City of Pampa trash trucks and sanitation

"With the holidays and the amount of snow we received, the trash trucks are running

being the heaviest week of the year for trash, we regret any inconvenience this may cause." Brown said frozen ground is helping city

but he expects that as the snow melts, deep mud in the alleys will make them impassable.

"In the meantime, until we can get caught up, we have set a large lugger at the Recycle Center that you can take your trash to," Brown said. "The lugger will be there until

The only reason the lugger would not be at

"This service is for the citizens of Pampa

only," he added. "All contractors and busi-

nesses will need to go directly to the landfill."

the Recycle Center in Hobart Street Park,

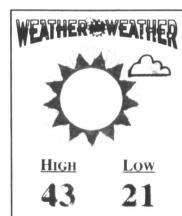
Brown said, is if the lugger is being taken to

the extra load of holiday refuse hampered by

at least a half-foot of wet snow.

Vol. 98 No. 536 Pampa, Texas 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1





LOCAL

Tourism Council to meet on Jan. 3

Next meeting of the Panhandle Tourism Marketing Council is Friday, Jan. 3, at 12 noon in Stratford. The program includes live music, storytelling, and a presentation on building a constituency for tourism development within a community by Erin Kerley of Austin, tourism development specialist with the Texas Department of Economic Development. Please RSVP to Judy at clarendo@arn.net, or to Kristine Olsen in Stratford scdc@xit.net.

STATE

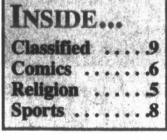
Father of slain baby arrested in Lubbock

LUBBOCK (AP) - The father of an 8-month-old girl who was shot in the chest and killed as her mother tried to protect her on Christmas morning in Houston was arrested here early today.

DEATHS

Allie Allen, 91, homemaker. Thelma Margaret Finson. 92, homemaker.

Martha Stewart Smith, 81, homemaker.





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Interior Wall Cracking

FREE ESTIMATES

Whittaker says he has few plans for himself but wants to lavish his winnings on Ginger and his granddaughter, Brandi Bragg, 15.

As an adult, Whittaker has always



A front end loader deposits snow from the center of Foster Street into a waiting dump truck as City of Pampa crews work to clean up from the winter storm that blanketed the area with snow

hristmas sales over, under

By NANCY YOUNG Managing Editor

the city landfill to be emptied.

everything is caught up.'

say their sales were down from last year.

Local retailers relate shoppers seemed extremely priceconscious when doing their

Christmas shopping this year. "Customers were really shopping for bargains this year. They were price conscious and they really, really shopped around," saidChristy Parker, manager of Dunlap's Department Store,

sales as a "little flat."

Parker said part of the going really good. Some Pampa businesses downturn in pre-Christmas Kathy Smiles, assistant about two percent for the report Christmas sales up over sales might be attributed to store manager of Beall's, week in comparison to the percent over 2001. December 2001 while others Dec. 25 occurring during the agreed customers were shop- same time period last year," middle of the week.

"I've heard of many people who aren't having their Christmas celebration with families until this weekend," she said. "And we really had droves of people coming in for our big after-Christmas sale on Thursday, the day after Christmas."

She said people were "out looking for deals" this year. "We are having a tremen-

She described Dunlap's dous response to our after- be expected. Christmas sale," she said. "It's

ping for bargains.

"The customers were more diligent with their money this year," she said. "Our pre-Christmas sales were just about even with last year."

Smiles reported a large number of customers are responding to Beall's after Christmas sale.

Wal-Mart Manager Terry Randle said the local store's sales were as good as could

"We were down about two percent for the month, but up said Randle.

"If we come out flat in our sales (pre Christmas), I think we're doing pretty good," he

Randle said that he is pleased with the season overall. He reported the day after Christmas sales as "very busy.'

"Today's been steady," he said. "I've been helping out at the registers, and if I'm doing

that it means we're busy." Ken Rheams, owner of

Rheams Jewelers, said his business increased about three "It was really good,"

said. "The second snow storm was a blessing because people couldn't get to Amarillo to shop, and they did their shopping in Pampa.'

He said this morning that Rheams is also having an after-Christmas sale. "We've been steadily busy

this morning with people coming in for jewelry repairs," he said.

(See SALES, Page 3)

Work, family & God

Biggest lottery winner keeps priorities

SCOTT DEPOT, W.Va. (AP) -Work, family and God have long been the three most important things in Andrew Jackson "Jack" Whittaker

Jr.'s life. A \$113.4 million Powerball payout from the Multi-State Lottery Association is doing nothing to change that.

Whittaker, 55, is a millionaire contractor whose three businesses often require him to work 90-hour weeks.

But despite holding history's largest single lottery ticket, and despite painful bouts of pancreatitis and other intestinal ailments that have cost him his spleen and half his pancreas, and required eight operations in eight years, Whittaker wants to keep working.

Throughout his life Whittaker has employed family members, in part to keep them close. His 33-year-old daughter, Ginger McMahan, recalls working at her dad's office at the age

tithed 10 percent of his earnings to his church, the Church of God.

He now plans to provide \$17 million, or 10 percent of his gross lottery winnings, to three Church of God

The pastors — in Hurricane, in a bedroom community between Charleston and Huntington; in Jumping Branch, Whittaker's hometown near the Virginia border; and a third who now lives in California will administer a fund he wants to

create to help the poor. "Those three pastors have stood by us when we were sick, prayed for us when we were in need and comforted us when were afflicted," Whittaker said. "They've touched our lives, and I'd trust them with anything I have."

Waiting at Yeager Airport in Charleston for a Thursday night flight to New York City, where he was scheduled to appear on Friday morning news shows, Whittaker credited faith for his lottery win.

"My life has been blessed since I was a-teenager," he said. "I've always had plenty of work, plenty of (See WINNER, Page 3)

North Koreans to expel U.N. inspectors, open laboratory

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -North Korea ordered the expulsion Friday of U.N. nuclear inspectors and announced it will reactivate a laboratory that the United States claims can produce enough weapons-grade plutonium for several atomic bombs.

The dramatic moves are certain to escalate tensions over Pyongyang's plan to unfreeze nuclear facilities shut down in a deal with the United States in 1994.

The inspectors were the last means that the International Atomic Energy Agency had to monitor whether the facilities are being used for nuclear weapons projects. Despite IAEA warnings, the North removed monitoring seals and surveillance cameras from the nuclear complex at Yongbyon earlier this week.

North Korea sent letters to Mohamed El-Baradei, head of the Vienna-based IAEA, demanding the removal of the inspectors and announcing the reopening of the reprocessing lab, the North's official news agency KCNA said Friday.

Pyongyang said it was reopening the lab to give "safe storage" to spent fuel rods that will come from the reactor it plans to restart.

The lab can be used to extract weapons grade plutonium from spent fuel rods. North Korea already has 8,000 spent fuel rods in storage, that experts say could yield four or five nuclear weapons within months. The KCNA statement, monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, made no mention of those stockpiled rods.

The IAEA did not comment on the reported announcement on the lab, but a spokesman confirmed the agency received "a letter saying take out the inspectors."

ElBaradei was drafting a response to the letter, the agency said. The North's letter did not clarify when it will expel the inspectors, Yonhap said.

"Our government has decided to expel the IAEA inspectors because there is no reason that they should stay in our country," Lee Je Son, the North's chief nuclear policy-maker, was quoted as saying in the KCNA

Meanwhile, the IAEA said the North was moving fresh fuel cells into the 5-kilowatt reactor at Yongbyon. By Friday, about 2,000 new rods had been moved to a storage facility at the site, up from 1,000 a day earlier, IAEA

(See KOREANS, Page 3)

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SATURDAY DOOR BUSTER SPECIALS

COCA COLA. SPRITE or DR. PEPPER **Your Choice**

6 12 Oz. Cans

SATURDAY SPECIAL HAMBURGER and CHIPS

MARLBORO CIGARETTES **Your Choice**

OGS AND CHILI SERVED DAILY

COMPLETE STOCK CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE

Allie Allen, 91, of Pampa, died Thursday,

Dec. 26, 2002, at Amarillo. Graveside services

will be at 2 p.m., Saturday in Fairview

Cemetery with the Rev. Kyle Ohsfeldt, pastor

of Grace Baptist Church, officiating. Burial

will be under the direction of Carmichael-

Crowell. She married Frank Allen on Nov. 23,

1930, at Clovis, N.M.; he died Feb. 23, 1952.

She moved to Lefors in 1943 and to Pampa in.

She was a homemaker and a former mem-

SHERIFF

Thursday, Dec. 26

was arrested by the Department of Public

Safety on a fugitive warrant out of Kentucky

for bond forfeiture on possession of marijua-

na, open container violation and possession

Friday, Dec. 27

arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

Billy Joe Winton, 44, 1314 Frederic, was

Jeffrey David Taylor, 38, Hawesville, Ky.

Gray County Sheriff's Department today

Mrs. Allen was born Aug. 4, 1911, at

Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

ber of Hobart Baptist Church.

reported the following arrests.

of drug paraphernalia.

COMPLETE STOCK

ALLIE ALLEN

1911-2002

ON RECORD

Allen, Jr., in 1994.

Pampa, TX 79065.

www.carmichael-whatley.com.

One Large Group **CHRISTMAS**

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

ALLEN, Allie — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa. GATES, Alice M. — 10 a.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa. **SMITH,** Martha Stewart — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

THELMA MARGARET FINSON

Thelma Margaret Finson, 92° of Pampa, died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002, at McLean. The body was cremated and consequently will not be available for viewing. Memorial services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Finson was born April 18, 1910, at Indianapolis, Ind. She moved to Pampa in 1919 and married Edwin A. Finson on July 27, 1947, at Pampa; he died in 1980.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

Survivors include a son, Jimmie D. Young of Livingston; a sister, Dortha Cheek of Duncan, Okla.; four grandchildren; and seven greatgrandchildren.

The family requests memorials be in lieu of flowers to Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan, Pampa, TX 79065; to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite char-

-Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

MARTHA STEWART SMITH

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

skies with highs in the lower 40s and west mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows

winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should be mostly around 30. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

clear with lows in the lower 20s and west winds Sunday, partly cloudy. Windy. Highs around 60.

STATEWIDE

overnight low of 7 degrees in

calls for clear skies today with

highs ranging from around 40

degrees in the Panhandle, to

50 far west and 60 south.

Temperatures will warm

about 10 degrees Saturday in

the Panhandle, South Plains

and Permian Basin. Sunday,

skies will increase north and

The West Texas forecast

degrees at Brownsville to an central, with highs mostly

5 to 15 mph. Saturday should be mostly sunny. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph.

Dalhart

Today's forecast is calling for mostly sunny Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 15

and two sisters.

Martha Stewart Smith, 81, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002. Services will be at 2 p.m., Saturday in Carmichael-Whatley with the Rev. Bob Hudson, pastor of Bible Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Smith was born Aug. 26, 1921, at Chillicothe and grew up at Quanah. She married Hubert L. Smith on Aug. 22, 1938, at Quanah; he died Aug. 1, 2000. A Pampa resident for the past 47 years, she was a homemaker and a former health care worker.

She was a member of Grace Baptist Church.

Clear skies and warm win-

Skies should increase

beginning Sunday, with rain

chances in north, central and

southeast parts of the state

late Sunday and Monday.

Rain is likely Monday in

Thursday ranged from 64

extremes

Happy Holidays

Kevin D. Sieck, M.D.

Internist, Board Certified

ter temperatures are forecast

over most of the state Friday

and Saturday.

Southeast Texas.

from

Temperature

She was preceded in death by four brothers

Survivors include two daughters, Jeanetta Stover of Skellytown and Linda Newton of Pampa; three sons, Charles Smith of Amarillo, and John K. Smith and Jimmy Smith, both of Pampa; three sisters, Dorothy Defries of San Marcos, Faye Morris of Pampa, and Virginia Clay of Graham; a brother, Robert Stewart of Dumas; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Outreach Health Services, 1201 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite charity.

-Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

around 60 over West Texas.

On Monday and Tuesday, tem-

peratures will cool 10-15

degrees north and central, with

partly to mostly cloudy skies.

this weekend, with sunny

skies through Saturday in the

north and southeast. Partly to

mostly cloudy skies are fore-

cast all weekend and into next

week in the deep south and

west. Skies will cloud up

Sunday in the north and south-

east. Rain is possible over the

entire region Sunday and

Monday, with rain likely in

Southeast Texas on Monday.

Highs will remain mostly in

the 60s over the region through early next week.

North Texas will be mostly

sunny through Saturday with

temperatures will remain in

665-7141 MOVIE HOTLINE

www.oktheatres.com

MAID IN MANHATTAN PG 13

Showtimes Everyday 7:00, 9:30

aturday and Sunday 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

LORD OF THE RINGS PG 13

Showtimes Everyday 7:15

Saturday and Sunday 2:15, 7.15

the 60s through Tuesday.

South Texas will be warm

No precipitation is forecast.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Dec. 26

12:26 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded 12 miles east of Pampa on Highway 152 on a motor vehicle accident; no patient was transported.

2:34 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie; one patient was transport

9:02 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Pitts; no patient was transported. 10:42 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the

Jordan Unit; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department received no emergency calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

STOCKS

The following grain quot	ations are	VLO	-0.10
provided by Attebury (Grain of	Halliburton 18.92	-0.03
Pampa.		Triad Hospitals .29.45	NC
Wheat	3.52	NOI	+0.13
Milo		KMI	+0.1
Corn 4.52 Soybeans 4.86		XCEL10.99	-0.09
		Kerr McGee46.18	-0.16
Sunflowers		Limited 13.70	-0.11
outility		Williams 2.22	-0.02
The following show p	rices for	McDonalds 15.60	+0.03
which these mutual fur		Exxon Mobil35.10	-0.22
bid at the time of compilation. Occidental 28.59 -0.09 Fidelity Mageln NA		Atmos23.52	-0.11
		Pioneer Nat25.69	-0.13
		Penney's 21.93	-0.32
		COP	-0.21
	1	Schlumberger42.76	+0.0
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y.		Tenneco 4.24	-0.09
Stock Market quotations are fur-		CVX	-0.70
nished by Edward Jones & Co.		Wal-Mart 49.67	-0.09
of Pampa		OKE19.48	-0.09
BP39.87	-0.36	NS Group 6.45	-0.03
Celanese	+0.16		
Cabot Corp26.58	-0.13	New York Gold	349.62
Cabot Oil Gas .25.31	+0.04	Silver	
Coca Cola 43.68	-0.47	West Texas Crude	32.49

She was preceded in death by a son, Frank

Survivors include five daughters, Evelyne

Bray, Josephine Allen, and Charlett Geopfert,

all of Amarillo, Peggy Sandefur of Pampa, and

Sandy Carter of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; a son,

Jimmy Allen of Pampa; a sister, Edna Sargent

of Amarillo; 18 grandchildren; 13 great-grand-

Sheltered Workshop, 1301 W. Somerville,

The family requests memorials be to Pampa

-Sign the on-line register book at

children; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrest and incidents.

POLICE

Thursday, Dec. 26 Willie Thomas Lovett, 32, 192 Barnett

Drive, was arrested for no valid drivers license and failure to appear. Burglary was reported in the 1500 block

of Faulkner. A necklace valued at \$30 and a jewelry box valued at \$30 were reported Burglary of a building was reported in the

400 block of Crest Avenue. Reported stolen was a gas stove valued at \$250 and a refrigerator valued at \$250. The appliances were reported stolen from a vacant rent house.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1500 block of Faulkner.

An assault involving juveniles was reported in the 1100 block of Huff Road. One female juvenile reported she was kicked in the knee.

A report of disorderly conduct and assault by threat was taken in the 1800 block of North Hamilton. According to the police report, the incident was a domestic. No injuries were reported.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

10:57 a.m. – Denisa Dannette Taylor, 28, Midland, driver of a 2002 Mazda 626, reported she was driving southbound in the 1500 block of Hobart when she stopped at a stop and go signal. She reported a 1993 Pontiac struck her vehicle and drove away west from the scene of the incident onto the 900 block of Randy Matson.

According to the report, no citations were issued.

Thursday, Dec. 26

7:50 a.m. - A hit and run by an unknown vehicle traveling south in the 1200 block of Barrett was reported to police. The incident was near the intersecting street of 600 McCullough.

According to the report, a vehicle apparently struck both a stop sign and a street sign, causing approximately \$100 in damages. The report stated the road was covered with ice and snow, and tire ruts were plainly visible leading to the poles holding the signs. It also stated both poles were bent.

It was unknown when the incident occurred.

highs in the 60s. Clouds will increase Sunday, with a slight chance of showers and thun-We are proud to announce derstorms northwest and central late in the day. A chance of rain is forecast Monday over the entire region. High

that Dr. Sieck is now Board Certified and accepting all insurances. Happy Holidays

from all of us at Family Medicine Center of Pampa



3023 Perryton Pkwy, Ste 101 • Pampa, TX 79065

806.665.0801 Please call for an appointment, THE WILD THORNBERRYS PG Showtimes Everyday 7:00, 9:30 Saturday and Sunday 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN PG 13 Showtimes Everyday 7:15, 9:45 Saturday and Sunday 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

COMING SOON: Star Trek Nemises. The Hours. Two Weeks Notice

City Briefs

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

CHANEY'S 5-8 p.m., All You Can Eat, \$8 (incl. tea, salad & dessert).

CLASSIFIED/CITY BRIEF Early Deadlines: For Wed. Jan. 1st deadline is Tues. Dec. 31st at noon. For Thurs. Jan. 2nd deadline is Tues. Dec. 31st, at 4 p.m. Happy New Year from The Pampa News!!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO the Michael Townsend Cornelison Memorial Scholarship Fund can be mailed to Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, Pampa attn.: Mark McVay. The contribution is tax deductible. Michael was a 2001 PHS grad., pre-med sophomore at Okla. Christian Uni.

"COOLERZ" NEW Year's Eve, at Club Biarritz!! Come party!! For reserv. 665-0225

FORMAL WEAR 50% off. VJ's Fashions & Gifts, downtown Pampa, 669-6323.

LONE STAR Country Club features Cimmeron this Fri. and Sat. nights.

NEW YEARS Eve Party at the Lone Star Country Club. Featuring back again Southern Sky. Providing snacks, champagne, and a great party!! Just \$15 cover.

Sc HC — A believ ated claim duced clone, Th

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Scientist claims to have cloned a human

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) - A member of a sect that believes life on Earth was creby extraterrestrials claimed Friday to have produced the world's first human clone, a baby girl.

The 7-pound baby was born Thursday by Caesarean section, said Brigitte Boisselier, a chemist and head of a company that did the experiment. She wouldn't say where the baby was born; she did say the birth was at 11:55 a.m. local

Even before her news conference, other scientists expressed doubt that her group could clone a human.

Boisselier said the baby, dubbed "Eve" by the scientists, is a clone of the 31-yearold American woman who donated the DNA for the cloning process, had the resulting embryo implanted and then gestated the baby. If confirmed, that would make the child an exact genetic duplicate of her mother.

Boisselier said the mother had resorted to cloning because her mate was infertile.

"It is very important to remember that we are talking about a baby," she said. "The baby is very healthy. She is fine, she doing fine. The parents are happy. I hope that you remember them when you talk about this baby, not like a monster, like some results of something that is disgusting."

ately present DNA evidence showing a genetic match between mother and daughter, however. That leaves her claim scientifically unsupported.

Dr. Michael Guillen, a forexperts" to perform DNA test on the mother and baby. He said he was not being paid by

WINNER

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sible also whatever I've wanted. I've always felt blessed to be alive, even when I've been sick or my family members have been sick.'

Reached at his New York City hotel room Thursday night, Whittaker said his only sighseeing in New York would be a trip to the World Trade Center site so he could "say a little prayer" for the people killed there last year.

Whittaker and his wife of 36 years, Jewell, have seen many recent traumas. Friends say eight family members have died since 1994, and Ginger has suffered through two bouts of Hodgkins lymphoma, now in remission.

That faith is also the bedrock of Whittaker's remarkable, matter-of-fact calm in the face of extraordinary circumstances.

"I truly believe this is an opportunity for me to give testimony about tithing and spreading wealth," Whittaker said before driving to the airport from his two-story brick home in a Scott Depot development.

Such equanimity, friends and family say, means great wealth is as unlikely to change Whittaker's personality as it will make him remove his trademark cowboy hat and boots.

"Nothing he said about what he'd do with the money surprised me one little bit," said Deborah Morris, 53, who has lived across the street from the Whittakers for more than eight years. "He's a worker. And they are people of

Whittaker also says he will rehire 25 employees he had to lay off because of winter

'What you're seeing is the man I've always known," said Norman Daniels, Whittaker's lawyer for 20 years.

Whittaker's new wealth didn't prevent him

Boisselier did not immedi-

mer medical correspondent at ABC's "Good Morning America," told reporters at the news conference he was lining up "independent world-class

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE Thursday from buying his regular morning

Powerball tickets.

At the store a silent Whittaker stood beside John Musgrave, the West Virginia Lottery Commission director, as Musgrave gave interviews to crowds of television reporters.

coffee and biscuits at C&L Super Serve in

Hurricane, where he spent \$115 Monday on

He then slipped a \$100 Christmas gift to Brenda Higginbotham, the cook who makes Whittaker's favorite biscuits and who calls him "cowboy man" because of his western-style

Before slipping out the door, he told a disbelieving clerk that she had sold him the winning ticket.

Ginger, the first person Whittaker called upon learning of his win in the Christmas night drawing, told him, "Dad, you can finally "I'm not retiring," he responded. "I just

want a big office with a couch so I can lie down when I'm tired."

Jewell Whittaker says the publicity surrounding the lottery win has taxed her more than it has her husband.

"My stomach has been upset since we found out about this," she said. "I'd just love to get away with our family and spend time together."

Powerball, the nation's largest lottery game, is sold in 23 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Before the Christmas 2002 prize, the largest Powerball jackpot was \$295.7 million in July

The biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history was a Big Game prize of \$363 million, won in May 2000 by ticketholders in Michigan and Illinois.

SALES

Carol Stribling, owner of Wayne's Western Wear, also reported the sales prior to Christmas were down over last year.

"We are down some from last year during the same period," she said.

She said the day after Christmas sale was quite successful, however.

"We were real busy," Stribling said. "Hopefully, we'll catch up by the end of the month."

She said they have marked down many items for the sale.

David Hurd, owner of Brown's Shoes, located next door to Wayne's in the 1500 block of North Hobart, said Friday morning his business is up over last year.

"Business in general is up over last year," he said. "I really think it is because of the change and location.'

Hurd moved his business from downtown to the Hobart Street location several months ago. The size of his store is also larger than the previous location.

He reported he is getting a more diverse clientele in his store.

"I think the move and the increased visibility of the store is an important factor in our increased business."

An increase in holiday shopping was report-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"Of course, our busiest time is usually just before school starts," he said, adding he plans to have his usual January clearance sale next

Of the three major grocery stores in Pampa, two reported December sales up over last year. Kevin Smith, United Foods assistant store director, said the local store sales were up 10

percent over December 2001. "The snow scare probably helped us a lot," said Smith, "because people really stock up on

food when a snow storm is forecast." He said the severe winter storm projection wasn't as bad as predicted, but local residents were buying plenty of food just in case they were snowed in for several days.

Albertson's also reported an increase in sales over last year.

"We did great this year," said Joel Arguello, store manager. "We were ahead of last year." Arguello said he was pleased with the 2.5

percent increase in sales at Albertson's. Frank's Thriftway store manager Joe Stevens reported a small decline in food shop-

ping over last year. "We are down slightly - probably less than a percent - from last year," said Stevens.

He said he anticipates a good business for New Year's Eve.

"New Year's Eve is a popular time for food," he said, adding that he expects an increase in sales for the New Year's Eve revelry.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

KOREANS

spokeswoman Melissa

Fleming said. The reactor needs 8,000

rods to be started, she said. North Korea claims that it is restarting the reactor to generate badly needed electricity after the United States and its allies cut off oil shipments.

The oil supplies were cut off in response to recent revelations that the North Koreans had been covertly pressing

ahead with efforts to develop nuclear weapons in violation of the 1994 agreement.

But U.S. officials say that power to be obtained from the 5-megawatt reactor is negligible, and North Korea is widely believed to be pushing the dispute to the brink of crisis in order to extract concessions at the negotiating table.

South Korea on Friday convened an emergency meeting of its National Security Council to discuss the North's announcement.

President-elect Roh Moo-hyun said North Korea's defiant attitude could make it difficult for him to continue his predecessor's policy of seeking reconciliation with Pyongyang after he takes office in February. "Whatever North Korea's

Earlier, South Korea's

rationale is in taking such actions, they are not beneficial to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, nor are they helpful for its own safety and prosperity," Roh said.



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First Baptist Church (White Deer)	
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Grace Baptist Church	
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Paul Nachtigall, Pastor1301 N. Banks	
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Rev. Bob Davis836 S. Gray	
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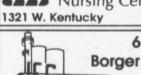
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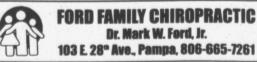
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RELIGION

Amarillo mental health ministry earns state honor

AMARILLO - Buchanan Street Chapel, a mission of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, has received the "Genesis Award" for an innovative new ministry in Texas.

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Jim Young, director for Community Ministries, a department in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, recently announced the award given each year to a BGCT church. More than 100 church ministries were nominated for the 2002 award.

"This award was awarded to us for our Agape Center ministry," said the Rev. Larry Mills, pastor of Buchanan Street Chapel. "This is a ministry that reaches out to the mental health consumers of Amarillo. People with mental illness had no place to meet, so Buchanan Chapel has opened up its doors to them."

Mills said one in three people has a mental illness or suffering with a mental ill- of leading them in a Bible

The celebration continues

"That is a large segment of

society who needs to be-ministered to by Christians and the church. What we have done is open up a center in our building giving a mental health consumers of Amarillo place to go," Mills explained. "They play games, do crafts, they have group meetings several times each day when the center is has a family member who is open and I have the privilege study once a week. I also counsel with them and listen to them as they share their problems."

Mills is a native of Tulia, a 1964 graduate of Amarillo High School, a 1970 graduate of West Texas A&M University and a 1983 graduate of Southwester Seminary in Fort Worth. He served rural arounding Stephenville for almost 20 years before moving back to Amarillo with his wife LaVelle in 1998.

"Working with those who suffer from mental illness has been rewarding for me personally," Mills said. "One young lady said that (the Agape Center) saved her life. It has given her life meaning and purpose. Another man who attends the center said that if he did not have this place to go to during the week he would be at home asleep or out on the street being harassed by the police.

"On any given day, 20 to 30 people come to the center. If I am having a down day, can go downstairs and get hugs from several people in just a few minutes. A good hug on a down day can sure give you a lift."

Mary Kay Kuhrts of Amarillo came to Mills with the idea of a drop-in center for those who suffer with mental illness. From that

meeting in the fall of 1999, the Agape Drop-In Center was started, oficially opening its doors in January 2000.

Mills defines the word "love" as meeting needs "as Christians, whenever and wherever we can, as a representative of Jesus Christ who we believe is our Lord There was a need for someone in our city to reach out to people who had no place to go and in many cases were shunned by society as a whole."

Agape Center is designed to work with everyone who comes and make them feel wanted and loved, Mills said.

"We accept them just like they are and don't run in the other direction just because they might be a little different or act a little different," he said.

"It is exciting to see a church in Amarillo win this statwide award. Buchanan Street Chapel really is trying to minister to everyone, trying to reach out in innovative ways," said Dr. Howard Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo.

"The churches of the B.G.C.T. are among the most creative and missions-minded anywhere," commented Jeff Rains, FBC-Amarillo associate pastor. "It is such an honor that of all the programs and ministries throughout the Buchanan Street Chapel received this recognition. It's an honor for Buchanan Street, Rev. Mills, First Baptist, and the city of Amarillo."

Mike Halligan, executive director of Texas Mental Health Consumers in Austin stated that the Agape Center is the only church-based ministry of its type that he knows of. Halligan praised Mills and the Agape Center for its peer-oriented approach.

"This program is light years ahead of the techniques used in the public mental health system. I love the Amarillo program," Halligan said. "Larry does not know it, but he is doing as much or more to help people with mental illness than the public mental health system.

"I wish I had a million more like Rev. Mills and the Agape Center," he added.

The Agape Drop-in Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They also have a special meeting on Thursday evenings. Buchanan Street Chapel furnishes a van for those who cannot drive.

For more information, call Mills at (806) 374-1252 or Rich Taylor, director of the Agape Center at (806) 373-

Correct understanding is Minister's Musings important. I would like to

expand on something written by Jimmy Flynn in "Events of REV. MICHAEL K. ERICKSON the origin of Christmas" in ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH last Friday's (Dec. 20) paper.

Dec. 25, which is true, but there is so much more. The historic Western Church has a liturgical calendar and church year that it follows. Lutherans, Roman catholics and Episcopalians follow such a calendar still today and gain much from it. Christmas is NOT just one day! And it does not begin right after Thanksgiving. It is celebrated for 12 days from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6 which is

He stated that Christmas is

Christ child (Matthew 2:1-12). Unlike the world, which considers Christmas a marketing time from two weeks before Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, we Christians are in the season of Advent (for four Sundays before the 25th), which prepares us for the season of Christmas.

Christmas does not end on the 26th of December. It is just the beginning! There are 11 more days to celebrate and Epiphany, the day the Church ponder what Christmas is all remembers the Wise Men about. The season of coming with gifts for the Christmas is about God taking

on flesh and becoming man in Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world. The 12-day season of Christmas gives us 12 glorious days to ponder the incarnation and hear of God's love for us in this truth. There is no need to take down your tree on the 26th and discard it in disappointment. Rejoice in whole the season of Christmas.

So people of Pampa, don't take down your lights and decorations until after Jan. 6 and really celebrate with Christians all over the world.

> **Hobart Baptist sets** fifth Sunday singing

Hobart **Baptist** 1100 Church, Crawford, invites the public to a fifth Sunday singing from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 29, at the church.

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LOGOS FOR CHILDREN EACH WEDNESDAY 4:00 TO 7:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30 WORSHIP 8:30 (INFORMAL) AND 10:45 (TRADITIONAL)



The Dixie Melody Boys include Ed O'Neal, Harold Reed, Devin McGlamery, Derrick Selph and Eric Ollis.

Dixie Melody Boys to perform in Borger

BORGER — The Dixie Melody Boys, a gospel music quartet, will perform at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 4 at Borger High School

Organized nearly four decades ago, Dixie Melody Boys has enjoyed several hit numbers, a Grammy nomination, and numerous Fan Award nominations from "The Singing News Magazine.'

Hit releases include "I'll Be Living That Way," "I Won't Compromise," "Welcome Home," "Antioch Church Choir," and their most current hit "I'm One of Them."

Ed O'Neal, bass singer and 35-year gospel music veteran, heads the group which also consists of Harold Reed, a tenor from Asheville, N.C., Devin McGlamery, 19-yearold lead vocalist, Derrick Selph, a baritone from Florida, and pianist Eric Ollis.

For more information about the upcoming Dixie Melody Boys concert, call (806) 275-

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Young Catholic creates program for homeless youth

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) As a child, Angela Lariviere bounced among temporary housing, rundown hotels and other people's couches 39 times in a search for stability — the only constant in life being religious

With a single mother battling mental and physical illnesses, Lariviere and her four siblings at times did not know where their next meals or next beds would be.

"I never thought anyone else lived like I did," said Lariviere, who was dubbed "the gypsy" by schoolmates.

But after getting a job through AmeriCorps with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Lariviere realized that she had been homeless as a child and

that little had changed in her home state since then.

That discovery prompted her to form the coalition's Youth Empowerment Program

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Friday, December 27, 2002

806-358-9597

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Pass the Peas to the Right If You're Eating Family-Style

DEAR ABBY: I was always taught that when a meal is served "family style," the food is passed to the right. However, I have been unable to find that statement in

Since I don't have Internet access, what books on table manners should I check? I've examined several at the library, but have been unable to find an answer.

Thanks, Abby. My family and I enjoy your column.

ROSY JOHNSON, BREMERTON, WASH.

DEAR ROSY: I had to check a number of etiquette books to find your answer — and to my surprise, the subject of eating "family style" was included in only one of them: "The New Emily Post's Etiquette."
She writes: "Often 'family

style' means the host or hostess serves the meat, and the other dishes are passed around with each diner helping himself. These dishes are passed counterclockwise. Men do not offer the dish to the women on their right first, but help themselves when the dish reaches them. They may then, if they wish, hold the dish while the woman next to them serves herself." I hope this is helpful.

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DEAR ABBY: For 31/2 months, I boy. We are not early risers. have been going once a week to a sex therapist who has been trying to help me work out my physical and emotional sex problems

Lately, my husband, "Danny," has grown suspicious about my whereabouts. Danny believes I am romantically involved with an intern I have been training at the office. I do not wish to reveal to him my true whereabouts because I am brother-in-law when they need a afraid it may affect his self-esteem favor

and, in turn, our sex life. Should I tell my husband the truth and risk him feeling inadequate, or not tell him and jeopardize years old, your nephew is old our relationship? SEXLESS IN SEATTLE

DEAR SEATTLE: You should

absolutely tell your husband ule. Put out cereal for him to the truth about where you have eat if he is hungry when he been going, and why. He needs awakens in the morning, and be to know the truth, because he needs to be part of the solution

the problem. (Explain to him that this isn't his "fault.")

ment for it is to help the hus- will cooperate. band and wife together.

every morning. I have two children,

Bldgs Spas Pools

When Ralphie sleeps over, it's usually because his parents are working and there's no school the next day, and they need someone to watch him. When he gets up, he usually wakes up my daughter, and they play loudly in her room.

How should I handle this? I don't want to be a mean aunt, and I don't want to refuse my sister and

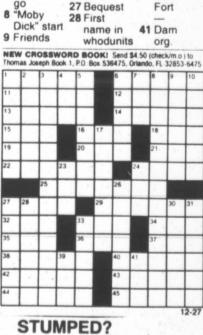
SLEEPLESS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SLEEPLESS: At 8 enough to understand that you need quiet in your house until a certain hour. Explain that your family is on a different schedsure he brings a book or a game he can amuse himself with until the day starts with your family. Make it clear that you do not want your daughter disturbed, Frankly, I am surprised that nor do you want to be awakyou would be seeing a sex there ened before a designated hour apist as an individual because — unless there is an emergency. this is a couple's problem, and As long as he is not hungry or the most common form of treat. bored, I'm sure your nephew

Dear Abby is written by Abigail DEAR ABBY: My 8-year-old nephew, "Ralphie," gets up at 6:00 every morning. I have two children www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440,

Marmaduke

'Wow! That's a new speed bump!"



Yesterday's answer

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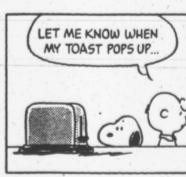


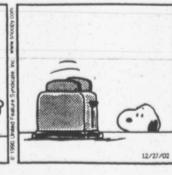
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Hamas leader calling Lamar Carolers for attacks on Israel

By IBRAHIM BARZAK ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The leader of Hamas told 30,000 supporters Friday that the group will keep carrying out suicide bombings and shootings in Israel, despite talks between the Islamic militant group and Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction on suspending such attacks.

A pledge by Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin that "the march of martyrs will move forward" drew cheers from the crowd packed into a soccer stadium in Gaza City's Sheik Radwan neighborhood, a Hamas stronghold.

With the rally, Hamas was marking the 15th anniversary of its founding. Since 1987, the group has carried out scores of bombings, killing hundreds of Israelis.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, meanwhile, told army commanders they must keep up the pressure on Palestinian militias, Israel radio reported. Mofaz's comment came a day after at least eight Palestinians, including six wanted men, were killed by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops renewed arrest raids in the West Bank on Friday.

In the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, soldiers captured a member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Fatah, and found in his possession an audio tape in which announced he was planning a suicide bombing, the army said.

In Bethlehem, soldiers arrested the former head of the student council of Bethlehem University, a Fatah activist, security officials said.

Israel reoccupied Bethlehem on Thursday, after a two-day respite for Christmas. In returning to Jesus' traditional birthplace, troops imposed a curfew that was briefly lifted Friday to

Oil-rich Venezuela looking

abroad for gasoline, food

allow residents to stock up on supplies.

Cabinet Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat on Friday accused Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of trying to disrupt Egyptian-led talks between Hamas and Fatah on suspending attacks in Israel. Erekat said that by ordering relentless strikes against militias, Sharon was trying to provoke Palestinian retaliation.

Palestinians have repeatedly accused Sharon of trying to sabotage truce efforts because in a period of calm, Israel would come under greater pressure to make concessions. 'Sharon's endgame is to sabotage the Egyptian effort," Erekat said.

Sharon's adviser, Raanan Gissin, said Palestinian militias are not serious about stopping violence, and that only continued operations against them help prevent attacks on Israelis. "This is an ongoing, continuous war," Gissin said.

There have been no bombings or shootings in Israel for the past month — one of the longest periods of calm in 27 months of fighting.

A source close to the Cairo talks said this week that Hamas promised the Egyptians to refrain from attacks in Israel, but that local activists would be difficult to control if Israel does not stop targeted killings of Hamas militiamen. Yassin, spiritual leader of

the group, did not send any conciliatory signals Friday. "The march of martyrs will move forward," Yassin told the rally. "Resistance will move forward. Jihad will continue, and martyrdom operations (suicide attacks) will continue until the full liberation of Palestine.'

The Cairo talks are also aimed at reaching a powersharing agreement between Hamas and Fatah and formulating a joint political platform.



Third graders from Lamar Elementary School recently sang Christmas carols for customers in the Bank of America lobby with impromptu direction and the added vocal talents of George Keeton who is celebrating his 103rd birthday today.

Chechen police say 32 or more killed in blasts

(AP) Suicide bombers drove two trucks packed with explosives through cordons protecting the headquarters of Chechnya's pro-Moscow government Friday and then detonated them, reportedly killing at least 32 people and wounding 60 more.

Chechen Interior Minister Ruslan Tsakayev told the Interfax news agency the bombs were contained in a delivery truck and a sport utility-style vehicle used by the Russian military.

Tsakayev said authorities still were trying to determine the number of casualties, which he characterized as "significant."

The death toll from the attack in the regional capital of Grozny rose from initial reports of 25 as authorities responded. The new Chechen Interior Ministry tally of 32 followed a statement by Chechen prosecutor Valery Kravchenko that 14 bodies were found and more were feared buried under the rubble.

The attack came despite Russia's claims that Chechnya is returning to nornal and that the military campaign against separatists was nearly completed. Rebels have continued assaults on Russian troops and Chechens perceived to be collaborating with them.

The explosions hit around 2:30 p.m. local time, just after the traditional lunch break. Imran Vagapov, Chechnya's main inspector, said the building was full of employees and visitors. NTV said as many as 200 people normally worked in the building.

The larger, Kamaz truck exploded next to the building, while the smaller UAZ vehicle blew up in an adjacent parking lot used by government cars, ITAR-Tass said.

The explosions had the

force of one ton of TNT and left a 20-foot-wide crater, Kravchenko said.

NTV television showed stunned and bleeding people stumbling out of the rubble of the administration building, one of the few in the war-shattered Chechen capital to have been renovated completely. Other people were dragged out by their hands and feet, while bloodied soldiers tried to establish order.

The administration headquarters, where the civilian government is based, was damaged severely. NTV showed windows blown out and a sea of building wreckage and burned-out cars in the adjacent square.

Chechen in the building, NTV said. were there.

Kadyrov, who was in destroyed."

he administration headquarters. where the civilian government based, was damaged severely. NTV showed windows blown out

Neither the head of the Moscow, told Interfax that one administration, of the trucks broke through Akhmad Kadyrov, nor his three guard-post cordons surdeputy Mikhail Babich were rounding the government headquarters. He said one However, many other explosion occurred inside the Chechen government workers building, and the interior of the building was "practically

The nearby Chechen Finance Ministry also was damaged badly, Kravchenko

It was the biggest suspected Chechen rebel attack since militants seized a Moscow theater in October, taking about 800 people hostage. All 41 attackers were killed, as were 129 hostages, all but two of whom succumbed to a knockout gas used by Russian authorities to incapacitate the assailants.

The last large attack in Grozny occurred in October, when rebels blew up a Grozny police precinct house, killing at least 25 people. Militants also exploded a passenger bus in September, killing 19 people, mostly civilians.

Despite Moscow's claims the war is ending, Chechen rebels have continued smallscale attacks, as well as occasional larger attacks on military trucks, police stations and other symbols of Russian authority.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A nationwide strike aimed at toppling President Hugo Chavez has forced Venezuela, the world's fifthlargest oil exporter, to import gasoline and haggle with other countries for food.

In deals that were once unthinkable here, Brazil announced Thursday it would ship 520,000 barrels of gasoline to Venezuela by the weekend while Dominican Republic said it would send food as a partial payment for oil it has received in the past.

Venezuela is also negotiating with neighboring Colombia for milk and meat, said Agriculture Minister Efren Andrade.

The nearly month-old paralyzed strike has Venezuela's all-important petroleum industry, which usually supplies the United States with 14 percent of its oil. Exports have declined from 3 million barrels a day to a trickle, depriving Venezuela of \$50 million a day in revenue.

Regular Venezuelans, who once took pride in their country's cheap gasoline and gas, are now facing shortages. On Thursday, about 300 people blocked a Caracas highway Thursday to demand propane cooking gas.

"We are desperate. We've been using charcoal and kerosene to cook for two weeks now," said Faustino Gonzalez, a 59-year-old taxi

As foreign oil orders went unfilled, opposition leaders met with Brazil's ambassador Thursday to urge Brazil not to interfere by helping Chavez break the oil strike.

The government rejected opposition demands that striking oil workers be allowed to keep their jobs as part of any settlement, government negotiator Nicolas Maduro said Thursday.

Fears that the strike could continue well into 2003, coupled with fears of war in Iraq, have helped push oil prices above \$32 a barrel, the highest in two years.

As the strike began biting into the savings of Venezuelan workers, one protest leader, Caracas City Councilman Enrique Ochoa Antich, said the opposition should consider ending the strike and focus instead on a referendum on Chavez's presidency.

"The fundamental outcome we wanted (with the strike), the president's resignation, or his compliance with a consultative referendum, has not been achieved," said Ochoa Antich.

and a sea of building wreckage and burned-out cars in the adjacent square.

Billion dollar Mid-East oil deal signed, sealed

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP) -Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed an ambitious agreement with the Afghan president Friday to build a gas pipeline through war-ravaged Afghanistan.

The 910-mile Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline would carry natural gas from the Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan to energy-hungry Pakistan. It would be one of the largest direct foreign investment projects in Afghanistan in

"It is a project mainly for the next generations of our countries and important for the energy consumption of the three countries and the whole region," Afghan President Hamid Karzai said after signing the deal with Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov and Pakistani Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan

The project has yet to secure financial backing from investors leery of making such a massive investment in a country where U.S.-led forces are still hunting Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network and remnants of the ousted Taliban regime.

Karzai defended his country's prospects,

though, saying the security situation in Afghanistan "can be considered one of the best in the region" and his government would do whatever is necessary to see that the pipeline is completed.

Officials estimate that the pipeline would pump \$300 million in annual transit fees into Afghanistan's ruined economy and create

The project would also secure an additional source of energy for Pakistan and provide an additional export outlet for Turkmenistan, which has the fifth largest natural gas reserves in the world.

The pipeline, which would carry up to 700 billion cubic feet of gas a year, could also be extended to India, officials said.

The project was proposed in 1997 by a consortium led by Unocal Corp. But the company abandoned it after the United States fired cruise missiles into Afghanistan the following year in a strike against al-Qaida.

The Japanese conglomerate Itochu has expressed interest in participating in the pipeline, but so far no company has stepped forward to take over the project.



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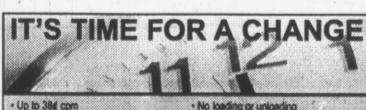
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Kruger said he knew he fright be fired because of the Hawks 11-16 record so Car this season.

The news came hours after the Thrashers, a team also owned by AOL Time-Warner, fired coach Curt Fraser.

Hawks assistant coach Terry Stotts was to be named interim coach. Assistant Gar Heard was also fired.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sacramento Kings guard Bobby Jackson will be sidelined for about six weeks with a broken left hand.

Jackson injured himself Wednesday against the Los Angeles Lakers when Shaquille O'Neal knocked the ball out of his hands while he was driving to the basket. Jackson, who wore a splint after the game, scored 11 points in the team's win over the Lakers.

HOCKEY

ATLANTA (AP) Curt Fraser was fired as coach of the Atlanta Thrashers, who have the worst record in the NHL. He has been the only coach in the team's 3 1/2-year history.

Atlanta is 8-20-1-4 this season, and Fraser leaves with a record of 64-173-31-15.

General manager Don Waddell will be the interim head coach when the Thrashers play at Carolina on Friday. Waddell's only previous coaching experience was in the minor leagues a decade ago, when he was coach and GM in San Diego.

Hours later the Hawks, a team also owned by AOL Time-Warner, fired coach Lon Kruger.

FOOTBALL

NEW ORLEANS (AP) Moving quickly to reward its championship coach, Georgia gave Mark Richt a new \$1.5 million-ayear contract that will keep him with the Bulldogs through at least 2010.

The eight-year deal was announced before the Bulldogs third-ranked arrived in New Orleans for their Jan. 1 Sugar Bowl game against Florida State.

Georgia's long-term commitment should scuttle speculation about Richt being lured to another school after leading the Bulldogs (12-1) to their Southeastern Conference title in two decades.

BASEBALL

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers took another step toward shoring up their bullpen by signing righthander Esteban Yan to a one-year deal.

Yan, 27, went 7-8 with a 4.30 ERA and 19 saves in 55 games last season with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

His signing comes four days after the Rangers signed two-time All-Star closer Ugueth Urbina to a one-year deal for \$4 million with another \$500,000 deferred.

AP names Athlete(s) of the Year

Armstrong's luck came from hard work

By JIM VERTUNO ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN (AP) — Lance Armstrong knows there's more to winning the Tour de France than just his muscular legs and amazing stamina. It takes some luck, too.

A crash, an ill-timed tire puncture and even sickness can doom a rider in the sport's most grueling event.

"Anytime you have three weeks of open road, you need some luck," said Armstrong, selected The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year on Thursday.

"One night you get some bad food, you can't do anything the next day and you lose half an hour," he said. "Knock on wood."

If luck is the product of hard work, Armstrong should have plenty.

Armstrong has conquered everything in his path — including the cancer that spread from his testicles to his lungs and brain in 1996 — to four consecutive Tour de France titles.

He was given just a 50-percent chance to live and his amazing recovery and victories have earned him worldwide praise from sports fans and other cancer fighters.

Armstrong and Barry Bonds were the top two vote-getters for the AP award for a second straight year, only this time the San Francisco Giants' slugger finished second.

Armstrong received 45 first-place votes and 292 points from writers and broadcasters. Bonds had 31 first-place votes and 233 points.

"Uh oh, hopefully he's not mad," Armstrong said. "It's nice to be recog-

Tiger Woods, the winner in 1999 and 2000, finished third for the second year in a row. He received seven firstplace votes and 110 points.

Armstrong takes advantage of the platform his comeback has given him

to drive cancer-fighting campaigns. He started the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which funds cancer research and fills his rare free time with hospital visits and speaking at fund-raisers.

While he has no stump speech, his message is the same: Cancer made him the person he is today.

When I came back, I said if I ever get a chance to do this, I'm going to give it everything. I'm going to train correctly, eat right. I'm not going to mess up," he said. "That's why I say all the time that the illness is the best thing that ever happened to me.

"I would never have won one Tour de France if I hadn't had it. No doubt." Winning one Tour de France would have secured his place in cycling history. Capturing four in row put him

among the greatest riders ever. A victory in 2003 would tie the record of five. Spain's Miguel Indurain (1991-95) is the only champion of five in a row. Armstrong raced in three of Indurain's victories and holds the Spaniard in high regard.

"He was an incredible time trialist, the best that ever lived," Armstrong said. "I can win a time trial today, but I would do it by seconds. He could win by a couple of minutes.

Armstrong was a time-trial specialist himself before the cancer. It was during his recovery that he amazingly turned himself into a dominator in the punishing mountain stages, where his breakaways up steep climbs separate him from the rest of the pack.

Tour officials already have mapped out the course for the 2003 race, which will be the event's 100-year anniversary, with additional mountain stages but fewer really steep climbs. That still bodes well for the 31-year-old Armstrong winning No. 5.

While he's already eyeing a possible sixth title in '04, Armstrong won't be caught daydreaming.

Williams personifies athletic intensity

By HOWARD FENDRICH **AP TENNIS WRITER**

Serena Williams personifies intensity on a tennis court, right down to her routine for the prematch coin toss.

Up at the net, most players are blank canvases, cradling a racket and generally standing still during the formality. Not Williams. She whips her arm in a service motion over and over, her racket slicing the air — Whoosh! Whoosh! — in a display that's akin to shadowboxing during a referee's instructions in a ring.

Bringing that intimidation to every shot on every surface against every opponent (including, finally, her older sister) in 2002, Williams was simply dominant, winning three of the four Grand Slam titles.

On Friday, Williams was honored as The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year in a vote that was about as close as many of her matches.

She received 53 first-place votes and 351 points from writers and broadcasters across the country. Golfer Annika Sorenstam was next, with 27 first-place votes and 193 points, followed by Olympic champion figure skater Sarah Hughes (12 first-place votes, 158 points).

"I can't become satisfied, because if I get satisfied, I'll be like, 'Oh, I've won Wimbledon, I've won the U.S. Open. Now can I relax," Williams said. "But now people are really going to be fighting to beat me."

It didn't do a lot of good to try to beat her this year.

Williams won 56 of 61 matches (a .918 winning percentage), claimed a WTA Tour-leading eight titles (out of. only 13 tournaments played), and took home a record \$3.6 million. She was a runner-up twice and never fared worse than the quarterfinals.

won 11 of her 23 events on the LPGA Tour, finishing out of the top 10 just three times, and set records for lowest scoring average (68.70) and earnings (\$2.8 million). She also won non-tour events in Australia and Sweden this season, bringing her total to 13 wins in 25 tournaments.

Williams went 21-0 on her sport's biggest stages, beating sister Venus who was fifth in the AP balloting after finishing second twice in a row - in the finals of the French Open on clay, Wimbledon on grass, and the U.S. Open on hard courts.

She didn't lose a set at the All England Club or Flushing Meadows en route to becoming just the sixth woman to win tennis' final three majors in a year (she dubbed it a "Serena Slam"). It might have been a Grand Slam sweep, but an ankle injury forced her to skip the Australian Open.

Williams had a season-best 21match overall winning streak and took over the No. 1 ranking in July. Perhaps most striking was her complete turnaround against two of the best in the sport and her predecessors atop the rankings: Jennifer Capriati and Venus Williams. Serena went 0-4 against that pair in 2001, 9-0 against them in 2002.

3 Pe

"The difference is I'm a bit more mature, and I'm more relaxed," Serena said. "I'm a better player, obviously. But I just have more fun with what I do. I'm not as stressed out there as I used to be."

Her game features impressive power (her 53 aces during the U.S. Open were more than twice as many as any other woman) and all-court coverage, along with an ever-improving ability to construct points.

Not everything went according to plan for Williams this year.

Her parents completed their divorce, and she had to deal with a For comparison's sake, Sorenstam stalker who followed her around.

Colorado, Wisconsin set for Alamo Bowl

When Colorado and Wisconsin meet Saturday night in the Alamo Bowl, it could resemble an intrasquad scrimmage.

The No. 14 Buffaloes (9-4) and Badgers (7-6) are very similar, with both focusing their offenses around running the ball and their defenses on controlling the opposing ground game.

"I don't know that we'll do anything that they haven't seen," Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez said. "They see what we're going to do about every day in practice."

Junior tailback Chris Brown (1,744 yards, 18 touchdowns) leads the Buffaloes' running game, with strong help from Bobby Purify (739 yards). America selection, missed the

senior, is regarded as one of the nation's best blocking backs.

"The most important person we have on offense is Brandon Drumm," said Shawn Watson, Colorado's offensive coordina-

Quarterback Robert Hodge, a senior, passed for more than 1,500 yards and 12 touchdowns for Colorado, which won the Big 12's North division with a 7-1 record before losing the conference championship game to Oklahoma.

"We have to get long drives and wear out the defense," Hodge said. "We have good backs and we know they can carry the team."

Brown, a second-team All-

bruised sternum after leading the league in rushing, scoring and all-purpose yards.

"I'm going to get out there and run the ball, get us in synch and back on rhythm, which shouldn't be hard at all," Brown said.

The Buffaloes have a 4-0-1 record against overall Wisconsin, with two of those wins coming against Alvarez in regular-season matchups. But the Badgers sport a 6-1 record under Alvarez in bowl games, compared to Gary Barnett's 1-1 postseason mark at Colorado.

Alvarez says he's a bit worried about how his youthful defense (five starters are freshmen or sophomores) will match up against the Buffaloes' potent

offensive line, which averages just under 300 pounds. "They been able to be phys-

ical with everyone and run the football against everyone. When you do that, you dictate the game, you dictate the tempo," he said. "I just don't know whether we can stand up physically against them."

Wisconsin's ground game Anthony Davis, who gained 1,456 yards and scored 12 touchdowns during the regular season, with help from freshman Dwayne Smith (537 yards, six touchdowns).

The Badgers, who started the season with five non-league wins before going 2-6 in the Big Ten, also are young on

being sophomores or freshmen. Ouarterback

Bollinger, a senior, passed for 1,595 yards and 12 touchdowns, and he rushed for nearly 400 yards more. Seven of his scoring passes were to Jonathan Orr, who totaled 842 receiving yards as a freshman.

Bollinger says control of the line of scrimmage will be crucenters around sophomore cial, as will be the ability to make big plays.

"I don't necessarily mean 80-yard touchdowns or something like that — you've got to be able to make plays on third down," he said. "I don't think either of these two teams is going to be too much trick-em. It's pretty much straight-ahead football.

UT track coach hurt in wreck fatal to two

women's track coach Beverly Kearney, who has guided the Longhorns to four NCAA team championships and dozens of individual and relay titles, was in critical condition with back injuries after being thrown from a car in an accident in Florida.

Thursday's crash killed a university staff member and the mother of former world champion sprinter and Olympic medalist Michelle killed. Freeman.

the vehicle, and the toddler daughter of the Texas official who was killed, survived.

Kearney, 44, underwent surgery at Shands Jacksonville hospital, University of Texas officials said. A nursing supervisor said she remained in critical condition early Friday.

Christine Plonsky, Texas women's athletic director, said Kearney's prognosis had "improved" after surgery but a school spokeswoman said Texas officials did not have details of her injuries.

According to an accident report filed by the Florida Highway Patrol, the group's

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Lexus sport utility vehicle was driving about 35 miles west of Jacksonville at 7:57 a.m. when it crossed the median and swerved back, causing it to

Killed in the accident was Ilrey A. Sparks of Austin, 40, an academic counselor for women's athletics at UT and a former NCAA track champion at Tennessee. Freeman's mother, Muriel Wallace, 63, who also lived in Austin, also was

"This is an incredibly trag-Freeman, who was driving ic day for our university,' Plonsky said. "We've lost one of our finest staff members in Ilrey Sparks. Threads of her work run through every male and female student athlete she's touched.

> "Our prayers are with everyone and with Bev Kearney," Plonsky said. "We hope she's on her way to a full

Freeman, 33, a former world indoor champion in the 60 meter hurdles who also won bronze in the 400-relay for Jamaica in 1996, was at the hospital in good condition.

Sparks' daughter, Imani, 2, was in fair condition.

BOWL GLANCE

Tuesday, Dec. 17 **New Orleans Bowl** \$750,000

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Texas 24, Cincinnati 19

Wednesday, Dec. 18 **GMAC Bowl** Mobile, Ala.

Marshall 38, Louisville 15

Monday, Dec. 23 **Tangerine Bowl** At Orlando, Fla. \$750,000

Texas Tech 55, Clemson 15 Wednesday, Dec. 25

Las Vegas Bowl \$800,000 UCLA 27, New Mexico 13 Hawaii Bowl At Honolulu

\$750,000 Tulane 36, Hawaii 28

Thursday, Dec. 26

Motor City Bowl At Detroit

\$780,000 Boston College 51, Toledo 25 **Insight Bowl** At Phoenix

\$750,000 Pittsburgh 38, Oregon State

Friday, Dec. 27 **Houston Bowl**

\$750,000 Southern Mississippi (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5), 1 p.m. **Independence Bowl**

At Shreveport, La.

\$1.2 million Nebraska (7-6)Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **Holiday Bowl** At San Diego

\$2 million Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arizona State (8-5), 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 **Continental Tire Bowl** At Charlotte, N.C.

\$750,000 West Virginia (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2) Alamo Bowl At San Antonio

\$1.35 million Colorado (9-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Dec. 30

Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. \$750,000 Minnesota (7-5) vs. Arkansas

(9-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN) Seattle Bowl Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Oregon

Tuesday, Dec. 31 **Humanitarian Bowl** At Boise, Idaho a \$750,000 Iowa State (7-6) vs. Boise

State (11-1), Noon (ESPN)

(7-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Shaq ties the knot in private ceremony

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Shaquille O'Neal married longtime girlfriend Shaunie Nelson in a private ceremony at The Beverly Hills Hotel.

plainclothes security guards

A television news helicopter The couple exchanged vows Thursday night in front of friends and Los Angeles Lakers "This is a great event for

began chasing out reporters and event, so I'm glad I got to photographers during the after-

captured video of 'O'Neal standing with his bride as they prepared to take their vows.

Kareem Rush told KCAL-TV. "It was fabulous. It was true to Shaquille's class and grace,"

said Cheryl Cleamons, wife of assistant coach Jim Cleamons.

attend it." Lakers rookie

O'Neal had declined to disteammates at the hotel, where Shaq, I'm really happy for him cuss his wedding plans after and his wife and it was a lovely practice Thursday.

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DEC. Special for Military Serviceman's (called to Active Duty only), Appli. Repairs -No Serv. Charge, parts & tax only! Williams Appli., Service, 665-8894.

12-27

28, 2002:

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14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

CRYPTOQUOTE

BR

XDXZAAK CJEF BQZB

ZST DJHP. — YRTBQT

You have unusual strength and power *** Others come up with ideas that

this year, and you want to achieve a lot you might wonder about. Use timing to

for your own well-being. If you were hedge and allow everyone to gain a per-

born in the morning, your career needs to spective. You might want to try some-

take precedence. You will be a star pro- thing new or different with a loved one.

fessionally, doing whatever it takes to Being innovative gets the type of results

who might have more expertise than you. ★★★★ Unexpected behavior marks

Others will opt to spruce up their knowl- a relationship. You might not be exactly

edge in their field through a class or sem- sure what needs to happen. Allow greater

inar. Those born in the afternoon will creativity and innovation in your life.

friendships. Your horizons broaden. If them. Laugh through a problem. Tonight:

son might not filter into your life until *** Loosen up with your projects.

fall. You will be swept off your feet. If Make less of a big deal or let go of a

you are attached, your relationship will problem. You cannot keep pushing oth-

develop to another level if you open up ers. Take your time dealing with loved

more often. Fall provides a very special ones. You could find that another is most

event or trip. SCORPIO proves to be unpredictable. Think through a decision

nings, knowing that anything is possible. effort toward a child or loved one. Your

Loosen up with someone you often are unpredictability takes you in a new direc-

might say nothing and still get quite a *** * Your personality melts oth-

least expect them. Tonight: Go along your time with an unpredictable family

succeed in your chosen line of work. you want. Tonight: Put your feet up.

Some of you will hook up with someone CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OUR DUTY IS TO BE

USEFUL, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR DESIRES

BUT ACCORDING TO OUR POWERS. — AMIEL

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. with the program.

you are single, meeting people will hap- Play away.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

your dreams. The plans you make will

Think in terms of success and new begin-

5-Dynamic;

3-Average; 2-So-so; I-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

deal out of anything

pen easily this year, though the right per- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

somehow tie into your sleep revelations. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Deal with different ideas Indulge a loved one.

carefully, as others could be touchy. You SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

MQKDJHZA

HRÉFJBJRE,

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

gain through networking and their You find answers where you least expect touch base with friends you haven't

carefully. Tonight: Play it low-key.

4-Positive; that extra step. Start writing thank-you show

notes and reaching out for others. Your

ability to express yourself could surprise

** * Much that goes on stems from all the difference right now. Tonight: At few days to escape and gather another

haps you need to make an extra effort

toward someone else close. Tonight:

reaction. Why not allow others to present ers' resistances. You might not be as sure Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at

their ideas? You find solutions when you of yourself as you would like to be. Take http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

your preferred spot.

guarded with. Tonight: Don't make a big tion, if you allow it. Be aware that per- BORN TODAY

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

KRX DBZSB

KRXS

LRSZA

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call

BACKHOE & Loader Work, demolition, topsoil, sand, gravel. Snow Removal. Ron Schwope, 669-0606.

BQJEP

14n Painting

CERAMIC

♦TILE WORK

50 yr. exp. We paint, drywall, texture, comm./ residential. Free Estimates. Happy Painters 665-3214

INT/EXT. painting, mud tape, blow accoustic. 35 yr. exp. References. Gene Calder 665-4840.

14s Plumbing/Heat

CHIEF Plastic Pipe & upply, Inc. caters to the handyman. We've got everything you need for your next plumbing repair or remodel job. Come by & let us help! 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa 665-6716

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

14s Plumbing/Heat

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

14t Radio/Tv

RENT TO OWN We have tvs, VCRs, cam corders, to suit your needs. Rent by hour, day, week. We do service on most major brand of tvs & VCRs. Call for estimate.

Johnson Home Enertain-

ment, 2211 Perryton

RENT TO RENT

Prkwy. 665-0504. 21 Help Wanted

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Mitzi Devoll, R.N.

Director of Nurses

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call (806)669-2551

member who might not see eye to eye

with you. Understanding flows. Tonight:

** Realize more of what you want

from others. You might want to cut back

a little in order to observe others' limits.

You will notice that not everyone agrees

with you. Lay back, and when you feel

timing is with you, charge on in. Tonight:

*** * You won't be content alone.

Make an effort to reach out to others and

talked to for a while. Catching up on

news and following the very social

nature of the next few days fits the bill.

Make the most out of the moment.

**** You might want to think

through a decision that involves a boss or

someone you put on a pedestal. What

remains key is knowing when you cannot

do anything more. Stay on top of a pres-

* * * * Your mind might not be pres-

perspective. Try to see a situation differ-

ently. Be more open to possibilities.

Actor Denzel Washington (1954), novel-

ist Manuel Puig (1932), 28th U.S.

© 2002 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

President Woodrow Wilson (1856)

Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Make an extra overture. Take ent situation, if possible. Tonight: A must

even you. That extra effort could make ent, even if your body is. Take the next

*** You make more than an extra Consider your options. Tonight: Read

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Whatever makes you happy

Get a good night's sleep.

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> ply 94 Main, Panhandle, Tx., 537-3526 NEED DELIVERY MEN at Texas Furniture. Please

sary Travel required. Ap-

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69 Misc.

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who needs to

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FULL time help wanted

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Suite 104, Amarillo. fixtures, Sony digital FRONT Desk Clerk needcamera. 806-236-4165 ed, typing & computer MOVING must sell: 20 skills required. Apply in hp. Murray 52 in. cut ridperson only, at Best Westing mower, 2 yrs. old, ern Northgate Inn. \$1200. Quadra Fire wood-SALARY PLUS pellet insert, 1 yr. old,

Salary PLUS Commission \$1300. 806-665-7787 Family Man or Woman MESQUITE Firewood \$145 Cord earn \$500. per week

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Dealers Welcome!

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Shamrock,

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nova dog & cat food.

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bedrooms. Nice carpet, patio. Central heat and air

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DUNCAN - Lots of room in this four or five

bedroom home. 2 living areas, 2 baths. Central

heat and air. Fireplace in den. Built-in hutch in

DOUCETTE - Nice three bedroom home in quite

neighborhood. Some hardwood floors under

carpeting. One bath, storage building, single

.669-2214 Roberta Babb

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98 Unfurn. Houses

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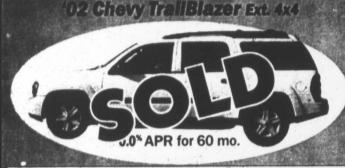








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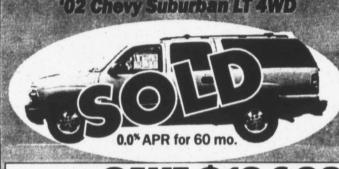
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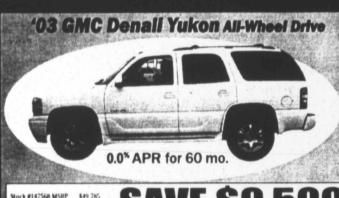


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11,734 SAVE \$12,000







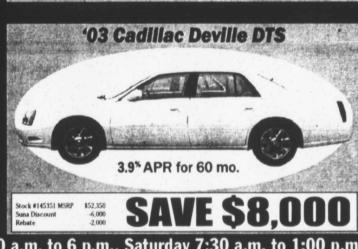












Showroom Hours: Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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