

Daily Record

Obituaries

H.W. EDWARDS
POST — H.W. "Sam" Edwards, 79, father of a Canadian resident, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2001, at Lubbock. Services were to be at 10 a.m. today in First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Buddy Payne officiating and the Rev. Marvin Gregory, of First United Methodist Church of Tahoka, assisting. Burial will be in Terrace Cemetery with military honors. Arrangements are under the direction of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Mr. Edwards was born at Grassland and graduated from high school at Tahoka. He attended Howard Payne College and later Metropolitan Business College in Dallas.

He married Maxine Lindley in 1946 at O'Donnell; she died in 1993. He married Jeanette Bell in 1999 at Roswell, N.M.

He farmed in the Grassland area prior to moving to Tahoka and served as Lynn County justice of the peace following his retirement. He had been a Post resident since 1998, filling in as temporary justice of the peace for Garza County.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II, and belonged to First United Methodist Church of Post and John Miller Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6797.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanette; a daughter, Jill Baker of Canadian; two sons, Jack Edwards of Dimmitt and Jody Edwards of Lubbock; two sisters, Laura Hoover of Tennessee and Louise Sewell of Houma, La.; and six grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Garza County Trail Blazers Building Fund, Post, TX 79356.

PATTI WEBB LEACH

AMARILLO — Patti Webb Leach, 75, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2001. Memorial services were to be at 11 a.m. today in Polk Street United Methodist Church with the Rev. Marty Hamrick, associate pastor, officiating. Private family burial will be in Llano Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

Mrs. Leach was born north of Clinton, Okla., and graduated from high school at Weatherford, Okla., in 1943. She attended Southwestern University at Weatherford and, in 1946, earned a bachelor of science degree in business with honors from the University of Oklahoma. In 1946 when she took her CPA exam, she was only the third woman to pass the test.

She married Guy W. Leach in 1947 at Norman, Okla., and worked in the University of Oklahoma Controller's Office from 1947-50.

She had been an Amarillo resident since 1950, relocating to the city to work for Leon L. Hoyt and Company until 1952. She resumed her career in 1961, working for Yucca Petroleum until 1981 and for W.W. Carter Family until her retirement.

She was a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church and Homebuilders Sunday School Class. She also belonged to various accounting societies and had served as treasurer for Panhandle Geological Society.

Survivors include her husband, Guy, of the home; a daughter, Janet K. Leach Stowers of Pampa; a son, Alan Ross Leach of Fort Worth; a brother, Carroll Gibson Webb of Tulsa, Okla.; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Polk Street United Methodist Church Organ Fund, 1401 S. Polk, Amarillo, TX 79101; to OU Alumnae Association; or to a favorite charity.

Correction

Due to incorrect information faxed to the paper from a funeral home in Amarillo, the name Janet K. Leach Stowers was misspelled in the Patti Webb Leach obituary notice which ran in the Sunday, Jan. 7, issue of *The Pampa News*.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa	
Wheat	2.71
Milo	3.46
Corn	3.81
Soybeans	4.12
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation	
Occidental	23.78 dn 13/16
Fidelity Magellan	117.73
Pimco	18.68
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa	
BP/Amoco	48 15/16 up 1/4
Cabot	25 1/2 up 1/4
Cabot O&G	28 3/4 up 3/4
Chesapeake	39 9/16 up 1/16
CoalCo	58 13/16 up 1/8
Columbia HCA	39.37 up 1/22
Enron	71.38 NC
Halliburton	36.34 up 3/4
KMI	44 15/16 up 3/8
Kerr-McGee	66 3/16 up 15/16
Limited	15.78 up 1/8
McDonald's	33.14 up 5/16
Exxon Mobil	83.58 up 3/8
New Atmos	27.78 dn 3/16
NCFI	25.34 up 5/16
NOF	36.14 up 3/4
OKI	47.12 up 7/16
Penney's	11.15/16 up 3/8
Phillips	56.58 up 3/4
Pioneer Nat	18.12 up 1/2
SLB	77 13/16 dn 1 1/16
Imco	13.34 NC
Imco	59 13/16 up 1/4
Ultramar	29.93/16 up 15/16
Wal Mart	54 3/16 up 1/4
Williams	37 1/16 up 5/16
New York Gold	268.15
Silver	4.57
West Texas Crude	27.95

Emergency numbers

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

Carson County Sheriff

Carson County Sheriff's Department made the following jail intake report for the week of Dec. 25 through Jan. 7.

Dec. 25, 2000 to Jan. 7, 2001

Scott E. Wells, 31, Denton, driving with license suspended and failure to appear - Denton County.

Robert Yeager, 46, Fritch, driving while intoxicated - first offense.

Kelley B. Baker, 42, Pampa, driving while intoxicated.

Derek A. Yates, 22, Stillwater, Okla., making alcohol available to minors.

Mark W. Young, 39, Fritch, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana less than two ounces, unlawfully carrying a weapon

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 6

A dog was reported shot by officers on Friday. A pickup was reported stolen in the 1600 block of North Somerville.

A simple assault was reported in the 600 block of South Reid.

Verbal threats were reportedly made against Paul Sublette at Pampa Pawn.

Jason David McCloud, 25, 745 E. Locust, reported the theft of a calling card resulting in a \$207.80 loss.

Terrorist threats were reported against Pampa Middle School teacher and coach Richard Leonard, 26.

A car was reported stolen in the 600 block of North Banks.

A verbal argument was reported in the 1600 block of Fir.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Clerks at Allsup's Convenience Store, 140 S. Starkweather, reported a gas drive off in the amount of \$6.91.

A domestic quarrel was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

A clerk at the Allsup's Convenience Store, 1900 N. Hobart, reported a gas drive off in the amount of \$24.35.

Criminal mischief was reported at the Best Western Motel, 2831 N. Perryton Parkway.

Monday, Jan. 8

A domestic quarrel was reported in the 400 block of South Graham.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's office reported the following arrests during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 6

Michael Lee Kendrick, 26, of Abilene, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Hoyt Eugene Larue, 34, 104 N. Faulkner, was arrested on charges of public intoxication.

David Roy Holt, 32, 1612 Coffee, was arrested on charges driving while intoxicated.

Calvin Lee Menefield, 39, 421 N. Wells, was arrested on charges of deadly conduct.

Patricia Ann Stimson, 32, 1031 N. Sumner #217, was arrested on traffic warrants.

Jason Aaron Moore, 26, no address given, was arrested on traffic warrants.

Salvador Rodriguez, 23, no address given, was arrested on charges of burglary and evading arrest.

Kevin Burton, 20, no address given, was arrested on charges of evading arrest.

Fires

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

Saturday, Jan. 6

6:57 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 400 block of North Christy on a medical assist.

11:45 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to 20th and Russell streets on a service call to set off a fire hydrant.

Sunday, Jan. 7

3:49 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 2100 block of Christine.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident recently.

Thursday, Jan. 4

8 p.m. - A 1982 Chevrolet Impala driven by Arthur Ray Short, 39, of White Deer, collided with a legally parked 1985 Nissan belonging to Vernon Camp, 205 Tignor, at Tignor and Tynng streets and left the scene. Short was arrested for driving while intoxicated - third offense, felony possession of a firearm, and failure to stop and give information. No injuries were reported.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 48 hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 6

6:55 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Christy and transported one to PRMC.

8:20 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of Fir; no transport.

Sunday, Jan. 7

12:03 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to 504 N. Magnolia and transported one to PRMC.

10:36 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2000 block of Dogwood and transported one to PRMC.

Monday, Jan. 8

2:34 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the Meredith House; no transport.

and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kenneth P. Breg, 44, Fritch, possession of marijuana less than two ounces and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Justin S. Schimpf, 17, Panhandle, theft

John D. Karr, 22, Shattuck, Okla., public intoxication

Matthew J. Kelln, 24, Shattuck, driving while intoxicated/first offense.

Arthur M. Cleary, 50, Eminence, Mo., driving while intoxicated/first offense.

Dana L. Daniels, 35, White Deer, arrested on warrants from Panhandle Police Department and Randall County.

Ronald G. Ketchum, 48, Amarillo, driving while intoxicated/second offense.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ESCAPEES

escaped prisoners at a local eating establishment," Morris said today. "Officers were dispatched to check it out."

Law officers today were sifting through 132 tips received from a nation wide appeal on "America's Most Wanted" program over the weekend. None appeared to provide information that would lead to a quick capture, said Avery Mann, a FOX network spokesman in Washington, D.C.

But the number of leads was high volume for the show, said Mann.

"The calls came in from all over the country," he said. "Most of them were from Texas."

More than 1,000 leads were received earlier, with some callers reporting they saw the fugitives, but the TDCJ said today that they had confirmed no sightings.

"We've received a significant number of calls, but it takes time to sift through them — to separate the useful information from the superfluous tips," said TDCJ spokesman Larry Todd in Austin. "We've had everything from honest and realistic information to calls from weirdos and psychics."

Reward money for the fugitives doubled from \$100,000 Saturday when Bond Jumper, an online bail-bond pursuit listing company based in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite, offered an additional \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Irving police Officer Aubrey

Hawkins' killer.

"These inmates are well disciplined and they are certainly patient. But they will mess up and when they do, we will get a good lead on their whereabouts," said Todd. "We have had some pretty good leads. But the problem is timing."

"We haven't been able to get those leads soon enough to catch up with them," he said. "We are still sweating out what they might do with the weapons in their possession."

There had been some concern in the Texas Panhandle, officers said, when it was rumored that the escapees may be after a guard at the Clements Unit in Amari'lo.

"We are checking all leads," Morris said. There were also reports over the weekend that the escapees were seen near Tulsa, Okla., and near Memphis, Tenn.

George Rivas, 30, is believed to be the ring-leader. He was serving a life sentence for aggravated robbery and kidnapping in El Paso.

The others are Larry Harper, 37, serving 50 years for aggravated sexual assault in El Paso; Randy Halprin, 23, serving 30 years for injury to a child; Michael Rodriguez, 38, life for capital murder in San Antonio; Donald Newbury, 38, serving 99 years for aggravated robbery; Joseph Garcia, 29, serving 50 years for murder in San Antonio; and Patrick Henry Murphy Jr., serving 50 years for aggravated sexual assault with a deadly weapon and burglary in Dallas.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

STOLEN

Oil Corporation, 408 S. Price Road. Officers found the pickup Saturday abandoned in the 300 block of North Banks.

Randy Wayne Merrell, 32, 622 N. Banks, reported

a 1977 gray Chevrolet Caprice stolen from his home between 6 p.m. Thursday and 4:50 a.m. Friday.

Police found the car Friday abandoned in the 700 block of West Crawford.

"When will people learn to take their keys out of their vehicles?" Morris said.

People in the news ...

NEW YORK (AP) — Benicio Del Toro is hoping his latest traffic-stopping film role will shift his career into overdrive.

"I hope it opens some doors for me," Del Toro, a star of "Traffic," told the New York Daily News for Sunday's editions. "Talk to me in a year and a half, and we'll see!"

Del Toro was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in the movie about the drug war, directed by Steven Soderbergh. The role also earned him best supporting actor honors from the New York Film Critics Circle.

"Traffic" went into nationwide release Friday.

NEW YORK (AP) — Catherine Bell considers herself lucky that members of her close-knit family fled Iran before the government of Ayatollah Khomeini came to power in the 1970s.

"My grandparents left before things got too crazy," the co-star of the TV drama "JAG" was quoted in Sunday's Parade magazine. She said her grandfather, a government bureaucrat who opposed the new regime, "would have been beheaded if he had stayed."

Bell, born in London and raised in California, strongly identifies with the Iranian roots of her mother's side of the family. But she also grew up as a typical American kid.

"I was a tomboy," she said. "I like to skateboard, play football and push the envelope a little bit."

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Bush administration promises to keep comic Will Ferrell busy during the next few years.

"Let's just put it this way," Ferrell said. "I just put a down payment on a boat."

Ferrell has portrayed the president-elect in a memorable series of skits on "Saturday Night Live." His colleague, Al Gore impersonator Darrell Hammond, isn't quite so lucky.

The normally dark-haired Ferrell may have to work around a new hairstyle: He appeared before television critics Saturday in stringy hair dyed blonde.

"It's for my boy band that I just started," he quipped.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Subway Series was one of Darryl Strawberry's darkest moments.

The Mets and Yankees opened the World Series on Oct. 22 and Strawberry says watching the game prompted him to leave his rehab center in Tampa, Fla., and use crack cocaine — a violation of his probation.

"I had won world championships with both teams, and I was real resentful that I put myself in position to miss it," he said in Sunday's New York Post. "That would have been the best piece of the puzzle for my career."

Strawberry has struggled with drug addiction and alcoholism, and has had two bouts of cancer. But he says he is feeling better and more upbeat than he was in November, when he told a judge he had stopped his cancer treatment and wanted to die.

"I realize it's time for me to move on," he told the Post. "I have accepted that. I am no longer a ballplayer."

Drought compounds world hunger

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations' food aid is increasingly going to people suffering from droughts, which last year spread to more than 20 countries and affected 100 million people.

In statistics released Monday, the World Food Program estimated that the number of drought-affected people it feeds soared to 16 million last year, up from 3 million in 1996. The agency says that in the next two decades, nearly half of the world's population will live in countries with water shortages.

In 1998, the food program

responded to 102 drought-related emergencies — more than 50 percent more than the number of emergencies caused by floods.

The Rome-based agency is releasing a "Hunger Map" to highlight the worst-affected countries, ranking them according to the proportion of their population that is undernourished.

Many of those with the worst rankings are found in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, areas that suffered a severe drought last year. Afghanistan and the countries in the Horn of Africa were particularly hard hit.

In those countries, the prevalence of undernourishment is "very high," showing up in more than 35 percent of the population, the WFP data showed.

People across a swath of Africa, from Chad to Zimbabwe, as well as those in Haiti, Yemen, Bangladesh, Mongolia, North Korea and Cambodia were also unable to get enough food, the map shows.

City Briefs

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Check out a Community Camera for your next civic, church, school or other public-interest event!

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Light and variable winds. Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 25 to 30. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Tuesday, partly sunny and breezy. Highs around 55. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Yesterday's high was 45; the overnight low 22.

STATEWIDE — More sunny, cool weather? You've got it — at least through Tuesday.

High pressure continues to dominate Texas' weather pic-

ture, bringing northwest winds to the Panhandle and plains and placid weather elsewhere.

Skies were clear on Monday, except for a few clouds lingering over the South Texas plains. Temperatures Monday morning ranged from the 20s in the Panhandle to the 30s in the state's heartland, 40s in East Texas and 50s in South Texas.

The North Texas forecast calls for cloudless skies through Tuesday. Afternoon highs will run in the 50s and overnight lows will drop into the 20s to near 30s.

South Texas skies will be clear to partly cloudy, except for mostly cloudy skies in the deep south. Temperatures will range from the 30s and 40s by night to 50s and 60s by day.

West Texas and the Panhandle expect partly cloudy skies through Tuesday, except for increasing cloudiness and scattered showers in the far west on Tuesday. Lows Monday night will be in the 20s and 30s, with highs Tuesday in the 40s in the mountains to the 60s along the Rio Grande.

Stu ch

By DANIEL C. AP Medical E

NEW ORLEANS — An attack on bad drug and surgery, two li

The studies lion American attacks or sev

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Lipitor known treating heart att so docto ing patie

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WASHINGTON — government has test to help doct a patient who is suffering from failure.

Almost 5 m have congestive not a heart attack hearts gradually lose the ability because of age, ous heart disease order.

Particularly when symptom be hard to diag breath often is a that can signal eases as well as

The new test, Triage

MEDICAL

Studies: Mild heart attacks require fast cholesterol-lowering medications

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP Medical Editor

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Everyone hospitalized with a mild heart attack or bad chest pain should quickly get a cholesterol-lowering drug and undergo testing for possible angioplasty or bypass surgery, two large studies conclude.

The studies could transform treatment for the 1 million to 2 million Americans each year who go to the hospital with small heart attacks or severe angina pain.

One study found that immediately giving them the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor — regardless of their cholesterol levels — could reduce the risk of death, new heart attacks and other bad outcomes by 16 percent.

The other study found that routinely checking these patients' heart arteries with angiograms, then fixing blockages when necessary with bypass surgery or balloon angioplasty, could reduce these events by 18 percent.

Lipitor and other cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins are already a mainstay of treating people with bad hearts. However, heart attacks can disrupt cholesterol readings, so doctors often wait a few weeks before starting patients on the medicines.

Patients who suffer only mild heart attacks or chest pain are not always evaluated for angioplasty or bypass surgery.

Dr. Christopher Cannon of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, who conducted the angiogram research, said he believes the results of both studies should immediately be put into practice.

Other doctors said the results may indeed change medical care, but they cautioned that doctors will need time to sort out the findings. They also noted that many small hospitals cannot perform angiograms.

The results of both studies were released at a meeting in New Orleans of the American Heart Association. The cholesterol-lowering drug study was sponsored by Pfizer, which makes Lipitor, while

Lipitor and other cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins are already a mainstay of treating people with bad hearts. However, heart attacks can disrupt cholesterol readings, so doctors often wait a few weeks before starting patients on the medicines.

the angiogram study was financed by Merck, which makes one of the medicines used in the research.

"Patients with a threatened or mild heart attack benefited from immediate and intense treatment" with Lipitor, said Dr. Gregory Schwartz of the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who led the study.

The study suggests that fast, across-the-board treatment is important, because patients do better no matter what their cholesterol level. Indeed, the study found just as much benefit among those with low cholesterol as in patients with high readings.

The researchers randomly assigned patients to get either Lipitor or a dummy pill, in addition to all of the usual medicines, within a day or so of entering the hospital. Before treatment, their levels of LDL — the bad cholesterol — averaged 123. After treatment it fell to 72.

After 16 weeks of follow-up, 15 percent of the patients getting Lipitor had died, suffered a heart attack or cardiac arrest or needed emergency rehospitalization, compared with 17 percent in the comparison group.

"Their approach was to start therapy and ask questions later," said Dr. Robert O. Bonow of Northwestern University. "That might be the right approach. Their data were compelling."

The findings raise the possibility that the drug has some benefit beyond lowering cholesterol. For instance, it may stabilize the fatty buildups on artery walls that can burst and trigger a heart attack.

Cannon's study involved 2,220 patients who were randomly assigned to get standard care or to receive angiograms and artery-clearing treatments, if necessary, within four to 48 hours after reaching the hospital. They found that over the next six months, 16 percent of those getting the fast angiograms died, suffered heart attacks or were readmitted for bad chest pain. By comparison, 19 percent of those getting standard treatment had these bad outcomes.

Earlier studies of quick angiograms have produced conflicting results. Cannon said this study is the first to use state-of-the-art treatment, including stents to prop open newly reopened arteries and the anti-clotting drug Aggrastat.

Dr. Rodman Starke of the American Heart Association cautioned that catheterization labs necessary to do angiograms are not available everywhere.

"A lot of hospitals are not set up to do this," he said. "It would be hard to recommend a blanket change in the way these patients are handled."

On the Net:
American Heart Association: <http://americanheart.org>

Fat-storing gene may trigger of obesity

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A thrifty gene that helped cavemen survive food shortages appears to be a common underlying trigger of both obesity and diabetes, researchers reported recently.

German researchers said the gene apparently prompts the body to store up fat for later.

They said the gene could be an important explanation of an inherited tendency to gain weight, especially among black people. Their work shows that about 90 percent of blacks, 50 percent of Asians and 30 percent of whites carry at least one copy of this gene.

"This gene was advantageous in times of food scarcity," said Dr. Achim Gutersohn. "But in times of driving and coach potato-ing, it can cause obesity."

The links between genes, living habits and health are of increasing interest to researchers, and this association appears to be especially complex in the way people gain weight. Experts believe that perhaps 30 or 40 genes can increase the tendency to obesity. But these genes operate in concert with each other as well as with people's exercise and dietary habits.

"This is a hint of where medicine is going — gene and environment interactions," said Dr. Robert H. Eckel of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He said doctors may someday

routinely look for genes that increase the risk of obesity, and drugs may be developed to target specific genetic profiles.

He said people's eating and exercise habits are probably much more important than their genes in determining whether they are overweight.

The German researchers found that exercise can counteract the bad effects of the gene studied. People who exercise just two hours a week appear to escape the gene's tendency to add weight.

Everyone inherits two copies of every gene at birth. The German group focused on one that manufactures G proteins, substances that carry messages from the surface of cells into their centers. One normal variety of this gene is called the GNB3 825T allele.

The researchers found that people who inherit two copies of this particular gene type are three times more likely to be obese than are those who get one copy or two completely different variations of the gene.

The gene seems to be especially important after childbirth, when women need to lose the weight they put on during pregnancy. Those with two copies of the gene were six times more likely than usual to keep their extra pounds — but only if they did not exercise.

Blood test being used to diagnose heart failure in some patients

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has approved a blood test to help doctors decide whether a patient who is short of breath is suffering from congestive heart failure.

Almost 5 million Americans have congestive heart failure. It's not a heart attack; instead, people's hearts gradually get flabby and lose the ability to pump blood because of age, damage from previous heart disease or some other disorder.

Particularly in early disease when symptoms are subtle, it can be hard to diagnose. Shortness of breath often is a first symptom, but that can signal numerous lung diseases as well as heart disease.

The new test, Biosite Diagnostics' Triage BNP, detects levels of a hormone called BNP, or B-type natriuretic peptide, that rises in the blood during heart failure, FDA medical officer Dr. Marva Moxey-Mims said.

BNP is a hormone that helps guard the heart against excess salt and water retention, which occurs as the heart starts to fail. When the heart senses blood vessels constricting and salt and water levels rising, it releases BNP in an effort to protect itself, she explained.

The FDA based its approval on Biosite-funded studies of over 1,000 people in which the test helped doctors correctly diagnose between 76 percent and 98 percent of patients with congestive heart failure symptoms.

The test by itself can't diagnose heart failure — it's not perfect, the FDA cautioned. Women especially may get false readings. But a test that doesn't detect elevated BNP might signal doctors to check for lung disease instead of heart failure, while an elevated BNP might encourage an echocardiogram, Moxey-Mims said.

BNP testing is still evolving to see how useful it will be, cautioned American Heart Association spokeswoman Dr. Ann Bolger of the University of California, San Francisco.

But, "if it turns out to be as reliable as initially investigators feel, it will be helpful," she said. "It's a very targeted clue of how the body's responding" to heart failure.

San Diego-based Biosite said the test's first use probably will be in emergency rooms, where millions of people show up short of breath each year. The 15-minute test will cost about \$30, the company said.

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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**

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Dad's Two-Month Visit Is No Vacation for His Family

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were born and raised in the Midwest and now live in Florida. Our families are still up north and frequently vacation in our home. We're happy to see them and encourage them to visit — with one exception.

Like many "snowbirds," my father-in-law comes every winter to spend in excess of two months. However, instead of his own home, he resides at our house. Dad is a very nice and generous man and my wife looks forward to his visit. Nonetheless, the amount of time he spends here is getting to be too much, even for her. Our home has become his "Florida home" where he entertains, gives tours of the premises and includes us (with and without prior notice) for luncheons, dinners, etc., with people his own age whom we have never met.

I work from home, so I never get a break. Even after numerous requests, instead of allowing the machine to answer when I'm out, Dad picks up the phone and proceeds to discuss his vacation plans with my clients. As I stated before, he's not a bad person, but frankly, I'm no longer able to enjoy his visits. I dread Dad's visits as the time draws near, and I'm miserable the entire time — counting down to the day he leaves. I wish I didn't feel this way, but enough is enough.

My wife would never admit to her father that his visits are an inconvenience, but perhaps if he reads this in your column, he — and many others — will realize that a



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

vacation spent in someone else's home should be two weeks at the longest. Staying long enough to have your mail forwarded is an imposition.

HAD ENOUGH IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAD ENOUGH: I'm printing your letter, but hoping that your father-in-law sees it and recognizes himself well but not

be enough. The solution to your problem lies in you and your wife behaving like adults, stiffening your backbones and discussing this issue openly with him. If Dad plans to remain longer than two weeks, he really should consider renting a nearby apartment so he can entertain to his heart's content, conduct tours of his own place — and you can have peace of mind, privacy and sanctuary in your home, plus a businesslike environment in your office.

DEAR ABBY: I broke my hand playing high school football early in

the season and had to get a cast. The doctor said I couldn't play football again until the cast was off or I'd run the risk of it never healing properly.

The cast was removed before the season was over, but I had already decided not to play again, even though the doctor said I could play. Now my coach and friends are angry at me. Do you think I was right to quit?

BROKEN IN KANSAS

DEAR BROKEN: You made the right decision. Football is an aggressive and violent sport. It's normal not to want to subject yourself to another injury.

See how you feel about playing next fall. Do not allow yourself to be talked into anything you don't feel comfortable doing.

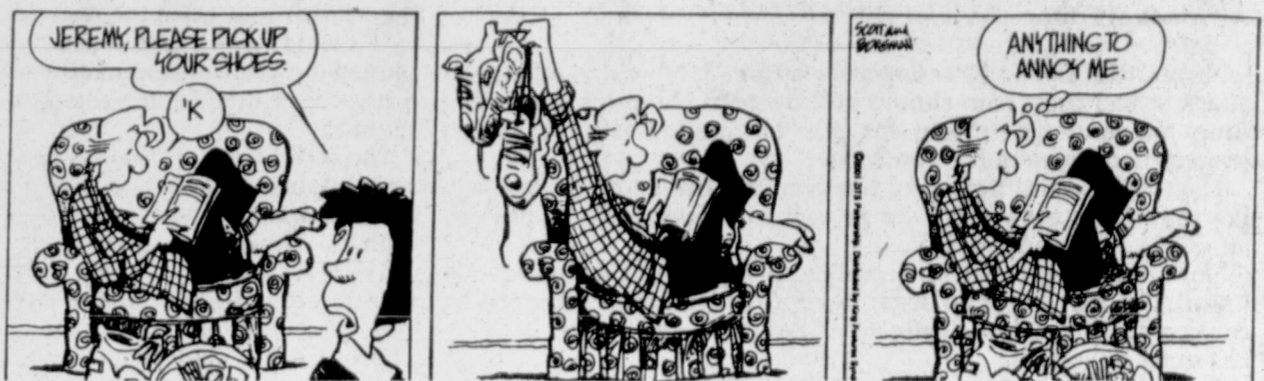
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For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



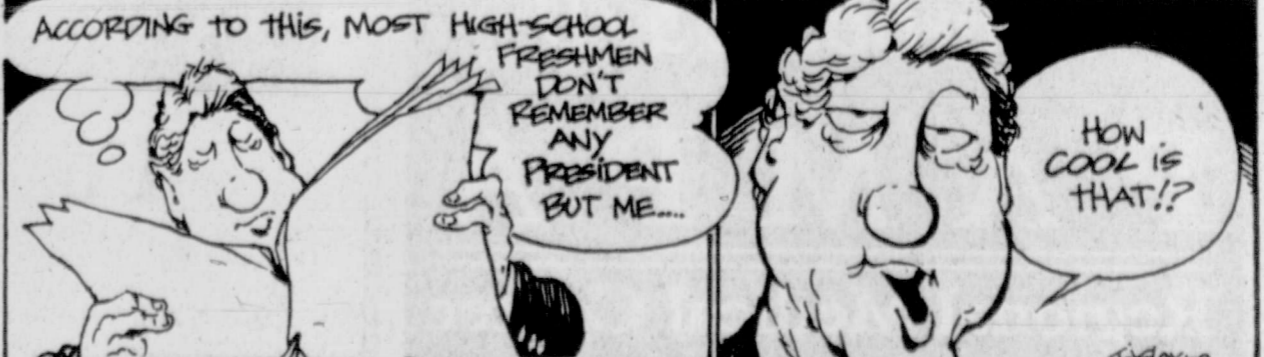
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 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)

***** You could be pulled in many different directions. You might not exactly be sure about which way to go with a loved one or a family member. You might feel as if everyone wants a piece of you. Calm down and look at priorities. Take an important step toward security. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Keep communication going. You might not always agree with others right now. You might be more detached than many, but events and people in general try to pull you in. Make decisions that are ultimately important for you. Tonight: Catch up on mail.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Use special care with your finances. Others seem to be making demands left and right. Decide just how far you are going to be pushed. Your sixth sense helps you with a financial decision. Clearly, a partner sees a situation very differently than you do. Tonight: Handle your finances. Pay bills.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** The moon makes you today's star. You might not like being the lead actor, but you will need to assume this

role for now. Discussions revolve around long-term risks and desires. Do not sell yourself short. Count on your magnetism. Tonight: It's your call.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Move slowly with others. You might be uncomfortable with news. Take one step at a time. Maintain responsibilities. You see a developing situation a lot differently than others do. Don't try to force your view on others. Tonight: Remember, you don't have to do anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Focus on what you want. You could get it when you least expect it. You might sense a change among your immediate friends. Recognize your limits within an important relationship. Help another see what you see. Discussions, need to be amiable. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Though a lot might be pulling at you, stay in charge. Don't lose your centering, despite uproar on the home front. A partner might slowly give in if you can explain where you are coming from. Discussions are animated, to say the least. Say goodbye to the status quo. Tonight: Work late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Your strength comes from an overview, not an immediate gut reaction. Keep seeking new reactions. Discuss your feelings, even if they are close to your heart. Reach out for someone at a distance. Change might be necessary. Tonight: Openly listen to a partner's point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Listen carefully to another.

Build on a relationship. Indulge an associate or partner. Carefully review what is going on with a loved one. In the next weeks, come to a conclusion. Your sense of direction will help you at work. Others flock toward you. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Defer to others — not that you will have a choice. How you see a situation could change considerably because of new information and your own ingenuity. Sometimes you are an unbeatable force. A child or loved one needs to be included in plans. Tonight: Do something you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Reach out for someone and be more nurturing with a child or loved one. Make family an even higher priority. You have a tendency to steer in a different direction when you are uncomfortable or overwhelmed with responsibilities. Tonight: Do something you love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Where others fall flat, you come up with a wonderfully playful idea. Trust what is happening with a child or loved one. Let your sense of humor come into play in a conversation. Being overly serious doesn't help you with others. Tease another through a bad mood. Tonight: Go for fun.

BORN TODAY

Singer Crystal Gayle (1951), folk singer Joan Baez (1941), former president Richard Nixon (1913)

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 Swampy area
- 6 Farm units
- 11 Hawaiian hello
- 12 Hen's offspring
- 13 Sports shoe feature
- 14 Web browser store
- 15 Tennis star
- 16 Sampras
- 17 Question of method
- 18 Fireplace tools
- 22 Benefit
- 23 Not out
- 27 Breathing apparatus?
- 29 London theater
- 30 Followed
- 32 Actress Hudson
- 33 Concise bios
- 35 Scrooge's cry
- 38 Hammer part
- 39 Radiate
- 41 Playing marble
- 45 Director Woody
- 46 Measuring aid
- 47 Intended
- 48 Asparagus unit



Saturday's answer

- 1 Apple offering
- 2 Everything
- 3 Caviar
- 4 Improving
- 5 Misanthrope
- 6 Letter additions
- 7 Repeated, a ballroom dance
- 8 Loaded
- 9 Canyon sound
- 10 Distort
- 11 One — customer
- 12 Competent
- 13 Sentence subject, usually
- 14 Phobias
- 20 Mafia heads
- 21 Jarring
- 24 Track shape
- 25 Speck
- 26 Needle holes
- 28 Snake
- 31 Buck's mate
- 34 Phobias
- 35 Roof supporter
- 36 Wheel connector
- 37 Island shape
- 40 Lair
- 42 British brew
- 43 British brew
- 44 Blunder

Marmaduke



"We're having a disagreement over whether I'm through scratching his back."

The Family Circus



"I dropped my snowball and can't find it."

STUMPED?
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SPORTS

Ravens use defense to stun Titans, 24-10

Notebook

SOCCER

PAMPA — Pampa hosts Amarillo High in non-district boys' and girls' soccer matches Tuesday afternoon. Both matches get started at 4:15 Tuesday at the high school athletic complex.

The Harvesters will be looking to get into the playoffs while the Lady Harvesters are looking for a return trip this season.

Pampa girls came on strong late in the season to gain the playoffs a year ago.

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa freshmen girls' basketball team started off 2001 just like they finished the old year — with a victory.

Pampa freshmen made Palo Duro their latest victim with a 49-26 win last week.

Jennie Waggoner tossed in 24 points to lead Pampa in scoring. Waggoner had 14 first-half points.

Abbi Covalt and Denise Solis added 7 points each.

Pampa is a perfect 11-0 for the season and 5-0 in district play.

Stacey Johnson had 6 points, Tara Jordan 3 and K'Lee Ratzlaff 2 to round out the Pampa scoring.

LaNesha Donnelly had 15 points to lead Palo Duro Scorers.

Pampa is entered in the Perryton Tournament, which started Saturday. They host Hereford at 6 tonight in McNeely Fieldhouse.

Pampa High basketball games this week are as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 9
Girls Basketball: Pampa hosts Randall, 6 p.m.
Boys Basketball: Pampa hosts Randall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 12
Girls Basketball: Pampa at Borger, 6 p.m.
Boys Basketball: Pampa at Borger, 7:30.

SAMNORWOOD — Samnorwood slipped by McLean 44-41 in a District 3-4A girls' basketball game last weekend.

Brewer was the top scorer for Samnorwood with 19 points. Ramos and Matthews had 11 each.

Nikki Hefley led McLean in scoring with 20 points. Randi Riley followed with 8.

McLean held a seven-point lead (19-12) at halftime.

The Tigerettes host Lefors on Tuesday night.

OBITUARY

WILKINSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Kenny Durrett, a former All-American basketball player at La Salle who played in the NBA for four seasons, died at his home Sunday of an apparent heart attack. He was 52.

Durrett, who averaged 4.0 points for Cincinnati, Kansas-Omaha and Philadelphia from 1971-75 before a nagging knee injury ended his career, was the fourth player chosen in the NBA's entry draft in 1971 by the Cincinnati Royals.

He signed a contract with the Royals that was reportedly worth more than \$1 million, with deferred payments until 1991. His pro career ended in 1975 when he failed a tryout with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Durrett returned to La Salle to earn his bachelor's degree and to work as an assistant basketball coach.

Durrett was a dominating 6-foot-7 1/2 forward among Philadelphia's Big 5 — the city's five major college programs — and was inducted into the Big 5 Hall of Fame in 1975 with players like Paul Arizin, Tom Gola and Matt Guokas.

Durrett, who averaged 23.7 points in college, was the co-MVP of the Big 5 as a sophomore in 1969 and won the award by himself in 1970 and '71. He also led La Salle to the National Invitation Tournament in 1971.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Brian Billick and his Baltimore Ravens may not like the Tennessee Titans. But they're not above following the Titans' example from last season — going on the road as a wild-card team to get to the Super Bowl.

"When you go into the lion's den, you don't tiptoe in. You go in screaming like a banshee," Billick said after the Ravens upset the Titans 24-10 Sunday despite getting just 134 yards of offense and having the ball less than 20 minutes.

In a way it was typical of this Baltimore team, which goes to Oakland next Sunday to play for a shot at representing the AFC in the Super Bowl. This is, after all, a team that didn't score a touchdown in five games in October but somehow managed to win two of them because it has the NFL's stingiest defense.

It was the leader of that defense, Ray Lewis, who did the job Sunday.

Lewis, the league's defensive

player of the year, not only led the Ravens with 12 tackles, but got his first career touchdown, grabbing the ball away from Eddie George and racing 50 yards for the score that put the Titans ahead by two TDs.

That came about five minutes after Keith Washington, who has been bouncing around the NFL for six seasons, blocked his second field goal of the game. It popped in the air to Anthony Mitchell, a third-string safety and former NFL Europe player, who took it 90 yards untouched to break a 10-10 tie and give the Ravens (14-4), their ninth straight win.

"I can't get over what a good football team this is," said quarterback Trent Dilfer, whose arrival as the starter coincides with the streak.

"We just continue to find ways to get the job done and pride ourselves on it. If somebody needs to step up to make a play, they do."

Dilfer had an awful day statis-

tically: 5-of-16 for 117 yards. But 56 of those yards came in the second quarter on a pass to the wide-open Shannon Sharpe, who took the ball to the 1. Jamal Lewis took it in to tie it 7-all.

But two Titans had worse days.

One was Dainon Sidney, who got 40 yards in penalties on special teams during the game's most critical period.

One, interference with a fair catch, gave the Ravens 15 yards they needed to set up Matt Stover's field goal that tied the game at 10-all. The other two put the Titans in bad field position, which helped lead to the two fourth-quarter scores.

The other was Al Del Greco, one of the most reliable kickers in NFL history.

On Sunday, he had two attempts blocked by Washington and hit the left upright with a 31-yard attempt just before the half.

Del Greco's worst previous day was also against Baltimore — he missed an extra point and potential game-winning field

goal in a 24-23 loss to the Ravens, the only visitor ever to win at Adelphia Coliseum, where the Titans are 16-2 in two seasons.

"Losing is tough to swallow, no matter how," Del Greco said. "To have the kind of day I had, missing three in a game and have it come out like this is not like you would ever expect it to happen. I wish I could change it. But the way it comes out is the way it comes out."

It's been a strange year.

He's right about that. This is the first time since after the 1989 season that the franchise — then the Cleveland Browns — reached the AFC title game. It lost to Denver that season, as it did in two heartbreaking losses to John Elway and the Broncos after the 1986 and '87 seasons.

It also puts Art Modell, the Ravens' owner, in position to get to his first Super Bowl after owning the team for 40 years. And it pits Modell, one of the NFL's establishments until he moved the team from Cleveland five

years ago, against Al Davis, the league's quintessential maverick.

And most of it was the work of another outsider — Lewis, who was on trial last spring on murder charges involving the stabbing of two men outside a party after the Super Bowl in Atlanta a year ago. Lewis ended up pleading guilty to lesser charges of hampering an investigation.

The constant attention has irritated Billick.

"The man's done everything he could," Billick said. "The man was convicted of nothing worth this constant asterisk Ray Lewis MVP, slash, yadda, yadda, yadda. AFC championship game participant, yadda, yadda, yadda."

"I know I'm howling at the moon here, because it's probably asking too much. ... For us, it's an absolute non-issue."

It's certainly a non-issue in their quest to get to the Super Bowl.

Particularly since if they get there, Ray Lewis will take them.

White Deer cagers claim 2-1A openers

WHITE DEER — White Deer teams opened the District 2-1A basketball season last weekend with victories over Shamrock.

In the boys' game, White Deer rolled to a 64-37 win.

Nick Ball and Dustin Harper led the Bucks with 15 points each.

High scorer for Shamrock was Harvey Dean with 13. Trey Stevens added 11 points.

White Deer won the girls' contest by a score of 63-49.

Suni Petty was White Deer's high scorer with 21 points. Cassie Petty was next with 13.

Lacy Wilson had 16 points for the losers.

ALLISON — Fort Elliott cagers opened District 2-1A play Friday night with wins over Allison.

Nathan Hefley scored 20 points to lead Fort Elliott to a 72-44 victory in the boys game. Kade Zybach followed with 11 points.

Swafford was high scorer for Allison with 21 points.

Fort Elliott won a 41-40 squeaker in the girls game.

Julie Zybach had 10 points and Kirbie Kinnaman 9 to lead Fort Elliott in scoring.

Katy Donaldson had 26 points for Allison.

Crowded court



Chasity Nachtigall and Stephanie Cameron (far right) of the Pampa Lady Harvesters get caught in a traffic jam with Canyon players in a District 3-4A basketball game last Friday night. Both the PHS girls' and boys' host Randall on Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse. Gametimes are 6 (girls) and 7:30 (boys).

Giants advance to NFC championship contest vs. Vikings

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New York Giants played the kind of offensive game that's usually fatal in the NFL playoffs.

They lost three fumbles, had a punt blocked that led to a Philadelphia touchdown, averaged 2.6 yards per rush and passed for just 125 yards.

"We were sloppy with the ball, and that's the kind of thing that loses a game for you," quarterback Kerry Collins said after the Giants defeated the Eagles 20-10 Sunday to advance to the NFC championship game next Sunday against Minnesota. "But we got touchdowns from the other phases, so we were able to fight through it."

Those "other phases" are special teams and defense, and the Giants won those two in a runaway.

Ron Dixon ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown — a first in the team's playoff history that started in 1934 — and Jason Sehorn returned an acrobatic interception for another score, giving the Giants a 17-0 lead.

Donovan McNabb, second in the NFL MVP voting, once again couldn't solve the Giants. In three losses to them this season, the Eagles (12-6) never led.

"He's a great young quarterback, but this defense caused him problems for three games," linebacker Jessie Armstead said. "He spent 12 games killing other teams, but not us."

McNabb completed 20 of 41 passes for 181 yards, with one interception and one late, meaningless touchdown with less than two minutes left after the Eagles

blocked the punt. More importantly, the Giants sacked one of the NFL's best running quarterbacks six times for 41 yards in losses, and he scrambled for just 17 yards.

"If you can make him throw before he's ready, you're going to have some success," said defensive end Michael Strahan, who had two of the sacks.

As coach Jim Fassel explained before the game, "You don't have to try to kill the guy. You have to capture him."

The Giants (13-4) have won six straight since Fassel guaranteed they would make the playoffs, and they seem uncertain whether they want to be taken seriously. After all, they are one game from reaching the Super Bowl with nearly everyone taking them for granted.

"We're not trying to please anyone," linebacker Micheal Barrow said. "Forget what anyone says, forget how many we have in the Pro Bowl. We just win."

For the record, the Vikings have seven Pro Bowl Players and the Giants two (Armstead and guard Ron Stone), and despite Barrow's protest, they are likely to be reminded of that during the next week.

"We're just fortunate that everybody plays badly when we play them, because we're not a very good football team," Sehorn said sarcastically.

Sehorn and Dixon made back-breaking plays in the first half for the Giants, who will make their first NFC title game appearance since 1990.

Dixon was barely touched on his 97-yard return of the opening

kickoff, with kicker David Akers managing to scrape Dixon's shoulder pads as he ran by.

The Giants made it 10-0 on Brad Daluiso's 37-yard field goal on the first play of the second quarter, but both offenses had trouble moving the ball.

After Tiki Barber fumbled away a scoring chance, McNabb's short pass into the flat late in the first half had little chance of being caught.

But Sehorn turned the likely incomplete pass into a spectacular touchdown. After diving for the ball, he tipped it into the air to keep it from hitting the ground as he rolled over, jumped to his feet as he gathered the ball into his body and romped 32 yards for the touchdown.

"I was just laying on the ground, and just saw it there, so your instinct is to just bat it," Sehorn said. "You don't want it to hit the ground. Just do something."

The Eagles came back with their only long scoring drive of the game, and Akers kicked a 28-yard field goal with 26 seconds left for a 17-3 halftime deficit. The Eagles didn't score again until after the late blocked punt.

"Those two big plays that they had were really the difference in the game," Eagles cornerback Al Harris said. "I think the Giants are extremely underrated."

McNabb, while disappointed

with the loss, said the Eagles need to focus on improving from being a 5-11 team.

"Bouncing back to 12-6 shows a lot of heart and a lot of character," he said.

The Giants get another chance to test their mettle against the Vikings, who are seeded behind New York in the NFC playoffs after losing their final three regular-season games. But they rediscovered their explosive offense in an easy playoff victory over New

Orleans on Saturday.

Six of those seven Pro Bowl players are on offense, including quarterback Daunte Culpepper, receivers Randy Moss and Cris Carter and running back Robert Smith.

"We've never faced a guy as big as Culpepper at quarterback," Armstead said, "and he's got two Pro Bowl receivers to throw to. When Donovan McNabb gets two Pro Bowl receivers, he'll do a lot better."

THE Pampa NEWS

403 W. ATCHISON • PAMPA, TEXAS
TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520

EMAIL: kbd@pan-tex.net • pannews1@pan-tex.net

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Strickland claims big purse in Match Play Championship

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The shock at getting into the Match Play Championship didn't last long for Steve Strickler.

After a quiet practice round on New Year's Eve at Metropolitan Golf Club, Strickler sounded like a man who was determined to prove he belonged, even as the 26th alternate in a \$5 million World Golf Championship missing so many stars.

"I know somewhere in there," he said, tapping his chest, "that I'm capable of winning."

After making just about every putt that mattered, after shedding a few tears and hoisting the Walter Hagen Cup, there was little room for argument.

One week after he arrived, Strickler had returned.

A rising star four years ago when he won twice on the PGA Tour, the 33-year-old from Wisconsin showed his mettle in

match play with a 2-and-1 victory over Pierre Fulke to claim the \$1 million prize.

"It was a bonus for me to get into the tournament," he said. "I was the underdog in every match. So, I really felt like I had nothing to lose. I just went out there and tried to give it my all. Everything fell into place."

Every putt fell, that's for sure. Eighteen times during the 35 holes he had to play Sunday, he faced a putt that decided the outcome of the hole. He made 14 of them, a performance that eventually caused Fulke to drop his head and wonder if Tiger Woods wasn't really at Metropolitan in disguise.

Woods wasn't there. And Strickler is no Woods.

Even after his victory in the first round over Padraig Harrington, Strickler said when he gets it going, he could compete with anybody here.

"This week," he added quickly. "Not Tiger."

Even Woods might have been hard-pressed to stop Strickler, who trailed in only nine of the 118 holes he played this week.

But Strickler knows there will be doubters.

Woods, David Duval, Phil Mickelson and the top players from Europe didn't bother to come to the Match Play Championship, a great tournament on a great course at a miserable time of the year.

Could he have won against the best?

"They all had the opportunity to commit and come over, and they didn't," Strickler said. "That's all I care about it. It's a big win, it's my biggest win and it gets me going in the right direction. They can say whatever they want, because I feel like I deserved it."

When the pressure reached its peak Sunday, he closed with

seven pars on a course that was dry, fast and as difficult as any major championship course. Two of those pars came from the treacherous bunkers of Metropolitan, followed by downhill putts that broke hard and fast.

"At times I didn't hit it the greatest," Strickler said. "I just like the way I gutted it out."

Strickler was the 55th seed, the highest to win the Accenture Match Play Championship in the three years it has been played. That's nothing new. Only one top-10 seed has ever reached the finals (Woods) and Darren Clarke at No. 19 is the lowest seed to win.

The tournament rarely goes according to plan, and this week was no exception.

Strickler arrived a week ago Sunday, expecting to see kangaroos hopping about and not really sure what his game would produce.

"I just figured I would win a

couple of matches and get ready for the West Coast," he said.

Instead, he mowed down every opponent in his way and found motivation from each of them. It wasn't hard to find something inspiring about his 36-hole final against Fulke, a 29-year-old Swede who already has locked up a spot on the Ryder Cup team.

After eliminating No. 1 seed Ernie Els in the semifinals, Fulke talked about how a victory would enable him to play on the PGA Tour, the sooner the better.

"I looked at today's match like the key match, beating Ernie," Fulke said Saturday night, after the semifinals.

Fulke hit into eight greenside bunkers during the first 18 holes and struggled to save par, falling 2-down in the morning. Strickler never let him back up.

Strickler faced 18 putts with the hole on the line and made 14 of them Sunday, including a 20-foot-

er for par on the 11th that kept his lead at 1-up. Fulke had his chances, but twice missed 4-foot birdie putts and missed another one from 12 feet.

"I just couldn't buy a putt, not even with \$1 million," Fulke said. He had to settle for \$500,000, the biggest check in his career, for finishing second.

In the consolation match, Toru Taniguchi of Japan easily defeated an uninspired Els, 4 and 3, which earned him \$400,000 and valuable world ranking points that will go a long way toward getting into the Masters.

Strickler could get to Augusta National, too, if he is in the top three on the PGA Tour money list at the end of Doral. A \$1 million start might be enough, but Strickler doesn't want to stop there.

"Winning here means a lot," he said. "But deep down, I realize I still need to work hard."

Super Bowl looms

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

The last Super Bowl the Raiders won was in Tampa. The last Super Bowl the Giants won also was in Tampa.

In three weeks, the Super Bowl will be played in Tampa. Raiders and Giants?

The way this season is going, who knows? But the trend in this postseason is clear: home teams are 7-1 and defense wins. The Giants are home to the Vikings and are playing their best defense of the season; the Raiders are home to the Ravens and shut out the Dolphins 27-0 on Saturday.

On the other hand, the Ravens are the best defensive team in the NFL.

And the Vikings can score in bunches. A look at next Sunday's title games.

Minnesota (12-5) at New York Giants (13-4)

If the Vikings lose this game, they have no one to blame but themselves. By losing their final three games, they blew home-field advantage in the NFC and will have to play outdoors for the first time since Thanksgiving.

And this isn't just any outdoors. It was tame Sunday at the Meadowlands, when the Giants beat the Eagles 20-10. It usually isn't that way in January. The last time the Giants played a title game at home, they won the coin toss, took the 40 mph wind, went up 14-0 over Washington in the first quarter and won 17-0.

Of note: The Vikings played just five games outdoors this year. They lost in Tampa and Green Bay, won in New England, Chicago and Dallas. The first two teams had regular-season records of 19-13, the last three all finished 5-11.

Of further note: Most teams the Giants have beaten say they could have beaten them, but they played badly. "It's fortunate that everybody plays badly when we play against them. We're not a very good football team," said Jason Sehorn, whose acrobatic interception he returned for a touchdown Sunday has to remind the Vikings of the catch Green Bay's Antonio Freeman made to beat them in overtime (outdoors, of course).

But there's another key besides the weather: The Giants have played poorly at times against vertical offenses such as Minnesota's. Sehorn may be assigned to Randy Moss, but the other New York cornerbacks are adequate at best, perhaps not enough to shut down Cris Carter.

And while the Giants have one of the top run defenses in the NFL, Robert Smith gives the Vikings the kind of balance the Giants saw only against St. Louis, which beat them 38-24 in the Meadowlands without Kurt Warner and Marshall Faulk.

But the best advice for those interested in projecting the outcome remains: Watch the Weather Channel.

Baltimore (14-4) at Oakland (13-4)

The Raiders have loud and crazy fans and are 7-1 at home. Will that bother the Ravens? Their win in Nashville was their second at Adelphia Coliseum, the only times the Titans have lost in their 18 games there.

"When you go into the lion's den, you don't tiptoe in. You go in screaming like a banshee," Ravens coach Brian Billick said after the 24-10 victory.

But Oakland is a different proposition from Tennessee, because it can score touchdowns. That's a relatively new challenge for a Baltimore defense that during the regular season faced only six teams ranked in the top half of the NFL in yards gained. Like Minnesota, the Raiders' offense is balanced — as long as running backs Tyrone Wheatley and Napoleon Kaufman are healthy.

So if Oakland scores, it might force Trent Dilfer into taking risks. His success — 9-1 as a starting quarterback — is based on his not making mistakes and letting the defense do the work. That might not be enough against the Raiders, whose 479 points were the third most in the league — behind only St. Louis and Denver.

But the Ravens have one of the NFL's few defensive game-turners, Ray Lewis, who has an impact on offenses that approaches the impact Lawrence Taylor had (see the 1986 Giants and wind, above). If he and the rest of the Baltimore defense can force turnovers, the Ravens have a chance.

Ward wins, Penny loses in return games

By The Associated Press

Charlie Ward's return from injury went much better than Penny Hardaway's.

Ward played for the first time after arthroscopic knee surgery Nov. 26 knocked him out for 21 games and scored seven points in the New York Knicks' 103-87 home victory Sunday night over the Washington Wizards.

New York held an opponent under 100 points for the 28th straight time — tying an NBA record — and won its seventh straight.

Hardaway, who missed the first 31 games while recovering from knee surgery, shot 4-for-10 for nine points but the Phoenix Suns lost 108-88 to the Minnesota Timberwolves at home.

"I don't think they expected a lot from me, but I expected a lot from myself," said Hardaway, who also had three rebounds and three assists. "When I got out there I was more fatigued than I thought I'd be. ... I look down there and see I played 24 minutes and it felt like 70."

In other NBA games, Toronto 94, Seattle 92; Vancouver 120, Milwaukee 117; Denver 94, Charlotte 87; and Los Angeles Clippers 118, Los Angeles Lakers 95.

Ward had four assists in 23 minutes and scored five straight points on a 3-pointer and a short pull-up jumper midway through the third quarter that gave the Knicks a 72-55 lead.

But with all their recent success, New York coach Jeff Van Gundy still wasn't satisfied.

"I'm being serious, the defense was awful," Van Gundy said. "It's a nice achievement, but one thing you can't do when you win is over-look your slippage, and there has been huge slippage with us defensively."

Phoenix coach Scott Skiles also wasn't too pleased with his team's performance, but he had more glaring areas to point at than Van Gundy.

Minnesota shot 52 percent, a season-high for Phoenix opponents, to break a four-game road losing streak. It was the Timberwolves' first win in Phoenix in five games.

"I don't know what other than we absolutely did not show up," Skiles said. "When we look at the videotape tomorrow, if anybody can look at that and say they played hard, they're kidding themselves."

Anthony Peeler had a season-high 28 points and a career-high 10 rebounds, and Terrell Brandon had 19 points and six steals for the Timberwolves.

"I just try to go out there and raise the energy no matter

what," Peeler said, "and when I start, it seems like I just bring it a little bit earlier."

Jason Kidd scored 20 points for Phoenix but committed 10 turnovers. Tony Delk scored 17. Rookie Jake Tsakalidis had his second consecutive 10-point game and had eight rebounds.

Clippers 118, Lakers 95

Lamar Odom scored a season-high 29 points and the Clippers defeated their crosstown rival for the first time in nearly four years.

The Clippers outshot and out-rebounded the defending NBA champions to end a 16-game losing streak against their Staples Center roommates. They beat the Lakers for the first time since March 14, 1997, at the Forum.

The Lakers had won three straight and eight of their last nine, but the Clippers shot 56 percent and controlled the

boards, 47-33. Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 20 rebounds, while Kobe Bryant had 27 points.

Raptors 94, SuperSonics 92

Alvin Williams scored the winning basket with 0.1 seconds left as Toronto overcame a late injury to Vince Carter to beat visiting Seattle.

Carter, who had a game-high 23 points, collided with teammate Morris Peterson trying to prevent Rashard Lewis' dunk with 1:30 left and had to be helped off the floor with a bruised right calf. Carter is not expected to miss any games.

Peterson had a career-high 22 points in his first start since leading Michigan State to the NCAA championship last year.

Grizzlies 120, Bucks 117

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 38 points as Vancouver used its

highest-scoring game of the season to beat Milwaukee.

The 120 points were a season high for the host Grizzlies and one point off their franchise record. Abdur-Rahim's 38 points were also one off his career high.

Mike Bibby had 16 points and 14 assists for Vancouver, and Bryant Reeves had 16 points and eight rebounds.

Glenn Robinson scored 31 points for the Bucks and Ray Allen had 28.

Nuggets 94, Hornets 87

Antonio McDyess scored 33 points, including four straight baskets down the stretch, and had 16 rebounds to lead Denver past visiting Charlotte.

Raef LaFrentz added 20 points and Voshon Lenard had 14.

Eddie Robinson had 18 points for Central Division-leading Charlotte, finishing 1-5 on its road trip.

Stanford moves to No. 1 in poll

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Stanford moved into the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday, the second straight season the Cardinal have held the top spot.

They went from second to first, replacing Michigan State, which lost 59-58 at Indiana on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer. Kirk Haston's game-winner on Sunday ended the nation's longest winning streak at 23 games and whittled the number of unbeaten Division I teams to four.

The Cardinal (13-0), whose No. 1 ranking last season was the first in school history, received all 70 first-place votes and 1,750 points from the national media panel. Stanford, which beat Arizona State and Arizona on the road this week, is the first unanimous No. 1 since North Carolina on Dec. 22, 1997, and is the fourth team to be on top of the rankings this season.

Duke (13-1), whose only loss this season was by one point at Stanford, moved from third to second and had 1,667 points. Michigan State (12-1), which held the top spot for two weeks after replacing Duke, was third and was followed by

Tennessee and Kansas, ranked No. 1 this season was which both moved up two places from last week.

Wake Forest, which was knocked from the ranks of the unbeaten on Saturday by North Carolina, dropped from fourth to No. 6 and was followed in the Top Ten by Illinois, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia.

Syracuse moved up three spots to lead the Second Ten and was followed by Georgetown, Connecticut, Maryland, Seton Hall, Alabama, Wisconsin, Iowa State, Southern California and Mississippi.

The last five ranked teams were Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Boston College and Notre Dame.

Boston College (11-0) was the week's only newcomer to the Top 25.

The Eagles, who are off to the best start in school history, are one of the other unbeaten along with Georgetown (13-0) and unranked Baylor (12-0).

The Eagles, who were last ranked on Jan. 20, 1997, replaced Cincinnati, which dropped from No. 25. The Bearcats (10-3) won their only game last week, 76-66 over Charlotte, but that wasn't enough to keep them from falling out of the rankings for the first time since Jan. 18, 1998.

The other team to be

ranked No. 1 this season was Arizona, which held the top spot in the preseason poll and for the first two weeks of the regular season. The four No. 1 teams matches the total from all last season when Connecticut held it in the preseason poll, Cincinnati had it for a total of 12 weeks, Stanford for five and Duke for the final poll.

Stanford and Arizona give the Pac-10 two No. 1 teams this season, the first time that has happened since Duke and North Carolina of the Atlantic Coast Conference did it in 1997-98.

With Boston College moving in, the Big East now has six ranked teams — Syracuse, Georgetown, Connecticut, Seton Hall and Notre Dame — one more than the ACC — Duke, Wake Forest, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

The Southeastern Conference and Big 12 each have four teams in the Top 25 and the Pac-10 and Big Ten have three each, meaning the whole poll comes from six leagues.

Georgetown, which beat West Virginia and Seton Hall last week, made the biggest jump in moving from 19th to No. 12, while Oklahoma, which lost 100-80 to Iowa State, had the biggest drop, falling from 15th to No. 22.

Stars' Belfour draws indefinite suspension

DALLAS (AP) — A second case of bizarre off-ice behavior that left Dallas Stars goalie Eddie Belfour suspended indefinitely may be reconciled with general manager Bob Gainey — and lead to the goalie's return in a matter of days.

Gainey for the second straight day sounded optimistic saying that differences could be overcome and that Belfour could be back on the ice soon.

Belfour left the team in Boston on Saturday, flying back to Dallas after arguing with coach Ken Hitchcock over participation in an optional pregame practice.

On Sunday, the Stars suspended Belfour indefinitely.

"I've spoken to Ed, and at this

time he feels he is not ready to join the team," Gainey said in a statement Sunday. "We have placed him on suspension as we work toward a resolution."

On his way out of town, Belfour — a free agent after this season — called Stars captain Derian Hatcher to give his side of the story. Hatcher filled in his teammates, but refused to publicly discuss the details.

"I don't want to speak for Eddie, and I don't want to speak for Bob," Hatcher said.

On Saturday, Gainey said: "I think the way I view the situation is there was a conflict, which itself was a problem, and the way Ed chose to respond to the problem

created another problem. That is the bigger problem. We'll start there and work our way back. He made a choice, and I'd like to give him the opportunity to explain."

Coming off a 4-2 loss in Detroit, Hitchcock decided to give Belfour a break and let Marty Turco start Saturday night against the Bruins. Tradition dictated that, as the backup for the day, Belfour be in goal for the morning skate so Turco could save himself for the game.

He refused, triggering the blowup between a coach known as demanding and often vocal with his players and a quirky star with whom there was never any indication of friction.

Scoreboard

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL Playoff Glimpse

All Times EST
Saturday, Dec. 30
Wild-card Playoffs
Miami 23, Indianapolis 17, OT
New Orleans 31, St. Louis 28
Sunday, Dec. 31
Baltimore 21, Denver 3
Philadelphia 21, Tampa Bay 3

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
Minnesota 34, New Orleans 16
Oakland 27, Miami 0
Sunday, Jan. 7
Baltimore 24, Tennessee 10
New York Giants 20, Philadelphia 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 14
NFC Championship
Minnesota at New York Giants, 12:30 p.m. (FOX)
AFC Championship
Baltimore at Oakland, 4 p.m. (CBS)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The Men's Top Twenty Five

By The Associated Press
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 7, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pts
1. Stanford (70)	13-0	1,750
2. Duke	13-1	1,567
3. Michigan St.	12-1	1,597
4. Tennessee	14-1	1,444
5. Kansas	12-1	1,425
6. WakeForest	12-1	1,380

7. Illinois	12-3	1,300	9
8. Florida	10-2	1,187	5
9. North Carolina	11-2	1,164	13
10. Virginia	11-1	1,129	8
11. Syracuse	13-1	1,036	14
12. Georgetown	13-0	915	19
13. Connecticut	12-2	830	10
14. Maryland	11-3	770	17
15. Seton Hall	10-3	686	11
16. Alabama	12-1	670	18
17. Wisconsin	10-2	641	12
18. Iowa St.	13-1	500	23
19. Southern Cal	12-2	460	20
20. Mississippi	13-1	431	22
21. Arizona	8-5	340	16
22. Oklahoma	11-2	320	15
23. Texas	11-2	263	24
24. Boston College	11-0	192	—
25. Notre Dame	9-3	189	21

Others receiving votes: Iowa 147, Cincinnati 134, Missouri 31, Mississippi St. 29, Xavier 25, Baylor 21, Minnesota 20, Oregon 15, Fresno St. 12, Arkansas 10, UTEP 10, Indiana 2, South Carolina 2, Utah St. 2, Villanova 2, Coll. of Charleston 1, Marshall 1, SMU 1, South Florida 1, Vanderbilt 1.

American Airlines to buy TWA, according to report

TWA to file for bankruptcy by Wednesday of this week

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Airlines will announce plans this week to buy financially troubled Trans World Airlines, the oldest continuous name in American commercial aviation, The Washington Post says.

Spokesmen for the carriers and other interests involved declined comment on the newspaper's report in its Monday editions.

According to the Post, TWA plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Wednesday, the third time it has done so, as a precursor of American's takeover, which would be announced the same day.

The deal, whose price was not disclosed, also reportedly involves American buying a 49 percent stake in DC Air, a new carrier that is being crafted from the planned merger of United Airlines and US Airways.

To ease antitrust concerns, DC Air — which will be run by Black Entertainment Television founder Robert Johnson — would have most of the takeoff and landing slots at Washington's Reagan National Airport now assigned to US Airways.

The sale could end St. Louis-based TWA's decade-long struggle to turn a profit. However, sources said American does not plan to continue the TWA name, consigning it to the ranks of such once venerable air carriers as Pan American World Airways and Eastern Airlines.

Of the nation's top airlines, TWA was the only carrier to lose money in 1999 — \$353 million, the worst financial performance since the airline's second financial reorganization in 1995. It was on pace to do even worse in 2000, despite increasing revenues. Through the first three quarters, TWA lost \$115.1 million.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the deal calls for American to step in and provide financing after TWA's bankruptcy filing. The paper said the equity value of the TWA deal is small and talks on the debt are ongoing. Sources told the paper that the total value of the assets and the assumed liabilities is expected to be about \$2 billion, depending on what value is given to some of the liabilities.

The Post reported that American would purchase all of TWA's assets and keep all 20,000 of the carrier's employees. The deal would make American, a subsidiary of AMR Corp., a comparable size carrier to the proposed United-US Airways merger.

Acquisition of TWA's St. Louis operation would give American a third hub in the middle of the

country. American already operates hubs at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

The sale continues a trend of consolidation in the industry that started when United Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, announced plans to buy US Airways. The Justice Department has yet to sign off on that merger, but the department has approved an alliance between Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines.

The Post also reported that part of American's purchase of TWA could include a deal with United to jointly operate the US Airways shuttle between Washington, New York and Boston.

"This will handle most of the antitrust issues," Darryl Jenkins, a professor at George Washington University told the Post. "This one deal will make the merger of United and US Airways likely."

The Chicago Tribune reported that United has agreed to sell American, United's largest competitor, parts of its operation for a fraction of their value. American would receive assets from United valued at more than \$2 billion in the US Airways deal, but would pay "significantly less" than \$1 billion, sources told the Tribune.

The Justice Department's antitrust division has told Chicago-based UAL that its acquisition of US Airways, which includes \$7.3 billion in debt, was unlikely to be approved unless United agreed to rid itself of large parts of its operation.

Asked about the report late Sunday, Tim Duke, vice president of corporate communications for American, would say only: "There is frequent speculation in the media about various transactions in which American Airlines may or may not be involved and we have a strict corporate policy not to comment on such rumors and speculation. We are talking to lots of folks about lots of different things all the time."

TWA spokeswoman Julia Bishop-Cross told The Associated Press, "We don't have anything to say about that." Spokesmen for United and US Airways also declined to comment.

There is no telephone listing in Washington for DC Air, which is still in the formation stage.

Shares of TWA fell 15 cents, or 11 percent, to \$1.32 in trading Friday on the American Stock Exchange. Shares of AMR Corp. rose 68 cents to \$43.75 on the New York Stock Exchange, where shares of UAL rose \$1.19 to \$45, and shares of fell 68.8 cents to \$39.75.

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Settlement reached in rock climber lawsuit against Ford

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A settlement has reportedly been reached in a Texas woman's lawsuit against Ford Motor Co. and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. for a crippling rollover case, which had been scheduled for jury selection on Monday.

The CBS News report from Washington said financial terms of the settlement in Donna Bailey's lawsuit have not been disclosed. But the network said one term requires a Ford representative's bedside apology to Bailey at a Houston clinic.

The 44-year-old Portland, Texas, woman was paralyzed from the neck down in the March 10 crash. If not for the settlement, Bailey's lawsuit would have been the first involving the highly publicized allegations against Ford Explorers and Firestone to proceed to trial since a recall of 6.5 million tires.

Mikal C. Watts, a Corpus Christi attorney representing Bailey and her family, and C. Tab Turner, a Little Rock, Ark., lawyer suing the automaker and the tire company, did not return telephone calls Monday from The Associated Press.

Bailey and her two children, an 18-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son, had sued the companies in a Corpus Christi state district court for more than \$100 million. The August tire recall followed a string of rollover accidents, more than 200 of them fatal, in the United States and several other countries. Watts told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times in Monday's editions that attorneys for Firestone, Ford and Bailey's family have spent late nights discussing a settlement possibility for the past several days.

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Tips offered to keep utility rates down for Pampa and area-wide customers

See related story, page 1

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Cutting the cost of utility bills is a major concern of area residents.

As the current bills have been arriving in the local mail, customers are searching for ways to reduce the bottom dollar.

The rising cost of natural gas prices has not only caused gas heating bills to rise, but also the electric bills.

A few helpful suggestions are offered by Bill Crenshaw, of Xcel Energy Shared Services and SPS.

Turning of the lights or any electrical appliances when not in use is one of the most frequent given suggestions, said Crenshaw. "It is still one of the best," he said. "When you are not in a room, turn off the lights."

Turning down the thermostat control is one which is highly effective, he said. Having drapes

and curtains on windows keeps warm air inside and cold air outside. He also urged closing dampers and vents for the same reason.

Crenshaw said fireplaces should have tightly fitted damper when not in use. He said he had recently read a report which stated each degree over 68 degrees on the thermostat will raise up the amount of energy to heat a home by three percent.

"Changing the filter in your electric heating unit once a month will help keep the costs down as well as keep the heating unit in better running order," he said.

He also said having a fiberglass insulated blanket around the water heater will help reduce the costs and help keep the water hot. An electric control can be placed on a timer to help maintain costs, too, he said.

Running dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer only when they're full will help cut costs, he

said. Another suggestion is to only use cold water in the garbage disposal.

Using low wattage compact fluorescent lighting, as low as 16, 18, and 20 watts, will also reduce costs.

Keeping fixtures clean is another cost-cutter, he said. He said keeping the dust cleaned off of refrigerator coils is one way to maximize the usage of the appliance. He also said be sure the refrigerator door gasket has tight seals to keep the cold air inside.

Energy saving shower heads can reduce water usage when taking a shower up to 15 percent, he said.

Another tip is to remove window air conditioner units for

winter months. "This will keep warm air from escaping, and cool air out," he said.

"Of course, insulation, caulking, weather stripping and storm windows are excel-

lent methods to keep electric rates down, also," he said. Solar energy methods also help.

Wearing warmer clothing around the home, such as a sweater, is a suggestion offered by Crenshaw.

Crenshaw also urges residents to prepare against the possibility of extended outages. An emergency kit of paper plates, plastic spoons, hand-operated can opener, flashlights with adequate batteries, and Sterno are items to be included. Having food which doesn't have to be heated and an adequate amount of water will also help customers in the event there is an electrical outage, he said.

"We certainly hope an emergency kit is not needed, but it is better to be prepared," he said.

Employees honored



Meredith House Safety award winners were recently recognized. They are Frances Isham and Mary Waldrop, LVN.

Gibson wins two awards

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Heartthrob actor Mel Gibson was honored twice Sunday night at the People's Choice Awards.

Gibson won for Motion Picture Star in a Drama and the more general Motion Picture Actor category. The 45-year-old Gibson beat out Tom Hanks, 44, and Denzel Washington, 46, who also were nominated in both categories.

Gibson's "The Patriot," Hanks' "The Green Mile," and Washington's "Remember the Titans" dominated the movie categories with each gaining nominations for Motion Picture and Dramatic Motion Picture. "The Green Mile" won the awards in both categories.

Truck crashes into tank, injures 17

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N.M. (AP) — An unoccupied pickup truck crashed into a propane tank, triggering explosions that sent fireballs 100 feet into the sky, destroyed nearby mobile homes and shook buildings miles away.

No one was killed but 17 people suffered minor injuries, said police Officer Willy Kerin.

"We were just very lucky," Kerin said. "We take it for granted, but (God) was on our side this evening."

The pickup had been parked at a gas station but rolled across the street to the Cortez Gas Co. and struck an 18,000-gallon propane tank Sunday evening, State Police spokeswoman Royleen Ross-Weaver said.

Investigators were still trying to determine why the pickup

rolled across the street on its own, Ross-Weaver said Monday. The driver had been located but authorities would not release a name; no charges had been filed.

The pickup struck an 18,000-gallon propane tank that was 85 percent full, causing a leak of the highly flammable fuel and igniting it in an explosion, Ross-Weaver said.

That explosion then set off a second tank holding 2,000 gallons of propane, police said.

Kerin said several minutes elapsed from the time the pickup struck the tank and the first blast, and several more minutes elapsed before the second explosion, giving some 200 residents time to flee.

"It was just an instinct to get people out," said Kerin, one of the first officers on the scene. "Once I got there, there was a

very large cloud of gas and the propane was coming out of the tank, and, seeing it, I just put it in reverse and started calling for help. I never backed up so fast in my life."

Kerin said the two blasts destroyed everything in an area covering three city blocks, including storage trailers, recreational trailers and four or five mobile homes. Windows were broken throughout the community.

Firefighter Rudy Flores, 20, was rushing to the scene when the first tank blew up.

"When we turned the corner, they told us to hold back and all of a sudden it goes boom, a big old explosion. It was crazy," Flores said.

On Monday, smoke rose from the area, which was scattered with debris and surrounded by charred trees in an industrial

section about a half mile north-east of downtown.

The injured mostly suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns, and one man had a back injury, said Domenica Rush, administrator at Sierra Vista Hospital.

"A lot of the injuries were due

to the debris and windows crashing in some of the apartments and homes in the surrounding area," Kerin said. "We also had people falling trying to get away."

The town, 150 miles south of Albuquerque, has about 6,200 residents.

Stiff sentence urged in Edwards case

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana owes much of its reputation as a corrupt state to Edwin Edwards, a federal prosecutor said Monday, arguing the former governor should receive a stiff prison sentence for racketeering and extortion.

"People to this day think, thanks largely in part to Edwin Edwards and his codefendants in this case, that Louisiana is a hostile and dangerous place to do business. It's the Edwards legacy," assistant U.S. attorney Jim Letten told U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola as Edwards' sentencing hearing opened.

Letten said Edwards, who served four terms as governor, should receive a stiffer sentence than the 11 to 14 years reportedly recommended by federal probation authorities following his conviction in May.

HARVESTER BASKETBALL

Girls Schedule...

Date	Opponent	Site	JV	Varsity
January 9	Randall	Pampa	6:00	7:30
January 12	Borger	Borger	6:00	7:30

Boys Schedule...

Date	Opponent	Site	JV	Varsity
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January 12	Borger	Borger	6:00	7:30

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