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THE Pampa

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2002

NEWS

Vol. 98 No. 517 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH	LOW
33	21

STATE

Pilot dies when airplane crashes

SHADY SHORES (AP) — A pilot was killed Wednesday morning when a twin-engine private plane crashed in a residential neighborhood.

The Cessna 402-C disintegrated on impact after crashing across the street from a house where two people were asleep, police said. No one on the ground was injured.

"Some parts of the plane flew off and damaged the house," said Denton County sheriff's spokesman Kevin Patton.

The plane was en route from Denton to Dallas' Love Field airport, said FAA spokesman Roland Herwig. The pilot's name wasn't immediately known, but the aircraft was registered to Agnew Corporation of Denton.

Residents in the lakeside community said they heard a loud explosion at about 6:15 a.m.

DEATHS

No deaths were reported by press time today.

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'Perfect' snowstorm slams area

McLean woman critically injured in U.S. 60 wreck

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 EDITOR

An unexpected, but "perfect" set of weather conditions dumped more than a half-foot of snow on Pampa and much of the Panhandle Tuesday, causing multiple traffic accidents throughout the area.

Shortly after the storm hit, a McLean woman lost control of the Ford pickup she was driving and struck a tree head-on. For more than an hour, Pampa firefighters, ambulance personnel and Jordan Prison Unit employees battled wind-driven snow to remove the injured woman trapped in the wreckage.

Ronda Hensley, 48, of McLean was traveling east on U.S. Highway 60, about a mile east of Pampa, shortly before 1 p.m. when the 1996 Ford F-150 pickup went into a skid, sliding into the bar ditch on the south side of the roadway and slamming into a tree, according to Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Jesse Cerda's report of the accident.

Hensley was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment by Rural/Metro Ambulance Service



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)
Pampa firefighters, Jordan Unit employees, work on removing the driver trapped in the wreckage of this pickup, as Rural Metro Ambulance personnel race for more equipment to treat the injured woman.

suffering from multiple injuries. Terry Barnes, a spokesman for PRMC, said this morning that Hensley is in critical condition.

The driver's side of the pickup took the brunt of the impact, trapping Hensley, an employee of the Jordan Prison Unit east of Pampa, inside.

In a long and often frustrating effort to extricate Hensley, Pampa Fire Department personnel had to first

remove the dashboard which pressed down on her chest.

"It took far too long as far as our comfort zone," said Fire Chief Kim Powell. "We hit one roadblock after another. We'd think we had her free and then we'd hit another road block."

Powell said officials are still trying to determine exactly how long it took to remove the woman from the truck.

"She was so entangled," the fire

chief said. "You noticed that even taking the top (of the pickup) off wasn't enough. We still had to pull her straight out over the back seat."

Severe weather conditions hampered the rescue further, with firefighters and bystanders trying to cover the injured woman with coats and blankets to block the freezing wind and blowing snow.

"She was wearing a pair of insulated coveralls and a coat which was a good thing," Powell said. "It probably saved her from hypothermia."

Powell said in her 16 years as a firefighter, the extrication Tuesday was the longest and most involved one she had experienced.

"I don't want to ever see one like that again," she said.

"Time is so important. We can't ever hurry fast enough," the fire chief said. "But we had so much help - Gray County Sheriff's deputies, the ambulance people, people from the Jordan Unit and some people who were there just out of compassion. When we got so frustrated, they were there cheering us on. I can't thank them enough."

Texas DPS troopers, Pampa Police Department officers, and Gray County Sheriff's deputies kept busy throughout Tuesday afternoon and night working accidents. Local ambulance services were stretched to their limits trying to respond to all the wrecks caused by snowy and icy roads.

Chris Broyles of the National (See SNOW, Page 5)

U.S., Turkey discuss bases for Iraq attack

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — U.S. officials are looking at investing hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade Turkish military bases that could be used in case of war, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Wednesday.

Wolfowitz cautioned that no formal agreement had been reached to position U.S. troops in Turkey, addressing conflicting comments Tuesday by Turkish officials on whether American forces could use the bases. Turkish officials also expressed reluctance to host large numbers of U.S. troops.

"We have an agreement to move forward with concrete measures of military planning and preparations," Wolfowitz told reporters in Ankara.

U.S. and Turkish officials were working out which bases could be used and which U.S. forces might be sent to Turkey if there were a conflict, he said.

Turkey, NATO's only Muslim member, borders Iraq and is already home to some 50 U.S. aircraft that patrol a no-fly zone over Iraq. Its support is seen as crucial to any U.S. move against Baghdad.

Wolfowitz said that President Bush has invited Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the leader of Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party, which has Islamic roots, to Washington for talks on a possible U.S. military operation

against Iraq. Wolfowitz said he was "quite confident that we will in fact have a significant level of Turkish participation. Exactly how much is something that we are working on these days."

"We are talking potentially about tens of millions, probably several hundred million dollars of investment in several facilities that we might use," he said.

Wolfowitz's statement comes a day after Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis said his country would allow the United States to use military bases. But a few hours after Yakis spoke, the Foreign Ministry clarified that he was speaking of "possibilities," not promises.

"Let me make clear," Wolfowitz said when asked about the Turkish statements. "There isn't a firm American request."

He said that discussions on which bases would be needed "will bring us hopefully fairly quickly to the next level of discussions and decisions. Until we are at that point we are still talking ... very theoretically."

"It was said at all levels of the government that we spoke to that Turkey has been with us always in the past. They will be with us now," Wolfowitz said. "Turkish support is assured and I think that it is a very strong message to (See BASES, Page 5)

Digging out



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)
City of Pampa employee Geno Shuck uses a small front end loader to clear the sidewalks of six inches of snow in front of City Hall this morning.

Key senators skeptical of Saudi claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite Saudi Arabia's assurances that terror groups were not being bankrolled by Saudi charities, two key senators are urging the Bush administration to investigate possible financial links to the desert kingdom's royal family.

The Saudis took the diplomatic offensive Tuesday and announced new actions to deny money to terror groups. At the same time, the foreign

policy adviser to Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's de facto monarch, disputed allegations that his government had done a poor job keeping money from terrorists.

The adviser, Adel al-Jubeir, said at a news conference the kingdom was being maligned in a way that borders on hatred.

Immediately after al-Jubeir's appearance, the State and Treasury

Departments issued statements praising Saudi Arabia's efforts and muting demands last week by the White House for the Saudis to do more.

A day after the public relations effort, the Saudi embassy's lobbyists and lawyers dodged a hearing on efforts to return U.S. children who have been kidnapped to Saudi Arabia by one of their parents.

A House committee subpoenaed

records of the embassy's U.S. lawyers, lobbyists and public relations agents, seeking information about these child custody disputes. The embassy, invoking diplomatic privilege, refused to turn over the documents.

The House Government Reform Committee tried to subpoena representatives of Qorvis Communications, Patton Boggs law firm and The (See CLAIMS, Page 5)

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ON RECORD

ACCIDENTS

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

Tuesday, Dec. 3

12:27 p.m. — A 1988 Honda Accord driven by Amalia D. Solis-Salzar, 17, 512 N. Doucette, and a 2000 Nissan Maxima driven by Helen Harvey Crain, 45, 2200 Evergreen, collided at the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan. Solis-Salzar was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign. No injuries were reported at the scene.

2:03 p.m. — A 1993 Mercury Sable driven by Kylie Lynne Knepp, 23, 1511 N. Faulkner, and a 1989 Ford Taurus driven by Ronald Lee Ellis, 37, 720 Malone, collided in the 100 block of North Cuyler. Knepp was cited for backing without safety and no proof of liability insurance. No injuries were reported at the scene.

3:15 p.m. — A 2002 Ford F-350 flatbed truck driven by Mark Tabber Wanner, 52, 1711 Charles, was struck by an unoccupied 1979 Ford Bronco owned by Terry Lamont Osby, 831 S. Banks, in the 600 block of West 18th. Osby was cited for failure to secure brake on running vehicle. No injuries

were reported at the scene.

3:28 p.m. — A 2003 Honda CRV driven by Gayla Jo Christian, 49, Amarillo, and a 2001 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Micheal Shea Box, 21, 2404 Comanche, collided at the intersection of 23rd and Evergreen. Christian was cited for backing without safety.

3:30 p.m. — A 1991 Dodge Dynasty driven by Joshua Wayne Robertson, 17, 2229 N. Hamilton, and a 1991 Chevrolet U.S. Postal Service delivery van driven by Debbie Addy, 42, 2112 N. Hamilton, collided in the 1500 block of North Russell. No injuries were reported at the scene. No citations were listed on the accident report.

4 p.m. — A 1989 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Warren Wiley Pettit, 55, 405 Doyle, and a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Justin Wyatt Bickford, 44, 317 N. Sumner, collided at the intersection of Cuyler and Foster streets. Pettit was cited for failure to control speed, failure to obtain Texas driver's license and tags, and operating a motor vehicle with expired inspection and tags. Bickford was cited for no liability insurance. No injuries were reported at the scene.

POLICE

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

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Burglary of a residence in the 800 block of East Scott was reported. Loss was estimated at \$1,000.

AMBULANCE

Rural Metro Ambulance Service responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

10:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Sandlewood Drive. No transport.

12:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 171 and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

2:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

3:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of North Hobart. No transport.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.71	VLO	33.49	+1.03
Milo	3.96	Halliburton	18.93	-1.26
Corn	4.44	Triad Hospitals	29.20	+1.15
Soybeans	4.84	NOI	21.35	-0.84
Sunflowers	8.75	KMI	41.13	-0.27
		XCEL	10.29	-0.02
		Kerr McGee	46.08	-0.33
		Limited	16.00	-0.09
		Williams	2.48	-0.05
		McDonalds	17.65	-0.59
		Exxon Mobil	35.00	+0.10
		Atmos	22.98	+0.18
		Pioneer Nat	25.01	-0.22
		Penney's	23.57	-0.22
		COP	48.49	-0.01
		Schlumberger	44.90	-0.90
		Tenneco	4.39	+0.26
		CVX	67.52	+0.86
		Wal-Mart	54.25	+0.32
		OKE	19.26	-0.20
		NS Group	6.85	-0.06
		New York Gold	320.95	
		Silver	4.54	
		West Texas Crude	27.30	

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

Occidental	27.52	-0.08
Fidelity Magell	NA	*
Puritan	NA	

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

BP	38.95	-0.35
Celanese	22.52	-0.28
Cabot Corp.	25.70	-0.20
Cabot Oil Gas	23.70	-0.16
Coca Cola	45.50	+0.60

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for cloudy skies, highs in the lower 30s, north winds 10 to 15 mph, and a 40 percent chance of snow. Tonight should be mostly cloudy with lows in the lower 20s and light winds. Thursday should be partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Light winds. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 5 to 15

mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs around 50. Saturday night, mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Sunday, mostly cloudy. Highs around 40. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

STATEWIDE

Several inches of snow covered parts of the Texas Panhandle Wednesday morning after a cold front moved through the state, leaving rainfall in central and southern sections.

Some showers and a few thunderstorms lingered, mainly south of a line from Emory and Waco through Lampasas.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the teens in the panhandle and mid-30s in the northwest to the mid-40s in the south.

Extremes were 19 degrees at Dalhart to 72 at Brownsville. It was also 43 degrees at Wink.

Winds were mostly northerly at 10 to 20 mph, with higher gusts, except for southerly conditions at 5 to 15 mph in the far south.

Light snow also fell in the South Plains. Rain showers were widespread from East Texas through the Edwards Plateau to the far

south, more numerous in the Hill Country and along the coast.

Light rain also fell in the Concho Valley. More snow was forecast in the eastern panhandle, with a chance extending to the west.

A slight chance of light rain or snow was predicted for portions of the Permian Basin, with more rain in the Concho Valley.

A slight chance of rain, sleet and snow mix was forecast for the Guadalupe Mountains, with decreasing clouds in the Big Bend.

Highs through Thursday should range from the 20s in the north and west to the mid-40s in the south, except for 50s in the far west to near 60 along the Rio Grande.

Lows were expected to reach the teens in the north and Guadalupe Mountains to about 40 in the Big Bend.

Weather could delay shuttle's return from space station

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A chance of clouds and rain around Endeavour's landing site in Florida could delay the space shuttle's return to Earth, pushing back the homecoming of the former crew on the international space station.

Endeavour is the ride back to Earth for the space station Alpha crew of U.S. astronaut Peggy Whitson and Russian cosmonauts Valery Korzun and Sergei Treschev. They spent the past six months aboard the

orbiting outpost and were the fifth resident crew.

Optimism was growing in Mission Control on Wednesday morning that the weather might cooperate for an afternoon touchdown, despite storm systems approaching Florida from several directions.

"We're real optimistic and we think we're going to bring you guys home on the first try today," Mission Control told shuttle commander James Wetherbee.

"Sounds good," Wetherbee replied.

The space shuttle had two opportunities to land Wednesday, with the first one offering better weather. Thursday's forecast was dismal.

Endeavour, which launched on Nov. 23, has enough fuel and supplies to stay in orbit until Sunday. The backup landing site at Edwards Air Force Base in California would probably not be called up until Saturday, if needed, said flight director Wayne Hale.

The space station's returning crew members won't mind if they have to spend a few more days in space. They have already spent an extra 1 1/2 months living aboard Alpha because of various problems that delayed the shuttle's flight.

"It's not really a big deal," Whitson said. She described the shuttle as "pretty cozy," but did acknowledge it is quite a bit smaller than the station and takes some getting used to.

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SHERIFF

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

Monday, Dec. 2

Floyd Randall Dale Northcutt, 20, McLean, was

arrested by Wheeler County authorities on a bond surrender for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Sarah Elizabeth Durrett, 18, 1911 Holly, was arrested on a probation order to modify - injury to the elderly.

Convicted killer shows no remorse

By PAM EASTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Leonard Rojas had all he could take.

His younger brother's "little evil laugh." His common-law wife's taunting. Seeing his wife, Jo Ann Reed, come out of his brother's room that morning.

"I just said no more abuse from these people," said Rojas, who is set to be executed Wednesday for killing his

wife and brother on Dec. 27, 1994. "The alternative I came out with was to get even with them."

As Rojas' execution loomed, he maintained he was justified in shooting 34-year-old Reed between the eyes after having one last sexual encounter with her the morning he says he saw her leave his brother's room.

"Leonard was an extremely possessive type of person," said David Vernon, a Johnson County assistant district attorney

who has dealt with Rojas' appeals. "He confronted her about having sex with his brother and she laughs at him."

"You can't prove nothing, Leo," Rojas recalled recently from death row of his wife's response that morning. "They just put me in the corner and I just snapped."

Rojas said he used a .32-caliber gun he got in exchange for cocaine to shoot his wife, then his brother, 43-year-old David Rojas. The slayings took place in the mobile home the trio shared in Alvarado near Fort Worth.

"I'll never regret it. Never," Rojas, 52, said of the killings. "These people, they were just basically evil. They just wanted my money, wanted my drugs and they wanted to do me in."

Rojas, who had previously spent time in prison in California and Nevada for drug convictions, contends his brother and wife were having an affair and were trying to drug him to death. The claims, however, have never been proven, Vernon said.

"Leonard comes off as a very congenial individual," he said. "He doesn't seem like he is a mean-spirited type of person. ... (but) he could explode on you fairly quickly."

After the killing, Vernon said Rojas drank some coffee, talked on the phone and then decided he should leave. He bought a bus ticket from Fort Worth to Atlanta, making it as far as Dallas before he came across some security guards and decided to confess.

"My heart was beating and my brain was like fried after all these incidents," Rojas said.

Vernon still isn't sure what prompted Rojas to stop and confess the killings to the security guards. His best guess is Rojas' drug use could have made him paranoid.

"It would have taken us years to find him if he had gotten on that bus and taken off," Vernon said.

Instead, Johnson County prosecutors ended up with three confessions, one of which was videotaped as Rojas led Texas Ranger George Turner and a sheriff's deputy through the mobile home, describing the killings.

The videotape confession "became Exhibit A," Turner said.

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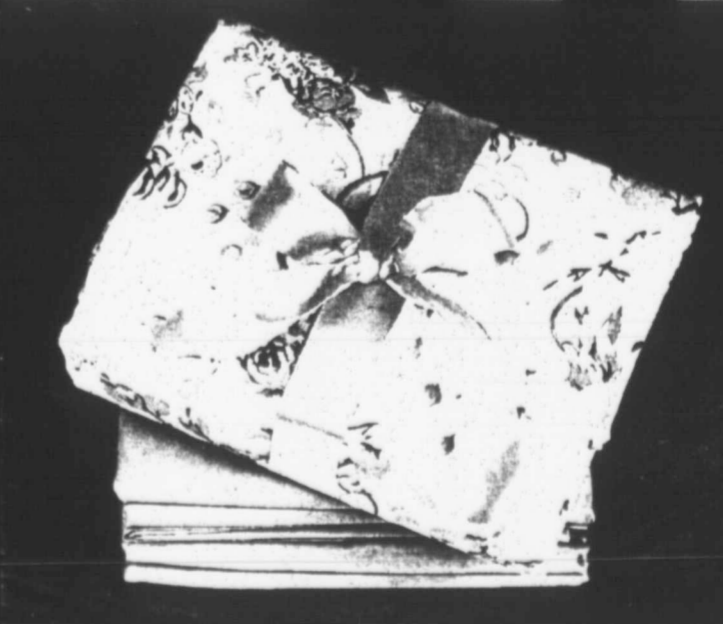


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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CLAIMS

Gallagher Group on Tuesday night to testify and explain their refusal to turn over records.

"When the U.S. Marshals went to serve the subpoenas they were not at their homes, they were not at their offices, they were nowhere to be found," said Committee Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind. "They've been hiding. I think that says a lot about the Saudi government and their openness."

Before the hearing, Al-Jubeir defended the Saudis effort to resolve international child custody cases and suggested Burton was "engaging in a publicity stunt."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham, D-Fla., was not impressed with the Saudis announcement Tuesday of new efforts to deny money to terror groups. "The Bush administration and the Saudis have done a masterful job of turning attention away from ... the trail that leads to the possibility that a foreign government provided support to some of the Sept. 11 hijackers," Graham said.

"If, in fact, there is such a trail, it leads to some very significant questions," Graham said.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the committee's

senior Republican, said he believed "there is a lot to the story — a lot more than a mere denial."

Shelby, in an interview, said U.S. authorities should pursue whether the royal family financed terrorists "either directly or indirectly."

"Obviously, they have cooperated some, but probably begrudgingly," Shelby said. "And I'm not sure how thoroughly."

The senators referred to an investigation by the FBI into reports that contributions by a Saudi princess, the wife of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, may have indirectly helped two of the men who participated in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in New York and Washington.

Speaking in a televised news conference at the Saudi Embassy, al-Jubeir denounced Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network as a terrorist organization. He said Saudi Arabia was a target of bin Laden, an expatriate Saudi fugitive and reputed mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks. Saudi Arabia froze al-Qaida's assets in 1994, the first nation to do so, al-Jubeir said.

That 15 of the 19 alleged hijackers were Saudis was an attempt by al-Qaida to give the attacks a Saudi face and try to drive a wedge between

the kingdom and the United States, al-Jubeir said.

"We believe that our country has been unfairly maligned. We believe that we have been subjected to criticism that we do not deserve," he said. "We believe that people have been misinformed about Saudi Arabia and what Saudi Arabia has done, or frankly that people have lied about what we have done or what we allegedly have not done."

He said more than 2,000 terror suspects have been questioned, and more than 100 are in detention.

In all the investigations, al-Jubeir said, "We have not found a direct link between charity groups and terrorism."

A report issued at the embassy said Saudi Arabia had set up a commission to oversee charitable groups and had barred transfer between banks of assets in cash. It said three al-Qaida cells had been

broken up and 33 accounts totaling more than \$5.5 million had been frozen.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking to reporters Tuesday en route to Colombia, said his initial impression of the Saudi presentation was that "it was a serious effort to deal with our concerns."

"I have always said the Saudis have done a lot," Powell said. "They have done a number of things that were responsible. Could they do more? Yes. Now they have responded in what seems like a forthright way."

Powell said it was his impression that the Saudis seem to be moving toward more transparency, in effect telling the world: "These are the things that we are going to be doing."

Last week, the Bush administration disclosed that working groups throughout

the U.S. government were considering ways to tighten controls on the flow of money to terrorists worldwide.

Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesman, said then. "The president believes that Saudi Arabia has been a good partner in the war against terrorism, but even a good partner like Saudi Arabia can do more."

On Tuesday, Treasury

Department spokeswoman Michele Davis said about the Saudi oversight of donations to charities: "We are really very happy with the effort."

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, roughly \$121 million in assets have been frozen worldwide, the Treasury Department said Tuesday. Of that, \$36 million has been blocked within the United States and \$85 million by other countries.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SNOW

Weather Service in Amarillo said today that Pampa had received 6.2 inches of snow.

"You got a pretty good snow out there," he said. The southern parts of the northern Panhandle received from four to six inches, while the northern areas reported as much of eight inches of snow.

The unexpected snow storm came from the collision of a cold front and an upper level disturbance loaded with Gulf moisture, Broyles said.

"The timing was perfect," he added.

Early forecasts indicated the two systems would not meet, he said, and so the predictions were that the area would receive a light mix of rain and snow.

"Sometimes we can get it pretty good, but not this time," he said with a laugh.

Pampans can expect a little bit more of the white stuff on Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday, Broyles said.

"It won't be like this," he said. "Just a little light snow."

A slight warming trend starts tomorrow, bringing temperatures up to the low 40s and then higher into the 50s for Friday, Broyles said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BASES

Saddam Hussein and the regime in Baghdad that Iraq is surrounded by the international community."

In addition to Incirlik air base, which U.S. aircraft now use to patrol a no-fly zone over Iraq, Turkey has helicopter bases near the Iraqi border and another main air force base in the center of the country, a little more than an hour's flying time from Iraq.

"We are close, but not yet exactly at the point of saying which bases we would use," Wolfowitz said.

Yakis said Tuesday that Turkey would have trouble supporting a large presence of U.S. ground troops in the country.

"It may be difficult to see tens of thousands of American forces being transported through Turkish territory into Iraq or being stationed or deployed somewhere in Turkey and their carrying out strikes inside Iraq," he said.

When asked about the use of ground troops based in Turkey, Wolfowitz said that it would be in Turkey's interest if the United States had forces in northern Iraq during a conflict. Turkey fears that Kurds in northern Iraq could declare independence if the Iraqi government collapses. That could encourage auton-

omy-seeking Turkish Kurds in Turkey's own southeast.

"It is strongly our position ... that Turkey will be better off if we are there to help manage what comes afterward," Wolfowitz said.

But he added that "I think we are quite comfortable with what we can do from the south."

If there is a war in Iraq, any major U.S. thrust would be expected to come from the south.

Yakis also specified that Turkey would want U.N. approval of any military action before granting the use of its bases.

When asked if the United States would have to seek a new U.N. resolution to use force against Iraq, Yakis said Tuesday: "Yes, yes, yes."

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Wednesday, December 4, 2002

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Couple Rekindling Romance Escape a Parking Lot

DEAR ABBY: Throughout the year, my husband and I host parties in our home for his office staff. Invariably, we get several "maybes" in response to the RSVP on our invitations. To prepare for these parties, I must shop for food and beverages, spend time in the kitchen cooking, clean my home from top to bottom and arrange for a baby sitter.

"Maybe" is not a suitable answer! When an RSVP is requested, invitees should respond promptly, arrive on time, leave at a decent hour and follow up with a thank-you note — or at least call their hosts.

Abby, are you with me on this, or am I expecting too much? The inconsideration of some people baffles me.

TICKED OFF IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TICKED OFF: I'm with you. To respond to an invitation with "maybe" is extremely rude. It translates as, "I'll come if I have nothing better to do."

The next time you receive a "maybe" in response to an invitation, reply, "I'll take that as a 'no' — unless I hear otherwise 48 hours before the event."

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "At the End of My Rope," whose 76-year-old grandmother ignores advice about her health.

First, I would recommend that she call Grandma's primary care physician to make sure he or she is aware of the family's concerns and of all her medications. Second, one of the children should go with her

on the next medical visit to hear what the doctor has to say. (Having another set of ears at a doctor's visit is a real benefit.)

Third, is there a specialist in geriatrics in the area? Perhaps Grandma needs an evaluation to see if there is something else wrong or if the medicines are interacting in a negative way. Fourth, there are medication boxes available to help people manage their dosage. Fifth, all of her medications should be written down and posted on the refrigerator with the times they are to be taken.

Changing a person's eating habits may be difficult, but medicine is a different story. Many people go to a number of doctors and do not tell each doctor what they are taking. Drug interaction can be a real problem. Also, the grandchild should talk to a counselor to reduce her feelings of guilt.

BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thank you for your informative letter. I'm sure it will be helpful to many readers who find themselves in similar circumstances.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl with a big problem. There's a popular girl in my class who tells me that everything I like is evil, and that I shouldn't like this or that because when I die I will go to hell.

She thinks liking rock stars, reading fantasy books and watching

"The Osbournes" on MTV is sinful. She goes on and on about what the Bible says, and that the music, books and people I like are all evil. I respect what she likes, and I think she should respect what I like, too. What do you think, Abby?

"PUT DOWN" IN OREGON

DEAR "PUT DOWN": I agree with you. You may be only 12, but there's wisdom between your ears.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 2 La Scala song
- 5 Brief security feature
- 11 Press critter
- 12 One-celled worker
- 13 Warden's worry
- 14 Talked crazily
- 15 Pitch's kin
- 16 Stupely box
- 17 Packing amusement
- 22 Needed a massage
- 24 Future fern
- 26 Reddish horse
- 27 Fireplace fill
- 28 Figure of speech
- 30 Borders
- 31 Bear's lair
- 32 Mexican native
- 34 Neutral color
- 35 Deli choice
- 38 Marsh birds
- 41 Cotton unit
- 42 Charm opera
- 43 Verdi various
- 44 Pesky insect

DOWN

- 1 Grime

BARB AFIRE
 AREAS ROGET
 KEPTINTOUCH
 ENO MES AKA
 DARROW ANON
 STUNS SANE
 NEWS
 DATE ORATE
 APES MEDALS
 RIM CAN LEA
 KEPTINCHECK
 ECLAT HASTE
 NEEDED MESS

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Noted loch
- 22 Dry find
- 23 Program-ming output
- 25 Ballet bend
- 29 "Silas" bird
- 30 Hog holder
- 33 Piquant
- 34 Panning star
- 36 "M*A*S*H" star
- 37 Substance
- 38 Owns
- 39 Flightless bird
- 40 Skedad-dle
- 41 Catch

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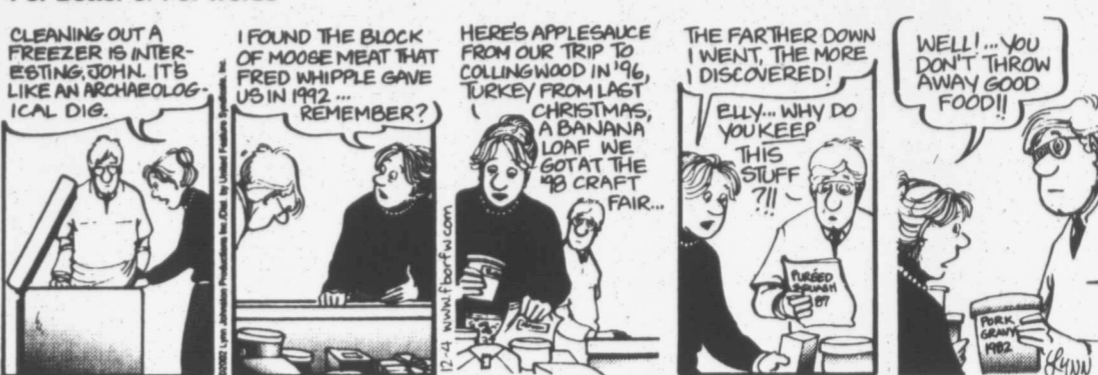
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For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



SPORTS

Seven Harvesters earn first-team honors

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa 9th grade boys' basketball team is off to a 3-0 start this season.

In the season opener, Pampa defeated Plainview 56-43 as Jarret Kotara led the way with 18 points. Tyson Hickman followed with 10 points and Ryan Torres had 8.

In the second game, Pampa won over Tascosa B 75-33.

Pampa's high scorer was Braydon Barker with 16 points. Kotara chipped in 10.

Pampa defeated Tascosa A 60-57 in the third game.

Eric Kingcade had 14 points, Kotara 13 and Sharod Young 11 to lead the scoring.

Pampa 9th graders play at Amarillo High on Monday night with the game starting at 6.

GOLF

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Suzy Whaley considered all of the negative aspects of playing in the Greater Hartford Open, and decided it was too important an opportunity to pass up.

The 36-year-old golf pro and mother of two accepted an invitation to play in next year's tournament, a move that will make her the first woman to play in a PGA Tour event.

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Alabama coach Dennis Franchione, former coach at TCU, has emerged as a leading candidate to replace R.C. Slocum at Texas A&M.

Hiring of a new coach was expected sometime after A&M named an athletic director to succeed Wally Groff, who said in August his resignation would be effective on Dec. 31. That was accomplished Tuesday evening with the hiring of Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne.

Slocum was abruptly fired Monday by university president Dr. Robert Gates, who earlier said he would leave Slocum's future to the Aggies' new athletic director. Gates asked Slocum to remain at the school as a special adviser to the president.

Benton Cocanougher, head of A&M's search committee, said Byrne had no role in Gates' decision to fire Slocum. "He wasn't involved in that discussion or decision in any way," Cocanougher said.

But among Byrne's first duties in College Station will be to hire a replacement for Slocum.

Slocum, associated with A&M for 30 years and the last 14 as head coach, has not said if he will remain with the school.

Franchione, who was in Selma, Ala., on Tuesday night to speak to the Quarterback Club, said he has not been contacted about the A&M job. He also said he had no news about a contract extension to remain coach of the Crimson Tide.

University of Alabama trustee Peter Lowe said he believes Franchione will stay with the Tide.

"I'll be surprised if he doesn't stay and is not our coach next year," Lowe said Tuesday.

Record-setting quarterback John Braddock was one of seven Pampa Harvesters named to the All-District 3-4A First Team this season.

Braddock, a senior, set school records in both passing yardage (2,857) and touch-down passes (23) for a single season in leading the Harvesters to the third round of the playoffs. He was also named to the first-team as a punter.

Joining Braddock on the first team were running back Johnny Moore, tight end Ryan Zemanek, defensive end Tommy Abernathy, noseguard Brittin East and free safety Tristan Brown.

Pampa, making the playoffs for the second consecutive year, beat Andrews 28-14 and El Paso Riverside 27-7 in the playoffs. They fell to defending champion Denton Ryan 35-9 in the regional semifinals.

Pampa advanced further than both playoff-bound Randall and Palo Duro in the playoffs and finished with a 9-4 record.

Plainview running back Taber Minner was named the district's most valuable player on offense.

Randall linebacker Brandon Bush was named the most valuable player on defense.

Coach of the year honors went to Alan Cornelius of Randall.

2002 All-District 3-4A Football Team
(voted on by 3-4A coaches)
Offensive player of the year: Taber Minner, junior, running back, Plainview.
Defensive player of the year: Brandon Bush, senior, linebacker, Randall.
Coach of the year: Alan Cornelius, Randall.

All-District 3-4A

First Team Offense

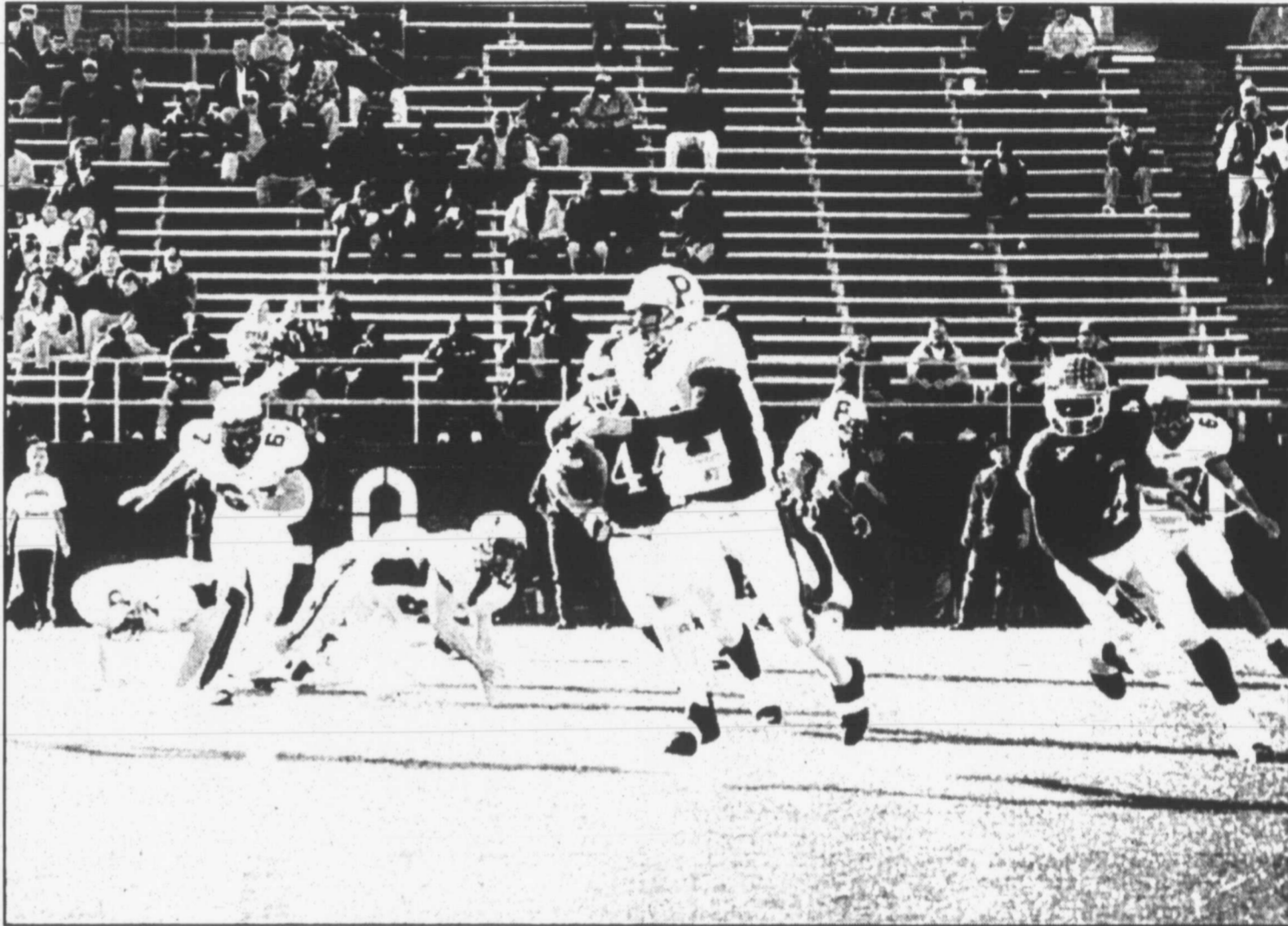
Quarterback: John Braddock, Pampa, sr.
Running backs: Johnny Moore, Pampa jr.; Jorge Gonzalez, Hereford, sr.; Terrance Posey, Palo Duro, sr.; Taber Minner, Plainview, jr.
Center: Ty Parker, Randall, jr.
Guards: Tim Schalabs, Hereford, Sr.; Kevin Parker, Plainview, sr.
Tackles: Nathan Young, Plainview, sr.; Josh Keese, Randall, sr.
Tight end: Ryan Zemanek, Pampa, sr.
Wide receivers: Jesse Tarango, Pampa, jr.; Russell Carr, Hereford, sr.; Jake

Butler, Randall, jr.

Punter: John Braddock, Pampa, sr.
First Team Defense
Ends: Tommy Abernathy, Pampa, sr.; Cody Ames, Dumas, jr.; James Smith, Palo Duro, sr.
Linemen: Brittin East, Pampa, soph.; T.J. Nickelberry, Palo Duro, jr.; Chance Wideman, Plainview, sr.
Linebackers: Chad Ollinger, Dumas, sr.; Derek Mendoza, Hereford, sr.; Brandon Bush, Randall, sr.
Defensive backs: Tristan Brown, Pampa, sr.; Paul Cox, Dumas, sr.

Stewart Carr, Hereford, sr.; Devin Johnson, Palo Duro, sr.; Clay Britten, Randall, jr.
Kicker: Lief Craddock, Randall, sr.
Second Team Offense
Quarterback: Jeremy Lunsford, Randall, sr.
Running backs: Kyle Cambern, Dumas, soph.; Klay Keith, Plainview, sr.; Chris Hilleary, sr.; Randall.
Center: Darrel McKay, Dumas, sr.
Guards: Kenny Holmes, Caprock, sr.; Marcus Smith, Hereford, sr.; Cody Holliman, Randall, sr.
Tackles: Matt Murray, Pampa, sr.; Chris Daniel, Plainview, sr.
Tight end: Aaron Smith, Randall, sr.
Wide receivers: Jordan Klaus, Pampa,

sr.; Paul Cox, Dumas, sr.
Punter: Curt Johnson, Randall.
Second Team Defense
Ends: Fernando Garcia, Plainview, sr.; Tanner Hedrick, Randall, sr.
Linemen: Kenny Holmes, Caprock, sr.; Harlan Williams, Randall, sr.
Linebackers: Zack Cobb, Pampa, sr.; Zack Ford, Palo Duro, sr.; Micah Pelphrey, Plainview, jr.
Defensive backs: Derek Heredia, Caprock, sr.; Anthony Ramirez, Hereford, sr.; Cody Collins, Plainview, jr.; Colt Abernathy, Randall, sr.; Cory Orr, Randall, sr.; Taurcen Johnson, Palo Duro, sr.
Kicker: Spencer Bryson, Plainview, fr.



Pampa quarterback John Braddock scrambles against Denton Ryan in last weekend's regional semi-final game in Wichita Falls. Braddock was named the all-district team at both quarterback and punter.

(Photo by Grover Black)

Thome agrees to \$85 million, six-year contract with Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Phillies manager Larry Bowa thought it felt like 1979 again.

After Jim Thome, the most coveted hitter in the free-agent market, agreed to an \$85 million, six-year contract, Bowa said fan reaction reminded him of when one of baseball's most exciting players came to Philadelphia and helped the Phillies win the World Series the following year.

"This is the most excitement I've seen since Pete Rose came here as a player," Bowa said.

He wasn't the only one seeing victories in the offing. Thome said only one thing would have persuaded him to leave Cleveland.

"It comes down to winning. It really does," the 32-year-old first baseman said at a news conference Tuesday.

Thome gets a \$10 million signing bonus, \$9.5 million next year, \$10.5 million in 2004, \$11.5 million in 2005, \$12.5 million in 2006 and \$14 million in each of the final two seasons. Philadelphia has

a \$13 million option for 2009 with a \$3 million buyout.

The average annual value of \$14,166,667 is the 15th-highest in baseball.

The Phillies, unwilling to spend money in the past, are aggressively trying to improve as they prepare to move into their new ballpark in 2004. They agreed to a \$17 million, four-year contract with third baseman David Bell on Nov. 24. Philadelphia also has a \$30 million, three-year offer out to free agent left-hander Tom Glavine, a two-time NL Cy Young award winner.

Thome said Bell's signing had a big impact on his decision to come to Philadelphia.

"He's a tough player," Thome said. "He makes no excuses. The bottom line is those are the kind of guys you want to go to war with."

He also said he'd be willing to call Glavine himself, prompting Phillies general manager Ed Wade to jokingly place a cell phone on the podium in front of him.

Wade said his long pursuit of Thome was "excruciating," but well worth it.

"We've taken a huge step forward here, both on the field and in our clubhouse," Wade said.

Persuading Thome to leave Cleveland wasn't easy. He had spent his entire career there and intended to retire in an Indians uniform. But with Cleveland rebuilding after a near-decade of dominance in the AL Central, Thome decided that his best chance to get back to the World Series was with Phillies.

"The Indians are going in a way they want to go and I respect that," he said. "I've loved that organization and I still will."

Thome fought back tears when asked about the role that his wife, Andrea, played in their decision.

"My wife is my rock," he said, then left the stage to compose himself while Wade and manager Larry Bowa fielded questions. Several minutes later, Thome strode

back to the podium and quipped: "I hate when my allergies kick in."

Thome, who hit a club-record 52 homers for the Indians last season, turned down a \$60-million, five-year offer from the Indians, who drafted him in the 13th round of the 1989 draft. The left-handed slugger has a .287 batting average, 334 homers and 927 RBIs in a 12-year major league career.

Cleveland Indians owner Larry Dolan said in a statement that he was "disappointed" that Thome had decided to leave. But "to go beyond what we offered in that package ... would have been inconsistent with our plans to bring back a championship-caliber team to Cleveland as soon as

possible," Dolan said.

Thome said the players union didn't pressure him to take the best offer on the table.

"Not one minute did they say that to my agent and not one minute did they ever call me," he said.

Bowa hasn't decided where Thome will bat in the order. Young slugger Pat Burrell will probably bat between Thome and Bobby Abreu, giving the Phillies one of the NL's best power lineups.

Thome's new teammates were clearly excited by his arrival. Bowa fielded calls from Burrell, Abreu, shortstop Jimmy Rollins, catcher Mike Lieberthal and pitcher Randy Wolf, and "to a man they said they can hardly wait till spring training starts," Bowa said.

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Nets win, but lose Mutombo for two months

By The Associated Press

Bad news for the defending Eastern Conference champions, even on a night when they won easily over Atlanta.

Dikembe Mutombo is going to undergo surgery for a torn ligament in his right wrist, sidelining him for the next two months.

"Life goes on," Nets point guard Jason Kidd said following New Jersey's 98-72 victory over the Hawks. "The season isn't going to be put on hold until Deke gets back. We got guys who can pick up the load. We look forward to the challenge."

In other games, the Lakers defeated Memphis 101-91, Houston downed San Antonio 89-75, Sacramento topped Minnesota 98-86, Washington beat Milwaukee 103-78, New Orleans defeated Chicago 115-90 and Golden State topped Denver 110-89.

Mutombo tore the ligament Thursday night when he was hit on the wrist by Eric Piatkowski of the Los Angeles Clippers. He was examined Tuesday night by Dr. Charles Melone Jr., a New York City-based hand surgeon.

"He told me it was one of the big ligaments that holds your wrist," said a disappointed Mutombo, who missed only 28 games in his 11-year

career before coming to New Jersey in a major offseason deal that sent Keith Van Horn and Todd MacCulloch to Philadelphia.

Mutombo started the Nets' first 16 games, averaging 7.3 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.0 blocks.

Less than 48 hours after giving away a game in Seattle, Richard Jefferson bounced back with 22 points and a career-high 14 rebounds for the Nets, while the new starting center, Jason Collins, had eight points and 10 rebounds.

The Nets didn't have any trouble against the Hawks with Jefferson making amends for his mistake Sunday night when he missed two free throws with New Jersey up by two points with 9.8 seconds left. Brent Barry then hit a game-winning 3-pointer.

"I'm a very confident individual," said Jefferson, who was 9-for-12 against Atlanta and 4-for-6 from the free-throw line. "I really blame that loss completely on myself. It was hard at the time. But you can't let that set in. You continue working and come out the next game."

Even an off night by Kidd (seven points, six assists, four rebounds) didn't hurt as New Jersey used its tough defense to hold Atlanta to season-lows in points, field goals (29) and shooting percentage (.363).

NBA Roundup

Lakers 101, Grizzlies 91

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 24 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, for his fourth triple-double of the season.

Shaquille O'Neal added 28 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks for the Lakers (7-12), who now have a 4-3 record since O'Neal returned to action — including an overtime victory over the Grizzlies in Memphis last Friday night.

The Grizzlies (2-16) had won two of their previous four games after losing their first 13. They're 2-8 since Hubie Brown replaced Sidney Lowe as coach.

Bryant had his seventh career triple-double, and Rick Fox added 14 points.

"That was a struggle tonight," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We made it a struggle because of our (20) turnovers."

Rockets 89, Spurs 75

At Houston, Yao Ming scored 27 points, grabbed a season-high 18 rebounds and had a crowd-pleasing slam in the closing minutes.

"It might have been because I knew I was going up against two great centers," Yao said, explaining

his performance. "When I first got to the NBA I had a lot to think about. To get this victory, it's like being able to take a deep breath."

After leading much of the game, the Rockets trailed 64-61 going into the fourth quarter. But they quickly regained the lead and won going away as the Spurs went scoreless over the final 2:43.

Yao rebounded a miss by Steve Francis with 3:04 to go and slammed it home, one of several highlight shots in the game.

Kings 98, Timberwolves 86

At Sacramento, Bobby Jackson scored 24 points and Chris Webber had 22 points and 11 rebounds as the Kings overcame Kevin Garnett's second big game against them in seven days.

Garnett had 18 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists — barely missing his ninth career triple-double.

Jackson scored 11 points in the third quarter and Webber made five straight shots in the fourth as the Kings survived the stiffest challenge they've faced while opening the season with 10 straight victories at Arco Arena.

Wizards 103, Bucks 78

At Washington, Michael Jordan scored 25 points in his second game as a starter, and the man he

replaced in the lineup, Bryon Russell, matched his season high with 16 points.

Jordan and Russell scored 27 consecutive Wizards points from the final minute of the first quarter through the first seven minutes of the second, including all the points in a 16-5 run that put Washington ahead 42-29.

Hornets 115, Bulls 90

At Chicago, David Wesley scored a season-high 25 points and Jamal Mashburn added 21 as New Orleans found a cure for its road woes.

It was only the third road victory this season for the Hornets, who are 9-0 at home but just 3-6 away from New Orleans.

And they did it without Baron Davis, who missed his second straight game because of back spasms.

Warriors 110, Nuggets 89

At Oakland, Antawn Jamison scored 34 points as Golden State extended its longest winning streak in over a year to three games.

Playing before a season-low crowd of 10,007, Troy Murphy added 16 points — making all 12 of his free throws — as Golden State became just the second team to reach 100 points against Denver.

Fort Elliott dominates All-District 1-1A six-man team

MIAMI — Fort Elliott, which advanced to the state quarterfinals, dominated the All-District 1-1A Six-Man Football Team in 2002.

Quarterback Jason Hathaway was named the district's offensive player of the year and split end Junior Gonzales earned top defender honors.

Fort Elliott's Curtis Smith was named coach of the year.

The Cougars advanced to the state quarterfinals and finished the season with a 12-1 record.

Groom received the Team

Sportsmanship Award. **All-District 1-1A Six-Man Team**

First Team Offense

Spreadback: Tanner Woods, fr., Follett.

Quarterback: Jason Hathaway, sr., Fort Elliott.

Center: Wesley Hathaway, sr., Fort Elliott.

Tight ends: Josh Garcia, sr., Lefors; Seth Meadows, sr., Fort Elliott; Kris Roach, soph., Miami.

Split ends: Junior Gonzales, sr., Fort Elliott; Junior Newman, jr., Fort Elliott.

Backs: Larry Lee Horn, sr., Fort Elliott; Kade Zybach, sr., Fort Elliott.

Kicker: Hal Rogers, sr., Miami.

Second Team Offense

Spreadback: Josh Seymour, sr., McLean.

Quarterback: Jeffrey Browning, jr., Miami.

Center: Cody Freeman, jr., Follett.

Tight ends: Trent Cadra, sr., McLean; Bobby Ratteree, jr., Groom.

Split ends: Justin Blau, jr., Follett; Brian Bell, sr., Follett; Landon Allen, soph.,

Samnorwood. Backs: Doug Fields, sr., Groom; Willie Hathaway, sr., Lefors.

Kicker: Junior Gonzales, sr., Fort Elliott.

First Team Defense

Defensive line: Willie Hathaway, sr., Lefors; Junior Gonzales, sr., Fort Elliott; Larry Lee Horn, sr., Fort Elliott.

Linebackers: Josh Garcia, sr., Lefors; Kade Zybach, sr., Fort Elliott.

Safeties: Josh Stamper, jr., Lefors; Jeffrey Browning, jr.,

Miami. Punter: Blake King, soph., Lefors.

Second Team Defense

Defensive line: Cody Freeman, jr., Follett; Chris Brewer, jr., Miami; Nick Jones, sophomore, McLean.

Linebackers: Seth Meadows, sr., Fort Elliott; Doug Fields, sr., Groom; Wesley Hathaway, sr., Fort Elliott.

Safeties: Caleb Kirkpatrick, sr., Fort Elliott; Tanner Woods, fr., Follett.

Punter: Landon Allen, soph., Samnorwood.

Boulder ready for Big 12 celebration

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Police were gearing up for a potential riot similar to one that followed Colorado's Big 12 championship last year.

At least 25 additional officers will be on the Hill Saturday near the university where a crowd of about 500 lit bonfires, tore out street signs and traffic lights following the Buff's 39-37 win




over Texas. "We're going to have extra people working," Cmdr. Molly Bernard said Tuesday. "We're just going to have a lot of people out there monitoring the situation."

On Saturday, 12th-ranked Colorado (9-3) takes on the eighth-ranked Oklahoma Sooners (10-2) in Houston.

To disperse the crowd last year, police used rubber grenades, paintballs filled with pepper spray and an armored vehicle that once patrolled missile silos in Wyoming called the "Peacemaker."

"I don't know if we'll do the 'Peacemaker' unless we really need it," Bernard said. "We may have it stationed nearby."

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SCOREBOARD

HOCKEY

Central Hockey League
At A Glance

By The Associated Press
NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Northeast Division					
W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Memphis 13	7	1	27	67	55
Indianapolis	8	4	5	21	42
Bossier-Shreveport	6	9	4	16	57
Fort Worth	5	11	2	12	43
Northwest Division					
W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Tulsa 18	3	0	36	77	45
Oklahoma City 12	6	1	25	69	60
Amarillo	8	8	0	16	37
Wichita	4	10	6	14	69

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Southeast Division					
W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Austin 15	2	1	31	56	30
Laredo 11	6	2	24	76	62
Corpus Christi	8	10	0	16	58
San Angelo	8	14	0	16	67
Southwest Division					
W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Odessa 13	5	3	29	61	46
Lubbock	9	5	4	22	51
New Mexico 10	9	1	21	64	65
El Paso	5	13	1	11	49

Note: One point for loss in overtime or shootout. Overtime or shootout losses are only denoted in the OTL column, not the loss column.

Tuesday's Games

Oklahoma City 4, Odessa 2
Memphis 3, Tulsa 1

Wednesday's Games
No games scheduled

Thursday's Game
Corpus Christi at San Angelo

BASKETBALL

EAST

Boston U. 68, Harvard 61
Carnegie 71, Bucknell 67
Connecticut 116, Sacred Heart 78
Dartmouth 67, Binghamton 61
Delaware 60, Penn 59
Drexel 65, Lafayette 47
Iona 87, Wagner 81
Manhattan 85, Fordham 57
Pittsburgh 96, Norfolk St. 51
Princeton 60, Monmouth, N.J. 57
Rider 68, Towson 56
Syracuse 98, Colgate 68
West Virginia 68, Florida 66

SOUTH

American U. 72, Liberty 67
Bethune-Cookman 71, Florida A&M 69
Clemson 79, Penn St. 70
Duke 91, Ohio St. 76
East Carolina 89, Radford 42
Florida Atlantic 74, Miami 73, OT
George Washington 77, Fla. International 63
Kentucky 84, High Point 64
LSU 65, Delaware St. 44
La Salle 67, James Madison 59
Va. Commonwealth 76, N. Carolina A&T 40

MIDWEST

Ball St. 85, Ind.-Par.-Indpls. 69
Cent. Michigan 85, Michigan 78
Toledo 59, Siena 55
Xavier 74, Purdue 59

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Lady Aggies have 3-1 mark

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Toccarra Williams had 17 points, eight steals, seven assists and three blocks, leading Texas A&M to a 63-48 win Tuesday night over Prairie View A&M.

The Lady Aggies (3-1) led Prairie View 29-19 at the half.

Prairie View (0-2) pulled within 32-28 with 13:45 left in the game, but could get no closer.

Tanisha Lee led Prairie View with 16 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field. Alayniah Teverbaugh pulled down 19 rebounds for the visitors.

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Spelling bee champs



(Courtesy photo)

Thomas Fraser, Kayla Cox, Matthew O'Rear, and Ian Smith won the grade level spelling competitions at Community Christian School, qualifying them for the Association of Christian Schools International regional spelling bee held recently at Trinity Christian School in Amarillo. Kayla competed in the final round of the regional spelling bee.

Fox hunters, foes reach compromise

LONDON (AP) — Friends and foes of fox hunting were united in their opposition Wednesday to a proposed licensing system on the traditional sport that would ban some hunts but allow others.

Threatening to defy their own party, 107 anti-hunt lawmakers from the governing Labor Party tabled a motion in Parliament stating that "only a total ban on hunting will be acceptable to this House and the public at large."

Many in the Labor Party have long despised fox hunting, in which riders on horses with packs of dogs tear across the countryside in pursuit of foxes. Opponents see the sport as both cruel and an unacceptable symbol of upper-class privilege.

Hunting groups also reject the proposed licensing system because while it would allow fox hunting on a case-by-case

basis, it would abolish rabbit and deer hunts.

"We completely reject any singling out of hare coursing or stag hunting," said Simon Hart, spokesman for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance. "There is no justification for that and no evidence to support the theory these activities should be singled out for treatment."

The opposition came one day after rural affairs minister Alun Michael introduced a new hunting bill Tuesday in the House of Commons, the result of five years of wrangling over how to resolve the debate.

Under the bill, an independent tribunal would decide whether to grant licenses for fox hunts on a case-by-case basis. Would-be hunters would have to explain why their activity was necessary and meet an anticruelty test.

They would have the right to appeal a decision denying them a license.

The Labor lawmakers said they will fight for a total ban even if it means a showdown with party bosses and the unelected House of Lords, which previously blocked a ban on hunting after the House of Commons approved it.

"There can be no compromise on this issue. Either one believes this is the effective way to control foxes or you don't," lawmaker David Winnick said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"I'm totally opposed, like the large majority of Labor MPs (members of Parliament) and certainly the large majority in the country as opinion polls have indicated, to a kind of sport where the fox is torn to pieces. That is totally unacceptable."

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