

ON RECORD

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Thursday, Jan. 9

10:42 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Loop 171 and Texas 273.

10:28 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1200 block of East Foster. None was found.

Friday, Jan. 10

12:39 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 800 block of West 25th.

4:30 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 600 block of South Reid.

9:27 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 1400 block of Boyd.

9:42 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a grass fire in the 1800 block of North Christy. The small fire in a residential yard was out when firefighters arrived.

11:31 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1100 block of South Dwight. No hazard was found.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department made the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, according to Gray County Jail records.

Friday, Jan. 10

Delbert Lynn Thompson, 36, 416 Magnolia, was arrested on capias pro fines for disorderly conduct - language, defective tail lamps, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and no driver's license.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Luis Dominguez, 45, 701 N. Wells, was arrested for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

SHERIFF

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

Friday, Jan. 10

Donnia Bailey Walker, 55, McLean, was arrested on a warrant for retaliation.

Delton McCormick, 46, 1214 Market, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Alva Dee Boaz, 30, Lefors, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety for driving with license suspended and possession of drug paraphernalia.

AMBULANCE

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

Friday, Jan. 10

12:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

9:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of East 30th and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital (NWT) in Amarillo.

10:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported one to PRMC.

1 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to NWT, Amarillo.

4 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of South Reid and transported one to PRMC.

6:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Carr and transported one to PRMC.

9:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Coronado on a motor vehicle accident and transported one to PRMC.

10:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to BSA-West in Amarillo.

Saturday, Jan. 11

2:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to NWT, Amarillo.

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

Services today

CLEMENS, Lou Ella — 1 p.m., Kelton Cemetery, Kelton.

Services tomorrow

BRANTLEY, Sybil Constance Bush — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

FINSON, Thelma Margaret — Memorial services, 11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, Pampa.

THELMA MARGARET FINSON

1910-2002

Thelma Margaret Finson, 92, of Pampa, died Dec. 25, 2002, at McLean. The body was cremated and consequently will not be available for viewing. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m., Monday in Zion Lutheran Church with the Rev. Michael Erickson, pastor, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Finson was born April 18, 1910, at Indianapolis, Ind. She had been a Pampa resident since 1919. She married Edwin A. Finson on July 27, 1947, at Pampa; he died in 1980.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be to Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan, Pampa, TX 79065; to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite charity.

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

SYBIL CONSTANCE BUSH BRANTLEY

1912-2003

Sybil Constance Bush Brantley, 90, of Pampa, died Friday, Jan. 10, 2003, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Monday at Fairview Cemetery. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Brantley was born on Aug. 17, 1912, in Dexter, Ark. She lived in Perry County, Ark., and Norge, Okla. She attended school in Pennyville, Ark., and Pioneer, Okla. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1959.

She married Lawrence Cleveland "Cleve" Brantley on Sept. 30, 1929, at Fort Cobb, Okla. He preceded her in death in 1988.

She worked in the dietary department at Coronado Community Hospital for many years, retiring in 1982. She was affiliated with the Missionary Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by four sons.

Survivors include a daughter, Jean Johnson of Portland, Ore.; two daughters-in-law, Cora Brantley of Pampa and Virgie Brantley of Chickasha, Okla.; four sisters, Marie Wood and Mary Ellen Hays, both of Kansas City, Mo., Clara Belle McCort of Southaven, Miss., and Ora Nell Loveland of Little Rock, Ark.; two brothers, Jesse Delph of Warrensburg, Mo., and William Delph of Dublin, Ireland; 16 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be Monday, Jan. 13, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home.

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

City Briefs

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CELEBRATIONS AFTER Christmas Sale! All Christmas 65% Off through the end of Jan.

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GO WIRELESS in Pampa. Now starting at \$44.95. Call Centramedia On-line Services today at 665-0106.

HAPPY 93RD Birthday Celebration for Robert (Bob) Clements, 2-4 p.m., Central Baptist Church Parlor, Sat. Jan. 18th. No gifts necessary.

HELP WANTED: Optical Tech, apply to Vision Source, 1324 N. Banks or Fax resume to 665-3511.

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WEATHER FOCUS

Today's forecast is calling for mostly cloudy skies, 30 percent chance of light snow coupled with patchy fog in the morning, highs in the lower 40s, and south winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should be

partly cloudy in the evening then clearing, lows in the mid 20s, and west winds 5 to 15 mph.

Monday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Monday

night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

To my loving mom Rachelle Medley, brothers Bill & Doug Medley & nephew Cody (Franks) Guerra:

Your gentle face and patient smile with sadness we recall. You had a kindly word for each and died beloved by all. The voice is mute and stilled the heart that loved us well and true. Ah, Bitter was the trail to part from one so good as you. You are not forgotten loved one nor will you ever be... As long as life and memory last we will remember thee. We miss you now, our hearts are sore, as time goes by we miss you more, your loving smile, your gentle face no one can fill your vacant place.

Thanks for all the family, friends and neighbors that were there to console us.
Richard, Cindy, Brandon, Justinn, Skylere, Jerrod Young, The Medley Boys

★ *In the whirlwind of life two terrific Pampa citizens, Buddy Cockrell and Taylor Brook, stepped forward to come to my aid on 1-4-03. May life bring them a reflection of the kindness they've shown to me.* ★
★ Thank you, ★
★ K.D. ★

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CROVER N. (ELACKIE) ELACK, WE WOULD
LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR
ALL THE CARDS, FLOWERS, PRAYERS, FOOD
& CONTRIBUTIONS.
WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE EVERYONE

Texas to be test state for Bush's forest plan

NEW WAVERLY (AP) — The Sam Houston National Forest will be one of 10 forests nationwide that will be testing grounds for President Bush's proposal to make it easier for timber companies to thin the forests. Starting this week, forest managers will begin studying the area slated for thinning. About 7,500 acres of dense pine forest 60 miles north of Houston will be thinned and burned this year as part of the U.S. Forest Service's Healthy Forests Initiative. Other test projects are being conducted in Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon,

Utah, Michigan and Washington. U.S. Forest Service officials said the proposal aims to end litigation that delays forest management projects and led to one of the worst wildfire seasons on record in the West last summer. The initiative, first announced in August, expands the number of projects exempt from environmental oversight and makes it tougher for advocacy groups to file appeals. "It will speed up the process. It will make it harder for the public to figure out what is going on," Brandt Mannchen, forestry chairman for the Houston Sierra Club, told the Houston Chronicle for its Saturday editions. "It will make it seem like everything is benign and innocuous when, in fact, over a period of time, we are converting the forest." The policy will be ultimately applied to as much as 190 million acres of public land that is at high risk of fires and debilitating insect infestations. "These common-sense reforms would reduce the overlapping studies required by current law that result in undue delay," said James Houser, president of the Texas Forestry Association, a trade group of timber and wood-product companies. At the Sam Houston forest, management efforts will be focused on a 15,555-acre area known as Four Notch that has a long history of controversy.

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This new feature is extremely comforting when friends or family cannot attend services. What's more, it's quick and easy. First, log onto the funeral home web site, go to the "Services" button and click on it. Second, at the bottom of the obituary, there are links for "Sending Flowers", "Sign Guest book" and "Service Schedule". If you would like more information about this option, please feel free to contact us.

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Govt

CHICAGO — George Ryar, Illinois' death row inmate, said Saturday all 156 inmates

The governor's letters to the far victims warn plan to announce speech Saturday commuting the to life in prison.

Ryan halted cuts nearly after courts four row inmates had convicted sir resumed capital 1977 — a peric

IRAQ

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la." Fleischer

Meanwhile Korean envoy Fe, N.M., w Richardson, a troubleshooter governor's m demonstrators ards reading "Korea" and "I War."

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Governor issues blanket commutation for death row inmates

CHICAGO (AP) — Gov. George Ryan will empty Illinois' death row by issuing a blanket commutation covering all 156 inmates, his spokesman said Saturday.

The governor sent overnight letters to the families of murder victims warning them of his plan to announce during a speech Saturday that he was commuting the death sentences to life in prison.

Ryan halted the state's executions nearly three years ago after courts found that 13 death row inmates had been wrongly convicted since the state resumed capital punishment in 1977 — a period during which

12 inmates had been executed.

Vern Fuling, whose son William was shot and killed in 1985, was enraged that the killer, sentenced to death, would now be allowed to live.

"My son is in the ground for 17 years and justice is not done," Fuling said. "This is like a mockery."

Ryan on Friday pardoned four other death row inmates, saying the men had been tortured by police into making false confessions.

A few hours later, Aaron Patterson ate his first steak dinner in 17 years, while Madison Hobley and Leroy Orange spent time with their families

as free men.

Stanley Howard, the fourth man pardoned Friday, remained in prison. He had also been convicted of a separate crime for which he was still serving time.

"It's a dream come true, finally. Thank God that this day has finally come," Hobley, 42, said Friday as he left the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Orange walked out of Cook County Jail looking a bit dazed. "Right now it feels great," said Orange, who was flanked by his two daughters.

Orange also had kind words and a message for Ryan.

"Thank you with all my heart and please do something for the remaining group on death row," he said.

Patterson echoed that sentiment when he was released from the Pontiac prison.

"It's very important that you all look into other guy's cases on death row and in (the) prison

population, there are more innocent people locked up," Patterson said.

Ryan announced the pardons Friday at DePaul University in the first of two speeches capping his three-year campaign to reform the state's capital punishment system, which began when he declared a moratorium on executions in January 2000.

In his speech, Ryan condemned the state's criminal justice system for sending innocent men to prison to be executed.

"The system has failed all four men," Ryan said. "It has failed the people of this state."

Ryan said Chicago police tortured Hobley, Howard, Patterson and Orange into confessing to murders they had not committed. Each of them was on death row for at least 12 years. Orange was on death row the longest, more than 17 years.

Patterson's mother, Jo Ann, said she was overwhelmed when she heard the news.

"I don't believe in miracles but this is a miracle," she said.

Ryan spread the blame in his hour-long speech, calling the state's criminal justice system "inaccurate, unjust and unable to separate the innocent from the guilty, and at times very racist."

He blamed "rogue cops," zealous prosecutors, incompetent defense lawyers and judges who rule on technicalities rather than on what is right.

He also criticized the Illinois Legislature for failing to enact his proposals to reform the death penalty system.

"What does it take? Now that we can say the number of wrongfully convicted men is 17, will that be enough?" Ryan asked.

Reaction to the pardons from death penalty supporters was swift.

Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine said the future of the four men should have been decided by the courts.

"Instead, they were ripped away from (the courts) by a man who is a pharmacist by training and a politician by trade," he said.

Devine also criticized Ryan for pardoning the men and not consulting with his office before making his decision.

"Yes the system is broken and the governor broke it today," Devine said.

Devine's office is trying to determine if the pardons could be challenged, but Devine said the clemency powers for an Illinois governor are among the broadest in the country.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

IRAQ

Those sentiments were echoed by governments in Germany and France, where opinion surveys show overwhelming opposition to an attack against Iraq.

"We remain determined to be opposed to the war," French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin told reporters Friday. "In a crazy world, we need a France that is wise."

The United States has reserved the right to act unilaterally to disarm Iraq, which denies it holds proscribed weapons. However, the decision by Bush last year to take America's allegations against Iraq to the United Nations committed Washington to work within the U.N. system.

In the view of many world leaders, that means allowing the inspection process to run its course, even if that takes months.

U.S. commanders, however, have long maintained they would prefer to fight a war in winter rather than in the broiling heat of the Iraqi summer, when temperatures can rise to nearly 120 degrees Fahrenheit and sandstorms sweep much of the country.

Australia's prime minister, John Howard, said his country would send elite troops, planes and ships to help disarm the Iraqis, but only after U.N. inspectors finish their work.

"The weapons inspectors should be given a proper opportunity to work and a proper opportunity to succeed," Howard said. "For this to happen, you not only need the support and confidence of the international community but you also need the full, willing cooperation of Iraq."

Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, whose country holds the European Union presidency, said the Europeans plan to send a new diplomatic mission to the Middle East soon to try to defuse the Iraq crisis.

Simitis said the Europeans believe "we simply have to stick with the (U.N.) process," meaning that no decision on a war should be taken until the inspectors finish their work or discover evidence of Iraqi violations.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

NUCLEAR

the North Korean leadership will understand the folly of its actions."

ElBaradei accused North Korea of "a policy of defiance."

Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Sweden also denounced the North Korean decision. Japan called on its regional neighbor to reverse course.

After Bush talked to Jiang for 15 minutes, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush had told the Chinese President "this binds us in common purpose."

Bush also told Jiang the United States seeks a peaceful solution to the standoff, while Jiang "reiterated China's commitment to a non-nuclear Korean peninsula," Fleischer said.

Meanwhile, two North Korean envoys met in Santa Fe, N.M., with Gov. Bill Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and diplomatic troubleshooter. Outside the governor's mansion a few demonstrators carried placards reading "Peace for N. Korea" and "Diplomacy, not War."

After meetings Thursday and Friday, they planned to resume talks Saturday before

the North Koreans depart.

Richardson — who stressed he is not an official envoy of the Bush administration — said the talks covered a range of issues, but he would not give details. He said he has been in frequent contact with Powell.

"I support the administration's policy," he said. "I think it is a sound policy. The administration, through Secretary Powell, has conveyed to me some strong views and I have conveyed them to the North Koreans."

Powell said he would not offer an assessment until the talks were concluded.

A senior U.S. official said before talks ended Friday that the North Korean diplomats had expressed an interest in dialogue with the United States but had "nothing particularly new" to say to Richardson.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CHISUM

ment's Clean Air Act, the issue of four-wheelers in river beds, and water issues.

"I don't think the water issue is going to go away any time soon," he said.

Chisum also told the civic group his name was submitted for an unexpired term as a Railroad Commissioner, and said if he is selected to the position the governor would call a special election to fill his state representative spot.

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TEXAS EDITORIAL

Bush's score at half time: A-

From the Dallas Morning News:

During his second year, Harry Truman was written off as ordinary by heavyweights like columnist Walter Lippmann. John F. Kennedy averted nuclear war. A bone-jarring recession hammered Ronald Reagan.

At the end of his second year, where does President George W. Bush stand? What impact did his presidency have on Americans this year? And how will that affect them in 2003? Here's an evaluation of year two of the Bush administration, which comes out to a B for the president:

WAR AGAINST TERRORISM: This issue still defines the Bush presidency. And this year, Mr. Bush whipped it more than it whipped him.

After resisting a homeland security agency, the White House shocked Capitol Hill by proposing a Cabinet-level department in June. By Thanksgiving, Congress had created an agency to protect Americans in Lubbock and Peoria from dirty bombs and smallpox. Score one for the public. And score a big one for the administration. Approved with bipartisan support, homeland security became a huge achievement. Grade: A

FIGHTING CORPORATE CORRUPTION: The White House didn't get Enron until it was too late. By the time other scandals like WorldCom broke, the administration could only jump onto Capitol Hill's reform train. The president signed a bipartisan bill aimed at corporate corruption. But it was like watching a father claim credit for a toy that mom had purchased. The effort was lame, flat-footed. Americans could only assume that the president cared more about chief executives than shareholders in Des Moines. Grade: D

MIDEAST MELTDOWN: As 2002 started to unfold, the White House let the Ariel Sharon-Yasser Arafat blood feud overwhelm it. Slowly, the president responded. He dispatched Colin Powell to the Mideast in April. By June, he became the first American president to propose a state for Palestinians in return for Israel's security. Still, the Mideast seethes. The president must spend more political capital on solving this dilemma, if only to ensure it does not undermine goals like protecting the world from Saddam Hussein. Grade: C

RALLYING THE WORLD: The president spent the summer and fall selling the United Nations, the European street and Arab capitals on taking down Saddam Hussein. He needed to do that, and still must. The administration's Iraq hawks look like gunslingers ready to swagger into Baghdad. They could win the shootout, but lose the reinforcements in places like Brussels and Cairo, where the White House needs help in fighting the larger war against terrorism. The president has played diplomat since September, using the United Nations to his advantage and letting Saddam Hussein hang himself. So far, so good. The strategy should ensure American soldiers fight with the world at their back, if war comes. Grade: B+

THE BALLOT BOX: George W. Bush sold a new baseball stadium in Arlington. He sold school reform in Austin. He sold compassionate conservatism to the GOP. And this year he sold the war against terror to voters.

Like those earlier feats, the effort worked. Except this time, Mr. Bush defied history. Presidents normally don't see their parties gain congressional seats in off-year elections. (Think Bill Clinton, 1994.) George Bush won both houses of Congress for Republicans. He again proved that he connects with voters on Main Street. Grade: A

As 2003 arrives, the GOP Congress gives the president more breathing room. But Mr. Bush has never governed in Washington or Austin with an all-GOP legislative branch. He must keep it on course, like he did in skillfully pushing aside Trent Lott. The president particularly must pay more attention to the environment. Americans don't want polluted air. They don't want dirty rivers. They don't want drillers and loggers overwhelming public lands.

That said, Mr. Bush enters his third year with the public behind him. The outcome of his presidency rests on how well he uses that standing to protect and improve Americans' lives.

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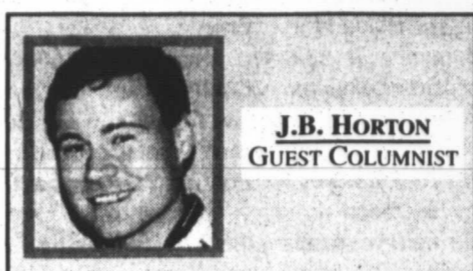
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Resolve to leave comfort zone

In our country, January 1st brings a sense of a fresh start - a new beginning. We make new promises to ourselves through resolutions in order to change something about our lives. We have a sense of renewed hope that a new chapter in our lives is about to begin. It is often a time of reflection and a time of forward thinking. But how often do we stick with our resolutions? How often do we give up on that diet after two weeks and fall back into our normal habits? Why does this happen?

It is important to know how and why we make the decisions we make. Are you the kind of person who thinks of all the negatives about an issue before you decide? Do you think of all the reasons of why you shouldn't do something instead of why you should? Would you consider change something you fear? Or maybe the better question is: Do you think that people in general are afraid of change? If you answered yes, you are in the great majority of people on this earth. Our human nature leads us to be afraid of change.

All too often it seems when we face tough decisions in life, whether it be at work, church or with our families, the decisions we make become our reality.



J.B. HORTON
 GUEST COLUMNIST

The actions we take become our destiny. Over the course of the past month and a half, I have had the honor of serving President Bush as his White House Liaison to the Small Business Administration. In this capacity, one of my jobs has been to screen applications and interview people for possible jobs within the Administration. The caliber of the professionals I interview are very successful and normally very educated. Every single decision or recommendation that has to be made is a difficult one. Yet, they have to be made and I do my best to make the best decision without letting fear dictate my decisions.

Have you recently faced a decision or situation where you held off making it because of fear? I'm not talking about the fear of jumping in front of a train for the thrill of it. I am talking about looking for a new job if you are unhappy with

what you are doing, making a new investment for your future retirement, going back to school for that degree, or just getting out of your comfort zone for personal growth? Have you honestly assessed your goals during this New Year - this new beginning?

I recently reread a book on change called "Who Moved My Cheese." It is an excellent book on how to look at change and a great book to reread once in a while. Most of the time we let fear dictate our decisions. Instead, we should let reason and excitement determine our future.

If change is what you need in your life, have the courage to do something about it. When you take control of your life and make tough decisions that need to be made, an added confidence is added to your character. Your reality will begin to reflect the positive changes that you want to make. During this New Year, stick with your resolution, whatever it may be and enjoy your new beginning. God bless.

J.B. Horton is a Pampa native who was appointed to the Small Business Administration by President George W. Bush on Feb. 23, 2001.

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



North Korean nukes pose danger to U.S.

As thousands of U.S. troops head toward the Persian Gulf, a situation is brewing which might ultimately be more dangerous, more destabilizing, and more complex than the current conflict with Iraq. As with Iraq, the North Korean regime is hostile and oppressive; as with Iraq, North Korea possesses weapons of mass destruction; unlike Iraq, North Korea's weapons are nuclear.

This past October North Korea admitted that it is conducting operations to enrich uranium - a vital process in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. These operations are in direct violation of several treaties and agreements signed by the North Korean government.

First, North Korea's actions are a violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 which North Korea signed in 1985 and which, under Article III, requires inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify non-nuclear weapons states are using nuclear technology only for peaceful means. Second, in 1991, North Korea signed a treaty with South Korea in which the entire Korean peninsula was to remain nuclear-free. Third, North Korea's actions violate the Agreed Framework negotiated with the United States in 1994.

It is the third point that is the real "thumb in the eye" for the United States. In 1993, North Korea was threatening to withdraw from the NPT. It had shut down its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and was removing the spent nuclear fuel rods. According to reports, these rods contained enough plutonium to make five or six nuclear weapons. The IAEA was having trouble gaining full access to inspections, and the U.N. Security Council began consideration of economic sanctions against North Korea.

This is when the Clinton administration stepped in, and with the help of former president Jimmy Carter, helped negotiate the Agreed Framework of 1994. In this agreement, North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for the development and construction of two light-water nuclear reactors and the delivery of 500,000 metric tons of fuel oil per year. In essence, the Clinton Administration agreed to deliver nuclear technology to North Korea if North Korea promised to be good and cease its nuclear weapons program.

Now fast forward to the present and

BOBBY EBERLE GUEST COLUMNIST

North Korea has admitted to enriching uranium in violation of several treaties and has also reactivated its facilities at Yongbyon in which spent nuclear fuel rods have previously been removed. The plutonium derived from these spent fuel rods is a necessary ingredient in the construction of nuclear weapons.

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-il, is a dictator who starves his own people, has no concern for human rights, and who is looking to be a "player" on the world stage. The possession of nuclear weapons is his ticket in. With nuclear weapons, Kim Jong-il can apply tremendous pressure on his neighboring countries. He can also become the premier arms dealer in the world.

North Korea has also shown a fondness for selling weapons to rogue nations and for supporting terrorism. If North Korea is allowed to continue its nuclear weapons program, then the country will surely become "nuke central" for terrorist organizations and unsavory regimes around the world.

So, what is the U.S. to do? The situation is complex to say the least, and the debate on possible courses of action has been varied and fragmented.

South Korea and Japan, two of North Korea's nearest neighbors, depend heavily on the United States for defense. There are approximately 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea and another 50,000 in Japan. North Korea has a million-man army almost all of which is positioned near the demilitarized zone bordering South Korea. China borders North Korea to the north and is a consistent supplier of nuclear technology to its Southern neighbor.

The U.S., along with South Korea, Japan, and the European Union, has cut off fuel oil supplies to North Korea. This type of economic pressure should continue. Food shipments should not be halted, however. Just as Bush was concerned about food drops to the Afghan people while we were bombing the Taliban and al-Qaeda, we should not confuse military actions with humanitarian aid.

In addition, diplomatic measures should be used to the fullest extent possible to pressure North Korea into ending its nuclear ambitions. Russia and China have

stepped forward to denounce the actions of North Korea, and if the principal countries of the region (Russia, China, South Korea, and Japan) can speak with a single diplomatic voice, then chances for a peaceful end to this "crisis" are greatly enhanced.

There are those who now say that a possible remedy to the situation is to allow Japan and South Korea to develop nuclear weapons if they so desire. This is not a realistic course of action at this time and should not be pursued. Building up nuclear arsenals in the region, might lessen North Korea's ability to threaten or bully its neighbors with nuclear weapons, but it does nothing to address the nuclear proliferation issue.

North Korea has an affinity for selling weapons, and it sells them to the worst of the worst. With nuclear parity in the Southeast Asian region, North Korea would still be able to sell nuclear weapons to Iraq, Iran, al-Qaeda, Syria, and on and on.

One element that should be pursued is a missile defense program for both Japan and South Korea. This would help neutralize a nuclear advantage by North Korea without further proliferating nuclear weapons. The tenets of the NPT are still sound, and even if the countries possessing nukes are friends and allies, nuclear technology still finds a way of making it into the wrong hands.

Finally, when the time comes, we must then take our case to the U.N. and make the same type of argument we made against Iraq. Working through the Security Council, we must build a world resolve to maintain a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

North Korea cannot be allowed to have nuclear weapons. This fact should be obvious to not only the countries of the region, but to the world community as a whole. A nuclear North Korea is a danger to the United States whether directly through potential attacks on the U.S., its friends, and allies, or indirectly through the sale of nuclear weapons to terrorist organizations and hostile nations. The situation is grave and will take the use of all our options including that of military force, if necessary, in order to work it out.

Bobby Eberle is president and CEO of GOPUSA (www.GOPUSA.com), a news, information, and commentary company based in Houston. He holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Rice University.

COMMUNITY

Clean Pampa, Inc., has a membership meeting on the 11th of each month. Sons, 1421 N. Public is welcome to join. For more information call 665-2514. Meeting is at 11:30 a.m.

Eastern Star Chapter No. 6 Eastern Star meets on the 1st and 4th of each month. Meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at Kingsmill.

Fellowship Cowboys, The Christian Cowboys will meet on the 1st of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pavilion. For more information, contact 665-8067 and 669-6347. For donations write to Christian Cowboys, Box 91, Pampa, Texas.

Girl Scouts meets first Thursday of each month at Pampa Girl Scout Council. Meeting is at Kingsmill.

Gospel Singers Pentecostal Church, 1700 N. Pampa, meet a Gospel Singers p.m. every second of the month. For more information, contact 665-8067. Singers from all churches are invited to participate in congregational singing and instrumental playing.

Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Bank, meets for prayer time from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Thursday. Special time of 12:15-12:30 p.m. for information, call church office at 665-8067.

Macedonia Church, Macedonia Church, 441 E. Pampa, meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

Pampa Area Council, Pampa Area Council, 1001 N. Pampa, meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

Pampa Alliance, Pampa Alliance, 1001 N. Pampa, meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

Pampa Prisms, The Pampa Prisms meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

Baptist Church, Francis and St. Francis, meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

RCIA, St. Vincent Catholic Church, of Christian Adults (RCIA), meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

Red Cross, Chapter of the Red Cross is seeking members to respond during the crisis in Pampa and the county. For more information, call 665-4141.

St. Mark, St. Mark Catholic Church, meets for prayer services on the 1st of each month. For more information, call 665-4141.

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CALENDAR ITEMS

COMMUNITY, CHURCHES

Clean Pampa, Inc. Clean Pampa, Inc., holds its monthly membership meeting at 12 noon on the second Tuesday of each month at Clint and Sons, 1421 N. Hobart. The public is welcome. No fee to join. For more information, call 665-2514. Office hours are 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Eastern Star. Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

Fellowship of Christian Cowboys. The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Jim Greene at 665-8067 and Bill Kidwell at 669-6347. For memorials or donations write Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, P.O. Box 91, Pampa, TX 79065.

Girl Scouts. Pampa Girl Scouts meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pampa Girl Scout House on Kingsmill.

Gospel Singing. First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

Highland Baptist. Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, will host prayer time from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., each Thursday with a special time of prayer from 12:15-12:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at 669-6509.

Macedonia Baptist Church. Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, will hold daily prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. for the citizens of Pampa — churches, schools, etc. The prayer services are open to everyone. For more information, call 665-4926.

Pampa Area Literacy Council. Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

Pampa Masonic Lodge #966. Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 420 W. Kingsmill.

Pampa Ministerial Alliance. Pampa Area Ministerial Alliance meets the first Monday of every month. Location changes monthly.

Pampa Prison Ministry. The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information, call or J.B. Walker at 669-2266.

RCIA. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church hosts Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) beginning at 7:15 p.m., Wednesdays at 2004 Williston. For more information, call Aloise Martin at 883-4901 or Peggy Rodriguez at 669-2683.

Red Cross. Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers from the community to respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. As well as personal satisfaction, volunteers learn how to protect themselves and cope with disaster by planning ahead, particularly essential during tornado season. In addition, ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

St. Mark CME Church. St. Mark will host a monthly

breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

Story Hour. Lovett Memorial Library will offer a story hour at 10 a.m., every Tuesday. The free program is open to children 18 months to 6 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

Veterans. To recognize the contributions Texas veterans have made to the liberty we enjoy, Memory Gardens Cemetery is assigning grave spaces to honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. If you are a veteran, you may be qualified for free burial space. However, you must register to obtain the free plot and you must show proof of honorable discharge. A number of veterans' spaces are available. Certificates will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call (806) 665-8921.

VFW Bingo. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

American Legion. American Legion Post 334 meets at 7 p.m., the third Thursday of each month at Freedom Museum, 600 N. Hobart.

Butterfly Garden Club. The Butterfly Garden Club of America offers free butterfly garden seeds (with growing instructions). To receive a packet, send a long SASE with two stamps to: The Butterfly Garden Club of America, P.O. Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household. Additional packets are available for \$1 each.

Golden Spread Coin Club. Golden Spread Coin Club, originally Amarillo Coin Club, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month. GSCC is a member of American Numismatic Association. For more information, call (806) 352-8281 or (806) 342-9536.

Gray Co. Ass'n for Retarded Citizens. Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

Gray Co. Extension Education. Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.

Gray Co. Genealogical Society. Gray County Genealogical Society meets at

7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.

Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society. Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Building in the Pampa Mall. For more information, contact Sharon Andrew at 665-6138 or Loyd Waters 665-6466.

Magic Plains ABWA. Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at The Coffee Shop, 220 N. Cuyler. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

Pampa Citizens on Patrol Ass'n. Pampa Citizens on Patrol Association meets at 8 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at 824 S. Cuyler.

Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club. The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Carol Carpenter at 669-7940.

Pampa Fine Arts Ass'n. Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building (Chamber building).

Pampa Garden Club. Pampa Garden Club meets at 2 p.m. the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meeting location changes monthly.

Pampa Pilots Ass'n. Pampa Pilots Association meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Airport Lounge.

Pampa Rotary Club. Pampa Rotary Club meets at 12 noon every Wednesday at Pampa Country Club.

Pampa Takedown Club. Pampa Takedown Club Wrestling for youth 5-15 years of age. Practice is at 900 N. Frost. Season starts Sept. 25 through February. For more information, call Rick Urganhart at 665-8321.

Pampa Woodcarving Club. Pampa Woodcarving Club meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson. Meetings are open to any individuals interested in woodcarving from beginners to all experience. Projects and instructors are available. For more information, call 669-3008.

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild. Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Shrine Club. Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 7 p.m. every third

Friday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

Top O' Texas Rodeo Ass'n. Top O' Texas Rodeo Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month in the Nona S. Payne Room of Pampa Community Building.

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 6650 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.

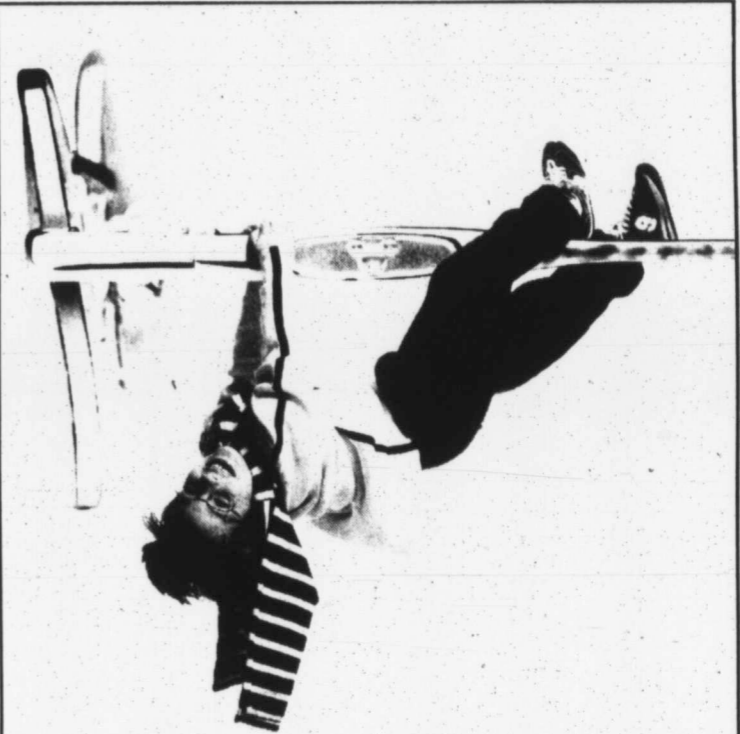
Breast Cancer 101. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center offers "Breast Cancer 101," an intensive education and supportive introduction to breast cancer, from 4:30-6 p.m., the second Monday of each month in the Quiet Room of Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo. For more information call (806) 359-4673,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



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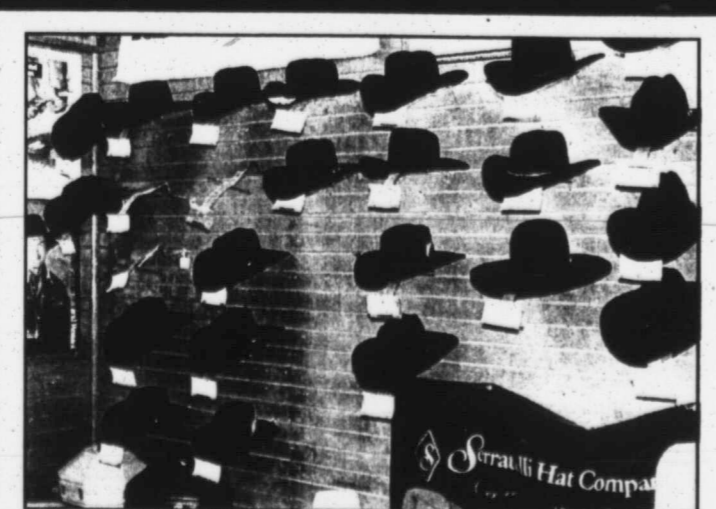
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MEDICAL

Small city focus of study exploring hearing loss

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP Medical Editor

BEAVER DAM, Wis. (AP) — Naturally, the last thing older folks in Beaver Dam want to hear is that they are going deaf. So 3,753 of them have agreed to regular testing and probing to help people everywhere learn some simple and unexpected things that may ward it off.

Gradual hearing impairment — long shrugged off as just another inescapable indignity of aging — is at last getting some serious study, and the results from Beaver Dam suggest something can be done about it after all. Like having a drink, perhaps, or even just going for a walk.

Elderly hearing loss has a fancy name, presbycusis, but surprisingly little is known about what underlies it. Changing this is the goal of the Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study, the country's largest project devoted solely to the sources of this seemingly universal health problem.

"People need to know that hearing loss might not be an inevitable part of growing older," says Karen Cruickshanks of the University of Wisconsin, the study's director.

Since 1993, her team has measured the hearing and health of two-thirds of all the people over age 48 in Beaver Dam, population 15,000, a modest manufacturing city in the rolling dairy lands about 60 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

If nothing else, the people of Beaver Dam know how good their hearing is, or how bad.

"This settles one thing," says John Landdeck, 61, president of the community hos-

pital and a study volunteer. "Everybody in town knows when they can't hear their wife whether it's their hearing or her mumbling."

That, actually, is one of the study's more interesting findings. It shows that men have poorer hearing than women, even when a lifetime of noisy jobs and hobbies like chain-sawing and snowmobiling are figured in. And as people get past retirement age, their hearing tends to get worse, much worse. Over age 80, about 90 percent of the population has trouble.

If Beaver Dam is typical — and the researchers believe it is — then hearing loss is considerably more common than most experts would have guessed. The usual national estimate is that one-third of older Americans have some degree of problem. This study puts the figure at nearly half.

But even if more whadya-say moments are hard to avoid, Cruickshanks hopes her study will find ways to delay the problem or keep it as mild as possible. Although the hazards of incessant loud noise are well-known, this study is beginning to show the effects of other less obvious health and living habits, including some that people can change.

"It's a very complicated subject," says Dr. James Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. "A lot goes into it, and we are only beginning to sort it out."

Like drinking, for instance, Beaver Dam people who have a drink or two a day are about 40 percent less likely than nondrinkers to have hearing loss, although heavy drinking is bad for the hearing, just as it is for other parts

of the body. Exercise also seems to prevent or delay elderly hearing loss.

On the other hand, smoking seems to be bad for the hearing. In Beaver Dam, smokers are about 70 percent more likely than nonsmokers to have some hearing loss. Even passive smoking appears to increase the risk.

All of this raises the intriguing possibility that what's good for the heart — or bad for it — may have similar effects on the hearing. Clogged arteries are the underlying cause of heart attacks, and the researchers suspect that decreasing blood flow to the inner ear increases the risk of going deaf.

They found that heart attack survivors are almost twice as likely to have poorly working cochleas, the spiral-shaped organs in the ears that convert vibrations into nerve impulses. And those whose hearing worsened during the study tended to have more thickening of the carotid artery, another sign of clogging.

If preventing heart disease also saves hearing, it might offer another reason to take cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins. So the researchers are watching the Beaver Dam residents who use the pills.

Still, none of this proves a real link between bad hearts and bad ears. Researchers outside the Beaver Dam project are divided on the subject.

"I think there absolutely is something there," says Sandra Gordon-Salant, a hearing researcher at the University of Maryland. "Is it the cardiovascular disease that causes hearing loss? Is it the medications people take? That needs to be teased out."

However, Dr. George Gates, director of the Blooded Hearing Research Center at the University of Washington, is skeptical. He analyzes data from the landmark Framingham Heart Study, the only other major U.S. project to measure hearing over time, and sees no strong link between hearing and hearts: Even if people with poor hearing really do have more heart disease, he says, it may simply be because people who hurt their hearing with noisy jobs are also likely to eat red meat and smoke.

"My sense is it won't be a fruitful line of investigation," he says.

While that debate plays out, the older folks of Beaver Dam cannot help being more aware of their hearing and what harms it.

(See HEARING, Page 7)

UT scientists find common drug may bring on acute liver failure

DALLAS — Unintentional acetaminophen overdose is the most common cause of acute liver failure in the United States, research from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas shows.

The scientists' findings appear in a recent issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

"This study is the first to prospectively characterize a large number of patients with acute liver failure," said Dr. William M. Lee, professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and the study's principal investigator. "Until recently, only limited data have been available on the causes and outcomes of acute liver failure because of its rarity and a lack of centralized data registry."

Earlier this year, a preliminary report based on the study prompted a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee to recommend stronger warning labels on over-the-counter pain medications and cold-and-cough remedies containing acetaminophen, an analgesic with potency similar to aspirin.

The study found that 39 percent of patients with acute liver failure, a rapidly progressive and frequently fatal disease that annually affects 2,000 people in the United States

were from acetaminophen overdose.

"We observed a much higher frequency of presumed acetaminophen overdose-related hepatotoxicity than previous reports," Lee said. "Unlike in the United Kingdom, more than half of our patients with acetaminophen overdose were believed to have overdosed unintentionally, rather than during a suicide attempt."

Lee said a striking finding of the study was that 73 percent of the patients were women.

"Whether women are innately more susceptible to acute liver failure or are taking more kinds of prescription and nonprescription drugs, and are therefore at a higher risk, remains to be determined," Lee said.

The three-year study looked at 308 patients with acute liver failure from 17 different liver care centers around the country. Lee and his colleagues found that 39 percent of cases were from acetaminophen overdose, and they also discovered that 13 percent were from idiosyncratic drug reactions; 12 percent were from viral hepatitis A and B; and 17 percent were of indeterminate cause.

"Acetaminophen is quite safe when taken accordingly to

package recommendations," Lee said. "Eighty-three percent of our patients who developed acute liver failure had exceeded the daily maximum recommended dose of four grams."

While 68 percent of patients with acute liver failure related to acetaminophen overdose recovered with supportive care and 6 percent required transplantation, only 25 percent of patients with idiosyncratic drug reactions recovered and more than 50 percent required transplants once their nervous systems were damaged by liver function failure.

In 1997, Lee formed a consortium of liver centers, called the Acute Liver Failure Study Group, to increase research in this area. The scientific collaboration has made it possible for investigators to study the disease in greater depth.

Two former UT Southwestern researchers — Drs. George Ostapowicz and Frank Schiodt — also contributed to the study. Other collaborators are from Baylor University Medical Center; the Mayo Clinic; Gold Coast Hospital in Southport, Australia; Northwestern University; and the universities of Michigan, Washington, California-Los Angeles, California-San Francisco, Nebraska, and Pittsburgh.

Researchers identify 'heartbeat' gene

SEATTLE (AP) — A gene mutation linked to atrial fibrillation, a type of heartbeat irregularity, has been identified by researchers who studied four generations of Chinese family with a history of the disorder.

In a study appearing this week in the journal *Science*, Chinese and French researchers report that a mutation on a gene called *KCNQ1* is the apparent cause of an inherited form of atrial fibrillation.

Atrial fibrillation affects more than 5 percent of everyone over the age of 65. The disorder lowers the pumping efficiency of the heart. It can cause blood clots, other types of heartbeat irregularities and heart failure.

To find the gene, researchers performed genetic screening on 44 members of a Chinese family with a history of atrial fibrillation. Sixteen of the family members were diagnosed with the disorder, some developing it at a young age. The family members lived in both rural villages and cities in Shandong Province.

Researchers found a mutation in the *KCNQ1* gene

among the affected family members, but not in those without the arrhythmia. They also screened 188 healthy, unrelated people and did not find the mutation.

Analysis of the gene mutation in laboratory cells showed that the gene disrupted the flow of potassium through cell membranes in the heart. Potassium plays a

key role in the heartbeat.

Finding genes that cause a disorder can lead to a better understanding of its cause, which, in turn, helps scientists to develop new therapies.

The 20 co-authors of the study are from five research centers in the People's Republic of China and a drug research center in France.

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AMARILLO — The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo recently expanded its services to the Texas Panhandle by acquiring the PET-CT (Positron Emission Tomography-Computerized Tomography), the latest cutting-edge technology.

PET is a medical imaging procedure that provides information about the location and metabolism of disease. Not only can PET detect a tumor mass, it also indicates how likely it is to be cancer. CAT Scans and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) show the details of an organ's anatomy, while PET can demonstrate whether it has any abnormal activity suggesting cancer.

HCC's PET-CT offers an additional advantage — it superimposes the abnormal metabolism shown by PET on the detailed anatomy of a CT. When the PET shows an abnormality likely to be cancer, the PET-CT can pinpoint its location, allowing a precise biopsy or targeted radiotherapy.

PET-CT is used for diagnosis, staging, and restaging of cancer, helping physicians detect cancer and track patients' response to treatment. When used appropriately, PET-CT can replace the need for many other tests, reducing overall health-care costs.

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Contradiction baffles medical experts

By RICHARD A. MARINI
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

SAN ANTONIO — Amatizta Garcia is a beautiful baby. Dark-haired, round-faced and with a wrinkly forehead that gives the 6-month-old an incongruously earnest look. She's healthy and happy — and an apparent contradiction to everything medical science would have expected.

Amatizta's father, Israel, is a dry wall installer whose nonunion job doesn't provide health insurance. Her mother, Gabriela, received absolutely no prenatal care before giving birth. Add to that the family's tight finances, and most experts would say that Amatizta's chances of having been a low-birth-weight baby — or worse — were probably pretty good.

Instead, Amatizta could be Exhibit A for what has been dubbed the "Hispanic Paradox." That's the tendency of Hispanic mothers, despite having all the medical cards stacked against them, to give birth to healthier babies than whites or blacks.

But the paradox extends beyond mothers and their newborns. For example, Hispanics are much less likely to suffer heart disease, despite having higher rates of obesity and diabetes, two important risk factors for heart troubles.

And that's not all. Hispanics suffer fewer strokes and have less lung and breast

cancer than do whites and blacks. They have lower rates of six of the top 10 causes of death in the United States. And they live longer, too.

Contradictions such as these have medical experts scratching their heads in bafflement, but also excited about the health ramifications of solving the mystery.

"As Hispanics, we're more likely to be obese, uninsured and uneducated," says Jane Delgado, chief executive officer and president of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, a Washington, D.C.-based network of health-care providers servicing 10 million Hispanics nationwide. "Despite these negatives, we do much better in many ways. There must be something about us that makes us strong."

The Hispanic paradox first became known a little more than a decade ago when death certificates started including "Hispanic" as an ethnic identifier.

"Before that, no one really knew what the Hispanic death rates were for different causes," says Delgado. "They just figured we'd be the same as blacks. But there's something different about us."

Trouble is, no one yet knows what these differences might be.

Of course, there are many areas where Hispanic health lags the health of other groups. Besides obesity and diabetes,

Hispanics are hit especially hard by many communicable diseases, such as hepatitis and tuberculosis.

There are anomalies within the paradox, too. For example, Hispanic men between 15 and 24 are more likely to die than their white contemporaries. But that's mostly due to a temporary increase in the rate of car accidents and homicides. The blip doesn't affect Hispanic women and, once past this "danger zone," the death rate for Hispanic men drops back below that of whites.

And there's a second, paradox-within-a-paradox, say experts. New immigrants tend to be healthier than their more acculturated or "Americanized" brethren.

For example, while Hispanic moms overall are more likely to have healthy babies than white women, Hispanic women born outside the United States do even better than U.S.-born Hispanics.

"We see the same trends for diabetes, obesity, weight, smoking, drinking and drug abuse," says Dr. Fernando Guerra, director of the Metropolitan Health District. "Unless their financial situation improves, that is, they get good jobs and can rise out of poverty, as succeeding generations stay in the U.S., overall health begins to deteriorate."

Over the years, various theories have been proposed — and often discarded — to

explain the Hispanic paradox. For example, the "salmon bias" holds that when immigrants get old and sick, they're more likely to return to their home country to die, so their deaths aren't counted in U.S. mortality rates. Another theory holds that emigrating is such a physically and psychologically arduous task, that only the most capable attempt it. So these immigrants, documented or not, tend to be healthier than the general population they're leaving behind. And a third contends that Hispanic deaths simply continue to be underreported, skewing the statistics.

Perhaps the most plausible theory is that there's something in the Hispanic experience — the tight-knit extended family, the spirituality, the food — that somehow confers a protective umbrella of good health over all those beneath it.

"As an acculturated Latina, I see that we do things differently from the way our grandmothers or even recently arrived Latinas do," says Sandra Guzman, author of "The Latina's Bible: The Nueva Latina's Guide to Love, Spirituality, Family, and La Vida."

For example? "My grandmother used to spend all day making frijoles from scratch," says Guzman with a chuckle. "I use canned."

Not everyone accepts the fact that the Hispanic paradox reflects reality. Researchers recently presented a study concluding that older Mexican Americans born in the United States are, in fact, 70 percent more likely to die of heart disease than whites. And that Mexican-born residents had a 50 percent higher risk.

Kelly J. Hunt, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas Health Science Center, says she and her co-authors relied on data from the respected San Antonio Heart Study.

(See BIRTHS, Page 9)

Vampire bat saliva may lead to new stroke medication

DALLAS (AP) — A substance in the saliva of vampire bats could prove to be a potent new treatment for strokes, an Australian scientist says.

"When the vampire bat bites its victim, it secretes this powerful clot-dissolving substance so that the victim's blood will keep flowing, allowing the bat to feed," said Dr. Robert Medcalf of the Monash University Department of Medicine at Box Hill Hospital in Victoria, Australia.

That same substance — Desmodus rotundus salivary plasminogen activator, or DSPA — might someday be given to stroke victims to dissolve clots and thereby limit

brain damage, he said. The substance has yet to be tested for effectiveness and safety in humans, but it showed promise in preliminary experiments in mice. The findings were reported in a recent issue of the journal Stroke, published by the American Heart Association.

The research involves ischemic strokes, which are the most common kind of stroke and occur when a blood clot or narrowing of blood vessels prevents blood from getting to the brain. The other type of stroke is a hemorrhagic stroke, which occurs when a blood vessel bursts and causes bleeding in the brain.

(See BATS, Page 9)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

HEARING

Helen Glewen, 61, a retired nurse, says that since joining the study, she has convinced her husband Claryn to wear ear plugs when he hunts. And she has changed her seat at the Dodge County Fair's country music shows.

"I used to take a lawn chair and sit as close as I could," she says. "Now I sit way up in the bleachers."

Certainly noise is the most obvious cause of bad hearing. Like other research, the Beaver Dam project documents the damage of frequent exposure, especially to anything over 85 to 90 decibels, such as the din once common in factories and foundries. People tend to have worse hearing later in life if they drove tractors without cabs, served in tanks in World War II or had any job where they needed to shout to be heard.

Hobbies may also contribute to deafness, especially if, like Mr. Glewen's, they involve guns. For instance, Beaver Dam target shooters are 50 percent more likely than usual to have poor hearing, and every five years of hunting results in a 7 percent increase in the likelihood of high-frequency hearing loss.

Among other loud hobbies, the worst seems to be woodworking. Men who putter in their shops have a 30 percent increase in hearing

loss, probably because the saws are loud and they spend a lot of time at their task.

The researchers also asked about exposure to blenders, hair dryers, food processors and vacuum cleaners, although none caused any harm they could measure.

Despite Mrs. Glewen's worry about country music, the researchers conclude that concert-going is not much of a factor. However, some wonder what music is doing to younger people who are more interested in heavy metal than Hank Williams. For now, though, the research suggests deafness will be less a problem for future generations.

Cruickshanks notes that the youngest people in the study — those in their late 40s and early 50s when they enrolled — seem to be losing their hearing less quickly than their

elders did, possibly because they have less ear-splitting jobs. "Certainly there has been a big shift away from blue-collar jobs and a lot of improvements with noise reduction at work," she notes.

But will too much head-banging rock cancel out the benefit of all that hushed desk work? Battey, for one, doubts it, unless the listener goes every night and sits in front of the speakers.

And headphones? Probably not, either.

"They may be annoying for other reasons," he says, "but not necessarily because they will compromise hearing, although I know there are parents all over the country who would like me to say that."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Medical Editor Daniel Q. Haney is a special correspondent for The Associated Press.

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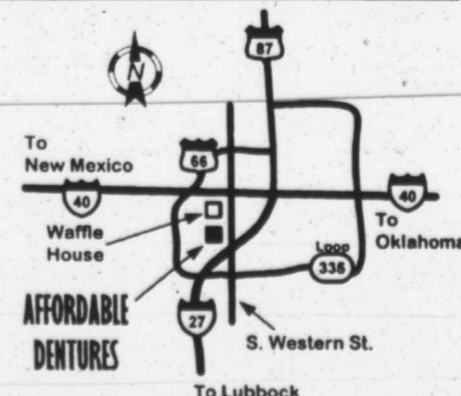
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Sunday, January 12, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Boy Caught in Divorce Needs Consistency and Counseling

DEAR ABBY: I am a single father raising my 6-year-old son, Jimmy. He's the light of my life.

As a result of my messy divorce, Jimmy is having a lot of problems dealing with his mother. (I'll call her Elaine.) Elaine calls only when it's convenient for her and refuses to give me her address or phone number, making it impossible for Jimmy to contact her. The judge ordered her to take parenting classes and suspended her visitation until she complies.

My stepdaughter has been in touch with Elaine, and I have allowed her to pick up Jimmy and take him to visit his mother, because I want him to know her. Until last year Elaine was addicted to drugs, but claims she's clean now due to her probation.

My dilemma: Elaine owes me \$5,000 in child support. I've been paid a total of \$214.15. Now the judge has ordered her to pay me a certain amount or she will be sent to jail for six months. Elaine has blamed me in front of Jimmy for her situation. He is hurt by this and blames me for the possibility of "putting Mommy in jail," even though she's the one responsible for her own actions. Jimmy has been in counseling, but it's not helping. I need your advice, Abby. Please help me.

SINGLE DAD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SINGLE DAD: Your mistake was allowing your

stepdaughter to take Jimmy to see his mother against the judge's orders. In a sense, it has allowed your little boy to be victimized again because of Elaine's brainwashing.

My advice is to keep your son in counseling — and follow the judge's rules from now on. Be sure the counselor is aware of everything that's happening, as well as your son's teachers. Spend as much time with your son as you can. He needs you now more than ever.

DEAR ABBY: My mother was married once before she married my dad. She has a son, "Morris," from that first marriage.

When Dad and Mom were married, my dad adopted Morris. My parents have been divorced almost 20 years now, and Dad's mother ("Granny O'Hara") does not acknowledge my half-brother as her grandchild, nor his wife or their lovely children.

I will receive a large inheritance from Granny O'Hara, and I feel that Morris should be included in this bequest. Please let me know if you agree, and what you think would be the best way to approach Granny about this. She knows I am close with my half-brother and is kind about asking about him, but I feel he deserves more. This is a touchy subject.

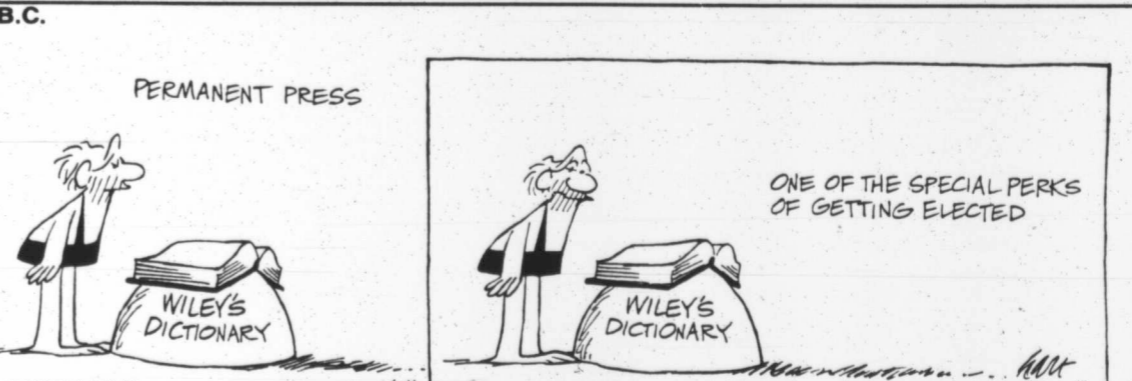
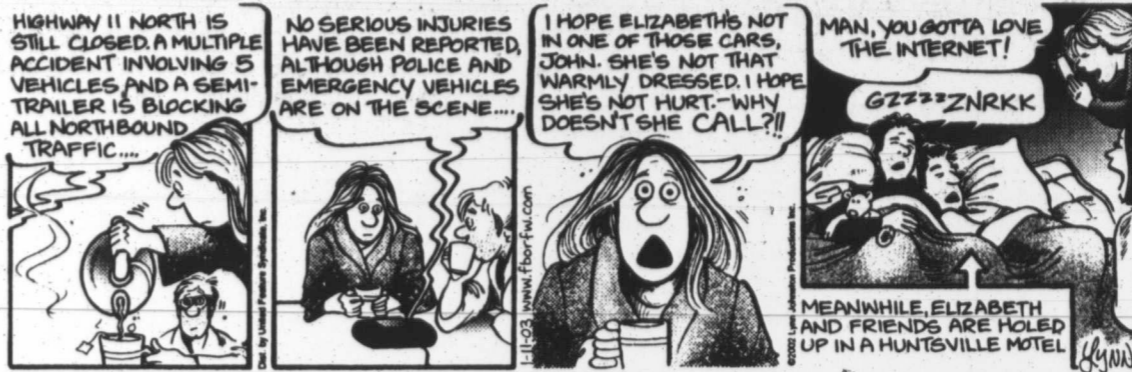
WANTS TO BE FAIR IN OHIO

DEAR WANTS TO BE FAIR: It appears that your grandmother intends to keep her estate in her biological family — to be passed on to blood relatives only. If that's the case, I doubt anything you say will sway her.

Since you wish to share your inheritance with your half-brother, I urge you to discuss the matter with an attorney who can explain what the tax liabilities might be if you do so after Granny's death. You may have to spread the payments out over a number of years in order to avoid gift taxes.

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.

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



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

by THOMAS JOSEPH

CROSS 3 Goofs

Appear 4 Sara of

Thick cuts "Birds of

Prey"

Knack- 5 Remain

knack 6 Like

2 Wave 6 Abner

type 7 Dotted

3 Layout 7 on

4 Without 8 Split

help 8 base

5 Low 9 Caught

sound 9 some z's

5 Retiring 11 Bed

8 Dr. Dre's 11 honcho

music 25 Canada's

3 Pixie 17 Jane

1 Bit of 17 largest

change Eyre, for

25-Across 26 Illinois

loved her one 26 province

4 Wear 21 Clarifier's

down 21 words

5 Hugo 21 Baseball's

character 21 Jones

3 Combust 21 meaning

5 F team 21 of film

2 Yank's foe

3 A pop

1 Tantrum

5 Let up

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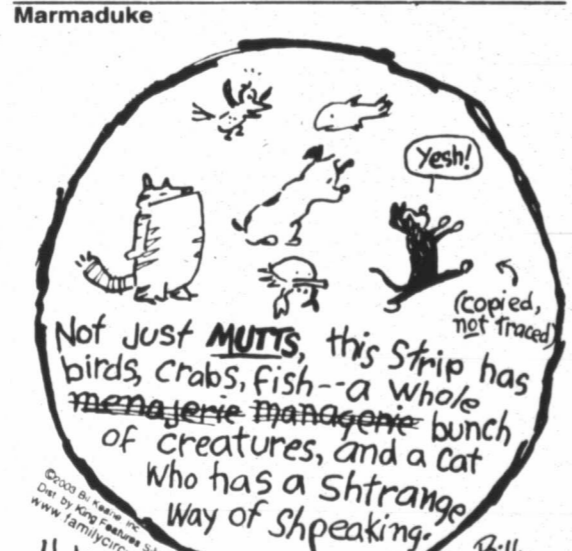
Atlas

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AGAPE	SHAFT
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Yesterday's answer

23 Fleet	28 Source
11 Bed	29 Army
occupants	25 Canada's
17 Jane	largest
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21 Clarifier's	words
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Billy finishes his "Look at the Comics" by observing "MUTTS."

The Family Circus



WD
White Deer I will host an ex- Jan. 2-29 at 112 S. Cuyler Pampa. The sh "The Face Beh and will be on regular museu PAC Pampa Area C Group voted at ing not to conv month of D next meeting "After the Ho on Jan. 16. COUN PEDDLE! A Country Ped be staged Jan. Amarillo Civi Amarillo. Show 4-9 p.m., Frid p.m., Saturday, p.m., Sunday. 1 feature a vari including: arts lies, salsas, clothing, furni and much mo for all three d adults, and \$3 Children under TACAC H Texas Assoc College Counseling (1 sponsor its 18t free College Hotline from 1 Jan. 18-19, 20 provides infor post-secondary opportunities and their famil the hotline, ca 7007 between p.m., the 18th CPC LUN The Contract Center in Amar sor a business small, minority entrepreneurs p.m. Tuesday, Luby's Cafe Canyon Dr., A guest speaker Schmieding, di chasing, Ama For reservation information, co Esparza, (806) PAS Pampa Area S will be from Saturday, Jan. Brown Auditor with Mike Por ing or alcohol Snacks will be your favorite For more info 665-7059. DIAMON Our Diamond will be conduc Saturday, Jan. Middle School

BRAIN
Some isct victims are t busting subs tissue plasmi tor, or TPA. E drawback of must be admi in three ho stroke's onse drug itself bleeding, and age. Medcalf's injected DSP, mice and wat damage. Mi DSPA sufferi damage. Medcalf sa is not only a clot-buster b safely admin nine hours stroke's onse more preci blood clots, v together by substance cal "DSPA is tive in the at rin and the more fibrin- TPA," Medc One exper mice that ha strokes. "This is s removed fro ly meaning effect," sai Goldstein, Duke Univer for Cei Disease and the Ameri Association Committe. have potenti

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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.

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.

COUNTRY PEDDLER SHOW
A Country Peddler show will be staged Jan. 17-19 at the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Show hours will be 4-9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday. The show will feature a variety of wares including: arts and crafts, jellies, salsas, home decor, clothing, furniture, jewelry, and much more. Admission for all three days is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for seniors. Children under 12 get in free.

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. 18-19, 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.

CPC LUNCHEON
The Contract Procurement Center in Amarillo will sponsor a business luncheon for small, minority and women entrepreneurs from 11:45-1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at Luby's Cafeteria, 4530 Canyon Dr., Amarillo. The guest speaker will be Allen Schmieding, director of purchasing, Amarillo College. For reservations or for more information, contact Edmond Esparza, (806) 372-3381.

PASD
Pampa Area Singles Dance will be from 8-11 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa with Mike Porter. No smoking or alcohol is permitted. Snacks will be served. Bring your favorite refreshment. For more information, call 665-7059.

DIAMOND MISS
Our Diamond Miss Pageant will be conducted at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25, at Pampa Middle School Auditorium.

For more information, contact Jeanna at 669-7671 or 665-8921.

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 stephenson-ri@actx.edu. **Deadline for nominations is Jan. 31.**
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.

First Ag Credit declaring \$4.7 million cash dividend

LUBBOCK — First Ag Credit, Farm Credit Services board of directors recently declared a \$4.7 million cash patronage dividend based on 2002 earnings. The patronage dividend will reduce most customers' net cost of borrowing by approximately 70 basis points or almost three-quarters of a percent. This is the fifth consecutive year that over 6,500 First Ag Credit stockholders will receive a cash dividend from their agricultural financing cooperative. Members will receive their checks in early spring. Since January 1997, the association has returned nearly \$30 million in cash to its customers. Keith Vandivere, chairman of the board from Brownfield, said the refund is an indication of the financial strength of the organization as well as "the dedication we have to our stockholders." Terry Dane, CEO of First Ag Credit, said, "We are pleased that once again we are able to return a substantial cash patronage dividend to our stockholders. First Ag Credit had another good year in 2002 and we want to share earnings with our members." First Ag Credit, FCS has almost \$900 million in total assets and serves 113 counties in Texas with 37 offices conveniently located throughout its territory.

Top producers



(Courtesy photo) Mike Keagy and Judi Edwards, owners of Quentin Williams, REALTORS, presented bonus checks to their top producers for the last six months of 2002 at their Christmas party at the Country Club. Above: The winners were Roberta Babb, first place; Joan Mabry, second place; and Sandra Bronner, third place. Quentin Williams was involved in 40 out of 91 transactions for a volume of \$2.56 million. This represents 53 percent of the dollar volume sold in Gray County through the Pampa Multiple Listing Service the last six months of 2002.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

BIRTHS

"These other studies use census data," she explains. "We followed 1,700 actual people for 14 years. When someone died, we knew what they died of." In another study out of the Health Science Center, Jeanne Ruiz is exploring whether genetics may help explain the Hispanic paradox. Her ongoing, four-year study of 500 pregnant women will look at the effects on birth outcomes of anxiety, depression, social support and acculturation. "We hope to find differences in the physiological response between mainstream American women and those new to this country," says Ruiz. "If we can identify differences, maybe we can develop tests and treatments to improve birth outcomes." Solving the riddle of the Hispanic paradox could be good news for non-Hispanics, too, says David Hayes-Bautista, professor of medicine and director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health & Culture at the

University of California, Los Angeles. "In California alone, if everyone was as healthy as the state's Hispanics, there'd be 49,000 fewer deaths annually," he says. In addition, there'd be a 35 percent reduction in heart disease, a 42 percent drop in cancer and 25 percent fewer strokes. "I don't have the exact figures, but I expect Texas would have improvements in the same order of magnitude." Until that day arrives, however, Guzman says there are steps everyone — Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike — can make to take advantage of the paradox. "Eat well, exercise, take care of yourself first before you start caring for others," she says, ticking off her list, one by one. "And get yourself a network of comadres, which is a hard word to translate. It's like a spiritual support system of sisters who aren't necessarily relatives." And the good news, she adds, is that men can have compadres. **Distributed by The Associated Press**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

BRAIN.

Some ischemic stroke victims are given a clot-busting substance called tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA. But one major drawback of tPA is that it must be administered within three hours of the stroke's onset, or else the drug itself can cause bleeding and brain damage. Medcalf's research team injected DSPA and tPA in mice and watched for brain damage. Mice that got DSPA suffered less brain damage. Medcalf said that DSPA is not only a more potent clot-buster but can also be safely administered up to nine hours after the stroke's onset because it more precisely targets blood clots, which are held together by a string-like substance called fibrin. "DSPA is almost inactive in the absence of fibrin and therefore much more fibrin-specific than tPA," Medcalf said. One expert warned that the research was limited to mice that had not suffered strokes. "This is several factors removed from a necessarily meaningful clinical effect," said Dr. Larry Goldstein, director of Duke University's Center for Cerebrovascular Disease and chairman of the American Stroke Association Advisory Committee. "Does this have potential? Yes. But

whether it will prove to be safe or efficacious for humans with strokes, that's a whole different story." And Dr. Keith A. Siller, an assistant professor of neurology at the NYU School of Medicine, said

that the nine-hour window is not necessarily an advantage. He said that any drug administered after three hours is essentially pointless because the damage to the brain has already been done.

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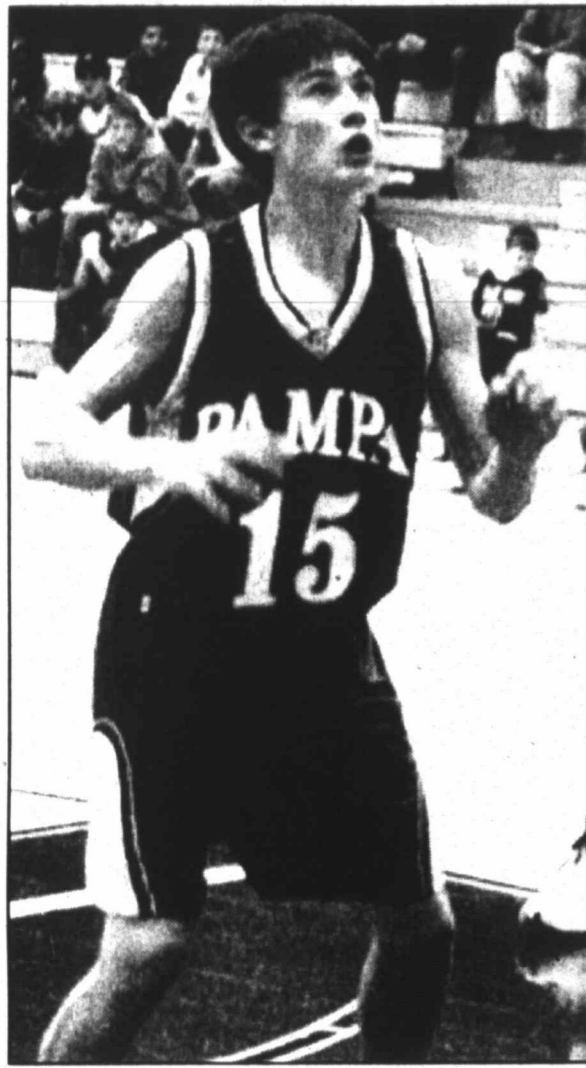
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SPORTS

Pampa sweeps Caprock in 3-4A twinbill



Pampa point guard Clayton Hall had 9 points against Caprock.

PAMPA — Pampa put together a 29-point fourth quarter to rout visiting Caprock 71-46 in District 3-4A action Friday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Harvesters improved to 3-1 in district and 7-10 for the season. The Longhorns dropped to 3-2 in district and a 14-10 overall record.

Pampa never trailed, jumping out to a 6-0 lead, but Caprock was never far behind until the fourth quarter. The Harvesters — ahead by six (42-36) after three quarters — scored 13 of the first 15 points in the fourth to break away to a 19-point bulge. Pampa's defense limited Caprock to only three baskets from the floor in the fourth quarter.

Caprock was no match for Pampa's inside offense, which was led by Chance Bowers (21 points) and Max Simon (17 points). Bowers, a 6-1 junior, had 10 fourth-quarter points.

Ryan Zemanek had a game-high 14 rebounds to go with his 11 points. Pampa owned a 36-23 edge in rebounding.

High School Basketball

Pampa held a nine-point lead (27-18) at halftime. The score was tied at 13-all at the end of the first quarter.

Cheston Mitchell had 15 points and Will Mitchell 12 to lead Caprock. Cheston Mitchell also had 7 rebounds.

Collin Bowers and Clayton Hall each had 9 points for the Harvesters, followed by Jed Martin with 3, and James Silva 1.

Pampa is at home again Tuesday night, hosting Randall at 7:30. Randall is also 3-1 in district after beating Dumas 50-39 Friday night.

District leader Palo Duro improved to 5-0 with a 78-58 win over Plainview.

Valerie Velez scored 18 points and Casey Fisher added 14 as Pampa held off Caprock for a 60-51 win in a District 3-4A girls' game Friday night. It was the first district win

for Pampa, which improved to 5-14 overall.

Velez and Fisher did most of their damage in the first half as Pampa built a 13-point lead (33-20) at intermission. Velez had 14 first-half points and Fisher 10.

Whitney Searcy was Caprock's high scorer with 23 points. Leasley Castillo followed with 11.

Pampa led by as much as 17 points in the second half, but Caprock staged a rally and cut the gap to six (47-41) in the fourth quarter. But back-to-back baskets by Abbi Covalt and Stacey Johnson enabled Pampa to get the margin back to 10, and Caprock never got closer than six the rest of the way.

Covalt finished with 13 points, followed by Johnson with 6, Mariza Scott 4, Tara Jordan 4 and Jackie Gerber 1.

scorers with 18 points. Cody Schaffer followed with 15 points.

Dustin Ward had 9 points and Clayton Oldham followed with 6 to lead Samnorwood.

Groom had a 31-12 lead at intermission.

The Tigers are now 1-2 in district and 7-13 for the season.

Samnorwood falls to 0-3 in district and 3-9 for the season.

WHEELER — Lyndi Finsterwald poured in 29 points to pace Wheeler past Memphis 65-60 in district girls' activity Friday night.

Amy Osborne added 14 points for the Mustangettes, who are 2-1 in district play.

Wheeler forged to a 19-point lead after three quarters and then hed to hold off a Memphis comeback down the stretch.

Leading the way for Memphis was Tonica Newsome with 38 points. Andrea Conley chipped in 11.

SAMNORWOOD — Groom rolled to a 66-31 win over Samnorwood in District 4-1A play Friday night.

Cody Babcock led Groom

Tech releases '03 schedule

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech University released its 2003 football schedule last week. Tech opens with a home game Aug. 30 against Southern Methodist University.

The Red Raiders, 9-5 last year against the fourth toughest schedule in the country, will have six home games in a 12-game schedule.

Tech's home slate is highlighted by visits from Texas

A&M on Oct. 4, Big 12 North champion Colorado on Nov. 1 and Big 12 champion Oklahoma in the season's final game on Nov. 22. Other home outings are New Mexico on Sept. 6 and Iowa State on Oct. 11.

Road games are North Carolina State on Sept. 20, Oklahoma State on Oct. 18, Missouri on Oct. 25, Baylor on Nov. 8, and Texas on Nov. 15.

Tech will have an open date on Sept. 13.

Williams chasing Australian win to complete 'Serena Slam'

Adv11-12
For release weekend editions, Jan. 11-12
AP Photos NY150-1 of Jan. 9
Graphic 2003 AUS OPEN
By JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The most dominant woman in tennis needs only to win the Australian Open to complete the "Serena Slam," and she gets her shot at a fourth consecutive major starting Monday.

While others were setting modest goals for the new year, Serena Williams made a grand statement suggesting that she planned to remain atop the rankings.

"I want to be undefeated" in 2003, she said.

She won the French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon in 2002, but has never won the Australian. She skipped warmup tournaments after partnering James Blake on the U.S. team that won the Hopman Cup in Perth last week.

"Now I've had a long break and I'm rejuvenated and really excited," said Serena. "Obviously, the Australian Open is a goal for me."

"I haven't begun to play my best," added Williams, who is bidding to become the fifth woman to hold four Grand Slam titles at once. "I'm sure everyone is excited to hear that."

Her sister, Venus, is seeded second. She was a runner-up to Serena at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow in 2002. A four-time Grand Slam winner and an equally powerful hitter, she's the best contender among the other women.

Venus limped out of the season-ending WTA Championships with a lower leg strain while trailing Kim Clijsters in the semifinals and hasn't played since, but she is expected to regain full fitness and doesn't meet a top-10 player until the quarters.

The Williams sisters are on

opposite sides of the draw in Melbourne for the first time, meaning they can meet only in the final.

Venus' half of the draw includes Jennifer Capriati, bidding for a third consecutive Aussie title, fifth-seeded Justine Henin and ninth-seeded Lindsay Davenport, who won at Melbourne Park in 2000.

"Of course I'm confident I can win it," said Capriati, who hasn't won a title in 12 months and lost at Sydney in the second round. "I was nervous last year when I had to defend my title but I crossed that battle."

"I'm defending again but I've done it before ... I know what I can do."

No. 4 Clijsters upset Serena to win in Los Angeles last November, and they're in the same half of the draw here. Clijsters also has an easier run to the semis than Serena, who opens against Emilie Loit of France and could face four-time Australian champion Monica Seles, seeded sixth, in the quarters.

Clijsters made the singles and doubles finals in Sydney to increase her confidence. She spent the year-end break with boyfriend Lleyton Hewitt and his family in Adelaide.

"Last year, I wasn't even close to playing as well as what I am now and I still made the semifinal of the Aussie," said the 19-year-old Belgian. "For your confidence, it's definitely better to be here from the start."

Davenport, who has the power to match the Williams sisters and appears fitter than ever, is an outside chance.

She had surgery on her right knee Jan. 11 last year and missed the first three majors. But she reached the semis at the U.S. Open and got back into the top 10. Davenport made the final of a warmup tournament in Sydney with tough wins over Daniela Hantuchova and Tatiana Panova and said she

feels her luck is changing.

On the men's side, the top-ranked Hewitt desperately wants to be the first Australian to win the Grand Slam event to break a local drought. No Australian has won it since 1976.

Hewitt has never gone beyond the fourth round at Melbourne Park — he developed chickenpox last year and was a surprise first-round loser to Alberto Martin of Spain — but has changed his lead-up preparations, missing tournaments that he's won in previous years and sticking to reclusive practice.

Since retaining No. 1 spot for the second year by defending his Tennis Masters Cup final, the 21-year-old Hewitt has played only at the Hopman Cup, where he lost to James Blake and the Czech Republic's Jiri Novak.

Despite those losses, he's feeling OK.

"I feel comfortable. ... I feel relaxed enough. You just don't know until you go out there Monday or Tuesday and see how you go," Hewitt said.

"The first few rounds in Grand Slams, if you can get through those matches, I feel like I've played enough big matches now that I'm going to get better and better."

Local expectations didn't bother him.

"I feel fine with that pressure, that expectation of sitting up there and being the No. 1 Australian," he said. "I don't have too many problems with that."

He opens against a qualifier but faces a difficult third round against former No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Andre Agassi injured his wrist in a warmup tournament last season and couldn't defend his title. After losing September's U.S. Open final to Pete Sampras, he finished without a Grand Slam title for the first time in three years.

The 32-year-old American was forced out of the Masters Cup with a hip problem in November after losing two matches, but overcame the setback to reach the final this week of the Melbourne exhibition tournament.

"I've always come here ready to do, physically eager and then I've been really patient when it comes to letting my game come into its own," said Agassi, who has three Australian championships among his seven Grand Slam titles. "I feel good about my movement on court and the way my body feels."

His first big test comes against Guillermo Canas or 1999 Australian champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the fourth round.

Marat Safin has the firepower to win here but might lack the concentration to hang on for seven matches. He lost the final to Thomas Johansson in 2002, when he wilted in the heat.

The 2000 U.S. Open champion injured his right shoulder Wednesday at Sydney, blaming the inflammation of his rotator cuff on not enough time off between helping Russia win the Davis Cup over France and the start of this season.

But he expects to be back in shape for his opening match against Dutchman Raemon Sluiter and said he'd resort to painkillers if his shoulder wasn't up to serving as the tournament progressed.

The men's draw has been diminished by withdrawals but should offer as many surprises as 2002, when the bulk of top-seeded players tumbled out in the first three rounds.

Among the high profile absentees are: No. 9-ranked Tim Henman and fellow Briton Greg Rusedski, No. 11 Tommy Haas, 14-time Grand Slam titlist Pete Sampras; defending champion Thomas Johansson; and Chile's Marcelo Rios, runner-up in 1998.

The women's draw is missing only Amelie Mauresmo of France, No. 9 Jelena Dokic, who is boycotting after a fallout with tennis authorities in Australia, and three-time winner Martina Hingis, who has been a fixture in the last six finals.



Harvester Sports Calendar

Week of Jan 12

Basketball

Monday

Pampa vs. Hereford freshmen girls, 10am home

Pampa vs. Hereford freshmen boys, 10am away

Tuesday

Pampa vs. Randall varsity-jv boys & girls, 6pm home

Friday

Pampa vs. Plainview varsity-jv boys & girls, 6pm away

Saturday

Pampa vs. Caprock freshmen girls, 10am home

Pampa vs. Caprock freshmen boys, 10am away

Wrestling

Tuesday

Pampa vs. Boys Ranch varsity-jv, 7pm away

Thursday

Pampa jv, at Amarillo Junior Varsity Tournament

Friday

Pampa varsity, at Vernon Invitational

Swimming

Friday

Pampa varsity, at district tourney, Lubbock

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Optin

The Baker title this season ...
Coombes; Jessica Min Campbell, I

Mav

DALLAS (A Dallas Maveric losses on one h

With an im over the Boston the Mavericks i they lose their n have the best n the season in fra

"Nobody kn except for Ede because he's hu ward Walt Willi about those five we have."

The Maveric why their recor worked the ball got many of t missed, while t into shooting : were 9-of-32 on

Generation Gap (Week 12)
Team

Slithering Snakes
The Dickey Bowle
Whoopin' Wintor
Why Are We Eve
Bald Eagles
Team Ten
The Young & Olc
Rootin' Tootin' T
Two Balls, No St
Team One
K.O. Average
Team Four
Week's Top Scor
Men

High scratch gam
Jesse Cannon 61
241; High handic
Women
High handicap ga
cap series: Nita
DeArman 195; Hi
Boys
High scratch gam
202; Andy Ander
553; Zach Wilson
Girls
High scratch gam
Haley Clark 99;
Wendy Clark 303

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Els the

KAPALUA.
— Ernie Els c assault on the Kapalua and w another comforta Mercedes Cham
Els rolled in : putt on the final under 65 to brea tournament recor 129. More impor a three-stroke l Estes going into of the season-ope

Optimist champs



(Courtesy Rice's Photography)

The Baker Hughes Petrolite Queens won the 5th & 6th grade girls Optimist League title this season, finishing with a 10-1 record. Pictured above are front row, Brittney Coombes; second row, Libby Dyson, Lauren Coutts, Margarita Cervantes and Jessica Miner; back row, coach Linda Dyson, Tereza Soto, Collin Pursley, Victoria Campbell, Misty Pairsh and coach Janice Miner.

Hawks hold off Rockets

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Hawks gave up 18 straight points in the third quarter but never led the Rockets' take the lead. They then put together a quick run of their own to win for the first time in two weeks.

Jason Terry scored a season-high 33 points as Atlanta snapped a six-game losing streak with an 84-75 victory over Houston on Friday night.

The Hawks improved to 2-6 since coach Terry Stotts replaced Lon Kruger. Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 21 points, and Theo Ratliff had 16 rebounds and four blocks. Leading scorer Glenn Robinson sat out with a sore right elbow.

Atlanta blew all of an 18-point lead in the third quarter, but recovered in time to avoid a second embarrassing loss to Houston. Back in December, the Hawks led by 11 at the half but were outscored 63-33 in the second half.

"I was proud that we withstood their comeback," Stotts said. "For a team that's lost games, a team that's been struggling a little bit, to withstand that and still have the wherewithal to come back was very encouraging."

Eddie Griffin had 22 points and 16 rebounds for the Rockets, who lost for just the second time in six games. Leading scorer Steve Francis, averaging 23 points coming in, had a miserable night, scoring 16 on 5-of-18 shooting.

"I missed a lot of open shots," Francis said. "The next time I come to Atlanta, I'm going to set it on fire."

Yao Ming, making his first appearance in Atlanta, scored nine, all in the second half. He missed several shots from in close, including a couple that were blocked by Ratliff, and drew his first technical foul of the season for taunting.

After Ratliff slammed home a rebound, Yao did the same on the other end and appeared to say something to Ratliff. Referee Tim Donaghy immediately whistled a technical.

"All I did was scream when I dunked it," Yao said through an interpreter. "I didn't say anything."

Ratliff laughed off the exchange, and wondered if Yao had picked up some bad habits from teammates Francis and Cuttino Mobley, two players notorious for their trash talking.

"I told Steve and (Mobley) they were teaching him too much over there, he's going to

yell in my face after he dunked the ball," Ratliff said. "That was funny, though, I got a kick out of that one."

The crowd of 17,859 was a season high, although more than 2,000 short of a sellout.

A layup by Mike Wilks gave the Hawks a 49-31 lead early in the second half, but they went nearly 7 minutes without another point. The Rockets ran off 18 straight to tie it.

"Even if they had taken the lead, we were feeling good about ourselves," Terry said. "We knew they were going to knock down some shots. In Houston, they knocked down some 3s, and that killed us."

"Here, it was a couple of baskets here, a couple there. We stayed resilient."

The Rockets lost the game at the free throw line, making only 13-of-27. The Hawks made 26-of-32.

Houston closed within one early in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Mobley, but Atlanta ran off seven in a row, highlighted by back-to-back jumpers by Terry.

Yao drew cheers whenever he touched the ball, but he clearly was outplayed by Ratliff. The 6-foot-10 center, 8 inches shorter than his Chinese counterpart, scored only six points but kept Yao out of the paint and off-balance.

"That boy, he is long, and he's got a lot of skills around the basket," Ratliff said.

Mavericks roll past Celtics, 103-78

DALLAS (AP) — After 35 games, the Dallas Mavericks can still count their losses on one hand.

With an impressive 103-78 victory over the Boston Celtics on Friday night, the Mavericks improved to 30-5. Even if they lose their next six games, they'll still have the best record at the midpoint of the season in franchise history.

"Nobody knows what our record is, except for Eddie (Najera), and that's because he's hurt and not playing," forward Walt Williams said. "All I know is about those five losses. That's the attitude we have."

The Mavericks showed the Celtics why their record is so good. The offense worked the ball around for easy shots and got many of the rebounds when they missed, while the defense forced Boston into shooting 37 percent. The Celtics were 9-of-32 on 3-pointers.

"They're a real juggernaut at this time. They really have it rolling," Boston coach Jim O'Brien said. "They're a very tough team for us to guard, but they're hard for everybody else in the league to guard since they are leading the league in field goal percentage."

Each of Dallas' Big Three — Dirk Nowitzki, Michael Finley and Steve Nash — had a dominant quarter.

Nowitzki scored 15 of his 28 points in the first, Finley had 16 of his 22 in the second then Nash got all of his 13 in the third. The play of the game was an alley oop from Finley to Nowitzki that put the Mavs up by 25 with 5:55 left in the third quarter.

"We were playing with a lot of energy, and offensively we were able to give ourselves second and third opportunities," Nowitzki said. "Normally we're not a great offensive rebounding team, but tonight we gave ourselves more

chances."

Dallas could soon be adding more scoring punch. Italian League star Antoine Rigaudeau is negotiating to get out of his contract overseas and could be in uniform as soon as Wednesday against Sacramento.

The 6-foot-6 swingman helped Virtus Bologna win two European championships and was part of France's silver medal squad in the 2000 Olympics. He averaged 13.9 points this season for Virtus, making 43 percent of his 3-pointers.

Mavs coach Don Nelson said he wants to use Rigaudeau as a point forward. Although he's never done that, Nelson believes he can because "he's a forward that has a good handle and gets a lot of assists."

"I don't know how long it's going to take," Nelson said. "If he's ready by playoff time I'd be happy."

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING		Chicago		Toronto		Cleveland		
Harvester Lanes		13	23	361	13	8	28	
League Results		7	30	189	19 1/2	7	30	
WESTERN CONFERENCE								
Midwest Division								
Team	Won	Lost	W	L	Pct	GB		
Slithering Snakes	15	6	Dallas	30	5	.857	—	
The Dickey Bowlers	19	3	San Antonio	22	14	.611	8 1/2	
Whoopin' Wintons	22	2	Utah	21	14	.600	9	
Why Are We Even Out Here?	14	9	Houston	19	15	.559	10 1/2	
Bald Eagles	15	7	Minnesota	19	16	.543	11	
Team Ten	17	5	Memphis	11	24	.314	19	
The Young & Old	13	10	Denver	9	26	.257	21	
Rootin' Tootin' Texans	7	12	Pacific Division					
Two Balls, No Strikes	24	1	W	L	Pct	GB		
Team One	15	8	Sacramento	27	10	.730	—	
K.O. Average	18	4	Phoenix	23	14	.622	4	
Team Four	9	11	Portland	21	14	.600	5	
Week's Top Scores								
Men								
High scratch game: Gary Winton 241; High scratch series: Jesse Cannon 617; High handicap game: Gary Winton 241; High handicap series: Jesse Cannon 644.								
Women								
High handicap game: Tonya DeArman 244; High handicap series: Nita Clark 642; High scratch game: Tonya DeArman 195; High scratch series: Sheila Winton 472.								
Boys								
High scratch game: Zach Wilson 203; Andrew Winton 202; Andy Anderson High scratch series: Andrew Winton 553; Zach Wilson 551; Andy Anderson 369.								
Girls								
High scratch game: Laraine Hess 174; Wendy Clark 120; Haley Clark 99; High scratch series: Laraine Hess 460; Wendy Clark 303; High scratch series: Haley Clark 246.								

BASKETBALL		Chicago		Toronto		Cleveland	
National Basketball Association		13	23	361	13	8	28
At A Glance		7	30	189	19 1/2	7	30
Atlantic Division							
Team	W	L	Pct	GB			
New Jersey	27	10	.730	—			
Boston	20	15	.571	6			
Philadelphia	19	17	.528	7 1/2			
Orlando	19	19	.500	8 1/2			
Washington	18	18	.500	8 1/2			
New York	13	20	.394	12			
Miami	12	24	.333	14 1/2			
Central Division							
Team	W	L	Pct	GB			
Indiana	26	10	.722	—			
Detroit	24	10	.706	1			
New Orleans	20	18	.526	7			
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	10 1/2			
Atlanta	13	22	.371	12 1/2			

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KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Ernie Els continued his assault on the par 5s at Kapalua and wound up with another comfortable lead in the Mercedes Championships.

Els rolled in a 5-foot birdie putt on the final hole for an 8-under 65 to break the 36-hole tournament record at 17-under 129. More importantly, he built a three-stroke lead over Bob Estes going into the weekend of the season-opening event.

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Employee of the Month



(Courtesy photo)
 Polly Batenhorst, Correctional Officer III, receives the honor of the Jordan/Baten Units' January "Employee of the Month" from Senior Warden C.C. Bell. Batenhorst has been at the Jordan Unit for 20 months. She says the best part of her job are the people that she works with. Her hobbies include horseback riding and spending as much time as possible with her family. Her family includes two sons: John, 24, who attends law school at Oklahoma City University, and Brian, 18, who attends Clarendon College. She has lived in Shamrock 18 years.

Chinese archeologists report finding more rooms in first emperor's tomb

By STEPHANIE HOO
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) — Archaeologists have found five more chambers in the sprawling tomb complex of China's legendary first emperor, rooms even bigger than the pits that hold his famed terra-cotta army, a member of the excavation team said Thursday.

Qin Shihuang is credited with creating the first Chinese empire in 220 B.C. His tomb near the city of Xi'an hasn't been opened, but the thousands of life-size clay soldiers unearthed from pits nearby in the 1970s are a major tourist attraction.

Archaeologists have not opened the newly discovered chambers, but believe they cover about 750,000 square feet, said Zhang Zaifeng of the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute's excavation team.

That would make them the biggest part of the tomb found so far, Zhang said by telephone from Xi'an.

"We have no idea what is buried under the earth there," he said.

The five rooms are north of the chamber where Qin's body is believed to lie, Zhang said. He said they are so large that "we do not expect them to be excavated soon."

Qin was notorious for his cruelty but also admired by some for his determination to build an empire. He launched the building of the Great Wall, and his unification of China's warring states more than 2,000 years ago feeds the country's nationalism.

The emperor is the subject of the new epic movie "Hero" by renowned director Zhang Yimou, adding yet another chapter to his mystique.

Hundreds of thousands of workers are believed to have labored for 36 years to build Qin's mausoleum, which was sealed after his death in 210 B.C. Accounts of the tomb tell of great treasures, and Chinese media are speculating about what the newly found rooms hold.

The Beijing Star Daily newspaper said more terra cotta soldiers could be inside. It said archaeologists are hoping China's central government will finance a full-scale excavation.

Twin sisters receive same master's degrees

By RAECHAL LEONE
 ODESSA AMERICAN

MIDLAND — Angelina G. Davis doesn't know how sisters Venus and Serena Williams do it. Davis said she and her twin sister, Angela G. Henry, would both back out of a competition in which only one of them could win.

"I'd rather see her be successful as opposed to going in there and trying to beat her," Davis said.

In December, the twins shared a victory when they both graduated with master's of education degrees from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Both sisters completed course work in all the same educational leadership classes.

The 41-year-old twins are the first twins to take all the same courses and graduate at the same time from UTPB, said School of Education Dean Peter Ienatsch.

"The world has a tendency to put you in a pot where you compete against each other, but we've always been a team," Henry said.

Working as a team comes naturally for the Midland-raised twins, the oldest of six children. They were married four months apart and each has three children. Both worked in the business and banking industries (sometimes at the same company).

When Davis went into education several years ago,

Henry followed.
 The two worked as special education teachers, each winning the Teacher of the Year award at the Midland school district schools where they worked in 1998.

The sisters decided to foray into administration after a fellow employee at each of their schools told them they would be good at it.

"We have similar philosophies on raising kids, education and in making kids a priority on campus," Henry said.

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COMMUNITY

NEWSMAKERS



Meredith Hendricks-Young

LUBBOCK — Meredith C. Hendricks-Young of Pampa was recently accepted for membership in Golden Key International Honour Society at Texas Tech University and was individually honored during a campus ceremony.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Meredith be recognized by Golden Key," said Alexander D. Perwich II, Golden Key executive director. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

Golden Key is a non-profit, academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships.

The Society has more than 300 chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and New Zealand. Membership is by invitation only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

Young is a junior vocal performance major at Texas Tech University.

She is currently a member of University Choir, Broadway Babies, Madrigal Singers, and Children's Opera performing groups. Her future plans include further studies at the graduate level and a performance career in either Broadway or opera.

She is the daughter of Roy and Roberta Hendricks of Pampa and is the granddaughter of Dell Brown and Don and Julia Hendricks, all of Pampa.

The Hons. Mary Ann Carpenter and Kurt R. Curfman, both justice of the peace, were certified at the recent Twenty Hour Justice of the Peace Seminar held at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo.

The seminar was sponsored by Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Southwest Texas State University, with offices in Austin. This year's seminar marked the first of four to be held in the state of Texas for the year 2002-03.

By law, each elected Justice of the Peace is required by the state to complete Continuing Judicial Education Requirements as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code.

This seminar addressed topics such as Judicial Ethics, New Legislation, Traffic Laws, Inquests, Family Violence, Country Courts, Deferred Disposition, Landlord Tenant Issues, Hot Checks, Probable Cause Search and Arrest Warrants, Juvenile Law, School and Criminal Issues and Legal Research.

AMARILLO — Amarillo College announced 178 students graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2002 semester. These students will be recognized during commencement ceremonies this spring.

Among those receiving diplomas are Melissa A Carroll, associate of applied science degree, and Teresa M. Howard, certificate of completion, both of Pampa.

CANYON — Cara Swart, daughter of Ron and Kay Swart of Miami, was listed on the Dean's List for the fall 2002 semester at West Texas A&M University.

Swart was also among 52 students named for inclusion in the 2003 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." A member of Zeta Tau Alpha, she was recently elected panhellenic president for 2003.

She is the granddaughter of Cecil and Marie Gill of Miami.

(See NEWSMAKERS, Page 16)

A Gray County Original

BY SKYLA BRYANT
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Jeanette L. Fish, a colorful and vibrant 69-year-old Gray Countian, has been a bank teller, a secretary, a medical claims employee, a lab employee, a nurse, an editor, a writer, and a business owner.

Born July 17, 1933, in Dallas, Jeanette first came to the area in 1945 when her father L.P. Fort took a job as manager of what was then the unemployment office in Pampa. The family moved to Alanreed in 1948 so Mr. Fort could pastor the Baptist church there.

While at Alanreed, Jeanette met and married her husband, Sanford Cletis "Bob" Fish and went on to finish her high school education, receiving her diploma from Alanreed High in 1950.

"During my junior year, I met Bob. We had a skating rink for the seniors — you know, the seniors ran it — and, my mother told me, she said, 'You know, living up on that other hill there's three bachelor brothers named Fish, and they live with their parents.' And she said every time she cooks for them she cooks them a fried chicken apiece because they each one could eat a whole chicken!"

Bob and his brothers were farmers in and around the area.

The couple were married Dec. 12, 1949, at Groom and had three children — a daughter Lynn and two sons, Joe and Dan.

"People here were just shocked that one

of the Fish boys was getting married! We had a huge wedding shower the month after we married at the Alanreed gym, and there was a 103 people there," Jeannette remembered.

The couple moved from Alanreed to Lefors in 1954 so Bob could work at the nearby carbon black plant. In 1963, Jeanette edited the "Lefors Progress News." After the carbon black plant shut down in 1964, they picked up their lives and started anew in Los Angeles, Calif.

Jeanette first sought employment at a bank in Hollywood and within six months was chief teller.

"I had never had a job, so my first job was working at a bank in Hollywood for two years. My boss said, 'You ain't much, honey, but, you're here every day, so I got promoted, and in six months I was the chief teller.'"

After two years, she moved on and took a job in the medical claims department of Travelers Insurance in Encino.

"Then I quit Travelers and I worked in Beverly Hills for two years in a laboratory — I did accounts receivable and accounts payable."

Two years seemed to be her lucky number.

"If I got tired of it, I thought, 'I'm not always going to stay in California, so I'm going to try all these things.' So I had several jobs, but the main thing I did was I went to nursing school at

Los Angeles Valley College. I got a lot of experience working in ICU and in a burn unit."

Jeanette enrolled in Los Angeles Valley College in the early 1970s, earning a licensed vocational nursing degree and eventually obtaining her status as a registered nurse.

She recalls working in several different hospitals in California.

"My boss said, 'You ain't much, honey, but, you're here every day,' so I got promoted, and in six months I was the chief teller."
—Jeanette Fish

"They have about 50 within about 20 miles," she explained. "There are lots of hospitals there."

She and her husband returned to Gray County in 1978. In 1992, they established McLean Home Health Agency.

In the interim, she worked at McLean Hospital, was transferred after it closed to Highland General in Pampa, and ended up at Northwest Texas Hospital (NWTX) in Amarillo.

She was a weekend charge nurse for Northwest at the Pavilion and worked in the intensive care unit before that.

"I said if I had it to do over I would have been a psychiatric nurse," Jeanette observed. "I did that for a year-and-a-half. I was the weekend charge nurse on the unit."

At the time the agency in McLean was established, Jeanette served as administrator for several years then gradually took a less active role, answering the phone and taking reports on the weekend. Now she is a consultant with the agency, but intends to begin taking weekend calls again soon.

A former member of Panhandle Pen Women, she pursued her writing by publishing "The Alanreed-McLean-Lefors News" prior to creating the home health agency. The paper took in 600 subscribers.

"I did everything — pictures, stories, typing, layout. I covered three towns, and I wrote all the stories," she commented. "It was just fun to do. I got to write about things I wanted to write about."

She published once every three months and said her husband, her sole employee, was in charge of deliveries.

Bob passed away in March of this year, and Jeanette currently resides in Alanreed.

She reads about four books a week and says her favorite author is Somerset Maugham.

When asked if she still writes, she said her daughter makes her keep a journal.

"Lynn always keeps me in blank journals. She said, 'You need to be doing nothing but writing.'"

Jeanette said it is important to write things down, to capture for the future a fraction of the events, ideas, and activities that shape a lifetime and make us who we are.



Jeanette Fish, right, poses in nurses' whites, stethoscope draped about her neck, while on duty at one of the many hospitals where she worked during her years as a nurse.

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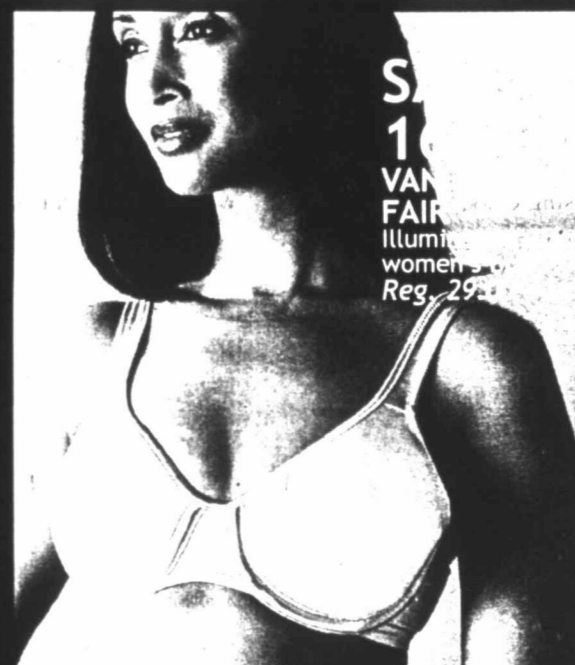
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LIFESTYLES

ANNIVERSARIES

Flynn anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Flynn of Pampa observed their 45th wedding anniversary Jan. 7, 2003.

Jimmy and Nora Flynn were married Jan. 7, 1958. They moved to Pampa three years ago and belong to Emanuel Baptist Church.

Mr. Flynn, a minister for 57 years, currently pastors at Emanuel Baptist.

Children of the couple are Ronnie Flynn of New Braunfels, Sharon Slocum of Canyon Lake, Gary Flynn of Austin, and Shannon Caddigan and Bryan Flynn, both of Illinois. They have eight grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Flynn

Laramore anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Laramore of Pampa celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 31, 2002, at Dyer's Bar-B-Que in Pampa with family and friends. Children of the couple hosted the event.

Blake Laramore and Billee Lue Kitchens were married Dec. 30, 1942, at the Assembly of God Church in Pampa. They have been residents of Pampa for the past 60 years.

After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps for 3 1/2 years, Blake returned home to Pampa in 1946 where he owned and operated a grocery store, a meat market, and a meat packing plant until 1980 when he began selling Fund Raising Chocolate.

In 1995, he formed a fund-raising company known as Blake's Fund Services which he operates today.



Mr. and Mrs. Blake Laramore

Mrs. Laramore taught private piano lessons and also worked in her husband's businesses.

Children of the couple are Gary B. Laramore of Panhandle and Karan L. Cross

of Pampa. They have three grandchildren, Preston Cross of Surprise, Ariz., Kerri Cross Harris of Pampa, and Gary Blake Laramore, Jr. of Panhandle. They also have four great-grandchildren.

ENGAGEMENTS

Lee-Bolz

Christi Michelle Lee and Joel Shawn Bolz of Amarillo plan to wed Feb. 8, 2003, at First Christian Church in Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Julie and Doug Breuer and Jim Lee, all of Pampa. She is currently pursuing a degree in pre-medicine and works as a patient account representative for Dr. Eric Cox of Amarillo.

The prospective groom is the son of James and Vickie Bolz of Pampa. He will graduate from Amarillo College with an associate of applied science degree in May 2003 and plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. He is



Joel Shawn Bolz and Christi Michelle Lee presently employed as a Communications, Inc., in draftsman with Vitel Amarillo.

MENUS

WEEK OF JANUARY 13-17

Pampa Schools	Senior Citizens
MONDAY Breakfast: Pancakes. Lunch: Fish strips or chicken nuggets, potatoes, blackeyed peas, pears, rolls.	MONDAY Chicken fried steak or chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, spinach, beets, northern beans, orange pound cake or chocolate pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
TUESDAY Breakfast: Yogurt, toast. Lunch: Sub sandwiches or macaroni/cheese, tomato soup, lettuce/tomatoes, fruit.	TUESDAY Corned beef/cabbage or chicken leg quarters, onion potatoes, broccoli/cheese, squash, blackeyed peas/snaps, ugly duckling cake or pineapple squares, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Danish rolls. Lunch: Pizza dippers or chef salad, green beans, salad, mixed fruit.	WEDNESDAY Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, succotash, cheese grits, butter beans, strawberry shortcake or blueberry cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
THURSDAY Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, biscuits, sausage. Lunch: Cheeseburger pockets or hot dogs/chili, French fries, English peas, apricot blooming cake.	THURSDAY Chicken strips or hamburger steak/onion gravy, cheese potatoes, California blend, corn, pinto beans, hurricane cake or coconut cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
FRIDAY Breakfast: Cereal, toast. Lunch: Bean/cheese burritos or pizza, corn, salad, applesauce.	FRIDAY Catfish/hushpuppies or burritos/chili/cheese, potato wedges, Spanish rice, beans, devilsfood cake or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic toast, hot rolls, jalapeno cornbread, or cornbread.
Lefors Schools	Meals On Wheels
MONDAY Breakfast: Breakfast pockets, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken teriyaki or egg rolls, rice, mixed vegetables, salad, fruit, milk.	MONDAY Steak fingers, gravy, mashed potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, cookies.
TUESDAY Breakfast: Hot or cold cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: Lasagna or chicken nuggets, peas, garlic toast, salad, fruit, milk.	TUESDAY Hamburgers, tater tots, jello.
WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Waffles, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: Hot pockets or tacos, corn, salad, fruit, milk.	WEDNESDAY Mexican casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, cake.
THURSDAY Breakfast: Pop Tarts, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: Barbecue chicken or mini corn dogs, beans, coleslaw, potato salad, salad, fruit, milk.	THURSDAY Sausage spaghetti, green beans, pickled beets, applesauce.
FRIDAY Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: Pizza or chicken patties, salad,	FRIDAY Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, asparagus, graham crackers.

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.

CattleWomen

Top O' Texas CattleWomen met Dec. 2, 2002, at Cattle Exchange Restaurant in Canadian.

A new slate of officers was installed during the meeting. The new officers are: Liz Austin, president; Berkley Clements, first vice president; Julie Watkins, second vice president; Dianne Buckingham, treasurer; and Sandra Christner, secretary. Present were Glenda Adcock,

Austin, Lilith Brainard, Amy Brainard, Sena Brainard, Anita-Brown, Buckingham, Clements, Christner, Janet Parnell, Margaret Tolbert, Kay Stiles, Watkins, and Pat Youngblood.

The next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m., Jan. 13 at Cowboy Oasis Restaurant in Mobeetie.

GCAP

Gray County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies met in November at the Medical Office Building of Pampa Regional Medical Center with Joan Gray presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.
—Erin Fairfield of Early Childhood Intervention did not

give her program due to illness.

—Karen Keith discussed the Southern Living Party Fund-raiser.

—Judith Loyd gave the Vista Report. A card and gift will be sent to Kevin Wade in appreciation of his work with the Baby's Coming Shower.

—Susan Presson from the Women's Health Clinic recently delivered a radio presentation and Gray is scheduled to be on-air in February.

The next meeting will be from 12-1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17, in the second-floor conference room, MOB, PRMC.



by Otoniel Huertas, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

STRESS AND INFERTILITY

Functional hypothalamic amenorrhea (FHA) is a condition that links stress and fertility. This condition is characterized by the lack of a menstrual cycle, or a highly erratic cycle, in women in their childbearing years. FHA occurs when the brain and body hormones go out of sync, resulting in curtailed ovulation and a compromised reproductive system that may bring infertility. When no physiological cause for this problem can be found, stress is often revealed as the culprit. Stress-induced infertility, ironically, may affect women who are stressed about trying to get pregnant. The good news is that classic stress-reduction techniques have shown themselves to be effective in stabilizing hormonal activity and returning menstrual cycles to normal.



Dr. Huertas

If you have been attempting to conceive for some time (usually a year or more) without success, ask your gynecologist about doing a fertility workup. If you are well into your thirties, you may be wise to start thinking about checking on your fertility after only six months of trying. For an appointment for your obstetrical and gynecological care, phone my office at (806) 273-7771. We are located 106 S. Bryan. Berger New patients are welcome.

P.S. Without Realizing it, women can be susceptible to the effects of even small stresses, which may accumulate to affect the menstrual cycle.

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Quilt program provides blankets for needy children

By KELLY PREW
THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — What do you get the avid quilter who has everything? You give them a hug.

In December, members of the Tall Pines Quilt Guild gave their president, Nina Molitor, the symbolic scissors, engraved with the guild name at their Christmas party. They gave her a specialty basket and then gave her a gift she will not soon forget.

The lady in charge of gift giving says, "I have one more thing for you. I've got a hug for you." She reached over and handed me a hug and hugged me," Molitor recalled. "Then, the next one got up and gave me a hug, then the next one and the next, and I was crying. So, 35 hugs and quilts later, I was a very happy camper overpowered with emotion."

The hugs are actually quilts created as part of Molitor's Quilted Hugs: Comfy Quilts for Children in Crisis program. Since October 2000, Molitor has generated more than 300 quilts with the help of Tall Pines Quilt Guild members, the Presbyterian Women's Club, Carriage Inn volunteers and others.

Each quilt serves as a security blanket of sorts, helping abused or neglected

children or children in emergency situations have something to hold onto.

The Presbyterian group gave 27 hugs, and Molitor says they usually produce that many every six months.

"They had been sending them to (another organization) which is way out of town, but when they heard about (Quilted Hugs), they said they would rather the quilts stay local, so they joined up with us," she said.

News of the program has triggered responses from several organizations and community members since its conception, a process Molitor describes as God sent.

"I was online, with an online quilt guild before I was with the local guild. One of them was a traveling nurse, and she happened to be in the Appalachian Mountain area while we were chatting," she explained.

The nurse said she would like to be able to provide children in poverty and crisis situations with quilts and blankets they might need and asked Molitor if she had any ideas. Molitor, unfortunately, drew a blank.

"So, we chatted along and I signed off. And, at 5 in the morning, it was like BING. I woke straight up. It all popped into my head. It was a God thing all of it, exactly

how to get (the quilts) to people in this area, the whole spiel, calling it Quilted Hugs: Comfy Quilts for Children in Crisis," she said.

A newspaper article about a program where the Walker County Sheriff's Office keeps teddy bears in its cruisers for emergency situations was a stepping stone for Molitor's project. Ideas came quickly and she worked all morning.

"I thought, if they give out bears, they could probably use quilts for those children," she said. "I had it all planned out by 8 a.m. I had to wait til 8:30 for someone to open up."

Molitor called law enforcement offices and Child Protective Services in and around Walker County and was met with a good response. It was then that her goal was set: to keep up with the smaller counties in the area.

"Our goal is to cover the children in the smaller counties that fall through the cracks," she said.

"So I asked (each organization) about how many quilts could they use in a month. I had (an order) for 100 quilts and not one quilt to my name," she said. "I asked, 'God, what do I do?' Then people started calling me."

One call that morning was

to the juvenile probation department in Trinity. Maria Renshaw, an adult officer for Trinity County Community Supervision and Corrections answered the phone and got an answer to her prayer.

"We have a CPS worker who had to remove a child from a home. She did not have a blanket or anything. She found some rags in her trunk and wrapped the child in those," Renshaw recalled.

"I said, 'I just hope and pray we can find someone who could make us some quilts or blankets.' Not a week later, this angel Nina Molitor called us and told us about the Quilted Hugs project. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, God answers prayers.' A month later, she was dropping off about 30 quilts."

Renshaw said her department has definitely used the quilts in the offices, sheriff's cruisers and in the Rainbow Room, the Children's Advocacy Center for Houston and Trinity counties.

She said the Rainbow Room stocks clothing and necessities for children who are removed from physically abusive or sexually abusive situations.

"Whenever there is a child taken from a home, it's immediate. We try to keep quilts there for them. It gives them something to hold, clutch onto," Renshaw said. Molitor says her greatest

joy is delivering the hugs.

"It's just wonderful because there are children out there and they are abused and sexually abused and neglected. Some of them leave home with what they have on their backs," she said. "They're very frightened and I can't help them. There are people out there their job is to help these children, and thank God we have them. What I figured was the best we could do is hug them with a quilt."

Molitor originally took her plight and her idea to the Tall Pines Guild to solicit help, and many members jumped on board with the project.

Quilted Hugs have been delivered to the Huntsville Police Department, the WCSO, the Trinity County Sheriff's Office, local Department of Public Safety offices, the Crown of Texas Hospice, the SAAFE House, Huntsville Memorial Hospital and other groups dealing with child welfare.

"It just fell into place. Then the fabric started arriving. People started giving me fabric, and people were giving me batting. Then, all the quilt guild had to do was put them together."

Now, residents at Carriage Inn help tie quilts together in an effort to further the program as a community project, a goal Molitor says has been reached with Quilted Hugs.

"It's gone from me making them to the whole community making them," she said. "More and more people are getting involved and more of the community is getting involved."

Now more than 100 volunteers from all areas of the community have pitched in to make quilts.

Donations of quilting supplies and materials have come from all over the area, peoples personal collections of scrap fabric and the donation of sewing machines from local estates.

"I have people approach me to give money, but I'm just not set up for that," she said.

Molitor said everything donated is put to good use. The hugs are made from 100 percent cotton because they tend to last longer, but double knit fabrics are donated to a home for the mentally challenged near Katy. There, rugs are made from the fabrics.

"Everything I get in goes someplace," she said.

So far, Molitor's Quilted Hugs project has spurred similar projects in Madisonville and Livingston.

"There are a lot of these types of projects going on around the country," she said. "I'm not the only one doing this. It's just that God gave me this project to do for these children in this area."

Distributed by The Associated Press

MS planning 20th annual 'Bridal Benefit'

AMARILLO — The 20th Annual Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Bridal Show will be staged from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 19, at Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza in Amarillo.

Couples planning a wedding won't want to miss this opportunity to visit with bridal-related merchants and consultants.

"This is the perfect oppor-

tunity for couples to get planning ideas for their wedding and see all of the products and services our area merchants have to offer," says Jeri Farris, president of Panhandle MS Chapter. "The event has become the largest of its kind in the Panhandle Area with over 1,000 attendees and 50-plus merchants under one roof."

The benefit will feature continuous modeling of bridal and formal wear fashions, chamber music courtesy of Conspiracy String Quartet, a guest appearance by Miss Amarillo Area, games, door prizes, and a silent auction.

The fund-raiser is being sponsored by Gingiss Formalwear, Amarillo Globe News, Clear Channel Radio, and KAMR TV. Admission tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$5 per person. Proceeds will benefit the MS Society.

New exhibits opening at AMA

AMARILLO — On Sunday, Jan. 19, three new exhibits will open at Amarillo Museum of Art (AMA) — "Joseph Marioni: Iro," "Burgoyne Diller: The Late Drawings," and "John Sloan and Friends."

A members-only reception and gallery talk will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 18 with artist Joseph Marioni as guest lecturer.

The work of Marioni will be showcased in his "Iro" exhibit. Marioni — said to be among the nation's leading proponents of monochrome painting — lives and paints in New York City where he has resided for 25 years.

Because his work is

closely aligned with Eastern philosophical concerns, a group of Southeast Asian sculptures will share gallery space with Marioni's paintings.

As a complementary exhibition to "Joseph Marioni: Iro," the Diller drawings were organized by Philip Van Keuren, director of Pollock Gallery, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, in cooperation with Michael Rosenfeld Gallery in New York.

Diller's body of avant-garde work, including paintings, drawings, sculpture, and reliefs, has been shown internationally. He is represented in numerous

museum collections — in the Art Institute of Chicago, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art.

"John Sloan and Friends" will feature works from AMA's permanent collection by artists associated with Sloan's New Mexico and New York art world such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Rockwell Kent and Alfred Steiglitz. The central piece, "Burros Threshing," has been promised to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ladd.

The exhibits will be on view through March 2 and will be open to the public free of charge.

CONTINUED FROM COMMUNITY PAGE

NEWSMAKER

CLARENDON — Clarendon College recently announced students named to its President's and Dean's lists for the 2002 fall semester.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 or better grade point average while enrolled full-time at CC. Students named to the list include: Connie Dvorak, Lowell Long, Patricia Richey, Amy

Saxour, and Gary Tabor, all of Pampa; Betty Chapman of Wheeler; Shaun Crawford of McLean; and Michael Hilburn of Mobeetie.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.6 or better GPA while enrolled full-time at CC. Students named to the list include: Karry Bennett, Shyla Brown, Jennifer Lindsey, Sabine Long, Stefanie Payne, Kristina Porter, and Keely Symons, all of Pampa; Cami Ellison of Wheeler; Nikki Hefley of McLean; and Melody Kirkland of Shamrock.

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ENTERTAINMENT

BILLBOARD MUSIC CHARTS

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission. (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.):

BILLBOARD HOT 100: TOP 10

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)
1. "Lose Yourself," Eminem. Shady.
 2. "Work It," Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott. The Gold Mind.
 3. "Air Force Ones," Nelly feat. Kyjuan, Ali & Murphy Lee. Fo' Reel.
 4. "Bump, Bump, Bump," B2K & P. Diddy. Epic.
 5. "'03 Bonnie & Clyde," Jay-Z (feat. Beyonce Knowles). Roc-A-Fella.
 6. "Beautiful," Christina Aguilera. RCA.
 7. "Jenny From The Block," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Jadakiss & Styles). Epic.
 8. "Don't Mess With My Man," Nivea (feat. Brian & Brandon Casey). Jive.
 9. "Landslide," Dixie

- Chicks. Monument.
10. "The Game Of Love," Santana (feat. Michelle Branch). Arista.
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THE BILLBOARD 200 TOP ALBUMS: TOP 10

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
1. Soundtrack: "8 Mile." Shady. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
 2. "Come Away With Me," Norah Jones. Blue Note. (Platinum)
 3. "Let Go," Avril Lavigne. Arista. (Platinum)
 4. "Home," Dixie Chicks. Monument. (Platinum)
 5. "Stripped," Christina Aguilera. RCA. (Platinum)
 6. "This Is Me... Then," Jennifer Lopez. Epic.
 7. "Justified," Justin Timberlake. Jive/Zomba. (Platinum)
 8. "Up!", Shania Twain. Mercury. (Nashville).
 9. "I Care 4 U," Aaliyah. Blackground.
 10. "Now II," Various Artists. Universal/EMI/Zomba/Sony/UMI.
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HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Cry," Faith Hill. Warner Bros.
2. "Can't Stop Loving You," Phil Collins. Atlantic.
3. "A Thousand Miles," Vanessa Carlton. A&M.
4. "The Game Of Love," Santana (feat. Michelle Branch). Arista.
5. "A Moment Like This," Kelly Clarkson. RCA. (Gold)
6. "Landslide," Dixie Chicks. Monument.
7. "Soak Up The Sun," Sheryl Crow. A&M.
8. "Superman (It's Not Easy)," Five For Fighting. Aware.
9. "Hero," Enrique Iglesias. Interscope.
10. "Forever For You," Darryl Hall & John Oates. U-Watch.

TOP GOSPEL ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Rebirth Of Kirk Franklin," Kirk Franklin. Gospo Centric. (Gold)
2. "Incredible," Mary Mary. Columbia.
3. "Speak Those Things: POL Chapter 3," Fred Hammond. Verity.
4. "Blessed" By Association." John P. Kee & New Life. Verity.
5. "Bishop T.D. Jakes Presents: God's Leading Ladies," Various Artists. Dexterity Sounds.
6. "Family Affair II: Live At Radio City Music Hall," Hazekiah Walker & The Love Fellowship Crusade Choir. Verity.
7. "Believe," Yolanda Adams. Elektra. (Gold)

8. "The Kiss," Trin-i-tee 5:7. B-Rite.
9. "I Owe You The Praise," Georgia Mass Choir. Savoy.
10. "Praise Is What I Do," Shekinah Glory Ministry. Kingdom.

MAINSTREAM ROCK TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "When I'm Gone," 3 Doors Down. Republic.
2. "Always," Saliva. Island.
3. "Cochise," Audioslave. Interscope.
4. "The Red," Chevelle. Epic.
5. "All My Life," Foo Fighters. Roswell.
6. "Bother," Stone Sour (feat. Corey Taylor). Roadrunner.
7. "Fine Again," Seether. Wind-up.
8. "Prayer," Disturbed. Reprise.
9. "You Know You're Right," Nirvana. DGC.
10. "Weathered," Creed. Wind-up.

MODERN ROCK TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "All My Life," Foo Fighters. Roswell.
2. "Always," Saliva. Island.
3. "No One Knows," Queens Of The Stone Age. Interscope.
4. "The Red," Chevelle. Epic.
5. "When I'm Gone," 3 Doors Down. Republic.
6. "You Know You're Right," Nirvana. DGC.
7. "Fine Again," Seether. Wind-up.
8. "Honestly," Zwan. Reprise.
9. "Still Waiting," Sum 41. Island.
10. "Poem," Taproot. Velvet Hammer.

HOT COUNTRY SINGLES AND TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "19 Somethin'," Mark Wills. Mercury.
2. "She'll Leave You With A Smile," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
3. "Fall Into Me," Emerson Drive. DreamWorks.
4. "Who's Your Daddy?" Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
5. "These Days," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street.
6. "The Baby," Blake Shelton. Warner Bros.
7. "I Just Wanna Be Mad," Terri Clark. Mercury.
8. "A Lot Of Things Different," Kenny Chesney. BNA.
9. "Somebody Like You," Keith Urban. Capitol.

10. "You Can't Hide Beautiful," Aaron Lines. RCA. Copyright 2003, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Home," Dixie Chicks. Monument. (Platinum)
 2. "Up!", Shania Twain. Mercury (Nashville).
 3. "Elvis: 30 (No.) 1 Hits," Elvis Presley. RCA. (Platinum)
 4. "Tim McGraw And The Dancehall Doctors," Tim McGraw. Curb.
 5. "Cry," Faith Hill. Warner Bros. (Platinum)
 6. "Unleashed," Toby Keith. DreamWorks (Nashville). (Platinum)
 7. "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems," Kenny Chesney. BNA. (Platinum)
 8. "Melt," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street. (Platinum)
 9. "Drive," Alan Jackson. Arista Nashville. (Platinum)
 10. "Totally Country Vol. 2," Various Artists. Epic/WEA/Universal/RLG/Sony. (Gold)
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HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLES AND TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports and radio playlists)

1. "Love Of My Life (An Ode To Hip-Hop)," Erykah Badu (feat. Common). Fox.
 2. "Bump, Bump, Bump," B2K & P. Diddy. Epic.
 3. "Work It," Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott. The Gold Mind.
 4. "Air Force Ones," Nelly feat. Kyjuan, Ali & Murphy Lee. Fo' Reel.
 5. "Miss You," Aaliyah. Blackground.
 6. "I Should Be...," Dru Hill. Def Soul.
 7. "Fabulous," Jaheim (feat. Tha Rayne). Divine Mill.
 8. "Ignition," R. Kelly. Jive.
 9. "dontchange," Musiq. Def Soul.
 10. "Thugz Mansion," 2Pac. Amaru.
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TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "I Care 4 U," Aaliyah. Blackground.
2. "God's Son," Nas. Ill Will.
3. "Better Dayz," 2Pac. Amaru.
4. "Under Construction," Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott.

THE GOLD MIND. (Platinum)

5. Soundtrack: "8 Mile." Shady. (Platinum)
 6. "The Last Temptation," Ja Rule. Murder Inc. (Platinum)
 7. "I Wanna Go There," Tyrese. J.
 8. "Just Whitney...," Whitney Houston. Arista.
 9. "Pandemonium!", B2K. Epic.
 10. "The Blueprint 2: The Gift And The Curse," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella. (Platinum)
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HOT RAP TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled, and Provided by SoundScan)

1. "Work It," Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott. The Gold Mind.
 2. "Air Force Ones," Nelly feat. Kyjuan, Ali & Murphy Lee. Fo' Reel.
 3. "'03 Bonnie & Clyde," Jay-Z (feat. Beyonce Knowles). Roc-A-Fella.
 4. "Lose Yourself," Eminem. Shady.
 5. "Thugz Mansion," 2Pac. Amaru.
 6. "Mesmerize," Ja Rule (feat. Ashanti). Murder Inc.
 7. "When The Last Time," Clipse. Star Trak.
 8. "Wanksta," 50 Cent. G-Unit.
 9. "Satisfaction," Eve. Ruff Ryders.
 10. "Gimme The Light," Sean Paul. Black Shadow.
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HOT DANCE MUSIC CLUB PLAY

(Compiled from a national sample of dance club playlists)

1. "Like I Love You (Deep Dish & Basement Jaxx Remixes)," Justin Timberlake. Jive.
 2. "Some Lovin'," Murk vs. Kristine W. Tommy Boy Silver Label.
 3. "Surrender (Remixes)," Laura Pausini. Atlantic.
 4. "He Is (Remixes)," Heather Headley. RCA.
 5. "Dark Beat (Addicted 2 Drums)," Oscar G & Ralph Falcon. Twisted.
 6. "Hit The Freeway (Remixes)," Toni Braxton (feat. Loon). Arista.
 7. "Sorrow (Orange Factory & E-Smoove Remixes)," Dolcè. Tommy Boy Silver Label.
 8. "Head," Thunderpuss & Barnes. No Label.
 9. "Don't Leave Me This Way (e-n and Fribum & Urik Mixes)," e-n (feat. Ceevox). Star 69.
 10. "Love Revolution," Pat Hodges With the Sweet Inspirations. Frixion.
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HOT LATIN TRACKS

(Compiled from national Latin radio airplay reports)

1. "El Problema," Ricardo Arjona. Sony Discos.
 2. "Suena," Intocable. EMI Latin.
 3. "El Dolor De Tu Presencia," Jennifer Pena. Univision.
 4. "Quizas," Enrique Iglesias. Universal Latino.
 5. "No Me Ensenaste," Thalia. EMI Latin.
 6. "Es Por Ti," Juanes. Surco/Universal Latino.
 7. "Perdoname Mi Amor," Conjunto Primavera. Fonovisa.
 8. "Cuando Me Miras Asi," Cristian Ariola.
 9. "Que Me Quedes Tu," Shakira. Epic.
 10. "La Chica Sexy," Los Tucanes De Tijuana. Universal Latino.
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Consumer advocates wary of stores' insurance offerings

BY ANURADHA RAGHUNATHAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS — A loaf of bread and some car insurance, please.

As discount and convenience stores fashion themselves into one-stop shopping centers, they're hoping consumers will come to them with more than food and clothing needs.

You can already bank at the grocery store and trade stock at Target. Now some retailers are starting to offer auto insurance and more. It may soon get to the point where someone could handle all of their personal finance needs without leaving the strip mall.

"We want to make insurance convenient and readily available," says Les Schlesinger, president of Public Access Insurance, a Dallas-based company that has teamed up with both Circle K Co. and 7-Eleven Inc. to offer insurance, primarily to high-risk drivers.

But consumer advocates and some insurance industry executives say there is a downside to such convenience.

"This is a disincentive for consumers to shop around," says D.J. Powers of the Center for Economic Justice, which advocates for low-income insurance consumers. Insurance is a "big-ticket item" and consumers "should be calling around to get the best price," he says.

Auto insurance rates are determined by a variety of factors, from the driver's age to the number of at-fault accidents. Those factors put customers into three categories: preferred

(low-risk drivers), standard (moderate-risk) and nonstandard (high-risk). Companies use different guidelines for placing drivers in the categories.

Take a male driver 25 to 64 years old, with no at-fault accidents or major traffic convictions, who drives to and from work. The rates available to him for a one-year liability policy without collision and comprehensive coverage varied from \$429 to \$1,223 in Dallas County in August, according to the Texas Department of Insurance.

Consumer advocates say that when rates fluctuate so wildly, consumers are taking a big financial risk by not shopping around. And high-risk drivers targeted by the convenience store offerings, they say, often don't think they have much of a choice.

"Sometimes people think they are worse off than they are — they assume that they have terrible credit," said Rob Schneider of Consumers Union, a consumer support group. "If you walk in the wrong door, you are going to get a much higher rate."

Those offering the insurance say they provide a valuable service and plenty of choices.

The policies, available currently at 35 Circle K stores in Arizona and starting next spring at 7-Eleven stores, are offered through Public Access Insurance and Instant Auto Agency, both subsidiaries of Dallas-based Instant Insurance Holdings Inc. Instant Auto sells policies for several insurance companies.

Mr. Schlesinger of Public Access says his

products, which include 30-day and long-term auto policies, appeal to the uninsured and unbanked in Circle K and 7-Eleven's customer base.

Drivers are required to carry car insurance, but one out of five in Texas do not, industry experts say.

Mr. Schlesinger says his service, which allows payments in cash, will make it easier for those drivers to get insurance. Currently, 40 percent to 45 percent of Instant Auto's customers pay by cash, money order or wire transfer, he said.

"There is a group of people who have to pay by cash on a monthly basis," says Hamed Shabbazi, CEO of Info Touch Technologies Corp., which provides kiosk software. "What we are looking at doing is helping consumers take care of their most pressing financial errands at the convenience store."

But David VanDelinder, executive director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas, whose members could lose business to the kiosks, says the reasoning is flawed.

"The reason why someone is uninsured is not because it is inconvenient to get insurance," he said. "Sometimes it's a choice between putting food on the table and buying insurance."

At a 7-Eleven in North Dallas last week, customers were asked their opinions about the insurance offerings.

Victor Florio, who regularly uses the store's Vcom kiosk to cash checks, said he wasn't sure if the convenience would be enough to make him switch his insurance business.

Pamela Washington, who said she visits 7-Eleven to buy a Slurpee at least once a week, was surprised to hear that auto insurance would be available. Regardless, she said she will stick with her State Farm agent of 15 years.

"I know him, I trust him," she said. "Since I am already set up, I probably won't use this."

And customer Enrique Galindo said he might not consider the insurance if the rates are higher.

Insurance on the Spot

Here's how the process works: Customers walk up to a kiosk with a touch screen offering English and Spanish prompts. They enter basic information such as name, marital status, make and model of car, and vehicle identification number. The machine spits out a quote sheet. Customers can take the quote and the phone number and finish the process from home.

Or, if customers want insurance on the spot, they will be connected to an Instant Auto agent on the kiosk phone. If all goes well, the customers get temporary cards at the store, and the policies are mailed to their homes.

Some wonder if customers would be comfortable discussing auto insurance while someone is waiting behind them to use the ATM.

"How would you feel if there is a guy on a phone at the terminal for 10 minutes getting auto insurance?" said Mr. Shabbazi of Info

Touch.

His company provides kiosk software for Circle K. The Circle K stores have separate ATM terminals and auto insurance kiosks.

7-Eleven's kiosk offers ATM, check cashing, wire transfer and money order services all in one, and soon will offer auto insurance as well. 7-Eleven spokeswoman Margaret Chabris said executives are working to keep the auto insurance transaction time short so that lines do not get backed up.

Either way, Mr. VanDelinder said, "I don't think most people would be comfortable buying insurance standing at a 7-Eleven store. This is not a practical model."

Need for Foot Traffic

As financial services companies scout for more distribution channels, retailers have been seeking more revenue streams and more reasons to bring consumers into their stores.

Here's some of what's in place now:

— Through kiosks at 35 convenience stores in Phoenix, Circle K sells auto insurance, motorcycle insurance and auto policies for people traveling to Mexico. The company says it's considering expanding the program.

— Dallas-based 7-Eleven Inc., which already provides check-cashing, money-order and bill-pay services at its kiosks, says it will offer auto insurance in select stores in the second quarter of 2003.

— Target Corp., at whose stores you can buy stock at an ETrade Financial Zone, has a pilot project with Farmers Insurance Group to sell insurance at a SuperTarget in Indianapolis. Local Farmers agents take turns staffing the 440-square-foot office.

"It is just like walking into an agent's office," said Brie Heath, a Target spokeswoman. "You can get any type of insurance, just as you would get anywhere else."

Farmers, for its part, wants to attract Target's typical customer: a 44-year-old, college-educated stay-at-home mom with a household income of \$54,000 or more.

Some experts are skeptical about this business model, as well.

A Risk

Sears, Roebuck and Co. tried it as early as the 1930s when Allstate agents sold insurance at Sears stores. Sam's Club also has allowed insurance sales at its stores. Both retailers have dropped the arrangements.

"The reason why we left that path was to be closer to the communities we served," said Justin Schmitt, an Allstate spokesman. "We believe that our local neighborhood office is a better way to serve our customers."

As these rollouts move forward, marketing experts say success will depend on whether consumers feel comfortable shopping for insurance at a store where they also shop for milk.

"The retailers are at the racetrack making a bet," said Daniel J. Howard, chairman of the marketing department at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "This can increase traffic or it simply may not work."

Adventurers retrace Lewis & Clark expedition on its 200th anniversary

ON THE MISSOURI RIVER (AP) — With sunset light gleaming on his paddle, the young man in the old-fashioned military uniform pushes the canoe against a current as determined as the passing of time.

There's a camp knife at his waist, tucked into the red sash that is a sign of captain's rank — and the captain is smiling as he launches into an old boat song. It's one Lewis and Clark's crew might have sung when they passed this point near St. Louis.

"Haul away," he sings loudly to the rhythm of the stroke. "Haul away, boys ..." Bluffs thick with woods, like the ones they saw, swallow the sound.

Scott Mandrell, portraying Meriwether Lewis, has his height and the same dark hair flecked with gray. Most of all, he has the bearing of a leader — even though he knows it's going to be tricky to complete the job he and the other members of a living-history group are undertaking.

They plan to retrace the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during its bicentennial, which officially kicks off Saturday at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Virginia.

The all-but-impossible things Lewis and Clark did with their all-American band — a few dozen white men, a black slave, an American Indian woman and her infant, and the rest — have long inspired admiration; but on this 200th anniversary they're getting extra attention.

Millions are paying tribute to the Corps of Discovery, and in remarkable ways. Later this year, for instance, Mandrell plans to start on horseback from the White House and, with other members of his group, continue aboard boats and on foot, all the way to Oregon's Pacific coast, as the real Lewis and Clark did.

Even now, it's a long, arduous trip — and yet the physical rigors are only part of the challenge.

The hardest part, for all of us, may simply be remembering.

This was "our epic voyage," as historian Stephen Ambrose called it. How can we "remember" something so deeply absorbed in our national identity?

An incalculable part of what we are as a nation — of the size and strength we have and of the burdens we carry — followed, and to some extent flowed, from Lewis and Clark's long trip.

Before Lewis and Clark, European nations occupied parts of what would become the United States; it was by no means certain the narrow

string of states along the Atlantic coast would grow into a continental power. Before the explorers, some tribes they'd encounter had never met white people, with all that portended. Before them, no one from the United States had set foot in much of this vast land of plenty and of heartbreak. Their descriptions of inviting "bowling-green" plains, of "turrible" charging grizzlies, of mountains' majesty and the treacherous snowy passes where they nearly died helped establish a defining view of the West — and of America itself as an optimistic journey.

"No matter how often I return to it I'm struck again and again. 'How did these guys pull it off?' The ingenuity, the integrity, the doggedness," says Gary Moulton, a University of Nebraska professor who edited a 13-volume edition of Lewis and Clark's journals.

The clay of the nation was still wet then, barely a generation after the Revolution. Today, that clay has been molded into the shape of a superpower that endured civil war, world wars, terror attacks.

How can we "remember," when so much has changed?

As we take their route again, we find pavement and dammed streams. Still, we follow them, feeling the rivers' familiar draw, that defining American call to shake loose, to seek something better up ahead, to walk the boundaries of this land, now stretching sea to sea.

We follow them, remembering but asking ourselves: How did the big, new America turn out, anyway?

A park in Iowa, a county in Montana, a river in Oregon, dozens of schools and businesses: Namesakes are everywhere along the route. Lewis & Clark Pest Control Services in North Dakota. Lewis & Clark Theater Company in Nebraska.

In Idaho, not far from where the explorers first met the Nez Perce, that tribe's tongue is taught in the language lab of a college called Lewis and Clark.

So this is one way we

remember. There are many others.

At the spanking new, \$7 million Illinois historic site near where the explorers launched up the Missouri River, local development officials calculate that each Lewis and Clark tourist will spend \$146.

They're planning an extravaganza at a NASCAR track. Nonetheless, tourism director Doug Arnold cautions, "We're avoiding the word celebration."

That's because of Indian sensibilities. But many natives are energized, too, hoping to present a non-Hollywood picture of their heritage.

Tribal storytellers are getting ready, their themes: land, loss, survival.

"There came a point in our history ... when our land became desirable" to outsiders, says Rose Ann Abrahamson, a Lemhi Shoshone who teaches school near the Idaho-Montana line, where the expedition might well have failed or even perished without help.

There, Sacagawea, the young Shoshone woman who made the trip, fortuitously met her brother, a chief, and helped secure horses and guidance as winter bore down.

The Lewis and Clark hoopla has helped leverage long-sought funds for a commemorative center, says Abrahamson, a descendant of the chief. It's a way of guaranteeing tribal members jobs, land and a chance to preserve their history.

At a river bluff encampment of Discovery Expedition, members of the St. Charles, Mo.-based re-enactment group talk about the difficulties of maneuvering replica boats and about friendships they've made.

Mandrell, a schoolteacher trained in drama and a former military officer, tells of the personal expedition he's making through Lewis.

"I'm a greater patriot than I was, and patriotism doesn't mean the same to me," he says. "It's not, 'My country, right or wrong.' It's, 'My country — make it the way it should be.'"

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

T Z S Z V V H G V Z B O I M

J Z H M I M H G Z C L O B B S Z V

R C X X M M T — N M Z H N M

K M H S P H T R D P L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN'T HELP GETTING OLDER, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET OLD. — GEORGE BURNS

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids addressed to the City of Pampa, Texas, will be received at the Office of the City Secretary, P. O. Box 2499, Pampa, Texas 79066-2499, until 2:00 p.m., February 4, 2003, for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendency and labor for "SEAL COATING STREETS, 2003" on approximately 136,700 sq yards of principally residential streets. Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "SEAL COATING STREETS BID ENCLOSED, BID NO. 02 02 F" and show day and time of bid opening. Facsimile bids will not be accepted. The City Commission will award the seal coating project during the February 11, 2003 Commission Meeting. Bidders shall submit their bids on the form attached to the Specifications and must submit therewith a Cashier's or Certified check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Bid Bond payable without recourse to the order of the City of Pampa, in an amount not less than 5% of the bid submitted on the project as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds on the form provided within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. The successful Bidder must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds on the forms attached to the Specifications in the amount of 100% of the total contract price from a Surety Company approved by the Owner holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. All lump sum and unit prices must be stated in

Public Notice

Richard Peet
Gray County Judge
B-84 Jan 5, 12, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., January 20, 2003, for Wireless Network for Community Network. For specifications or additional information please call Anita Patterson, Purchasing Director, or Lee Carter, Technology Coordinator at (806) 669-4707.
B-89 Jan 10, 12, 2002

Public Notice

The Pampa Independent School District is seeking to hire an architect with experience and qualifications to design and oversee the construction of a girls' soft pitch softball complex. Interested architects need to call Anita Patterson, Purchasing Director, at (806) 669-4700, to schedule a presentation for Wednesday, January 29, 2003.
B-88 Jan 10, 12, 2003

3 Personal

BEAUTICONTROL Cosmetics sales, service, makeovers. Lynn Allison 1304 Christine. 669-3848.

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

1 Public Notice

both script and figures. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive informalities and technicalities. In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating the prices in the bids, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions under which the work is to be done. The contractor shall comply with all State and Federal regulations wages and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, these rules and regulations set forth or referred to in the Specifications. Bids will be opened in City Commission Chamber (Third Floor City Hall) Information for Bidders, Bid Forms, Specifications and Plans are on file with the City Purchasing Agent's Office (Third Floor, Susan Crane 806-669-5730, City Hall), 200 West Foster, Pampa, Texas 79065. No charge for plans and specifications to qualified bidders.

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Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

MEGAN'S (formerly Hardee's) is taking applications for all positions.

Apply in person at 2505 Perryton Parkway, Pampa.

EDWARD Abraham Memorial is now hiring for the position of cook.

Apply at 803 Birch, Canadian, or call Lee Anne at 323-6453 ext. 109.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE: All ads that contain phone numbers or give reference to a number with an area code of 809 or a prefix of 011 are international toll numbers and you will be charged international long distance rates.

For more information and assistance regarding the investigation of work at home opportunities and job lists, *The Pampa News* urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau of South Texas, 609 S. International Blvd., Weslaco, Tx. 78596, (210) 968-3678.

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large garage/w

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bookcase, Rite

shower and sepa

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living areas an

bedrooms, 3 ba

on second floor,

old billiards ta

city lots w/very n

area. MLS 5959.

WALNUT DRIVE -

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patios, woodbur

Utility has iron

entertainment c

breakfast area,

o garage. MLS 584

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deck, large st

fireplace. MLS 59

PRICE REDUCED

home with den.

Two baths, overs

ORAPE - This tl

completely redoi

fireplace, new l

breakfast area, d

EVERGREEN - Ni

room with ball

additional bedro

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garage. MLS 592

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patio, extra stor

central heat and

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69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

69 Misc.

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GRAPES - This three bedroom home has been completely redone. Two living areas. Two baths, fireplace, new floors, new cabinets, new tile, breakfast area, double garage. MLS.
EVERGREEN - Nice home on corner lot. Guest room with bath with side entrance. Three additional bedrooms plus 1 3/4 & 1/2 baths. Good storage. Seller states hardwood floors under carpeting. 2 living areas. Large sunroom. Double garage. MLS 5925.
DOGWOOD - Three bedroom split-level. 2.5 baths home. Dining-den combination, formal living area, patio, extra storage in double garage. Fireplace, central heat and air. MLS.
EVERGREEN - Good neighborhood with lots of possibilities. Formal living room opens into den with woodburning fireplace. Three bedrooms, utility room, double garage. MLS 5946.
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CHEROKEE - Well cared for home with great curb appeal. Large living room with woodburning fireplace. Three bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths. Above ground pool and storage building in back yard, double garage. MLS.
N. CHRISTY - Nice well kept home. Three bedrooms, nice carpet, patio. Central heat and air. Large living area. Large storage closet in garage. MLS 5823.
N. CHRISTY - Beautiful three bedroom home with isolated master. Great living area is open with woodburning fireplace, built-in shelves and indirect lighting. New tile in kitchen and dining area. Covered patio off house and large storage building with another covered patio. Sprinkler system front and back. Double garage. MLS 5902.
CHEROKEE - Light and bright well kept home. Painted walls and woodwork. Fireplace with bookcases. Breakfast bar in kitchen. Large patio, good storage building, siding on eaves, three bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, double garage. MLS 5835.
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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Jan. 13, 2003:
Carefully consider your options surrounding your personal and professional lives. Even if you have a good job and make money, if you're unhappy every day going to work, think again. Perhaps a change in career might be long overdue. Be honest with yourself. Work on the quality of your life and be willing to make needed changes. If you are single, you might meet someone through a friend—but discover this person isn't exactly what you thought he or she might be. Know when to cut your losses! In the second part of your year, you will most likely meet someone quite special and very different. If you are attached, work more as a team, openly airing out differences in your points of view. Remember, you can agree to disagree. What might be a problem could be holding back. GEMINI likes working with you.
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)
*** Your attempts to clear the air have the opposite effect. They fuel the fire! Tempers seem to have a life of their own — difficult to tame down in any way, shape or form. Lighten up rather than becoming involved in the warfare. Refuse to get yourself cornered in a position. Tonight: Hang out.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Dealing with the basics could take unusual skill and precision. How you feel about someone's abilities comes out whether you so choose or not. Loosen up with a loved one or difficult associate who might be on the warpath. Tonight: Your treat.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Your strong personality attracts many. How you decide to deal with someone could change substantially with some knowledge and conversation. Others seek you out, but not exactly from a peaceful point of view. Tonight: Understand the possibilities through the uproar.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Your ability to traverse boundaries might be tested. Just because you see something one way, doesn't mean that someone else does. Discussions could be animated, to say the least. Keep more of your opinions to yourself. Tonight: Do something on your own.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** You might shake your head at the differences of opinion. Isn't this what makes the world go 'round? Pressure builds within a personal relationship, irritating everyone concerned. Don't get into a disagreement. Tonight: Seek a vision, please.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Take charge when others back off. If you do get flack from a family member, realize just how much you're desired by this person. Laughter helps heal the most difficult situations, but here sensitivity fits the bill. Tonight: Could be a late night.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** You mean well, but somehow your words become far more controversial than you intend. Know when to pull back and let others diffuse their anger. Detach and take an overview. Success follows those who do detach. Tonight: Surf the Net.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** You might use spending to assuage your upset over a personal or difficult issue. Please don't — for your own sake. Hash out a problem from the very beginning. Solutions appear for

those who want them; otherwise, uproar ensues. Tonight: Let an associate lay down his or her cards.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** You might want and need to defer to someone close, yet you might be pushed to the limit dealing with those around you. Be careful, because if you lose your temper, you might choose to say something you would prefer not to. Tonight: Go along with another's wishes.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** Don't allow someone to trigger you when you would prefer to do nothing and simply hang loose. Your ability to read between the lines makes a huge difference in your perspective and the resulting actions. Actions count. Tonight: Work off steam at the gym.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Allow your imagination to come forward, drawing forth more of what is important to you personally. Sometimes you get so wound up in others' tales that you have difficulty pulling out. Review your priorities. Tonight: Be with the one you love.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** Understand what might be ailing a boss, and you'll get past an immediate problem. Think through differences, though know when to defer. Tempers at the workplace might make you feel most uncomfortable. Still, you'll persevere. Tonight: Run home. Turn on your answering machine.
BORN TODAY
Actor Richard Moll (1943), NFL defensive end Dan Footman (1969), actor Kevin Anderson (1960)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Regional summits in offing

LUBBOCK — South Plains producers will be able to update their crop production, marketing, and management skills, and learn more about irrigation, fertility, pest management, and farm legislation at several upcoming regional Texas Cooperative Extension agriculture conferences slated in January and February.

"Our regional agriculture conferences are designed to provide farmers the latest information on ways to improve their operations," said Jett Major, Texas Cooperative Extension district director for agriculture on the South Plains. "The information presented at each conference is designed to help producers in that region or county."

Producers can also earn continuing education units (CEUs) for private and commercial applicator licenses at these regional conferences.

This year's conference dates and locations are:

•Jan. 14 - West Plains Ag Conference at the Morton Community Building in Morton. Conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. Call Hockley County Extension office at (806) 897-3159 for more details.

•Jan. 20 - Southern Mesa Ag Conference at the Dawson County Annex Building (609 North 1st) in Lamesa, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration costs \$15 per person before Jan. 16 and \$20 at the door, five CEUs will be offered. Call Dawson County Extension office at (806) 872-3444 for more details.

•Jan. 21 - Llano Cotton Conference at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe. Conference will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Call Bailey County Extension office at (806-2724584) for more details.

•Jan. 22 - Caprock Cotton Conference at Plains Baptist Assembly south of Floydada will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with at least three CEUs offered. Call Floyd County Extension office at (806) 983-4912 or Crosby County Extension office at (806) 675-2347 for more details.

•Jan. 22 - Terry County Ag Conference & Trade Show at the Nikki Vinson Youth Center (110 East Hill Street) in Brownfield will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., with three CEUs offered. Call Terry County Extension office at (806) 637-4060 for details.

•Jan. 23 - Hale and Swisher County Cotton Conference at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview. Registration will get under way at 8:30 a.m. Call the Hale County Extension office at (806) 291-5267 or the Swisher County Extension office at (806) 995-3726 for more details.

•Feb. 5 - Sandyland Ag Conference at Gaines County Community Building in Seminole. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Call Gaines County Extension office at (915) 758-4006 for more details.

Farm Scene: Number of North Dakota hog farms at record low

BY DAVE KOLPACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The number of hog farms in North Dakota is at a record low, but some producers say there is reason to hope for a turnaround.

Dave Fredrickson, manager of Prairie Pork LLP in Crosby, says his company's production contracts extend into April, and prices have shown a steady increase.

"I'm real optimistic," Fredrickson said.

It will take more than optimism for some independent producers to stay in business, said Charlotte Meier, state executive of the North Dakota Pork Producers. The state has lost about 400 producers since hog prices reached Depression-era depths in 1999 and 2000, she said. About 100 farmers left the business last year.

"The biggest problem is having market access," Meier said. "We need more independent packing plants that can help out the small independent producer."

Doug Zacher, 31, who farms near Elgin, said he keeps between 200 and 300 hogs on hand, mainly to supplement his income. Most of his money is made on beef cattle and wheat, he said.

"What it comes down to is that I like raising hogs," Zacher said.

Zacher sells a lot of his pigs to friends, neighbors and visitors — mostly hunters, who have become regular customers. He also gets the animals butchered locally, which saves him trucking costs.

He does some advertising, but most of his sales are through word of mouth, he said.

Zacher said even though prices have been "pretty rough" for a long time, he is hopeful for a rebound.

"I'll probably still keep (raising hogs) no matter what happens," he said.

Meier said most farmers who have given up on hogs had small operations, mostly in the range of about 10 sows. The remaining producers, about 600 in all, are holding their own, she said.

"I understand they are doing as best as they can be," Meier said. "At the current time, they know they are still able to stay in business, so they are riding the low prices."

Jim and Jody Hauge, who farm near Carson, gave up on their hog operation a couple of years ago, mainly because they had trouble finding workers and because their cattle operation took most of their time.

"That's not to say that times aren't tough because they are," Jody Hauge said.

There are about 58.9 million hogs and pigs nationwide, a drop of about 1 percent in the past year, according to the Agriculture Department.

Meier said the reduction in hog herds could boost prices. Some analysts believe the drop-off likely will increase the cost of pork in grocery stores, and producers should see profits by May or June.

The number of hogs and pigs in North Dakota on Dec. 1, 2002, totaled 154,000, unchanged from the previous year's record low, according to the state Agricultural Statistics Service. Meier said that could be a good sign.

"At least we may have stabilized a little bit," she said. "Perhaps we aren't going to lose any more producers than we already have."

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Residents of north and central Florida survived a brush with near-freezing temperatures — and, for the most part, so did the state's crops.

Some areas dipped into the low 20s early Wednesday, and freezing temperatures were recorded as far south as Lakeland in central Florida, the National Weather Service

said. But the frigid front moved out quickly, and overnight lows early Thursday were expected to be at least 10 degrees warmer in most places.

"These temperatures weren't cold enough for long enough to cause any major problems," said Frank Alsheimer, a meteorologist in the weather service's Ruskin office.

Ila Allen, spokeswoman for the Florida Strawberry Growers Association, said most growers ran their overhead sprinklers to encase their fruit and blooms in ice, which keeps them from dipping below the freezing mark.

"From the growers we talked to, everybody seemed to fare pretty well," Allen said.

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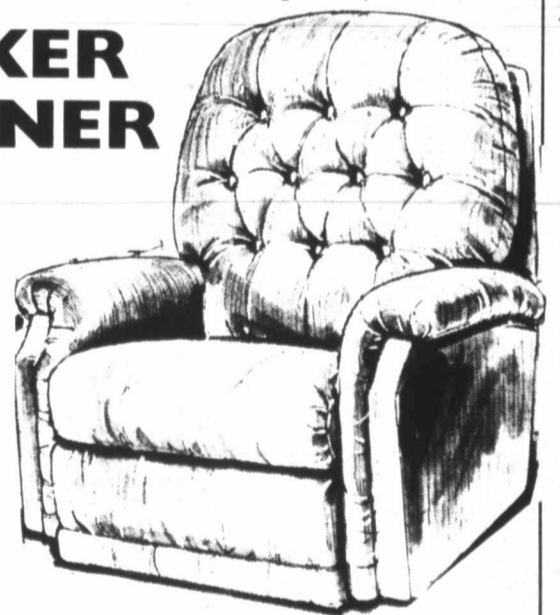
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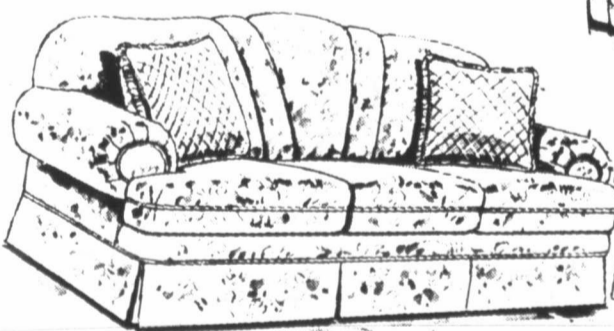
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