

Texas news round up ...

Democrats express concern over Ashcroft's views

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not all of President-elect Bush's Cabinet choices face clear sailing for Senate confirmation, Democratic lawmakers say, aiming their fire primarily at Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., called Ashcroft's confirmation prospects "hardly a done deal" and said he is "truly worried" that the conservative nominee would not enforce federal laws banning violence against abortion clinics or laws that restrict gun ownership. In fact, Schumer contended that Ashcroft would work to repeal those laws.

"He is far and away the most troubling choice," Schumer said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "The question is will Senator Ashcroft enforce the law of the land on things that he's morally opposed to."

However, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, whose Judiciary Committee will consider Ashcroft's nomination, said he would be surprised if the Senate didn't confirm Ashcroft, the outgoing Republican senator from Missouri who has served as that state's attorney general and governor.

"He is a man of integrity. He is a man of great experience," Hatch said on ABC. "I have no doubt, as a former attorney general and hopefully as this attorney general, he will enforce the law, regardless of whether he agrees with it or not."

Snow falls on North Texas as 2000 comes to an end

DALLAS (AP) — A wintry storm that dumped up to 2 inches of snow in the Dallas area Sunday hampered travel and provided a chilly New Year's Eve surprise.

"I didn't think we were going to have any more snow," said

Courtney Williams, who was shopping in a north Dallas department store Sunday evening.

The flurries came Sunday afternoon, quickly coating the landscape and the roads. Traffic slowed considerably, and some drivers found themselves sliding in directions they had not intended.

Meanwhile, 120 American Airlines flights in and out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport were canceled, the Fort Worth-based carrier said. Operations were expected to return to normal on New Year's Day.

By Sunday evening, the snow moved to the northeast, said Jesse Moore, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

Road conditions worsened, however, as temperatures dipped into the low 20s.

Jack Tinsley, Star-Telegram vice president, announces retirement

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Jack Tinsley, who guided the Fort Worth Star-Telegram to two Pulitzer Prizes as executive editor in the 1980s, is retiring after four decades at the newspaper.

Tinsley, 66, served most recently as vice president for community affairs, working with the Tarrant County community in various speaking and charitable roles.

Friends and colleagues praised him as a valued leader inside and outside the newspaper.

"Jack is the only editor in the storied history of the Star-Telegram to win a Pulitzer Prize; in fact, two Pulitzer Prizes," said Wes Turner, the newspaper's president and publisher. "He also is a great human being. He stands for everything that is good about this newspaper."

As vice president for community affairs, Tinsley led the newspaper's United Way campaigns and Goodfellows Christmas charity. He also established the Jack B. Tinsley/Fort Worth Star-Telegram Endowed Journalism Scholarship Fund at the University of North Texas.

He is known for his annual "Fearless Forecasts," humor-filled predictions of the coming year, at the Rotary Club of Fort Worth. He gives similar predictions to about 30 other Rotary Clubs and civic groups around Texas.

ELSEWHERE:

FAILED ESCAPE: A 28-year-old prison inmate was returned to his cell Sunday after a failed escape from the Clements Unit near Amarillo. The man, who suffered minor injuries when he became entangled in barbed wire about 9 a.m. Sunday, will be charged with attempted escape, Larry Todd, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said. ... **GUARD INVESTIGATION:** Two investigations are under way into allegations that leaders of the Texas National Guard's 49th Armored Division ignored warnings of security problems in Bosnia and harassed people who pointed out the problems, the Salt Lake Tribune reported Sunday. The 49th Armored Division returned in October from a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. It was the first time since the Korean War that a National Guard unit had commanded an overseas mission and the first time a Guard unit had been in charge of regular Army forces. ... **TOY GUN-STANDOFF:** A 26-year-old man who kept police at bay in a five-hour standoff with what turned out to be a toy gun was shot and wounded Saturday night in Arlington. A police officer shot Jeremy Justin Rooney in the upper left torso but his injuries did not appear to be life-threatening hospital officials said.

Oklahoma's death chamber faces busiest month - eight scheduled

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The already busy death chamber at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary is about to log its busiest month ever. But not even a record eight executions causes much stir in this strongly pro-death penalty state.

"Look at what those eight people did," said Aaron Cook, 24, a Tulsa student.

"I think sometimes you have to look at the victims and say, 'How else are they going to get justice?'" offers Don Tröling, a retiree from Miami in northeast Oklahoma.

"I'm a Christian and it really bothers me ... but no, I wouldn't want to do away with it completely," says JaDeanna Farris, who owns a dress shop in the small town of Alva and favors capital punishment in certain circumstances.

Texas set a record with 40 executions in 2000. Oklahoma, with one-sixth the population, ranked second with 11. This month it will tie Texas' one-month record when it sends seven men and one woman to be put to death, according to the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C.

Reforms that have shortened the appeals process and the fact that five of the condemned inmates have been on death row for more than 11 years have contributed to the surge.

Johnnie Cabrera, chairwoman of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, sees little outcry: "People really don't care," she said. "It's out of sight, out of mind."

Cabrera has a strong personal interest in one death row inmate, and plans to be at the penitentiary on Jan. 16 when Floyd Medlock is to be put to death. Judy Busch will be there too.

The women stand on opposite sides in the death penalty debate, but they share one thing: Medlock stabbed and killed their granddaughter, 7-year-old Katherine Ann Busch, in 1990.

Busch routinely makes the 120-mile trip from Oklahoma City to McAlester. Her group, the Homicide Survivors Support Group, erects a display of victims' photos outside the prison gates and share their tearful stories.

Cabrera attends clemency hearings on behalf of the condemned and would prefer Medlock live out his life in prison. She plans to witness his execution, hoping to offer him solace from the front row.

"I do not condone what he did," Cabrera said. "But killing this person is not going to bring her back. It's just going to make another family in pain."

Busch said the two women haven't spoken since she confronted Cabrera during an anti-death penalty rally years ago.

"It really appalls me that she fights for this person's life, that did all the horrible things he did to Kathy," Busch said. "She died a cruel painful death, and he's going to be gently put to sleep."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

EL NORTE

The mud sucked at their shoes. Gloria lost hers in the ooze, and, hurried by the others, continued on in her socks.

Jose was trembling in the chilly night air, so Carla, a young Salvadoran woman, offered him a sweater from her backpack. He accepted, then took her hand and led her through the mud.

They trudged on silently. After five hours and 10 miles the guide held up a callused hand.

"Scatter, and get down on the ground," he commanded in a whisper. "If you see headlights, don't make a sound."

As the migrants' eyes adjusted, they realized they were in a coffee plantation at the edge of a road. Rain dripped off the coffee leaves. They waited, shivering. An occasional bus or tractor-trailer sped by.

They knew they still had the whole of Mexico to cross. Yet just being out of the mud and waiting for a ride on paved road was reason to give thanks.

Finally, a pickup truck rolled to a stop. "That's a state judicial police commander," the smuggler said. He trotted out to the truck, pulling a large wad of cash from his pocket. After a short exchange, the truck turned around and sped away.

Another pickup truck pulled up 15 minutes later. "Let's go," the smuggler whispered. The group frantically ran toward the truck, but the driver called out: "Only nine! Lie down in the back and pull the tarp over you!"

Within seconds the truck sped away, and those left behind retreated to the coffee field.

Another car pulled up; this time, the driver said only two would fit. Three — including the smuggler and the prostitute — got in. "Another truck will be here soon," the smuggler called out.

And so they waited — Jose, Gloria and two other

Busch said she won't have peace until she knows Medlock no longer breathes.

Oklahoma is so strongly pro-death penalty that even Gov. Frank Keating, a Roman Catholic, called the pope's stance against it wrong.

Still, the busy January execution pace combined with a national re-examination of death penalty errors has opponents speaking out. State leaders of Catholic, Episcopal and United Methodist faiths have called for a death penalty moratorium.

Some Oklahomans say they aren't sure what side to take.

"I wouldn't want to be the one to decide if a person was to die or not. Too many people have died who may not have committed a crime," said Barbara Jenkins, a convenience store manager in McAlester, home to the penitentiary where executions are held.

Jim Fowler has lived both sides of the death penalty debate and speaks against it.

His son, Mark Fowler, is to be the sixth inmate put to death in January. He received the death penalty for his role in the 1985 slayings of three people during a grocery store robbery.

In 1986, Jim Fowler's mother was murdered. Robert Lee Miller Jr. spent 10 years on death row for that killing, but DNA evidence exonerated him and he was freed. Another man is scheduled for trial.

"We're putting ourselves on the map of being the most backwards, barbaric area in the world," Fowler said. "That's premeditated murder, and we do it with a big grin on our faces."

More than 3,700 people in the United States are waiting on death row.

Wanda Jean Allen has been there for more than 11 years for killing her roommate outside a police station in 1988. On Jan. 11, she is scheduled to become the first woman executed in Oklahoma since statehood.

"Please let me live. Please let me live," Allen, 41, begged in a whisper during a clemency hearing in December. Clemency was denied.

Oklahoma State Penitentiary Warden Gary Gibson has given the command "Let the execution begin" more than 20 times. But he has never faced a month like January and said he plans to watch his employees closely for signs of fatigue.

"It's a trying situation for everybody," he said.

On the Net: Oklahoma Department of Corrections: <http://okcntx.doc.state.ok.us> Oklahoma attorney general's office: <http://www.oag.state.ok.us> Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty: <http://www.ocadp.org>

migrants, a reporter and a photographer. Shaking with cold and wet, their feet cut by rocks and thorns, they grew more demoralized with each passing minute.

By about 4 a.m., they realized that that nobody was coming to get them, that their journey had ended in the coffee field in southern Mexico.

"All this way for nothing," Gloria lamented.

They squatted in the mud and discussed plans. Did those who got a ride ever make it? They did, Jose heard weeks later from a neighbor whose daughter was among them.

And what of those left behind, less than halfway to El Norte?

Gloria doubted she would try again. Her husband had never been enthusiastic about her leaving the kids behind, she said, so she would go home and take care of the children.

But the men were already thinking about their next try.

"There are jobs in the United States, and there aren't any in El Salvador," Jose said. "My mom is alone with her children, and I'm the oldest."

"I have to go."

EPILOGUE: After this report was written, Jose headed north again, making it almost to Tuxtla Gutierrez in southern Mexico before his smuggler ran out of money and abandoned him. Without bus fare back to the border, he turned himself in to migration authorities, who jailed him for three days before shipping him back.

He is now in El Salvador, working on a construction site — and saving money for his next attempt to reach the United States, still believing he will find out what happened to his father.

Rudy Franco, the warden at the Texas prison, says he has no idea who told the family the father died of a heart attack. He says a guard found Hernandez hanging in his cell from a sheet. The death certificate calls it a suicide.

Storm aftermath ...

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — As the lights slowly came back on in thousands of Arkansas homes, Gov. Mike Huckabee, who himself had lost power after a Christmas Day ice storm, urged residents to be patient.

About 46,000 Arkansas homes and businesses remained without electricity on New Year's Eve. At its peak, the storm had knocked out power to about 315,000 Arkansas customers.

On Sunday, the number of people in northeast Texas still without power stood at about 7,400 — down from more than 23,000 customers on Friday. Texarkana has the bulk of those affected by the outage with nearly 7,000 residents.

American Airlines said it canceled 120 flights in and out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Sunday night due to the snow, but expected operations to return to normal on Monday.

The East was also dealing with its own holiday mess.

A powerful snow storm dumped more than 2 feet of snow Saturday on New Jersey, closed every major airport in the New York City area for much of the day and forced Philadelphia to declare a snow emergency.

Officials at Newark International Airport on Sunday evening said planes were moving in and out without problems. Most trains were reported running with minimal delays.

Jennifer Roe, 27, a high school math teacher in

suburban Houston who was in New York City for the holidays, said she was considering renting a car and driving to Texas after a Sunday morning in which she tried to get on about a half-dozen planes as a standby passenger.

"I have a job, and people depend on me," Roe said after she heard there might not be room for her on a flight until Wednesday — the day students are scheduled to return to school in her district.

Back in Arkansas, Huckabee told state legislators in a conference call that he believed the storm was the worst in state history. "A lot of folks are under an extreme amount of stress," he said. "Temperatures are frayed and people are angry after going without electricity for a week."

Snow fell in most of the state Sunday as thousands spent a seventh day in the bitter cold without power. Many in the hardest hit parts of the state also were without running water because water plants didn't have electricity.

"The big problem is that the storm affected major electric transmission lines. It has destroyed the infrastructure of the state's distribution system," Huckabee said.

Sheila Yount, spokeswoman for Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, said workers were struggling to repair damage in remote areas. "One of our cooperatives had 2,000 poles broken by the storm," she said. "It has caused extensive damage to our system."

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Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

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

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. For more information, call 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR

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

PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building.

PAMPA BOOK CLUB

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

PHS SCHOLARSHIPS

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

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM

White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, will feature an extensive around-the-world Nativity collection by Jan Ragsdale as well as a gallery exhibit by artist John Darby, both of Pampa. A Victorian Christmas tree will also be on display and complete tours of the museum will be conducted throughout the Christmas and New Year's holidays. To schedule a tour, call 669-8041. WDLM is open from 1-4 p.m., Monday-Sunday. Tree donations are accepted.

CMBC BLOOD DRIVE

Coffee Memorial Blood Center will be conducting its 19th Annual M*A*S*H* Blood Drive from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Jan. 5 and 6, at the Texas Army National Guard, 2900 Tee Anchor Blvd., in Amarillo. The Texas Army National Guard and KGNC Radio AM/FM are sponsors of this year's event which will include episodes of M*A*S*H* along with a military-style decor. Donors will receive a specially-designed M*A*S*H* T-shirt for giving the gift of life. For more information, call CMBC at (806) 358-4563.

HOLIDAY HEROES

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

3D PROGRAM

Free weekly classes for the Christ-centered 3D program featuring the three Ds — Diet, Discipline and Discipleship — will begin soon. The program will tailor an eating plan to suit the individual tastes and lifestyles of each participant. For more information, contact Judith Loyd, 665-6127; Jamee McCarty, 669-7869; or Frankie Hildenbrand, 669-3713.

YMCA DIABETICS CLASS

Amarillo YMCA is offering new water exercise classes specially-designed for diabetics. Schedule of classes are as follows: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays; 6 p.m. Tuesdays; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesdays; 6 p.m. Thursdays; and 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$4 per class for non-members and \$3 per class with a 10-class punch pass. Y members get in free. For more information, call Cindy Gibson, fitness director, or Junior Garcia, aquatics director, at (806) 374-4651.

MISS TOP OF TEXAS AREA

The Third Annual Miss Top of Texas Area Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Jan. 27 at Frank Phillips College in Borger. Prior to the Miss Top of Texas Pageant, a junior pageant will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 in FPC auditorium for young women between the ages of 2-17. The Miss Top of Texas competition is a preliminary to the Miss Texas Pageant to be held in July 2001 at Fort Worth. Eligibility requirements: Participants must be between the ages of 17 and 24; must be at least a senior in high school; and must currently attend or plan to attend college. The winner will receive a \$250 cash scholarship, a \$250 wardrobe allowance, official crown and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant. Titles for the junior pageant are: Tiny Miss, Petite Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss and Young Miss. The winner will compete in the Miss Teen Texas Pageant slated in July at Fort Worth. Teens must be between the ages of 13-17. The Teen titleholder will receive a \$100 cash scholarship, official crown and her entry fee to Miss Teen Texas. For more information, call (806) 273-7168 or (806) 857-3804.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson at 6650 0356.

SCIENCE SPECTRUM

Science Spectrum, a non-profit museum for science education in Lubbock, is currently offering several educational films in its Omnimax Theatre — "Michael Jordan to the Max" featuring Michael Jordan; "Mysteries of Egypt" with actors Omar Sharif and Kate Maberly; and "Gold Fever," a history of mining, taking the viewer on a voyage of abandoned mines from the Klondike to the Gold Coast of Africa. In addition, the interactive traveling exhibit "Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime" is currently at the museum. For more information, call (806) 745-2525.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

National Alliance for Excellence scholarships applications are available for the 2000-01 Lucent Global Science Scholars Program, an international competition to identify and assist future leaders in the field of communications technologies. NAE administers the national portion of the competition which is open to high school seniors who are planning careers in information technologies. Students must plan to enroll in college in the fall of 2001. For more information or to request an application, contact NAE at (732) 747-0028 or visit www.excellence.org, on the Internet.

TG WEBSITE

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. (TG) has revamped its "Adventures in Education" website located at <http://www.adventuresineducation.org> or <http://www.aie.org> on the Internet. Although the site is targeted to middle school, high school and college students as well as high school counselors, each section can assist parents in helping their children prepare for college. TG is a public nonprofit corporation that helps create access to higher education for millions of families and students through its role as an administrator of the Federal Family Education Loan Program. Its mission is to provide information to help families and students realize their educational and career dreams.

FRESHSTART

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold FreshStart, a free two-week smoking cessation support series sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, from 6-7 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays, Nov. 6-14. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235.

PATHWAYS

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer "Pathways," a four-part support series for those who have lost a loved one, from 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays throughout the month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 135 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

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

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Dec. 6 and 27, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Dec. 15, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster, Pampa; Dec. 26, Family Care Center, 1010 S. Main, Shamrock and Parkview Hospital, 901 S.

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

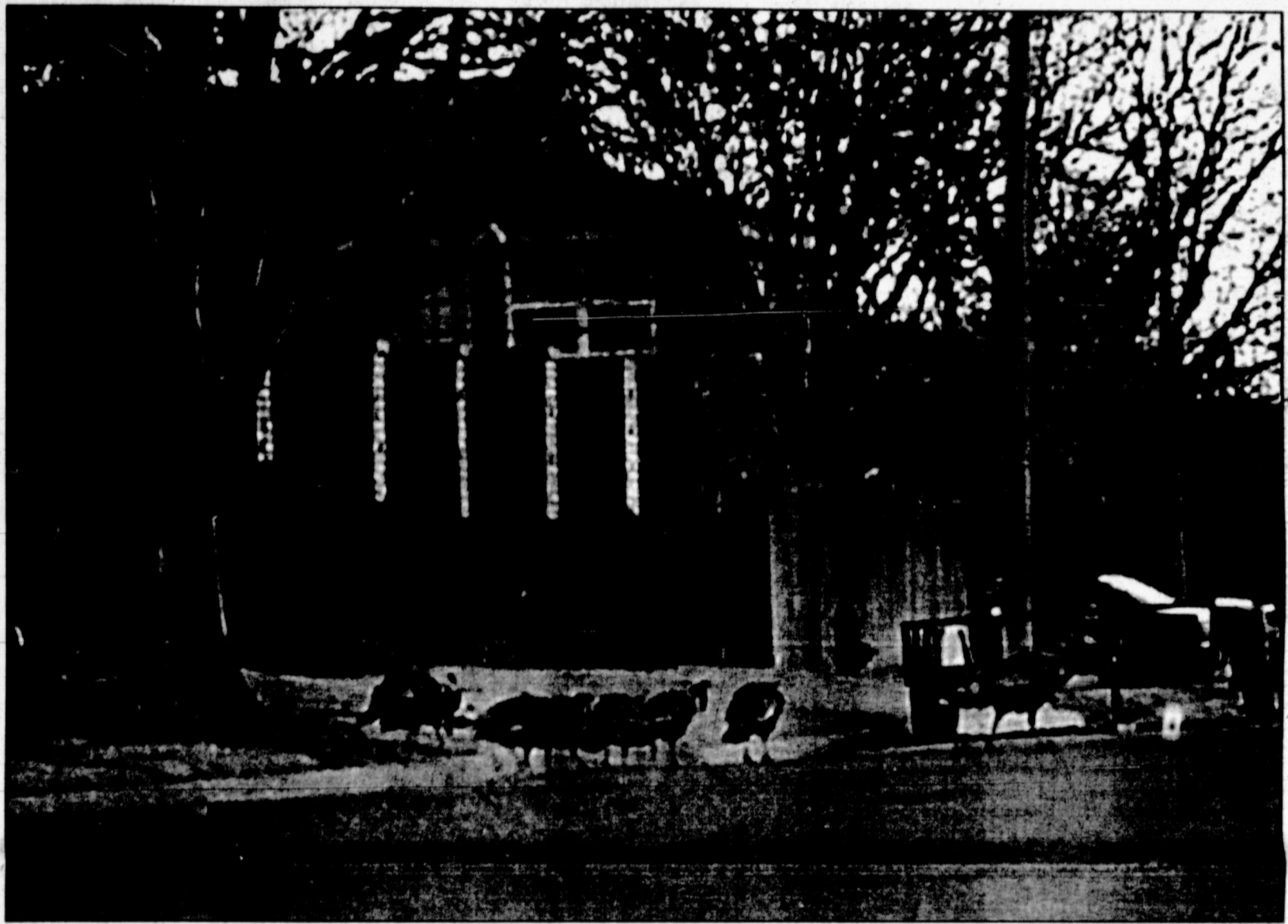
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates for nursing home residents as part of its Ombudsmen program. The Ombudsmen will visit residents of long-term care facilities and help resolve complaints involving residents rights, quality of life and quality of care. Once accepted into the program, volunteers complete a three month internship including intensive training and supervision in preparation. Ideal candidates will have strong sense of fair play, excellent problem-solving skills, good relationships with older people and the ability to devote two hours a week to the residents served by the Ombudsman program. For more information, contact Jeff Price, regional Ombudsman, or Tanya Mock, Ombudsman Program Aide, at 1-800-642-6008; or write P.O. Box 9257, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

SCHOOL TO CAREER PROGRAM

Texas AFL-CIO has announced the "School to Careers" project for high school students interested in union apprenticeship programs. To learn more about the benefits of union-sponsored apprenticeship training programs, contact the local Texas Workforce Commission or call (512) 470-0918.

Turkey walk?



(Special photo by Terry Young)

Deputy Chief Terry Young recently caught a flock of wild turkeys crossing the road at 16th and Evergreen streets as they came out of Mora Wilks Park. For the past few months, Pampa residents have been entertained by visits of this flock in residential areas all along Red Deer Creek. The birds apparently take trips to town quite often.

Heard Jones
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Make Days of Your Life Count By Resolving to Live Them Well

DEAR READERS: My New Year's column has become an annual tradition. These New Year's resolutions are based on the original credo of Al-Anon with the addition of some variations of my own.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Just for today, I will live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I thought I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today, I will be happy. Abraham Lincoln said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." He was right. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. I will chase them out of my mind and replace them with happy thoughts.

Just for today, I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.

Just for today, I will improve my mind. I will not be a mental loafer. I will force myself to read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll make an honest effort to quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat nothing I know to be fattening. And I will force myself to exercise — even if it's only walking around the

block or using the stairs instead of the elevator.

Just for today, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will look as good as I can, dress becomingly, speak softly, act courteously, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll try not to improve anybody except myself.

We know so much more about nutrition and how much exercise and sensible living can extend life and make it more enjoyable; so just for today, I'll take good care of my body so I can celebrate many more happy new years.

Just for today, I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it, thereby saving myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

Just for today, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

To one and all: a happy, healthy New Year!

LOVE, ABBY

P.S. God bless our men and women in uniform in every corner of the world where our flag is flying. And let us not forget those patriotic Americans who are serving their country in the Peace Corps, as well as those who have served and are now in veterans hospitals and nursing homes.

And as we begin this bright, shiny new year, consider these "Thoughts for the Day" by the philosopher Sri Satya Sai Baba:

"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

"If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

"If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

"When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

friend or associate pushes your buttons. Are you expecting too much? What is happening here? Have a creative discussion with a friend or loved one. Root out the problem and solve it. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Take an overview, especially if confusion sets in. You might not grasp what someone at work is trying to do. New information points you in a new direction. Use your limitless imagination with problems, and you'll cruise through them. Tonight: Check out the Internet for a special deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Work with others one-on-one. Listen carefully to a friend or loved one who is always on your side. A flirtation could distract you from the main issue at hand. Your creativity bubbles forth with others and with finances. Talk money. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Let others seek you out. Face tensions among family, your domestic needs and a loved one. Work on your juggling skills. Communication surges. Seek out answers and touch base with others. You get a variety of opinions. Consider different beliefs. Tonight: Go along with another's idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might not agree with those you work with, but you need to develop better work relationships. Use your diplomatic skills to seek out answers and meld different opinions. Make time for some exercise, especially now that the holidays are over. Tonight: Do something physical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might want something that simply costs way too much. Know when to rein yourself in and say no. Indulge a loved one or child by doing something he loves. Your sense of what is happening is right on. Follow your sixth sense. Tonight: Continue romping in the year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might inadvertently cause yourself confusion. Slow down and take your time. You could make a bad decision if you rush. If you go within, you'll come up with great ideas. You're inspired with your finances. Tonight: Happy at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Keep things moving. Don't get focused on one idea. Holding too much inside could cause you a problem. Keep conversations moving, with an eye to success and extending your horizons. Your influence might be a lot larger than you think. Tonight: Meet a friend for dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Before you make a decision, take into account what is happening with a friend. You could feel tense about spending. Why not study your finances and look for other solutions? Someone shares good ideas. Actually, it is you who is vague presently. Tonight: Pay bills.

BORN TODAY

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. (1968), House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (1942), author Isaac Asimov (1920)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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Horoscope

TUESDAY, JAN. 2, 2001

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your personality wins friends. Inspiration stems from friends and groups. Talks and brainstorming only add to good ideas. Welcome differences, especially from someone you put on a pedestal. Let this person share ideas. You will only gain. Tonight: Your smile wins friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Assume a low profile, even at work. Others frequently depend on you. You can give guidance, but do not get yourself in trouble. Close your door if you want to get any work done. Establish more of what you want in a partnership. Another is changing. Acknowledge this person's spiritual growth. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Keep the big picture in mind, especially if you get thrown off by someone who is close to you. Dealing with others needs to be kept on a universal level. Don't get personal. Let another make the first move. Do needed research. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Think about what you expect from those in your everyday life. A

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Finished

1 Barbecue aid

41 "American Gigolo" star

5 King of the golden touch

10 Bat abode

11 Bests

13 List-ending abbr.

14 Outlaw

15 Kind of bowling

17 French article

18 One way to draw

19 Big snake

20 Had dinner

21 Raucous

22 G-bage

25 Scout abodes

26 Budget amount

27 Pasture

28 Frequently

29 Brewing aids

33 Mine rock

34 Winter cap feature

35 Bamboo munchers

37 Actress Moreno

38 Gary of "Forrest Gump"

SPICED DIBS TIRADE AREA UNEVEN MOIT DONEN SONAR STEIN SENORA ACTI RIAP DONHENLEI SON EPIEE LOAVES MAISS ORDER MOCHA ODIN FANLAN PIED ENDURE SETS DEEPER

Saturday's answer

9 Skid, in a way

12 Places

16 Hiker's route

21 Vaulting game

22 Soldiers

23 Song part

24 Roof topper

25 Eye drop

27 Rented

29 Pester

30 Martini garnish

31 Spud

32 Extra

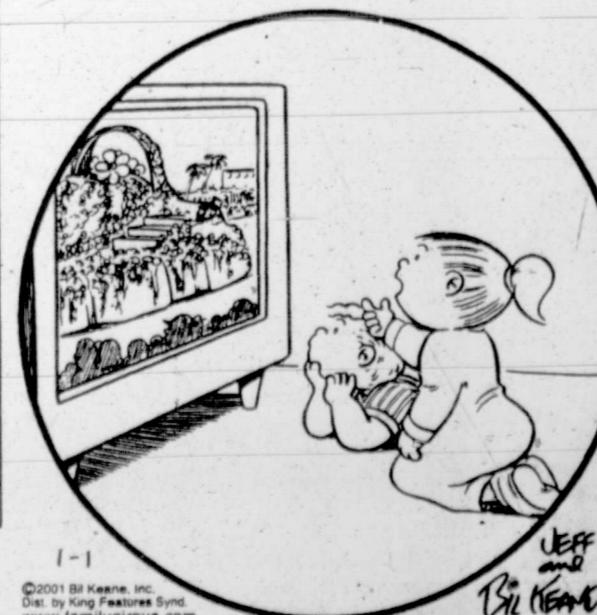
36 Poorly lit

Marmaduke



"You don't have to move. Marmaduke doesn't mind sharing."

The Family Circus



"That float is covered with daisies. What's it doin' in the ROSE parade?"

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



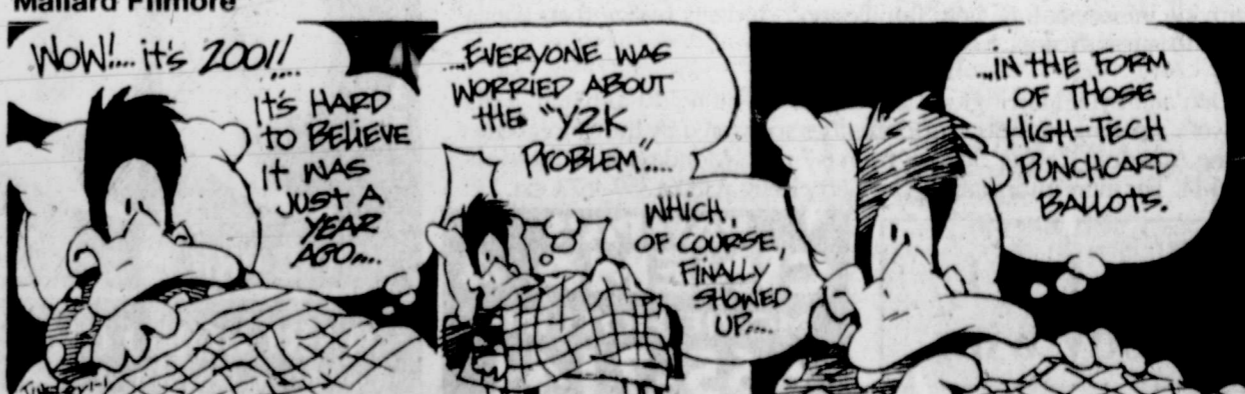
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



FOOTBA

Al Groh take the Virginia, jo team that r enth head o Groh spu with the Je resigned a heads back replace G retired. He year contr worth \$5 m Groh wer but the tea games. A vi would hav berth. MIAMI (record per Smith, a r and stout o ing Miami I Mora anothe Smith so carry, a 17-y for a 20-17 victory ove Colts on Sa overcame t ceptions to from a 14- second half, game in the ulation. NEW OF Aaron Bro touchdown Jackson, and a huge fourt the St. Loui victory Satu BALTIMO Baltimore's defense was more and fo end Shanno bizarre tou wild-card p Denver. In winni son game in when the Co the Ravens (

SPORTS

Notebook

FOOTBALL

Al Groh resigned Saturday to take the coaching job at Virginia, jolting a New York Jets team that must look for its seventh head coach in 11 years.

Groh spent just one season with the Jets since Bill Parcells resigned as coach. He now heads back to his alma mater to replace George Welsh, who retired. He accepted a seven-year contract that could be worth \$5 million.

Groh went 9-7 after a 4-0 start, but the team lost its last three games. A victory in any of them would have earned a playoff berth.

MIAMI (AP) — With an NFL-record performance by Lamar Smith, a resilient quarterback and stout defense, the surprising Miami Dolphins handed Jim Mora another playoff loss.

Smith scored on his 40th carry, a 17-yard run in overtime for a 20-17 wild-card playoff victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Saturday. Jay Fiedler overcame three first-half interceptions to lead a comeback from a 14-point deficit in the second half, and Miami tied the game in the final minute of regulation.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Aaron Brooks threw three touchdown passes to Willie Jackson, and the Saints held off a huge fourth-quarter rally from the St. Louis Rams for a 31-28 victory Saturday.

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore's record-setting defense was impenetrable once more and former Broncos tight end Shannon Sharpe scored a bizarre touchdown in a 21-3 wild-card playoff victory over Denver.

In winning the first postseason game in this city since 1977, when the Colts lost to Oakland, the Ravens (13-4) earned a trip

to Nashville to play the Tennessee Titans, who edged them for the AFC Central crown this season.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb ran for a touchdown and threw for two more, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to 21-3 victory over Tampa Bay in an NFC wild-card game, sending them on to the Meadowlands to play the New York Giants next weekend.

NEW YORK (AP) — From an early season benching to top rookie is an improbable climb. Brian Urlacher of the Chicago Bears did it and was selected The Associated Press NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Urlacher, the ninth overall pick from New Mexico in last April's draft, easily won the award in balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover pro football. He clearly did, finishing with team-leading totals of 125 tackles, 99 solo, and eight sacks for the underachieving Bears (5-11). He also had two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — Wayne Madkin scored on a 7-yard scramble to give Mississippi State a 43-41 overtime victory over Texas A&M in the snowy Independence Bowl.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Air Force put on an air show in the first Silicon Valley Classic.

The Falcons didn't abandon the option, but they came out passing to surprise Fresno State 37-34 in the inaugural bowl game at Spartan Stadium.

BOXING

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Evander Holyfield and Johnny Ruiz will have a rematch of their summer bout on March 3 at Mandalay Bay hotel casino, though Holyfield may already be looking past that bout.

Girl boxers



(Photo by Grover Black)

Roneca Carey (left) and Candie Smith are part of a girls' boxing team organized by the Youth Survival Club of Pampa. The girls started boxing about four months ago and they are expected to appear in a tournament in Pampa later this year. Roneca is 13 years old and Candie is 12.

Harvesters claim consolation crown

Caprock Tournament

LUBBOCK — Junior forward Adam Rodgers scored 26 points as Pampa rallied for an 84-75 win over Lubbock Coronado Saturday afternoon.

The win gave the Harvesters the consolation championship in the Caprock Tournament.

Pampa trailed by 18 points (21-3) in the first quarter, but started cutting quickly into the Coronado lead early in the second period. By halftime, the Harvesters were trailing by only two (35-33).

The 6-1 Rodgers scored 14 first-half points, including a pair of 3-point goals, to lead the Pampa comeback.

Pampa dominated the second half and gained a 9-point lead (59-50) going into the fourth quarter.

Gary Alexander scored 13 points and Victor Brooks added 12 to the Pampa attack.

Adam Pertel topped the Mustangs with 14 points, followed by Gabe Norwood 11.

Also scoring for Pampa were Kirk George with 9, Tanner Hucks 6, Kyle Francis 6, Max Simon 6, Dustin Johnson 3, Jon

East 1, Matt Crow 1 and Erik Brown 1.

Pampa returns to District 3-4A action Tuesday night, hosting Amarillo Caprock at 7:30 Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

Pampa reached Saturday afternoon's consolation finals with a 44-36 win over El Paso Bowie on Saturday afternoon.

Three Harvesters scored in double figures, led by Gary Alexander's 16 points. Tanner Hucks followed with 13 and Victor Brooks added 11.

The Harvesters stayed in front the entire second half after leading at intermission by seven (19-12).

Fernie Cuerra topped Bowie with 14 points. David Yencer was second with 9.

Kirk George and Jon East had 2 points each for the Harvesters.

Pampa is 14-7 for the season and 1-0 district play.

Transactions ...

BASKETBALL

PHOENIX SUNS—Activated C Jake Tsakalidis from the injured list. Placed F Ruben Garces on the injured list.

VANCOUVER GRIZZLIES—Activated G Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf from the injured list. Placed F Grant Long on the injured list.

FOOTBALL

NEW YORK JETS—Announced the resignation of Al Groh, coach, to become football coach at Virginia.

HOCKEY

ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Recalled C Marc

Chouinard from Cincinnati of the AHL.

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Placed D Adam Burt on injured reserve. Recalled D Brett Clark from Orlando of the IHL.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Placed G Ron Tugnutt on injured reserve. Recalled G Jean-Francois Labbe from Syracuse of the AHL.

DALLAS STARS—Reassigned C Greg Leeb to Utah of the IHL. Activated RW Grant Marshall and D Gerald Diduck from injured reserve. Placed LW Kirk Muller on injured reserve.

HARVESTER BASKETBALL

Date	Opponent	Site	JV	Varsity
January 2	Caprock	Pampa	6:00	7:30
January 5	Canyon	Canyon	6:00	7:30

GO HARVESTERS!


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THE **Pampa** NEWS

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BAR W'S GOING

WE ARE OVER STOCKED

SALE SALE SALE

DECEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 31

YEAR END **BLOWOUT**

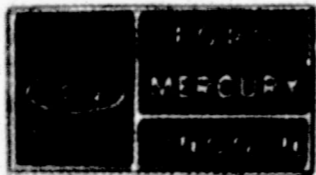
INVENTORY

MUST BE

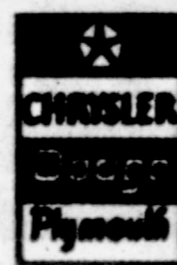
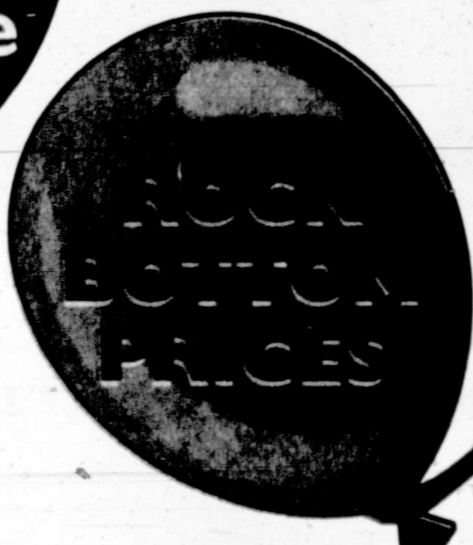
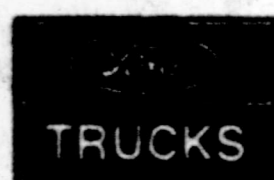
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HUGE SAVINGS

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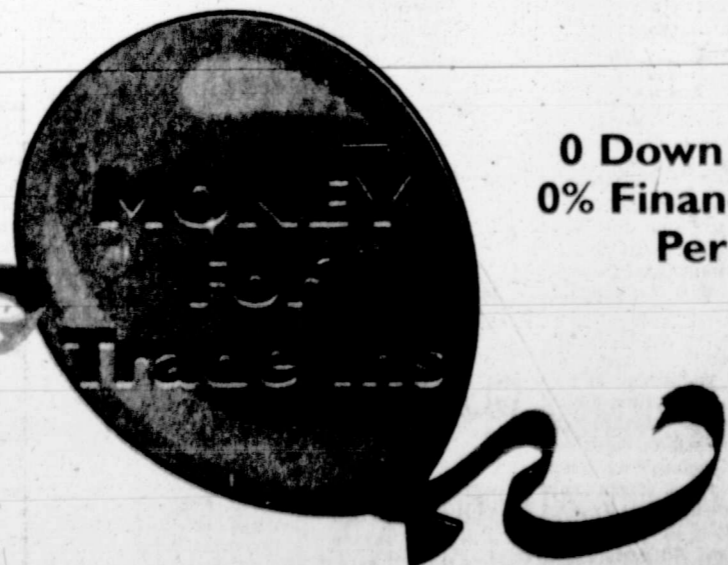


LOW LOW Payments

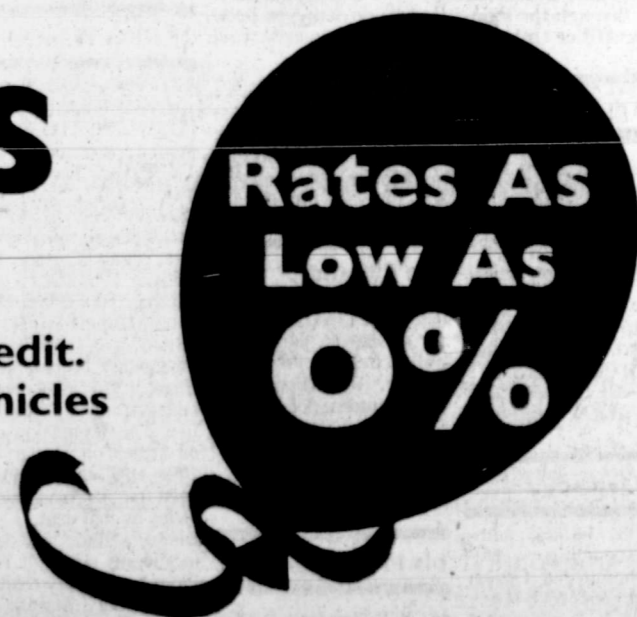


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