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PEDC forms bond issue committee

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

Members of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) are studying the feasibility of issuing revenue bonds to finance more projects.

Richard Stowers, president of the PEDC, Monday appointed a committee of two from the PEDC board of directors, Roger David and Jerry Foote, to review the financial aspects of selling revenue bonds as a way of restructuring the organization's debt and generating new money to fund more projects.

Susan Tripplehorn, executive director of the PEDC, said the corporation is strapped for

A securities analyst said the PEDC could issue only enough tax-exempt bonds to refinance old debt, but could issue enough taxable bonds to pay off old debts and still generate \$770,000 for new projects.

funds to do any deals.

Ken Smith with Southwest Securities in Dallas presented two options to the board in their regularly scheduled meeting Monday afternoon, one for issuing tax exempt bonds and one for issuing taxable bonds.

Smith said they could issue

only enough tax-exempt bonds to refinance old debt, but they could issue enough taxable bonds to pay off old debts and still generate \$770,000 for new projects.

Smith suggested issuing either 10-year tax-exempt bonds or 20-year taxable bonds.

Board member Riley Kothmann said he was wary of trading long-term debt for short-term debt.

David was concerned about the costs of paying off existing debt versus selling bonds and facing longer term debt and increased interest costs.

Kothmann said he feared selling the bonds, then committing the new \$770,000 to projects over the next five years and leaving

Riley Kothmann, PEDC member, said he feared selling the bonds, then committing the new \$770,000 to projects over the next five years and leaving future boards with no money for the next 15 years.

future boards with no money for the next 15 years.

The PEDC, however, says they have developed a strategy to bring in several dairies. To date they have brought in two.

Tripplehorn said a third dairy is expecting some indication from the PEDC concerning a

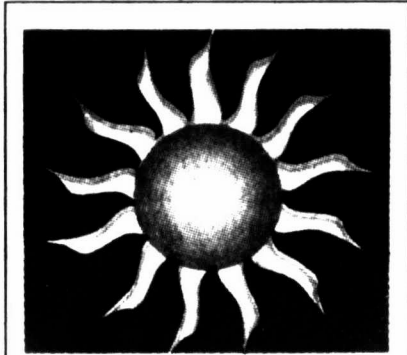
financial commitment within the next month or so. Discussions over financial aid in helping that dairy relocate to Pampa would entail a \$250,000 commitment on the part of the PEDC.

The issuance of revenue bonds would need the approval of the Pampa City Commission.

Smith recommended to the board that they not sell bonds unless they needed to.

David said they would be paying a large price to come up with the \$770,000. Kothmann said he wasn't sure they should issue bonds to raise money for unspecified opportunities in the future, but if the money was needed for a specific project such as the third dairy, it may be

(See BONDS, Page 2)



High, mid 50s.
 Low, 28.
 For weather details, see Page 2.

Deputies investigate Taylor Mart break-in

McLEAN — Gray County deputies today were investigating the burglary of a convenience store in McLean.

Deputies said today that someone apparently broke the glass front door between 12:45 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Monday at the Taylor Food Mart at Interstate 40 and Rowe Street in McLean.

Deputy Larry Wallis said they then took an undisclosed amount of cash.

"Nothing else seemed to be touched," Wallis said.

No merchandise appeared to be missing.

One killed in Houston Ship Channel collision

HOUSTON (AP) — The busy Houston Ship Channel was closed early Tuesday after a tugboat collided with a dredging boat, killing one worker and injuring four. None of the injured was critically hurt.

The tug *Trey Deloach* was pushing two barges around 6 a.m. when it collided with the dredge *J.C. Love Jr.* near Barbour's Cut, where the channel meets Galveston Bay.

Six aboard the dredge fell overboard. Four were treated for injuries not considered life-threatening, but one died. Neither vessel sank.

One of the two shipping lanes was opened later Tuesday morning to alleviate a backup of 14 vessels.

Carroll Kent Babitzke, 57, longtime Canadian resident.
Orvis Odis Crocker, 88, brother of a Pampa resident.
Lucy Ann Foust, 96, mother of a Shamrock resident.
Dorothy A. McIlhany, 70, 1979 Wheeler Woman of the Year.

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Miami ISD board to review joining state finance suit

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

MIAMI — School board members here will consider a resolution to join a coalition of state school districts in a proposed lawsuit against the State of Texas and Texas Education Agency, officials said Monday.

Troy Manley, president of the Miami Independent School District (ISD) board of education, and Allan Dinsmore, school superintendent, traveled to Austin last week to meet with members of the Texas School Coalition, a group of 90 Chapter 41 school districts from throughout the state.

While no formal vote was taken, Dinsmore said, an informal poll of those attending the meeting showed "no negative responses to litigation."

"Some needed to go back home and converse with their board, but the vast majority had already talked with their board

and were ready to proceed," he said.

"It was the consensus of our board at the December meeting to join in the suit," Dinsmore said, adding that in order to join the suit a school board must adopt a resolution to that effect.

The suit is expected to be filed in late January in Travis County district court. Dinsmore said that all school districts that plan to participate must adopt resolutions prior to the filing of the suit.

"(The lawsuit and resolution) will probably be discussed at our next regular meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8," Dinsmore said.

Chapter 41 school districts are so-called "property rich" school districts which are required by law to send a portion of their property tax revenue to Austin or to another school district in the state with which the Chapter 41 district contracts.

(See SUIT, Page 2)

Schools, businesses give holiday schedule

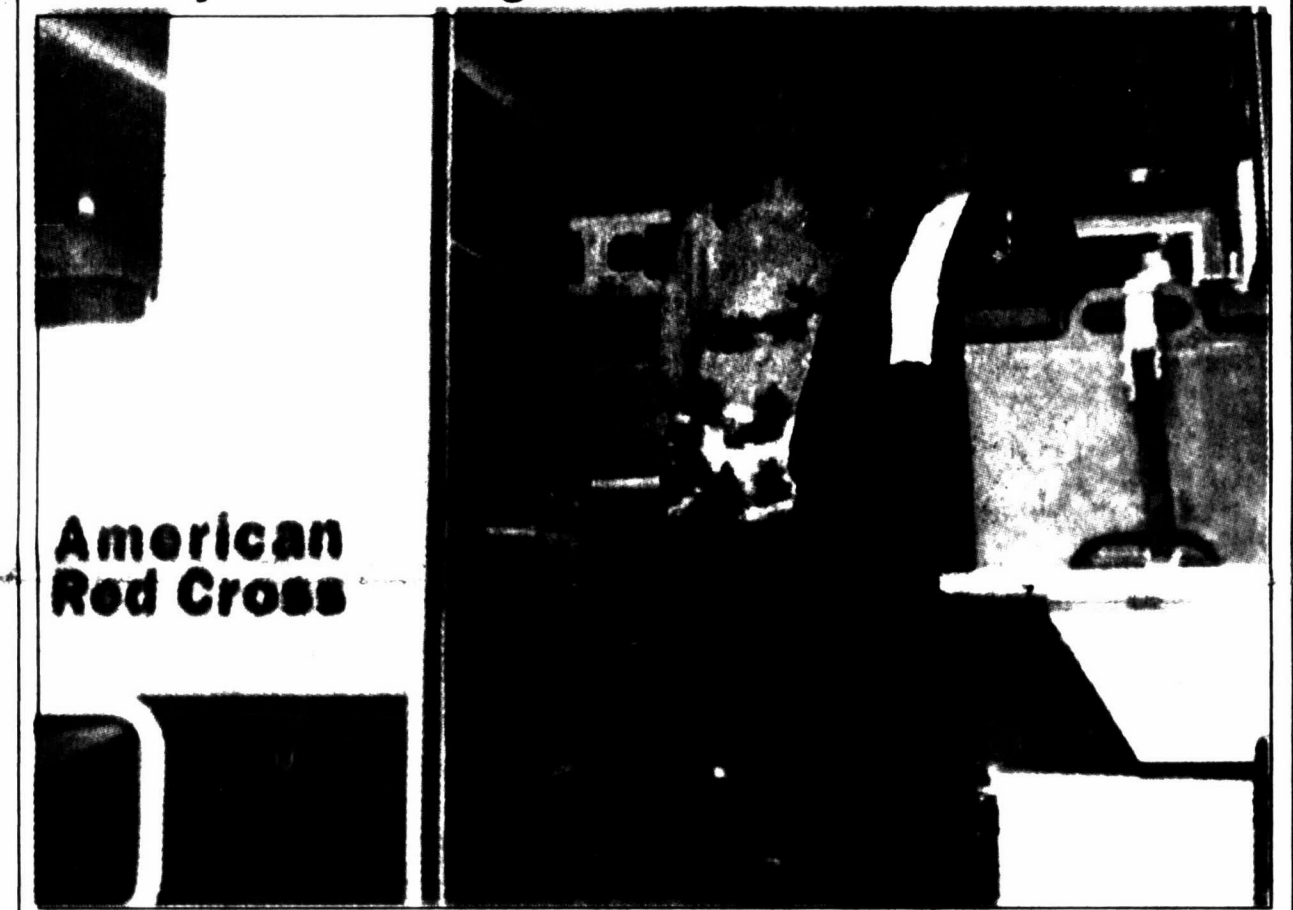
By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

As Christmas approaches, local businesses, financial institutions, public schools, and government offices announce holiday business schedules.

Students in the Pampa Independent School District will begin their Christmas vacation when classes are dismissed on Wednesday. PISD Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr said classes will be dismissed at the regular time Wednesday afternoon for the Christmas holiday. Classes will resume Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001.

(See SCHEDULE, Page 2)

Ready for emergencies



American Red Cross

(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Director Jana Gregory, left, and Disaster Chair Heidi Phelps, right, of the Gray County Area chapter of the American Red Cross stand inside the Panhandle Project's Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV). The vehicle, based in Amarillo, was in Pampa recently — not for a disaster — but to take part in the city's annual Christmas Parade. The local Red Cross participates in the Panhandle Project, a mutual aid program including the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, Kansas and New Mexico.

Chisum sets district meetings

AUSTIN — Pampa's state representative will begin the new year with a series of town hall meetings across his district before the next legislative session begins in Austin.

State Rep. Warren Chisum will hold 24 town hall meetings between Wednesday, Jan. 3 through Friday, Jan. 5, before heading to the state capitol building in Austin.

"I really don't have an agenda other than to provide an overview of what to expect from the Texas Legislature," Chisum said. "I intend to spend more time listening than talking."

Chisum said he usually files several bills each session based on concerns expressed at such town hall meetings.

"These informal get-togethers are probably the best time I can spend," he said. "The best way to find out about a local issue is to hear about the issue from the people who have to deal with it. I hope everyone gets a chance to come and say what's on their minds."

The 77th Texas Legislature convenes for its 140 day session on Jan. 9. The state legislature meets only in odd numbered years.

"Austin is pretty far from the Panhandle," Chisum said. "I want to make sure people have the opportunity to tell their government what they expect right here at home."

Chisum will be in Stratford, Texhoma, Texline, (See CHISUM, Page 2)

Quite frankly... How can Pampa merchants encourage people to shop at home?



"They should leave the stores open late so working people can have time to shop."
 — Janie Jennings



"Advertise more, have more sales and stay open longer."
 — Michelle Guerra



"In order to keep customers in town you have to have sales and offer them a product worth their money."
 — Juan Recló



"Close Highway 60."
 — Doug Cooper



"I think friendly folks, fair prices and good old hometown customer service will keep people shopping at home."
 — Margie Anthony

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BABITZKE, Carroll Kent — 10:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, Canadian.
CROCKER, Orvis Odis — 10:30 a.m.,

Obituaries

CARROLL KENT BABITZKE
CANADIAN — Carroll Kent Babitzke, 57, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2000. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in First Baptist Church with Jerry Golden officiating. Burial will be in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Stickley-Hill Funeral Directors of Canadian.

Mrs. Babitzke was born at Wheeler and had been a longtime Canadian resident. She moved from Clinton, Okla., to Wichita Falls in 1992.

Survivors include three daughters, Tamara Jones of Cherokee, Okla., Tonya Smith of Clinton and Angela Marquez of Dumas; a son, Jimmy Jones of Canadian; her mother, Kathryn Kent of Canadian; and eight grandchildren.

ORVIS ODIS CROCKER
HOWARDWICK — Orvis Odis Crocker, 88, brother of a Pampa resident, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2000. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Clarendon Church of Christ at Clarendon with Brian Gochenour and Greg Bells, pastors, officiating. Burial will be in Citizens Cemetery under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors.

Mr. Crocker was born at Troupe. He married Rachel Bernice Brooks in 1938 at Shamrock. He moved to Howardwick from Amarillo in 1976 and was an aircraft mechanic for the federal government prior to retiring in 1968.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Orvis Jean "Jeannie" Cates, in 2000.

Survivors include his wife, Rachel; four daughters, Dorothy Conser of Ormand, Fla., Emma Reed of Amarillo, Rachel Manning of Edgewood and Linda Mason of Fort Worth; a brother, Ernest Crocker of Pampa; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

LUCY ANN FOUST
AMARILLO — Lucy Ann Thomas Scott Foust, 96, mother of a Shamrock resident, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2000. Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday in North Amarillo Church of Christ with Glen Walton and Paul Sneed officiating. Burial will be at 4 p.m. in Fairview Cemetery at Wellington under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Foust was born at Enloe. She married Samuel Scott in 1926; he died in 1969. She later married Newton Foust in 1979, and he preceded her in death in 1991.

She had been an Amarillo resident for the past 10 years.

Survivors include two sons, John Scott of Borger and Bud Scott of Shamrock; seven daughters, Mae Voss, Dorothy Skaggs, Joy Eakles, Barbara Scott, Clara Scott and Mollie White, all of Amarillo, and Gayle Mock of Oklahoma City, Okla.; 19 grandchildren; and 39 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to High Plains Children's Home and Family Services, 11461 S. Western St., Amarillo, TX 79118.

DOROTHY ADELAIDE McILHANY

WHEELER — Dorothy Adelaide McIlhany, 70, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2000, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in First United Methodist Church of Wheeler with the Rev. Ernie McCaughey of Tulsa and the Rev. Wayne Sheffield officiating. Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mrs. McIlhany was born June 23, 1930, at Dallas, to Arch and Adelaide Weaver Dendinger. She graduated from North Dallas High School and attended Southern Methodist University. After college, she worked for Braniff Airways.

She married Grainger McIlhany on Aug. 20, 1955, at Dallas and the couple moved to Wheeler where she was active in civic affairs, earning Wheeler Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year distinction in 1979.

She was a homemaker, a Cub Scout den mother and a lifetime member of Thursday Review Club. She belonged to First United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church administrative council, United Methodist Women and American Legion Auxiliary. She also joined Legislative Wives Club in Austin from 1955-66 while her husband was in the Legislature.

Survivors include her husband, Grainger, of Wheeler; a daughter, Ann Kirkpatrick of Houston; two sons, Tom McIlhany of Abilene and Bill McIlhany of Austin; a sister, Mary Louise Howell of Dallas; and seven grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church of Wheeler.

Fires

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, Dec. 17
1:18 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 2500 block of Mary Ellen. No elevated levels were found.

Monday, Dec. 18
8:49 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 700 block of East Frederic.

Obituaries (cont.)

CHRIS B. PARKER
BOOKER — Chris B. Parker, 42, of Taos, N.M., a former Pampa resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000. Services were to be at 11 a.m. today in Follett United Methodist Church with the Rev. Chris Ford officiating. Burial will be in Fairmont Cemetery at Follett under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of Booker.

Mr. Parker was born in 1958 at Pampa and attended Amarillo High School. A former longtime resident of the Amarillo and Pampa areas, he moved to Taos three years ago and had previously resided in Follett.

He married Maya Chavez. He was a homebuilder and a master carpenter. Survivors include his mother, Shirley Holder of Nokona Lake; his father, Paul Coronis of Pampa; and two brothers, Paul Parker of Follett and Corey Coronis of Pampa.

Police report

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

Sunday, Dec. 17
Robin Lynn Swift, 25, of San Angelo, reported an assault by another woman about 9:45 p.m. Sunday in the 2100 block of North Christy.

Clint Austin Hancox, 21, 2600 N. Hobart, Apt. A-8, reported an assault by a neighbor who complained Hancox was making too much noise.

Monday, Dec. 18
Anne Joyce McKandles, 45, 1061 W. Somerville, Apt. 809, a teacher at Travis Elementary School, reported her purse stolen from her car in the school parking lot.

Tomarbysshe Lamom Embers, 27, of Borger, reported that her checkbook was stolen about Dec. 1, in the 100 block of South Starkweather, and someone has been writing checks out of it.

A four-year-old and an infant were found at home alone about 7:30 a.m. Monday in the 500 block of South Barnes. The children were turned over to a relative.

Betty Jean King, 72, 1608 N. Sumner, reported a burglary at 918 S. Barnes in which a video tape recorder, a camera and several credit cards were taken.

Tim Michael Roberts, 26, reported a \$10 gas drive off about 2 p.m. Monday at Trollinger, Phillips 66, 1405 N. Hobart.

Jesse Steve Chilton, 45, 113 N. Nelson, reported a stolen 1986 red Honda Prelude about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

Sheriff's Office

Gray County Sheriff's office reported the following arrests and incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 18
Jacqueline Annetta Williams, 29, 1021 S. Varnon, was arrested about 11:30 p.m. Monday in the 500 block of West Brown on bond surrender in connection with four warrants charging her with writing bad checks.

Ambulance

Rural Metro Ambulance Service responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 18
8:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

8:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 700 block of East Frederic and transported one to PRMC.

10:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Somerville and transported one to PRMC.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.48	Columbia/HCA	40.70	up 0.21
Milo	3.36	Enron	39.78	up 0.16
Corn	3.67	Halliburton	39.51	up 0.16
Soybeans	4.35	KMI	49.15	up 1.08
		Kerr McGee	64.51	up 1.02
		Limited	15.71	dn 0.08
		McDonald's	32.91	up 1.04
		Exxon Mobil	37.15	up 1.90
		New Atmos	23.71	NC
		XCEL	27.15	up 1.04
		NOI	39	up 1.04
		OKE	44.71	up 1.16
		Penney's	9.31	dn 1.16
		Phillips	55.38	up 1.14
		Procter Nat.	15.31	up 3.16
		SLB	78.91	up 1.91
		Tenneco	2.13	NC
		Texas	60.14	up 1.16
		Ultrapar	29.71	up 3.16
		Wal-Mart	49.34	dn 13.16
		Williams	35.51	up 5.16

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Occidental	23 1/4	dn 3/8
Fidelity Magell	120.27	
Puritan	18.62	

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

BP Amoco	47 3/4	dn 1/4
Cabot	24 15/16	up 3/8
Cabot O&G	26 1/2	dn 3/16
Chevron	82 1/16	up 1 5/16
Coca-Cola	56 7/16	up 1 9/16
New York Gold	270.30	
Silver	4.60	
West Texas Crude	29.40	

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

SCHEDULE

Gray County Courthouse will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26, for the Christmas holiday. The courthouse offices will also be closed on New Years Day. Local banks will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, but will resume regular banking hours on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Four of the local motor banks will be open on Saturday

until noon: Bank of America, First American Bank, First State Bank of Miami and National Bank of Commerce.

Four local credit unions will observe both Monday and Tuesday as Christmas holidays. To be closed both days are Cabot & IRI Employees Credit Union, Pamcel Federal Credit Union, Pampa Municipal Credit Union and Pampa Teachers Federal

Credit Union. Page Federal Credit Union will be closed only on Monday, Christmas Day.

State offices will be closed two days to observe the Christmas holiday while federal offices will only be closed Christmas Day.

Pampa Post Office will be closed on Monday. However, it will be open during regular working hours on Saturday until noon.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BONDS

worth it. "We're dead in the water the way we are," Stowers said.

While Smith's presentation had been at the board's request, Stowers indicated that the board was not ready to make a decision concerning the bonds. He appointed Foote and David to gather more facts for the board's meeting in January.

"It's something we would not enter into lightly," Stowers said.

While the PEDC has attracted two dairies to the area and is trying to bring in a third, not all of the community appears to be as enthused about the dairy industry.

Lloyd E. Harvey appeared at the group's meeting to protest the sales of bonds to raise funds for more dairies.

"The people of Pampa voted to entrust one-half cent of sales tax revenue to the PEDC," Harvey said. "We expect the PEDC to work within this budget constraint. When you sell bonds that have to be paid back with interest, you divert money away from its intended purpose."

Citing stories in *The Pampa News*, Harvey said dairies in

Erath County caused water and air pollution.

Tripplehorn countered by saying that those dairies were very small and not subject to regulation. The dairies that the PEDC has been recruiting to the Pampa area are much larger and have to abide by state and federal environmental controls.

Harvey, again quoting *The Pampa News*, said that the Roden Dairy had been forced to move from the Fort Worth area.

Tripplehorn countered it was a matter of urban sprawl. As Fort Worth grew, the dairies, as well as other agricultural interests, were forced to give way to urbanization.

The Roden Dairy, she said, added \$1.6 million to Gray County's tax rolls.

"That's a great boost to the property taxes of Gray County," she said.

She said the dairy that is seeking a \$250,000 grant to come to Pampa is planning on building a \$5.5 million project with 3,800 head of cows.

Harvey commended the PEDC for their work but said he disagreed with their commitment to the dairy industry.

In other business, the board

expressed its displeasure about overdue payments by Crall Products. The PEDC holds a note for Crall Products L&B for \$212,081.64 and on Crall Products Equipment for \$56,892.22. Earlier this year, they renegotiated a payment schedule with Crall, but the company has yet to make a payment on the new schedule which went into effect in October.

"We need to sit down eyeball-to-eyeball with him," board member Lee Porter said.

Tripplehorn suggested writing off an \$11,100 note held by the PEDC on a pickup belonging to Wendell Neil Harris. The pickup, she explained, has long been junked.

"This happened before any one here came on the board," she said.

"We seem to be rolling over for everybody," Kothmann said. "I'd much rather spend taxpayer money collecting this money than writing it off."

In a final piece of business Monday, Stowers announced that the lawsuit filed by former PEDC Director Jack Ready in Travis County had been moved to the court of U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson in Amarillo.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SUIT

Chapter 42 school districts are "property poor" districts which are not required to send tax revenue to the State.

Chapter 41 and Chapter 42 school districts were set up as part of the Edgewood IV school finance law, sometimes referred to as the "Robbing Hood Law" because in it property-rich school districts are required to send a part of their property tax revenue to the Texas Education Agency to be redistributed among property-poor districts.

Miami ISD's 2000-2001 school year budget includes \$1.7 million that will be sent to the Texas Education Agency as a result of this decision — or 56 percent of the total tax revenues expected to be collected for the year.

Dinsmore said representatives of from 40 to 50 Chapter 41 school districts attended the meeting last week in Austin to review information about the proposed litigation with George W. Bramlett and Mike Boone, attorneys with the Haynes & Boone law firm of Dallas.

After the lawyers presented information, facts and figures they had found in their research, they recommended that the proposed lawsuit be narrowed to two areas of litigation, the Miami superintendent said.

According to Edgewood IV, Dinsmore explained, it is the state's responsibility to fund public education. The lawsuit will contend that the state is not meeting its obligation by not funding 50 percent or more of the cost of public education, he said.

Presently, the State of Texas is funding 43 percent of the cost of public education, he said.

'This statewide property tax affects all school districts.'

— Allan Dinsmore
Miami ISD Superintendent

The second disputed area involved an optional homestead exemption law passed by the state legislature.

Dinsmore said the homestead exemption counteracts Edgewood IV because the state allows school districts to offer homeowners a tax break, yet the districts are penalized because the exemption is not considered when the state figures the taxable property values of the school district.

"Both areas (of litigation) have as much impact on Chapter 42 school districts as they do on Chapter 41 school districts," Dinsmore said. "This statewide property tax affects all school districts."

A recent survey by the Texas Association of School Administrators

indicated that 43.67 of all Texas school districts will reach the \$1.50 per \$100 valuation property tax ceiling by the 2001-2002 fiscal year, Dinsmore said.

Presently, almost 29 percent of Texas' 1,035 school districts have a tax rate of \$1.45 or higher which reflects a 49 percent increase in just one year, he said, adding that more than 45 percent of Chapter 41 school districts have tax rates of \$1.45 or above.

Current figures show that, on the average, the \$1.50 tax rate generates enough revenue to receive a "recognized" rating under TEA's accreditation guidelines. "Recognized" is one step below the highest level of "exemplary."

Next year, Dinsmore said, the amount needed to receive a "recognized" rating will exceed total state and local revenue by 1 percent.

"Next year there won't be enough money generated to fund a 'recognized' program," the superintendent said.

City Briefs

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

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.

COTTONWOOD SPRINGS

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

CUSTOM EMBROIDERY.

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

FREE DIAMOND Ring!!

Register nightly 6 p.m.-8 p.m. only, Rheams Diamond Shop.

HOLIDAY SALE!!

December 22, Praxair is having a Sale for One Day, Walk-In Special Only. 10%, 15% and 20% off manager selected items. Many products to outfit that Welder you know with that last minute perfect gift!

BABY'S 1ST Christmas Dead-

line Has Been Extended to Dec. 20th, 12 noon, due to bad weather. Happy Holidays from *The Pampa News*

MASSAGE THERAPY, Special Gift Certificates available. Call Cathy 669-0013.

MONDAY MADNESS! Join us for lunch on Mondays, our Salad & Sandwich Buffet only \$4.59 thru Dec. Order your turkeys & hams today! Clint & Sons Smokehouse, 1421 N. Hobart, 665-2825. Happy Holidays!!

OPEN NIGHTLY until Christmas! Great in-store specials. All Its Charm.

QUADRA FIRE December Special, Model 3100 SR, \$1259 for \$825, while they last, Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy. 60

REMEMBER EARLY advertising deadlines for Christmas & New Years holidays, in the *Pampa News*. Happy Holidays!!

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.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, mostly sunny and breezy. Highs in the middle 50s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph and gusty. Caution is advised on area lakes. Tonight, mostly clear. Lows around 28. Southwest to west winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy and windy. Highs around 42. North winds 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts. Wednesday night, mostly cloudy with lows 15 to 20. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 30.

STATEWIDE — Most precipita-

tion is staying away from the state during the latest cold snap, but some haze developed overnight in parts of North Texas.

Early-morning temperatures fell into the low teens near Dalhart and Marfa and into the upper teens from the South Plains to the Pecos River.

Readings in the rest of the state ranged from the teens to mid-40s. Extremes were 12 degrees at Dalhart and 44 at Brownsville.

Other temperatures included 25 degrees at Junction and 34 at Fort Stockton. Wind chills

ranged from near zero to the lower 20s.

Winds in western areas of the state were from the west and southwest at 5 to 10 mph, with westerly to northwesterly conditions elsewhere.

Highs through Thursday should range from the 40s in the west and north to high 60s along the Rio Grande.

Lows overnight were expected from the 20s to 40s.

Increasing cloudiness and a return of wind gusts was predicted by Wednesday with the approach of another cold front.

Calendar of events

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B. Walker at 669-2266.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride all Sharon King, 665-2818.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST
Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, conducts prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. daily for the citizens of Pampa - the churches, the schools, etc. All are cordially invited to come and pray. For more information, call 665-4926.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Women's Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
Pampa Ministerial Alliance will hold its Annual Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m., Nov. 21 at Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd. Over 10 churches are involved in presenting the annual event which is free and open to the public.

GRAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Gray County Genealogical Society will not meet in the month of December. The January meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at Lovett Memorial Library and will feature a hands-on orientation to the Internet.

PAMPA BOOK CLUB
Pampa Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Lovett Memorial Library. The group will discuss "East of the Mountain" by David Guterson. Visitors are welcome.

SANTA HELPERS
In an effort to raise funds for its Summer Educational Student Exchange trip to Germany, the German Club at Pampa High is organizing a volunteer program during the Christmas season. The volunteers are calling themselves "Santa's Little Helpers" and are available to help wrap presents, decorate homes (indoors and outdoors), remove decorations and much more. For more information or to schedule "Santa's Little Helpers," contact Jamie Greene, PHS German Club sponsor, at 669-4800 (PHS) or at 665-8850 (home). Donations are accepted.

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.

FRANK PHILLIPS
Frank Phillips College in Borger will close for winter break at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20 and will reopen at 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 8.

PAS DANCE
Pampa Area Singles will hold a New Year's Eve dance from 8-11 p.m. Dec. 30 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Entertainment will be by Mike Porter. The event will be alcohol and smoke free. For more information, call 665-7059.

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.

MS. TEXAS SENIOR PAGEANT
Ms. Texas Senior Pageant officials are currently seeking participants and corporate sponsorships for the 14th annual Ms. Texas Senior pageant scheduled March 23-24 at the Ramada Market Center in Dallas. For more information, contact Nell Coleman, state director, at (972) 239-3342, or Red Walker, executive director, (972) 270-5944.

WATERPARK CONTEST
Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort in New Braunfels is currently sponsoring "Waterpark of Tomorrow," a waterpark design contest for middle school classes. The winning class will be invited to explore the science and math behind waterpark rides during a free trip to Schlitterbahn's Sixth Annual Aqua Lab slated from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., May 18. Entries for the contest must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2001. Complete details are available in the entry package. To receive a package, register for Aqua Lab or for more information, call Schlitterbahn's Group Sales Department at (830) 608-8532.

AYUSA
Academic Year in the U.S.A. International, a non-profit student exchange program, invites high school students to apply for the Congress-Bundestag scholarship, a full scholarship for one year to study in Germany. Deadline for application is Dec. 1. For more information, call 1-800-727-4540, ext. 567 or visit www.ayusa.org/usagermanyscholarship on the World Wide Web.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL
First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, is currently accepting alu-

minum cans for recycling. Proceeds will benefit Heifer Project International, an Arkansas-based service organization which provides livestock (chickens, pigs, sheep, cattle) along with training and support services to families and communities worldwide. For a limited time, donations will be matched 3-1 by a private foundation. HPI is a non-denominational not-for-profit agency. For more information, call the church office at 665-1031. Office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Friday and before 10:45 a.m. Sunday. For more information about HPI, call 1-800-422-0474 or visit <http://www.heifer.org>, on the Internet.

HCC DIALOGUE
The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER
The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Dec. 6 and 27, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Dec. 15, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E.

Foster, Pampa; Dec. 26, Family Care Center, 1010 S. Main, Shamrock and Parkview Hospital, 901 S. Sweetwater, Wheeler. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

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).

Presbyterian Home implements new Boys Town style program

AMARILLO — The Presbyterian Home for Children, a six-home residential program for troubled youth located in Amarillo, recently received certification to implement Girls and Boys Town's long-term residential program. Now the home has incorporated the Presbyterian Home for Children Teaching Model.

"In order to provide the best care available for today's kids, you need to adopt the best programs," said Richard Lapinski, executive director of the Presbyterian Home. "Girls and Boys Town has proven itself as a leader in child-care, and we wanted to model the best in the country."

Modeled directly after family style programs in place at Girls and Boys Town sites across America including Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, each home is staffed with a married family-teaching couple and an assistant

family-teacher. Each couple lives with the youth in the home 24-hours a day, seven days a week. They teach social skills, build strong relationships and help their girls or boys take control of their lives. The ultimate goal is to reunite them with their own families. At any given time, each home cares for up to eight girls or boys ages 8-17, all coming from Texas.

"Our mission is to provide Christ-centered care, nurturing

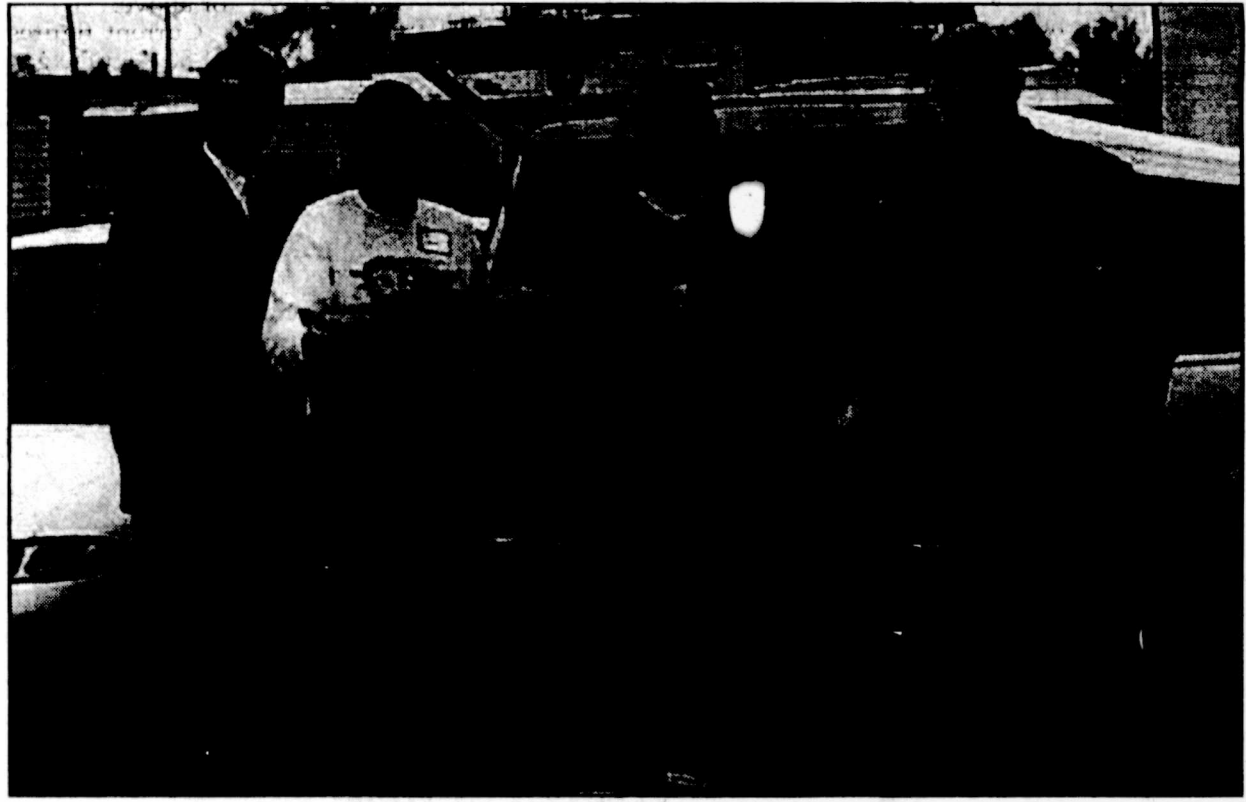
abused, neglected and dependent youth in a therapeutic home-like atmosphere," said Lapinski. "The Presbyterian Home invests in the lives of young people, helping them find a sense of hope and purpose in their lives."

Most youth who come to the Presbyterian Home are referred by social service agencies. In some instances, however, parents and families place their children in the home, where developing positive social skills, discipline and a sense of responsibility is top priority.

trustees of the home along with regional child protective organizations were intent on making program changes to enhance the academic, social, physical and spiritual development of youth for the new century. This environment, combined with Girls and Boys Town leadership and training, is helping children thrive.

Prior to joining the Presbyterian Home in the spring of 1999, Lapinski was a five-time certified family-teacher at the Village of Boys Town, Girls and Boys Town's home campus located west of Omaha, Neb. Lapinski is a licensed child-care administrator, a member of Leadership Amarillo and coaches with Kids Inc. in the Amarillo area.

Jordan Unit donation



Lt. Guy Watts, far left, of the Salvation Army and Bob Marx, second to left, Salvation Army Advisory Board member, recently presented 1,500 gripper socks to Jordan Unit Chaplain Dave Schlewitz, far right, for the Jordan Unit inmates. John Schlewitz, second to right, helped load the gripper socks which will be given to each inmate this Christmas.

The Presbyterian Home's Board of Trustees worked closely with the community when deciding the Girls and Boys Town family style program. The Amarillo Area Foundation provided substantial financial support for the project as well as bringing the Presbyterian Home and Girls and Boys Town together. The biggest task was a training program run by Girls and Boys Town's National Resource and Training Center for the Home's 30 staff members.

"Girls and Boys Town pioneered residential childcare," said Lapinski. "Making this transition benefits the girls and boys that come through our doors and that's what is most important. Providing the best atmosphere and home environment possible was our goal and with Girls and Boys Town's help, we're succeeding."

The Presbyterian Home for Children celebrated its 76th anniversary this year as a safe haven for children in need of individualized care in a family setting in the Texas Panhandle.

In keeping with the times and adjusting for the kind of children in need of support today, the

Days 'til Christmas
6

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 TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
 1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520

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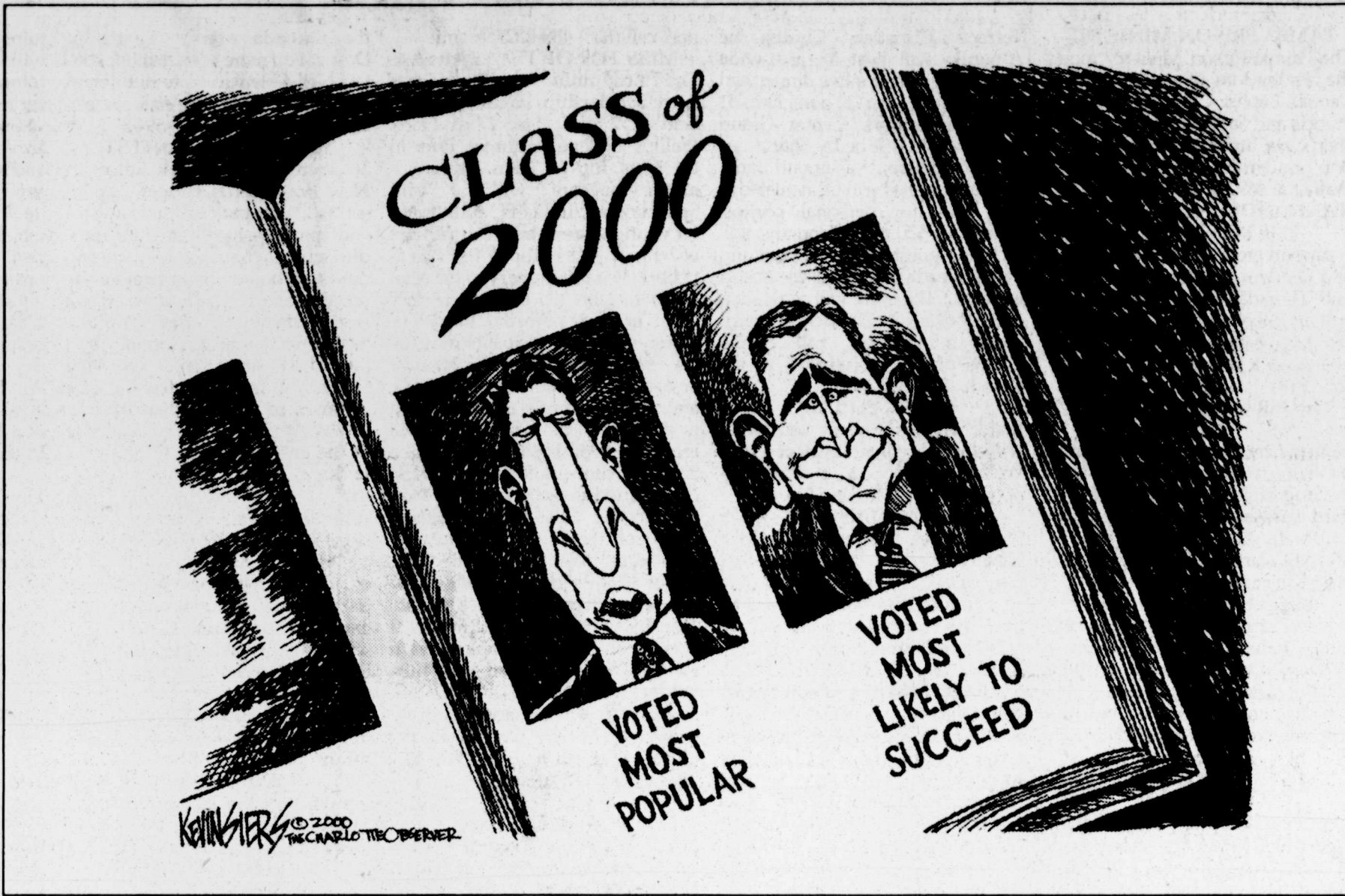
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Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:
 Odessa American on some national champs don't score touchdowns:

The institutes of higher learning that are "heard from" today almost exclusively seem to be the ones with outstanding athletic teams. For instance, as the football season winds down and the bowl game contenders are selected, it's clear that the university most remembered will be the one that wins the "national championship."

This fame will last briefly and then the race will start all over again. Fame is fleeting; who won the national championship five years ago?

There's nothing particularly wrong with all this. Individuals certainly have a right to determine what is important in their own lives, and if that is rooting for the team that does best on the football field or the basketball court, then that is their right.

But, every once in a while, we like to hear a little cheering for other kinds of national champions. Today, it is Hillsdale College, a quiet little school in southern Michigan, between Detroit and Chicago. The college, founded in 1844, has been a national champion for years. But, as far as we know, Hillsdale never has been given a trophy for its feats, nor has it received all that much publicity for doing something that is more difficult than scoring touchdowns.

Hillsdale, you see, is the undeniable collegiate champ when it comes to avoiding federal government funding; and in doing so, has managed to duck the blitz of governmental control that comes to those who take Uncle Sam's handouts. Hillsdale's percentage of tuition aid from federal sources is zero, while in 1999, the average college or university accepted about 75 percent, according to Hillsdale's research.

This does not mean Hillsdale students are not well supported. The college provides "Independence Loans and Grants" (all from private sources and voluntarily given) which have grown to the point where almost \$3 million was distributed among the colleges student body in 1999-2000. Additionally, the school points proudly to the fact that the "families of only 10 percent of Hillsdale students pay full tuition (\$13,600 annually) (and) on average per student and per year, Hillsdale provides \$8,885 in some form of financial aid."

Remember that none of this comes from federal sources. A better way of looking at it is that this does not come from the pockets of taxpayers who need the money to pay their own bills and send their own children to school.

And, this is nothing new. Hillsdale reports that has been "in direct competition against the thousands of colleges and universities subsidized by billions of federal taxpayer dollars and politicized by federal programs and regulations" for more than 15 years and that it has had "independence" as its cornerstone forever. All of this, and more, makes it appear to us that Hillsdale is winning this "competition" it has embraced and should be recognized for it. As such, we see no reason Hillsdale should not be named the "Collegiate National Champion of Independence."

What Hillsdale its founders, its faculty, its students and its supporters has managed to do through the years truly bowls us over. Rah, rah, rah!

A wonderful Christmas moment

Every year Christmas happens. I never know when it will be, that magic moment when it's Christmas to me.

It rarely happens on Christmas Day. Usually it's some time in the days or weeks preceding.

This Christmas moment is more than the excitement of opening presents or the joy of seeing family and friends or the satiation I feel after eating Christmas dinner. It's a time when the holiness of the holiday fills my soul and transcends everything else.

For me, Christmas only reveals itself for an instant and then I'm left, awed and breathless with wonder, with much to think about until it happens again next year.

My earliest memory of a Christmas moment happened in our little house on Sandlewood Drive. I was seven or eight years old and a confirmed tomboy. My favorite Christmas present the year before had been a machine gun that sprayed red sparks when you shot it. My little brother and I wore it out playing war.

This year, probably in an effort to steer me more toward being a girl, Santa had brought me a "Tiny Thumbelina" doll. When I picked that doll up and held it to me, it's little head moved against my neck and shoulder as if it were real. Suddenly I found myself in a Christmas moment. Something warm from deep down inside, something that wanted to care for the helpless and less fortunate, awoke in me.

Many years passed before I felt a true Christmas moment again. Perhaps because I didn't know to look for one, perhaps because I had become so entrenched in day-to-day living that I wasn't open to such an experience. I don't really know.

Then came the "Pink Christmas," the holiday after I had divorced and the first one I would have to spend without my children. It's also the first Christmas I spent with Vic. He came over Christmas Eve to eat supper with me and share gifts. A time that could have been the loneliest



Dee Dee Laramore
 Staff writer

and saddest of my life turned out to be sweetly beautiful, a beginning instead of a mourning of the end. When I look back at that evening, I think of it as the "Pink Christmas," I guess because the lights from the tree had cast a pink glow. Or maybe the glow was in my heart.

Christmas moments came more and more often as time went by. One year it was on a Christmas Eve when I looked outside my front door and saw evidence of a sleigh sliding across our sidewalk and the "droppings" of eight tiny reindeer where they had waited while Santa had brought presents to my children. I still don't know who had fixed this little tableau for my family, but I'll always cherish the surprise and the humor of it.

Once again it happened on Christmas morning. This time, I opened the front door at about 6 a.m. and was greeted by my in-laws, bundled against the cold and loaded with presents, standing in the midst of softly falling snowflakes. A picture-perfect Christmas moment.

My favorite Christmas moment happened about 10 years ago. Every year, the Pampa News staff would adopt a family for Christmas. We usually chose a large family because the employees were always so generous and could give a lot. One year, we heard of a young woman, recently widowed, who was caring for five small children. We bought a tree and decorations, tons of groceries and presents for everyone.

At this same time, there was an insurance salesman named Winston who came periodically to the newspaper to sign people up for life insurance. Winston lived in Amarillo and was a nice enough guy, but I resented having to leave my work to talk to him about life insurance that I didn't want. Poor Winston had to listen to how I felt every time he came.

Somehow he heard about our Christmas family. "I dress up like Santa Claus. Would you like me to be Santa Claus when you take them their presents?" he offered. I took him up on the offer.

Several of us loaded all the gifts, food and tree and drove to the mobile home where this woman was living. She knew we were bringing something, but I guess she had no idea of just how much.

My first Christmas moment of that day happened as I was walking up the steps of her home with an armload of groceries and I saw her face. She had her hand to her mouth and tears ran down her cheeks. Behind her, the children were squealing with delight.

Surely that magnificent moment could not be topped, but believe me, it was.

Afterwards, Winston asked if there were any other children that might want to see Santa Claus. I don't know how it came about, but we ended up going to a friend's house who had a little four-year-old girl with severe cerebral palsy and mental retardation. She could not hold up her head, but when she smiled, it was like the morning sun breaking over the horizon. A sight to behold.

She bestowed that radiant smile on Santa Winston when we came into the living room where she lay on a pallet on the floor. This great big man knelt down beside her and gathered her into his arms. This time, the tears ran down his cheeks.

What a wonderful Christmas moment. Amen.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2000. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1998, President Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice, becoming only

the second chief executive to be ordered to stand trial in the Senate, where, like Andrew Johnson before him, he was acquitted.

On this date:

In 1732, Benjamin Franklin began publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac."
 In 1776, Thomas Paine published

his first "American Crisis" essay.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the winter.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.
 In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal

mine explosion in Ja. obs Creek, Pa.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its "Empire Service" to Australia.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum
 Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
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 Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736

State Sen. Teel Bivins
 Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994
 Austin Address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711
 Austin Phone: (512) 463-0131

U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry
 Amarillo Address: 724 S. Polk, Suite 400, Amarillo, TX 79101
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 371-8844
 Washington Address: 131 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
 Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706

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 Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
 Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922

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Everyone could benefit from Zen philosophy

It's too bad that more Americans don't have the skills of a woodsman.

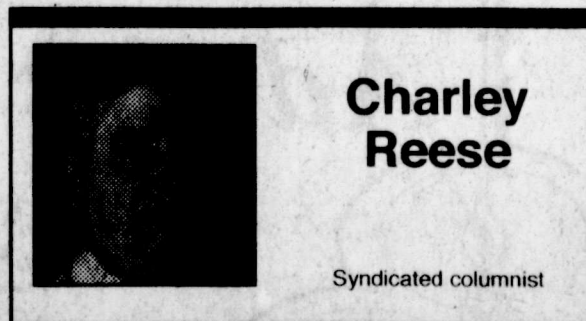
When I was a kid, I aspired to be Natty Bumppo, the famous long hunter in the novels of James Fenimore Cooper. Never mind that the wilderness was gone. That's no obstacle to a child's imagination.

At any rate, I devoured all the books I could find on woodcraft and studied the woodsman's skills — careful observation, silence and careful listening. In the 1700s, such skills could mean the difference between life and death in the great, green wilderness contested by the Indians and the American pathfinders. To see the faint signs of someone passing or to hear the slight crack of a twig could save a man from walking into an ambush.

Oddly enough, I found those skills extremely useful even in 20th century life. There is a trick to it, and it's one of those that seems obvious and easy but is actually difficult and requires practice.

The trick is not to think. So many people these days do not hear what others are saying because they are planning what they are going to say next while the other person is talking. Many people look but don't see because, while their eyes are looking, their minds are off somewhere else.

To use the blunt language of Zen, when you look, look; when you listen, listen. Don't do



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

anything else. Don't think. Don't remember. Don't imagine. Simply focus your mind and your ears or your mind and your eyes. Our senses of sight and sound are wired directly into the brain, and it's important for brain and sense, to be focused on the same object.

Artists can "see" better than most non-artists because they have cultivated the art of actually looking. Musicians can hear better than most because they have cultivated the art of listening.

I found as a young reporter that by careful listening, I needed to make only the smallest note now and then to reproduce what I had heard. I learned to listen nonjudgmentally. I never argued in my mind with the speaker to whom I was listening. As a reporter, it didn't matter whether I agreed or didn't agree, approved or disapproved. My job was simply

to reproduce accurately what was being said. And to do that, I had to first understand perfectly what was being said.

The hardest thing to do is to get rid of the ego. So many people are so full of themselves, so enamored of their own thoughts, so mindful of their own feelings, so conscious of their place in the scheme of things that they can spare barely a glance or a cursory listen to anyone else.

To see and to hear, you must be selfless, but our minds are like nervous monkeys chattering and climbing around in the trees. It takes a lot of practice to control the mind — to learn to think when it's time to think and to simply receive when it's time to receive information.

That's the whole of Zen practice, by the way — trying to control the mind so that you can shut it down and connect to the world around you. It's no accident that Zen became the religion of the warriors in old Japan. A blank-but-alert mind acutely sensitive to your opponent's slightest move was essential to surviving a fight.

We don't need to practice Zen or to track people in the woods, but if we would all learn to shut up and listen and to really see what is around us, I believe we'd have a better society. For sure, we could all fill out a ballot correctly and quite probably see through the empty glitter of most politicians' speeches.

Fed expected to shift focus away from fighting inflation

By JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve, in the face of slowing economic growth, is prepared to shift its main focus away from fighting inflation to guarding against a sluggish economy.

The Federal Reserve, worried that the red-hot economy was growing too fast and could spark an upward spiral in prices, boosted short-term interest rates six times between June 1999 and May of this year.

Economists said the rate increases have worked to slow the economy, which grew at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in the third quarter, the weakest pace in four years. The slowdown is helping to keep inflation under control.

Consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the first 11 months of the year, compared with a 2.7 percent increase for all of 1999. But the pickup comes from surging energy prices, which most economists believe will ease in coming months.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, telegraphing a major shift in Fed thinking in a speech two weeks ago, said he believed the economy had slowed "appreciably" and signaled that he stood ready to cut interest rates should the economy show signs of slipping into a recession.

Against this backdrop, many private economists believe the Fed's chief policy setting group, the Federal Open Market Committee, will change the wording of its policy statement as a precursor to outright rate cuts starting possibly as soon as January. The last time the Fed cut rates was in 1998 in response to the global economic slowdown triggered by Asia's financial crisis.

The committee, composed of Fed board members and regional bank presidents, was scheduled

Talks resume in Mid-East

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israelis and Palestinians are reopening peace negotiations with the calendar bearing down on President Clinton, who is offering to help them reach a settlement, possibly with a trip to the region in his last weeks in office.

The two sides will set the pace for the talks, which begin with separate meetings for Israeli and Palestinian delegations with U.S. mediators Dennis B. Ross and Aaron D. Miller.

Three-way talks appear likely later on, but whether Clinton or Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will participate is undecided.

The Israeli delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami. The Palestinian delegation includes senior negotiators Saeb Erekat and Yasser Abed Rabbo.

The likely location is Bolling Air Force Base in southeast Washington. But traditionally secret even about logistics, the State Department declined to say.

"The parties are re-engaging, and they've asked us to be involved, and that's good," Clinton said Monday at the White House. "But we're going to be on their timetable, so I can't say for sure" whether there would be progress or if he would make a trip to the region to try to clinch a deal.

"I'm willing, as always, to do whatever I can, and I will do whatever I can. But the timetable will be up to them," Clinton said.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin, an ardent supporter of concessions to the Palestinians, said he did not want to raise hopes a deal was at hand. "But in my opinion, there is a good chance to reach a comprehensive final status agreement, a framework deal, in the next few weeks," he said.

On the Palestinian side, Cabinet Minister Nabil Shaath said he expected Israel to offer more than it did at the Camp David talks in July hosted by Clinton. "I'm sure, I have no doubt," Shaath said.

In those talks, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak proposed that the Palestinians establish a state, that most of the West Bank and Gaza be turned over to them along with some areas of East Jerusalem, which Yasser Arafat eyes as his capital.

The concessions stirred defections from Barak's government, widespread disapproval within the Israeli Knesset and the public at large, and sent him sinking in the polls.

to meet privately Tuesday to discuss interest rate policy. An afternoon announcement was expected.

Analysts predicted the Fed will change its current stance that is tilted toward higher interest rates because inflation poses the greatest risk to the economy.

Some analysts believe policymakers will shift to a neutral position, which would assume the risks of inflation are no greater than the risks of the economy's stalling. Others thought the Fed could move to a stance

weighted toward the threat of a recession.

Either shift, economists said, puts the Fed in a position to lower the federal funds rate if the economy shows serious signs of weakness. The funds rate, the interest banks charge each other, now stands at a nine-year high of 6.5 percent.

The prime rate, the benchmark for millions of loans, is also at a nine-year high of 9.5 percent. The Fed has opted to keep the funds rate unchanged at its last four

meetings, given the mounting evidence of moderating economic growth.

"I think essentially the economy is still growing at the pace that the Fed wants it to. The big question is whether it will slow down too far, too fast, and that is an open question," said Bill Cheney, chief economist for John Hancock.

President-elect Bush, after meeting Monday with Greenspan, said Congress should pass his massive tax cut "as an

insurance policy" against a potential economic downturn.

But the \$1.3 trillion reduction in taxes over 10 years, which Bush made the centerpiece of his economic program, could face a major hurdle in Greenspan.

The Fed chief has said repeatedly he would like to see the government's budget surpluses used to pay down the national debt, not provide tax relief or boost spending on government programs. But Greenspan has always been quick to add that if this can't

be done politically, he would prefer tax cuts to spending increases, which he warns could bring back the days of budget deficits.

Stuart Hoffman, chief economist with PNC Financial Services Group, is among the economists predicting a quarter-point rate cut by the Fed at its Jan. 31 meeting.

"By then, the Fed will have seen additional signs confirming slow economic growth with little inflationary pressures," Hoffman said. Greenspan recently said policy makers must be alert to unexpected shocks that could derail the nearly 10-year-old economic expansion, the longest in U.S. history.

Talking to reporters Monday, Bush made a point of praising Greenspan for his agile handling of the world's largest economy. Greenspan, a Republican, was first appointed Fed chairman by Ronald Reagan in 1987.

"We had a very strong discussion about my confidence in his abilities," Bush said. He made no mention of his father's belief that he lost the White House in 1992 because Greenspan was slow to cut interest rates.

Trade deficit stays close to record high in October

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's trade deficit stayed close to an all-time high in October at \$33.2 billion as imports of crude oil climbed to the highest level on record. The deficits with China and Japan also set records, propelled higher by a flood of Christmas toys and autos.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that the October deficit was down a slight 1.6 percent from September's \$33.7 billion, the biggest imbalance in history.

So far this year, the trade deficit is running at an annual rate of \$363 billion, far above last year's record of \$265 billion. Trade has continued to be the major blot on America's economic performance as the appetite for imports far outstrips U.S. export sales.

Critics of President Clinton's trade policies argue that the administration's insistence of pursuing open-market agreements with other countries has left U.S. workers vulnerable to unfair com-

petition from low-wage foreign factories.

In recent years this argument has been overshadowed by the economy's remarkable domestic performance, which pushed the unemployment rate to a three-decade low.

However, the unemployment rate is expected to slowly rise over the next year under the impact of previous interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve. Some analysts believe this will spawn greater demands for Congress to erect protectionist barriers to keep foreign goods out of the country.

The Clinton administration argues that in an era of increasing globalization, America has no choice but to push for trade liberalization, which benefits U.S. consumers and opens foreign markets for American exporters.

For October, U.S. exports of goods and services slipped 1.5 percent to \$91.2 billion, the second consecutive monthly decline. Imports, which had set a record

the previous month, slipped a slight 1.6 percent in October to \$124.4 billion, the second highest level on record.

The high level of imports reflected a continued surge in America's foreign oil bill. Imports of crude petroleum hit an all-time high of \$8.5 billion in October as the volume of barrels shipped climbed 8.7 percent. The price per barrel slipped slightly to \$28.62 in October, down from a 10-year high of \$28.98 in September.

America's deficit with China rose 4 percent in October to \$9.1 billion, a record, as the world's most populous country remained on track to surpass Japan this year as the nation with the largest trade surplus with the United States. The big increase in October reflected higher shipments of toys and games as retailers stocked their shelves for the holiday season.

The deficit with Japan also hit a record-high in October of \$68.5 billion, a sharp 38.1 percent

increase over the September level. This gain reflected a big jump in imports of Japanese autos and toys.

The small drop in exports in October still left total export sales up by 13.4 percent in the first 10 months of this year with total overseas sales of \$789 billion. U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky has predicted exports will top \$1 trillion this year for the first time in history.

Imports so far this year are up an even larger 19.9 percent at \$1.19 trillion through October.

The decline in exports in October reflected a 3.3 percent drop in overseas sales of farm products, which dipped to \$4 billion. Shipments of corn, wheat and animal feeds all declined.

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Authorities scrutinize security after breakout

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — State prisons are getting a statewide security boost, including training for guards and practice drills, in the wake of seven violent offenders' breakout from the Connally Unit in South Texas.

Some prison wardens spent the weekend conducting security drills, while others reassessed security measures to ensure that a similar escape doesn't happen again.

"We checked all of our procedures," said James Duke, senior warden at Robertson Unit in Abilene. "We went back and revisited our staff, looking at our back gate procedures and the like."

At the Clements Unit in Amarillo, J. Keith Price ordered special training for his maintenance crews in addition to conducting a prisonwide security drill.

State officials have not identified specific security procedures that might need to be changed but are instead conducting a thorough investigation, said Glen Castlebury, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Tuesday's editions of the San Antonio Express-News.

Because there have been no reports of stolen vehicles around Kenedy, authorities believe the escapees had outside help in fleeing the area.

Ground searches were halted Thursday afternoon once it became apparent that the inmates likely had left the immediate area around the prison, about five miles south of Kenedy and 65 miles southeast of San Antonio.

The escapees, including two convicted murderers, overpowered 10 civilian workers and a guard in the maintenance shop where they worked.

Texas hospital data going public; first quarterly report available

UNDATED — The first in a series of reports detailing the quality of Texas hospital care is likely to help residents make better informed about treatment options and dangers.

The Texas Health Care Information Council's officials

said on Monday they were releasing the first quarterly report that examines what illnesses strike Texans, how they are treated and which approaches are successful.

Before, Texans had limited access to statistical information to base health care choices, according to Tuesday's editions of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The first public database, slated for online release Tuesday, with 1.2 million records, covers only the first six months of 1999.

The council will publish some general reports online that will rank the most common illnesses statewide by gender and age. But the computer disk with hospital-specific information, which costs as much as \$4,000 for 12 months, will be too expensive for most individuals.

Consumers Union is searching for a grant to cover the price.

At least 37 other states publicly release information about health care quality. The data can be used to help companies choose hospitals for their employees' insurance plans, let facilities compare charges with competitors, and sway health treatment and policy discussions.

Teen confesses to kidnapping and murdering longtime friend

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The weekend discovery of a North Texas woman's body in a Louisiana field nearly two weeks after her disappearance has followed a longtime friend's admission that she participated in the victim's abduction and slaying.

The abductions of Misti Mayo and her four-month-old son occurred after the woman identified one of the four people now charged in her kidnapping as a suspect in a tire shop break-in, Fort Worth police said Monday.

Lt. David Burgess, a police spokesman, told The Shreveport (La.) Times that the four are now booked on aggravated kidnapping, with capital murder charges likely to be filed against them.

Christine Smith, who first told police that her friend Mayo had been raped in a Fort Worth alley and disappeared with her son, recanted her story on Saturday.

Smith, 17, when red investigators told Mayo's name and she

tered body in a field near Interstate 20 in Shreveport, La., where she said she and recanted her story and said she and the three others had dumped the victim after kidnapping and beating her on Dec. 7.

The attack, Smith said, was for Mayo giving police information about a tire shop burglary they committed on Dec. 6.

"This is the most senseless, unbelievable thing I have ever seen — over a girl telling law enforcement about a burglary,"

police Detective Hal Brasier told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Tuesday's editions.

Authorities said upgrading of charges for the four awaits an autopsy's completion on the 18-year-old Fort Worth woman.

Smith, 22-year-old Jamien D. Nickerson, 17-year-old Edwana Williams and 19-year-old Terrell Robinson were arrested Saturday on aggravated kidnapping warrants. They were being held Tuesday on \$500,000 bond in the Tarrant County Jail.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Lights... Camera... Courthouses

Texas has more historic courthouses than any other state. Courthouses have been sites for various community events, and in more recent years, popular filming locations for major motion pictures and television movies.

Movie Title	Year Released	County Name	City Name	Courthouse Constructed
Huge	1999	Grimes	Anderson	1893
Lone Star	1996	Maverick	Eagle Pass	1885
Michael	1996	Fayette	La Grange	1891
Powder	1995	Wharton	Wharton	1889
Paintman	1994	Harris	Houston	1910

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), and The Texas Historical Commission.

Strikers to vote on Seattle newspapers' compete offer

SEATTLE (AP) — Contract offers delivered to striking employees of The Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer included some worker-friendly revisions but the same pay raise that was rejected a month ago.

Leaders of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild promised a membership vote on any "full and complete" proposal within 48 hours.

"It's our feeling that ... we made a very good offer prior to the Guild

going out on strike," Times spokeswoman Kerry Coughlin said Monday. "While this may be essentially the same, it remains a very competitive offer and one the Guild would find is higher than in many other cities."

Employees have been offered an across-the-board raise of \$3.30 over six years.

The newspapers — which are published under a joint operating agreement and are negotiating jointly — set a 5 p.m. Wednesday deadline for workers to accept the offers.

Coughlin said if that does not happen, many strikers could find their jobs permanently filled by replacement workers or eliminated by downsizing forced by the strike.

The union said the latest offers, e-mailed after three days of talks concluded Monday afternoon, came too late to be presented at a previously scheduled membership meeting Monday night.

"If that's the complete offer, we have said once we are in receipt of the offer we will take 48 hours to ... put it to a membership vote," said Guild spokesman Art Thiel, a Post-Intelligencer sports columnist.

Coughlin and P-I Editor and Publisher Roger Oglesby said the offers, along with other revisions, increased the share of health benefits paid for by the papers.

On Sunday, the Times and P-I resumed charging for newspapers for the first time since the strike began Nov. 21.

At issue are wages and benefits, especially for lower-paid members working in advertising and circulation. Most of the 1,059 Guild-represented workers are at the Times, which handles advertising and distribution for both papers under a 1983 joint operating agreement.

Minimum pay for a reporter with six years' experience has been \$844.88 per week, or \$21.12 per hour. A first-year customer-service representative had earned as little as \$421 a week and top scale for a newspaper librarian was about \$636.

Residents flee as volcano showers red-hot rocks

SANTIAGO XALITZINTLA, Mexico (AP) — The volcano that towers over Mexico City "lit up like a Christmas tree," spewing red-hot rocks into the air and sending residents who had refused to evacuate its slopes fleeing for shelter Tuesday.

The Popocatepetl Volcano, which awoke from a 70-year slumber in 1994, had a spectacular eruption Monday night that frightened even residents who had disregarded authorities' pleas to leave the area.

A red plume continued to spew from the mountain's peak Tuesday, and authorities warned the crisis wasn't over.

"At first it was pretty. It lit up like a Christmas tree," said Tomas Jimenez, a corn farmer. "Then the fear hit."

In his 68 years in this village just four miles from the volcano, Jimenez said he has come to see "Don Goyito" — as residents affectionately call the volcano — as a trusted companion.

But he had never seen such fury. "It was a little frightening, because Don Goyito was really playing," he said.

Jimenez was one of only a handful of people to remain in the ghostly, deserted streets of Santiago Xalitzi early Tuesday.

Packs of dogs howled at the occasional army patrol or journalist passing by, and the sky was lit by a red glow from the top of the mountain.

Although the volcano began to belch ash on Friday, it wasn't until Monday night that it began its spectacular shower of incandescent rock.

"We got up on the roof and saw the rocks showering down. I started to get nervous," said Crescencio Sandoval, a 55-year-old farmer. "If it continues, it might be the end of the road for us right here."

Many of the 41,000 residents of the highest-risk zone who had refused to leave in more than 1,000

buses sent in by authorities decided that finally, it was time to go.

"We aren't so stupid as to stay here when it gets serious," said Cecilio Sevilla, a 26-year-old baker bundled up in a rough blanket.

He and Rita Agustin were married only Saturday and had spent four days celebrating, as local tradition calls for. Although Sevilla's head still hurt from a hangover, the newlyweds realized early Tuesday it was time to go.

It was unclear how far down the flanks the lava was falling, but it appeared only about a half-mile down the slope.

President Vicente Fox, speaking after an emergency cabinet meeting Monday night, said some smaller incandescent particles had fallen as far as six miles from the crater.

"We continue on maximum alert, because this emergency is not over," Fox said.

The eruption appeared to be the largest emission of glowing rock from the peak since it rumbled back from a 70-year period of dormancy in 1994. Popocatepetl does not generally produce flows of molten lava.

Calming fears of an ash fall among the 20 million residents of greater Mexico City, just 40 miles northwest of the peak, Fox said "no major atmospheric effects are expected over large cities."

The volcano spewed a cloud of ash 2 1/2 miles high, but it appeared to be blowing away from Mexico City.

The gritty volcanic dust has carmaker Volkswagen worried. Special measures at its Mexican plant 28 miles to the northeast included sending all finished cars to dealers and shipping ports.

Scientists have warned that a dome of lava at the base of the 17,886-foot Popocatepetl (pronounced poh-poh-kah-TEH-peh-till) is causing pressure to build inside the mountain. That could trigger strong eruptions.

Black Santas, angels bring 'cultural identity' to holiday

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — School teacher Scottie Caldwell had never really noticed it until one of her sixth-grade students asked the question.

Why didn't she ever see a black Santa Claus at the mall? Caldwell didn't have a good answer, but she found a solution. She persuaded some black men at her church in Chattanooga, Tenn., to dress up as Santa and pose with children for Christmas photos.

For children who didn't relate to a white Santa, the response to a black Santa has been satisfying, she said.

"A lot of my children are from the inner city and you wouldn't think that some of them would want to sit in Santa's lap," Caldwell said. "But they did, and liked it."

That need for a cultural link to Christmas is creating a growing niche market for holiday themes and decorations depicting black Santas and Nativity scenes, said Terrie Williams, who owns a New York-based public relations and marketing company.

"It's important to celebrate our images. For those who celebrate the traditional kind of Christmas, you want to be able to see yourself," Williams said.

Karla Winfrey, a former Nashville television reporter who is Oprah Winfrey's cousin, remembered her disappointment when she couldn't find a holiday tie featuring a black Santa.

"I wanted one that looked like the friendly, brown face that came to my house when I was a child," Winfrey said.

Winfrey, now a free-lance journalist living in New York, decided to design Christmas ties herself and last month launched an Internet company called Colored Christmas that sells ties featuring a black Santa and black angels.

Winfrey will expand her offerings based on the responses she's gotten from people of other races.

"They say, 'Oh, that's a black Santa. I've never seen anything like that before,'" she said.

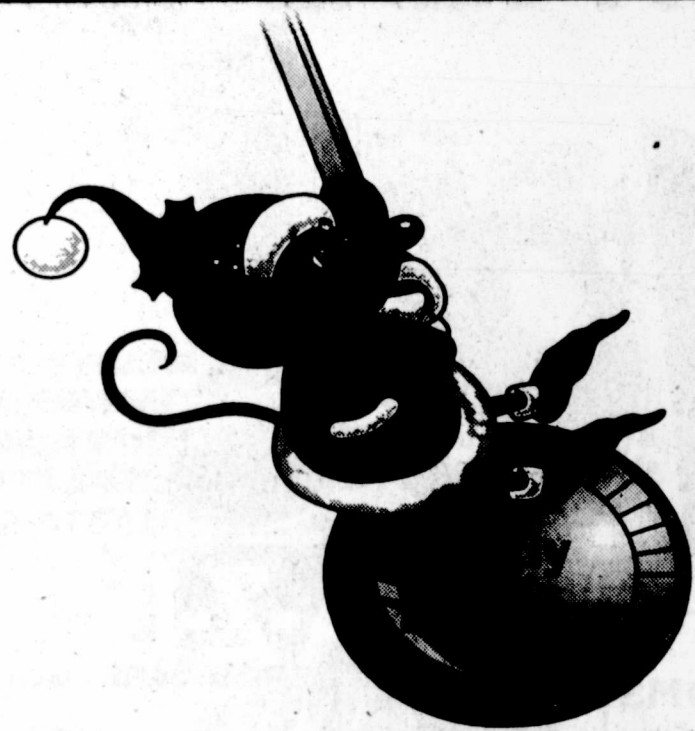
Edward Lee, 52, is accustomed to that reaction. He is one of the few black Santas working in the Atlanta area.

"People passing by usually do a double take," said Lee, who has been working at the South DeKalb Mall for seven years.

What Lee loves most about the job is how the children's "faces light up when they see Santa and it's somebody their own color and they can relate to ... I get a lot of customers who come back year after year."

All races need to have their own Santa, Lee said, "so a person can feel proud in their own race, because it starts as a child."

Paul Rasmussen, president and CEO of Santa Plus in St. Louis, which provides Santas for malls nationwide, agrees there's a need for more diversity.



Classified & City Briefs

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Sunday 24 th	Friday 22 nd - 10 AM
Monday 25 th	No Paper
Tuesday 26 th	Friday 22 nd Noon
Friday 29 th	Thursday 28 th Noon
Sunday 31 st	Thursday 28 th 4:00
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Tuesday 2 nd	Friday 29 th Noon

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~ Business Review ~

Business offers consulting services



Sherry Day is skilled at operating the integrator after data is supplied to her from the field. This is one of the many areas of expertise provided by the local firm.

An oil field-related business, Consulting and Testing, Inc., is keeping quite busy in the Pampa-area.

The local business' owners offer many years experience in oil and gas production as well as exploration and production and drilling experience.

"Consulting & Testing, Inc. serves all phases of oil field work — from the cradle to the grave," says Sherry L. Day.

Experienced personnel provide consultation from beginning to end. They will help companies stake, drill, pump or even abandon a well.

She said the local company provides consulting services in drilling, completion and workovers. Supervision of testing, services as mandated by Federal and State Law such as one points, four points, GOR, H-5 and H-15 is also provided.

Complete bookkeeping services as well as chart processing and special audits are also available through Consulting & Testing, Inc.

Royce Gee has 39 years experience in exploration and production, and drilling experience with a highly successful record in designing and

improving cost control programs as well as production techniques.

He has worked in Oklahoma as well as Texas, and can do any phase of the field work, qualifying highly as an on site consultant with the expertise to supervise any work to be done. He also supervises the workover and completion work.

Randall Day has a background in contract pumping and performs all pumping duties. He also has a background in treating wells.

With 25 years of field experience in all phases of oil and gas production, he has a strong background in coordination and performance of the federal and state mandated testing.

Sherry Day has a 21-year history of secretarial/bookkeeping duties in the oil and gas industry. She has a strong involvement in computer record keeping for general ledger and oil and gas distributions, including joint interest billings.

Consulting & Testing, Inc. is located at 221 N. Gillespie. The business may be reached at 669-0550.

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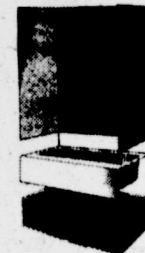
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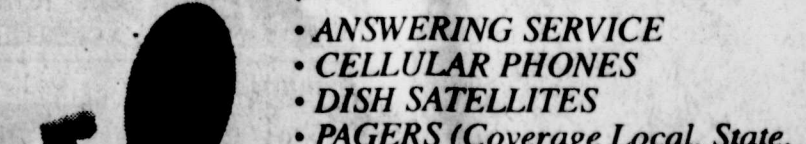
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Girlfriend's Big Diamond May Be Too High a Price to Pay

DEAR ABBY: I'm 28, my girlfriend is 32. We've been dating for three months and care about each other, but there are a few issues I'm afraid spell "trouble ahead."

When we discussed our future, she told me she had requirements. She wants a one-carat emerald-cut diamond, and it will cost me between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

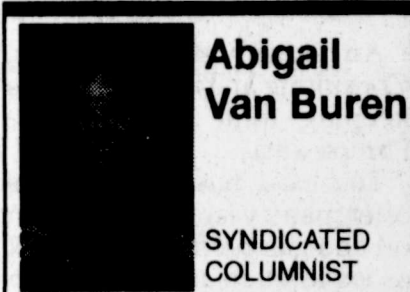
What happened to the days when a woman who loved a man would take whatever he gave her and appreciate it? When I asked her that question, she said a marriage is an investment, and the man should show his love by giving her something she really wants to prove his love for her.

She is also very attractive and has a nice figure. She wears miniskirts and is always talking to the guys who talk to her first. She flirts with them while I'm with her. She receives calls on her answering machine on a regular basis, and I'm feeling jealous, hurt and anxious about it. She says she needs attention from men. I feel that since we're dating exclusively, she should advise the guys who are calling that she's seeing someone. She does seem to be notifying them — but the calls continue to come in. Lots of them.

I just started a new job, and it will be a long time before I can afford a ring that costs as much as the one she wants.

What are your thoughts on this, Abby?

ON THE SPOT IN FLORIDA



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ON THE SPOT: A woman who defines marriage as an investment, and insists that the man prove his love by the size of the diamond he gives her, is more focused on what she can get than she is on the man.

The number of men who have her phone number is also of concern to me. If she were in love with you, she would not constantly crave attention from other men.

I'm pleased that you just started a new job and it will take a long time for you to save up for that ring. It's imperative you learn much more about her before you invest in a lifetime commitment.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 21-year-old soldier stationed with the U.S. Army in Heidelberg, Germany. I am spending my second holiday season away from home. I remember all the "little things" that make Thanksgiving and Christmas spe-

cial in my family, and I get homesick realizing how much I took for granted.

I chose this life, and I am here for a great cause. I get up every day and put on my uniform and know that I am doing some good. As I get together with friends over here, I try to make the most of what I have.

I would like to say to my fellow military personnel, when you start to get homesick, remember you are appreciated not only by your family, but by every American family — particularly those who can participate in Operation Dear Abby by sending us holiday cards.

Thanks, Abby, for all you do.
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DEAR SOLDIER: You have a good head on your shoulders and a healthy attitude. I'm certain your letter will lift the spirits of armed forces members far from home.

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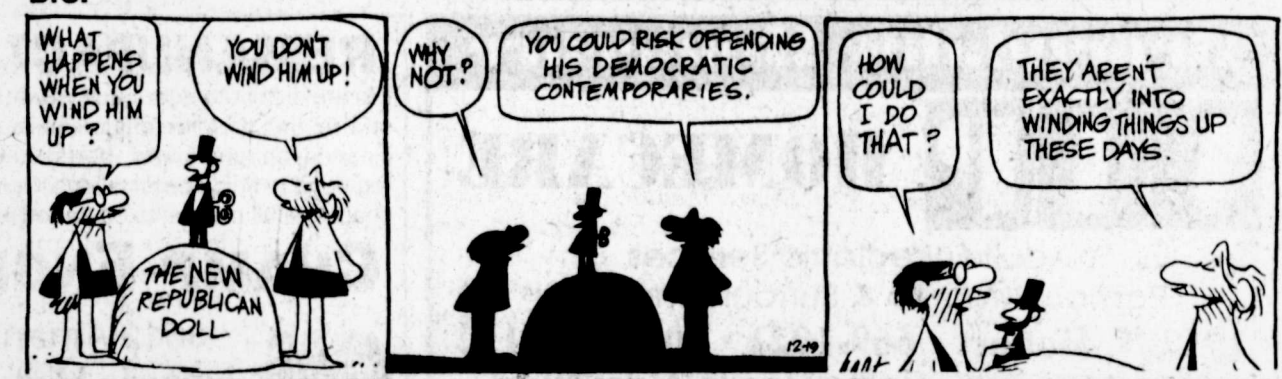
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Marvin



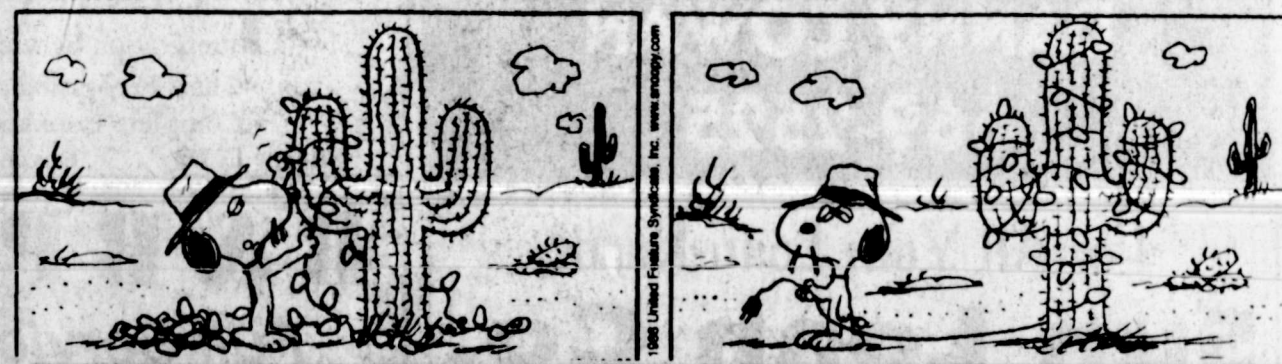
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Your ability to visualize helps not only you, but a partner and friends as well. Others seek you out for advice. Make calls to get feedback and to get another's expertise. Close relating draws others out. Brainstorm. Be open to all ideas. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Defer to others. Carefully review a decision that involves a friend. You have the energy to efficiently clear out work and errands. Don't accept a new project. Be clear with a partner or associate about limits. Do your best to help others get into the holiday spirit. Tonight: Say yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Plunge into work and focus on getting out early if possible. Your ingenuity helps you find ways to lighten your workload and help you get past an immediate problem. A little flirtation goes a long way with a loved one. Add more spark and energy to your relationship. Tonight: Finish shopping.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Your creativity and high energy help you clear out work and leave plenty of time for other things. Your

imagination knows no limits. You make excellent choices at work, and also as you finish up your work. A family member feels overwhelmed. Help this person tonight: How about a midweek break?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** The emphasis remains on home and family. You could find that another's unpredictable behavior causes a problem. Don't hesitate to discuss what is going on here. Your efforts to find solutions and to help make another happy do mean a lot. Reach out for others. Tonight: Indulge another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Keep communication flowing. Realize what is going on with others. Someone might be unusually pressured. Spending peaks. Try to stick to your budget. Discuss a problem gift, and you'll receive wonderful solutions. You're getting down to basics. Tonight: Happy at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Dig in and know what it is that you want. Consider what you want from someone before going to battle. Having a strong sense of direction could make all the difference. Finances take a wild swing when you least expect it. Use your discretion. Tonight: Finish off your Christmas shopping.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Your smile eases another's concerns. By acting rather than brooding, you feel much better. Carefully review a decision involving a friend or loved one. You might not be pleased with a loved one or a close associate. Part of the problem might be that you put this person on a pedestal. Tonight: Do whatever you want to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Slow down, especially if you feel confused or find that you are too far into your head. A friend keeps pushing you in a certain direction. You understand that this person means well. Take time to reflect on what you want. Act with clarity and direction. Tonight: Vanishing is perfectly acceptable at this time of year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Aim for what you want. Stay goal-directed with projects and work. You might feel like another is pressuring you. It's true! Network and touch base with others. Accept a last-minute party invitation. Be extremely cautious about how you handle your funds. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Stay on top of a problem rather than getting into each issue. Stay directed and detached. Seek out experts about a professional matter. You might not be seeing a situation clearly. Feedback is critical. Do not minimize the importance of your public image. Tonight: Accept a leadership role.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Deal with another closely. You need to defuse a difficult or angry situation. You will be successful because of how you handle a problem. Seek out facts. Don't trust your intuition right now. Solutions come through brainstorming. Tonight: Put on some holiday music.

BORN TODAY

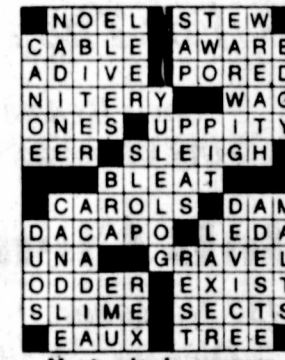
Singer Anita Baker (1957), psychic Uri Geller (1946), rubber baron Harvey Firestone (1868)

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Coffee bar
- 2 Wheel order
- 6 Tuna sandwich
- 11 Postulate
- 12 Old marketplace
- 13 Camping need
- 15 Koppel of the news
- 16 Parking site
- 17 Needle hole
- 18 Writer L'Amour
- 20 Rot
- 23 Espies
- 27 Poet Khayyam
- 28 Region
- 29 Ankara natives
- 31 Words to live by
- 32 Move furtively
- 34 Piercing tool
- 37 PC key
- 38 Dr.'s group
- 41 Mail aid
- 44 Seoul setting
- 45 Occupied
- 46 Mubarak's predecessor
- 47 Finishes a hole



Yesterday's answer

- 21 Aussie
- 22 Train unit
- 24 Mine find
- 25 Casual top
- 26 Blue letters
- 18 Frolics
- 19 Flint out-punt
- 20 Morse symbol
- 34 Invites
- 35 Horse halter
- 36 Lady's husband
- 38 Neighbor
- 39 Ship pole
- 40 A long time
- 42 Shooter ammo
- 43 Wildebeest

Marmaduke



"You wouldn't need to ask for seconds if you'd eat all you spilled."

The Family Circus



"Your village is nice, Mommy, but those lots are zoned for Christmas presents."

STUMPED?

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

SPORTS

Notebook

BASEBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell said Monday he and the team should complete negotiations in the next couple of days on a contract extension.

Bagwell has one year left on his contract and wanted to have everything settled before the season starts.

He told Houston television station KRIV that he and the Astros are on the same page.

Bagwell said moves the Astros made in the off-season helped fuel his desire to negotiate a long-term contract.

"I talked about them showing me some things that could make us a better club," he said. "They might not be blockbuster deals; writers and people may say we really didn't do anything. I think we improved our club a lot."

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles fortified their shaky starting rotation Tuesday by agreeing to a \$9 million, two-year contract with former AL Cy Young Award winner Pat Hentgen.

Hentgen, 32, went 15-12 with a 4.72 ERA in 33 starts with the St. Louis Cardinals this year. He struck out 118 and allowed 89 walks in 194 1-3 innings.

"It's funny how free agency works," Hentgen said. "I never really thought the Orioles and I would fit, but it worked out. It's a comforting feeling knowing where I'll be the next two seasons."

It was the first significant free-agent signing for the Orioles, who lost ace Mike Mussina to the New York Yankees. Hentgen joins a rotation that previously had only two solid starters: Jose Mercedes and Sidney Ponson.

"We needed more than just a starting pitcher. We needed someone who could bring a lot to the table other than just pitching," said Syd Thrift, the Orioles director of player personnel. "He brings leadership, too."

Hentgen has a shot at starting on opening day for the Orioles and expects to make his standard 30-25 starts. He also hopes to provide stability on a rebuilt staff that will include several young pitchers.

"I think the young pitchers can look to be for experience and knowledge," he said. "I'm a very approachable guy. I will give out advice, and I have good ears."

And a potent right arm. Hentgen won the AL Cy Young Award in 1996 while with the Toronto Blue Jays, when he went 20-10 with a 3.22 ERA. He has a 120-88 career record.

Hentgen gets \$4.5 million salaries in each of the next two seasons, and the Orioles have a \$6 million option for 2003. He can earn more through performance bonuses.

"If he's alive, with his track record he'll be making \$6 million a year," said Hentgen's agent, Bob LaMonte.

SWIMMING

AMARILLO — The Pampa swim team participated in a dual meet last weekend against Tascosa and Caprock.

The Harvesters dominated both the Rebels and Longhorns.

The boys' team finished with 108 points and six first-place finishes while Tascosa only brought in 56 points.

The girls' team beat Caprock 60 to 30 and beat Tascosa 55-40.

The Pampa girls had 10 first-place finishes against Caprock and eight first-place finishes against Tascosa.

Pampa swimmers compete Jan. 6 at Fort Stockton.

Pampa's Fatheree named to Class 4A All-State Team

Cross Country

Texas Track and Field News recently named Pampa High School junior Rebecca Fatheree to the All-State Cross Country Team for Class 4A schools.

Selection is based on results from the entire cross country season.

Fatheree was the District 3-4A individual champion as well as the first-place finisher at the Berger, Liberal, Dumas and Round Rock invitational meets. The Pampa girls won the team championship at Liberal and Round Rock.

Fatheree finished ninth at the Regional meet to qualify for the state meet where she placed 29th.

The Amarillo Area Chamber of Commerce recently honored Fatheree as the most outstanding female cross country runner for the month of October.

Fatheree was also named to the All-State Team last year as a sophomore.

Other members of the 2000 All-State team are: Jessa Vacek, Southlake Carroll; Candice Kolb, Cedar Park; Yvonne Rodriguez, Tulosso-Midway; Dorothy Boone, Highland Park; Amy Crox, Hereford; Ruby Crox, Hereford; Maria Gonzalez, Edcouch-Elsa; Cassie Hostik, Cedar Park; Allison Macsas, Denton Ryan; Laura Murch, Poteet; Joni Simmons, Cleburn; Becca Thomas, Smithson Valley; Samantha Wood, El Campo; Brionne Yosten, Hereford.

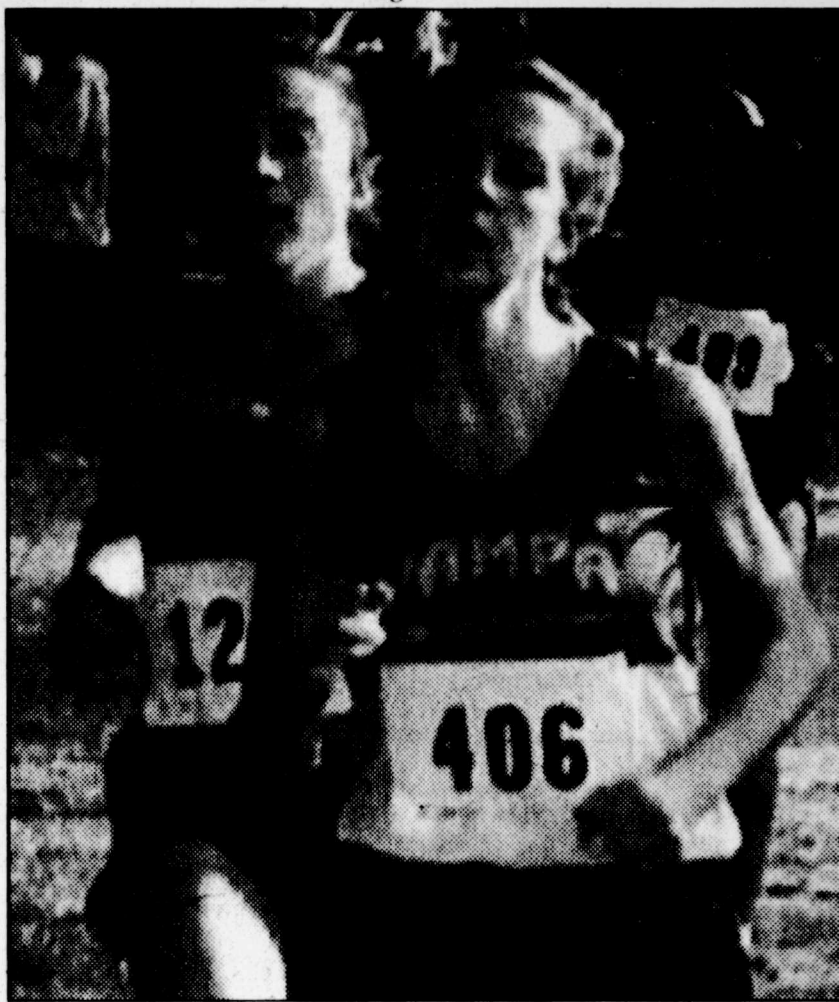
Texas Track & Fields News All-

State Teams are selected to recognize and reward outstanding performances. Only runners who medaled at the Regional Meets or the State meet were automatically nominated. All others were nominated by coaches, parents or fans.

Selections were made after reg-

ular-season, Regional and State Meet results were checked and evaluated. All-State selections aren't based on the order of finish at the State Meet, but on the consistent performance of a runner during the regular season.

Fourteen runners are chosen for each classification.



Rebecca Fatheree (406) has the lead in a cross country meet earlier this year. (Special photo)

No. 6 Wake Forest keeps unbeaten streak alive

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — No one cut Josh Howard's game short this time.

The Wake Forest sophomore, thrown out of Saturday's game against Georgia after a shouting match with an opposing player, came back with a career-high 22 points, five steals and six rebounds as the No. 6 Demon Deacons beat Radford 92-52 on Monday night.

The win kept Wake Forest (9-0) undefeated and confident with the Atlantic Coast Conference season opener two weeks away.

"That situation was in the back of my mind," Howard said. "Coach and I had a long talk and I put it behind me and kept going."

There was one short exchange between Howard and Jason Williams in Monday's game, but

Howard walked away and then put together a stellar game.

"He responded exactly the way I thought he would," coach Dave Odom said of Howard's effort. "I thought he would put the difficulties behind him because I know he wants to do what is right and play well."

"People see that type of thing and wonder if that's something an opponent can get to. He's got to be on his guard that he's not drawn back into any altercation. I have confidence he won't be."

In the only other games involving Top 25 teams, No. 3 Stanford beat Sacred Heart 94-52; and No. 24 Mississippi defeated Troy State 92-65.

The Demon Deacons need Howard. He's shooting 63 percent — second in the ACC — and brings athletic ability few can

match at his small forward position.

"Last year, I was sort of iffy until the end of the season," Howard said. "I started feeling confident coming down the stretch, and it has just carried over."

The Demon Deacons held their 16th straight opponent under 40 percent shooting to win their 14th straight dating to last season's NIT championship run — the second-longest winning streak in the country. Michigan State has won 19 in a row.

Howard shot 7-for-11 from the field and 6-for-7 from the foul line as Wake Forest scored 52 second-half points.

Darius Songaila scored a season-high 18 points and Craig Dawson added 16 for the Demon Deacons. Dawson, averaging a

Here comes Nowitzki

BOSTON (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks haven't lost since Don Nelson returned. Their success probably has more to do with the return to health of Dirk Nowitzki.

Nowitzki scored 31 points and finished 5-of-7 from 3-point range, helping the Mavericks beat the Boston Celtics 106-98 on Monday night. The outburst came one night after he came back from the flu to score 25 against Detroit.

"Isn't that about normal for him by now?" Mavericks center Shawn Bradley said.

Steve Nash added 20 points with 14 assists to give Dallas its third straight win since Nelson missed three games after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. On a night when only one NBA game was played, the Mavericks finished their road trip 4-2.

"We all like to play for Don Nelson. He's a great coach and he put the team together," Nowitzki said. "When coach is not here, we should play harder, though."

Paul Pierce scored 30 points for Boston, and Antoine Walker had 20 with 17 rebounds as the Celtics lost their fourth consecutive game. Afterward, Celtics coach Rick Pitino put guard Kenny Anderson on the injured list.

"I'm out of sync out there," said Anderson, who missed 16 games with a broken jaw before returning Dec. 10. "I was kind of naive to think I could sit out a month and then play against the best athletes in the world."

With Nowitzki on their side, the Mavericks have won consecutive games at the

FleetCenter after winning just once in 18 tries since the franchise was founded in 1980. That's one reason why he drew comparisons to another lanky forward who played in these parts.

"That young man in the corner has maybe the best stroke I've seen since Larry Bird," Pitino said. "He's a terrific basketball player."

Mavericks forward Michael Finley agreed.

"Not to put any pressure on Dirk, but everybody's talking about the coming of the next Michael Jordan... Dirk reminds me of Larry Bird," he said. "The way he hits the boards; the way he'll take off and go coast to coast. He hits the midrange jumper. It seems as if it's easy to compare them."

The Mavericks led by 17 after one quarter and nine after two before the Celtics briefly took the lead with an 11-3 run midway through the third.

Nowitzki hit a 3-pointer to give Dallas a 66-58 lead with 8:40 left in the third, but Bryant Stith answered with one of his own to get Dallas within five. Walker made a layup to make it 66-63, but Nash hit a 3-pointer for Dallas.

Pierce made two straight jumpers, then stole the ball to give Boston a chance to tie it. It took a few trips down the court, but the Celtics finally took a 70-69 lead on Vitaly Potapenko's three-point play with 5:09 left in the third.

Boston led 76-73 before Gary Trent dunked, then Nowitzki hit a 3-pointer to put the Mavericks ahead for good with 2:52 left in the third.

Olympic champ



(Pampa News photo)

U.S. Olympic wrestling champion Brandon Slay of Amarillo tells the audience about his Greater Gold program at last weekend's banquet sponsored by The Pampa Takedown Club. Slay has set up a website GreaterGold.Com for interested persons.

AP Little All-America Team

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Dusty Bonner, Valdosta State, 6-2, 217, junior, Valdosta, Ga.

Running backs — R.J. Bowers, Grove City (Pa.), 6-1, 238, senior, West Middlesex, Pa.; Lamar Gordon, North Dakota State, 6-1, 213, junior, Milwaukee.

Receivers — Clarence Coleman, Ferris State, 5-11, 184, junior, Miami; Matt Holmlund, Augustana (S.D.), 6-2, 205, junior, Benson, Minn.; Adam Marino, Mount Union, 6-1, 188, senior, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Linemen — Ryan Burkholder, Northern Colorado, 6-5, 305, senior, Grand Junction, Colo.; Clay Clevenger, Carson-Newman, 6-2, 275, senior, Danville, Ky.; Robert Garza, Texas A&M-Kingsville, 6-2, 300, senior, Rio Hondo, Texas; Mack Hay, Augustana (Ill.), 6-3, 260, senior, Polo, Ill.; Abed Taha, West Georgia, 6-2, 265, senior, Orlando, Fla.

Placekicker — Cameron Paterka, North Dakota, 6-2, 190, junior, Bloomington, Minn.

All-purpose — Tony Miles, Northwest Missouri State, 5-9, 180, senior, Mart, Texas.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Aaron Becker, Northwest Missouri State, 6-3, 289, senior, Omaha, Neb.; Sky Blake, Whitworth, 6-5, 221, senior, Lynwood, Wash.; Todd DeVree, Hillsdale, 6-4, 252, junior, Hudsonville, Mich.; DeVonte Peterson, Catawba, 6-4, 250, senior, Clinton, N.C.

Linebackers — Wes Baker, Pittsburg State, 6-2, 232, senior, LaCygne, Kan.; Mike Borisenko,

Indiana (Pa.), 6-0, 240, junior, Waterdown, Ontario; Steve Cedor, New Haven, 5-10, 240, senior, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Kevin Nagle, East Stroudsburg, 6-2, 240, senior, Effort, Pa.

Backs — Rory Bell, Delta State, 5-8, 187, senior, New Orleans; Ben Matthews, Bethel (Minn.), 6-1, 195, senior, Milaca, Minn.; Tim Mustapha, Hillsdale, 5-10, 158, junior, Fort Wayne, Ind.; James Rooths, Shepherd, 6-1, 200, senior, Baltimore.

Punter — Adam Ryan, Fort Hays State, 6-0, 181, senior, Melbourne, Australia.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Chad Johnson, Pacific Lutheran.

Running backs — Dalevon Smith, Shepherd; Terrance Stokes, Mars Hill.

Receivers — Brian Dolph, Saginaw Valley State; Nate Jackson, Menlo; C.J. Lofton, Valdosta State.

Linemen — Andy Erpelding, Northwest State; Matt Howard, Pittsburg State; Brian Minehart, Slippery Rock; Dan Riely, Catholic; Chris Salvato, St. John's (Minn.).

Placekicker — Keith Debaudt, Albion.

All-purpose — Erik Totten, Western Washington.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Chris Cooper, Nebraska-Omaha; Claude Davis, Central Oklahoma; Jeremiah Janssen, St. Norbert; Radell Lockhart, Catawba.

Linebackers — Rod Kelly, Northeastern State; Jared Maher, North Dakota State; Brian

Williams, Northwest Missouri State; Nick Zitelli, Carnegie-Mellon.

Backs — Russell Burwell, South Dakota; Nate Coggins, West Georgia; Ron Gibson, Rowan; Shane Pearson, Georgetown (Ky.).

Punter — Wilson Hillman, Mississippi College.

No. 3 Stanford 94, Sacred Heart 52

Casey Jacobsen hit five 3-pointers and scored 19 points as Stanford beat Sacred Heart in the first game of the Stanford Invitational.

Stanford shook off the rust from a 16-day break and won its seventh straight. Sacred Heart lost its eighth straight.

Jason Collins had 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Cardinal who won by more than 20 for the sixth time this season.

"Mentally, early we were not

where we needed to be," said Odom, whose Demon Deacons pressed more in the second half. "I wanted to get our kids' attention. We also went to a more switching technique on the perimeter to keep our mental awareness where it needed to be."

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Scoreboard

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The Men's Top Twenty Five
By The Associated Press
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 17, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Pts	Pvs
1	Duke (63)	9-0	1,787
2	Mich. St. (8)	8-0	1,699
3	Stanford	6-0	1,625
4	Tennessee	9-0	1,492
5	Illinois	8-2	1,474
6	Wake Forest	8-0	1,396
7	Florida	6-1	1,262
8	Seton Hall	6-1	1,181
9	Kansas	9-1	1,171
10	Arizona	5-3	1,066
11	Connecticut	8-1	1,050
12	Syracuse	9-0	1,048
13	So. Cal	7-0	953
14	Virginia	6-0	834
15	N. Carolina	6-2	766
16	Wisconsin	7-1	756
17	Alabama	7-0	559
18	Oklahoma	7-1	515
19	Iowa	8-0	491
20	Maryland	6-3	409
21	Notre Dame	5-2	341
22	Cincinnati	5-2	289
23	Georgetown	9-0	263
24	Mississippi	8-0	227
25	Arkansas	6-2	90

Others receiving votes: Iowa St. 34, St. Bonaventure 32, Xavier 30, Missouri 26, Villanova 25, Oklahoma St. 22, Indiana 20, Penn St. 19, Utah 16, Charlotte 13, Marshall 12, Georgia Tech 10, LSU 10, Oregon 10, SMU 8, Georgia 6, Kentucky 6, Purdue 6, Vanderbilt 6, Coll. of Charleston 5, Wyoming 5, Boston College 4, Richmond 4, Auburn 3, Dayton 3, Kent St. 3, Minnesota 3, Mississippi St. 3, George Washington 2, Ohio St. 2, Texas 2, Holy Cross 1.

PRO FOOTBALL

National Football League
At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	10	5	0	0.667	296	202
Indianapolis	9	6	0	0.600	398	316
N.Y. Jets	9	6	0	0.600	301	287
Buffalo	7	8	0	0.467	273	327
New England	5	10	0	0.333	252	311

Central

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Tennessee	12	3	0	0.800	315	191
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	0.733	299	145
Pittsburgh	8	7	0	0.533	287	234
Jacksonville	7	8	0	0.467	342	299
Cincinnati	4	11	0	0.267	178	343
Cleveland	3	13	0	0.188	161	419

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Oakland	11	4	0	0.733	427	290
x-Denver	10	5	0	0.667	447	360
Kansas City	7	8	0	0.467	342	325
Seattle	6	9	0	0.400	297	363
San Diego	1	14	0	0.067	248	406

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-N.Y. Giants	11	4	0	0.733	300	221
x-Philadelphia	10	5	0	0.667	335	238
Washington	7	8	0	0.467	281	266
Dallas	5	10	0	0.333	294	303
Arizona	3	12	0	0.200	207	423

Central

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Minnesota	11	4	0	0.733	387	340
x-Tampa Bay	10	5	0	0.667	374	252
Detroit	9	6	0	0.600	287	284
Green Bay	8	7	0	0.533	336	309
Chicago	4	11	0	0.267	193	335

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New Orleans	10	5	0	0.667	333	279

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	9	6	0	0.600	514	450
Carolina	7	8	0	0.467	301	258
San Francisco	6	9	0	0.400	379	384
Atlanta	3	12	0	0.200	223	400

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Games
Pittsburgh 24, Washington 3
Seattle 27, Oakland 24

Sunday's Games
Detroit 10, N.Y. Jets 7
Kansas City 20, Denver 7
Carolina 30, San Diego 22
New Orleans 23, Atlanta 17
New England 13, Buffalo 10, OT
Cincinnati 17, Jacksonville 14
Tennessee 24, Cleveland 0
Green Bay 33, Minnesota 28
San Francisco 17, Chicago 0
Indianapolis 20, Miami 13
Baltimore 13, Arizona 7
N.Y. Giants 17, Dallas 13
Open: Philadelphia

Monday's Game
Tampa Bay 38, St. Louis 35

Saturday, Dec. 23
Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants, 12:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Buffalo at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Kansas City at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Indianapolis, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.

Open: Cleveland

Monday, Dec. 25
Dallas at Tennessee, 9 p.m.

Tampa Bay clinches playoff spot

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The St. Louis Rams could not defend Warrick Dunn, Shaun King and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and now might not get a chance to defend their Super Bowl title.

Dunn scored his third touchdown with 48 seconds remaining and the Buccaneers clinched a playoff spot, outscoring the Rams 38-35 Monday night and leaving St. Louis needing help to make the postseason.

Marshall Faulk scored four touchdowns for the Rams, but it was not enough in a rematch of last season's NFC championship game won by St. Louis.

To reach the playoffs, the Rams (9-6) need to beat New Orleans next Sunday and hope Chicago pulls an upset at Detroit.

The win by Tampa Bay (10-5) also clinched the NFC West for New Orleans. The Buccaneers can still win the NFC Central with a victory at Green Bay on Sunday and a Minnesota loss at Indianapolis.

After Torry Holt's 72-yard touchdown catch from Kurt Warner gave the Rams a 35-31 lead with just over five minutes to play, the Buccaneers rallied behind one of the craziest plays in the NFL season.

From their own 35, King threw a swing lateral to Dunn around the

right side. But Dunn was trapped far behind the line and, with nowhere to go, suddenly pitched the ball back to King.

King escaped and streaked down the right sideline for a 15-yard gain, and 15 more yards were tacked on for a late hit called on linebacker Mike Jones.

"Shaun was just calling for the ball. We were desperate at the time," Dunn said. "It turned out to be a great play."

Later, on a fourth-and-4 in Rams' territory, King scrambled for a first down. King then threw a 22-yard pass to Reidel Anthony, which set up Dunn's 1-yard TD run.

Warner tried to bring back the Rams, but threw his third interception of the game. John Lynch's pick-off gave the Buccaneers sweet revenge from last season's 11-6 loss in the NFC title game.

Keyshawn Johnson caught two touchdown passes and Dunn rushed for more than 100 yards for the third time in four weeks.

Faulk scored four touchdowns for the second straight week and third time this season, breaking the NFL record he shared with Jim Brown.

Warner completed 20 of 32 passes for 316 yards and two TDs. King, who led the 13-play, 80-yard

drive to win the game, completed 18 of 38 passes for 256 yards. His TD throws of 8 and 17 yards to Johnson, who had seven catches for 116 yards, were Tampa Bay's first touchdown passes in five games.

Dunn finished with 145 yards on 22 carries. He scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter and his 52-yard burst on the final play of the third quarter gave the Bucs a 31-21 lead that their proud defense couldn't hold.

St. Louis pulled within 31-28 on Faulk's 9-yard run. Dexter McCleon's interception in the end zone stopped Tampa Bay from scoring what might have been a clinching touchdown before Warner and Holt teamed to give the Rams their first lead since late in the second quarter.

The loss to the Rams in the title game prompted several major changes for the Bucs in the offseason.

Mike Shula was fired as offensive coordinator and replaced by Les Steckel, who helped the Tennessee Titans reach the Super Bowl against St. Louis. The offensive line was overhauled with the addition of free agents Jeff Christy and Randall McDaniel and Johnson was obtained in a trade with the New York Jets.

Salary cap probably means turmoil in standings will continue

"It's the norm now. It's the way it is. Everything about the old system is gone. Parity will be with us as long as there's a cap."
— Ernie Accoris, General Manager, New York Giants

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

Is the 2000 NFL season as crazy as it's been described?

Not really. Yes, it's possible there will be new champions in each of the league's six divisions. But that's not crazy. It also happened in 1998, and, even more telling, no division will have had fewer than three different winners since 1997.

"It's the norm now," says Ernie Accoris, general manager of the New York Giants, who clinched the NFC East title Sunday night and are in position to be the conference's No. 1 seed after going 7-9 a year ago. "It's the way it is. Everything about the old system is gone. Parity will be with us as long as there's a cap."

The NFL enters its final week in a jumble. And the defending champion Rams are on the verge of elimination — they have to beat New Orleans next week and hope that Detroit loses or ties at home to 4-11 Chicago.

Accorsi's Giants, who can clinch home-field advantage in the NFC by beating Jacksonville at home on Saturday, were the only team to have clinched a division after Sunday's games, then New Orleans clinched the NFC West when Tampa Bay beat St. Louis 38-35 Monday night. Not since 1980 had no division been clinched until the next-to-last week.

Moreover, unlike past seasons, there's no clear favorite to win the Super Bowl. The closest to that status, perhaps,

would be Tennessee (12-3), which leads the AFC Central but can still finish second if it loses at home next week to Dallas and Baltimore (11-4) beats the Jets. The Ravens have the tiebreaker — they've played one more conference game than the Titans and would finish 10-3 in the AFC to 9-3 for Tennessee.

But nothing is really certain. Even if the Giants, who have added some offense to a strong defense, do get home field advantage in the NFC, that might not mean much — they are 7-1 on the road, 4-3 at home.

The Rams and Vikings are impressive on offense, particularly in domes (although St. Louis has three home losses). But their defenses are suspect as St. Louis proved in surrendering 38 points Monday night to the Bucs.

Tampa Bay and Baltimore have great defenses but shaky offenses.

In any case, things will change next season.

Here's a log of the division winners over the past four seasons, including the current one:

— AFC East: Miami leads the Colts and Jets by a game. The Colts won in 1999, the Jets in 1998 and New England in 1997.

— AFC Central: Tennessee leads Baltimore. Jacksonville won in 1999 and 1998, Pittsburgh in 1997.

— AFC West: Oakland leads Denver by a game. Seattle won in 1999, Denver in 1998 and Kansas City in 1997, when Denver won the Super Bowl as a wild card.

— NFC East: The Giants

have clinched the division. They also won in 1997, Dallas won in 1998, and Washington in 1999.

— NFC Central: Minnesota leads. Tampa Bay won last year, Minnesota in 1998, and Green Bay in 1997. The Bucs could repeat if they win and the Vikings lose next week.

— NFC West: New Orleans takes the division from St. Louis, which won last season. Atlanta won in 1998, and San Francisco in 1997. And the division's fifth team, Carolina, won in 1996.

Record-setting quarterback, running back featured on AP Little All-America squad

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Football Writer

Dusty Bonner, Valdosta State's quarterback who set an NCAA Division II record with 54 touchdowns in three playoff games, the 6-1, 213-pound junior added another 401 yards and five TDs, giving him 2,128 yards rushing and 27 TDs.

The receivers on the team announced Tuesday were Clarence Coleman of Ferris State, Matt Holmlund of Augustana (S.D.) and Adam Marino of Division III national champion Mount Union.

Coleman caught 97 passes for 1,519 yards and 15 touchdowns; Holmlund had 104 grabs for 1,365 yards and 16 TDs; and Marino caught 77 passes for 1,167 yards and 13 scores.

Marino added 33 catches for 476 yards and five TDs in four playoff games.

The offensive line was anchored by center Robert Garza of Texas A&M-Kingsville. Also on the line were Ryan

Burkholder of Northern Colorado, Clay Clevenger of Carson-Newman, Mack Hay of Augustana (Ill.), and Abed Taha of West Georgia.

Tony Miles of Northwest Missouri State was the all-purpose player for the second straight season after totaling 1,858 yards and 14 TDs. The 5-9, 180-pound senior caught 60 passes for 1,074 yards and 10 TDs, ran for 208 yards and three scores and also returned a punt for a touchdown.

Cameron Paterka of North Dakota was the kicker, making 17 of 24 field-goal attempts and all 43 extra point attempts.

The team, chosen from players in Divisions II and III and the NAIA, consists of 18 seniors and eight juniors. Bowers, Garza and Miles were repeaters from the '99 team.

The defense was led by end Todd DeVree of Hillsdale College. The 6-4, 252-pound junior had 16 sacks, five forced

fumbles and four fumble recoveries. He's joined along the line by Aaron Becker of Northwest Missouri State, Sky Blake of Division III Whitworth and DeVonte Peterson of Catawba.

Wes Baker of Pittsburg State, heads up the linebacking corps, along with Mike Borisenko of Indiana (Pa.), Steve Cedor of New Haven and Kevin Nagle of East Stroudsburg. Baker had 105 tackles for a defense that allowed 15.3 points per game.

Hillsdale's Tim Mustapha, who led Division II with 11 interceptions, heads up the secondary. He was joined by James Root of Shepherd, Rory Bell of Division II national champion Delta State and Ben Matthews of Bethel (Minn.). Bell had 138 tackles, three interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

Adam Ryan of Fort Hays State was the punter. The native of Melbourne, Australia, led Division II with a net average of 43.2 yards per punt.

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Top 25 shakeup should come next week

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

It was about as dull a new Top 25 as could be.

The same top six appeared in The Associated Press college basketball poll Monday. No new schools came in and nobody dropped out.

If you want changes, wait for next week's rankings because there are two games between Top Ten teams this week and three others between ranked teams — two of them involving No. 4 Tennessee.

Duke and Michigan State were 1-2 for the third consecutive week.

The Blue Devils (9-0), who were off last week, received 63 first-place votes and 1,767 points from the national media panel to hold on to the No. 1 ranking for the fourth straight week.

Michigan State (8-0), which

squeaked by Kentucky 46-45 Saturday to extend its winning streak to 19 games, was No. 1 on eight ballots and got 1,699 points, 74 more than Stanford (7-0), which was also off last week, then won on Monday night against Sacred Heart.

Tennessee was ahead of Illinois, which beat then-No. 7 Arizona on Saturday in a rematch of the Illini's loss to the Wildcats in the championship game of the Maui Invitational, and Wake Forest stayed No. 6.

Florida, Seton Hall and Kansas each moved up one place to seventh through ninth, while Arizona dropped three places to round out the Top Ten.

The Wildcats, who were the preseason No. 1, continued the nation's longest run of consecutive weeks in the Top Ten, with six polls this season and all 19 last season.

Stanford is one week behind — the Cardinal were in the Top Ten every week last season after

being No. 13 in the preseason poll.

Connecticut led the Second Ten for the second straight week, followed by Syracuse, Southern California, Virginia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Alabama, Oklahoma, Iowa and Maryland.

The last five ranked teams were Notre Dame, Cincinnati, Georgetown, Mississippi and Arkansas.

The ranked matchups start with Tuesday night's Jimmy V Classic at East Rutherford, N.J., when Tennessee plays Virginia and Michigan State faces Seton Hall.

On Thursday night, Duke meets Stanford in the Pete Newell Classic in Oakland, Calif.

Tennessee is at Syracuse on Friday, and Arkansas is at Oklahoma on Saturday.

There could be another ranked matchup as Cincinnati and Alabama are in opposite

brackets of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

Cincinnati, which sandwiched wins over Oakland and UNLV around a loss to city rival Xavier, dropped five places to 22nd for the week's biggest fall.

The biggest jump was Iowa's move from No. 22 to 19th following a 99-94 victory over Missouri in double overtime.

1992: Pampa defeated Cleburne 76-61 to win the Lions Club Holiday Tournament in Fort Worth. It was the first time since 1962 the Harvesters had won the tournament. Pampa's Cederick Wilbon was named the tournament's most valuable player. Teammate Jeff Young was an all-tournament pick.

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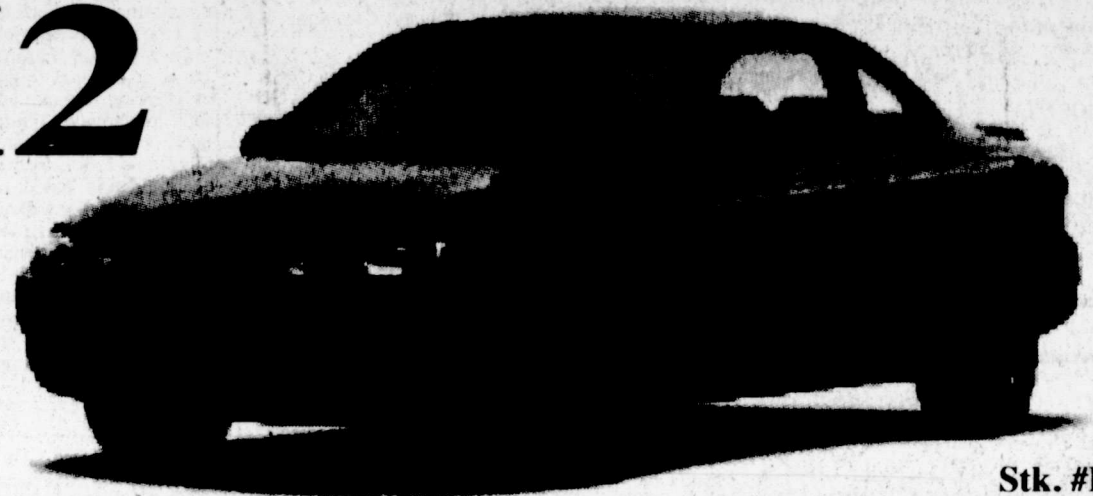
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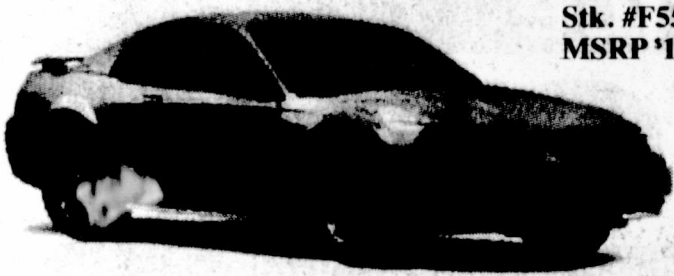
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- D9382A 1998 FORD EXPLORER 2 Door, 4x4, 30XXX Miles \$15,995⁰⁰
- P116 1997 CHEVY TAHOE 2 Door, Auto, A/C, 4x4 \$17,995⁰⁰
- F0243A 2001 FORD EXCURSION 9XXX Miles, Like New \$27,995⁰⁰

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 \$17,995⁰⁰
- P140 1997 DODGE RAM 1/2 Ton, X/C, 4x4, 39XXX Miles \$18,995⁰⁰
- P126 1996 DODGE RAM 3/4 Ton, X/C, 56XXX Miles \$19,995⁰⁰
- P116 1998 GMC SIERRA 1/2 Ton 4x4, X/C, 27XXX Miles \$21,995⁰⁰
- P135A 2000 FORD F150 1/2 Ton, X/C, 7XXX Miles \$22,995⁰⁰

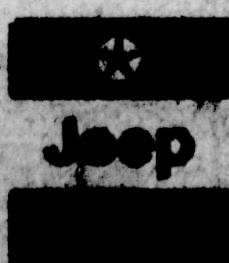
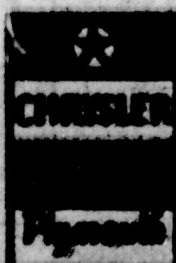
2000 F250 SUPER DUTY

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

Stk. #F4632
MSRP \$34,080



Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Payments are calculated at 10% APR for 72 months W.A.C. with 10% of MSRP down plus tax, title and license fees. Dealer retains all factory incentives.



BAR W MOTOR COMPANY

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