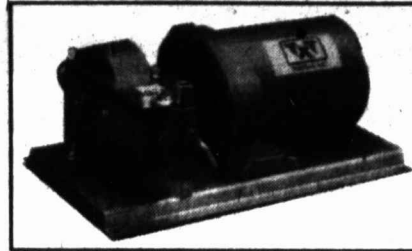


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THE PAMPAN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003

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LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 13-17-19-20-44. Bonus Ball: 5.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 8. Prize: \$4,151.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$20 million.

DEATHS

Jerry A. Donaldson, 67, construction-oil field consultant.

Wayne Garlington, 60, gas company executive.

Agnes Watson Hall, 91, homemaker.

Billy Joe Hagerman, 68, construction company owner.

Paula Ruth Puckett, 44, carpentry worker.

William Robert Provence, 61, oil field roughneck.

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Commissioners set two meeting times this week

Pampa City Commissioners plan to meet twice this week on consecutive days to complete their December obligations.

Commissioners will meet first at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the city commission chamber of city hall beginning with a report from the city manager on reorganization, followed by a report from the public works director on a supplemental environmental project.

Agenda items listed for consideration and possible action include cancellation of the Dec. 23 meeting and first readings of the following ordinances: An ordinance amending the 2003-2004 city operating budget, an ordinance amending an ordinance changing the proposed Walmart Supercenter land zoning from agriculture to commercial, ordinances eliminating the Cable Advisory Commission and Hidden Hills Golf Course Advisory Board and an ordinance amending the sign ordinance relative to the height and area limitations of ground signs.

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, commissioners plan to return to the commission chambers at 4 p.m. to consider on final reading the ordinances first heard in Tuesday's meeting and to consider the final plat of the Wal-Mart Addition.

DPS finds 400 lbs. of pot

AMARILLO — Highway Patrol officers Saturday discovered 400 pounds of marijuana stashed in suitcases in a van they had stopped for a traffic violation on Interstate 40 near Amarillo.

At 12:35 p.m., officers stopped a 2003 Dodge Caravan traveling east on I-40, just west of Amarillo for a traffic violation, according to a Texas Department of Public Safety news release. Later, a K-9 officer alerted on the vehicle and a search found the marijuana, with an estimated value of \$235,000, underneath clothing packed in several suitcases in the rear of the vehicle.

The driver, Osheina M. Wan, 24, of Toronto, Canada, was arrested and booked into Potter County Jail on related drug charges.

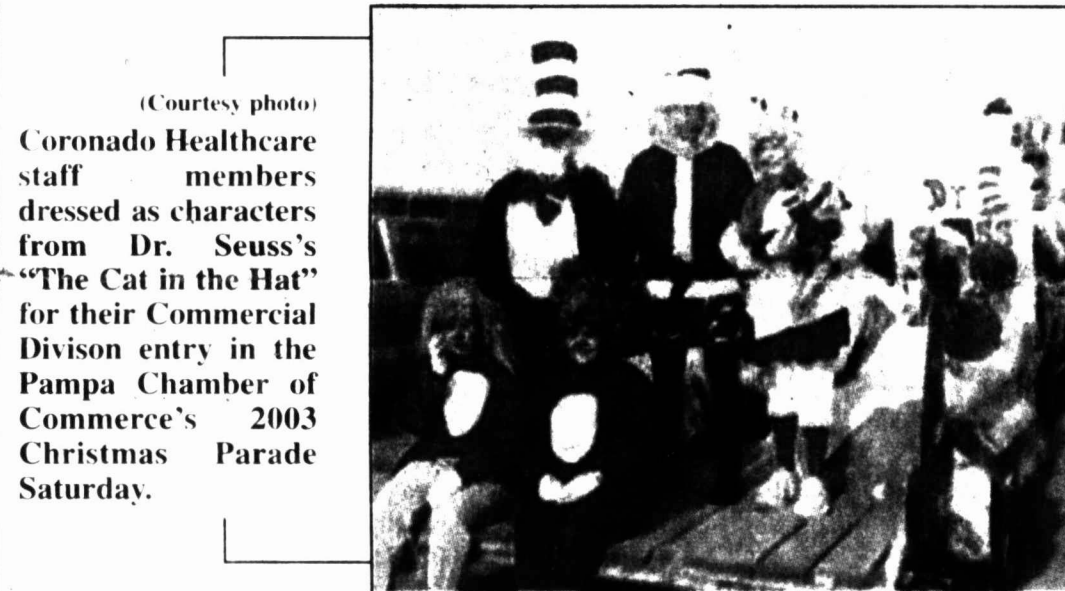
DPS officials said in a press release about the incident that they believe the load originated in San Diego, Calif., and was headed for Virginia.

Everyone loves a parade!



(Courtesy photo)

A Christmas parade just wouldn't be a Christmas parade without an appearance from Jolly Ol' St. Nick, a/k/a Santa Claus. He arrived in style on a Pampa Fire Department vintage fire truck. Official results of this year's Pampa Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade were not available this morning, but Executive Director Clay Price said the parade consisted of 92 entries, compare to 52 entries in 2002. Changing the time to 1 p.m. in the afternoon may have contributed to the increase, he said.



(Courtesy photo)

Coronado Healthcare staff members dressed as characters from Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" for their Commercial Division entry in the Pampa Chamber of Commerce's 2003 Christmas Parade Saturday.

United Way needs \$39,195 to hit goal

Pampa's 50th annual United Way Campaign still needs \$39,195.00 to meet its 2004 goal of \$311,600.

"The citizens of Pampa have again been generous in their support of the 16 United Way Agencies," said Katrina Bigham, executive director. "These agencies provide overwhelming service to over 10,000 people each year. Pampa is a richer place because of their work."

Reaching the goal is essential to maintaining "people caring services" at the current levels," she added. "If we don't reach the goal, each agency will have less money to meet Pampa's needs."

The agencies supported by the Pampa United Way include American Red Cross; Boy Scouts; Golden Spread Council; CASA of the High Plains; Community

Day Care Center; Girl Scouts; Five Star Council; Genesis House; Gray County Child Protective Services; Gray County Latch Key; Pampa Meals On Wheels; Pampa Sheltered Workshop; The Salvation Army; Samaritan Pastoral Counseling; Southside Senior Citizens Center; Texas Panhandle Mental Health & Mental Retardation; Tralee Crisis Center

and Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

"They need Pampa's help right now to continue funding from the United Way," Bigham said. "Call the United Way office today with your year end donation commitment. You can make a difference!"

Call Pampa United Way at 669-1001 or mail donations to Pampa United Way, P.O. Box 2076, Pampa, Texas, 79066-2076.

Bush signs Medicare law with drug benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Monday signed into law the most far-reaching changes in Medicare in nearly four decades, an overhaul that includes for the first time a prescription-drug benefit for seniors.

Bush said the measure, estimated to cost \$400 billion over the next 10 years, would give older Americans "better choices and more control over their health care, so they can receive the modern medical care they deserve."

He signed the bill amid great fanfare in front of an audience of seniors and congressional leaders in the Daughters of the American Revolution's

Constitution Hall.

"Our government is finally bringing prescription drug coverage to the seniors of America," Bush declared.

The new law will carry out the most extensive changes since Medicare's creation in 1965. It adds a prescription drug benefit beginning in 2006. At the same time, it encourages insurance companies to offer private plans to millions of older Americans who now

receive health care benefits under terms fixed by the federal government.

Leading Democrats have charged this would lead to the destruction of the Medicare program as it was designed at its inception during the Johnson administration.

Beginning next May, seniors can buy a Medicare-approved discount card for \$30 or less to help offset the growing costs of prescriptions.

Bush had promised such a measure as part of his 2000 presidential campaign, seeking to capitalize on an issue usually associated with Democrats. However, the GOP-written legislation has come under fire from all nine Democratic presidential candidates, a host of Democratic lawmakers and some fiscal conservatives opposed to its price tag.

Bush spoke in front of a large blue banner with a prescription sign and the words: "Keeping Our Promise to Seniors."

"I'm pleased that all of you are here to witness the greatest advance in health care coverage for America's seniors since the founding of Medicare," the president said.

(See MEDICARE, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

PROVENCE, William Robert — 2 p.m., Salvation Army Church of Pampa.

JERRY A. DONALDSON
1936-2003

MINERAL WELLS — Jerry A. Donaldson, 67, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003, in an Amarillo Hospital after a brief illness. Graveside services were to be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, at Indian Creek Cemetery in Palo Pinto County under the direction of Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home of Mineral Wells.

Mr. Donaldson was born July 28, 1936, in Eldorado to Russell and Clara Donaldson. He married Patricia A. Green on Dec. 19, 1964. He lived in Mineral Wells for 20 years. He retired from Halliburton Resource

WAYNE GARLINGTON
1983-2003

SANFORD — Wayne Garlington, 60, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2003, at Amarillo. Services were to be at 10 a.m. today at Fellowship Baptist Church with the Rev. Bill Sizemore, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Stinnett Cemetery under the auspices of Billy Dixon Masonic Lodge under the direction of Minton-Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Wayne was born in Bowie, Texas, and was a supervisor for Colorado Interstate Gas Company. He was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church where he was active in the Prayer Ministry. He has lived in Sanford for 51 years and was a member of the Billy Dixon Masonic Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his father, B.L. in 1983, and his brother, James in 1999.

AGNES WATSON HALL
1912-2003

Agnes Watson Hall, 91, died Monday, Dec. 8, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Hall was born July 25, 1912, in Red Boiling Springs, Tenn. She married Rayburn Hall on June 29, 1929, in Kiowa County, Okla. He preceded her in death on Dec. 22, 1974. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1962. She was a member of Wells Street Church of Christ. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include three daughters, Myrtis Jones of Pampa and Gayle Caudell and Joyce Bryant, both of Guyton, Okla.; three sons, Gerald Hall of Vega, Curtis Hall of Briscoe, and

Management after 22 years and became a construction and oil field consultant.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Bill Carson and sister Barbara Ann Donaldson.

Survivors include his wife Pat Donaldson of the home; two sons, Kevin Donaldson of Mineral Wells and Chris C. Donaldson of Lillian; one brother, Kyle Donaldson of Sonora, one sister, Ruby A. Harris of Eldorado; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Mart and Sandra Chumley of Pampa; and three grandchildren.

Pall Bearers will be Tony Estep, Bruce Estep, Terry Estep, Wade Garlington, Chase McDonald, Anthony Estep, Dave Whiteley and Eldon Eads.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbie; his mother, Lucille Garlington of Borger; four sons, Wade Garlington and wife Velvet of Williams, Ariz., Bruce Estep and wife Carmen of McLoud, Okla., Bruce Estep and wife Karen of Fayetteville, N.C., and Tony Estep of Amarillo; three daughters, Robyn and James Bumgarner of St. Charles, Mo., Christie and Eldon Eads of Pampa, Texas, and Gail and Dave Whiteley of Borger; a brother, Reggie Garlington of Skellytown; a sister, Tanya Heildeberg of Borger; a sister-in-law, Charlotte Garlington of Dallas; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Bruce Hall of Amarillo; 17 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Caitlin Hall.

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

BILLY JOE "BILL" HAGERMAN
1925-2003

Billy Joe "Bill" Hagerman, 68, died Saturday, Dec. 6, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Born Oct. 6, 1925 at Sweetwater, Okla., he was a graduate of Kelton High School and Draughts Business College. He was a member of the Army National Guard from 1953 until 1965, being discharged with the rank of Sgt. 1st Class. He married Freda Hall on Nov. 18, 1955, at Pampa. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a postman from 1959 until 1983. He was the owner and operator of Hagerman Construction at the time of his death. He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Proud Heritage Tractor Club, and the Golden Spread Antique Machinery Association. His volunteer activities included the Freedom Museum, the Old Mobette Jail, and he was construction supervisor at the Super Playground.

Survivors include his wife, Freda Hagerman of the home; three sons, B. Jay Hagerman of

Pampa, Rick Hagerman and wife Carla of Lexington, Ky., and Mark Hagerman and wife Tina of Plainview; two daughters, Kim Davis and husband Paul of Tulsa, Okla., and Joanna Young and husband Mark of Brownwood; four brothers, Charles Hagerman and wife Naomi of Sweetwater, Okla., Verlin Hagerman and wife Debbie of Roscoe, Dale Hagerman and wife Dottie of Hinton, Okla., and Glenn Hagerman and wife Linda of Oklahoma City, Okla.; one sister, Rita Butler and husband Charlie of Weatherford, Okla.; 11 grandchildren, Mike, Matt and Holly Davis of Tulsa, Okla., Adam and Travis Hagerman of Pampa, Kristen and Clayton Hagerman of Plainview, Dean and Tobee Hagerman of Lexington, Ky., and Kalih and Kyrá Young of Brownwood.

The family requests memorials be made to the Freedom Museum Building Fund, 600 N. Hobart, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

— Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

PAULA RUTH PUCKETT
1959-2003

Paula Ruth Puckett, 44, died Dec. 6, 2003, in Amarillo. Graveside services were to be Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, at 10 a.m. at Memory Garden Cemetery with the Rev. Carl Novian, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

She was born Nov. 9, 1959, in Lampasas. She has lived in Pampa most of her life. She worked with her father doing carpentry work. She was a member of Alcoholic Anonymous.

Survivors include one son, Christopher Lance Puckett of Pampa; two sisters, Sharon L. Thompson of Evant, Texas, and Naomi Hulme of Plano, Texas; her mother, Mary Ida Puckett of Pampa; two nieces, Tammy Burdett and Mary Butler; two nephews, Don Thompson and Brian Butler; two great-nieces,



Lindsey Thompson and Brianna Burdett; five great-nephews, Lance Corporal Jared Thompson - USMC, Kyle Thompson, Brady Burdett, Brent Burdett, and Zachary Butler. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Roy Edward Puckett and Millard Witt Puckett.

The family requests memorials be to the American Diabetes Association.

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

WILLIAM ROBERT PROVENCE
1942-2003

A memorial service for William Robert Provence, 61, will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Salvation Army Church with Captain Gary Steward, officiating. Mr. Provence died Dec. 4, 2003. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Born June 19, 1942, in Foreman, Ark., he had

been a resident of Pampa most of his life. He worked as a roughneck in the oil field industry.

Survivors include three stepsons, Robert Swanson of Skellytown, Bobby Swanson of New Mexico, and Billy Swanson of Amarillo, one brother, Leonard Provence of Avant, Okla., and one sister, Marie Gonzalez of Pampa.

The body will not be available for viewing.

ON RECORD

SHERIFF

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

Sunday, Dec. 7

Misty Dawn Pritchard, 31, 1112 Lincoln, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Michelle Lynn Roberts, homeless, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia; capias pro fines on charges of no seat belt, failure to appear and no valid Texas driver's

license; and warrants for leaving the scene of an accident, no valid driver's license and failure to appear.

Racheal Georgett Gunther, 42, 601 N. West, was arrested for public intoxication and prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Carlos B. Regaldo, 57, 1029 S. Wells, was arrested for public intoxication and capias pro fines for no driver's license and running a stop sign.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Thursday, Dec. 4

1:46 p.m. — A 1989 Cadillac Fleetwood, driven by Ora-Lee Scott Cox, 83, 1825 Evergreen, and a 2003 Cadillac CTS, driven by Margaretta N. Arrington, 68, rural Pampa, collided in the 2200 block of North Duncan. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Friday, Dec. 5

10:53 p.m. — A 1995 Dodge Avenger, driven by Stacianne Novian, 15, 2628 Fir, and a 2001 Chevrolet 1500 pickup, driven by Felipe Jesus Portillo Jr., 17, 1629 N. Faulkner, collided at the intersection of North Williston and 21st streets. No injuries were reported. Portillo was cited for driving while intoxicated-minor, no driver's license and failure to yield right of way at a yield sign. Novian was cited for violation of restriction B on driver's license.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Assault by threat was reported in the 1900 block of Chestnut.

Criminal mischief under \$50 was reported in the 1900 block of Chestnut. A door on a house was damaged. Estimated damage was \$40.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the lobby of the police department. The incident occurred in the 1800 block of North Hobart. It is unknown if the vehicle was locked or unlocked. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle.

Tampering with a witness/information report was reported in the 700 block of North West. A suspect was reported to have committed an assault by threat.

Friday, Dec. 5

An information report was taken in the 1500 block of North Hobart concerning a possible family assault.

An information report was taken in the police department lobby.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of Hill. A cell phone valued at \$50 was taken. Method of entry into the vehicle was unknown.

Theft under \$50 was reported by Albertson's Supermarket, 1233 N. Hobart. Pens valued at \$19.96 were taken.

Carl Wayne Dunn Sr., 48, 1108 Prairie Dr., was arrested on a capias pro fine for no valid driver's license.

Sunday, Dec. 7

Rod Lamont Donnell, 27, 1052 Varnon, was arrested for no valid driver's license and capias pro fines for running a stop sign, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no Texas driver's license.

Robert Leon Snowden, 40, 531 S. Somerville, was arrested for public intoxication.

Michael Joseph Shelton, 20, 1302 N. Russell, was arrested for disorderly conduct/language.

Nefi Mesa, 21, 904 E. Francis, was arrested for no valid driver's license and two capias pro fines for court costs.

Nazaret Quinones, 21, 505 Carr, was arrested for capias pro fines on running a stop sign, expired motor vehicle inspection and no Texas driver's license.

Francisco Mendoza, 44, 537 Magnolia, was arrested for public intoxication.

Amparo Moreno Ortega, 43, Dallas, was arrested for public intoxication.

Monday, Dec. 8

Don Ray Thompson, 55, 713 Malone, was arrested for disorderly conduct/language.

CLARIFICATION

In a Pampa News story on Wednesday, Dec. 3, it was reported that a \$5 tax on petroleum-based solvent will be collected beginning Jan. 1, 2004. The \$5 tax will be collected only from registered dry cleaners and will not be applied to other types of petroleum-based solvents, according to Ranell Hadley of Utility Oil. In addition, the dry cleaning solvent will not be sold to anyone who does not have a dry cleaning registration certificate beginning Jan. 1.

Shop Pampa

City Briefs

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BOBBIE CHANGED her mind! Quilting available by Christmas. Kriss Kross. 665-8410.

IT'S ALL on sale, 20% off at Rolanda's and Kayla's.

OPEN HOUSE Tomorrow December 9th 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Drawing, Taste Testing, gourmet food baskets, free gift with purchase of \$5.00 or More! Trees -live & cut, Wreaths, Garland, exclusive dealer of Clayworks Christmas Villages, Artificial Christmas Trees, Ornaments & Decorations. 120 S. Hobart, 669-0158, Mon.-Sat. 9PM-6PM

PAMPA SHRINE Club election of officers. Monday Dec. 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

PARTY TRAYS for the holidays! Hoagies Deli, 665-0272. We deliver!

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THE Pampa NEWS

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MEDIC

He said Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare Act in 1965, establishing a promise to America. We have pledged citizens find a real care in the life.

"And today and modernizing program, we are commitments of all our seniors," Bush sought bipartisan support.

Rural Metropolitan Service responding to calls during the period ending Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003.

9:50 a.m. - responded to the North Hobart area one patient to the Medical Center.

12:26 p.m. - responded to the West Kentucky one to PRMC.

12:41 p.m. - responded to the Yeager and transferred to PRMC.

4:05 p.m. - responded to the West Kentucky.

10:12 p.m. - responded to the Western and transferred to PRMC.

10:26 p.m. - responded to the Chaumont transferred one to PRMC.

Sunday

8:36 a.m. - responded to the North Zimmers one to PRMC.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MEDICARE

He said then-President Lyndon Johnson, when he signed the Medicare Act of 1965, established a "solemn promise to America's seniors. We have pledged to help our citizens find affordable medical care in the later years of life."

"And today, by reforming and modernizing this vital program, we are honoring the commitments of Medicare to all our seniors," Bush said.

Bush sought to emphasize bipartisan support for the bill,

mentioning the backing for the overhaul by Sens Max Baucus, D-Mont., and John Breaux, D-La. He also praised William Novelli, the chief executive of AARP, a senior's group, for backing the bill.

And on Capitol Hill, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said "the long-term capability of the Medicare program, the future of America's health care system and the seeds of fiscal security for a century are all right here."

"Democratic leaders have lashed out at us, at the president and AARP," the Texas Republican said. "But

Democrats have no one to blame but themselves for their abject failure on health care. We wanted a bill, they just wanted an issue, and now the American people know who took their concerns seriously."

The overhaul includes a wide array of other pilot programs that are meant to tweak the Medicare system and will add to the cost of the changes that Bush signed into law Monday.

One of the costliest among them sets aside \$500 million for a two-year, six-state effort for at least 50,000 patients to cover a limited category of

self-administered prescription drugs. "No less than 40 percent of the funding shall be for oral cancer," Congress directed in a report accompanying the bill.

Other programs are designed to help health care providers and their patients, including a two-year program to cover chiropractic services without prior approval by a medical doctor.

Others are aimed at attacking waste, such as a three-year provision to allow Medicare to contract with private firms for

"identifying underpayments and overpayments and recouping overpayments."

The new law encourages insurance companies to offer private plans to millions of older Americans who now receive health care benefits under terms fixed by the government.

Even before he was to sign the legislation in a campaign-style event, Democrats stepped up their criticism.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California,

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and other opponents scheduled a rally with seniors to underscore their claim the measure threatens Medicare's future.

Even some of Bush's fellow conservatives have questioned the price tag of the reforms, which come at a time when next year's budget deficit is projected to be some \$500 billion. "The U.S. budget is out of control," Goldman Sachs economists said last month.

ON RECORD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

AMBULANCE

Rural Metro Ambulance Service responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 6

9:50 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Hobart and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:26 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported one to PRMC.

12:41 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Yeager and transported one to PRMC.

4:05 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

10:12 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Western and transported one to PRMC.

10:26 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2700 block of Chaumont Terrace and transported one to PRMC.

Sunday, Dec. 7

8:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Zimmers and transported one to PRMC.

4:07 p.m. - A mobile ICU Neel Road and transported one responded to the 1100 block of to PRMC.

FIRE

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

Saturday, Dec. 6

10:04 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

12:43 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 500 block of Yeager.

10:29 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 2700 block of Chaumont Terrace.

Sunday, Dec. 7

2:26 p.m. - Two units and six firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 700 block of Deane Drive. The resident tried to light a burner on a gas stove causing a brief flash due to a small gas leak. No damage or injuries were reported.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa.		KMI	55.01	-0.23
Wheat	3.59	XCEL	17.05	+0.15
Milo	4.19	Kerr McGee	44.37	+0.20
Corn	4.58	Limited	17.56	-0.06
Soybeans	6.85	Williams	9.87	-0.05
		MCD	25.86	-0.13
		XOM	37.02	+0.24
		Atmos	24.66	+0.07
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		Pioneer Nat	29.82	+0.29
OXY	38.47	JCP	23.91	-0.44
BP	44.03	COP	59.88	+0.03
Celanese	35.09	SLB	48.96	-0.28
Cabot Corp	30.80	Tenneco	6.00	+0.09
Cabot Oil Gas	28.51	CVX	77.87	-0.13
Coca Cola	47.12	Wal-Mart	53.23	-0.25
VLO	44.87	OKE	30.21	+0.15
HAL	24.42	NS Grp	8.19	+0.17
Triad	32.87			
NOI	20.65	New York Gold	406.35	
		Silver	5.46	
		West Texas Crude	31.26	

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today, mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight, a chance of rain then snow likely after midnight. Breezy. Snow accumulation less than one inch. Lows in the upper 20s. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain and snow 60 percent. Tuesday, a 60 percent chance of snow in the morning with total accumulations of 1 inch. Windy. Much colder. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Tuesday night, mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Windy. Lows around 19. North winds 20 to 30

mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the southwest in the afternoon. Gusts up to 25 mph. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Thursday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Saturday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Saturday night, mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

STATEWIDE

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas may see some precipitation early this week as a result of a cold front that blew into the state at the end of last week.

The Panhandle has an 80 percent chance of snow Tuesday morning with highs in the mid 30s and winds 25 mph to 35 mph.

Temperatures will cool off Tuesday in the Permian Basin with highs near 55 under partly cloudy skies. Winds will be 15 mph to 25 mph.

Far West Texas will see sunny skies and slightly cooler temperatures in the middle 50s.

North Texans can expect

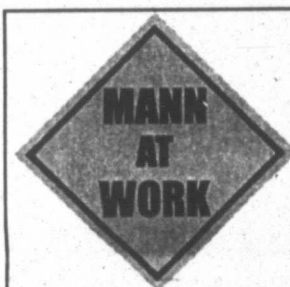
possible thunderstorms Tuesday morning and rain showers later in the day. Winds 20 mph to 30 mph with temperatures in the middle 30s throughout the day.

In Central Texas, the chance of rain is 20 percent for Tuesday, with a midday high near 63, and temperatures falling to near 50 for the rest of the day. Winds will reach near 30 mph.

East Texas has an 80 percent chance of rain Tuesday with light winds and highs in the middle 60s.

Areas along the coast will see highs in the upper 70s under mostly cloudy skies and winds near 25 mph.

In South Texas, temperatures will reach the upper 70s, with light winds throughout the day and partly cloudy skies.



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MONDAY • December 8, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Upset Mother Finds Boy's Toys Hidden Under His Bed

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Drew," is almost 19. My problem is I found sex toys under his bed. He has had a steady girlfriend, "Lindy," for a year. I have questioned them about their closeness. He says they've "fooled around" a little, but Lindy wants to wait until marriage for sex. I told Drew when he first started seeing Lindy to take it slow and not to pressure her.

My son and Lindy spend a lot of time alone together, and I worry about what might happen. Now, having found these "toys," I'm confused.

I threw them away and left him a note where he'd hidden the toys, saying that these things are unnecessary, especially for an 18-year-old — and besides, they aren't the real thing. There were toys for both sexes, so that leads me to believe that Lindy may use them also. (They looked quite new.)

I want to believe that if they aren't sexually active, Drew feels these are necessary. I know all teenagers are curious, but I didn't think the curiosity would advance past men's magazines.

Was I wrong for being upset and throwing his toys away? Should I try to talk to him about this, or should I have his father talk to him? (I am the parent with the discipline and responsibility. My husband just lets everything go.)

CONFUSED MOTHER
IN FLORIDA

DEAR CONFUSED MOTHER: Earth to Mother! Children become interested in and curious about sex even before puberty. A few decades ago, puberty would occur around ages 13 or 14, but in recent years children as young as 10 or 11 are becoming sexually mature.

Your son is no longer a child. You should not have thrown his property away without first discussing the matter with him. As for your "talking to him about this," I think you have already done enough. However, it's time

your husband had a serious man-to-man talk with him.

Whether or not Drew and his girlfriend are having sex now, they are having a sexual relationship. Once things are hot and heavy enough to involve sex toys, the real thing is sure to follow.

So please take your head out of the sand and make absolutely certain that your son and his girlfriend know the importance of birth control — and how to use it. Do not procrastinate, or before you know it, someone could be calling you Granny.

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and live at home with my parents. My boyfriend is 24, and also lives at home.

His mother has given him a cruise for his birthday, and he would like to take me. However, my parents don't believe in premarital sex and have already told me I cannot go away with him — that only as a married couple can we travel together alone.

I do not want to miss this trip. I would love to spend this kind of time with my boyfriend. I love him very much, but my parents limit our time together. Is there a way to get around this?

RESTRICTED
IN OCEANSIDE, N.Y.

DEAR RESTRICTED: Yes. Invite a chaperone or get married.

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepsers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



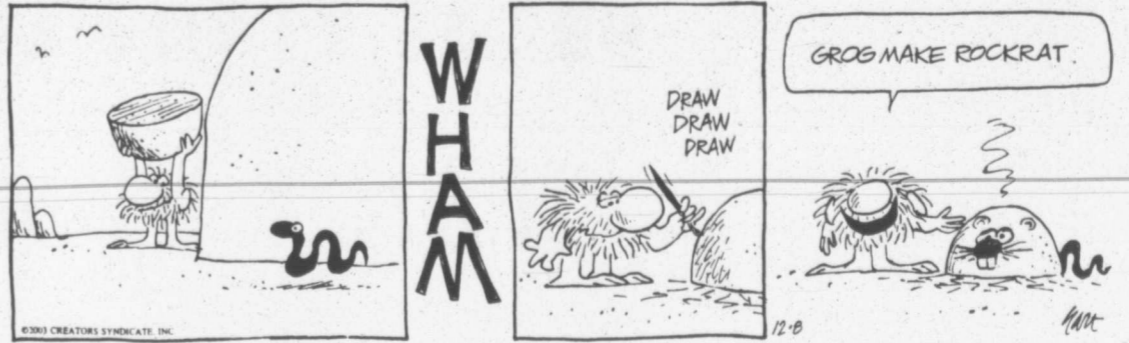
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Marvin



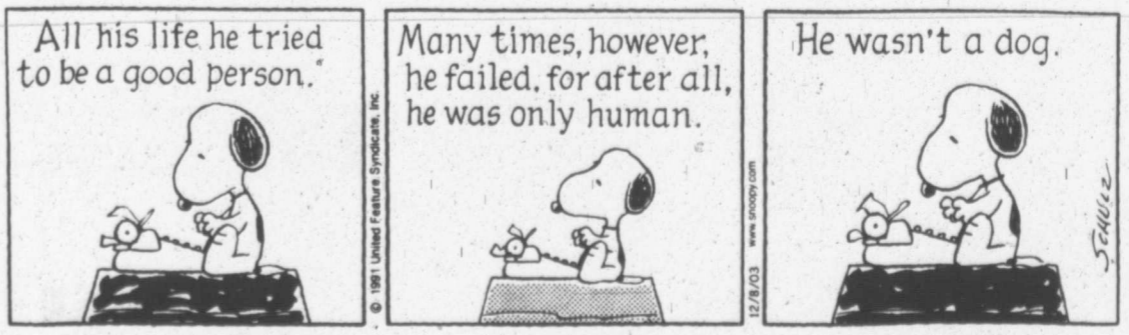
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

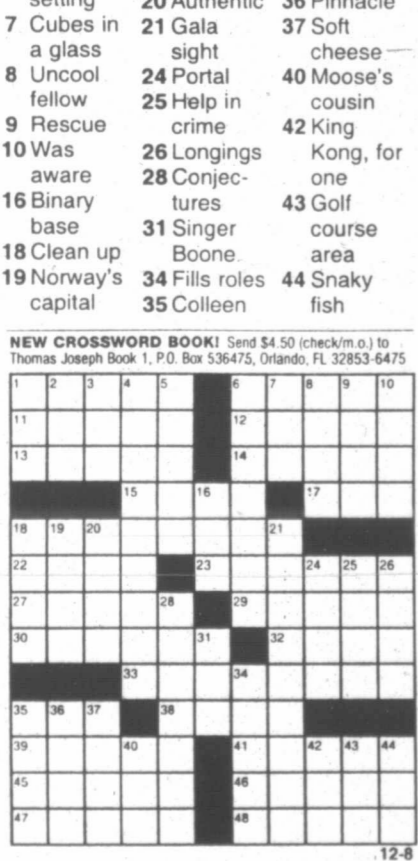
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Grizzlies
- 6 Capital of Belarus
- 11 Cove
- 12 Galleon's place
- 13 F. Scott's wife
- 14 Audacity
- 15 Brad of "Fight Club"
- 17 Grass drops
- 18 Major conflict
- 22 Sailing
- 23 In time
- 27 Informal talk
- 29 Earthen brick
- 30 Hide out
- 32 "Fargo" director
- 33 Serving stands
- 35 Research setting
- 38 Constellation part
- 39 Realty units
- 41 Outpouring
- 45 Photographer's request
- 46 Plains home
- 47 Looks for
- 48 Girder material



Saturday's answer



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SPORTS

USC No. 1 in polls, but third in BCS

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

College football fans, get ready to crown not just one, but possibly two national champions.

And get ready for a new round of controversy.

That's because the computer rankings had Oklahoma as the country's top team Sunday while the human poll voters picked Southern California.

It's exactly what the Bowl Championship Series was designed to avoid, with the prospect of a split title certain to renew cries for a playoff.

"I don't think anyone will know who the legitimate

national champion is unless all three teams in consideration get the opportunity to play one another," LSU coach Nick Saban said.

Despite getting walloped by Kansas State 35-7 on Saturday night, Oklahoma will take its 12-1 record to the Sugar Bowl against LSU, which won the Southeastern Conference championship by beating Georgia 34-13.

The winner in New Orleans on Jan. 4 automatically captures the coaches' title under the BCS format.

USC, which finished third in the BCS rankings, could win The Associated Press championship by beating No.

4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

"I'm not an expert on this, but if the No. 1 team at the end of the regular season wins its bowl game, how are they not the No. 1 team outright?" USC receiver Mike Williams asked. "But we don't play LSU or we don't play Oklahoma, so you'll never know."

The No. 1 team in the AP poll has never dropped after winning its bowl game.

When the BCS contract expires after the 2005 season, a one-game championship might be instituted after the bowls. That would be too late to fix this year's mess.

"The No. 1 team is not

playing in the game that they're billing as the championship game," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "Something didn't come out right."

In the final BCS standings, Oklahoma was first with 5.11 points based on its top spot in five of the seven computers, the 11th-toughest schedule and a quality win over Texas. The Sooners were third in both polls.

"At the end of the year, we're No. 1 in the system," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "There's nothing to apologize for."

LSU (12-1) was second with 5.99, edging out USC (11-1) by 0.16 in the second

closest finish in the six-year history of the BCS. Nebraska beat Colorado by 0.05 in 2001.

The Trojans got 79 of the 128 first-place votes in the polls but finished third in five computers because of a weak Pac-10 schedule.

"In a way it doesn't make sense," USC cornerback Will Poole said. "They're going to have to do something about the BCS. Maybe they need to pull the plug."

LSU was second in the polls and six computers and edged out USC based on a tougher schedule. LSU and USC were each picked first in one computer.

NOTEBOOK

VOLLEYBALL

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's and women's adult volleyball league. Men's and women's 4 x 4 (four players on each team) divisions will be offered. Players must be 14 years old to participate.

Entry deadline will be Jan. 14 at 5 p.m., and the season will begin the week of Jan. 19, 2004.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is \$100 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of five players.

Roster forms, fact sheets and league by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at City Hall, Room 204. For more information, please call 669-5740 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

GENERAL

The Pampa News sports department now has its own e-mail address.

Stories and photographs from coaches and volunteer sports reporters can be submitted to moosesour@yahoo.com

Photos need to have a J-Peg format.

Stories can still be submitted by fax to 669-2520 or phoned in to 669-2525, ext. 321. Regular photos, both negatives and prints, can still be used by The Pampa News. Just drop the photos in the mail slot at the front of the news office or bring them by the sports desk.

BASEBALL

NARITA, Japan (AP) — The New York Mets made Kazuo Matsui feel wanted.

The Japanese star returned the favor Monday when he decided to accept the team's three-year offer.

"The Mets made me feel most wanted," Matsui said at a news conference at Narita International Airport. "I'm very excited to be going to New York and am looking forward to my first year as a major leaguer."

Matsui boarded a plane for New York immediately following Monday's news conference. The Mets' offer was for about \$20 million over three years.

While New York hasn't formally acknowledged the signing, Mets spokesman Jay Horwitz said Matsui will have a physical Tuesday and the team will have a news conference Wednesday.

Matsui's announcement ended weeks of speculation over where the Japanese star would end up playing. Matsui said he was also pursued by the Anaheim Angels, Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees.

Fort Elliott girls, Channing boys win Tomahawk Classic

MIAMI — Fort Elliott girls downed Spearman 56-38 Saturday to win the championship at the Tomahawk Classic.

The Lady Cougars extended their 11-point lead (25-14) at halftime to 13 (41-28) at the end of the third quarter.

Katie Donaldson led Fort Elliott scoring with 22 points. Hart had 10 points for Spearman.

Channing beat Fort Elliott 43-35 for the boys title.

Wade Grant had 17 points for Channing and Russell Lohbauer had 14 to lead Fort Elliott.

Pampa's junior varsity boys won two of three games, defeating Adrian 79-42 Saturday to finish the tournament.

Three players scored in double figures for Pampa with Weston Teichmann leading the way with 23 points. Sharod Young followed with 18, and Braydon Barker had 16.

E. Reid had 13 points for Adrian.

Others scoring for Pampa were Brett Ferrell 6, Tyler Hall 6, Michael Pergeson 4, and Craig Crowell 2. Teichmann drilled six 3-point goals while Barker and Hall had two each.

Pampa JVs meet Lubbock Coronado JV at 6 tonight at the WT Event Center in Canyon.

The varsity game between the two schools will follow.

Tomahawk Classic
Girls

Consolation Championship
Miami 72, Pampa JV 51
M-Bergen 18, Pampa JV-Nicole Clark 13.
Fort Elliott 70, Follett 61
FE - Donaldson 25, F-Cullers 22.
Wheeler 64, Adrian 34
W-Jones 14, McCasland 14, A-Walker 18.
Miami 64, McLean 38
Mi-Hutchinson 14, M-Dampier 16.
Pampa JV 57, Shamrock 49
P-Ledbetter 16, S-Alexander 16.

Boys

Shamrock 68, Miami 55
S-Benton 27, M-Browning 21.
Consolation Championship
Wheeler 67, Spearman 51
Scoring leaders not reported.
Channing 50, Miami 47
C-L. Grant 27, M-Browning 21.
Fort Elliott 69, Shamrock 59
F-Boydston 23, S-Wright 18.
Booker 61, McLean 45
B-Alexander 13, M-Payne 17.
Wheeler 52, Follett 46
W-Emillano 17, F-Woods 32.

Eagles 36,
Cowboys 10

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

The Philadelphia Eagles didn't open any champagne bottles or congratulate each other.

Sure, they clinched a playoff spot with a 36-10 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. But that's not enough reason to celebrate anymore. The Eagles won't be happy unless they reach the Super Bowl.

"We are not overly excited or just jumping around like we have never been here before," quarterback Donovan McNabb said after passing for 248 yards and three touchdowns. "These next couple of weeks are obviously important for us to clinch the home-field advantage and you want to host the playoff here in your own stadium."

The Eagles (10-3), who have the best record in the NFC, have won eight straight and can clinch their third straight division title with two more victories or one win and another loss by the Cowboys.

PHS girls open district against Randall

PAMPA — The Pampa Lady Harvesters host Randall to open the District 3-4A season at 7:30 Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Lady Harvesters (5-6) will be looking for their third straight win. Randall (4-6) played Lubbock Coronado for seventh place at The Gene Messer Tournament and lost 66-55.

Pampa's balanced scoring attack played a big part in beating Liberal Kan. (59-33) and Perryton (51-39) last week as a different player each game stepped up big on the scoreboard. Nine players found the scoring column with senior

guard Abbi Covalt leading the team with 13 points against Liberal. Seven players figured in the scoring in the win over Perryton. Sophomore forward Jackie Gerber was high scorer with 13.

A pair of 5-7 juniors, Morgan Smith and Jordan Gore, have been Randall's biggest scorers in the non-district season. Smith and Gore were both starters as sophomores.

.....
CANYON — Pampa lost to Randall 50-32 in the seventh-place game Saturday at The Gene Messer Tournament of Champions.

Nathan Maxwell's 20 points led Randall.

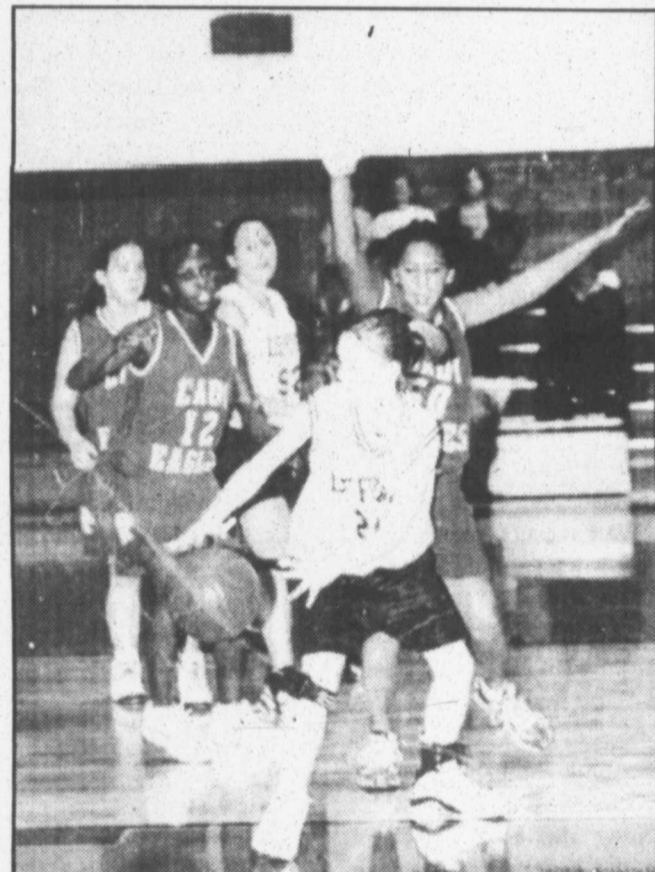
Pampa's top scorers were Collin Bowers with 8 points, and Chance Bowers and Deterrance Smith 6 apiece.

Pampa trailed by only three (23-20) at halftime, but Randall pulled ahead 40-26 after three quarters.

Randall is 2-6 for the season and Pampa is 3-8.

The Harvesters take on Lubbock Coronado at 7:30 tonight in the WT Event Center in Canyon. Proceeds from the game will go to the Harvester Boys Basketball Booster Club.

Jr. High action



Misty Pairsh of Lefors delivers a bounce pass to a teammate in junior high basketball activity. The Lady Bandits won over Holy Cross 41-20. Scoring for Lefors were Shea Lewis with 12, Timbra Overstreet 10, Hannah Andis 7, Amanda Lawrence 4, Misty Pairsh 4, Valarie Willis 2, and Tori Meeks 2.

Aquatic club sets Dec. 15 deadline

PAMPA - Deadline for joining the Pampa Aquatic Club is Dec. 15, and interested youngsters may contact Anna Saiz at 669-1740 for more information or to sign up.

The club is for youngsters in age groups 6; 7-8; 9-10; 11-12; 13-14 and 15-18.

Youngsters who wish to join must be able to swim. PAC (Pampa Aquatic Club) is not a swimming program.

Club activities begin in January.

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Rangers want resolution to potential A-Rod trade

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Boston Red Sox have about a week to close a trade for Alex Rodriguez.

Texas general manager John Hart would like to know by the end of the winter meetings on Dec. 16 whether the American League MVP will remain with the Rangers for next season. The Rangers have been discussing a trade that would send him to the Red Sox for Manny Ramirez.

"As long as this potentially is alive, it precludes us from having a road map of what we can do with anybody else," Hart said Sunday. "The sooner we have a resolution, the better."

The deal would be a swap of

baseball's only \$20 million-a-year players. In a sign of how extraordinary the situation is, commissioner Bud Selig is allowing the Red Sox to speak directly with Rodriguez. In most situations, a tentative trade must be in place before baseball grants a window for a team to speak with a player under contract to another club.

"To the extent that it happened, the commissioner has approved it," said Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office.

Asked whether he had granted permission, Selig declined comment.

The Boston Herald, citing unidentified sources, first reported Saturday that Red Sox owner John Henry had spoken to Rodriguez. Rangers owner Tom Hicks told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Rodriguez was allowed to meet with Henry more than a week ago.

"It was more of a get-acquainted meeting," Hicks was quoted as saying.

Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, said no meeting had been scheduled.

The Red Sox refused to confirm or deny the possibility of a trade.

Rodriguez agreed in December 2000 to a record \$252 million, 10-year contract with Texas. Ramirez and the Red Sox agreed the same day to a \$160 million, eight-year deal.

Hart said Sunday, after the Rangers refused salary arbitration for Rafael Palmeiro and Juan Gonzalez, that the team was preparing to move forward with A-Rod at shortstop and is "very excited" about that.

"I recognize that a lot of things can change, a lot of dynamics in the next week that could take us through the winter meetings," Hart said. "But to this point, there has been little or no contact with any clubs regarding Alex."

Rodriguez led the majors in homers his first two seasons with Texas, and hit an AL-high 47 last season with 118 RBIs. Ramirez had at least 33 homers and 104 RBIs in each of his three seasons in Boston.

Hart said he hadn't spoken directly to Rodriguez, but had several conversations with Boras, about the shortstop and other players.

He said there wasn't much to discuss about a possible trade at this point.

"This has been a lot built up over very little," he said.

If the trade happens, it would likely leave Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra on the outside looking in. Garciaparra, who has one year and \$11.5 million remaining on his seven-year contract, rejected a proposed contract extension last spring but says he wants to stay in Boston.

His agent, Arn Tellem, told The Boston Globe that talks

between the Red Sox and Rangers are a "slap in the face" to his client.

Garciaparra told the Boston Herald that he's happy in Boston, but declined to comment on the possibility of a trade bringing Rodriguez to the Red Sox.

"My heart and my first option have always been (with Boston) and it hasn't strayed from that," said Garciaparra. "The ball's really in management's court. But if there is any question about my unhappiness, that's been answered."

Meanwhile, the Red Sox agreed to a minor league contract with outfielder Dave McCarty, who was invited to spring training.

Texas Tech rallies for second-half victory

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — It took Texas Tech about 20 minutes to warm up to New Mexico's zone defense and its thousands of screaming fans.

The Red Raiders trailed by as much as 10 points and saw the Lobos hit five of their eight 3-point attempts during the first half. Texas Tech also racked up nine fouls and had six turnovers in that half.

That all changed in the second half when Texas Tech (6-2) started shooting from the outside and finding holes in the Lobos' zone. They went on to beat the Lobos 67-58 Saturday at The Pit.

"We have not been a good team to get behind, catch up and go on to win," Texas Tech head coach Bob Knight said. "But tonight we came back and didn't make any mistakes from that point on. Everything kind of went our way."

New Mexico (2-3) went into the second half with a 32-29 lead and managed to

keep it for more than a minute until Texas Tech's Robert Tomaszek kicked back the ball to LucQuente White, who pulled up for a 3 and tied the game.

New Mexico took back the lead when Alfred Neale slammed in a missed shot by teammate Lenny Miles.

The Red Raiders tied the game with a pair of free throws from Andre Emmett, who finished with 12 points and was 4-for-4 from the line. While New Mexico missed some crucial free throws, Texas Tech was 92 percent from the line for the game.

The teams traded leads for more than three minutes until New Mexico's Javin Tindall hit a 3 from the top of the key to put the Lobos up 44-40. After a pair of baskets and a 3-pointer by Texas Tech, Neale tied it at 47 with a 3 from the left perimeter.

After stealing an errant pass by Texas Tech, the Lobos had possession of the ball for close to three min-



Aprille Epperson

Pampa native hired as Jacksboro coach

Aprille Epperson has been hired as the softball coach at Jacksboro High School.

She is currently a Special Education teacher at Jacksboro Middle School. Epperson has been teaching at Jacksboro for the past five years.

She is the daughter of Gary and Vickie Epperson of Pampa

Class 4A Playoffs

DIVISION I
 Region I
 Semifinals
 North Crowley 17, Texarkana 13
 Semifinals
 Bay City 23, CC Callen 21
 Finals
 North Crowley (10-4) vs. Bay City (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at College Station.

DIVISION II
 Region I
 Quarterfinals
 Denton Ryan 17, Aledo 0
 Region II
 Quarterfinals
 Dallas Highland Park 31, Kilgore 28
 Semifinals
 Denton Ryan (13-1) vs. Dallas Highland Park (13-1), 1 p.m. Saturday at Texas Stadium.

Region III
 Quarterfinals
 La Marque 32, El Campo 7
Region IV
 Quarterfinals
 SA Alamo Heights 39, New Braunfels Canyon 14
 Semifinals
 La Marque vs. SA Alamo Heights, 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Astrodome.

Penn State hands Number Two Lady Longhorns first setback

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — There was a time when Penn State point guard Jess Strom was a defensive liability. That's no longer the case.

Strom had seven steals — many leading to fast-break baskets — along with 19 points and six assists to lead the eighth-ranked Lady Lions to a 79-59 upset of No. 2 Texas on Sunday.

"She was definitely on top of her game tonight," Texas point guard Jamie Carey said. "She's just a scrapper."

That was never more evident than when Strom put the exclamation point on a 17-0 second-half run that put the game away. Strom stole the ball from Nina Noonan, hit the layup on the other end, drew a foul, and hit the free throw to convert the three-point play.

"She was like a little gnat-fly," Penn State coach Rene Portland said. "There were times I wanted to rip her legs off, when Jamie Carey got a 3-pointer and nobody was playing her."

Strom made all 11 of her free

throw tries and Penn State (5-1) finished 20-for-20 from the line.

"I just thought she was ball-hawking all over the floor," Texas coach Jody Conradt said. "Not to be overlooked, 11-of-11 of the free throws she shot tells you she was aggressive and we just didn't make plays."

"We put her on the free-throw line way too much. She obviously decided she could take the ball away from us and she did that several times."

That's a big improvement Strom's past performances, when she mostly led a half-court offense and tried not to get beat on defense. Now, a quicker, slimmed-down Strom is leading the transition offense and averaging more than 14 points.

"I think we're learning to run the ball a little bit better, and Jess is making better decisions," Portland said.

Not that Strom has had much choice in the matter. Portland, who coached All-American point guards Suzie McConnell and

Helen Darling, has always put a lot of pressure on Strom, the only player to play all 40 minutes.

"During the game, I was kind of tired," Strom said. "But when I looked over at the bench, Rene was like, 'You are not tired!' So I'm not tired."

Kelly Mazzante, who missed her first nine shots, started the second-half run with a 12-foot jumper. Mazzante, who had just four points in the first half, scored 10 of her 19 points in that run, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Jaguars shut out Texans, 27-0

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Could the Jacksonville Jaguars really have one of the NFL's best defenses? After being shut out for the first time in their short existence, the Houston Texans certainly think so.

Led by two sacks from Tony Brackens, the Jaguars defeated Houston 27-0 on Sunday, allowing just 124 yards and turning rookie quarterback Dave Ragone's debut into a bust.

The Texans (5-8) played without starting quarterback David Carr and running back Domanick Davis. That hurt, they agreed, but several in the locker room felt the reasons for the shutout went deeper.

"That was, by far, the most physical defense I've ever played against, seen or heard of," said Texans tight end Billy Miller, a fourth-year veteran.

The Jaguars (4-9) came in with the league's sixth-ranked defense, and that ranking likely will rise. They got their first shutout since Dec. 3, 2000, when they defeated Cleveland 48-0.

"You won't find another defense that is playing as good as we are right now," cornerback Fernando Bryant said.

The offense wasn't bad,

either. Fred Taylor broke a late 62-yard run to finish with a season-high 163. Jimmy Smith caught a 32-yard touchdown and Byron Leftwich threw for 194 yards to lift Jacksonville to its first winning streak since last November.

The Texans, meanwhile, lost a good chance to put together the first back-to-back wins in the franchise's short, 29-game history. But really, they never had a chance.

Subbing for Davis, whose thigh injury kept him out, Tony Hollings ran for 19 yards on 18 carries. Carr was battling the flu and didn't even get a chance to test his injured shoulder during warmups. Ragone took his place and never got comfortable. The rookie from Louisville went 11-for-23 for 71 yards and an interception.

"There were a lot of emotions going, obviously," Ragone said. "Maybe next time, I'll respond a little differently, but it's kind of like growing pains."

While he failed to lead the Texans to a score, Ragone did get one thing many quarterbacks wait years for — his first career reception. He caught his own pass, which had been deflected by Marcus Stroud at

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL				Atlanta	3	10	0	.231	241	342
7th grade girls results				North						
Pampa vs. Canyon				W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
7th "A" Lost				8	5	0	.615	344	302	
Scorers were: Jessica Miner-4pts., Kelby Doughty-3pts., Holly Wingate-3pts., Lauren Smith-1pt.				Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	332	276
7th "B" Lost				Chicago	5	8	0	.385	240	281
Scorers were: Emily Watson-4pts., Rikki Beesley-4pts., Kat Aler-3pts., Alex Hutto-2pts.				Detroit	4	9	0	.308	209	294
West				St. Louis	9	3	0	.750	347	246
Scorers were: Emily Watson-4pts., Rikki Beesley-4pts., Kat Aler-3pts., Alex Hutto-2pts.				Seattle	8	5	0	.615	330	273
San Francisco				San Francisco	6	7	0	.462	298	244
Arizona				3	10	0	.231	180	387	

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

By The Associated Press
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	269	209				
New England	8	5	0	.615	241	203				
Miami	6	7	0	.462	214	200				
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	240	255				
N.Y. Jets										
South										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Indianapolis	10	3	0	.769	372	281				
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	347	261				
Houston	5	8	0	.385	211	317				
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	229	264				
North										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	331	251				
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	281	297				
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	.385	250	284				
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	192	224				
West										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Kansas City	11	2	0	.846	388	267				
Denver	8	5	0	.615	324	233				
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	229	305				
San Diego	3	10	0	.231	247	349				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Philadelphia	10	3	0	.769	281	222				
Dallas	8	5	0	.615	236	244				
Washington	5	8	0	.385	256	287				
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	209	286				
South										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Carolina	8	5	0	.615	248	249				
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	263	292				
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	244	198				

Sunday's Games

San Diego 14, Detroit 7
 Green Bay 34, Chicago 21
 Pittsburgh 27, Oakland 7
 Jacksonville 27, Houston 0
 Washington 20, N.Y. Giants 7
 Indianapolis 29, Tennessee 17
 Baltimore 31, Cincinnati 13
 Philadelphia 36, Dallas 10
 Minnesota 34, Seattle 7
 Tampa Bay 14, New Orleans 7
 San Francisco 50, Arizona 14
 Buffalo 17, N.Y. Jets 6
 New England 12, Miami 0
 Denver 45, Kansas City 27
 Atlanta 20, Carolina 14, OT

Monday's Game

St. Louis at Cleveland, 9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Buffalo at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Atlanta at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Seattle at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Detroit at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Houston at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 San Francisco at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Jacksonville at New England, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
 Baltimore at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
 Dallas at Washington, 4:15 p.m.
 Carolina at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
 Green Bay at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15

Philadelphia at Miami, 9 p.m.

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To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa what I want for Christmas is a:

1. little Bratz one way Disko all the stuff that goes with it.
 2. My tv and my vcr fixed.
 3. A new CD player.
 4. new Lizzie or Hillory Duff CD.
 5. knew pink CD.
 6. knew Shnia Twain CD.
 7. Barbie talking townhouse
 8. Dital crater or dital Blue
 9. Icee maker
 10. My scen new my scen dall
 11. Barbie Sea Splashing
 12. Dare you
 13. My scen chillen out
 14. Shrinkie Dink
 15. little Bratz little rooms with everthing.
 16. crayonmaker
- Chelsea Waldrop, Pampa

To: Santa
From: Jade

1. dog
2. dress
3. clothes
4. doll
5. shoes
6. stickers
7. nightgown

8. books
9. hat
10. hair clips
11. T.V.
12. movies
13. Jewlrey
14. Cryons

Dear Santa, I've been goo this hole time. But all I want you to bring me is a Christmas tree.
—Jade Smiles

Dear Santa,

How are you this year? I have been a good girl most of the time.

I am 3-years-old. I have a list of what I would like: a present that's blue; a baby that sucks a bottle; a puppy that eats food; and a TV that stays on cartoons.

Bring my baby sister or brother a toy, so when he/she gets here this summer he/she can play with me.

Santa, this is my best Christmas. My daddy is home with me.

My mommy will have cookies and milk for you.

—Lindsey Carpenter

The following letters are from Mrs. Pat Ford's Lamar Kindergarten class:

Dear Santa,

I want a pink kper. Love, Connie

Dear Santa,

I want a pun. Luv, Shinyce

Dear Santa,

I want a green bike. Love, Nolan

Der Santa,

I want a pla stahn 2. Love, Alejandro

Dear Santa,

I want a pink Bareb. Lov, Brittany

Der Santa,

I want a gambo. Love, Josue

Der Santa,

I want a Barb. Lve, Amber

Dear Santu,

I want a Barbe. Lovu, Jade

Der Santa,

I want a blue ced cat. I am Desteny

Dear Santa,

I want a holh. Levu, Stephanie

Der Santa,

I want a brbe bathsoot. Love, Anissa

Northeast digs out after season's first major snowstorm

BOSTON (AP) — The powerful snowstorm that plowed through the Northeast and piled more than 3 feet of snow in some places over the weekend had lost some of its strength Monday, though its effects lingered and hundreds of school districts announced they would be closed.

"It's not unique but it is unusual that we would have a December snowstorm that would yield this amount of snow," said National Weather Service meteorologist Charlie Foley.

In Massachusetts alone, more than 250 schools planned to close to give communities a chance to clear roads. Schools around New England also

reported closures.

In Connecticut, schools opened a little late, and high school sports organizers worked to reschedule six football championships that were postponed over the weekend.

The deepest snow, 47 inches of it, was recorded in Pinkham Notch at Mount Washington in New Hampshire. Parts of New England were blanketed by nearly three feet of snow, with western Maine and the North Shore of Massachusetts particularly buried. Other parts of the Northeast approached the 2-foot mark. The snow fell in some places for more than 36 hours.

On Monday morning,

Boston had 17 inches of snow on the ground. Peabody, Mass., recorded 35.6 inches. The forecast in eastern Massachusetts was "abundant sunshine" and temperatures near 30 degrees.

The snowstorm was moving northeast toward Nova Scotia, said Neal Strauss, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

"It's well east of Maine right now," Strauss said. "They're getting some backlash snow in Maine right now but the snow is beginning to diminish there now."

Snow wasn't the only problem. Flooding was also reported in some coastal areas, including Scituate, Mass.,

where water was a few feet deep on some roads, according to fire Capt. George Anderson.

Strauss said urban areas such as Boston were more likely to have light flooding because of poor drainage and snow-clogged sewers, but he did not expect more than an inch of water on the ground as snow melted later in the week.

Long lines were evident at Boston's Logan International Airport, which was operating with one runway Monday morning instead of its usual two. Airport spokesman Phil Orlandella said officials hoped to open the second runway by midday.

Flight delays and cancellations were still possible, Orlandella said.

At Bradley International Airport north of Hartford, Ct., operations were returning to normal Monday after a week-end of delays and cancelled flights.

"We're doing real well," said David White of airport operations. "We've got a full rack of airplanes."

Local and state officials in Massachusetts were thankful the storm came on a weekend.

"We were aided by the fact that it was the weekend, and

there was no commute per se," said Jon Carlisle, spokesman for MassHighway. "For the first significant snowfall of season, it went really well."

He said about 3,300 snow plows and other equipment were out on the state's highways at the peak of the storm early Sunday morning. It was not immediately known how much the state spent to plow and salt the highways, Carlisle said. In Boston, Mayor Thomas Menino estimated removal costs at \$65,000 an hour, reaching \$3 million for the storm, the Boston Herald reported.

In New Jersey, more than 70,000 tons of salt and sand was used statewide to make roads passable, said Anna Farneski, spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation.

The storm was blamed for one traffic death in Pennsylvania, one in Connecticut, one in upstate New York and two each in New Jersey, Vermont and Virginia. A 25-year-old man died in Rhode Island when the inner tube he was riding on, towed behind a truck, hit a utility pole. A New Jersey man collapsed outside his home

while shoveling snow and later died, the hospital said.

The snow didn't make it impossible to travel Sunday. Devoted New England Patriots fans made their way to Foxboro, Mass., where 28 inches of snow fell, to see their team beat the Miami Dolphins. But more than 23,000 ticketholders didn't show up, and many that did found their seats piled high with snow. Some chose to just sit on the drifts rather than dig out by hand, and the stadium had a festive air as fans tossed snowballs.

Officials in Stamford, Conn., went ahead with the annual Heights and Lights celebration Sunday, which features a jolly, red-suited Santa rappelling down all 22 stories of the city's tallest building while Bah Hum Bug tries to steal Santa's toys.

Producers required to sign contracts annually, local FSA office announces

Producers wanting to receive advance direct payments in December under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) must sign their 2004 DCP contracts before the end of the year, according to the head of the Gray County Farm Service Agency.

"The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 introduced the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, which requires producers to sign a new contract every year," said Matthew Street, executive director of the Gray County FSA. "This is a change from the old Production Flexibility Contracts, which were good for seven years."

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program offers eligible farmers and ranchers direct cash payments based on acres and yields established for each farm. Producers can elect to receive their direct payments as a lump sum in October or as two partial payments — an advance payment of up to 50 percent of the total and a final payment for the remainder.

When electing to receive two partial payments, Street said, "the producer also selects the month in which to receive the advance payment — that's where timing is critical."

"Producers who, for tax or other purposes, want to receive an advance payment this month, have to sign their 2004 DCP contracts in the next few weeks so the advance direct payments can be issued by December 31," he said.

Regardless of which month a producer selects for the advance direct payment, final payments are made in October, following the end of the fiscal year.

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program is designed to help stabilize U.S. agriculture by providing payments to eligible producers who enroll their farms each fiscal year

during the life of the current farm bill.

Both direct payments and counter-cyclical payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each individual farm. Direct payment rates are constant. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary with the average price of the program commodities each marketing year. When crop values are high, counter-cyclical payments are zero.

Producers wanting more income in 2003 are encouraged to call the Gray County Service Agency office to book an appointment.

For more information regarding DCP and other FSA programs, contact the Gray County FSA office at (806) 665-6561 or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

Urgent news for people who have used WELDING RODS

Scientists have discovered that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinsonism (like Parkinson's disease) and manganism. Symptoms include shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. Call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S. to help people across the country.

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