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TCFA predicts strong cattle prices

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

AMARILLO — Pampa area ranchers should enjoy strong prices for the cattle they sell to go into nearby feedyards.

Prices for 750 lb. steers, which averaged \$85 per hundredweight this year, should average in the low \$90 range next year Jim Gill, market director for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association said Wednesday.

Cattle coming out of area feedyards should sell from \$72 to \$78 per cwt. in the first quarter of 2001; \$70 to \$75 in the second quarter, \$68 to \$72 in the third quarter and \$76 to \$80 in the fourth, Gill said.

The determining factors will be beef demand, the price of cattle coming off area ranches that go into the feedyards and the price of corn which is tied to the animals.

After several years of low cattle prices,

"In many respects, 2000 was a turnaround year for cattle feeders. Large numbers of market-ready cattle and record large weights plagued feeders much of the year, but it appears we've turned the corner and 2001 looks very positive."

— Jim Gill, TCFA market director

Gill said he is optimistic about the profitability of cattle operations during the next several years.

"In many respects," he said, "2000 was a turnaround year for cattle feeders. Large numbers of market-ready cattle and record large weights plagued feeders much of the year, but it appears we've

turned the corner and 2001 looks very positive."

Feeder cattle supplies, those cattle going from grazing in local pastures to finishing in feedyards, will tighten over the next several years, Gill said. Tighter supplies as area ranchers with hold some of their cattle to build their herds will

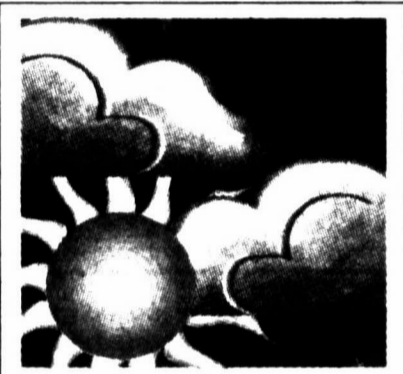
force cattle prices up.

Gill said that recent record beef production was, to some extent, the result of heavier cattle. He said he thinks the lighter weight cattle going into area feedyards during the past few months will translate into lighter carcasses at the packing house and a reduction in beef production. Again, for the cattle producer and feeder, that could mean better prices.

Added to consumer demand for beef, which is expected to increase in 2001, retail beef prices will most likely be up slightly next year.

Gill said retail beef prices averaged \$2.95 per pound in 2000, up about 10 cents from 1999.

"With the anticipated drop in beef production in 2001 and continued improvement in demand, prices may edge higher and reach an average of slightly more than three dollars per pound during 2001," Gill said.



High in the upper 30s
 Low tonight 18
 For weather details see
 Page 2

No tickets win Lotto Texas

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 10-18-23-39-42-46.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$17 million.

Bush resigns governorship

AUSTIN (AP) — President-elect Bush, known as a uniter for his working relationships with leading Democrats in Austin, resigned as Texas governor Thursday to prepare for his move to the White House.

"I'm proud of the good we have done together in Texas, and I'm looking forward to the good we will do together in America," Bush said as he announced he was stepping down.

Friends and fellow politicians packed the Texas Senate chamber to hear Bush's announcement.

It had been expected for days, since the overtime presidential election finally ended in Bush's favor with a ruling Dec. 13 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

- **Opal Ruth Beaty, 77**, homemaker.
- **James E. Britton, 72**, former Pampa police officer, Cabot Corporation employee.
- **Lovita Molene Day Hagemann, 70**, homemaker, scout volunteer.
- **Euphia Higdon, 91**, homemaker.
- **Norma Lorane Hutchinson, 71**, homemaker, owner-operator of Norma's Corner Cafe.
- **Vera P. Olsen, 82**, homemaker, waitress.

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What's up? Uncommon events keep police busy

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

It can't be due to a full moon, because there's a new moon tonight. It may have something to do with the winter solstice or it just could be that Pampa has experienced more than the normal amount of unusual incidents this week.

On Tuesday, Eva Jo Isbell of Pampa came out of the Chamber of Commerce luncheon in the 200 block of East Kingsmill and discovered someone had thrown a brick through the window of her Chevrolet Lumina. Her purse and all its contents had been stolen from the vehicle.

Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris, who had parked his city vehicle a few parking places away from Isbell's car, took exception to the fact that someone would do such a thing. In moments, police officers had arrived on the scene to investigate the burglary.

Chief Morris found the purse a couple of blocks away, emptied of credit cards, checks and cash, and discarded in an alley between Crest and Hill streets.

End of story, right? Wrong. At about 6:35 p.m. Wednesday, Pampa Police Officer Stormy McCullar was dispatched to investigate a report of a forged

(See POLICE, Page 3)

Lighting up the season ...



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

This paddle boat won't take you down the Mississippi River, but it sure brightens the Celebration of Lights display in Recreation Park. The beautifully lighted displays are being seen by many local and area visitors. The countless displays will be available for the public to view through the Christmas season.

PMS pupils exceed food goal

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

(See related photo on Page 2)

Hungry people in Pampa can be assured of getting needed canned foods this winter thanks to students from Pampa Middle School.

A PMS Student Council Canned Food Drive set a goal of 2000 cans for the Year 2000, but students exceeded that goal by donating 1,525 cans to the local Salvation Army for people needing food in the Pampa area.

The middle school students conduct the drive annually during the holiday season.

Sixth graders at the local middle school led the school in number of cans gathered by taking 1,356 cans to school. The seventh grade students took 894 cans while the eighth grade took 751. Seventh/eighth homerooms took 605 cans while teachers, custodians and other staff members contributed 156 cans.

The students filled over eight Salvation Army barrels plus boxes and sacks with the food collected for the project to help feed Pampa people.

Kelly Vigil's homeroom earned the honor of contributing the largest number of cans to the food drive. Her students will receive free popcorn and cookies with a coke party.

Four homerooms will also receive special treats. Homerooms taught by Carol Orr, Janis Spearman, Shannon Loter, and Vigil were had the greatest percentage over 300 percent. The students in those homeroom classes will receive free popcorn with their coke party.

Eighteen middle school homerooms reached a goal of 300 percent participation with three cans contributed per person. Those students will receive a certificate for their homeroom, a Coke party and get recognition on the moving message.

There were 28 homerooms with a least 200 percent participation in the fund drive, which was two cans per person.

'Number one' local drug problem crack cocaine, says chief

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

As the federal government released its annual report recently on drug use and law enforcement efforts to combat it in the U.S., Pampa's chief of police has his own view of the problem.

The report indicates that different drugs are popular in different places across the nation, and that different strategies are needed to combat them at the local level, a tact with which Police Chief Charlie Morris agrees.

"Crack cocaine seems to be our number one problem," Morris said. "Methamphetamine use is right in there close."

Local investigators are seeing more and more methamphetamine in Gray County and Pampa, he said.

(See DRUGS, Page 3)

Clean audit report for Lefors ISD

LEFFORS — An audit of the Lefors Independent School District revealed "no glaring problems," auditors told board of education members at the December meeting.

Howard Hammerbeck, a CPA from Perryton who conducted the 1999-2000 audit of the school district's finances, presented his report to the board at the Dec. 14 meeting.

Superintendent Allen Law said the CPA pointed out that an unexpected expense to repair defective

electrical wiring in the school gym caused the school to spend more than the amount budgeted for maintenance. Then the board didn't amend the maintenance budget to reflect the change, as required.

"We were over-budget in spots and we didn't amend it right," Law said. "We'll change how we do that in the future."

Board members also decided to hire a tutor to

(See LEFORS, Page 3)

Here's what to do with tree

Clean Pampa and the City of Pampa are working together again this year to dispose of Christmas Trees.

Anyone wanting to dispose of a Christmas Tree following Christmas may again take the trees to the parking lot of Warner-Horton on Duncan.

City crews will convert the trees to mulch which will be available to the general public. All tinsel, ornaments and decorations should be removed from trees. No white flocked trees will be accepted. Christmas trees left by dumpsters won't be picked up.

Daily Record

Obituaries

OPAL RUTH BEATY
AMARILLO — Opal Ruth Beaty, 77, sister of a Pampa resident, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2000. Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Memorial Park Funeral Home with the Rev. Jerry Thomas officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Beaty was born at Vera and was a homemaker. Her husband, William Beaty, preceded her in death in June.

Survivors include three sons, Walter Brown, Donald Ray Penry and Willard Brown, all of Amarillo; four sisters, Rosalie Fagan and Helen Kennedy, both of Amarillo, Evelyn Brooks of Portales, N.M., and Peggy Brooks of Las Vegas, Nev.; three brothers, Ray Brooks of Pampa, Glen Brooks of Lubbock and Bruce Brooks of Canyon; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

JAMES E. BRITTON

James E. Britton, 72, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2000. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Al Cavines, retired minister, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Britton was born March 23, 1928, at Waxahachie, Texas. He married Ruby Gordon Allison in 1955 at Abilene. He was a police officer in Abilene prior to moving to Pampa in 1962 and joining the Pampa police force. He served as a policeman in Pampa for several years and was an employee of Cabot Corporation until moving to Oregon in 1969 where he was employed with Farmers Insurance and Georgia Pacific Mills.

In 1963, he relocated to Alaska, working for Alyeska Pipeline and Gearhardt Industries before retiring in 1985.

He returned to Pampa in 1997 and was a member of First Assembly of God Church.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during the Korean Conflict. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Cynthia Britton, in 1996.

Survivors include his former wife, Ruby Allison Caviness of Pampa; two sons, Sam Britton and Jim "Beau" Britton, both of Pampa; his mother, Irva Crouse of Pampa; two brothers, Rex Britton of Pampa and Bill Britton of Irving; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to American Diabetes Association, 4425 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75062.

LOVITA MOLENE DAY HAGEMANN

Lovita Molene Day Hagemann, 70, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2000. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home with Dr. Derrell Monday, pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Heights Cemetery at Lefors under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Hagemann was born Nov. 22, 1930, at Lefors, to Dwight L. and Mary Hickman Day. She was a 1949 graduate of Lefors High School and Pampa business college. She married Jess Carl Hagemann on July 10, 1955, at Central Baptist Church in Pampa. He was in the military, so she lived all around the world. They returned to Pampa in June of 1978.

Mr. Hagemann preceded her in death on Dec. 10, 1999.

She was a member of Central Baptist Church. She had been a Sunday school teacher, Training Union teacher and was active in the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dwight and Mary Day; and a sister, Farrell A. Day.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Carl and Margaret Hagemann, Sr., of Childress and James and Donna Hagemann of Pampa; a daughter, Mary Hagemann of Pampa; three grandsons, Carl Hagemann, Jr., and Samuel Hagemann, both of Childress, and Logan Hagemann of Pampa; four step-grandchildren, Amy Saxour, Chad Clancy and wife Melanie, and Christy Clancy; and seven step-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065; American Diabetes Association, 4425 W. Airport Frwy., Suite 130, Irving, TX 75062; or to American Heart Association, 2404 W. 7th, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Services tomorrow

BEATY, Opal Ruth — 10 a.m., Memorial Park Funeral Home, Amarillo.

HIGDON, Euphia — 11 a.m., First Baptist Church, Shamrock.

EUPHIA HIGDON

SHAMROCK — Euphia Higdon, 91, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2000. Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jack Lee officiating. Burial will be in Shamrock Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mrs. Higdon was born at Blue Mountain, Ark., and had been a Shamrock resident for many years. She married William Aubrey Higdon in 1932 at Texola, Okla.; he died in 1991.

She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Karen Jett of Amarillo; two sons, John L. Higdon of Amarillo and Kenn Higdon of Dumas; a sister, Mary Millsap of Ajo, Ark.; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice; or to First Baptist Church building fund.

NORMA LORANE HUTCHINSON

SKELLYTOWN — Norma Lorane Hutchinson, 71, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2000, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in First Church of the Nazarene in Borger with the Rev. Terry Porter officiating. Interment will be in Highland Park Cemetery under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Hutchinson was born at Drumwright, Okla., and moved to Skellytown in 1943. She married Jack Hutchinson on Dec. 6, 1947, at Borger. She was a homemaker and owned-operated Norma's Corner Cafe in Skellytown for 8 1/2 years.

She was a member of First Church of the Nazarene of Borger and F.L.E.A.S. of Eufala, Okla., and Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority. She was a bridge player and was active in Borger Opportunity Center.

Mrs. Hutchinson was preceded in death by a daughter, Teresa Hutchinson, in 1948.

Survivors include her husband, Jack, of the home; four sisters, Colleen Maddox of Paris, Donna Merkel of Eufala, Connie Cook of Houston, Mo., and Susan Robertson of Wewoka, Okla.; four sons, Danny Hutchinson of Grand Prairie, Kenny Hutchinson of Clinton, Okla., Jim Hutchinson of Borger and Ernie Hutchinson of Skellytown; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 228 Tumbleweed in Borger and requests memorials be to Opportunity Center in Borger or to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

VERA P. OLSEN

Vera P. Olsen, 82, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000, at Houston. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Rick Timmons, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Canadian, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Olsen was born Jan. 24, 1918, at Peckham, Okla. She had been a Pampa resident since 1930. She married her husband of 58 years, Frank "Buddy" Olsen, on Oct. 25, 1933; he died in 1991. She was a homemaker and a waitress, working at Coronado Inn and Jim's Steakhouse.

She was a longtime member of Fellowship Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Valerie Falke of Kingwood and Shirley Griffith of Richardson; a son, Trent Olsen of Cheyenne, Wyo.; a brother, Homer Jones of Phoenix, Ariz.; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Hospice at Texas Medical Center, 1905 Holcomb, Houston, TX 77030.

Stocks

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

Wheat	2.53
Milo	3.39
Corn	3.70
Soybeans	4.33

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

Occidental	23 5/16	up 1/4
Fidelity Magell	114.16	
Puritan	18.27	

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

BP Amoco	46 1/16	up 1/8
Exxon Mobil	25 1/8	up 1/8
Shell	26 7/8	up 1/4
Chevron	79	up 9/16
Coca-Cola	57 7/8	up 1/8

Columbia/HCA	42.25	dn 0.76
Enron	79 1/16	dn 1/16
Halliburton	37 3/16	dn 9/16
XCEL	28 11/16	dn 1/16
NOI	37	up 1/16
Kerr McGee	63 7/16	up 1 1/16
Limited	32 1/8	dn 1 1/16
McDonald's	32 1/8	dn 1 1/4
Exxon Mobil	86 7/16	up 1 7/16
New Atmos	23 1/4	dn 1/8
NOI	28 11/16	dn 1/16
NOI	37	up 1/16
OKE	45 3/4	dn 1/16
Phillips	8 13/16	up 1/16
Pioneer Nat.	16 1/8	up 5/16
SLB	74 11/16	dn 1 1/2
Tenneco	2 1/2	dn 1/8
Texasco	57 7/8	up 1/4
Ultramar	29 11/16	up 1/4
Wal-Mart	51 1/4	up 2 5/16
Williams	42 7/8	up 1/2



(Special photo)
Pampa Middle School students Jerrica Timmons, vice mayor; Heather Diddy, Jaclyn Spearman, mayor; Erin Winegeart, and Drew Morrison check the cans for the annual canned food drive at the local school. The students filled eight Salvation Army barrels with the 3,525 cans collected by the students.

Police report

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Aquila Duck, 26, 704 E. Kingsmill was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Salvador Rodriguez, 23, 417 N. Faulkner, was arrested for burglary of a habitation. Ryan Randall Hill, 18, 636 N. Dwight, was arrested for forgery by passing. Christopher Lee Hearnon, 19, 1034 Twiford, was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to stop and exchange information.

Telephone harassment was reported to the Pampa Police Department.

A warrant for arrest was issued on a Dec. 7 incident involving failure to identify - fugitive.

Burglary was reported in the 900 block of Fisher. Nothing was reported stolen in the break-in. An estimated \$50 damage was caused.

Simple assault was reported in the 1100 block of Alcock.

Disorderly conduct - fighting involving two juveniles was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 N. Charles. Minor injuries were reported.

A representative of Wal-Mart, 2225 N. Hobart, reported forgery by check. Someone forged a check for \$301.06 on Nov. 29.

Thursday, Dec. 21
A hit and run was reported in the 900 block of East Kentucky.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Sheriff's Office

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Kenny Ray Wallace, 38, Clayton, N.M., was arrested for failure to identify and possession of marijuana under two ounces. Jesse William Sasaki, 34, Elk City, Okla., was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20
7:56 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) and transported one to BSA-West, Amarillo.

8:25 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Gray. No one was transported.

11:01 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Gray. No one was transported.

3:57 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to Perryton.

4:36 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of East Foster. No one was transported.

4:53 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Cinderella and transported one to PRMC.

6:33 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of East Browning and transported one to PRMC.

City Briefs

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

CELEBRATION AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE, 40-65% off. Reg. hours 10:53-30 p.m. Coronado Ctr., 665-3100. In-town del. free.

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!

PARTY TRAYS avail. for Holidays at Hoagies Deli. We deliver! 665-0292.

CELEBRATIONS OPEN 10-8 p.m. until Fri. 22nd. All Christmas 25% off, Windsor Bears 50% off, candles 15% off. Close 2 p.m. Sat. 23rd and closed 25th & 26th. In-town delivery free. Coronado Center, 665-3100.

JUST ARRIVED-BOYDS Collectible Dolls, new cool stuff for the teens on your list, and more Country Church Birdhouses. Shop til 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 21 and remember we will be open 1:00-4:00 on Christmas Eve. Best Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart.

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

CHANEY'S CAFE, 716 W. Foster, Thurs. 5-8 p.m., pork chops, ch. fry, chicken & dumpings, b-b-que polish. Open Christmas Eve 11-2.

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.

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.

"MOVING SALE" king bed, ref., electric stove. Call 665-2187.

"SONG'S SALON" Sale: Highlites, Perms, Spiral Perms and Colors all on sale. Ask for Synetta or Kristal, 665-4343.

FRESH CALIFORNIA strawberries 1/2 flat-\$1.99, California tangerines-4 for \$1, California lemons & limes-10 for \$1, Turkey Texas sweet potatoes 3 lbs. for \$1. Franks, 300 E. Brown.

NEED THAT one last special Christmas Gift for the stocking. Give that special person the greatest gift-a two hour relaxing massage. Special prices starting at \$45.00. Diamond/Furs/Cars will only be second to the Golden Touch. Call 806-665-6850.

START YOUR business off right in the New Year, in a high impact location. Office spaces available, reasonable rates, leases tailored to your business. For more information contact Blake or Les Howard 669-1287. E-mail us:bahoward@nts-online.net, or lihoward@centrmedia.net.

NEW YEARS Eve: Dance to Renegades at Moose Lodge members and guests 8:30 - 12. Breakfast at midnight.

TOMMY HILFIGER and Interchangeable Rings below retail at Design Professional, 1405 N. Banks.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Light and variable winds becoming south 5 to 10 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Lows around 18. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.

holiday weekend in advance of another front bringing frigid lows to Texas.

One National Weather Service prediction was for sleet or possibly freezing rains for portions of North and West Texas on Christmas Day.

The latest cold front pushed temperatures in the 20s early Thursday for parts of West Texas before moving off the Texas coast into the Gulf of Mexico.

Readings ranged from 28 degrees at Wichita Falls to 55 at Galveston.

Other temperatures were 34 at

Burnet and Junction, 38 at Dryden and 46 at Lufkin.

Winds were generally northerly at 5 to 15 mph, with some gusts to 30 mph.

Wind chills ranged from the minus teens to around 20 degrees above zero. At Guadalupe Pass, northwesterly gusts of 38 mph produced a wind chill of -13 degrees.

Through Friday, highs were expected in the 40s and 50s, with 60s in the deep south.

Overnight lows should range from the upper teens in the northwest to 20s in the north and 40s along the Rio Grande.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
727 West Browning
665-0701
www.stmatt.pampa.com

Please join us and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve.
Children's Service 5:00 p.m.
Midnight Service 11:00 p.m.

New clean air rules address truck pollution

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Clinton administration has approved regulations that are expected to cut air pollution from heavy-duty trucks and buses by more than 90 percent over the next decade. Attacking one of the major sources of dirty air, the federal standards will require new large trucks and buses to meet stringent tailpipe emission limits and direct refiners to produce virtually sulfur-free diesel fuel. The rules were to be announced Thursday by the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a flurry of regulations being churned out in the last days of the Clinton administration.

Rolanda's
Silk Flowers & Gifts
For Christmas
301 W. Foster

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

DRUGS

"That's a continuing problem," Morris said. "A number of our neighboring counties have run across clandestine labs where methamphetamine is manufactured."

There are several methods of producing methamphetamines. "It used to be a very involved process," Morris said. "There's a way of doing it now called the Nazi method which is very quick and can actually be done in the back of a car."

Such labs are dangerous, Morris said. "If we were to run across one," he said, "we would have to call federal agencies and our local fire department because they involve chemicals that we cannot safely store."

It's not just a simple matter of seizing the lab, he said. It's a matter of doing something with the chemicals that are so dangerous, the Environmental Protection Agency lists them as hazardous.

These drugs are really dangerous," Morris said, "because they are not manufactured under the best of conditions."

The police chief said the drugs are not made with any consistency. They may give a high or they may kill.

"You don't know what you're getting," Morris said. "You don't know what impurities there are in there."

Drug problems also lead to other problems in crime, he said.

"We see a lot of our young women getting involved with crack cocaine, and as a result, getting involved in situations where they may be involved in prostitution or other activities to obtain the drug," Morris said. "It's very addictive, and we see a lot of crimes related to drug trafficking and drug substance abuse."

Those crimes include forged checks, theft and burglary, Morris said. "A lot of times, there's a reluctance on the part of the victims to prosecute," he said. Often times the victims are related to the person involved in the substance abuse.

"There's a great deal of revenue that's lost, family income, property that's lost as the result of this type of activity," Morris said.

He said some young women from Pampa are missing who were involved with the use of crack cocaine and other drugs.

"That, of course, can trickle down into other areas of our community such as grandparents having to raise children as a result of a marriage being involved in substance abuse and other activities related to it," Morris said. "It's a serious problem."

He said more children being born out of relationships that are not traditional marriages.

"They are born as the result of casual sex or sex for drugs," Morris said. "That raises concern."

In the past four years, Morris said he's seen a number of deaths due to overdoses, serious assaults and even homicides that have been related to drugs and substance abuse.

"It's a problem that really concerns me," Morris said, "and I don't know that running out and knocking down all the drug cartels is the most effective way of dealing with it on a local level. We have to take an approach that if we're going to make a dent in this, we're going to have to have people that are not interested in using drugs to begin with."

"It's got to be a community partnership to educate our young people that this is not a good way of life," he said. "As a matter of fact, it winds up taking lives and ruining lives."

In some circles, he said, drug use is viewed as casual recreational activity that doesn't hurt anybody except the person that's involved in it.

"That's not true," he said. "We have a large number of folks that are in our jails that we as taxpayers are paying for medical bills that are related to diseases or illnesses that are caused because of drug involvement."

Hepatitis, HIV, AIDS and other illnesses and damaged organs can be traced directly or indirectly to drug abuse.

Another problem is that society warehouses so many people. "When I talk about warehouse, I mean we have to incarcerate people," he said. "Lock them up."

The prison system is one of the fastest growing industries in the state and nation.

"Where does it stop?" Morris asked. "How do we put an end to this? Do we make more arrests? Do we put more people in jail? Or is it time that we as a society say look, we can't afford to lose another person to this. This community can no longer tolerate that."

"That message has to be communicated, he said, to the young people in the community and encourage them not to get involved in drugs."

"We've tried very hard to make some significant effort to get drugs off the street," Morris said. "The best we can do with our enforcement effort is try to see that it is not easily accessible."

He said that the police department goes after drugs and tries to protect young people from them, but it's not just the young in the community.

"We've got people in their 30s, 40s and 50s that have been involved in substance abuse," the police chief said. "We continue to wage that effort. We continue to try to join with the community in those partnerships."

Morris said the police department has officers in the schools with their school resource program and their DARE program, but the parents need to be educated also.

"Kids don't come with an owner's manual so it's difficult," he said. "Sometimes, it's overwhelming."

Morris said the best thing a parent can do is talk frankly with their kids about drugs and the dangers involved.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

POLICE

check at Wayne's Western Wear, 1504 N. Hobart. It seems that a young man presented a check for \$80 to pay for some jeans. The check was on the account of Eva Jo Isbell — one of the checks that had been stolen from her purse the day before.

The problem — at least for the young man — was that Eva Jo Isbell works at Wayne's Western Wear. And she was working there at the time the check was presented.

Ryan Randall Hill, 18, 636 N. Dwight, remained in Gray County Jail at press time today on charges of forgery by passing. Police are continuing to investigate the possibility that a second person may be involved in the burglary and forgery incidents.

Early Wednesday morning, police were called to investigate a burglary in the 400 block of North Sumner. Their investigation revealed that a man and a woman had broken into the residence of Conley Kenneth Bowles, 408 N. Sumner, reportedly to "beat him up."

Bowles protected himself from the intrusion and the attempted attack by shooting the two people with a single-shot, pump-action B-B gun, police said.

Officers found Salvador Rodriguez, 23, 417 N. Faulkner, and Aquilla Duck, 26, 704 E. Kingsmill, at the emergency room at Pampa Regional Medical Center undergoing treatment for B-B gun wounds.

Duck ran from the emergency room when police attempted to serve a warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, Deputy Chief Terry Young said, but was apprehended on Perryton Parkway near the Northgate Inn.

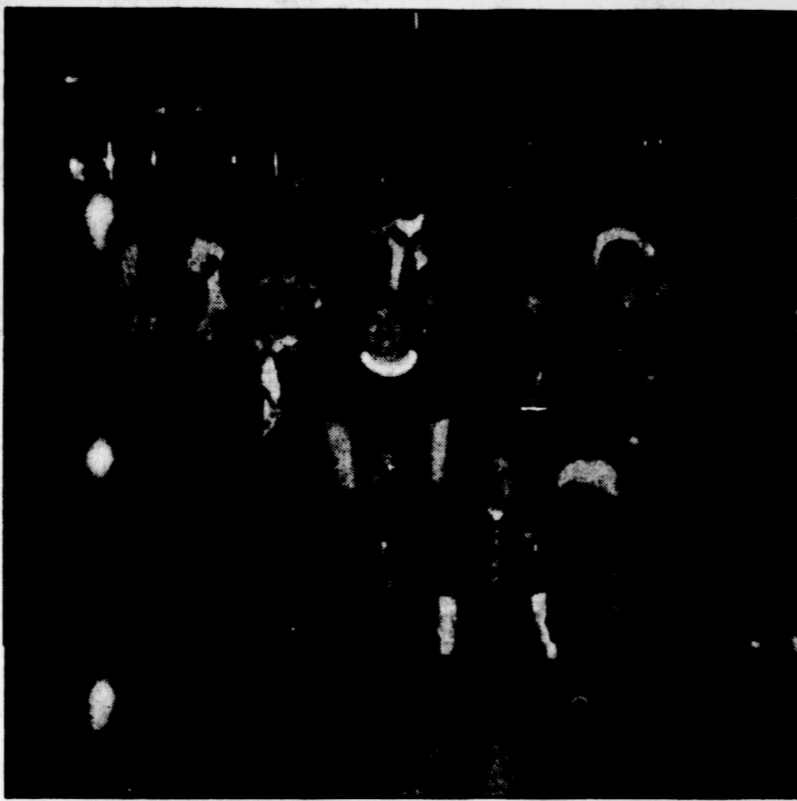
The warrant stemmed from an earlier stolen vehicle report filed by Jessie Chilton, 113 N. Nelson, on Tuesday. Chilton reported his 1986 Honda Prelude had been stolen. Young said the vehicle was recovered and had not been damaged.

To top the week's string of strange events, City Fire Marshal Gary Stevens continues his investigation of an incident in the 700 block of Mora. At 10:59 p.m. Wednesday, firefighters were called to a residence there to investigate a burning object left on the front porch.

The object turned out to be a sack of manure that had been set on fire, said Fire Chief Kim Powell. Fire officials said there did not appear to be a motive for the prank.

"We think it was just kids," Powell said.

Christmas carolers



(Special photo)

Cub Scout Pack 414 went Christmas caroling at Coronado Healthcare Center recently. Above: (front row) Brenden Rice, Olin Boyd, Trevor McVay; (second row) Stormy Free, Michael Clark, Caleb West, Kade Morse, Ty Youree, Joseph Mechelay, Pierce Holt, Callie Hampton; (third row) Justin Carlton, Johnny Price, Nicholas Riley, Tyler Morris, Tucker Brown, Cole Guyer, Alli Hampton, Lindey Riley; (fourth row) Barbara Hampton, Den Mother (Bears) Linda Carlton, Den Mother (Wolves) Tina Holt, Toni Brown and Pack Leader Craig Guyer.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

LEFORS

help students taking a Spanish class over satellite next semester, Law said.

"We were concerned that it was difficult for kids not having a teacher they can ask questions right there, that they're not getting the tutorial help they needed," the superintendent said. "There's a phone in the room, but there's a lot of other schools calling in, too."

The board also agreed to add 10 points to the grades of students taking the Spanish Satellite Class like is already being offered for the Satellite AP class, he added.

In other action, school board members approved payment of current bills and accepted a tax collection report. Law said the percentage of property taxes collected are "normal for this time of year," but the amount is higher than last year because of the higher property valuations.

According to the audit, 95 percent of assessed property taxes were collected for the 1999-2000 school year.

All of the school board members were present except for Roy Lott who was unable to attend the meeting, Law.

Lefors schools are to be released for the Christmas holiday Thursday afternoon. School staff will return to work on Jan. 3, 2001 and classes are to resume on Jan. 4, 2001.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Opinion

Information should be readily available

■ It seems to be a clear-cut trend. Governmental agencies just can't cope without someone to act as a "spokesperson."

Presidents have had press secretaries for years, of course, but the practice has trickled so far down that most agencies big enough to qualify as a "bureaucracy" have a person — or even a staff of people — to write press releases, serve as a mouth-piece for radio and television sound/video bites and perform other communication services.

In this — somewhat sadly — Odessa is no exception. We say it is sad because in most cases, those in authority should speak for themselves; taxpayers should not have to foot the bill to pay for someone to talk for those who have been entrusted with

Public information officers also should not find themselves in the business of helping "hide" facts that are clearly open to the public. That hurts the image of the agency they work for and tends to diminish their credibility — both with the reporters they deal with daily and with members of the public, who generally are suspicious of government to start with.

positions of prominence and authority.

A dangerous side effect of all this is that it serves to create yet another layer of bureaucracy which helps to prevent citizens from getting a free flow of information about the workings of the governments they're paying for. All too often, those "public information officers" become a barrier to access rather than a conduit because those in high authority can "hide" behind spokespeople.

And, that which is "public" by law never should be delayed when it is requested simply because someone does not want it

released. In this latter respect, we suspect that public information officers are being used more often by their bosses than by some personal desire to deny or delay information.

Regardless, the RIO title says it all. Whoever wears the mantle of public information officer is supposed to relay information to the public, a portion of which is the media.

In an ideal world, we wouldn't need PIOs at all. Elected politicians and appointed executive administrators would answer directly to their bosses, the taxpayers. Answering directly to the public should be one of the most, if not the most important jobs for those who oversee the spending of taxpayer dollars.

But given the system as it exists, we would hope all PIOs would be dedicated to the job of working as a liaison between their government agencies and members of the public.

The holder of such a job would be working with the branches of the media by alerting news people to upcoming events and coordinating with people within their agencies to find human-interest stories and other interesting items that should be publicized.

Unfortunately, this primary purpose of PIOs sometimes gets sidetracked.

Some public information officers, either by their own desire to create a fiefdom or at the direction of higher-ups envision their primary role as damage control specialists or even "with-hold public information officers."

In this mode, they tend to become too protective of the information they are supposed to be efficiently relaying upon public request. It is as if they are a shield or barrier between those "in the know" and those who have a lawful "right to know."

At the extreme in this scenario, department heads or school principals defer even the simplest of procedural questions to the PIO. And then the PIO becomes an obstacle to a free flow of information that should be the cornerstone of government.

It is understood by most media representatives that some issues will be touchy and need to be handled by high-level officials with proper discretion. And unguarded comments by a "loose cannon" could create public panic or undue concerns.

But when the information sought by the public and media is as simple as a time or place of an event, those who have the information should be allowed to disperse it without bringing a third party into the picture (the PIO). This is bureaucracy in one of its worst forms.

Public information officers also should not find themselves in the business of helping "hide" facts that are clearly open to the public. That hurts the image of the agency they work for and tends to diminish their credibility — both with the reporters they deal with daily and with members of the public, who generally are suspicious of government to start with.

So, those who are interested in "local news" from government might want to start paying attention to the various public information officers scattered throughout the Permian Basin. If these spokespeople are facilitating the flow of information and garnering a lot of publicity for their agencies by being a visible and frank source of news, the "public information officer" job description is being filled. On the other hand, if a PIO tends to spend more time explaining why information cannot be provided, we think taxpayers should be asking why.

—Odessa American



♪ He knows when you are sleeping, knows when you're awake, knows when you've been bad or good...

Christmas spirit is alive in Pampa

As I write this column with only a few short days before Christmas Day, I think of how many lives in Pampa are being changed forever because of the wonderful Christmas spirit in the community.

Many, many people from the community and across the area have responded to pleas from organizations to help fellow Pampa residents, especially the children of the community, have a Merry Christmas.

I have been extremely privileged to have had so many of these stories come across my desk, and have tried to tell these stories to our readers.

Hard economic times, job loss, divorce and abuse, personal disasters, illness, family abandonment — these are just a few of the reasons some families need help this year.

It is so wonderful that Pampa people have responded to the needs of their neighbors. There is such a giving spirit in this community.

In most cases the persons doing the giving will never meet the recipients, but both lives are greatly improved by the acts of kindness. So many people have helped their neighbors, and these are the ones I've been told about. I'm sure I missed someone, and I apologize. Let me know.

The **Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School Class of Fellowship Baptist Church** delivered over 100 cans of food collected by them to Tralee Crisis Center to help a parent and their children being assisted by Tralee.

Pampa Middle School students collected 3,525 cans of food for the **Salvation Army** to distribute to people who are in need of food.

Christmas Dinner will be served to anyone who needs the meal on Christmas Day by



Nancy Young
Managing editor

Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ at their Fellowship Hall.

Harvest House and Good Samaritan Christian Services contribute food throughout the year, and are assisting once again during the holiday shopping season.

Optimist and Optimisses sponsor an annual shopping tour to help children make purchases for their family members.

Culberson-Stowers collected toys for local children for Christmas as they do each year. **Sonic Drive-In** was a collection point for the **U. S. Marine's Toys for Tots** program. The box was filled.

An area motorcycle group, **Soldiers for Christ**, distributed Christmas presents to some Skellytown families over the weekend.

The **Salvation Army** is distributing food and 450 Angel Tree Christmas presents purchased by **Pampa and area residents** for these children and their families. **Altrusa** members wrap these gifts. Part of the **Salvation Army's** funding comes from the **Red Kettle Fund** which is staying about the same as last year while the mail in donations are down 20 to 25 percent. I know local residents will come through for the worthy cause when they realize their need.

Being in the news media for many years, I have written about countless tragedies and about people who helped. The **Salvation Army** and **American Red Cross** are two organizations for which I have developed a huge respect through the years.

These organizations help people in so many different ways throughout the year. I've done stories about people stranded in a community due to snow and ice with no money. The **Salvation Army** came through. I've done many, many stories residential fires throughout the years, and both organizations were there to help. My father was a big supporter of theirs from WWII days.

About three years ago, when I was with another newspaper, several house fires occurred this week-the week before Christmas. Several children lost all their toys and gifts. The parents were unsure if **Santa** would arrive. However, the people of that community displayed an overwhelming response, and **Santa** arrived. The **Salvation Army** and **Red Cross** were there to help, too.

When I arrived at the scene of my daughter's burned home one evening in September, the **Red Cross** had already been there providing help. The **Salvation Army** van was in the driveway. Both organizations have continued over three months later to offer guidance. Both have called to see if the three children need anything. The people of that community responded, too.

I know these organizations help. I've seen it. Remember them and all the people in the community who are helping people. Pampa should be very proud of each other — not all communities have such a generous spirit.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 21, the 356th day of 2000. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives in the Northern Hemisphere at 8:37 a.m. EST. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date:
In 1898, scientists **Pierre and**

Marie Curie discovered the radioactive element radium.

In 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published, in the **New York World**.

In 1945, **Gen. George S. Patton** died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

In 1948, the state of **Eire** (formerly the Irish Free State) declared its independence.

In 1958, **Charles de Gaulle** was elected to a seven-year term as the first president of the **Fifth Republic** of France.

In 1968, **Apollo VIII** was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose **Kurt Waldheim** to succeed **U Thant** as secretary-general.

In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker **Argo Merchant** ran aground near Nantucket Island, spilling millions of gallons of oil into the **North Atlantic**.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a **Pam Am Boeing 747** over

Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

In 1991, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister **John Major** met with President **Bush** at **Camp David, Md.**; afterward, the two leaders expressed their unity on the Persian Gulf crisis. In Iraq, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis participated in an evacuation drill to test war readiness.

Greed has destroyed the rule of law ...

If we still lived under the rule of law, I could safely predict that by the time you read this, President-elect **George W. Bush** will still be the president-elect.

The rule of law, however, has been destroyed by the greed of lawyers and politicians and by the mediocrity of judges. Therefore, going to the courts is like going to the casino. The outcome is always uncertain and unpredictable.

Florida law is quite clear, and all of the **Gore gang's** legal pleadings are worthless. No one was unlawfully denied the right to vote. No valid ballot was deliberately not counted. The law is clear that the responsibility for correctly voting the ballot is the voter's. No clean punch, no vote. In the case of absentees, no correct postmark, no vote.

As the **Florida Supreme Court** already has demonstrated, the law is immaterial when judges decide that they can legislate the outcome they want under the guise of interpretation. This practice, which has systematically dismantled our federal republic, introduces all the vices of rule by men — uncertainty, arbitrariness and unpredictability.

We are now like people forced to live under a dictatorship. We can never be sure that, when he wakes up, the dictator won't frown on what he previously smiled upon or smile upon what he previously frowned upon. We



Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist

are at the mercy of his whims. Today, Americans are at the mercy of the whims of politicians who wear black robes and pretend to be judges.

I have often referred to the piratical raid on the tobacco industry as a perfect example of lawyers and politicians deliberately rejecting the rule of law in favor of plunder. Most people, because they do not look kindly upon the tobacco industry, merely shrug and go about their business.

This inability to recognize the danger of a principle being violated, even when the particular victim is unpopular, is the recipe for civic suicide. Too many Americans exhibit the attitude that unless money is coming out of their pocket, unless the billy club is striking their head, then what happens to others is of no concern. This is really the death of citizenship, for a good citizen is always interested in protecting the good and combating the evil in a soci-

ety. Furthermore, when great principles are violated, everyone becomes a potential victim.

If lawyers can win billions from a legal industry in full compliance with every federal and state law and regulation, do you think their greed is going to be satisfied with a single raid on a single industry? If they can change the rules in mid-game to get at the tobacco industry, then they will do it to get at anybody. Already Californians who purchased legal firearms in a legal manner are being made post-facto felons if they fail to register those weapons. Already legal gun manufacturers are being attacked on the ridiculous grounds that they are responsible for the end use of their products.

When the protection of the rule of law has been eliminated, then everyone is exposed to blasts of the political majority's whims and fancies.

There are naturally some lawyers, some judges, some politicians who remain people of integrity and honor. They are, alas, the very people least likely to be seen on television screens or interviewed by print journalists. The news media prefer demagogues to statesmen. That is proven by their actions, no matter what pious proclamations they make on their editorial pages. And, to be fair, most journalists these days would not recognize honor and integrity if they found it.

SANTA'S Last Minute



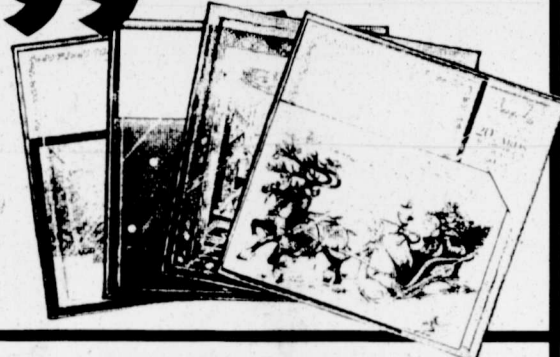
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Quilters Rattled by Raffle Try to Do the Right Thing

DEAR ABBY: We have a unique problem and hope that you can help us. We are members of a quilt-making club. The quilts we make are well thought of. Once a year, we raffle off one of them, and therein lies our problem.

The man who won this year's quilt is not very well thought of. In fact, some people here consider him "scum." Nevertheless, his name was drawn, and we draw only once. The ladies were shocked. They stood there with their mouths open. Some of them said if they had known he would be the winner, they would not have worked so hard on the quilt. Others suggested that we draw again — which, in fact, we did.

Then one club member spoke up and said it wasn't fair. The man won the quilt fair and square. Buying a raffle ticket was the only requirement involved.

I can see no way around giving that man the quilt. I believe honesty is the best policy. Can you help us to do the right thing?

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

DEAR TROUBLE: Consider this: If you give the quilt to someone else, you will put yourselves on the same moral level as the man you have labeled as "scum." So do the honest thing — give him the quilt and hold a good thought. Perhaps the love and care that went into crafting it will rub off on him, and he'll be better for it.

Horoscope

FRIDAY, DEC. 22, 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) **** Deal with financial matters closely. Reach out for another. Be spontaneous, once you have cleared your to-do list. Reach out for those you want to have around you. Express your friendly ways. Do not forget to touch base with a parent or someone you care about. Tonight: Go to a concert or a holiday event.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** You don't always have to carry the weight for others. Make last-minute business calls, topped off with a few holiday ones. Others appreciate your thoughtfulness. Talk to that special person in your life and ask for what you need (or want). Tonight: Sit under the mistletoe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Sometimes others don't work with you. Your incisiveness and ability to clear out work mark your actions. Review a present situation with an eye to possibilities. Do last-minute errands while touching base with a key loved one. Tonight: Start partaking in the holiday joy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Reach out for someone and listen to what he wants from you. Do not

Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

didn't need the money. Your younger daughter is looking a gift horse in the mouth. Tell her to stop saying "nay" and pony up the money or provide her own lunches and snacks.
P.S. Your older daughter is right. Child care costs a bundle these days, and anyone who doubts it should check it out.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have this little disagreement about how to eat properly.

I eat with the fork in my left hand and my knife in my right hand. I have the fork facing downward, so I don't have to ever let go of my fork to eat. My girlfriend holds the utensil in the same hands, but she puts down her knife and switches her fork for her right hand to eat.

We saw on a Web site that both ways are correct. However, we want to have the final answer and figured you would be a good mediator.

HUNGRY COUPLE,
EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

DEAR HUNGRY COUPLE: You and your girlfriend are both eating "properly." You are doing it in the European style, and your girlfriend is doing it in the American style. You don't need a mediator. The person with the bone to pick needs to exercise a little more tolerance.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS: Happy and blessed Hanukkah!

DEAR ABBY: Both my grown daughters work, and I take care of their daughters for them. Granted, I have them only a few hours a day, but I still have to feed them and give them snacks and juice.

All I ask in return is \$20 for each child every two weeks to help pay for the food and beverages.

My older daughter says it's definitely worth it to her, as it would cost far more for someone else to care for her daughter. My younger daughter and her husband, however, are throwing a fit. They insist that a grandmother should never charge money to watch her own grandchild. I also watch them on weekends and barely get a thank-you.

What is your opinion, Abby? Am I...
A GRANDMA OR A DOORMAT?

DEAR GRANDMA: Twenty dollars per child for every two weeks seems reasonable to me. I'm sure you wouldn't ask your daughters to chip in if you

postpone errands too long. You have a lot of ground to cover. Trust your ability to get the job done. Others dump a lot of work and errands on you. Keep smiling. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Shore up errands and get your work done. Your ability to cruise through what needs to be done stuns another. Take out your dancing shoes and get into the holiday spirit. With the holiday around the corner, allow the child inside you to emerge. Tonight: Add some spice to the night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** You might feel pressured but, at the same time, you open doors for others. Be especially thoughtful of someone who might not have holiday plans. Your playfulness comes out, even if you are trying to be serious. Make a must appearance. Tonight: Head home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Curb spending and take control of a money problem. Go for heartfelt communication. Others respond to your efforts. Take an overview and gain a perspective. Creativity comes through. Express your jovial side with others. Let the good times rock and roll. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Listen carefully to another. Speak your mind carefully during the next few weeks. Someone might want to help you and pitch in. Think about what you want from another. Ask for a wish or a long-term desire. You could go overboard trying to spread good news and cheer. Tonight: Go way out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Step back a little and focus on

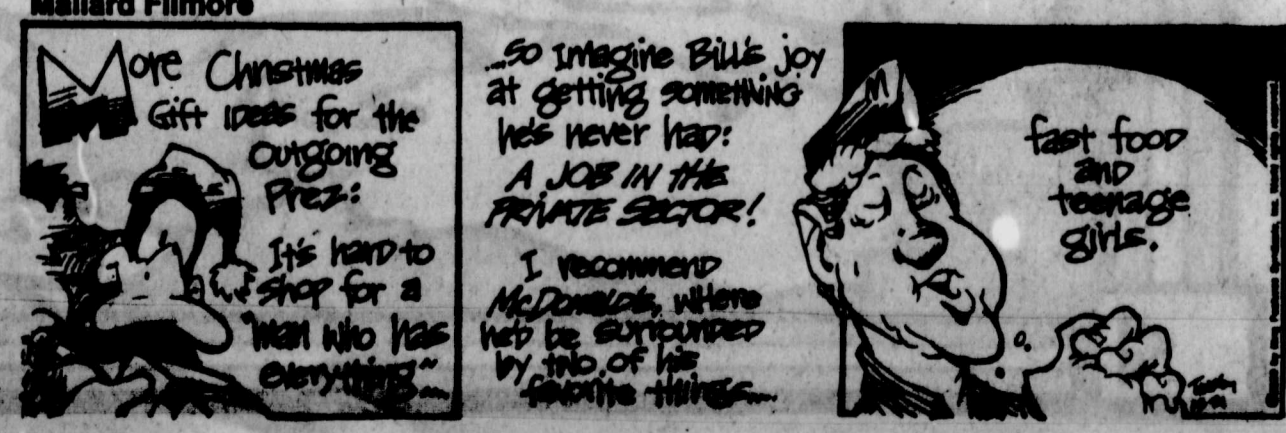
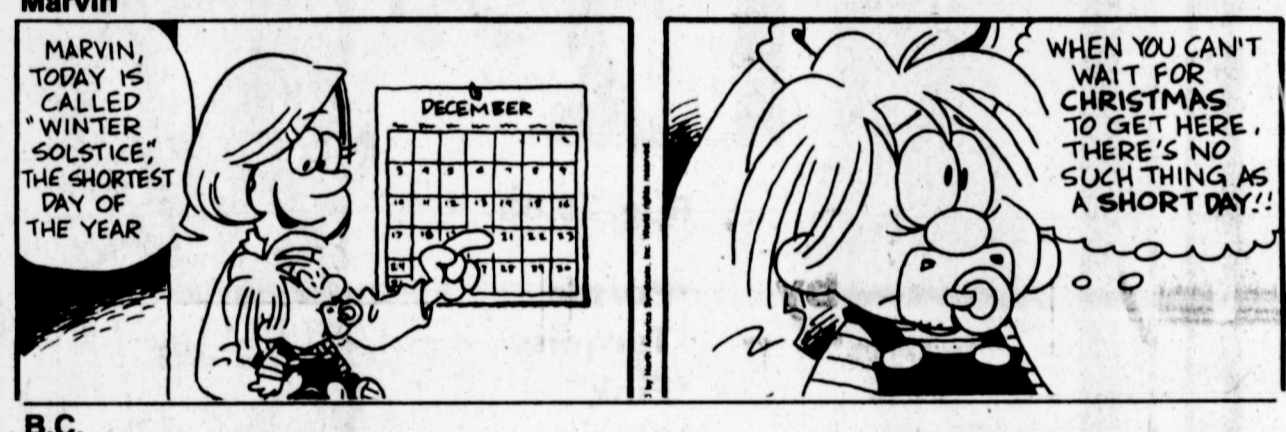
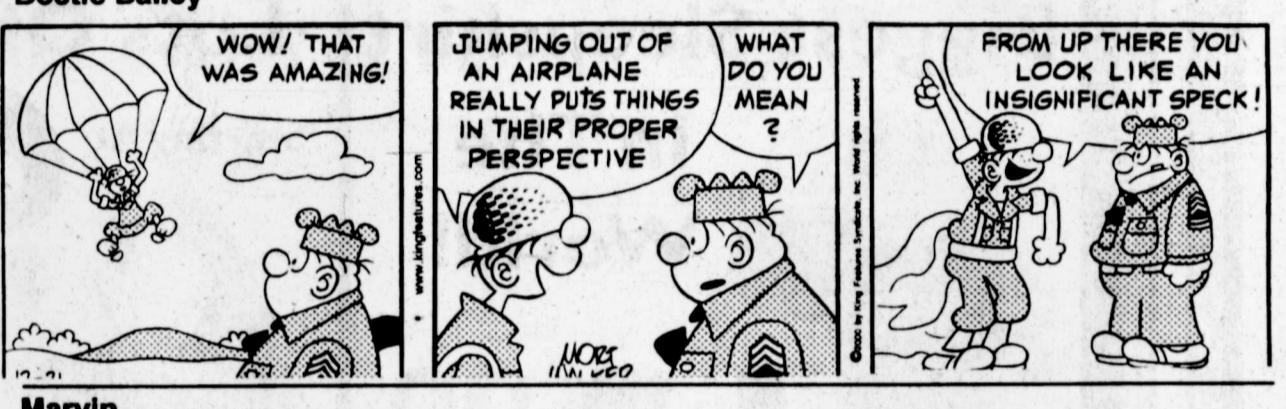
completion and some personal matters. Later today, you will not have any time to yourself. Clear out any work as well. Reserve a decision about a financial matter for now. Others seek you out in the afternoon. Tonight: Let the whirlwind begin.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Gather with friends at work or at home. Celebration is the natural order of the day. Don't hold back any longer; express what is on your mind. Others do value your ideas. Your high energy helps another out. Still, plan on some time to yourself. You have a lot to squeeze in. Tonight: Vanish when you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Clear out work ASAP. You get a lot done in the most effective manner possible. You are able to dig up information that helps you zero in on someone and what he wants. Happiness surrounds you and a friendship. Get together with others, paying special attention to a loved one. Tonight: Where the parties are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Be more aware of someone at a distance. Do something special here to make this person feel more in the holiday spirit. Sometimes actions speak louder than words. Bring others together this afternoon for the first of many celebrations. Share your feelings. Tonight: In the limelight.

BORN TODAY
Baseball legends Steve Carlton (1944) and Steve Garvey (1948), TV journalist Diane Sawyer (1945)



Crossword Puzzle

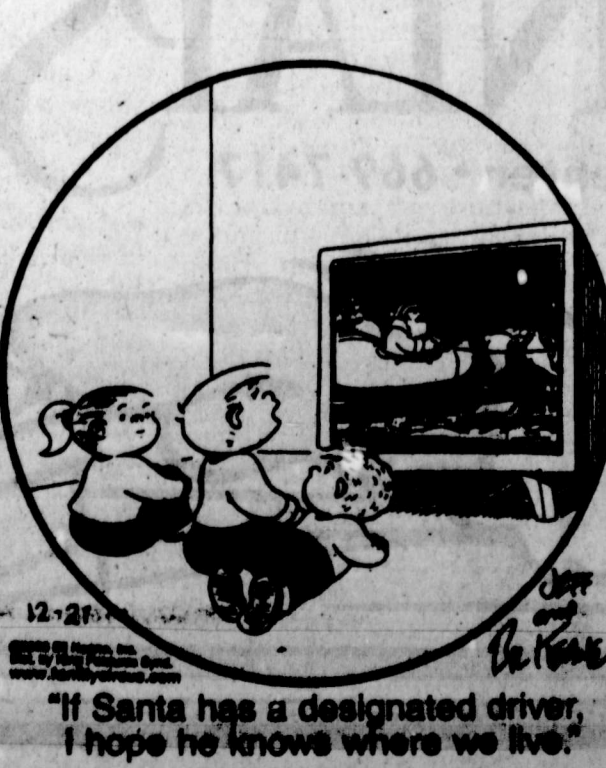
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	DOWN
1 TV viewing spot	1 Singer
5 Proof-reading marks	2 Last letter
10 Wrong	3 Clerk, at times
12 Cap	4 "— was saying ..."
13 Museum item	5 Dross
14 Singer Carter	6 Fork
15 Application info	7 Dubai, for one
16 Actress Julie	8 Printing dots
18 Actress Julie	9 Skip the nightlife
20 Boxing legend	11 Astronaut
21 Colorless	12 Wally
23 Decimal base	17 Simile
24 Back	19 Vitamin abbr.
26 Is in the red	22 Herb used to make
28 Grazing spot	30 Compass
29 Part of A.D.	31 Shred
31 Owned by us	
32 Actress Julie	
36 Actress Julie	
39 Pub brew	
40 Gave the axe to	
41 Wear away	
43 Piano piece	
44 Worn out	
45 Imp	
46 Bowling	

Marmaduke



"Tell him, Mom, I'm an angel in the Christmas pageant."



STUMPED?
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7371. 50¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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•Lap Top
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•Chair
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Rogers Whitley

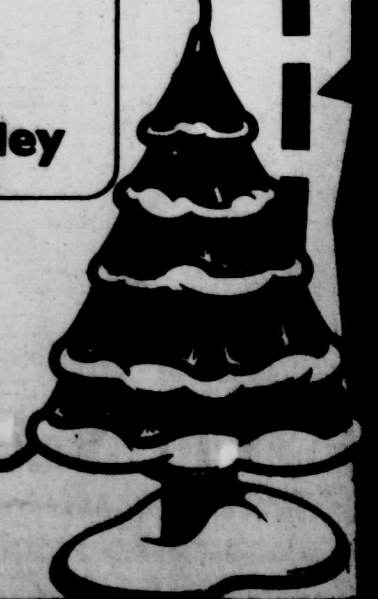
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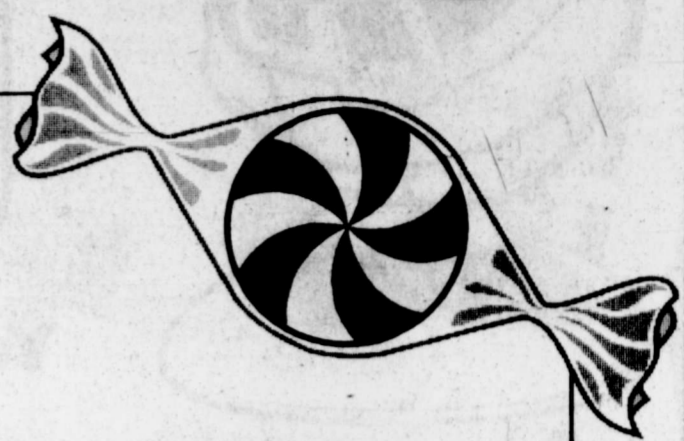


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SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Demon Brown scored 28 points and handed out eight assists to lead the Charlotte 49ers to a 94-81 victory over Texas-El Paso on Wednesday.

Brown, who hit nine of his 15 field goal attempts and went 7-of-8 from the free throw line, led the 49ers with five steals.

Charlotte (7-2) took control early, scoring the game's first 11 points before stretching its lead to 32-9 with 9:27 remaining in the first half. The 49ers led 53-32 at halftime.

James Zimmerman and Rodney White scored 15 points each for the 49ers while Jobey Thomas scored 13 and Cam Stephens added 10. Stephens led Charlotte with 10 rebounds.

Charlotte hit 10 of its 21 3-point shots.

UTEP (6-1) was led by Eugene Costello, who scored 23 points and added a team-high six assists. Brandon Wolfram scored 18 points, Roy Smallwood scored 16 and Brian Stewart added 12. Wolfram led the Miners with nine rebounds.

CORRECTION

PAMPA — Three players were omitted from the roster in last Sunday's article on the Pampa freshmen girls basketball team. They were Nerissa Perry, Jera Skinner and Brittany Herriman.

FOOTBALL

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi State All-America cornerback Fred Smoot has been declared academically ineligible and will not play in the Independence Bowl game against Texas A&M on New Year's Eve.

Smoot, a senior, failed to meet Southeastern Conference standards by not passing at least 50 percent of the minimum hours required for full-time student-athletes. "I feel bad," Smoot said Wednesday. "I let more than just myself down, I let my teammates, coaches and Mississippi State down. But it's all about education first and then football. And you can't have one without the other."

Smoot said he was one class short.

"I thought I had everything under control," he said. "But I came up short."

"We regret that Fred won't be with us," said football coach Jackie Sherrill. "I especially regret it for Fred. At the same time, I applaud the SEC Presidents for taking the stand they did, which parallels the importance we place on academics."

"The fact is, you have to get a degree. It's more important to go to school and get a degree than to play in a bowl game," he said.

Smoot, 6-foot-1, and 179-pounds, was a two-time All-SEC pick, a first-team Associated Press All-American, and one of three finalists for the Thorpe Award, given annually to the nation's top defensive back.

He led the Bulldogs with five interceptions this season, to go along with 55 tackles, 19 pass break ups, 2 tackles for loss and a blocked PAT.

In 23 consecutive starts, he piled up 112 tackles and 10 interceptions, good for a tie for fifth on the Bulldogs' all-time interceptions list.

In Smoot's absence, Sherrill said senior Eugene Clinton, or juniors Shawn Byrdson or Marco Minor will start at right cornerback against the Aggies.

Smoot said he hasn't decided if he'll attend the Independence Bowl yet.

"It's real hard to watch," he said. "I haven't sat out of a game since 10th grade. But it's not over for me academically. I still plan to graduate from Mississippi State. I'll be back in the spring. Sometimes you can't fix your mistakes; this one I can."

Pampa gymnasts compete at State Championships

ARLINGTON — Brittany Warminski and Lacie Thompson, who both train at Gymnastics of Pampa, recently attended the Level 5 Texas State Championships in Arlington.

The two girls earned the right to compete at the State meet by placing at the North State Semi-Finals after a season of qualifying meets in their district.

Brittany, who comes from White Deer to train with coach Kristi Fatheree, was the highest scoring and highest placing gymnast from District 1 at North State and at State. Only three other gymnasts from District 1 qualified for the State Championships, along with Brittany and Lacie. The Pampa gymnasts competed with 250 other girls at the Championships for the

top spots in the State.

Brittany had a sensational Level 5 season, where she won the All-Around title at three District qualifying meets, the District Championship Bar, Beam, Floor and All-Around title, and finished second on beam, fifth on floor, 16th on bars, and sixth All-Around at the North State Semi-Finals. She topped off her season with outstanding performances at State.

She tied her personal best score on balance beam, 9.4, to finish in second place. Brittany had a beautiful floor exercise routine for a 9.35 and eighth place. She had another personal best on bars 9.2 to tie teammate Lacie Thompson for 20th place. In the All-Around, Brittany had a 36.0 and finished in 22nd place.

Lacie qualified to the State meet by finishing

19th in All-Around and fifth on bars at North State, and she is a two-time District Champion on vault.

Her All-Around at the State meet was a 34.375.

"Both girls competed very well at their first State meet. For Brittany to go in and do her best ever on two events was remarkable. The pressure at a State meet is tremendous and the girls handled it well. The judging at this big of a meet is always very tough, so we were very excited," Coach Fatheree said.

The gymnasts and their teammates will continue their training, and will attend several invitational meets in the next few months, including the Nadia Comaneci Invitational, a large meet for beginning competitive to Elite level gymnasts in Norman, Okla.



(Special photo)

Brittany Warminski (left) and Lacie Thompson display the medals they won at the Texas State Championships.

Stars lose to Devils in Stanley Cup rematch

By The Associated Press

The New Jersey Devils picked up where they left off in the Stanley Cup finals.

Patrick Elias had a goal and three assists in the opening 10:29 as New Jersey drove Ed Belfour to the bench and defeated Dallas 4-1 Wednesday night in their first meeting since the Devils beat the Stars in the Stanley Cup final.

"We were ready to go from the drop of the puck," said Jason Arnott, who scored the Cup clincher in overtime in June. "The passing was on. We had chances in other games. Tonight they went in for us."

Stanley Cup MVP Scott Stevens also scored and Martin Brodeur had 23 saves in the one-sided game.

"The first 10 minutes was almost too good to be true," Stevens said.

The game was very reminiscent of Game 1 of last year's cup finals. The Devils won that one 7-3 behind an 11-point performance by the line of Arnott, Elias and Petr Sykora.

The trio dominated play again, accounting for nine points. Elias' four points in the first period tied a team record accomplished five other times, the last by Stephane Richer in 1993.

In other NHL games, it was St. Louis 6, the New York Rangers 3; Buffalo 2, Washington 2; San Jose 2, Detroit 0; Nashville 3, Toronto 1; Pittsburgh 2, Florida 2; Ottawa 2, Minnesota 2; Phoenix 4, Calgary 2; Atlanta 4, Anaheim 2; and Edmonton 3,

Vancouver 2 in overtime.

At New Jersey, the opening 10 minutes were a horror for Dallas coach Ken Hitchcock, who has seen his team outscored 10-1 in its last two games. The Stars lost 6-0 to Minnesota on Sunday.

Kirk Muller's first-period goal prevented Dallas from being shut out for the second straight game.

"Jersey meant business, and we weren't there at the start," Hitchcock said.

Belfour, who came into the game with a 1.89 goals-against average, struggled for the second straight game, giving up four goals on nine shots, with the final three goals coming on the last three shots. He has given up 10 goals on 37 shots in less than four periods in his last two starts.

"Normally, I like to be the difference, and tonight I wasn't," Belfour said.

Blues 6, Rangers 3

Pavol Demitra tied career highs with three goals and five points and Roman Turek stopped 20 shots as visiting St. Louis extended its unbeaten streak to 10 games.

Craig Conroy, Dallas Drake and Michal Handzus also scored for the Blues. Petr Nedved wrecked Turek's bid for his fifth shutout of the season when he scored with 8:38 remaining.

Sabres 2, Capitals 2

Buffalo's Miroslav Satan scored with 14:57 left in the third period, and the Sabres survived a flurry of Washington scoring chances in overtime at MCI Center.

Satan tied the game when he

knocked a blind pass from J.P. Dumont past Washington goalie Olaf Kolzig.

Sharks 2, Red Wings 0

Evgeni Nabokov made 31 saves for his third shutout, and San Jose won its fifth straight game, snapping Detroit's four-game unbeaten streak.

The victory was just the Sharks' second ever in 19 regular-season games at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Predators 3, Maple Leafs 1

Robert Valicevic scored a tiebreaking goal with 1:31 remaining as Toronto lost its third straight game for the first time this season.

Greg Johnson had a goal and an assist for visiting Nashville, which ended a three-game losing streak.

Panthers 2, Penguins 2

Milan Kraft scored a short-handed goal for visiting Pittsburgh in the third period, but the Penguins had to settle for a tie when Alexei Kovalev's apparent game-winner was disallowed in overtime.

Kovalev skated in on Trevor Kidd and wristed a shot into the net for the apparent game-winning goal with 1:10 left. However Florida's Anders Eriksson had slid into Kidd and inadvertently dislodged the goal moorings. After a review, the officials waved off the goal.

Wild 2, Senators 2

Darby Hendrickson scored two goals as host Minnesota rallied from a two-goal deficit to snap Ottawa's four-game winning streak.

Rangers turn their focus to pitching

DALLAS (AP) — Having bolstered their offense with the \$252 million signing of Alex Rodriguez, the Texas Rangers turned their focus to upgrading the worst pitching staff in baseball.

General manager Doug Melvin met for 3 1/2 hours Wednesday with free agent right-hander David Cone. Melvin planned to talk with the pitcher's agent in the next few days but said no offers have been made.

"It's too early to tell, but there might be a right mix, a right fit," Melvin said by phone from Tampa, Fla., where he met Cone.

During his meeting with Melvin, Cone worked out and spoke about his problems of 2000, when he was 4-14 with a 6.91 ERA for the New York Yankees.

"We talked about last year and what went wrong, how he feels he can bounce back," Melvin said. "He felt that last year in the offseason he didn't work as hard as he should. He slacked off, and

he blamed himself."

Cone turns 38 on Jan. 2.

The Rangers also signed left-hander Justin Thompson, who hasn't pitched for Texas since being acquired last year, to a \$2.42 million, one-year contract. The Rangers also signed infielder Frank Catalanotto, who came to Texas in the same trade as Thompson, to a one-year contract.

Thompson, acquired from Detroit in a nine-player trade last offseason for Juan Gonzalez, didn't pitch this season because of shoulder surgery, but the Rangers remain optimistic that he will still be an impact pitcher.

Thompson is gets a \$1.42 million salary for 2001 and could earn performance bonuses that would raise his earnings to \$3,025,000 — matching 2000. The deal includes a team option for 2002 that will be worth \$2.5 million to \$5 million, depending on his performance this season. If the option isn't exercised, he would get a \$1 million buyout.

In all, he could make about \$9 million for two years.

"We have hopes that he will be back and pitching for us midseason," Melvin said. "At that point, we have an option on him so that year we feel very confident that he will be back at full strength and able to reach a higher level of performance."

Thompson, 27, is still undergoing rehabilitation and isn't expected to be ready for the start of the 2001 season. He has had surgery two more times since the arthroscopic surgery that ended his 1999 season.

Thompson was an All-Star in 1997, his first full season with Detroit, when he was 15-11 with a 3.02 ERA in 32 starts. He was 20-25 the next two seasons, including just 24 starts in 1999 before arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder that August.

Thompson needed additional surgery in May to repair a left rotator cuff tear. He continued to have pain in the shoulder while undergoing rehab and had

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Golden Eagles win bowl game

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Southern Mississippi delivered a message to a Conference USA newcomer: Get ready for a wild ride.

The Golden Eagles shed their late-season offensive struggles, contained Texas Christian tailback LaDorian Tomlinson and got the best of the nation's top defense Wednesday night.

The final blow was Jeff Kelly's 29-yard touchdown pass to freshman Kenny Johnson with eight seconds left, giving Southern Miss a 28-21 win over the 13th-ranked Horned Frogs in the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

It was a wild beginning to the bowl season and a triumphant finish for a senior class that won three of four bowl games.

"It's like I told our seniors," said Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower, whose team went 8-4 despite losing three of its last four regular-season games. "You always want to leave the program better than the previous senior class, and the foundation of this program is stronger than it's ever been."

The Horned Frogs (10-2) missed a chance to win bowl games in three consecutive years for the first time. Next season, they'll join Conference USA, where Southern Miss has won three titles in five years.

They'll make the move without Tomlinson and four starting offensive linemen, and with a new coaching staff, led by former defensive coordinator Gary Patterson. Quarterback Casey Printers will be back, too, and looking forward to the challenge.

"You want better competition," the sophomore said. "That's what we live for."

The Southern Miss defense, rated No. 2 overall coming in, sent Tomlinson, a Heisman Trophy finalist after rushing for more than 2,000 yards, into the NFL with what for him was a poor game. Tomlinson scored a pair of third-quarter TDs, but was held to 118 yards on 28 carries. He was still voted the game's Most Valuable Player by the media.

"He got his yards, but we held him to a minimum," said Southern Miss safety Leo Barnes, who returned an interception 50 yards for a TD in the first quarter. It was his fourth interception return for a score this season.

Normally reliable placekicker Brant Hanna had a nightmare game for Southern Miss, missing four field goals and getting two blocked.



Brandon Slay pictured above at The Pampa Takedown Club banquet.

Slay to hold Tascosa camp

AMARILLO — Olympic gold medalist Brandon Slay will be the main instructor at the two-day First Greater Gold Christmas Wrestling Camp scheduled Friday and Saturday at Tascosa High School.

The camp will offer each participant four wrestling sessions under Slay and his group of instructors. The Friday and Saturday sessions will last from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-4 p.m.

Greater Gold was started by Slay and his best friend, Brandon Brown.

Slay and Brown were graduates from Tascosa High and each wrestled at the NCAA Division I level.

The focus of Greater Gold is to bring out the champion in every student.

The camp will include technique instruction, intense drilling, situation wrestling and live wrestling.

Following the final session, Slay will sign autographs and speak to the athletes on what it takes to "become a Greater Gold Champion."

Slay won the 167.5 pound freestyle division at the 2000 Sydney Olympics last fall, becoming the first Texan to win a gold medal in wrestling.

Cost for the camp is \$150. For families with more than one participant, each additional child is \$85. For more information, call (806) 457-8800, or e-mail Slay at camps@greatergold.com.

Slay was in Pampa last weekend for The Pampa Takedown Club clinic and banquet.

Bowling

Harvester Lanes League Results	Casino League	Ladies high scratch series: Peggy Smith 247.	Men's high scratch series: Rick Dunn 237.	Men's high scratch series: Rick Dunn 597.
Smith 268	Ladies high scratch series: Peggy Smith 705.	Wednesday Night Mixed League	Ladies high scratch game: Gail Nabors 204.	Ladies high scratch series: Susan Ratzlaff 559.
Men's high scratch game: Dan Anderson & Warren Dahn 247.	Men's high scratch series: Carl Cates 713.			

COLLEGE FOOTBALL										
College Bowl Games At A Glance										
Sunday, Dec. 21										
Las Vegas Bowl At Las Vegas Payout: \$800,000 UNLV (7-5) vs. Arkansas (6-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)										
Sunday, Dec. 24										
Oahu Bowl At Honolulu Payout: \$750,000 Virginia (6-5) vs. Georgia (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)										
Monday, Dec. 25										
Blue-Gray Classic At Montgomery, Ala. Blue vs. Gray, Noon (ABC)										
Monday, Dec. 25										
Aloha Bowl At Honolulu Payout: \$750,000 Boston College (6-5) vs. Arizona State (6-5), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Dec. 27										
Motor City Bowl At Pontiac, Mich. Payout: \$750,000 Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m. (ESPN)										
Wednesday, Dec. 27										
Motor City Bowl At Pontiac, Mich. Payout: \$750,000 Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m. (ESPN)										
Thursday, Dec. 28										
Humanitarian Bowl At Boise, Idaho Payout: \$750,000 Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2)										
Thursday, Dec. 28										
Humanitarian Bowl At Boise, Idaho Payout: \$750,000 Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2)										
Friday, Dec. 29										
Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. Payout: \$1.25 million Colorado State (9-2) vs. Louisville (9-2), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)										
Saturday, Dec. 30										
Alamo Bowl At San Antonio Payout: \$1.2 million Nebraska (9-2) vs. Northwestern (8-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)										
Sunday, Dec. 31										
Silicon Valley Classic At San Jose, Calif. Payout: \$1.2 million Fresno State (7-4) vs. Air Force (8-3), 7 p.m. (FOXSN)										
Monday, Jan. 1										
Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Payout: \$2 million Ohio State (8-3) vs. South Carolina (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)										
Monday, Jan. 1										
Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Payout: \$2 million Ohio State (8-3) vs. South Carolina (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)										
Tuesday, Jan. 2										
Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Payout: \$13.5 million Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 2										
Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Payout: \$13.5 million Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Jan. 3										
Orange Bowl At Miami Payout: \$11.13 million Oklahoma (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)										
Thursday, Jan. 4										
Cotton Bowl At Dallas Payout: \$2.5 million Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11 a.m. (FOX)										
Thursday, Jan. 4										
Cotton Bowl At Dallas Payout: \$2.5 million Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11 a.m. (FOX)										
Friday, Jan. 5										
Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$13.5 million Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)										
Friday, Jan. 5										
Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$13.5 million Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)										
Saturday, Jan. 6										
Gator Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla. Payout: \$1.4 million Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)										
Saturday, Jan. 6										
Gator Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla. Payout: \$1.4 million Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)										
Sunday, Jan. 7										
Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Payout: \$13.5 million Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Sunday, Jan. 7										
Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Payout: \$13.5 million Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 9										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 9										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Jan. 10										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Thursday, Jan. 11										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Friday, Jan. 12										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Saturday, Jan. 13										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Sunday, Jan. 14										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Monday, Jan. 15										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 16										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Jan. 17										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Thursday, Jan. 18										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Friday, Jan. 19										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Saturday, Jan. 20										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Sunday, Jan. 21										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Monday, Jan. 22										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 23										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Jan. 24										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Thursday, Jan. 25										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Friday, Jan. 26										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Saturday, Jan. 27										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Sunday, Jan. 28										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Monday, Jan. 29										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Tuesday, Jan. 30										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										
Wednesday, Jan. 31										
Lubbock Bowl At Lubbock, Texas Payout: \$1.2 million Lubbock (10-1) vs. Amarillo (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)										

Evernham's project taking shape

By MIKE HARRIS
AP Motorsports Writer

Ray Evernham has an on-the-job training regimen that might overwhelm a lesser man.

This is the man who in the last decade was the top crew chief in NASCAR, guiding Jeff Gordon to three Winston Cup championships and 47 victories before deciding to start his own team and direct the re-entry of Dodge to the sport after a 16-year absence.

Dodge will be back Feb. 18 in the season-opening Daytona 500, and that should make things easier for Evernham.

"I'm working hard, probably too hard, to the point where I get physically exhausted at 8 or 9 o'clock at night," Evernham said. "I can't run until 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock like I used to. That was a 25-year-old body. This is a 43-year-old body. It just won't put up with that."

Evernham feels good about what has been achieved, but is realistic about how much remains to be done.

"I look at what we have to do to get there and I say, 'We can do this,'" he said.

While both Evernham Motorsports and the Dodge program have taken shape, Evernham has tried to emulate former boss Rick Hendrick and new role model Joe Gibbs.

Hendrick's teams won an unprecedented four straight titles from 1995 to 1998 with Gordon and teammate Terry Labonte.

"I still pick up the phone and call Rick and ask for his advice on some things," Evernham said. "I certainly learned a lot by

watching him work with the business side. A lot of people don't think about that until you're faced with it.

"The things that get you are what you don't know that you don't know."

Gibbs, who came to stock car racing after winning three Super Bowls as coach of the Washington Redskins, has built a potential dynasty with drivers Bobby Labonte — Terry's younger brother — and Tony Stewart.

After Labonte finished second in points and Stewart won rookie honors for Gibbs in 1999, the team got stronger. Labonte won the championship this year, and Stewart led the series with six victories.

What the man still known as "Coach" has accomplished in his nine years in the sport — and particularly the way he has done it — is not lost on Evernham.

"I've had my eye on how Joe has built his operation for a long time because he did it a little different than everybody else," Evernham said. "He came in from the outside and built it very much like a sports franchise."

"Joe Gibbs' organization is built on a very, very solid foundation and that could be bad news for a lot of people, including me, for a long time."

Gibbs bought cars and leased engines when he began and now has his own engine and engineering departments.

"Now he's got it like he wants it," Evernham said. "No disruptions or distractions going forward. He was patient and did it step by step by step. I hope I can be that patient."

That has not been a particular

virtue for the one-time modified race driver and IROC mechanic from New Jersey.

"My biggest problem with myself has always been impatience," Evernham said. "The reality of all this does tell you the more projects you take on, you still can't add any more hours in the day."

A saving grace for Evernham, who bought and assimilated Bill Elliott's team, as well as hiring the former series champion and promising rookie Casey Atwood as his drivers, is his love of teaching.

And the teacher in him is not limited to on-track guidance. It's also aimed at bringing Evernham Motorsports up to speed quickly.

"The way you get around the time thing is getting young people, training them and delegating more things," he said.

For the first six months he had a problem with that. Now, he's more comfortable with delegating authority and accepting that not everybody does things his way.

"You're always going to wish for more time," Evernham said with a smile. "We were able to accomplish a lot of things before I took this project on. Now I've got another opportunity."

Hendrick, who was ready to make Evernham his team's general manager before he decided to go his own way, is certain his former employee will continue to be a rousing success.

"Nobody works harder than Ray or is more determined to succeed," Hendrick said. "Most important, he truly understands stock car racing. He'll learn the business part. When he does, he's going to be tough to beat."

Mickey Mantle Jr. dies of complications from cancer

DALLAS (AP) — A private funeral and entombment are planned for Saturday for Mickey Mantle Jr.

The 47-year-old son of the great New York Yankees slugger died Wednesday of complications from cancer, five years after the disease killed his father.

Mantle Jr., the oldest of the Hall of Famer's sons, is the second to die from cancer.

A private service has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday in

the chapel of Sparkman-Hillcrest funeral home. He will be entombed with his father and brother, Billy, in the family mausoleum at the adjoining cemetery.

Mickey Mantle died of liver cancer in August 1995 at age 63. His father died at age 41 from Hodgkin's disease; his grandfather and an uncle were both 40 when they died of the same illness.

The youngest of Mantle's four sons, Billy, suffered from

Hodgkin's disease, a lymphatic cancer, before dying of a heart attack in 1994 at age 36.

In 1998, Mantle Jr. had a malignant tumor removed from his neck and had 36 radiation treatments.

The tumor was discovered when he was having trouble swallowing. Since August, he had been in and out of R.H. Dedman Memorial Hospital for treatment, said Dorothy M. Weber, a New York City attorney who represents the family in trademark and licensing.

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NASA requests proposals for Pluto robot mission

By PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

NASA wants to tap the brains of America's space thinkers to develop a mission to faraway Pluto that is cheap enough to be

feasible and won't significantly delay a planned exploration of one of Jupiter's moons.

Ed Weiler, the agency's chief of space science, announced Wednesday that the agency was seeking proposals that would make it possible to send a robot craft to Pluto before the most distant of the solar system planets sweeps out of reach.

A launch planned in 2004 to Pluto, the only planet not yet visited by robot probes, was canceled in June because of spiraling costs.

Weiler said at the time that rising expenses for the Pluto-Kuiper Express were threatening the schedule for a higher-priority mission: a probe to Europa, a Jupiter moon that may harbor an ocean and possibly life.

The costs of the Europa and Pluto missions had risen from \$650 million to \$1.5 billion and Weiler said he acted to stay within budget and preserve the Europa mission.

The decision prompted protests from space-oriented organizations such as the Planetary Society and the American Astronomical Society.

Planetary scientists feared the opportunity to explore Pluto would be lost for years. Reaching Pluto with current technology requires a spacecraft first to pass by Jupiter and pick up speed with a gravitational boost from that huge planet. After 2006, Pluto will move out of alignment for such a boost from Jupiter, and the

opportunity for a Pluto mission could be lost for about 20 years.

Under the new plan, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is soliciting proposals for a cheaper Pluto mission that would have only a modest impact on the Europa mission launch plans.

A delay of the Europa mission to 2008 would be acceptable, Weiler said, but not much beyond that. Its original launch date was to have been 2003, delayed by costs.

There is high interest and support for the Europa mission because early studies suggest that its Jovian moon has an ice-capped ocean. Some scientists believe that if this is true, then the possibility exists of life there. The search for life beyond Earth is among NASA's highest priorities.

Weiler said NASA will accept Pluto mission proposals from any organization, including universities, aerospace companies, even NASA centers such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which was in charge of the canceled Pluto mission.

"We'll leave it to the best minds in the country to determine the mission," he said. "We are trying to cast the net wide to see what ideas are out there."

Weiler said NASA is open to considering any "viable option" but is not committed to a Pluto mission.

At least two of the proposals, which are due March 19, will be picked in May for more study. If

NASA concludes a Pluto mission is possible, the announcement will be made next fall, Weiler said.

The proposals require that a spacecraft, with specific scientific and imaging capabilities, reach Pluto by 2015 and cost no more than \$500 million.

"We are gratified that NASA is trying to restore the Pluto mission to its launch schedule," Louis Friedman, director of the Planetary Society, said in a statement.

He said both the Europa and Pluto missions are "essential steps in exploring our planetary environment," and NASA "must find a way to launch missions to both worlds in the next eight years."

On the Net: Pluto-Kuiper Express site: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ice-fire/pkexpr.htm>

Europa Orbiter site: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ice-fire/europao.htm>

There is high interest and support for the Europa mission because early studies suggest that its Jovian moon has an ice-capped ocean. Some scientists believe that if this is true, then the possibility exists of life there.

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