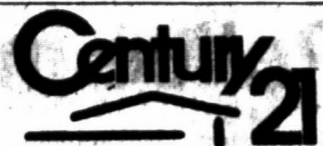


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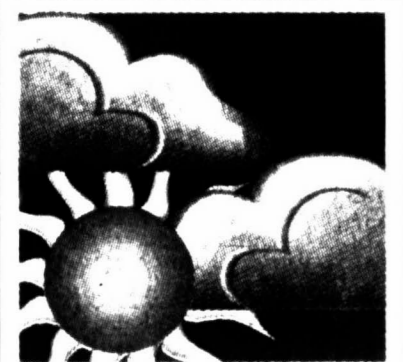
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Pampa

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High today 30-35
Low tonight 15-20
For weather details see Page 2.

Lefors PISD meets Thursday

LEFORS — Lefors Independent School District's board of education is to meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14, in the elementary school library, 160 Sixth Street.

Among the items to be considered is to be the audit with Howard Hammerbeck, and a Spanish satellite class.

Financial matters to be discussed at the meeting include current bills, the district's cash position and a tax collection report. A time to discuss personnel matters is also listed on the agenda.

An open forum for the public to bring matters before the school board is also scheduled.

All regular meetings of the school board are open to the public.

Student explodes shell at junior high

CANTON, Texas (AP) — The mother of a hearing-impaired boy said he was improperly detained by law officers after he exploded a bullet at a junior high school because he didn't have an interpreter.

The 14-year-old boy spent three days in a juvenile detention center and was suspended from school for three days after exploding a shell he found on the playground at Canton Junior High.

"His civil rights were violated when he wasn't provided an interpreter," Lorrie Blanton, the student's mother, told the Tyler Morning Telegraph in Wednesday's editions.

She said her son had found .22-caliber rat-shot bullet on the playground at Canton Junior High.

- Ruby Crupper, 88, homemaker, avid bingo player.
- Mark Layne Ricketts, 46, construction worker, jeweler.

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Sports9

Orr against move to set uniform statewide school opening date

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

While some Texas state officials are drumming up support for a uniform statewide school starting date, local school officials believe in local controls.

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said Tuesday the early school starting dates are costing Texas millions each year.

"Texas schools have been opening their doors earlier and earlier every year," said Rylander. "Our 50 largest districts started school in a three-week time span that stretched all

of the way from Aug. 2 to Aug. 23 last year. It's a practice that is costing the state and school districts an enormous amount of money."

Rylander is supporting a proposal that would prohibit public schools from opening before Aug. 21, because she says it hurts tourism and means the children of migrant farm workers lose summer work time.

Pampa Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr's reaction is that local districts know their individual school district needs better than state officials. "I strongly believe local communities

should have control of the school calendar through the locally elected board of trustees," said Orr.

He said elected state officials love to preach the mantra of local control only when it fits their political needs and definition of local control.

Pampa ISD students' first day of classes for the 2000-2001 school year was Aug. 16, 2000.

Rylander claims early and erratic school start dates are draining \$332 million a year from Texas' tourist-town economies in lost consumer spending, strips \$27 million in direct income from thousands of

migrant farm families, and may be costing Texas' public schools \$10 million more a year in bloated utility bills.

Senator Eddie Lucio of Brownsville, an advocate of a uniform school starting date, requested a report from Rylander's office recently examining the economic impact of the growing trend toward earlier school start dates and the effect a new state wide uniform start date would have on Texas.

Dr. Orr said the Texas school districts have been free to set their own start dates since 1990 when the state law was changed. He said he had understood

Plano ISD began classes the earliest in the state. "I would think if the people of Plano didn't like it they would go to their local school boards," said Orr.

Rylander said the early start dates mean school districts have to run their air conditioning systems full blast during the hottest month in the summer, claiming \$10 million a year is wasted in "bloated" utility bills.

Regarding the large utility bills (air conditioning) incurred by the school districts due to starting classes earlier, Orr said he felt the high utility bills would just be moved around.

(See SCHOOL, Page 2)

Mother has plea for escapee son to turn himself in

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

LIPSCOMB — The mother of Ivor Lloyd Debusk, who escaped from Lipscomb County Jail Tuesday evening in a sheriff's vehicle, pleaded with her son to turn himself in to authorities.

Lipscomb County authorities contacted Debusk's family members in Kansas this morning to see if he may have gone there, said Vickie Nelson, Lipscomb County dispatcher and jailer.

"I talked to his mother this morning and she said, 'Can't you broadcast that his mother is telling him to turn himself in?'" Nelson said.

Area law enforcement contin-

"I talked to his mother this morning and she said, 'Can't you broadcast that his mother is telling him to turn himself in?'"

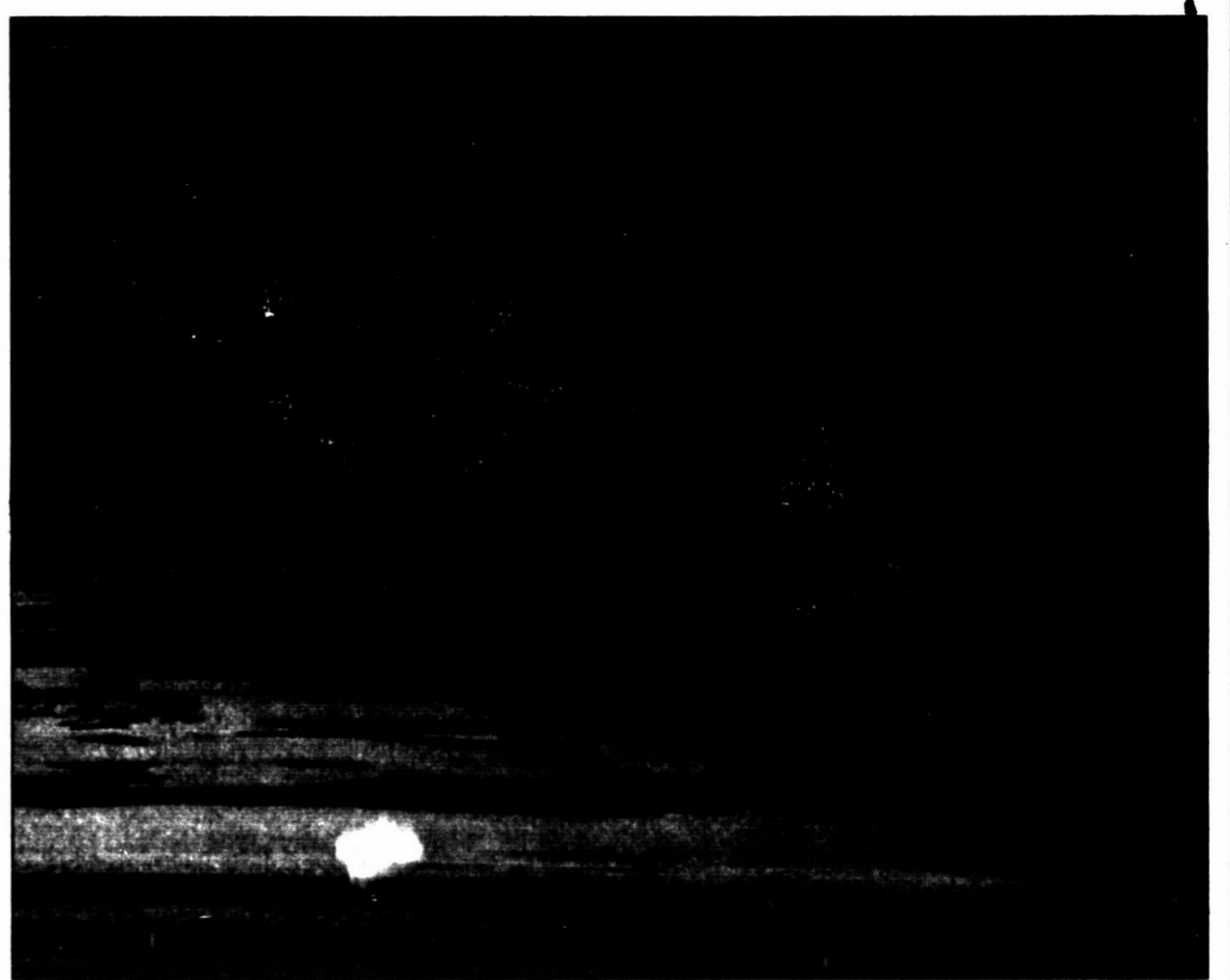
— Dispatcher Vickie Nelson

ued to search today for Debusk, a convicted burglar being held in Lipscomb County jail who took the sheriff's Blazer and disappeared Tuesday evening.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Debusk, 21, a county jail trustee, apparently stole a white 1984 Chevrolet

(See ESCAPEE, Page 5)

Wintry wonderland ...



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

A light snowfall early today turned Pampa's Dr. V.E. von Brunow Park at the corner of Foster and Cuyler Streets into a wintry fantasy landscape highlighted by Christmas lights. At the time this photo was taken, shortly before 8 a.m. today, the temperature registered at 16 degrees. The city received approximately a half-inch of snow overnight.

Gore set to call it quits

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore surrendered to the gathering consensus that it was over and, alone with his wife and children, decided to drop his epic, 36-day court battle for the White House.

The vice president, who won the national popular vote by more than 300,000 ballots, would concede once again and finally to Republican rival George W. Bush in a private telephone call probably before addressing the nation Wednesday evening, aides said.

Gore becomes only the fourth U.S. presidential

candidate in history to win the popular vote but succumb to a loss in the Electoral College, which the Constitution has empowered to select the president.

Twelve hours after the U.S. Supreme Court shut the door to further recounts of the electorally decisive Florida vote, campaign chairman William Daley issued a statement: "The vice president has directed the recount committee to suspend activities."

"This effectively brings this to an end," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Durbin called on Gore to concede graciously.

(See GORE, Page 5)

Shopping tour needs helpers

"We are expecting to take 100 children Christmas shopping Saturday," said Winston Holt of the Kiwanis Club of Pampa, general chair of the Children's Shopping Tour.

He continued, "Our donations are running a little behind last year, but what we really need are more people to help chaperone." Tax deductible donations should be payable to Pampa Optimist Youth Club and sent to Box 645, Pampa, TX 79066-0645. The cost to sponsor a child is \$65.

"We will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Pampa Optimist building at 601 E. Craven," said John Wagner, a Kiwanian who is in charge of registration. "The chaperones will register in the gym and then go into the main meeting room for coffee,

orange juice and donuts. They will receive instructions about the tour and the names, addresses and information on family members for the children they will assist on the tour."

Another Kiwanis member, Ann Franklin, is in charge of recruiting volunteers. "We have about 100 people who have volunteered to help," Franklin said. "We need about 75 or 80 more." Franklin can be reached at 669-1093.

The Opti-Mrs. Club will sponsor a wrapping party at the Optimist gym after the children have completed shopping. Whitney Davis is directing this part of the project. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club will provide all children and volunteers with

(See SHOPPING, Page 2)



Although little Cherub Whittington, 3, gets a boost from Jerry Foote, senior vice president of National Bank of Commerce, she still doesn't reach the top of the big stocking she won during a drawing at the bank's annual holiday open house.

Board Of Directors Meeting Thursday
10:30 A.M. - Nona Payne Room



Daily Record

Obituaries

RUBY CRUPPER

BORGER — Ruby Crupper, 88, died Monday, Dec. 11, 2000, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Ball Cemetery at Childers, Okla., with Shirley Randall, of Childers Full Gospel Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Mrs. Crupper was born at Alluwee, Okla. A former longtime Borger resident, she moved to Pampa four years ago and was a homemaker and an avid bingo player.

She belonged to Gateway Baptist Church of Borger and taught Sunday school at Hale Baptist Church in Spring Creek.

Her husband, Orville "Turk" Crupper, preceded her in death on May 17, 1995.

Survivors include six daughters, Phyllis Crupper and Linda Simmons, both of Pampa, Sherry Lane of Jerico, Betty Blair of Oklahoma City, Okla., Patsy Farnhart of Baton Rouge, La., and Vicky Truelock of Paducah; two sisters, Lucille Gillespie of Nowata, Okla., and Pauline Cease of Coffeyville, Kan.; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 5-8 p.m. today at the funeral home in Borger and requests memorials be to Gateway Baptist Church, 726 W. 10th St., Borger, TX 79007.

MARK LAYNE RICKETTS

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — Mark Layne Ricketts, 46, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2000. Memorial services are scheduled today. Private family interment will be held at a later time.

Mr. Ricketts was born at Lubbock and spent a number of years in Albuquerque, N.M., and Santa Fe, N.M., graduating from Santa Fe High School and attending New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Prior to moving to Schenectady nine years ago, he lived in Dallas for six years.

He was a construction worker, a self-employed jeweler and had been sales manager for Barrier Free Systems in Scotia.

He was a communicant of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy Ricketts; his parents, Glenn and Joyce Ricketts of Canadian; and a brother, Doug Ricketts of Lipscomb.

The family requests memorials be to Trinity Baptist Church, 2635 Balltown Road in Schenectady.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anthony Grain of Pampa.		
Wheat	2.48	dn 1/4
Milo	1.24	dn 7/16
Corn	1.54	up 1/16
Soybeans	4.32	up 1/8
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:		
Occidental	21 15/16	up 5/16
Facility Magell	125 1/3	dn 1/4
Puritan	19 1/6	up 1/16
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:		
BP Amoco	49 3/16	up 9/16
Cabot	24 11/16	dn 1/8
Cabot O&G	24 13/16	dn 1/8
Chevron	82 5/16	up 1/2
Coca Cola	57 7/8	dn 1/8
Columbia/HCA	38 5/5	dn 0/55
Enron	76 15/16	dn 1/4
Halliburton	38 9/16	up 1/2
KMI	46 5/16	dn 7/16
Kerr McGee	62 1/16	up 1/16
Limited	17 1/16	up 1/16
McDonald's	31	up 1/8
Exxon Mobil	87 13/16	up 1/4
New Atmos	21 5/8	dn 1/8
XCEL	27 13/16	dn 3/16
NOI	36 1/8	up 1/4
OKF	43 3/4	up 1/2
Pennco	9 1/2	dn 1/4
Phillips	54	up 13/16
Pioneer Nat.	15 1/2	up 3/16
SLB	74 3/16	up 13/16
Tenneco	3 1/16	NC
Texas	59 3/4	up 5/16
Ultramar	29 1/8	up 9/16
Wal-Mart	52 5/16	up 7/16
Williams	37 7/8	up 13/16
New York Gold	271.35	
Silver	4.68	
West Texas Crude	29.33	

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	1-888-Energas
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
SPS	1-800-750-2520
Water	669-5830

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SCHOOL

"Take Houston for example," he said. "It is very hot in Houston in August. However, all school districts have a required number of days they are to be open. If school opens later, the students will probably have to go to classes in June. It's hot in Houston in June," said Orr.

Orr said the tradition of starting school in September was begun many years ago when the principal economy was agriculture, and the young people were needed to work during the harvest of crops. "Today, we have an enormous diversity in our economy in comparison to those days," he said.

He said the issue of losing Texas tourism dollars due to early school starting has been discussed for a few years, especially in the South Padre Island area. "I wish the Texas tourism in South Texas well," he said.

"Our research found shortened summer vacations reduced traveling time for Texas families and

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SHOPPING

a hamburger luncheon after the wrapping party. Optimist President Kevin Davis leads this effort.

Lt. Guy Watts and Dolores Watts of the Salvation Army have invited 80 children between the ages of five and 10 to participate. Sandra McKinney from the Texas Department of Human Services has invited about 20 more. Some of the children who are in the shelter for Tralee Crisis Center will also attend. The American Red Cross is furnishing volunteers

Damaged USS Cole set to dock at Mississippi port today

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — Shipbuilders have a patch already made to cover the hole blasted into the hull of the USS Cole during a terrorist attack in October.

The Cole is returning to the shipyard here

Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Kevin Corcoran, 35, 321 N. Dwight, was arrested in the 300 block of North Dwight for burglary of a habitation.

Pampa police and members of the Panhandle Drug Task Force served a search warrant in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive. A package believed to be crack cocaine, marijuana, and cash was recovered in the search. Two persons were arrested.

Reggie Williams, 30, 1145 Varnon Dr., was arrested for possession of a controlled substance - over 4 grams / under 400 grams and for possession of marijuana under 2 ounces.

David Lee Ellison, 34, 605 Plains, was arrested for resisting arrest and for outstanding warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

9:12 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Wilcox and transported one to PRMC.

11:30 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported one to Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Amarillo.

Noon - A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Evergreen and transported one to PRMC.

2:46 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony.

7:07 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to VAMC and transported one to the 1200 block of North Wells.

Fires

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

8:40 a.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a grass fire two miles north of Pampa on Texas 70. Approximately four-square-foot of grass was burned by arcing power lines.

9:27 a.m. - Two units and six firefighters responded to an alarm in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. No fire was found, the alarm apparently malfunctioned.

10:08 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters checked for carbon monoxide in the 1800 block of Lynn. Elevated levels of carbon monoxide were found and the gas was shut off.

12:02 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1900 block of Evergreen.

Carson County

Carson County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 4 through Dec. 10. Currently, nine persons are incarcerated in this jail, with 10 additional prisoners held in other jurisdictions.

Week of Dec. 4-10, 2000

Sherry Sons, 22, White Deer, was arrested for criminal trespass and resisting arrest.

Mark Nathaniel, 38, Tulsa, Okla., was arrested for driving while intoxicated - first offense.

Xiomara Rios, 20, Los Angeles, Calif., was arrested for tampering with government document.

Tommy West, 43, White Deer, was arrested for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

Sheila Nelson, 30, Sacramento, Calif., was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

cost \$332 million a year in lost tourist activity," Rylander said. She claims nearly 56,000 migrant families are losing another \$27 million in annual income.

"I still believe local control of the school calendars will better represent our people in the long run," said Orr.

Rylander said her study determined earlier school start dates mean thousands of Texas teens are losing the opportunity to work all summer. School holidays that have expanded as summer vacations have shrunk also can create problems for working families who rely on child care, she said.

She said there is substantial public support for a uniform school start date. She cited a 1999 Scripps Howard Texas Poll that found 64 percent of Texans were for it, and nearly half favored opening Texas schools after Labor Day.

Sen. Lucio filed the school calendar bill Nov. 15. It will be addressed by the Texas Legislature during the upcoming session. It convenes Jan. 9.

and coffee for the event. Jana Gregory, the executive director, heads up this effort.

Kessie Alexander and Taylor Fatheree of the Energizer Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church are planning entertainment for the children when they finish wrapping their gifts.

Other organizations involved with the project include First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, Catholic Youth Organizations, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church and Pampa Rotary Club.

Wednesday aboard a Norwegian transport ship for extensive repairs.

The \$1 billion Aegis-class destroyer was built at Ingalls Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Litton Industries Inc., in 1995.

Police make drug bust, arrests

Two Pampa men remained in Gray County Jail today after law enforcement officers served a search warrant Tuesday evening leading to the arrests in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive.

Bond for Reggie Williams, 30, 1145 Varnon, has been set at \$10,000 for possession of a controlled substance - over 4 grams / under 400 grams and at \$1,500 for possession of marijuana under 2 ounces.

David Lee Ellison, 34, 605 Plains, was charged with resisting arrest and for two outstanding warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear. His bond was \$1,500 on the resisting charge, and a combined bond of \$1,000 for the two warrants.

Neither had made bond by press time today.

At approximately 7 p.m. Tuesday, nine officers of the Pampa Police Department and the Panhandle Drug Task Force served a search warrant at 1145 Varnon Dr., police said. Officers found more than 7 grams of a substance they believed is crack cocaine. The search also revealed marijuana and an undisclosed amount of money, according to reports.

When officers attempted to arrest Ellison, police said, he moved an object in front of the door and tried to prevent the police from entering the house. He also fought with officers trying to take him into custody. No one was injured in the struggle.

According to a police department news release, the raid resulted from an investigation that Williams was involved in drug trafficking here.

Candle sparks blaze at home

Fire officials say a kitchen candle left burning overnight caused an estimated \$15,000 damage to a north Pampa residence early Tuesday.

Five Pampa Fire Department trucks and nine firefighters responded to a structure fire at 2610 Seminole, the residence of the Tyson Paronto family, at 6:30 a.m. today.

"There was a candle left overnight in the kitchen," said Pampa Fire Marshal Gary Stevens. "When it burned down, it broke the glass it was in and caught a paper towel rack on fire in the kitchen."

Stevens said Stephanie Paronto heard the glass break at the same time the fire alarm sounded in the house. After calling the fire department,

Paronto and her children were able to leave the house safely, he said.

"There's not a lot of fire damage," Stevens said, "just some in the kitchen. There's a lot of smoke damage, though."

The fire marshal estimated the damage to residence at approximately \$15,000.

"The smoke alarm saved that family," the fire marshal said.

Stevens warned local residents to use care when burning candles in the home.

"We've had a lot of candles cause house fires," he said. "People don't realize that when the candle is all burned up, the glass breaks, and the fire has to have some place to go."

Aid application deadline Thursday

Editor's Note: This is the remainder of a front page article in the Tuesday, Dec. 12, edition regarding a \$14,186 federal grant available to Gray County non-profit organizations for emergency food and shelter aid. The rest of the story was inadvertently omitted from Page 2. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds must contact Katrina Bigham of the Pampa United Way by calling 669-1001 for an application. Deadline for applications is Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Gray County has been chosen to receive a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant for \$14,186 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

Pampa's United Way will serve as fiscal agent to oversee distribution of the funds. A local board consisting of representatives of the Pampa United Way, Good Samaritan Christian Services, the Salvation Army, Pampa Meals on Wheels, Tralee Crisis Center, and Southside Senior Citizens will determine how the funds will be distributed locally. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional money available under the program.

Under the terms of the grant, organizations chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination, have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

Gray County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with the Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Christian Services, Pampa Meals on Wheels, Tralee Crisis Center and Southside Senior Citizens. These agencies were responsible for providing 6,461 meals and 280 nights of lodging.

Memorial service held for tiger cub that died in surgery

TYLER (AP) — The headstone reads "Karma, America's Tiger Cub."

About 30 people shared tears and laughter Tuesday night during a memorial service at a Red Springs church for the five-month-old Bengal tiger cub. Karma died Saturday night after complications from open-heart surgery.

The cub lived at Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge

north of Tyler after he, his mother and sister were rescued.

Terri Block, the park director, said the cub had a "happy life" and that his life had deeply touched hers.

"All our animals, whether they stay with us 10 days or 10 years, touch us so much," she said.

City Briefs

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

BABY'S 1ST Christmas Deadline Has Been Extended to Dec. 20th, 12 noon, due to bad weather. Happy Holidays from The Pampa News

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

"Golden Touch" 2 hr. massages-3 essential oils-3 types of vibration stretches trigger points, therapy. Hot towels on back and legs; also uses hot stones on back, neck and legs. 1 massage \$45, \$10 savings. 2 massages \$85, \$25 savings, 3 massages \$130, \$30 savings, 4 massages \$175, \$45 savings, 5 massages \$205, \$70 savings. 806-665-6850.

COMET CLEANERS, coats

20% off (leather not included).

COTTONWOOD SPRINGS

Guest Ranch would make great gift. Gift Certificates Available. 665-7126.

CUSTOM EMBROIDERY.

Stitchin' Barn, 669-3543, at Walnut Creek.

DECK THE Halls Thurs., Dec.

14th, Open until 7:30 p.m. Buy an ornament, get a second of equal value at 50% off. Select Holiday Items 20% off. Offer excludes hand-painted ornaments. Best Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart.

ESA SORORITY is sponsoring

the Christmas Dance featuring Indian Summer. \$3 each at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center Friday 7-9:30 p.m.

FOUR P Silver Company (in

Pack 'n' Mail), 1506 N. Hobart, 665-6171. New shipment of sterling silver jewelry!

GET MORE for your Angel

Tree Angel..... quality Winter wear...for less. Twice Is Nice.

GIFT CERTIFICATES avail.

for that hard to buy for person at Complete Travel, 1538 N. Hobart, 669-6110.

GIFTWRAPPINGS SERVICE

and supplies. Paper, Boxes, Tissue, etc. Call or come by The Coffee Shop. (Ask for Robin: 665-2999).

HANDMADE STERLING

silver jewelry & pottery. For appointment call Linda at 669-6726.

JIGSAW PUZZLES, new arrivals

are at On Eagles Wings, 109 N. Cuyler.

MARY ELLEN Harvester

Church of Christ will be having our 3rd annual "Foy's Toys" giveaway on Dec. 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the youth building across the street from the church. The clothing room will also be open at this time.

MESSAGE THERAPY, Special

Gift Certificates available. Call Cathy 669-0013.

NEW SCENTS in Dreamers

Candles at Carousel Expressions, 113 N. Cuyler.

RHEAMS DIAMOND Shop

Open til 8 p.m. tonight, "Nately Special-Crystal Gift Items 1/2 price, 6-8 p.m." Register for Free Diamond Ring, 6-8 p.m. only.

SEE US for in-car video.

Custom overhead monitors, in dash, headrest or visor mountings. DVD, VCR, video games & wireless head phones. Halls Auto Sound.

WILL SIT with your loved

one. Good ref. 665-5427.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, occasional snow showers this morning. Snow may mix or change to sleet at times. Additional accumulations less than one inch.

Decreasing clouds this afternoon with highs 30 to 35. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows 15 to 20. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs around 40. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Yesterday's high was 20; the overnight low was 13.

STATEWIDE

An ice storm's precipitation glazed roads, bridges and overpasses early Wednesday, with the wintry mix of sleet, freezing rain and snow continuing from another moisture-laden Pacific system. Winter storm warnings and

freezing rain advisories were posted Wednesday for the northern Permian Basin, Edwards Plateau and south central and southeastern parts of the state.

Up to a half-inch thick sheet of ice resulted in much of South and Southeast Texas, with showers and thunderstorms along the upper Gulf coast. Ice occurred north of a line from Del Rio through Karnes City to Columbus and Huntsville.

Icy buildup on power lines caused numerous power outages. Light rain fell in parts of the El Paso area.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from 19 degrees at Childers to 45 at Galveston and 46 at El Paso.

Other readings included 28 at Junction and 32 at Corsicana and Tyler.

Winds were mostly northerly and northeasterly at 5 to 15 mph, gusting to 25 mph along the coast.

Snow continued in the High Plains and Panhandle, with rain and freezing rain in the Hill Country.

Forecasters said rain, freezing rain and sleet from an upper-level disturbance out of New Mexico will end from west to east by Wednesday afternoon in south central and southeastern Texas.

Daytime highs should range from the upper 30s and 40s to 50s and lower 60s in the deep south and along the Rio Grande.

Lows overnight should be in the 30s in the northern half of the state, with 40s to near 50 in deep south Texas and the coast.

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.

CMBC HOLIDAY HEROES

Coffee Memorial Blood Center will hold its Holiday Heroes program Dec. 15-30 at the blood center located at 1915 Coulter Drive in Amarillo. During the program, the center will open especially for "heroes" from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15 and from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16. Each participant will receive a Holiday Heroes T-Shirt. Regular hours resume Dec. 18. More than 500 pints of blood are needed weekly by children and adults throughout the panhandle. CMBC takes appointments from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (806) 358-4563.

PAS DANCE

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

PPOG

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild will meet at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 14, in Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. The program will include entertainment by Bill Reeves, cowboy poet from McLean. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish to share in a potluck meal as well as a wrapped sewing-related item for gift exchange. For more information, call (806) 779-2115.

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 raffie 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," 7-8 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).

Texas First Lady Laura Bush unveils Christmas card art

AUSTIN — Texas' First Lady Laura Bush recently unveiled the art for the Bush Christmas card which features an illustration by Austin artist Linda Boudreaux Montgomery. The art depicts the staircase and central hallway of the Governor's Mansion and may be viewed at www.governor.state.tx.us/first-lady on the Internet. "George and I love sharing the beauty of the mansion with our friends and family during the holidays," said Mrs. Bush. "The staircase and central hallway are such a rich source of history and humor that they were the perfect choice for this year's card."

The staircase's unusual curve was a source of amusement for many children living in the mansion. Gov. Sam Houston's 6-year-old son, Andrew Jackson, was known to slide down the banister on more than one occasion. The Hogg children so enjoyed the staircase that their father, Gov. James Hogg, placed nails in the railing to prohibit them from sliding their way to an accident. The filled nail holes are still visible. The focal point of the 1856 home, the U-shaped staircase was a trademark of the mansion's builder, Abner Cook.

Mrs. Bush has selected a different artist each year to illustrate an interior or exterior view of the Governor's Mansion for the family's Christmas card. Past illustrations include the library, the front door, the exterior pillars, the large parlor and the library mantel. This year's artist specializes in illustrating historic buildings.

"When I first saw the staircase, I knew it would make a beautiful painting. I was also amused by the stories of children playing on the staircase. And knowing that so many great Texans have climbed its steps is truly inspiring," Montgomery said. Montgomery holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with an advertising specialization from the University of Louisiana and has written and illustrated children's educational tour books for the state capitols in Texas, Oklahoma, California, Arizona and Alabama. She also has created tour books for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Dr. Pepper Museum and International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M.

Realty award



(Community Camera photo by Bobbie Sue Stephens)

During a Pampa Board of Realtors banquet recently, Judi Edwards, realtor with Quentin-Williams Realtors and chairman of TREPAC, accepts a Pampa Board of Realtors certificate from Texas Association of Realtors for exceeding the goal for donations to the political action committee.

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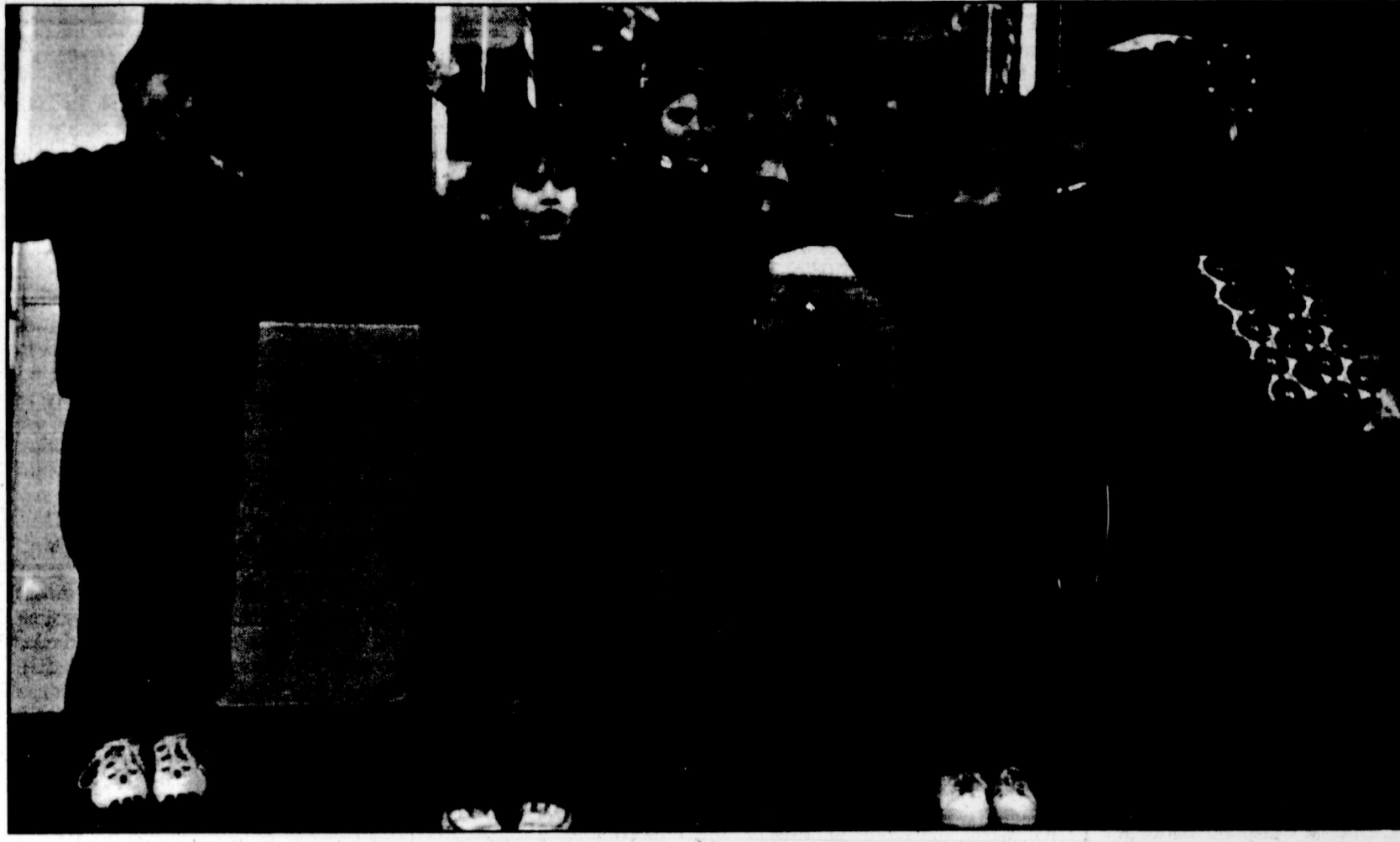
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'Silent Night'



(Photo by Jessica Blandford)

G.A.s from Lefors First Baptist Church performed "Silent Night" in sign language recently during the Christmas celebration in downtown Pampa. Back row, left-right: Tereza Soto, Stormy Howard, Carizma Soto. Front, l-r: Kira Soto, Kambra Boaz.

Little relief expected from rising heating fuel prices this winter

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A cold and expensive winter could be in store for many American households as natural gas prices show no sign of easing and heating oil costs rival the peaks seen last winter. Government and industry officials told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday that the prices stem from too little natural gas to meet demand.

"The economy has been robust," pushing up industrial and utility demands for fuel, said Roger Cooper, executive director of the American Gas Association. "And heating demand has been high in this early winter season due to unusually cold weather."

"Volatile (natural) gas prices will prevail until significantly more gas supplies enter the market," added Mark Mazur, head of the Energy Information Administration.

While higher prices have produced new drilling, significant new production would be needed before the "fairly strong mismatch between supply and demand" gets straightened out to force prices to retreat, Mazur said in his testimony.

Meanwhile, a state energy official said the country is already in "an energy crisis"

without enough money to help poor families pay for heating bills that will average about 50 percent more than last year — and could go even higher if there is a prolonged cold spell.

"Skyrocketing prices for natural gas, combined with rising heating oil, kerosene and propane costs, and attendant electricity price increases for many households, leave the most vulnerable households at serious risk," said Deborah Schachter, speaking for the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Schachter, head of New Hampshire's state energy office, urged Congress to approve this fiscal year's overdue budget for low-income energy assistance. The \$1.4 billion is caught up in partisan budget wrangling, although the fiscal year began 10 weeks ago.

But even \$1.4 billion may not be enough, Schachter said.

In New Hampshire, 114,000 households are eligible for low-income energy assistance, but "faced with the worst energy crisis in 20 years, we project an ability to serve less than 12 percent" of those families, she said.

The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers — even with normal winter weather — will be 50 percent higher this winter than last, averaging \$834 this season for a typical Midwest household.

About 56 million American homes are heated by natural gas.

Economists for some time have predicted that this winter would bring sharply higher heating costs whether it's for heating oil or natural gas. Unusually cold weather that has recently gripped parts of the country has added to the upward pressure on fuel prices.

Heating oil, which spiked last February, has yet to come down appreciably in price. It's \$1.56 a gallon on average nationwide, compared with about \$1 a gallon at the beginning of the heating season a year ago, the Energy Department said.

Wholesale natural gas prices have soared since last winter, spiking to between \$9 and \$20 per thousand cubic feet recently at major markets around the country. That's compared with a little over \$2 per thousand cubic feet at the same time last year.

Natural gas sold this week at the New York Mercantile Exchange for January delivery approached \$10 a thousand cubic feet. And in California, the wholesale price for the fuel recently leaped beyond \$40 for a thousand cubic feet because of a supply, distribution and demand crunch — the latest in a string of energy problems facing the state.

Government and industry economists said the high natural gas prices reflect a combination of factors:

—More demand driven by an expanding economy, particularly greater natural gas use by electric utilities.

—Flat gas production in recent years because low prices discouraged drilling.

—Below average inventories in storage. Current inventories of natural gas is 14 percent below the five-year average for this time of year, according to EIA.

—Recent expectations of an early and colder winter compared with a string of mild winters in recent years that kept down demand.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, wondered why the supply and demand crunch was not anticipated: "The demand for natural gas in the future has been grossly underestimated."

While wholesale prices have soared, not all of those price increases will be passed onto consumers, industry officials said. Most residential and commercial users are locked into medium- or long-term contracts that will temper retail price increases, at least in the short term.

On The Net:
Energy Information Administration:
<http://www.eia.doe.gov>
American Gas Association:
<http://www.aga.org>

Report highlights need for more child care money

WASHINGTON (AP) — States need more federal money to pay for child care, an advocacy group argues in a new report that focuses on the South but highlights problems across the country.

"There ought to be sufficient funds to serve all families who need and seek it," said Sarah Shuptrine, president of the Southern Institute on Children and Families, which was releasing its report Wednesday.

But Shuptrine said the Southern task force, which spent a year studying the issue, was unable to estimate how many children need child care and are not getting it.

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services reported that just 12 percent of U.S. children who are eligible for federally

subsidized child care got it last year. But that report also did not attempt to estimate the actual need. It did not say whether the families without subsidies were paying for child care on their own, didn't need it or had made other arrangements.

"The data have got to be collected so we're more informed about what kind of decisions to make," Shuptrine said.

The report also recommends that states make it easier for families to apply for child care help, noting the trouble programs such as Medicaid have had signing up children who qualify for aid. That, of course, would not become a significant problem unless there becomes more money available.

The federal government sent states \$5.2 billion last year to help

subsidize child care than 14.7 million low-income children were eligible for child care subsidies last year using federal standards, but fewer than 1.8 million children got the help, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

In the South, about 5.5 million children were eligible for subsidies and about 619,000 received them, Shuptrine said.

Under federal standards, families are eligible for the subsidies if their incomes fall below 85 percent of their state's median income. But most of the states in the report set more stringent eligibility rates due to the shortage of available funding, Shuptrine said.

On the Net:
Southern Institute on Children and Families:
<http://www.kidsouth.org>
Health and Human Services Department report:
<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/ccstudy.htm>

Holiday Style Show



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Edna Hickman took to the "catwalk" recently during Pampa Chamber of Commerce Fashion Avenue Holiday Style Show at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Hickman modeled a leather full-length coat from Images set off with a zebra (faux) hat.

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ESCAPEE

Blazer parked in front of the Lipscomb County Courthouse, according to a teletype to local authorities from Sheriff James Roberts. Debusk was last seen at 5:55 p.m. doing janitorial work at the courthouse.

"It was just five minutes from the time he was last seen and we realized the Blazer was gone," Nelson said. "He didn't have much of a head start, but there was no sign of him anywhere. I guess he got to know the county pretty well."

"He was in for several burglaries made around the county," said Nelson.

She said Debusk had been jailed at Lipscomb for approximately a month, after being transferred there from Perryton where he had also been held on burglary charges.

Authorities had accepted an offer from a private citizen from Darrouzett who volunteered to use his private airplane and fly over the county looking for signs of Debusk or the Blazer today, Nelson said.

Light snow and ice, frigid temperatures, and overcast skies hampered the search for the jail escapee.

Debusk had told officers that he could hot-wire

vehicles with ease, that no key was needed to start one, Nelson said. Area authorities are being warned to watch for any stolen vehicles, especially those that may have been hot-wired, and to notify Lipscomb County's sheriff if they should have a stolen vehicle in their area.

"Stinnett reported one stolen last night that they thought had been hot-wired, but it turned out it had been repossessed," Nelson said.

The escapee is thin, 5-feet, 8-inches tall, and weighs approximately 160 pounds. He has black hair and wears a goatee and mustache. When last seen he was wearing a black and white, two-piece jail uniform, a faded Carhart jacket and a blue Goodyear cap. He also wears glasses.

The stolen Blazer has a blue and red light bar on top and a "Lipscomb Sheriff Drug Interdiction" sign on the side, officials said. The Blazer is equipped with a police radio.

Nelson said Debusk is adept at breaking into buildings and vehicles, but is not considered dangerous.

"If he was, he would have never been a trustee," she said.

Anyone having any information about Debusk or the stolen Blazer, can contact Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office at (806) 862-2611.

Not a great year for Kennedy

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — This was Rep. Patrick Kennedy's year.

He acknowledged that he took antidepressants. An airport security guard claimed he shoved her in a scuffle. A charter company accused him of causing \$28,000 in damage to a yacht.

The latest blemish came this week, when it surfaced that the Coast Guard in July sent a rescue boat to take Kennedy's distraught date off his chartered yacht.

But he's had triumphs as well, including an Election Day rout and impressive fund raising on behalf of fellow Democrats. Even so, some say the portrait emerging of the 33-year-old Rhode Island congressman could hurt his political future.

"There have been enough things to come to suggest a pattern of bad behavior and that's something he has to worry about, that voters will put the pieces together into a portrait that is unflattering," said Darrell West, a Brown University political scientist and author of "Patrick Kennedy: The Rise to Power."

Kennedy, traveling this week with President Clinton in Ireland, could not be reached for comment. His chief of staff, Tony Marcella, expressed disappointment about the flood of public

scrutiny to Kennedy's personal life.

"He can't have a private life at all," Marcella said. "Contrary to what people say, Congressman Kennedy bleeds like the rest of us. He's human. Because his name is attached to it, it becomes a front-page story. I think that's unfortunate."

In the past two years, under Kennedy's chairmanship, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee nearly tripled the amount of money raised, from \$37 million to \$97 million.

In March, Kennedy, who had previously acknowledged he was treated for cocaine addiction as a teen, revealed he suffered from depression and took prescription medicine to control the illness.

"I myself have suffered from depression. I have been treated by psychiatrists. Oh my god, it's out. That's another skeleton in the closet," Kennedy said at the time.

The same month, a Los Angeles International Airport security guard filed a complaint with police claiming he shoved her in a confrontation over his oversized luggage. He later apologized for acting rudely, and was not charged.

In November, a Connecticut charter, Atlantic Navigation Co.,

said Kennedy caused \$28,000 in damage this summer to a rented yacht. Kennedy initially called the boat a "lemon" and refused to pay, but his insurance company settled for an undisclosed amount.

Then this week, the Providence Journal reported the Coast Guard sent a boat to take Kennedy's date off his yacht in July, saying she became distraught after an argument.

Marcella said the woman was never in danger and the Coast Guard should not have responded.

As the scrutiny continues and the year draws to a close, not all political observers believe the negative headlines will hurt Kennedy, the son of Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

"I think this contributes to his celebrity. It makes him a continuing saga," University of Rhode Island political scientist Marc Genest said. "In this era of soap opera politics, Kennedy is a wonderful story."

On the Net: Kennedy: <http://www.house.gov/patrick-kennedy>
Coast Guard: <http://www.uscg.mil>
DCC: <http://www.dccc.org>

Women, heavy people most likely to get blocked veins after hip replacement

A few extra pounds increase the likelihood of dangerous blood clots after hip replacement surgery, a study found.

Researchers at the University of California at Davis Medical Center looked at California Medicare records of 25,388 patients who underwent hip replacement from 1993 through 1996. They found that 297 were re-admitted to the hospital within three weeks because a bit of blood clot had broken off and blocked a vein.

Women were found to be more likely than men to develop the blockages, called embolisms. And people with a body mass index of 25 — the low edge of the

overweight range — were more likely to develop them than people with normal body mass.

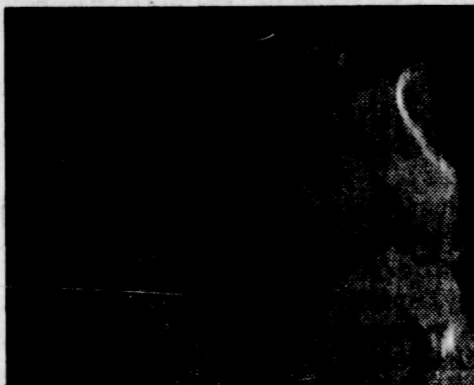
Obese people, those who are extremely overweight, did not have a greater risk than those who were moderately heavy.

The blood thinner warfarin helped prevent the complication. So did use of a pneumatic compression device to reduce swelling in the legs, but only for people with a body mass index less than 25.

Body mass is found by multiplying weight in pounds by 703, then dividing that by height in inches squared. Someone who is 5-foot-1 and weighs 132 pounds has a body mass index of 25.

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GORE

and strongly advised against any suggestions — however subtle — from the vice president that he does not consider himself to have lost.

"His statement should be clear and unequivocal that, according to the highest court in the land, George W. Bush is going to be the next president," Durbin said, who also lamented that the high court's sharply divided ruling was "not reassuring" on the legitimacy of Bush's election.

Two senior advisers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gore will use a nationally televised speech at 9 p.m. EST to drop out of the race — just one hour after he is scheduled to bid goodnight to the guests invited long ago to a Christmas party at his home. Gore will speak from the vice president's ceremonial office in the Old Executive Office Building at the White House.

The party, along with four others this week and next, will go on, a spokeswoman said.

A Gore confidant said his speech will make clear that he has conceded to Bush and that the country should unite behind the next president. Gore also will explain why he fought for five weeks to win the presidency, returning to his theme that every vote should be counted.

"The race is over," said one official who had talked to Gore Wednesday morning. "We're done."

Gore was at home with just his family, spokeswoman Julia Payne said, when word of the expected concession rippled across a country weary of recounts and court wrangling.

President Clinton, traveling in Northern Ireland, called Gore at 10:20 a.m. EST, minutes after the news broke. The two political partners, who had grown apart during Gore's campaign, spoke for about five minutes, according to White House spokesman Jake Siewert.

Late Tuesday night, Daley gave Gore and his Democratic running mate, Joseph Lieberman, some breathing room to make the difficult decision, announcing that the pair would take the night to "completely analyze this opinion" from the nation's highest court.

Even so, as the clock ticked toward midnight, some Democrats said publicly — and some top aides, privately — that Gore would be forced to concede defeat.

"It has gotten to the end," said Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J.

Outside the vice president's gated official residence on Wednesday morning, a lone supporter hoisted a sign offering Gore some farsighted consolation: "Gore 2004."

"His hope lay in the recount. He's been denied the presidency that was rightly his," said Robin Haar of Bethesda, Md.

State comptroller revises office's use of gas tax

AUSTIN (AP) — Questions about Texas' gasoline tax revenues have prompted State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander to put a halt to using some of those dollars on administrative costs and return them to the state's highway and public school funds.

Rylander announced the new policy after a recent Senate report called for a review of her office's practices related to the gas tax money.

The comptroller told the Austin American-Statesman in Wednesday's editions that the criti-

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said it was "very hard to know" if Gore, who first made a grab at the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988, could try again in four years. "That is several lifetimes in politics and that makes it hard to predict. There are lots of other capable people who, no doubt, will step forward. Certainly this was his best chance," said Conrad.

Gore conceded to Bush once before, in a telephone call in the wee hours of Nov. 8, but called back to retract it as the decisive Florida vote appeared more and more uncertain.

With those two phone calls, Gore set this unprecedented — oftentimes unthinkable — election battle spinning.

Partial recounts in scattered Florida counties whittled Bush's unofficial lead to a mere 200 votes or less. But the U.S. Supreme Court said Tuesday that the further recount ordered last weekend by the Florida Supreme Court could not be completed in a constitutional way by the midnight deadline for selecting members to the Electoral College.

In Tucson, Ariz., Gore supporter Ken White called it "a sad day."

"We do feel cheated, not so much because Bush is president, but by the process that put him there," White said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson vowed to challenge that process no matter what Gore decided.

Jackson told The Associated Press that his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition on civil rights would obtain the ballots through Florida's open records law and count the votes themselves.

"No matter who the Supreme Court crowns, we will know before January the 20th that Gore got most of the votes," Jackson said.

Though Gore's attorneys thought the Supreme Court ruling offered some hope for reviving recounts, several political advisers told the vice president that Democrats would try to force him from the race if he did not get out on his own. Others on the political team hoped he would fight, but they appeared to be in the minority.


Gore sifted through the late-night advice at his official residence in the U.S. Naval Observatory. He waited alone with wife Tipper and two of their four children — Kristin, 23, and Albert III, 18 — for an excruciating 3 1/2 hours for the high court to rule on arguments from Monday morning's historic hearing.

A senator's son and 16-year veteran of Congress himself, Gore first sought the White House in 1988, when he was just 39. He settled for the No. 2 spot on Bill Clinton's ticket four years later.

Daughter Sarah, 21, hastened from her schoolwork at Harvard to her father's side late Tuesday. Gore's eldest, Kareena Gore Schiff, 27, flew to Washington from New York Wednesday morning.

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CPSC issues list of recalled toys

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scooters, toy basketball nets and flying dolls are among dangerous toys the Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled in the past year and is trying to keep out of children's hands.

"We can get recalled toys off store shelves," said commission chairwoman Ann Brown. "The more difficult task is to get recalled toys out of people's homes."

The commission issued a list Tuesday that the agency is urging parents to use as a holiday safety check of their homes.

The toys include:

—Pokemon Balls: 25 million distributed in Burger King kids meals in November and December 1999. The toys may pose a suffocation hazard to children younger than age 3. A 13-month-old girl and a 4-month-old boy died, and the commission said several other incidents were reported although the children did not suffocate.

The toys should be discarded or returned to Burger King for a free small order of french fries.

—KFC Tangled Treeple Toy: 425,000 distributed in KFC kids meals in June and July 2000. The container can fit over a child's nose and mouth, a possible suffocation threat.

The toys should be thrown away or returned to a KFC restaurant for a free individual-sized item.

—Fazoli's Pasta Pals: 310,000 distributed in Fazoli's kids meals from January to August 2000. Again, the container can fit over a child's nose and mouth to become a possible suffocation threat.

The toys should be thrown away or returned to a Fazoli's restaurant for a free Italian Lemon Ice.

—Scooters: Recall includes 90,000 Kent Kickin' Mini-Scooters sold from May through September 2000 and 7,500 Kash 'n Gold Racer X20 Scooters sold from August through September 2000.

The Kent scooter handles can come out of the steering column and cause the rider to lose control and fall. Four children have been injured with broken arms, bruises, abrasions and a cracked tooth. Call Kent at 1-800-451-5368 for a replacement handlebar.

The Kash scooter has a plastic "T" joint between the handlebars that can break and cause the rider to lose control and fall. The safety commission has reports of injuries to two children. Return the Kash scooter to the store for a refund or for a new scooter with a metal "T" joint. The company's recall phone number is 1-800-354-8785.

—Toy basketball nets: 11 million sold between 1976 and 1998. Brands are Ohio Art, Little Tikes, Today's Kids, Fisher-Price, Franklin Sports, Huffy Sports and Lifetime Products.

Their loops or openings can strangle children by coming unhooked from the rim or through their knots that slide. CPSC is aware of more than 20 reports of children under age 5 whose heads or necks were caught in the net. An 18-month-old child died after becoming entangled.

People should remove and throw away nets that can unhook or have sliding knots and call the manufacturer to get new nets. Ohio Art 1-800-641-6226, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST; Little Tikes, 1-800-321-0183, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST; Today's Kids, 1-800-916-8697; Fisher-Price, 1-800-432-5437, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST; Franklin Sports, 1-800-225-8647, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Huffy Sports, 1-800-558-5234, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST; Lifetime Products, 1-800-242-3865.

—Sky Dancers Flying Dolls: 8.9 million sold from 1994 through 2000. The dolls can fly rapidly in unpredictable directions and hit and injure children and adults. Galoob Toys Inc. and CPSC know of about 170 reports of the dolls striking people, resulting in 150 reports of injuries to the eyes, broken teeth, a mild concussion, a broken rib and facial lacerations.

Call Galoob toll-free at 877-598-5599 to get instructions on how to return the dolls.

—Wiggle Waggle Caterpillar: 1 million sold from 1998 through 2000 from Child Guidance. The small balls attached to the toys are choking hazards, and a 5-month-old girl died after one of the balls lodged in her throat.

Call Child Guidance at 877-586-1006 for information about sending back the toy.

—Battery-powered toy riding vehicles: 500,000 sold by Tek Nek Toys, Empire Industries and Fisher-Price from 1995 through 2000. On the Tek Nek and Empire models, the battery charger can over-heat and cause a fire. Call Tek Nek at 877-446-7719. Call Empire at 1-800-872-1869, Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m.

On the Fisher-Price motorcycles, foot pedals can stick in the "on" position. Call Fisher-Price at 888-289-9292.

—Busy Poppin Pals: 590,000 sold from 1994 through 2000 by Playskool. The toys have small springs inside that can break, and Playskool received 24 reports of broken springs. Two children received lacerations. Call Playskool at 877-518-9743 for a new toy. (See, RECALLS, Page 7)



(Community Camera photos by Tina Holt)

Members of Small Fry Gardners Club met recently to help decorate for the annual "Festival of Trees," sponsored by Pampa Garden Club this past weekend at Lovett Memorial Library. Influenced by an upcoming project this spring to renovate "Butterfly Park" on Duncan to attract butterflies, the gardeners decorated with a butterfly motif. Top: Susan Day, Carrie Tomaschik, Jacob Day, Brittany Tomaschik, Lindsey Tomaschik, Pierce Holt, Christa Holt, Paige Holt and Tina Holt, club manager. Right: Pierce Holt.



Clinton hopes visit to Belfast nudges parties toward peace

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — President Clinton is urging residents of Northern Ireland to protect the progress made toward peace and to build on it. "You cannot win by making your neighbors lose," he said. In meetings Wednesday with Northern Ireland's leaders and in a speech to its residents, Clinton was pressing the same themes that marked his visit the day before to Dublin and Dundalk, a border town in Ireland that has been a stronghold of the Irish Republican Army. "You stared violence in the face and said, 'No more.' You stood up for peace then, and I ask you, stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives," Clinton said Tuesday.

Four Palestinians killed, dozens wounded in clash with Israeli army

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen battled through the night and into Wednesday morning, leaving four Palestinian

policemen dead and dozens of people injured in the most intense clash in the Gaza Strip in weeks. Palestinians near the Khan Yunis refugee camp opened fire on Israeli forces at around 1 a.m. Wednesday, and the soldiers returned fire, the Israeli military said. The shooting was still going on nine hours later, witnesses said. The latest outburst came the day after U.S. envoy Dennis Ross met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Morocco in an attempt to calm the violence and revive Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

Oldsmobile's birthplace sorry but not surprised at demise

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — In the city of Oldsmobile Park and the Oldsmobile Historical Center, the car company founded by Ransom E. Olds has been part of the culture for 103 years. To be sure, Oldsmobile's presence in Michigan's capital city has been fading since General Motors Corp. reorganized in the mid-1980s. But affection and nostalgia linger, and for many locals, GM's announcement Tuesday of the

brand's impending demise was hard to take. Oldsmobile was founded as the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. in Lansing in 1897 and became part of GM in 1908. It's the oldest U.S. automotive brand name, behind only the Daimler name worldwide. But gradually, the Oldsmobile brand will cease to exist.

Springsteen planning holiday concerts

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen is planning a pair of holiday concerts, with proceeds going to various charities. The Dec. 17-18 shows in Asbury Park,

N.J., come five months after the end of Springsteen's acclaimed reunion tour with the E Street Band. Springsteen will be backed by The Max Weinberg 7 — the band that performs on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." In addition to E Street drummer Weinberg, the band includes members of the Asbury Jukes horn section. Beneficiaries of the Springsteen shows will include the Greater Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce, Epiphany House, a treatment facility for homeless women, and the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

McVeigh wants appeals stopped, execution date set

DENVER (AP) — Against his attorneys' advice, convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh has sought to end appeals in his case and be executed within 120 days.

McVeigh offered no explanation for his decision, made public Tuesday, but said he reserved the right to seek executive clemency.

"I want him executed, but still there's nothing to celebrate," said Jannie Coverdale, whose two grandsons died in the April 19, 1995, bombing, the worst such attack on U.S. soil.

McVeigh, 32, was convicted of murder and conspiracy and sentenced to death in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

Marsha Kight, whose daughter was killed in the blast, said she wanted McVeigh to "rot in jail."

"It's not that I don't think that he doesn't deserve to die. I just think it is too easy," she said. "I have to live with this the rest of my life. He should have to live with it the rest of his life."

In March 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court left intact McVeigh's conviction and death sentence, rejecting his contention that his trial was tainted by jury misconduct and news reports that he confessed to his lawyers.

In October, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch denied McVeigh's second appeal, which contended trial attorney Stephen Jones failed to represent him adequately. Jones has denied the allegations.

His current attorneys are researching grounds for other appeals.

In an affidavit made Dec. 7 and filed with the court Monday, McVeigh asked for permission to waive further court reviews. He also asked that his execution be held within 120 days of the statement, or by early April.

He said he will undergo a psychological evaluation if necessary but would "not justify or explain my decision to any psychologist."

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch, who presided at McVeigh's trial, could approve the request, reject it or order a competency hearing first.

Justice Department spokeswoman Chris Watney had no comment. Attorney Nathan Chambers, who represents McVeigh, declined to discuss his conversations with his client.

Chambers believes McVeigh has grounds for a new appeal contending that his constitutional rights were violated at the trial because of ineffective counsel.

During his trial, prosecutors argued that McVeigh, a decorated Gulf War veteran, planned the bombing after becoming bitter over the 1993 deadly FBI raid on the Branch Davidians compound near Waco, Texas.

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Working poor descend on food banks, other relief agencies

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — To the working poor looking in on a booming economy from the outside, housing and fuel prices have exploded and health care, prescription drug and car repair costs aren't far behind.

That's leaving precious little for food budgets this holiday season, almost five years into the welfare reform act's efforts to move people off welfare and into jobs.

"A lot of the people that eat here have jobs," said chef Joe Cailleux, cooking up ham, noodle casserole and green beans at Albuquerque's Salvation Army kitchen. "As a matter of fact, we have scheduled the hours that we feed here in order to work the people who do attempt to work."

Soaring demand, low inventories and expected colder weather will keep natural gas and heating-oil prices high through the winter, government and industry economists said Tuesday. The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers would be 50 percent higher this winter than last.

Rents have skyrocketed so much in 38 metropolitan areas that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development broadened its rent-subsidy program this month.

So people turn to food banks. The Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque distributed 10 million pounds of food statewide this year — double the amount since last year, said director Melody Wattenbarger.

"The flow in that is we can't do it — we were designed to be emergency food suppliers. There's really not enough food to do that," she said.

New Mexico plans a massive outreach program in the next six months to alert people eligible for food stamps.

Still, some people aren't getting help that they could. Food stamp rolls dropped 28 percent after welfare reform, according to the General Accounting Office.

Doug O'Brien of Chicago-based America's Second Harvest, a food bank umbrella group, says many people leaving welfare were never told they remained eligible for food stamps or found it hard to get them.

Said Agriculture Undersecretary Shirley Watkins, who supervises the food stamp program: "I think there was a lot of misinformation."

My mom's not going to say get out, you know, but I need to pay her," she said.

The prevailing glow of affluence also can make helping the needy trickier: "It's a little harder to convince people there's a whole group of people who have been left behind by that prosperity," Wattenbarger said.

A year ago, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that demand for emergency food assistance grew 18 percent over 1998 in 26 cities. On Thursday, they plan an update on hunger and homelessness.

Soaring demand, low inventories and expected colder weather will keep natural gas and heating-oil prices high through the winter, government and industry economists said Tuesday. The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers would be 50 percent higher this winter than last.

It's a work in progress," he said. "Replacing welfare with work is a good idea, but it is a long-term strategy, not a short-term fix."

A U.S. Agriculture Department study last year found 10 million families, or 97 percent of U.S. households, had inadequate access to food in 1996-98. New Mexico topped the list at 15.1 percent.

It does become a choice between do I take my child to the doctor, pay my utility bill or go to the grocery store and buy food?" said Cindy Cerf, spokeswoman for St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, which distributes 30 million pounds of food a year, mostly to 900 relief agencies in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

On The Net: Conference of Mayors: <http://www.usmayors.org>

These aren't people who are depending on welfare," she said. "It's just that they're at the low end of the pay scale."

Also suffering are people whose jobs don't include health benefits,

Good Shepherd Services: <http://www.goodshepherds.org>

Food Stamps: <http://www.usda.gov>

HUD Subsidies: <http://www.hud.gov>

Urban Institute: <http://www.urban.org>

St. Mary's Food Bank: <http://www.ariz.com/stmarys>

America's Second Harvest: <http://www.secondharvest.org>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

RECALLS

—Klackeroo: 550,000 sold from October 1997 through September 2000 by Playskool. The toy has small, geometric-shaped pieces that come loose, posing choking hazards. Call Playskool at 888-671-9764 for a new toy.

Knowledge Kids Enterprises Inc. Each of the electronic pull toys has a red plastic connector on the string that can be pulled apart, and the pieces pose choking hazards.

lodged in children's throats. Shelcore Inc. received a report of the mallet being jammed into the throat of a toddler when he fell. Call Shelcore at 1-800-777-0453, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., for a replacement mallet.

—Leapfrog Alphabet Pal: 500,000 sold from June 1999 through November 2000 by

Consumers should cut the red plastic connector from the strings. Call the company at 877-477-6641.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission's phone number is 1-800-638-2772.

—Xylophone mallets from Stand-Up 'N Play Tables: 124,000 sold from 1996 through 1999. The mallets can become

On the Net: Consumer Product Safety Commission: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

Electricity Facts

Brite-Star Electric Co., Some of Texas
December 2000

Average monthly use:	500kWh	1,000kWh	1,500 kWh
Average price per kilowatt-hour:	8.8¢	7.7¢	7.1¢

This price disclosure is an example based on average usage patterns - your average price for electric service will vary according to when you use electricity. See the Terms of Service document for actual prices.

Price fixed for 12 months.

On-peak season or time: May- Sept. 4-6 p.m.

Average on-peak price per kilowatt-hour: 8.5¢

Average off-peak price per kilowatt-hour: 7.8¢

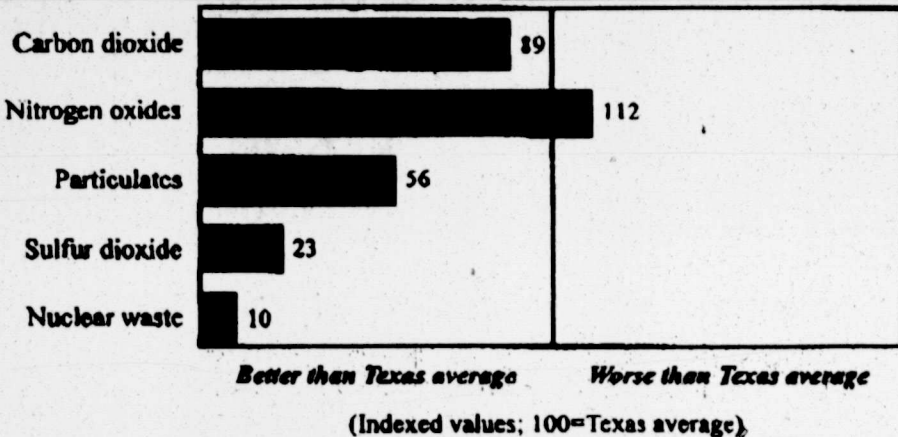
Minimum term: 12 months. Penalty for early cancellation: \$50

See Terms of Service statement for a full listing of fees, deposit policy, and other terms.

Sources of power generation

	This product	Texas (for comparison)
Coal and lignite	35%	46%
Natural gas	50%	39%
Nuclear	14%	14%
Renewable energy*	0.6%	0.6%
Other	0.4%	0.4%
Total	100%	100%

Emissions and waste per kWh generated



PUC: Newly adopted rules to encourage competition

AUSTIN — Electric customers will soon benefit from the new customer protection rules recently established by Senate Bill 7. The restructuring legislation was passed into law by Gov. George W. Bush in June of 1999 and will be overseen by the Public Utility Commission.

"Customers are the winners here," PUC Commissioner Judy Walsh said. "Texans will have necessary safeguards when electric competition begins."

The rules are designed to give customers the ability to make an informed decision when choosing a retail electric provider. Retail competition begins Jan. 1, 2002, and pilot projects are scheduled to begin June 1, 2001.

"These rules are clearly in the public interest," said PUC Chairman Pat Wood, III. "Texans will be able to shop for electricity with confidence."

The new regulations offer substantial customer protections including:

- Requirements to prevent "slamming," the unauthorized switching of electric service.
- The right to receive service terms in writing and to cancel contracts within three days of receiving this information without penalty.
- A prohibition against deceptive, unfair and

fraudulent marketing practices.

—The ability to pay a level, or average amount, on individual electric bills to avoid paying sharply higher amounts during the summer.

—Prohibitions against discrimination in marketing and service.

—A "do not call" list of customers who do not want telemarketing calls from retail electric providers.

"The tools are in place for a vibrant retail market," added Commissioner Brett Perlman.

Another requirement is specific electricity pricing information, which will be given to customers on an "Electricity Facts" label. The label will note the average cost of electricity per kilowatt-hour and specify if the cost varies by month, season or time of day. Contract changes and early termination penalties also must be listed. Other features include listing the fuels used to supply the electricity, and the air emissions created in generating the power. A sample Electricity Facts label is provided.

The new rules become effective Jan. 15, 2001. The Electricity Facts label will be distributed every six months beginning July 1, 2002.

'Grinch' still topping box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two new rescue-oriented movies couldn't topple the resilient Grinch from the No. 1 spot at the box office.

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was the top movie for the fourth consecutive week, taking in \$18.6 million Friday through Sunday at the box office.

"Vertical Limit," about a rescue on the world's second highest mountain, was second at \$15.5 million. "Proof of Life," which stars Meg Ryan as the wife of a kidnapping victim held for ransom in South America, was third with \$10.2 million.

"Unbreakable," the follow-up to "The Sixth Sense" for actor Bruce Willis and writer-director M. Night Shyamalan, dropped to fourth in its third week of release, taking in \$7.5 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc.

1. "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Universal, \$18.6 million, 3,182 locations, \$5,860 average, \$195.6 million, four weeks.

2. "Vertical Limit," Sony, \$15.5 million, 2,307 locations, \$6,722 average, \$15.5 million, one week.

3. "Proof of Life," Warner Bros., \$10.2 million, 2,705 locations, \$3,774 average, \$10.2 million, one week.

4. "Unbreakable," Disney, \$7.5 million, 2,682 locations, \$2,811 average, \$77.4 million, three weeks.

5. "Dungeons and Dragons," New Line, \$7.2 million, 2,078 locations, \$3,483 average, \$7.2 million, one week.

6. "102 Dalmatians," Disney, \$6.2 million, 2,704 locations, \$2,305 average, \$44.3 million, three weeks.

7. "Rugrats in Paris: The Movie," Paramount, \$3.9 million, 2,840 locations, \$1,392 average, \$60.5 million, four weeks.

8. "Meet the Parents," Universal, \$3 million, 1,934 locations, \$1,565 average, \$157 million, 10 weeks.

9. "Charlie's Angels," Sony, \$2.6 million, 2,204 locations, \$1,192 average, \$119.2 million, six weeks.

10. "Bounce," Miramax, \$2.6 million, 2,028 locations, \$1,278 average, \$34.1 million, four weeks.

11. "Men of Honor," Fox, \$2.1 million, 1,999 locations, \$1,060 average, \$44.6 million, five weeks.

12. "The 6th Day," Sony, \$1.3 million, 1,833 locations, \$745 average, \$33 million, four weeks.

13. "Billy Elliot," Universal, \$916,095, 471 locations, \$1,945

average, \$14.6 million, nine weeks.

14. "Little Nicky," New Line, \$862,745, 1,374 locations, \$628 average, \$38.1 million, five weeks.

15. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Sony Picture Classics, \$663,205, 16 locations, \$41,450 average, \$663,205, one week.

16. "Remember the Titans," Disney, \$434,055, 684 locations, \$635 average, \$112.3 million, 11 weeks.

17. "The Legend of Bagger Vance," DreamWorks, \$326,825, 713 locations, \$458 average, \$30.4 million, six weeks.

18. "Best in Show," Warner Bros., \$310,476, 286 locations, \$1,086 average, \$16.2 million, 11 weeks.

19. "You Can Count on Me," Paramount Classics, \$297,194, 53 locations, \$5,607 average, \$2 million, five weeks.

20. "Bedazzled," Fox, \$173,881, 361 locations, \$482 average, \$37 million, eight weeks.

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Son's Name Change Is Slap In The Face to His Family

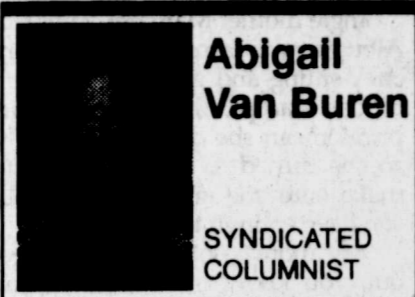
DEAR ABBY: We just found out that one of our sons changed his last name. What a terrible blow to our family. We found out very painfully when his wife had a baby. We went to the hospital to see the newest member of our family and couldn't find a "Mrs. Barry Nofzinger." However, there was a "Mrs. Barry Gibson."

Barry had used the name "Gibson" before, when he was in sales. He said it was much easier to remember than Nofzinger. He never indicated that he was considering changing his name. When he remarried two years ago, he still used the name Nofzinger. As far as we know, the name change occurred prior to our grandson's birth.

When we asked why, he told us his current wife (Barry was married before) didn't want to be the "second" Mrs. Nofzinger. The funny thing is, Barry's first wife remarried long before our son met or married his current wife. She has used her present husband's name for years.

Barry contends that we're making too much of this. He expects his relationship with us will remain as it has always been. In fact, he expects his son to have the same kind of relationship with us that we have with our other grandchildren.

We have been good parents, Abby. We have given our love and support unconditionally to all our children. I pray that I can continue doing that, but right now, I'm so full of anger, pain and shame that I wonder if it wouldn't be best if I told



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

our son we would prefer never to see him again.

Barry's father is very hurt, and his brothers are also upset. He's unable to understand why we feel this way.

Perhaps someday I won't feel like I have been slapped in the face every time I see "Gibson" instead of "Nofzinger" after his name. Please help me to let go of my anger.

SEEING RED IN OREGON

DEAR SEEING RED: William Shakespeare was right when he said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." It's no sin to change one's name — and your son's having done so is no reflection upon how he feels about his siblings and you. You're making a mountain out of a molehill.

You say you're wondering if it wouldn't be best to tell your son you'd prefer never to see him again. Be careful what you wish for.

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is around the corner. Because our first child was due at Thanksgiving, I planned ahead and did as much of my shopping in advance as I could. The problem is, my husband's family expects everyone to buy presents for everyone else. This means we have to buy for 20 people! I don't mind buying for his parents and siblings, and even his grandparents, but the aunts, uncles and cousins are killing me.

We've bought everyone presents for the past two years and are still paying off credit cards from last year's purchases. I still have my parents and siblings to buy for, too. Money is tight because I'm off work now and will return to work only part time in a few months.

Abby, I don't see how we can afford to continue this tradition. My husband won't let me say anything to his family. Can you give me some advice?

WANTING A SIMPLER CHRISTMAS

DEAR WANTING: Only this: If you continue trying to adhere to your family's "traditions," your little family will never be out of debt, and your financial burdens will continue to grow until they crush you. Since your husband won't "let" you explain this to his family, perhaps he will consent to accompany you to some credit counseling sessions. I hope they'll help him see the light.

***** Extremes mark your feelings, but for the most part they will be quite pleasant. Follow your sixth sense with another. Don't worry about a situation; go right in and get the facts. Carefully use information to dig out the facts. You make an important emotional adjustment. Tonight: Follow the music. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Deal with others on a one-on-one level. Confusion surrounds finances. Though you might feel like you are making a solid choice, you need to stop and rework thinking. Not everything is as it seems. Play devil's advocate with a partner. Tonight: Get down to basics.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Dig in and find answers. Your imagination helps you zero in on what is necessary. Do nothing halfway. Stay on top of work, and be level with another. A friend gives you a different slant on a relationship. You inspire others, and they appreciate this quality in you. Tonight: Go along with another's plan.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Your even and level pace can make a big difference in what happens. Understand more of what is going on with a loved one. Be nurturing and ask key questions. Your feelings are heightened, and you might overreact to another. You aren't reading this person correctly. Tonight: Run errands.

BORN TODAY Actress Patty Duke (1946), astrologer Nostradamus (1503), musician Charlie Rich (1932)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 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) ***** Realism might not be your strong suit right now. Concentrate on a long-term desire. You are so focused on making it happen that you might not be reading the signs correctly. Wishful thinking and opulence mark your decisions. Tonight: Seek out another's opinion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You are in the limelight. Someone eyes your work carefully. Your vision of possibilities changes. Try to stay anchored in realism rather than flowing with airy fairy tales. Review a decision with a trusted associate or friend. You might not agree, but you gain insight. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Reach out for another. Communication activates and takes you to a different point of view. New perspectives help you read between the lines. You don't always flow with a difficult personality in your life. Check all messages carefully. Don't stand on ceremony. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Deal with a financial matter head-on. Think about what is going on with someone who is close to you.

Laughter punctuates your interactions with a dear friend. Understand what is motivating another. Work with someone on a special gift. Tonight: Do something special for another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** You are personality plus. Evaluate the "stories" that surround a friend or loved one. Extremes punctuate your decisions and ideas. Listen carefully to someone. Seek out information and get to the bottom of a problem that could be confusing you. Tonight: Your smile draws exactly what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Sit back. Your most effective action is no action, presently. Your good will and understanding mean a lot to someone who is frequently around you. Ultimately, you know what feels right to you. Follow through on just that. Tonight: Do something you want to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Dig into your imagination. Discuss what is important to you. Do not push anyone away. Instead, stay centered. Creativity is heightened. Popularity and wish fulfillment march together. You might not be seeing a loved one properly. Listen to someone who might help you gain a perspective. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Stay on top of work and responsibilities. You could easily be overloaded. Ask for help, or perhaps get someone who can pitch in part-time. Worry a little less about finances as you deal with the holidays and others' expectations. Your family adores you and lets you know. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Casual tops
1 Pvt.'s superiors
5 Locks for one
9 Falcon-headed god
11 1914 battle site
12 Parting word
13 Make addresses
14 Hounds' quarry
15 Geometric shape
17 Dorothy's carrier
19 Anger
20 Himalayan kingdom
21 Leather shade
22 Banish for one
24 Farm grazer
26 Cartesian coordinate line
29 Dress in
30 Makes a home
32 Geometric shape
34 First counting number
35 Wonderland guest
36 Trombone part
38 Like some jackets
39 Fixed a floor

DOWN 1 Elevator spot
2 Set
3 Ed Norton's wife
4 Take to court
5 Damage
6 Mecca setting
7 One after another
8 Actress Della
10 Extra charge
11 Othello, for one
16 Geometric shapes
18 Spit out
21 Speech copy
23 Current fashion
24 Lassie, for one
25 In a chat room, per haps
27 Philippines city
28 Return address name
29 Gave out hands
30 Went one
31 Run-down
33 Frosts
37 Ignited

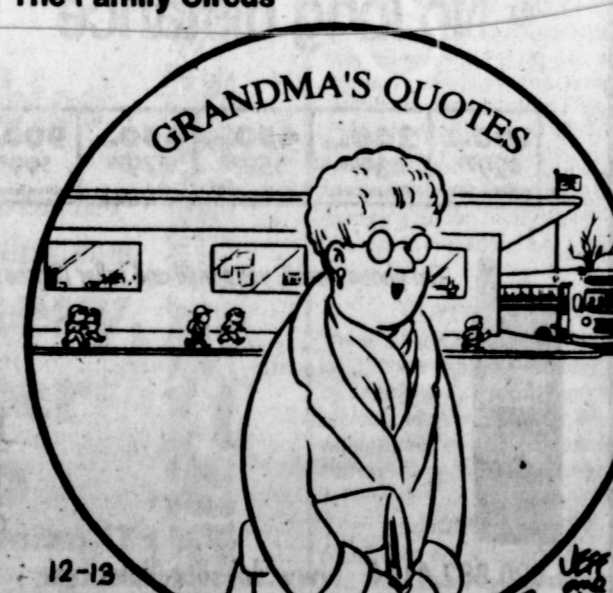
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
CITIES CLAY
ORANGE LATE
DANNY THOMAS
APSES
PITTS REST
BONE CODERS
ERA MAN PUP
TENSED EASY
SEES MELT
ESSAY
HENRY THOMAS
ALOE ERRATA
MIND PEERED

Marmaduke



"Marm always checks the tree for bird nests before we take it in the house."

The Family Circus



"Inside each school are desks, blackboards, computers, and the world's future."

STUMPED?

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

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — Pampa defeated Amarillo Gold by a score of 61-28 in freshmen girls basketball action Monday night.

Jennie Waggoner had 20 points to lead Pampa in scoring. Denisse Solis followed with 14.

In the boys' contest, Pampa lost by a score of 66-36.

Jed Martin was high scorer for Pampa with 10 points.

AHS 9th grade also won the B team game, 47-40.

Nick Story had 9 points.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — Pampa High baseball boosters will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in Val Halla.

All interested persons are urged to attend.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — In the end, the Texas Rangers were an easy choice for Alex Rodriguez.

Rangers owner Tom Hicks, with plenty of money to spend toward his goal of winning a World Series, gave Rodriguez a 10-year, \$252 million contract.

Atlanta, another finalist in the A-Rod sweepstakes, refused to give him the no-trade clause he wanted. And the Seattle Mariners, the team where he spent his first seven seasons, offered only a three-year deal, with a team option for two more.

"I have a hard time walking away from Seattle. But when they came with a three-year guarantee and a two-year out, I was in disbelief," Rodriguez said Tuesday. "I just walked away from it, and knew I wouldn't have a real choice."

"I'm glad I didn't have to make a close call, but a bit disappointed the way they handled the situation. Texas just made it real easy for me."

Rodriguez was back at The Ballpark in Arlington three weeks after an exploratory visit during which the Rangers seemed only an afterthought for the 25-year-old All-Star.

During his visit last month, Rodriguez admitted that he had never really considered playing in Texas.

He returned Tuesday as a member of the Rangers and with the biggest contract ever in professional sports.

The contract is worth \$2 million more than Hicks paid for the Texas team just three years ago. And it doubled the previous record for a sports contract, the \$126 million, six-year agreement in October 1997 between forward Kevin Garnett and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Hicks, whose NHL Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999, expects big returns for his investment to get baseball's most prized free agent.

"It is my pleasure to introduce to you the newest Texas Ranger, the man who is going to build the foundation to help us achieve our goal of winning the World Series," Hicks said in his introduction of Rodriguez.

The contract calls for a \$10 million signing bonus paid over five years and salaries of \$21 million in each of the first four years, \$25 million a year in 2005 and 2006, and \$27 million in each of the final four seasons. A total of \$36 million is deferred at 3 percent interest, to be paid from 2011-20.

While the deal also includes plenty of incentives for making All-Star teams and other personal achievement, the contract is void of lavish perks such as office space and a private plane. Rodriguez still contends that reports of such demands were only speculative.

Hicks said Tuesday that Rodriguez bought luxury boxes — at retail price, not a discount — at The Ballpark and at the new downtown Dallas arena where the Stars move next season. A-Rod can afford it.

Miami is back in the All-America business

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Football Writer

College Football

The University of Miami is back in the All-America business.

Led by triple award-winning linebacker Dan Morgan, Miami joined Florida State with three players selected Wednesday for The Associated Press All-America team.

Wide receiver/punt returner Santana Moss and safety Edward Reed were the other Hurricanes on the 26-player squad, which also features Florida State's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, Chris Weinke.

It's the first time since 1992 that Miami had as many as three All-Americans; Florida State had four players on last year's team.

Along with Weinke, wide receiver Marvin Minnis and defensive end Jamal Reynolds were the other Seminoles chosen for the 2000 team.

Weinke led the nation with 4,167 yards passing and threw 33 touchdown passes, with just 11 interceptions. He guided the third-ranked Seminoles (11-1) to a national title game against No. 1 Oklahoma (12-0) in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3.

The Sooners' Josh Heupel made second team, with

Purdue's Drew Brees the third-team quarterback.

TCU's LaDainian Tomlinson and Northwestern's Damien Anderson, the nation's top two rushers, were the running backs.

The 5-foot-11, 217-pound Tomlinson ran for 2,158 yards — the fourth highest season total in I-A history — in leading the Horned Frogs (10-1) to the Western Athletic Conference title and a berth in the Mobile Alabama Bowl. The 5-11, 208-pound Anderson ran for 1,914 yards as the Wildcats (8-3) took a share of the Big Ten title and earned a trip to the Alamo Bowl.

Minnis, who stepped in for two-time All-American Peter Warrick, made life easier for Weinke by catching 63 passes for 1,340 yards and 11 TDs — an average of 21.3 yards. The other wide receiver was Pittsburgh's Antonio Bryant, the Biletnikoff Award winner who led the nation in average yards per game (130.2) with 68 catches for 1,302 yards and 11 TDs.

Moss, who helped the Hurricanes (10-1) to a No. 2 ranking and Sugar Bowl matchup against Florida on Jan. 2, was

chosen as the all-purpose player. The 5-10, 180-pound senior caught 45 passes for 748 yards and five TDs, and ranked fourth nationally in punt returns with an 18.2-yard average. The Big East's co-offensive player and special teams player of the year also returned four punts for touchdowns.

Morgan, the first player to win the Butkus, Bednarik and Nagurski awards in the same season, topped the Big East with 138 tackles, including 15 for losses on a defense that ranked fifth in points allowed at 15.5 per game. The Bednarik and Nagurski awards are for the nation's top defensive player; the Butkus goes to the top linebacker.

Linebacker Rocky Calmus was the lone first-team representative for No. 1 Oklahoma (12-0). The Atlantic Coast and Big 12 conferences led the way with five players apiece on the team, which consisted of 17 seniors, seven junior and two sophomores. The sophomores were Bryant and Cincinnati kicker Jonathan Ruffin.

Brian Natkin of Texas-El Paso was the tight end after a season of 64 catches for 787 yards and four TDs.

Center Dominic Raiola of

Nebraska anchors an offensive line that also features Steve Hutchinson of Michigan, Leonard Davis of Texas, Chris Brown of Georgia Tech and Chad Ward of Washington. Average weight? 322.8 pounds.

Ruffin led the nation in field goals with 26 — on 29 attempts — and hit 26 of 27 extra points. Last season, he hit just five of 12 field goals.

Joining Lombardi Award winner Reynolds along the defensive line were Outland Trophy winner John Henderson of Tennessee, Andre Carter of California and Casey Hampton of Texas — the only repeater from last year. Reynolds led the Seminoles with 12 sacks; Henderson topped the SEC with 12 sacks; Carter had a school record 13 1/2 sacks; and Hampton was the Big 12's defensive player of the year with 74 tackles, 18 for losses.

Along with Morgan and Calmus, the other linebackers were Keith Adams of Clemson and Carlos Polk of Nebraska. Morgan, 6-3, 245, was the Big East's leading tackler with 138 stops, including 15 for losses; Calmus, 6-3, 234 pounds, led the Sooners with 122 tackles, including 17 against Nebraska; Adams finished with 138 tackles; and

Polk was the Huskers' leading tackler with 89 stops and returned his one interception for a TD.

In addition to Reed, the secondary consisted of Fred Smoot of Mississippi State, Dwight Smith of Akron and Jamar Fletcher of Wisconsin. Reed returned two of his eight interceptions for scores; Smoot had five interceptions; Smith was the nation's co-leader in interceptions with 10 (two returned for TDs); and Fletcher had six interceptions in the nine games he played.

Nick Harris of California was the punter. He averaged 41.5 yards per punt, with 36 of his 73 punts falling inside the opponents' 20-yard line — 17 inside the 10.

The All-America team was selected by the following sports writers:

Andrew Bagnato (Chicago Tribune); Tony Baumhart (Atlanta Journal-Constitution); Mark Blaudschun (Boston Globe); Chris Dufresne (Los Angeles Times); Bob Baum (AP Phoenix); Stephen Hawkins (AP Dallas); Paul Newberry (AP Atlanta); Alan Robinson (AP Pittsburgh); and Richard Rosenblatt (AP national college football writer).

Harvesters rip Clarendon; PHS girls fall to PD in district opener

PAMPA — Pampa jumped out to a comfortable first-quarter lead against Clarendon and never looked back in an 82-61 win Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Harvesters, who lifted their record to 9-5 in non-district action, travel to Odessa on Saturday for a 5:30 p.m. game against Odessa High.

Pampa led Clarendon 26-9 at the end of the first quarter and 36-21 at halftime.

Gary Alexander led the Pampa scoring attack with 16 points. Adam Rodgers had 14 and Kyle Francis added 13.

Leading scorer for Clarendon was Cody Watson with 17 points. Josh Williams was next with 16.

Others who scored for Pampa were Chadd Platt with 9 points, Sedrick Drew 8, Victor Brooks 8, Matt Crow 5, Tanner Hucks 4, Max Simor 3, and Kirk George 2.

Pampa had a 42-38 rebounding advantage. George and Drew each had 8 rebounds to

lead the Harvesters.

Editor's note: A moment of silence was observed prior to the boys' game to remember Phil Londagin, longtime sportscaster who died last week at age 53. Londagin had done radio play-by-play coverage of sports in Pampa, Borger and Amarillo since 1968.

PAMPA — Pampa got off to a fast start, but couldn't maintain a big first-quarter lead as Palo Duro posted a 64-45 win in a District 3-4A opener for both teams in girls' action Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Lady Harvesters netted the first nine points of the game and were ahead 20-9 at the end of the first quarter. However, the sharpshooting tandem of Joyce Benson and LaToya Gonzalez led the way back for the Lady Dons.

Palo Duro went in front 30-26 at intermission and stretched the lead to 49-29 going into the fourth quarter.

Benson finished with 27 points and Gonzalez 16. Benson and

Gonzalez combined for 22 first-half points.

High-point scorer for the Lady Harvesters was Charity Nachtigall, who had 12 points in the first half. Two of her buckets came from 3-point range.

Lindsey Naron followed with 8 points, while Chasity Nachtigall had 5, Jennifer Lindsey 5, Ashlei Jordan 4, Stephanie Cameron 3, Morgan White 2, Randa Morris 2, Calli Covalt 2 and Mandy Rains 2.

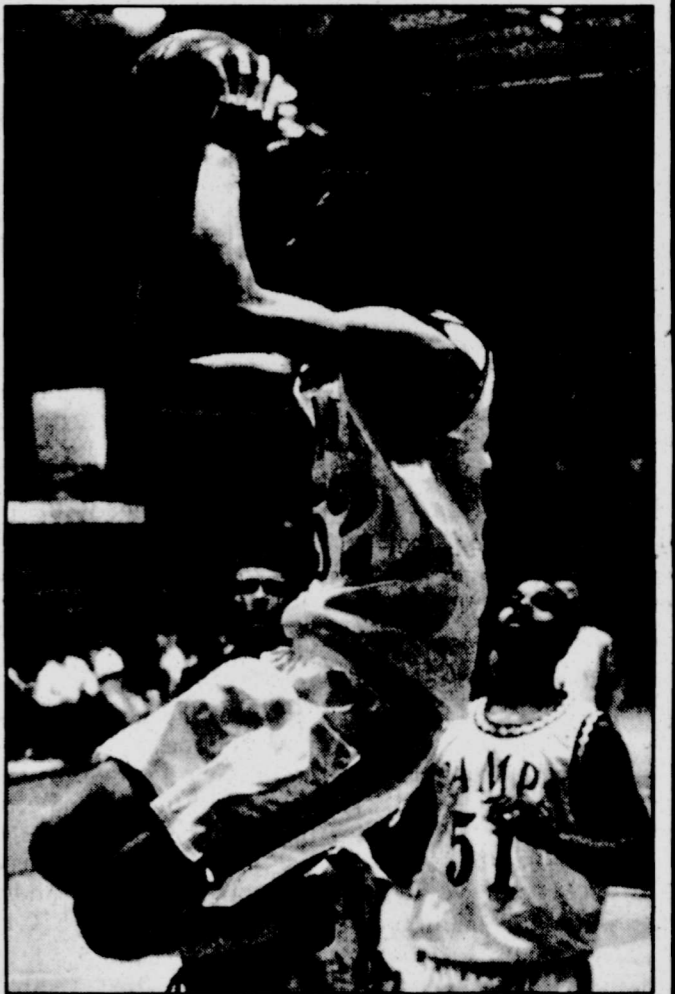
Pampa did have a 29-28 rebounding edge on the visitors. White's five rebounds led Pampa.

The Lady Harvesters, 0-1 in district, 4-8 overall, meet Hereford at 7:30 Friday night in Hereford. Palo Duro is 1-0 in district and 9-4 for the season.

In other district games last night, Borger beat Hereford 80-46, Randall defeated Dumas 50-44 and Canyon ripped Caprock 77-28.

Pampa's next home tilt is Dec. 21 against Dumas.

Hanging Chadd



Chadd Platt of the Harvesters seems to hang in the air as he puts up a jumper against Clarendon. (Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Pacers post 60-47 win over Victory Academy

AMARILLO — The Pampa Academy Pacers entered the Bible Heritage Invitational Round Robin last weekend in Amarillo.

On Friday night, the Pacer men met Bible Heritage of Amarillo.

The Pacer fouls early in the game and missed lay-ups in the second half gave the Eagles the edge they needed to beat Pampa 68-50. Coy Devoll and Bryce Taylor led the scoring for the Pacers with 17 points each.

Chad Sublett had 10 and Marlon Echols 6.

On Saturday morning, the Pacers walked away with a 60-47 win over Victory Academy, also of Amarillo. Bryce Taylor's 21 rebounds and 22 points dominated the Pacer stats.

Coy Devoll scored 16 points, 10 coming in the opening quarter of play. Chad Sublett had 10 points and Marlon Echols put in 7. Jay Scott and Clint Devoll each had a basket and Luke Raber added a free throw.

In a close game Saturday night, the Pacers lost to Amarillo's Ascension Academy. The Cardinals jumped to a commanding lead at the end of the first quarter, but the Pacers were able to come back in the second quarter to lead by one point at the half. Although Pampa

outscored the Cardinals in the fourth period, a third-period deficit was too much to overcome, making the final score 68-64 in favor of Ascension team.

Bryce Taylor had 36 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Pacers. Marlon Echols had 13 points and Coy Devoll 10.

OU's Stoops is AP's Coach of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Before his team played No. 1 Nebraska, Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gave his players a history lesson.

He sat them down in the film room and showed old movies — clips from Oklahoma-Nebraska games of the past, classic matchups between the annual national title contenders. The winning team would become Big Eight Conference champs, move on to the Orange Bowl and more than likely have a shot at a national championship.

"It was the best," Stoops said. "We showed them the whole history of the series, our wins, their wins. Believe it or not, these kids don't know what happened back then. They only know the last few years."

It may have been the best call Stoops made all year. The Sooners dominated the Huskers 31-14 on Oct. 28, took over the No. 1 ranking, finished the regular season 12-0 and earned a date against Florida State in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2 — with the national title on the line.

Just like old times.

On Tuesday, the 40-year-old Stoops was chosen as the Associated Press College Coach of the Year in balloting by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations.

Stoops, who brought a wide-open passing attack to a school known for its wishbone and option running game, received 41 of the 91 votes in the AP balloting. South Carolina's Lou Holtz was second with 19 votes, and Oregon State's Dennis Erickson was third with 16 votes.

"It's a great honor for Oklahoma," Stoops said. "It's an award that every assistant coach has a piece of, and it reflects on the players and their attitude about working together, about the way they won. The trophy will go in the coaches' hallway, not in my house."

It took all of two years for Stoops to turn Oklahoma from an awful team to an awesome one.

On the day he took over, Dec. 1, 1998, Stoops said "there should be great expectations here. It's a pro-

gram with the championships that should expect championships. I know we'll operate with no excuses. There are no excuses. You succeed or you don't."

In 1999, Stoops unveiled his passing game directed by Josh Heupel, a star at Snow Junior College in Utah, but unknown just about everywhere else. The Sooners went 7-5, Heupel broke school passing records, and OU played in its first bowl game since 1994.

This season, Stoops said his players were better prepared and more disciplined. Even with a three-game run against Big 12 Conference powers Texas, Kansas State and Nebraska, Stoops knew his team would not be intimidated.

"People were looking at a piece of paper saying, 'They can win this one, they can't win that one,'" Stoops said. "We see our kids every day. They pushed themselves hard in the offseason and earned the right to be confident. Last year, we were not good enough to hold leads, we were not

disciplined enough to finish off games. We knew we would be better."

Oklahoma was No. 19 in the preseason poll and rose to No. 10 after starting 4-0. Next up was No. 11 Texas, followed by a No. 2 Kansas State and then Nebraska.

The Sooners magic of the 1970s and '80 returned. OU beat the Longhorns 63-14 in Dallas and won at Kansas State 41-31 before their home win over the Cornhuskers.

The Sooners had a shaky finish — a comeback 35-31 win at Texas A&M, followed by closer-than-expected calls against Texas Tech and Oklahoma State.

Then it was on to the Big 12 title game, with K-State waiting for payback. Heupel overcame three interceptions with two TDs passing and one rushing for a 27-24 win to give OU a chance at its first national title since 1985.

Stoops, who took over a team that was 12-22 under John Blake from 1996-98, says the win over Texas may have been the turning point.

PRO FOOTBALL											
Eds: Tied teams ordered based on tiebreakers.											
National Football League											
At A Glance											
By The Associated Press											
All Times EST											
AMERICAN CONFERENCE											
East											
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	10	4	0.714	283	182	N.Y. Jets	9	5	0.643	294	277
Indianapolis	8	6	0.571	378	303	Buffalo	7	7	0.500	263	314
New England	4	10	0.286	239	301						
Central											
x-Tennessee	11	3	0.786	291	191	x-Baltimore	10	4	0.714	286	138
Jacksonville	7	7	0.500	328	282	Pittsburgh	7	7	0.500	263	231
Cincinnati	3	11	0.214	161	329	Cleveland	3	12	0.200	161	395
West											
x-Oakland	11	3	0.786	403	263	x-Denver	10	4	0.714	440	340
Kansas City	6	8	0.429	322	318	Seattle	5	9	0.357	270	339
San Diego	1	13	0.071	226	376						
NATIONAL CONFERENCE											
East											
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0.714	283	208	x-Philadelphia	10	5	0.667	335	238
Washington	7	7	0.500	258	242	Dallas	5	9	0.357	281	313
Arizona	3	11	0.214	200	410						
Central											
x-Minnesota	11	3	0.786	359	307	Tampa Bay	9	5	0.643	336	217
Detroit	8	6	0.571	277	277	Green Bay	7	7	0.500	303	281
Chicago	4	10	0.286	193	318						
West											
New Orleans	9	5	0.643	310	272	St. Louis	9	5	0.643	479	412
Carolina	6	8	0.429	271	236	San Francisco	5	9	0.357	362	384
Atlanta	3	11	0.214	216	377						
x-clinched playoff spot											
Sunday's Games											
Green Bay 26, Detroit 13											
Chicago 24, New England 17											
Baltimore 24, San Diego 3											
Tampa Bay 16, Miami 13											
Kansas City 15, Carolina 14											
N.Y. Giants 30, Pittsburgh 10											
Jacksonville 44, Arizona 3											
Tennessee 35, Cincinnati 10											
Philadelphia 35, Cleveland 24											
Denver 31, Seattle 24											
Dallas 32, Washington 13											
St. Louis 40, Minnesota 29											
Monday's Games											
New Orleans 31, San Francisco 27											
Oakland 31, N.Y. Jets 7											
Open: Atlanta											
Monday's Games											
Minnesota 96, Philadelphia 91, OT											
Phoenix 86, Chicago 80											
San Antonio 91, Utah 83											
Houston 82, Vancouver 75											
L.A. Clippers 92, Orlando 80											
Tuesday's Games											
Toronto 104, Indiana 90											
Cleveland 92, Dallas 87											
New Jersey 116, Minnesota 94											
Atlanta 107, Sacramento 99											
Miami 96, Denver 85											
Seattle 97, Orlando 92											
Milwaukee 109, L.A. Lakers 105											
Portland 101, Golden State 93											
Wednesday's Games											
Chicago at Boston, 7 p.m.											
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.											
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.											
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.											
Sacramento at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.											
San Antonio at Phoenix, 8 p.m.											
Milwaukee at Utah, 9 p.m.											
Seattle at Vancouver, 10 p.m.											
Miami at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.											
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 10:30 p.m.											
Thursday's Games											
New York at Toronto, 8 p.m.											
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.											
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.											
HOCKEY											
Western Professional Hockey League											
At A Glance											
By The Associated Press											
All Times EST											
EASTERN DIVISION											
W	L	T	Pct	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pct	GF	GA
Monroe	17	9	1.35	96	84	Austin	16	7	2.34	91	67
Tupelo	16	8	1.33	121	91	B-Shreveport	15	10	1.31	79	74
Corpus Christi	15	13	1.31	88	99	Lake Charles	13	13	1.27	85	105
Central Texas	10	12	0.45	76	85	Fort Worth	8	19	0.29	77	103
WESTERN DIVISION											
Lubbock	16	9	1.36	109	93	New Mexico	14	7	2.30	95	93
Amarillo	13	9	1.30	92	89	Odessa	12	7	2.59	85	78
San Angelo	11	12	0.48	72	104	El Paso	10	10	0.50	73	76
NOTE: Two points are awarded for a victory; shootout losses earn one point and are referred to as ties.											
Tuesday's Games											
Amarillo 5, Odessa 4, SO											
Lubbock 4, Central Texas 3											
Wednesday's Games											
No games scheduled											
Thursday's Games											
Bossier-Shreveport at Amarillo											
Austin at Corpus Christi											
Fort Worth at Lake Charles											

Pampa Lady Pacers win Invitational Tournament

The Pampa Academy Lady Pacers finished the first half of their season last week by winning the Bible Heritage Invitational Round Robin. The Pacer girls met the Lady Cardinals of Ascension Academy of Amarillo in the first round of play. Each member of the Pacer team contributed to the point total to give them a final winning score of 56-39. Erin Raber led the point total with 18, but Kellie Mullican's 3 pointers and free throws added another 17 points. Kendra Raber had 13, Stephanie Willoughby put in 3, Brooke Colton and Courtney Echols each had a basket and Shay Chapman added a free throw. On Saturday morning, the Lady Pacers faced Community

Christian of Hereford. The Lady Pacers jumped out to a commanding lead of 37-13 by the half time break, and continued to dominate each quarter to finish with a 73-35 victory. Erin Raber led the scoring with 25 points, and Kendra Raber had 18. Brooke Colton had 12 points, putting in 8 in the last quarter. Kellie Mullican had 8, Shay Chapman had 6 and Stephanie Willoughby added 2 baskets. In their second game on Saturday, the Pacer women met Bible Heritage Christian Academy of Amarillo. Again, the Pacers surged ahead early in the game to lead by 22 points at the half. Erin Raber had 18 points, Kendra Raber and Kellie Mullican each had 12 points,

Stephanie Willoughby had 6 and Shay Chapman, Courtney Echols, and Brooke Colton each put in 4 points. In the final game of the tournament on Saturday evening, the Lady Pacers again faced the Lady Eagles of Bible Heritage. Although tired, the girls were able again to take the early lead and remain strong throughout the match. Erin Raber's 20 points and 10 rebounds along with Kendra Raber's 14 points and 13 steals led the Pacer women's team to the tournament winning score of 59-34. Brooke Colton added 8 points, Kellie Mullican had 7, Stephanie Willoughby put in 6 and Shay Chapman had 4. The Lady Pacers will resume their season on January 11 th.

The Pampa middle school 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball teams entered the Hereford Invitational last week. **8th Grade A** Dumas 46, Pampa 33, Wendi Miller 9. **8th Grade B** Dumas 38, Pampa 34, P - Heather Dildy 11, Autumn Schaub 9, Borger 55, Pampa 17, P - Autumn Schaub 5, Ashley Parker 4, P-Jennie Rogers 14, Jaelyn Spearman 13, Borger 39, Pampa 34

(OT) P - Lindsey Ammons 21, Wendi Miller 5. **7th Grade B** Pampa 39, Dumas 7, P - Ragan Meeks 9, Andrea Hughes 6, Canyon 62, Pampa 4, P - Staci Novian 2, Hereford 22, Pampa 20 (OT) P - Amy Youree 6, Jordan Albracht 5.

Jackie Gerber 6. Dimmitt 31, Pampa 24, P - Mariza Scott 10, Callie Cobb 7. Pampa 39, Dumas 7, P - Ragan Meeks 9, Andrea Hughes 6, Canyon 62, Pampa 4, P - Staci Novian 2, Hereford 22, Pampa 20 (OT) P - Amy Youree 6, Jordan Albracht 5.

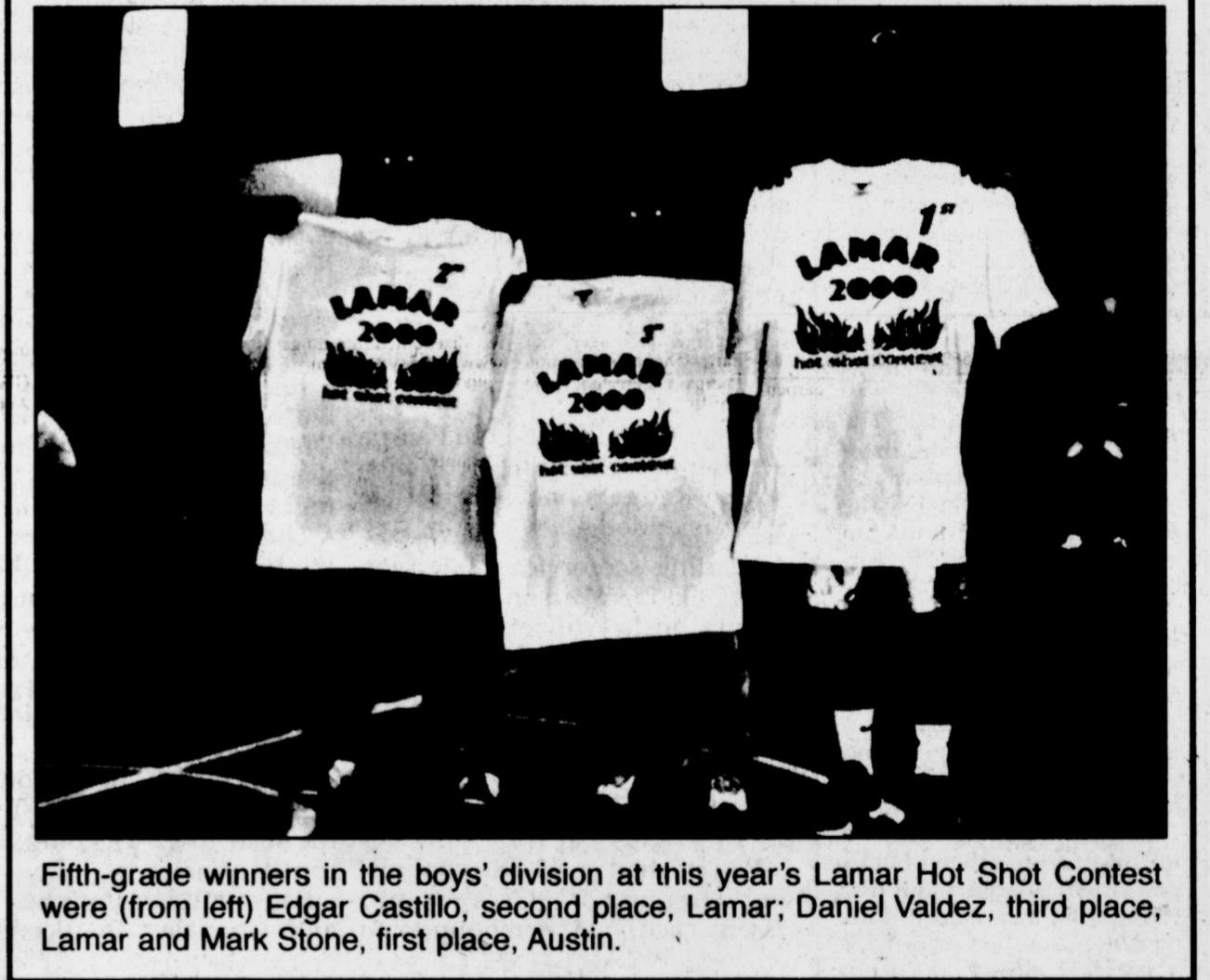
IOC shuts door on new sports

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The IOC ruled Wednesday that no new sports will be accepted for the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, dashing the hopes of water skiing, ballroom dancing and other events lobbying to get onto the Olympic program. In a break with recent tradition of adding new sports at each games, the International Olympic Committee executive board upheld the recommendation of its program commission to shut the door for 2004. The decision means there will be 28 sports contested in Athens, the same number as on the program at the Sydney Olympics. At the same time, the IOC confirmed that sports and disciplines that have had provisional status — women's softball, taekwondo, triathlon, beach volleyball and trampolining — will remain on the program in Athens. The IOC also set the maximum number of athletes to compete in Athens at 10,000. The same limit was set for Sydney, but more than 11,000 athletes wound up competing there. IOC sports director Gilbert Felli said the decision to reject

new sports for Athens was based on several factors, including the need to control the spiraling number of athletes and hold down costs. Felli also cited the organizational troubles in Athens, where Olympic preparations have been hit by construction delays, political wrangling and personnel shake-ups. "We need to organize the games with the sports we have in Athens," Felli said. "We have difficulties there." The IOC stressed the decision was only for 2004, leaving the door open to add or eliminate sports for the games of 2008 and beyond. The unwieldy size of the Olympics has become a major issue for the IOC. Many officials believe the time has come to scale down the size and scope of the games, yet the IOC has refused to cut any sports. "You have to decide whether you have the guts to take a sport out," Felli said. The IOC has added sports to the Olympics on a regular basis. Tennis was added to the program in Seoul in 1988, baseball and Barcelona in 1992, softball and

beach volleyball in 1996 and triathlon and taekwondo in Sydney. More than a dozen sports recognized by the IOC have been pushing for a place on the Olympic program. They include water skiing, ballroom dancing, rugby, surfing, bowling, golf, squash and rollerskating. The biggest loser Wednesday was water skiing, which has waged an aggressive 9-year campaign to become an Olympic sport. Last year, Athens organizers asked the IOC to include the sport for 2004. "I'm profoundly disappointed," said Andres Botero, a Colombian who heads the international water skiing federation. "I believe we did the right job. We developed our sport worldwide. I felt we deserved to be on the Olympic program." "We came out at the wrong moment when Athens was having organizational problems," he said. "Everything was going very well until Athens started to slow down. They're doing better now, but it was too late." Botero said the IOC should find a way to add new sports without cutting others.

Fifth-grade winners



Fifth-grade winners in the boys' division at this year's Lamar Hot Shot Contest were (from left) Edgar Castillo, second place, Lamar; Daniel Valdez, third place, Lamar and Mark Stone, first place, Austin.

Two Texans named finalists for High School Heisman

By APRIL CASTRO Associated Press Writer DALLAS (AP) — Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke took home the Heisman Trophy this weekend, but the Heisman talk isn't over. Two Texans — Cedric Benson, a running back from Midland Lee, and Donta Hickson, a running back from McKinney High — are among the three finalists for the first Heismans to be awarded for high school players. They are among three finalists for the Southwest region, which covers Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma. Eighteen finalists have been named nationwide from six geographical regions. New York City's Downtown Athletic Club will give six Heisman trophies to students, one from each of the geographical regions, based on their athletic prowess and statistics garnered during the past season. The third finalist from the Southwest Region is Justin Holland, a quarterback at Bear Creek High School in Colorado. Winners of the award will be announced in conjunction with the first All-Star Football

Game, to be played Dec. 30, at Highland Park High School. Seventy-five of the nation's top high school football players have been named to play in the East vs. West game. Texas will be the permanent site of the annual game. "Texas is the hotbed of high school football — it's almost as big as professional football in Texas," said Jeff Goodman, senior writer for Boston-based SchoolSports.com. The central location of Texas also factored in the decision to keep the game in Dallas. The game will be broadcast on Fox Sports Net. The High School Heisman Trophy will be modeled after the likeness of Ken Hall — the national high school career rushing leader of all time with 11,232 yards at Sugarland from 1950-53. "This is very, very special," Hall said at a news conference announcing the finalists in downtown Dallas on Tuesday. "The permanence of this is such an honor." Someday I'll be gone, but these awards will still be around. And once (students) win this award, it will always be a part of their lives — a small part, but an important part." Writers for SchoolSports.com, a national Web site devoted to high

school football, will select the Heisman winners. "The significance of this is that the best players, the ones that are most passionate about the game, who before had no way of knowing how they stack up with players across the country, now will be able to know who the best really are," Goodman said. While the High School Heisman nominees are selected based on their stats and merits of the previous season, players in the All-Star game are selected on their potential to play at higher levels. Randy Allen of Highland Park High School; Mark

Reeve of Plano West; Allen Wilson of Tyler John Tyler; and Robert Woods of Cedar Hill have been selected as assistant coaches for the West squad.

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Terry, Hawks are improving together

By The Associated Press after starting 2-10. "I've been working on my shot all season long and all summer," said Terry, a second-year player out of Arizona whose previous high was 32 points in a loss to Cleveland on Saturday night. "Obviously, Jason is just on an unbelievable roll," Atlanta coach Lon Kruger said. Terry's play hasn't been terrific the entire season. He was benched by Kruger eight games into the season as the Hawks opened with a franchise-worst seven straight losses and dropped 10 of their first 11 games. Against Sacramento, Terry seemed unstoppable. Terry scored nine of the Hawks' final 12 points after overcoming 1-for-5 shooting in the first quarter. He shot 12-for-17 from the field and 12-for-12 from the line as the Hawks snapped a three-game losing streak. The victory was Atlanta's 10th straight over Sacramento and 12th in a row at home over the Kings, who last beat Atlanta on Nov. 12, 1994. The last time Sacramento won in Atlanta was Feb. 16, 1988.

and nine rebounds as visiting Miami won its 11th straight over Denver and picked up its fifth win in six games. Antonio McDyess led the Nuggets with 22 points and 12 rebounds, his seventh double-double in eight games. Trail Blazers 101, Warriors 93 Rasheed Wallace had 29 points and 11 rebounds despite a sprained right wrist, and Arvydas Sabonis scored 15 points as Portland won at Golden State. Marc Jackson had a career-high 27 points, and Antawn Jamison had 30 points and 15 rebounds for Golden State, which lost its third straight. Bucks 109, Lakers 105 In Los Angeles, Sam Cassell scored five of his 25 points in the final 3.7 seconds for Milwaukee, which won for the seventh time in nine games and beat a winning team for the second time this season. Ray Allen had 35 points and Glenn Robinson added 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Bucks, who had lost nine straight games to the Lakers.

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Officials: China destroying hundreds of churches

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China is demolishing hundreds of churches and temples as it cracks down on unauthorized worship in a southeastern coastal area known for its flourishing religious life, officials said Wednesday.

The demolitions began at the start of December in rural areas around the port city of Wenzhou, said a spokesman for the city Foreign Affairs Office.

"In rural areas, religious super-

stition is still very rampant," said the spokesman, who would give only his surname, Zhou. "The government's goal is to demolish those illegal buildings as well as correct those decadent rural lifestyles."

A spokesman for the Wenzhou city propaganda department, Lu Tianlei, said as many as 450 buildings have been destroyed. Most were in the Ou Hai district of Wenzhou and in nearby Yongjia and Yueqing counties, Lu said.

A Hong Kong human rights

group put the number of destroyed buildings much higher, at 1,200. The Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said the buildings, some more than a century old, were being dynamited.

China's communist government, which recognizes only five religions, is in the midst of a crackdown on the Falun Gong meditation sect and other unauthorized religious activity. It accuses many illegal groups of

defrauding or abusing followers. Nonetheless, a religious revival has swept China in recent years. Lively underground church movements service Catholics and Protestants, who refuse to worship under state control. Unorthodox groups influenced by Buddhism, Christianity and other faiths also have sprung up.

Traditionally isolated from central government control by the sea and inland mountains, Wenzhou has a reputation as a spot where

religion, private enterprise, smuggling and other unauthorized activities flourish. The area around Wenzhou has numerous small Christian churches built by European traders in the 18th and 19th centuries, though it wasn't clear whether they were targeted in the crackdown.

Officials gave conflicting accounts of whether the demolitions were linked to the national crackdown. Zhou, the Foreign Affairs Office spokesman in Wenzhou, said they were a local initiative. "This could be a good example for other cities," he said.

Judge orders 5-year-old boy held in breast-feeding case

URBANA, Ill. (AP) — Authorities took a 5-year-old boy away from his mother last summer because her continued breast-feeding of him placed him at risk of emotional harm, a judge ruled.

Circuit Court Judge Ann Einhorn ordered the boy to remain in the foster care of his longtime baby sitter until a hearing Dec. 27. Lawyers said the judge could place the boy in someone else's care or send him home.

Einhorn found no proof of sexual abuse and commended the 32-year-old mother for raising a

"very bright boy." But she said the situation created "enormous potential for harm to this child."

The Department of Children and Family Services took custody of the child in July after the baby sitter said he told her he wanted to stop nursing but "Mommy wouldn't let me."

"This was a mother who was not listening to what her son was telling her even though she testified she strongly believes in child-directed weaning," Einhorn said in Monday's ruling.

The woman, who described herself as an "old-fashioned German mother," is barred from

speaking publicly about the case. Her name is not being used to protect the boy's identity.

She testified that she planned to stop breast-feeding her son, now 6, when he asked and that he had not done so.

David DeThorne, the woman's attorney, argued she has a constitutional right to parent her child as she sees fit, short of violating child abuse laws.

Although it is rare for an American child to be breast-fed at such an advanced age, physicians and anthropologists said it is not unheard of.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary were issued on the Estate of OSCAR J. ENGEL, Deceased, on the 4th day of December, 2000 in the proceeding indicated below our signature hereto, which is still pending, and that we now hold such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered in the county below named, are hereby required to present the same to me respectively, at the address given below, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law. The correct post office address by which we receive our mail in connection with this Estate is: c/o Phil N. Vanderpool, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 2455, Pampa, Texas, 79066-2455.

DATED this 4th day of December, 2000.
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No. 8703 in the County Court of Gray County, Texas
Dec. 13, 2000

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\$221 a month
AC, Auto, 6 Disc CD



Stk. #F8746
MSRP \$14,894

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\$219 a month
Auto, AC, CD, Cruise

Stk. #FD523
MSRP \$14,420



**PRE-OWNED
SPECIALS**

CARS

J9750A	1996 CHEVY CAVALIER 4 Door, Auto, A/C, 75XXX Miles	\$5,995 ⁰⁰
P103	1997 CHEVY CAVALIER 4 Door, Auto, A/C, 56XXX Miles	\$6,995 ⁰⁰
D6134A	1998 FORD CONTOUR Auto, A/C	\$8,995 ⁰⁰
B5077A	1997 MERCURY SABLE Station Wagon	\$8,995 ⁰⁰
FD918A	1996 FORD THUNDERBIRD Auto, A/C, 80XXX Miles	\$8,995 ⁰⁰
FD566N	1998 CHEVY CAVALIER 4 Door, Auto, A/C, 58XXX Miles	\$8,995 ⁰⁰
D1287A	1996 BUICK LESABRE Auto, A/C, 61XXX Miles	\$9,995 ⁰⁰
P145	2000 FORD CONTOUR Auto, A/C, 27XXX Miles	\$10,995 ⁰⁰
F3349B	1998 CHRYSLER SEBRING Auto, A/C, Loaded, 29XXX Miles	\$15,995 ⁰⁰

2001 RANGER

\$199 a month
AC, AM/FM

Stk. #F1002
MSRP \$13,050



2001 MUSTANG

\$259 a month
Power Windows,
Power Locks, AC, CD

Stk. #F5598
MSRP \$18,860



2001 F150 SPORT

\$259 a month
AC, CD

Stk. #F3941
MSRP \$17,760



2001 TAURUS

\$299 a month
4 Door, V6, Auto, AC

Stk. #F8667
MSRP \$20,825



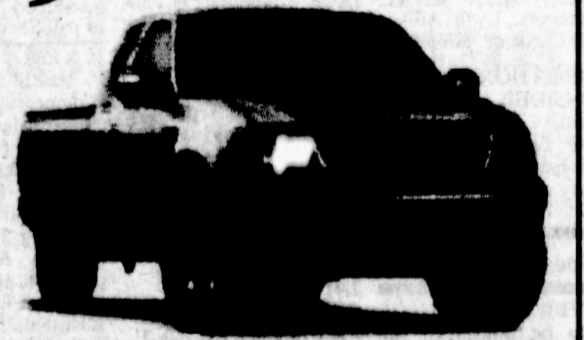
**SPORT UTILITIES
VANS**

D7031A	1999 JEEP WRANGLER 4x4, Red/Black Top, 6XXX Miles	\$12,995 ⁰⁰
F7751A	1997 HONDA CRV 4x4, A/C, Auto, Extra Clean	\$13,995 ⁰⁰
D9382A	1998 FORD EXPLORER 2 Door, 4x4, 30XXX Miles	\$15,995 ⁰⁰
P116	1997 CHEVY TAHOE 2 Door, Auto, A/C, 4x4	\$17,995 ⁰⁰
F0243A	2001 FORD EXCURSION 9XXX Miles, Like New	\$27,995 ⁰⁰

2001 F150 SUPER CAB

\$359 a month
Auto, AC, CD,
Captain Chairs

Stk. #F4207
MSRP \$24,290



**2001 CROWN
VICTORIA**

\$369 a month
V8, AC, Auto, CD

Stk. #F7426
MSRP \$24,375



TRUCKS

P139	1996 DODGE RAM 3/4 Ton, X/C, 54XXX Miles	\$17,995 ⁰⁰
P140	1997 DODGE RAM 1/2 Ton, X/C, 4x4, 39XXX Miles	\$18,995 ⁰⁰
P126	1996 DODGE RAM 3/4 Ton, X/C, 56XXX Miles	\$19,995 ⁰⁰
P116	1998 GMC SIERRA 1/2 Ton 4x4, X/C, 27XXX Miles	\$21,995 ⁰⁰
P135A	2000 FORD F150 1/2 Ton, X/C, 7XXX Miles	\$22,995 ⁰⁰

2000 F250 SUPER DUTY

\$499 a month
4x4, Power Stroke,
Super Cab

Stk. #F4632
MSRP \$34,080



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