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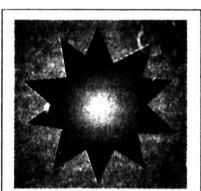
Vol. 96 No. 233 · Pampa, Texas 50° Daily · Sunday 11



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High today 45-50 Low tonight mid 20s For weather details see Page 2

State Farm hikes auto insurance rates

AUSTIN (Al') — Beginning Jan. 28, State Farm auto insurance customers will pay higher rates, the company announced this week.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. will raise its overall rate level an average of 1.7 percent. It is the first increase since 1996, the company said. In 1998 and 1999, rates decreased by 11.9 percent combined.

The increase is based on a benchmark recommendation by the Texas Commission of Insurance

The statewide rate, or standard, is an average of benchmarks set in several insurance rating territories across the state. Insurance companies can set their rates from 30 percent below to 30 percent above the benchmark.

State Farm, which insures about 3.9 million vehicles in lexas, is the largest autoinsurer in the state.

The increase is because of rising claims costs and the benchmark system, which the industry calls ineffective and harmful to consumers because it relies on outdated data, said lerry Johns, president of the industry group Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

Classified ads get results. Call 669-2525 to place your advertisement.

· Vernon E. Camp, 82, World War II veteran

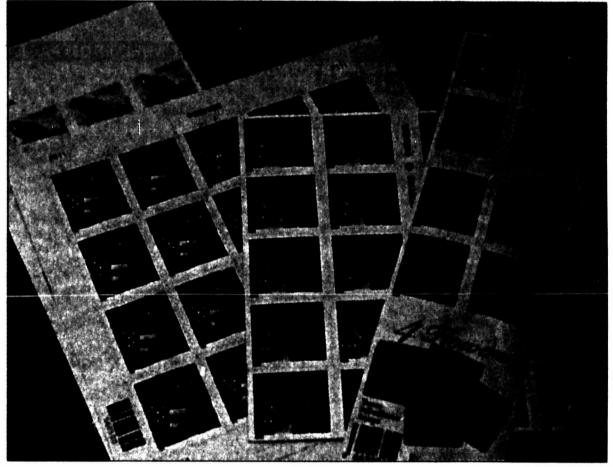
• Leo G. Garrett, 86, retired Diamond Shamrock employ-

• The Rev. Harold Edwin Lee, 92, Assembly of God minister, former PISD employee,.

· E.E. 'Pinky' Shultz, 87, retired secretary-treasurer, office manager of Jones-Everett Machine Co.

Sports 9

Postal rates rising ...



(Pampa News photos by Nancy Young)

Four new designs on first-class stamps are available for purchase at the local post office as well as on the internet. The new designs feature the Statue of Liberty, birds, flowers and an American flag flying across a farm.

Stamps going up

More rate, other changes unveiled

By NANCY YOUNG

The price of postage is going up a penny on Sunday, Jan. 7 Pampa Postal Services Postmaster Tim

McNair said customers who want to take advantage of the 33-cent price must have letters in the mail before mail is picked up at 5:20 p.m.

The new 34-cent stamps do not have the price on them. Instead, "first class-usa" is printed across the bottom of the stamps. McNair said the post office has received an adequate supply of one-cent stamps for customers who need to add the stamp to their current supply of 33-cent

The postmaster said his staff has been busy getting information to their customers and answering many questions about the rate increase and other changes taking effect next

The price of postal cards will remain the same, he said. He said those cards may be purchased.

The new rates are taking effect on a Sunday to



Pampa Postmaster Tim McNair displays new first class stamp.

reduce any confusion that would occur on a reg-

ular business day. Local post office box fees will be going down said McNair. The previous six-month rate for the smallest box was \$22, and it will go to \$19. The next largest box has been \$32 for six months, and now will be \$27.50. A \$57 fee has been charged

(See STAMPS, Page 2)

County enacts new, updated fire contracts

By NANCY YOUNG Managing Editor

After extensive review and updating, all fire contacts for 2001 have been approved by Gray County Commissioners Court. The contracts are between Gray County and the firefighting entities who fight fires in Gray County

Prior to this week's county commission meeting, the county's contract with the City of Pampa was the only contract regarding fire fighting which had previously been approved for the current year.

Annual contracts were approved for services with Hoover Fire Department and Area Firefighters Association, Inc., which is the Skellytown Fire Department. County Judge Richard Peet told commissioners the Skellytown firefighters group is operating separately from the City of Skellytown and has a 501 3C tax exempt number. Hoover Volunteer Fire Department will be paid \$15,000 for the

Contracts with the City of McLean and the City of Lefors provide for the county to pay each a set fee of \$35,000 a year for fire service.

The fire departments of Skellytown, Mobeetie, Wheeler, White Deer and Groom will be paid \$484 per fire which they fight with two firefighting units and \$252 for one fire fighting unit. The county will pay the departments \$50 in the event of a false alarm or if the fire is out when the fire department arrives on the scene.

(See CONTRACTS, Page 2)

Hit-run accident sparks two arrests

Two Pampa men await bond Dwight, faces charges of public proceedings in Gray County Jail today after being arrested in connection with a hit-and-run collision Thursday night.

Pampa police charged Arthur with driving while intoxicated third offense and breath test container law, felon in possession of a firearm, and failure to leave information at the scene of

Jerry Lee Hicks, 35, 816

intoxication and resisting arrest.

Both men remained in jail this morning while paperwork was being completed before bond on the respective charges could be Ray Short, 39, of White Deer set, according to Jailer Sgt Cotton Hargrove.

According to police reports, refusal, violation of the open the arrests stem from a hit-andrun accident reported at 8 a.m. Thursday by Constable Chris Lockridge. He told police dispatchers that the suspect vehicle,

(See ACCIDENT, Page 2) No charges in stabbing of stepdad by stepson

Officials with the Gray County Sheriff's Office do not plan to file charges in the New Year's Day stabbing of a Pampa man.

"For all that we can see, it appears it was self defense," said Chief Deputy David Russell. "We talked to everyone there, all the family members, and their stories seem to be the same - it was self defense." Frank Groves, 44, remained in the hospital in stable condition, the deputy said Thursday.

At 2:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 1, sheriff's deputies responded to a reported domestic assault at a residence in Kentucky Acres, west of

Russell said in an earlier interview that "the stepdad and son got into an argument. A knife was produced and the stepdad was

The deputy said the incident involved alcohol. He said the two had argued over a "personal matter."

Authorities declined to release the name of the 17-year-old

Court nixes one Tulia case

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A Texas Panhandle appeals court this week dismissed charges against a man arrested in a controversial 1999 drug bust, a move that could cast doubt on the credibility of an undercover officer involved in the bust

The court's ruling prevents Billy Water, 41, of tion. Tulia from being tried on charges he sold drugs to an undercover officer. Forty-three people were arrested in the bust. Forty of them were black.

The arrests were based on an 18-month undercover investigation by Tulia officer Tom Coleman, who worked alone and had no surveillance. Many have challenged Coleman's credibility but others have nothing but praise for him as an outstanding

In 1999, one year short of completing a 10-year probation for marijuana possession, Wafer was accused of selling cocaine to Coleman near a play- comment Friday.

The drug bust has prompted a lawsuit against the local sheriff, the district attorney who prosecuted the cases, and Coleman. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the undercover opera-

The court's decision to dismiss Water's charges may impact others convicted in the bust.

"Legally, my theory and my belief is no" the court's ruling would not impact the other cases, said Water's attorney, Brent Hamilton. "But, from a factual standpoint ... the evidence was just totally uncredible against Mr. Wafer, so I think it does cast at least a little bit of doubt on the credibility of Mr. Coleman."

Prosecutor Terry McEachern was out of the office until Monday and could not be reached for

Bush official says review of Clinton orders planned

packs for Washington, a spokesman on Friday minute executive orders that he is pursuing," pledged a review once Bush takes office of "each - Fleischer said, speaking in a conterence call with and every" last-minute executive order by President Clinton.

"He's been a busy beaver," Bush transition spokesman Ari Fleischer said of Clinton's flurry of executive orders and proclamations.

Fleischer said that Bush respects Clinton's rights to act with the full powers of the presidency up to drilling in tens of millions of acres of federal

his final minutes in office. "It is the president's prerogative to do as he sees

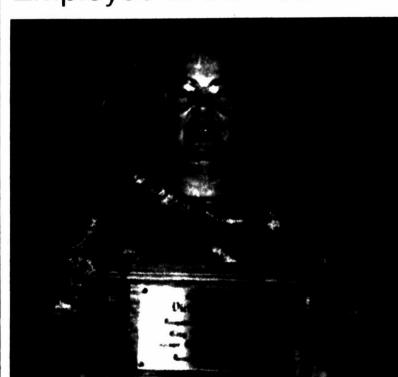
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - As President-elect Bush fit. We will not comment on some of these lastreporters from transition headquarters in Washington, D.C

Still, he added, "We will review each and every one of them. We are taking note of them."

Clinton's latest move, with less than two weeks left in his term, was an order banning logging and

(See BUSH, Page 2)

Employee of the Year



Meter Service Technician Vickie Long was recently named Employee of the Year for the City of Pampa. She has worked for the city since 1986. In addition to her regular duties, she serves as secretary to the Canadian Water Utility Association. (Related photo on Page 5)

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

GARRETT, Leo G. - 4 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel,

IOHNSTON, T.I. — 4:30 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa

LEE, The Rev. Harold Edwin — 10 a.m., San Jacinto Assembly of God Church, Amarillo. Graveside services, 1 p.m., Panhandle Cemetery,

POWERS, Robert Paul — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

SHULTZ, E.E. "Pinky" — Memorial services, 10 a.m., First Christian Church, Pampa.

Obituaries

VERNON E. CAMP

LEFORS - Vernon E. Camp, 82, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001, in Pampa. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa

Mr. Camp was born March 24, 1918, at St. Joe, Ark. He married Ruth Wilson on Feb. 16, 1941, at Sayre, Okla.; she died July 29, 1987. He later married Ona Turner on Aug. 20, 1996, at Stinnett.

He had been a Lefors resident since 1996, moving from Pampa, and was a member of Lefors Church of Christ. He also belonged to Shriners, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657 and Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, serving as a former Grand Master.

He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran, serving during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Ona, of the home; a daughter, Paula Robinson of Brownwood; three sons, James Camp of Big Spring, Douglas Camp of Amarillo and Earnest Camp of China; a brother, Doug Camp of Borger; a half-sister, Wilma Osborne of Tulare, Calif.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Box 190567, Dallas, TX 75219-0567.

LEO G. GARRETT

Leo G. Garrett, 86, of Pampa, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001, at Amarillo. Services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Todd Dyess, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of

Mr. Garrett was born Dec. 9, 1914, in Crawford County, Kan. He married Mary Lea Hendren on Nov. 12, 1934, at Oswego, Kan. He had been a Pampa resident since 1965, moving from Dumas, and retired from Diamond Shamrock in 1979,

after 31 years of service. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and held membership in First United Methodist Church and Taylor Shultz of Austin, Lauren Shultz of Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM. He was a former member of Pampa Rotary Club as

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of the home; a daughter, Barbara Maher of New Orleans, La.; a son, James P. Garrett of Payson, Ariz.; a brother, Wayne Garrett of Pittsburg, Kan.; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981; or to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939.

THE REV. HAROLD EDWIN LEE

AMARILLO — The Rev. Harold Edwin Lee, 92, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at San Jacinto Assembly of God Church with Dr. Robert Slaton, district superintendent of West Texas Area Assemblies of God, the Rev. Melvin Suttle, pastor of San Jacinto Assembly, and the Rev. Harold Ray Stone, Assembly of God minister of North Liberty, Iowa, officiating. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. in Panhandle Cemetery at Panhandle. Burial will be under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

The Rev. Lee was born at Collinsville, Texas. He married Aline Jernigan in 1934 at Portales, N.M. He worked for Panhandle Independent School District from 1960-76 and later became an Assembly of God minister, pastoring churches in White Deer, White Face and Mobeetie. After retiring, he was a pulpit supply pastor throughout the panhandle.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving as an airplane radio mechanic stationed at Biggs Field, El Paso, during World World II.

Survivors include his wife, Aline, of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Louise and Howard Kitchens of White Deer and Mary and Richard Ransford of Oxnard, Calif.; six grand-Children; 12 great-grandchildren; and a greatgreat-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be in lieu of flowers to San Jacinto Assembly of God Church Mission Fund, 400 N. Georgia, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Stocks

Name and Address of the Owner, where the Person of the Owner, where the Person of the Owner, where the Owner, which is				
The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		Columbia/HCA		up 0.25
		Halliburton		up 3/8
11/4	2.22	KMI		up 1 3/16
Wheat	2.72	Kerr McGee		up 11/16
Milo	3.54	Limited		up 5/16
Corn	3.89	McDonald's		udn 1/16
Soybeans	4.16	Exxon Mobil		up 1/2
	New Atmos			
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:		XCEL		
		NOI		up 7/8
		OKE		
Occidental24 1/2	1	Penney's		dn 1/16
	up I	Phillips		
Fidelity Mageln	121.06	Pioneer Nat		up 1 1/8
Puritan	18.80	SLB71		
		Tenneco		NC
The following 9.30 a.m.	N V Suvit	Texaco	60 1/16	
Market quotations are furnished by		Ultramar		up 1/2
Edward Jones & Co of Par	Wal-Mart	55 3/16	dn I	
BP Amoco		Williams		
Cabot,				
Cabot O&G27 7/16		New York Gold		267.65
Chevron 87 1/8	up 1 1/4	Silver		4.55

Obituaries (cont.)

E.E. 'PINKY' SHULTZ

E.E. "Pinky" Shultz, 87, of Pampa, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001, at Bedford, Texas. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in First Christian Church with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor, officiating. The body was cremated and will not be available for

viewing. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Shultz, born Nov. 12, 1913, at Arnett, Okla., graduated from Arnett High School in 1936 and attended college in Altus, Okla. He married his high school sweetheart, Loree

Miller, on June 20, 1936, at Enid, Okla. He worked for seven years in the county clerk's office in Ellis County, Okla., before moving to Cactus, Texas, where he worked for three years in the war defense plant.

He moved to Pampa in 1946 to work for Jones-Everett Machine Co. where he served as office manager and secretary-treasurer until his retirement in 1990. He was a member of First Christian Church where he was chairman of the Board of Trustees, served as church treasurer, and was on the building committee for several years.

He was president of Aquilla and Priscilla Sunday School Class for 30 years, served as chairman of the Elders, and served as president of Christian Men's Fellowship. He was a member of the Pulpit Committee and was institutional representative between the church and the Boy Scouts. He was elected Elder Emeritus, one of only three chosen in the history of the church.

He was a member and past president of the Pampa Noon Lions Club where he also served as tail twister, lion tamer, first vice-president, second vice-president, chairman of international club relations, and he served as interlocutor of the Lion's Club Minstrel Show which ran for 42 years in Pampa. He also served as District 2-T1 membership chairman, international convention chairman, and deputy district governor. He was named Lion of the Year in 1985 by the local club and received life memberships in the High Plains Eye Bank and the Texas League for Crippled Children.

Pinky Shultz was an incredible man. Even though he spent innumerable hours giving of himself to his community and his church, the first and foremost thing in his life was his family. For that, he is a person that we could all hope to be.

He was preceded in death by his parents, G.W. and Margaret Crowder Shultz; and his two brothers, Bunny and Elmer Shultz.

Survivors include his wife, Loree Miller Shultz; a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Gail Shultz of Bedford; a daughter and son-in-law, Joy and Billy Williams of North Richland Hills; his grandchildren, Ryan and wife Connie Shultz of Dallas, Bedford, Shawn Williams and Brandy Williams, both of Dallas; numerous nieces and nephews and many brothers and sisters-in-law.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite charity.

Police report

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

Thursday, Jan. 4

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 300 block of Tignor.

Arthur Ray Short, 39, White Deer, was arrested in the 300 block of Tignor for driving while intoxicated - third offense, felony possession of a firearm, and failure to stop and give information.

Jerry Lee Hicks, 35, 816 N. Dwight, was arrested in the 300 block of Tignor for resisting arrest and public intoxication.

Sheriff's Office

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

Thursday, Jan. 4

Joseph Michael Engle, 42, 321 E. Kingsmill, was arrested on a bond forfeiture for theft over \$50 and under \$500. He was released on bond.

Barbara Della Keys, 28, 1104 S. Sumner, was arrested on three counts of thwarting compulsory attendance and failure to appear.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Thursday, Jan. 4

10:20 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the

1800 block of North Banks and transported one to 6:24 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local

nursing facility and transported one to PRMC. 8:37 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Reid and transported one to

Emergency numbers

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

Accidents

No accident reports were filed today by the Pampa Police Department.

CONTRACTS

Peet said all contracts are between the county and the entity which owns the equipment. While the majority of the fire departments are owned and operated by the city which they represent, he said both Hoover and Skellytown Fire Departments are owned by the volunteer fire fighting groups.

Some contracts with the fire fighting units had not been reviewed since 1982, said Peet. He told commissioners court members the contracts now

are only valid for one budget year and must be renewed and presented for revision each year.

County Judge Richard Peet said it was provided in the contract with the City of Pampa which was approved several months ago that Gray County, will pay the city \$130,000 annually. He said the only change in that contract was requested by the City of Pampa and it was to change the contract review time from August of July each year. The City of Pampa's budget runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 while the county's budget is based on the calendar while the county's budget is based on the calendar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ACCIDENT

a light-colored Chevrolet Impala, was headed south on the 300 block of North Tignor.

Officer Stormy McCullar responded to the accident scene, while Lockridge and Office David Conner searched for the suspect vehicle. A 1985 Nissan belonging to Vernon Camp, 205 Tignor, had been damaged in the front left area. Damage was

stimated at more than \$500.

Meanwhile, Lockridge and Conner stopped the Impala suspected in the collision in the 300 block of

Hicks, a passenger in the Impala, fought officers and resisted arrest when Lockridge and Connertook the two men into custody. A Winchester .22-rifle was found in the car with a live round of ammunition in the chamber, police said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BUSH

He has also proposed a reorganization of the nation's counterintelligence efforts, rescinded his own ethics rule limiting lobbying contacts by former administration officials, and changed the license plates of his government limousine to support voting rights for the District of Columbia.

Wrapping up his old life and preparing for his new one, President-elect Bush on Friday had no public appearances. Instead, he was packing his belongings in Texas and working to fill top law enforcement and intelligence positions in his

Bush wants Louis Freeh, a Clinton appointee who is popular among Republicans, to stay on as director of the FBI, advisers said. Freeh has two more years left of his 10-year term.

Bush may also offer a brief extension to CIA Director George Tenet, some Bush advisers said Thursday.

No other major personnel announcements were planned for Friday. Instead, Bush aimed to spend the day boxing up his belongings — some will go to the White House later this month and others will be shipped to his nearly completed new ranch house in Crawford, Texas, about a two-hour drive from Austin.

Bush planned to leave Friday for the ranch, where he'll spend the weekend and play host to a group of Republican governors on Saturday, said spokesman Dan Bartlett. The governors' meeting is part policy gabfest

and part thank-you party for state leaders who helped Bush get elected. They'll get a Bush-led tour of the remote 1,600 acre property, aides said. Continuing a series of meetings to address his administration's top priorities, Bush has invited members of Congress who oversee military programs to Austin on Monday for a forum on defense issues, Bartlett said.

On Tuesday he planned to visit Washington, returning to Austin on Thursday.

Before his final move to Washington, Bush was expected to participate in a long*delayed victory

Bush on Thursday named campaign manager loe Allbaugh to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also selected campaign strategist Karl Rove as his senior White House

 Rove was given control over the offices of political affairs, public liaison and strategic initiatives.

Allbaugh, 48, and Rove, 50, combined with spokeswoman Karen Hughes to form Bush's loyal "Iron Triangle" that guided him to the presidency. Hughes, 44, was named presidential counselor shortly after the election.

"The triangle has been completed," Bush told

reporters as he announced the appointments. The FBI's Freeh is in the eighth year of a 10-year term given to him by President Clinton, but the two have often clashed; Bush advisers have told Freeh they want him to stay.

Things were less clear in terms of Tenet at the

A friend who has spoken to Tenet in the last few days cast doubt on the idea of his joining the Bush administration.

Several Democrats and Republicans have urged Bush to retain Tenet in an effort to take the spy agency out of the political cycle. Bush's father, former President Bush, once headed the CIA and has called for a less-political approach.

The president-elect has already dipped into Clinton's administration, nominating Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta to be his transportation secretary.

A senior Bush adviser said the president-elect planned to request that Tenet stay aboard in the short term while the incoming national security team assesses America's foreign policy needs and. the CIA's role. Tenet would not be auditioning for a long-term appointment but rather would be ar placeholder, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Such a call had not been made as of late Thursday, Republican sources said.

Republican Rep. Porter Goss, a former CIA agent. and current chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee, said he advised Bush to take his time finding a new director for the spy agency. He said the Clinton administration lacked national security focus, which stopped the CIA from defining its capability — and lenet would be good in covering until that focus is found.

Tenet provides some very good continuity, has done some very good things in the intelligence community," said Goss, himself a prospect for the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

STAMPS

on the Number Three size box, and will now be

McNair said many businesses prefer to pay annually, and the six month rate is just doubled — \$38, \$55 and \$100 for the respective boxes.

He added the charge for delivery confirmation service provided for the past 15 months will go down. He said the popular service which has been 40-cents and will go to 35-cents.

The feature provides the sender with the delivery information on date of arrival of certified mail via the internet or an 800 telephone number. The sender is provided a confirmation number at the time of mailing. The fee is paid at mailing, he said. Express mail rates will increase from \$11.75 to

\$12.25, and priority mail from \$3.20 to \$3.50. Other rates will also rise rise including international mail, Express Mail, Priority Mail, parcel post, periodicals and advertising mail.

The new rate for overseas mail will be 60-cents for Canada and Mexico, and 80-cents per ounce for other countries. Previously international rates had been per half-ounce.

Three new stamp designs are available with the new first class amount. They feature the Statue of Liberty, flowers and a flag flying over a farm.

Another new feature, signature confirmation, will go into effect Feb. 4. This feature is similar to delivery confirmation.

Additional information will be provided before implementation of the service.

Fires

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

Thursday, Jan. 4

7:53 a.m. - Two units and six firefighters investigated a suspicious odor in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. The odor appeared to have come from a heating unit in the lobby.

8:41 a.m. - Two units and six firefighters. responded to a false alarm in the 1500 block of. West Kentucky.

3:53 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a minor motor vehicle collision inthe 1000 N. Hobart.

6:34 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 900 block of South Wells. According to the fire report, the fire. was caused by hot ashes from a fireplace.

City Briefs

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

AT THESE fuel prices- A good in 2 yrs. ! Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy. 60.

BOYS BASKETBALL Sign-Ups, 3rd-6th Grade, Pampa Optimist Club Meeting Room, Jan. 4th & 5th 6-7:30 p.m., and Jan. 6th 2-4 p.m. Sign-up fee \$35.

WE'RE LOOKING for mature individual for part-time work at The Petal Pusher, 665-1070.

SALE 40-60% Off thru Jan. wood appliance can pay for itself 8th. Regular store hours 10-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., Celebrations, 665-

> TIRED OF the same old look? can redecorate with what you have. Will do painting. 665-1544.

HEATING COST too high? Wood heat is still very economical & more efficient. Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, sunny. Highs 45 to 50. North winds 5 in the afternoon. Tonight, part- casters said. ly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. around 15 mph.

STATEWIDE temperatures and clear skies region's unusually harsh winter weather streak.

In a break from frigid tem- Panhandle, to 15 mph becoming southwest highs in the 60s Friday, fore-

Overnight temperatures South to southwest winds 5 to ranged from 43 degrees in 15 mph. Saturday, partly Abilene to 36 at Terrell. sunny. Highs 48 to 52. Readings were above freezing Northwest to north winds for the entire state Thursday as temperatures reaching up to 65 - Warmer at Fort Stockton and Del Rio.

Skies over North Texas on will dominate Texas for most of Saturday should be partly weekend, ending the cloudy with highs in the upper 50s to mid-60s,

In West Texas and the

Friday highs peratures, northern sections of should range between 50 and Texas should enjoy continued 60 under partly cloudy skies clear skies this weekend with Lows early Saturday should be in the upper 20s to near 30, forecasters said.

In South and Southeast Texas, temperatures were in the mid-60s. Wind was generally from the southwest at 5-10 mph in the western and south-ern sections of the region.

Temperatures in South Texas through Saturday should reach into the 50s and 60s. Lows overnight were forecast to fall into the 30s inland to 40s along the coast.

St. Mark wi

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every month Patrick Dona The Fellow Saturday of e

665-8067. Pampa Fine A

Clarendon Co Monday and dates for the Those taking required. For

Pampa Shrine Friday of each Lovett Memor a.m. every Tu open to childr crafts and oth

mation, call th

Cerebral Palsy age 12) affecte the area. CPF free services. Pampa ISD wi

upperclassmen 9, in the high Kindle and D scholarships, BSA Hospice is Community E 15-Feb. 15 at This compreh in becoming a pice care or wh is free of charg munities. CEU

High Plains Ep Soiree' fund-ra in Amarillo. Th ferent medium call (806) 352-5

The Women's

mation or to p

BSA Hospice,

has announced ics: Jan. 9, Lov Family Care Co Hospital, Cana White Deer. P gram and a br by a registered through the Te ify for assistan mation, call (8

The Don and patient/family ter and the A p.m. this mon 4673, ext. 235 at 1-800-274-46

Embassy Musi **Annual Artist** \$50,000 in priz winning song. which will b Deadline for www.embassy 2500.

World War II v field sites in 7P, Long Beach PRE President's Co hosting three with disabilit

are open to ca

for undergrad third compet seeking finan tion, visit the Colle

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331. ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP

If interested in the ADHD/ADD Support Group call Connie at 669-

ST. MARK CME CHURCH

St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted. MACEDONIA CHURCH

every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 441 Elm Street with the Rev. I.L. Patrick. Donations will be accepted and the public is invited. THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Keven Romines at 665-8547 or Jim Greene at

PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

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

Clarendon College-Pampa Center conducts GED testing the fourth Monday and Tuesday of every month except for May and June. Test dates for these two months are May 22 and 23 and June 19 and 20. Those taking the full test must attend both days. Preregistration is required. For more information, call Jana Wesson-Martin at 665-8801. SHRINE CLUB

Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 7 p.m. every third Friday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

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.

Cerebral Palsy Foundation is seeking families with children (birth to age 12) affected by cerebral palsy in an effort to establish a chapter in the area. CPF offers financial and emotional support as well as many free services. For more information, call 1-888-872-7966 toll-free.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT Pampa ISD will host "Financial Aid Night" for PHS junior and senior upperclassmen and their parents beginning at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the high school library. Facilitators will be Karla Howell, Starla Kindle and Dale Ammons, counselors at PHS. Learn about grants, scholarships, work study programs and loans.

BSA TRAINING BSA Hospice in Pampa will conduct a "Winter Volunteer Training and Community Education Class" from 6-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday, Jan. 15-Feb. 15 at Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky. This comprehensive course is designed for adults who are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, who want to learn more about hospice care or who desire personal growth and enrichment. The program is free of charge to residents of Pampa, Borger and surrounding communities. CEUs will be awarded through the college. For more information or to preregister, call Janet McCracken, volunteer coordinator, BSA Hospice, at (806) 665-6677. **HPEA FUND-RAISER**

High Plains Epilepsy Association will hold its 18th Annual Spring Art Soiree' fund-raiser March 16-18 at Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza in Amarillo. The annual fine art sale will feature artwork in many different mediums created by a variety of artists. For more information,

call (806) 352-5426. HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Jan. 9, Lovett Memorial Library, 302 N. Main, McLean; Jan. 15, Family Care Center, 1010 S. Main, Shamrock; Jan. 17, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Jan. 23, First Baptist Church, 411 S. Omohundro, White Deer. 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.

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

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONTEST Embassy Music of Nashville, Tenn., is currently conducting its Seventh Annual Artist and Song Talent Search. The contest will offer over \$50,000 in prizes including a publishing contract for the grand prize winning song. The grand prize winning artist will receive a recording which will be distributed nationally to Christian radio stations. Deadline for entry is Feb. 28. For more information, visit www.embassymusic.com or call the Ultimate Hotline at (615) 345-

FIFTH ARMY TOUR

World War II veterans of the United States 5th Army will tour battlefield sites in Italy in June 2001. For more information, contact: Sy Canton, executive director, 5th Army Association, 465 Shore Rd., Ste 7P, Long Beach, NY 11561 or call (516) 432-3022.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIPS President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is hosting three scholarship competitions for post-secondary students with disabilities for the 2000-01 academic year. Two competitions are open to candidates with disabilities seeking financial assistance for undergraduate study at a four-year college or university. The third competition is open to female candidates with disabilities seeking financial assistance for graduate study. For more information, visit the President's Committee website at www.pcepd.gov

College Notes **Texas Students Rely More on Federal Government for Student Aid** Federal Aid Institutional

and click the "Scholarships" link on the home page. MSAA

A wide range of free, direct support services is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, nocost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com. on the Internet.

FAN BOOKLET

Macedonia Church will host a monthly breakfast the third Saturday of The Financial Assistance Network in Washington, D.C., is offering the following booklets, "Free & Low Cost Medical Care" and "How to Get Government Help To Pay Your Energy Bills." The first booklet includes information on how and where to get free and low-cost medical care E. Francis. Call 669-2389 for more information. under the Federal Hill-Burton program. The second booklet gives information on how and where to get government help to pay your Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #41 meets at noon Monday at 511 heating bills. Consumers can obtain a copy of "Free & Low Cost N. Hobart. For more information, call 665-3024. Medical Care" by sending \$5 to cover printing, postage and handling to: Financial Assistance Network – Free & Low Cost Medical Care Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 Booklet, Dept. MCB-0725, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. To get a copy of "How to Get Government Help To Pay Your Energy Bills" send \$5 to: Financial Assistance Network - Government Help for The Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, will be Energy Bills, Dept. GHEB-1219, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. The information is also available at noon. The public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. www.FinancialAssistanceNetwork.org.

FHRC BOOKLET

on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs to treat depression and anxiety. Consumers can obtain a copy by sending \$5 to The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and East, Overcoming Depression and Anxiety, P.O. Box 3176, Elmira, NY information, please call Marie Jamieson at 669-2945.

14905-3176. For additional information, visit the Council's website at www.FamilyHealthResearch.org

AIYSE

American International Youth Student Exchange Program is seeking American high school students, ages 15-19, to participate in its foreign exchange program. Students will spend a semester or year with an European family or participate in a 4- to 6-week family stay abroad in the summer. Students are screened by AIYSEP school counselors and educators in local schools. To qualify, students must have evidence of maturity, superior character and knowledge of English and a foreign language. For more information, call 1-800-347-7575. T.O.P.S. #149

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #149 meets at 6 p.m. Monday at 513 T.O.P.S. #41

VFW CHARITY BINGO

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

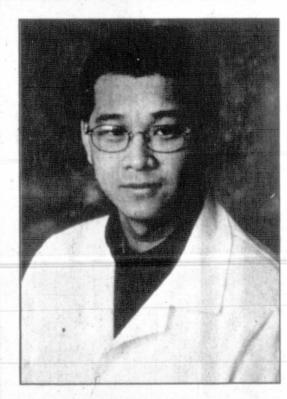
The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings Family Health Research Council recently published the booklet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at 822 E. Foster. Anyone wishing to help "Overcoming Depression and Anxiety." The booklet gives information with the project is invited to attend any work session. PAMPA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Fulfillment Center Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more

Snowman



Justin Cottrell, Ashley Hernandez and Brittney Cottrell, above, show off the snowman they made over the Christmas break.



S. Caleb Kim, DO

Family Practice

- · Bachelor of Science, Physiology University of Illinois
- · Master of Science, Biology University of Illinois
- · Medical School Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
- · Residency, Family Practice Carle Foundation Hospital - University of Illinois

Dr. Kim is joined in Pampa by his wife Sora and children Joseph and Anna. Dr. Kim has relocated from Urbana, Illinois to establish his practice here as a member of the Family Medicine Center. He is welcomed to the practice by Drs. Black, Julian, Lee and Powell.

Family Medicine Center • 3023 N. Perryton Pkwy. Suite 101 Pampa, Texas 79065

For Appointment Information Call 806-665-0801

I solemnly promise...

Local officials begin the New Year by taking the oath of office in swearing-in ceremonies administered by District Judges Lee Waters and Steven Emmert.



Newly sworn-in deputies include Chief Deputy David Russell, and Deputies Morse Burroughs, Raymond Cates, Beverly Chace, Chris Didway, Candace McCarthy, Jimmy McDonald, Gary Noblett, Derek Peters, David Rushing, Ricky Smithey, and Larry Wallis.



Newly sworn-in staff include Jailers Jeremy Baker, Bailiff J.D. Barnard, Connie Brown, Sgt. Clifton Burrows, Melinda Cochran, Lisa Conner, Sgt. "Cotton" Hargrove, Diane Hornsby, Don McCann, Wade Mitchell, Michael Morgan, Kelly Schaffer, Assistant Administrator Marquetta Wampler, and Joel Wilson. Also sworn in were Dispatchers Karla Davis, Rhonda Kidd, Billy Morse, and Carrie Tomaschik and Sherri Worthington, secretary. Not present were David Potter, jail administrator, and Kerry Hodge, jailer.



Back row, from left: Kerry Hodge, jailer; Christy Brown, tax office deputy; Derek Peters, deputy sheriff; Alicia Heil, Jan Wood, and Debbie McKinney, tax office deputies. Front row, from left: Rosie Whitley, Dona Kitterman, Brenda Case, Neysa Brown, and Nancy Allen, tax office deputies.



Joe Wheeley, Gray County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Gerald Wright, Gray County Commissioner, Precinct 2



Sammie Morris, Gray County Tax Assessor/Collector Frank Sparling, Constable, Precinct 4



Elaine Morris, Gray County Auditor



Phil Pendleton and wife, Assistant District Attorney



Dallas Hardin, District Attorney's Investigator, and family

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By CHRIS RO Associated Pro

EL PASO, Texas convicts authorities as fity.

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Alleged ringleader of prison escapees has brutal history

By CHRIS ROBERTS Associated Press Writer

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EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The alleged ringleader of a gang of escaped Texas convicts on the run for the past three weeks is portrayed by authorities as fearless and possessed of remarkable criminal ingenu-

Above all, they say, he is cold-blooded.

"I have little doubt that if somebody had gotten on the wrong side of George Rivas, they'd have had a bullet hole in them," Dr. Richard E. Coons, a forensic psychiatrist who examined Rivas' file in 1994,

The seven convicts broke out from the state prison at Kenedy on Dec. 13 by stealing clothing from staff members and bluffing their way to the rear gate. They seized a cache of guns and left a note warning, "You haven't heard the last of us yet."

Since then, the group, believed to be hiding out in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, is accused of pulling off a Christmas Eve holdup at a sporting goods store in Irving in which a police officer was slain with extraordinary viciousness. Aubrey Hawkins was shot 11 times — six times in the head - and was also run over by a vehicle.

The robbers, dressed as security guards, escaped with \$70,000 in cash and checks, guns and police scanners.

On Thursday, FBI agents filed federal charges of unlawful flight to avoid federal prosecution for capital murder, broadening the man-

"This enables federal law enforcement to conduct an investigation nationally and internationally if warranted," spokeswoman Lori Bailey said.

The gang is made up of two killers, two armed robbers, a child abuser, a serial rapist and a burglar. The FBI has drawn up psychological profiles of them, and investigators believe Rivas, 30, is the gang's leader. Rivas was serving a life sentence for robbery and kid-

The gang's methods in the Irving robbery are similar to those in at least two other holdups allegedly masterminded by Rivas in El Paso in 1993. In those two cases, Rivas used deception, disguises, two-way radios and the threat of deadly force — an M.O. that an appeals court once said was "like a signature" on Rivas' part.

During one of the holdups, Rivas persuaded a clerk at a sporting goods store to let him stay in the building after closing time by saying a friend had to go home to get money so Rivas could buy ski

Then he pulled a gun and forced the clerk to use the store intercom to call other employees to the basement.

He handcuffed all of the employees but one to a ski-grinding machine. He then toured the store with the remaining employee, taking \$5,905 in cash and 58 guns. As he toured the store, he didn't touch anything, forcing the employee to do the work.

Rivas warned the employees that he had written down their license plates and could find out where they lived. And he warned that he would be watching the phones and would come back and kill them if anyone called police.

After about 20 minutes, when there were no more sounds from 21,143 Mystiques. upstairs, the employees dragged the heavy ski grinding machine to a phone and called police. Then they moved the machine back in case

Rivas got caught in the other El Paso holdup, at a Toys 'R' Us. Cornered in the building by police, he didn't give up easily. Rivas (See next column)

Top city employees ...



Those in the running for 2000 Employee of the Year for the City of Pampa were, front, Vickie Long, who was awarded the honor, and in back from left, Ricky Daugtery, sanitation; James Hagemann, wastewater collection; Ed Turner, public services; Sandy Burns, animal control; Donny Hooper, engineering; and Kimberly Lincycomb, public services. (See related photo Page 1)

climbed into an air-conditioning duct and then tried to hide on the

In his 1994 report, Coons wrote: "He demonstrates an unusual degree of interest, creativity and intensity in his craft. He is a mastermind and a leader. He is confident and arrogant. He has no conscience and does not speak the truth.'

Rivas' crimes include at least a dozen robberies and other offenses in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

Coons said Rivas' history doesn't contain the overt physical abuse or other trouble that can shed light on a criminal personality. His parents divorced when he was 6 and his mother remarried. Rivas lived with his father and his grandmother.

Forensic psychiatrist Dr. Karen Gold, who worked with Larry Harper, another of the escaped convicts, said she believes Harper is a http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/

pliable henchman for Rivas. Harper, 37, was serving 50 years for sex-

Harper "suffered physical and emotional abuse at his mother's hands. He's much more likely to be compliant," Gold said. "I see him as so desperate for approval and acceptance that if he fell in with bad company, to stay in their good graces, he'd do whatever he had to." Gold said Rivas "was always one scary dude. Abusive, violent and

On the Net:

vain. Obsessed with guns."

Irving Police Department: http://www.irvingpd.com Texas Criminal Department of

Ford recalling vehicles at risk for fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is recalling about 300,000 overheat and possibly start a fire.

The recall affects those vehicles with a 2.5 V6 engine built between April 1994 and December 1995. It includes 278,875 Contours and Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

deaths and one injury — someone burned a hand trying to extinguish

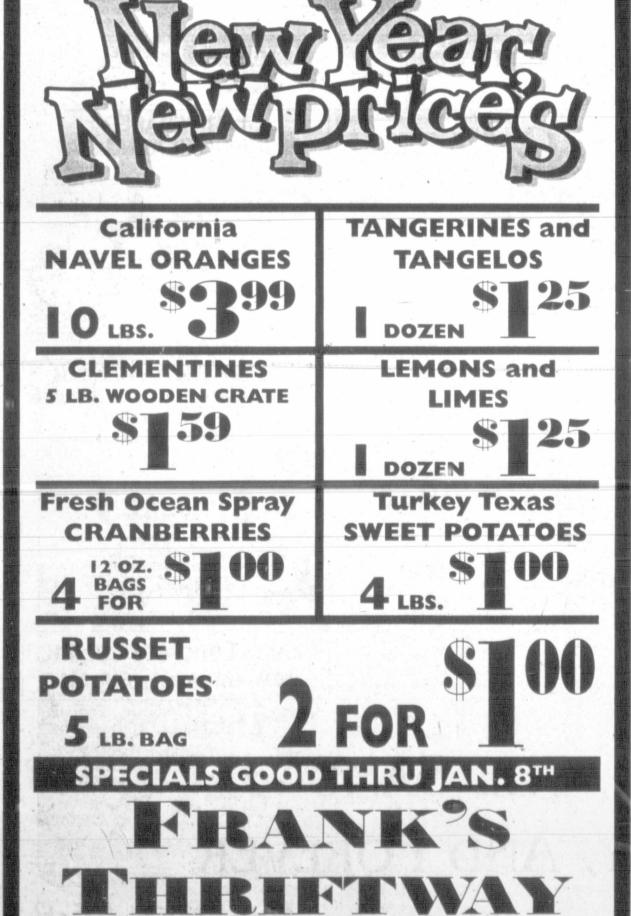
The bearings on the cooling fan may be too tight, which can cause excessive heat resulting in smoke, odors and possible fire.

Vaughn said Ford will be sending a letter to vehicle owners later 1995 Contour and Mercury Mystique sedans because the engines can this month, and dealers will fix the problem free of charge by installing an electronic fuse.

The recall closed an investigation of the problem by the National

The agency starts an investigation when owners complain of acci-There have been 149 fires reported because of the problem, Ford dents or other problems to find out if they are caused by a defect. The spokesman Mike Vaughn said Thursday. He said there were no investigations can lead to recalls, but many are closed without any defect trend discovered.

In November, NHTSA opened an investigation into the 2000 Ford Explorer XLS after receiving a report of a fatality involving seat belt failure during a rollover crash.



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Adventist

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	Faith Advent Christian Fellowship Grant Johnson	John Collis, Minister411 Omohundro St. First Baptist Church (McLean) Pastor James Martindale206 E. 1st St. First Free Will Baptist Rev. Tom Smith	Tim Walkar, Pulpit MinisterMary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ (Groom) Dale Meadows101 Newcome Church of Christ (McLean)	Rev. Tom Moore
	Apostolic	Grace Baptist Church	Jim Reyna4th and Clarendon St.	St. Paul United Methodist Church
	Pampa Chapel	Rev. Gene Burnham824 S. Barnes	Church of Christ (White Deer)	Rev. Jim Teeter511 N. Hobart
	Rev. Ron Noble711 E. Harvester	Highland Baptist Church	Don Stone501 Doucette	
		Paul Nachtigall, Pastor1301 N. Banks	McCullough Street Church of Christ	Mormon
	Assembly of God	Hobart Baptist Church	Frankie L. Lemons, Minister 738 McCullough	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
	Calvary Assembly of God	Rev. Jim Powell1100 W. Crawford	Skellytown Church of Christ	Bishop Roger L. Roundy29th & Aspen
	Rev. Jerry PollardCrawford & Love	Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel	Kenneth Burkett, Preacher108 5th Wells Street Church of Christ400 N. Wells	None of the second
	Carpenter's Church Assemblies of God	Bilingual Dr. limmy Ehron Poeter 1021 S. Berner	Westside Church of Christ	Nazarene Church of The Nazarene
	Independent Fred C. Palmer, Minister 639 S. Barnes	Dr. Jimmy Flynn, Pastor1021 S. Barnes Macedonia Baptist Church	Michael Gibson, Minister 1612 W. Kentucky	Rev. Doug Yates500 N. West
	Cornerstone Christian Center (White Deer)	Rev. I.L. Patrick 441 Elm. St.	Wildrade Gibson, Willister 1012 W. Rentdoxy	nev. Doug fates
	Robben Epperson, Pastor201 S. Swift St.	New Hope Baptist Church	Church of God	Non-Denominational
	First Assembly of God	Rev. Thomas J. Patterson912 S. Gray	Church of God	Bible Church of Pampa
	Rev. Michael Moss500 S. Cuyler	Primera Idlesia Bautista Mexicana	Rev. Gene Harris1123 Gwendolen	Pastor Don Yates300 W. Browning
	New Life Assembly of God	Rev. Heliodoro Silva1541 Hamilton		Iglesia Biblica Del Pueblo
	Harold & Wendy Eggert1435 N. Sumner	Progressive Baptist Church	Episcopal	Alfonso Lozano, Pastor712 Lefors St.
	Skellytown Assembly of God Church	Rev. Bob Davis 836 S. Gray	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Iglesia Nueva Vida - New Life Church -
	Rev. Danny Trussell411 Chamberlain	Trinity Baptist Church (Mclean)	Rev. Jacob S. Clemmens727 W. Browning	Bilingual
		Pastor: James Mantooth . 603 Commerce St.		Pastor Pedro Hernandez801 E. Campbell
	Baptist		Gospel	Redeeming Grace Mission
	Barrett Baptist Church	Catholic	Briarwood Full Gospel Church	Liz Sculthrop, Mission Pastor. 422 West St.
	Rev. J.C. Burt903 Beryl	Sacred Heart (White Deer)	Rev. Lynn Hancock 1800 W. Harvester	Salvation Army
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	Bob Hudson, Pastor500 E. Kingsmill	St. Mary's (Groom)	Elder H. Kelley, Pastor404 Oklahoma	& Lt. Dolores WattsS. Cuyler at Thut
	Calvary Baptist Church	Father Neal Dee400 Ware		Trinity Fellowship Church
Å	Rev. Richard Bartel900 E. 23rd St.	St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church	Jehovah's Witness	Lonny Robbins, Pastor 1200 S. Sumner
	Central Baptist Church	Father John Valdez810 W. 23 rd	1701 Coffee	
	Dr. Derrell Monday, Pastor			Pentecostal
	Starkweather & Browning	Christian	Lutheran	Faith Tabernacle
	Fellowship Baptist Church	Church of the Brethren	Zion Lutheran Church	Rev. Ben Corbitt, Pastor610 Naida First Pentecostal Holiness Church
	Charles Lowry, Pastor217 N. Warren	First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)	Pastor Leif Hasskarl1200 Duncan	
	First Baptist Church	First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ) Senior Pastor Barry Loving1633 N. Nelson	Methodist	Rev. Albert Maggard1700 Alcock HiLand Pentecostal Holiness Church
	Rev. Randy White203 N. West First Baptist Church (Mobeetie)	Hi-Land Christian Church	First United Methodist Church	Nathan Hopson, Pastor1733 N. Banks
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	Lewis Ellis, Pastor315 E. 4th	Church of Christ	Rev. Gary Jahnel	First Presbyterian Church
	First Baptist Church (Skellytown)	Central Church of Christ	First United Methodist Church (McLean)	Dr. Edwin M. Cooley525 N. Gray
	Fines Marchman306 Roosevelt	Tom Russell, Minister500 N. Somerville	Rev. Thacker Haynes219 N. Gray	
	First Baptist Church (Groom)	Church of Christ (Lefors)	First United Methodist Church (White Deer)	
	Byron Williamson407 E. 1St.	Rick Pierce215 E. 3rd	Rev. Robert P. Kelley101 W. 8th	
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First Baptist Church (White Deer)



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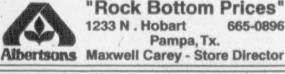
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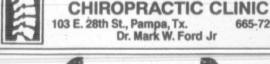
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JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

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Rush Wind Emmaus

group meets Jan. 13

Rushing Wind Emmaus Community will meet at 6 p.m. Jan. 13 at

First United Methodist Church in Gruver. A potluck dinner will be.

served at six. A special invitation is extended to family, friends, and

anyone interested in attending a Walk to Emmaus. A nursery will be

The board of directors will meet at 4:30 p.m. prior to the meeting at

Eulalia Blankenship of Spearman has been elected to serve as lay

director of Rushing Wind. Other officers include assistant lay direc-

tor, Devin Burrus, Higgins; secretary, Ricky Betts, Borger; treasurer,

Bobby Barnett, Jr., Perryton; and past lay director, Mike Gardiner,

Waka Christian Center in Waka. The first walk will be a women's

walk Jan. 25-28 with Teri Hollis of Dumas, lay director, and the Rev.

Mike Martin, pastor First Baptist Church, Morse, as spiritual director.

from his pastor or from a friend who has attended a previous walk.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge and equip local

church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, places

of work and communities. The real focus of Emmaus is on the local

Anyone interested in attending a walk may receive an application

RWE will sponsor seven Walk to Emmaus weekends this year at the

provided, and sponsors training will follow the service.

the church. All board members are encouraged to be present.

RELIGION

Minister's musing

This past September I began teaching a class on "The Meaning Of The Millennium." The aim of the class was to help each student get a solid look at the basics of the 4 main eschatological positions: historical premillennialism, dispensational premillennialism, postmillennialism and amillennialism. During the study several things floated to the surface that I thought might be good for

First, we looked at a list of many great Christian preachers: Hodge, Barnes, Campbell, Stone, Augustine, Ryrie, Spurgeon, Moody, Packer, Henry, Origen, Pentecost, Eusebius, Machen, Darby, Calvin, Owen, Wesley, Edwards, Luther, Polycarp, Sproul, Zwingli, Nee and others.

We then looked at the differing positions that they all held on the end times. Our conclusion was that unless we were ready to identify which ones were the "heretics" as well as which ones were "stupid", that we couldn't get too DOGMATIC or JUDGE-MENTAL on eschatology.

Second, we looked at several examples of the harsh, condemning, mean-spirited rhetoric between proponents of each of the various positions and decided that we didn't ever want to be that narrow-minded.

Third, we looked at the plain simple things that almost all Christians agree on: 1- Be watchful and 2- Be Ready! We figured that being watchful and ready would keep us pretty busy from now until we die. Whichever position was correct, being watchtul and ready would still be wise and neces-

Fourth, we then looked at almost 20 of the great creeds and statements of faith that have been written over the centuries. What we found was that eschatology occupied eitherno space at all or a very brief reference that Jesus will return one day to judge the living

By Rev. Mike Sublett

> Hi-Land Christian Church 1620 N. Banks St.

and the dead. If the great creeds and statements of faith didn't make eschatology into a mountain, then we might want to be careful how big of a deal we make out of it.

Fifth, we looked at 125 examples (by Christians) of predictions of the end of time that never happened. Our conclusion was that we would be very hesitant to swallow what any preacher said concerning specific dates and times. An awful lot of good, honest Christians have thought that they had a message from God or that they got their message right out of the Bible only to have their prediction be proven totally false. Sadly, those kind of things make God appear foolish.

There was more to the study, but these were five things that I thought would be good for us all to consider. How big of a deal does your church make over the end times, the millennium, the last days, the end of the world? How dogmatic is your church on these matters? Did you know that each of the four positions has at some time since the first century been the primary position that many/most Christians believed? Did you know that there isn't any one of the four major positions that doesn't have some strong difficulty with certain passages?

In a world full of lost people who don't know Jesus surely there are better things to do with our time and effort than to throw

rocks at each other over a matter that is not nearly as clear and plain as we like to make our own position sound.

Let me close with these two examples of inflaming rhetoric between Christians:

1- "There used to be a group called 'posmillennialists.' ... No self-respecting scholar who looks at the world conditions and the accelerating decline of Christian influence today is a 'postmillennialist.'" (Hal Lindsey)

2- "There can hardly be a more dishonest and distorted description of postmillennialism. It should-

n't really surprise us, since, over the years, many have learned that Lindsey is to Theology what the "National Inquirer" is to journalism: don't be too concerned with truth, just make it sensational so it will sell." (Rev. John Dyck)

I wonder how the millions of postmillennialists around the world would feel if they read what Hal Lindsey said about them? wonder what kinds of feelings Rev. Dyck's words about Hal Lindsey would produce in the millions of premillennialists who respect brother Lindsey? Saying something critical about "postmillennialISM" is one thing, but saying something degrading about "postmillennialISTS" is quite another. is quite another. Questioning what a fellow believer teaches on a particular Bible subject is one thing, but attacking his motives and intelligence, as though we could read his heart, is quite

May we each care enough about the Word of God to study eschatology, arrive at whatever conclusions we feel led to and then be full of mercy and love for all of our fellow brothers and sisters who have loved and used the same book and the same verses to arrive at a different conclusion. May we hold our convictions with strength and always be

Dixie Melody Boys will perform at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 6 in Borger High School in Borger. The concert is open and free to the public. Above: Ed O'Neal, Harold Reed, Devin McGlamery, Derrick Selph and Eric Ollis.

Resolutions — a three-way challenge

When New Year's Day rolled around I was asked whether I had made resolutions for

I toyed with skipping the annual ritual, but decided since personal discipline is a weakness of mine that I'd give resolutions a

I recalled all the advice given when I've tried changes in lifestyle - don't set goals too high, don't berate yourself for failing, remember tomorrow is a new day. You know the drill.

So I picked three things I thought I could reasonably do: engage in spiritual, mental and physical exercise. I set my goals appro- For the mental, I plan to continue at West priately low and decided to do something

related to each three times a week. For the spiritual, I plan to study my Bible at least three times a week, and I mean study, not grab a Psalm on my way to sleep.

From Back Pew...

lexas A&M University and study Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne (that should qualify for the spiritual and mental), and for the physical, take a dance class at Amarillo College.

By Cheryl Berzanskis

In short, I plan to discipline myself into living well. I've become quite content with a very basic existence - eating, sleeping, working and watching television. Couch potatoes have become my heroic ideal. I've discovered that I do best when I'm propelled by a passionate interest in something. Lukewarm, as the book of Revelation tell us, is a nauseating experience, and for me that is true. If I ever tell you something is merely 'okay," you can presume I'm about to look for a new experience.

I'm hoping my New Year's resolutions will provide some of that passion through awakening bits of myself hiding in the subconscious. Dreaming new dreams, learning new things and becoming more healthy, I think, will propel me toward a more passionate existence. I hope to put no more miles on my sofa.

Church wins right to occupy storefront

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A small church in Grand Haven has won the right to occupy a storefront in a business district, a religious freedom organization said. The Washington, D.C.-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty said

U.S. District Judge David McKeague signed a consent order Dec. 20 that ended the legal dispute. The fund said the consent judgment acknowledges that a ban on

the church based on Grand Haven's zoning ordinance would not survive challenge under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, signed in September by President Clinton. A Grand Haven city attorney had argued that the zoning ordinance

barring the Haven Shores Community Church from opening in a shopping center did not discriminate on the basis of religion.

But Becket Fund president Kevin Hasson called the case "a wakeup call for other communities that assume they have nearly unlimited latitude in using zoning laws to severely restrict churches and other religious organizations.

Counties fight ruling against commandments

LONDON, Ky. (AP) - County officials are fighting a court ruling that could hold them in contempt if they don't remove the Ten Commandments from their courthouse walls.

An attorney for McCreary and Pulaski counties argued in U.S. District Court in London that the religious document is next to other

historical documents and the overall display is not a religious one. The counties were responding to a motion filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on Dec. 7. It asked that the county officials be held in contempt for hanging the documents despite a judge's order.

It is the latest maneuver in a lawsuit that was brought by the ACLU in November 1999

U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman ruled in May that displays in McCreary and Pulaski counties and in the Harlan County schools had the "overwhelming effect of endorsing religion." She ordered them removed and forbade any similar displays.

The displays were removed, but officials in McCreary and Pulaski put up new ones in October. The Harlan County school board has reposted the commandments along with other historical documents in the district's administrative offices. The board voted unanimously to put similar displays in each of the district's 14 schools

Officials in all three counties could face time in jail or fines if

Coffman decides they defied her order.

The new displays in Pulaski and McCreary counties include many of the same documents as before, although they are no longer shortened to only their religious references. Also, the new displays include an explanation of the role the Ten Commandments and the eight other documents on the walls played "in the foundation of our system of law and government."

Pulaski Judge-Executive Darrell Beshears said the county hopes to find a display that Coffman will decide is legal.

Collegiate foreign mission convention draws crowd

URBANA, Ill. (AP) - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's latest foreign missions convention drew 18,730 delegates. The periodic gathering is one of the biggest religious conclaves for North American col-

At this year's event, which concluded New Year's Eve at the University of Illinois, 8,392 delegates registered definite or probable interest in undertaking Christian careers overseas.

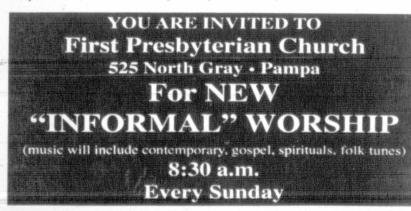
Dixie Melody Boys

BORGER — Jerry Smith will present Dixie Melody Boys in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 at Borger High School Auditorium. Ed O'Neal joined The Dixie Melody Boys in 1961 and became owner and manager of the quartet just a few years later. During the past three decades, Dixie Melody Boys have enjoyed tremendous success, including a Grammy nomination and numerous Fan Award nominations from The Singing News Magazine, Southern Gospel Music's leading fan and trade publication.

Dixie Melody Boys have been featured on such popular television programs as "The Ralph Emery Show" and "Primetime Country," which airs live each evening via The Nashville Network. This spiritual quartet has enjoyed over 20 Top 40 hits, including eight Top 10 releases. The group's most recent recording, "Heading Home," promises to be one of the group's best recordings to date.

The project, produced by Wesley Pritchard and Milton Smith, features several songs from today's most prolific writers including Greg Day, Rodney Griffin and Phillip Huffman. From the up tempo "I'm One Of Them" to the moving ballad "I'm Not Weeping At The Throne," to the powerful "Arise," which features accompaniment by members of the North Carolina Symphony.

Present membership for the group includes O'Neal, who provides the smooth bass vocals. Asheville, N.C., native Harold Reed delivers the pleasing tenor sound, while the group's newest member, 18-year-old Devin-McGlamery, provides the solid foundation for the four-part harmony this quartet presents with his powerful lead vocals. Derrick Selph, who hails from the Sunshine State of Florida, contributes the rich baritone vocals for this popular quartet. Keyboardist Eric Ollis completes the group by adding a special touch with his exceptional piano artistry.





BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

Husband's Double Life Online Leaves Wife Feeling Betrayed

DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old woman who never thought she would be writing to you. I have been married 33 years. The past several years have not been the happiest.

I found out at the beginning of this year that, for the past several years, my husband has been talking online to gay men. He would be on the computer in our home office, supposedly working, while actually "instant messaging" someone. When I'd walk into the room, he would delete the instant message. This went on for several weeks.

I thought in the beginning that he was having an affair with, a woman, so when he was gone one afternoon, I decided to log onto his laptop and investigate. That's when I found his "gay name" for himself. and lots of names on his buddy list. I wrote down all the names so I could look them up later.

For the next few months I followed him online. One time I even



made up a gay name for myself, and he and I instant-messaged each other. I made copies of everything

COLUMNIST

and finally confronted him. He swore he never did anything but talk; he never met any of the men on his buddy list, or the ones he talked to online. However, when he and I messaged each other, he gave me the name of his hotel and the room number where he was staying. I asked him why. He said he was very unhappy in our mar-

riage, because he didn't think I loved him anymore. He promised he would stop, and deleted everything from his computer. He even closed his private Internet access account and began using the one from our computer at home. Today, while checking our e-

mail, I found a message from a man on the buddy list saying he was sorry he missed my husband's call. I was going to delete it, but left it there to see what my husband would do. When I went back online, it had been deleted. Abby, I don't know what to do.

We should go to counseling, but he is rarely in town. BETRAYED WIFE IN TAMPA

DEAR BETRAYED: Make an appointment with your physician to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases.





YOU KNOW WE'RE

TALK ABOUT THAT!

IT'S A NEW YEAR, YOU TWO!

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Beetle Bailey







Marvin





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Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts





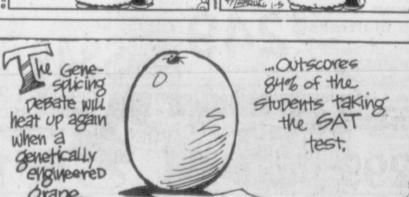
NEVER

MIND

WHAT'S

SECRET?





want. The only person stopping you is Horoscope LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

SUNDAY, JAN. 7, 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)

★★★★ Keep talking about what it is that you want. Others will hear, eventually. Another might be a bit defiant or might feel challenged to do something his way. When gathering with friends, the unexpected happens. Keep hanging out. Enjoy your friends. Tonight: Out and

This week: Deal with primary security matters as the week begins. You find creative solutions to nearly any hassle

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) * * Review your budget, with an eye

to an even more financially secure year. Start planning for what you want. Partners just don't agree with you easily. so don't push them. Gather different financial ideas. Tonight: Togetherness This week: Others hear you. You are

willing to do whatever you need to do to get your point across. Stick to basics with family

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Keep communication flourishing, even if you hit a difficult point or a snafu. Avoid a power play with direct nication. Seek out answers. You might not be able to change another's mind, but you find a surprising solution. Use your intellectual capacities. Tonight: Spontaneity works.

This week: Spending goes overboard, even if you don't intend for it to. Schedule meetings for midweek. Others will respond easily to your ideas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★ ★ Take a day off and do only what you want to do. Recognize that you can only do so much. Think about your limits here before you make any plans. A partner might be nervous. Remember, you cannot always take care of others. Take care tainly are encouraged to get past a mood of yourself, too. Tonight, Do for your- or problem. You might not exactly be

This week: Others succumb to your mag-

* * * * A child or loved one could be cantankerous. You can try anything you want: it is unlikely to make a difference. Respond to a partner's sudden decision with equal zest. You're best among on others' news. Tonight: Wherever a

good time can be had. This week: Take your time. Get all the facts before you take needed action. You're a powerhouse on Wednesday and

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

has strong views. You can't change this tiate an agreement. person, but you can acknowledge him in a more positive light. Toss plans to the wind, if that is what you want to do. Be You could question what you need to do spontaneous. Tonight: Start thinking about tomorrow.

This week: Swing the bat and hit a home run on Monday or Tuesday. Glory in pattern, however. Your playful side your laurels on Wednesday and Thursday. You did it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Make calls and reach out for someone at a distance. You enjoy yourself wherever you are. Examine your long-term objectives with a friend who knows you well. Join in on the childish spontaneity that emanates from a child or loved one. Tonight: Take in a movie.

This week: All eyes turn to you. Coworkers give you the respect you deserve. Family could give you grief. Stay focused on your work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

and you wonder how you can say no. You can't. Enjoy this person for what he offers. Someone makes a big difference in your life. Do not put yourself in a financial bind. Simply say no. Tonight: A snuggly night.

This week: Examine another's idea carefully. You might discover an even better answer. On Wednesday and Thursday, you display your knowledge. Others are clearly impressed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

MI

ingredient

33 Sicilian

34 If I -

35 Sign

37 Like

39 Deli

bread

42 Go astray

41 Regret

spouter

Hammer

Yesterday's answer

18 Like Kojak 30 Flip

19 Historic

canal

trees

director

23 "Fargo"

24 Close

up.

27 Step-by-

25 Sort

21 Shade

* * * * Others seek you out. You cersure about what is going on with others. Don't worry. Let go of a need to control. netism. Translation: Go for what you You will find the answers. Tonight: Say

ves to a loved one This week: Reach out for a dear associate or friend. Together you make an unbeatable team on Monday and Tuesday. Spread good news for the remainder of the week

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

* * * Take your time getting a project friends and enjoying yourself. Catch up done. Listen to your inner voice with others. Could you be causing yourself problems where you don't need to? Let go of fears and be more open to others. Don't worry so much about finances. Tonight: Do basic chores.

This week: Others call the shots. Smile and go along on Monday and Tuesday. * * * Someone you care a lot about By the end of the week, you will renego-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Keep reaching out for another. for a difficult loved one. Suppressing your needs might occasionally be OK. Avoid making this behavior a long-term emerges with a loved one. Tonight: Enjoy yourself

This week: Head into work with a New Year's resolution in mind. You are about to make waves. Now be politically cor-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

* * Home continues to be a source of solace and joy. You might not be changing another's direction, but you do make a good choice for the family. You have an unexpected insight about a family member and what is going on with him. Tonight: Visit with a roommile.

This week: You're an idea person on Monday and Tuesday. Listen to another's feedback if you want to hatch a great

Actor Nicolas Cage (1964), singer Kenny Loggins (1948), journalist Katie Couric (1957)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$3.99 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2001 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS DOWN

1 Soaks up 1 City vehicle sunlight 2 Picnic 6 Coffee bar order pest

11 Loosen 3 Racer's 12 Actor place 4 Tailed Hawke tovs

13 Put into words 5 Water 14 Rose melon waste feature 15 Beatty 6 Convened

7 Role for

8 Chef's

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film 17 Olympics weapon 18 Wagers 20 Succor

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26 Cant 28 Bucks 29 Protractor units 31 Interstice

32 Firecracker output 33 Competent 34 Wrestling concern 36 Highlander

38 Love affair 40 Boutique

43 Waste away 44 Bring on 45 Tibia's

end

46 Imposter

Marmaduke



"It's no use. I keep throwing it out and Marmaduke keeps dragging it back in.'

The Family Circus



teaching first grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Motion."

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! "My friend Sister Patricia says she's now 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA - The City of Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's basketball leagues for ages 16 and up.

Men's Competitive, Recreational and Women's Open divisions will be offered. In addition, this year the city will offer a Men's Over

35 division. Entry deadline will be Jan. 17 at 5 p.m., and the season begins on Jan. 24.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is \$200 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of 10 players.

Roster forms, fact sheets and league by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart. For more information, please contact Shane Stokes at 669-5770 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SAN DIEGO (AP) -Randy Holcomb scored a season-high 26 points and Al Faux added 22, leading San Diego State to an 84-70 win Thursday over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

San Diego State (9-3) matched its win total for the last two seasons with its fifth consecutive victory, equaling the Aztecs' longest winning streak since the 1996-97 season.

Myron Epps scored 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting. Holcomb grabbed a seasonhigh 13 rebounds with Epps getting 12.

San Diego State, which led 42-29 at halftime, shot 59.2 percent from the field, while holding the Islanders to just 34.2 percent shooting.

The Aztecs increased their lead to 55-38 five minutes into the second half.

The Islanders' Michael Hicks, averaging 26.1 points, was held to 16 points, in part due to foul trouble that limited him to 21 minutes before he fouled out with 4:49 left.

Lee Denmon scored 16 points for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (6-8).

FOOTBALL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - If the Kansas City Chiefs want Dick Vermeil as head coach, it might cost them on draft day.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Friday that the St. Louis Rams, who still have the retired Vermeil under contract for one more year, want a first-round pick in exchange for the right to hire him.

"My interpretation is, he can't go to Kansas City without our consent, which we haven't granted at this point," Rams president John Shaw said Thursday. "Right now, there is some dispute. If a coach still has years remaining (on his contract), he can't go to another club without our permission."

The Chiefs, meanwhile, refused to confirm reports that they fired Gunther Cunningham on Thursday after two lackluster seasons and want to replace him with Vermeil, who led the Rams to last year's Super Bowl title.

HOCKEY

DETROIT (AP) — If the Detroit Red Wings are going to regain their Stanley Cup form, they'll need more games like this one.

Pat Verbeek scored two goals, and Doug Brown and Martin Lapointe also scored as Detroit beat the Dallas Stars'4-2 on Thursday night.

Entering the season, the Red Wings knew it would be role players like Brown and Lapointe, not stars Steve Yzerman and Sergei Fedorov, who would determine the team's success.

Verbeek was a healthy scratch the previous game, Lapointe hadn't scored in 15 games and Brown had a goal for the first time in 12 games.

"Any time you're going to be successful and consistent during the year and the playoffs, you've got to get contributions from everyone," Verbeek

Dolphins at Oakland for AFC playoff clash

ception that has helped the two Dolphins (12-5) on Saturday in us," he said. the AFC playoffs.

oriented quarterback.

"We have taken pride in try- Giants. ing to be as detailed and organized as we can," coach Jon 1,046 yards and nine touch-Gruden said.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Does that sound like the The Oakland Raiders are still rough-and-tumble Raiders of football is a key component in lowed by teammate Jason that dream of playing and start-treated as the villains of the past? No, and that's fine winning teams," Gruden said. Taylor with 14.5 sacks. NFL, even if that's not the case with offensive tackle Lincoln "I think in '97 the Raiders ran anymore. The Miami Dolphins Kennedy, who said he didn't the ball less than any team in games. haven't gotten much attention mind being overlooked by other this league. The last couple In a way, it's that outside per- this season.

"I'd much rather be the quiteams make it this far. The eter guy waiting in the wings Raiders (12-4) play host to the for the challengers to come to Named to both the Pro Bowl

and-black clad pirates on their the running game, ranked first He has run for four more. logo, the Raiders are a con- in the NFL with 154.4 yards per

Wheatley ran for a career-high They forced 41 turnovers.

more than anybody in football." too, has surpassed expectations. Gardener said. and the Associated Press All-Pro Dolphins' offense was all about approach. The Raiders certainly sur- Team, Gannon has thrown for Far from the menacing silver- prised some with the strength of 3,430 yards and 28 touchdowns. Dartmouth engineering grad

trolled group of guys, led by a game. The running game has their work on the other side of son. workaholic coach and a detail- been led by Tyrone Wheatley, a the ball. Their defense had 28 cast-off from the New York interceptions this season, more ning both fans and critics. than any other team in the NFL.

But defense alone won't win

"As far as our critics go, we

Dan Marino. Then, 29-year-old

With Miami, he fit in, stun-

are going to say it's time to give and have them execute it on the Defensive end Trace it up," he said. "You have a practice field and get ready to Armstrong had an AFC-best Dartmouth degree, go use it. play."

"I really believe running the 16.5 quarterback sacks, fol- But I wanted to keep chasing

Of course, at this point, all the secrets on both sides are out.

Against Miami, the mantra teams and the national media years we've run it as much or weren't supposed to be this far, around the Raiders' training but we are, and we're happy facility in Alameda has been Quarterback Rich Gannon, about it," defensive tackle Daryl consistency. The win-at-anycost Raiders of the past have For the longest time, the become responsible in their

We're not going to punch a clock this week and we're not Jay Fiedler came in after trying going to drive to work faster The Dolphins are known for out with five teams in six sea- than we did last week to try and outwork Miami," Gruden said.

"We're going to try to be smart," in terms of our preparation, try There's always people that and take the ideas to our players.

Football honors keep coming for Burklow, Warren

By L.D. STRATE **Sports Editor**

football honors.

Warren, a 6-3, 265-pound cen- able-mention pick.

have gained more post-season classifications among area number of college offers. schools.

Golden Spread Super Team. Writers. Warren was an honor- January," Burklow said.

Burklow, a 6-0, 190-pound years and are very deserving of Cavalier.

senior, made the defensive these post-season honors," said "Jason stepped into the foot- a football scholarship — was

"I've talked to a lot of nificently." Both PHS seniors were Earlier, Burklow was named schools, but I haven't decided named to the annual Class 4A- second-team all-state by the anything yet. I probably won't of a Pampa defense that was 5A Amarillo Globe News Associated Press Sports know for sure until the end of No. 1 in District 3-4A the past Vic Koenning have exchanged

Whichever college Burklow ter, was named to the Super "Both these players have decides upon, they will be get- 2000 campaign. Team as an offensive lineman. been all-district the past two ting a good one, according to

team at linebacker. Recently, Pampa coach Dennis Cavalier. steps of a lot of outstanding recruited by Oklahoma State both PHS athletes were named Burklow, who led the linebackers who have gone University, Texas Christian PAMPA - Pampa all-staters to another Globe-News Super Harvesters in tackles the past through Pampa High," University, North Texas and Jason Burklow and Jeff Warren Team, this one including all two seasons, is still weighing a Cavalier said. "He worked West Texas A&M, including very hard and performed mag- several others.

> Burklow was the ringleader 1 school located in Laramie. two seasons.

He had 158 tackles in the to look at the campus and

Warren — who is headed for Warren family in Pampa. the University of Wyoming on

Warren fell in love with the university and committed to UW in early December.

"The coaches are very interested in me and what will be

Wyoming is a NCAA Division

Warren and UW head coach

visits. Warren flew to Laramie

coach Koenning visited the

best for me," he said. Cavalier noted that strong off-season work habits paid off

for Warren. "Jeff was very dedicated and spent a lot of time in the weight room," Cavalier said. "He's been a great player at center for

us the last two years." Warren has played other positions on the line, but settled on center in high school.

"Some years ago, Jeff saw the need for a center to be athletic and skillful. These days with a lot of shotgun snaps, he felt like he was best suited for that position," Cavalier said.

Among Warren's other honors this past season include Pre-Season, Pigskin Prep All-Region Center; Team Co-Captain and Top O' Texas Top 50 Offensive Linemen.

Jeff's parents are Leonard and Sandy Warren. His older brother, Jason, played two years of junior college football, including one year at Midwestern in Wichita Falls.

ed to make a decision on collegiate football until the last week of this month.

Oklahoma puts Big 12 atop college football world

Center Jeff Warren (left) will be going to Division 1 Wyoming while linebacker Jason Burklow isn't expect-

Eight and Southwest Conference merged to form the Big 12 "superconference," this was what its founders expected every football

A unanimous national champion. Three Top 10 teams. Five in the Top 25.

Oklahoma's victory in the Orange Bowl, which capped an undefeated season and No. 1 ranking, was as much a crowning achievement for the 5-year-old conference as it was for the school.

The Sooners gave the Big 12 its first outright national champion. In 1997, Nebraska was voted No. 1 in the coaches poll, but was second to Michigan in The Associated Press writers poll.

'96 and '98, when the Cornhuskers and Kansas State saw undefeated seasons end with Big 12 champi-

ketball games Thursday night.

Pampa Red beat Hereford by a

Pampa with 27 points and 8

Ricky Gattis was Pampa's

high scorer with 9 points. Jared

Winegeart had 8 points and 6

Dusty Lenderman added 6

Pampa Blue has an 8-1 record

Pampa Blue won 32-26.

while Pampa Red is 7-1.

rebounds.

points each.

Hereford in 8th grade boys' bas- one point, 36-35.

In the 7th grade division, and Pampa Red is 1-8.

DALLAS (AP) — When the Big onship losses to Texas and Texas A&M.

> "It's great to get the monkey off our back as far as not having won an undisputed national championship," commissioner Kevin Weiberg said Thursday. 'Internally, we weren't putting that kind of pressure on ourselves, but when the conference was formed, there were some high expectations. And every year that goes by that you don't get to that level, it does add to it."

> The Cornhuskers were eighth in this season's final AP poll and Kansas State was ninth, marking the first time the league has finished the season with three teams ranked that high.

While the Pac-10 topped the Big 12 by having teams ranked Nos. 3, There also were near misses in 4 and 7, the West Coast league had no other teams in the top 25. The Big 12 also had Texas at No. 12 and Iowa State at No. 25.

and Weston Teichmann 4.

in the Top 25 with six, but five of them were ranked between No. 18 and 24. A seventh SEC school, Tennessee, was one vôting point shy of tying Iowa State for 25th.

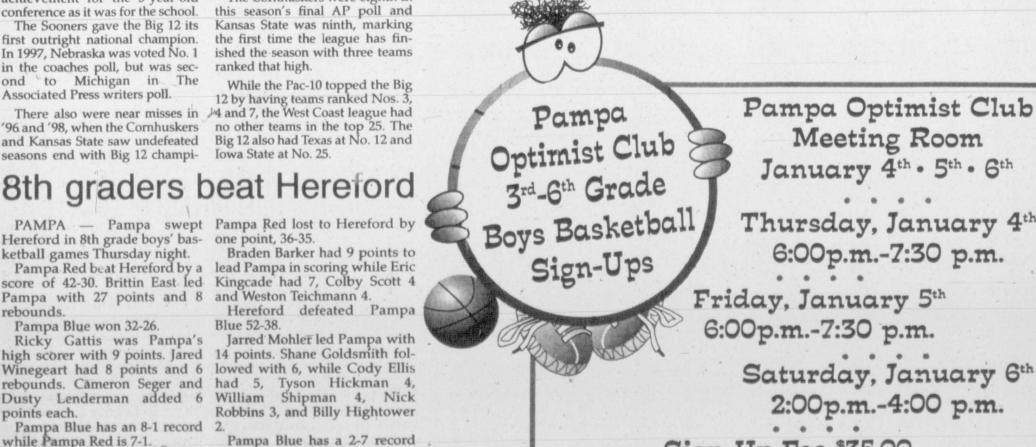
The SEC placed the most teams conference, that there's good depth," Weiberg said. "Just a couple of years ago, Oklahoma was 3-5 in the Big 12. It shows you can go from being somewhat mediocre to strong. That ought to give hope to everyone in our conference."

In becoming the conference's first undisputed champion, the Sooners (13-0) struck a mighty blow for the Big 12 South, which

divided between the divisions. But Oklahoma's 13-2 victory

over Florida State couldn't hide an ugly disparity in the bowl records of the divisions.

With victories this bowl season by Nebraska, Kansas State, ... Iowa State, North schools are: 18-5. OU's victory was only the second for the South against 12,.. losses, including defeats this bowl season by Texas, Texas





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And then there was one: Ernie Els in a thriller

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

(AP) - Ernie Els held up his round. end of the bargain.

and producing the kind of didn't come to Australia. heroic shots rarely seen out-

crawled toward the cup on give him any sign of life at all." No. 17, Els coaxed it home No worries. Stricker was 9 extend the match; Els held up birdie putt to Leonard. a fist and glared at the

two more matches went into nals.

overtime, two others went to

"I was trying to apply pres- up victim to Brad Faxon. The last player to arrive for sure at every hole," said Steve

drawing even with Jean Van including two eagles. One of would even be in the tournade Velde. When an 8-foot them was a blast from the ment had the top 64 in the birdie dropped on the 18th to bunker after he conceded a world ranking all come -

alive. While several players who pulled off the shot of the "It was very competitive," skipped the tournament, these day. Els said, choosing his words quarterfinals were no differ-That was true all over Costa, when the top-seeded birdie on the first extra hole, Metropolitan Golf Club in the Woods was the only one of the

the final hole and even the chances until leaving one in cumstance. blowouts brought out a fire the bunker on No. 16 and the 17th hole, leaving him a 1-

Michael Campbell (No. 5) the Match Play Championship, Stricker, who did just that in a also went down, going to the Els is the last of the Top 10 6 and 5 victory over Justin 18th green all square against seeds remaining in a \$5 million Leonard, a round that would the wrong guy — Pierre Fulke. tournament that is getting have topped Tiger Woods or For the second day in a row, more intense with each round any other top players who the Swede-holed a crucial putt on the 18th, this time to win

players.

Faxon (No. 76), Stricker (No. Of the 10 seeds, only Els is 90) and Craig Stadler (No. 92),

With Andrew Coltart ent than two years ago at La already looking at 12 feet for World Golf Championship.

Christmas to ask if might Dudley Hart. want to go to Australia, Stadler's first reaction was, O'Hern said. "Does someone need a cad-

"I certainly didn't think I'd course. be in the field," he said.

were Japanese — Toru reroic shots rarely seen out—
"At one point, I just didn't the match.
"At one point, I just didn't the match.
"At one point, I just didn't the match.
"What remains for the week—
When his 30-foot birdie putt Stricker said. "I didn't want to end is an interesting mix of and Shigeki Maruyama, who until Els matched him.

Taniguchi, who disposed of for birdie that put him on the ried long, past the hole and local favorite Stuart Appleby, brink of the quarterfinals, down the embankment. The best he could was bogey. has never lost a match in Three of them are Australia. He was 5-0 in the get excited, and that he needwith his putter extended, under through 12 holes, Americans, none of whom Presidents Cup at Royal ed to look at me," Els said. Melbourne two years ago.

love Melbourne," Maruyama said.

the quarterfinals, guarantee- two years ago. ing a Japanese player in the semifinals for the first time in hapless ending. the three-year history of this

Stadler hit an 8-iron within a quarterfinals, just not the one virtually no backswing to aim chances of a \$1 million check third round, a day in which Top 10 to get to the quarterfi- foot for the victory. He is only everyone expected. Nick at the green. two matches away from the O'Hern, No. 103 in the world

Tom Lehman (No. 4) had his final, a most surprising cir- ranking and the 63rd seed, has hit a wild hook that was des-MELBOURNE, Australia usually reserved for the final missing a short birdie putt on him a few days before Sutton, Tim Herron and caromed into a bunker.

"Anything is possible,"

ever Van de Velde is on the thought I was dead."

"He felt like he needed to

the Frenchman, famous for his for par. mind-boggling collapse in the

He wound up with the same

Van de Velde proceeded to each round.

made a habit of beating tined for an unplayable lie at When the PGA Tour called Americans this week - Hal best. Instead, it hit a tree and

"I saw his ball going left, and the next thing I heard was some guy in the stands say it That's certainly true when- popped out," Els said. "I

Van de Velde played out He got under the skin of Els short of the green, but then Two of the quarterfinalists the way he celebrated big did the one thing he couldn't putts, the last one a 20-footer afford — a pitch shot that car-

Els, meanwhile, aimed 20 yards right of the green with a hard draw, into the bunker, Fortune finally smiled on but a routine up-and-down

"To finish the way we did, They will face each other in British Open at Carnoustie under the gun, was nice," Els

Stricker wouldn't know the feeling. In his first tournament Els hit first on the first extra in four months, at a time when hole, shoving his drive into he figured he would be snowed An Aussie also made the the shrubs so far that he had in at home in Wisconsin, his are getting more realistic with

Pampa tied for third in district standings

up for grabs in the District 3-4A ball team. boys' race. Four teams are tied at 1-1, including Pampa, Borger, good account of themselves Hereford and Caprock.

Randall and Canyon are deadlocked for first at 2-0. Dumas and Palo Duro, both 0-2, bring up the rear.

It's still early in the district down the stretch. season, however.

be putting the football playoffs of the Tip-Off Classic. behind them.

junior forward, tossed in 30 ing away with a five-point win points against the Dons. Junior (58-53).

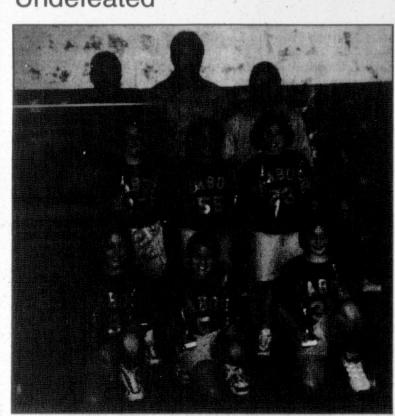
Borger's 77-71 win over Palo guard Gabriel Garcia had a 20-Duro on Tuesday night helped point performance. Both were put that third-place playoff spot starters on the Bulldogs' foot-

The Dons, however, gave a against Borger. They held the lead for much of the first half and were ahead by one (31-30) going into the second half. With the score tied at 47-all, the Bulldogs started pulling away

The Harvesters and the Round 2 of district play is Bulldogs hook up again on Jan. three weeks away. Borger, 12 in Borger and Feb. 6 in which lost twice to Pampa in Pampa. Pampa beat Borger by Amarillo's Tip-Off Classic, may 15 (66-51) in the second round

The second meeting was Kendrick Dickson, Borger's much closer with Pampa com-

Undefeated



The Cabot third-grade girls basketball team went unbeaten to win both league and tournament championships in the Pampa Optimist program this season. Team members are (front row, from left) Kara Stephens, Emily Jean and Kaitlin Winegeart; (middle row, from left) Carlyn Teichmann, Ashley Facio and Brooklyn Barker; Coaches (I-r) are David Teichmann, Jimmy Barker and Bino Facio. The coaching staff expressed their appreciation to the parents of the players for their help and support. They also thanked the players for their dedication.

5A format won't change

Superintendents for Class Superintendents were will-5A schools rejected by 23 ing to change the competition votes — 118 to 95 — a for girls in track and field. University Interscholastic Starting in the 2001-2002 League referendum that school year, girls will be would have added a fourth allowed to compete in pole district team to the playoffs vault at the district, regional instead of the current three.

Under the current format, meets. the largest of the three teams Currently, girls may vault at

dents took part in the football

changing the current playoff "Now, girls in Texas are prestructure, the final vote indi- sented with more opportunicated that the majority did not ties than ever before.

AUSTIN (AP) — The vote want to place more teams in was close, but the state foot- the playoffs," said UIL direcball playoff format for Class tor Bill Farney. "Perhaps col-5A won't be expanded any- lectively, the schools were just not ready to change."

and state track and field

plays in a 32-team Division 1 invitational meets and at any playoff, and the other two district meet where the display in a 64-team Division II. trict allows it but no further. Each division crowns a state Superintendents in all classes voted 605 to 441 to approve Only Class 5A superinten- girls' vaulting statewide.

"We are excited about this new opportunity for girls in "Although a number of our state," said UIL director of schools were interested in athletics Charles Breithaupt.

Rangers make offer to Cone

initial contract offer to free agent closer. right-handed pitcher David

Texas is hoping to sign Cone, who turned 38 this week, to a one-year contract with a low base salary. But the deal would be loaded with incentives that could increase its value significantly.

Kansas City is also after Cone, were continuing to talk.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - who is from that area, but the The Texas Rangers have made an Royals want to turn him into a

> Cone, who was 4-14 last season for the New York Yankees, worked out for Rangers general manager Doug Melvin on Dec. 20

Melvin, who finally made a contract offer Thursday, said there is no rush to get the deal The Rangers are offering Cone done. Cone's agent, Steve Fehr, a spot in the starting rotation. would say only that the two sides

Titans, Ravens get ready for possible defensive battle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - finale to Dallas. They finished The Baltimore Ravens focused the season with 238.4 yards on the NFL record for the fewest allowed per game, compared to points allowed in a 16-game sea- 248 for Baltimore. son. The Tennessee Titans - Ravens end Rob Burnett said worked on allowing the fewest the Titans earned the No. 1 label. yards and edged the Ravens for the league's No. 1 defensive yards. We have the fewest points

Now, both teams think they have the NFL's best defense, and players are spouting plenty of statistics to back up their claims. However, they do agree on one thing: Whoever wins their AFC divisional game Sunday will take top honors.

"The whole country knows who has the best defense," Ravens end Michael McCrary ble)." said. "We believe we are better. We'll get to prove it Sunday."

The Titans refuse to defend themselves to the Ravens.

"It's not our fault that we finished No. 1," tackle John '86 Bears.
Thornton said. "It seems like The Rayens everyone up there is upset that we played well in the last game, and they didn't. They gave up a lot of yards. ... We're not going to get into a war of words over that. That's the regular season. You can't do anything about it now except go out and play hard." Still, they can't agree on what

qualities make a great defense. The Ravens point to their NFL record for fewest points allowed

in a 16-game season with 165. "Any team that keeps its opponents from scoring, they're the team that's doing a lot of things right on the football field defensively," Ravens cornerback Rod Woodson said.

"Being one or two, who really cares about that? It's playoff time.

against the New York Jets, when instead to the 1978 Steelers. the Ravens gave up 524 yards.

The Titans knew they had a gave up just 95 yards in their had more sacks.

"They can have the fewest in NFL history," he said, holding up a ball given to every member of the defense commemorating their points record.

The Titans prefer to look at effort and heart.

"You can't measure heart," Titans end Kenny Holmes said. And we got that, the heart of a champion, knowing when to go out and play as hard (as possi-

Baltimore spent much of the season being compared to the 1986 Bears or Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense of the 1970s. The Ravens finished the season with 22 fewer points allowed than the

The Ravens notched four shutouts and allowed just 18 touchdowns all season. They led the NFL in fewest yards rushing allowed, with 60.6 per game, and in turnover margin, with 23 more takeaways than give-

'We are the best," Ravens tackle Tony Siragusa said. "We have had to prove it week in and week out, and we have to go prove it this week. I guess it's the best against the best. They think they are the best in their eyes, and we think we're the best in

Few people noticed the Titans defense until the past month.

They allowed only 191 points, the third-fewest points ever allowed in a 16-game season. But the Ravens ignored the Woodson admitted he was Tennessee when they put togeththinking of the yardage record in er a graph of that stat for their their regular-season finale weekly notes, giving credit

Tennessee allowed just 20 touchdowns, shut out two oppochance to catch Baltimore and nents, and only New Orleans

Knicks come from long way down to beat Magic in overtime

Sprewell couldn't stop Tracy rebounds as the Knicks 24 points, and Sprewell had inbounded with just 0.8 sec- another possession. McGrady, nor could Allan stretched their winning streak 20. The Knicks won despite onds left. Houston. The solution? to a season-high six games allowing the Magic to score McGrady's former teammate, and held their opponent the first 15 points of the game. on myself because I failed in Miami. Marbury had 27 keep losing. They played well, Marcus Camby.

Camby played great defense on Orlando's leading scorer during the second half and overtime as the New York Knicks rebounded from a brutal opening six minutes to defeat the Magic 95-92 in overtime Thursday night.

one all the time, he was my lit- in the third quarter and held it tle young boy," said Camby, a for the rest of the night. McGrady, isolated against teammate of McGrady on the Twenty of McGrady's points Camby. As McGrady drove, Toronto Raptors during came in the first half before Camby went down and a McGrady's first NBA season Camby was switched to him charging foul was called. in 1997-98. "He wasn't the defensively. player that he is now. Now he's like a superstar."

McGrady finished with 36 points, but he didn't play like a superstar down the stretch, missing three shots and committing an offensive foul on four of Orlando's final five possessions of the extra peri-

Aside from his defense,

below 100 points for the 27th Darrell Armstrong scored 15 consecutive time — one shy of for the Magic, who dropped to the NBA record set by the Ft. 0-5 this season when playing times when I fail.' Wayne Pistons in 1955.

In other NBA games, it was Chicago 98, Washington 96.

"I used to play him one-on- sive assignment on McGrady onds left for a 94-92 lead.

first six points of overtime, 24-second violation with 10.5 but was shut out the rest of seconds left, but McGrady one of two free throws, giving Tuesday night that snapped buzzer as Chicago won in a the way.

ob on him," Knicks coach Jeff shoot over the outstretched Bruce Bowen stripped the Van Gundy said. "He also did arm of the 7-foot Camby. a good job on him last year in Larry Johnson made one of Marbury on his attempt to scored on second chances. The four 1-quarter lead — the victhe Toronto (playoff) series, so two free throws for a three- launch a 3-pointer, although Wolves turned offensive tory in a meeting of two of the really there was nothing to point lead, and Armstrong the Nets insisted that Bowen rebounds into 11 points and NBA's worst teams. Chicago is

on national television.

Sprewell missed a drive Miami 81, New Jersey 78; with a minute left in overtime, Minnesota 105, Seattle 92; but hustled to keep the ball Houston 107, Detroit 97; and alive. The Knicks retained possession, and Camby hit Camby took over the defen- two foul shots with 51 sec-

The Magic got the ball to

The Knicks couldn't get off a McGrady scored the Magic's good shot and committed a I thought Marcus did a great onds left as he was forced to 4.2 seconds left.

NEW YORK (AP) - Latrell Camby had 22 points and 12 Houston led New York with buzzer after Orlando should have been allowed

"There's going to be some lost eight of nine games.

Heat 81, Nets 78

Anthony Mason had 18

quarter, the Heat survived a in the closing seconds.

closing minutes to make it 80- in the NBA. 78 on Johnny Newman's 3-

ball away from Stephon the frequency Minnesota — who had blown an 11-point missed a wild 3-pointer at the kicked the ball and that they scored 25 off fast breaks.

Hardaway added had 17

"I'm not going to get down points and eight assists for happening, we're going to this game," McGrady said. points for the Nets, who have (but) we've got guys worrying

Timberwolves 105, SuperSonics 92

At Minneapolis, Wally After blowing almost all of a led Minnesota with 22 points, points. 15-point lead in the fourth and Terrell Brandon added 21.

scare when the Nets were injury, Gary Payton led the points for the Rockets, who unable to get off a tying shot Sonics with 19 points in his stopped a five-game home New Jersey rallied in the start, the longest active streak won eight straight at home

Payton bounced back from a Bulls 98, Wizards 96 pointer with 4.6 seconds left, season-worst six-point perforand Tim Hardaway made only mance against Indiana on made a 17-foot jumper at the missed a runner with 3.2 sec- the Nets a chance to tie with his 70-game string of scoring wild finish. 10 points or more.

"A lot of people are working on one end and not the other,' Payton said. "If that keeps about things other than bas-

Rockets 107, Pistons 97 A career-high 46 points by

points and 13 rebounds to Szczerbiak scored 13 of his 17 Jerry Stackhouse wasn't help Miami push its home in the third quarter and added enough for Detroit as Houston winning streak to five games. 11 rebounds. Anthony Peeler won behind Steve Francis' 26

Shandon Anderson and Despite a nagging groin Cuttino Mobley each had 21 348th straight regular-season losing streak. Houston has against the Pistons.

At Chicago, Elton Brand

Brand made the jumper over Payton was unhappy with Calvin Booth to give the Bulls 6-25 and the Wizards 7-26.

nation's steady a even as nesses sl in four m

Friday t by just smallest 17,000 ir continue and the

brink of fi utilities h getting or experienc The sta on Thurse about half Southern (Standar credit ratio ing the ut stock price

The pro

has promp to arrange al officials New York Californ Commissio 90-day rate to back a bo Still, Wal done. "This slo

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nation's unemployment rate held December. steady at 4 percent in December in four months.

17,000 in August. Manufacturing months of the year. continued to suffer huge losses

WASHINGTON (AP) - The hurt by unusually cold weather in better than many analysts had effort to stave off a recession

even as hiring by American busi- 105,000 last month, but more than sands of job cuts at some of Austin, Texas, heard firsthand nesses slowed to the weakest pace half of that reflected increases in nation's biggest companies that from some of America's top busi-The Labor Department said months, payroll growth has aver-rapidly slowing economy. Friday that private payrolls rose aged just 77,000, a sharp slow-

been expecting, given a rash of sto-Overall employment was up by ries in recent weeks about thou- two-day economic summit in 105,000 last month, but more than sands of job cuts at some of Austin, Texas, heard firsthand government jobs. For the last three reflected efforts to cope with a ness executives about hold the

Worried about the weakening panies. by just 49,000 last month, the down from gains of average gains economy, the Federal Reserve smallest increase since a gain of of 187,000 jobs during the first nine unexpectedly cut short-term interesting.

President-elect Bush, holding a slowdown was hurting their com-

He told reporters that the Fed's est rates by a half a percentage through lower interest rates would Even with weak job growth, the point Wednesday, the biggest rate not be sufficient and Congress and the construction industry was 4 percent unemployment rate was cut in more than eight years, in an would need to move rapidly to

pass his \$1.3 trillion across-theboard tax cut.

Even with the slowdown in the last three months of the year, the unemployment rate for all of 2000 averaged 4 percent. That was the best showing since a 3.5 percent jobless rate in 1969. The 1999 rate averaged 4.2 percent.

The unemployment rate dropped to a 30-year low of 3.9 percent during three months of 2000. With the slowdown, econocould rise to 5 percent by the end of 2001.

The Fed, worried about tight labor markets, raised interest rates since January 1996. six times between June 1999 and economy to a more sustainable

indicated that Fed policy-makers a soft landing, the economy could sion since 1990-91.

One of the reasons the Fed gave it will close all its 250 stores. for its rate reduction was the That view was supported in of 2000 to 302,000, the smallest Friday's report. Average hourly increase since 1997. earnings, a key gauge of inflation, moderated in December, rising 0.4 percent to \$14.01 an hour, slower

tributed to some business closings gain of 1999.

and worker layoffs in certain industries.

In December, manufacturers, which have taken the brunt of slowdown, lost another 62,000 jobs, bringing their job losses for the year to 180,000. Since hitting a high in April 1998, manufacturing has shed 580,000 jobs, reflecting in part increased foreign competition as America's trade deficit soared to record highs.

Not only are factories laying off mists are forecasting jobless rate workers, they also are cutting the hours of those still employed. The factory workweek fell by 0.8 hours in December, the biggest drop

Construction lost 13,000 jobs in May 2000 in an effort to slow the December, its second consecutive monthly decline, reflecting extreme weather conditions in Its surprise rate cut this week both November and December.

Economic news has been dominow fear that they may have over- nated in recent weeks by large laydone the credit tightening and offs in some of the nation's biggest instead of guiding the economy to retailers. Sears, Roebuck and Co. announced Thursday it will close actually topple into its first reces- 89 stores and cut 2,400 people. Montgomery Ward & Co. has said

In December retailers added just absence of inflationary pressures. 8,000 jobs, pushing the total of all

The government added 56,000 jobs in December as both state and local government showed gains than the 0.6 percent gain in during the month. For the entire year, government employment The slowing economy has congrew by 160,000 - just half the

California utilities feel wrath of Wa

brink of financial collapse, California's two largest something more is done," said analyst Barry off the bonds through a monthly surcharge on utilities have been handed a double whammy by Abramson of UBS Warburg. getting only a fraction of expected rate hikes and

experiencing Wall Street's wrath. on Thursday ranging from 7 to 15 percent, or junk bond status, or less than investment grade. about half of what Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co. had requested.

Standard & Poor's and Fitch Inc., two major above junk. credit rating agencies, responded by downgrading the utilities' parent companies, causing their in Thursday trading; Edison's shares dropped stock prices to plummet.

The prospect of "a bankruptcy like no other" al officials at the White House on Tuesday, The New York Times reported Friday.

Commission, which unanimously approved the about \$10 billion. 90-day rate hike, also urged the state Legislature Still, Wall Street didn't think enough had been to repay debts immediately.

classifieds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Teetering on the ruptcy, but that's where they're still headed unless nance the utilities' debts, with ratepayers paying

Fitch deemed the commission's temporary increases "wholly insufficient" and lowered rat-The state authorized immediate rate increases ings of PG&E Corp. and Edison International to Meanwhile, S&P, the most closely watched agency, dropped the utilities to "BBB," or a grade

> PG&E's stock plunged \$5, or 29 percent to \$12 \$1.50, or 12 percent, to \$10.75.

In a statement, S&P indicated it held back on rocketed. has prompted President Clinton's administration to arrange a meeting between top state and feder"reasonable chance" that Gov. Gray Davis and the state Legislature would bail out the utilities.

California's five-member Public Utilities impact on the utilities' debt, now estimated at supply plan.

If the utilities had been ranked below S&P's build power plants, plus incentives for buying to back a bond package for bailing out the utilities. investment grade, banks could have forced them energy-efficient home appliances.

"This slows down their march toward bank- backed multibillion-dollar bond package to refi- ure of California's deregulation scheme."

The utilities' crisis came because they buy power for roughly 30 cents a kilowatt hour but, because of a rate freeze, could only charge customers about a fifth of that amount.

The rate freeze, part of California's 1996 deregulation law, was established at what was then a generous level to assure utilities a steady stream of revenue as they sold off power plants and made the transition to deregulation. But earlier this year, the price of wholesale electricity sky-In his State of the State Address on Monday,

Gray is expected to renew his plea to federal officials to intervene in California's electricity crisis At this stage, the credit ratings have a greater and propose a \$1 billion energy conservation and The plan would include low-cost financing to

The governor called the PUC's decision "unfor-The utilities may be counting on a state- tunately necessary" because of "the colossal fail-

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