TH THROUGH DECEMBER 31st

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123 N. Cuyler 110 N. Cuyler
In Downtown Pampa

(We will be closed Monday, December 27th. Sale starts at 10:00, Tuesday morning. We will be closed on Saturday, January 1, 2000)

Newsmakers



Kyle Easley

COLLEGE STATION — Kyle Easley, 1997 Pampa High

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving, New Year's and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication. Thank you.

School graduate and son of Dr. Ron and Katie Easley of Pampa, was recently elected to the Ross Volunteer Company.

The company, formed in 1887, is the oldest organization in the State of Texas. Composed of 72 juniors and 72 seniors, it is the official honor guard for the governor of Texas and represents the university at various functions on and off campus. The motto of the company is derived from Confederate General and first president of Texas A&M, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, who instructed each member to be a "Soldier, Statesman and Knightly Gentleman."

Easley is a junior biomedical science major at Texas A&M.

BORGER — Frank Phillips College recently released its President's and Dean's Honor

Rolls for the 1999 fall semester.

To be eligible for the President's Honor Roll, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average while enrolled in 12 or more semester hours. Students named to the honor roll include: Synetta Michelle Conley, Kristal Lane Lee, Katie Leann Miller and Geri D. Shaw, all of Pampa; and Linda Michelle Moore of White Deer.

To be eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in 12 or more semester hours. Students named to the honor roll include: Cal A. Ferguson, Dana Renee Gage, Heather Dawn Herndon and Donica C. Mead, all of Pampa; Lisa M. Maddox of Miami; and Jeanette M. Scott and Lee N. Tice, both of Skellytown.

Progressive Extension Club

Progressive Family and Community Education Extension Club met Dec. 17 in the home of Leny Howard with President Eva Dennis presiding. Howard and Mary Ann Bailey served as hostesses. Nine members and one guest were present.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Members brought children's books for donation to

Tralee Crisis Center.

—Dennis read "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and presented a Christmas carol quiz.

—Members participated in a gift exchange.

Helene Baumgardner won a prize and Polly Benton received the hostess gift.

The club Christmas party was held recently in the home of Joan Gray, Extension agent.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 13 at the home of Polly Benton, 1421 N. Dwight.

Herbs riding high, especially healthy ones

POUND RIDGE, N.Y. (AP) — Herbs are riding a high wave of popularity these days, especially plants deemed good for your health.

As evidence of the interest in herbal medicine, the New York Botanical Garden held a two-day symposium this fall featuring lectures on healing plants through the ages.

Little related to herbs was overlooked by the creators of the wide-ranging program, which also included tours. One lecture centered on slowing the aging process, and another on using herbs to ease stress.

One could learn about American Indian curing strategies, or be taken back to the Indian subcontinent and to delve into the rise of Ayurveda 2,500 years ago, considered the first complete medical system based on holistic therapies.

Much of the program dealt with herbal medicines you can buy at health stores or are prescribed for you by naturopathic and holistic practitioners. But a gardener may also grow some herbs on his own and put them to use as preventives, or to treat minor ailments.

The consensus among three of the lecturers was that a gardener should proceed with caution and restraint when making a self-diagnosis and considering herbal treatments. No more than a cup or two of a medicinal herbal beverage should be used a day. If an ailment persists, seek professional help.

"The idea behind a gardener using plants, or at least their leaves, for their health is to enjoy their plants more fully, to stay healthier, as opposed to treating specific diseases," said Jennifer Brett, a naturopathic physician in Norwalk, Conn.

Brett named the dandelion, which is loaded with vitamins

and minerals, as a powerfully versatile herb. "There isn't a part we can't use," she said.

The leaves go in salads while the milky fluid in the flower stem is used as a wart remover. Rub it on a wart and it will burn it away, she said. The root helps the liver when made into a tea, she said.

A tea or oil made of marigold flowers can help with rashes, mainly eczema, and with minor burns or cuts, Brett said. The tea requires two tablespoons of crushed fresh flowers per cup of hot water, while the oil is made with dried flowers. Rub it on the rash twice a day and if it doesn't improve in two or three days, get medical attention, she said.

Lavender, an easily grown perennial, helps relax people who are feeling stress, Brett said. You make a beverage out of the flower spikes and drink some every day.

A cup of mint tea after a heavy meal helps digestion and prevents gas, burping and nausea, Brett said. The tea is made from the flowers just before they bloom. There are many varieties of different tasting mints.

Another lecturer, Ellen Kamhi of Oyster Bay, N.Y., a nurse with a doctorate in public health, mentioned pumpkin seeds are good for male virility because of their high zinc content. You need a lot of space to grow pumpkins in a home garden but the harvested seeds are widely obtainable at supermarkets.

Garlic, long enjoyed for its taste and dissed for the ensuing halitosis, continues to get attention as a health food. Kamhi said recent research has focused on the bulbs high sulfur compounds to fight invading microorganisms and on its ability to decrease bad cholesterol. She suggested eating two raw cloves a day, accompanied by parsley to mitigate the bad breath. (See, HERBS, Page 13)

After Christmas Specials
Sunday, December 26 thru Tuesday, December 29

For All Coffee Makers
Folgers
Mountain Snow
Aroma Roasted

Folgers Coffee

\$4.99
Limit 2
34.5 to 39-Oz. Can



Chicken of the Sea Tuna
6-Oz. Can

\$3.99
Limit 3
Chunk Light in Oil or Water

Spaghetti
Meatless Varieties
14.75 or 15-Oz. Can

\$5.39

BOTTLED WATER
3-1 GALLON FAMILY PACK
3-Pack Gallon Bottles

Always Save Drinking Water
\$1.77

Rainbo Sandwich Bread
Great for Tuna Sandwiches
24-Oz. Loaf

\$0.99

Homeland Country Style Pork Ribs
Bonus Packs of 6-Pounds or More
\$9.99
Lb.

Pepsi, Mt. Dew or 7-UP
\$1.79
2-Liter Bottle
Limit 4

California Head Lettuce
\$1.59
Each

Northern Bath Tissue
ULTRA SOFT
QUILTAL NORTHERN
Limit 2
12-Roll Pack
\$2.49

HOMELAND Working harder to be a better place to shop.

Prices Effective Sunday, December 26, 1999 Thru Saturday, January 1, 2000 in all Texas Homeland Stores. Sales in Retail Quantities Only www.homelandok.com

Lifestyles Policies

- The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We reserve the right to reuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.
- All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday) before Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, prior to Sunday insertion.
- Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.
- Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.
- Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.
- Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.
- Information that appears on engagement, wedding and anniversary forms will be used at the discretion of the editor. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

Menus

Dec. 27-31

Pampa Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.
Lefors Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.
Senior Citizens MONDAY
 Chicken fried steak or chicken chow mein with rice, mashed potatoes, spinach, beets, northern beans, black forest cake or banana pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
TUESDAY
 Taco salad or sausage and kraut, boiled potatoes, hominy, squash, pinto beans, strawberry cake or chocolate pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
WEDNESDAY
 Roast beef brisket with brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, succotash, carrots, butter beans, carrot cake or blueberry pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

THURSDAY
 Chicken strips or Swiss steak, tator tots, turnip greens, black-eyed peas, cherry chip cake or bread pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
FRIDAY
 Fried cod fish or spaghetti and meat sauce, potato wedges, broccoli florettes, beans, brownies or tapioca, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot garlic toast, rolls or cornbread.
Meals On Wheels MONDAY
 Barbecue meatballs, baked beans, potato salad, prunes.
TUESDAY
 Polish sausage, cheese grits, mixed greens, pears.
WEDNESDAY
 Tator tot casserole, cabbage, blackeyed peas, pumpkin bars.
THURSDAY
 Ham, okra and tomatoes, northern beans, pudding.
FRIDAY
 Holiday.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

HERBS

Kamhi said St. Johns wort, highly publicized recently as an antidepressant, is "helpful as a mood elevator." The plant sports a beautiful yellow flower, which is the part you use medicinally. She suggested using a teaspoon of the flower in hot water. "Try a cup and see if it cheers you up a bit," she said.

Kamhi co-authored a book with naturopath Eugene R. Zampieron of Woodbury,

Conn., entitled "The Natural Medicine Chest" (M. Evans & Co., 1999, \$14.95 paperback) in which they describe an extensive list of potentially healthful herbs and other plants from aloe vera to wild yams. Zampieron, who also lectured at the Botanical Garden, mentioned the small, mint family plant skullcap as "one of the best natural remedies for hypertension, high blood pressure, insomnia, restlessness and worry as well as headaches." It "works much faster" than St. Johns wort, Zampieron said.

Try long-lasting sage for both flavor, scent

POUND RIDGE, N.Y. (AP) — After autumn's hard frost wastes much of your vegetable garden, sage claims its role as one of the hardiest survivors. Indeed its vitality keeps surprising you even in the depths of winter.

Here in the Northeast, when the garden is yielding only Brussels sprouts above the snow and parsnips imbedded in the icy ground, I can usually count on leaves of sage to flavor dishes. They look withered compared to their summer glory, but aroma and taste are still there.

Member of the mint family, sage comes in 500 species of annuals and perennials that serve as culinary or medicinal herbs or as ornamentals. The culinary sage I'm talking about is a perennial featuring gray-green oblong leaves with a wooly texture. The sages used as ornamentals are known as salvias or flowering sage.

Of Mediterranean origin, the herb was spread northward by Roman legionnaires. The ancients believed it helped treat illnesses associated with old age and also used it to fight tuberculosis and as a treatment for snakebites.

Today, it's still used medicinally as a wash for mouth sores and as a gargle. An oil extracted from sage is used in commercial shampoos and cosmetics.

The Chinese liked it for making a tea and once carried on a brisk trade with the Dutch, exchanging tea for sage on a pound-for-pound basis.

Non-gardeners may encounter sage only in a traditional role with pork dishes or in flavoring for stuffing or mixed in with cream cheese. Growing your own lets you experiment. When I first raised it many years ago, I was immediately struck by the intense scent and flavor of this herb and learned to use it judiciously to spice up fish, sandwich meat and salads.

For dietary reasons, I use a low-salt turkey in sandwiches and flavor it with bits of fresh sage.

Researching its many culinary roles, I found references to its use fresh in salads and cooked in omelets, soups, sausages and in cheese, lentil and shell bean dishes and with cabbage. There are also sage breads.

I've experienced no problems at all in growing it. As a matter of fact, it likes growing so much that I have to keep eradicating it to confine it to one place.

Community Calendar

FREEDOM MUSEUM USA, 600 North Hobart, Open Tuesday-Saturday, Noon to 4 p.m. Revolutionary War to 4 Bosnia. All branches of service are represented.

AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 669-3988.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-7501.

CLEAN AIR AL-ATEEN will hold weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, contact 669-7501.

VFW POST #1657, 105 S. Cuyler. Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE CHARITY BINGO every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 403 E. Brown. Doors open at 6 p.m. Public welcome. License #1-751616469-0.

THE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP will have regularly scheduled meetings the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, Inc. For more information contact Chry Smith at 665-0356.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES/WIC Program nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information call 665-1182.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS meet the 4th Saturday of each month at the Clyde Carruth Livestock Pavilion, 6:30 p.m. Pot luck supper. For more information contact Kevin Romines, 665-8547 or Jim Greene, 665-8067.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS will meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Family Life Center at First Christian Church at 18th and Nelson from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be a light meal and then play cards and get acquainted. Under aged school children can be taken to the First Christian Church Mother's Day out by calling 665-8689. For more information please call 665-1188.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER in-house support group for victims of family violence. Meetings on Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and one on Thursdays 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information call 669-1131. All calls are kept confidential.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL will meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 North Russell. For more information call Sharon King, 665-2818.

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL office will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday. For more information call 665-2331.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS OF PAMPA will meet at 7 p.m.

each Friday at the Church of the Nazarene, 510 North West. For more information, call 669-7351.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS OF PAMPA will meet at 7 p.m. each Saturday at Pampa Regional Medical Center, Medical Office Building, second floor conference room. For more information, call 669-7546.

DECEMBER 1-31 - CELEBRATION OF

LIGHTS fifth Annual Lighting Display at Recreation Park beginning at dark each night. For more information call, 669-3241.

information, contact Carolyn Smith, 665-5158.

27 - GRAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Episcopal Parish Hall. For more information, call Dale Roth, 665-0280.

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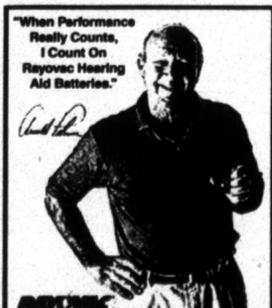
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Ultra-hydrating, revitalizing moisturizer keeps skin toned, lifted, radiant.
- **Perfectly Clean Foaming Cleanser in Lotion or Gel**
Skin-friendly, with no soap, no stripping, no residue. What a feeling!
- **Clean Finish Purifying Toner for your skintype**
Soothing, refreshing and alcohol free.
- **Resilience Body Elastin Refining Lotion**
Continuously firms, smooths, retextures skin.
- **Futurist Full Treatment Lipstick SPF 15 (full-size)**
With time-release moisturizers, Anti-oxidants, more.
- **More Than Mascara**
- **Hairbrush**
- **Travel bag with matching headband**

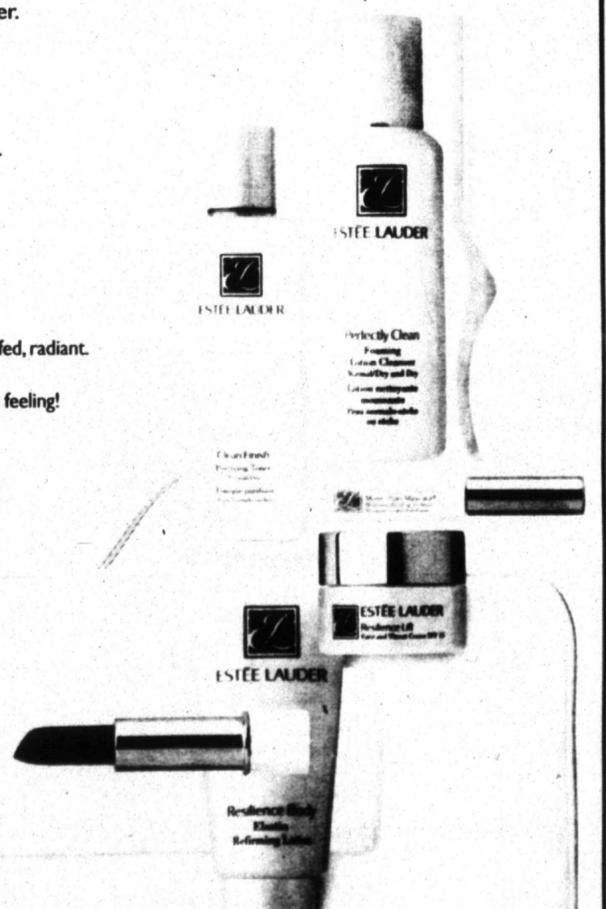
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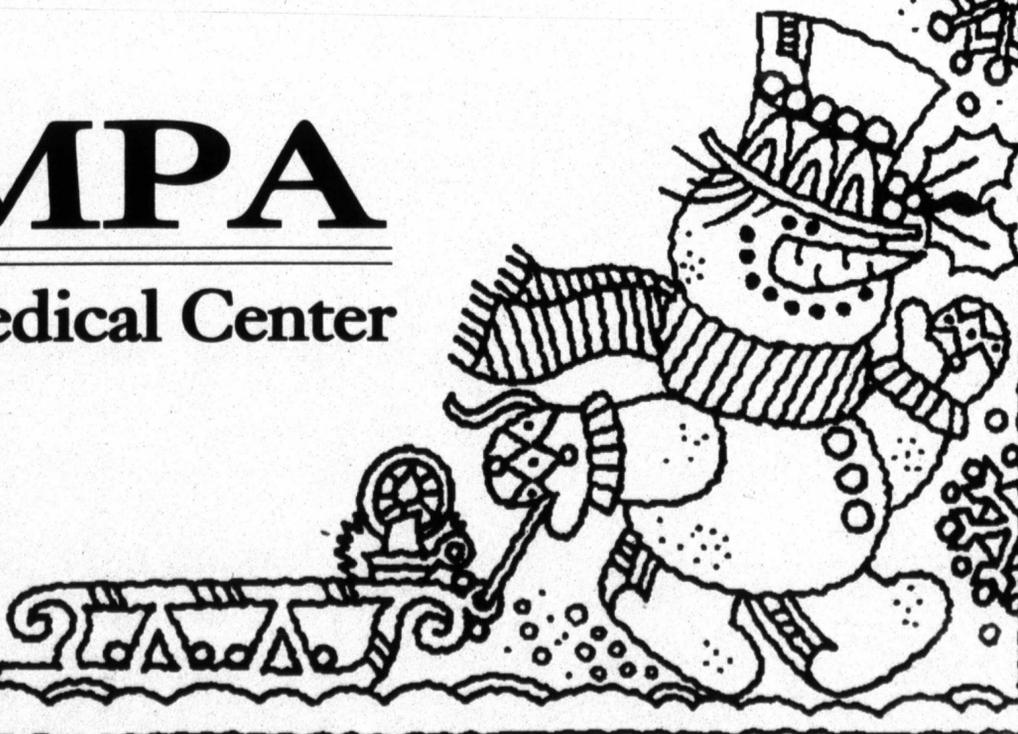
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ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

At the movies: 'Angela's Ashes' movie not as sensory as book

By MATT WOLF
Associated Press Writer

"Angela's Ashes" was a book you could virtually smell, so the shock of Alan Parker's well-meaning but misguided film version is the degree to which it never reaches the senses.

How is this possible, given the source material — Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1997 account of his own quite breathtakingly impoverished start in life?

As both the memoir and the movie make clear, McCourt was born into a family that defied tradition and belief by emigrating the wrong direction.

While the Irish for generations had been traveling west to the liberating new world of America, McCourt's folks did the reverse. When young Frankie was 5, his parents uprooted the family from the New York City borough of Brooklyn to the Limerick slums of their home country and into an abject existence that makes Charles Dickens' grinding poverty look sentimental.

What made the book bearable — even inspirational — was not just McCourt's wry humor but the awareness that language marked his earlier self's path towards a better life. A sequel, "Tis," was published this year.

At the same time, there's no denying that it took the adult McCourt well over 40 years (he is now 65) to return in print to conditions few of us can imagine, even if the happy ending of McCourt's eventual American success is the stuff of which fables are made.

For much of a long film's first half, it looks as if director and co-writer (with Laura Jones) Parker has found a way to get to the heart of a potentially grim tale.

There's no stinting on the omnipresent, even lethal, damp and rickety cobbled streets of McCourt's youth — a childhood where survival is scarcely more assured than the rarely seen sun. For every McCourt child that makes it, another seems to die.

At one point the family has to hack away at their own, thinning walls to find wood with which to feed a fire to warm them.

The opening passages also beautifully serve the humor that, allied to his burgeoning love of literature, can only have been

Frankie's salvation. An early confession scene, for example, is a near-classic of its sort:

"Am I by far the worst?" asks a fearful Frankie.

"No, my child," replies the priest. "You've got a long way to go."

The film does well in general by the comedy within religion, including a lunatic first Communion: "Will you stop all that cluck-

What made the book bearable — even inspirational — was not just McCourt's wry humor but the awareness that language marked his earlier self's path towards a better life.

ing," the priest snaps at his feisty young charge, "and get back to your seat?"

It helps, too, that the local cinema provides some relief from the surrounding drear, even if the boy's friend, Mikey Molloy, has to feign a seizure in get Frankie into the movie theater for free.

In a league apart is Frankie's father, Malachy Sr. (Robert Carlyle), a brawling reprobate who is also — and importantly so — a storyteller of real skill and charm. Less auspiciously, he's a Belfast Protestant, married into a deeply Catholic family.

Is Malachy Sr. indolent or merely unlucky? We know the truth just as Frankie will come to know it. But Carlyle gives a lovely performance as a warm-eyed man at war with his own worst impulses — a walking "holy trinity," as he is described, of three contradictory people.

But later, Carlyle's absence from the film — he leaves for work in England, never to return — creates a noticeable hole. For all his errant tendencies, Malachy Sr. is far more likable and complex a character than the film's maternal namesake, Angela, played by Emily Watson.

In part, there's something laudable about the filmmakers' refusal to make a histrionic heroine out of Angela, whom Watson plays in a clamped-down manner that will dismay

admirers of her Academy Award-nominated work in "Hilary and Jackie" and "Breaking the Waves."

To be sure, the occasional moment does register — Angela begging for leftovers from a priest's dinner, a deeply shaming experience for a child to witness. Or the face-off between mother and son when the now-teen-age Frank (played by the appealing Michael Legge) confronts Angela about prostituting herself with an abusive cousin in return for shelter and food.

Mostly, however, there's a crucial absence where the soul of the film should be. Both underwritten and underplayed, this Angela is yet another archetypal long-suffering Irish mother, not a flesh-and-blood creation.

The characters on the periphery are far more vivid, starting with the wide-eyed Uncle Pat, who guards his food from the scavenging Frank, not to mention his wife, Aunt Aggie, who drops her severe facade to reveal a real generosity toward her nephew.

So as the movie nears its end, it is additionally disconcerting to find generic emotions, with soaring music to match, replacing McCourt's idiosyncratic vision, as if composer John Williams were on Steven Spielberg duty.

The movie ends with the Statue of Liberty in sight and McCourt back in his promised land.

If only "Angela's Ashes," by then, had not betrayed its considerable promise.

"Angela's Ashes" is a Paramount Pictures release, in the United States, of a Paramount Pictures and Universal Pictures international presentation. David Brown and Scott Rudin produced. The film is rated R. Running time: 146 minutes.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

G — General audiences. All ages admitted.

PG — Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 — Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

R — Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 — No one under 17 admitted.

MUSIC

The popularity of hip-hop and rap music presents a golden opportunity for country music, Shriver believes.

"I think hip-hop and rap music, that speaks very much to another American audience, but not everybody is that audience," Shriver said. "There are all these people who live between New York and L.A. — in suburbia — that just want to hear a great rhythm guitar and a guy singing. And country can claim that. And if the country industry were smart, they would embrace it."

Shriver is considering signing veteran singer-songwriters Rodney Crowell and Jamie O'Hara. But she's not sure how to promote such albums in the current market. And that's frustrating, she said.

"There's so many young John Fogertys living in this town, and young Bob Dylans and young Bruce Springsteens," Shriver said. "And yet we as an industry can't even do anything for them because we're so concerned with trying to just put out ear candy. If we could only change our orientation, think of the opportunity that exists in this town."

"Hopefully when we crash — which we will — I think that that opportunity for that music will happen, because everybody will be scrambling."

Most record company executives are more interested in getting in on the pop action. There are innumerable Dixie Chicks copycat acts being pushed, and at least two record company presidents are trying to assemble Nashville's version of the Backstreet Boys.

Lewis admits such schemes "might work," but believes that a better long-term answer will come from the streets, not a boardroom.

"(Nashville is) a town full of musicians and songwriters and creative people," Lewis said. "If there's a problem here, they're the ones that are going to fix it. It's not going to be some record company executive."

"You just hope that there's a bunch of kids sitting around in a basement being innovative, and coming up with some sort of magic that touches everybody."

Celebrity flashbacks

By The Associated Press

Entertainment highlights during the week of Dec. 26-Jan. 1:

60 years ago: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara, opened at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

55 years ago: Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys made their first appearance at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

35 years ago: Nine months of filming began on "Doctor Zhivago," starring Julie Christie and Omar Sharif. The film was directed by David Lean.

30 years ago: Jimi Hendrix's Band of Gypsys made its debut in New York.

One year ago: Billboard magazine listed the top video sales for

1998. Heading the list: "Austin Powers," followed by "Hercules," "As Good As It Gets," "Men in Black" and "Spice World" in the top five spots.

Spoken 10 years ago: "With acting, you can do extreme things. It's kind of good to be able to supersede human nature by becoming someone else in a film. ... I'm paid to tell elaborate lies." — Mel Gibson.

Spoken five years ago: "I don't know everything you need to know, obviously, but I could certainly hold all of the instruments and I could certainly sew." — Mandy Patinkin, on his role as a heart surgeon on the TV drama "Chicago Hope."

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AGRICULTURE

The Market Forecaster

By George Kleinman

WHEAT (BULL)

Outlook: The market fell to new 23 years low on bearish news regarding the possible halt to Russian wheat aid (already 1 billion this year, with possibly another 2 billion behind it which is in jeopardy). I cannot even fathom what additional bearish news could be foisted on this market. With wheat prices this low, and the winter wheat crop starting out under less than ideal conditions (despite recent rains, it is a La Nina year), the upside appears better than the alternative. Even the "Voice of the Tomb" which said to buy wheat almost 20 cents higher was off on this one, the first time this year. Prices are cheap, all I can say is I caution against getting to bearish now.

Strategy: Hedgers: Farmers should continue a program involving the sale of all cash wheat and the simultaneous purchase of at the money call options for March. In this way you can maintain ownership of cheap wheat, but free up cash to pay bills. Your downside risk is limited, yet you maintain full upside potential. This has been a much better strategy this year than holding cash wheat or buying futures. If you have not worked this strategy yet, now is a great time. Use the current at the money calls, to establish positions.

Traders: Longer-term traders should aggressively consider purchases at current levels.

CORN (BULL/BEAR)

Outlook: Nothing much is new here in an unexciting large supply, but well discounted low priced environment. The huge ending stocks estimate, a bearish 2.0 billion bushels, continues to hang over this market blunting any rally attempts. Yet, low prices do nothing to curb demand. You have heard me talk about the old adage, "Low prices cure low prices" and this does work over time because low prices stimulate demand. This is a longer-term process because demand markets take time to evolve. Supply shock markets (weather problems) move much more quickly. Right now there is overhead farmer selling on any and all rallies but a good demand base is built which will not go away any time soon. This market will remain in a fairly dull trading range over the coming few months.

Strategy: Hedgers: Corn users should continue to be buyers on a scale down at current levels.

Traders: Stand aside as I see no high potential trades cur-

rently in the corn market.

SOYBEANS (BULL)
Outlook: Prices remain low and cheap for soybeans due to recent rainy weather in South America. However, the crop is just planted, and this is a La Nina year (odds higher than normal for dry/hot weather in the Corning months). Think long term! The cheap prices potentially sets the market up for a big rally in the year 2000. It has been my experience that large crops and low prices with extreme pessimism sets the market up for the opposite, high prices with optimism. This is because low prices build a large and sustained demand base, which will not go away easily. Domestic demand for soy oil and meal are at record high levels and the weekly export figures are running at five year highs. Last week, weekly export sales out of the US were 30 million bushels! This is more than double the average rate. I believe all the bearish supply news is 90% discounted in prices, which are currently scraping 20-year lows. This market is ill prepared for any supply shock, such as weather problems from South America this winter, or North America next spring. This market is very reminiscent of 87 and 94. Both years were record large crops with low prices and talk of burdensome carryovers. Both years were followed by two of the most dramatic bull market soybean runs in history. I would like to repeat my longer-term recommendation: consider a purchase of November 2000 soybean futures at current levels (478 at press time). I would consider any purchases under 500. You must be willing and prepared to risk to the season lows (the mid-450 level) and prepare to hold for a big move.

Strategy: Hedgers: No futures hedges are suggested as the government program is your best hedging alternative at this time.

Traders: Based on a previous recommendation, you are long November beans from 500 and below. Be prepared to risk 30 cents and hold for the long pull.

The information and recommendations presented herein are believed to be reliable; however, changing market variables can change price outlooks. Neither Pampa News nor George Kleinman assume liability for their use. Use this section as a guide only. Futures and options trading can involve risk of loss. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Follow the recommendations if they make sense to you and for your operation. George Kleinman is president of Commodity Resource Corporation (CRC), a licensed brokerage firm which specializes in marketing strategies using agricultural futures and options. CRC welcomes questions — they can be reached at 1-800-233-4445.

CATTLE (BULL)

Outlook: There is a log going for the bullish cattle argument in the coming weeks. For one, the futures remains at a one to two dollar discount to cash. Either cash has to come down dramatically or futures rally in the coming weeks, and based on bullish demand fundamentals my vote is for the latter. Plus, we are entering the winter weather surprise period, where any tough Midwestern or Plains States weather can result in gain problems and near term supply shortages. I never like to be short February in January. A conservative bullish play is to sell just out of the money puts. With the discount to cash the out of the monies look fairly safe with a good risk to reward ratio.

Strategy: Feeders: No hedge protection is recommended at this time in either futures or options since the trend is your friend.

Cow/calf operators: Cattle feeders remain buy-hedged. If you took our previous recommendations you are long the January feeder futures at 78 and 79 with effective prices actually \$5.50 to \$7.50 lower than this (due to rollovers). Hold until you buy your replacement feeders.

Traders: If you took our previous recommendation you accepted 600 point profits on our December futures first purchased in the 6450 to 6500 range. I now like purchases of February under 6850, looking for low to mid Seventies prior to expiration.

(Note to readers: I have written "The Market Forecaster" for you for many years now. I have received many favorable comments and enjoyed the feedback I have received. I would like you to be aware that I will discontinue writing "The Market Forecaster" this year because I have been retained by "Futures" magazine to write their "Trends in Futures" newsletter. Since this agreement includes an exclusivity clause, I will be discontinuing the column. I will still be available for readers who may wish to call or e-mail. I want to thank you for your support over the years and wish you a great holiday season and a very prosperous new millennium.)

Farm Scene: Technology evolves on a family farm

ARCADIA, Ind. (AP) — When Lester Rulon built up the Rulon family farm on a couple hundred acres in Indiana in the early 1900s, he toiled behind horse-drawn plows and planters, often working from dawn to dusk.

Nearly 100 years later, his grandson farms 5,000 acres with the help of three relatives and a fleet of machines air-conditioned against summer's heat and warmed to ward off autumn's chill.

Though the 20th century ushered in giant machines that turned aside centuries of agricultural practices, 27-year-old Rodney Rulon knows even bigger changes are on the horizon. And he's hoping he can keep pace with high-tech agriculture to preserve the family's farming tradition for a fourth generation.

"The changes we're seeing now are a lot like when the first tractors came out. It's a big change in the way we do things," said Rodney Rulon, who lives with his wife, Natasha, and their 3-year-old daughter, Dianna, in a new home just down the road from the old family homestead.

Rodney, along with his uncle Jerry Rulon, and his two sons, Ken and Roy, began their high-tech farming venture four years ago, purchasing

a yield-monitor for one of their combines.

As harvested grain flowed through the specially equipped combine, the four men were thrilled by the sensitive monitor's ability to monitor how many bushels a particular stretch of ground produced, as well as the grain's weight and moisture content.

They were sold on high-tech farming, and soon invested in a global positioning system (GPS) receiver for the same combine. That receiver picks up the signal of a satellite network orbiting hundreds of miles overhead that can pinpoint the combine's position.

Knowing where you are in a field is invaluable to the new agriculture, which pairs precisely mapped positions with infrared data obtained by other satellites, yield histories and soil moisture and chemistry to achieve the bigger picture.

On his home computer, Rulon can now view the family farm in three dimensions with various overlays representing yields, soil chemistry, weed-prone areas, the location of field tiles and other data.

That, in turn, allows he and his partners to reduce their costs by applying fertilizers and other chemicals only where they're needed. (See, FARM, Page 22)

Remember when ...

Senior Snapshot

You lived during a time that is hard for the younger generation to imagine. Share with us some of your memories as a child and young adult. A photo is required ... it can be childhood, young adult or recent.

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My Favorite Game _____

My Favorite Radio Show _____

The First Movie I Ever Saw & The Cost _____

The First Phone I Ever Used Belonged To _____

The Person That Most Influenced My Life _____

The Historical Event That Most Affected My Life & Why _____

The Thing I Remember Most About The Depression Was _____

The Biggest Honor I've Ever Received Is _____

If I Could Change One Thing About My Past It Would Be _____

My Whole Family Enjoyed _____

The Person From My Childhood I Wish I Could Visit With Today Is _____

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Happy Holidays from the
Pampa News

Fed committee was unanimous on rate increase, wanted to act before Y2K

By JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve's policy-making committee was unanimous in its decision to bump up interest rates at its November meeting to keep inflation from becoming a problem and expressed a desire to act well before the computer date change for the Year 2000.

The Federal Open Market Committee, which includes Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, voted 10-0 to boost the federal funds rate — the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans — by a quarter of a point to 5.50 percent, according to minutes of the Nov. 16 meeting released Thursday.

It marked the third time this year that the central bank boosted rates to slow the red-hot economy and keep inflation at bay.

With the economy growing at a rapid pace, all members "agreed on the need for a slight tightening at this meeting to raise the odds on containing inflation and forestalling the inflationary imbalances that would undercut the very favorable performance of the economy," the minutes said.

The members also said that concerns about the Y2K changeover was a factor in their decision to boost rates at the November meeting instead of waiting for the Dec. 21 meeting, which was so close to the century date change.

The decision to raise rates "was reinforced by the prospect that the committee might not find it desirable to adjust policy at its December meeting when a tightening action could add to the potential financial uncertainties and unsettlement surrounding the century date change," the members said.

"Accordingly, any action might have to wait until the meeting in early February and the members agreed that the risks of waiting for such an extended period were unacceptably high," they added.

At its December meeting Tuesday, the Fed decided to leave rates unchanged, citing uncertainties about Y2K. But the Fed warned at its last meeting for the year that inflation dangers could be lurking in the months ahead. The minutes of that meeting won't be released until February.

Separately, a new survey released by the Fed and the FDIC Thursday said that nine out of 10 customers believe their banks will be ready for Y2K and a majority said they consider it unlikely that their ATMs will fail.

Many economists believe the central bank will raise rates again beginning in February or March given continuing strong economic growth.

At the November meeting, members also unanimously agreed to move their policy directive, intended as a signal of future moves, to neutral from one favoring an increase in rates.

Members said that retaining the directive leaning toward a rate increase "could well send a misleading signal about the probability of near-term action and have an unsettling effect on financial markets at a time when concerns relating to the century date change might be adding to normal year-end pressures."

The Fed, worried that its policy of immediately announcing the directive after the end of its closed-door meetings is confusing financial markets, has set up a working group to recommend improvements to it.

Tentative but unspecified recommendations on how to improve the policy were offered at the Nov. 16 meeting with members expressing "broad agreement" on their direction, the minutes said. Policy-makers, the minutes said, would consider a final report by the working group "at a meeting in the near future."

Until this year, the Fed would not reveal its thinking on the directive until the minutes of the meeting were released, which doesn't occur for six to eight weeks. If the Fed votes to actually change interest rates, it makes that announcement on the day the decision is made, following a disclosure practice in effect for the past several years.



Lt. Penny Branscum of the Salvation Army accepts angel donations from the Pampa Police Officers Association. Officers donated complete outfits for specific children.

1899 Sewanee 'Iron Men' remembered on anniversary of historic road trip

By RACHEL ZOLL
Associated Press Writer

SEWANEE, Tenn. (AP) — They were called the Iron Men of Sewanee, a group of college football players unheralded outside the South who shocked a nation.

Not many people knew about the Tigers of the University of the South, the tiny Episcopalian school nestled in the Cumberland Mountains about 35 miles from Chattanooga.

But 100 years ago this month, on a grueling, 2,500-mile road trip, the Iron Men and coach Billy Suter became famous by putting together a string of victories unequalled since.

They played five games in six days and shut out Texas, Texas A&M, Tulane, LSU and Mississippi.

"They were just in such incredible physical condition," said Birmingham, Ala., sportswriter Wendell Givens, who wrote "Ninety-Nine Iron" about the Sewanee team. "Suter said he had never known a team to have such team spirit. That's corny, I know, but there is such a thing."

Football was only about 30 years old when the Tigers barnstormed the South. The game was so brutal there were calls at the time to abolish it. There was no standard for protective gear, no NCAA and no forward pass.

"The game was still in its infancy and was pretty much a pushing and shoving sport," said Joe Horrigan of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. "It was a very violent sport. Entire lines would rush down the field in attack formation and knock people down."

Sewanee, as the school is known, had just 325 students in 1899. Despite its size, it produced a football team that was well regarded in the South but not really

known outside of the region.

It was undefeated the year before and most of the 1898 starters returned. Their average weight was 169 pounds, considered just above the norm a century ago.

The 21-member squad had brains, too. Five studied law, four medicine and four theology. Suter, a former Princeton quarterback, was disciplined and inspirational, Givens said.

And the Tigers academic schedule gave them an edge. To avoid the mountain roads in winter, Sewanee's school year ran spring through fall, so the team had all summer to practice. (There were no rules on offseason workouts then.)

But it was more than the will to win that lured the team on its brutal road trip. Their ambitious manager wanted to earn some money for the school.

A dispute with rival Vanderbilt over Sewanee's share of the gate receipts from two previous contests led to the cancellation of their 1899 game.

Sewanee team manager Luke Lea, later a U.S. senator from Tennessee and founder of The Nashville Tennessean newspaper in 1907, wanted to replace the revenue.

It was common then for games to be scheduled just days in advance and for teams to play two or three times a week. Even so, Lea's decision to play five games on such a long trip was unusual.

"Apparently, the administration objected. It was too expensive," Givens said. "So Lea decided, 'We'll just play several games while we're out there.' He kept adding to it and juggling the schedule."

The team packed their purple uniforms on the morning of Nov. 7 and boarded a train for Austin, Texas, to face the

3-0 Longhorns on Nov. 9.

About 2,000 people watched Tigers captain Henry "Diddy" Seibels score two touchdowns in a 12-0 victory. He was injured — a bloody head wound — but only stopped long enough to put plaster on his forehead.

Next stop was Houston to face Texas A&M. The Tigers won 10-0, and the Texas A&M campus newspaper called the Sewanee team "unmistakably the champions of the South this year."

An overnight train trip brought the team to New Orleans to face Tulane in the Green Wave's season opener. It was another Tigers romp, 23-0.

The next day the team traveled by train to Baton Rouge to face LSU, which was coming off an 11-0 win over Mississippi. The 34-0 victory was highlighted by Seibels' 70-yard touchdown run.

Another overnight train ride brought the team to Memphis to meet Mississippi on Nov. 14. The Tigers were held scoreless until 15 seconds before the end of the first half, when Seibels scored on a 10-yard run. The Tigers added another touchdown in the second half and won 12-0. (Touchdowns were worth five points back then, instead of six.)

In a story the next day, The Commercial Appeal newspaper said observers had questioned the wisdom of the road trip but Sewanee proved them wrong.

"Coach Suter and his little band have accomplished the task with few injuries or mishaps, and it is a foregone conclusion that the Cumberland Mountains in the immediate vicinity of Sewanee will echo the welcome extended the wearers of the purple when they arrive home today."

Indeed, the Sewanee campus erupted with bonfires, parties and a parade when the Iron Men returned. The Tigers went on to

finish the season 12-0. Auburn, coached by John Heisman of Heisman Trophy fame, was the only team to score against Sewanee, but still lost 11-10.

Sewanee went on to have 19 consecutive winning seasons. The Tigers joined the Southeastern Conference in 1932 but couldn't compete with the much larger schools and withdrew by decade's end after 42 consecutive losses.

The school is now known more for academics than athletics. The current Tigers play Division III football in the long shadow of traditional powerhouses Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Many of the Iron Men went on to professional success. Seibels, who founded an insurance company and lived in Birmingham, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and died in 1967.

After his Senate career, Lea spent about two years in prison for his role in the failure of a North Carolina bank. He died in Nashville in 1945.

The University of the South has grown to about 1,300 students and now makes its name in different circles with its highly regarded Sewanee Writers' Conference and summer music program.

Still, the story of the Iron Men and their unmatched achievement continues to inspire, athletic director Mark Webb said. Last month, Sewanee honored the team in a special halftime program at the school's homecoming.

"As college football has grown, this story about the 1899 Sewanee football team has taken on mythical proportions," Webb said. "However, as different as the Sewanee team is now than it was in 1899, it's still a source of pride."

Hubble gets new brain as spacewalks wrap up

By C. BRYSON HULL
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — With the Hubble Space Telescope's new brain working and its sense of direction restored, astronauts faced a final round of repairs before giving the \$3 billion observatory back to space on Christmas Day.

Astronauts John Grunsfeld and Steven Smith hoped to install by tonight a new radio transmitter and data recorder, as well as steel shields on Hubble's exterior to protect it from solar damage.

NASA's premier eye on the universe has been out of commission for the past month with failed gyroscopes. Two other spacewalks earlier this week were marathon sessions.

Astronauts Michael Foale and Claude Nicollier, hovering next to each other outside the Hubble, pulled out the telescope's outdated computer Thursday and stuck in a newer, faster model.

The installation of the new \$7 million computer — actually, three interchangeable computers, only one of which runs at any given time — fell to Foale, a software programming whiz. He had to be extra careful not to bend the approximately 1,000 fragile, gold pins in the computer cables.

Once it was snapped into place, it ratcheted without a hitch, according to Hubble program manager John Campbell.

While ancient by modern desktop computer standards, the Hubble's new Intel 486 processor is a big step up from its old Intel 386. The telescope's new nerve center is 20 times faster with six times the memory.

"We have a brainier Hubble Space Telescope than we have ever had before," said David Leckrone, a senior Hubble scientist.

Leckrone said the speedier computer will help improve Hubble's ability to track moving objects and should increase its already powerful aiming capabilities.

During their grueling eight hour, 15-minute spacewalk on Wednesday, the second-longest in NASA history, astronauts replaced Hubble's six gyroscopes with new units needed to revive the broken telescope.

It hasn't been a mission for short spacewalks: Thursday's was eight hours, 10 minutes long.

But unlike Wednesday's spacewalk, when stubborn bolts and a hard-to-close lid slowed things, Nicollier and Foale basically stayed on schedule. There was momentary concern when Mission Control noticed a spike in the carbon dioxide inside Nicollier's spacesuit, but it turned out to be a faulty reading.

The telescope shut down on Nov. 13 when too many gyroscopes failed. After it is freed into orbit on Saturday, astronomical observations should resume in two weeks.

The shuttle is due back on earth Monday. NASA wants Discovery down well before New Year's Eve, to avoid any Y2K computer problems.

School socked in

CARY, N.C. (AP) — When a local day-care center took part in a national sock drive for the needy, it hoped to bring in about 500 pairs.

It ended up with 21,052. The error of kindness was due to a parent misunderstanding a newsletter by Primrose School, which mentioned a collection goal of 10,000 socks. The number was a nationwide target, not that of the Cary school.

Coincidentally, the parent had connections in the textile industry. And earlier this month, 10 pallet loads of socks rolled up to the school on an 18-wheeler.

School officials were beginning to believe they might be socked in with socks for the future after a couple weeks' worth of phone calls to charities failed to yield a solution.

Since then, plenty of people have been in touch about the socks.

Jennifer Floars, the school's director, said they have been given to those in need throughout the world. They're bound for such places as children's homes in Oxford, N.C., the state's flood victims in Craven County, an Indian reservation in Montana and orphanages in the Ukraine.

Where do old cowboys go? To Big Jim's for breakfast

By JEFF WILSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Saddle up, partner, it's Saturday morning with the breakfast buckaroos.

Wearing Stetsons, pearl-buttoned shirts, horseshoe-sized belt buckles and spurs that jingle, jangle, jingle, cowboy actors of yesterday mosey on over to Big Jim's Restaurant each week to shoot the breeze and reminisce about the golden age of TV and movie Westerns.

They are known as the Reel Cowboys breakfast club.

Several dozen usually show up for the two-hour gathering in the banquet room of the San Fernando Valley restaurant, a bargain-priced meat-and-potatoes place where a portrait of John Wayne hangs over the cash register.

There's an enthusiastic "Howdy!" and a tip of the hat for newcomers invited to sit on down a spell and listen to the rugged character actors and behind-the-camera figures. There is also a little guitar and banjo picking with a campfire song thrown in.

"This is more fun than staying at home watching college football," says country music producer Sheldon Altfield.

Among the members is 67-year-old Robert Aaron Stephens, whose TV credits include

"Dukes of Hazzard" and "Little House on the Prairie" as well as movies like "Every Which Way But Loose." Recently he appeared in a TV commercial for Viagra.

There's also Jon Locke ("Gunsmoke," "Wagon Train" and "Laramie"), Joe Cranston ("Wyatt Earp" and "Bronco"), Buffalo Bill lookalike Mike Masters ("Wild West" and "Bonanza"), Morgan Woodward ("Dallas") and veteran bad guy Mike Reynolds, who claims to have shot everyone from Ernest Borgnine to Kevin Costner.

All are vaguely familiar faces to baby boomers raised on Westerns during their television heyday. And some are carrying resumes, publicity photos and scrapbooks just in case. But mostly they are there to share stories.

Masters, the only Reel Cowboy who actually owns a horse, tells of an incident during on-location filming for a low-budget movie when Jay Silverheels — Tonto on TV's "The Lone Ranger" — performed a rain dance.

"Later it started to rain. We had three or four days of solid rain and it shut us down," Masters recalls. "The producer, I forget who he was, came by and asked, 'Who was the Indian who did the rain dance?' We said Jay Silverheels, and he said, 'Send that bastard home.'"

There are 15 women in the Reel Cowboys, most of them with big hair. There's Dolly

Parton lookalike Devvy Davenport in skintight pants and rhinestone-encrusted denim shirt. There is also Dayle Rodney, who is said to be the first woman ever hanged in a movie, the 1959 Western "Run Home Slow."

Miss Rodney says a second ending to the movie had to be shot for Southern audiences. "A lot of them down there were anti-capital punishment for women," she says. "It just wouldn't have worked."

The 72-year-old beauty attributes her lustrous skin and youthful appearance to castor oil, and has written "Look Younger Longer Without Plastic Surgery" under her real name, Eleni Dayle Iversen.

Another member, British-born actor Hank James ("NYPD Blue" and "JAG"), doesn't get cowboy roles ("I play mostly Nazis and terrorists") but joined the Reel Cowboys six months ago. "I'm a weekend cowboy," he boasts.

In addition to sharing one another's company, the Reel Cowboys stage fund-raisers for abused children.

The 50-member group was founded in 1972 as the B.S. and Grub Club by such figures as "Yancy Derringer" star Jock Mahoney and "Big Al" Fleming, who was Buffalo Man on "The Magnificent Seven." They later renamed themselves the Reel Cowboys because they weren't being taken seriously.

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