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THE Pampa

NEWS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2002

Vol. 98 No. 537 • Pampa, Texas
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STATE

Texas bucks trend of fewer executions

FORT WORTH (AP) — Texas bucked a trend showing fewer states carrying out the death penalty in 2002, according to a study that showed the number of states executing inmates fell to a nine-year low.

In several states, fewer people were executed than last year.

Texas, meanwhile, executed 33 people — almost double the 17 lethal injections administered in 2001 — and recaptured its standing as No. 1 in executions in the nation.

Since resuming executions 20 years ago, 298 Texas inmates have been executed, far more than in any other state. The 17 executions in Texas in 2001 represented a sharp drop for the state, which executed a record 40 people in 2000 and has executed an average of 22 inmates annually since 1992.

DEATHS

Clifton Wayne Boydston, 71, farmer/rancher.

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'Tens of thousands' deployed

Military build-up begins in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of American troops and dozens of warships will head to Persian Gulf in the coming weeks as the Pentagon puts forces in place to make war on Iraq, defense officials say.

Since Christmas, the Pentagon has begun alerting units around the United States and overseas to prepare for deployment. The Navy has been ordered to prepare two aircraft carrier battle groups and two amphibious assault

groups — which carry thousands of Marines — to be ready to head to the region sometime in January, officials said Friday.

Air Force combat aircraft wings and Army units also are receiving orders to deploy, officials said. Military personnel will go to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, among other locations, reinforcing the 50,000 U.S. military personnel already in the region.

The fresh troops are intend-

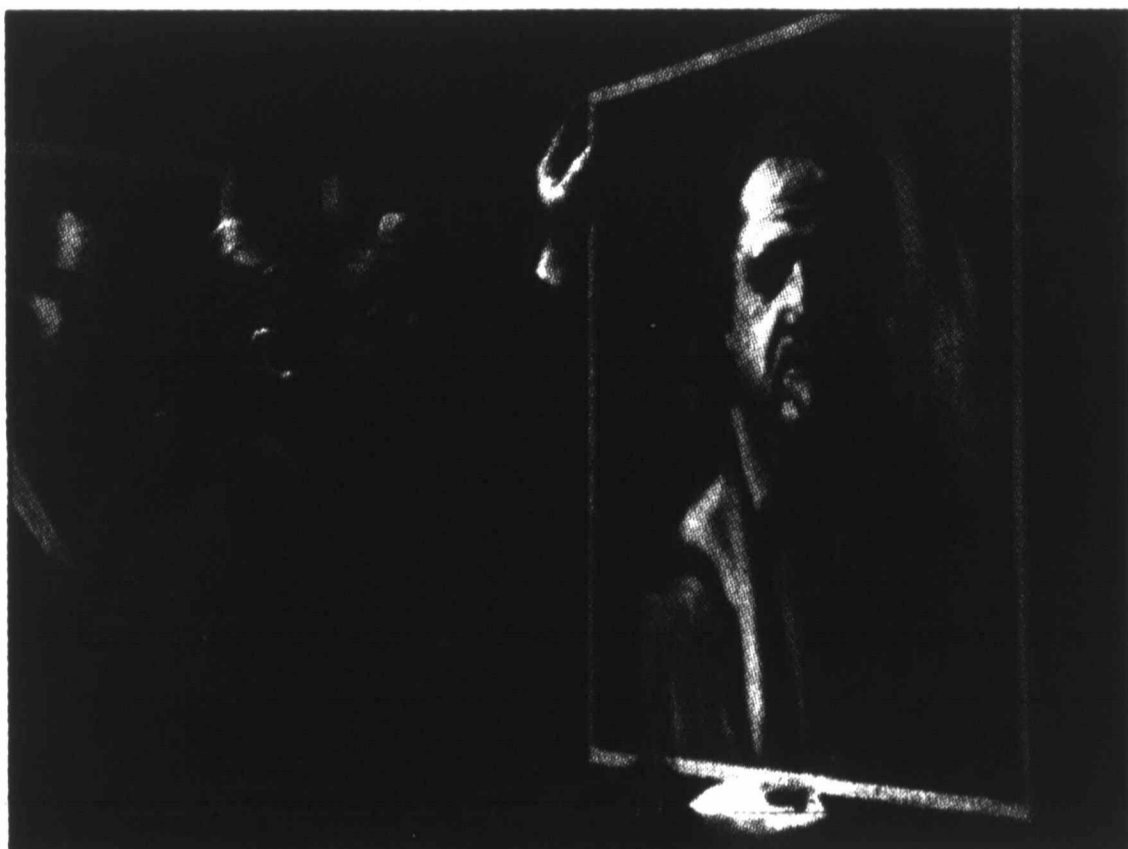
ed to coerce Iraqi President Saddam Hussein into disclosing and abandoning his efforts to acquire chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, military officials said. No decision to go to war has been made.

"We don't comment on specific unit deployments. However, forces will be flowing to the region to be in place should the president decide to use them," said Jim Wilkinson, a spokesman at U.S. Central Command,

which would oversee operations in Iraq.

The Bush administration waited until after Christmas to issue the orders. Officials said tens of thousands of military personnel will receive orders to go to the region, but a precise figure was unavailable.

Some of the units being sent to the region are combat-ready, including infantry outfits, warships and strike aircraft, officials said. Many more are logistics, engineer- (See **MILITARY**, Page 3)



(Pampa News photos by Nancy Young)



Pampa artist Grant Johnson hangs one of his paintings in preparation for "The Face Behind the Face" exhibit Friday which opens Jan. 2 at the White Deer Land Museum, 112 S. Cuyler. At left is another of Johnson's thought provoking portraits featured in the exhibit. Visiting hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays, in the Holland Wing Exhibit Room through Jan. 29.

Face to face

Pampa artist's latest exhibit draws viewers into his work

By **NANCY YOUNG**
MANAGING EDITOR

Reflections Studio, owned by Pampa artist Grant Johnson, is aptly named. "The Face Behind the Face," is the first of two exhibits of his paintings which reflect the moods and emotions of the subjects in the oil paintings.

Approximately 38 portraits of friends, neighbors, relatives, his wife and himself, are in Johnson's monochromatic (one color) exhibit which opens Thursday, Jan. 2, at the White Deer Land Museum, 112 S. Cuyler. The local art showing will end at the museum Jan. 29 before the paintings travel to the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex area to be exhibited.

A wide range of emotions are seen in the paintings by Johnson. The canvasses reflect anger, agitation and emotional suppression.

Some of the older subjects have a worn, tired look to them while others are looking, longing and even hopeful.

Others have the face of experience and acceptance of life. Suspicion and fear dominate some of the faces.

"Most emotions are seen in the brow-ridge area of a person's face," said Johnson. He described that area as very telling of their emotions.

"Even when they try to put on a front," he said, "the brow area tells the true story."

Deep contemplation is seen in the faces Johnson has painted.

The native of Pampa said he has been in and out of the community since he was a child, but has now made his home here with his wife Kelly. She has written several books under the pen name of Kelly Stevens and is an award-winning author.

Self-taught, Johnson said his art began as a hobby about 20 years ago.

"I've never had any lessons," he said, "and I've taught a lot of workshops, but I've never attended any."

He said he has painted about everything and does it on commission. He said about 90 percent of his income is from portrait commissions, but he also paints landscapes and still-lives.

The monochromatic tones cause the faces in the paintings to be highlighted.

"Color can be a distraction," he said. The only colors in the oil paintings on exhibit at White Deer Land Museum are sepia, taupe and black.

"The color will distract from the emotional content on the faces," said Johnson.

The collection features many illusions created by Johnson's unique style.

Frames for the collection were selected with care and are simple and nondescript.

"I wanted the frames to be minimal and all framing uni- (See **ART**, Page 3)

'Gems of the Plains' features playa lakes

By **DAVID BOWSER**
STAFF WRITER

AMARILLO — A Panhandle couple has organized a traveling playa lake exhibit for the Northwest Texas Museum Association.

Drs. Paul and Susana Katz directed the research, design and fabrication of the playa exhibit project. Collaborating with them was James I. Williams II, an Amarillo designer and architect.

Paul Katz was formerly curator of the Square House Museum in Panhandle. He and his wife formed Prehistoric Resources Identification, Assessment and Management, an archeological and museum consulting company, in 1985. Most recently, they've been involved in archeological

excavations at Stinnett and Lake Meredith.

The playa lakes exhibit, Playas...Gems of the Plains, has been in the making for five years, Katz said.

It features 20 panels with a wide range of topics concerning playa lakes. There are about 20,000 playas in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains region. The exhibit deals with the function of the lakes, their history, art, uses and abuses.

"About 96 percent of the world's playa lakes are found right here on the High Plains," Katz said. "Playas have been a magnet for animals and their human hunters throughout prehistoric times and into historic times. The first settlers and then the region's first towns focused on them."

The traveling exhibition will open

with a fabric painting demonstration by artist Robert McKenzie at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 30, at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens, 1400 Streit Dr., in the Harrington Regional Medical Center.

"Robert McKenzie has painted an introductory banner for the 'playarama' exhibit," Katz said. "We are pleased that he is coming to Amarillo to deliver the banner and help us introduce Playas...Gems of the Plains."

McKenzie, a panhandle native who now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been involved with fabric painting for more than 50 years. He and his assistant, Deborah Kern, provide a glimpse into the art of playa lakes with a 360-degree exhibit that will begin a three-year regional tour in mid-January.

McKenzie began painting on fabric

in 1938 at what was then West Texas Teacher's College, now West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

In the 1940s, he began experimenting with silk-screening.

McKenzie and his partner, Catherine D. Buck, developed the state's first art colony, Colony Catherine, near Palo Duro Canyon in the 1950s.

Principal funding for the exhibit came from the Amarillo Area Foundation, Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation, Meadows Foundation and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

The exhibit will be on display at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens gallery from Jan. 13 through Feb. 5. It is scheduled to open at the Hutchinson County Museum in Borger on Feb. 9 (See **LAKES**, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

CLIFTON WAYNE BOYDSTON
1931-2002

ALLISON — Clifton Wayne Boydston, 71, died Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002, at Wheeler. Services will be at 2:30 p.m., today in Allison School Gymnasium with the Revs. F.R. Johnson, former pastor, M.C. McDaniel, pastor, and Roy Jones, of Midland, officiating. Burial will be in Zybach Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mr. Boydston was born Aug. 29, 1931, at Barber, Ark., to W.H. and Opal Brown Boydston. He came to Allison as a child and attended Allison schools. He married Velma Louise Harrison on Dec. 5, 1950, at Wheeler.

A lifelong farmer and rancher, he worked for Parker Drilling Company as well for 23 years, serving in the company's overseas division for the past seven.

He was a lifetime member of Allison United Pentecostal Church, holding various offices in the church throughout the years, and

served on Allison ISD Board of Trustees. He was also an avid hunter and fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his father, W.H.; and by a daughter, Wanda Walker in July 2002.

Survivors include his wife, Louise; two sons, Gary and Bennie, both of Allison; five daughters, Shirley Chadwick of Oklahoma City, Okla., La Quinta Hulse of Tucson, Ariz., Sue Martin of Jones, Okla., and Cheryl Dupont and Kim Thompson, both of Allison; his mother, Opal Boydston of Allison; three brothers, Curtis Boydston, Vance Boydston, and Forrest Boydston, all of Allison; a sister, Juanita Boydston of Allison; 22 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Allison United Pentecostal Church, Allison, TX 79003; or to Tupelo Children's Mansion, P.O. Box 167, Tupelo, MS 38802.

SERVICES TOMORROW

Services today

BOYDSTON, Clifton Wayne — 2:30 p.m., Allison School gym, Allison.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Sunday's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies along with breezy, highs in the lower 60s, and southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Sunday night should be mostly cloudy and breezy with lows in the upper 20s and northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Monday should be partly cloudy. Windy and cooler. Highs in the lower 40s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph shifting to the north 25 to 30 mph. Monday night, mostly clear. Lows in

the lower 20s.

Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. New Year's Day, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s.

Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

ON RECORD

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance Service made the following runs during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 27

12:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 800 block of West Foster and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

4:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to

the 1000 block of Prairie Drive. No transport.

5:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Magnolia and transported one to PRMC.

11:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Texas Highway 273 on a mutual aid with another ambulance service and transported one to PRMC.

FIRE

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

Friday, Dec. 27

8:28 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 100 block of South Russell.

Saturday, Dec. 28

12:12 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a small fire in a dumpster in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported no arrests nor incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department made no arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, according to Gray County Jail records.

City Briefs

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

BEST PRICES on PVC Pipe & fittings in town! Cut cost on your next repair or remodel job. Chief Plastic Pipe & Supply, Inc. 1237 S. Barnes, 665-6716 or 800-649-6716.

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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!!*

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

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REMEMBER TO pick up your Baby's First Christmas picture at *Pampa News*.

NEW YEAR'S Eve Dance, at Moose Lodge, 8 p.m., "Rebel Texas" Band

VFW POST 1657, 105 S. Cuyler, are having a Black Eye Pea & Cornbread dinner on New Years Day @ 11:00 a.m. Donations Accepted.

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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

Clonaid announcement puts proverbial ball in feds' court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Real or hoax, the claim that the world's first human clone has been born puts the next step squarely into Congress' court: Will it ban baby-making via cloning?

President Bush led a conservative drumbeat Friday urging lawmakers to take that step. But even a ban would reach only so far — presumably people could still go abroad to seek cloning experiments.

The nation has no specific law against human cloning. But the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates human experiments, contends that its regulations forbid human cloning without prior agency permission — permission it has no intention of giving.

FDA officials already are investigating whether Clonaid, a company that claimed to have produced the cloned baby girl born to an American woman, illegally performed any of the work on U.S. soil.

There is broad support in Congress for an overt ban of cloning to produce babies, partly from concern that FDA's authority won't hold up in court.

But many senators are not averse to cloning embryos solely for research that could cure diseases such as Alzheimer's or diabetes, and they blocked passage of legislation that would ban that type of cloning, too.

Now the question is whether the uproar over an alleged cloned baby will break that stalemate — and if so, whether Bush and his allies would succeed in also banning the cloning of embryonic cells for medical research.

Clonaid's announcement "should serve as a chilling reminder that individuals are still trying to clone human beings," said incoming Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist,

R-Tenn., a physician who backs a ban on all forms of human cloning.

Lawmakers expressed skepticism Friday that Clonaid, a company formed by a sect that believes in extraterrestrials, had indeed produced a clone. Still, leading Republicans, backed by some powerful religious groups, called for a quick ban when Congress returns next month.

"The president believes, like most Americans, that human cloning is deeply troubling," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Despite the widespread skepticism among scientists and medical professionals about today's announcement, it underscores the need for the new Congress to act."

But lawmakers who had pushed for a compromise studiously avoided comment Friday fearing the Clonaid uproar, whether it proves true or a hoax, would harm efforts to keep cloning for medical research legal.

"This science offers us enormous hope," said Michael Mangiello of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research, which is preparing to fight again for so-called therapeutic cloning.

There are two issues: cloning to make babies, and cloning of embryos to cure a special cell type, called stem cells, for medical research.

The House last year passed a bill, backed by Bush, that would ban both types.

But in the Senate, Sens. Edward Kennedy, liberal Massachusetts Democrat, and Orrin Hatch, a conservative Utah Republican, partnered to push a bill that would ban only reproductive cloning, arguing that research cloning was crucial. Neither proponents of a total ban or of the compromise could get enough votes to pass their bills.

Hilary urging greater jobless benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time has run out for nearly 800,000 Americans relying on federal unemployment benefits. But Congress can start off the new year right by passing an extension that would cover all people who still cannot find work, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said Saturday.

The former first lady's comments, coming in the weekly Democratic radio address, marked a return to the national stage. Since her election two years ago, she has focused on issues affecting her New York constituents and on developing relationships with Senate colleagues.

Clinton and her aides have said consistently that she does not plan to run for president in 2004. But a poll of Democrats released last weekend showed she would lead the field of likely party candidates should she seek the nomination.

Democrats, sensing political opportunity in the loss of unemployment benefits, have blamed Republicans and President Bush, and put Clinton center stage Saturday to deliver the punch.

In the address, Clinton said that another 13-week extension of federal unemployment benefits is smart economic policy, citing a Labor Department study that said each dollar generates \$2.15 in the economy.

"We owe hard-working Americans, and our own economy, nothing less in the new year," she said. "It will come too late for this holiday season. But it's never too late to do the right thing."

Congress left for the year without extending the federal benefits, meaning that 750,000 to 800,000 unemployed workers were cut off Saturday. An additional 95,000 jobless workers will exhaust their state benefits each week afterward. Already, 1 million people have used all of their benefits.

There were two competing bills that languished: a \$5 billion plan from the Democratic-controlled Senate that would have extended benefits 13 weeks for people now receiving them or who were newly eligible, and a \$900 million plan from the GOP-led House for five extra weeks for workers in

a few states with high unemployment rates.

Clinton said House Republicans are to blame for their refusal to consider the Senate plan. "They ran out the clock and went home for the holidays without even allowing a simple vote," she said.

As the last Congress neared its final days, with the rival Senate and House bills going nowhere, the White House stayed on the sidelines.

With lawmakers at an impasse, Bush refused to lend his clout to break the logjam until two weeks ago, more than three weeks after Congress had already left town. In his weekly radio address on Dec. 14 and again Saturday, Bush urged Congress to make a retroactive extension a priority in January. But he did not say which plan he supported, who should be covered and for how long.

"Now that the president has endorsed this extension, I urge him to support a meaningful plan that extends benefits for 13-weeks and covers people who have exhausted all of their benefits," Clinton said. "Anything less would leave millions of Americans to begin the New Year with empty pockets and little hope."

In the last recession of the early 1990s, benefits were extended five times. But so far, Congress has authorized only one extension in the current recession. Republicans claim the Senate plan is too costly. But Clinton said the \$24 billion in the unemployment insurance trust fund is "much more than enough."

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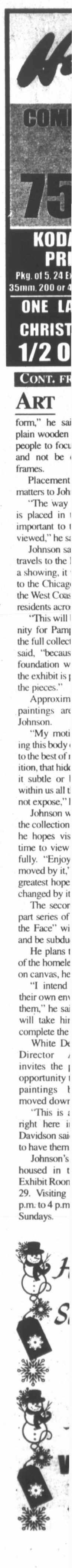
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Contributions to the Michael Townsend Cornelison memorial scholarship fund can be at Carver Center, attention Mark McVay. The contribution is tax deductible. Michael was a 2001 PHS graduate, pre-med sophomore at Oklahoma Christian University.



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CONT. FROM PAGE 1

ART

form," he said of the simple, plain wooden frames. "I wanted people to focus on the painting, and not be distracted by the frames.

Placement of the portraits matters to Johnson.

"The way the subject matter is placed in the frame is very important to the way it will be viewed," he said.

Johnson said after the exhibit travels to the Metroplex area for a showing, it will be transported to the Chicago area and back to the West Coast to be exhibited to residents across the country.

"This will be the last opportunity for Pampa residents to see the full collection as a group," he said, "because the endowment foundation which is sponsoring the exhibit is purchasing some of the pieces."

Approximately four of the paintings are self-portraits of Johnson.

"My motivation for producing this body of work is to reveal, to the best of my insight and intuition, that hidden part of us all, be it subtle or bold, the elements within us all that we might rather not expose," he said.

Johnson wants the viewers of the collection to "feel" it. He said he hopes visitors will take the time to view the work thoughtfully. "Enjoy it! But, also, be moved by it," he said. "And, my greatest hope is that you will be changed by it."

The second part of the two-part series of "The Face Behind the Face" will have earth tones and be subdued, Johnson said.

He plans to capture the faces of the homeless and drug addicts on canvas, he explained.

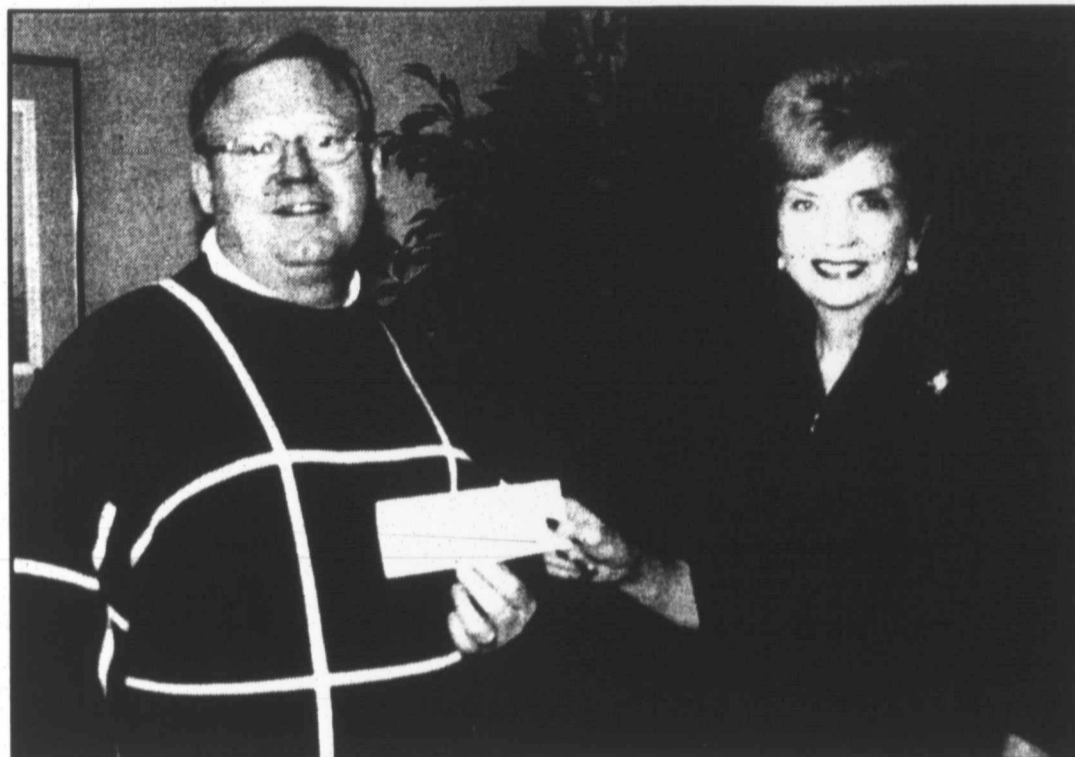
"I intend to find people in their own environment and paint them," he said. He added that it will take him about a year to complete the second part.

White Deer Land Museum Director Anne Davidson invites the public to take the opportunity to see this series of paintings before they are moved down state.

"This is a unique collection right here in our own area," Davidson said. "We're delighted to have them."

Johnson's collection will be housed in the Holland Wing Exhibit Room from Jan. 2 to Jan. 29. Visiting hours are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays.

Helping Meals on Wheels



(Courtesy photo)

Norman Stephens, chief executive officer of Pampa Regional Medical Center, left, presents a check for \$2,000 from Triad Hospitals, Inc., to Jeane Autry, director of Pampa Meals on wheels. Pampa Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization established in 1987 by a group of community-minded citizens concerned about the welfare of homebound elderly who were unable to provide adequate meals for themselves. The organization has since grown to include six employees and serves 120 patrons each day. Daily volunteers assist with filling the carry-out containers and deliver of meals. Among those volunteers are 12 departmental managers from Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Bush administration looks for leverage against Pyongyang

WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated by North Korea's relentless march toward building new nuclear weapons, top Bush administration officials are pondering ways — short of force — to compel Pyongyang to change course.

One would be to drive home the point to South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and other countries that North Korea is at odds with the world, not just the United States.

That message is likely to be reinforced in a probable trip to the region by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, who already had been considering a visit to Seoul for talks with

the new South Korean government.

The administration also is quietly encouraging the U.N. monitoring agency, whose inspectors were expelled by North Korea, to take the crisis to the Security Council. U.S. officials said they were not campaigning for the move overtly because they fear backlash from allies already dubious about Bush's use of the United Nations to pursue a tough line against Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Administration rhetoric is taking an increasingly higher pitch but has failed to deter North Korea from steps that U.S. analysts fear could result

within months in production of new atomic weapons on top of the one or two weapons Pyongyang is believed to already have.

While President Bush settled into a weeklong stay at his Texas ranch, Secretary of State Colin Powell and other top administration officials met Friday at the White House to consider how to fine-tune a U.S. policy that is mostly rhetorical.

Meanwhile, North Korea expelled U.N. inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency and announced in a flash of renewed defiance that it would reopen a laboratory for the production of plutonium.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MILITARY

ing and support teams, which will prepare for the arrival of even larger combat units in the months ahead, officials said. They will add to the 50,000 U.S. military personnel already in the region.

The Pentagon's orders require the Navy to have its carrier and amphibious assault groups ready to sail to the seas around Iraq within 96 hours after a certain date in January, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. They did not specify that date.

The Navy has determined that one the carriers will be the USS George Washington. The ship just arrived home to Norfolk, Va., from the Persian Gulf region and has remained ready to return. The Navy has not decided on the second carrier, but officials said it will either be the Everett, Wash.-based USS Abraham Lincoln, now in port at Perth, Australia, having just left the Persian Gulf region, or the USS Kitty Hawk, currently in port in Japan.

An aircraft carrier battle group includes six to eight surface escorts, including cruisers, destroyers, frigates and other vessels, dozens of strike and support aircraft and about 7,500 sailors. An amphibious ready group has about 2,200 Marines.

The defense officials said the amphibious assault groups have not yet been selected. Those groups center on a large, carrier-like vessel that can launch helicopters and carry Marines.

Already in the region is the carrier USS Constellation and the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau, and their escorts, officials said.

A fourth carrier group, centered on the USS Harry S. Truman, is in the

Mediterranean Sea.

In addition, the 1,000-bed Navy hospital ship Comfort is expected to put to sea from Baltimore next week and prepare for action, military officials said. It will be headed to Diego Garcia, a British island in the Indian Ocean where the United States bases numerous military aircraft, to support any potential conflict with Iraq.

Air Force officials said units from five U.S.-based combat wings have received orders to prepare to deploy. They include F-15 fighters from Langley Air Force Base, Va.; F-15E Strike Eagles from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; B-1B bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; rescue helicopters and Predator drones from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; and C-130 cargo planes and possibly more rescue helicopters from Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Air tankers and transport aircraft are also expected to take part, officials said. Dozens of fighters already based in the Persian Gulf fly daily patrols over most of Iraq.

The size of the Army deployment was not clear, but it included infantry as well as support units, officials said. The Army also keeps air defense units in the region.

Last week, officials said the Army was expected to deploy troops from the 1st Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division, both based in Germany, as well as an air mobile unit.

The main Marine Corps contingent is likely to be the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The 1st MEF's headquarters unit already has moved to Kuwait to prepare for combat operations.

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VIEWPOINTS

Gore made right decision

THE Pampa NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I say bring on the hog farms!

In response to the hog waste system update, I have yet to understand that if the building standards are good enough for the state of Texas, then why are they not good enough for ACCORD members?

After being one of those people that would say, "I don't want one of those things here," and then seeing one of the swine research and development facilities first hand, now I say, "Bring on the hog farm!" These so-called "cess pools" are very much like the water pond on each side of the highway between Berger and Stinnett, and after speaking with an employee of that company, in the 25 years he has been employed by them, he has never seen a leak in the ponds.

The regulations of these ponds are put out by the state of Texas, and the company of NPD has taken it upon themselves to go above and beyond these standards. On top of the standards, our evaporation rate is much higher than that of North Carolina due to their higher humidity. As for the waste getting into Lake Meredith, it would have to go nearly 50 miles up hill.

I have noticed that no one has complained about those magic hills that appear in feed lots. Speaking of, a single bovine can consume nearly 60 pounds of feed and 30 to 40 gallons of water. Pigs consume eight to 10 pounds of feed and maybe 10 gallons of water. Hmm ... which is going to have more waste?

As for the \$65 million "fine," that was donated to a university over the next two decades to see if they can find a better form of water treatment.

Ray Wyant
 Pampa

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to *The Pampa News*, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

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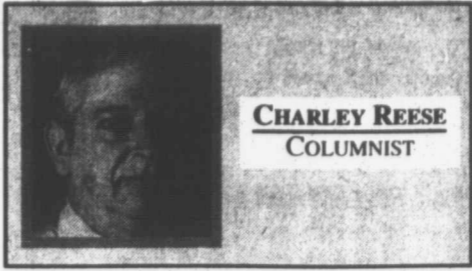
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I don't blame Al Gore one bit for deciding not to run for president in two years. A presidential campaign is a grueling, time-consuming, life dominating ordeal, and the man has been through four of them - two on his own, and two as Bill Clinton's vice president. He probably figures enough's enough. There's more to life than politics.

What his true reasons were I don't know, and it doesn't matter. I'm sure it was not because he didn't think he could beat George Bush. Gore's been around politics long enough to know that a politician's fortunes can change as quickly as a gambler's. The fact that Bush has a high approval rating today doesn't mean he won't have low approval ratings two years from now.

Nevertheless, we ought to change the way we elect our politicians. Whoever wants to make a run for president will have to raise nearly \$1 million a day, starting next spring. That's a lot of phone calls. That guarantees whoever is elected is going to be more beholden to the wealthy than to the country as a whole.

Ironically, this bad situation is a direct result of political "reforms." Nominees used to be chosen by state and national conventions, those famous "smoke-filled" back rooms. Around the turn of the century, people thought primary elections would be a better way. It would be one way to get around the various political bosses. As it turned out,



CHARLEY REESE
 COLUMNIST

was a mistake. No less an authority on political bosses and corruption than Lincoln Steffens, the great journalist who helped end the careers of several bosses, later concluded that in retrospect the political bosses were better at governing than the reformers who replaced them. They might have taken their "cut," but they know how to run a city or even a state. They were neither stupid nor naive.

It's generally conceded that in recent times a politician named John Lindsey practically wrecked New York City. Lindsey was a silk-stocking liberal and reformer, but when he was elected mayor, he found himself having to deal with some very tough people, and he simply couldn't do it.

Furthermore, it is the primary system that requires politicians to raise so much money. You can talk to political bosses and ward heelers in person. To reach the anonymous masses, the overwhelming majority of whom are indifferent to politics, you have to rely on paid advertising. All the yacking in the mass media about

election reforms is as phony as a \$6 bill. The media, especially television, make a killing on political advertising. They no more want to eliminate expensive campaigns than bankers want to eliminate public debt. Both are too profitable.

There's nothing wrong with a system that lets the most knowledgeable and the most interested people pick the nominees. The great mass of people simply don't care. They are so apathetic that political professionals recognize that only demagoguery has a chance of rousing them out of their stupor long enough to go to the polls. It's no surprise that political debate today is on the level of third-grade comprehension.

Another mistake we've made is the universal franchise. Voting ought to be a privilege, not a right, and to exercise that privilege, people should be required to demonstrate some form of intellectual life other than just breathing. I've often advocated that getting a voter registration card ought to require passing the same test that is given to immigrants before they can become citizens. If a poor man from Somalia can pass the test, then certainly no native-born American should think it too difficult. It's ironic that we talk so much about education while at the same time encourage the least-educated and least-intelligent people to choose our national leaders.

(Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802)



WASHINGTON TODAY

How quickly winds can shift

By WILL LESTER
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — All during the past year, Democrats scrambled without success to regain their footing against the Republicans and their popular president with political momentum fueled by the public's anxiety about terrorism.

With the 2004 presidential race looming, Al Gore appeared to be moving toward another run for the office in a possible rematch with President Bush.

Then unexpected events in December offered a reminder of how quickly the political winds can shift.

Republicans, backed by the president and his wartime campaign themes, had just surged to historic midterm election victories Nov. 5. The GOP gained ground in the Republican-controlled House and narrowly reclaimed control of the Senate.

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., was preparing to reassume his role as Senate majority leader and Republicans were ready to flex their newfound political muscle.

Then Lott made his now infamous tribute to Strom Thurmond on Dec. 5 as the South Carolina senator celebrated his 100th birthday. Lott said if Thurmond had been elected in 1948 the nation would have been a lot better off. Thurmond ran for president on the segregationist platform of the "Dixiecrats."

A storm of protest from both conservatives and liberals grew over Lott's comments and his continuous apologies failed to stem the tide. Just more than two weeks after Thurmond's party, Lott stepped down and Tennessee Sen. Bill Frist, a favorite of the Bush administration, moved quickly to fill the gap. Now

Republicans are looking to repair the damage.

"Lott's situation reminds us just how fragile political success can be," said political analyst Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute.

Soon after the Republican gains in the elections, Congress passed the Bush administration's proposal for the new Department of Homeland Security — a change that could dramatically alter federal government in the coming years.

While Republicans were having their way much of the year, Democrats got a glimmer of hope in early December when they rallied to hold onto Sen. Mary Landrieu's seat in a Louisiana runoff election.

Now Democrats have to assess their political strengths and weaknesses after getting steamrolled in the general election.

"Democrats have to figure out whether the last election was a one-shot setback or whether it suggested deeper problems within their party," said Robert Shapiro, a political scientist at Columbia University.

The Democrats have the added burden of competing under new campaign finance laws passed this year that ban unrestricted donations known as "soft money" from labor unions and corporations to the national political parties.

Democrats had become adept enough at collecting soft money in recent years to neutralize some of the Republicans' financial advantages. Democrats are scrambling to get more competitive under the new rules.

"The terrain has shifted dramatically," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication.

"If the courts uphold the law, it could give a structural advantage to the Republicans in perpetuity."

More than half a dozen Democrats are getting ready to navigate in these tricky currents while making a run for the presidency.

After spending much of the last year testing the waters, Gore was starting to wonder late in the year whether he wanted to run again despite the doubts of many in his party. Associates knew of his hesitance, but said Gore's mood would shift from day to day.

On Dec. 15, Gore surprised many by bowing out of the 2004 presidential race where he would have certainly been the early front runner among Democrats.

Now Democrats have a wide-open competition for the party's presidential nomination. Vermont Gov. Howard Dean is already running and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry has formed an exploratory committee. Others are expected to enter the race soon.

The competition to pick a Democratic nominee may not be that relevant unless Bush stumbles, said political analyst Stuart Rothenberg.

If the economy bounces back and Bush avoids a foreign policy morass, "it doesn't matter if the Democrats put up (Missouri Rep.) Dick Gephardt, John Kerry or (retired General) Wesley Clark," Rothenberg said.

"But if the president faces domestic and international problems, then almost any of the Democrats could run credible races."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Will Lester covers politics and polls for *The Associated Press*.

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

CLARENDON COLLEGE

Clarendon College will be closed now through Jan. 3. Offices will reopen Monday, Jan. 6 for regular business hours. Registration for the spring semester will be conducted from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and from 6-8 p.m., Jan. 13-14 at both the Pampa and Clarendon campuses. For more information, call 665-8801 or (806) 874-3571.

HOBART BAPTIST

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

LEAGUE

OF CELTIC NATIONS
League of Celtic Nations will stage a New Year's celebration Dec. 31 at the Canyon Club located in the Travelodge, 3205 I-40 East, in Amarillo. The event will include Scottish music and song, McNaughton Irish Step Dancers, raffles, whisky tasting, refreshments, First Foot contest, and more. Admission for the whisky tasting and party is \$12/nonmembers and \$10/members, for the party only \$6/nonmembers and \$5/members. To RSVP, call (806) 374-4243. Canned food items will also be accepted for donation to the High Plains Food Bank.

COLONEL'S WAY CONTEST

The Seventh Annual Colonel's Way™ Award Contest, sponsored by KFC, is currently under way. This essay contest encourages children to honor outstanding seniors age 50 and older who have had a positive impact on their lives. The contest is open to children 13 and under. For official rules, go online to www.kfc.com or send a SASE to: Colonel's Way Award Contest, c/o Edelman, 200 E. Randolph Dr., 63rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60601. Entries must be submitted online or postmarked by Dec. 31.

QUICK TASP

Clarendon College will offer a Quick TASP test at 8 a.m., Jan. 7 and again at 1 p.m., Jan. 8 at Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky. For more information or to register for one of the exams, contact CCPC at 665-8801.

GIFT CARD GRANTS

Financial Assistance Network's gift card program is open to eligible consumers who need to stretch their gift-giving budgets this holiday season. To qualify, individuals must have income of less than \$32,121. Families will also qualify to receive a \$150 gift card package if they have over \$7,500 in credit card balances and the balance is not getting paid off due to high-interest rates. Seniors and the disabled can also qualify for up to \$250 in gift cards. For more information, call (202) 882-6000 or mail five first-class stamps to: Financial Assistance Network, Gift Card Giveaway Package GCG-02F, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. Additional details are available at www.GiftCardGiveaway.com.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the

ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Jan. 15, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jan. 17, Miami School, Miami; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 22, Wheeler School, Wheeler; and 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., Jan. 27, Canadian City Hall, Canadian.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Dec. 20 and Jan. 28, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, and Jan. 23, First United Methodist Church, Pampa; Dec. 23, and Jan. 1 and 15, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Dec. 27 and Jan. 10, Family Care Center, Shamrock; and Jan. 28, Parkview Hospital, Wheeler. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

UM ART CONTEST

University of Mobile, Alabama, is calling for entries for its 12th annual "Art With a Southern Drawl" juried art competition. The show is open to artists working in any media, and only original artwork is accepted. To be eligible, artists must be born in or currently reside in Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Tennessee. The postmark deadline for entries is Jan. 11, 2003. For more information, call 1-800-946-7267, ext. 2420; log on to www.umobile.edu/awsd.htm; or e-mail UMdrawl@yahoo.com.

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

"Children of the World" International Children's Choir will perform at 10:45 a.m., Jan. 12 at First Baptist Church in Pampa.

TACAC HOTLINE

Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) will sponsor its 18th annual toll-free College Information Hotline from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Jan. 18 through 19, 2003. The event provides information about post-secondary educational opportunities for students and their families. To access the hotline, call 1-877-275-7007 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., the 18th or 19th.

EAGLE HIKE

Queen of the Valley Tours will host an eagle-watching hike at 1 p.m., Jan. 25 at Caprock Canyons Trailway State Park. A minimum of five is allowed. The tour will lead down the Trailway in search of the elusive eagles. For more information, contact the park at (806) 455-1492.

AC ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

Amarillo College is currently seeking nominations for its 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is open to former students who have made outstanding contributions to their field and/or community. A ceremony will be held for the recipient April 27, 2003. For more information, contact Rhonda Stephenson at (806) 371-5322 or via e-mail at stephensonr@actx.edu. Deadline for nom-

inations is Jan. 31.

CIVIC AMARILLO AUDITIONS

Auditions for Civic Amarillo's presentation of "Les Miserables" School Edition will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 8. The try-outs are open to full-time students age 10-19. Audition packages are currently available during normal business hours at Amarillo Civic Center Administration offices in downtown Amarillo.

HARRINGTON QUARTET

Harrington String Quartet will perform its 21st anniversary season in 2002-03. The quartet will perform four subscription concerts at the following dates: Sept. 14, 2002; Nov. 16, 2002; March 8, 2003; and May 17, 2003. For ticket information, call the Amarillo Symphony Box Office at (806) 376-8782.

RELIGIOUS

POETRY CONTEST

New Jersey Rainbow Poets is currently sponsoring a religious poetry contest. To enter, send one poem, 21 lines or less, to: Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., PMB 70, Linden, NJ 07036; or enter on-line at www.rainbowpoets.com. The deadline for entries is Jan. 4, 2003.

SORGHUM CONFERENCE

National Grain Sorghum Producers will sponsor the 2003 Sorghum Industry Conference and 23rd Biennial Research and Utilization Conference Feb. 16-18 at the Albuquerque Marriott in Albuquerque, N.M. For more information, call (806) 749-3478.

TREE SEEDLINGS

Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting orders for windbreak and wildlife tree seedlings and shrubs. The program is designed to offer tree seedlings at a nominal cost for environmental and protection purposes. The seedlings will arrive in the district office at the end of March. The deadline for ordering the seedlings is March 10, 2003. SWCD officials encourage early orders as many species sell-out very quickly. For more information, call 665-1751, ext. 102.

USS SPERRY

The USS Sperry Association is seeking former shipmates who served between 1942-82 for a reunion celebration. For more information, call (517) 784-7810; write George Gallas, secretary, USS SPERRY (AS-12) Association, Jackson, MI 49203-1521; or e-mail georgecarole@modempool.com.

HOLLINGHEAD REUNION

The Hollingshead family reunion will be held August 2003 at Moorestown, N.J. The first Hollingsheads arrived in the American colonies around 1700. If you are a descendant or know one who might be interested, more information is available from Brian Hollingshead at HYPERSLINK.hollingshead@telus.net or write: 2692 Mountview Place, Burnaby, BC, V3J 1E3, Canada.

LST ASSOCIATION REUNION

The U.S. Association will hold a reunion for all LSTers, from World War II to the present date, March 20-22, 2003, at the Holiday Inn South on I-35 West in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Bob Garner LST 461, HC 52 Box 362, Hemphill, TX 75948; 1-800-2 2 8 - 5 8 7 0 ; USLST@KMBS.Com (e-mail).

Pampan honored at MS banquet

AMARILLO — Kayla Pursley of Pampa was recently honored for her volunteer efforts at a National MS Society Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Amarillo. Pursley was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her volunteerism and presented with the Star Award.

The Star Award is presented to volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to the society. Pursley is the Pampa Area Self Help Group Leader and serves as a "Friendly Visitor" as well. She travels weekly to Amarillo

to visit a woman in a nursing home there who suffers from MS and sees others with MS at nursing homes in Pampa. She set up a computer system for the person in the nursing home in Amarillo.

She also stops in to see people who are homebound at the request of the division office.

Pursley participated in a special technology information workshop in Austin this fall where she acquired additional information on how to access technology available for people with disabilities. Gail Lindsey, programs specialist with



(Courtesy photo)

Kayla Pursley receives her certificate of appreciation and Star Award from and Gail Lindsey, programs specialist with the All America Chapter-Panhandle Division of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, at the National MS Society Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held recently in Amarillo.

All American Society, praised her, Chapter-Panhandle Division, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, calling her a tireless advocate for people with MS.



(Courtesy photo)

The Jordan/Baten Units December 2002 Employee of the Month is Bryan Pulse, Maintenance Supervisor IV. Pulse began working for TDCJ in April 1994. He has been at the Jordan Unit since October 2002. He was born and raised in Pampa and has lived in White Deer since 1982. He and wife, Darla, have two children. Pulse is pictured with Senior Warden C.C. Bell.

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Sunday, December 29, 2002

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Wife Who Sits in the Backseat Would Prefer to Be Up Front

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I spend one weekend a month with his mother, taking her shopping, to dinner, movies, etc. My problem is I always wind up sitting in the backseat whenever she is with us.

It's not as though we have a little car and it would be hard for her to maneuver in and out. We have a nice-sized van, and I think she could get in and out of the back just as easily as she can from the front seat.

It has been this way for a couple of years now, and I haven't said anything to my husband because she is his mother. But I feel as his wife I should be honest with my husband.

Please help. We are about to go on vacation with my mother-in-law, and I don't want to have to spend it in the backseat for a six-hour drive.

AFRAID TO SPEAK UP IN PHILLY

DEAR AFRAID: If you want to sit in front, you must be up-front with your husband about your feelings. The longer you quietly tolerate the seating arrangement, the longer it will continue. The next time the two of you go to pick up his mother, roll down the window and say, "Hop in the back, Mom; I want to sit next to your wonderful son." And your husband should back you up. Bon voyage, and have a nice trip.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor of five years, "Christopher," recently confided to me that he is a cross-dresser. At first I gave him credit for being so open about it, but ever since that conversation, I see him dressed only as "Kristin."

Whenever he sees me outside, Christopher comes over all dolled up. He even walks his dog dressed as Kristin — complete with heels and hose. He thinks I don't have a problem with it, but now that I'm actually seeing him dressed in women's clothing, I'm not so sure.

He is now asking me to "do lunch" and wants to accompany me to my all-female gym.

Please help me, Abby. I liked him as Christopher, but I'm really uncomfortable with Kristin. It's to the point where I no longer feel

comfortable going outside for fear I'll have to deal with this guy. What can I say to him?

CONFUSED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR CONFUSED: Honesty is the best policy. Say, "With all respect, I think you're lovely as Kristin, but I'm more comfortable with my friend, Christopher." That should get you off the hook.

DEAR ABBY: One of my co-workers, "Helen," celebrated her birthday. It's a tradition at our

office to "surprise" the birthday person with a cake, so Helen's closest co-worker went out to buy one. When it came time for the surprise, everyone was astonished to see Helen's age written on the icing!

None of us here is a kid anymore, and that information should not have been included on the cake. The woman who planned the party thought it was hilarious, but Helen was not amused.

Abby, was it wrong for Helen's age to be revealed in such a manner? And how should she approach her friend to let her know it was a bad idea?

CARING CO-WORKER IN THE GARDEN STATE

DEAR CARING CO-WORKER: Yes, it was wrong. Helen deserves an apology. Mentioning age in the workplace can be discriminatory. And unless you want a prankster doing the same thing to you, I recommend that everyone present at the "surprise party" tell the offender it was a bad idea.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



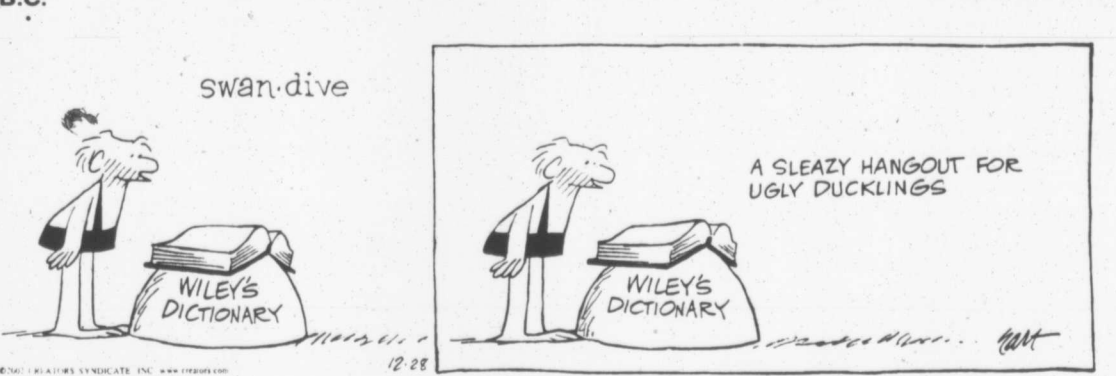
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



Crossword Puzzle

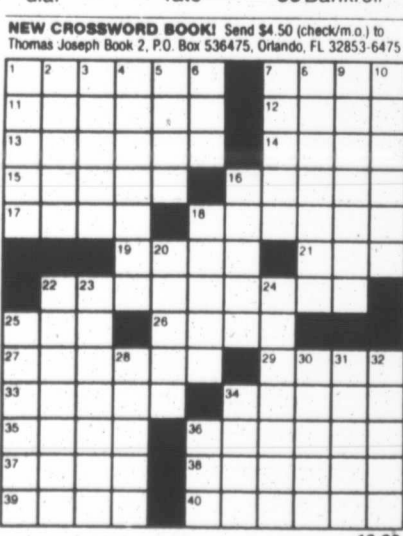
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
 1 Early hominids
 7 Does something
 11 Cager Moses
 12 Oscar winner Elisabeth
 13 Soviet paper
 14 Window part
 15 Senator Kefauver
 16 Bishop topper
 17 Bad grades
 18 Move back
 19 Qom's country
 21 Succor
 22 "Well, I'll be!"
 25 Actor Cariou
 26 Palin-dromic name
 27 Turns aside
 29 Old TV cop show
 33 Greek letters
 34 Original Hockey's Lindros
 35 Elk
 37 Not believable
- DOWN**
 1 Excited, in slang
 2 Analyze sentences
 3 Thrill
 4 Occupies
 5 Termini
 6 Teaching org.
 7 Savory jelly
 8 Home along the Loire
 9 Found on the dial
 10 Fume
 16 — Work (rock band)
 18 Pool floats
 20 Cheers
 22 Quite a few
 23 Former
 24 Deteriorate
 25 Record companies
 28 Sped
 30 Sheepish
 31 Dolés out
 32 Top celebs
 34 Cager Archibald
 36 Bankroll

DOTES VICAR
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 SLEAZE PEST
 ADELPHI
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 GAT ADS MIN
 ATHOS STAGE
 CHERI EVERT
 YARDS SALES

Yesterday's answer



STUMPED?

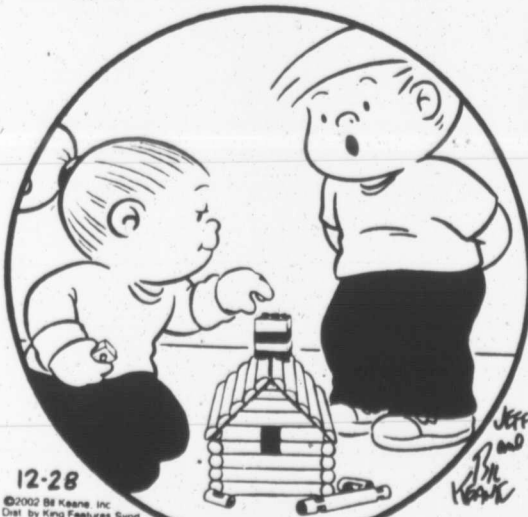
For answer to today's crossword call 1-900-454-7377 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



"A scoop of ice cream in an old shoe? Really!"

The Family Circus



"The building code doesn't allow a LEGO chimney on a Lincoln Log cabin."

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CALENDAR ITEMS

MEDICAL, SUPPORT GROUPS, ETC.

Al-Anon. Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-6898.

Alzheimer's Support Group. The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson at 665-0356.

American Heart Ass'n. American Heart Association meets at 12 noon the second Thursday of each month at Chaney's Restaurant in Pampa.

ARC. Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs (with pot) and hospital beds for its Loan Closet. For more information or to make a donation, contact the local Red Cross office at 669-7121.

Area Agency on Aging. Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle needs volunteers to serve as advocates for nursing home residents as part of its Ombudsmen program. The Ombudsmen will visit residents of long-term care facilities and help resolve complaints involving residents rights, quality of life and quality of care. Once accepted into the program, volunteers complete a three month internship including intensive training and supervision in preparation. Ideal candidates will have strong sense of fair play, excellent problem-solving skills, good relationships with older people and the ability to devote two hours a week to the residents served by the Ombudsman program. For more information, contact Jeff Price, regional Ombudsman, or Tanya Mock, Ombudsman Program Aide, at 1-800-642-6008; or write P.O. Box 9257, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

Beginnings. "Beginnings," a Harrington Cancer Center program for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, will meet weekly in Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room, 1500 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173, or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

Breast Cancer 101. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center offers "Breast Cancer 101," an intensive education and supportive introduction to breast cancer, from 4:30-6 p.m., the second Monday of each month in the Quiet Room of Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo. For more information call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173 or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

Clean Air Al-Anon. Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 2004 Williston. For more information, call 665-6898.

COAF Web Site. The Children of Alcoholics Foundation, an education-prevention arm of Phoenix House, recently launched a website (www.coaf.org) for children of substance abusers of all ages. The website is designed to help educators, physicians, social workers and other professionals. The site includes sections for teens and adults who have grown up with an alcoholic or drug addicted parent as well as information for teachers, social workers and others.

Coffee Memorial Blood Center. Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo is now open on Saturdays and will take appointments for blood donations. The new donation hours are: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. The center is also promoting The Birthday Club. If a donor donates blood on their birthday, they will receive a Blood Drop Beanie. For more information, call (806) 358-4563 or 1-800-658-6178.

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

Dialogue. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1:00 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

GCAP for Moms and Babies. Gray County Partnership of Moms and Babies meets at 12 noon on the third Friday of each month at Medical Office Building, second floor conference room, in Pampa. For more information, call 664-2459 and leave a message.

High Plains Epilepsy Ass'n. High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

Hospice Hope Series. Crown of Texas Hospice is offering HOPE (Healing Our Parental Emptiness) bereavement series for those grieving the death of a child (pregnancy to 18 years) from 10-11:30 a.m., the first Saturday of each month at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365.

HOSPICELINK. Hospice Education Institute, a non-profit organization, has established HOSPICELINK, a national toll-free telephone hotline for people seeking information and education regarding hospice care. The service offers referrals to hospices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is available to consumers free of charge. HOSPICELINK maintains a continually updated computer database of all hospices, national and internationally, so referrals are accurate and appropriate to each patient's needs. For more information about HEI, call 1-800-331-1620. HOSPICELINK lines are open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays, Eastern time.

LifeStyle Medical. LifeStyle Medical Program makes available, at no cost to the patient, breathing medications and nebulizers to patients who use oxygen or who have asthma, emphysema or COPD if they qualify. The Albuterol Products are provided to those with severe breathing conditions and who meet the additional guidelines

of the program. For more information, call 1-800-519-4480.

Medicines.md. U.S. senior citizens now have access to legitimate e-mail order links to the world's lowest prices on prescription drugs by visiting www.medicines.md on the Internet, allowing them to have their prescriptions filled by licensed pharmacies abroad. The service adheres to FDA guidelines and offers free access to regularly updated international price lists for the 120 most popular brand-name prescription drugs as well as 1,300 generic medicines.

Miracle Ear. Miracle-Ear Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization, works in cooperation with Miracle-Ear Centers nationwide to provide free hearing aids and services to children 16 and under whose families do not qualify for public assistance, yet cannot afford the expense of hearing aids for their children. For more information, contact the local Miracle-Ear Center at (806) 795-0188 or 1-800-808-0188.

Mom Mania. Mom Mania, a support group for mothers with small children, meets at 6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Come for facts, food and fun. Nursery not included but infants and toddlers are welcome. For more information, call 664-2459.

MSAA. A wide range of free, direct support services is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library; no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com on the Internet.

MS SOCIETY. The Multiple Sclerosis Society offers a monthly program for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS," "When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: A Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS website at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

Music Therapy. Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center's Quality of Life Project/Palliative Care Services offers free Music Therapy Sessions at 10:30 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays at the Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room. Patient and adult family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 291.

Narconon. Narconon, active in the field of drug rehabilitation and education since 1966, provides free professional counseling, evaluation and referral services to internationally recognized alternative and traditional facilities via its hotline and website, 1-800-468-6933 or www.stopaddiction.com. Narconon means "No Drugs."

Open Door AA. Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

Open Door Al-Anon. Open Door Al-Anon meets at 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday each week at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-9702.

Outreach Health Services/WIC. Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

Panhandle Alliance for the Mentally Ill. A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

Pathways. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer "Pathways," a four-part support series for those who have lost a loved one, from 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays throughout the month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is now open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #173-A, in Pampa. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

Power Wheelchairs. Miracle on Wheels is offering Power Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens (65 years and up) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. The chairs are provided to those who cannot walk and self-propel a manual wheelchair at their home or independent living quarters and who meet additional qualifications of the program. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. For more information, call 1-800-749-8778 or visit www.durablemedical.com on the World Wide Web.

Prescription Drug Booklet. The Cost Containment Research Institute in Washington, D.C., recently published at 32-page booklet, "Free & Low Cost Prescription Drugs." The revised third edition provides information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs. Consumers can obtain a copy by sending \$5 to cover

printing, postage and handling to: Institute Fulfillment Center, Prescription Drug Booklet #: PDF-370, P.O. Box 462, Elmira, NY 14902-0462. The information is also available at www.institute-dc.org.

Princess Warriors. Princess Warriors, a support group for women with gynecologic cancer, meets at 5:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month in the Harrington Cancer Center Amphitheater in Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 359-4673 or (806) 934-2364.

Quit Club. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer the "Quit Club" for smokers from 6-7 p.m., the third Monday of each month at various intervals at the center's Quality of Life Center. For more information or to register for the next session, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 214.

Rx Program. Rx Program makes available breathing medications and Nebulizers to patients who may have asthma, emphysema or COPD at not cost to qualifying recipients. For more information, call Dennis Karries toll-free at 1-800-344-5764.

Senior Wheels USA. Senior Wheels USA Program makes available power wheelchairs — at no cost — to senior citizens (65 years and up) and to the permanently disabled. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-246-6010.

SKY Teens. Crown of Texas Hospice is offering SKY Teens, a monthly bereavement series for teens grades 9-12 who are grieving the death of a loved one, from 5:30-7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at its office at 1000 S. Jefferson in Amarillo. There is no charge for the series. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365.

Texcare. Texcare Partnership is the New Children's Health Insurance campaign developed especially for Texas families with uninsured children, birth through age 18. The following health insurance programs are available: Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid and Texas Healthy Kids Corp. For more information, call 1-800-647-6558 or 1-888-892-2273.

T.O.P.S. #41. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #41 meets at noon Monday at 511 N. Hobart. For more information, call 665-3024.

T.O.P.S. #149. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #149 meets at 6 p.m. Monday at 513 E. Francis. Call 669-2389 for more information.

Tralee Crisis Center. Women's Support Group for victims of domestic violence offers peer counseling, group support and education on issues resulting from family violence and/or sexual assault from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 669-1131.

YMCA Diabetes Class. Amarillo YMCA is offering new water exercise classes specially-designed for diabetics. Schedule of classes are as follows: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays; 6 p.m. Tuesdays; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesdays; 6 p.m. Thursdays; and 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$4 per class for non-members and \$3 per class with a 10-class punch pass. Y members get in free. For more information, call Cindy Gibson, fitness director, or Junior Garcia, aquatics director, at (806) 374-4651.

EDUCATION, PSAs

ACT. ACT, Inc., education and career planning organization has announced the following do-it-yourself college planning resources on the Internet: www.act.org/fane, www.c3apply.org, www.collegenet.com, www.finaid.org, www.ed.gov/finaid.html and www.fafsa.ed.gov (financial aid sites), and www.bls.gov/ocohome.htm (career planning).

ANIMALPRINTS.COM. AnimalPrints.com has dedicated \$1 from each sale of a newly released series of artist's prints to benefit animals in need. For more information or to view the prints, go to AnimalPrints.com on the Internet.


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

Arbor Day Foundation. The National Arbor Day Foundation offers a "Tree Planting Resource Kit for Volunteers." The kit is available for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling and includes a leadership guide, a Celebrate Arbor Day guidebook, and a video to help motivate volunteers. For more information, call (402) 474-5655, go on-line to www.arborday.org, or write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

AYA. Academic Year in America program is seeking host families, for international exchange students between the ages of 15-18 1/2. For more information, call Danielle Carpio at 1-800-322-4678 ext. 5146.

BBB RESOURCE GUIDE. The Better Business Bureau is offering "The Spring BBB Membership Directory and Resource Guide." The publication is available free of charge and includes a listing of BBB member companies as well as businesses who qualify as members and who uphold BBB's standards of ethical practices. The guide also provides tips on how to be better shoppers along with information on current scams. For more information or to obtain the guide, call (806) 379-7133.

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SPORTS

Okla. State ends year with big bang

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
AP SPORTS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP) — Oklahoma State is thinking big after capping a dramatic turnaround season with a Houston Bowl victory.

Rashaun Woods caught nine passes for 164 yards and one touchdown, and Tatum Bell made a late contribution that carried the Cowboys to a 33-23 victory over Southern Mississippi on Friday.

"This continues where we wanted to go with this program," tight end Billy Bajema said. "The end of the year has been a great run for us. We won a bunch of games, Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Nebraska.

"Our maturity level has really grown over this season. Next year we plan on winning a championship and going to a bigger bowl game."

The comments weren't quite as positive after the Cowboys started the season 2-4 in their second season under coach Les Miles. But they won six of their last seven games, including their first bowl victory since 1988.

"This football team came out here to have a good time, see the sites of

Houston and enjoy the whole bowl atmosphere," Miles said. "Winning the Houston Bowl was the perfect end to the whole experience.

"This will be one that we remember for a number of years."

Woods, selected the game's most valuable player, might not be around long enough to enjoy the resurgent Cowboys. He's considering an early jump to the NFL, but hasn't made a final decision.

Woods highlighted his performance with a 51-yard touchdown catch from Josh Fields with 1:38 left in the second quarter.

Woods was double-covered on the play, but defenders Greg Brooks and Antoine Cash collided, allowing Woods to sprint untouched into the end zone.

Woods had his ninth 100-yard receiving game of the season and joined former Cowboys receiver Hart Lee Dykes as the only receivers to surpass 3,000 career yards. Woods' touchdown catch was his 17th of the season.

If he decides to leave the college ranks, Woods isn't worried about proving himself.

"It's not about proving anything," Woods said. "It's about going out and playing hard and having fun."

Bell had 160 yards on 13 carries, and Luke Phillips kicked two of his four field goals in the decisive fourth quarter for the Cowboys (8-5). Bell didn't get the start as punishment for missing a treatment session his injured hamstring.

He got into the game in time to score a 22-yard touchdown that put Oklahoma State ahead for good with 8:07 left in the game. Then, with the Cowboys backed up on their 2, he bolted 88 yards, the longest run of his career, to set up Luke Phillips' 24-yard field goal with 5:15 left to play.

"Before the play started, I was just trying to move us out of the 2-yard line," Bell said. "But when it started, I saw a little crease and my whole thought process changed. I wanted to take it to the house."

As for missing his treatment, Bell said "That was my fault and I got punished."

Southern Mississippi linebacker Rod Davis said he was blitzing on the play.

"That was kind of a backbreaker,"

Davis said. "We had a blitz coming and where I came from, that's where he went."

Trailing 20-13 at the half, Southern Miss (7-6) took its only lead on a 2-yard touchdown run by James Walley and a 30-yard field goal by Curt Jones, his third of the game, in the third quarter.

The Cowboys pulled even on the first play of the fourth quarter on Phillips' 28-yard field goal. Josh Fields threw for 310 yards, and his 33-yard pass to Billy Bajema set up Bell's go-ahead touchdown, which put Oklahoma State ahead 30-23.

The Golden Eagles played without starting running back Derrick Nix, whose kidney condition forced him to give up football last week, and quarterback Micky D'Angelo, who threw a first quarter interception and sat out the rest of the game with rib injuries.

"I think Derrick Nix is a tremendous inspiration to our football team," Southern Mississippi coach Jeff Bower said. "Our football players wanted to win this game for him. It was a motivation. The effort was good enough, but we didn't make the plays."

Woods unsure if he'll return to Stillwater

By CLAYTON BELLAMY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP) — If Rashaun Woods' opponents had a say in his decision whether to return to Oklahoma State next year, the junior receiver would be playing in the NFL.

But it's not that simple for Woods, who caught nine passes for 164 yards and a touchdown in the Cowboys' 33-23 Houston Bowl victory over Southern Mississippi Friday.

"There are so many things I can't even say them right now," Woods said. "It's a personal decision."

Rashaun Woods chalked up another receiving record and added bowl champion and MVP to his resume Friday, leaving many to wonder if he has anything left to accomplish in college.

Woods set a Big 12 record for receptions in a season with 107,

beating Texas Kwame Cavil's 1999 mark of 100. He was also named outstanding offensive player, as well as most valuable player, for the Houston Bowl.

In the Cowboys' last game, a 38-28 win over Oklahoma, Woods set school records for yards in a game, touchdowns in a season and receptions in a career. He has caught 216 passes for 3,047 yards in three seasons at Oklahoma State (8-5).

"People say to me, 'You don't have anything else to prove,' but I really don't think it's about proving anything in this game," Woods said. "It's about playing a game that you love."

If his teammates and the more than 30,000 Oklahoma State fans wearing hunting-cap orange in the Reliant Stadium stands Friday had a say in his decision, Woods would be back in Stillwater next year.

"One more year, one more year," fans chanted after the game as

Woods, standing on the field, answered questions about his future.

"Let them chant," Woods said. "I can't stop them."

Woods has burned opponents for 24 consecutive games with at least four receptions and 31 straight games with at least two catches. He's caught 107 passes for 1,695 yards and 17 touchdowns this season.

Southern Mississippi linebacker Rod Davis, who's also considering whether to return to Hattiesburg, Miss., for his senior season, advised Woods to go. Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower sounded like the 11 other opposing coaches who watched Woods play this season.

"Rashaun Woods is a really good player," Bower said. "He makes big plays in every ball game."

Woods' 51-yard TD pass from Josh Fields put the Cowboys (8-5) up 20-13 in the second quarter. Woods, in double coverage, pulled

the ball down along the sideline and ran the remaining 30 yards to the end zone.

Having Woods back on the field next year would certainly help the Cowboys reach the loftier goals they're setting for themselves next year.

"I don't know what he's thinking," said Fields, who was 21-of-41 passing for 310 yards and two touchdowns Friday. "It's his decision. We hope he does come back, but if he doesn't, we wish him the best."

COWBOYS NOTES: Oklahoma State sold out its allotment of tickets for the Houston Bowl, some 35,000 tickets. The stands were filled with Cowboys' fans in orange. "It felt like we were at Lewis Field," said running back Tatum Bell. "Bell's 160 yards on 13 carries gave him 1,094 yards on the season. He's the ninth 1,000-yard rusher in school history."

SCOREBOARD

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday's College Basketball Major Scores

EAST
Villanova 68, Binghamton 53

SOUTH
Charlotte 82, Loyola of Chicago 69
Colorado 75, Louisiana-Lafayette 56
Miami 62, UCF 51
Middle Tennessee 66, Kennesaw 62

MIDWEST
No major team scores reported from the MIDWEST.

SOUTHWEST
No major team scores reported from the SOUTHWEST.

FAR WEST
Colorado St. 85, Prairie View 73
Idaho 81, Sacramento St. 62

TOURNAMENT
ASU/azcentral.com Hoops Classic

First Round
Arizona St. 79, Bucknell 52
Nebraska 60, UC Santa Barbara 57

Cable Car Classic
First Round
Princeton 76, Texas A&M 62
Santa Clara 70, MVSU 63

FIU Holiday Classic
First Round
Duquesne 67, St. Francis, NY 57
Fla. International 81, Radford 45

Flint Hills Resources Islander Class
First Round
Oakland, Mich. 91, Texas Southern 88
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 98, Morgan St. 65

Foot Locker/MSG Holiday Festival

First Round
Iona 65, North Carolina 56
Manhattan 72, St. John's 65

Gossner Foods Classic
First Round
Idaho St. 75, UMKC 61
Utah St. 72, Arkansas St. 54

Oneida Bingo & Casino Classic
First Round
Delaware 66, E. Washington 56
Wis.-Green Bay 74, Austin Peay 69

Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic
First Round
Tennessee Tech 62, Alcorn St. 50

Sierra Providence SunClassic
First Round
Columbia 55, UTEP 54
UAB 69, Air Force 59

Friday's Women's Basketball
Major Scores

EAST
South Carolina 57, Temple 39

SOUTH
Auburn 60, Clemson 58
Georgia Tech 65, Georgia 61
Louisville 85, Ball St. 71

MIDWEST
Duke 92, Detroit 52
Loyola of Chicago 60, Lehigh 56

SOUTHWEST
No major team scores reported from the SOUTHWEST.

FAR WEST
Arizona 83, California 53
Oregon St. 63, Southern Cal 61
Stanford 80, Arizona St. 63
UCLA 93, Oregon 68

Buzzer shot nets win for Atlanta's Hawks

ATLANTA (AP) — Terry Stotts soaked in a bit of the atmosphere before and during his head coaching debut in the NBA, spending time with the referees, opposing players and many other well-wishers.

Oh, and he also drew up the winning play.

Jason Terry hit a fallaway jumper at the buzzer to give Stotts a victory in his first game as the Atlanta Hawks beat the San Antonio Spurs 81-79 on Friday night.

Stotts, a longtime assistant who joined the team this summer, took over for Lon Kruger, who was fired Thursday.

"One of the best things about his experience so far is how happy people are for me," Stotts said. "I haven't actually been happy but I have a lot of people who are happy for me."

After San Antonio's Tim Duncan tied it with a hook from in close, Terry took an inbound pass with 4.3 seconds left and dribbled past Tony Parker and Bruce Bowen. He hoisted an off-balance, line-drive 18-footer just before the final horn, and the ball swished through.

Terry's teammates mobbed him at halfcourt, and the referees immediately ruled the shot was good. They used video replay to officially count the basket.

"Amazing as it sounds, that's the way I drew it up," Stotts said. "You've got to love shooters. I'm glad this one dropped, because this team needed a confidence-builder. It's been a rough stretch."

Shaheef Abdur-Rahim had 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks, who won for only the second time in eight games. Glenn Robinson added 18 points, and Terry had 13.

Tim Duncan had 20 of his 27 points in the first half for the Spurs, who'd won four in a row but shot only 44 percent against one of the NBA's worst defensive teams. Atlanta entered allowing 98.6 points a game, sixth-worst in the league.

"We had some good stretches, but we

weren't consistent enough," San Antonio center David Robinson said. "We normally play more good minutes than the other team."

With Stotts at the helm, the Hawks showed a renewed interest in defense. Point guard Mike Wilks, who joined the team Tuesday and started in place of Ira Newble, picked up his man fullcourt throughout. He drew one offensive foul from Tony Parker and added two steals in the first game of his career.

"It was an ugly game," Spurs guard Stephen Jackson said. "They were ready to play. I don't know if it had anything to do with the coach or not."

Wilks made his first two shots and finished with seven points, four assists and no turnovers.

"Jason Terry told me to come to him with any questions I had," Wilks said. "They kept talking to me out there. If I got confused, they pointed me in the right direction."

There were other subtle changes, too. Dion Glover, a regular in Kruger's rotation, didn't play for the first time in nearly a month.

"I have 11 guys that I can play, but I can't play 11 guys," Stotts said of his substitution pattern. "Tonight, it was Mike Wilks' turn. Tomorrow night, it might be Dion or somebody else."

Stotts openly chastised Terry for a blind, over-the-shoulder pass that led to a turnover in the fourth quarter. With a timeout coming and a foul called on Glenn Robinson, Stotts glared at Terry and met him on the court, sternly talking into his ear.

After Stotts was done, he slapped Terry on his rear and walked with him to the huddle.

"J.T. responds," Stotts said. "He doesn't mean to screw up."

But Stotts enjoyed his time on the court, too, even taking time to accept congratulations from Bowen during a deadball in the first half.

Kansas State saved by the Ell

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Kansas State Wildcats were saved by the Ell.

On the verge of what would have been a shocking loss, quarterback Ell Roberson rallied the sixth-ranked Wildcats with three fourth-quarter touchdowns, including a 10-yard pass to Derrick Evans with 1:15 to play for a 34-27 Holiday Bowl win over Arizona State on Friday night.

Kansas State (11-2), the highest-ranked team not in the Bowl Championship Series, was favored by 18 points.

Roberson also scored on sneaks of 2 and 1 yards in the fourth quarter to add to the Holiday Bowl's history of wild finishes. He also scored on a 32-yard run just before halftime.

Arizona State had one last shot at the upset, but Andrew Walter's desperation pass on fourth-and-15 from his 49 was knocked down inside the 5-yard line.

Kansas State trailed 20-14 entering the fourth quarter. By then, Roberson was well on his way to leading a 16-play, 65-yard drive that took 7 minutes, 13 seconds.

NOTEBOOK

FOOTBALL

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions fired executive director of player personnel Bill Tobin, less than two years after he was brought to the team.

When Tobin joined the Lions in February 2001, team president Matt Millen said the experience he was bringing to Detroit would help the team recruit quality players.

The Lions are 0-16 on the road and have won just five of 15 home games in the past two seasons.

Tobin served as the Indianapolis Colts' vice president and director of football operations from 1994-97. Before that, he spent four seasons with the Green Bay Packers (1971-74) and 18 years with the Chicago Bears (1975-93).

Tobin drafted the NFL's second all-time leading rusher, Walter Payton, in the first round in 1975 for the Bears.

Tobin's brother, Vince, was hired as the Lions' defensive coordinator around the same time he joined the team. Vince Tobin was fired in January following the Lions' 2-14 record last season.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets agreed to the structure of a one-year deal with free agent shortstop Rey Sanchez.

The deal will be finalized after he passes a physical Monday.

Sanchez will likely serve as a caretaker at shortstop until top prospect Jose Reyes is ready to take over the job at some point next season.

The shortstop spot opened up when the Mets traded light-hitting Rey Ordonez to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays earlier this month.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Wisconsin receiver Lee Evans plans to skip the NFL draft and return to the Badgers next year after missing this past season because of a knee injury.

Evans, a second-team AP All-American in his junior season in 2001, made the announcement at a news conference, the day before the Badgers play Colorado in the Alamo Bowl.

Evans has undergone two operations, the most recent in November, since tearing his anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during a spring game last April. He is expected to undergo therapy and rehabilitation through mid-May.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Florida hired South Carolina defensive coordinator Charlie Strong to take over the same spot with the Gators beginning next season.

Strong, who coached defensive line and linebackers at Florida in the late '80s and early '90s, will take over for John Thompson, who last week got the head coaching job at East Carolina.

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TEXAS SPORTS ROUND UP

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knicks 99, Rockets 83

HOUSTON (AP) — In the end, the Houston Rockets were looking up to the New York Knicks.

The Knicks made up for their lack of height by shooting 47 percent from the field and scrapping for rebounds in a 99-83 victory Friday night.

"We're small," Knicks coach Don Chaney said. "We know that. But we played big tonight."

Chaney was especially pleased with the play of his relatively small centers, 6-foot-9 Kurt Thomas and 6-11 Michael Doleac, against Houston's 7-6 rookie Yao Ming. Yao had 17 points, seven on free throws, but had only five rebounds and one blocked shot.

"Kurt and Michael were tremendous," Chaney said. "Clarence (Weatherspoon) also had a great game."

Williams out with bad left knee

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks forward Walt Williams will miss the next seven to 10 days with a strained left knee.

Williams was hurt in the Mavericks' 83-81 victory at New Orleans on Thursday. Williams, 32, is averaging 6.6 points and 4.3 points in 26 games.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 98, Morgan St. 65

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Travis Bailey had 27 points and six assists to lead Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to a 98-65 victory over Morgan State on Friday night.

Bailey was 9-of-13 from the field, including 3-of-5 three-pointers, and made 6-of-11 free throws. Three teammates also were in double figures.

The Islanders (4-6) led Morgan State (1-9) at the half 48-41.

Sam Brand led Morgan State with 16 points. He made 6-of-10 field goals, including 3-of-7 three-pointers. Cedrick Barrow added 13 points.

Aaron White of A&M-Corpus Christi was the only player to foul out.

Oakland 91, Texas Southern 88

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Mike Helms scored 43 points, including six 3-pointers, as Oakland held off Texas Southern 91-88 Friday in the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi tournament.

Texas Southern had two chances to send the game into overtime, but RaKim Hollis missed a 3-pointer with about 10 seconds left then Sean Walker missed one at the buzzer.

Before that, Helms hit a jumper in the lane with 15 seconds left to give Oakland (5-2) a 91-88 lead. Helms finished 17-22 from the field and 6-of-9 from beyond the 3-point line.

Oakland led 51-44 at the half and took the lead for good when Kelly Williams' 3-pointer with 5:38 left put Oakland up 83-81.

But TSU (2-5) kept things close, hitting 52 percent from the field in the second half.

Colorado St. 85, Prairie View 73

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Matt Nelson had 29 points and 12 rebounds and Ronnie Clark added 21 points as Colorado State defeated Prairie View 85-73 on Friday night.

Nelson was 11-for-18 shooting with

six baskets on offensive rebounds. Clark scored 15 of his points in the second half for Colorado State (10-2).

Malachi Thurston came off the bench to score 23 points for Prairie View (1-6). Roderick Riley added 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Prairie View stayed close in the first half, going 8-for-10 on 3-pointers and leading 34-32 at one point.

Nelson scored eight points over the last three minutes of the half and Brian Greene's 3-pointer at the buzzer gave Colorado State a 44-37 lead at the break.

Hawks 81, Spurs 79

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Stars 4, Panthers 0

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The Dallas Stars found a way to deal with their recent road woes. Score early and score often.

After opening a seven-game trip with a victory in Chicago on Dec. 15, the Stars were winless in five games until they beat the Florida Panthers 4-0 on Friday night.

Manny Malhotra opened the scoring for Dallas just 3:19 into the game. Jere Lehtinen added two goals and Scott Young also scored.

The Stars, coming off a 3-1 loss to lowly Nashville on Thursday night, bookended their trip with victories and go home with a 2-3-2 record. They play their next two games at home.

"The last five games we couldn't get a win," Lehtinen said. "Now we're going home and we hope to get a couple wins there."

Princeton 76, Texas A&M 62

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Sophomore guard Will Venable scored 21 points Friday to lead Princeton to a 76-62 victory over Texas A&M in the first round of Cable Car Classic.

Princeton (4-5) will face host Santa Clara in Saturday's championship game. Texas A&M (6-3) plays in the consolation against Mississippi Valley State.

Junior forward Spencer Gloger scored 19 points, making three of seven 3-point attempts. The Tigers made seven of 17 3-pointers, including six of 13 in the first half, when they seized control of the game.

Junior guard Kevin Turner led the Aggies with 18 points and freshman forward Antoine Wright added 15.

Princeton used a 19-3 run, scoring 11 straight at one point, to take command in the first half. Gloger scored 10 points in the stretch, hitting two 3-pointers.

Desjardins lifts Flyers past Avs in OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dependable goaltending from Roman Cechmanek and some timely goals from Eric Desjardins and Jeremy Roenick gave the Philadelphia Flyers another low-scoring victory.

Desjardins scored 1:38 into overtime as the visiting Flyers beat Colorado 2-1 on Friday night. That goal came after Roenick tied it with 4:17 left in the third period.

The Flyers lead the Atlantic Division despite having scored just 41 goals in their last 24 games. Solid defense and the goaltending of Cechmanek, who had 34 saves against the Avalanche, have compensated for the meager offensive output.

"We haven't been scoring a lot of goals," Desjardins said. "But we know if we play strong defensively we'll get our chance and we'll find a way to score the big goals. It doesn't take many when you allow only one or two."

In other NHL games, it was Washington 3, New Jersey 2; Ottawa 3, Montreal 2 in overtime, Atlanta 5, Carolina 3; Tampa Bay 5, Boston 2; Dallas 4, Florida 0; and Toronto 4, Calgary 3.

The Avalanche have lost two straight after winning their first three games under new coach Tony Granato. Granato took over the team after Bob Hartley was fired Dec. 18.

The winning goal came on the first shot in overtime by either team. Desjardins scored on a backhand from the slot after taking a pass from Roenick from the right corner.

"He found a way," Desjardins said of Roenick. "He put it through a few skates. I ended up all alone."

Milan Hejduk put Colorado ahead early in the third period after a cross-ice pass went through Desjardins' legs, deflecting

off both of his skates, and onto Hejduk's stick.

"Eventually, we have to start winning games like this," said Granato, whose team has won only one of 15 overtime games this season. "That's 14 extra points that we weren't able to get."

Capitals 3, Devils 2

At Washington, Jaromir Jagr and Peter Bondra scored 53 seconds apart in the second period for the Capitals.

Olaf Kolzig made 29 saves and Steve Konowalchuk also scored to help the Capitals to their fourth straight victory.

Jamie Langenbrunner and Sergei Brylin scored power-play goals for the Devils, who had a three-game unbeaten streak snapped.

Senators 3, Canadiens 2, OT

At Ottawa, Mike Fisher tied it with 45.7 seconds left in regulation, and Marian Hossa scored 50 seconds into overtime to lift Ottawa past Montreal.

Zdeno Chara also scored for the Senators, 5-0-1 since a 3-2 loss to Montreal on Dec. 16.

Yanic Perreault scored goals 52 seconds apart late in the second period for Montreal, which set a franchise record with just 12 shots on goal.

Thrashers 5, Hurricanes 3

At Raleigh, N.C., Atlanta general manager Don Waddell won his first game as an NHL coach, a day after firing Curt Fraser.

Brad Tapper redirected a shot from Andy Sutton early in the third period and Ilya Kovalchuk scored two goals to help the Thrashers win for the second time in 11 games.

It also was Atlanta's first victory over Carolina.

Lightning 5, Bruins 2

At Tampa, Fla., Martin St. Louis and Frederik Modin scored in a two-minute span in the third period, and Dave Andreychuk had his 602nd goal to pass Jari Kurri for 13th place on the career list.

Modin added another goal and Vaclav Prospal also scored for the Lightning.

Stars 4, Panthers 0

At Sunrise, Fla., Ron Tugnutt made 23 saves for his first shutout for Dallas and 22nd of his career as the Stars snapped a five-game winless streak.

Jere Lehtinen scored twice, and Manny Malhotra and Scott Young added goals for the Stars.

Maple Leafs 4, Flames 3

At Calgary, Alberta, Jonas Hoglund scored the tying goal early in the third period and added the winner with 3:26 to go.

Mats Sundin scored a first-period goal for the Maple Leafs, but left the game in the third period after being checked into the glass by defenseman Bob Boughner.

Tom Fitzgerald also scored for Toronto, 3-0-2 in its last five games. Petr Buzek, Jarome Iginla, and Jamie Wright scored for the Flames.



Harvester Sports Calendar Week of December 29

- Basketball**
- Thursday**
- Pampa vs. Palo Duro boys & girls varsity, 6pm home
- Pampa 9th grade boys, Perryton Tournament
- Friday**
- Pampa JV boys, Perryton Tournament
- Saturday**
- Pampa vs. Dumas varsity boys & girls, 6pm away
- Wrestling**
- Pampa varsity, Grapevine Duals
- Swimming**
- Pampa varsity, Lubbock Invitational

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TRANSACTIONS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASEBALL

National League

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with INF Rey Sanchez on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Activated G Bob Sura from the injured list. Waived G Oscar Torres.

PHOENIX SUNS—Activated G Randy Brown from the injured list. Placed F Alton Ford on the injured list.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Signed F Bobby Simmons.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DETROIT LIONS—Fired Bill Tobin, executive director of player personnel.

HOCKEY

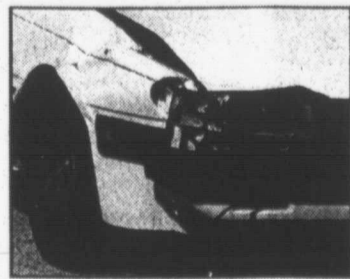
National Hockey League

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Assigned C Jeff Toms to San Antonio of the AHL.

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed C Jason Allison on the injured reserve list retroactive to Dec. 23. Recalled C Jerred Smithson from Manchester of the AHL.

MINNESOTA WILD—Recalled LW Jeremy Stevenson from Houston of the AHL.

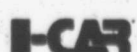
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Reassigned LW Raffi



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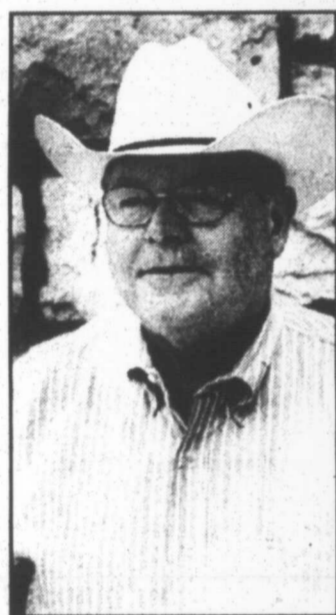
MOW Cookbook sale



(Courtesy photo)

Myrna Orr won this handsome quilt in a drawing conducted recently by Pampa Meals on Wheels. The fund-raiser netted approximately \$1,000 for the organization. The trunk was donated by Donna Reynolds. MOW is currently offering cookbooks for sale as part of yet another fund-raiser, each features recipes from board members, staff, and volunteers. For more information or to place an order, call 669-1007.

AAA says longtime manager to retire



William D. Powell Jr.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — After serving 23 years as the American Angus Association's eyes and ears in the northeastern United States, William D. Powell Jr., Thurmont, Md., has announced he will retire from his position as regional manager in March 2003.

Since 1980, Powell has provided service to thousands of members in his territory, which includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

"We have all enjoyed having Bill as our regional manager in the northeast and he's become an Angus icon to everyone involved in the beef industry in that region," says John Crouch, executive vice president of the American Angus Association. "However, the members in his territory are sure to miss him the most as they've come to depend on Bill for the service and guidance they need to be successful in the registered Angus business."

Powell grew up on Arrowhead Farms, the family Angus operation near Thurmont. When he was a youth, he was active in junior Angus activities, 4-H and FFA, where he was a skilled public speaker and held several offices and leadership positions. After attending the University of Maryland, he served as the secretary/field man for the Virginia Angus Association.

From there he accepted a position as manager of Rea Ranch in Texas and also served as a field representative for the Drovers Journal and the Livestock Breeders Journal. In 1980, he accepted a position with the American Angus Association and the Angus Journal and has been serving in his current position as regional manager since that time.

He and his wife, Gail, continue to operate Arrowhead Farms and plan to spend most of their time working together on the farm.

The search for a person to fill the position of American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc., regional manager for the northeastern United States has begun. Candidates should apply by sending a resume and cover letter to John Crouch, Executive Vice President, American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506.

The American Angus Association is the world's largest beef breed organization, providing programs and services for thousands of commercial producers and more than 35,000 regular and junior members nationwide. For more information go to www.angus.org.

Milk production up 5 percent from last year.

AUSTIN — Texas milk production totaled 417 million pounds during November, up 5 percent from last year's production of 398 million pounds. October 2002 production totaled 417 million pounds.

The number of milk cows during November averaged 309,000 head, down 3,000 head from last year and unchanged from October 2002. Production per cow averaged 1,350 pounds during November, up 6 percent from last year and unchanged from the 1,350 pounds during October 2002.

Milk production in the 20 states participating in the monthly survey totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from production in these same states in November 2001. October revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds, was up 2.1 percent from October 2001.

Production per cow during November averaged 1,501 pounds, 16 pounds above a year ago. The average number of milk cows in the 20 states was 7.79 million head; 54,000 head more than last year and 1,000 head more than October 2002.

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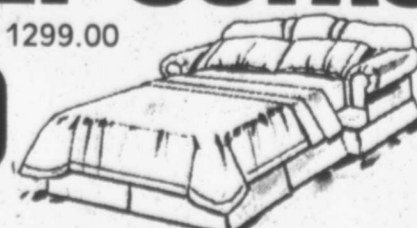
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COMMUNITY

NEWSMAKERS



Andrea Elizabeth Abbe

COLLEGE STATION — **Andrea Elizabeth Abbe**, daughter of Bruce and Janet Abbe of Pampa, was recently awarded a bachelor of science degree in psychology during commencement at Texas A&M University at College Station.

Abbe graduated from Pampa High School in 1999.

PLAINVIEW — **Zane Michael Powers** of Pampa received a bachelor of arts degree in religion during December commencement ceremonies at Wayland Baptist University recently.

He is the son of Dr. Tim and Janice Powers of Pampa.

NORMAN, Okla. — **Clint McKinley Curtis** of Pampa recently earned a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Oklahoma at the conclusion of the 2002 fall semester.

ABILENE — McMurry University Omicron Delta Kappa Circle recently inducted 22 new members into its ranks including **Kira A. Chumbley** of Pampa.

ODK recognizes achievement in scholarship, athletics, campus or community service, social and religious activities, campus government, journalism, speech, mass media, and creative and performing arts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'LEGACY'

The M.K. Brown "Legacy" book is currently on sale at White Deer Land Museum, Hastings and the Chamber of Commerce.

WDLM

White Deer Land Museum will host an exhibit of paintings by artist Grant Johnson Jan. 2-29 at its location at 112 S. Cuyler in downtown Pampa. The show is entitled "The Face Behind the Face" and will be on display during regular museum hours.

GOP HEADQUARTERS

The Republican Party is headquartered locally at 1621 N. Hobart next to the Sears store. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. For more information, phone 886-4967.

PCCA

Pampa Community Concert Association's 2002-03 season will kick-off with "Swingerhead" scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, at Borger High School Auditorium. Borger's CCA will co-sponsor. Other upcoming PCCA presentations include: "Quintet of the Americas," Nov. 19; "The Ennis Sisters," Jan. 11; and "Dancing on Common Ground," March 18. All will be staged at 7:30 p.m., at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. For tickets or more information, contact Ruth Riehart, PCCA president, at 665-3362.

GCAP MOMS & BABIES

Gray County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies, will not meet during the month of December.

PACSG

Pampa Area Cancer Support Group voted at its last meeting not to convene during the month of December. The next meeting will be an "After the Holidays" party on Jan. 16.

More 'Events' on Page 5



(Courtesy photo)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)



(Courtesy photo)

■ Clockwise (Top, left) Jeremy Light sits his mount in full regalia. Jeremy and wife, Jessica Light. Jeremy riding his mount.

Grooming 'the herd' for the Army

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Jeremy Light calls them a herd. His wife Jessica, a Pampa native, calls them the babies.

Either way, Light admits that they're probably the most spoiled horses in the United States Army.

Chief Warrant Officer Three Light is the leader of the Caisson Platoon of the Old Guard, the 3d U.S. Infantry, the oldest active duty infantry unit in the Army.

The Old Guard, which has been active continuously since 1784, serves as the Army's official ceremonial unit and as the President's escort.

The 3d Infantry is responsible for military ceremonies at the White House, the Pentagon, national memorials and elsewhere in Washington D.C. They provide the 24-hour vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns and military funeral escorts at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Old Guard consists of several specialty units including the U.S. Army Drill Team, the Continental Color Guard, the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, the Salute Gun Platoon and Light's platoon, the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon.

As platoon leader, CW3 Light commands 40 soldiers, two civilians and 40 horses. The civilians serve as farrier and leather craftsman.

"Ninety percent of my soldiers have no horse experience," Light said.

While that may seem like a liability, it's actually an asset. It means that incoming personnel have no bad habits to break.

Each soldier goes through a 400-hour training course in accordance with the rules laid down in the 1942 U.S. Army Field Artillery Manual. They ride 1928 McClellan saddles.

"We ride a 12-inch seat, all the way forward in the saddle," Light said.

The caissons, now used to carry caskets for services at Arlington National Cemetery, date to 1918.

"They're pulled by six horses," Light said.

The men and horses are stationed at Ft. Myer, Va., adjoining the Arlington cemetery. Last year, Light's platoon were involved in 1,584 military funerals with full military honors.

The hours are long, but Light said the duty is rewarding.

Light said they have a 10 acre farm on the backside of the national cemetery with a pasture, barns, stables and offices.

The stables have brick floors and solid oak stall boards and are open from noon to 4 p.m. seven days a week to the public.

The horses, 22 blacks and 18 grays, are mostly large draft crossbreds. Many of them are Percheron-Morgan crosses, although there are three mustangs and three quarter horses.

"The Percheron brings the size up in them," Light said.

They average 15.2 to 16.2 hands in height and weigh from about 1,250 to 1,400 pounds.

Light and his wife are not strangers to horses.

He grew up in Springfield, Ore., spending summers bucking hay and working on local ranches, including a nearby llama ranch.

His wife Jessica Garren, graduated from Pampa High School in 1994, and has more than a passing familiarity with her grandfather's pastures along McClellan Creek, a creek named for the Civil War U.S. Army general who initially designed the saddle that her husband and his troopers use and directed troops here in the 1870s in battles against the Plains Indians.

A 15-year veteran soldier, Light was originally assigned to the Infantry unit as maintenance officer, but developed a friendship with the former Caisson Platoon Leader and was invited to take over the unit when the former platoon leader left.

"We moved to Virginia from Colorado Springs in April," Jessica said, as she and her husband relaxed in Pampa over the Christmas holidays with her family.

A paratrooper in the Army's Special Forces, Light admitted that he didn't expect his Army career to include riding horses.

"I never thought I'd be running a barn," he said.

"We were fixing to go to Alaska when this came open," Jessica said. "We decided to go to Virginia."

But both agree that Light's latest assignment to the elite unit is both fun and rewarding.

Jessica knows the personalities of each of the horses as well as her husband.

There's Lonesome, perhaps Light's favorite mount. He's considered a mustang that stands 16.3 hands and weighs 1,400 pounds. Light said Lonesome was actually bred for bucking stock and donated to the Army.

Occasionally, his breeding comes to the surface, Light grinned, but to date Light has managed to stay in the saddle.

And there is Sgt. York, the riderless horse used in military funerals of officers with the rank of Colonels or higher. Sgt. York was initially bred for racing.

"He's like a big dog," Jessica said.

Many of the horses are paired for pulling the caisson. There's Willie and Waylon and Brooks and Dun. Each has a distinct personality.

"Our horses are pretty spoiled," Light said.

For the various ceremonies, the men and the horses are in full dress uniform. The horses, the leather and the brass all shine.

Come the 2004 elections, Light will be in charge of the horses in the Presidential Inaugural Parade the following January.

The couple lives in a detached townhouse in Arlington that was built in 1810.

"It's just two blocks down from Robert E. Lee's boyhood home," Jessica said.

It's only about four blocks from the Potomac.

"It's an Historic District," she said.

Jessica is the branch manager of a bank in nearby Reston, Va. Perhaps the only thing she doesn't like about the area is the traffic. Reston is a 45-minute commute, but her boss is the mayor of Arlington and the Lights are involved with many of the activities in the area.

"It's a lot of fun," Jessica said.

ANNIVERSARIES

Smith anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Smith of Pampa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 21, 2002, at the home of their daughter Debi Johnson in Minneola, Kan. The couple also celebrated the occasion with an Alaskan cruise.

Eldon Smith and LeAlta Anderson were married Dec. 21, 1952, at Texola, Okla. They have been Pampa residents for 27 years and are members of Central Baptist Church.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith volunteer at Pampa Regional Medical Center and Pampa Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Smith retired from Skelly-Getty-Texaco on Oct. 4, 1996, after 25 years of service. He currently serves on the Skel-tex Credit Union Board of Directors.

Mrs. Smith retired in May



Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Smith

of 1989 from HiLand Fashions after 16 years of service.

Children of the couple are Debi Johnson and LeAnn and

Greg Shelor, all of Minneola, and Kim and Mike Lancaster of Pampa. They have seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CLUB NEWS

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m., (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving.

and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

PPQG

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild met Dec. 12 for its annual Christmas get-

together. A potluck meal was served and members participated in a gift exchange.

Christmas blocks were won by Jenny Fry and Della Bassett, and friendship blocks for the monthly exchange were returned to Joyce Taylor.

The regularly scheduled meeting for December will not be held. The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 23 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. Visitors are welcome.

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LIFESTYLES POLICY

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.

2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.

3. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.

4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.

5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.

6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.

7. Birth announcements will only be published for 0- to 3-month-olds. (See form for more details.)

8. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

9. Two anniversary pictures may be placed for a \$25 charge or four extra lines may be added to announcements for \$25 (\$50 for both).

MENUS

WEEK OF DEC. 30-JAN. 3

Pampa Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.

Lefors Schools MONDAY-FRIDAY Holiday.

Senior Citizens MONDAY

Chicken fried steak or sauerkraut/sausages, mashed potatoes, spinach, beets, navy beans, cherry chocolate cake or banana pudding slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

TUESDAY

Ham/fruit sauce or taco salad, macaroni/cheese, Italian green beans, blackeyed peas, carrot cake or lemon icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY

Holiday.

THURSDAY

Chicken strips or roast beef brisket/brown gravy,

mashed potatoes, carrots/peas, cream corn, beans, French vanilla cake or chocolate sundae cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

FRIDAY

Catfish/hushpuppies or spaghetti/meatballs, potato wedges, zucchini squash, beans, brownies or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic toast, hot rolls or cornbread.

Meals On Wheels

MONDAY

Chicken noodles, egg rolls, mixed greens, sugarless cake.

TUESDAY

Catfish, pinto beans, potato salad, apricots.

WEDNESDAY

Closed.

THURSDAY

Beef stroganoff, broccoli, carrots, peaches.

FRIDAY

Chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, sliced apples.

Dallas museum showcases topical German pop artist

By SUSAN PARROTT ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DALLAS (AP) — Connecting the dots isn't easy when it comes to comprehending the paintings of German artist Sigmar Polke.

Like the disjointed culture the artist strives to parody, his works are multilayered in meaning, mixing topical with seemingly random themes.

Almost 50 of Polke's pieces made since 1998 are on display at the Dallas Museum of Art. The show includes a dozen gigantic works — one triptych takes up more than 30 feet of wall space — never before seen in public.

DMA curator Charles Wylie said the exhibition is Polke's largest U.S. museum showing in a decade and the first to display his latest works.

"We were interested in seeing what this artist has been thinking about the last few years," Wylie said.

The artist apparently has been contemplating world events, such as the war on ter-

rorism, and stereotypical Texas images, like the fascination with guns.

"All of these images contain ideas about perception and vision, how our eyes function and how our mind creates meanings based on our psychological and physical place in the world," Wylie said.

The foundation of many of Polke's works relies on a veil or backdrop of repetitive dots, a technique often used by pop artist Roy Liechtenstein.

Newspapers traditionally used an overlay of dots to add tone to printed images such as photographs. Polke uses the dots to set the tone of his art, whether by enlarging them to abstract amoeba-like blobs or to obscure the way a viewer sees familiar figures.

The dots reflect the "blur of modern living," said Richard Armstrong, director of the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. "The potency is in their ambiguity," he said of Polke's works. (See ART, Page 13)

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Community center going strong at 100

By ESTHER WU
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS — Some women banded together to minister in a settlement house in an area "surrounded by poverty, sin and degradation of the lowest type, there being within a radius of six blocks of this home 30 saloons and 40 houses, dens of evil ..."

The Dallas community has changed a lot in the last 100 years, but the need to help people hasn't. That's a lot of the reason for the survival of the Wesley-Rankin Community Center.

A century of service is "no small feat for an organization whose seed was planted by a group of women who chose to see something great, in a place where so many chose not to look," said the center's executive director, Yesenia Reyes.

She credits much of the center's rich history to the work of the volunteers and staff.

"The Wesley-Rankin Community Center is a very special place," Reyes said. "I felt it the first time I walked through its doors. We are not here to dole out charity. We are a part of the community we serve. We are here because we care about the people in this community."

Reyes said her roots are in West Dallas, where the center is now located at 3100 Crossman Ave. Her grandparents lived in a small house just a few blocks from the center when they first moved to the United States from Mexico. Her grandmother told Reyes she used to dream about the future but never thought she'd have a granddaughter who spoke English.

"I may not have grown up here, but I can identify with just about every person who comes through the center," Reyes said.

According to Reyes, more than 300 people of all ages are served daily at the non-profit center with GED and parenting classes, computer literacy, day-care and after-school programs for children,

tutoring and mentoring for teens, and meals and sewing classes for senior citizens.

Recently, the center dished out more than 125 turkey dinners and passed out close to 100 food baskets in time for Thanksgiving. The center's benefit last month to mark its centennial raised more than \$100,000.

But beyond the services offered, the center is about families — often generations.

Jo Anne Flores was 3 when she attended Vacation Bible School at the center in 1953.

"All my uncles came to Wesley-Rankin," she recalled. "I begged and begged until one of them brought me."

Flores still has the Bible school certificates behind her desk.

"After I finished high school, I came back to the center to fill in for my auntie who used to work here," she said. "That was 29 years ago — and I've never left."

Flores lives down the street from the center with her grandmother, who visits daily.

"She loves to play bingo with the other seniors," Flores said. "It's important for her just to have some place to go each day, otherwise she'd probably just sit at home all day and stare at the walls."

Flores' two sons are also regulars.

Her older son, Abel Zarate, 29, said the place has had a tremendous impact — not only on his family but also on the entire neighborhood.

"There used to be a lot of violence in this area," he said. "I remember seeing a police shootout right by our house when I was little. Things have calmed down quite a lot. The police have cleaned up the area, but I think a lot of credit still goes to the center."

His brother, Andrew Zarate, is completing his GED at the center.

"It's like a family here," the 17-year-old said. "Everyone knows one another. It probably keeps me on my toes."

(See CENTER, Page 22)

LIONS CLUB SWEETHEARTS



Brittany Brazille

The Pampa Lions Club sweethearts for December are Brittany Brazille and Vanessa Orr.

Brazille is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Skinner and is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stowers. Her honors, activities, and accomplishments include: Mixed choir (two years), concert choir (two years), show choir, varsity tennis (2 1/2 years), softball manager, Little Harvester newspaper staff, DAP program (four years), Candy Striper-Pampa Regional Medical Center, starring role 2002 choir musical, second team all-district tennis doubles and singles, German Award (freshman year), Health Award (junior year), All-American Scholar, United States Achievement Academy Honor Roll Award-winner, and United States Achievement Academy-English. Brazille's art work has been displayed at Amarillo College. She is currently working at Pampa Physical Therapy and plans major in arts and sciences at either University of Texas at Austin or Texas Tech University.



Vanessa Orr

Orr is daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dawson Orr. Her honors, activities, and accomplishments include: Drama Club (2001-02), district champion and regional semi-finalist tennis team (2000-01), third in state cross country team (1999), cross country team (2000), band (four years), Jazz Band (three years), Color Guard (three years), 2001 zone best actress, 2001 outstanding female thespian, 2001 district and zone honorable mention-theater, drama club treasurer, first team all-district tennis singles (2000), second team all-district tennis doubles (2000), first team all-district tennis singles (2001), team all-district tennis doubles (2001), second place district and regional qualifier in cross country (2000), 2002 band council secretary, All-Region Jazz Band (2000), National Honor Society, Wendy's Heisman Scholar, Biology I AP award, and English I AP award. Her future plans are to attend either University of Texas at Austin or Trinity University.

Girl with life-threatening brain defect gains hope

By KATHERINE VOGT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DENVER (AP) — With the zap of a beam, 5-year-old Whitney Boyce took a leap toward possible recovery from a brain defect that has tyrannically worked to deprive other parts of her body of blood since she was born.

Doctors at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center used a relatively new surgical device to precisely focus a high concentration of radiation on the congenital birth defect made up of a tangle of veins and arteries in a small portion of Whitney's brain.

With the procedure, Whitney

joined a handful of patients in Colorado treated with the Novalis Shaped Beam Surgery device, which uses beams of photon energy aimed from several directions to target tumors or other growths that can be stopped with radiation.

With help from computer-generated images and a system that precisely positions the patient using grids, the radiation beams are molded to mirror the shape and size of the growth.

"In your mind, when you hear it's radiation, it's scary. But I think this was the best option," Theresa Boyce said.

The device — slightly larger than a refrigerator with a giant arm — gave doctors the best tool available to treat Whitney's life-threatening brain defect as well as a host of other ailments, including brain tumors.

It could be two years before they know if the procedure worked.

Success would dramatically alter the life of the plucky kindergarten — and ultimately may even save it.

Whitney underwent the procedure at the university's Health Sciences Center in November.

As a newborn, she was diagnosed with an arteriovenous malformation, a golfball-sized cluster of veins and arteries. The engorged knot hogged blood from parts of her body, turning her blue and sending her into congestive heart failure.

Doctors ultimately were able to pull Whitney out of heart failure, but a new problem emerged: She went through a brief spell of suffering seizures. The next several years were punctuated by frequent trips to doctors and specialists who helped Whitney escape major developmental problems.

Many times it meant traveling 100 miles to Denver from the family's home in Akron.

Much of the medical work was done by Dr. David Kumpe, director of interventional radiology and interventional neuroradiology at the Health Sciences Center. Kumpe, Whitney's longtime physician, has treated the malformation with a series of non-invasive procedures in which glue and coils were used to stem blood flow into the knot of veins and arteries.

The work helped reduce the influence of the mass, but Kumpe said there was a small kidney-sized portion remaining in a very sensitive area. He didn't want to risk another procedure in that part of the brain so he turned to Shaped Beam surgery.

It is designed to focus radiation and destroy blood vessels in diseased tissue while leaving surrounding healthy tissue untouched — a critical factor when treating the brain or other sensitive parts of the body.

Unlike traditional open skull surgery, no incisions are made for the Shaped Beam procedure and the treatment can be administered in just one dose for many patients.

Experts say similar radio-surgery devices have been available for years, but the Shaped Beam system may provide the most versatility.

"It's the best, the newest and most accurate and applicable to the most treatment sites (on the body)," said Timothy Solberg, director of the medical physics division at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles, where the first patient was treated with the system in 1998.

"Up until the point of the Novalis, we couldn't shape the radiation beam. You had to make some compromises, all of which were less than ideal."

"It's the first time that I've come across something in the medical environment that's actually easier to use, but most importantly is also better for the patient," he added.

Eighteen hospitals nationwide already use the device. Solberg said UCLA alone has used the system to treat more than 1,400 brain tumor cases.

Unlike the older Gamma Knife — which uses a super-concentrated beam of radiation — the Shaped Beam system does not have a radioactive source that has to be replaced. It uses electricity.

"I think it's the future for radio-surgery because it can be used for many purposes," said Dr. Laurie Gaspar, chair of the department of radiation oncology at the Health Sciences Center.

If left untreated, the malformation afflicting Whitney has a 95 percent mortality rate.

With the Shaped Beam surgery, Whitney's prognosis is very good, Kumpe said, adding that he hoped most of the mass had dried up.

"If we do an angiogram in two years, it may show that she may need to get more treatment," he said.

Within two days of the procedure, Whitney was home, demanding to be allowed to attend her kindergarten, insisting her presence was required because it was her day to bring classmates a snack.

On the Net:
<http://www.uch.edu>
<http://www.brainlab.com>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

ART

In "The Hunt for the Taliban," a military satellite beams up images of turbaned men on horseback. The dots that form the horsemen are enlarged to unrecognizable splashes in a separate abstract piece titled "I live in my own world but it's OK, they know me here."

Several of the pieces are based on photographs taken at

Texas shooting ranges. Round targets and cartoonish props are pierced with bullet holes as black-and-white figures take aim.

The works lampoon Texas lifestyle as a world of "Wild West images and guns," Wylie said. "It also takes in vision, the idea of pointing and really concentrating on something such as a target."

In others, Polke uses tablecloths and other fabrics as background patterns.

One whimsical piece shows cherubs playing against a montage of bright floral patterns. On the opposite wall, a photograph from a strip club is juxtaposed against tablecloth patterns of horsemen fox-hunting and cartoonish figures drinking beer.

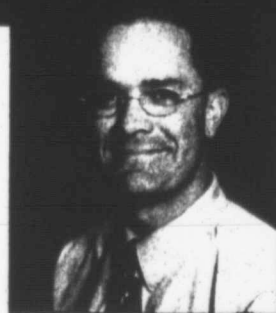
The 61-year-old German painter was a contemporary of Gerhard Richter, with whom he launched the capitalist realism movement in 1963 as a response to pop art. This prompted some to describe Polke as the anti-pop pop artist.

The show, which continues through March 23, is the first to take up the Barrel Vault since the museum's signature Stake Hitch was removed in August.

On the Net:
www.dallasmuseumofart.org

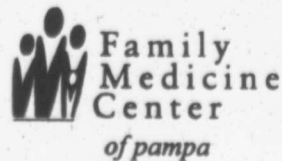
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from
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Internist, Board Certified



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MEDICAL

Arthritis drugs as ulcer treatment questioned by some

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The blockbuster arthritis drug Celebrex doesn't protect the stomach from dangerous bleeding ulcers as well as thought, a study suggests.

Celebrex and two similar new anti-inflammatory drugs are heavily advertised as being safer for arthritis patients based on earlier research that found they caused fewer ulcers and other

gastrointestinal complications than older anti-inflammatory medicines. Together, the three new drugs have annual sales exceeding \$6 billion.

But their safety has been called into question recently. The new study, which focused on arthritis patients at high risk of recurrent ulcers, escalates the controversy involving Celebrex, showing nearly 10 percent each year would develop

another bleeding ulcer.

The study found the same thing for an older anti-inflammatory drug combined with ulcer medicine Prilosec, which doctors often give arthritis patients to protect their stomachs. In addition, neither treatment protected as many patients from dangerous kidney complications as past studies showed, the researchers said.

The Hong Kong researchers and some other experts said the results, while showing the treatments work the same, indicate more study is needed on preventing bleeding stomach ulcers in vulnerable older people who for years ease joint pain with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs.

"I think patients and doctors need to be aware ... there

is a risk of gastrointestinal bleeding and there is a risk of renal toxicity," so high-risk patients should be monitored closely by their doctor, said Dr. John H. Klippel, medical director of the Arthritis Foundation.

A spokesman for Pharmacia Corp., which makes Celebrex, said the company interprets the findings as showing Celebrex as reducing the risk of gastrointestinal complications in high-risk patients.

"It is our feeling that these findings should guide future research in the area," spokesman Paul Fitzhenry said recently.

Representatives of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, which sells Prilosec, did not return calls seeking comment.

The study, reported in a

recent New England Journal of Medicine, included 287 patients who had a previous bleeding ulcer and so were at very high risk of developing another, potentially life-threatening ulcer.

Half took the anti-inflammatory diclofenac together with Prilosec; half received Celebrex. It is one of three brand-name NSAIDs in a newer class called cox-2 inhibitors because they block the cox-2 enzyme. It produces chemicals called prostaglandins that cause pain and inflammation in the stomach as part of the body's repair process.

These drugs, which also include Vioxx and Bextra, do not block action of the cox-1 enzyme, which protects the lining of the stomach. Older NSAIDs such as diclofenac

block both cox enzymes, and so can cause stomach irritation and exacerbate ulcers.

Complications from taking older anti-inflammatory drugs hospitalized about 107,000 Americans, and ulcer complications kill an estimated 16,500 each year.

Of the study patients receiving Celebrex, about 5 percent had recurrent bleeding during the six months of research, compared with about 6.5 percent for those getting diclofenac and Prilosec.

However, that equates to annual rates of about 9 percent and 11 percent, respectively, Dr. David Y. Graham of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston wrote in an accompanying editorial.

"The results were unexpected: Neither regimen provided a good or even acceptable level of protection from recurrent bleeding," Graham wrote.

Both treatments did a good job in reducing pain and enabling patients to perform daily activities over the six-month experiment.

(See STUDY, Page 22)

Feds say consent forms not ambiguous

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

While cancer patients participating in studies of experimental drugs may mistakenly expect benefits without risks, it's probably not because of the consent forms, federal researchers say.

Their study found that the forms nearly always say the goal is to test the medicine's safety, not to help patients.

"If there is a misunderstanding ... there's probably another reason," such as patients' desperate hopes, said lead researcher Christine Grady of the clinical bioethics department at the National Institutes of Health's Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center.

Her review of 272 consent forms was reported in a recent New England Journal of Medicine.

It showed that less than 5 percent of forms said a cure was possible, while about 80 percent stated that severe or permanent harm was possible; about two-thirds mentioned death as a risk.

Grady said the main problem is that forms repeatedly used the word "treatment" without saying it is "experimental."

"It's possible that people reading the documents with the term 'treat,' 'treat,' 'treat' over and over get the idea this is a more established treatment," she said.

Ethicists and government officials have been concerned whether potential risks have been played down or benefits overstated to get patients with advanced cancer to participate in the first human tests of new cancer drugs.

The so-called Phase I trials mainly determine a safe dose for a new compound or drug combination. The patients recruited generally have advanced cancer and little hope, and few benefit from the brief treatment.

Researchers at the Magnuson center reviewed consent forms for Phase I cancer experiments conducted in 1999. Most came from top cancer research centers supported by the National Cancer Institute; 10 percent were from six pharmaceutical companies.

UT scientists uncover new cell mechanism

DALLAS — Scientists at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas have identified a new and surprising mechanism by which a class of enzymes responsible for the breakdown of proteins operates.

The process of degrading proteins no longer needed by cells is essential in the normal growth, development and regulation of cells, and the study's findings have implications for understanding diseases like Parkinson's and several forms of cancer.

"Many diseases involve the inappropriate accumulation of unneeded or damaged proteins," said Dr. Philip Thomas, associate professor of physiology and the study's senior author. "Cells normally utilize an enzyme called the proteasome to remove these proteins by cutting them into small pieces."

The researchers found that the proteasome — independently degrades substrates (substances acted upon by an enzyme) involved in Parkinson's disease and some types of cancer. The findings appear in this week's online Web version of Science.

"For some time, people thought that the proteasome could not work by itself," said Dr. George DeMartino, professor of physiology and a study author. "The study showed that it has the capability of doing something by itself with known, important substrates."

These findings may have implications for development of future drugs to treat diseases like cancer. "The progression through the cell cycle is normally controlled by degrading certain proteins at certain times in the cell cycle," said DeMartino. "In cancer cells, that process goes faster, and it doesn't turn off. If you can somehow inhibit proteasome function, you can

prevent cells from going through the cell cycle and cell growth and, therefore, prevent cancer."

The proteasome, which is present in all higher cells, contains its active sites inside a cylinder-like shape with a gate that prevents the entry of normal cellular proteins, thereby protecting them from destruction. For years, scientists believed that proteasome only degraded proteins tagged by a "death marker" named polyubiquitin, which directed damaged proteins to a complex that opened the gate. The new findings reveal that some important substrates do not need to be marked with polyubiquitin, but can open the gate themselves, enter the active cylinder and be degraded.

The scientists conducted the research by performing biochemical assays using purified proteins involved in disease. Included were a-synuclein — a protein that is not normally degraded in Parkinson's disease — and a cell-cycle regulator important to the progression of cancer. Accumulation of the degradation-resistant a-synuclein is thought to play a causative role in Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Changwei Liu, postdoctoral research fellow in physiology and lead author of the study, said, "We found that the proteasome can cut in the middle of these substrates. This was totally unexpected. Interestingly, cutting a-synuclein in this manner produces fragments that are reminiscent of the products found in the pathological deposits in the brains of Parkinson's patients."

Dr. Michael Corbo, postdoctoral physiology research fellow, also helped author the study, which was supported by grants from the Welch Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Art to spotting cancer ...

By ANDREA WRIGHT
THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

BEAUMONT, Texas — On the screen, they're delightful. They look like modern art, swirls of color, with small, mysterious masses floating about.

In reality, they are either life-giving or, worst-case scenario, life-taking.

They are cells within a woman's milk ducts.

When flushed, with a new procedure called, simply, ductal lavage (washing), the cells are collected using a saline solution and a catheter through the nipple. They are then interpreted by a pathologist, to determine whether the woman is producing atypical cells.

"Breast cancer occurs, starts, 95 percent of the time in the milk ducts, and the question is, is the proliferation of cells (in the ducts) normal?" asks Dr. Peter Isaac rhetorically. "Before this, all that could be seen and tested was on the surface. This collects all the cells, not just those on the surface."

The procedure has only

been around about two years, and is still considered experimental by some, like the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where a spokesperson said it is not yet used.

Other major medical centers and schools are, however, including Baylor College of Medicine, where several of the physicians who helped author the original study of ductal lavage are on staff.

"Yes, we use it at our breast care center," said Laurie Williams, in the public affairs office. "We're part of the original clinical trial."

Isaac is one of few as yet trained and certified in the procedure, he said, and he is quick to emphasize that it is not a test that all women should rush out and have done.

"This method of looking at cells, rather than tissue — which is what was possible in the past through doing a biopsy — is only for women who may be at higher risk than their normal peer group," he said. "It is not

for everyone."

The higher risk group includes those with a family history of breast cancer, any who have required biopsies, or those who have had nipple discharges, especially women not of child-bearing age.

Its greatest advantage, Isaac believes, is in preserving the integrity of the sample taken, which, if taken by someone trained in the procedure and with the medical background to interpret it, can mean less handling and transfer of the sample, and offer a patient immediate results.

"The integrity of any specimen is our main concern," Isaac said. "If handled badly, any problem that arises in mishandling along the way, it makes our job impossible. Pathologists are the ones responsible for reading the cells."

Isaac describes the test as giving the patient "minimal discomfort" and similar to having a pap smear, but Dolores Peralta, while impressed with it, describes it a bit differently.

(See CANCER, Page 22)

OB/GYN Update

by Otoniel Huertas, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

A PERSONAL CHOICE

Certified nurse-midwives (CNM) provide personal attention to pregnant women by taking the time needed to discuss feelings and problems. While many medical doctors also fit this description, a CNM also will be oriented toward a "natural" childbirth and is more likely to treat the pregnancy as a human condition rather than as a medical one. A CNM is a registered nurse who has completed graduate-level programs in midwifery and is certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. A CNM is thoroughly trained to care for women with low-risk pregnancies and to attend uncomplicated births. He or she may work in a hospital, at a birthing center, and/or perform home births. A physician is often used as a backup in case of complications.

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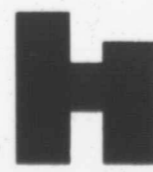
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ENTERTAINMENT

Top actors trying their hand behind camera

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nicolas Cage, George Clooney and Denzel Washington are among a rush of big-name actors making directing debuts in movies.

The appeal of directing, they say, is partly to flex their muscles behind the camera and partly to use their clout to get unconventional projects into production.

"I loved the screenplay and thought it wasn't going to get made," Clooney said of his "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind." It features Sam Rockwell as game-show host Chuck Barris, who claimed in his fanciful "autobiography" that he doubled as a CIA hitman.

"There was a feeling that if I came on board and directed it for (bottom-scale wages) and got some A-list actors to work for virtually nothing, then we thought they'd make the movie," Clooney said.

Washington's "Antwone Fisher" is based on the true story of a volatile sailor (Derek Luke) struggling to overcome a troubled past. Cage's "Sonny" stars James Franco as a newly discharged soldier reluctantly drawn back into his pre-Army life as a gigolo.

Also opening before year's end is "Love Liza," starring Philip Seymour Hoffman in the directing debut of Todd Louiso, most recently seen as John Cusack's meek record-store clerk in "High Fidelity."

Next year brings directing debuts by John Malkovich with "The Dancer Upstairs," Matt Dillon with "City of Ghosts," Steve

Guttenberg with "P.S. Your Cat Is Dead" and Salma Hayek with the cable-TV movie "The Maldonado Miracle."

Even in the early days of film, performers such as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton moved into directing to control their material better.

Some actors have directed with mundane results, including John Wayne ("The Alamo," "The Green Berets"), Jack Nicholson ("Goin' South," "The Two Jakes") and Sally Field ("Beautiful").

Yet many have succeeded brilliantly. Robert Redford ("Ordinary People"), Clint Eastwood ("Unforgiven"), Kevin Costner ("Dances With Wolves") and Mel Gibson ("Braveheart") won best-director Academy Awards. Others were nominated, including Warren Beatty for "Reds" and "Heaven Can Wait," Tim Robbins for "Dead Man Walking" and Kenneth Branagh for "Henry V."

"Actors tend to make the transition to directing fairly well, probably because they can communicate well with other actors," said Cage, who had hoped to star in "Sonny" in the 1980s but was unable to get the picture made. He sought out the script again years later when he decided to direct.

"I did feel the one thing I could count on was that I would be able to have respect for the actors and give them an environment where they would feel free to try different things."

"Sonny" was shot on a small, \$5 million budget, while "Antwone Fisher" cost a modest \$13 million, making them fairly slim gambles for investors.

Cage, Clooney and Washington all say they're interested in directing again if the right projects come along. Through their production companies, Cage and Clooney also have nurtured other filmmakers' projects — Cage with "Shadow of the Vampire," Clooney and producing partner Steven Soderbergh with "Insomnia" and "Far From Heaven."

With a \$29 million budget, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" is riskier. But a big-name cast, including Clooney, Julia Roberts and Drew Barrymore, should help its box-office prospects, Clooney said.

Cage said he would have preferred staying completely behind the camera, but he agreed to a small role in "Sonny" to boost its commercial appeal.

Washington has a substantial part in "Antwone Fisher" as the Navy psychiatrist in San Diego who helps the title character work through the trauma of his hard-luck childhood in Cleveland.

"The one thing I made sure of was to not be in the picture the first three or four weeks," Washington said. "So we shot everything in Cleveland first, and I wasn't in any of that, so I could get some kind of rhythm and sense of what it is I have to do."

The crew finished in Cleveland on a Friday, flew to San Diego over the weekend and started shooting there on Monday, "six days straight, and it was all scenes in the psychiatrist's office. By the end of that week, I was ready to give up," Washington joked. "I went, 'I want my mommy, I want to go home. I don't want to direct.' It's hard to be focused on the big picture as director, then suddenly have to step into a scene."

Cage, Clooney and Washington all say they're interested in directing again if the right projects come along. Through their production companies, Cage and Clooney also have nurtured other filmmakers' projects — Cage with "Shadow of the Vampire," Clooney and producing partner Steven Soderbergh with "Insomnia" and "Far From Heaven."

They view it as playing godfather to difficult projects that might not get made if not for their Hollywood clout.

"You look at it as protecting those films and filmmakers," Clooney said. "If you get to a place where you can use your power for good, why not do that? They take it away from you anyway eventually — whatever power you have is going to go away. But why not be able to say, 'You know, there was about nine years there where we really pushed the envelope and got some interesting stuff made'?"

At the Movies: Dickens' 'Nicholas Nickleby' adapted to big screen

By SHEILA NORMAN-CULP
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

What film can you take your 10-year-old to, as well as your grandmother? Where else can you start a conversation with your kids about how bad things can happen to good people, and the pluck that is needed to overcome life's challenges?

The answer: "Nicholas Nickleby," Charles Dickens' sprawling tale of child abuse, greed, lechery and the eternal battle between good and evil.

Douglas McGrath, who made his directorial debut with an adaptation of Jane Austen's "Emma" in 1996, returns to 19th century England to write and direct the story of a young man who loses his father and must grow up all too quickly in an uncaring world.

Charlie Hunnam, seen earlier in 2002 in the Katie Holmes star vehicle "Abandon," is Nicholas, a noble young man who defends widows and children, a character Dickens created in his quest to drum up outrage against the plight of poor children in England's factories, orphanages and boarding schools.

It all comes back to the family, according to Dickens; families can clasp us dear or break our spirits.

Nicholas' family must endure not only his father's death but also his uncle's treachery. But the love and kindness his father engen-

dered in Nicholas enables him to forge ahead.

At 19, Nicholas needs to support his mother and sister. He turns to his Uncle Ralph, a London financier, for help. But for Ralph (Christopher Plummer) money — not family — comes first.

He ships Nicholas off to teach at a boarding school, the only apparent function of which is to starve and beat young boys. Shocked by the brutality there, Nicholas delivers a few whacks of his own to the cruel headmaster, rescues a servant boy (Jamie Bell, who starred in "Billy Elliot") and flees back to London to reunite his family.

Nicholas then discovers that his uncle has been using his comely young sister as a lure for wealthy investors. He forces his uncle to stop, igniting a promise of revenge.

"I will strike him until he can be struck no more!" fumes Uncle Ralph. "I shall put his ruin ahead of my own business!"

It's hard to tell who is more mean-spirited — Ralph Nickleby, headmaster Wackford Squeers (Jim Broadbent) or his wife (Juliet Stevenson). All three leap into their villainy with unabashed gusto.

Be warned — some of "Nicholas Nickleby's" settings are truly Dickensian and include horrid, freezing rooms where young boys shiver in caskets of hay.

Hunnam, who will appear

in Anthony Minghella's adaptation of the Charles Frazier novel "Cold Mountain" in 2003, had a more difficult task, and his Nicholas is overly earnest much of the time. But that minor complaint is overshadowed by the antics of the film's all-star cast.

In a bit part as a traveling actor, Tony winner Nathan Lane — who starred in "The Producers," which won a record 12 Tonys — conjures up a riff on the theater world, a welcome respite from the film's heavier subjects.

Barry Humphries, best known as the indomitable Dame Edna, produces chuckles every time he appears as Mrs. Crummies. And Anne Hathaway (from "The Princess Diaries") is luminous as Madeline Bray, a young woman about to be traded off into marriage to pay back her father's debt.

McGrath — who wrote, directed and starred in 2000's "Company Man" — and cinematographer Dick Pope (whose credits include "Topsy-Turvy" and "The Way of the

Gun") matched the film's look to each scene's mood.

The sooty grays of London — Dickens' beloved city is a rough, raw, hungry world — contrast with the soft green pastures of Devonshire, where Nicholas grew up.

"Nicholas Nickleby," released by United Artists, is rated PG for thematic material involving some violent action and a childbirth scene. Running time: 132 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Motion Picture Association

of America rating definitions: G — General audiences. All ages admitted.

PG — Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 — Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

R — Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 — No one under 17 admitted.

Viewers find same old, same old as TV rings out 2002

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Too much stuff, and too much of it like other stuff — that's the tally for television's Same Game at the end of 2002.

Lest we forget, this was the year the great minds at ABC and the WB each brought us a series about a thirtyish single guy who is jolted back to his high school years in the 1980s ("That Was Then" and "Do Over").

This was also the year both ABC and CBS gave us dramas about doctors at a San Francisco hospital, then scheduled these shows in the same time slot, and, just to make sure viewer confusion was complete, titled them "MDs" and "Presidio Med."

We can take solace that viewers rejected all four series. But at the current rate of TV's creative convergence, how long will it be before we see the medical examiners on "Crossing Jordan" coincidentally dissecting the same corpse as the forensic sleuths on "CSI"?

Will network programmers ever stop behaving like tourists crowded around the same familiar landmark, satisfied just to get an unobstructed shot of it and not of each other?

Sometimes they can't even avoid getting a shot of each other. Check CNN's "American Morning," which originates from a sidewalk studio in Manhattan's Time & Life Building. From a certain camera angle, out the window behind the anchors can be seen a ragged red line flowing right to left. Though indecipherably out of focus, this is the lit-up "news zipper" mounted on a building two blocks away — Fox News Channel headquarters.

But this won't be news to any viewer: On the eve of 2003, the world of television remains absurdly duplicative. Despite more and more new cable channels — pledged to offer diversity in programming — increasingly the same programs air, within

days, on more than one network.

Does "Law & Order" ring a bell? Sure, over and over! Both its "Special Victims Unit" and "Criminal Intent" editions air on USA shortly after airing on NBC. As just one more among the growing number of examples, this year's cop drama "Monk" is telecast on both USA and ABC.

In industry-speak, it's called "repurposing" across "multiple platforms." The purpose of the repurposing: to save money. This is increasingly important as more networks arrive and, despite their pledges of more niche programming, further carve up the TV audience and thus lower ad revenues, necessitating more and more shows to be re-aired on more than one network to defray expenses.

Meanwhile, those expenses have a way of skyrocketing — especially if you're NBC and you're desperate to keep "Friends." The network next season will boost what it pays for this hit comedy from a humongous \$7 million to an unprecedented \$10 million per episode.

According to NBC's strategy, a 10th "Friends" season buys the network another year to develop its Next Great Thursday Sitcom — which it sure didn't do this year with "Good Morning Miami," and hasn't come close to doing since its Latest Almost-Great Sitcom, "Will & Grace," premiered five long seasons ago.

"For the major networks, the essential logic of television programming is to build a blockbuster and keep it running no matter the cost," observed The New York Times in an editorial last week, adding, "It's hard to believe that the price tag of 'Friends' isn't keeping fresher shows from making it onto the air."

It's certainly keeping fewer fresh episodes from making it onto the air. Instead of the usual 24 episodes, "Friends" next year will produce just 18. Furthermore, its enormous price tag will likely require belt-tightening elsewhere on NBC's roster, with more cheap-to-make reality shows padding the schedule.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Frazier Moore can be reached at fmoore(at)ap.org

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Will the new year bring a better business world?

NEW YORK (AP) — Fast-forward to the end of 2003. Things are looking good. Really good.

The business scandals have gone away. The economy is back on track. Investors have stock research they can trust. Stocks are rallying. We are living in the perfect business world.

Maybe too perfect. All bets are for next year to be better than this one was. But don't count on the tough times to be completely gone. We have just started down the road to recovery.

Still, it is nice to dream. We deserve to do that after what we went through in 2002.

Executives were accused of stealing from their own companies and falsifying financial statements. The economy nearly tumbled into a recession again. Investment firms were found touting stocks they didn't believe in.

Even Martha Stewart made headlines for some alleged corporate misbehavior. No one would have predicted that the domestic design tycoon would get caught up in an insider trading mess.

Everything seemed to be falling apart at once.

It caused investors to panic. They didn't know whom to trust and what disaster would happen next. They fled the stock market, sending Wall Street indexes down to their lowest level in more than five years.

We were battered and demoralized. Now, we will have to wait and see if the worst is really over.

Will we wake up a year from now to find things so different?

The good news is that change has already started.

New laws intended to crack down on corporate crime are forcing companies to be more forthcoming in their financial statements, cut back on all sorts of executive perks and provide greater disclosure on insider trading.

And CEOs and corporate boards are now being held more accountable for what goes on in their businesses.

Then there is the crack-down on biased stock research. Some Wall Street firms are finally creating giant walls between their analysts and investment bankers to prevent conflict of interest.

Analysts are actually starting to call bad investments bad and advising investors to sell some stocks, a big switch from the past.

As for the economy, the Federal Reserve's 12 interest-rate cuts over the last two years, including a big half-percentage point in November, stopped us from sliding into a recession again.

The lower interest rates spurred businesses to resume spending a little on technology and equipment, kept inflation under control and have a boon to the housing market.

The stock market is showing some signs of life, too. Investors are selectively returning to the market, looking for good deals on quality stocks that have fallen steeply over the last few years.

All this feels good. But the problems of the business world aren't close to being fixed, and there is no guarantee that some ever will be.

The economy's next challenge will be the possible slowdown in consumer spending and the housing market, which have helped prop up the economy in recent years. A pullback could be devastating.

The bear market on Wall Street left individual investors with deep scars from the huge losses they sustained. That might stop them from buying much again, at least in the near future, and that would temper the overall market's gains.

There is also the chance that investors may forget what they learned in the recent past, get tempted again by "hot" stocks and create another bubble to burst.

Mission pays off for cancer victim

By JOHN FUQUAY
LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

LUBBOCK — Karen Summers was living in Orange County, California, in 1994 when a doctor told her that her sore throat, weight fluctuations and moodiness were caused by thyroid cancer.

Without treatment, the doctor gave her six months to live. Summers had a thyroidectomy and began five years of radiation treatment.

In a jolt from her West Texas past, Summers had a chance encounter while getting treatment at a nationally known facility in Santa Monica, Calif.

There she met another woman who was in for the same treatment. The woman was from Whiteface, Texas, on the Cochran-Hockley county line.

"I spoke with her, and she advised me of how many people in the surrounding community had passed on or had cancer," Summers said.

Summers believed she actually was one of the cancer victims about whom the woman was speaking. For two years in the mid-1980s, Summers lived in Levelland in Hockley County west of Lubbock.

"I always felt like I had (cancer) when I moved, but I didn't know it," she said.

Now she knows, and she feels like a years-long crusade finally may be over.

Six years after Summers suspected a cancer cluster in the Cochran-Hockley county area, the presence of a previously undetected contaminant has been confirmed.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality tested water wells in several West Texas counties in April and found traces of perchlorate listed by the federal government as a probable carcinogen and clinically linked to thyroid disorders.

After meeting the Whiteface woman in Santa Monica, Summers took on a new mission in life.

"I told her I would move back to Whiteface, and I would pursue the question of how I got cancer myself," Summers said.

And so began a journey to find out why cancer seemed so prevalent in rural communities west of Lubbock.

Summers said she encountered many obstacles along the way, and today, perchlorate remains a complex and mysterious contaminant.

"I had already pursued every government agency that could do a test, and everybody shut a door on me," she said. "After years of research, now there are people out there lobbying for testing any

new cluster where somebody has a suspicion."

Return to Texas

In 1996, Summers put her life on hold and moved to Whiteface, population 465.

She had lived in Levelland from 1984 to 1986 after a relative made slow-paced West Texas living sound more appealing than the corporate world in which Summers labored in the Los Angeles area.

Summers, now 43, had a day job in Whiteface in 1996 and faithfully attended her son's sporting events. In her free time, she looked for carcinogens in area drinking water.

Almost everywhere she turned, she said, she found another woman who had some form of cancer. From neighbors, parents at school and even at Levelland City Hall, where she went to find out what was in the water, someone either had cancer or knew someone else who did.

"When I lived in Orange County it was unheard of, very rare. But in Whiteface, which obviously is a very small town, it was common. Most of the women I came across either had their thyroid removed or were on synthroid."

"One pharmacy I talked to in Levelland gave out more than 600 prescriptions for synthroid, a thyroid treatment," she said.

"I decided to start my own cancer survey."

Soil contaminants

Reese Air Force Base, which was undergoing closure procedures at the time, had long been identified as a source of groundwater contamination, primarily from on-base dump sites and years of spilled jet fuel that seeped into the soil.

In addition, a motor fuels company operated a production plant from 1939 to 1954 farther west on Texas 114 in Hockley County. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency added the former plant's territory to its Superfund Site list, making it a high cleanup priority.

A groundwater plume near Reese and along Texas 114 is known to contain varying levels of many contaminants, but tests found the levels too low to create a health hazard.

Summers said she knew state and federal regulatory agencies had detected trichloroethylene, a cleaning solvent more commonly known as TCE, in a groundwater plume beneath Reese.

"I wanted to find out if TCE could cause thyroid disorder," she said. "Upon researching that, I came across perchlorate."

Perchlorate most commonly is used as a component in the solid fuel propellant of rockets and missiles. However, as a result of more recent and reliable testing, experts have found that perchlorate can be generated naturally.

During research of Internet sites, Summers found the name of a fellow Californian who was a specialist in perchlorate contamination. California has led the way in perchlorate-detection, helping to draw federal attention to the contaminant.

California connection

"It's a recent phenomenon," said Steve Walden, a manager in the public drinking water division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

"In 1997 there was no analytical or laboratory method to detect perchlorate in low levels in water," he said. "In 1997, California developed a method to detect low levels of perchlorate, and in 1998 the capability began to spread."

One of the driving forces behind California's advanced perchlorate technology is Larry Ladd, a medical geographer who has conducted extensive research on the potential health effects of perchlorate.

Ladd's hometown of Rancho Cordova, Calif., has lost 20 municipal water wells since 1997 due to rocket fuel contamination. Ladd has worked on volunteer community groups for both the California Department of Health Services and the EPA.

He knew about Hockley County before Summers called.

"I had worked out a map, a model of places to pursue the most, and Hockley County, Texas, was high on my places to look at," Ladd said.

He was familiar with the Texas 114 Superfund Site and was working on a theory that perchlorate might be generated from a reaction with another enzyme during oil field production.

He also knew that a fertilizer producer in Chile had sold products in the United States that were tainted with naturally occurring perchlorate. Some of those products were used as a cotton fertilizer and defoliant.

"We had two positive hits, one in Morton and one in Whiteface, of about four or five parts per billion," Ladd said.

Despite the finding, Ladd said, he could not confirm the contamination was the source of Summers' cancer.

"It would be a real stretch for me to say that four or five parts per billion of perchlorate contributed to thyroid cancer," he said. "But we passed on what we had to the EPA and (TCEQ) in Texas."

Elections, Enron, Yates top Texas '02 news

By MATT CURRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Texas Republicans, who already held all statewide offices, brushed aside a well-funded Democratic challenge in the November elections and erased any doubt about the political balance of power in the Lone Star State.

The GOP juggernaut was among the top state news stories of 2002.

Other stories that dominated the headlines included a life sentence for Houston mother Andrea Yates in the drowning deaths of her five children. Texas was in the middle of a national debate over the death penalty, and fallout from Enron's startling collapse into bankruptcy continued to draw attention to the state.

Gov. Rick Perry and Senate candidate John Cornyn led the Republican sweep over the Democrats' ethnically diverse "dream team" of Hispanic, black and white candidates.

Perry beat Laredo banker Tony Sanchez, who spent at least \$59 million of his own money in a testy struggle. Cornyn defeated Democrat Ron Kirk in a battle to replace U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, who retired.

Among issues in the governor's race was the August decision by Farmers Insurance to stop writing new homeowners policies in Texas, affecting about 700,000 customers. In a late November settlement, Farmers agreed to pay \$100 million in refunds and lower rates in exchange for the state dropping accusations it had overcharged consumers.

The criminal trial of the year was in Houston, where a jury rejected an insanity defense by Yates and sent her to prison for life after convicting her in the drowning deaths of three of her five children in 2001.

Texas' use of capital punishment prompted debate in 2002. The state executed 33 people this year, more than any other state. Texas has executed 289 people since reinstating the death penalty in 1982.

In May, Johnny Joe Martinez was executed for fatally stabbing a Corpus Christi convenience store clerk. His case gained attention when the mother of his victim asked that his life be spared. The same month, Napoleon Beazley was put to death for a crime committed when he was 17. His sentence stirred national debate over

capital punishment for people under 18.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that executing the mentally retarded is unconstitutional, leaving states like Texas to determine what defines the condition. In 2001, Gov. Perry vetoed a bill that would have banned the execution of retarded criminals.

Enron Corp.'s devastating plunge into bankruptcy in late 2001 continued to draw attention in 2002, beginning with Kenneth Lay's resignation as chairman and CEO in January.

One top finance executive pleaded guilty to money laundering and wire fraud, and former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow was charged with fraud, money laundering and conspiracy.

In the year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the travel industry in Texas continued to suffer. American Airlines posted staggering losses — nearly \$3 billion in the first nine months of the year alone — and announced it would cut 7,000 jobs.

Fallout from Sept. 11 hit close to home in other ways. In January, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, 31, of San Antonio became the first U.S. soldier killed by enemy fire in Afghanistan.

In December, a 33-count indictment charged seven people, including five brothers in the Dallas area, with money laundering for a member of the Palestinian militant group Hamas and selling computer equipment to Syria and Libya, countries the United States says are state sponsors of terrorism.

The indictment and arrests caused an uproar among Muslims in Dallas, who said the men were innocent.

Summer storms brought flooding to South and Central Texas. An estimated \$1 billion in damage was reported across 36 counties from storms that dumped up to 40 inches of rain, beginning June 29.

Gov. Perry declared parts of Texas a disaster after homes were washed away, thousands were forced to flee and at least nine people are killed.

Also in summer, when mosquitos are most active, fear of an outbreak of West Nile virus gripped Texas. A 52-year-old Houston woman who died Aug. 9 was the first Texas fatality from the outbreak, health officials said.

In June, Dallas was in the spotlight as America's Roman Catholic bishops gathered to deal with a sex-abuse crisis in the

church. After further negotiations, the Vatican approved a modified version of the Dallas policy, allowing bishops to conduct a confidential inquiry about accused priests. If the charge is plausible, the accused priest is to be put on leave and must go before a clerical tribunal to determine guilt or innocence.

Houston police chief C.O. Bradford was indicted in September on perjury charges — he allegedly lied under oath by denying that he used profanity and called subordinates names. He resigned but denied the charges.

The University of Texas system and Texas A&M hired new leaders. UT chose Mark Yudof, the president of the University of Minnesota, as its new chancellor. A&M picked former CIA director Robert Gates as president.

Gates' predecessor, Ray Bowen, ruled against reviving the Aggie bonfire, which was suspended after a log stack collapsed in 1999, killing 12 and injuring 27. An unofficial, off-campus bonfire attracted a large crowd.

Sensational crimes also drew headlines.

In Niconia, former nurse Vickie Dawn Carson Jackson was indicted in July on capital murder charges, accused of killing four patients and suspected in the deaths of 16 others. Authorities said traces of a paralyzing drug were found in the bodies of the dead patients, most of them elderly.

A Fort Worth woman was indicted in April on murder and evidence tampering charges after an unusual traffic accident. Chante Mallard allegedly drove home with the man lodged in her windshield and let him bleed to death in her garage.

According to police, Mallard apologized to the man as he pleaded for help but never sought medical care because she was afraid.

A Houston-area dentist, Clara Harris, was accused of murder: Using her luxury sedan to run over her husband, a local dentist, after confronting him and another woman at a Houston hotel. She pleaded innocent.

Kelly Clarkson, a 20-year-old from Burleson who held odd jobs while trying in vain to land a recording contract, was crowned "American Idol" after singing on a popular summertime television show.

Clarkson's reward: A \$1 million recording deal.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGES

On December 6, 2002 Atmos Energy filed a Statement of Intent to change its service charges with the Railroad Commission of Texas and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

The proposed increase will not effect the Company's other gas rate schedules. The change will apply to Residential, Commercial, Small Industrial, and Public Authority customers. The Company proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$32.00	\$48.00
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.00	\$22.50
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	\$37.50	\$56.25
Miscellaneous service calls	\$11.25	\$16.88

The proposed service charge changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately 4% and therefore do not constitute a "major change." The proposed changes could affect approximately 215,000 gas customers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Lamesa	Quitaque
Antlers	Levelland	Ralls
Anton	Littlefield	Ransom Canyon
Big Spring	Lockney	Ropesville
Bovina	Lorenzo	Seagraves
Brownfield	Los Ybenez	Seminole
Buffalo Springs Lake	Lubbock	Shallowater
Canyon	Meadow	Silverton
Coahoma	Midland	Slaton
Crosbyton	Muleshoe	Smyer
Dimmitt	Nazareth	Springlake
Earth	New Deal	Stanton
Edmondson	New Home	Sudan
Floydada	Odessa	Tahoka
Forsan	O'Donnell	Timbercreek Canyon
Frona	Olton	Tulia
Hale Center	Opdyke West	Turkey
Happy	Palisades	Vega
Hart	Pampa	Wellman
Hereford	Panhandle	Wilson
Idalou	Petersburg	Wolfforth
Kress	Plainview	
Lake Tanglewood	Post	

*unincorporated - Southland, Welch, Whitharrall

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th, Lubbock, TX 79408-1121 or at an Atmos Energy Office nearest to you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.

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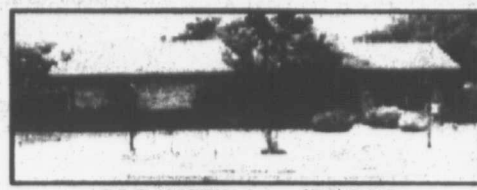
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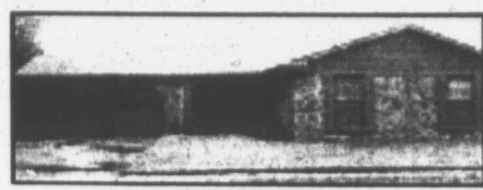
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-28 CRYPTOQUOTE
F C U L U G L U A U J , M U L P
A U J , F C G F J Z K K Y J Q
F C U S R U K M U R Z Q G
S Z R F G H U — R J Z A F
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU START TO THINK OF YOUR PHYSICAL OR MORAL CONDITION, YOU USUALLY FIND THAT YOU ARE SICK. — GOETHE

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 29, 2002:
Realize more of what you want this year through quick and decisive answers. Opportunity strikes frequently. Be ready to seize those special offers, yet quickly discern unworkable ideas. Emphasize networking and broadening your horizons. If you do, you will gain. Carefully consider your options that surround your professional and personal lives. You make decisions this year that will determine the path you plan to go on for your life. If you are single, you will make new friends, thus presenting different possibilities socially. Realize more of what you want and desire through a relationship. You're likely to meet the perfect, or close to perfect, person this year. If you're attached, your relationship will develop because of a mutual interest. **SCORPIO** proves to be a friend.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***** Others help you gain a perspective on events as they occur and in the near future. Still, you might want to spend your day with one person to whom you really do enjoy relating. The two of you explore options together. Tonight: Continue the closeness.
This Week: Reach out for others Monday and Tuesday. Expect to be a key player in the celebrations.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Recognize someone else and what he or she means to you. You sometimes push his or her buttons, or vice versa. Both of you are more than likely to hit extremes today. Just make it happen in a positive way. Tonight: Where the action is.
This Week: A close relationship benefits from your attention. You can, and will, make a big difference to many this week. Reach out.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Opportunities strike left and right. You might not even be sure of what needs to happen, but you will tend to be more spontaneous and direct. Take off for the day with a new friend. Chatter away and get to know each other. Tonight: Put your feet up.
This Week: Your popularity continues to soar. Wonder why you? Don't wonder, just love the moment. Deal with a loved

one directly.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Aim for more of what you want. Put on your creative hat and find solutions. You could find that a partner keeps throwing a snafu in your direction. Hop over problems. Before you know it, everyone is on your team. Tonight: Rev up for another holiday weekend.
This Week: As the Moon Child, you often cannot do enough for others. Decide to do more for yourself starting New Year's.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Others put their best foot forward — you included. You might decide that an associate is overly touchy and/or difficult. Face facts: you're not changing this person. Allow family and friends to do their thing. Be open to others. Tonight: Happy at home.
This Week: Play away and enjoy yourself, even if you're at work. From Thursday on, you get a lot done. Know that anything is possible.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Make an extra effort toward a loved one, friend or new associate. Your additional efforts might cause a change in your schedule or a project. Trust that your actions are appreciated. Your instincts direct you with others. Follow them. Tonight: Chat over dinner.
This Week: Reach out for others. Talks take you in a new direction if you open up. Let your imagination rock and roll.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Quickly juggle your check-book, making sure everything is under control. Once you feel secure that you've made ends meet, you'll feel free to go off and enjoy yourself. Make the most out of a special opportunity that comes via someone's unpredictability. Tonight: Your treat.
This Week: Share your resolutions with others. Still, you might opt to stay close to home.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Listen well to a loved one whom you care about. Your humor helps you deal with someone else's unpredictability. Take a step forward, understanding what others don't. A family member comes through for you in a big way. Tonight: As you like it.
This Week: You continue the theme of overindulgence through New Year's Eve, when suddenly you decide to settle down.

errand or two. Realize your limits, within reason, and decide what you absolutely must do. Acknowledge when you have said or done enough. Tonight: Join some friends.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** You might have a difficult time settling down in the next few days. You know that certain details need to be handled, but you could have a lot of difficulty covering that ground. You want to, and will, play. Late afternoon, get an errand or two done. Tonight: Catch up on e-mail.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Keep reaching out for others, knowing that some might feel a bit out of sorts with the new year beginning. The unexpected occurs with others who you might not anticipate such strong reactions from. Be generous with your feelings. Tonight: Play away.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Be more generous in the way you handle someone whose nerves are on edge. Quick news comes forward that could cause an enjoyable change in plans. You might want to just mosey home and not do much. Tonight: Happy at home.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Reach out for a loved one at a distance. Take an opportunity to visit with friends in your immediate circle. You could be overwhelmed by a money issue. Slow down and take your time with a child or loved one. Tonight: Avoid brusqueness.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** The unexpected occurs when dealing with others, especially your family. Just when you decide you're on cruise control, you get a bit of a jolt or surprise. Work with others' unpredictability. In fact, you like that touch of excitement. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 30, 2002:
Keep focusing on your goals this year, because you could be way too easily distracted. You thrive in groups and frequently have difficulty being alone. At times you become too introspective. Learn to not cause yourself problems. You draw others to you because of your unusual charm and appeal. You make friends easily, attracting many admirers. Network and expand your horizons. If you are single, you will meet many people. Later in the year, in the fall, you will meet someone quite special and caring. Could this person be Mr. or Ms. "It"? Share your feelings with your loved one, if you are attached. You might not always agree about money. Don't let this issue impact your bond. **SAGITTARIUS** sometimes reads you too well.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***** Deal with last-minute financial information, especially if it can impact your taxes. You might be surprised at how right-on a suggestion is. Start considering your New Year's resolutions and/or plans. Tonight: Use your imagination.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Work with associates and friends. Though you might not be in the mood for work, you'll discover just how much you can get done with some focus. Save late afternoon for a special partner or loved one. Close moments signal the end of the year. Tonight: Swap New Year's resolutions.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Take a hint from Taurus, though you might also have to squeeze in an

errand or two. Realize your limits, within reason, and decide what you absolutely must do. Acknowledge when you have said or done enough. Tonight: Join some friends.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
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21 Help Wanted

3-11 X-Ray Tech needed, full time position. Excellent opportunity. Excellent benefits & salary. Come join a winning team! Contact Childress Regional Medical Ctr., 940-937-6371 or by e-mail to broslinder@childresshospital.com

NEED DELIVERY MEN at Texas Furniture. Please apply in person at 210 N. Cuyler.

DRIVER: O/O's. Flashed / Van. MASON DIXON LINES. Louisiana Transportation. Flashed / Van. Exc. Freight. Trailers. Avail. Pay by Load 800-560-4978

CASHIER needed for morning shift at 1020 E. Frederic. Good pay hrs & benefits, apply in person.

PAMPA Dialysis Center is now taking applications for a Patient Care Technician. Must be able to travel to Amarillo for 4-6 week training in Hemodialysis Care and enjoy working with people. Competitive wages and great benefits. Apply in person only on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays at 2545 Perryton Pkwy.

FULL time help wanted 44 hrs per week accounts manager, bilingual a plus. Contact Best Finance for appt. 669-0558.

EXPERIENCED Automotive or Oilfield Mechanic. Good pay & benefits. Perryton, Tx. Call (806)435-2352.

NOW HIRING in sports surfacing. No exp. necessary. Travel required. Apply 94 Main, Panhandle, Tx., 537-3526.

21 Help Wanted
TELEMARKETING \$50 / wk salary + commission. \$200-\$400 w/ky. Income from home. No fees. Call Gina 1-800-522-3938

50 Building Suppl.
White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER, 420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household
JOHNSON HOME FURNISHINGS Rent 1 piece or house full Washer-Dryer-Ranges Bkroom-Dining Room Livingroom 801 W. Francis 665-3361

KING size mattress with boxspring, \$350 or best offer, 6 months old. 665-8914.

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FOR Sale: Desk-top computer with monitor, 2 Lap-Top computers, Computer monitor, Light fixtures, Sony digital camera. 806-236-4165

MOVING must sell: 20 hp. Murray 52 in. cut riding mower. 2 yrs. old. \$1200. Quadra Fire wood-pellet insert, 1 yr. old. \$1300. 806-665-7787

MESQUITE Firewood \$145 Cord Before 9 am or After 7 pm 664-7157

OAK & also mesquite firewood. Delivered, stacked, \$175 cord. 779-3284, 779-2255.

2 LOTS in Howardwick, at Greenbelt Lake. Taxes paid up until 10-1-2003. \$1400. 806-865-3354.

80 Pets & Suppl.
CANINE and Feline grooming. Boarding. Science diets. Roysce Animal Hospital, 665-2223.

PET Patch, 866 W. Foster, 665-5504. Grooming by Mona, fresh, salt fish, sm. animals, supplies. In-nova dog & cat food.

95 Furn. Apts.
All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

DOGWOOD Apts. 1 bdr. furn. avail. Dep. & ref. required. 669-9817, 669-2981.

EFFICIENCY. apt. \$225 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$20 day. \$80 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

EXTRA clean 1 bdr. w/appliances. Quiet neighborhood. 665-8525.

FURN., Unfurn. 1-2 bdr. apts. All bills paid. Starting \$250. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner 669-9712.

NICE brick garage apt. \$200 mo. 665-4842.

NICE large 1 bdr. apt. Bills paid. \$350 mo. 665-4842.

96 Unfurn. Apts.
Bent Creek Apartments *Lovely 2 & 3 bdr. apts. *All single story units *Electric Range *Frost-free Refrig. *Blinds & Carpet *Washer/Dryer connec. *C/H/A, walk-in closets *Exterior Storage *Front Porches HUD Accepted 1400 W. Somerville Pampa 806-665-3292

CAPROCK Apts. has fantastic holiday specials on all 1, 2 & 3 bdr. apts. starting at \$290. 3, 6, 9 & 12 mo. leases avail. Pool, laundry, washer / dryer hookups, club room, on-site management and SOFTENED WATER to all units. 1601 N. Somerville, 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4.

FREE RENT! Pampa Lakeview Apts. 1, 2 & 3 bdr. apts. 2600 N. Hobart 669-7882

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo. -1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

SCHNEIDER HOUSE APARTMENTS SENIORS OR DISABLED RENT BASED ON INCOME UTILITIES INCLUDED 120 S. RUSSELL 665-0415

PAM APARTMENTS SENIORS OR DISABLED RENT BASED ON INCOME ALL ELECTRIC 1200 N. WELLS 669-2594

98 Unfurn. Houses
LOWEST Rents in City 1 bdrms., duplexes, & homes- Remodeled, Great Neighborhoods. 665-4274

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri. 669-9717

1999 CAVALIER \$4950 886-1920

1986 Acrostar Van \$700 665-6054

90 Acura Integra GS Hatchback, 2 dr., red, new tires, well maintained. \$2750 669-9474

'87 T-BIRD, \$1000. or best offer. Give me a call, lets deal! 665-7792

1994 Ford Bronco 130K, runs great!! \$6500 669-9717

2 bedroom houses, 509 N. Dwight, 704 Somerville cent. H/A, call 669-2080.

AVAIL. 1-1-03, nice 2 bd, 1 1/2 bath duplex, quiet neighborhood, 1-car garage, 1019 N. Wells

3 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, free-standing woodburner. 1/2 block from Travis sch. \$575 mo. 665-4842.

NICE 3 bedroom, washer / dryer hookups, attached garage. \$400 mo. 312 Anne. 669-2139.

3 or 4 bedroom 1109 S. Hobart 662-7118

2 br., 318 Sunset, stove/fridge, w/d h.u., \$200 mo., \$150 dep. 665-8550, tv. msg. 662-4675

99 Stor. Bldgs.
TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.
OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in city. Downtown locations, stores, warehouses, rec. facilities Call 665-4274!!

103 Homes For Sale
Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

2 bedroom 210 N. Nelson Owner Will Carry 662-7118

3 bdr. on Wells st. New carpet, cent. heat & air, garage, fence. C-21 Realtor, 665-5436, 663-4180.

3 bedroom, garage, carpet. Small down, owner carry. 665-4842.

FIRST LANDMARK REALTY
665-0717 2645 Perryton Pkwy. in the Pampa Mall Equal Housing Opportunity

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Quality Sales 1300 N. Hobart 669-0433 Make your next car a Quality Car

Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062

CONT. FROM PG 14
STUDY

But about 25 percent of those in the Celebrex group and 31 percent in the diclofenac/Prilosec group suffered kidney complications, including high blood pressure and swollen ankles; about 6 percent in each group suffered life-threatening kidney failure.

Klippel said that shows doctors must monitor high-risk patients on these anti-inflammatory drugs for increased pain and bloody stools indicating an ulcer flareup. They also should watch for swelling in the extremities and elevated blood pressure — signs the kidneys can't excrete enough fluid.

"Physicians should avoid prescribing these drugs to patients with known kidney diseases, poorly controlled hypertension and heart failure," said the lead researcher, Dr. Francis K.L. Chan. "Previous studies reported a very low incidence of kidney side effects because they excluded patients with major medical illnesses."

Still, the study backs up the American College of Rheumatology's current guidelines for treating arthritis and gives doctors options, said Dr. Todd Stitik, associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

For patients whose prescription plan covers the pricey cox-2 inhibitors, one less pill is more convenient and reduces chances of interactions with their other medicines, he said. For others, numerous generic anti-inflammatory and ulcer drugs are available.

Some arthritis patients can limit or avoid pain medications, Stitik noted, through treatments ranging from stretching and other exercise to weight loss, hot or cold packs and braces or splints.

On the Net:
<http://www.nejm.org>
Arthritis Foundation:
www.arthritis.org

CONT. FROM PG 13
CENTER

Rene Naez said the Wesley-Rankin Community Center has been a part of her family's life for the last 60 years.

"My mom, aunts and uncles went to kindergarten here and later Vacation Bible School and scouting," she said. "I was probably no more than 2 years old when my mom brought me here for day care."

From day care to after-school tutoring and youth missions, Naez has participated in almost every program.

"Once I was in college, Wesley-Rankin was there to help me again — this time with scholarship money. Every step I took in life, Wesley-Rankin was there for me."

Naez is now an academic adviser at Cedar Valley College, and she said it is her turn to give back. The 24-year-old serves on the center's board of directors and tutors students every Monday.

"I'm proud to have grown up in West Dallas," Naez said. "I know this is considered one of the city's low-income neighborhoods. But to me, the greatest need here isn't as much about income as it is opportunities. And this is where Wesley-Rankin comes in. This is a place where there is a lifetime of opportunities for generation after generation."

Distributed by The Associated Press

December cattle on feed down from last year

Producers placed 470,000 head in commercial feedlots during November, up 9 percent from a year ago but down 22 percent from the October 2002, total.

TEXAS — Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.70 million head on December 1, down 10 percent from a year ago. According to the monthly report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the estimate was down 1 percent from the November 1 level.

Producers placed 470,000 head in commercial feedlots during November, up 9 percent from a year ago but down 22 percent from the October 2002, total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 475,000 head dur-

ing November, down 5 percent from last year and 17 percent below the October 2002, total.

On December 1, there were 2.24 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 83 percent of the state's total. The number on feed across the area was down 8 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the November total.

November placements in the Northern High Plains

totalled 390,000 head, 23 percent below the October total. Marketings were down 21 percent from last month to 383,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 10.9 million head on December 1, 2002. This inventory was 8 percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.98

million head, 4 percent above November 2001. November placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 589,000 head; 600-699 pounds totaled 660,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 417,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 311,000 head. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.73 million head, 4 percent below 2001.

Feeders in the historical

seven monthly states with feedlots having a capacity of 1,000 head or more reported 9.4 million head on feed on December 1, down 8 percent from both last year and December 1, 2000.

November placements totaled 1.67 million head, 5 percent above 2001 but 1 percent below 2000. Marketings during November, at 1.51 million head, were down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

CANCER

"In terms of pain it's definitely a five on a scale of one to 10. I closed my eyes, because I don't like needles," she said. "It isn't like a mammogram, just pressure applied, and no local (anesthesia) was given. And yes, it hurt."

Isaac said a needle-like tube is inserted through the nipple, directly into the milk ducts, which acts somewhat like a breast pump, as "a simple suction."

Peralta, 46, had a strong history of breast cancer among females on both sides of her family, began having biopsies at age 20 due to feeling lumps in the breast, and despite good results indicating they were benign, she comes up high risk in a Gail Risk Assessment questionnaire.

"It's a very entailed history, and I

was a 4.3, out of a possible 5, for a chance of getting breast cancer. I'm of Hispanic descent, I have the family history, and I'm over 40."

All of this put her on guard, and she says she would rather err on the side of caution and have too many tests than not enough.

"What's important is to go with your gut feeling," Peralta says. "I may have to be a little more persistent. When I feel a lump, I'm going to follow up."

"What was really cool about this, is he (Isaac) has the ability to do the procedure, take results, and interpret them right there in his office. Whereas with a surgeon they would send samples to him, and then they would be notified after they were interpreted," Peralta said.

"I got the report the next day, which was good because there were no pre-

cancerous cells present."

In such a case, Isaac recommends returning annually for the test as follow up, and if there are pre-cancerous cells present, to take tamoxifen, a medication to ward off the formation of cancerous cells.

"This lavage is a helpful tool," he said. "It takes about 30 minutes prep time, and another 20-30 minutes for the procedure."

What makes it especially helpful is detecting breast cancer sooner.

According to The Breast Center at Johns Hopkins, by the time cancerous cells in the breast grow to a size that is detectable by a physical exam or a mammogram, eight-10 years have passed on average.

Distributed by The Associated Press

BUICK YEAR-END GRAND FINALE

Ends January 2!

\$3,000 TOTAL FACTORY CASH BACK
INCLUDES \$1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH

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FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS
0 DOWN PAYMENT
0 PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS
0% APR FINANCING

PLUS
\$1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH

Excludes Park Avenue. GMAC financing. Length of contract limited. Take delivery by 1/2/03.

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Proof of age and AARP membership required. Limit one per eligible delivery. AARP offers are not available with other private or targeted offers. Take delivery by 1/2/03.

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