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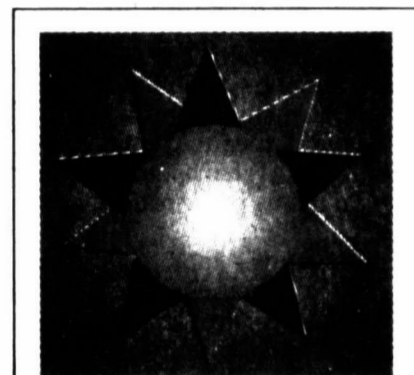
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High today, 40
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 For weather details, see Page 2

PHS debaters nearer to state competition

Pampa High School's speech and debate team competed against 22 panhandle-area schools at the "Shut Up and Speak Tournament" held by Amarillo High School. PHS junior, Richard Conner, broke to semi-finals in Humorous Interpretation. Freshman Zack Cain and Sarah Fraser, junior, also entered semi-finals in Prose. Fraser also went to semi-finals in Dramatic Interpretation. The debate team of Amy Robbins and Michelle Lee won two of the first three rounds. Fraser and Conner's duet acting team broke to finals and placed sixth overall with their comedy duet "Of Widows and Vegetables, earning another point toward qualifying for TEA state meet.

Deputy shot to death during overnight raid

GONZALES (AP) — A Gonzales County Sheriff's deputy was shot and killed during a drug raid overnight. Few details were immediately available on the shooting. The name of the officer killed was not released. Chief Deputy John Cochran told San Antonio radio station K TSA that the deputy died during a drug raid. Gonzales County is about 50 miles east of San Antonio. The deputy is the second to die in Texas this week. Harris County Deputy Barrett Hill was shot in the face Monday as he chased a man thought to be part of an auto theft ring.

Jerry Dale Jones, 50, Pampa High School graduate
Winnie Beatrice Gruben, 99, former school teacher
Vera M. Morgan, 87, substitute mail carrier
Norma Oleta White, 78, retired Social Security employee.

Classified9
 Comics6
 Sports7

Police seek suspect in two deaths

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

SAYRE, Okla. — A manhunt widened today for an Oklahoma man wanted in connection with an early morning shooting Monday in a small Western Oklahoma community near here.

One person was killed, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) officials said. Two others suffered gunshot wounds.

Charles Page, 23, was killed by a gunshot wound to the jaw. His wife, Jaime Page, 23, was rushed to an Oklahoma City hospital with gunshot wounds. The woman who lived at the home, Norma Carkin, 43, underwent surgery at a local hospital for wounds suffered after being shot with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Witnesses at the Carkin home told investigators that a man they identified as Puckett broke into the house about 4 a.m. Monday and shot Norma Carkin as she held one of her grandchildren.



Arthur Lee Puckett

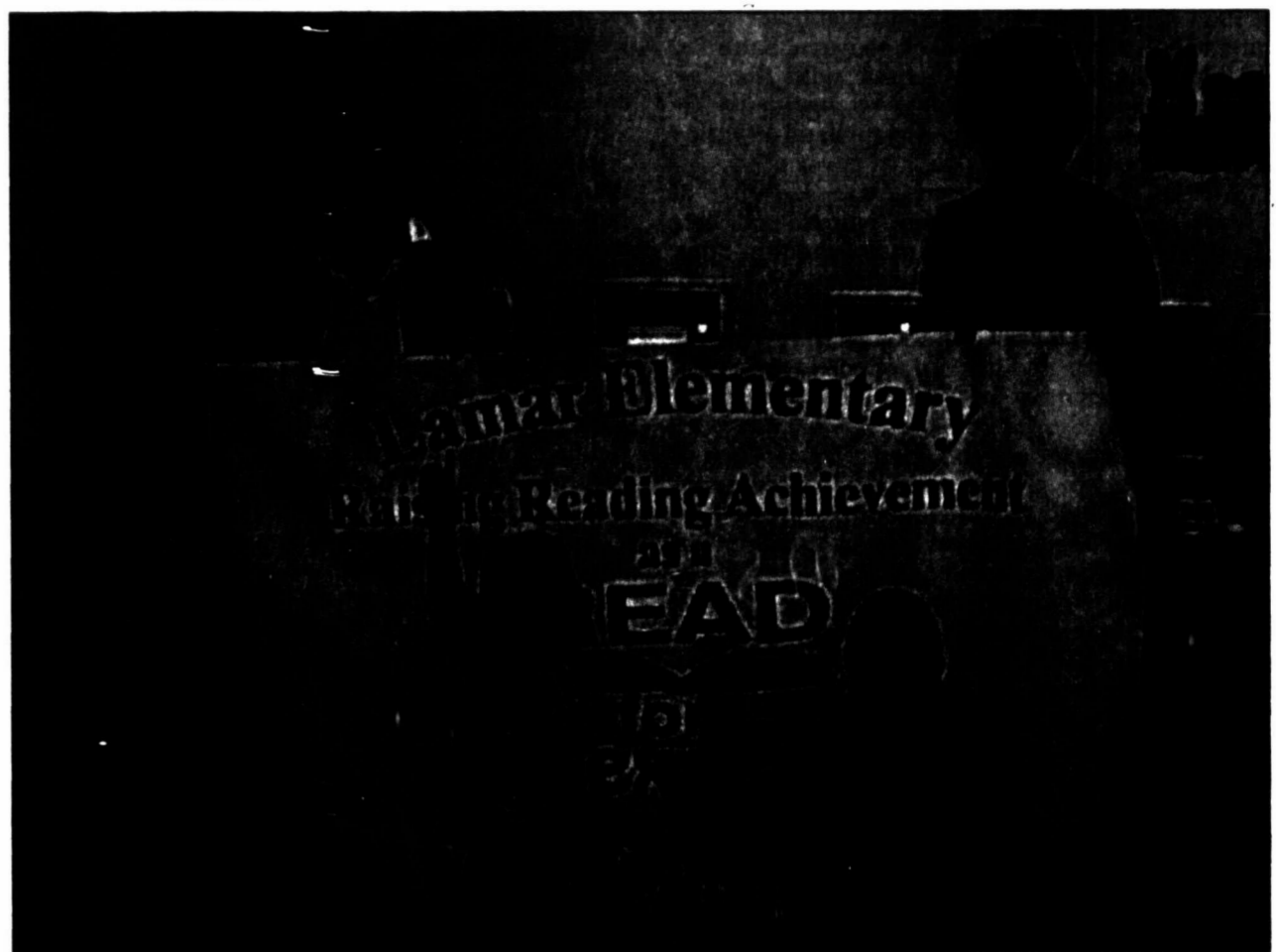
They said that then the gunman went into a bedroom and shot Charles Page, 23. His wife, Jamie Page, 23, escaped and drove to a neighbor's house for help.

Charles Page died at the house, officers said. Jamie Page and Norma Carkin are in critical condition in an Oklahoma City hospital under guard.

Investigators think Monday's shooting may be linked to the shooting death of Donald Carkin, 55, in rural Beckham County. Donald Carkin was the husband of Norma Carkin and Jaime Page's father. (Donald Carkin) was killed while driving his truck just west of his farm in May this year," said Kym Koch with OSBI.

Officers were looking for a 1990 red over white over red Chevrolet pickup with Oklahoma license plates that was reported stolen about a mile from the murder scene early Tuesday morning.

Authorities believe the vehicle (See SUSPECT, Page 2)



(Special photo) Parent Liaison Misty Jimenez and Literacy Coordinator Doretta Gerber hang the READ for Texas banner at Lamar Elementary School. They are assisted by first graders Sierra Apodaca, Daisy Garcia and Miguel Pacheco. The banner is displayed in the Family Literacy Center which opened Tuesday night at Lamar School.

Grants to encourage parent-child reading

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Pampa students and their families now have the opportunity to participate in a unique new literacy program together.

Two Pampa Independent School District elementary schools — Lamar and Wilson — have been awarded a grant to improve reading skills in young students.

Reading Excellence and Academic Development Program for Texas is to provide children in the greatest need with structured support in early

childhood and the early grade levels in school so they become proficient readers.

Parents and children will be able to work together in developing additional reading and math skills by utilizing the books and computers in the center. Games aimed at raising the skills will also be available.

Family Literacy Centers have been established at both the Lamar and Wilson Elementary campuses. One evening a week any family can go to these centers to use computers, read books, and play learning games together.

(See GRANTS, Page 2)

Volunteers gear up for children's shopping tour

Christmas will be brighter for more than 100 Pampa youngsters who will go Christmas shopping during the 2000 Children's Shopping Tour, which will take place Dec. 16, according to Kiwanis Club of Pampa member Winston Holt, general chair of the project.

"The Salvation Army has already extended invitations to more than 80 children," Holt said. "We will be inviting others as funds become available." Holt served as general chair last year when the organizations involved took 107 children shopping, benefiting 343 family members.

Lt. Guy Watts and his wife, Delores, are Steering Committee members heading up the Salvation Army's efforts in inviting children for the tour.

"We have gone through the applications and invited children between the ages of 5 and 10," Mrs. Watts said. "We are being careful not to invite children

'This will be the first time most of these children have ever been able to experience giving at Christmas.'

— Lt. Delores Watts
 Salvation Army

who have been on the tour before. This will be the first time most of these children have ever been able to experience giving at Christmas."

Ann Franklin is another Kiwanis member serving on the Steering Committee. She is in charge of recruiting approximately 175 volunteers needed to help the children shop and make their selections.

"The children do not buy presents for themselves," Franklin explained. "They buy for other members of their households."

Pampa Optimist Youth Club President Kevin Davis is heading up a group of Optimists who will serve a hamburger

luncheon with all the trimmings to the children before their chaperones take them home.

"Last year we tried over 300 hamburgers," Davis said. "We are glad to have the project begin and end at the Optimist Club. We are excited about working with so many other organizations in Pampa to help these kids have a better Christmas."

Janna Gregory, executive director of Pampa chapter of the American Red Cross, leads the Red Cross volunteers.

"My children and I have been on the tour before," she said. "They are very excited about doing it again. Helping with this project makes Christmas a little

more special for all of us."

Krissie Alexander and Taylor Fatheree represent the Energizer Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church. The class will help entertain children who finish wrapping their packages early.

"I helped last year," Alexander said. "It was fun."

The Pampa Opti-Mrs. Club will assist the children with wrapping the packages in the Optimist Gym. Whitney Davis is the Club's representative on the Steering Committee.

"Last year we helped wrap about 700 gifts," Davis said. "We have been gathering up boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon, cards, scissors, tape and other materials for wrapping the packages."

A new member of the Steering Committee this year is John Wagner, another Kiwanis member. Wagner is in charge of the Saturday morning organization.

(See TOUR, Page 2)

City lake to receive 1,000 trout

Local anglers who like to go after rainbow trout don't have long to wait as 1,000 fish will be placed in Recreation Park Lake sometime Thursday afternoon. In February another 800 will be added.

It's all part of the annual Pampa Park and Recreation Department's popular project that has been conducted since 1992 by city with help from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries, said Bill Hildebrandt, director of community services.

The city is purchasing 1,000 fish — at 80 cents per trout — and the state will donate another 875 fish — something it does in most, but not every year.

When they are delivered, Hildebrandt said lake water is pumped into the holding tank so it can be mixed with that water so as to lessen the shock when the trout are put into the lake.

All the trout are from eight-to-10 inches long but should there be a shorter fish in the bunch, Hildebrandt said, there is no legal length require-

ment. The most a person can bag or possess per day is five fish. He noted the regulations are enforced by state game wardens who conduct periodic checks at the lake.

Fishermen under 17 years of age or 65 or older don't have to have a trout stamp and fishing license but those 17-through-64 years old must have both, Hildebrandt said. For more about fishing laws, he suggests license and stamp buyers pick up a current Texas Parks and Wildlife regulation book where licenses are sold.

The program has proven to be a popular one with as many as 50 people at a time fishing for trout soon after word of their delivery gets around, Hildebrandt said.

"The biggest indicator we have had regarding the popularity of the program is that we never see dead trout when the water gets too warm for them — they can't survive the summer heat," he said.

Grand jury hands up 5 indictments

Five indictments were returned by a Gray County Grand Jury this week against four people.

Danny Duane Vincent, 41, 638 N. Wells, faces two indictments. One charges him with forgery by passing with the other charge is forgery by making. Vincent is free on two bonds of \$5,000, totaling \$10,000.

Indicted for indecency with a child was Sergio Rivera, 21, 1008 Varnon. The indictment is

in connection with an incident which occurred on July 28, Rivera is free on \$5,000 bond.

Robert Joseph Collom, 40, 519 Walnut, was indicted on charges of aggravated assault on a public servant in connection with an incident on June 23. Collom is free on \$1,000 bond.

Edward Earl Holt, 49, 613 Plains, was indicted on an enhanced charge of theft under \$20. Holt is free on \$4,000 bond.



Mark Your Calendars Now For The Chamber Luncheon, December 19, 2000 - Make Reservations At 669-3241

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Calendar of events

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM
White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) winter visiting hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. No charge for admission; elevator provided.

CLARENDON COLLEGE
Clarendon College-Pampa Center will offer GED testing on the fourth Monday and Tuesday of each month. Registration will be at 9 a.m. each day. Cost will be \$45 including a \$20 deposit. For more information, call 665-8801.

LAS PAMPA WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY
Las Pampa Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Austin Elementary School. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Lance DeFever.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is changing its hours. It is now open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A, in Pampa. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

HIGH PLAINS EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION
High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR
Lovett Memorial Library will sponsor a pre-school story hour at 10 a.m. every Tuesday this fall beginning Sept. 5. The free program is open to children 18 months to 5 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

GED TESTING
Clarendon College-Pampa Center conducts GED testing the fourth Monday and Tuesday of every month except for May and June. Test dates for these two months are May 22 and 23 and June 19 and 20. Those taking the full test must attend both days. Preregistration is required. For more information, call Jana Wesson-Martin at 665-8801.

PHS SCHOLARSHIPS
Pampa High School is seeking clubs, organizations, individuals or groups interested in establishing scholarships for high school seniors. The scholarships can be for any amount. The high school will make the scholarships available to senior students at the end of February. For more information, contact Starla Kindle or Billie Lowrey at 669-4800.

PAS DANCE
Due to the Thanksgiving holidays, Pampa Area Singles did not schedule a dance for November. The next dance will be Dec. 30. For more information, call 665-7059.

DISCOVERY CENTER SANTA BUFFET
The Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo will host "Breakfast with Santa" from 8-11:30 a.m. Dec. 9 at the center located at 1200 Streit Drive, Amarillo. The event will include a breakfast buffet, a

special holiday Planetarium show and pictures with Santa for \$3. Cost of admission for child members is \$5, for non child members, \$7, and for adults eating breakfast, \$5. For more information, call (806) 355-9548, ext. 11.

RUSHING WIND
Rushing Wind Emmaus will sponsor "Christmas at Waka" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 at Waka Christian Center. Potluck dinner will be served followed by a praise and worship service in the chapel. Families and friends are welcome and a nursery will be provided. The Waka Christian Center Board will meet prior to the event at 4:30 p.m.

SINGLES NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
The Singles Ministry at Paramount Terrace Christian Church of Amarillo will host an area-wide Singles New Year's Eve dinner and dance from 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Dec. 31 in Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza. Music will be by Sharla Lee Hayes and Double Diamond Band. A photographer will be available at 6:30 p.m. for personal photos. Tickets are \$20 per person and will include a guest speaker, dinner and dance. Deadline to purchase tickets is Dec. 22. The event will be alcohol- and smoke-free. For tickets or for more information, call Penny Lawlis or Mike Nuthman at the church, (806) 353-6615.

TRAIN SHOW
Amarillo Model Railroad Association will hold its annual Magic of Christmas Past Train Show beginning Nov. 24 in Western Plaza. Show hours are, 12 noon-8 p.m., Nov. 24-26 and Dec. 25-31 as well as 5-8 p.m., every Friday in December. The association will raffle off a 4' x 8' HO-scale model railroad at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50-cents for children. Raffle tickets are \$1 a chance or six for \$5.

PDHG
Palo Duro Handweaver's Guild will meet at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 in Amarillo. Anyone interested in weaving, spinning, dyeing or fiber arts is welcome. For meeting location or more information, call Becky Martin, (806) 358-2765.

PALO DURO PROGRAMS
Palo Duro Canyon State Park will host a series of evening programs throughout the month at Lone Star Interpretive Theater near Hackberry. Topics and dates are as follows: "Birdwatching," (Panhandle Bird Club), 8:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Dec. 7; "Canyon Chat," 7-8 p.m., Dec. 9; "Starwalk," 7-8 p.m., Dec. 23; "Canyon Critters," 7-3 p.m., Dec. 30. For more information, call (806) 488-2227, ext. 49.

RED CROSS CLASSES
Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross will offer the following courses this month: First Aid, 3-7 p.m., Dec. 5, ARC office, 108 N. Russell; CPR class, 5-9 p.m., Dec. 12 at the ARC office. To register or for more information, call 669-7121.

MIP CLASSES
Clarendon College will offer ABC Computer Class from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 14 and from 8:30 a.m.-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Dec. 15. Minor in Possession classes are scheduled from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Dec. 11-12 in Clarendon. For more information, call Clarendon College-Pampa Center or Eddie Hankins, (806) 874-5074.

FPC WEBSITE
Spring class schedules for Frank Phillips College in Borger are available on the college's website located at www.fpc.cc.tx.us on the Internet. Registration for the spring semester will be conducted Jan. 10-11 in the library at FPC. Off-campus registration will be Jan. 8 at various area locations including Canadian, Dalhart, Perryton, Sunray and Spearman.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
The local Alzheimer's Support Group will conduct a four-part series this fall. The series will kick-off Sept. 7 with Dr. Bruce Harrow presenting an overview of the disease. Topics will include: Communication and Activities of Daily Living, Oct. 5; and Community Resources and Caregiving Planning, Nov. 2. The series will conclude Dec. 7 with a panel discussion. The group meets regularly at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson, 665-0356.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL
Wesley United Methodist Church will host its 20th Annual Festival of Arts and Crafts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 2 in the Community Center in Hereford. A limited number of booths are currently available for a \$10 rental fee. Applications may be obtained by writing: Ellen Collins, 801 Miles St., Hereford, TX 79045 or by calling (806) 364-0774.

AMERICAN GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP
American General Career Distribution Group is offering the American General Scholarship to eligible Texas high school seniors. To qualify, a student must place in the top half of their class academically (but not necessarily in the top 10 percent) and present evidence of good character (two letters of recommendation are required: one from a high school official and the other from a community leader). Students will also be evaluated on extracurricular activities and community service. For more information, call (615) 320-3149. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2000.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, Hib (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines will also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4:00 p.m., Dec. 6, 20, Pampa Family Clinic, 700 W. Kentucky; 2-4:30 p.m., Dec. 11, McLean Clinic, McLean; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 12, Allison School, Allison; 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-3 p.m., Dec. 18, Miami School, Miami (flu).

POWER WHEELCHAIRS
Miracle on Wheels is offering Power Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens (65 years and up) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. The chairs are provided to those who cannot walk and self-propel a manual wheelchair at their home or independent living quarters and who meet additional qualifications of the

program. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. For more information, call 1-800-749-8778 or visit www.durablemedical.com on the World Wide Web.

FREE BOOKLET
The Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., is offering a new booklet, "The 100 Most Popular Government Giveaway Programs," to consumers nationwide. To obtain a copy of the booklet, send \$5 to cover cost of printing, postage and handling to: Free Enterprise Institute, 100 Government Giveaways, Dept. 100GG-0816, P.O. Box 96071, Washington, D.C. 20090-6071. For more information, call (202) 595-1031 or visit www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org on the Internet.

ANIMALPRINTS.COM
AnimalPrints.com has dedicated \$1 from each sale of a newly released series of artist's prints to benefit animals in need. For more information or to view the prints, go to AnimalPrints.com on the Internet.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN CLUB
The Butterfly Garden Club of America is offering free butterfly garden seeds (with growing instructions). To receive a packet, send a long SASE with two stamps to: The Butterfly Garden Club of America, P.O. Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household. Additional packets are available for \$1 each.

FREE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE
Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., has published "Free Money - Winning the Government Giveaway Game," a booklet which offers information concerning free money, free advice and free services from the government. Consumers may receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing and postage/handling to: Free Enterprise Institute, Government Giveaway Booklet Offer, Dept. GGB-407-1, P.O. Box 96071, Washington, DC 20090-6071 or at www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org on the World Wide Web.

TUITION ASSISTANCE
U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance - College Bound is an organization with a listing of over 700 different private scholarship sources for college students. Many scholarships pay the entire tuition; other can be applied towards tuition, living expenses and/or other fees. Most scholarships can be used at junior colleges, career and vocational schools, 4-year colleges, graduate schools, medical and law schools. For more information, send a SASE (business size, #10) to: The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance, P.O. Box 668, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

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

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

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

(part two...)

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Report finds soldiers panicked, fired on refugees in Korea

WASHINGTON (AP)— An Army investigation has found that American soldiers panicked and fired on a group of unarmed refugees near the hamlet of No Gun Ri in the early days of the Korean War, but it did not find conclusive evidence that they had orders to kill the civilians, a newspaper reported.

The story, in Wednesday's edition of The Washington Post, said military investigators were unable to determine how many civilians perished in the incident at a railroad bridge in late July 1950.

The Pentagon report, a year in preparation, would be "the first formal acknowledgement by the U.S. military of its involvement in the massacre at No Gun Ri." The Post said. Military officials had previously denied the involvement of American troops.

The report, based on more than 100 interviews and a review of more than a million pages of documents, is expected to be released in the next six weeks, and could come sooner, depending on talks in Seoul, the paper said.

A Pentagon spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the report of the Army findings.

Former Rep. Pete McCloskey, R-Calif., a member of an eight-member civilian advisory panel to the Pentagon inquiry, confirmed that the Army's draft report says there is no evidence that orders were given to fire on the refugees at No Gun Ri. He said he disagreed with that conclusion and urged a revision.

"We have seen statements from one officer and nine enlisted men at No Gun Ri who referred to those orders," McCloskey said. "Unless the Army has information we have not yet seen, I can't understand how they reached their conclusion."

Three other members of the

panel, reached by The AP, declined to comment.

Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered the Army inquiry after an AP report a year ago told of the shooting of many civilians by American GIs at the hamlet during a chaotic retreat southward from invading North Korean forces.

The AP report said former GIs estimated the number killed as 100, 200 or simply "hundreds," while Korean survivors said 300 died by shooting and 100 by strafing by U.S. planes.

About 170 Korean families are seeking compensation from the United States.

While the draft report reaches no conclusion on the number killed at No Gun Ri, The Post said members of the advisory panel said they believe the number probably was between 50 and 300, with most leaning toward the lower end of that range.

The paper said that, according to several people familiar with the draft report, U.S. veterans had widely varying memories of No Gun Ri, and the Pentagon could not verify some elements of the original AP story of September 1999.

It quoted one unnamed person familiar with the draft report as saying the AP was "too definite" about what happened, and may have left an impression that there was conclusive evidence that hundreds were killed.

The AP's original story did not estimate the number killed on its own, but cited accounts by ex-GIs and survivors. It also said there were a number of unanswered questions, including what officers gave orders to open fire.

Kelly Smith Tunney, a spokeswoman for The AP, said the news service had not seen a copy of the draft report, but noted that "for many years, the Pentagon denied

the involvement of American soldiers in the deaths of villagers at No Gun Ri."

She added, "We are confident that any fair investigation will confirm AP's central finding that the U.S. military was involved in the killing of a large number of Korean refugees at No Gun Ri."

Some former members of the 2nd battalion, 7th Cavalry regiment, interviewed by AP, told of fears that the refugee columns had been infiltrated by enemy troops in order to ambush the Americans, and said they had orders to prevent any Korean civilians from approaching U.S. positions.

The AP also found in government archives declassified orders issued at the time by three high Army headquarters including the 1st Cavalry Division and an Air Force command to treat the Korean refugees as hostile. It was not immediately known whether the Army's report acknowledges the existence of these orders, including a 1st Cavalry Division order to "fire everyone trying to cross lines."

Two former 2nd battalion headquarters radiomen told the Army, and the AP in recent interviews, that they knew such orders came down the chain of command from higher headquarters and were delivered to the rifle companies. They, and two other former signal men, also told AP that written orders were all but nonexistent in Korean combat.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Dreaming of a White Christmas?

Although the chances are slim to none for waking up anywhere in Texas on Christmas morning with at least an inch of snow on the ground, a few Texas cities can keep a white Christmas.

Texas cities' probabilities for a white Christmas this year:	
Abilene	3%
Amarillo	7%
Austin	0%
Dallas	0%
El Paso	0%
Galveston	0%
Houston	0%
Lubbock	3%
Wichita Falls	3%

Source: National Climatic Data Center, and the National Climatic Data Center.

Study: Possible link between gas exposures and Gulf War illness

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon-sponsored study raises the possibility that some of the undiagnosed illnesses reported by Gulf War veterans could be explained by their exposure to low levels of Iraqi nerve gas.

The report released Tuesday found no evidence in available scientific literature, however, to support the idea that symptoms linked to nerve gas would appear two or more years after exposure. About half of Gulf War veterans reporting health problems did so a year or more after returning to the United States.

The report, by the Rand Corp.'s federally funded National Defense Research Institute, does not provide a final answer to the question that has lingered since the end of the Gulf War: Was exposure to chemical warfare agents responsible for some of the neurological and other health problems reported by veterans?

"It is not possible to eliminate nerve agents categorically from playing a role in some cases of illnesses of Gulf War veterans," the report said. But, it added, it is "difficult to accept" that exposures affecting large numbers of troops

would have escaped notice.

The report called for more research into the long-term health effects of exposure to levels of nerve gas such as those experienced by approximately 100,000 American soldiers at Khamisiyah, an Iraqi ammunition depot that U.S. soldiers blew up several days after the Gulf War ended. It was discovered later that the depot contained hundreds of weapons filled with lethal sarin gas.

The Pentagon on Tuesday said it has determined that one of the nerve agents present at Khamisiyah — cyclosarin — is two to three times more toxic than sarin, the predominant nerve agent used in 122mm rockets destroyed at the depot. Cyclosarin also is less volatile than sarin, meaning it evaporates more slowly.

Thus, even though the Pentagon now believes the total amount of nerve agent released by the Khamisiyah demolition on March 10, 1991, was less than originally calculated, the toxic effect from the resulting plume is about the same because of the newly included information about the toxicity and volatility of cyclosarin.

Three years ago, the Pentagon


notified about 99,000 troops that they were exposed to a plume of sarin gas from Khamisiyah. On Tuesday, the Pentagon announced that 32,806 of those troops were not in the path of the sarin-cyclosarin gas plume and thus were not exposed; on the other hand, it has determined that 34,819 soldiers previously believed to have been beyond the plume actually were exposed.

The net result: About 2,000 more troops were exposed to the gas plume than previously believed. The new figures are derived from more precise data on troop placement and weather patterns.

Bernard Kostker, the under secretary of defense for personnel, told a Pentagon news conference that letters were mailed Tuesday notifying all affected soldiers. The letter assures the exposed soldiers, "There is no indication that any long-term health effects would be expected from the brief, low-level exposure to chemical agents that may have occurred near Khamisiyah."

The Rand study does not contradict that statement, but it does raise the possibility of health problems.

"It is not possible to dismiss low-dose exposures to one or more of the agents or the possibility that such exposures contributed to some of the symptoms experienced by Gulf War veterans," it concluded.



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19



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COUPON

Bush, Gore, persevere amid continuing legal wrangles

By DAVID ESPO
AP Political Writer

George W. Bush says he can feel Al Gore's pain, and won't press him to concede defeat in their overtime struggle for the White House. The vice president suggested he might fight on even if he loses a high-stakes appeal at the Florida Supreme Court.

"I can understand his anguish," Bush, the almost-president-elect, said Tuesday of his rival for the White House. "I can understand the emotions involved."

For his part, Gore told reporters, "I don't feel anything other than optimistic" while awaiting a state high court decision on his appeal of a devastating trial court ruling earlier in the week in Florida's Leon County Circuit Court. He stopped well short of saying he would quit if he lost, a position that risked eroding support among members of his own party.

Gore spokesman Doug Hattaway stepped up the level of Democratic determination a notch Wednesday, saying the Gore team remains "very optimistic" it can get more votes counted in the extremely close race. He blamed the monthlong delay in getting an election result on Bush.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on CBS's "The Early Show," said he regretted that Gore has not been doing well in the courts, adding, "I am not optimistic that he is going to prevail."

Two other election-related lawsuits "will end up in the Florida Supreme Court," Gore said Tuesday. Trial in one, involving Democratic accusations of Republican tampering with absentee ballot applications in Martin County, opened Wednesday morning in Tallahassee. A trial on similar accusations for Seminole County was about to begin in the same courthouse, with some of the same lawyers handling both.

Even so, 29 days after Election Day, the nation's unprecedented campaign drama seemed to be coming to an end.

And the public, judging from the latest polls, wanted it that way. An NBC survey found 59 percent of Americans think Gore should concede while a Gallup poll found 58 percent saying he should concede.

Neither Bush nor Gore can command an Electoral College majority without Florida's 25 electoral votes, but the man who wins them will ascend to the presidency on Jan. 20. The Texas governor has been certified the winner by 537 votes, but Gore is seeking to overturn that in the courts.

In developments on Tuesday, the Florida Supreme Court set a deadline of noon Wednesday for attorneys to submit written arguments in the vice president's appeal. Oral arguments were scheduled for Thursday.

A prompt ruling seemed likely, since the state's presidential electors are to be chosen by Dec. 12, and the Florida justices have previously noted the importance of that deadline.

The state's high court had a second election-related case pending, this one a request from the U.S. Supreme Court to clarify its reasoning behind a ruling last month that permitted manual recounts to proceed beyond a deadline fixed in state law.

Gore's support was holding firm within the Democratic party — to a point.

"The Florida Supreme Court is going to rule in two or three days, and if he's unsuccessful on that, then I think that is the end of it," said Sen. Evan Bayh, of Indiana, one of several Democrats

to express those sentiments in Washington.

That was precisely what Gore avoided saying he would do at a news conference outside the White House.

Asked directly whether he would concede if he loses his appeal, he replied, "when the issues that are now being considered in the Florida Supreme Court are decided, that'll be an important point."

Later, he noted the presence of other lawsuits in the courts — cases in which he is not a formal party — in which judges are being asked to throw out thousands of absentee ballots. The cases in Seminole and Martin counties are politically tricky for Gore, since his entire challenge to Bush's certified victory has been based on a claim that every vote should be counted, particularly questionable ballots that were rejected by counting machines in other regions of the state.

"I don't know what will happen there," the vice president told reporters of the absentee ballot lawsuits. "I think that those two cases are likely to travel the same route as the case that went into Judge Sauls' court and will end up in the Florida Supreme Court."

N. Sanders Sauls was the circuit judge who rejected Gore's challenge to Bush's victory in Florida, ruling point-by-point against the vice president on Monday.

In Austin, Texas, Bush spent Tuesday in meetings related to his transition, then granted an interview to CBS' "60 Minutes II."

He said he didn't want to be addressed as the president-elect until there was finality in the election.

"Finality for me would be if I got a phone call from my opponent and he said, 'We've run the string. We've done all we can do.'"

Bush passed up several opportunities to press for Gore's concession, part of a pattern in the past two days in which he and his allies have softened their rhetoric regarding the vice president.

Gore conceded the race once before, on election night, then called back a few hours later to withdraw his concession. Asked on CBS about that conversation — in which Gore has said Bush was snippy — the governor said, "You know I wasn't warm and fuzzy on the telephone, I will put it to you that way. I was fairly abrupt."

Bush signaled anew he intends to name retired Gen. Colin Powell as his secretary of state, but ruled out an appointment for his brother, Jeb. "He needs to be in Florida doing the job of governor."

The Florida governor had a delicate political issue on his own hands, as the leaders of the Republican legislature squabbled over whether to convene a special session to appoint a slate of electors loyal to his brother. Jeb Bush told reporters his position on the issue "has been the same since the beginning. I don't think it's appropriate for the legislature to act if they don't have to." Frustrated in his attempt to convene a special session, Florida's Republican House speaker publicly criticized his GOP Senate counterpart for resisting.

"We've got a dance partner at this dance and we can't dance alone," said Speaker Tom Feeney, referring to Senate President John McKay.

McKay spokeswoman Karen Chandler responded, "We can appreciate the speaker's position but as President McKay continues to say, the Senate will not be rushed to judgment."

USA Network cancels film after ad protests

LOS ANGELES (AP) — USA Network canceled production of a television movie about two drug-tampering deaths after it was pressured by a major pharmaceutical advertiser.

The New York-based cable network pulled the plug on "Who Killed Sue Snow?" on Nov. 22, five days before filming was to begin in Vancouver, British Columbia, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

The movie was based on the 1986 deaths of two Seattle-area residents who took cyanide-laced Excedrin.

The cancellation followed objections by Johnson & Johnson, whose subsidiary manufactures Tylenol.

The Times, citing anonymous sources involved in the project, said the New Brunswick, N.J.-based company threatened to pull all advertising at the network and ask other drug companies to do the same.

John McKeegan, a Johnson & Johnson spokesman, confirmed that the company complained about the movie but denied it threatened to pull advertising.

"We were advised of the program and didn't feel it was appropriate," McKeegan said Tuesday. "And we communicated that to the network."

The Times sources said Johnson & Johnson wanted to avoid reminding the public of seven Chicago-area deaths in 1982 from cyanide-tainted Extra Strength Tylenol.

It was unclear whether Excedrin maker Bristol-Myers Squibb also raised concerns. A Bristol-Myers spokesman said he could not confirm whether the company had done so.

USA officials said the project was pulled after Johnson & Johnson argued the movie was irresponsible.

"USA Network and its advertisers agreed that it would be in the public's best interest to stop production of this movie," said Ron Sato, a USA spokesman. He said the project was killed over concerns it could lead to copycat crimes.

It is unclear who at USA made the decision, which leaves the network responsible for costs of more than \$1 million and led to about 150 actors and crew members losing their jobs, the Times said.

The channel is part of USA Networks Inc., a media company owned by Barry Diller, who has controlling interest, and Seagram Co.

USA has dropped from first to fifth place in prime-time ratings among cable networks and could little afford to lose a valuable advertiser when an industrywide advertising slowdown is expected.

It is unclear how much USA could have lost from a boycott, but drug companies are the nation's fifth-largest advertisers, spending \$2.4 billion in the first six months of this year on all media, according to Competitive Media Reporting.

Still, it is virtually unheard of for television executives to pull a program because of advertiser concerns. "I can't remember a case," said Jack Myers, chief economist for the Myers Reports, a New York-based media research firm.

The movie was to star Katey Sagal, the wife on Fox's "Married ... With Children," as Stella Nickell, who was convicted of lacing the Extra Strength Excedrin capsules that killed her husband. To make the murder look like the work of a random killer, Nickell laced other Excedrin bottles and placed them on store shelves in her suburban Seattle town.

BLM's plan for off-road vehicles could restrict bikes, skates

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Bureau of Land Management has unveiled a plan for off-road vehicles in the West that could subject mountain bikes and in-line skates to the same restrictions as motorized all-terrain vehicles.

Although the plan does not itself limit vehicle use on the 264 million acres of BLM land in the West, it lays the groundwork for managers to do so if they believe it is necessary to protect wildlife and the environment.

"We're not saying you have to close areas to this kind of use, but we are saying if you have problems or conflicts in some places, you should probably consider being a little more restrictive," said Scott Florence, a BLM manager in Oregon.

The popularity of all-terrain vehicles such as motorbikes and dune buggies has increased dramatically in recent years, leading to concerns about their impact on the environment. Americans buy an average of 1,500 new off-highway vehicles each day, according to the BLM.

The strategy, released Monday, will not close any roads or trails but will make off-road vehicle rules more consistent across the West, officials said.

Bicycle enthusiasts criticized the agency for its definition of off-road vehicles, which includes mountain bikes, in-line skates and other nonmotorized vehicles. Don Vardamis of the

International Mountain Bicycling Association said it's unfair to suggest such bicycles can cause the same kind of damage as gas-driven vehicles.

"We would encourage the BLM to handle those two categories separately and not lump them together because the impacts and conflicts of the two are very different," he said. "Some of the best mountain-bike riding in the country is on BLM land, and it can be done responsibly."

The proposal also would boost enforcement of off-road vehicle rules and orders BLM staff to consider limiting vehicle use on all threatened and endangered species habitat.

But Katie Fite of the environmental group Committee for Idaho's High Desert said the plan doesn't go far enough in protecting the environment and regulating off-road vehicles.

"Rare-species habitat (in Idaho) is being torn to shreds by ORVs under BLM's current lack of management," Fite said.

The proposal is open to public comment through Jan. 3, and the agency will issue its final plan on Jan. 19.

On the Net:
Bureau of Land Management: <http://www.blm.gov>
IMBA: <http://www.imba.com>
Committee for Idaho's High Desert: <http://www.chd.org>

Economy: Productivity rises 3.3 percent; labor costs up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' productivity, the main ingredient for rising living standards, rose at a healthy 3.3 percent clip in the summer but labor costs accelerated at the fastest pace in more than a year, the government reported Wednesday.

The Labor Department said the increase in productivity was slightly lower than an estimate a month ago that productivity was rising at an annual rate of 3.8 percent.

In a potentially worrisome development, the department said unit labor costs, a key measure of wage pressures, rose at a 2.9 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the fastest pace since a 4.3 percent jump in the April-June quarter of 1999. The new third-quarter figure represented an upward revision from an original estimate of a 2.5 percent increase in labor costs.

Worker productivity, measured by the amount of output per hour of work, is the key to improvements in the standard of living. As long as workers are becoming more efficient, their employers can afford to pay them more without having to boost the cost of their products.

Productivity rose for all of 1999 by 2.9 percent following a 2.6 percent gain in 1998. Both increases were more than double the average annual gains for the two decades following 1973, when anemic productivity gains were considered one of the

biggest problems facing the U.S. economy.

Because of the upturn in productivity in recent years, the Federal Reserve was able to let the economy grow at much stronger rates without worrying about inflation being generated from tight labor markets. The economy roared ahead and the unemployment rate fell to the lowest levels in three decades.

However, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned that rising productivity could not always keep inflation pressures at bay and in June 1999 the central bank adopted the first of six interest rate increases to slow economic growth and achieve a "soft landing" for the economy.

Greenspan sent Wall Street soaring Tuesday. He signaled that the Fed may be ready to switch from raising rates to lowering them in an effort to make sure that the slowdown doesn't deepen into something worse and jeopardize the record-long economic expansion, now in its 10th year of uninterrupted growth.

Greenspan specifically noted in his speech that new claims for unemployment benefits have been rising in recent weeks, indicating that tight labor markets may be easing.

The 2.9 percent jump in unit labor costs followed a 0.3 percent decline in the second quarter of this year. While the 2.9 percent

increase would be cause for concern if it continued, analysts noted that over the past year labor costs are up a barely discernible 0.2 percent.

For productivity, the 3.3 percent rate of increase in the third quarter followed a 6.1 percent surge in the second quarter. Over the past year, productivity for nonfarm businesses rose by a solid 4.8 percent.

The boom in productivity has prompted many economists to proclaim a new era for the economy in which significant investments in high-technology industries such as computers and telecommunications are leading to big payoffs in terms of prosperity. However, skeptics contend that the productivity increases of recent years are a result of the strong economic growth and will fade away once growth returns to lower levels.

Greenspan has been a major proponent of the "new economy" theory. In his speech Tuesday, he said the recent shake-out in dot.com companies did not necessarily mean that high-tech investments won't continue "to serve as an engine of strong productivity growth in the years ahead."

On the Net:
Bureau of Labor statistics site: <http://www.stats.bls.gov/lprhome.htm>

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Home Remodeling May Topple Marriage Still Under Construction

DEAR ABBY: I was married three months ago and still do not live with my husband. We have been remodeling the farmhouse that he has lived in for the last three years. Before I came along, he lived in filth and clutter.

Abby, I'm beginning to lose patience. He promised the house would be habitable before we married. The only work that gets done to the house is what my mother and I do. I cannot live in a house under construction because I become claustrophobic and agitated in that kind of clutter. This is starting to have a negative effect on our marriage. Please help.

LIVING SINGLE IN DES MOINES

DEAR LIVING SINGLE: If your fiance promised the house would be completed before your wedding, and then failed to fulfill that promise, that should have rung an alarm bell regarding his level of enthusiasm about marriage. Since after three months he is still not motivated enough to keep his promise so that you may live together as husband and wife, it's time to re-evaluate the entire situation.

Is this the way you want to live the rest of your life? Marriage should be a partnership, but you and your mother are doing all of the work. This man is unlikely to change. Consider consulting an attorney about an annulment before investing



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

any more time or elbow grease. You deserve better.

DEAR ABBY: Scooters are the latest rage. Their popularity is growing. They're at the top of almost every kid's Christmas wish list.

Along with this scooter craze comes a number of safety concerns. Abby, will you help me spread the word about the do's and don'ts of safe scooter usage?

CARLTON CALVIN, PRESIDENT, RAZOR, U.S.A.
DEAR CARLTON: Certainly. Your safety tips are important and well worth the space in my column. Read on:

1. Do use the same precautions you would when riding a bike, a skateboard or using in-line skates.
2. Do wear a helmet and elbow and kneepads.
3. Don't ride barefoot or in sandals. Wear athletic shoes.
4. Don't allow children under age 8 to ride a scooter.
5. Do watch the terrain; avoid

bumps, water, sand and gravel.
6. Don't be a "hot dog" and ride too fast.

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of receiving a thank-you for a wedding gift and being told, "Your generous gift has been donated to our favorite charity?"

I realize once a gift is given it's the recipient's to use or dispose of as he or she wishes. However, I would have preferred to have been told beforehand that the wedding was to be a "charity fund-raiser," because my gift was chosen especially for the bride and groom.

MIFFED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MIFFED: The couple who received the gift were a little too truthful. To inform someone that his or her gift wasn't worthy of keeping implied that it was useless or tasteless. A simple "Thank you for the beautiful () and for your generosity" would have been much kinder than the note you received.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



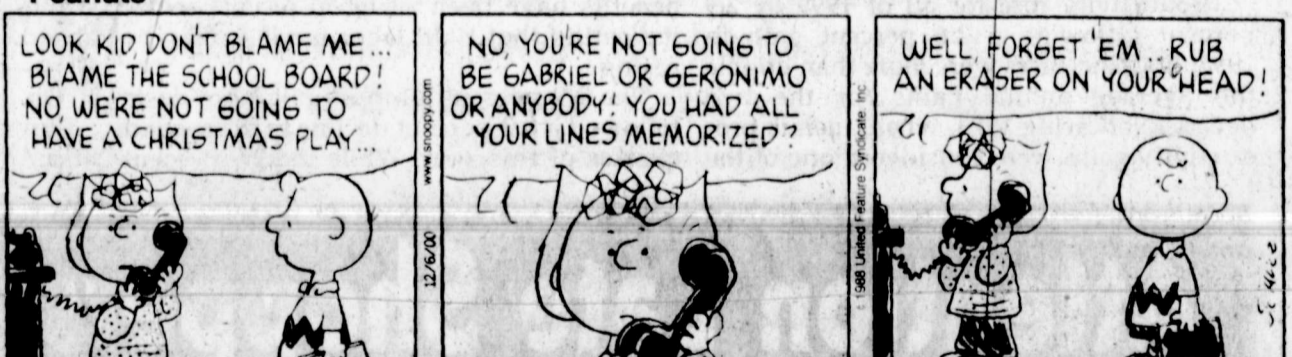
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

THURSDAY, DEC. 7, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** Your energy slowly dissipates during the day. Certainly, a lot happens quite quickly, and you might opt to work less and play more. Indulgence marks even the most diligent of Rams. Expenses run higher than you expect. Seize financial control. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Though you could be mulling over a lot during the day, you experience some dramatic changes in your perspective. Your energy level grows as the day gets older. Plan on physically demanding activities later in the day. Others respond to your appeal and energy. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Use the daytime to accomplish what you feel is important. A partner does his best to distract you. You might not understand what he wants, but you actually love the diversion. Isolate yourself in the p.m. if you want to get anything done. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Your focus challenges those around you. If they need your attention, it might be hard to get. Concentrate on

priorities and on what is important to you. Others go out of their way to please you, especially that certain someone.

You get what you want. Tonight: Smile as you zoom in on better times.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Reach out for information and expertise. Others don't necessarily see eye to eye with you, but that is perfectly OK with you. Listen to another and read between the lines. Sometimes what one doesn't say is more significant than what one does say. Work flourishes in the p.m. Tonight: Work late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Reach out for others at a distance. Your perspective changes dramatically because of what you learn. You face an emotional challenge between a long-term committed tie and a flirtation. Only you can make a decision here. Examine what is important to you. Tonight: Try a totally new restaurant or cuisine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Let others make the first move. Not everyone has to agree with you. Gain a diverse perspective. Don't push so hard to make what you want happen. Examine possibilities rather than falling into old, unworkable patterns. Close relating draws others to you. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Plunge into work and get the job done. You have a lot of ground to cover. Make a call to a loved one this afternoon, or perhaps sprinkle in a little holiday shopping at lunchtime. Realize the importance of strong working relationships as well. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Your ideas count, and they help you make money — and spend it as well. Think about what you are doing. Use your creativity to come up with unusually special holiday gifts that you could make. Dig into work, or you might not be happy with the long workweek. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Stay on top of information and what others need from you. You could overindulge a loved one or a family member. Recognize that you aren't doing it as much for this person as you are for yourself. It makes you feel good. Your ingenuity helps you at work. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Holding your feelings in doesn't help. Speak your mind and get to the bottom of a problem. Others will respond. Keep asking questions. Build security and indulge a family member. Stay in touch with your long-term needs. Tonight: Make this a quiet night for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Indulge yourself and get to the bottom of a problem. Your sense of humor comes out with others. Remain playful and direct. Think about your long-term needs with another. Discuss financial demands and implications. Another doesn't have to agree. Tonight: Out, doing errands.

BORN TODAY

Mary, Queen of Scots (1542), basketball player Larry Bird (1956), baseball player Johnny Bench (1947)

Crossword Puzzle

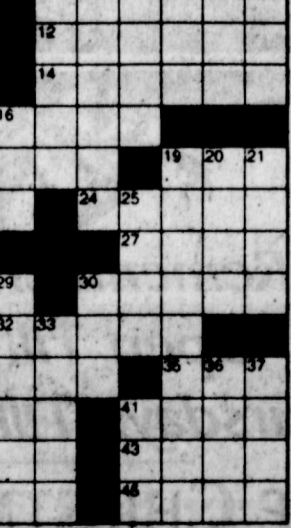
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Prod
- 5 Jacket parts
- 11 Met song
- 12 Charm
- 13 Diplomat's need
- 14 Revolt at sea
- 15 Moose's cousin
- 16 Exam
- 17 Busy
- 19 Poet
- 22 Building wing
- 24 Pie serving
- 26 Mediterranean fruits
- 27 Beige
- 28 Keen
- 30 Map features
- 31 Agent, for short
- 32 Movie genre
- 34 Highlander
- 35 Siesta
- 38 Patricia of "Everybody Loves Raymond"
- 41 Taj Mahal city
- 42 Draw
- 43 Pesters
- 44 Gleams
- 45 Location



LOPE CLASH
ALINE HELLO
KINGSRANSOM
EVA PAT AGE
RETRAP SCAR
SAINT TEINS
SAUCE
BADE RAINS
IRON ORNATE
SON QUI RUT
QUEENS BENCH
UNITE SLICE
EDNAS GAOL



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

- 10 Lot unit
- 11 Here's spouse
- 12 Distantly
- 13 Pleasant
- 14 Book part
- 15 Chapter one
- 16 Illuminated
- 17 Stomach muscles, briefly
- 20 Astound
- 21 Jason's ship
- 22 Yesterday
- 23 Crone
- 24 Building wing
- 25 Boxing great
- 26 Stomach muscles, briefly

Marmaduke



...Then when I told him the snow is too deep to take a walk...

The Family Circus



"Wow! Did you see that? Daddy turned on TV without usin' the remote!"

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-484-7377/99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's basketball leagues for ages 16 and up. Men's Competitive, Recreational and Women's Open divisions will be offered. In addition, this year the recreation department will offer a Men's Over 35 division.

Entry deadline will be Jan. 17 at 5 p.m., and the season will begin on Jan. 24, 2001.

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

Roster forms, fact sheets and league bylaws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart. For more information, please contact Shane Stokes at 669-5770 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOOTBALL

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma State's topsyturvy search for a new head football coach ended Wednesday with Dallas Cowboys assistant coach Les Miles being tabbed as the man to try to return the school's program to respectability.

Miles was the offensive coordinator for Oklahoma State when the team went 8-4 and made an appearance in the Alamo Bowl in 1997. School officials hope he can return the luster to a team that has not had a winning season since.

"I am completely and utterly thrilled to have Les Miles back in Stillwater," OSU athletic director Terry Don Phillips said.

"We needed a person of integrity, a person of character as well as an excellent football coach that's a player's coach. And Les Miles brings that to us."

Last week, OSU was poised to name Boise State coach Dirk Koetter to its top football job, but Koetter pulled out at the last minute and took the head coaching position at Arizona State.

Miles, the Dallas Cowboys tight ends coach for the past three seasons, replaces his former boss, Bob Simmons, who was forced to resign last month after six years with Oklahoma State.

Miles' voice broke as he introduced his family Wednesday and acknowledged people around the room with whom he had worked in his previous term at Oklahoma State.

"This is all about you guys and I appreciate the opportunity to be named your head coach," he told OSU players. "It's a sacred trust and I will do everything I can to help you do the things that you want to do here."

OSU tailback Reggie White said Miles' past connection with the school and community was important to players.

"He's loyal to the program," White said. "We don't want a coach who had two or three options. We wanted a coach who only wanted to be here."

OSU quarterback Aso Pogi agreed.

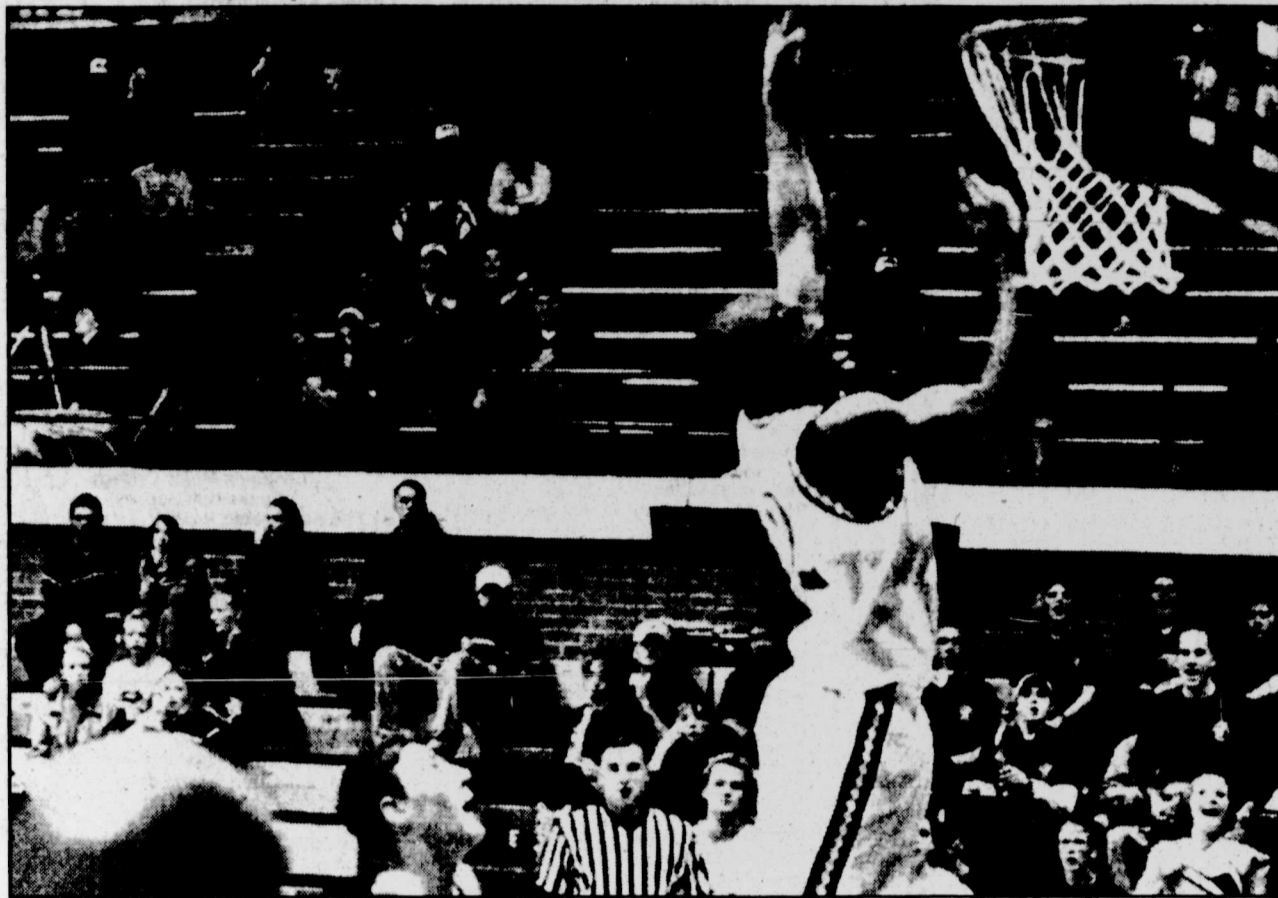
"You always want somebody who wants to be in a program ... this is his passion, this is where he wants to be," Pogi said.

After Koetter withdrew from the OSU job, speculation on the coaching candidates focused on Miles and former OSU quarterback Mike Gundy, who were granted second interviews last week.

Gundy was a serious candidate despite being only 33 years old and being relatively inexperienced, Phillips said.

Miles has served on staffs under such coaches as Bill McCartney at Colorado and Bo Schembechler at Michigan. Miles also played for Schembechler at Michigan from 1972-75.

Harvesters cruise to win over Rangers



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Pampa senior Victor Brooks dunks a shot against Perryton Tuesday night.

PAMPA — Gary Alexander scored 21 points and Kyle Francis added 17 as Pampa rolled to a 71-62 victory over Perryton in McNeely Fieldhouse Tuesday night.

The Harvesters were never behind and led by as many as 18 points in pushing their record to 6-4.

Pampa jumped out to a 9-0 lead and was in front by 18 (41-23) at halftime.

Also scoring for Pampa were Victor Brooks with 7, Adam Rogers 7, Tanner Hucks 5, Max Simon, 4, Chad Platt 3, Jon East 3, Dustin Johnson 2, Kirk George 1 and Jeff Lofton 1. The 6-4 George had six blocked shots to go with 9 rebounds and the 6-3 Brooks put the finishing touches on the game with a pair of fourth-quarter dunks.

Alexander, a 5-8 senior, scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half. Francis, a 6-0 junior, had 10 first-half points.

Cody Merrell and Cuyler Dear had 19 and 18 points, respectively, for the visiting Rangers. Dear finished with 6 rebounds.

Perryton's record falls to 5-3. The Harvesters are entered in the Vernon Invitational, which tips off Thursday. Their first game is at 1 p.m. tomorrow against Vernon in the D.O. Fulton Gym, located on the high school campus. Other teams in Pampa's Maroon Bracket are Iowa Park, Berger, Childress, Sherman, River Road and Graham.

Pampa won the junior varsity game by a score of 38-33.

In the varsity girls' contest, Perryton came away with a 60-47 win.

Tabitha Fletcher had 18 points and Erin Hale 14 for Perryton, who broke away to a 13-point advantage (40-27) at halftime.

Chasity Nachtigall and Charity Nachtigall paced the Lady Harvesters with 14 points each. Ashley Derington followed with 10 points, Lindsey Narron had 6 and Cali Covalt 3. Narron had 8 rebounds to lead Pampa on the boards.

The Lady Harvesters meet Wichita Falls High at 5 Thursday afternoon in the opening round of the Lady Bulldog Classic in Altus, Okla.

Aikman's next few weeks could be worth \$7 million

By **JAIME ARON**
AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Troy Aikman laughs at the idea that his performance the final weeks of this season will be closely evaluated by Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

"I think my play has always been evaluated," Aikman said, "if not by Jerry, then by the people asking me questions."

Jones, however, may be monitoring Aikman more closely now than he did in 1989, when the owner made the quarterback his first-ever draft pick.

That choice was a no-brainer. In March, Jones will face a much tougher decision on whether to pay Aikman a \$7 million bonus.

The money would enable Jones to either extend Aikman's contract through 2007, the length being primarily for salary cap purposes, or to buy Aikman out of the contract. The Dallas Morning News recently reported that Jones also can release Aikman between March 2-7 and pay him nothing.

With three games left in the season, neither Aikman nor the Cowboys side has indicated which way they are leaning. Aikman said it's a non-issue right now.

"We have not sat down and visited about anything," he said. "It's easy to try to speculate. But until we actually sit down and visit, I would tend to think that, as has been the case over the years, the decision would be discussed and

it would be something that's decided by both parties."

Aikman has missed three games this season with injuries and been knocked out of two more. The rest of the time he's compiled the lowest quarterback rating among NFC starters and has twice as many interceptions (14) as touchdowns (seven).

Since missing a game Nov. 5 because of back problems, Aikman has thrown five interceptions and two touchdowns. Dallas has gone 1-3 in that span, falling to 4-9 on the season.

It's also worth noting that Aikman has come out of that four-game stretch relatively healthy. He's avoided further injections for his back and he played two games in five days the week of Thanksgiving.

"My physical state during the weeks leading up to the games is still somewhat of a struggle," he said. "That's to be expected when you're 34 and still playing in this league."

"You don't recover like you used to and that's regardless of whether you've gone through any serious injuries. But I've been able to take certain measures to get out on the field. It hasn't been necessarily easy to do it."

Aikman also notes that the Cowboys changed offenses this season and that his top two receivers, Joey Galloway and Raghob Ismail, are out with season-ending injuries.

"I think we're getting better each week," Aikman said. "I think everyone is getting more and more comfortable

with what it is we're doing.

"I think we've made progress. We've still got a ways to go and we're doing it without some guys that we really were depending on."

For years, Jones has maintained that as long as Aikman

and Emmitt Smith are in the lineup, Dallas can contend for a Super Bowl. That no longer seems true considering the Cowboys haven't won a playoff game since 1996 and this will be second time in four years they miss the playoffs.

Meddling with the meter running

By **JIM LITKE**
AP Sports Writer

Some people just don't have enough to do. Not every one of them owns a sports franchise. Sometimes it just seems that way.

Ted Turner made headlines once by hiring himself to manage the Atlanta Braves. Marge Schott resold leftover doughnuts from breakfast meetings to employees in the Cincinnati Reds' front office. Harold Ballard ordered workmen to remove a portrait of Queen Elizabeth from the old Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto because it reminded him of paying taxes.

"Besides," the hockey magnate reasoned, "what the hell position can a queen play?"

These people have nothing on Dan Snyder.

His tenure as boss in Washington has been brief, but eventful. He fired secretaries first, the general manager later. He painted hallways at the Redskins' practice facility in bright red, yellow and blue hues to match his power ties. He charged fans to watch practice. Through it all, Snyder made his coach squirm. Small wonder Norv Turner thanked him for cutting the strings.

"I appreciate the opportunity Dan Snyder gave me," Turner said. He appeared to be suffering from an advanced case of Stockholm Syndrome.

"I don't think anyone can question Dan's passion," Turner added,

"how badly he wants to win."

Wanting and winning are two different things, even for someone who paid \$800 million for the franchise 18 months ago and another \$100 million to stock it with players. No doubt Snyder wants to win; he has yet to learn how.

Firing Turner was almost merciful. He was too easygoing for a team packed with high-priced mercenaries and mutinous stars. The Redskins were losing close games, their last three because a kicker missed a field goal in the final minutes.

Eddie Murray, who missed the last two, was the fifth kicker the Redskins tried this season. For all the money Snyder threw at problems, he never considered the most expensive team in NFL history being sabotaged by one cheap part.

Meddling is something an owner does with the meter running. Like every guy with an ego and two dimes to rub together, they think they can run a franchise. The difference is that some, like Orioles owner Peter Angelos, to name just one spectacularly inept owner, is paying for the privilege still.

Snyder is usually compared to Yankees boss George Steinbrenner, but he should be so lucky.

Steinbrenner is hardly a role model, ever for his fellow owners, since he remains a control freak in nearly every sense of the word. He still wanders Yankee stadium before home games, instructing cleanup

crews on washing down the concourses or telling vendors how to bake pretzels. On rare occasions, he might even turn up after the game out by the parking lot, directing traffic toward the Major Deegan Expressway.

In fact, the only thing Steinbrenner no longer micromanages is the baseball operation — but that's the point. The Yankees won three World Series titles in a row and four of the last five because manager Joe Torre runs the clubhouse and general manager Brian Cashman, assisted by a handful of advisers, takes care of most personnel matters.

There was a time when Steinbrenner made decisions after consulting his "baseball people," which meant he spent a half-hour in front of a mirror. The sense around the NFL is that Snyder is stuck in the same place.

Steinbrenner moved on, and not coincidentally, so did the Yankees. The sooner Snyder figures that out, the Redskins will, too.

His first major test graded out no better than "C". Ruthlessness is supposed to be Snyder's strong suit, but he ordered Turner to wait in his office after Sunday's game and never showed up. Then he embarked on a series of late-night phone calls that wrapped up around 5 a.m. with one firing, one good hire and one very questionable one.

White Deer cagers sweep Canadian

CANADIAN — White Deer downed Canadian 56-38 in boys' basketball action Tuesday night.

Jerry Evans was high scorer for the Bucks with 18 points. Dustin Harper, Matt Henderson and Brian Knocke

added 7 points each. Cody Mixon had 10 points and Daggett Arrington 8 to lead the Wildcats.

The Bucks improved their record to 3-2. White Deer, led by Suni Jo Petty's 22 points, won a 48-45

squeaker in the girls' game. Jana Francis topped Canadian in scoring with 27 points.

Canadian had held a 22-21 lead at halftime. Cortni Lemons added 11 points for the winning Does.

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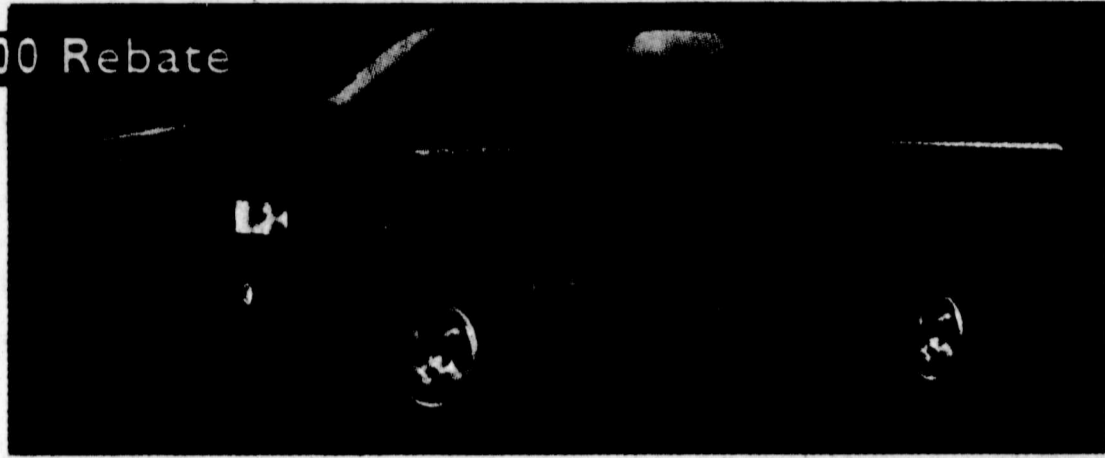
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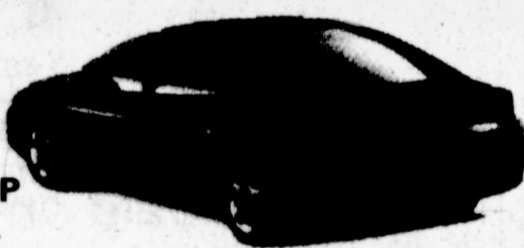


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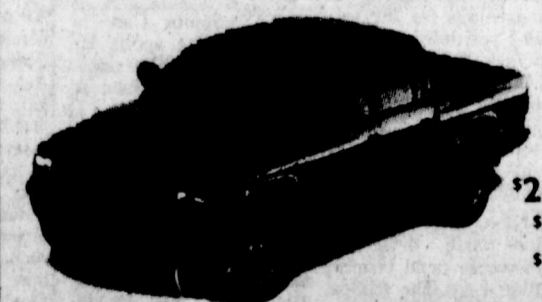
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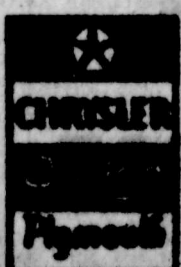


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