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# THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

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### LOCAL

#### Prairie River Musical set Saturday, Jan. 18

CANADIAN — Prairie Rivers Musical will stage its free monthly program at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18 in Canadian Middle School Auditorium. The show will include western swing, classic country, gospel music and much more. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Jay Godwin at (806) 323-6213.

### STATE

#### Pakistanis request tracking exemption

DALLAS (AP) — The Pakistani ambassador to the United States has told hundreds of immigrants concerned about their legal status that his government urged the Bush administration to exempt them from the requirement to register under a new federal tracking program.

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi met Sunday with almost 300 Pakistanis in the Dallas suburb of Richardson. He said his government had aggressively pursued an exemption with top administration officials and that he would press his case next week in a scheduled meeting with U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

### DEATHS

**Keith Walton Jones**, 80, master plumber.  
**Lois A. Tolleson**, 91, pastor, evangelist.

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### West Texas LANDSCAPE

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## Legislature: Show us the money

### Comptroller to give state revenue figure to lawmakers today

AUSTIN (AP) — The amount of money Texas will have to spend in its next budget is a number that is both anxiously awaited and dreaded.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn is scheduled to give the official revenue estimate Monday.

Everyone in state government knows the news is going to be bad. Strayhorn has warned of a budget shortfall that could be significantly

higher than a previous \$5 billion projection.

But the severity of the state's money crunch — and how the fiscal situation will affect programs that serve 21 million Texans — won't be known until the comptroller's announcement.

The state's two-year budget is \$114 billion, and cost overruns and slowing revenue will create a budget hole facing lawmakers who will begin the new legislative session on Tuesday.

"We have not dropped into a recession in Texas, but basically our state's economic engine has sputtered and lurched instead of roaring ahead," Strayhorn said last week.

Texas, which has neither an income tax nor a statewide property tax, gets most of its revenue from sales, business and automobile taxes. When the economy slows, people spend less, and that means less money for the state.

Gov. Rick Perry and Strayhorn last week accused the 2001 Legislature of throwing a spending "party."

"The Legislature on its face spent more money than it should have," Perry said in an Associated Press interview.

"The point is we knew there was an economic slowdown occurring in Texas. Everyone from the comptroller through the governor were warning

about spending at a level that we've seen over the last decade, and in hindsight both the comptroller and the governor were correct," he said.

Perry slashed \$500 million out of the 2002-03 budget when he signed it two years ago, but he said he wished he had cut even more.

Now, the budget challenge means no state program or service is safe from cuts, Perry said.

But he does make one guarantee shared by most of the Republicans who will lead the House and Senate: "No new taxes."

Strayhorn's number will determine See **MONEY**, Page 3)

## County to discuss delinquent court cost consortium

By NANCY YOUNG  
MANAGING EDITOR

Gray County Commissioners Court will discuss entering into a consortium with Carson, Hutchinson and Sherman counties to collect delinquent court costs and fines when they meet at 9 a.m., Wednesday, in the temporary Gray County Courtroom, 315 N. Ballard.

County Judge Richard Peet told the commission that Sonya Shieldknight, former Carson County Clerk/District Clerk, is forming the consortium. She will be at the Wednesday meeting to discuss the proposal with the commission.

Peet said that currently if a probationer has fulfilled all terms of their probation at the end of the designated time period ordered by the courts and has not paid their fees or court costs that the probationer must be released from probation without paying their fines.

He said Gray County Court assessed \$180,574.50 in fines during 2001. Of that amount, only \$83,358.38 was paid, he said. Peet said some prisoners chose to sit the time in jail at \$100 per day for a total of \$35,701.25 paid in that way.

He also said approximately \$37,000 is outstanding in juvenile fees.

The remaining amount of fines and fees were not paid in that year, he said.

Hutchinson County Judge Jack Worsham said in that county approximately \$180,000 was assessed by the county court in 2001, and only \$30,000 was paid.

Both Peet and Worsham said the collection of fines and fees is a problem all over Texas.

Peet said Hutchinson County has agreed to furnish an office (See **COUNTY**, Page 3)

## Crime and real estate on agenda

Crime and real estate are on the Pampa City Commission's agenda for Tuesday.

Mitch Grant will also make his first appearance as Pampa's new City Manager.

Grant's hiring was approved by the commission Dec. 9. He started work in his new position on Jan. 8.

The city commission is expected to pass a resolution to submit an application for funds from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program to buy equipment for the Pampa Police Department.

They are also expected to approve a bid for \$400 from George Kilcrease for delinquent tax properties at 1015 E. Denver.

The property is valued at \$3,060. Some \$3,020 in taxes are due on it.

The city commission will have the second and final reading of the abandoned and junk vehicles.

In other business, the commission will address the minutes of their special meeting Dec. 9, and regular meeting on Dec. 10.

They also plan to review the city's check register.

## Espionage case appears headed for rare public trial

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Unless the government quickly negotiates a plea agreement with defense lawyers for a retired Air Force master sergeant, he'll become the focus of the first espionage trial in nearly 50 years that could end in a death sentence.

Jury selection was to begin Monday in U.S. District Court for Brian Patrick Regan, accused of offering satellite secrets to Iraq's Saddam Hussein and others for more than \$13 million in Swiss currency.

Although a plea arrangement was possible, many experts said they would be surprised if the government agreed to a deal so near the trial's start.

"I think you can assume any offers that were put on the table have been long since rejected," said Lawrence S. Robbins. He was the losing defense lawyer in the last espionage trial, in 1997, when a federal jury convicted a married couple of spying for East Germany.

Regan's lawyers waged a late, unsuccessful fight to delay the trial because of a possible U.S. invasion of Iraq, one of the countries Regan was accused of offering to sell secrets to.

All sides said they expected jury selection to take as long as two weeks, mostly because of the death-penalty question.

Spy trials in civilian courtrooms are rare. The Justice Department nearly always negotiates a plea agreement, even in cases where espionage has resulted in the deaths of America's foreign agents.

That is because the government could suffer embarrassing disclosures of sensitive information in a public courtroom, including hints that could help other spies learn to evade

detection and capture. The government also often needs the defendant's help to learn what secrets might have been handed over to foreign governments.

Citing national security, U.S. District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee already has barred the public and reporters from attending some earlier hearings in Regan's case. Inside a secure room where cellular telephones and pagers are banned, defense lawyers have pored over classified documents for weeks at the federal courthouse.

Two other lawyers in the 1997 espionage case with Robbins, James Clyde Clark and Joseph John McCarthy, are among four court-appointed attorneys for Regan. In that case, Therese Marie Squillacote, a former Defense Department lawyer, was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison; her husband, Kurt Alan Stand, got more than 17 years.

Regan's other lawyers are Jonathan Shapiro and Nina Ginsberg, who helped negotiate a guilty plea in 1997 for Earl Edwin Pitts, an FBI agent who admitted selling secrets to Moscow for \$224,000. Pitts got a 27-year sentence.

Regan retired from the Air Force in August 2000 to work for a defense contractor in the National Reconnaissance Office, which designs and operates spy satellite.

He was pulled off a flight to Zurich, Switzerland, at Washington Dulles International Airport a year later by FBI agents. They said they found him carrying a spiral notebook with codes describing images of a missile launcher in the northern no-fly zone over Iraq and of another launcher in China.

### Weekend rollover



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Pampa Fire Department and Rural/Metro Ambulance Service personnel load one person injured when this sports utility vehicle rolled down an embankment toward Red Deer Creek the 1400 block of Boyd, west of M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium. The accident occurred shortly before 9:30 p.m. Friday. Details of the accident were not available from Pampa Police Department officials Monday.

## Roberts Co. officials OK assessment

By DAVID BOWSER  
STAFF WRITER

MIAMI — The Roberts County Commission today accepted the takings impact assessment prepared by their lawyers and set March 10 as a public hearing date on it.

The assessment, according to Jim Allison of Allison, Bass and Associates, Austin attorneys hired by the county, is required by the Texas Real Property Rights Preservation Act.

David Holt, a Pampa attorney hired by the landowners who are part of Mesa Water, Inc., told the commissioners today that the petition for a fresh water district does not come under the real property rights act. He said he sees the commissioners' actions as an effort to slow down the approval process.

Seth Davidson of Miami said during a question and answer period at the commissioners meeting this morning that he thought a slow and deliberate approach to the process of forming a fresh water supply district was appropriate.

Formation of the district is (See **ROBERTS**, Page 3)

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

**Thursday, Jan. 9**

Theft under \$50 was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles.

An assault by threat was reported at Pampa Middle School.

**Friday, Jan. 10**

Burglary was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart. Damage to the lock to a tool box was estimated to be \$150. Police reported no forced entry to the building which is the new West Texas Ford Building.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of Sunset Drive. Estimate of loss was \$135 and included a ring and cash. Police reports said there was no forced entry.

Multiple thefts were reported at Coronado Health Care in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. Reported stolen were: watch, \$50; money, \$10; silver bracelet, \$50; bracelet with multi colored beads, \$5.

A theft was reported in the 2200 block of North Christy. Property loss amounts totaled approximately \$505. They were: bicycle, \$50; tool box, \$125; and assorted hand tools, \$300.

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Shawna Snapp, 22, 604 N. Christy, was arrested on a Gray County warrant for harassment.

Lindsey Swint, 20, no address given, was arrested on two Gray County warrants and nine municipal warrants.

Misty Tuttle, 29, no address given, was arrested on a Department of Public Safety warrant out of Potter County for no liability insurance.

Jesus Soto, 48, no address given, was

arrested for driving while intoxicated-second offense.

Kevin Dewayne Nickleberry, 33, 1140 Terrace, was arrested for disorderly conduct and assault by threat.

Kevin Kidd, 22, 520 Yeager, was arrested on warrants and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Theft under \$50 was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart. A gas drive-off was reported at a local convenience store.

An information report was made at the police station.

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Kevin Scott Kidd, 22, 520 Yeager, was arrested for burglary of a building with intention to commit theft.

Clinton Michael Oldham, 24, 1917 Hamilton, was arrested on a warrant out of Randall County for possession of marijuana.

Report of criminal trespass was taken in the 400 block of East Browning.

A runaway was reported.

Theft was reported in the 2100 block of North Russell. A camper top for a small pickup was reported stolen. An estimated loss was \$700.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of Seminole. Damage to a vehicle was estimated at \$300.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 800 block of Beryl. Estimated loss was \$259. According to police reports, a screen was taken off the front window and the window was open. Reported missing were: VCR, radio/clock/phone, microwave and cordless phone.

Attempted suicide was reported.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department today reported the following arrests.

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

John Andrew Johnson, 46, 414 Crest, theft over \$50 and under \$500.

John Kesterson, 45, Borger, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for failure to drive in

a single marked lane and an open container.

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Levi Gene Trevattan, 18, 1206 N. Russell, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

William Delbert Thomas, 30, HCR 2, Box 24, was arrested for public intoxication.

FIRE

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

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

12:04 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1300 block of East Foster.

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

9:50 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a LifeStar helicopter standby at One Medical Plaza.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

2 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) emergency room and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

8:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Oklahoma; one patient was transported to PRMC.

12 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of East Foster; one patient was transported to PRMC.

7 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit; one patient was transported to PRMC.

10 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Russell; one patient was transported to PRMC.

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

7:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky on a fall; one patient was transported to PRMC.

2:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital West in Amarillo.

9 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Buckler; no patient was transported.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa				Haltburton	19.14	-0.51
				Trid Hospitals	26.10	+0.10
				NOI	19.63	-0.54
				KMI	42.99	-0.89
				NCFL	11.94	-0.32
				Kerr McGee	42.51	-0.26
				Limited	13.95	+0.01
				Williams	3.28	-0.09
				Al Donalds	17.79	+0.05
				Exxon Mobil	35.02	-0.22
				Atmos	23.14	-0.35
				Pioneer Nat	23.95	-0.45
				Penney's	23.36	-0.24
				COP	46.65	-0.04
				Schlumberger	41.17	-0.60
				Jenneco	3.83	-0.07
				CXK	67.90	-0.71
				Wal-Mart	51.60	-0.02
				ORKE	18.00	-0.63
				NS Group	6.35	-0.14
				IP	39.97	-0.64
				Celanese	21.73	-0.20
				Cabot Corp	26.21	-0.01
				Cabot Oil Gas	24.03	-0.07
				Coca Cola	45.36	+0.16
				VLO	37.79	+0.23
				West Texas Crude	31.68	
The following show prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation						
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa						

OBITUARIES

KEITH WALTON JONES

Keith Walton Jones, 80, of Pampa, died Friday, Jan. 10, 2003, at Amarillo. Memorial services were held Sunday in Veteran's Administration Medical Center Chapel in Amarillo with Chaplain Chris Kutin, of the Center, officiating. The body was cremated by Memory Gardens Crematory in Amarillo. Arrangements were under the direction of Blackburn-Shaw Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

A native of Oklahoma, Mr. Jones moved to Pampa 25 years ago and was a master plumber for 40 years prior to retiring.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Francis, and a brother, J.C. Jones.

Survivors include his wife, Vernie Jones, of the home; three daughters, Charlotte Kay Shelly of Kansas City, Mo., Katherine Sue Porter of Nashville, Tenn., and Doris Ann Young of Colorado Springs, Colo.; three sons, Keith Walton Jones, Jr., of Oklahoma City, Okla., Vernon Dale Jones of Joplin, Mo., and James Lee Jones of Seattle, Wash.; a sister, Vera Williams of Oklahoma City; a brother, John Paul Jones of Rochester, Minn.; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

LOISA A. TOLLESON  
1911-2003

Lois A. Tolleison, 91, of Pampa, died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003, at Canadian, Texas. Services will be at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2003, at the First Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Leland Lewis, pastor, and the Rev. Frank D. Anderson officiating. Burial will be at 4 p.m., Wednesday at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Edmond, Okla., under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Tolleison was born Feb. 16, 1911, in Okemah, Okla. She married William Herbert Tolleison on Nov. 27, 1926, in Mangum, Okla. He preceded her in death on Oct. 19, 1968.

She spent most of her life in Oklahoma before moving to Pampa in 1974. She held credentials with the Oklahoma District Council of The Assemblies of God. She pastored several churches in Oklahoma and was also an evangelist.

She was preceded in death by seven brothers and five sisters.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-

law, Donna and Frank D. Anderson of Pampa; a son and daughter-in-law, William J. and Mable Tolleison of Westminster, Calif.; a sister, Ruby Lorene Tolleison of Hot Springs, Ark.; three grandchildren, Greg Tolleison and wife Tina, Judy Tolleison, and Valerie Calkins; and five great-grandchildren, Tracie Calkins, Terra Calkins, Tommy Calkins, Brandi Tolleison, and Scott Tolleison.



The family requests memorials be to First Assembly of God Church, 500 S. Cuyler, Pampa, TX, 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 50s, and light winds. Tonight should be clear with lows in the mid 30s and light winds. Tuesday should be partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 5 to 15 mph becoming light. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Thursday, mostly cloudy. Cooler. Slight chance of snow. Highs in the mid 30s. Chance of snow 20 percent. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 15. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s. Friday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. Saturday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Saturday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. Sunday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

STATEWIDE

Texas will be dry and warmer today, with highs around 60 in West Texas and around 50 over most of the rest of the state.

Sunday's temperatures ranged from 66 degrees at Brownsville to an overnight low of 21 degrees at Amarillo.

In West Texas today it will be mostly sunny by this afternoon with highs around 50 in the Panhandle and warmer south and west. Tuesday should be sunny with highs ranging from the mid 50s in the Panhandle, to the lower 60s south and upper 60s in the west. Clouds will increase Wednesday but temperatures will remain warm. By Thursday afternoon temperatures should drop 20-25 degrees in all but the far west, dipping to the

mid 30s in the Panhandle and Edwards Plateau and the mid 40s south. A slight chance of snow Thursday night in the Panhandle. Friday will warm slightly, but Friday night will be cold, dipping into the low teens in the Panhandle.

In South Texas, clouds will decrease somewhat this afternoon, with no rain forecast today. Cool today with highs ranging from the 40s southeast to near 60 central and far south. Tuesday will be warmer, about 10 degrees in most areas, and with sunny skies. Wednesday, partly cloudy skies are forecast and warm temperatures will continue. Thursday, clouds will increase with a chance of showers southeast and central. Daytime temperatures will fall into the upper 40s in those areas. Friday

will be clear with continued cool temperatures, with highs ranging from the low 40s southeast to 50 central and upper 50s south.

North Texas will see decreasing clouds today except in the east, with highs around 50. Tuesday and Wednesday will be partly cloudy with temperatures ranging from the mid 50s northwest to the 60s elsewhere, breezy on Wednesday. Thursday, it will be partly cloudy, windy and much colder central and west, with highs in the mid 30s northwest, low to mid 40s central and southwest, and 50s in the east. A slight chance of rain is forecast north Thursday. Friday, it will be clear and continued chilly with highs in the 40s over the region.

Lawyers allude to long-term conspiracy at El Paso Corp.

HOUSTON (AP) — A conspiracy among some El Paso Corp. traders to supply the market with fraudulent information dated back at least two years, prosecutors said Monday in a hearing for a former trader facing trial.

Todd Geiger, 38, has been charged with one count of wire fraud and one count of reporting false trade information. He was arrested in December for allegedly reporting 48 fake natural gas trades in November 2001 to an industry newsletter, "Inside FERC Gas Market Report."

The newsletter uses such information submitted each month to calculate index prices for the subsequent month, and movement in index prices often affect the level of profits traders can generate.

Geiger, the only El Paso trader who has been charged, has pleaded innocent. His trial is set for March 24.

"Even though he is not charged with conspiracy, we believe his actions are part of a conspiracy that goes back two years," Assistant U.S. Attorney John Lewis said, referring to Geiger while talking with U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas during a pre-trial conference.

Lewis said the government is continuing to accumulate evidence and last week obtained a recording containing 140 telephone calls taped by El Paso of "other traders at El Paso and Inside FERC."

El Paso recorded the calls because companies tend to do that "as evidence of the transactions," Lewis explained to Atlas.

Defense attorney George Murphy complained about Lewis' comments in open court about the possibility of a "vast conspiracy."

"(Geiger) believes he's not guilty and I believe he's not guilty," Murphy said, whose trial date was pushed back Monday from a Feb. 3 setting.

Outside of court, Lewis declined to comment on whether more charges are possible. He also declined to elaborate on the conspiracy he described to Atlas.

El Paso spokeswoman Norma Dunn said Monday that reporting inaccurate transaction information violates the company's code of conduct and that the company continues to cooperate with the company's actions.

"We have previously stated that any inaccurate reporting is unacceptable and this company is determined to take whatever steps we need to ensure our operations are conducted within our high ethical standards and all legal requirements," she said.

Geiger, a former vice president at the Houston-based company, took a leave of absence Nov. 6 and resigned Nov. 12. The next day, the company issued a vague news release stating "at least one incident in which it appears that inaccurate pricing information might have been provided to a trade publication."

Murphy has said that nothing ever actually appeared in "Inside FERC" and that anything his client may have done had no effect on the price of natural gas.

Woman's body found boxed in similar fashion to earlier find

CLEARWATER, La. (AP) — After sheriff's deputies identified a man whose dismembered body had been sealed into a plastic storage box, they learned that his girlfriend was missing.

They took cadaver dogs out to Bayou Cocodrie, where the box holding the body of Lawrence William Cook had floated Jan. 3. The dogs sniffed out a second sealed box, holding a woman's body.

"Her legs were amputated the same as he is. But they were in the box with her," Evangeline Sheriff's Chief Investigator Joe Demourelle said Monday.

Cook's legs have not been found.

Demourelle said the decomposed body is probably that of Sheila Kirby, 27, hometown unknown, but investigators won't know until after her autopsy.

The body was sent to the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office after it was found Friday, and he expected autopsy results sometime Monday, he said.

Like Cook, the woman apparently was shot at close range from behind.

"All I saw was what looked like an exit wound in the fore-

head. But until the autopsy is complete and they call us, we won't know," Demourelle said. Cook, a longtime member of the Banshee motorcycle club and a fugitive from Texas law enforcement, was shot once behind the ear.

"According to the authorities in Texas, he was a dangerous person who had numerous enemies," Demourelle said.

He said investigators have few leads. "Nothing in the way of solid leads. But we do have a few little items to work on," he said.

Detectives searched the bayou as a "shot in the dark" after learning that Kirby had disappeared about the same time Cook did, three to four weeks ago, and that the couple had been inseparable.

"We decided to take a chance and go check the area again. Hoping that we would fail. But once we launched a boat it took about 30 minutes," Demourelle said Monday. The box was about one-half to three-quarters of a mile downstream from where Cook's body turned up.

Cook's last known address was in Denison, Texas, but he and Kirby had been living in the Lawtell area of St. Landry Parish, between Eunice and

Opelousas. There is a Banshee clubhouse in that area.

Cook was wanted in Grayson County, Texas, on four warrants, including one for stealing a policeman's motorcycle.

City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisements.

CATTLE EXCHANGE will be in front of Wayne's Western Wear, Thurs. January 16th Must place orders in advance. Call 323-6755.

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

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

Stephanie Sheriff's A Cameron, I scholarship Alva, Okla

NABLUS, V — Jihad Faqu dangerous obsce ing Israeli jeep finally proved t

The sixth-gra way home from 25 when he joi children and tee rocks at soldier in downtown N. diers fired tear coated steel pe rounds. Jihad v chest and died.

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CONT. FROM

ROBER

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CONT. FROM

MONEY

just how fruga will have to be. Perry has agencies not to ask for muc come before b this session. That has so about deep cuts children, the ele ers.

Rep. Garnet Houston, said services should place lawmak slash.

Instead, the sors should be programs such renovation that when there was he said.

"It's a luxu not in a time what I would h would look at things first," Co

Late last we outlined \$3.7 b all savings. Legislature, in poning a Medi tion rule favor cates for poor c

While Coler criticized the Strayhorn's rep nor applauded mendations.

## Scholarship award



(Courtesy photo)

Stephanie M. Cameron, center, was named recipient of a scholarship from the Sheriff's Association of Texas. Her father, Department of Public Safety Lt. Don Cameron, left, was on hand as Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland presented the scholarship to her. She is a student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Okla. She is majoring in secondary education and physical education.

## Deployment gathers steam

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Petty Officer 2nd Class Edgar Rodriguez and his wife, Kerri, know that deployment with little warning is part of Navy life. But that didn't make saying goodbye any easier when he joined fellow sailors aboard the USS Ashland.

"It's their job. If they've got to go, they've got to go," Kerri Rodriguez said. "I'm just very proud of him that he has the opportunity to serve his country and bring a lot of pride and honor to his family."

The Ashland was among four ships that deployed Sunday from Virginia to undisclosed locations, as a possible war with Iraq loomed. The ships and three others that left Friday can carry a total landing force of about 8,000 Marines.

Rodriguez and other family members said they had learned only within the last couple of weeks that the Ashland, an amphibious dock landing ship, would be leaving Sunday.

The sailors don't know how long they will be gone.

"It's the Navy. You know what you're getting into," said Rodriguez, 25, of Virginia Beach, who was at the base with her three small children. "This is our life."

The Ashland and the dock landing ship USS Portland set off from Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach. Two amphibious assault ships, the USS Kearsarge and the USS Bataan, left Norfolk Naval Station. They followed three amphibious ships that left from Hampton Roads on Friday.

On Saturday, at least one of the ships, the USS Ponce, was in Morehead City, N.C., taking on Marines from Camp Lejeune. A second ship, the USS Gunston Hall, headed out to sea Sunday from Morehead City, N.C., with an unknown number of Marines aboard.

On Sunday, buses brought about 1,000 Marines to Norfolk from Camp Lejeune to board the Bataan.

Capt. Earle S. Yerger, the Bataan's commanding officer, said he did not know whether the ship ultimately will sail to the Middle East. "We've been ordered to sea," he said.

Command Master Chief Bob Stocklin, the top enlisted sailor aboard the Portland, said the crew found out Friday that their ship would deploy Sunday. The Portland just came back Dec. 6 from a four-month deployment to South America and was not scheduled to leave again until June 2004, Stocklin said.

Stocklin said the Portland was headed to Morehead City, presumably to pick up Marines, because that is the ship's usual procedure. He said he did not know where the ship would go after that or how long it would be gone.

"We're kind of getting our schedule one day at a time," said Stocklin, 41, of Corpus Christi, Texas.

A Navy spokesman declined to say whether the sudden deployment orders for the ships were related to plans to double the size of the military force now on the periphery of Iraq.

## More than 100 Palestinian minors killed in fighting last year

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Jihad Faqeh, 11, had a dangerous obsession — stoning Israeli jeeps and tanks. It finally proved fatal.

The sixth-grader was on his way home from school Nov. 25 when he joined dozens of children and teens in throwing rocks at soldiers in two jeeps in downtown Nablus. The soldiers fired tear gas, rubber-coated steel pellets and live rounds. Jihad was hit in the chest and died.

He was one of 115 unarmed Palestinians younger than 18 who were killed in 2002, an increase of more than 50 percent from the year before, according to an Associated Press count.

The toll underlines the military's failure to quell riots

without killing civilians, particularly minors. Most of the youngsters killed in 2002 were stonethrowers or bystanders hit by Israeli army fire.

Palestinian militants, who target Israeli civilians, killed 36 Israeli minors in bombings and shootings last year.

Saying its soldiers operate in a hostile environment under threat from Palestinian militias, the Israeli government contends that gunmen often take cover behind civilians and that children and teens are sent to the front lines by cynical adults trying to win the world's sympathy by provoking casualties among the young.

However, Israeli human rights activists say Israeli soldiers often receive vague open-fire orders and are not punished if they overreact. "There is no culture of deliberately shooting children. There is a culture of impunity," said Lior Yavneh of the human rights group B'tselem.

Palestinians charge that the Israeli army does nothing to prevent killings of civilians because it wants to instill fear among Palestinians. "The rate of Palestinian children killed at the hands of Israeli soldiers is alarming and requires immediate international intervention," said Saeb Erekat, a Cabinet

minister in the Palestinian Authority.

Israel's experience with unrest goes back 15 years, to the first Palestinian uprising against occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was fought largely with stones, bottles and firebombs. In putting down the riots, Israeli soldiers killed hundreds of Palestinians between 1987 and 1993, prompting an international outcry.

In the current fighting, which erupted 27 months ago, Palestinian gunmen have often taken the lead in street clashes while militiamen have carried out dozens of bombings and

shooting ambushes, triggering harsher Israeli retaliation and two major military offensives in West Bank towns.

A total of 2,014 people have died on the Palestinian side and 713 on the Israeli side since September 2000. Among them were 275 Palestinian minors and 72 Israeli children, not including Palestinian teenagers involved in bombing or shooting attacks.

Such a violent climate keeps Israeli soldiers, most of them young conscripts rather than seasoned combat veterans, especially edgy, Israeli military experts say.

Eran Lehrman, a former

Israeli intelligence official, rejects contentions that Israel should generally be able to put down riots without killing demonstrators.

"This is a war, a low-intensity war ... conducted by soldiers, not riot policemen as in Western countries," Lehrman said.

He said it is "hammered into the heads of Israeli soldiers" to avoid harming civilians, but that "this is not to say that individuals, caught by surprise or confused, will not open fire at a child or a woman."

Military historian Meir Pail, former head of the army's officer school, said soldiers are in an impossible situation. "As conquerors, they are constantly faced with the frustration of confronting kids or old women breaking curfews," he said. "Soldiers find themselves in a moral trap — they eventually lose patience and open fire."

The army says close to 300 servicemen have been investigated, and its Judge Advocate-General's office says 37 soldiers have been indicted for crimes since September 2000.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

### ROBERTS

seen as a step by Mesa Water, Inc. toward selling water from Roberts County to thirsty cities down state. The fresh water district would allow Mesa Water landowners, including Boone Pickens, a Dallas businessman and Roberts County rancher, to issue revenue bonds, levy taxes within the district and use the power of eminent domain any where in the state to obtain a pipeline right-of-way for delivering water.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

### MONEY

just how frugal lawmakers will have to be. Perry has warned state agencies not to ask for much when they come before budget writers this session. That has some worrying about deep cuts to services to children, the elderly and others.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, said those social services should be the last place lawmakers look to slash.

Instead, the budget scissors should be focused on programs such as courthouse renovation that were funded when there was extra money, he said.

"It's a luxury. But we're not in a time of luxury, so what I would hope is that we would look at those kinds of things first," Coleman said.

Late last week, Strayhorn outlined \$3.7 billion in overall savings for the Legislature, including postponing a Medicaid registration rule favored by advocates for poor children.

While Coleman and others criticized the idea in Strayhorn's report, the governor applauded the recommendations.

## Amarillo to host '04 Cutting Horse World Finals

AMARILLO (AP) — Amarillo will host the National Cutting Horse Association World Finals in 2004, officials said.

City officials and the NCHA began negotiations in November and are currently in the final stages of completing a three-year deal to hold the event in Amarillo.

The economic impact for the city will be an estimated \$2 million.

"This is a very big piece of business," said Eric Miller, spokesman for the Amarillo Convention and Visitors Council.

NCHA Executive Director Jeff Hooper

said the finals, usually held over four days during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, will be expanded to include more competitors when it comes to the Amarillo National Center on the Tri-State Fairgrounds on Jan. 12-22, 2004.

"We're excited about it," Hooper said in Sunday editions of the Amarillo Globe-News. "It's going to be a substantial increase."

Bill Brewer, the American Quarter Horse Association executive vice president, said Amarillo was a good fit for the event.

"There were some conversations about us needing some world championship

shows," Brewer said. "There are some we can do, and this is one that fits Amarillo: the availability of cattle, it's at a slow time for the community and it's a wonderful opportunity if we can get Amarillo to support it."

Officials in this Panhandle city of about 173,000 residents said they're looking forward to the opportunity to play host.

"The neat thing about this event is the time of year," Miller said. "January is a slow month in Amarillo in the hospitality industry. So the timing couldn't be better. We have lots of rooms available and space in the restaurants."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

### COUNTY

for Shieldknight to establish her base of operations.

He said the program is estimated to cost \$46,000 and 75 percent of it can be funded by grants. Peet said Gray County's cost is estimated to be \$5,367.

Peet said Shieldknight would also be able to collect fees and fines from district courts and Justice of the Peace Courts.

He said she would be in court when the offenders appear and the fines are assessed, and that she would speak with each person placed on probation and fined to obtain the money owed to the county.

In other business, Pamela Nelson of Panhandle Regional Planning Commission is to make a presentation on the 9-1-1 address status in Gray County.

Also District Attorney Rick Roach is scheduled to make a request regarding his offices upon return to the courthouse.

The budget for the courthouse rededication is also on the agenda.

Approval of re-appointment and payment of salary of the County Auditor and Assistant County Auditor as stated by the District Judges, selection of the Salary Grievance Committee,

jurors' reimbursement fees, location of commissioners court meetings and signature changes on all bank accounts is listed on the agenda.

Budget amendments, intrabudget transfer requests and paying bills and salaries as approved by the County Auditor are also scheduled.

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Monday, January 13, 2003

# DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

## Boy's Heart Belongs to Car's Speakers and Not to His Girl

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend, "Justin," is obsessed with making his car stereo system the loudest in our school. That means I am alone and depressed most of the time because I miss him and have nothing to do. I never get to see him in school because our class schedules are different, and on weekends we both have to work.

It feels like I hang out with his best friend more, and he agrees that Justin needs to pay me a little more attention. Yes, I have told Justin how I feel, but his only reply was that he agreed he wasn't seen me — and he's sorry. The next day he was back at it, messing around with the wires and speakers.

Please help me. What can I say to him to fix this problem?

MISS LONELY  
 IN CONNECTICUT

**DEAR MISS LONELY:** Tell him loud and clear you think the two of you should spend more time together or your romance is history. In the meantime, explore your own special interests. Do not totally depend on others for your entertainment and sense of worth.

**DEAR ABBY:** My nephew was married six months ago. I gave him and his bride a beautiful wedding gift. To date, not one member of the groom's family or friends has received a thank-you note. The

bride has written to all of her family and friends, but she has refused to acknowledge any from the groom's side. She told someone that it is *his* responsibility to write his own notes, and she is not going to "enable him."

In my opinion, the bride is self-centered and has no feelings or interest in the groom's family. I see it as a slap in the face. In my 75 years here on Earth I have never seen a groom write a thank-you note. What do you think?

ANGRY AUNT IN AKRON

**DEAR ANGRY AUNT:** In the words of Bob Dylan, "The times they are a-changing." In today's world, most couples are both employed and share household and social duties. Please don't

blame the bride. You're aiming your anger at the wrong target.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 78-year-old mother has a shopping problem. It's been going on for as long as I can remember. I used to organize yard sales once or twice a year to clear out some of the junk for her. We always had a huge turnout because Mom always had a nice selection of new stuff for sale. Now that I have moved away, my sister is left with the mess, and there have been no more yard sales.

Isn't "binge shopping" considered addictive behavior? Our mother is hooked on the Home Shopping

Network, as well as the sales racks at her local stores.

We have pleaded with Mom to stop, but she always replies, "You might as well dig a hole and stick me in it now!" That shuts us up in a hurry, because we were always taught to respect our elders. Have you any suggestions for us, Abby?

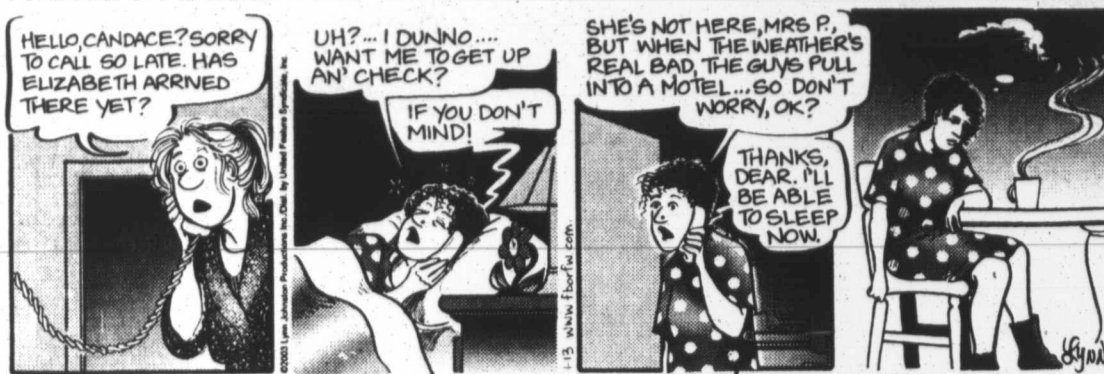
TIRED OF THE MESS  
 IN MONTANA

**DEAR TIRED OF THE MESS:** Not unless your mother is willing to face the fact that she has a problem. There are self-help groups for spend-a-holics, and anti-depressant and anti-anxiety medications that can help sufferers cope with the compulsion to spend.

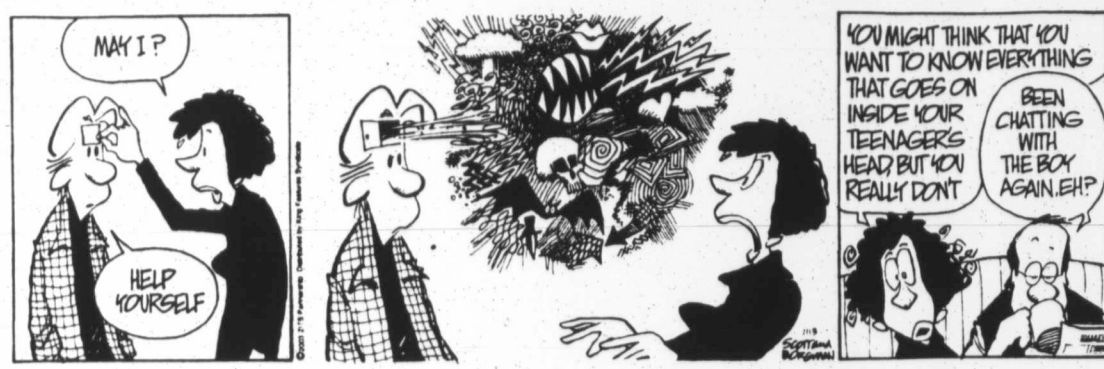
One rule is that if you're going to stop a negative behavior it must be replaced with a positive one. But all this is beside the point if your mother has the financial resources and doesn't believe she needs help.

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

### For Better or For Worse



### Zits



### Garfield



### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

41 April weather

1 Super Bowl champs

2 Slightly open

3 Competitor

4 Takes it easy

5 Verdi work

6 Lower

7 Little squirt

8 Ignited

9 Other

10 Preoccupy

11 Spot

12 Be short with

13 Impassioned

14 Point the finger at

15 Possessed

16 Attention-getting cry

17 Scarlett's home

18 Gorilla, e.g.

19 "Ease On Down the Road" musical

20 Allude

21 Wipe clean

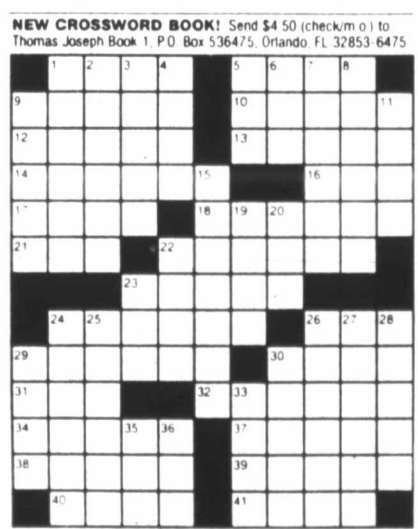
22 Dealer's two

23 Zodiac sign

24 Neatnik's opposite



**Saturday's answer**  
 19 Farm sight 26 Land of the lei  
 20 Secret agent 27 Out of bed  
 21 Burn niners 28 Slupors  
 22 Farm sight 29 Challenging  
 23 Jeans feature 30 — firma  
 24 Conical homes 33 Listen to  
 25 Quite a sight 35 Writer Umberto  
 26 Yank's foe



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### Marmaduke



"He likes to check out the bouquet of a freshly opened bag of dog food."

### The Family Circus



"That's an original drawing by me, Grandma. It's not just a copy!"

### B.C.



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



### Flo & Friends



# Har

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### in d

PAMPA — to be an exciting when Pampa Randall in Division I action Tuesday McNeely Fieldhouse.

Pampa can take a session of second win over the Red teams are tied 3-1 behind first Duro.

Pampa and earlier this season Gene Messer To Champions Harvesters win thriller.

The Harvesters second straight Friday night, Harvesters, led

### Casey Fisher

over Caprock

### New NC

ANAHEIM, Calif. Myles Brand is of start as NCAA president.

Making his first ing the organization on Sunday, Brand to impress the 1,400 delegates that many college presidents.

Among other to said there is a plain sense" common college sports and dents of the institution control NCAA reform.

In some of his comments, he decr of black football co

"I thought it y impressive speed Dartmouth president Wright, a member Division I board c "It built on the thir cussed on the board several years.

"It directed us, that's what were ea and I think we're ea with him."

Talking about ho as well as schools' b music programs — mercial backing, I "Admittedly, there

### Groom

SAMNORWOOD Groom claimed a over Samnorwood girls' basketball a weekend.

Amenda Con Groom's high score points.

Staci Britten foll

SPORTS

# Harvesters seek sole possession of second in district standings

PAMPA — It's expected to be an exciting matchup when Pampa takes on Randall in District 3-4A action Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

Pampa can take sole possession of second place with a win over the Raiders. Both teams are tied for second at 3-1 behind first-place Palo Duro.

Pampa and Randall met earlier this season in the Gene Messer Tournament of Champions with the Harvesters winning a 54-51 thriller.

The Harvesters won their second straight game last Friday night, rolling past Harvesters, led by Chance

Bowers' 21 points, scored in double-digits. Max Simon followed with 17 points and Ryan Zemanek had 11.

Randall posted a 50-39 win over Dumas last weekend.

Jarod Krieger (6-2 senior) had 16 points and Kendall Webb (5-10 senior) 15 to lead the Raiders.

For the season, the Harvesters have a 7-10 record. Randall is 13-9 for the season.

Randall had a second-place finish in district a year ago and advanced as far as the regional quarterfinals. Pampa is looking to make the playoffs for the first time since 1996, the year the championship.

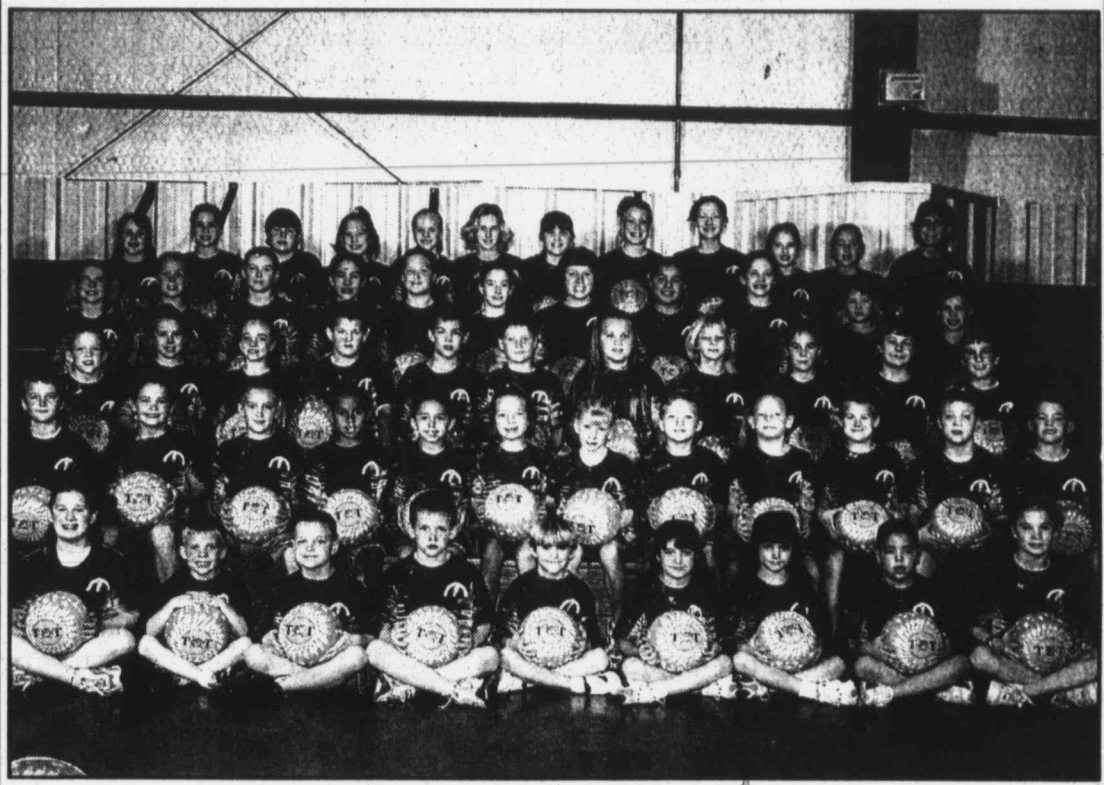
In the girls' contest, the Pampa Lady Harvesters will be looking for their second win in a row. Pampa, behind an 18-point performance by Valerie Velez, downed Caprock 60-51 last Friday night. Casey Fisher chipped in 14 points.

Pampa is 1-5 in district and Randall is 4-2. Randall defeated Pampa 64-39 in the district opener.

Velez, a 5-6 senior guard, is averaging 11 points a game to lead the Lady Harvesters in scoring. Randall's scoring leader is 5-9 senior Jennifer Arenas, who is averaging 16 points a game.

Gametime is 6 for the boys at 7:30.

## Teams of Tomorrow



(Rice's Photography)

Teams of Tomorrow, made up of basketball players in the first through seventh games Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse. "We consist of 63 awesome kids that have worked hard all year long. Come out and enjoy the show," says coach Buffie Schaeffer.



(Pampa News photo)

Casey Fisher (23) scored 14 points for the Lady Harvesters in the 71-46 win over Caprock last Friday night.

## New NCAA president off to good start

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Myles Brand is off to a good start as NCAA president.

Making his first speech during the organization's convention on Sunday, Brand appeared to impress the group of some 1,400 delegates that included many college presidents.

Among other topics, Brand said there is a place for "common sense" commercialism in college sports and that presidents of the institutions should control NCAA reforms.

In some of his strongest comments, he decried the lack of black football coaches.

"I thought it was a very impressive speech," said Dartmouth president James Wright, a member of the Division I board of directors. "It built on the things we discussed on the board the past several years."

"It directed us, and I think that's what were eager to hear, and I think we're eager to work with him."

Talking about how sports — as well as schools' business and music programs — need commercial backing, Brand said, "Admittedly, there are no iron-

clad, specific criteria for judging when commercial interests overwhelm college sports.

"Good common sense and an open, unbiased perspective should be the tools by which we measure appropriate commercial involvement."

He also said that the educational institutions' presidents are "best positioned to change their campus' perspectives and behavior."

"When missteps in athletic programs occur, universities are open to criticism and the presidents are the ones on the front line," said Brand, who drew criticism from some students and fans when he fired Bob Knight as the Hoosiers' basketball coach in 2000.

There are only four black head coaches in Division I-A. Brand called that "simply unjustifiable" and said he will work to change current hiring policies.

"Another, related issue concerns access to AD and other athletics department leadership positions for minorities and women," Brand said. "We should not accept excuses for lack of success in these matters." A former president at both

the University of Oregon and Indiana and the first sitting university president chosen to head the NCAA, Brand told the representatives from around the nation that his goal for the next several months is to listen and to learn.

He noted that he had been in the position for less than two weeks, having taken over Jan. 1 for the retired Cedric Dempsey.

"Good and thoughtful people have considered and debated the issues facing intercollegiate athletics today," Brand said, referring to what he called a great store of accumulated wisdom and a mountain of information with which he needs to become acquainted.

## 9th grade girls win over Herd

PAMPA — Pampa defeated Hereford 54-44 in freshmen girls' basketball action last weekend.

Pampa's high scorer was Autumn Darden with 10 points. Tyra Taylor and Amy Youree followed with 8 each. Pampa's record is 7-4.

## Basketball tryouts continue in Optimist boys' program

PAMPA — Tryouts for third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade Optimist Boys' Basketball will be held today, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Optimist Gym at 601 E. Craven.

All boys, including those on teams last year, will need to try out this year, according

to Ed Copeland, Boys' Basketball Commissioner.

"We have had 90 boys sign up so far," Copeland said. "Registrations are still being accepted through the Internet at [www.Optimist.Pampa.com](http://www.Optimist.Pampa.com) and at the tryouts."

Copeland said players will be assigned to teams on Thursday with practice beginning as early as Friday.

"We plan to have our first games the week of January 27," he said. "Last week we were alarmed because we didn't think we had enough coaches, but we have been impressed with the caliber of the volunteers who have come forward offering to coach or help coach a team." "We will probably have 13 or 14 teams, so we still need coaches."

## Tampa Bay stuns 49ers, 31-6

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — With their quarterback on a roll and their coach disdainfully dismissing past playoff collapses, these are not the same old Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

At least that's what the Bucs contend. On Sunday, they'll get a chance to prove it.

Brad Johnson threw for two touchdown passes and Tampa Bay forced five turnovers to rout San Francisco 31-6 Sunday in an NFC divisional playoff game. The victory advanced the Bucs to the conference championship game at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, where their season ended the past two years.

"We're going to get on the plane and go," first-year Bucs coach Jon Gruden said. "Whether it be the Vet or Walt Whitman Bridge, we're going to be there."

Against the 49ers, Tampa Bay (13-4) looked like a team that will be tough to stop. Johnson directed touchdown drives of 74, 77, and 52 yards on consecutive possessions, converting nine third-down situations in a row, and the Bucs' characteristically dominant defense did the rest.

A week earlier, the 49ers (11-7) rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat the New York Giants. This time they fell behind 28-6, then were shut out in the second half.

The Buccaneers advanced to the NFC title game for the second time in four seasons, but at Philadelphia they'll face a daunting hurdle that tripped them up in the past.

The Bucs lost to the Eagles in the first round of the playoffs the past two seasons by a com-

bined score of 52-12. In October, they lost at the Vet 20-10, totaling just 207 yards as Johnson was sacked five times. The Bucs haven't scored an offensive touchdown in their past three games at Philadelphia.

Other history for the Bucs to overcome: They're 0-6 on the road in postseason play and have been outscored 152-42 in those games.

"We looked at it all season that it was going to be between us and Philadelphia," Johnson said. "We're looking forward to it. If you're going to have to beat them, it might as well be up there."

Johnson's fine play since late October gives the Bucs reason to believe they may finally have enough offense to reach the Super Bowl. After missing the final two games of the regular season because of a bruised back, the 34-year-old quarterback was in fine form against the 49ers, helping Tampa Bay control the ball for nearly 37 minutes.

Even a gash over the right eye that required half a dozen stitches couldn't stop Johnson, who threw for touchdowns covering 20 yards to Joe Jurevicius and 12 yards to Rickey Dudley.

"Brad is going to throw to the guy who's open," Gruden said. "That's what makes him a special player."

Mike Alstott scored the other touchdowns on a pair of 2-yard runs, each time finding room behind All-Pro defensive tackle Warren Sapp, moonlighting as a tight end.

The Bucs' defensive charge was again led by linebacker

Derrick Brooks, the NFL defensive player of the year. He made an interception and recovered a fumble, two of the four turnovers by quarterback Jeff Garcia.

"They're a great defense," Garcia said. "We ran into a wall today that we just couldn't knock down."

Noisy Terrell Owens was unusually quiet, managing just four catches for 35 yards. After the game, the All-Pro receiver smiled as he declined interview requests.

San Francisco failed to score a touchdown in a postseason game for the first time since a 49-3 loss to the New York Giants in the 1986 playoffs. Coach Steve Mariucci, whose job could be in jeopardy despite four trips to the playoffs in six seasons with San Francisco, said injuries finally caught up with his team.

"We ran out of healthy bodies," he said. "And that's what we needed to play against such a great defense."

Johnson's health was briefly a concern early in the third quarter. The cut over his eye forced him to leave the field on a cart, one hand holding a towel to his bloodied face, the other punching the air in defiance as fans roared.

He was back for the next series, proof he has learned how to absorb a shot in the postseason.

Johnson's previous playoff record was unimpressive: one win, three losses, two touchdown passes and nine interceptions. He exorcised those demons, leaving others for the Bucs to address in Philadelphia.

## Groom girls are victorious

SAMNORWOOD — Groom claimed a 77-22 win over Samnorwood in district girls' basketball action last weekend.

Amanda Conrad was Groom's high scorer with 19 points.

Staci Britten followed with

11. Amanda Driver had 10 for Samnorwood.

Kandi Stages followed with 5.

Groom's record is 16-5 for the season and 2-1 in district.

Samnorwood is 0-3 in district.

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# Raiders blow out Jets, 30-10

## Oakland advances to meet Tennessee in AFC title game

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders have been down this road before. That they can stay at home to travel it has them feeling super.

In blowing out the mistake-riddled New York Jets 30-10 Sunday, the Raiders advanced to the AFC title game against Tennessee next weekend. Counting the AFL, it is the 14th time the Raiders have gotten this far.

They plan to go further, and they are using history as a catalyst.

"This is our home," linebacker Eric Barton said of the notorious Black Hole, the Oakland Coliseum. "This is where we make our living. We fought hard all year to make sure we play the playoffs here. And we're going to make the best of it."

They certainly did that against New York, which had four turnovers, a handful of dropped passes, some careless penalties and nothing worth remembering from the second half, when the Raiders outscored the Jets 20-0.

But the last time the Raiders hosted the AFC championship game, a mere two years ago, they lost 16-3 to Baltimore. The Ravens went on to win the Super Bowl, something the Raiders have not done since the 1983 season.

And a year ago, Oakland was forced to play at night in the snow at New England, where it lost thanks to the infamous tuck rule play. The Patriots went on to win the Super Bowl.

"We remember," 15-year veteran receiver Tim Brown said. "Two years ago, the Ravens came in here and whipped us. Last year ..."

Brown shook his head at that unhappy thought.

"Obviously, we have home-field advantage for a reason. We're a pretty good football team," he added. "I have a better feeling about the AFC championship game this time, which will be the third time for me. We lost 51-3 (at Buffalo in the 1990 season) and we lost at home one time."

They didn't come close to losing Sunday. After a 10-10 halftime tie, the Raiders rattled Chad Pennington, the league's most efficient and seemingly unflappable quarterback. And they got big plays from league MVP Rich Gannon throwing to Jerry Porter and Jerry Rice.

Porter caught a 29-yard touchdown pass and set up Rice's 9-yard score with a 50-yard reception as the Raiders made it a clean sweep for the home teams this weekend. Gannon began going downhill in the second half after a 10-10 tie, and it paid off.

"The offense was a little stale in the first half," said Gannon, who wound up 20-of-30

for 283 yards. "We wanted to come out at halftime and wanted to change the tempo."

Oakland's defense did a good job of that, too. Tory James and Barton had interceptions — matching Pennington's pickoff total of the previous 10 games — and Pennington was charged with two fumbles.

Pennington, in his first season as a starter, had a 104.2 rating. But against Oakland, he was 21-of-47 for 183 yards and a 44.9 rating.

"It's one of those days," Pennington said. "I can't explain it. That's why it's so frustrating. I didn't feel like I was myself out there and I don't know why."

The Raiders were a big reason why. They got a substantial pass rush, ending up with four sacks, two by Rod Coleman. Their secondary delivered some big hits, particularly on receiver Wayne Chrebet, who had an awful day.

"When you play a good team and you turn the ball over," receiver Santana Moss said, "it's almost a given that you will not come away with a victory."

Oakland came away with its eighth victory in nine games, getting Zack Crockett's 1-yard TD run after Pennington's first fumble; Gannon's two touchdown passes; and three field goals (29, 34 and 31 yards) from Sebastian Janikowski.

New York, which has lost three times in four visits to Oakland in the last 53 weeks, forged the 10-10 halftime tie on Jerald Sowell's 1-yard reception to cap an 81-yard drive, and John Hall's 28-yard field goal.

But in the second half, it was all Raiders.

After James' leaping sideline interception at the Jets 45, Gannon went downfield. He hit Brown for 16 yards, then found Porter streaking down the left sideline against a zone defense. Porter caught the ball in stride for a 29-yard touchdown.

"I'm just grateful for the chance to contribute," the third-year wideout said. "Any nuggets Jerry and Tim want to drop my way..."

Oakland stopped the Jets on a fourth-and-3 when Chrebet slipped on his pattern. Gannon then connected with Porter over the middle for 50 yards. It took three more plays for Gannon to hit Rice in the back of the end zone.

Rice's catch was his 21st postseason touchdown, tying an NFL record. The 40-year-old receiver also set a record for yards in the playoffs with 2,133 in an 18-year career.

"I feel just like a rookie. I'm having a ball," Rice said. "I was so excited this week, I couldn't sleep. I was up all night long last night."

Maybe it's the Titans who need to stay up all night this week preparing for the Raiders, who routed them 52-25 here in September. The Jets were a hot team coming in and Oakland rapidly cooled them off. Now comes Tennessee (12-5), which has won 11 of its last 12.

"These chances are very rare," veteran All-Pro safety Rod Woodson said. "I think we are a mature team that understands what we have here."

## Venus Williams shakes off rust to advance; Agassi wins

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Venus Williams had to shake off some rust. Andre Agassi kept up his winning form from a warmup tournament.

Both advanced Monday to the second round of the Australian Open, where Agassi seeks his third title in four years and Williams tries to prevent a "Serena Slam" by her younger sister.

After falling behind 0-3 because of some wildness, Williams used a stronger serve to carry her through 6-4, 6-2 over 45th-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova. She and the 17-year-old Russian were nearly even in errors.

"I'm just a little rusty," Williams said. "I

didn't expect to be 100 percent in this match, but in the next one I expect to be at least 150."

Agassi overcame Brian Vahaly 7-5, 6-3, 6-3. He broke serve eight times against Vahaly, a former All-American at the University of Virginia.

Serena Williams starts action Tuesday against France's Emilie Loit. She is seeking a "Serena Slam," in which she would hold all four of tennis' major titles at the same time.

Serena missed a chance for a true Grand Slam — all four majors in one calendar year — when she twisted her ankle just before last year's Australian Open.

## Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

You might want to try a stronger approach or do something totally different this year. The real question is: Why not? Focus on what you want, not on what others expect. As a result, you will gain both professionally and emotionally. Through networking, you will be able to make what you want happen. Let more of your desires and long-term wishes happen. You will gain through communication and hard work. Your professional image will evolve with a promotion and/or a pay raise. Be willing to take a course to enhance your expertise in your chosen field. If you are single, you will meet someone in your day-to-day travels. Friendship might develop first. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit through excellent communication. ARIES can push your buttons.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You gradually feel better and better as the day gets older. You will be able to express your deeper feelings when you take a more universal view. You might wonder what conclusions others will draw when you're mum. Tonight: As you like it.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ The daylight hours favor you. Understand someone better by being willing to express your deeper needs. You might be surprised by the level of someone's response. Talk, rather than guessing. Take nothing for granted. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Handle professional matters in

usual dynamic manner. Sometimes you push someone away when you least intend to. Speak your mind to a co-worker who really cares about your work. Schedule a meeting for later in the day. Tonight: A midweek break.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Make an effort to read between the lines. Reach out for experts. Just think of how many different ways someone can interpret what is happening. Take the lead in a meeting or with an important project. Tonight: A must show.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ An associate whispers in your ear, making a big difference in what might happen. Carefully consider your options. Don't hesitate to find an expert or get feedback from someone you respect. Postpone a long-distance call until late in the afternoon. Tonight: Try something different.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your efforts make a difference to others. You get feedback that might surprise you. Others really are more aware of your efforts than you think. Your creativity surges. A key associate or a potential friend seeks you out. Tonight: Togetherness works.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others might view you as a tornado as you charge into work. You know what you need to do and will get it done, despite major distractions. Schedule meetings and other interpersonal dealings for the end of the day. Tonight: Sort through your offers.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ How you approach someone could make all the difference in the end result. Your humor lightens up work and helps others get the job done. What about you? Because you are the nurturer, you get to work till the wee hours. Tonight:

As late as you need to go.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might have a difficult time pulling yourself out the doldrums, but you will succeed. Use your famed ingenuity to get a project moving. You might need to psych yourself up, as well as someone else. Let the good times flow. Tonight: Play away.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Someone makes an enormous effort. Think clearly about your long-term desires, especially those involving a child or loved one. An action or effort made later this afternoon could stick in someone's mind. Tonight: Happy at home.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Think carefully about your finances. Don't make a fast decision; rather, evaluate the pros and cons. Seek out an expert to get feedback. Delay returning calls until later in the day, when you have more time. A boss pushes you. Think of the long-term gains. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your happy ways take you in another direction. Consider more carefully options that surround a loved one at a distance. This person might need your help far more than you realize. Balance your checkbook. Tonight: Treat a loved one.

### BORN TODAY

Actress Ami Dolenz (1969), singer Elvis Presley (1935), musician David Bowie (1947) \*\*\*

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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## SCOREBOARD

<b>FOOTBALL</b>				Indiana 116, Golden State 104			
NFL Playoff Glance				Milwaukee 89, Detroit 87			
By The Associated Press				Washington 89, New York 84			
All Times EST				Houston 87, Denver 85			
Wild-card Playoffs				Sunday's Games			
Saturday, Jan. 4				Toronto 105, Minnesota 91			
AFC				Dallas 96, L.A. Clippers 90			
N.Y. Jets 41, Indianapolis 0				San Antonio 81, Boston 80			
NFC				Orlando 107, Philadelphia 105			
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7				Phoenix 107, Utah 99			
Sunday, Jan. 5				Memphis at Sacramento, 9 p.m.			
AFC				Cleveland at Seattle, 9 p.m.			
Pittsburgh 36, Cleveland 33				Miami at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.			
NFC				Monday's Games			
San Francisco 39, N.Y. Giants 38				Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.			
Divisional Playoffs				Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.			
Saturday, Jan. 11				Boston at Houston, 8:30 p.m.			
AFC				New York at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.			
Tennessee 34, Pittsburgh 31, OT				Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.			
NFC				Memphis at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.			
Philadelphia 20, Atlanta 6				Tuesday's Games			
Sunday, Jan. 12				Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.			
NFC				Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.			
Tampa Bay 31, San Francisco 6				Chicago at New York, 7:30 p.m.			
AFC				Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.			
Oakland 30, N.Y. Jets 10				Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.			
Conference Championships				<b>HOCKEY</b>			
Sunday, Jan. 19				National Hockey League			
NFC Championship				AIA Glance			
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 3 p.m. (FOX)				By The Associated Press			
AFC Championship				All Times EST			
Tennessee at Oakland, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)				EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Super Bowl				Atlantic Division			
Sunday, Jan. 26				Philadelphia			
At San Diego				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:18 p.m. (ABC)				23 10 8 1 55 102 86			
<b>GOLF</b>				23 12 3 3 52 97 83			
Mercedes Championships Scores				19 17 5 1 44 121 123			
By The Associated Press				Pittsburgh			
Sunday				17 18 3 5 42 122 131			
At Plantation Course				N.Y. Rangers			
Kapalua, Hawaii				17 22 6 1 41 113 141			
Purse: \$5 million				Northeast Division			
Yardage: 7,263; Par 73				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
Final Round				Ottawa			
Ernie Els,\$1,000,000				27 10 5 1 60 141 94			
Rocco Mediate,\$450,000				22 15 4 1 49 131 115			
K.J. Choi,\$450,000				22 16 4 1 49 124 106			
Vijay Singh,\$224,000				17 17 5 4 43 137 130			
Luke Donald,\$85,000				12 23 5 2 31 96 117			
Jonathan Byrd,\$155,000				Southeast Division			
Jonathon Byrd,\$155,000				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
Jim Furyk,\$155,000				Washington			
Chris Riley,\$155,000				20 16 5 2 47 123 116			
Bob Estes,\$155,000				18 15 6 4 46 121 122			
Gene Sauers,\$125,000				Carolina			
Gene Sauers,\$125,000				16 18 6 4 42 98 118			
Jeff Sluman,\$105,000				Florida			
Kevin Sutherland,\$105,000				12 14 9 8 41 98 130			
Loren Roberts,\$90,000				Atlanta			
Loren Roberts,\$90,000				11 25 2 4 28 105 150			
Charles Howell III,\$82,000				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Phil Tataurangi,\$79,000				Central Division			
Craig Perks,\$79,000				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
Justin Leonard,\$75,000				Detroit			
Chris Smith,\$75,000				24 11 7 1 56 127 100			
Nick Price,\$70,000				St. Louis			
J.P. Hayes,\$70,000				23 13 5 3 54 139 108			
Dan Forsman,\$70,000				Chicago			
Len Matriace,\$66,000				20 13 8 2 50 101 94			
Matt Kuchar,\$61,250				Columbus			
				17 20 4 2 40 121 127			
				Nashville			
				13 19 7 4 37 93 116			
				Northwest Division			
				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
				Vancouver			
				25 13 5 0 55 135 111			
				Minnesota			
				22 14 7 1 52 113 99			
				Edmonton			
				20 14 5 5 50 118 116			
				Colorado			
				17 13 9 5 48 127 117			
				Calgary			
				14 20 6 3 37 91 118			
				Pacific Division			
				W L T OL Pts GF GA			
				Dallas			
				25 10 10 1 64 143 93			
				Anaheim			
				17 16 7 3 44 105 107			
				Los Angeles			
				17 19 4 3 41 112 123			
				Phoenix			
				15 18 7 4 41 108 126			
				San Jose			
				16 18 5 3 40 114 130			
				Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.			
<b>BASKETBALL</b>				Saturday's Games			
National Basketball Association				Dallas 6, Colorado 3			
At A Glance				N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 1			
By The Associated Press				Philadelphia 3, Detroit 2			
All Times EST				Boston 6, Toronto 2			
EASTERN CONFERENCE				Buffalo 3, Montreal 2			
Atlantic Division				Washington 12, Florida 2			
W L T OL Pts GF GA				N.Y. Islanders 7, Atlanta 3			
New Jersey				New Jersey 3, Tampa Bay 3, tie			
27 10 730				Nashville 4, Phoenix 3, OT			
Boston				Columbus 7, Calgary 2			
20 16 556 6 1/2				Ottawa 2, Edmonton 0			
Philadelphia				San Jose 3, Vancouver 0			
19 18 514 8				St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1			
Washington				Sunday's Games			
20 19 513 8				Colorado 3, Carolina 2, OT			
New York				Chicago 2, Nashville 0			
13 21 382 12 1/2				Anaheim 2, St. Louis 1			
Miami				Monday's Games			
12 24 333 14 1/2				Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.			
Central Division				Calgary at Montreal, 7 p.m.			
W L T OL Pts GF GA				N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.			
Indiana				Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.			
27 10 730				Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.			
Detroit				Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.			
24 11 686 2				Florida at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.			
New Orleans				Columbus at Edmonton, 9 p.m.			
20 19 513 8				San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.			
Milwaukee				Tuesday's Games			
16 20 444 10 1/2				Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 7 p.m.			
Atlanta				Calgary at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.			
14 22 389 12 1/2				Buffalo at Minnesota, 8 p.m.			
Chicago				St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.			
13 23 361 13 1/2				Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.			
Toronto							
9 28 243 18							
Cleveland							
7 30 189 20							
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Midwest Division							
W L T OL Pts GF GA							
Dallas							
31 5 861							
San Antonio							
23 14 622 8 1/2							
Utah							
21 15 583 10							
Houston							
20 15 571 10 1/2							
Minnesota							
19 17 528 12							
Memphis							
11 24 314 19 1/2							
Denver							
9 27 250 22							
Pacific Division							
W L T OL Pts GF GA							
Sacramento							
27 10 730							
Phoenix							
24 14 632 3 1/2							
Portland							
21 14 600 5							
Seattle							
16 19 457 10							
L.A. Lakers							
16 20 444 10 1/2							
Golden State							
15 21 417 11 1/2							
L.A. Clippers							
14 23 378 13							
Saturday's Games							
Atlanta 87, New Orleans 80							

## Els is winner of Mercedes Championships

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Ernie

Els, caught up in the whirlwind created by Tiger Woods, decided to quit changing his game to try to catch the world's No. 1 player and simply let his own enormous talent take care of the results.

The plan is working to near perfection. He captured the British Open last summer, his third major championship. He finished the season with an eight-stroke victory in the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa.

And in the season-opening Mercedes Championships, Els crushed his competition and set the PGA Tour scoring record in relation to par Sunday, closing with a 6-under 67



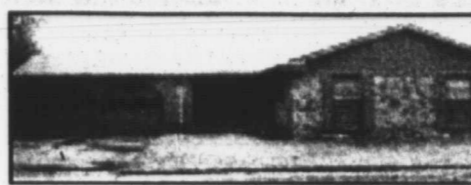
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# Congressional leaders fear North Korea edging toward crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress say North Korea's nuclear threats are escalating toward a crisis that requires the United States to at least open a dialogue without making promises.

"It might not be in a crisis stage at the moment, but it's going to get there if something is not done about it," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., a senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition." "It's a question of finding out, I believe, what does North Korea really want here?"

Also urging diplomatic steps was Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "We're not at a crisis level, we're at a serious level," he told NBC's "Meet the Press."

They and others spoke hours before

a senior American envoy said in Seoul, South Korea, that the United States is willing to consider energy aid for North Korea if it ends nuclear weapons development.

"Once we get beyond nuclear weapons, there may be opportunities with the U.S., with private investors, with other countries to help North Korea in the energy area," Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly told reporters.

The communist country withdrew from the landmark Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty last week and has threatened to resume long-range missile tests and to begin reprocessing spent fuel rods from its nuclear reactor to make atomic bombs.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., urged the Bush administration to take "vigor-

ous action" with U.S. allies, or if necessary, alone. To start, that would include economic sanctions. He also said it would be a mistake to rule out a military response.

"So the question is not what dangers do we face if we have to confront North Korea," McCain said on ABC's "This Week." "The question is, what are the dangers we face if they continue — as they show, have every indication of doing — to develop a nuclear inventory?"

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, criticized the administration for failing to have a steady plan to deal with North Korea and at times trying to provoke leaders there.

"The question isn't whether it's a

threat. It's a threat. The question is how you deal with the threat," Levin told CNN. "And it seems to me, we ought to be working with allies, with South Korea, Japan and other countries there that are willing to work with us. And cut out the hot rhetoric, too, by the way. That does not help."

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democrat, on Saturday completed three days of talks in Santa Fe, N.M., with North Korean diplomats. Talk of a "holy war" against America and other menacing statements mask a desire to start a dialogue with the administration, said Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and energy secretary.

"They don't negotiate like we do. They don't have our same mentality," Richardson said Sunday on ABC. "They believe in order to get some-

thing they have to lay out additional cards, step up the rhetoric, be more belligerent."

Richardson, who reported on the meetings to Secretary of State Colin Powell, thinks talks could start soon.

Richardson suggested a bilateral nonaggression binding pact that says the United States will not attack North Korea, in exchange for steps such as freezing the North's nuclear program and allowing international inspectors back into the country.

"The North Koreans said they're ready to do that, but only after a negotiation," Richardson said.

"What you don't want to do is give the North Koreans a feeling that they're under siege internationally," he said Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

# Australian doctor plans to build suicide machine in U.S.

By MICHELLE MORGANTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A doctor whose prototype suicide machine was seized as he left his native Australia to attend a euthanasia conference says his U.S. supporters will help him rebuild the device.

Dr. Philip Nitschke said that Australian customs agents in Sydney seized his COGen machine Thursday. He had planned to unveil the device, which lets people kill themselves with carbon monoxide, before a national meeting of the Hemlock Society in San Diego.

"They were waiting for me. It's clear," he said. "We'd been quite public about bringing the machine to the U.S. to demonstrate it."

Nitschke, 55, told conference participants Sunday that he intends to challenge the Australian law banning the exportation of any instrument that could be used to assist in suicide. He said another suicide machine would be built

**B**ecause his invention can be operated single-handedly, it does not break U.S. laws barring assisted suicide, Nitschke said.

in the United States.

Because his invention can be operated single-handedly, it does not break U.S. laws barring assisted suicide, Nitschke said. It consists of a coffee-can-sized canister, an intravenous drip bag and nasal prongs. Chemicals are combined in the canister to produce carbon monoxide, which is then inhaled.

Although it has not been tested, Nitschke estimated it would render a person unconscious within minutes and cause death in 30 minutes to an hour. More than \$11,000 was spent to develop the patented device, but Nitschke said he hoped to make it available for free to pro-euthanasia groups.

"It has all the essential ele-

ments of being simple, transportable and the patients use it themselves," said Hemlock Society founder Derek Humphry. "This type of machine cuts out the legal risk."

American euthanasia advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who is serving a 10- to 25-year prison sentence for the 1998 death by injection of a Lou Gehrig's disease patient, also used a device that employed carbon monoxide. Kevorkian's machine relied on a compressed version of the toxic gas, which is hard to obtain and transport. Nitschke said his machine produces carbon monoxide itself.

An earlier system Nitschke developed featured a syringe that administered a lethal

injection at the push of a button on a laptop computer. It was used by four terminally ill people between July 1996 and March 1997, when a short-lived law permitted voluntary euthanasia in Australia's Northern Territory.

Nitschke's appearance drew protests from the California Life Coalition, which called his invention ghoulish.

"Instead of helping people overcome their problems, he

can only help to murder them," coalition director Cheryl Sullenger said in a statement.

But Nitschke said he was providing a humane alternative. He predicted that as the Baby Boom generation ages, more people will want to control how and when they die.

"It's pretty ghoulish when people shoot themselves with shotguns and hang themselves," he said.

# Producer meetings in offing

A two-day meeting to discuss the latest farm legislation, its programs, and various other topics impacting area producers is scheduled Jan. 20 and 21 at the Gray County Annex in Pampa, according to Extension Agent Danny Nusser.

"Because of the importance of these decisions and the need for further understanding about this program," Nusser said, "we have planned a meeting this month that will help you with these decisions and more importantly what it all means." The meetings will discuss the following topics:

**Farm Bill Decisions.** Producers will hear about the base/yield program from A&M and what is necessary to correctly run the program.

**Enterprise Budgets/Creating Budgets.** Extension officials will discuss how to read and use budgets in detail.

**Basic Marketing.** Participants will learn about hedging, options, basis, future contracts, and much more. "This is the one area where producers must become better acquainted with how to utilize markets in order to take advantage of better markets," Nusser said.

**Insurance.** Multi peril insurance will be discussed along with various options producers have related to insurance.

**Inter Generational Transfer.** This topic deals with taxes, more specifically, estate taxes. Producers will get a better idea of how to plan for the future.

Participants interested in attending the meetings must RSVP to the County Extension office by Jan. 17. For more information, call 669-8033.

# Brits arrest six more people in poison scare

LONDON (AP) — British police have arrested six more people in connection with the discovery of the highly toxic poison ricin in London, news reports said Monday.

Sky News and the British Broadcasting Corp. said five men and a woman were arrested Sunday in Bournemouth on England's south coast.

London's Metropolitan Police said only that five men and a woman had been arrested in Bournemouth in connection with "an ongoing investigation."

A spokesman told The Associated Press that local police and specialist officers from London were searching premises in the Bournemouth area. The six people arrested were in custody in Bournemouth, he said on condition of anonymity.

Last week, seven men were arrested in London after an anti-terrorist raid uncovered traces of the poison ricin in an apartment in north London's

Wood Green district. Four, described as North African in origin, appeared in court Monday charged with chemical weapons and terrorism offenses.

Mpouloud Feddag, 18; Samir Feddag, 26, Mustapha Taleb, 33, and a 17-year-old youth were charged with possession of articles for "the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism" and with "being concerned in the development or production of chemical weapons."

The teenager cannot be named under a judge's order.

Taleb also faces a separate charge of possessing articles for the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism.

Ricin can kill within days. There is no antidote or treatment. It is derived from the castor bean plant, which is grown around the world.

The four sat somberly during the 30-minute hearing and spoke only to confirm their

names and addresses. Mouloud Feddag's address was given as High Road, Wood Green — where the ricin was found last week. Samir Feddag, 26, gave an address in Algiers, Algeria.

Authorities have refused to say which countries the other three are from.

The men did not apply for bail and were ordered detained until their next court appearance on Friday at London's Old Bailey criminal court.

A fifth suspect, Nasreddine Fekhadji, was charged with forgery and counterfeiting offenses.

A sixth man arrested for alleged possession of drugs and immigration offenses was expected to be released on bail, police said. A seventh man was released to the custody of immigration officials.

Ricin has been linked in the past to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq.

The U.S. Chemical Warfare Service began studying ricin as a weapon during World War I. During World War II, Britain developed, but never used, a ricin bomb.

# CHCC party



(Courtesy photo)

Alta Mitchell, Harold Lankford, Eulene Cockrell, and family members were among residents at Coronado Healthcare Center who enjoyed Christmas snacks and festivities during the holidays. The Christmas party was sponsored in part by Rolanda's Silk Flowers and Gifts, Roberta's Flowers, Celebrations, and Las Pampas Koi and Garden Society. Carolers from surrounding schools entertained as well.

# Pope weighs in on issue of cloning

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Monday outlined a fresh defense of what he calls the "dignity" of human life, denouncing abortion and euthanasia and saying human cloning reduces humans to mere objects.

In his annual speech to Vatican-based diplomats, the pope called the right to life "the most fundamental of human rights."

"Abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, for example, risk reducing the human person to a mere object: life and death to order, as it were!" he said.

"When all moral criteria are removed, scientific research involving the sources of life becomes a denial of the being and the dignity of the person," he said.

The pope has long voiced opposition to abortion and euthanasia: in a 1995 encyclical, he declared they were both crimes that no laws can legitimize.

The Vatican has more recently voiced condemnation of cloning and research using stem cells from human embryos.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, for example, called the recent claims that a cloned baby had been born "an expression of a brutal mentality, devoid of any ethical and human consideration."

The Vatican is expected to issue a document, possibly this week, touching on cloning, abortion and other issues that clash with the Roman Catholic Church's moral teaching.

**THE Pampa NEWS**

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