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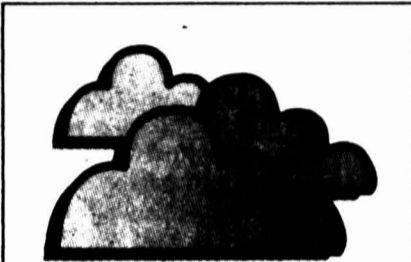
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# Pampa

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For weather details, see Page 2

**Pampan, 67, struck by car at crosswalk**

A 67-year-old Pampa woman who was struck by a car was treated and released Tuesday night at Pampa Regional Medical Center, a spokesman there said.

Officer Keith Morris reported that Cora Ann Brantley of 1016 N. Nelson, was struck at 8:06 p.m. in a crosswalk at Browning and Starkweather. She was hit when a car turned left into the 500 block of East Browning.

Morris said the driver, Tina Rae Castleberry, 34, 502 Carr, had impaired visibility because it was raining and Brantley had on dark clothing.

No charges were filed.

**Traffic Commission to meet Thursday**

The City of Pampa Traffic Commission will meet on the third floor of City Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13.

Business to be considered includes:

- Discussion of yield and stop signs along 25th Street from Aspen to Fir
- Speed limit signs posted along Francis Street
- Slow Children Playing sign posted along Garland Street from the 1100 block to 1200 block.

TYLER (AP) — A mysterious briefcase that prompted the evacuation of the Smith County Courthouse contained what appeared to be laundry detergent.

A Fort Hood bomb squad opened the suspicious briefcase early Wednesday to find the bottles, fire officials said.

- Merlene Wallace Heame**, 77, mother of Pampan.
- Lela Mae Overstreet**, 97, nursery worker.
- Emmette Barnett Saxon**, 75, Cabot retiree.
- Jimmy 'Bo Bo' Stover**, 4, pre-schooler.

Classified .....9  
Comics .....6  
Sports .....7

**West Texas LANDSCAPE**  
Residential & Commercial  
669-0158 mobile 663-1277

## Commission debates work session

By KATE B. DICKSON  
Associate Publisher

Should the Pampa City Commission abandon the work session in its present form and save all discussion for the regular meeting?

At least one commissioner, Jeff Andrews, thinks so.

The commission typically meets for an hour before the regular 6 p.m. meetings to discuss agenda and other items in depth. Therefore when the regular meeting starts, any action proceeds swiftly.

That aspect of the commission's meeting practice took center stage during Tuesday's work session. It was there that City Attorney Don Lane presented some proposed changes to the existing and outdated meeting conduct resolution.

Another topic that drew considerable attention is the fact an attorney general's opinion keeps commissioners from entering into discussions with citizens who come before them in meetings.

Andrews drew little, if any, support for his belief the current work session and regular meeting procedures should be changed.

"We go into the regular meeting and boom, boom, boom — we're done," Andrews said. "I have a problem with that ... how that looks to the public."

Andrews said he's heard members of the public refer to the regular meeting as "kangaroo and a farce."

(See DEBATE, Page 3)



Pampa City Commissioner Jeff Andrews, right, refers to packet information during a discussion regarding procedures for conducting meetings. At left is Mayor Lonny Robbins and Commissioner Jeff McCormick.

## Trees to stay

By KATE B. DICKSON  
Associate Publisher

In what appears to be an effort to avoid controversy, the Friends of the Library have dropped their proposal to cut down five large locust trees at Lovett Memorial Library.

Originally scheduled for Tuesday's City Commission agenda, City Manager Bob Eskridge said the Friends had decided against the tree-cutting plan.

"I imagine they just didn't want any controversy," Eskridge said. "They withdrew their request ... they talked to the city attorney."

The Friends, who have spent more than \$20,000 on library grounds landscaping and a sprinkler system, wanted to replace the locust trees because of the problems shedding, beans cause to the building's roof and to the grounds.

Contacted by *The Pampa News*, Vera Plunk, chairman of the Friends landscaping committee, said, "Just say we decided not to proceed with the proposal and let it go at that."

Commissioner Faustina Curry, known for speaking out in support of more trees in Pampa, said she is pleased the trees won't be cut down.

"But I would hope the Friends will go ..."

(See TREES, Page 3)

## TNRCC: No permit ruling until after Jan. 8

By NANCY YOUNG  
Managing Editor

No decision will be made on National Pig Development's permit application with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) until after the public meeting is held in Pampa on Jan. 8, 2002, said Jean Pieper Voshell of the Austin-based TNRCC.

The *Pampa News* contacted the TNRCC after a rumor was circulating Monday that the TNRCC had applied for the NPD application without the January

public meeting.

Pieper-Voshell said a preliminary decision has been made by the TNRCC Executive Director Jeff Saitas that the application is technically complete, but that the permit application has not yet been approved.

"No decision will be made on the permit until after the Jan. 8 public meeting," she said.

She said comments are currently being accepted from the public regarding the NPD permit application 11 miles east of Pampa. NPD has applied for a permit to have up to 50,000 head

at the proposed genetic research facility.

Public comments will close with the Jan. 8 meeting. She said the TNRCC will have 60 days to review the public comments and respond.

A written response to all formal comments will be prepared and considered by TNRCC Executive Director Jeff Saitas before reaching a decision on the permit.

A copy of the response will be sent to each person who submits a formal comment or who requests to be on the mailing list

for this application and provides a mailing address.

Written public comments should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

Anyone who would like to contest the TNRCC's decision will have an additional 20 days to do so.

A copy of NPD's permit application is at the Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa and is available for inspection by the public. Another copy is at the Roberts County Library in Miami.

It is unlikely the final TNRCC decision on the permit application will come before April 2002, Pieper-Voshell said.

Local residents are encouraged to ask questions at the meeting, she said.

Pieper-Voshell explained that the TNRCC can interact with the public regarding comments made during the informal period of the January meeting, but that these comments will not be entered into the formal record.

"Any questions can be answered at this time," she said.

(See PERMIT, Page 3)

## Honderich files for re-election

District Clerk Gaye Honderich has filed for re-election in the March Republican Primary.

Honderich was first elected to the position in 1998, having worked in the office since 1993.

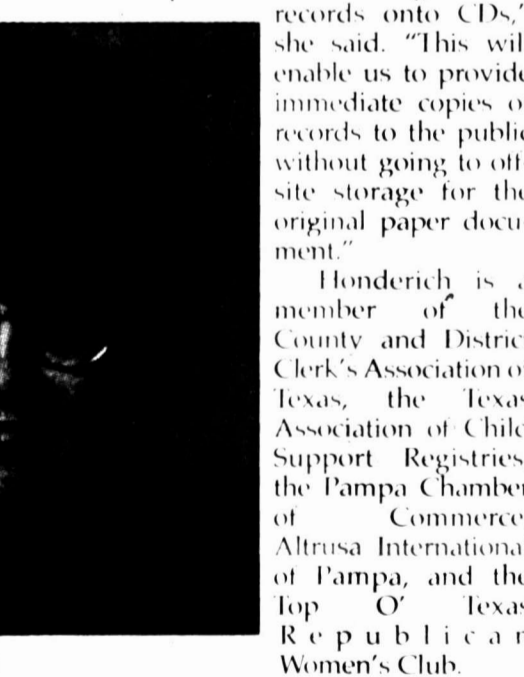
"I have enjoyed the work as district clerk and look forward to serving another four years," she said. "The district clerk provides support for the District Courts, is registrar, recorder, and custodian of court records filed in civil and criminal district court."

Honderich is state-certified, having completed required hours of continuous education. She served on the 2001 legislative committee for the County and District Clerk's Association. She says her top priority is to keep up with changes in legislation and court rules to make sure the office is in compliance.

Her future plans for the office include a conservative approach to spending tax dol-

lars while continuing to expand technology.

"We are imaging all current records and are in the process of scanning all old records onto CDs," she said. "This will enable us to provide immediate copies of records to the public without going to off-site storage for the original paper document."



Gaye Honderich

She and her husband, Jim, have one daughter, Jennifer who lives with her husband Troy in Amarillo. Jennifer and Troy are the parents of Eve, age 2.

## Donley County receives disaster relief grant

AUSTIN — The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) announced it has awarded a Texas Community Development Program (ICDP) Disaster Relief grant in the amount of \$256,460 to Donley County to aid the county

in recovering from the May 3-4, 2001, rain storms. Heavy rainfall flooded the town of Clarendon and the surrounding area and caused significant damage to two key bridges in the county. The loss of access to the bridges has created

hardship and long detours for county residents traveling between home and work. Ambulance, fire trucks, school buses and mail services are also hindered due to the loss of the bridges.

(See GRANT, Page 3)

## Letters to Santa under way

PO BOX 2198  
Dear Santa, I want a Lee Middleton toddler doll that has red hair and pig tails. A walker for her. And some baby doll clothes. And some craft/school stuff. And stocking stuff.

Love,  
Kayla Hughes

P.S. I Love you Santa!

It's time again for "Letters to Santa Claus" like this one sent by Kayla Hughes. Send Santa letters in care of The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, 79065 by Dec. 19 and they'll be printed in the paper as space is available. All letters will then be forwarded to the North Pole in plenty of time to reach Santa. Look on Page 8 for this year's first Letters to Santa.

**Chamber Luncheon • December 18th • For More Information Call 669-3241**

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# Daily Record

## Services tomorrow

**DUNIGAN**, Robert Timothy "Tim" — Mass, 10 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Pampa.  
**HEAME**, Merlene Wallace — 2:30 p.m., Ideal Baptist Church, Midland.  
**OVERSTREET**, Lela Mae — Graveside services, 11 a.m., Quitaque Cemetery, Quitaque.

## Obituaries

**MERLENE WALLACE HEAME**  
 Merlene W. Heame, 77, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2001. Services will be at 2:30 p.m., Thursday in Ideal Baptist Church in Midland.  
 Survivors include three daughters, Dorothy Heame and Esther Alexander of Midland and Barbara Patrick of Pampa; and three sons, Robert Gray of Mobile, Ala., James Gray of Midwest City, Okla., and Gill Gray of Paris, Texas.

**LELA MAE OVERSTREET**  
 TULIA — Lela Mae Overstreet, 97, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2001, at BSA Hospice in Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m., Thursday in Quitaque Cemetery at Quitaque with the Rev. Charles Davenport, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulia, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Wallace Funeral Home of Tulia.  
 Mrs. Overstreet was born Sept. 18, 1904, at Portales, N.M. She graduated from Crowell High School. She married Hal Overstreet in 1922 at Crowell; he died in 1950. She lived most of her married life in Quitaque and moved to Tulia in 1961. She was a homemaker and a member of First Baptist Church in Tulia. She worked in the nursery of First Baptist for approximately 20 years.  
 Survivors include two daughters, Jo Wilkerson of Tulia and Millie McKinley of Pampa; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**EMMETTE BARNETT SAXON**  
 SKELLYTOWN — Emmette Barnett Saxon, 75, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2001, at Amarillo. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.  
 Mr. Saxon was born Sept. 19, 1926, at Petersburg. He married Gwendolyn Boyd on June 26, 1949, at Skellytown. He worked for Shell Oil Company for 26 years and retired from Cabot Corporation in 1987 after 13 years of service.  
 He was a U.S. Army veteran, a lifetime member of Community Church in Skellytown and a member of Masonic Lodge.  
 Survivors include his wife, Gwendolyn, of the home; three sons, Harold Saxon of San Antonio, Jerry Saxon of Amarillo and David Saxon of Puyallup, Wash.; and eight grandchildren.  
 The family requests memorials be to Masonic Lodge.

**JIMMY 'BO BO' STOVER**  
 LEFORS — Jimmy "Bo Bo" Stover, 4, died Saturday, Dec. 8, 2001, at Pampa. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.  
 Jimmy was born May 1, 1997, at Pampa. He attended pre-school at Lamar Elementary School in Pampa and at Lefors Elementary School in Lefors. He also attended First Baptist Church of Lefors.  
 Survivors include his mother, Melinda Stover of Lefors; his father, Johnny Stover of Amarillo; a sister, Mercedes O'Brien of Lefors; a brother, Jason Hartline of Lefors; his maternal grandparents, Wayne and Nancy O'Brien of Lefors; his paternal grandparents, Johnny and Barbara Stover of Amarillo; and his great-grandparents, Fred and Florence Billiter of Ohio; several aunts, uncles and cousins; and special friend, his nurse Pauline "Granny Pa" Mullen of Lefors.  
 The family requests memorials be to Children's Medical Center, 1935 Motor St., Dallas, TX 75235.

**Police report**  
 The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11**  
 A domestic assault was reported in the 300 block of North Lowry. No injuries.  
 A criminal mischief was reported at PHS where a car was egged.  
 An attempted burglary of a habitation was reported in the 2400 block of North Rosewood where a window received \$120 damage.  
 A report of criminal trespassing was taken at 900 East Campbell.  
 Criminal mischief and criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of Neel Road where a damage to a gate was reported at \$120.  
 Jennifer Spikes, 1031 N. Sumner, #215, failure to appear/bail jumping, running a stop sign, failure to appear/bail jumping, unrestrained child in vehicle.

**Sheriff's Office**  
 The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrest.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11**  
 Jackie Lynn Vaughn, 42, Lefors, picked up for the DPS for failure to appear.

**Ambulance**  
 Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11**  
 3:05 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for a transport to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.  
 5:56 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for a patient transport to NWH.  
 6:31 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Christy and transported one to PRMC.  
 7:15 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th; no transport.  
 7:50 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of Deane and transported one to PRMC.  
 8:06 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Starkweather and Browning and transported one to PRMC.

**Fires**  
 Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11**  
 12:48 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a report of gas odor in the 1800 block of North Price Road. Nothing was found.  
 6:50 p.m. - Two units and seven firefighters responded to a reported porch fire in the 2600 block of North Hobart. Someone was using a barbecue grill.  
 8:02 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 800 block of Dean Drive.  
 8:10 p.m. - Two units and six firefighters responded to a vehicle - pedestrian accident at the intersection of Browning and Starkweather.  
 10:15 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a report of electrical problems in the 400 block of South Cuyler.

## Carson Co. Sheriff

The Carson County Sheriff's Department booked the following people into jail during the week of Dec. 3-9.  
 Alonzo Wiley, 31, Borger, kidnapping.  
 Fedil Lovato, 17, Fritch, assault causing bodily injury.  
 Salvatore Nitti, 51, Des Plains, Ill., possession of a controlled substance more than 400 grams.  
 Melissa Heard, 31, Fritch, assault causing bodily injury/family violence.  
 Sebastian Donnellson, 31, Delta Junction, Ark., possession of marijuana more than five pounds but less than 50 pounds.  
 Jari Sheridan, 43, Tucson, Ariz., possession of marijuana more than five pounds but less than 50 pounds.  
 Randy Malone, 41, Pampa, criminal child non-support.  
 Diana Jones, 42, Borger, driving while intoxicated/first offense.  
 James Hemmings, 35, Morganton, N.C., probation violation/Arkansas.  
 Duane King, 23, Pampa, traffic warrants/DPS.

## Clarification

In an article on Page 1 Sunday, Dec. 9, about the Pampa Police Department's refurbished Humvee, the credit for providing the emergency vehicle's bed liner at a reduced cost should be given to Truck Stuff, 420 W. Brown.

## Stocks

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

Wheat	2.40	Coca-Cola	45.87	up 0.22
Milo	3.53	Fair	0.59	dn 0.13
Corn	3.74	Halibut	13.20	dn 0.80
Soybeans	3.56	KMI	49.72	dn 0.68
Oil Sunflowers	8.35	Kerr McGee	51.50	dn 0.64
		Limited	14.11	up 0.09
		McDonald's	26.17	dn 0.32
		Exxon Mobil	37.15	up 0.34
		New Atmos	19.87	up 0.05
		XCEL	25.50	dn 0.70
		NOI	17.40	dn 0.26
		OKE	17.00	dn 0.29
		Penney's	23.00	dn 0.12
		Phillips	55.76	up 0.33
		Pioneer Nat.	17.26	dn 0.04
		SLB	50.59	dn 0.42
		Tenneco	1.56	NC
		Trade Hospitals	28.42	up 0.42
		Ultramar	49.20	dn 0.88
		Wal-Mart	54.69	up 0.61
		Williams	23.21	dn 1.73
		New York Gold	272.75	
		Silver	54.69	4.30
		West Texas Crude	18.08	

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

Occidental	24.59	dn 0.17
Fidelity Magell	102.71	dn 0.42
Puntan	17.63	dn 0.12

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

BP	44.03	up 0.37
Celanese	18.32	up 0.32
Cabot	37.42	NC
Cabot O&G	21.60	dn 0.69
Chevron/Texas	85.08	dn 0.02

## Weather focus

**PAMPA** — Today, areas of fog through mid morning with visibilities less than a quarter mile. Otherwise, cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain. Cooler with highs in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph becoming north in the afternoon.  
 Tonight, mostly cloudy. Lows in the middle 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.  
 Thursday, decreasing clouds. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**STATEWIDE** — A heavy fog shrouding North Texas early Wednesday morning was expected to change to showers and thunderstorms by midmorning.  
 The dense fog had reduced visibilities to a quarter of a mile or less in many areas across North Texas.  
 Early morning temperatures ranged from the 30s across the Panhandle and West Texas, to the lower 70s along the Gulf Coast. Extremes ranged from 28 degrees in Marfa to 73 degrees in Galveston.  
 A cold front had pushed as far eastward as Abilene in the

early morning hours, with clearing skies and cooler temperatures behind it.  
 Some heavy thunderstorms were rumbling across south-east Texas, while skies were clear to partly cloudy across the Panhandle and West Texas.  
 By the afternoon, skies were expected to become partly cloudy with highs ranging from the 60s to the mid 70s.  
 South Texas should expect mostly cloudy skies and thunderstorms on Wednesday, forecasters said. Daytime temperatures should reach into the 70s and almost near 80 throughout the region.

## U.S. forces focus on bin Laden

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. forces are focusing on their main objective in Afghanistan — capturing or killing Osama bin Laden and other terrorist leaders — now that the Taliban are on the run and the al-Qaida network is under heavy attack.  
 "Thanks to our military and our allies and the great fighters of Afghanistan, the Taliban regime is coming to an end," Bush said Wednesday before signing a bill ensuring aid to Afghan women and children.  
 As Afghan fighters tried Wednesday to negotiate a surrender of al-Qaida forces near bin Laden's Tora Bora mountain base, the Pentagon said again that it doesn't want to see a deal in which terrorist leaders go free.  
 "We have made it very clear what our intents are," Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said.  
 Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has some confidence about getting control of the people on its wanted list.  
 Meanwhile the FBI arrived at the Marine base south of the southern city of Kandahar to question American John Walker, a senior defense official said on condition of anonymity.  
 A cease-fire at Tora Bora col-

## Senate narrowly supports new subsidies for dairy farmers despite Bush objections

By PHILIP BRASHER  
 AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate refused to shift money from farm subsidies to food stamps as majority Democrats struggled Wednesday to push through a bill reauthorizing agriculture and nutrition programs.  
 Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee, said a reduction in farm subsidies would undermine support for the bill and undo a delicate compromise between agricultural interests. The Senate defeated the higher food-stamp spending 70-30.  
 "Even though we might want to do more for nutrition, I think we've met our responsibilities in this bill," Harkin said.  
 Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., tried to double proposed spending on food stamps by scrapping the existing farm subsidy programs, which primarily benefit large grain and cotton operations. He wants to replace those programs with vouchers that would be available to a wider variety of farms.  
 "If we're going to distribute money let's do it to all states, all crops, all animals," he said.  
 The Democratic farm bill would increase food-stamp spending by 2.5 percent, or \$620 million annually. Lugar's proposal would have added another \$1 billion annually.  
 On Tuesday, the Senate rejected 51-47 a Republican move to kill \$2 billion in new dairy subsidies that are part of the bill.  
 The dairy program is viewed as critical to getting the support of Northeastern senators for the Democratic farm bill, which primarily benefits grain and cotton farms in the Midwest and South.  
 Farm groups are pressing the Senate to approve the legislation this week and work quickly to reach a compromise with the House, which passed its own version in October.  
 Existing farm programs won't expire until next fall, but farm interests fear that there will be less money available for subsidies if Congress doesn't act quickly.  
 The Senate bill would reauthorize farm programs through 2006.  
 The milk subsidies are a key part of the Democratic strategy to block an alternative bill backed by Senate Republicans and the Bush administration.  
 Along with adding the dairy money, Democrats also have proposed higher spending on conservation programs and added more benefits for cotton and rice interests.

## City Briefs

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

**665-1245 GIFT Wrap** by Sue, Art Emporium, 115 N. Cuyler.

**ALARMS FOR** storage sheds, barns, garages, light and sound. Are you protected from theft? Eugene Taylor, 669-7323.

**A&T YARD** service has firewood and trees for sale!! (Oak, Mesquite&Pinon) call for prices 663-0662 or 663-0663

**CELEBRATIONS** ALL Christmas Candy is Buy 1 & Get 1 Free. Look for In-Store Specials! 665-3100, Coronado Center. Free Delivery.

**CHANGE OF Meeting Place!!** Pampa's tribute to Woody Guthrie meeting place changed to 1945 N. Hobart (Top of Texas Ice), still 5:30 p.m. Thurs. 13th.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** Specials 1 message \$50, 2 messages \$95, 3 messages \$145, 4 messages \$195. Each message or gift certificate is eligible for the Dec. drawing worth \$35 plus second drawing worth \$10 off the next message. Danny Degner - The Gold-

**FOY'S TOY & Bicycle Give Away**, spon. by Mary Ellen Harvester Church of Christ, Sat. Dec. 15, 9 a.m. in ME Church of Christ Youth Bldg., 1325 Mary Ellen.

**FRIENDS OF** The Pampa Library wish to thank A&T Yard Service for the donation of a Sycamore tree that has been planted at Lovett Memorial Library.

**GOLF EQUIPMENT & Merchandise Sale @ David's Golf Shop**. Don't go anywhere else if you can buy it here. Buy your golfer a gift certificate & let them get what they want after Christmas. Call 669-5866 if we can help you. Last minute items, we have them!!

**HOLIDAY SPLENDOR** - An evening lit up with Christmas Spirit! Join us for a unique shopping experience Thursday, December 13th 6:00-9:00 p.m. Best Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart

**LOOKING FOR Experienced Presser**. Contact Dorothy at Vogue Cleaners.

**MESSAGE THERAPY**, Special Gift Certificates, Massage with hot stones, Raindrop Therapy with pure essential oils & body wraps. Call Cathy Potter 806-669-0013.

**PAMPA SENIOR** Citizen's Christmas Dance, hosted by ESA Sorority, Eddie Hastings will be the entertainment, \$3.50 each, 7-9:30 p.m.

**SONIC IS** accepting Toys for Tots for the Tralee Crisis Center, drop toys off 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

lapsed Wednesday as U.S. airstrikes repeatedly pounded bin Laden's cave complex in the White Mountains after cornered al-Qaida forces reportedly set new terms for their surrender and missed a deadline to disarm.  
 The goal is "to capture or kill all the al-Qaida and prevent them from escaping into other countries or other locations in Afghanistan where they can continue their terrorist activities. It is to capture or kill the senior Taliban leadership," Rumsfeld told reporters Tuesday.  
 Captured al-Qaida could be sent back to their own countries if those countries would impose appropriate punishments, Rumsfeld said.  
 "We would only send them back to a country where we felt that the country had a similar attitude to ours about the undesirability of people running around engaging in mass murder," he said.  
 Congressional leaders, after a breakfast meeting with President Bush on Wednesday, sounded more optimistic about the pace of the Afghanistan campaign.  
 "We had a good briefing on, basically, the mop-up situation in Afghanistan and trying to bring that action to a close," House Speaker Dennis Hastert told reporters afterward.  
 Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said, "The ring is getting closer and tighter and, as it does, we get more optimistic."  
 Pentagon officials say this phase of the battle could take months. Progress continued Tuesday in the Tora Bora area of eastern Afghanistan, where U.S. officials believe bin Laden probably is hiding.  
 The United States has some indications bin Laden was near where an American plane dropped a 15,000-pound bomb Sunday, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity Tuesday. The military dropped the "daisy cutter" bomb on a cave containing al-Qaida members.  
 U.S. spotters saw dead al-Qaida at the scene afterward, but officials have not determined who they were, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers said.  
 Gen. Tommy Franks, the war's U.S. commander, has sent several AC-130 gunships to the Tora Bora area to team with unmanned Predator surveillance planes, officials said.

Critics of the dairy subsidies say they would encourage farms to increase the size of their herds. That, in turn, could force down prices and require the government to buy more surplus milk products to prevent the market from collapsing.  
 "In the long term, the effect could be substantial," said Larry Salathe, an Agriculture Department economist.  
 The government already holds about 600 million pounds of nonfat dry milk, about a year's supply, for which it can't find a market.  
 One-fourth of the proposed dairy payments, about \$500 million, are earmarked for 12 northeastern states. The subsidies would cover the first 8 million pounds of a farm's annual production, the equivalent of about 440 cows.  
 The subsidies would compensate for expiration this fall of a system that guaranteed minimum revenue for New England dairy farms.  
 Several Democrats, including freshmen Sens. Bill Nelson of Florida, Jean Carnahan of Missouri and Maria Cantwell of Washington, initially voted against the subsidies Tuesday, but then switched sides to support the program.  
 The Bush administration also opposes the Democratic bill because of increases in price guarantees for grain and cotton that could stimulate higher production of those crops.  
 The administration says the bill could break both spending caps in this year's congressional budget agreement and a limit on U.S. farm subsidies under the World Trade Organization.  
 Breaking the WTO cap would undermine the administration's efforts to get other countries to reduce their subsidies and open new markets for U.S. commodities, the White House said in a policy statement.

On the Net:  
 USDA: <http://www.usda.gov>

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(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)  
**Pampa Building Official Danny Winborne and Public Works Director Richard Morris listen during a work session of the Pampa City Commission.**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## DEBATE

Over the years, Andrews said the work session had changed from a meeting on an off-week to discuss what will go on the agenda for the next week.

Commissioner Faustina Curry said, "Sometimes we get into a situation where we've had a lot of discussion in a work session but the public (at the regular session) doesn't know about it."

Curry said the commission should continue to stress that the work session is a public meeting.

Andrews said he usually has little to say during the work session saving his comments until the regular meeting.

City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said she's been told by "some people who work who express that they can't get off early enough to attend the work session."

"I like the system we have," said Commissioner Jeff McCormick.

Commissioner Bob Dixon objected to changing the procedure because "we'd be here until 8 o'clock. I don't think the staff would appreciate that."

City Manager Bob Eskridge replied, "I don't think the staff cares ... I've met until 10 o'clock."

"I don't think people are complaining about the 6 o'clock meeting," Dixon said. "I haven't seen any

letters in the paper."

With regard to the regular meeting citizens to be heard procedures, the city attorney said an Attorney General's opinion in 2000 forced a change which won't allow discussion between commissioners and citizens who speak before them.

"From the things I have heard and read, this has caused some confusion on the part of citizens," Lane said.

"It seems to me to be a very limiting factor," said Andrews. "Or at the very least gives the impression the commission isn't interested."

Lane said the reasoning behind the AG's ruling is that the public is to be informed ahead of time what the meeting is to be about.

There was additional discussion about the possibility of having citizens sign up to speak early enough so they can be put on the agenda. That would allow the free flow of talk between the citizens and commissioner.

Lane and Eskridge reminded the commissioners that what is placed on the agenda must be done so by them and not be a citizen request only.

"I've had people call me and say they want to be put on the agenda so they will have more time" to speak than the present three-minute rule allows," Eskridge said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## TREES

ahead with some more tree planting so there will be replacements in place when the big trees die," Curry said. "I appreciate everything the Friends have done for the library."

After news of the proposal became public, Curry said she had "numerous" telephone calls about the subject.

"Some people wanted to know why we would want to cut down such large trees and others wanted to know why the city would spend money to cut them down when money is so tight," Curry

said. "I did explain to them the money, if used, wasn't to be city money but money from the Friends."

In one day, Curry said she received more than a dozen calls and said "everywhere I went people stopped me to talk. The overwhelming sentiment was to keep the trees."

Asked why she thinks the Friends withdrew its proposal, Curry said she had spoken with a member of the group whom she didn't identify.

"I think they felt Pampa had had enough controversy recently and they just didn't want any more," Curry said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## GRANT

The ORCA relief funds will help the city meet its 25 percent local match required by the Emergency Watershed Protection Program administered by the National Resources Conservation Program. The funds will be used to repair the two bridges and add significant mitigation measures to withstand similar and stronger storms in the future.

The Disaster Relief Fund is one of nine TCDP

funds that provide financial assistance to cities under 50,000 in population and counties under 200,000 in population. Funds are earmarked for public works projects, housing, economic development, planning projects and activities improving living conditions in the state's colonias. Typically, the disaster relief funds are accessible only after all other federal resources are exhausted.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is the funding source for this program.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## PERMIT

"Comments to be entered into the formal record will have to be made during the formal comment period."

She added that the TNRC will not be able to respond to questions during the formal comment period, the second phase of the meeting.

Additional information about the application or the procedure for the public may contact the Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040.

## U.N. Children's Fund: Millions of children are bought, sold as slaves

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Millions of children are being bought and sold for use as sex slaves, according to a new report by the U.N. Children's Fund. It calls for a global campaign to eradicate a multibillion-dollar industry in the sexual exploitation of youngsters.

"Zero tolerance means ending the trafficking of children, their sale and barter and imprisonment and torture," UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said in a statement issued with the report late Tuesday. "It means stamping out every horrible facet of the commercial sexual exploitation of children."

The report, which includes statements from women and children lured into the sex trade, was released in conjunction with a conference on the issue, cosponsored by UNICEF and scheduled to be held Dec. 17-20 in Yokohama, Japan.

# Astronauts anticipate life on Earth after extra day

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The return of space shuttle Endeavour and the changing of the crew at the international space station will mean different things for astronauts Frank Culbertson and Daniel Bursch.

Bursch, who is moving into the station for a six-month stay, will be spending Christmas away from his wife and four children.

Culbertson, who is completing a stint as commander at the station, will be returning to his family — but coming back to a nation in a different mood from when he rocketed away in August.

Endeavour's commander, Dominic Gorie, told reporters that Culbertson has heard all about the security increases and airport congestion after Sept. 11. Gorie also has filled him in on some of the other effects, like American flags flying everywhere.

"I told him when I drive down to my house, when I look at the homes along that street, proba-

bly 60 percent of those homes are flying American flags continuously, which was a really great thing to see," said Gorie, a Navy captain.

The astronauts and cosmonauts circling Earth paused on Tuesday and joined Mission Control to mark the moment three months ago that terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with hijacked planes and crashed one in Pennsylvania.

Endeavour docked at space station Alpha last week to deliver a new three-member crew that will relieve the men who have been up there since August.

The shuttle will remain docked until Saturday, a day longer than planned, and return to Earth on Monday. The shuttle was supposed to leave Friday, but NASA approved an extra day, thanks to their power-conserving efforts.

Culbertson has been replaced at the space station by Russian

Yuri Onufrienko. Bursch and Carl Walz also moved in for a six-month stay.

Since he'll be living in the space station over the holidays, Bursch spent Thanksgiving night putting up and decorating his family's Christmas tree.

"For me, that was kind of a big part of my Christmas celebration," he said.

Meanwhile, Culbertson will be looking forward to seeing his family, eating some ice cream and taking a hot shower.

Vladimir Dezhurov said he is looking forward to the warmth of a sauna or shower after his time on the space station, and Mikhail Tyurin wouldn't mind a big glass of cold beer.

The moment the shuttle undocks will also have much significance for the crew members as they watch from the shuttle as the station disappears from view.

"It will be hard to leave it. This has been great but it's time to move on," Culbertson said.

## Terrorism investigators to contact non-responders

DETROIT (AP) — Officials began trying to directly contact some 150 men who haven't responded to letters requesting interviews as part of the terrorism probe, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Jeffrey Collins, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, said of the 503 letters mailed to men in southeastern Michigan, 242 have been contacted to schedule interviews, and five have declined. He said 104 letters have been returned because of incorrect addresses.

Starting Tuesday, agents and officers are attempting to personally contact the about 150 men who haven't responded, which will include going door-to-door, Collins said. For those with bad addresses, Collins said, officials were working to locate them.

He gave few details and did not say what will happen to those men who haven't responded.

Members of the state's large Arab American community said they're worried about men with immigration problems and are skeptical about whether the inter-

views are really voluntary.

"One division of the government says you don't have to (answer), another division says, you don't answer ... we'll be at your doorstep," said Osama Siblani, publisher of the Arab American News.

Representatives from nine civil rights and Arab advocate groups have asked Collins not to prosecute men for visa violations if they come forward for questioning.

Collins has said the purpose of the interviews is not to target people with immigration violations, but if in the course of interviewing someone a violation comes up, the agent is authorized to turn that information to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Dearborn lawyer Doriad Elder said he has secured promises from two agents doing interviews that his clients won't be hassled about immigration violations.

"If the agent can give me his personal guarantee nothing will happen to them, then I set up the meeting," Elder told the Detroit

Free Press.

None of the interviews in Michigan so far has resulted in any referral to the INS, said Greg Palmore, spokesman for the agency's Detroit office.

Immigration attorney Noel Saleh said the announcement that agents will go door-to-door was inevitable.

"It just sort of underscores the point about how voluntary these are," Saleh said. "It's not unreasonable on their part that they're going to have to do this. ... Hopefully they're going to approach them with the same professional manner."

Saleh questioned how accurate the numbers were on the men who haven't responded. He has called to set up interviews for some of his clients and then agents haven't shown up, he said, making him wonder if those clients are listed as having not responded.

Collins said the interviewing schedule is more than 60 percent toward completion but did not give exact figures on the number of men interviewed so far.

## Appeals court overturns woman's death verdict

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's highest criminal appeals court Wednesday overturned the death sentence of a Dallas County woman convicted of killing an elderly neighbor in a robbery.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ordered the capital murder case of Kimberly McCarthy of Lancaster sent back to its original court for a new trial.

McCarthy was convicted of the July 1997 stabbing and bludgeoning death of her neighbor.

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# Project under way to link medical records electronically

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Land unconscious in an emergency room today and there's no quick way for doctors to verify the medications you take, allergies you have or other vital information to make sure you don't become victim of a medical error.

Now an unusual mix of technology companies, consumer advocates and doctors is joining

*The nonprofit venture called the Patient Safety Institute announced Tuesday it has raised \$8 million for a pilot test of the project, in a city to be picked next month.*

to try to fix that problem: using the confidential computer systems that make on-line banking work to link certain medical records electronically so a doctor anytime, anywhere can get vital information to treat

patients.

The nonprofit venture called the Patient Safety Institute announced Tuesday it has raised \$8 million for a pilot test of the project, in a city to be picked next month.

One cause of the medical errors that kill thousands of Americans each year is the nation's tangled maze of health records. Patients see numerous doctors who don't share diagnoses or other information; use multiple medications, prescribed by different doctors and bought at different pharmacies; that can interact dangerously; and get lab test results via paper records that can be lost.

Experts for a decade have called for electronic linkage of some of these records to reduce errors. But the Patient Safety Institute, or PSI, faces an uphill battle.

Previous similar attempts have failed, largely because doctors, hospitals and technology companies can't agree on standards to ensure everybody's computer systems are compatible, said Dr. Gregg Meyer of the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

That meant doctors and hospitals were reluctant to make the investments needed to digitize records.

To improve Americans' safety, "somebody has to do this," Meyer said. If the new group "brings the right players to the table to get this accomplished, that's a wonderful thing."

One other obstacle is patient privacy. PSI marks the first time consumer advocates, including the huge National Consumers League, have joined an attempt to link medical records electron-

ically — and they pledged to ensure the technology guards patients' health records as carefully as on-line banking guards checking accounts.

Still, it's not clear if the new group can overcome all the hurdles. Absent from Tuesday's collaboration were some of health care's biggest information technology companies, such as Cerner Corp. Nor has it won the endorsement of such groups as the American Medical Association, said AMA spokeswoman Brenda Craine.

PSI is funded by Hewlett-Packard and seven other information technology companies, and governed by heads of the consumers League, the physician Medical Group Management Association, and other patient advocacy groups.

The idea: link doctors' offices, hospitals and pharmacies in a given area — say a city or state — so that health workers approved to access the program can, at the push of a few buttons, find out all of a patient's allergies, medications, vaccinations and diagnoses.

"It's very important when they're seeking health care in crisis, when they can't speak," that doctors have such information, said PSI board member Jane Delgado of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Patients would have to consent to having their health information included in the project. Then every doctor, hospital or pharmacy the patient uses would also have to participate, to ensure a complete health record.

The technology would work regardless of which hardware and software different doctors and hospitals use, said Dr. Jack Lewin, head of the California Medical Association and chairman of PSI.

"If Fed Ex can track packages across the country ... surely we can keep track of medications and the particulars necessary for our health," said Lisa Price of PSI funder Williams Communications, a fiber-optic network.

Lewin said PSI will choose a major U.S. city within a few weeks to begin signing up participants in the first pilot test to see if such a project can work. He said various city and even state health officials have expressed interest, but wouldn't identify the leading candidates.

## Drilling Intentions

**Intentions to Drill**  
WHEELER (WILDCAT & S.W. BRISCOE Upper Morrow) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con, Inc., #203 Lunsford, 500' from North & 1000' from West line, Sec. 3, —Camp CSL, PD 15500'.  
**Oil Well Completion**  
HUTCHINSON (PANHANDLER) J.M. Huber Corp., #146 Herring 'A', E. Almaguie Survey,

spud 10-1-01, drlg. compl 10-5-01, tested 11-20-01, pumped 15 bbl. of 39 grav. oil + 176 bbls. water, GOR 9667, TD 3426', PBTD 3383' —  
**Gas Well Completions**  
CARSON (WEST PANHANDLER) Anadarko Petroleum Corp., #1097 Burnett Estate, Sec. 97,5,1&GN, spud unknown, drlg. compl 8-21-01, tested 10-20-01, MD 4572' — Horizontal Sidetrack

CARSON (WEST PANHANDLER) Anadarko Petroleum Corp., #1099 Burnett Estate, Sec. 99,5,1&GN, spud unknown, drlg. compl 9-19-01, tested 10-17-01, MD 5310' — Horizontal Sidetrack  
CARSON (WEST PANHANDLER) Pantera Energy Co., #1R Juanita, Sec. 97,4,1&GN, spud 8-15-01, drlg. compl 8-18-01, tested 11-19-01, TD 2511', PBTD 2511' — Replacement well for #1 GRAY (GILL RANCH Brown Dolomite) Ricks Exploration, Inc., #1 Moore, Sec. 1,5,H&GN, spud 3-7-01, drlg. compl 3-18-01, tested 10-2-01, potential 303 MCF, TD 4505'

68,A-2,H&GN, spud 9-13-01, drlg. compl 10-6-01, tested 11-8-01, potential 11000 MCF, TD 11180', PBTD 11137' —  
ROBERTS (PARSELL Upper Morrow) Range Production Co., #1 Pioneer, Sec. 31,43,H&TC, spud 6-21-01, drlg. compl 9-13-01, tested 9-25-01, potential 23429 MCF, TD 10409' —

**THE Pampa NEWS**

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GRAY (N.E. HOOVER Ellenburger 'B') Newfield Exploration Mid-Con, Inc., #702 Ruth, Sec. 2,3,1&GN, spud 8-22-01, compl 9-9-01, tested 10-19-01, potential 306 MCF, TD 9250'  
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., #2 Carr, Sec. 12,4,AB&M, spud 6-16-01, drlg. compl 7-5-01, tested 10-22-01, potential 3238 MCF, TD 11680', PBTD 11578' —  
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., #8057 Holland 'C', Sec. 57,M-1,H&GN, spud 7-24-01, drlg. compl 8-15-01, tested 10-18-01, potential 7572 MCF, TD 11930', PBTD 11856' —  
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., #3 Meek '68', Sec. 68,M-1,H&GN, spud 7-26-01, drlg. compl 9-3-01, tested 10-23-01, potential 2379 MCF, TD 11880' —  
HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Helmerich & Payne, Inc., #6068 Hobart Ranch, Sec.

## Festival of Trees



(Community Camera photo)  
Ruth Barrett, right, and Thelma Bray admire the tree Barrett entered in the recent Festival of Trees. The entry was entitled "2001 - A 'Real' Space Odyssey."

**We Need Your Help**

On Tuesday, December 4th, Engine Company 33, Ladder 9 from New York visited Pampa. Many of you took pictures. Help us make a scrapbook to help them remember Pampa.

Bring your pictures to M & H Leasing by Friday, December 14th. Let's make sure these New York Firemen remember Pampa.

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## Prairie River Musical December show

CANADIAN — The December performance of Prairie Rivers Musical is set for 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 in Canadian Middle School Auditorium.

Jay Godwin, director of the monthly production, reminds the public there is no admission charge. "We continue to have excellent crowds, with people from around the Panhandle coming on a regular basis," Godwin stated. "It really seems as if there is a place for good, clean musical shows, one where all age groups are welcomed."

The November show introduced the audience to two new performers — Wade Hampton, singer-guitarist of Wheeler, and Jerry Collier of Canadian. Santa Clause will make a special appearance during this month's show.

"We are looking at two really young performers from Canadian and are hopeful of surprising the audience with them," Godwin said. "We also expect fiddle player/steel guitarist Harold Studebaker and Frankie McWhorter, everybody's fiddle player, will be performing." Other regulars are Venita and Hank McPherson, Wayne Wright, Pat Popham, Lonnie Cox, Gaylon Lynch, Scott Campbell, Lana Graham, George Briant, Myron Merz and Jay Godwin.

For questions about the show, contact Godwin at (806) 323-6213 or via fax, (806) 323-8759.



Dec. 12  
13 shopping days to Christmas

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# Four Palestinians die in Israeli helicopter strikes in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Despite a U.S. peace envoy's call for 48 hours of calm, Israeli helicopter gunships attacked a Palestinian refugee camp early Wednesday in retaliation for mortar fire on nearby Jewish settlements. Four Palestinian militiamen were killed and 20 bystanders wounded in the airstrike.

The violence raised questions about the effectiveness of the U.S. mediation mission. Only a day earlier, U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni had asked Israelis and Palestinians to observe two days of calm to help lower tensions and rebuild trust, a U.S. official SAID on condition of anonymity.

In truce talks Tuesday, Zinni requested that Israel refrain from targeted killings of suspected militants and from shelling Palestinian Authority targets, said a Palestinian security official. The Palestinians were asked to stop mortar fire and round up more suspected Islamic militants, the security official said.

Yarden Vatikay, an adviser to Israel's defense minister, denied that Zinni made specific demands of Israel. "His request of Israel was to act in a responsible fashion, but there was no demand to stop actions which are meant for self defense," Vatikay said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a statement that Israel was acting responsibly. He said Israeli troops would continue to respond to Palestinian mortar fire and to strike against militants suspected of planning attacks on Israelis. Last week, three Palestinian suicide bombers killed 26 people in Israel, the latest in a series of attacks by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups.

Tuesday's truce talks were stormy, as were two previous rounds in recent days, and Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief in the Gaza Strip, left abruptly after a loud argument with the head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, Avi Dichter, said Palestinian officials close to the talks.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, meanwhile, described the Palestinians' crackdown on suspected militants as a "very serious battle we have never experienced before."

Israel has dismissed the arrests as insufficient, saying many of those

taken into custody were minor activists, not planners of terror attacks. The Palestinians say more than 180 suspects have been detained, including 17 on a list of 33 names of wanted militants submitted by the United States.

The latest exchange began when Palestinians fired four mortar shells at Jewish settlements in the southern Gaza Strip late Tuesday. The mortar shells caused no damage or injuries.

In retaliation, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the Khan Younis refugee camp in Gaza late Tuesday and early Wednesday, killing four Palestinians and wounding 20, including four who were in serious condition Palestinian doctors said.

The first airstrike targeted a hiding place of members of a local militia, the so-called Abu Rish group, which has tentative links to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, camp residents said. Two of the

militiamen were killed immediately and two more in another Israeli strike an hour later, witnesses said.

Israel's military said those targeted in the airstrike had been involved in firing mortars at Israeli settlements. It said members of the Islamic militant group Hamas were also involved in the shelling. The Palestinian police chief in the Gaza Strip, Brig. Gen. Abdel Razeq Majajda, accused Israel of attacking civilian areas.

Palestinians responded to the airstrikes by firing six mortar shells at Israeli settlements that damaged four homes and a car, the Israeli army said. Israel, in turn, fired tank shells at a building in Khan Yunis from which soldiers believed the mortar shells had been fired, the army said.

The continuing violence further complicated international efforts to stop 15 months of Palestinian-Israeli violence. During that time, 815 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 232 on the Israeli side.

## Homeland security plan calls for greater efficiency at border

TORONTO (AP) — A border action plan under discussion by U.S. and Canadian officials calls for increasing security while speeding the flow of commerce at key crossings to protect the world's largest trade partnership.

The action plan was expected to be endorsed Wednesday to conclude two days of talks in Ottawa led by U.S. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley.

A copy was released by the

White House prior to the final news conference Wednesday morning, but Canadian officials were unable to immediately confirm it would be accepted.

Titled "U.S. and Canada: An Efficient, Secure and Smart Border," the plan lists steps taken by both countries and further planned measures in a coordinated effort to improve border safety after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Provisions include resuming a computer system that eases the entry process into both countries for low-risk, preapproved users.

Another measure would

involve sharing information on passengers on flights between Canada and the United States, and increase immigration officers from each country at overseas airports.

The plan calls for new technology to clear goods in factories, rail yards and sea ports instead of waiting until they reach the border crossing.

Noting that 70 percent of border traffic between the countries uses six major crossings, the plan advocates improving infrastructure and finding new technology to relieve congestion.

"Public security and economic

security are mutually reinforcing," the one-page document says. "By working together to develop a zone of confidence against terrorist activity, the United States and Canada create a unique opportunity to build a smart border for the 21st century."

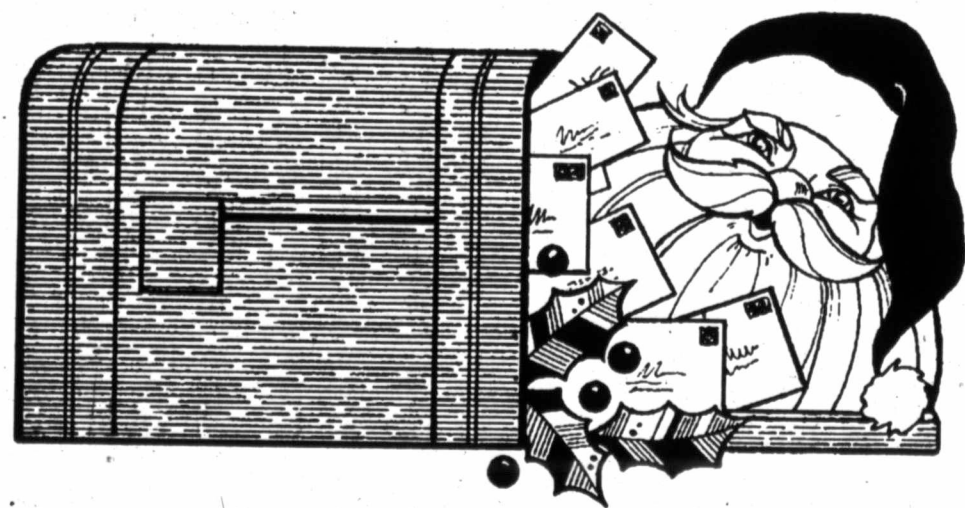
Ridge, on his first trip out of the United States since being named to a new Cabinet position introduced after the Sept. 11 attacks, praised a Canadian government proposal to spend more than \$5 billion over five years for security measures and improved border facilities.

## Jordan Unit Employee of the Month



(Courtesy photo)

Officer Rodney Betts, Correctional Officer IV, Jordan Unit, was recently nominated "Jordan/Baten Unit December 2001 Employee of the Month." Betts has worked as a correctional officer at the Jordan Unit for the past 6 1/2 years. Prior to joining the Baten Unit staff, he served in the U.S. Navy for 11 1/2 years. Officer Betts stated the thing he enjoys most about his job is the daily rotation of job positions. Each day is different, he said. His goal is to make TDCJ a career and become a supervisor.



## Send Your Letter To Santa!

Make your little ones' Christmas merry this year with a letter to Santa Claus! Send your Santa letters to the address below, and we'll forward them to the North Pole. Letters must be at the news office by December 19 and will be printed as space is available.

Mail To:

## Santa Claus

c/o The Pampa News  
P.O. Box 2198  
Pampa, Texas 79065



## National agency seeking car donations

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — What to get a jump of the spirit of giving this holiday season? You can donate your old or slightly used vehicle to the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation right now!

The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation is a national agency dedicated to providing a wide array of health and social services to individuals and families living with one of the 43 neuromuscular diseases covered under our program.

The Foundation's primary purpose is to provide wheelchairs, hospital beds, van lifts, breathing machines, clinic services and other items to aid clients in need. These types of services and equipment are not always covered by insurance but are necessary to live each day to the fullest. Items are used to maintain or improve the productivity and independence of individuals

with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular disorders.

Proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will help the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundations fund the day-to-day needs of individuals and families affected with a neuromuscular disease, as well as ensure those individuals will experience "No Boundaries" in their daily living.

When it is time to consider

trading in your current set of wheels, remember there are a lot of folks who need a totally different set of wheels to get around each day. Folks who will benefit from your generosity!

To receive more information about the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation, Inc., and the vehicle donation program, call the Foundation at 1-800-544-1213.

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<p>Ryan A. Krebs, MD, JD (Doctor-Lawyer in full time law practice)</p> <p>Richard A. Dodd, L.C. Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law &amp; Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization Corpus Christi, Texas</p>		

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Wednesday, December 12

Page 6

## Gift-Giving Spirit Suffers From Debt and Disrespect

### Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in serious debt — college tuition payments, property tax, car repairs, etc. I would like to tell my husband's grown children and grandchildren we can't afford to give them gifts this year. My husband says we have to buy them gifts. (I am usually stuck doing all the gift shopping alone.)

Throughout the year, I am included in all family gatherings, but when the grandchildren's pictures are sent, the note is addressed only to my husband. I have never received a birthday or Mother's Day card from any of them. I don't think it's because they consider it disloyal to their own mother. She's happily remarried, and we get along great.

Abby, I don't know why I must get "another day older and deeper in debt" for people who would walk right over me if I happened to fall in their path.

Am I being selfish or is there a point where you can "just say no" to Christmas gift giving?

DEPRESSED THIS DECEMBER

DEAR DEPRESSED: If your husband insists on going deeper into debt, tell him that this year he is in charge of gift buying — as well as managing the bills when they arrive in January.

You are "Depressed" because you are overwhelmed by your financial situation and feel unappreciated by your husband's children. You and your husband would benefit from some sessions with a marriage

counselor. It would give each of you an opportunity in an emotionally supportive setting to express what you expect from each other and what you want for yourselves. Ask your physician for a referral. It will be the best Christmas gift you have given yourselves in years.

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Clothespin Connie on Long Island," whose husband won't shower before bed.

When my sons were old enough to date, I taught them that old men shave and shower in the morning, while young men shave and shower at night. It's based on the old adage, "You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar."

I still shave and shower at night — and I'm 79 years young.

CHET IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR CHET: With an emphasis on the "young"! Perhaps that saying should be amended to, "You can catch more honeys with honey than you can with vinegar."

DEAR ABBY: For the past few years, our elderly neighbor has come over to our house on Christmas morning. We are usually still in our pajamas watching our children opening their gifts.

Abby, I would prefer to enjoy this special morning with my immediate family only. I don't want this neighbor intruding. How can I handle this delicate situation without hurting her feelings?

FEELING LIKE THE GRINCH

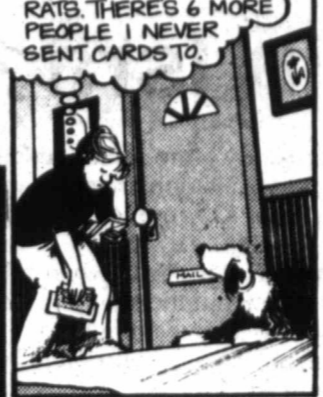
DEAR FEELING: Your family may remind her of her own — or the one she always wanted. However, your lonely neighbor won't stop coming for early morning festivities until you set limits.

A few days before Christmas, invite her to come to your home at a specific time — for example, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, or on Christmas Eve, if that is more convenient.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

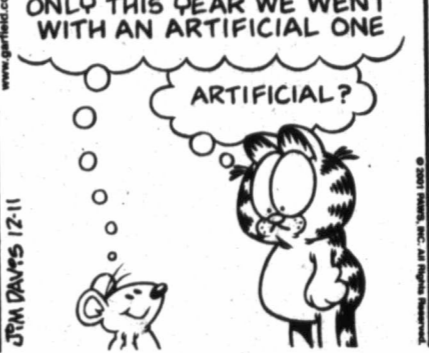
For Better or For Worse



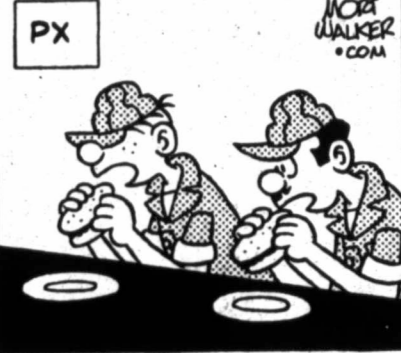
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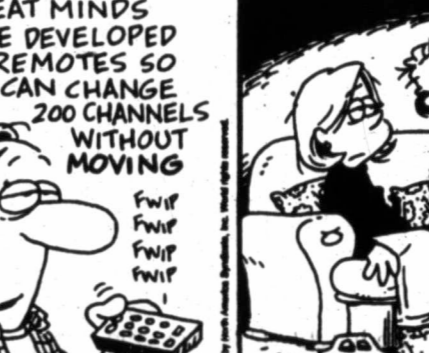
Garfield



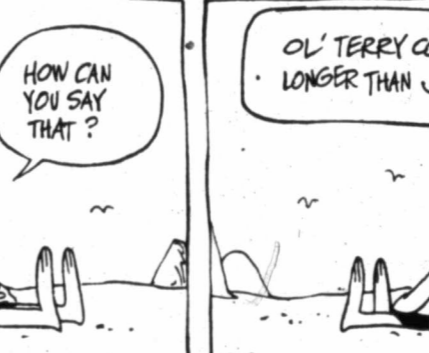
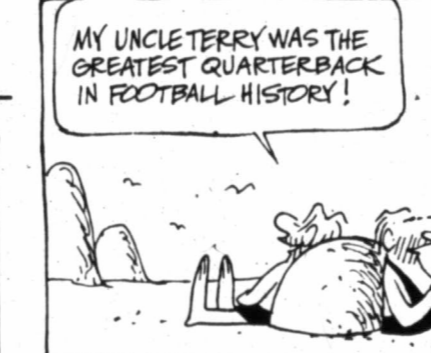
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



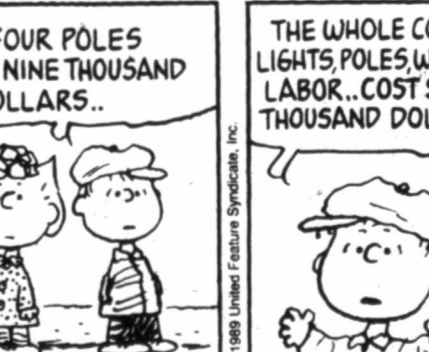
B.C.



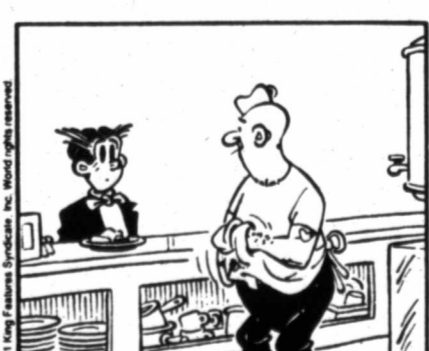
Hagar The Horrible



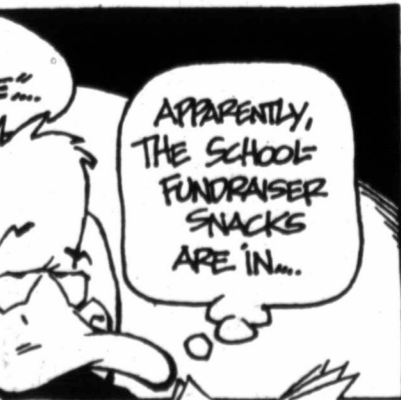
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Metallic waste
- 5 Future fungi
- 10 Himalayan monk
- 11 Incite
- 12 Heaps
- 13 Operate, with "out" suffix
- 14 "Don't fight"
- 16 Clear the schedule
- 20 Car container
- 23 Coquettish
- 24 Acropolis sight
- 25 "Superman" star
- 27 Pendulum path
- 28 Fountain order
- 29 Imitate
- 32 Succeed
- 36 Dorothy of "Peyton Place"
- 39 — mater
- 40 Tony and Oscar
- 41 Call for
- 42 British diarist
- 43 Cargo units

DOWN

1 Shut loudly

HAAS	CAVE
ALLOW	ROPEL
FLUTE	AMONG
TIM	AMIBLUE
SENDSIN	LED
SIREN	LOS
OLIVE	
MOP	VENTS
CAP	GASTANK
ONECENT	HOE
MINOR	AFIRE
ELUDE	LATEN
TAPE	BIDS

Yesterday's answer

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 19 Ogled               | 31 Touches       |
| 20 Mass unit           | down             |
| 21 Mystique            | 33 Bread         |
| 22 "Casa-blanca"       | spread           |
| 9 Terminate            | 34 Sign          |
| 11 Track holder        | 35 June          |
| 15 Pestors             | honorees         |
| 17 Rapper-turned-actor | 36 Tourist's aid |
| 28 Debate fixtures     | 37 Wondrous fear |
| 30 Atlanta school      | 38 Track circuit |



"I hope that's for the whole family."

The Family Circus



"Mrs. Clarke says we'll exchange names for Christmas. Won't I be Dolly anymore?"

STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-900-454-7377. 99¢ per minute, 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Pam plac end. frees divis in th

Laj NF

LAS 1 Lajeune Tuesday round of Finals Ro the last fo "I'm ju by rounc world cha ride good So far, tha do." Lajeune earned \$ rounds of overtime Idaho, in \$151,750. "There's much as 1 rounds, s that muc Lajeune Lajeune Night Jac "That p in the wor led to h: thought h better tha Bobby 1 and Clint Ore., tied 1. In sadd Mayertho round wit Stephenvi with an 83 Dillon, M Glazier, Te Mike N Colo, wor tion with a Crane, Tev 83, and Ja Colo, was

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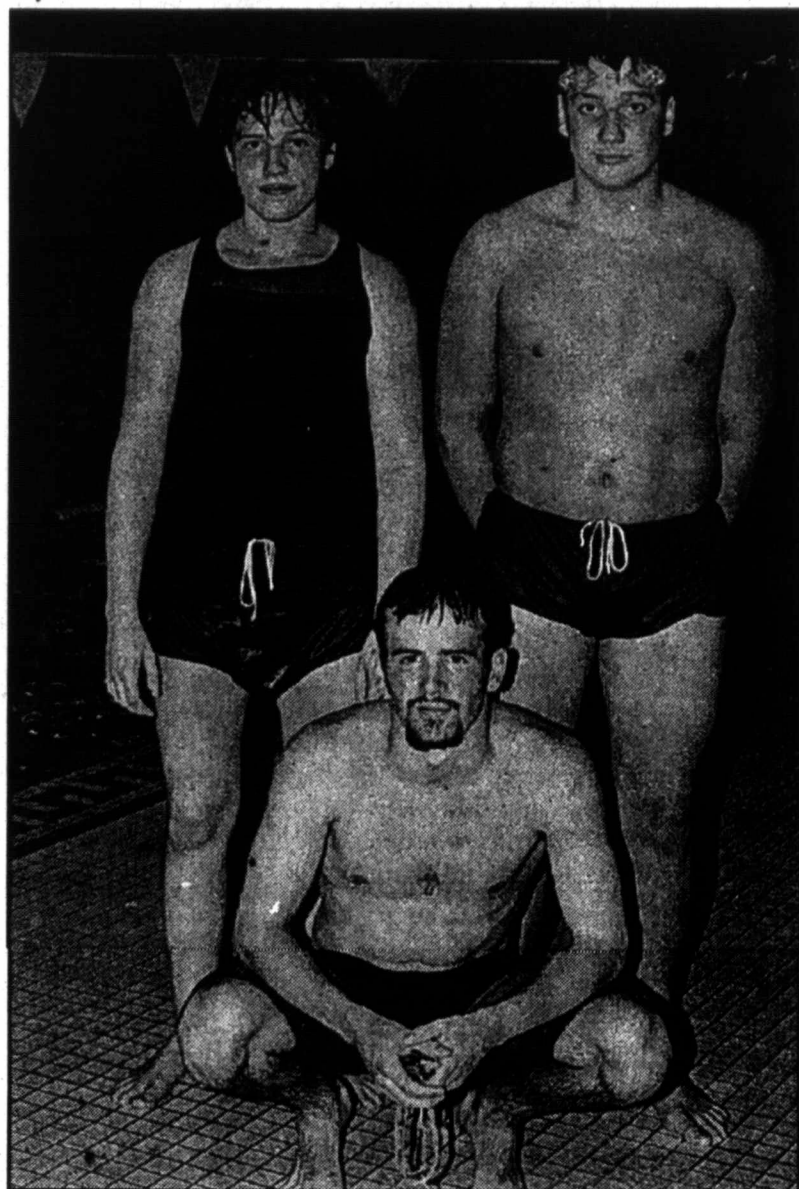
Herefor Valleyview in the He Basketball end. Jackie G ers with 1 Scott addw were Calli Felicia Urb.

This is a d Therefore, i to fill out, a may use yo many lines



# SPORTS

## First-place swimmers



(Pampa News photo)

Pampa High School had three swimmers which placed first at the Seminole Invitational last weekend. They were Clay David (kneeling) in the 200 freestyle, boys' division; Joe Johnson in the 500 freestyle, boys' division, and Tamra Henthorn, girls' division. In the team standings, Pampa was second in the girls' division and third in the boys' division.

## Lajeunesse takes third NFR bareback round

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Lan Lajeunesse had an 89-point ride Tuesday night to win the fifth round of bareback in the National Finals Rodeo, his third victory in the last four rounds.

"I'm just trying to take it round by round," said Lajeunesse, the world champion in 1999. "I want to ride good and draw good horses. So far, that's what I've been able to do."

Lajeunesse, of Morgan, Utah, has earned \$52,780 in the first five rounds of the 10-round rodeo to overtake Kelly Wardell of Bellevue, Idaho, in the world standings with \$151,750.

"There's five rounds left and as much as I've won in the first five rounds, somebody else can win that much in the next five," Lajeunesse said.

Lajeunesse rode a horse named Night Jacket.

"That pen was the top 15 horses in the world," he said. "I was tickled to have drawn him, but I thought he could have done even better than he did."

Bobby Mote of Redmond, Ore., and Clint Corey of Powell Butte, Ore., tied for second with 87s.

In saddle bronc, Denny Hay of Mayerthorpe, Alberta, won the round with an 84. Tom Reeves of Stephenville, Texas, was second with an 83, and Dan Mortenson of Dillon, Mont., and Cliff Norris of Glazier, Texas, followed with 80s.

Mike Moore of Fort Collins, Colo., won the bull riding competition with an 89. Cory McFadden of Crane, Texas, was second with an 83, and Jason McClain of Kiowa, Colo., was third at 81.

Cody Ohl of Stephenville, Texas, and Joe Beaver of Huntsville, Texas, tied for first in calf roping with 7.4-second runs. Fred Whitfield of Hockley, Texas, and Trevor Brazile of Pueblo, Ariz., tied for third at 7.5 seconds.

In steer wrestling, Rope Myers of Van, Texas, had a 3.3-second run to win the round. Luke Branquinho of Los Alamos, Calif.; Todd Suhm of Brighton, Colo.; Jason Lahr of Emporia, Kan.; and Chad Biesmeyer of Stephenville, Texas, followed at 3.8 seconds.

Matt Tyler of Weatherford, Texas, and Clay O'Brien Cooper of Glen Rose, Texas, split first in team roping at 4.3 seconds with Steve Purcella of Hereford, Texas, and Kory Koontz of Sudan, Texas.

## City to sponsor 3 on 3 leagues

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's 3 on 3 basketball leagues for ages 16 and up. Three on three is played "half-court" style with three players on each team.

Entry deadline is Jan. 18 at 5 p.m., and the season will begin Jan. 29.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is \$10 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of five players on each team roster.

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

## 8th grade girls take third place in Hereford Basketball Tournament

Hereford — Pampa defeated Valleyview 41-37 to take third place in the Hereford 8th Grade Girls Basketball Tournament last weekend.

Jackie Gerber paced Pampa scorers with 17 points while Mariza Scott added 12 points. Also scoring were Callie Cobb with 7 points, Felicia Urban 4 and Audrey Dunn 1.

These girls played strong all weekend, especially for leaving at 6 a.m. Their defense fell into place, and they stopped the big girls underneath to hold on for a great third-place victory," said coach Janyth Bowers.

Pampa opened the tournament with a 56-42 win over Dumas. Scott had 21 points and Gerber 13

# Palo Duro holds off Pampa rally

AMARILLO — Palo Duro held off a Pampa rally for a 62-49 victory Tuesday night to open the District 3-4A girls' basketball season.

Palo Duro led by as many as 24 points in the district opener, but Abbi Covalt and Jennifer Lindsey led a fourth-quarter comeback that trimmed the lead to eight points in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Dons used the foul line to pull away in the late stages of the game.

Lindsey had 11 points and Covalt 10 to lead the Lady Harvesters in scoring.

Tona Gonzales paced Palo Duro with 19 points.

Others who scored for Pampa

## High School Basketball

were Ashley Derington with 9, Valerie Velez 6, Lindsey Narron 5, Morgan White 4 and Cali Covalt 4. Narron led Pampa on the boards with 14 rebounds.

The Lady Harvesters continue district action Friday night, hosts Dumas at 7:30 in McNeely Fieldhouse. The JV game starts at 6.

In boys' action, Pampa defeated Clarendon 72-38 in a non-district tilt Tuesday night.

Matt Crow had 14 points and Ryan Zemanek 13 to lead the Harvesters' scoring attack.

Clarendon's Antonio Wilson had 10 points.

The Harvesters open district play Dec. 21 on the homecourt against Dumas.

CHANNING — McLean cagers lost to Channing in non-district games Tuesday night.

The girls' game was close, but Channing was able to pull out a 37-32 win.

Randi Cutrell had 12 points to lead the Channing offense.

McLean was ahead 18-13 at halftime and Channing was leading 24-21 going into the fourth quarter.

Shaley Steel was high-point girl for McLean with 14 points. Danielle Dampier added 7

points.

Channing won the boys' contest by a score of 40-20.

Layne Grant led Channing with 14 points and Adam Johnston led McLean with 11.

WHITE DEER — Brian Knocke tossed in 26 to lead White Deer past Hedley 82-60 Tuesday night in a basketball doubleheader.

Hedley's leading scorer was Aaron Bugg with 25 points.

Matt Henderson added 19 points to the Bucks' attack.

Hedley won the girls' contest by a score of 78-42.

Hedley's Llewellyn was high scorer with 15 points. Valerie Griffin had 8 points to lead White Deer.

# The BCS battle: Man vs. machine

By JIM LITKE  
AP Sports Writer

2001 was supposed to be the year computers tried to take over the world.

Apparently, they're starting with college football.

For the second year in a row, men and machines do not agree on who should play for the national championship, and three weeks from now, they might not agree on who won it.

That's nothing new. The humans who vote in the AP media poll and the coaches polls have been disagreeing for decades now. That's how it came to be called a "mythical" title in the first place.

But four seasons ago, some guys came up with the Bowl Championship Series, promising to take the guesswork out of it. They wore loud blazers and flashed TV money around. They knew people. They had the commissioners of the power conferences in their back pockets and the heads of the chambers of commerce in a half-dozen towns programmed into their speed dials.

And best of all? They had computers. Actually, what they had was a

collection of people who had computers and time on their hands. The current bunch includes an astrophysicist working as a missile tracker, a consultant who specializes in time and stress management (how convenient is that?), several teachers and a retired statistician.

Naturally, after working day jobs and crunching BCS numbers at night — at no charge — most have only so much time left to see the actual games.

But that's almost beside the point, one of the eight computer operators-for-hire assured the Los Angeles Times two months ago.

"I don't have to watch a minute of football," David Rothman said. "That's the whole point of having an objective system. I could be dead and gone and it wouldn't matter."

Except that it already does.

There isn't room here to go into the intricacies of the BCS formula, but the simplified version is this: Each team's total in the rankings is determined by four components, each accounting for roughly 25 percent. The four are the polls, the computers, won-loss records and strength of schedule. (A fifth component — quality wins — was added last year, but it doesn't

apply in all cases).

Won-loss records and strength of schedule are redundant, since they're already factored into both the human and computer polls. All the other factors in a long college season, from margin of victory to the timing of a loss to the way a team looks heading into the fourth quarter of a tough game on the road in bad weather, are open to interpretation.

Looking at all the available data, the media and coaches ranked Nos. 1 through 4 the same way: Miami, Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska.

But because of a huge discrepancy between the way the computer poll ranked the teams, Nebraska slipped by Oregon and squeaked past Colorado to claim No. 2 in the latest BCS rankings and a spot in the Rose Bowl against No. 1 Miami.

So who do you choose (and remember, playoffs are not an option until 2006)?

The humans? The coaches, writers and broadcasters who cover games, including more than a few who crisscross the country either coaching in or watching the best matchups each week?

Or the computer operators, who insist all they need to see can be

gleaned from the agate-sized type in the back of the sports section?

"With the polls, there's going to be some voters with biases and others who don't see enough of the teams," said Dick Weiss, the college football writer for the New York Daily News and an AP poll member. "In a sense, you're left hoping that people of integrity select the best."

"But I don't believe you can learn much about any team without watching them play, especially in person. Injuries crop up and roles change. You rarely see the same team in November that you saw in September," he added. "There has to be a way to account for that."

What scares Weiss and his colleagues is the pseudo-science that's attached itself to the computer rankings. Their fear is that fans of the college game increasingly forget one of the tenets of computing — garbage in, garbage out.

"The day after Tennessee went into Gainesville and beat Florida, the Sagarin (computer rating) had Florida ahead of Tennessee," Andrew Bagnato of the Chicago Tribune said. "If I voted that way, the AP would probably take my vote away — and they should."

# Groom lands seven players on all-district team

GROOM, — Groom's District 2-A six-man championship team dominated this year's all-district picks.

Sophomore quarterback Clay Britten was not only a first-team pick on offense, but he was also selected as the district's Most Valuable Offensive Player. Teammate Clay Ritter, a senior linebacker, was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player.

## All-District 2-A Team (Six-Man)

**Offense**  
First Team  
Spreadback: Andrew Francis, senior, Silvertown.  
Quarterback: Clay Britten, sophomore, Groom.  
Running backs: Cody Bivens, senior, Groom; Derrick Cruise, junior, Valley.  
Ends: Clay Ritter, senior, Groom; Justin Lucero, senior, Valley.  
Split end: Red Ivory, junior, Silvertown.  
Center: John Arnold, junior, Silvertown.  
Kicker: Andrew Francis, senior, Silvertown.

**Defense**  
First Team  
Linemen: Clay Ritter, senior, Groom; Clay Britten, sophomore, Groom; Robert Mendoza, sophomore, Valley; Duncan Vernon, senior, Silvertown.  
Linebackers: Clay Ritter, senior, Groom; Doug Fields, junior, Groom; Andrew Francis, senior, Silvertown.  
Safety: Red Ivory, junior, Silvertown; Derrick Cruise, junior, Valley.

**Offense**  
Second Team  
Spreadback: Jeremy Givins, senior, Happy.  
Quarterback: Justin Wilks, junior, Valley.  
Running backs: Garrett Britten, senior, Groom; Tyler Hargrave, senior, Happy.  
Ends: Hugh Weinheimer, senior, Groom; Wes Henson, senior, Valley; Dustin Hale, Silvertown.  
Split end: Nathan Baker, senior, Silvertown.  
Center: Wyatt Britten, senior, Groom.  
Kicker: Cody Bivens, senior, Groom.

**Defense**  
Second Team  
Linemen: Hugh Weinheimer, senior, Groom.

Dustin Hale, junior, Silvertown; Wes Henson, senior, Valley; Clayton Oldham, junior, Samnorwood; Tyler Hargrave, senior, Happy, Valley.  
Linebackers: Cliff Yeary, sophomore, Valley.

Nick Holbrook, senior, Happy; Jesse Ramos, junior, Samnorwood; Justin Lucero, senior, Valley.  
Safety: Garrett Britten, senior, Groom; Darren

Irtbeck, junior, Happy; Jordan King, senior, Hedley.  
Punter: David Evans, senior, Hedley.



(Pampa News photo)

Head coach Larry Reid kneels between his Groom football team during a timeout in a regular-season game. The Tigers won the district title and finished the season with a 12-1 record.

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# Dear Santa

To: Santa Clause  
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,  
My name is Joshua Dre'. I am 8-months-old. My mom, dad and big brother Bryson are helping write my letter. I like laughing, kicking and rolling on the floor. So anything you bring me will be fine.  
I love you very much. Daddy will leave our Christmas lights on all night for you!  
—Joshua Dre' Fuller

Dear Santa,  
My name is Bryson. I am 5-years-old.  
Please bring me a Gameboy color, a green one, please. A Scooby Doo van. Do you know where my new house is? We moved from our old house. Joshua and I will leave you cobbles and milk.  
Oh, I want a hop hop car. I love you. I have been a good boy.  
—Bryson Fuller

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out.  
I would like some Hot Wheels, a lab game, and a thing that tells stories. But this is all a secret so ... don't tell.  
I really want to see your reindeer. Do they want to see people?  
—Christopher Gallimore, 5

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out in the afternoon.  
Will you come for Christmas with me? When you come, I want you to bring a talking train. Also, bring my Daddy new house shoes

because my dog chewed up his other ones.  
—Robert Chancellor, 5

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out.  
I would like some presents with a Barbie car and Barbie airplane in them for me.  
I love all your reindeers and your sled.  
I hope I can leave your cookies and milk for you.  
—Marlee Yourée, 5

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out in Ms. Trisha's class.  
I want you to bring me a candle, a puppy game, a puzzle, and an ice cream maker.  
I will leave you out some cookies and milk.  
—Logan Hagemann, 4

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out.  
I want a Scooter Doll who has scooter shoes. I really want snow to play in, too. Leave the toys under the tree.  
Bring your reindeer and sleigh.  
—Kaylin Morrison, 4

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out. I have been good.  
I would really like to have a trampoline, a Leap Frog, and a new Barbie.  
My brother, Kameron, would like to have a fire truck.  
—Mackenzie Parks, 5

Dear Santa,

I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out.  
I would like to have a doll, a Barbie, and some new markers.  
How is Rudolph doing?  
—Summer Ferguson, 5

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out on some days.  
I love you and miss you since last Christmas. I would like for you to bring me lots of special toys. Bring my brothers some, too. Mom and Dad want new jeans. Madison needs a new pillow.  
—Solon Wilson, 4

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out on Fridays.  
I would like you to bring me a "My Size Sugar Plum Princess Barbie." Barbie magic heels, and Barbie shoes just like my friend Mackenzie.  
—Emilee Frost, 4

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out. I climb the stairs to Ms. Trisha's class.  
I love you and hope you have a good day. I wish you could live with a Christmas tree forever.  
I really want a Barbie, baby doll and robot guy with cars and goody stuff. The spinning, light-up Barbie is cool, too.  
—Macey Hendricks, 4

Dear Santa,  
I go to First United Methodist Mother's Day Out.

I want you to bring my whole family presents. I would really like a horse and a doll.  
Does Mrs. Clause like toys, too? I have a new Baby at my house, so bring her some diapers.  
—Vanessa Ontiveros, 4

Dear Santa,  
I want a Lee Middleton toddler doll that has red hair and pigtails, a walker for her. And some baby doll clothes. And some craft/school stuff. And stocking stuff.  
—Kayla Hughes  
P.S. I love you Santa!

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kye Gordy-Helms, and I have been a very good boy this year. I would like a red Bionical and a robot fighting bug. I would also like a Harry Potter lego set and a red Digivice. I love you Santa and will have cookies and milk waiting Christmas Eve.  
—Kye Gordy-Helms

Dear Santa,  
I would like for Christmas! A gold Nike soccer ball, a football game for Nintendo 64, real football gear, Game Boy game, Donkey Kong Country, and a chess board. Also a remotecontrol airplane.  
Thank you. Tell the reindeer hi!  
—Mitchell Killgo

Dear Santa,  
I would like for Christmas, real football gear, Merlin's magic set, Space Adventure building set, red Game Boy color, a remote control airplane, and Pokemon cards.  
Thank you and be careful.  
—Collin Killgo

## Bush may pull out of '72 missile treaty

By BARRY SCHWEID  
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush told congressional leaders Wednesday he intends to pull out of a 1972 treaty that he has denounced as a relic of the Cold War and a roadblock to mounting a U.S. defense against missile attack.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said the president informed him and three other congressional leaders of his decision during a breakfast meeting at the White House. The South Dakota Democrat has urged Bush not to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Bush will announce his decision as early as Thursday, four government officials said Tuesday on condition of anonymity. He will invoke a clause in the ABM treaty that requires the United States and Russia to give six months' notice before abandoning the pact. It was unclear whether the clock would begin ticking with Bush's announcement or whether he would wait until January to give formal notice, officials said.

The impact of a U.S. withdrawal from the 1972 treaty could be immense. It would give the Pentagon a green light to conduct tests outlawed by the treaty and make a sharper judgment on the kind of defense that might work.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has cautioned that unilateral U.S. withdrawal, which Bush has a legal right to do, could unravel the fabric of arms control woven over three decades of painstaking negotiations.

Once Bush informs Putin, the two leaders would have the six months to fashion a compromise that eluded them in talks in Washington in November.

Bush told Putin during their autumn talks in China that he would withdraw from the ABM in January even if Russia had not agreed to a deal by then. Bush, in a telephone call last week with Putin, made his intentions clear again, one senior U.S. official said.

A White House spokesman, Sean McCormack, said of a presidential decision: "The time is coming. The president said that he intends to move beyond the ABM treaty."

The decision came after Secretary of State Colin Powell failed to bridge differences during meetings this week in Russia. It is a blow to Powell, who long had argued that Bush could agree with Putin to allow testing of the missile system without forcing the United States to pull out of a major international treaty.

Bush's decision is a victory for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and administration allies who, pitted against Powell, said the ABM had to go. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, the president's closest foreign policy aide, tried to mediate the difference but in

the end sided with Rumsfeld, associates said. Powell returned to Washington on Tuesday night after talks in Moscow and with allied leaders in Britain, France and Germany. He was due to report to Bush on Wednesday.

From the outset, and before that, during his presidential campaign, Bush has made pursuit of an anti-missile shield a cherished goal. He maintains the treaty is outdated, with Russia no longer an enemy, while states like North Korea and Iran are ambitiously pursuing weapons of mass destruction that could in a few years threaten the United States.

"We have allowed our hands to be tied behind our back," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said in July.

Some U.S. allies in Europe have been apprehensive of the impact of the president's anti-missile program. So have some members of Congress, and they have urged Bush not to go it alone.

Unilaterally abandoning the ABM treaty would be a serious mistake," Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Tuesday. "The administration has not offered any convincing rationale for why any missile defense test it may need to conduct would require walking away from a treaty that has helped keep the peace for the last 30 years."

"To rip up a treaty with Russia at this moment against the advice of our allies could have an unsettling effect on the whole coalition and the need to stick together against terrorism," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said: "I concur in his decision. There are all these questions about Russia upholding their end of the treaty anyway, and I just don't think we should penalize ourselves."

Ariel Cohen, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, said he did not believe that the United States and Russia would revert to confrontation.

"The Russian decision will be, 'We're going to live with this,' Cohen predicted.

Meanwhile, another major arms control pact, the 1993 START II treaty to reduce stockpiles of long-range nuclear warheads to between 3,000 and 3,500 by 2003, appeared to be in jeopardy.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday his government would not carry out the pact unless the Senate approved changes that gave the two sides until 2007 to cut back.

The 1972 ABM treaty is based on the proposition that stripping a nuclear power of a tough defense against missile attack would inhibit launching an attack because the retaliation would be deadly.

## Auditor calls Enron collapse 'tragedy'

By MARCY GORDON  
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of Enron Corp.'s longtime auditing firm told Congress Wednesday the "tragedy" of the company's collapse shows that the accounting firm and the entire profession will have to change.

"What happened at Enron is a tragedy on many levels," Arthur Andersen LLP Chief Executive Officer Joseph Berardino said in testimony prepared for two House Financial Services subcommittees. "Andersen will have to change, ... the accounting profession will have to reform itself. Our system of regulation and discipline will have to be improved."

Robert Herdman, chief accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is investigating Enron, said a recent spate of accounting irregularities by big corporations "may shake investors' confidence in our system of financial reporting and our capital markets," according to his prepared testimony.

Congress is investigating the failure of Enron, whose swift downfall left countless investors burned, thousands of employees out of work with decimated retirement savings and the once high-flying company in federal bankruptcy court.

The huge energy-trading company declined to send any officials to the congressional hearing. Investigators for another House committee are trying to find Enron's former chief financial officer, the lead architect of complex partnerships

that are under government scrutiny.

Amid the company's strife, nearly 600 employees deemed critical to its operations received more than \$100 million in bonuses last month as Enron faced a merger that unraveled and then bankruptcy.

The SEC is examining Enron's use of questionable partnerships that allowed the company to keep some \$500 million in debt off its books, and has issued subpoenas to Andersen related to its auditing of Enron's accounts. Enron, which only months ago was the nation's seventh-biggest in revenue, has acknowledged that it overstated profits for four years.

The hearing was designed to help Congress and the public "understand as best we can what structurally went wrong, what mistakes were made and what mistakes were not noticed," Committee Chairman Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, said Tuesday.

Subjects being examined include the Houston-based company's accounting practices, potential securities law violations and Enron's handling of its employees' 401(k) retirement investment plans, Oxley said.

Absent from the hearing was Enron Chairman and Chief Executive Kenneth Lay, who had been asked to appear by the lawmakers.

"I don't think they want to, or are not prepared to answer some very pointed questions about what went wrong," Oxley said.

Enron spokeswoman Karen Denne said neither Lay nor any other Enron officials were testifying because "we don't believe

we would be able to adequately serve the interest of the committee while at the same time trying to serve the interest of our creditors, shareholders and our current and former employees."

Lay, who built the world's largest energy trader by buying electricity from generators and selling it to consumers, is no stranger to Washington. He is a friend of President Bush and one of his largest campaign contributors, donating \$250,000 to the Republican Party during Bush's run for president and raising at least \$100,000 for Bush from other donors. Enron and its employees given more money to Bush's various campaigns than any other donor, according to the watchdog Center for Public Integrity.

Lay was among the executives who met privately with Vice President Dick Cheney as his task force formulated an energy plan last spring.

Enron filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors on Dec. 2, following a six-week downward spiral, and also filed a \$10 billion lawsuit against smaller rival Dynegy Inc. for scrapping a proposed buyout.

In addition to the SEC probe, Enron also is under investigation by the Justice Department.

The Labor Department is looking into Enron's handling of its employees' retirement benefit plans. Before filing its bankruptcy petition, Enron prohibited its workers for several weeks from selling stock held in voluntary retirement plans while the share price plunged.

Worth more than \$80 a year ago, Enron's stock has tumbled to less than a dollar a share.

## House Majority Leader Dick Armey retiring; DeLay and Blunt trying to move up ladder

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Majority Leader Dick Armey announced his retirement Wednesday, saying the conservative causes he has championed, "peace through strength and supply-side economics," have changed the world for the better.

"To my Republican colleagues, we should be proud of what we have done in our young majority," Armey, R-Texas, said in remarks prepared for delivery on the House floor.

Armey's retirement plans, effective at the end of next year, have been an open secret for more than a day. Already the GOP whip, Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas, was at work lining up commitments to replace him. DeLay's deputy, Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri, also was seeking to move up the leadership ladder.

Armey made no mention of the leadership succession to follow his departure, focusing his brief prepared remarks instead on the legislative victories achieved by the GOP majority over the past seven years.

He said the GOP had twice lowered the tax burden on America's working families, had reformed the welfare system, and had "honored America's prosperity by our spending restraint."

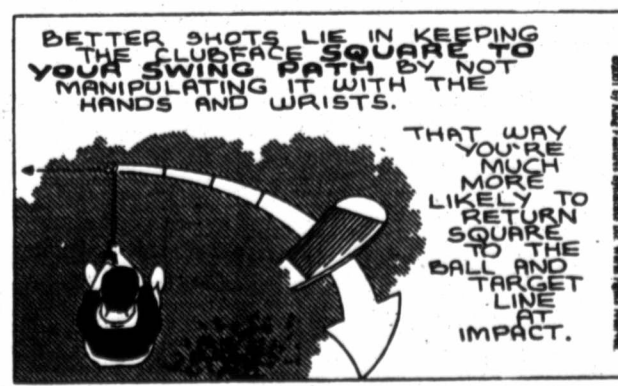
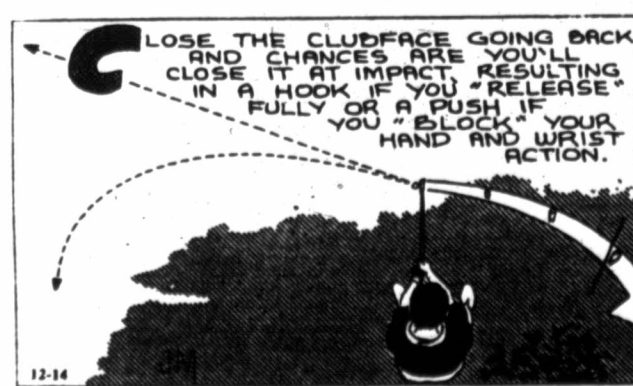
Armey, 61, was elected majority leader following the Republican takeover of Congress in the 1994 midterm elections. He had played an instrumental role in crafting the "Contract With America," the GOP campaign manifesto, and in his leadership job was responsible for pushing its provisions to a vote in the first 100 days of the 1995 session.

Armey's unflinching conservative views and penchant for plainspokenness drew criticism and occasional derision from Democrats.

He referred only briefly to political combat in his prepared remarks. Recalling that lawmakers had together sung "God Bless America" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said, "It is that feeling of unity — not the heated exchanges — that I will remember fondly."

Armey arrived in the House in 1985 — in the midst of the Reagan presidency. And his remarks echoed the themes of that era.

"Peace through strength and supply-side economics changed the world for the better," he said. In nearly two decades in the House, Armey morphed from an unlikely winner of the congressional seat held by a Texas incumbent to a national symbol of the rise of Republican power.



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The First Christmas Is A Special One

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, The Pampa News will have a special space just for babies celebrating their first Christmas. The cost to have a picture and brief information about your little one is \$25 paid in advance. The Pampa News must have picture and information by noon, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Example...**  
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**Love Aunt TauTau**

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We have tvs, VCRs, camcorders, to suit your needs. Rent by hour, day, week. We do service on most major brand of tvs & VCRs. Call for estimate. Johnson Home Entertainment, 2211 Perryton Prkwy, 665-0504.

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**21 Help Wanted**  
NOTICE: Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES** — Here's how to work it: **AXYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW**  
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.  
**12-12 CRYPTOQUOTE**  
**LHEHC O DBR BV KTCEHS**  
**ABMJ ROBL MJOM KOL'M PH**  
**NBVVHS B LMI VGBDHV**  
**OWOBL — PCHM JOCMH**  
**Yesterday's Cryptquote: THERE'S SOMEBODY AT EVERY DINNER PARTY WHO EATS ALL THE CELERY. — KIN HUBBARD**

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## Horoscope

**THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 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 feel unusually inspired, resulting in a slew of calls, meetings and new appointments. You act as if there is no tomorrow; you're such a ball of fire. Understand someone's limitations and why this person responds as he or she does. Pitch in and help. Tonight: Are you tired yet? Slow down.  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
\*\*\*\* Success heads your way if you deal with others directly. Unexpected news at work energizes and helps you solve any problems on the way. Listen to important information or feedback from someone you deal with financially. Tonight: Take a break from all the holiday gatherings and people.  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
\*\*\*\* Don't rebel just because it works for you. Establish better ground-work leading into an idea. Let others reveal their true colors, and your decisions will be much stronger. Let go of insecurities. Step back from yourself. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Your ability to handle money first base and know that you're on your comes from your own tenacious crablike own. You can do it, too! Let go of negative need for security. You don't have to live habits. Tonight: Settle in at home. announce this fact, but monopolize on SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) this skill. A situation might make you \*\*\*\* You might want to show off

feel insecure. Don't allow feelings of fatigue to get the best of you. Tonight: Early to bed.  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
\*\*\*\* A friend could disappoint you when you least expect it. Laugh and be light with a loved one or child. Don't kick the cat because you're mad at the dog. Express how you feel, and you will gain some release. Allow fun in; let go of anger. Tonight: Express your frisky side.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Tension builds at work or revolving around a health matter. You cannot be too thorough or too careful. You could be accident-prone. Express your frustration and anger. Stop, take a walk and center yourself. Restart your day from a new mental perspective. Tonight: Head on.  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Others misunderstand you. You need to clear up a misconception or circumvent it by confirming what you hear. Don't stand on ceremony; rather, seek people out. Your voice puts a smile on someone's face. Tonight: At a favorite work leading into an idea. Let others reveal their true colors, and your decisions will be much stronger. Let go of insecurities. Step back from yourself. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
\*\*\*\* Your ability to handle money first base and know that you're on your comes from your own tenacious crablike own. You can do it, too! Let go of negative need for security. You don't have to live habits. Tonight: Settle in at home. announce this fact, but monopolize on SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) this skill. A situation might make you \*\*\*\* You might want to show off your stuff, and you will. In the face of change and surprises, you come through like a champ. Initiate conversations. You know what to do to bring out those around you. Your big personality could make someone jealous. Tonight: You get what you want.  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
\*\*\*\* Share more of your inner thoughts. Sometimes you make judgments that might not be valid or anchored. Feedback strengthens your ideas, helping you see loopholes. Fatigue causes you to be less than effective. Know when to say enough! Tonight: Early to bed.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
\*\*\*\* Friends cheer you on. Seek out information that could involve others. Meetings prove to be helpful, though a loved one or child could be upset by your lack of attention. Someone special might be having difficulties and could use some of your time. Tonight: Consider cloning yourself!  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
\*\*\*\* All eyes turn to you. You're under the gun as many make demands that you might not be prepared to meet. Don't take it personally, but look for better organization. Call home and explain a delay or change in plans to a family member. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

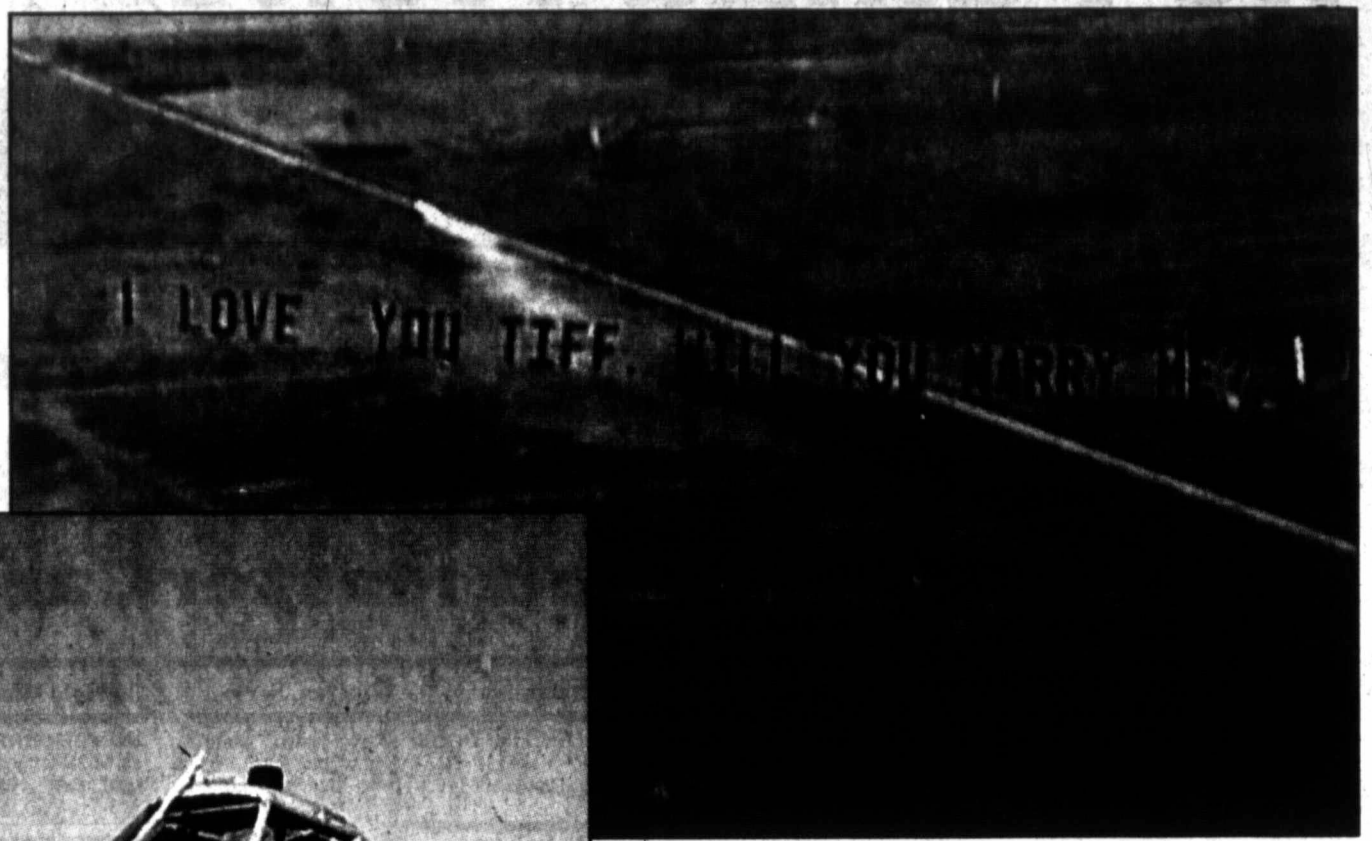
**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Dick Van Dyke (1925), singer Ted Nugent (1948), wife of Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln (1818)

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DEC 12 2001



# Not your average proposal ...



## On bended knee

Josh Paul makes a "traditional" proposal to Tiffany Presson after pilot Cary Speer pulled a banner through the sky over Pampa letting Tiffany know just how Josh felt. By the way, she said yes.

(Photos by Grover Black)



## Banner says it all ...

By GROVER BLACK  
For the News-

When Josh Paul thought about Tiffany Presson his heart fluttered and he knew that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her and he wanted to propose in an extraordinary way.

So, he decided to convey his message through a sky banner.

Cary Speer in Amarillo offered his services and an agreement was reached for Speer to prepare the banner which said, "I love you Tiff, marry me!"

So, on a recent Saturday afternoon, Josh and Cary unrolled the banner at Perry Lefors Field. Once Cary was airborne, Josh hurried back into

town to Tiffany's house. He said he had something to show her.

He drove to a spot he had picked out and stopped his car. Just then the plane with the banner came flying by. Josh pointed to the banner and smiled. Tiffany drew several deep breaths and through tear-filled eyes she said the word that Josh wanted to hear - "yes."

The couple returned to the airport for Tiffany to meet Cary. She was greeted by a group of friends who quickly asked, "What is your answer?"

"I said yes," Tiffany replied.

Just to make sure she understood, and to do it right, Josh got down on bended knee to ask again.

And for the second time, Josh got the answer he wanted.

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## Last of seven Rockwell works stolen 23 years ago to be returned to owner, FBI says

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The last of seven Norman Rockwell paintings stolen from a Minneapolis art gallery 23 years ago have been recovered and will be returned to their owner, the FBI announced Wednesday.

The three works, worth more than \$700,000, were among the seven stolen from the Elayne Galleries in 1978.

Two were recovered in 1999 after a Brazilian man

tried to have them appraised and sold at a gallery in Philadelphia. Two more were returned to owner Bonnie Lindberg after she found them at a gallery in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Investigators and Lindberg have known the location of the last three missing Rockwells for two years and have been negotiating for their return.

The thefts were the largest heist of Rockwell's original works in American history.

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