exas Rose Steakhouse



2537 Perryton Parkway 806-669-1009

First Baptist Church of Pampa

Watch us live on channel 5! Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingsmill & West Street - Downtown For a free daily e-mail write randyw@centramedia.net

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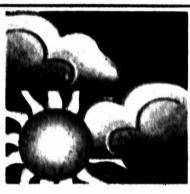


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> Vol. 93 No. 242 Pampa, Texas 50° Daily . Sunday 1





High today low 60s Low tonight mid 30s For weather details see Page 2

LEFORS — The Lefors ISD school board agreed to purtwo Wednesday. The board purchased a 1994 Chevrolet pickup for maintenance and a 1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue for school personnel. "We needed something reliable and dependable for the students and teachers when they travto other cities," Superintendent Allen Law

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) Gov. Ed Schafer prepared to deliver a \$50,000 reward check today to the Texas couple who turned in Kyle Bell, while marveling at their relaxed attitudes toward the money.

"They're seemingly very reserved and calm about the whole thing," Schafer said. "I think if someone handed me a check for \$50,000, I'd be jumping up and down and making a list of how to spend it."

Rick Wilson, manager of the Dallas apartments where Bell lived for almost two months, and his wife, Mattie, are getting the reward for phoning in the tip that led to Bell's arrest.

The event in Washington, D.C., was arranged by "America's Most Wanted," the Fox television program that aided in Bell's capture, and the show's host, John Walsh.

"I'm going to tell them I really appreciate their willingness to step forward," Schafer said early today. "They really didn't even know about the reward. They did this through their sense of responsibility.

· Opal Lee Boggs, 89, home-

• Billy D. Fowler, 19, West Texas A&M University. · Pauline Hazel Neeley, 85, homemaker.

Classified9



Unemployment claim by Ready rejected again

Associate Publisher

There'll be no unemployment pay for fired Pampa Economic Development Commission Executive Director Bill Ready now that a Texas Workforce Commission Appeal Tribunal has ruled.

The action came earlier this week when the tribunal agreed with PEDC contentions that Ready was guilty of misconduct and was fired from his post for that reason.

According to current PEDC Executive Director Susan Tripplehorn, Ready was fired for "lying" to the PEDC board.

Previously, PEDC board members said the incident leading up to the firing involved a trip Ready made to Lubbock on Sept. 1 ostensibly to attend a business-related meeting. There was no meeting and Ready, who has admitted he lied about the incident, went to the city to meet with his daughters, students at Texas Tech.

According to a finding of fact from the Texas Workforce Commission, when PEDC board president Richard Stowers and vice president Roger David confronted Ready about the non-meeting, Ready "... played along and reported on the meeting .

Following the weekend, the document said, Ready admitted on Sept. 7 he fied and told PFDC officials his conscience had bothered him. He was placed on paid leave and fired on Sept. 13 following a PEDC board meeting.

This week's Workforce Commission appeal ruling followed an ear-(See UNEMPLOYMENT, Page 2)

Incumbent Wheeley reelection candidate

Incumbent Precinct 1 County Commissioner Joe Wheeley has announced he's seeking reelection to another four-year term to the post he has held for the past

He's a candidate in the March 14 Republican Primary.

Wheeley, a farmer and rancher, pledges continued fairness to those he represents and says he appreciates the support he has received during his service.

He says his occupation fits in well with the role of a commissioner because, when needed, he can shift his attention to county business and put that duty first.

While he is a "tamily first" person, Wheeley believes being



Commissioner Joe Wheeley

(See WHEELEY, Page 2)

Unlike some, PISD teachers all certified

By NANCY YOUNG Managing Editor

While more than 18 percent of Texas' 250,000 teachers are teaching at least one class for which they do not have the appropriate certificate, Pampa Independent School District teachers are all certified in the subjects which they are teaching.

Dr. Dawson Orr, superintendent of PISD, said the local district is very fortunate to have all teachers certified in their teaching areas. He said the local district has not experienced many problems with a shortage of teachers.

Orr said the only problems the local district has encountered has been in the areas of foreign languages, saying it is difficult to get teachers of those subjects at times. The local district currently has all certified Spanish teachers.

(See TEACHERS, Page 2)



Randy Johnson told about retirement community construction possibilities in Pampa.

Injured hawk ...



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

An injured hawk was rescued near Pampa from the middle of Highway 60 by a passing motorist Thursday afternoon. Monty Montgomery, an officer with the Animal Control Department, holds the bird which the unidentified motorist took to the Animal Control Department for treatment. After an examination by staff members, who think the bird is an immature Swainson's hawk, it was taken to a veterinarian in Canyon for treatment of an injured leg. Sandy Burns, director of the animal control department, said the officers answer calls within the city regarding injured animals and will treat those in the county if the animals are taken to the Animal Control Dept. Hawks, as are all birds of prey, are protected.

announces he make another D.A. run

Richard J. 'Rick' Roach has election by 500 votes out of announced he will seek the 14,000, carrying Gray and Republican nomination in the Lipscomb counties. Since that 31st District Attorney's race in election the current DA has conthe primary election to be held tinued to be a part time DA March 14. The district includes choosing to pursue his private Gray, Roberts, Hemphill, personal injury law practice."

Wheeler and Lipscomb counties. Roach was the Republican candidate for 31st District Attorney in the 1996 general election. He said he is again campaigning as a

full time DA. "My Democrat opponent, the current DA, is now running as a Republican. The main issue of that race was full time vs. part time," said Roach. "I lost the

Roach continued, "In the 2000 District Attorney race the current DA is seeking reelection as a part time DA once again. I am running again as a full time DA. It has become apparent that a part time DA does not work."

Roach was making reference to District Attorney John Mann. Mann is a tormer Democrat who (See ROACH, Page 2)



Richard J. 'Rick' Roach

Carson looks at detention options

The Carson County Commissioners met this week to decide issues ranging from taxes to using a different youth correctional facility.

Tax Assessor-Collector Barbara Cosper reported Monday that 86.2 percent of the county's taxes had been collected.

The commissioners debated using the Canadian Juvenile Boot Camp instead of the facility Carson County currently uses in Randall County. No decision was reached.

Commissioner Howell and Britten passed a motion to change the county's cellular phone contract with Dobson Cellular Systems.

Sheriff Gary Robertson petitioned the commissioner's court to transfer jail money to pay part

The commissioners agreed to attend the 71st (See CARSON, Page 2)

Rotarians, guests hear about retirement living possibilities

By KEITH ANDERSON Staff Writer

"Some of these seniors, the only choice they have is to move to an urban area," Owen Randy Johnson, señior vice president of management services at Sears Methodist Retirement System, said this at the Rotary Club luncheon at Pampa Country

Johnson said that many rural counties just don't offer the housing and services that seniors need.

"Ninety percent of rural counties are medically under-served," Johnson said, "Pampa is lucky to have Pampa Regional Medical Center."

Sears Methodist Retirement System has been conducting a feasibility study into building retirement facilities in Pampa.

We were approached by the Pampa Economic Development Corporation and the Pampa Chamber

of Commerce, and entered into an agreement to look into senior housing in Pampa," Johnson said. Johnson said at least 40 Pampans have participated in the feasibility study.

The next step, if building retirement facilities is teasible, is to hire a developer, he said. The developer would handle marketing, design,

location, and pre-sales, he explained. "Then you build it," he said.

"We would start out, maybe, with 10 or 15 units," Johnson said.

SMRS has retirement facilities in Abilene and Amarillo, and is working with Texas Tech University to build a teaching nursing home in Lubbock,

Johnson said according to Texas Department of Aging statistics, by 2026 one in four Texans will be 60 years old or older.

(See RETIREMENT, Page 2)

806-665-5729

The Danhandle Country

Call Today For More Information 806-669-252

Daily Record

Police report

a.m. today.

miles west of Pampa.

1000 block of Alcock.

Sheriff's Office

ending at 7 a.m. today.

of drug paraphernalia.

appear, and no insurance.

Accidents

and 1400 N. Charles.

Stocks

Ambulance

The Pampa Police reported the following arrest

Thursday, Jan. 13

Timothy Joe Broadbent, 19, 436 Graham, was

arrested on two outstanding capias traffic war-

A shotgun was reported stolen from a vehicle 2

Selling tobacco to minors was reported in the

A man that allegedly began hallucinating and

assaulting medical personnel at Pampa Regional

Medical Center was committed and taken to

Amarillo. The emergency detention order was signed by County Judge Peet.

The Gray County Sheriff's Department report-

Thursday, Jan. 13

Randall Leighton Williams, 44, 1925 N. Wells,

was arrested by the DPS on charges of driving

while intoxicated second offense and possession

Rebecca Lyn Bowman, 30, 709 Roberta, was

Jennifer Reed 16, 1601 W. Summerville, was cited

for failure to yeild right of way when the 1995

Jeep Eagle she was driving colided with a 1976

GMC Van driven by Ruben Lerma, 40, 837

Bradley, at the intersection of 100 W. Harvester

Rural/Metro made the following calls during

Thursday, Jan. 13

12:31 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the

6:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the

10:30 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to

Friday, Jan. 14

1:26 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Gray and transported one to

3:22 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the

McDonald's

Wal-Mart

New York Gold.

West Texas Crude.

Exom Mobil

1200 block of North Wells and transported one to

PRMC and transported one to a local nursing

1800 block of Hamilton and transported one to

300 block of East Kingsmill and transported one

the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

The following grain quotations are Coca-Cola......provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa. Columbia/HCA

The following show the prices for

which these mutual funds were bid at

Occidental21 13/16 dn 9/16

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

...55 3/8 dn 2 ..76 3/16 dn 2 13/16

the time of compilation:

Fidelity Magelin.....

arrested on the charge of theft by check. Clinton Paul Smillie, 21, 319 Roberta, was

arrested on charges of no seat belt, failure to

ed the following arrests for the 24-hour period

and reports for the 24-hour period ending at 7

Services tomorrow

BATTS, Minerva "Tiny" Hobart — 3 p.m.,

Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth.

BOGGS, Opal Lee — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Rest Haven Cemetery, Quitaque.

FOWLER, Billy D. - 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Perryton.

NEELEY, Pauline Hazel — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

OPAL LEE BOGGS

PANHANDLE - Opal Lee Boggs, 89, mother of a Groom resident, died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2000. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Rest Haven Cemetery at Quitaque with the Rev. Don Hill, of Calvary Baptist Church of Tulia, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Boggs was born at Colgate, Okla. She married Hayden Boggs in 1933 at Colgate; he died in

She belonged to Calvary Baptist Church of

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Hancock, in 1988.

Survivors include a daughter, Neysa Friemmel of Groom; a son, Rick Boggs of Plainview; a sister, Frances Hodges of Redding, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to St. Ann's Nursing Home of Panhandle or to a favorite char-

BILLY D. FOWLER

PERRYTON - Billy D. Fowler, 19, grandson of a McLean couple, died Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ted Latham officiating. Burial will be in Ochiltree Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of

Mr. Fowler was born at Perryton and had been a lifelong Perryton resident. He graduated from Perryton High School in 1999 and was a freshman attending West Texas A&M University. He particpated in football and basketball and belonged to First Baptist Church and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was a FCA Texas Athlete of the Year

Survivors include his parents, Danny and Una lo Fowler of Perryton; two brothers, Jeremy Ray Fowler and Christopher Shane Fowler, both of Perryton; and his grandparents, Donald Fowler of Wellington, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Green of McLean and Joan Mahaney of Guymon, Okla.

The family requests memorials be to Billy Fowler Christian Athlete Scholarship fund for a

PAULINE HAZEL NEELEY

SKELLYTOWN - Pauline Hazel Neeley, 85, died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2000, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m.. Saturday in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa with Dale Meadows, minister of Groom Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Neeley was born April 10, 1914, at Mountainburg, Ark. She married Bernard Neeley in 1935 at Panhandle; he died in 1988. She had been a Skellytown resident since 1948, moving from Panhandle.

She belonged to Skellytown Church of Christ. Survivors include a daughter, Nell Marie Neeley of Walla Walla, Wash.; a son, Jerry Edward Neeley of Skellytown; a brother, Orbie McAllister of Ozark, Mo.; eight grandchildren; 10 greatgrandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	665-5777
Fire	

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CARSON

Annual Judges and Commissioners conference in Midland Mar. 22-24

The voting precinct #202 voting location was

moved to the Kilgore Building of the Texas Tech Research Center on FM Road 683.

up 9/16 up 1/4 dn 1/2

134.53

18.93

The court was notified that Chief Deputy LoVell Kennard has submitted his resignation, and that Carmella Jones has been named Law Enforcement Specialist for the Texas Association of Counties.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TEACHERS

According to a new Texas requirement, parents of students who are in classes taught by noncertified teachers must be notified that the teacher is not certified

He said when the German teacher left the district several years ago they were unable to locate another certified teacher in that subject area, but the school is participating in the distance learning via closed-circuit television enabling students to take the course.

The State Board for Educator Certification says about 14 percent of all newly certified Texas teachers, those with less than two years of experience, are teaching subjects in which they are not certi-A sampling of teachers not certified on a

statewide basis are 11 percent of bilingual teachers in first through sixth grades, 13 percent of all special education teachers, including nine percent of those newly certified, 19 percent of all secondary math teachers and 21 percent of all social studies teachers, including 24 percent of those newly certi-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WHEELEY

elected to office on a grass roots level by one's peers is the "highest honor" a person can receive.

Being a county commissioner, he said, fits his personality well because he's a self-described people person. Being in local government allows a person to literally rub elbows with those he represents," he added.

Wheeley and his wife of 32 years, Sara, are members of First United Methodist Church where he sings in the chancel choir.

The couple has three daughters. The youngest,

Joanna Wheeley, is a junior at Pampa High School. Their other daughters and sons-in-law are J.J. and Jarrod Slatten of Pampa and Heather and Richard Thompson of Pampa. They have a grandson,

Joseph. Wheeley has been active in the community and presently serves on the board of the White Deer Land Museum. He's also a board member of Resource Plains Conservation Rolling

Development Board. "My vision for Gray County includes maintaining what we have and our wonderful way of life," he said. "I want to help make it a place that will entice our young people to stay here.

Classifieds 669-2525

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

UNEMPLOYMENT

lier determination by the Texas Workforce Commission that Ready was not entitled to unemployment compensation based upon his tenure at the PEDC, said Tripplehorn.

The hearing was the second one set, Tripplehorn said. When the first appeal was to be held it was delayed, she said, because Ready said he had not received his packet from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Ready has 20 days from the time of the latest ruling to appeal his case to commissioners of the Texas

Workforce Commission. According to Workforce Commission documents obtained by The Pampa News, with Ready during the telephone hearing was one of his attorneys, John Judge of Austin. Representing the PEDC were David, Stowers, Lewis Meers, board member, and Andra Canaday, PEDC project coordinator.

Tripplehorn said David was primary in giving

testimony on behalf of the PEDC Ready, the finding of fact document said, believes he was discharged because he had previously brought up issues with [Stowers] about possible conflicts of interest between certain board members and businesses receiving grants from the board. [Stowers] denies knowing of the claimant's concerns until the Sept. 13 board meeting where

In making its ruling the Tribunal said the evi-

dence "... is undisputed that the claimant lied to his

Also, the Tribunal "... does not find the claimant's testimony persuasive that the actual reason he was discharged was because he had expressed concern

over board members' conflict of interest.' Likewise, the Tribunal reported the evidence is inconclusive to show whether Ready expressed those concerns to board members prior to the Sept.

1 incident, and the employer presented corroborated testimony that Ready was not fired for this [conflict of interest allegations] reason.

Previously, one of Ready's lawyers, Jay Brim of Austin, told The Pampa News the conflict allegations include Meers having done accounting work for the now defunct PEDC-financed U.S. Bus Company and Stowers having done business with the bus company through Culberson-Stowers auto dealership. Also, Ready has said he was told the PEDC vehicle, a Suburban, had to be purchased from Culberson-Stowers.

Ready has not filed suit against the PEDC but his Brim previously said one would be filed using the state's whistleblower law as its basis.

But before any suit can be filed, the lawyer said, state law requires that a termination appeal hearng be sought.

Ready has asked the PEDC board for such a hearing but Tripplehorn said Thursday, "the PEDC doesn't have any policy for that."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ROACH

has joined the Republican Party.

He said he was contacted by persons from all five counties of all branches of law enforcement in the weeks prior to the Jan. 3 filing deadline asking him to run for full time DA once again.

"Their main concerns were that cases were not being prosecuted and that the current DA was not available," said Roach. "After many discussions with my wife and supporters, I decided to run for full time DA once again."

A native of Pampa, he graduated from Pampa High School in 1967. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in accounting from Texas Tech University in 1974.

Roach has served as Roberts County Attorney since 1990. A graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree in 1978 from the Lubbock University.

Roach pledges he will be available to law enforcement 24 hours a day to assist them in prosecuting the criminals they put their lives on the line to apprehend, be available to the public to discuss their concerns, he will personally assist the grand juries of each county, will harshly and consistently prosecute all felony crimes giving particular attention to drug crimes, violent criminals and abusers of women, children and the elderly.

He also said he pledges to not engage in other

activities which would prevent him from carrying out his responsibilities as DA and he will be fiscally responsible and will jealously guard taxpayers'

Roach said, "I will be a full time DA and will refrain from engaging in the private practice of law so as not to give the appearance of impropriety or to affect my judgment in disposing of criminal

Roach is a member of the United Methodist Church of Miami and was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America in 1983.

He has been a member of the State Bar of Texas for 21 years. He is a member of the Gray County Bar Association and a member of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. He served as a director in 1995-1996.

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The Republican candidate served in the U.S. Army from July, 1969 to Jan., 1972. He was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash.; Ft. Ben Harrison, Ind.; Eighth Army HHC-Seoul, Korea; Seventh Division Headquarters-Camp Casey, Korea; Ft. Riley, Kan.; and Ft. Sill, Okla.

Roach and his wife Cindy, are parents of three

sons, James, Kris and Kyler. "I am asking my supporters from the 1996 to stick with me on these issues so that we can have a full time district attorney and meaningful prosecution in this District," said Roach. "I would greatly appreciate your continued support and your vote

in the March 14 Republican primary.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RETIREMENT

"And we're trying to meet the needs of that growing senior population," Johnson said. Johnson said SMRS was begun in the 1960s by the

United Methodist Church and the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. He said SMKS remains a 5010 non-profit organization.

"We'll conclude our marketing study by the end of the month and present our findings to the PEDC and the Pampa COC," Johnson said.

Testimony of taxi company owner expected today in Dallas councilman

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A Cab, accepted a plea agreement made to Lipscomb's house, and in exchange for favorable votes is to be sentenced in April. on taxi-cab related issues.

Testimony resumed this morning in Amarillo, where Lipscomb is being tried in federal court on 65 counts of bribery and corruption. Judge Joe Kendall moved the trial to the Panhandle, citing the councilman's prominence in the Dallas black community.

Yellow Checker Cab and Checker Sterling testified the delivery was trust.

Dallas taxi-cab company owner from prosecutors last month, was expected to testify today that agreeing to testify against his forhe paid Dallas City Councilman mer codefendant. He plead guilty Al Lipscomb thousands of dollars to a single conspiracy count and

> On Thursday, the former operations manager for Yellow Checker Cab testified that Richards told Richards for the FBI. him to deliver a car and cash to Lipscomb to "keep Big Daddy happy.

Walter Sterling testified that he delivered two envelopes, each

the councilman slipped the money into his side pocket. Under cross-examination,

Sterling said he had seen Lipscomb at the cab company only one time, and he admitted taping a conversation with Prosecutors say Richards gave

\$36,000 in cash payments to Lipscomb beginning in 1995 and that the payments directly affected Lipscomb's votes as a councilcontaining \$1,000 in cash, to man, defrauded the federal gov-Floyd Richards, owner of Lipscomb On one such occasion, ernment and betrayed voters'

City Briefs

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

2 BDR. efficiency, in White refrig. for sale, \$75. 883-5941.

A-1 OVERHEAD Door Service is still serving the Pampa area after 30 years of experience. Call Bill Parrish 665-4049 for quality garage door installation, service and repairs.

CLEARANCE SALE contin-

ues 1/2 price . Tralee Re-Sale Shop, 308 S. Cuyler. FINAL MARKDOWN of Clearance Items-this Sat. only.

New arrival of Cactus Flower Clothing. Best Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart.

"CHANGE YOUR eye color, Deer for rent, \$175. mo. Wards even if your vision is perfect." Drs. Simmons & Simmons 665-

> HOBBY SHOP 20% off Custom Frame Sale (limited materials in stock) Many Clearance items throughout the store, 217 N. Cuyler, 669-6161.

> JUST IN time for Valentine's Day- Tommy purses, watches, shirts, Orbit rings, guardian angle rings, Brighton bracelets. Classic Dollars, 107 W. Foster.

LARGE COMMERCIAL steel building for sale on Price Rd 669-7538 lv. message will return call.

PAMPA RIFLE & Pistol Club Small Bore Rifle Silhouette Fun Match, Sat. Jan. 15th, 1 p.m. For info. call 669-3026.

LAST THREE Days. Take ad-

vantage of the Fine Free Days at

the Lovett Memorial Library in

Pampa, Return all overdue items

and pay no fines. Pay past fines

with food for Good Sam. Want to

LOST (35 LBS.) \$6 week. 665-

know more? Call 669-5780.

REV. BOB'S Appliances. Lease to own new & used, 2000 W. Alcock, 1-6 p.m. 665-6035, 665-1878.

Weather focus

PAMPA - Partly cloudy today with a high in the low 60s and south-southeast winds at 10-20 mph. Mostly cloudy tonight with a high in the mid 30s and southeast winds at 10-20 mph. Tomorrow, partly sunny with a high in the low 70s and south winds at 10-20 mph. High yesterday 52; the overnight low was

STATEWIDE - Sunny skies were reported across much of Texas this morning, while much needed rain moved into the lower Rio Grande Valley.

A chance of showers remained in the forecast this afternoon for deep South Texas.

ing. Readings hovered in the lower 40s out west and reached

the mid-60s in South Texas. Sunny and mild conditions

were expected to prevail through much of the state this afternoon while skies were expected to cloud over in the Panhandle this afternoon. Highs in the mid 60s north to near 80 degrees were predicted in the far southern

Elsewhere, the forecast called for temperatures to be mostly be in the 60s.

part of the region. In North Texas, temperatures were in the upper 40s this morn-

Calendar of events

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Bus

Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 665-2331.

Farm Bureau district meeting



Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau LUTCF Agency Manager James Race, Don Whitney, LUTCF service agent, and David Haynes, service agent, recently attended District I, District Meeting in Amarillo. Haynes, far right, received the Multi-Line Career Agents Award for District I. The Farm Bureau was named Agency of the Month for December. The district consists of a 26-county area in the Texas Panhandle represented by 52 agents.

Visit us on the **World Wide** Web: http://news.p ampa.com



Even At Fifty Carol Stribling 9s Still Wifty

Love, Wayne, Scotty, Shanna & Seth 2318

OF PAMPA & SURROUNDING AREA

Chelsee Critters Category

Have you taken any photos in the past year that you thought were especially good?

> Would you like to share them with us?

We may use them in the annual Pampa Pride issue which will be published in March.

IMAGES OF PAMPA & SURROUNDING AREA

will be filled with photos taken by readers like you. They can be color or black & white photos. We will also accept slides and negatives. Be creative with your photography.

The best photos "tell a story." One entry per person in each category, pleasel

"The River" Countryside Category



Categories

1. Family & Friends ... at work or play

2. Critters ...

pets or wild ones

3. The Countryside ... landscapes, buildings & scenery without people

One winner in each Category will receive '50 in Pampa Bucks and a 6 Months Subscription to The Pampa News

THERE MUST BE RULES

Each photo must have been taken in Pampa or surrounding area between January 1, 1999 and February 17, 2000.
 All entries should be submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to allow us to return them.
 On the back of each photo attach your name, address, telephone number and a brief description of whom or what is

One entry per category per person. No employees of the Pampa News or professional photographers may enter.
 The Pampa News reserves the right to reprint all entries in promotional advertising.
 Send or bring your photographs to: The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18™

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, Texas • 806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348 • Fax 806-669-2520

THEE PLACE

Thee Place for Singles is open 7-10:30 p.m. Saturdays at

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP If interested in the ADHD/ADD Support Group call Connie at 669-9364.

ST. MARK CME CHURCH St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast the first

Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted. MACEDONIA CHURCH

Macedonia Church will host a monthly breakfast the third Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 441 Elm Street with the Rev. I.L. Patrick. Donations will be accepted and the public is invited.

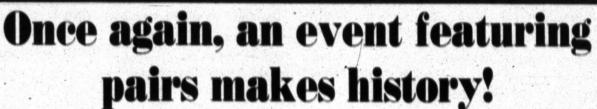
THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will purchase of meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the fried Steak.

Clyde Carruth Pavillion. For more information, contact Keven Romines at 665-8547 or Jim Greene at 665-8067. MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Pampa High School will host Financial Aid Night at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11 in the high school library for parents of college-bound children. PHS counselors Karla Howell, Starla Kindle and Dale Ammons will explain grants, scholarships, work-study and loans. Senior students and their parents are encouraged to attend this special meeting. Juniors and their parents are also invited.
FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE

The Big Texan Steak Ranch will join High Plains Food Bank and America's Second Harvest in a nationwide food drive Jan. 10-Feb. 10. The Big Texan will offer a \$1 discount for every can of food donated (up to five cans) at the restaurant. The discount can be used toward the purchase of a prime rib dinner at Cal Farley Chicken-





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	Rev. Danny Trussell411 Chamberlain
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	Pastor James Martindale206 E. 1st St.	
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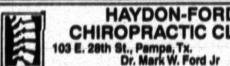
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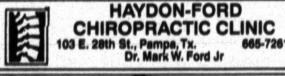


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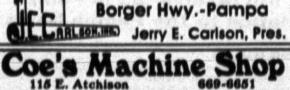




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RELIGION

Minister's musings

January, 2000. That one is going to take some time getting used to saying. January 2000 was no different than Dec. 31, 1999, with the exception they are in different years, dif-ferent centuries, and different millenniums. So maybe there are some differences, but in actuality, the beginning of this new year holds the same opportunities as any other new year. We all need a place where we can begin again in our lives.

2nd

urch

Louise Fletcher Tarkington wrote these

"I wish there was some wonderful place called the land of beginning again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, and all our poor selfish sin,

Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat at

the door, and never put on again. At the beginning of each year, we are truly standing in the land of beginning again. In the new year, we have the opportunity to lay down those things which would continue to hinder us on our life's journey. We have the opportunity to leave the past in the past and reach with open arms for the future that God has to offer. At this time, we have truly entered the land of beginning again as we cross over into a new year, new decade, new

century and a new millennium. After the people of Israel had left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, they came to the east side of Jordan and camped there before they crossed over into the Promised Land. Before they crossed over into the land, certain directives were given to the people concerning what all they should do as they prepared to begin again in a new land. By Paul L. Nachtigall

Highland Baptist Church

These directives were important for them to follow each step of the way.

In Joshua 3:3-6, we find that when the people saw the ark of the covenant of the Lord God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then they were to set out from where they were and go after it. They were to keep their distance so that they might follow the lead of the priest because they had never passed this way before. The people needed to stay far enough back so they would not have any trouble following the lead of the priests and the ark of the covenant.

There are some things that the people needed to do that are important for us as we move into the "land of beginning again" of the year 2000. We must repent unconditionally. It is difficult, if not impossible for us to move forward when we are weighted down with the past. The only way to be free from the past of our sinful life is to go to Christ. When we confess our sins to Him, He forgives us and cleanses to begin again with Him.

As the people were to follow the ark, we must surrender completely in following Christ. To surrender is to put our lives into the hand of God. We must be willing to place

our lives on the potter's wheel and say, "Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still." We must be willing to surrender our lives completely to the One who gave us our lives.

Beginning again means believing absolutely that God can do all and exceedingly more that we can imagine. Being on the potter's wheel sometimes means that the clay will be mashed down and the work begun again. Even when life knocks us down and Satan tries to keep us there, God can lift us up and give us the victory. There must be no doubt that God is the God of a second chance.

If we are going to begin again, we must act immediately. The people were going into a land that they did not know and they needed to follow the ark. By acting immediately, they would be able to cross over on the dry ground and enter into the land of promise. We must also act immediately to possess the land that God has promised for us. We cannot wait until a more convenient season, for today is all we have promised by God.

Times will be hard, but once you begin again with God, just keep marching. Whatever may confront you, just take one step at a time and trust in God. "Be not dismayed what e'er betide, God will take care of you, Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you." As you move into the land of beginning again, repent uncondition-ally, surrender completely, believe absolutely, act immediately, and then keep on marching. Remember — God offers each of us the land of beginning again.

Weigh Down orientation Jan.

Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks, will host a Weigh Down Workshop orientation at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 for individuals seek

ing to break the cycle of weight gain and dieting.

The 12-week seminar is a Christ-centered program that teaches participants to replace devotion to the refrigerator with a deeper, more satisfying devotion to God. The Weigh Down Workshop has delivered many from the slavery of over-eating and dieting.

The program was founded by Gwen Shamblin who is both a consulting registered dietitian and an instructor of nutrition at Memphis State University. Since 1980, she has focused her counseling practice in the area of weight control, combining her formal training in dietetics with a strong Christ-centered orientation. She and husband David and their two children, Michael and Michelle, live in Nashville, Tenn.

The program is geared for both men and women. A video session is presented each week in class and each participant receives a workbook and a set of 12 audiotapes. For more information, contact Coordinator Melba Woelfle at 669-6700 or 669-0820.

Pianist to perform

New Life Worship Center, helps needy children worldwide. located on the corner of Randy Matson and Sumner, will present received. For more information, the planist Enoch at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, His piano has no

language barriers.

Enoch — vice president of "Christ for India," a ministry reaching thousands via an orphanage, leper clinic, mass crusades, seminars and gospel literature - has a unique keyboard style with background orchestra-tions. He was born in Madras, India and shares challenging insights of this ministry, which his father, Dr. Rev. Manuel Fernando founded over 30 years

Enoch supports this work through his concert ministry. As an artist for World Vision, he Planist Enoch

A free-will offering will be call 665-0804.



Ministers, vocalists set Perryton event

PERRYTON - World Help will present Jan. 23 "To the Ends of the Earth" by MISSION, a young group of seasoned ministers and vocalists, beginning at 10:45 a.m. in Perryton Full Gospel Community Worship Center, 2210 SW 15th Ave., Perryton.

to the Ends of the Earth is a chang unique video presentation featuring recent World Help evangelistic

World Help was born out of a desire to help those in need — not only spiritually but physically as well. Over 6 million New Testaments and Bibles have been printed and placed overseas and over 1,200 orphans have received sponsorship via World Help's "Help the Children" orphan sponsorship program. In addition, more than 570 churches have been established in India within the past three years.

Through World Help and MISSION, the gospel is being preached in Russia, Cuba, China, Brazil, India and other countries.

For more information regarding this free concert, call (806) 435-

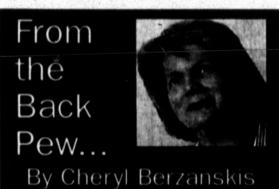
Pampa's churches welcome you!

Another good book

A good book always manages to come my way. In this case, the book or at least the writings are not new. In fact, they are nearly 900 years old. The little paperback is called Bernard of Clairvaux: A Lover Teaching the Way of Love and contains 121 pages of excerpts from a variety of the old saint's writ-

I'd heard of Bernard of Clairvaux, canonized in 1174, as the one who wrote "On Loving God" but until last week hadn't experienced the power of his work for myself.

The first thing to say is that the book is very readable - it can be ingested in high-calorie bites as daily devotional reading because it is divided intocogent multiparagraph excerpts. Alternatively, it can be devoured in a single sitting - if you like your steak gobbled down, gulped and unsavored. The book is divided by topic including writings on Mary and humility, the Incarnation, the steps of pride (there are 12), the steps of love (there are four), the kinds of freedom (there are three), joy, grace and sin.



St. Bernard's style, translated from the Latin, is elegant and poetic, not difficult to comprehend, yet profound. It could be delivered as oratory by a sermonless preacher and his congregation would marvel at his genius.

Some of St. Bernard's most apt expressions from "On Loving God" are: "Easily they love more who know themselves to be loved

"God not only gives me myself, he also gives me himself. In his first work he gave me

myself; in his second work he gave me himself; when he gave me himself, he gave me back myself."

"True love is content with itself; it has its reward, the object of its love. Whatever you seem to love because of something else, you do not really love; you really love the end pursued and not that by which it is pursued."

Bernard's work, amassed over the 63 years of his life, continues to be translated into English. After he wrote "On Loving God," he continued with more than 80 sermons on "The Song of Songs." "Grace and Free Choice," written in response to William of Saint Thierry's "Commentary on Romans," continues as a classic on the topic.

This book, whether one chooses to read a little daily or as a whole, is worth one's time because of the depth of its spiritual plumb and beautiful exposition. The soul-satisfying essays remind me that there is simplicity in complexity and the clarity of St. Bernard's language brings his Biblical understanding into crystalline focus.

During construction, the 1,300-

member congregation will meet

for Sunday services and Bible classes in the Meredith College

chapel, pastor Daniel Day said.

Religion new around the U.S.

Tax rebates for charity?

MILWAUKEE (AP) Recipients should donate state sales tax rebates to charity, a religious organization says.

The Legislature authorized a \$700 million rebate because of a state treasury surplus. The department says the checks to be mailed this month would average

Marcus White is associate Interfaith director of the Greater Conference Milwaukee, representing about 500 congregations in a four-county area. "What we are saying," he said, "is that, in this time of pros-perity and in this time of budget surpluses, we as a community, as individuals and as a government need to acknowledge that there are still tremendous needs in the community.

"If the state is going to say, 'We have money left over,' we want people to know that sometimes there is money left over because things aren't funded."

The Unitarian Church North of suburban Mequon has asked its 145 families to donate the checks to a social-needs fund.

"One of the thoughts I had is ..., if people give checks, they should mail something to the Legislature and let them know what they've done," pastor Elena Rigg said.

lion, 2,500-seat cathedral-inprogress is for sale.

Jenkins, 63, had planned to

move his ministry from Ohio to him to change his mind.

Also, the charismatic minister Now, said he feels he might accomplish more by continuing a

traveling ministry.

Jenkins arrived in Princeton eight months ago and announced his intentions to build a church on a seven-acre tract near this town of 2,900.

With \$700,000 in donations, the conversion of a red brick cattle barn, with 10-foot-high windows, is nearly complete. It sits on a newly blacktopped parking lot. Two nearby smaller structures are nearly finished. The asking

price: \$850,000. Jenkins preached just once in Princeton — in October when he said he drew 1,500 people to the church site. He claims a ministry of 20,000.

Although he hasn't been universally accepted, some businessmen say he has added flavor to

the local landscape.
"What's past is past," said
Cyrus Khab, manager of Millennium Auto Care and Sales adjacent to Jenkins' property.
"He's very nice, very easy to get
along with and very helpful."
The minister paid all of his bills
on time, and in the process made

life interesting at Princeton Lumber.

'He's a character, and every time he came by, he would have something interesting to say," owner Dan Mattice said.

We welcome your church news

and photos for Friday's church page. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

Mattice added, "He had a hard Capitol Square in 1859. Collin County, but he said anitime with some of the people mosity from local politicians led around here, I think. This isn't a place to try something different."

of what was originally called the Historic church under Church of What's Happening repair

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh has been vacated for renovations, ending 141 years

The church was built on





by Jim Davidson Realtor HOMES WITH ADD-ON POTENTIAL

Some buyers purchase homes with visions of adding on. This is particularly true of buyers who fall in love with a particular tocation or neighborhood. They are often willing to accept certain deficiencies in the home, with the knowledge that they will correct them with future construction. When this is the case, buyers should take careful note of setback lines, which indicate how close an exterior wall can stand to the property line. In addition, it is important to check that there are no deed restrictions that will prevent the homeowners from fulfilling their dreams. Lastly, they should be sure that their plans will not lead them to improve their property beyond the price that the neighborhood will support.

If you're thinking of purchasing a home, then it is time to get your team together Along with your banker, you'll need an expert in the real estate market. Working with CENTURY 21 - PAMPA REALTY INC., you'll benefit from our knowledge of the local housing market, area resources, and national relocation services. When it comes to real estate, people come to the professionals at CENTURY 21 - PAMPA REALTY INC., 312 N. Gray Street, 449-0007.





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Leroy Jenkins bows out of Texas PRINCETON, Texas (AP) — The Rev. Leroy Jenkins' \$1.2 milof continuous services.

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THE TEAM

LET GO OF THE BRANCH

CATS IN THE JUNGLE MUST HUNT FOR EVERY MEAL

Novice Gun Owner Receives Eye-Opening Safety Lesson

DEAR ABBY: I would like to pass on some information that came to me via a 14-year-old.

I bought a gun because I travel long distances alone. I called the pelice to ask them the best way to thavel with a gun without getting in trouble with the police. They instructed me to put the clip in the trunk of my car and the gun itself on the seat beside me.

I was telling a friend about this and remarked that if I got into trou-ble, the gun would be useless. Her 14-year-old son spoke up and said, "No, there's a bullet still in the chamber even after the clip is removed." I asked my father if this was true, and he confirmed it. He removed the clip from my gun and instructed me to go outside and pull the trigger. I did, and it did, indeed, have a bullet in the chamber!

I have often wondered how people could shoot themselves while eaning a gun. I had no idea that when the clip was removed, a gun could still be loaded. I wonder how many hunters are aware of this. I thought I'd pass this along. Perhaps could save someone's life.

DEBRA IN OKLAHOMA CITY

DEAR DEBRA: I am not particularly knowledgeable about guns, so I called the Los Angeles Police Department to inquire. Officer Rodriguez, with whom I spoke, informed me that one should always assume the gun is loaded, and a shell does remain in the chamber when

Horoscope

SUNDAY, JAN. 16, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Enjoy your "Brownie points."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

ridiculous!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic:

** You might have too many

options, even for you. Another wears you down in conversation. Visit with an older

by doing something he loves. Tonight:

tuse short! You don't insist on having

your way every time, but things can get

* * * * * Your mind works overtime.

cadking frustration where there need be

none. Make calls: explore different plans. Another at a distance might not

agree, but an interesting alternative is

offered. Expect a hectic pace, but you

excellent communication. But don't be

** A lot goes on behind the scenes.

and important. What a close friend wants

44 Carroll

46 Hills

DOWN

1 Chess

3 "Orca"

actor

5 Preten-

tious

6 More

people

success

ful than

7 Service

8 "Family

Plot"

period

4 Corn unit

2 Narcotic

heroine 45 Nuisances

Crossword Puzzle

becomes downright bullheaded.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Al and

Tipper 6 Up

11 Like bees 12 '70s

British

prime

minister

13 Very small

14 Blunder

16 Prickly

38 Call -

day

20 Heady

brew

21 Actress

Garr

23 Secures

25 Banned

36 Had a snack

37 Packed

earth)

Howard 40 Actor

Flynn

gymnasts

41 Alerts 43 Like

the boat

pesticide 27 Airport overseer Abbr. 28 Anarchist's goal 30 Yon thing 33 Cry of insight 34 Shooter ammo

19 Blue

shrub

15 Scrooge

candeal with it! Tonight: Make it early.

4-Positive:

Abigail Van Buren

> SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

the magazine is removed unless it, too, is removed. That's an important warning for inexperienced gun owners.

DEAR ABBY: You recently printed a letter encouraging letters of honest praise to often-overlooked workers. Sometimes, but not often

of the most underpraised group of workers that I could sincerely com-

A few days later, I received a letter in response. It said something like this: "Thanks very much for your complimentary letter. It causes a bit of a problem. We don't

know where to file it. It's the first

proves there's a first time for ments? A letter like the one you received from me is a keeper!"

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter in which Ernest A. Schichler Sr. described how hospital visitors subject patients to stress. I,

tially paralyzed him. While he was in the hospital recovering, his many friends came to wish him well. He could barely talk because of the paralysis, so they talked among themselves. At one point, he called me to the bedside and, speaking with great difficulty, said, "Tel them to leave. They're talking about the high price of funerals."

This week: Creativity bubbles forth as Check out an offer that seems too good to

> LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) * * * Another's feelings are heartfelt. but you're easily overwhelmed. Think before taking a stand: talk about feelings. rather than reacting. Explore options with a trusted partner. Others seek you out. Be willing to say no if necessary. Tonight: Happiness lies in closeness.

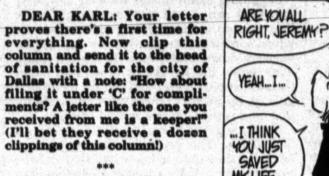
*** Even you have only so much energy. You get clear messages about what is possible and how much you can get done. You might have too much on your plate. Stay sensitive to a partner. Ask for help with an important project. Invite others over to pitch in. Tonight

This week: Listen to another's point of view: evaluate and consider different alternatives. Don't get pushed into mak-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

important feedback, especially a loved one. Another attempts to coax you into his way of thinking. Review a decision before committing. Let go and have a good time. Say no when you need to. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

that we have ever received."
KARL SOUTHWARD,



too, have seen this.

My father had a stroke that par-

KELLY MC DONOUGH. HURST, TEXAS

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447, (Postage is

you aim to please, while others make nearly impossible demands. You succeed beyond your wildest expectations.

This week: Keep from getting plugged into a political situation at work and/or

home. Renew your commitment to your-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Surrounded by friends.

ing a decision

*** Listen to those who give you

This week: Others hold the reins. No matter how wildly you buck, you can't change the present flow. Oddly enough, all this works in your favor.

enough, I try to do that. A few years back, I tried to think

pliment. So, I took a picture of our minimally dented 20-year-old metal garbage can sitting at its usual clean spot at the curb. I sent an 8by-10 color print along with a com-plimentary letter to the head of sanitation for the city of Dallas. They have obviously been in operation for decades, and they have hundreds of employees who are often maligned for spilled trash, noise, etc.

be true. Tonight: Go out. This week: You want to deal with others in your normally personable style. However, those around you seem deter-

mined to make the fur fly. Nevertheless, stay cool CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** You might not always get the whole picture — particularly right now, when so much is being forced on you. Take time to digest information in the next few days. Avoid making decisions right now. Others seek you out. Tonight: Wind down the weekend.

rolative or friend. Take time for small This week: You might want to put a cancel on Monday and Tuesday. Others tally or a fun exchange. Indulge another attempt to clear out a problem, and they come to you. It is all on your terms from This week. You can try to be nurturing Wednesday on

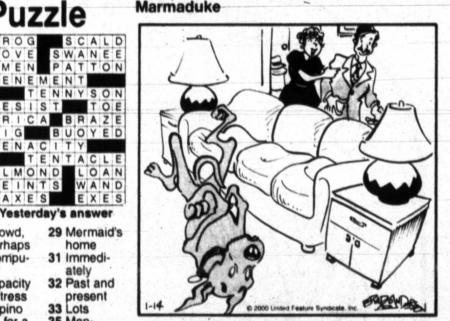
and take an overview, but oh dear, is your LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

because you can't change it. You could be running in many different directions. Visit with another. Take off for a day trip if possible. You relax when you're away from your normal surroundings. You gain a perspective. Tonight: Don't feel like you have to do everything all at

This week: Aim for what you want on Monday and Tuesday, but play ostrich on Wednesday and Thursday. This, too, will

This week: Keep talking, and work on surprised if your partner or an associate VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

* * * * Take time with a partner, who really needs your feedback. Relax with another; be sure of yourself. Another or on a one-on-one level with another. A cares, and he lets you know in no uncerconversation proves to be informative tain terms. Take time with a partner; chat while going for a drive or out to lunch. could be in conflict with your desires. Tonight So many options.



"Don't get him started. He's been storing energy all day."

The Family Circus

38 Moron actress throws 28 Use 9 Island 42 Ring plastic legend rings

10 Crowd,

17 Compu-

22 Actress

24 Bit for a

26 Over-

horse

Lupino

perhaps

capacity

home

present 33 Lots

achem's

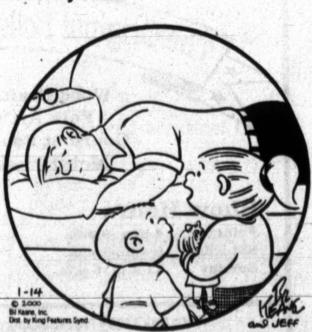
co-winner

31 Immedi-

35 Men-

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features, Service, 1176,



"Daddy, if you like naps so much, why don't you join a nursery school?

Haggar The Horrible

WHAT'S YOUR OFFICIAL TEAM

ASSIGNMENT ?

I SURE DID!

JUST KNOWING

THAT YOU'RE OKAY

IS REWARD ENOUGH FOR ME

I EVER REPAY

YOU, HONEY?

HOWEVER, IF YOU EVER CALL ME "HONEY" AGAIN, I'LL GO FIND THAT

CHUNK OF STEAK AND SHOVE IT BACK DOWN YOUR THROAT.

COULD FIND

WAS A BUNGEE

MAYBE IT WOULD LOOK BETTER IF YOU TRIED IT WITH BOTH EYES

FUMBLER

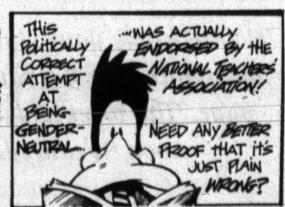












SPORTS

Notebook BASKETBALL

WHEELER - Wheeler High basketball teams open the District 6-1A season tonight against Gruver on the homecourt.

The Wheeler girls are coming off a 53-36 win Tuesday night against Sayre, Okla. It evened their overall record at

Lyndi Finsterwald had 14 points and Sandy Bradstreet 11 to lead Wheeler's scoring attack.

Wheeler dropped the boys' game by a score of 49-45. The Mustangs had jumped out to a 15-5 first-quarter lead, but Gruver rallied to

lead by five (19-24) at half-

Craig Bass had 16 points while Caleb Finsterwald and Bret Goad had 10 each for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs go into district play with a 3-5 record. Gruver boys, 13-4 for the season, defeated Adrian 72-49 Tuesday night. Gruver girls beat Adrian 48-20.

CANADIAN — The Canadian Lady Wildcats are off to a 2-0 start in District 5-2A play. They will try and go 3-0 tonight as Stratford comes to visit.

Canadian routed West Texas High 59-27 in its last game Tuesday night.

Angela Bivins and Jana Francis led the scoring attack with 14 points each.

Canadian lost a 58-49 decision to WT High in the boys game.

Eric Hall topped the Wildcats in scoring with 13 points. Josh Ellison added 9 points.

WASHINGTON (AP) -Rod Strickland had a rosy prediction of what it would be like to have Michael Jordan in charge of the Washington Wizards.

"Automatically," Wizards point guard told The Washington Post, will look at the organization differently.

Would they ever. A losing franchise in a decade-long malaise would gain instant respect should Jordan, whose distaste of losing is legendary, complete a deal that would give him a share of the team as well as the title of head of basketball opera-

"He's a winner," forward Tracy Murray said. "Look at his track record. It's a positive."

The deal is apparently close to reality. The Post, citing unnamed sources, reported that Jordan and Wizards majority owner Abe Pollin have reached an agreement in principle. The report said that one major plank of the deal yet to be resolved is the amount of equity in the franchise Jordan would assume from the minority ownership group headed by Ted Leonsis.

A source close to the Leonsis group, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed Associated Press Thursday that Jordan was involved in discussions with Leonsis.

Andrew McGowan, a spokesman for Leonsis, neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

"This story is rumor and speculation," McGowan said. "Our policy is we don't speculate on rumors."

Jordan's Washingtonbased agent, David Falk, was on vacation and could not be reached for comment. Pollin was also not available for comment.

Leonsis, an executive at America Online, and two partners bought 100 percent of the Capitals and part of Washington Sports and Entertainment, which includes the Wizards, the WNBA's Mystics and the MCI Center, from longtime owner Pollin last year. Leonsis' group also has the right of first refusal to buy the rest of WSE when the 76-year-old Pollin decides

Flyers place at Santa Cup

The M.G. Flyers, coached by Madeline Graves and Shauna Munsell, were entered in the Santa Cup Meet in December.

Carrie Clay, a Level 5 competitor, achieved a clean sweep of first place ribbons. She received a first place on vault with a 9.0 and first on bars 9.1.

Carrie also received a first place on beam with an 8.6, first on floor 8.85 and a first on her all-around score of 35.55. She will move up to the next level of competition, Level 6.

Nichole Dyer, a first year level 5 gymnast, participated in her third Level 5 meet. Her highest score for the meet was on floor.

Shannon Clay competed in the Level 4 eight year old group and placed fourth on vault, fifth on beam, second on floor, fifth on bars, and earned a third place in allaround with a score of 30.05.

Shelby Clay, also a Level 4 eight year old, placed fifth on vault, third on bars with an 8.15, sixth on beam, seventh on floor, and fifth in allaround with a 29.20.

Both the all-around team and the tumbling and trampoline team will be going to their next meet at the end of January.



Placing at the Santa Cup meet were (I-r) Nichole Dyer, Shannon Clay, Shelby Clay and Carrie Clay of the M. G. Flyers.

Campbell, Williams lead Texas All-Century team

AUSTIN (AP) — Earl Campbell, Texas' "Tyler Rose" Thursday.

Campbell (1974-77) was the leading vote-getter on the team chosen by Texas fans during a 17-day Internet sur-

More than 2,200 fans voted for the 24-member team from Dec. 26 to Jan. 11.

Campbell, who received 12 touchdown receptions. 2,022 votes, won the Heisman in 1977 and was the NCAA rushing, scoring and all-purpose yardage leader in his senior season before starting an eight-year career in the NFL with Houston and New Orleans.

He was named NFL All-Pro five times and went to the NFL Hall of Fame in 1991.

Joining Campbell in Texas' 1998 Heisman Trophy winner 1963. Ricky Williams, who left Texas as the career rushing leader in NCAA Division I-A.

A two-time consensus All-American, Williams (1995-98) was the second-highest votegetter with 2,001 votes.

and the school's first Heisman 47), a consensus All-American the NFL. Trophy winner, headlines in 1947 who owned every The other linebackers are Sims was the first Longhorn Phil Dawson (1994-97) the Longhorns fans' All-Century major school passing record Britt Hager (1984-85, 1987-88) to win the Lombardi Award as placekicker.

> The receivers were Johnny 'Lam" Jones (1976-79) and Wane McGarity (1995-96, '98). McGarity set Texas single season records for receptions (58) and yards (1,087) in 1998.

Tight end Pat Fitzgerald (1994-96) set UT career marks at the position with 80 catches, 1,106 receiving yards and

Blocking for the All-Century team are Jerry Sisemore (1970-72), Dan Neil (1993-96), Blake Brockermeyer (1992-94), Scott Appleton (1961-63) and Doug Dawson (1980-83). Sisemore was Texas' first consensus two-time All-American and was named to the Southwest Conference all-decade team for the '70s.

Appleton was UT's first All-Century backfield was Outland Trophy winner in

> The top vote getter on efense was linebacker defense was Tommy Nobis (1963-65) with 1,304 votes.

Nobis was a two-time All-American and won the candidates for the Dallas these schools" and that "those Outland Trophy and Maxwell Cowboys opening. In addition, who follow these football

The quarterback is NFL Hall Trophy in 1965 before going Steve McMichael (1976-79), 116 tackles. of Famer Bobby Layne (1944- on to a Hall of Fame career in

> 1992-93). Tubbs, who currently plays

for the San Francisco 49ers, is the only player on the All-Century team never to earn Johnson

The defensive line includes Gray sparked UT's nation-Tony Brackens (1993-95), leading defense in 1983 with

All-America honors.

Kenneth Sims (1978-81) and Doug English (1972-74).

football team announced when he graduated. and Winfred Tubbs (1989-90, the nation's top lineman in

The secondary is made up of Jerry Gray (1981-84), Bryant Westbrook (1993-96), Johnnie Johnson (1976-79) and Raymond Clayborn (1973-76).

Russell Erxleben (1975-78) was chosen as the punter and

A three-time All-American, Erxleben still holds school records for single-season average (46.6 in 1976) and career punting average (44.2).

Dawson finished his career with 339 points on 59 field goals and 162 extra points.

Jones denies phoning college coaches

team owner lerry Jones denied those schools - or those men rumors Thursday that, hours after he announced the firing of coach Chan Gailey, he phoned the head coaches of Arkansas and Texas about the opening.

Jones went further, saying that not only has he not contactthat he doesn't plan to, either.

In a statement released not had any contact with the University of Arkansas or the

during this process.

On Tuesday, Jones fired Gailey after a disappointing 8-8 season and a first-round playoff loss to the Minnesota Vikings.

While Jones has not said who he will pick as a replacement, ed Texas' Mack Brown or observers think he has done Arkansas' Houston Nutt, but enough in recent days to suggest his next coach will be someone who has a background Thursday, Jones said: "I have in offense and has the approval of quarterback Troy Aikman.

Jones also said in the state-University of Texas regarding ment that, as a native Arkansan, the head football coaches at he knows "how important the each institution as potential football programs are at each of

DALLAS (AP) — Cowboys I will not make contact with teams, in both states, should not have concerns about the continuity of their respective programs and the current recruiting process.

Jones played at Arkansas and addressed the Razorbacks a few days before the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl at Dallas against Texas.

Jones ended his statement by saying he does not intend to make daily public comments about the names of people he is considering.



Marino tries to delay retirement question

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) step closer to his biggest goal from the only question he wants to avoid.

Would he retire without a Super Bowl title?

Only by leading the Miami Dolphins (10-7) to a playoff victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars (14-2) on Saturday will Marino buy himself more time.

"I may continue to play, I may not," he said this week. "If you're a player, you wouldn't be doing yourself any justice if you were worrying about all the outside things. I have enough to think about being the quarterback for this team and trying to win games. That's what I try to focus on."

Those close to Marino say he would almost surely hang it up should the Dolphins win the Super Bowl this year. But there accomplish. are grave doubts as to whether this Miami team, which has lost six of its last nine games, has Super Bowl talent.

With every victory this postsea- the team to victory on his own son, Dan Marino moves one anymore. It means Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson must conand another week further away tinue to rely on a solid ground game, good defense and turnovers to take the pressure

> Former Giants quarterback Phil Simms believes that's the only chance Marino has to extend his season — maybe his

"I watched him play last week, and that's obviously what serves Dan Marino and the Miami Dolphins best," said Simms, who also thrived in a ball-control offense. "He doesn't need to stand back there in the shotgun and throw 40 times game. He's not physically capable of doing that anymore.

The Jaguars have spent the week fielding questions on how it would feel to end Marino's career. Not surprisingly, they say it's a mission they'd like to

"You're not thinking about what your role can be to help another guy get an asterisk on the end of his career," tight end

Marino is 38 and unable to lift Kyle Brady said. "If anything, you've got guys on defense probably thinking, 'Hey, this is his last game. I want to get a sack on him.' His situation has nothing to do with our motivation to win this game. There are a lot of guys on this team who want a Super Bowl, too."

The "other" quarterback, Mark Brunell, is expected to play on a sprained left knee that will be less than 100 percent. He practiced at full speed Thursday and said the knee felt good.

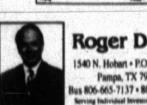
"I don't consider myself hobbled," he said. "And Saturday, I don't anticipate being hobbled one bit. I've just got to go out there and play confidently. You've got to play as if you don't have any problems with your legs, and that's how I'm going to approach it."

He'll be protected by a line that lost its best player, left tackle Tony Boselli, to a torn knee ligament in the final regularseason game. Right tackle Leon Searcy, another Pro Bowl player, will play with a high ankle sprain sustained in the same





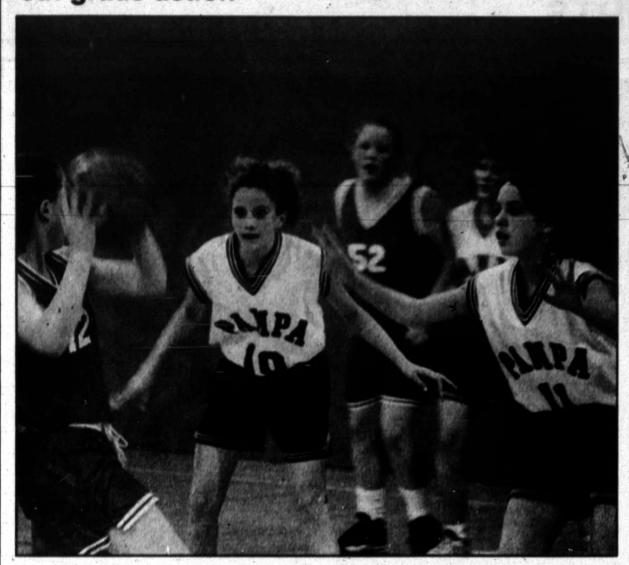
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8th grade action



(Pampa News photo by Lacy Plunk)

Pampa's Ashley Parker (10) and Jennie Rogers (11) guard a Borger player during an 8th grade basketball game Thursday night. Pampa won by a score of 35-32. They play next Thursday at Hereford.

Colts favored against Titans

By DAVE GOLDBERG AP Football Writer

The Tennessee Titans probably would have preferred going to Jacksonville for their second-round playoff game they did hand the Jaguars their only two losses of the

But considering they needed a freak play just to get past to Indianapolis on Sunday.

Peyton Manning against Carolina (8-8).
Jevon Kearse, "The Freak," Consider Ku who has become to NFL quarterbacks just what he was for

forgotten in the drama of Frank Wycheck's lateral and Europe. Kevin Dyson's kickoff return that beat the Bills.

sible for nine of the 15 points the Titans had before the kick return — a sack for a safety and a touchdown when the kickoff Tennessee good field position. noise. If he does it again, the Colts have problems, particularly since Cornelius Bennett, the key to their defense, is out with a knee injury.

That could be important — Steve McNair may scramble a lot more this week and has to throw downfield against an average Indianapolis secondary.

Indy is favored by 5 1/2.

Too much. COLTS, 29-27.

Minnesota (plus 7) at St.

Pro Picks

If anyone can beat the Rams, it's the Vikings in a game where the over-under is a whopping 52.

and the Vikings can't stop a good offense. It's also based Buffalo, they're happy to be on the fact the Rams won by whose defense is the main reagoing anywhere, in this case an average of 25 points at home, albeit against opposi- AFC. The key to this one may lie tion that was mediocre to poor in an old college reunion - - the best team it beat was defense will present problems

Freak," Consider Kurt Warner question mark for St. Louis.

Yes, he was the NFL's MVP Florida against Manning and and its leading passer. But the pressure of a playoff game is far more intense than the Kearse's contributions were other playoffs he's been in the Arena League and NFL

On the other hand, Warner has met every challenge this But he was directly respon- year. And Jeff George played just his second postseason game last week against Dallas. Still, that was with Vikings' Dome noise.

· This is with the Rams' Dome

RAMS, 35-27.

Miami (plus

flight hour-long Jacksonville.

They also get a break -Tony Boselli is out and Mark Brunell is hobbled even after a bye week.

Is that sufficient for Dan

on to the AFConville opened as an 8-point favorite and the line was bet up another point. The reason is largely the Jacksonville defense and the

Miami offense (or lack of it). The Dolphins got two good drives out of Marino on But that's predicated on the Sunday, enough for a 20-17 idea that both teams will score upset against Seattle. They'll probably have trouble repeating that against the Jaguars,

> son they're the top seed in the Still, the quick Miami for Jacksonville - Brunell will be less mobile and the Jags are unlikely to run as

well without Boselli. Closer than the odds.

JAGUARS, 17-13.

Washington (plus 5) at Tampa

The Redskins got a few breaks this week - Tre Johnson wasn't suspended for striking an official in the middle of an altercation against Detroit.

Also, Stephen Davis, the NFC's leading rusher, and center Cory Raymer are set to play despite injuries sustained last week. Left tackle Andy

Heck is out. The Bucs are going with Shaun King, the greenest After 6,000-mile round trip quarterback in these (or most to Seattle, the Miami Dolphins other) playoffs. But with the get a breather this week - an Washington offense hurting, Tampa can win this one on defense.

> Then they're on their own. BUCS, 19-13.

Last Week: 3-1 (spread), 4-0 Marino and his pals to move (straight up).

PRO FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

hursday's Major College Basket Cent. Connecticut St. 81, St. Francis, NY 79 Manhattan 70, Loyola, Md. 65 Rider 89, Iona 84

Rider 89, Iona 84
SOUTH
Austin Peay 91, E. Kentucky 65
Campbell 72, Florida Atlantic 61
Cent. Florida 72, Georgia St. 67
Elon 78, Liberty 74
Jacksonville St. 69, Mercer 65
Middle Tennessee 84, Belmont 73
Morehead St. 71, Tennessee St. 51
Murray St. 83, E. Illinois 69
New Orleans 69, Denver 55
Sam Houston St. 83, Nicholis St. 78
Syracuse 77, South Carolina 74, OT
Tenn.-Martin 75, SE Missouri 66
Texas-Arlington 70, SE Louisiana 64
Troy St. 77, Samford 65
MIDWEST

Troy St. 77, Samford 65
MIDWEST
Chicago St. 63, Ind.-Pur.-Indpts. 60
Cleveland St. 53, Butler 45
Detroit 75, Wright St. 65
Ohio St. 53, Wisconsin 51
Penn St. 82, Northwestern 49
Valparaiso 56, Oakland, Mich. 56
Wis.-Green Bay 64, Loyola, III. 52
Wis.-Milwaukee 82, III.-Chicago 64
Youngstown St. 76, W. Illinois 59
SOUTHWEST
Fia. International 77, Arkansas St. 61

Fla. International 77, Arkansas St. 67
North Texas 74, UC Santa Barbara 67
Northwestern St. 65, Stephen F.Austin 56
Oral Roberts 87, UMKC 76
SW Texas 74, Lamar 73, OT
Texas-Pan American 59, St. Mary's, Texas

Texas-San Antonio 93, McNeese St. W. Kentucky 76, Ark.-Little Rock 71 FAR WEST Arizona 80, Washington St. 75

shington 74, Nr. Page 34, San Francisco 73
Beach St. 76, Idaho 69
Itana 71, Idaho St. 56
Itana St. 77, Weber St. 70
Ivada 67, UC Irvine 63
Iv Mexico St. 91, Cal Poly-SLO 77
Ivagon 83, California 68
acific 53, Boise St. 52
Ivortland St. 76, CS Northridge 62
Santa Clara 64, Portland 52
Stanford 73, Oregon St. 45
TCU 69, San Jose St. 60
Utah St. 82, Cal St.-Fullerton 70
Wyoming 88, New Mexico 83

PRO BASKETBALL

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- 16	20	.444	7
115	20	.429	7 1/2
			7 1/2
12	24	.333	- 11
1970		4401	
23	/11	.676	-
		.559	
20		.556	4
		520	4 1/2
		420	8 1/2
		384	10 1/2
		156	17
	-		
	22 21 19 16 15 15 12 23 19 20 19 18 15 12 5 FEREN	19 16 16 20 15 20 15 20 12 24 23 11 19 15 20 16 19 16 18 16 15 20 12 21 15 27	22 12 .647 21 14 .600 19 16 .544 15 20 .429 15 20 .429 12 24 .333 23 /11 .676 19 16 .559 20 16 .559 19 16 .543 18 16 .529 15 20 .429 12 21 .346 5 27 .156

Indiana 117, Washington 102
Detroit 114, New York 108
Chicago at Charlotte, ppd., death
L.A. Lakers 103, Milwaukee 94
Seattle 103, Denver 93
Portland 95, Cleveland 75
Phoenix 95, Vancouver 92
Thursday's Gemes

		100 Mar 2 4	No.	The Manual
	W	L	Pot	GB
	22	12	.647	-
New York	21	14	.600	1 1/2
	19	16	.543	3 1/2
	16	20	.444	7
Boston	15	20	.429	7 1/2
New Jersey	15	20	429	7 1/2
	12	24	333	- 11
Central Division				Control of
Indiana	23	/11	.676	-
Detroit	19	/15	.559	:
Milwaukee	20/	16	.556	4
Toronto	20/ 19	16	543	4 1/2
	18		.529	5
	15	20	429	8 1/2
	12	21	284	10 1/2
		27	.156	17
Chicago	5		.100	11
WESTERN CONFER	EN	CE		1/2

L Pet GB
11 .676 —
13 .649 1/2
15 .545 4 1/2
17 .500 6
24 .314 12 1/2
24 .314 12 1/2
25 .266 13 1/2 5 .861 — 8 .771 3 1/2 13 .639 8 12 .636 8 1/2 14 .568 10 25 .266 20 1/2 29 .171 24 1/2

Hoenix
LA. Clippers
LA. Clippers
Golden State
Golden State
6 29
Wednesday's Games
Toronto 108, Orlando 102
Boston 95, L.A. Clippers 88
117. Washington 102

Thursday's Games
New Jersey 110, L.A. Clippers 105
Minnesota 103, Boston 85
Utah 93, Miami 83
Sacramento 107, San Antonio 103
Houston 108, Golden State 100
Fedday's Games

Miami at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Cleveland at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8 p.m.
LA. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Tororito at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
LA. Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games **TRANSACTIONS**

American Leegue
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms
with INF Esteban Beltre, OF Yamil Benitez,
OF Steve Gibraiter and LHP Kelly Wunsch on minor-league contracts.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with OF Lance Johnson and C Jesse Levis

on minor-league contracts. KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with OF Johnny Damon on a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with RHP Steve Trachsel on a one-year contract.

National League
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Named Lenn
Sakata manager and Steve Renko pitching
coach for Bakersfield of the California

coach for Bakersfield of the California League.

BASKETBALL
Metional Basketball Association
HOUSTON ROCKETS—Activated C
Hakeem Olajuwon from the injured list.
Placed C Kelvin Cato on the injured list.
Waived C Thomas Hamilton.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Signed F Antonio Lang to a 10-day contract.
FOOTBALL
Metional Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed DE Emil Ekiyor, WR Brian Finneran, OG Adam Hernandez, LB Brian Smith, OG Alex Bernstein, DB Kerry Cooks, OT Ozell Powell and DE Sam Simmons.
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed OL Jason Watts, S Brad Trout and WR Donald Sellers.
HOCKEY

National Hockey League
ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Named Bob

Murray scouting consultant.
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Recalled D John
Jakopin from Louisville of the AHL.
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Acquired RW
Stephane Richer from the Tampa Bay
Lightning for D Chris McAlpine and G Rich
Parent TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Recalled D Nathan Dempsey from St. John's of the AHL.

Rockets hold off Warriors, 108-100

win in more than a month.

"I don't remember having a quarter like that ever," Mobley said. "Me personally, I have been a little slow in the fourth quarter. I just tried to come back and go hard and the shots went in."

Steve Francis added 19 points, Shandon Anderson had 17 and Walt Williams and Kenny Thomas 13 apiece for the Rockets, who snapped a seven-game road losing streak that began in Philadelphia on Dec. 8 in what turned out to be Charles Barkley's last game.

"He's a very good one-on-one layer," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "He made a big play in the paint when Shandon got an offensive rebound and threw it to him" for a fourth-quarter layup.

"We've been beat up. We've been double beat up," added Tomianovich. "But we just hung in there. We made some big plays at the end. A lot of different guys helped. It's really a big, emotional win for us."

Golden State is still thirsting for that feeling after losing its 11th straight, matching a season high. The Warriors also lost 11 in a row from Nov. 17 to Dec. 7.

Garry St. Jean remained winless

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — "We were not cohesive on either cuttino Mobley outdid himself in the fourth quarter." "We were not cohesive on either cohesive on either cohesive on either cohesive and of the floor, especially on the cohesive on either cohesive as part of Houston's 8-2 cohesive on either cohesive cohesive end in terms of cohesive on either cohesive cohesive end in terms of cohesive cohesive cohesive end in terms of cohesive Mobley scored 14 of his 23 tion," St. Jean said. "This allowed points in the final period and the (the Rockets) to get the shots they

> They had it their way tonight. We didn't set the tone. Mobley and Francis played well for them and (Anthony) Miller and Kenny Thomas played strong on the boards."

Houston outrebounded the Warriors 51-47, including 13 by Miller, who made just his second career start at center. Thomas had 12 rebounds.

"I just think our big men won the game for us, with their rebounding and their defense on the block," Francis said. Mookie Blayloock scored 25

points to lead the Warriors. Jason Caffey added 24 points and Antawn Jamison had 21. After being down by five heading into the fourth quarter, the

Warriors pulled to 94-92 on Caffey's spinning layup with 3:45 remaining.

But the Rockets made the key plays down the stretch, outscoring the Warriors 14-8 over the last 3:26.

verted three-point plays to ignite the finishing flurry and Mobley twice blew past defenders for layups. Williams finished a fast break

with a layup and Bill Curley, signed by Houston earlier in the in eight games since taking over day, rebounded a missed free Dec. 27 for the fired P.J. Carlesimo. throw and put it in for another

Moments after Blaylock con-Houston Rockets held off the needed, whether it was off the verted a three-point play, Bryce Golden State Warriors 108-100 drive or a penetration and kick out Drew hit a 3-pointer as time Thursday night for their first road to the open man. expired in the first half, tying it at

Golden State broke away from a 13-all tie with 9-0 run capped by Jamison's offensive rebound and dunk, but the Rockets scored 10 of the next 12 points, pulling to 24-23 at the end of the first quarter on successive 3-pointers by Williams and Mobley.

Notes: Houston won on the road for the first time since beating the Clippers in Los Angeles 109-96 on Dec. 2. ... The losing streak is Golden State's longest since dropping a club-record 17 straight from Dec. 20, 1964 to Jan. 26, 1965. . Rockets forward Matt Bullard went 0-for-9 from the floor. ... Houston activated center Hakeem Olajuwon from the injured list but it's still uncertain when he'll play again after missing 20 games following hernia surgery Dec. 1. In other moves, the Rockets waived center Thomas Hamilton, placed center Kelvin Cato (sprained right Francis and Thomas each con-wrist) on the injured list and signed Curley to a 10-day contract. Curley had 10 points in his Rockets debut. ... The Rockets got 54 points from their bench. ... Tony Farmer is the only Warrior to appear in all 35 games. ... Shandon Anderson has scored in double figures in each of the last six

Buccaneers' Sapp rebounds to have award-winning season

Sapp saw it on film, then read it Year award Thursday.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and he had to do something about it. "I wasn't playing the way I

pro said, shaking his head at the memory of the 1998 season that "We're talking about a championship around here and I'm 300 and some pounds, overweight, out of shape and can't make the plays that are going to decide ball games ... It took that type of season for me to see how small of a margin it is between being con-

sidered a great player and just

being run of the mill. And run of

the mill ain't nowhere I want to

Sapp rededicated himself in 1999, reported to training camp get back to." 40 pounds lighter than the summer before. The hard work paid brought him The Associated was a driving force.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Warren Press Defensive Player of the

His 12 1/2 sacks fell just shy of His game was hurting the the team record of 13 set by Hall of Famer Lee Roy Selmon in 1977, and Sapp's determination set the tone for the most successneeded to play," the fifth-year ful season in franchise history.

The Bucs, perennial losers before the arrival of coach Tony turned sour for him and the Bucs. Dungy four years ago, won eight of their last nine to capture their first NFC Central title since 1981. They will face Washington in a NFC divisional playoff game Saturday.

"I looked at it that if I played like I played in '98, we'll be a .500 team, maybe win 10 games, maybe sneak into the playoffs. We almost snuck in that year," Sapp said. "But when I'm on my game, this team is damn hard to beat. And that's what I wanted to

And Dungy, whose laid-back style is the antithesis of Sapp's off with a stellar season that mouthy, outgoing personality,

One of the coach's first orders of business when he took over happen. the Bucs was to inform the young tackle, then coming off a disappointing rookie year, that he intended to build the defense around him.

Sapp made the Pro Bowl squad for the first time two years ago, the selection coinciding with the Bucs making the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

He was picked again last sea-son, though he and Dungy both knew his performance slipped.
"Coming off the year we had in 97, and the year he had personally, the next step was for us to go further in the playoffs and for him to really go to the next

level," Dungy said. "We all thought that was going to happen. It didn't happen for us as a team. It didn't happen for him personally. And, I think he took upon himself to do everything he could to make it happen in '99. I'm really happy for him because he worked at it, and he

Sapp said he had no one to blame but himself for weighing 327 pounds when he reported to camp before last season. He got married at the Pro Bowl the winter before, signed a new contract and used every excuse he could find to not work out the way he

was accustomed. By the time he realized what he was doing to himself, it was too late. Training camp was underway, and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't shed enough

pounds to make a difference. It was frustrating to not make plays on Sunday, and even more upsetting to watch himself on film on Monday.

"The thing about me is I set my standards so high that I want to shake the walls of 20 years past. Mark Gastineau put up 22 sacks, and I want to maybe sniff that, Keith Millard put up 20 in a year. Some great players have done

was very determined to make it my standards so high, and seven be remembered the same way. sacks wasn't getting it done," Sapp said.

There were plays that I could make with my eyes closed that I wasn't making anymore. And it was hurting my ball club. That was the thing eating me up more than anything. I could have taken over two of those ball games, and

we're 10-6 and in the playoffs." Dungy wrote Sapp a letter after the season, then sat down and talked with his star.

"I told him that for us to get where we needed to go that he needed to be a dominant force. We talked about his weight, and he made the commitment to me that he was going to come in and be dominant. I told him I felt if he played at 295, he could be defensive player of the year. He's making me look like a prophet."

Dungy once told Sapp that he reminded him of an old teammate with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Joe Greene. Some day, some great things. I've always set the fifth-year pro would like to

Selmon, the AP Defensive Player of the Year 20 years ago, has always been the measuring stick for greatness in Tampa Bay. In time, Sapp expects to join him.

"When they talk about the great ones, I want my name to come up," he said. "When you're watching some kid in 2020, I want them to say: 'Look at him playing defensive tackle, but you should have seen Sapp play."

Jevon Kearse of Tennessee,

selected NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year earlier this week, was second with 13 votes. Kevin Carter of St. Louis, like Sapp and Kearse an All-Pro, was next with six, tying with Baltimore line-backer Ray Lewis, the league's No. 1 tackler.

Sapp's teammate, outside linebacker Derrick Brooks, was next with three ballots, while Jacksonville outside linebacker Kevin Hardy received two and San Diego inside linebacker Junior Seau got one.



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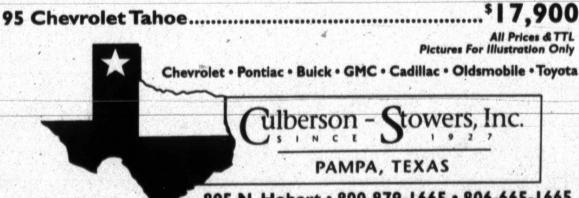


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White House denies attempt to deny creativity to television networks

Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House today denied trying to rob TV networks of creative freedom by having President Clinton's drug policy adviser consult with them on scripts and offer financial credits for anti-drug messages in prime-time shows.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the president's Office of National Drug Control Policy was using "a very important and innovative" program of advertising and partnerships to help reduce the demand for drugs, and antidrug messages being incorporated into TV scripts were a positive result of that.

"There's no element of trying to dictate or infringe on any creative process," Lockhart said. "We just think it's important to get the anti-drug message out in

as many ways as we can."

He said the program is important to Clinton, who called on Hollywood executives last year to limit violent and inappropriate images in films in the wake of time. the mass shootings at Columbine High

"We'd like all elements of popular culture to join the effort to send a strong message about the dangers of drugs, especially to our children," Lockhart said.

Broadcast networks' Hope," raised ting the broadcasters sell the time to

questions about their independence, but other companies. representatives of ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox The White House drug office valued

still call the shots. "At no time has the Office of National Drug Control Policy either sought or been granted creative control over Fox program content," said Tom Tyre, a network spokesman.

The White House drug office said that it had reviewed the scripts of two dozen programs over the past few years for anti-drug messages, sometimes suggesting changes that were incorporated in the final product.

A separate arrangement worked out between the networks and the government gave the companies a financial incentive for preaching against drug use.

Congress in 1997 authorized an antidrug TV campaign that advocates hope will have \$1 billion in spending over five years. The government bought commercial time on the networks for their ads, and the networks agreed to match that

With business recently booming for TV ad sales, the government set up an arrangement where networks would get credit for anti-drug messages incorporated in their shows. This freed up commercial time where the networks would have had to run the government ads, let-bono match," Hamilton said.

and the WB insisted Thursday that they the programming messages it had

approved at \$22 million.
"I'm fairly amazed that there has been any concern expressed about this," said Rich Hamilton, CEO of Zenith Media, an ad buying firm that helped develop the idea as a go-between for the broadcasters and government.

Yet an expert on media ethics said it raises questions about the motives of the entertainment industry.

"What it can do for the networks is make it seem that they are only going to run those messages or shows that have prior government approval," said Aly Colon, a professor at the Poynter Institute. "That may not be reality, but at least it can become a perception.

The government made no suggestions on script changes when it reviewed shows to see if they would get financial credit, said Alan Levitt, director of the national youth media campaign at the drug office.

All we said was, if you believe that a certain program that you intend to broadcast delivers our message — essentially that drugs can kill you - submit it to us for an evaluation and we may decide that we can credit you for a pro

Fox earned monetary credit for

episodes of "Beverly Hills 90210" and "America's Most Wanted." The WB network received credit for an episode of '7th Heaven," a spokesman said.

The WB said that in an episode of the "Smart Guy" series, two substance-abusing teen-agers were originally depicted as being popular, but the script was changed after government review to show them as "losers" hidden away in a

utility room taking drugs.

Spokesman Brad Turell said it is common for the network to ask for changes to a script before a show is aired. Just because the government gave advice in this instance doesn't mean the network gave up creative control, he said.

Producers and writers of "ER" have been in frequent contact with the feds. One recent storyline about a youth coming into the emergency room after having abused alcohol was likely included after the office told producers that alcohol is the most frequently abused drug among young people, said Donald Vereen, deputy director of the White

House drug policy office.

NBC has not accepted any financial credits for anti-drug messages and has never "ceded content control of any of our programs," said Rosalyn Weinman, executive vice president of broadcast

ABC spokeswoman Julie Hoover said

drug office, but received no financial credit because it had already used enough free commercials. ABC does not plan to seek credit in the future, Hoover

Brazoria County arrests 16 in drug sweep through **South Texas**

WEST COLUMBIA, Texas (AP) -After months of investigation and undercover buys, authorities have arrested 16 people on drug warrants.

Officials carried out most of the arrests Wednesday night. Charges included cocaine, marijuana and LSD delivery and possession, The Facts newspaper reported.

The suspects included repeat offenders with a lengthy history of narcotics crimes, said Lt. Randy Rhyne of the Brazoria County sheriff's office.

Rhyne said Wednesday's sweep was meant to take enough dealers out of the area to slow down drug traffic for a

Park staff to receive award from Department of Interior

FRITCH — Three years after the accidental drowning tragedy that took the lives of Dr. Robert Britten and his three sons, Phillip, Patrick and Benjamin, the staff at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area have received the Unit Award for Excellence of Service. The staff was recognized for its efforts to rescue the family and the body recovery which followed the search and rescue. The dangerous and demanding search and rescue mission on Dec. 14, 1996, and the 145-day recovery search after-

ward were the longest and most extensive ever carried out at the lake.

The park presented the award and honored the many agencies and volunteer groups who were vital to the effort at a noon meeting today in the exhibit room of the Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum in Fritch.

The award is accompanied by a citation letter signed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and states in part, "... In spite of the difficulty and emotional burden of the search, park staff continued to work in an exemplary manner. Their excellent performance, which was recognized by the Britten family and the local Red Cross chapter, led to greatly increased respect and appreciation for the National Park Service throughout the area. For their courage, skill and professionalism in serving the public and carrying out the mission of the National Park Service under the most trying conditions, the staff at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area is granted the Interior Unit Award for Excellence of area

Park Superintendent John Benjamin said, "Although the award is contact the park at (806) 857-3151.

from the Department of the Interior to recognize our dedicated park staff, we couldn't have done it without the entire community pulling together to support Mrs. Britten and the search for the boys and their father. Hutchinson County Red Cross, the Fritch and Borger police and fire departments, Hutchinson, Moore, and Potter County Sheriff's offices, Hutchinson County Emergency Operations Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 were vital to the effort. We couldn't have done it without them.

"Some small good has come out of this tragedy. After this incident, we redoubled our efforts to educate the public on how to behave safely and responsibly at the lake and expanded our partnerships with the community to get the message out about wearing personal flotation devices, operating boats safely, and swimming safety. The Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and National Park Service staff and the Potter/Randall Safe Kids Coalition have helped educate the public through fourth grade water safety awareness programs, TV appearances, and personal contacts with boaters on the lake.

We are seeing more use than ever at the Recreation Area with a record 1.8 million visits in 1999. As we start the new century, we urge all the people who enjoy the limitless recreational opportunities available here to help us keep death off of their lake and out of their recreation

For information about boating safety or to serve as a safety volunteer,

Feds suspect three bodies found may be mobster-related

By LAURA VOZZELLA **Associated Press Writer**

BOSTON (AP) — Reportedly fearing that mobsters might try to unearth bodies buried years ago, investigators dug through the night in subzero temperatures and apparently found the remains of three people today.

Federal and state officers were searching for victims of Herald reported. They moved puted mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a law enforcement source told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity. After hours of work, the medical examiner's office carried away three black body bags on

"We did what we came to do," State Police Major Robert Foley said today. Officials refused to elaborate, saying only that they were executing a search warrant.

Searchers with the U.S. attorney's office, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Boston and state police used hand rakes to dig through a gully near Florian Hall, a firefighters union hall in the city's Dorchester neighborhood. They worked by spotlight under two giant yel-low and white-striped tents. The Boston Globe reported

officials were searching for the bodies of Arthur "Bucky" Barrett, a convicted bank robber, and John McIntyre, an IRA sympathizer. Investigators suspect Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger in the disappearance of both during the 1980s.

Flemmi also has been identified as a suspect in the 1981 disappearance of his live-in

girlfriend, Debra Davis. But her brother, Steve Davis, visited the scene this morning and told New England Cable News that her remains were not found.

Investigators rushed to the site late Thursday after being tipped off by Kevin Weeks, a confidant of Bulger who was arrested in November on racketeering charges, the Boston quickly because they feared mobsters knew that they had been tipped off, and would try to get rid of the evidence, the Herald said.

Bulger and Flemmi are suspected by some investigators of killing Barrett and stealing his share of money from a bank robbery in 1980, the Globe reported. Barrett disappeared in 1983.

McIntyre disappeared the following year, after Bulger and Flemmi learned that he was assisting federal agents investigating a botched plot to provide guns to the Irish Republican Army, the Globe

Flemmi, who has been jailed since 1995 after being indicted federal racketeering charges, secretly worked as an FBI informant for decades while conducting mob business, according to federal court documents.

Flemmi, Bulger and their FBI handler were charged in December in a different indictment, which alleges that for-mer Special Agent John Connolly Jr. protected Flemmi and Bulger from prosecution, and tipped them to the earlier indictment.

Bulger has been a fugitive for five years.

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1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520
EMAIL: kbd@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net
ewspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgivi

Publisher: L.W. McCall

lanaging Editor: Nancy Young Iroulation Manager: Dean Lynch

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