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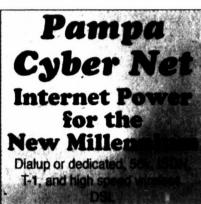
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> Vol. 96 No. 225 · Pampa, Texas 50° Daily · Sunday §1





Installation and Equipment Extra

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Not Available In All Areas



High today 32 Low tonight 15 For weather details see Page 2.

Slick highways claim nine lives

Nine people died in a pair accidents on rain-slickened Texas highways on Tuesday. Five people were killed and two others were hospitalized Tuesday after a tour-vehicle accident on rain-slickened U.S. 175 near Athens in East Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

Four people, including a 2year-old and a 4-year-old, were killed in a two-vehicle collision near Coldsprings in San Jacinto County.

Carolyn Bishop, 51, and her 18-year-old daughter, Patricia Bishop, both of Bullard, died when their eastbound car crossed the center lane of U.S. 175 near Athens about 2 p.m. said DPS spokesman Tom

Their car hit a sport utility vehicle, careened into oncoming traffic and collided with a third car, he said.

Fairis Williams, 79, of Nacogdoches died at the scene. Patrick Hanigan and Lederick Williams, both of Nacogdoches, died at East Texas Medical Center in Athens, Jennifer Spencer, 19, and Flora Spencer, both of Nacogdoches, were listed in serious condition at the hospital Tuesday

The cause of the accident remained under investigation, but Vinger said heavy rainfall across the area may have been a factor.

"It does appear that the weather was a factor in this wreck, it was raining at the time," Vinger said.

· Fred Cable, services pend-

· Doris Aylene Drake, 84, genealogist, clubwoman. J.P. Franks, 68, retired RV

park owner. · lewel Lawson, 85, retired Roberts County employee. • Eula Mae Morrow, services

pending. James R. Schuneman, 65, services pending.

Comics 4

Dig out from 15-inch snowfall begins

Pampa man dies using snowblower

By KATE B. DICKSON **Associate Publisher**

An autopsy has been requested to determine the cause of death of James R. Schuneman, 65, who died Tuesday while using a snowblower.

Schuneman, of 1816 N. Russell, had cleared his driveway with the self-propelled machine and had started on a neighbor's drive when he collapsed, his stepdaughter, Barbara Hughes, said today.

"He had done his driveway and came in for about 30 min-

Asked if the calls are from people who need to get back to their homes after spending the holiday here, Sheriff's dispatcher/jailer Shelly McCarn laughed and said, "There are some relatives at my house who need to go home."

utes to get warm and to drink a cup of hot chocolate," she said. "He was fine."

But when Schuneman started on the second driveway, he collapsed, apparently dying

More well water in mix reduces byproduct level

Associate Publisher

There's good news in the latest results from state testing of Pampa's city water supply — the level of trihalomethanes has dropped below the prohibited mark.

That's the word from City Manager Bob Eskridge who received the report last week from Public Works Director Richard Morris. The primary reason for the drop in THMs is because the city is using much more well water than it did previously and less water

from Lake Meredith. THMs are a byproduct of the disinfectant process — a process used to treat Lake Meredith water but not needed with well water. THMs occur most often when chlorine comes in contact with car-

bon-based material (leaves, dirt, etc.) in surface water. But even though the chemical, which has caused cancer in laboratory animals after long-term exposure, is now below the 100 parts per billion threshold, the City of Pampa still taces a \$ 9,775 fine from

the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The city must also find an alternative to using chlorine to treat the

(See WATER, Page 2)

Livestock Show Jan. 26-27

The Gray County Junior Livestock show will be held at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion at Recreation Park the weekend of Jan. 26-27. Steers will be shown on Friday at 6 p.m. and the swine will show at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The barbecue will be held again and serving will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday followed by the auction at

In order for all exhibitors to receive a fair price for their animal, contributions are being sought. Contributions may be sent to the Gray County Junior Livestock Show at P.O. Box 853, Pampa, TX

Meanwhile, Pampa remained that left the city covered in 15 was juggling calls this morning

But far from quiet were the ditions. a relatively quiet town today as telephones at the Gray County many residents stayed put in the Sheriff's Department where diswake of a two-day winter storm patcher/jailer Shelly McCarn

most of them about road con

"So far there haven't been many people out on the roads but I think a lot of the callers are (See SNOW, Page 2)



Tom Auwen blazes a trail through 15 inches of snow surrounding First United Methodist Church at Foster and Ballard streets early this morning. Volunteers from the church used snow blowers, small tractors with blades, and shovels to clear around the church this morning in preparation for a funeral service to be conducted there later today.



Centenarian George Keeton joyfully accepts kisses and hugs from members of the Pampa Middle School 7th Grade Girls Choir. The choir serenaded him with a chorus of "Happy Birthday" in honor of Keeton's 101st birthday when the group performed at the Bank of America recently.

He's 101 today! Keeton remains sharp, spry as he celebrates

By DEE DEE LARAMORE

While most of the area digs out from a heavy snowfall, a Pampa man says he'll stay inside his warm apartment and celebrate his 101st

"Ain't this wonderful?" exclaimed George Keeton in a telephone interview this morning. "I'm staying on the inside looking out."

Keeton, who is 101 today, said he'll celebrate this special day with dinner a family friend plans to bring him.

"The Lord's so good. He knows what we need," he said of the snow. "I've just been sitting inside listening to the radio all day. When I get tired of that, I go to singing.

Keeton loves to sing. Start any hymn and he'll join in with enthusiasm. One of his favorite activities, he said, is to go to Second Sunday

Singing at the Pentecostal Church on Alcock Street. "I love gospel singing," he confided.

With more than a century of good living behind him, Keeton remains sharp and spry. He's well known as the greeter at Bank of America, where a special table with his own name plate is set up Recently he greeted school choirs from local schools as they came to carol for the bank's customers. He'd join in the singing and afterwards handed out candy canes to the young choristers

At 101, Keeton lives alone at the Pam Apartments, his home for the

past six or seven years. "I love it here. It's a great place," he said.

And Keeton still drives his late model car around the community. "I just got my driver's license renewed," he said. "I had to go down and take a test."

Fumbling in his pocket, he pulled out a pair of glasses.

(See 101, Page 2)

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

DRAKE, Doris Aylene — Graveside services, 1 p.m., Memorial Park Cemetery East Mausoleum,

FRANKS, J.P. — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Obituaries

FRED CABLE

McLEAN - Services are pending for Fred Cable of McLean. Arrangements are being handled by Lamb Funeral Home of McLean.

DORIS AYLENE DRAKE

AMARILLO - Doris Aylene Ballard Drake, 84, a former Pampa resident, died Sunday, Dec. 24, 2000. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday in Memorial Park Cemetery East Mausoleum with Brent Ashby officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Park Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Drake was born at Guthrie. She graduated from Pampa High School and had lived in various places in the panhandle with her family. She married Dwight Newell Drake in 1940 at Lubbock; he died in 1997. The couple settled in Perryton and established their own business.

She was a genealogist and belonged to Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and Descendants of Austin's Old Three Hundred.

She had been an Amarillo resident since 1997. Survivors include a daughter, Karen Slagle of Amarillo; a son, Dan Drake of Amarillo; a sister, Earlene Hergert of Orlando, Fla.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Alzheimer's Association, 2200 W. 7th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79106; or to BSA Hospice, 200 N.W. 7th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79107.

J.P. FRANKS

J.P. Franks, 68, of Pampa, died Sunday, Dec. 24, 2000, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa

Mr. Franks was born Jan. 14, 1932, at Lela, Texas. He came to Pampa in 1968 and ownedoperated Catalina Club from 1972 until selling the business in 1986. He moved to Port Aransas, purchasing the Mustang R.V. Park, and retired and returned to Pampa in 1998.

Survivors include two sons, Charles Ray Franks of Lexington, Okla., and Phineas Dean Franks of Shamrock; a stepdaughter, Kathy Murphy of Pampa; a stepson, Leroy Thacker of Pampa; his mother, Lucille Franks of Shamrock; three brothers, Jimmy Franks of Shamrock, Paul Franks of Amarillo and Larry Franks of Canadian; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

JEWEL LAWSON

MIAMI — Jewel Lawson, 85, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2000, at Amarillo. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Lawson was born Oct. 4, 1915.

A Miami resident for 65 years, she was a member of First Baptist Church of Miami and was a longtime Roberts County employee.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Lawson, in 1973.

Survivors include three daughters, Patsy Minick of Canadian, Rita Wilson of Canton, Okla., and Belva Greenhouse of Earth; and three sisters, Fave Nix and Helen Allison, both of Denton, and Ophelia Sons of Aubrey. **EULA MAE MORROW**

McLEAN — Services are pending for Eula Mae Morrow of McLean. Arrangements are under the

direction of Lamb Funeral Home of McLean. JAMES R. SCHUNEMAN James R. Schuneman, 65, of Pampa, died

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2000. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Accidents

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

Friday, Dec. 22

4:43 p.m. – A 2000 Ford Taurus driven by Wayne Albert McKean, 74, 904 Terry Rd., collided with a 1985 Ford Ranger pickup driven by Ella Stillwell Cross, 80, 1948 1/2 N. Nelson, at the intersection of West 21st and Banks streets. McKean was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Monday, Dec. 25

8:47 a.m. - A 1999 Honda Accord driven by Dr. Mustafa Hussain, 44, of Amarillo, slid on the ice and collided with a curb and road sign at the intersection of West Wilks and South Wells streets. Damage to the sign, owned by the State of Texas, was valued at \$100. No injuries were reported at the scene.

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| Market quotations are furnished by | Ultramar31 up 9/16 |
| Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa. | Wal-Mart |
| BP Amoro48 13/16 up 7/16 | Williams 38 7/16 up 1 |
| Cabet25 7/16 up 1/16 | |
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| | Silver |
| | West Texas Crude |
| Coca-Cola | Trans Committee Control Editor |

Police report

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

Friday, Dec. 22

Forgery of a government instrument was reported in the 1000 block of South Hobart. A photocopy of a resident alien card was found in the wallet of Sergio Cameros, 38, 400 E. Louisiana, when he was arrested for driving without a license.

reported in the 200 block of North Faulkner. Domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of South Nelson.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was

Theft was reported at Allsup's 309 N. Hobart. Vandalism was reported in the 2300 block of

Public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 400 block of North Ballard.

Phone harassment was reported in the 400 block of South Houston.

Saturday, Dec. 23 Simple assault was reported in the 1600 block

of West Somerville. Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported

in the 1000 block of Wilkes. Minor in possession was reported in the 700

block of North Dwight. Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather, reported a gas

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 400 block of North Russell. Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100

block of North Frost. Sunday, Dec. 24

An assault was reported at Wal-Mart, 2200 N. Hobart. According to police reports, a man tried to buy a video camcorder using a check on another person's account. When the clerk telephoned the person whose name was on the check, the clerk was told that the checks had been stolen a few days earlier. The man tried to run out of the store, but was stopped by store employees. In the process, Justin Matthew Sperry, 24, a store

employee, was knocked down and suffered a knee injury. Travis Lawton Marcum, 38, of Borger was arrested on a charge of simple assault. Further charges are pending after consultation with authorities in Borger, police said. Taylor Mart, 2101 N. Hobart, reported a gas

Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart, reported a gas drive-

Monday, Dec. 25

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks. A Hispanic male in a black vehicle, possibly an Accura Legend, reportedly stole two 30-pack cases of Budweiser beer valued at \$35.98.

Sheriff's Office

No arrests or incidents were reported by the Gray County Sheriff's Office during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Tuesday, Dec. 26

8:40 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky for lifting assistance. 8:59 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800

block of W. 25th and transported one to PRMC. 12:54 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Frost and transported one to

1:01 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to the 800 block of West

2 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of North Wynne and transported one to

2:56 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Russell and transported one to

4:48 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of South Dwight and transported one to

Wednesday, Dec. 27 2:23 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100

block of 1 orth Hobart and transported one to 3:12 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1400

block of East Browning and transported one to

Fires

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26

One unit and three firefighters responded to the 800 block of West 25th on a medical assist.

12:01 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 400 block of Purviance to help a man who had fallen and needed help getting back to his house. 12:18 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters

responded to the 500 block of Frost on a medical p.m. - One unit and three firefighters

responded to the 1800 block of Russell on a med-

5:01 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a request for lifting assistance in the 1000 block of South Dwight.

7:34 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a car fire in the 900 block of Varnon Drive. A 1982 Oldsmobile Toronado parked on the street was completely on fire by the time firefighters arrived. The vehicle was a total loss. No cause was listed on the fire report.



George Keeton shows Suzanne Wood how to direct Pampa Middle School's 7th grade girls choir in a rendition of "Happy Birthday" in honor of his 101st birthday.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

101

"But I've got to wear these. My license's restricted now. I've got to wear these," he said.

Keeton said he should be getting his new license in the mail any day now.

He said the heavy snow fall reminds him of a camp meeting he went to in Oklahoma back in the

"They got together – must have been 60 of them or so - and prayed for rain. They prayed and prayed for rain," he remembered. He said it rained so hard the camp meeting was flooded out and the people had to be rescued from the flooding.

He doesn't have a secret for his longevity, but Keeton's love of people and joy in life shows in all he says and does.

"Tell everybody I love 'em," he exclaims.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SNOW

getting cabin fever and want to get out," McCarn said.

Asked if the calls are from people who need to get back to their homes after spending the holiday here, McCarn laughed and said, "There are some relatives at my house who need to go home.

McCarn said her sister, a police officer in Ardmore, Okla., and her family are visiting bringing the total number of people in the house at 13.

"They were supposed to have gone home Monday night," McCarn said. " ... At least the children are spending a lot of time outside playing in the

McCarn reported that Highway 152 east from Pampa to... he Oklahoma line is closed. Highway 60 had one lane that was passable and crews are working on other roads to clear the snow.

Area residents are being cautioned not to drive unless absolutely necessary.

In Pampa, Public Service Supt. Kimberly Lincycomb said the city's main streets were being gone over for about the fourth time this morning. Residential streets are also getting attention today as snow-moving machines make "one pass down the middle" of those streets.

Employees working in the snow removal crew quit at mid-

the streets at 4 a.m. today, she that. said. Piles of snow left behind from the removal effort will be hauled away later.

Even the venerable U.S. Postal Service has been disrupted by the storm as a spokesman at the Pampa branch said there will be no mail delivery again today. None was delivered Tuesday. "The truck didn't even run,"

said Richard Decker, delivery services supervisor. "I've worked for the post office for 16 years seen mail service suspended for moisture. two days in a row.

move.

to work through this.' A rarity also occurred at *The* accompanied by lots of wind.

Pampa News where newspapers weren't delivered Tuesday and won't be today. Circulation being worse," he said. Director Dean Lynch said today's papers will be delivered to newspaper racks and to counter dealthey missed.

inches of snow but Becky Lentz at Lentz Chevron said it seemed pared to this," Senorn said.

night last night and were back on to her the snow was deeper than

Lentz and others at the station were busy clearing snow the oldfashioned way — with shovels. It's a job, she said, that will take them "quite a while" to finish.

Like many other Pampa businesses, Lentz said things were slow at her station.

"No one has even bought gas this morning," she said about

Darrell Sehorn, KGRO/KOMX meteorologist said the 15-inch and this is the first time I've ever snowfall produced 1.05 inches of

"The areas of Amarillo, T've been in contact with peo- Panhandle, and Pampa were ple in Amarillo and my boss in right in the bull's eye of the Lubbock," he said. "With this storm," he said, noting that amount of snow the trucks can't Panhandle received 20 inches of snow.

"We hope to be able to make While some old-time records some deliveries tomorrow," are not available here, Sehorn Decker said, "but it all depends said there was a snow in 1957 upon how well we can get that exceeded two feet. Another around. We will do what we can in the early 70s was almost that when we can but it will take time deep. In 1987 there was a snowfall of over 15 inches that was

> "The absence of wind this time is what really saved things from

Because the snow on the ground acts like "a refrigerator," Sehorn expects the snow to stay ers. When home delivery returns, around for a while. There's also subscribers will get the papers another "little system" coming our way that will bring a chance Officially, Pampa received 15 of snow Monday and Tuesday.

"But it won't be anything com-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WATER

water and plans have been made to test a miniature version of a system in February. It's a system the city is considering purchasing.

The TNRCC has given the city the option of an alternative to the fine, Eskridge said previously. Most likely the City Commission will vote next month in favor of making a like amount of improvements. These could include cleaning out ditches, removing old tires, reducing infiltration into sewer lines, etc.

It's something the city will receive a benefit from instead of paying \$19,775 to the state, the city manager said when the fine was set in November.

The latest test samples pulled on Nov. 28, who the highest reading to be 80.8 parts per billion and that sample was pulled at the Fred Thompson Plant on West Kentucky, according to the report compiled by Morris. The average THMs is slightly less than 21.0 per billion.

were in parts per billion: pump tific studies indicate that high station on South Barnes, 16.7; levels of THMs in drinking water 1134 Finley, 3.0; 1600 Evergreen, may be linked to increased inci-9.5; 1119 Kiowa, 17.7; pump sta- dences of "spontaneous miscartion No. 3 on South Hobart, less riages during the first trimester than 2.0; Gray County Annex on of pregnancy. Highway 60 east, 9.8; and Clifton Supply at 734 S. Cuyler, 28.6.

spokesman Ruben Ochoa told bottled water ..

Other locations and amounts The Pampa News that recent scien-

As a precautionary measure, he said "The TNRCC recom-Earlier this year when the mends that anyone in the first THM levels were high, TNRCC trimester of pregnancy consume

City Briefs

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

DEPT. STORE in Pampa needs exp. cosmetic person for established line. Hourly plus commission. Send resume to Box 7 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198

JOY'S UNLIMITED closed Wed., Open Thurs. 1 p.m. for Sale, 2218 N. Hobart.

COMET CLEANERS, coats 20% off (leather not included).

ONE OF Two Chevy Caprice Sedans. See Classifieds.

REMEMBER EARLY advertising deadlines for New Years holiday, in the Pampa News. Happy New Year!! 669-2525.

above freezing. Temperatures

should warm slightly to the 20s

in the north and the 50s along the

Rio Grande and skies should

begin to clear from west to east.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Cloudy with a high winds from 5-10 mph. Tonight, clear with a low of 15 and light and variable winds. Partly sunny tomorrow with a high of 37. overnight low 21.

ing as a Canadian cold front loosened its grasp on the state.

Conditions were still treacher- under snow advisories and the ous, however, with fog and ice region had cloudy skies and temcoating North Texas, snow still peratures from the teens to just

blanketing West Texas and patchy cold rain falling over South Texas. Biting northwest winds as fast as 20 mph blew of 32 today and north-northwest over most of the state, and the Texas Coast and Deep South Texas had gusts as fast as 25 mph.

Temperatures statewide Yesterday's high was 23; the ranged from the teens to the mid 40s, with Dalhart reporting 15 STATEWIDE - Wintry pre- degrees and Port Isabel, cipitation gave way to overcast Harlingen and Brownsville skies and fog Wednesday morn-reporting 44 degrees before sunup.

After dipping to as cold as single digits overnight, West Texas should be slightly warmer Thursday with temperatures in the 30s to 60s. Weather remained clammy in

North Texas Wednesday morning as moisture hung in the sky as fog, rather than falling as rain, and temperatures were in the 20s to 30s. Light rain and freezing Parts of West Texas continued rain continued to fall over the southwest portions of North

Mexico region. "It's longed meteoro

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Texas round-up

Forecasters say wintry weather should pull out of Texas soon

UNDATED (AP) — It's not over yet. A winter storm that dumped more than a foot of snow on parts of the Panhandle, glazed parts of North Texas with a tree-toppling coat of ice and brought flooding rains to parts of East Texas could linger until Thursday afternoon, weather officials

The culprit? A storm system centered over New Mexico that has been slow to move out of the

It's been some time since we've seen a prolonged weather event," said Chris Buonanno, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

On Tuesday, the storm knocked out power to about 108,000 residents and caused numerous traffic accidents and flight delays.

Brother of prosecutor gets two-year sentence in case-fixing scheme

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — The brother of a Webb County prosecutor was sentenced Tuesday to more than two years in prison for fixing dozes of drug and drunken driving cases.

Carlos Manuel Rubio, 41, is the second of six men, including two of his relatives, to be sentenced after pleading guilty over a year ago to federal conspiracy charges for his role in a six-year scheme that tapped five other men convicted for fixing dozens of criminal cases for bribes.

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U.S. District Judge George Kazen in Lubbock gave Carlos Rubio, brother of Webb and Zapata counties' district attorney Joe Rubio, a two-year, eight-month sentence and a \$2,000 fine. Carlos Rubio will also concurrently serve a separate, 18month sentence on an unrelated marijuana smug-

In September, Jose Juan Rubio, 34, cousin of Carlos and Joe Rubio, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for his role in the scheme.

Still awaiting sentencing in the case are chief assistant criminal investigator Alfonso Rodriguez, investigator Agustin Mendoza and bail bondsman Jesse Castaneda. Jose Rubio Sr., father of Carlos and Joe and Jose Juan Rubio's uncle, has not been charged, nor has the district attorney.

The five men were charged with soliciting \$200,000 in bribes for pledges to drop or reduce charges in 40 drug, weapon and drunken driving cases between 1992 and 1998.

All were found guilty of conspiracy to commit violations of the Hobbs Act, which prohibits interfering with commerce by robbery, extortion or threats of physical violence. They face up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine per count.

Port of Houston faces having no cruise ships since 1997

HOUSTON (AP) — The cruise business in the Port of Houston has hit rough waters.

Sunday when Norwegian Cruise Line makes it last departure out of Houston before heading to Miami in January.

Norwegian is the last operator at the port's cruise ship terminal at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal, which was built in 1997 for \$3 million.

In September, the port lost the Big Red Boats of Florida-based Premier Cruise Lines. The company had five ships seized by creditors after a fourmonth foray into Gulf cruises.

The Port of Houston plans turn it into parking lot and distribution point for imported cars.

afloat, officials remain hopeful plans the nation's second largest port is fit for passenger business.

"I think we'll get some cruise ships back in Houston," Port Chairman James Edmonds was quoted by the Houston Chronicle Wednesday."I really think that we've proven to that industry that there is a good market here."

Christmas Night appendectomy. Jenna Bush, 19, was released from St. David's Medical Center late

Lawsuit to have public votes for Perry's Bush spokesman replacement pending, Senators vow to vote in private

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some of the largest newspapers in Texas plan to head to court Wednesday to block the state senate from choosing the next presiding officer of the body with non-

Attorney Jennifer Riggs said she plans to file a petition asking a state district judge in Austin for an injunction to prevent the the Texas Senate from selecting former Lt. Gov. Rick Perry's replacement without a a voice vote.

Perry left his post as lieutenant governor to

become governor last week, replacing Presidentelect Bush. The Senate plans to convene Thursday and choose a new presiding officer from within its ranks. That person will have the duties but not the title of lieutenant governor, and will continue to be

In a private caucus Dec. 23, the senators agreed informally that a non-record, or secret, vote would be used to elect Perry's replacement. When the senators meet Thursday, they must approve the rule formally before casting ballots.

'The public has a substantial interest in knowing how its elected representatives vote on who shall perform the duties of lieutenant governor until the next general election. The secret ballot violates the fundamental tenet of an elected official's accountability to the electorate," the petition states, the San Antonio Express-News reported Wednesday.

The petition will be filed on behalf of the Express-News as well as the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Houston Chronicle, Waco Tribune-Herald and Austin-American Statesman and Texas Monthly magazine.

The publications Friday wrote letters to the 31 state senators warning them that a non-record vote, behind closed doors could violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, which requires government bodies to act in public.

Toddler killed in Montgomery fire

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A one-year-old child whose family was visiting relatives in Montgomery for Christmas died early Tuesday in a fire authorities believe may have been caused by a

Demetrius Davis of Fort Hood, Texas died of smoke inhalation in the blaze at a Montgomery home. Demetrius's 9-year-old cousin, Rodrico Davis, and a 52-year-old neighbor, Joe Pickett, were

Six children and two adults were in the house when the fire started about 3:30 a.m., fire officials said. Everybody in the house made it out, but Demetrius and Rodrico.

Sarah Davis, an aunt who lives next door, said Pickett tried to get the boys out of the burning

"When he went in there, he kept calling their names but they never answered, and he couldn't find them," Davis said.

Pickett then tried to remove burglar bars from a

Firefighters found both boys inside a bedroom shortly after arriving on the scene, District Chief Keith Raybon said.

Demetrius died after being taken to a Montgomery hospital. Pickett was in serious condition and Rodrico in guarded condition at the hospital Tuesday night.

ELSEWHERE:

BUYING BINGE: Shoppers braved freezing rain to be first in line Tuesday as stores opened for one of A combination of businesses jumping ship for other ports and others sunk in red ink could scuttle after Christmas. Evelyn Lockett, 61, was upset when the city's fledgling cruise business three years after she arrived with her two grown daughters at one store 10 minutes before the scheduled opening, only The last cruise out of the port appears to be to find the store already full of shoppers. "You have to be here early," said another shopper, Pam Wilson, 44, already well into what she called a daylong "shop 'til you drop" binge or buying for next Christmas. BUSH LAID BACK: President-elect Bush began a brief Florida vacation, leaving behind his daughter recovering from an appendectomy. Aides had called the trip a vacation, but Bush planned to work on assembling his Cabinet. ... HIS-TORIC HOTEL: The 88-year-old Camino Real Hotel, where spectators once gathered on the roof to And rather than holding cruise ships, the termi- watch the Mexican revolution just across the border, nal ocean liners called on will be filled with cars. is expected to become a Hilton. The Mexican owners of the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso have signed a marketing and franchise agreement with Hilton Despite the port's problems keeping a cruise line Corp. that will allow the hotel to use the Hilton name and participate in corporate marketing and the worldwide Hilton reservation database. .. RECOVERY: With her mother by her side, one of President-elect Bush's twin daughters was released from the hospital Tuesday after an emergency

> Gordon Johndroe. Jenna spoke to her father by telephone before going home with Mrs. Bush, who had not planned to join her husband and other family members on a quick vacatrip to

Firefighters don't think prank's funny

ELKHART, Ind. (AP) - Just because there's no smoke doesn't mean there isn't trouble at the firehouse.

Someone delivered marijuana-laced baked goods this weekend to the Elkhart Fire Department's central station, intoxicating 11 fire-

The firefighters are extremely upset that someone would even do this to them," said Fire Chief Jerry Vaughn. "It just blows my mind. I guess that's why firefighters and policemen have a job. You really can't understand criminal minds.

Two of the firefighters got so sick after eating the drugged desserts they had to be treated at a hospital. With almost half of its firefighters incapacitated, the department scrambled to call in firefighters on holiday vacation to work overtime.

The firefighters were tested for multiple contaminants. The one identified was marijuana.

- - Coupon -Happy Holidays From The Staff Of

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\$1000 Off Your Next Service Call

302 E. Foster Expires 3-31-00

Big snow job ...



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore

Dudley Parker uses a small tractor and blade to scrape 15 inches of snow drifted into the parking places in front of First United Methodist Church, Foster and Ballard streets. Parker and a number of volunteers from the church worked hard shoveling snow in preparation for a funeral scheduled for later today.

Meredith House



During the holidays, Santa visited with Meredith House residents Tippy Deer, Bud Hodges and Evelyn Phillips. Cathy Land, RN, looks on in the background.



DELIVERY

YEAR END **CLEARANCE** COMPLETE STOCK **CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE • TOYS** • CANDLES • PICTURE FRAMES • FOSTER GRANT SUNGLASSES OFF RETAIL MARIBORO BRING US YOUR CIGARLLIES CHRISTMAS

PHOTO FINISHING

Good Laugh Goes a Long Way In Healthy, Loving Relationship

DEAR ABBY: In the continuing saga of how men are different from women, let me share this with you.

Peter, my significant other, was involved in a men's counseling group. One of the topics about which they were to report back during their next meeting was "What Women Want From Men in Their Relationships." Members of the group discussed reading the "Women Seeking Men" personal ads to get a better understanding of what women want. (Pretty ingenious if you think about it!)

I told Peter he should do some home study and ask me. I explained that women need to feel loved, wanted, beautiful and needed by their partner. I was in the only bathroom of our home putting the finishing touches on my face, and I asked Peter if he thought he had recently met these qualities in our relationship.

His clever reply was: "I loved you last night. I wanted you to make coffee this morning. You look beautiful today - and I need you to get out of the bathroom right now!"

May I add that one important quality women need from men in a relationship is humor. Humor makes anything possible - and I thank the Lord that my darling has it in abundance SUSAN IN SANTA FE, N.M.

DEAR SUSAN: Peter got his message across, so he is a skilled communicator. And because he's in a counseling



group, it's apparent he's interested in personal growth. I think you've found a "keeper."

SYNDICATED

COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old daughter, "Amber," stays home one or two hours by herself after school until I return home from work. She has rules to go by; however, she has been known to break them.

Amber answers the door when she shouldn't and leaves the door unlocked. She doesn't take seriously the bad things that can happen to

I have an idea that may put her in touch with reality. I'm thinking of asking a male friend to go to my house and knock on the door which I know Amber will answer. At that time, my friend would pretend to be a pushy salesman. He would insist on coming into the house and waiting for her mother. That's as far as I've gotten.

Is this a bad idea? I don't want to scare her into having nightmares, but I want her to know how imporand to follow the rules.
CONCERNED KNOXVILLE MOM

DEAR CONCERNED: Yes, it's a bad idea. I know it's tempting, but such a ruse would be dis-honest and potentially traumatizing. When your daughter discovers you play "tricks," it might give her a false sense of security. Also, your credibility would be damaged for years to come, and your daughter would always wonder what kind of trick you would pull next - and I wouldn't blame her.

DEAR ABBY: If you think your husband is cheating with another woman, do you think it's all right for the wife to ask the woman if she's having an affair with her hus-

> WIFE OF A WANDERING HUSBAND

DEAR WIFE: Absolutely. And who knows? She may be delighted to give you chapter and verse.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY **MUSLIM READERS: Happy Eid** Al-Addah.

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



THERE'S A CROWD AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE AND BUNG

Beetle Bailey

For Better or For Worse

I LOVE HAVING EVERY-





HEY, MOMB! YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD THIS

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NOT BUMPERS, KID-GLOVES! -THIS BABY SCOOPS UP GROUND BALLS!

Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



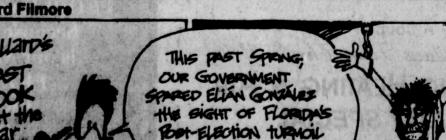




Blondie







A PLACE...

by sending Him to

tant it is to be wary of strangers Horoscope

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) BY JACQUELINE BIGAR The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

4-Positive; 5-Dynamic: 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Use your daydreams for

THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 2000

feedback and direction. Remember, this is the key to your unconscious mind. Not everyone agrees with your perspective. Absorb other views. Live them and feel them before you come to a conclusion. You are on a winning path. Tonight: Join a friend for dinner TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

* * Pressure builds as you look at another holiday weekend. You might feel as if you must accomplish something for work or for an older relative before you can really let go. Make time for an associate and go over financial plans with care. Listen to a dear friend. Tonight: You're the lead actor. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** * * Reach out for another. What this person says and what you hear could be two different things. Carefully review a situation that involves a partner who can be testy. Use your imagination and creativity when making plans. You find nenable solutions for all. Tonight: Relax to good music or surf the Net. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

someone, who needs to know how much have a strong sense of what to do, but InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

you care. Cruise through work. Be willing to reorganize or look at a problem from a different angle. Answers come forward when dealing with others. Tonight: Cozy up in front of a fire.

*** * * Others seek you out to test ideas and perhaps to partake in a little healthy fun. Openly indulge others. You might put someone on a pedestal, whether he belongs there or not. Let it all hang out. Tonight: Follow another's lead. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

* * * * Your energy helps you and others clear out work. You might need to reorganize. Stop thinking about a home office and start acting on it. Be honest with yourself about what isn't making you happy. Now or in the near future, start making changes. Tonight: Don't push. Take it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★ ★ Creativity separates you from

many. Your vision often inspires you, but remember, it can also get you in a lot of trouble. A little realism goes a long way. Test your ideas on someone who plays devil's advocate. Dance to someone SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

* * ★ Family remains your highest pri-

ority. You might put a family member on a pedestal and see this person unrealistically. Perhaps this is where disappointment sets in between you two. Work on Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

your logic doesn't necessarily follow. Stay upbeat and make strong decisions. Your intuition serves you well. Tonight:

Where the music is. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

* * * Take charge of your financial life. You know what you would like it to look like. Do not negate what is happening with excuses or avoidance. You need to be realistic about your funds. See how money drips out of your wallet. Only you can put a stop to this. Tonight: Play it

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** * Your imagination amuses many and helps you find solutions when others can't. "No" simply doesn't work for you. Revise your goals and take a hard look at facts. You might find a difterent course to the same end. Tonight: I is your call.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

** Sometimes you are your own harshest critic. Know what is workable, and don't step back from a problem. A boss does reverse himself, but don't you dare try to tell him this. Remain upbeat and creative. An intuitive reaction is else's tune. Tonight: Let your caring be right on. Tonight: Get a good night's

BORN TODAY

Actor Denzel Washington (1954), singer Edgar Winter (1946), former president Woodrow Wilson (1856)

realism. Revise a financial commitment. For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$3.99 per minute. You can request your favorite * * * * You reverse gears and stun psychic. Rotary or touch-tone phones. * * * * Emphasize your special not only others but yourself as well. You Must be 18 or older to call. A service of

Crossword Puzzle

11 Jim

material

31 Playing

35 Kitchen

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17 Rerouted

21 Compass

20 Tear

By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 40 Metric 1 Rings up cube

6 Plundered 41 Spotted 42 Read goods 10 Parting (over) DOWN

11 Crooner Mel 1 Diamond 12 Ominous units bird 2 Slow 13 Actress Uta

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5 Day light

offering

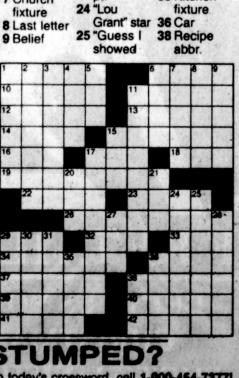
18 Singer 6 Bank Cole 19 Lost 7 Church enthusi-22 Barbecue feature

bomb

23 Folding money 26 Supplied in profusion 29 British prem

32 Naval letters 33 Had dinner 34 Candidate of 2000 6 Tennis

great 7 Toll away Fixed a



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-73771 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.



Marmaduke

"Look, Marmaduke...Dad found the bone you lost."

The Family Circus



Does Santa do take-backs, Mommy

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

DALLAS (AP) - Michael Finley scored 38 points, 27 in the first half when Dallas went ahead to stay, as the Mavericks beat the Seattle SuperSonics 114-93 Tuesday night to make coach Don Nelson the third winningest coach in NBA history. With his 945th victory, Nelson

moved into third place for coaching wins behind Toronto's Lenny Wilkens (1,192) and Miami's Pat Riley (1,012).

After Finley started and ended an 11-0 run to wrap up the first quarter, the Mavericks trailed just one possession the

rest of the game. Finley's layup with 1:44 left in the first quarter started the pivotal run. Hubert Davis' steal led to Steve Nash's 3-pointer six seconds later, and Finley later ended the quarter with a rebound and a pass to Dirk Nowitzki for a breakaway dunk that made it 26-19.

Finley then made all seven of his shots in the second quarter.

FOOTBALL

SAN DIEGO (AP) -About the only thing small about Texas' Leonard Davis is his hometown.

At 6-foot-6, 365 pounds, the Longhorns' All-American from Wortham, Texas (pop. about 1,000), is a big man from a big family (22 brothers and sisters), who has a reputation as one of college football's biggest talents on the offensive line.

He's so big, he has multiple nicknames — Big Monsta, Lenny-Pooh, Big Len-Len. One just isn't enough.

"We get so we're not sure just how big he is," coach Mack Brown said of his standout senior offensive tackle. "We've tried to get (his weight) down, but you just can't. He's not fat, he's just big."

Davis is a big reason why the 12th-ranked Longhorns (9-2) will play Friday in the Holiday Bowl against No. 8

Oregon (9-2). With his team struggling at midseason after a 63-14 loss to Oklahoma, Brown simpli-

fied his offense. The Longhorns took the mystery out a complex passing game and plowed ahead on the ground behind an offensive line that averages more than 300 pounds.

With Davis opening the holes, tailback Hodges Mitchell went over 1,000 yards for the second consecutive season, and the Longhorns won six straight while averaging 196 yards on the ground.

"People were really dogging us about the way we played against Oklahoma," Davis said. "We really needed to come back and redeem ourselves. I'm really proud of that."

So about those nicknames. Who dares to call a man who can bench press 515 pounds "Lenny-Pooh?" or "Dancin' Bear?"

"That's one I think (quarterback) Major Applewhite and (offensive coordinator) Greg Davis came up with," Leonard Davis said. "I guess it's cause I'm strong like a bear. They were watching me on film and said I looked like a big dancing bear."

The nicknames started long before Davis got to the University of Texas.

Davis is the youngest of 22 siblings (his father had 11 children from a previous marriage, his mother 10).

"I'm the biggest in the family, probably by a long shot," he said. By seventh grade, Davis was 6-4, 300 pounds.

In high school, Davis earned All-America honors playing offense and defense for a school that had fewer than 150 students.

As a freshman at Texas, Davis started three games as a defensive tackle in 1997. After Brown took over the program before the 1998 season, Davis witched to offense and helped block for Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams.

New bowl hoping for big first year turnout

Astrodome since 1987

Now it's up to Texas Tech and East Carolina to put on a good show and the fans to show up to see Wednesday night's game.

ing this, we should have game. between 30,000 and 40,000 peowould exceed my wildest expectations.

icy weather threatened to sock and East Carolina fans purwell below expectations.

Early on, there were misun-

ets had been sold at that point.

Despite the early overstating, McIngvale expects a good first year after giving away 250,000 memorabilia items and heavy

"Houston is a football town," ple at the game," sponsor Jim McIngvale said. "We have been slow-starting offense but we also have a big problems with McIngvale said. "I think 40,000 without the NFL for several can't do that in this game. Once Tech's pass-oriented offense back. The college bowl game is That might be a stretch since coming back.

Texas Tech (7-5), the No. 7 in Tech fans from West Texas from the Big 12, and East Garrard completed 164 of 312 and East Carolina fans pur- Carolina (7-4), Conference- passes for 2,332 yards and 19 energies focused on the field.

Both teams offer potentially

Promoters of the galleryfurni- of ticket sales. Promoter Jerry led by quarterback Kliff er with 358 yards. ture.com Bowl have done their Ippolito said in early December Kingsbury and East Carolina's best to make a success of the that 28,000 tickets had been more balanced offense, led by do is swarm to the ball and of throwing that much." first bowl game played in the sold. In reality, only 4,200 tick- junior quarterback David Garrard.

We have to step up and play like it's our last game," Garrard said. "It is the last game of the season but we've got to play "If we do a good job market- advertising to promote the like it's the last game you'll play in your life. "We are kind of known as a

> years now, and it's coming you put yourself in a hole it's and Kingsbury was quick to hard to come out of it. We've had that happen to us this

Garrard completed 164 of 312 chased only about 3,000 tickets, USA's No. 3 team, have their touchdowns this season and ferent notion but the ball bowl games and has lost four of ranked 32nd nationally in pass- always ends up in the air about its last five post-season games.

"The main thing we have to gang tackle him, don't let him give him time in the pocket to set up and throw the ball. We have to get heat on him and

quick.' East Carolina's defense will grasp the offense Leach brought national spotlight.

"We may come in with a difing efficiency. He was East 50 times," Kingsbury said. "My East Carolina is 6-2.

derstandings over the progress high-scoring offenses with Tech Carolina's second leading rush- arm's been tired since about the eighth game but you can't complain. Growing up, you dream

Kingsbury, a sophomore, get loose," Tech defensive tack-ranked eighth nationally in ler Kris Kocurek said. "We can't total offense at 286 yards per game and he led the Big 12 with 21 touchdown passes.

"We've seen Louisville and make him throw the ball Tulane already, so we are ready for that type of game," Pirate safety Anthony Adams said. "We've gone against a bunch of can't do that in this game. Once Tech's pass-oriented offense good quarterbacks and we have seen (Kingsbury) on tape. But you cannot tell what is going to from Oklahoma that helped happen in a game off of tape. propel the Sooners into the You have to just get out there and see."

Tech has a 5-17-1 record in

Groom's Weinheimer named G-N's Player of the Year

Six-Man

AMARILLO - Groom quarterback Grant Weinheimer has Waylon Pressley of Follett, Wiederstein of Higgins. been named the Super Team Player of the Year in six-man football by the Amarillo Globe-

Weinheimer, a 6-3, 190-pound senior, helped lead the Tigers to the state quarterfinals this season. He threw for 2,002 yards and 37 touchdowns.

Groom was represented on defense by end Dewayne Gray, a 170-pound senior and linebacker Clay Ritter, a 195-pound

Miami junior Jimmy James was named to the Super Team at linebacker.

Silverton's Dewayne Lee was named Coach of the Year.

Others named to the offense year." were running back Landon Reece Hartman of Happy, end and win everything. I did think in a row.

Isaiah Ivory of Silverton and linebacker Hunter Schilling of kicker Vance Chandler of Follett, safety Red Ivory of Others on defense were end Silverton and punter Jake

A landslide win for Tiger

By DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer**

Three straight majors. Nine PGA Tour victories, the most by anyone in 50 years. The career Grand Slam, thanks to record performances at Pebble Beach and St. Andrews.

Even Tiger Woods was a little impressed by his phenomenal

But he wasn't surprised. capable of such a season, Woods

this was possible. And I think it's possible in the future."

Woods was a repeat winner Tuesday as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year. And like so many of his amazing victories, it was no contest.

He received 47 first-place votes and 160 points from sportswriters and broadcasters, more than double that of back-to-back Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

Woods joined Michael Jordan as When asked at what point in the only three-time winner of the the season he thought he was AP award since it began in 1931. He also became the sixth player

replied, "On the first day of the to win the award in consecutive years. The others were tennis "My goal is to go out there and great Don Budge, golfer Byron Parham of Lazbuddie, running win every time," he said. Nelson, track star Carl Lewis, back Justin Davis of Valley, cen- "Obviously, it's not going to hap- quarterback Joe Montana and ter Wes Henson of Valley, end pen, but my goal is to compete Jordan, who won it three years



Adam Rainey (left) and Joe Rodriguez are black belt holders from Pampa.

Pampa athletes compete in martial arts tournament

Spurs have Rockets' number

Kung Fu movie. Saturday, Dec. 16, Hornsby retained his state title. 2000 the best of the best arrived to called themselves friends became

was over. were among the 300 competitors Championships.

bringing home huge trophies," says Grand Master Odie Molina of the tournament promoters from San Antonio. "It's about fellowship and friendly competition."

Both black belt athletes participated in the "specialty" kata event. Performing a series of movements based on real lift applications set to music, dethrone the current state champion Michael Hornsby, a 4th tender seat and Rodriguez was schools.

It was something out of an old awarded a 2nd contender seat.

"It was difficult competing prove once again why they are against people that I share a just that. Men who at one time friendship with," says Rodriguez. Tensions built as the clock

bitter foes, at least until the fight ticked down to the kumite. The duo passed the time helping to Joe "The Wolverine" Rodriguez judge the other events until it was and Adam "Thinman" Rainey finally time to strap on the combat gear and prepare for battle. who participated in the United Rainey competed in the mid-Martial Arts Texas Title dleweight division and took a 1st contender victory. Rodriguez "This tournament is not about competed in the heavyweight division and came out with a split decision for a 3rd contender.

"Experience has a lot to do with the outcome. Many of the competitors have been competing longer than Rainey and I have, Rodriguez said.

While there, Rodriguez was invited to a full contact tournament to be held Jan 27, 2001 and Rodriguez and Rainey sought to he was also invited to join a national kickboxing federation.

Both black belt athletes were degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do also given invitations to compete from San Antonio. The scores at future events, beginning next were close and in the end Rainey year as well as guest instructor came through with a 1st con- opportunities by several

guard Antonio Daniels is looking more like the future floor leader of the San Antonio Spurs.

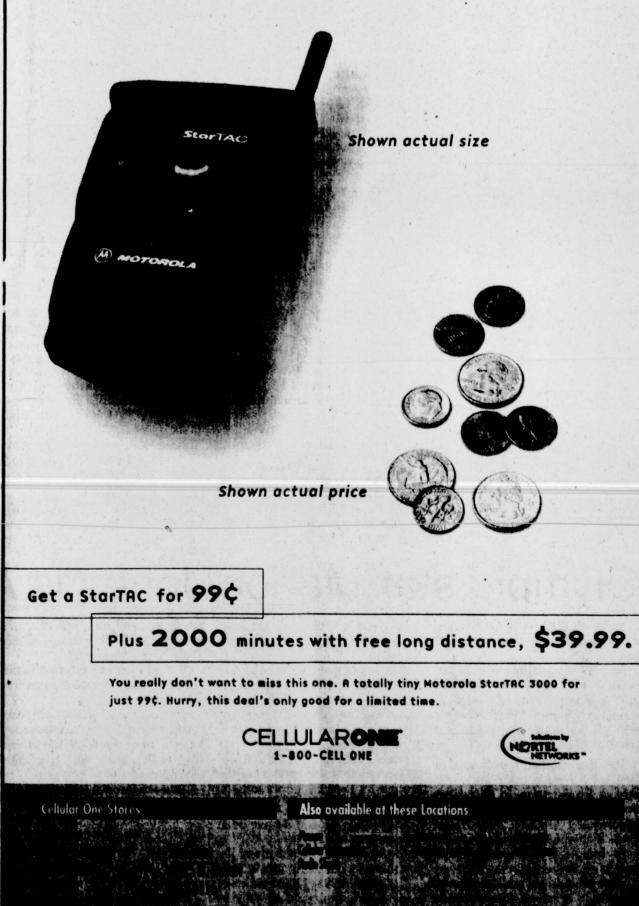
Making the most of his eighth start in place of the injured Avery Johnson, Daniels scored a career-high 26 points and had 10 assists as the Spurs defeated the Rockets for the ninth straight time, 103-95 Tuesday night.

"This is definitely the best I've felt offensively all season," said Daniels, who was 8-of-13 from the field. "We got in a groove offensively and didn't let up. When we get into the open

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Point court, we're tough to stop." Daniels, in his third season in San Antonio, has led the Spurs to a 5-3 record in Johnson's absence. Johnson, a 12-year NBA veteran, is on the injured list with a sore left thigh and hamstring. San Antonio's win was its fifth

in six games. Houston has lost five

PAMPA'S



Dolphins again counting on their defense in the playoffs

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — In each of very far in the playoffs." the past two seasons, defense carried the Miami Dolphins into AFC East for the first time since the playoffs, then unraveled.

It happened two years ago, happened again last season, offs. when Jacksonville eliminated the Dolphins 62-7.

an AFC wild-card game.

"In the past we always colmight make it further," defen- Dolphins this season. sive end Lorenzo Bromell said.

This year's defensive unit ranks with the Dolphins' best ever. Miami ranked third in the NFL in points allowed and in the top four in five other categories.

This is the best defense we've taken into the playoffs," linebacker Robert Jones said. "We've been in all types of situations in different elements and found a way to gel and not become frustrated. If someone screws up, we just keep fighting."

Four defenders — ends Trace Armstrong and Jason Taylor, led the NFL with 28 intercep- York Jets.

'We've had some pretty good to a touchdown or less. defenses, but I think it's safe to

The Dolphins (11-5) won the 1994, and their reward is to play a high-powered offensive team. when Miami's season ended The Colts (10-6) won their final with a 38-3 loss at Denver. It three games to make the play-

When the teams met Dec. 17, Peyton Manning went 21-for-28, The Dolphins face another Edgerrin James ran for 112 yards potential offensive onslaught and Indianapolis beat Miami 20-Saturday against Indianapolis in 13. Manning's short passes allowed Indy to control the ball for nearly 34 minutes, the seclapsed, but this time I think we ond-best total against the

> Their pass rush and secondary are so good, we felt like we had to get rid of the ball quickly," Colts coach Jim Mora

"They make you look bad at times. They're an outstanding defensive team — as good as there is in the league, if not the best. You've got to be patient against them, but it's hard, and they make it hard. They stop you and stop you, and you can't panic. You've got to keep your poise and hope eventually that things will work.'

The Dolphins struggled cornerback Sam Madison and against the run at times the secsafety Brock Marion — were ond half of the season, and they chosen for the Pro Bowl. blew a 23-point lead in the Armstrong and Taylor ranked 1- fourth quarter in a memorable 2 in the AFC in sacks, and Miami Monday night loss to the New

Miami also held six opponents

"They're so disciplined, and so say that each year we've gotten fast," Manning said. "There are better," linebacker Derrick so many times you have first Rodgers said. "We should be and 10 and try to run it, and then confident. We have a very good you have second and 10 because team. As long as we're playing they're so good against the run. our style of football, we can go If you force passes and try to be Honolulu (ABC)

greedy, it always costs you. It can be a challenge. You can't force plays against a defense as good as theirs.

But the Dolphins' defenders have yet to prove themselves in the postseason. On Saturday, they get another chance.

NFL Playoff Glance By The Associated Press

All Times EST Saturday, Dec. 30 Wild-card Playoffs

Indianapolis at Miami, 12:30 p.m. (ABC) St. Louis at New Orleans, 4

p.m. (ABC) Sunday, Dec. 31 Denver at Baltimore, 12:30

p.m. (CBS) Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 4 p.m. (FOX)

Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 6 AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS, FOX) Sunday, Jan. 7 AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS, FOX)

Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 14 AFC-NFC Championship Games (CBS, FOX)

Super Bowl Sunday, Jan. 28 6 p.m, at Tampa, Fla. (CBS)

Pro Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4 NFC vs. AFC, 5:30 p.m. at

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Payout: \$750,000 Southern Mississippi 28, TCU 21

Thursday, Dec. 21 Las Vegas Bowl At Las Vegas Payout: \$800,000 UNLV 31, Arkansas 14

Sunday, Dec. 24 Ochu Bowl At Honolulu Payoute \$750,000 Georgia 37, Virginia 14

Monday, Dec. 25 Blue-Gray Classic At Montgomery, Ala. Gray 40, Blue 37 Aloha Bowl At Honolulu

Peyout: \$750,000 Boston College 31, Arizona State 17

Wednesday, Dec. 27 Motor City Bowl At Pontiac, Mich. Payout: \$750,000 Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m.

Galleryfurniture.com Bowl At Houston Psyout: \$750,000 Texas Tech (7-5) vs. East Carolina (7-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)

Thursday, Dec. 28 Humanitarian Bowl At Bolse, Idaho Payout: \$750,000 Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2) Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn.

Payout: \$750,000 West Virginia (6-5) vs. Mississippi (7-4), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Micronpc.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$750,000
Minnesota (6-5) vs. North Carolina State (7-4), 7 p.m. (TBS)

Insight.com Bowi Payout: \$750,000 lowa State (8-3) vs. Pittsburgh (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Payout: \$1.25 million Colorado State (9-2) vs. Louisville (9-2), 1:30 orgie Tech (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4), 5 p.m.

UCLA (8-5) vs. Wisconsin (8-4), 2 p.m. (CBS)

Holiday Bowl At San Diego Payout: \$1.9 million Texas (9-2) vs. Oregon (9-2), 8:30 p.m.

Payout: \$1.2 million Nebraska (9-2) vs. N

Payout: \$1.2 million Fresno State (7-4) vs. Air Force (8-3), 7 p.m.

Payout: \$2.5 million At Dallas Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11

a.m. (FOX)

At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$1.4 million
Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30
p.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$4 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Auburn (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.

Payout: \$13.5 million Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC) Flesta Box At Tempe Ariz. Payout: \$13.5 million Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8

Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Orange Bowl At Miami Payout: \$11-13 million Oklahoma (12-0) vs. Flo

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Monday's Games Indiana 103, Orlando 93 Portland 109, L.A. Lakers 104 Detroit 101, Boston 96 Atlanta 81, New Jersey 76 Adanta 61, New Jersey 76
San Antonio 103, Houston 95
Milwaukee 89, Orlando 77
Dallas 114, Seattle 93
Minnesota 100, Toronto 97 Philadelphia 97, Utah 91 Denver 109, L.A. Clippers 108 Phoenix 97, Vancouver 95 Wednesday's Games New York at Washington, 7 p.m. Indiana at Miami, 8 p.m. Seattle at Houston, 8:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Golden State, 10:30 p.m. Thursday's Games Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. Detroit at Orlando, 7:30 p.m. Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m. Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Minnesota, 8 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 8 p.m. San Antonio at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Toronto at Denver, 9 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Aaron McKie emerges as unlikely leader of surprising 76ers

By The Associated Press

The Philadelphia 76ers are

futility in Utah on Tuesday to play when you're sick. night with a 97-91 victory.

Allen Iverson and scored a sea- Larry Brown. son-high 24 points as the 76ers

Philadelphia, completed the Aaron to the bathroom from surprising turnaround with a time to time, but a lot of other patchwork lineup. Iverson par- people stepped up. tially dislocated his right shoul-New York Knicks and will miss points. one to three weeks.

surgery for a broken right ankle. sive. Rodney Buford, signed last Sanchez, out with a sore hip.

Toni Kukoc, who scored 15 and five rebounds. points on 4-of-6 shooting from 3-point range. "Whenever everything's right, someone finds a way to make something wrong. When everything's wrong, we find a way to win."

In other NBA games, Charlotte defeated Cleveland 115-110 in overtime; Detroit topped Boston 101-96; Atlanta beat New Jersey 81-76; San Antonio upended Houston 103-95; Milwaukee stopped Orlando 89-77; Dallas beat Seattle 114-93; Minnesota edged Toronto 100-97; Denver slipped past the Los Angeles Clippers 109-108; and Phoenix topped Vancouver 97-

McKie wasn't out to match 19 for the Grizzlies, who lost for fourth straight victory. Iverson's flashy style.

"I was just trying to play bas- Nuggets 109, Clippers 108 surprising themselves and the ketball," said McKie, who Nick Van Exel had a layup Aaron McKie emerged as an the flu. "I just stayed within the onds remaining, and Antonio had a career-high 25 points for In Minneapolis, Terrell unlikely leader as the 76ers offense and coach called my McDyess had 35 points as the the Nets, who lost their fifth Brandon scored 24 points and moved into third place for ended more than a decade of number. Sometimes, you have Nuggets beat Los Angeles for straight.

The magnitude of the victory McKie stepped in for injured was not lost on 76ers coach

"Any time you come here and ended a 13-year losing streak in win, it's a miracle. When you're so short-handed, it's even more The Sixers, who lost 91-89 to significant," Brown said. "We the lazz last week in were trying to find ways to get

Theo Ratliff, also feeling ill, 11. der in Friday's game against the joined Tyrone Hill with 13

"We just tried to find the hot Kevin Ollie, waived by New man," Ollie said. "They didn't Jersey on Dec. 15, started in really know who to defend place of Eric Snow, out after when everyone was aggres-

John Stockton had 19 points were outrebounded 36-29. Karl ter. 'This is a strange team," said Malone managed just 12 points

Bryon Russell scored 17 points, John Starks had 14 and Danny Manning 13 for the Jazz.

"We made a run at them, but we just didn't have enough gas down the stretch," Manning Boston with 26 points.

Suns 97 Grizzlies 95

Jason Kidd scored 12 straight and finished with 28 as visiting Phoenix dealt Vancouver its in six games. third consecutive two-point

Rodney Rogers scored 17, and Tony Delk and Shawn Marion Hawks 81, Nets 76 each added 12 for the Suns.

the ninth time in 10 games.

the fifth straight time in Denver. Bucks 89, Magic 77

points for Nuggets. Lamar and hit four 3-pointers in the points and eight rebounds for won its third straight. the Clippers.

Hornets 115, Cavaliers 110, OT Jamal Mashburn scored eight of his 27 points in overtime as Charlotte won its league-leading seventh straight and extended its home winning streak to

David Wesley led the Hornets with 32 points. Andre Miller scored 30 for Cleveland, which dropped its fourth straight. Pistons 101, Celtics 96

Jerry Stackhouse had 33 points as host Detroit overcame a season-high 29 turnovers, week, stepped in for Pepe and 12 assists for the Jazz, who including 10 in the fourth quar-

Stackhouse shot 0-for-8 from 2-point range and 5-for-7 from 3-point distance. He committed nine turnovers, but hit 18 of 20 free throws.

Joe Smith added 20 points for the Pistons. Antoine Walker led Spurs 103, Rockets 95

Antonio Daniels scored a career-high 26 points and Tim points late in the fourth quarter Duncan added 20 as San Antonio won for the fifth time

Steve Francis scored 21 points for visiting Houston, which lost its fift straight.

Mike Bibby scored 21 points 18 points in the final 2:27 to beat down his door. His choices

Dikembe Mutombo grabbed a

season-high 28 rebounds and had 12 points and five blocks for with 26 points. played despite a slight case of and free throw with five sec- the Hawks. Stephen Jackson Timberwolves 100, Raptors 97 AMESON PROPERTY.

Voshon Lenard added Ray Allen scored 25 points Odom was 10-for-15 with 21 fourth quarter as Milwaukee

losing streak. Vince Carter scored 32 points, Nelson is 945-763 in 23 NBA

Minnesota snapped a four-game

Tracy McGrady led the Magic

including 11 in the fourth quar- seasons. ter, for the Raptors.

the season 3-9.

Glenn Robinson added 15 Mavericks 114, SuperSonics 93

points for the host Bucks, who In Dallas, Michael Finley straight double-double. Natkin developed along with UTEP

have won 12 of 15 since starting scored 38 points, including 27 in

Keyin Garnett added 22 as coaching wins behind Toronto's

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - When Paso, plus a handful of Division I- Western Athletic Conference title UTEP tight end Brian Natkin fin-AA programs. ished high school, he was hardly a major college prospect. He caught development as a player mirrored only nine passes as a senior. He the recent rise of the Miners. He a rest stop on a West Texas highstood 6-foot-3 and weighed 205

'I was kind of tiny," he admitted with an embarrassed laugh. Now he's a college senior, some

45 pounds heavier. And he's a first-team All-American who has helped the Miners to a bowl game for only the second time in 33 vears. Texas-El Paso meets Boise State in the Humanitarian Bowl.

Thursday's game matches two of the nation's most potent offenses. Boise State (9-2) averaged 44.9 points this season to lead the country while UTEP (8-3) ranked 22nd at 32.3 points a game.

"Both offensive units can put a lot of points on the board," said Gary Nord, in his first year as UTÉP's head coach. "We believe cover more ground. whoever plays the best defense

will win. Although Natkin is from San Antonio, in the heart of football-Jason Terry scored nine of his crazed Texas, recruiters didn't

goes into his last game as the way. school career leader at 172 catches and 44 of his 64 passes this fall produced first downs.

But he's also got a knack for get- Mississippi in the 1967 Sun Bowl. ting open, and he's got great hands when he gets there.

Just the kind of player Nord needed when he arrived in El Paso in 1997 after stops at Oklahoma and Pittsburgh, Louisville.

the field, making the defense that's hungry for a winner."

"The majority of the credit for my success goes to coach Nord," Natkin said. "He brought his offense with him. The tight end didn't catch a lot of balls before I got here."

with Texas Christian and received Natkin chose UTEP, and his a bowl bid, which over the past 33 years has been as rare at UTEP as

the first half, as the Mavericks

made coach Don Nelson the

third-winningest coach in NBA

With his 945th victory, Nelson

Lenny Wilkens (1,192) and

Miami's Pat Riley (1,012).

Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points

and 11 rebounds for his third

The Miners are making their 10th bowl trip but the first since losing to Southern Mississippi in 'He's a real throwback," Nord the 1988 Independence Bowl. said. "He's a tough football play- That game ended a drought that er who will knock you off the ball. existed since UTEP beat

> This fall, the Miners also set a school attendance record by averaging 44,715 fans in five homefield victories. Three crowds exceeded 50,000, including a school record 53,304 against Rice.

"Their success has been huge Former UTEP coach Charle for El Paso," said Boise State Bailey, who retired after last sea- coach Dirk Koetter, who was son, hired Nord as offensive coor- UTEP's offensive coordinator for dinator to diversify a run-orient- the 1988 bowl trip. "Look at the ed attack. They wanted to spread crowds they drew. It's a town

Koetter is moving on after this

After leading the Broncos to consecutive Big West titles and a 34-31 victory over Louisville in last year's Humanitarian Bowl, he was hired by Arizona State to '

and Michael Dickerson added rally visiting Atlanta to its were Air Force, Army or Texas-El The Miners shared this season's succeed the fired Bruce Snyder. Olympic star Marion Jones is AP's Female Athlete of the Year

Jones gambled — then won and

Boldly predicting she could become the first track and field athlete to win five gold medals at a single Olympics, Jones' drive for five left her with three golds and

The five medals represented a first for a female track and field athlete at one games, and for that accomplishment Jones was chosen Wednesday as The Associated

Press' Female Athlete of the Year. In balloting by sportswriters and broadcasters, Jones received 27 first-place votes and 111 points, beating tennis star Venus Williams, runner-up with 16 1/2 firsts and 104 1/2 points. Golfer Karrie Webb was a distant third with 30 points. Points were awarded on a 3-2-1 basis.

cer team, didn't receive any votes

this time. The confident Jones was the 10th female track and field athlete to win the honor since the award was inaugurated in 1931, and the first since the late Florence Griffith Joyner in 1988.

Jones' golds came in the 100 and 200 meters and the 1,600 relay, the bronzes in the long jump and 400

Those bronzes could have been golds, Jones said. That gold medal was there for the taking in the long jump," she said. "And in the (400) relay, we had some injuries (Gail Devers and Inger Miller). We didn't have mances in Sydney were extraordi-

our best horses. "I guess everybody wants to win the lottery. You just don't

possible. But I didn't, so I'm not going to dwell on that. "I didn't get everything I want-

ed, but I didn't give in. I can live Her prediction, made two years before the Sydney Games, earned Jones a lot of publicity, something she will avoid for the 2004

diction such as the five golds, especially not four years prior to the next games," said the 24-yearold Jones. "But whatever I choose to do, I'll try and make it as extraordinary as possible."

Olympics. "I've vowed not to make a pre-

Jones' gold-medal perfornary, considering she was mentally distracted by the IAAF's confirmation that her husband, C.J. want to win the \$2 ticket. I wanted Hunter, the 1999 world shot put

the steroid nandrolone four times after the U.S. Olympic trials. The disclosure came after Jones' first event, the 100, meaning she had to compete in four events with that

"It was very unfortunate timing," she said. Jones' timing on the track was

impeccable. She won the 100 at 10.75 seconds, and her victory, margin of 0.37 seconds was the second largest in Olympic history, man or woman. She won the 200 at 21.84, and her victory margin of 0.43 seconds was the second largest behind Wilma Rudolph's in 1960. Her 100 and 200 times were the fastest in the world this year.

Jones helped the 1,600 relay team to victory at 3:22.62 with a powerful third leg of 49.4, the

Freeman, the 400 gold medalist. No one else came close to running that fast. Even more remarkable for Jones, she ran only one other individual 400 race during the year and had not run on a 1,600 relay since she was a sophomore at North Carolina. The 400 is a dis-

tance she dislikes. "I don't like how I feel after it because I like to be in control of my body, and in that last stretch, you have no control of your body," she said.

Overall, the durable Jones competed 12 times in nine days at the ames — four rounds of the 100, four rounds of the 200, a long jump qualifying round and the final, the anchor leg of the 400 relay final and the 1,600 relay final.

During the year, she also had the six fastest times and eight of

NEW YORK (AP) - Marion Last year's winner, the U.S. soc- to win them all, and I still think it's champion, had tested positive for same as Australia's Cathy the best nine in the 100; the two fastest in the world in the 200; the best long jump by an American and fourth-best in the world, 23 feet, one-half inch; the fastest individual 400 by an American and fifth-fastest in the world, 49.59; ran on the world's fastest 1,600meter relay team; and anchored a U.S. team to a world record of 1:27.46 in the 800-meter relay.

Williams also starred at the Olympics. She won the women's singles title and teamed with sister Serena to win the doubles championship. Venus also had a 35-match winning streak during the year that included Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

To cap her year, she signed a fiveyear contract for a reported \$40 million with Reebok, the richest endorsement deal for a female ath-

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Ammunition, bomb supplies found in McDermott's home

By GREG SUKIENNIK **Associated Press Writer**

WAKEFIELD, Mass. (AP) - The software engineer accused of massacring Internet consulting company with 37 seven co-workers stashed ammunition rounds from a semiautomatic rifle and Reddington did not elaborate on his and a semiautomatic rifle with a sniper several from a shotgun, striking workers client's condition. scope in his office and bomb-making in their heads and backs as they tried to After the hearing material in his home, authorities said

McDermott's work area Wednesday at and through the bodies," O'Reilly said. Edgewater Technology found the "One of (the victims) was underneath ammunition in a cubby hole at his desk. He had been shot numerous and shotguns shells in the trash basket, said Tom O'Reilly, an assistant district

In McDermott's home, authorities discovered bomb-making magazines; three gallons of nitric acid - which can be used to make nitroglycerine - in boxes labeled "Danger, do not move"; blasting caps

and more ammunition, O'Reilly said. McDermott, 42, pleaded innocent to

"There was very little, if any, missed Officers who searched Michael M. shots. Most of the wounds went through

'One of (the victims) was underneath and sympathy.' times. Another was a young lady men killed Tuesday worked in the slumped over her keyboard of her computer. She had been shot in the back of the head," O'Reilly said.

Wearing an orange jail jumpsuit and a bulletproof vest, the manacled McDermott looked around the courtroom frequently as O'Reilly described the carnage.

morning. He stood impassive as McDermott had been undergoing psy-O'Reilly described how the shooter chiatric treatment and asked that blasted through the offices of the McDermott be held where he would be able to continue taking medication.

> After the hearing, McDermott's parents stood next to Reddington but would not give their names.

"They are devastated," the attorney said. "They expressed extreme regret

Some of the four women and three accounting department, which was recently served with an order from the Internal Revenue Service to begin to seize McDermott's wages. Last week, he had an angry outburst over the dispute, said one employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

seven counts of murder Wednesday made no argument for bail. He said after the holidays to start taking out Navy submarine electrician as quiet, what McDermott owed in back taxes, plus interest, Middlesex County District amount owed was "a couple thousand" dollars, said a person familiar with the IRS order, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In a statement, the company said McDermott's actions "apparently stem from occurrences in his personal life."

"There was no way to anticipate his actions or any apparent reasons to restrict his access to the building," the company said.

a permit for any of the weapons he was carrying. She said he had no prior criminal record.

Police found McDermott sitting silent-Edgewater had recently agreed to the arrested without gunfire. Co-workers Internet bulletin boards and gave advice Defense attorney Kevin Reddington IRS order but was going to wait until and neighbors described the former U.S. on explosives.

surly and quirky.

McDermott was a software tester who Attorney Martha Coakley said. The had worked at the company since March, said Mike Stanley, a team projects leader. He said McDermott recently had been coming in late and his performance wasn't as good as it could have been, but declined to elaborate.

"He had nothing to do with any of them," Stanley said, a tear running down his right cheek. "It seems like a random ridiculous thing."

McDermott went by the nickname "Mucko" - something his nieces and Coakley said McDermott did not have nephews came up with when they couldn't pronounce Michael, according to a co-worker. He even had it on his car's license plate.

A person who identified himself as ly in the reception area, a body nearby, Michael M. McDermott, and who used his weapons within reach. He was the e-mail name "Mucko" frequented

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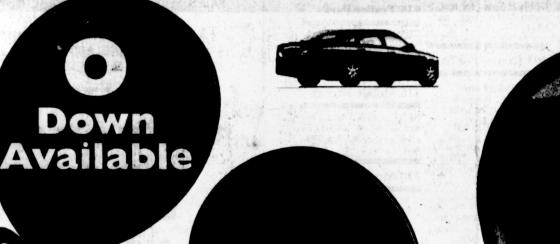
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