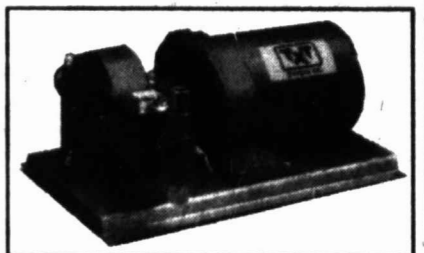


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THE PAMPA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003

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WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **LOW**
65 **34**

LOCAL
TPMHR Christmas dance to be Dec. 5
AMARILLO — Volunteer Services Council for Texas Panhandle Mental Health Retardation will host its annual Christmas dance from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Greenway's Intermediate School, 8100 Pine Ridge, Amarillo. The dance is open to members of the Panhandle community with mental retardation. For more information, call (806) 349-5603.

DEATHS
Jimmy Wayne Howeth, 51, truck driver.
Lottie Koch, 90, homemaker.
W.T. Wilborn, 85, retired Cabot engineer.

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City joins weather research project

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Pampa has joined 40 other sites in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains areas with the installation of a weather station by Texas Tech University.

The stations are operated by West Texas MesoNet, a project involving the Wind Engineering Research Center, Civil Engineering, and College of Engineering at the university.

"It was put up about two months ago," said Pampa City Manager Mitch Grant of the Pampa station.

MesoNet stations are located on a fenced 10-meter-square plot of land and include a 10-meter tower, solar panel, RF modem and antenna. Instruments at the stations measure wind speed at 10 and 2 meters, wind direction at 10 meters, air temperature at 9 and 2 meters, temperature/relative humidity, air pressure, rainfall, soil temperature, soil water content and leaf wetness.

Data collected from the Pampa station and from the other MesoNet stations is available on the MesoNet website, www.mesonet.ttu.edu. The free

data is used by researchers, meteorologists, agricultural users, power and other utilities, students, and others interested in weather information.

"We've found it to be really useful for things like the recreation department," Grant said.

"Another thing I really liked about it is, if students choose to do a report on weather, they can get an unbelievable amount of data from this site. Data from these sites is also used by companies," Grant said, listing wind-generator power companies as an example.

Weather information is transmitted from the MesoNet station by radio to an antenna on top of City Hall, then by computer link to the MesoNet data system.

The Pampa station is located two miles east of Pampa and north of Recreation Park, on land owned by the city.

"We looked at half a dozen sites around town, and that seemed to be the best one," Grant said. He added that the station's installation, operation and maintenance represents no cost to the city.

Pampa was chosen as a site for a

MesoNet station when Grant contacted the operations manager for West Texas MesoNet.

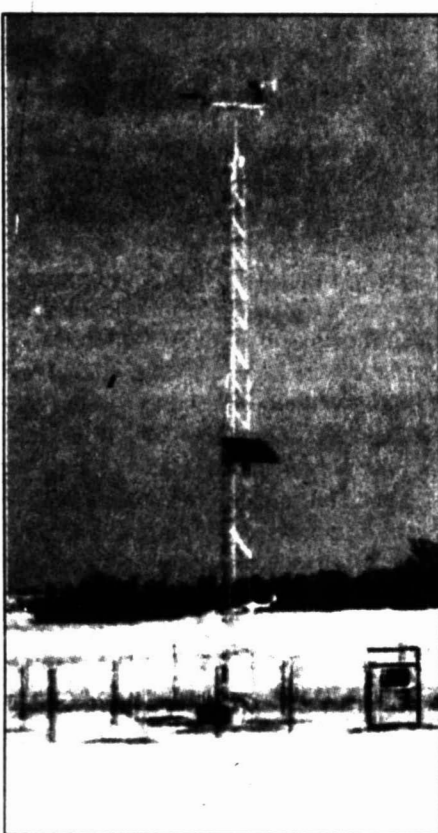
"They just finished putting one up in Slaton when I was there. When I came to Pampa, I called Wes Burgett and asked if he wanted to put one in Pampa. He jumped at the chance," Grant said.

The MesoNet home page includes a scrolling column on the right side of the screen, showing the climate conditions of each site. Climate data is updated every five minutes.

Other information on the site includes a current daily summary, the previous day's summary, a regional temperature and precipitation table, current soil observations, a soil observation map updated at least hourly, monthly and more long-term data, a wind gust chart and more specialized information such as surface and upper air plots, metograms and analyses.

The purpose of the MesoNet stations is to collect local weather data and correlate it with other similar weather collection stations in the Panhandle and South Plains areas, said

(See PROJECT, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)
Pampa's MesoNet weather station is located two miles east of Pampa, just north of Recreation Park.

Vlad's first Thanksgiving



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Vlad Rybalkin, a foreign exchange student to Pampa from the Ukraine, experienced his first Thanksgiving Thursday with his host family. His first impression of the American holiday, as captured by News Staff Writer David Bowser will be featured on the Community Page on Sunday, Dec. 7. Clockwise around the Thanksgiving Day table are his host family and friends, Al Williams, left, with his granddaughter Megan Mitchell, Vlad Rybalkin, Sharon Williams, Christie Mitchell, Clayton Mitchell and Chris Mitchell.

Valley reporters find public records woes

McALLEN (AP) — Local government agencies in the Rio Grande Valley did not provide information to the public as required by law on about one-third of the requests submitted during a two-month investigation by four Valley newspapers.

Valley Freedom Newspapers, which includes The (McAllen) Monitor, The Brownsville Herald, Valley Morning Star and Mid-Valley Town Crier, sent 28 reporters to pose as ordinary citizens seeking public information. Some police chiefs demanded to know who wanted

the information and what it would be used for. One reporter was told he would need a subpoena to see a police log. Another reporter was followed after leaving government offices.

"This is not to 'zing' anybody," said Steve Fagan, editor of The Monitor. "It is mainly to see if public bodies are complying with the Freedom of Information Act in supplying documents that any average citizen can request."

The law says that with certain exceptions, "all government

(See RECORDS, Page 3)

Bids for vehicles and insurance on county's agenda

Insurance, vehicle bids and budget items are among the topics on the agenda for the Dec. 1 meeting of Gray County Commissioners Court, at 9 a.m. Monday in the county courtroom on the second floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Commissioners will open bids at 10 a.m. for insurance and for vehicles for Gray County Sheriff's Department. A health plan reinsurance proposal is also on the agenda.

The fiscal year ending Sept. 30, line item budget transfers and budget amendments will be discussed. A return of funds from the county juvenile probation department to the general fund will be considered.

The district clerk's request to replace an employee will be presented.

- Other items on the agenda include:
- Membership to Texas Association of School Boards
 - Perry Lefors Airport hangar number 5 lease transfer from Red Hawkins to Ron Unruh
 - Perry Lefors Airport hangar number 13 lease transfer from S. Lester to J. Levrich
 - 2004 holiday schedule
 - Payment of bills and salaries, intra budget transfer requests, and treasurer's report.

Pitner to chair this year's Children's Shopping Tour

Trevlyn Pitner has been named general chair for the 2003 Children's Shopping Tour, according to Sheri Tice, president of the Pampa Optimist Club.

More than a dozen organizations will combine to take 125 children between the ages of 5 and 10 Christmas shopping for members of their families. For many it is the first time they have ever experienced giving at Christmas.

"There are many programs going on at Christmas in Pampa," said Pitner. "I am involved in many of them. This is the only project I have seen that teaches children to share. To me, that is what the season is about."

Pitner currently serves as Pampa's police chief, moving here from Fritch a year ago. He is a member of the Optimist Club and the Kiwanis Club.

He serves on the Leadership Committee for the Pampa Chamber of Commerce and will be a Chamber Board member in 2004. He also serves on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board for Amarillo College.

He has two children and his wife Ashley is a counselor at Travis Elementary School.

"I have been amazed at the community's response to this project," Pitner said. "Last year, we had more than 200 people serve as chaperones to help these kids. We have set a goal this year of raising \$12,000 and anticipate serving 400 family members, including the children."

Tax deductible donations for the project may be made payable to the Pampa Optimist Youth club and sent to the treasurer of the project, John W. Warner, P.O. Box 645, Pampa, Texas, 79066-0645.

SHOP PAMPA AND WIN...

Two drawings of \$500 each in Pampa Bucks. For every \$10 of purchases get a drawing ticket from "Participating" merchants November 28th - December 6th. Drawings ... December 6th • 1:00 & 5:00
Call Chamber For List Of Merchants ... 665-3241

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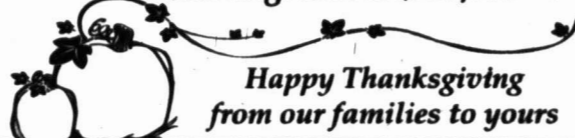
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2000 Christine ... \$70,000
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Grandview-Hopkins ... \$90,000
11931 Ragsdale ... \$165,000

623 Roberta (2 houses, 3 lots) ... \$28,500
1314 Kingsmill ... \$32,500
932 Terry Rd. ... \$53,900
2133 Williston ... \$29,900
1524 Williston ... \$23,500



OBITUARIES

W.T. WILBORN
1918-2003

W.T. Wilborn, 85, of Pampa, Texas, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2003, at Pampa. Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2003, at the First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor, officiating. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2003, at the Alford Cemetery in Alford, Texas, under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Wilborn was born June 19, 1918, in Wise County, Texas. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1939. He was an Army Air Corps veteran, serving with the 904th Signal Corps Battalion in England during World War II.

He married Eileen Marshall on June 29, 1941, in Pampa.

He worked for Cabot Corporation for over 40 years as a research and development engineer, retiring on June 30, 1983.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and elder. He was a past member of Pampa Lions Club and the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Eileen Wilborn, of the home; a son, William Craig Wilborn and wife Nancy of Austin; a granddaughter,

Elisabeth Wilborn of Ithaca, N.Y.; two brothers, Edgar D. Wilborn and wife Margaret of Memphis, Tenn., and Samuel J. Wilborn and wife Helen of West Plains, Mo.; and three sisters-in-law, Rosetta Martin and husband James R. of Pampa, Birnell Sipple and husband Ed of Electra, and Mildred Fisher of Lawton, Okla. He was preceded in death by a son, Larry Wilborn; and a daughter, Beverly Wilborn.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; or to Book of Remembrance, First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



JIMMY WAYNE HOWETH
1951-2003

Jimmy Wayne Howeth, 51, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2003. Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Jim Fox, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Amarillo, and the Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors by Fort Hood Army per-

sonnel. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

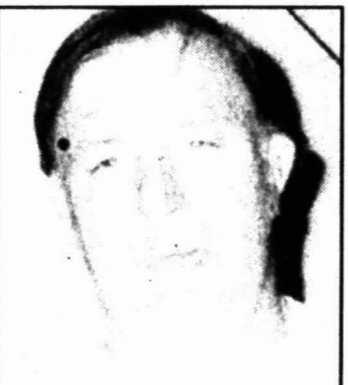
Mr. Howeth was born Dec. 1, 1951, at Dumas. A Pampa resident for 32 years, he graduated from Pampa High School in 1971 and earned an associate degree in real estate from Clarendon College in 1981. He was a truck driver for Pampa Concrete Company for 13 years.

He married Yong Hei Pak on Feb. 13, 1973, at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in South Korea in peace time, was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and Pampa Booster Club.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wayne Franklin Howeth.

Survivors include his wife, Yong Hei Howeth, of the home; three sons, John Wayne



Howeth of Canadian and Jerry William Howeth and Jamie Wayne Howeth, both of Pampa; his mother, Bobby Jean Howeth of Pampa; and a sister, Shirley Jean Howeth of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to American Cancer Society in care of Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

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City Briefs

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

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ATTENTION NURSES beautiful beaded necklace name badges! See at Cottage Collection, Booth# 830.

BABY'S FIRST Christmas, deadline Dec. 17th, 12 noon. \$25. See classified display ad for details. *The Pampa News wishes you a Happy Holiday Season!*

BEAUTIFUL MAHOGANY dresser, mirror and double bed. From the 1940's. North Fork Antiques. McLean. Open til 7 on Thurs. Tues.-Sat. 10-6 p.m.

BRIGHTEN YOUR Smile for the holidays! Dr. Greg Kelly's dental office is offering their yearly Winter White Sale with discounts on in-office & take-home teeth whitening! Call for information 665-1625.

COBALT BUNNY Pottery by Connie Carlisle for sale at the Vicary House Tea Room, 303 N. Frost; Christmas ornaments, crosses, gifts.

COLLECTORS SALE, 1220 Duncan, Pampa. Furn, X-mas decor, antiques, estate jewelry. Nov. 29th & 30th 12:30, Dec. 1st & 2nd, 10 a.m.

COOKIE DECORATING for Children at the Lovett Memorial Library, Sat., Dec. 6th, 10 a.m., Call 669-5780 to sign-up or for more info.

LIPSCOMB — Charlotte "Lottie" Koch, 90, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2003, at Shattuck, Okla. Services will be at 2 p.m. today

BRICK REPAIR, Harley Knutson 665-4237 or 664-0543

COSTUME JEWELRY, Watches, Earrings, and Necklaces are featured this week at The Auxiliary Gift Shop of Pampa Regional Medical Center. Tuesday-Friday 9AM-4 PM.

CREATE A Beat! After School Arts Program. Ages 5-11 (K-6), 3-5:45 M-F 665-7474.

FILL OUT a Christmas Wish List at North Fork Antiques. When your loved ones want to know what you want, we can tell them! 211 N. Main, McLean, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 p.m.

GIFT BASKETS, gift certificates & great gift items at The Coffee Shop.

HICKORY HUT, new mgmt. Open for breakfast 7-10:30 a.m. Dinner til 6 p.m. Mon. thru Sat. Delivery avail. after 8 a.m. 665-0562.

IT'S TIME to plan your Holiday Travel! For all your travel needs call Complete Travel, 669-6110.

KAREN'S KITCHEN, 716 W. Foster, Sun. 11-2, enchiladas, chicken spaghetti, brisquet. All You Can Eat \$7.25.

LARGE ROLLS of Christmas paper, gift bags, ribbons, bows & tags in stock at Warner Horton 900 Duncan. Open 8-5, Monday-Friday.

LOTTIE KOCH
1913-2003

in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Darrouzett with Bill Griffin, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Lipscomb under the direction of Stickley-Hill Funeral Directors of Canadian.

Mrs. Koch, a lifelong resident of Lipscomb County, was born Aug. 24, 1913, to Fred and Charlotte Littau Meller. She married Hillmer Koch on April 23, 1933, at Lipscomb; he died Oct. 4, 1999.

Mrs. Koch was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Darrouzett, serving on the church's Ladies Aide and Altar Guild. She was a homemaker, a PTA officer for Lipscomb school and a member of Community Quilting Club.

Survivors include four sons, Alfred Koch of Pampa, Ervin Koch of Lipscomb, Merlin Koch of Amarillo and Vernon Koch of Guymon, Okla.; three daughters,

LEEANN'S GROOMING, 669-9660.

ONEIDA 15% Off Open Stock, at On Eagles Wings, 113 N. Cuyler.

SCHAFFER GROWN, 717 N. Hobart, will have fresh cut Oregon Christmas Trees. Shop early for best choice!!

SKATEBOARDS AND all the accessories now available at Hall's!! 700 W. Foster, 665-4241.

STOREWIDE SALE, VJ's Fashions & Gifts, 118 N. Cuyler, downtown Pampa.

THE ANNUAL Christmas Tree Project for Tralee Crisis Center is now underway. Please come by the office at 310 S. Cuyler or call 669-1131 for more info. Help to UN-decorate their tree. You can assist a victim and her children have a joyful holiday.

THE VICARY House Tea Room will be closed to the public during Dec. Book your private party now! 669-0122.

THE ZONE coming Fri. Nov. 28th. Family Game Room. Fun for all ages. Pool, juke box. 1600 N. Hobart, acr. from O'Reilly's. Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Open late Fri., Sat., Sun. noon-8 p.m.

X-MAS DECORATIONS Installed, Daniel, 665-4219



Luella Miller of Darrouzett, Diana Schwab of Lipscomb and Linda Rader of Canadian; a sister, Carrie Koch of Grand Junction, Colo.; a brother, Abe Meller of Enid, Okla.; 21 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Hemphill County Home Health.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

PAMPA TEXAS

AT RECREATION PARK ON HIGHWAY 60

November 22nd through December 31st

6-10 P.M. Sunday through Thursday

6-11 P.M. Friday and Saturday

Pampa invites you to visit our Winter Lighting Fantasy and the animated Santa Feeding the Reindeer will greet you. Animated Rodeo displays join in the season's festivities. Fun and fanciful displays, displays of the Nativity and other religious scenes add to the pleasure of the holidays. Several new displays will add that sparkle and wonder to your holiday!

Other events to be enjoyed in Pampa:

December 5th, 6th, & 7th
Festival of Trees

December 6th
"Snacks with Santa"
St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Christmas Parade
A "Classic Christmas" 1:00 P.M.

"The Nutcracker"
Pampa Civic Ballet
MK Brown Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

December 14th
"Tour of Homes"
Twentieth Century Cotillion Club

You Are Invited To Snacks With Santa

December 6, 2003

11:00 a.m. (before Parade)

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH HALL

727 W. Browning

\$8.00 per child*

Snacks, Picture With Santa

Goodie Bag

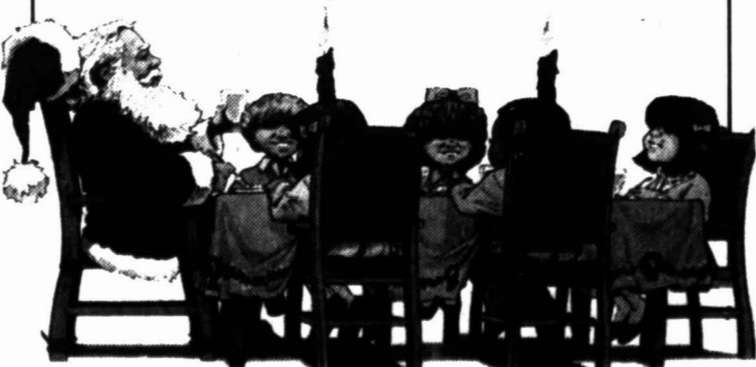
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Fri., Dec. 5, 2003

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2003

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 7, 2003

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

M.K. Brown Auditorium

Come One, Come All

Sold

AMARILLO Pfc. James W. Thanksgivng father, "Dad, to go eat with isn't that a job

As Mike recalled, his excited about eat Thanksgiv group of his Bremer, the to Iraq. He told rather spend friends.

"They're p effort into this told an As reporter before — President B

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No 25 sh days to



Come by know. that fits service ask for GE Ford

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Soldier's parents see son on TV

AMARILLO (AP) — Army Pfc. James Walden called home from Iraq a few days before Thanksgiving and told his father, "Dad, I've been elected to go eat with the bigwigs. Boy, isn't that a joke."

As Michael Walden recalled, his son wasn't overly excited about being chosen to eat Thanksgiving dinner with a group of his bosses and Paul Bremer, the top U.S. official in Iraq. He told his parents he'd rather spend the day with his friends.

"They're putting an honest effort into this," James Walden told an Associated Press reporter before a special guest — President Bush — arrived at

the luncheon Thursday. "A lot of us have been here in Iraq for so long that it's just another day for us."

As Walden and about 600 fellow soldiers soon found out, though, this would be anything but just another day.

Michael and Roma Walden were home watching television when news of Bush's visit flashed on the screen. Then they received an even bigger surprise.

"We were all gathered here, sitting and watching, and I said, 'There's James!' at the same time his sister shouted it," Michael Walden told The Amarillo Globe-News.

"When we saw him there with the president, I told my wife, 'I bet he's glad he didn't find a way to get out of it now.'"

Walden, a 2002 graduate of

Randall High School, confirmed as much in a telephone call to his parents a few hours after Bush left, they said. Their son never had any strong political loyalties before, but Bush's visit changed that.

"It meant so much to him that the president would come spend time with him," Michael Walden said. "His commander in chief had the fortitude and guts to take his skinny butt over there and be with his men. And him being from Texas made it even better."

The Waldens first spotted the back of their son's head in the crowd. Then he turned his head just long enough for his mother to confirm it was him.

"I thought he looked good," Roma Walden said. "He looked healthy and I thought he looked very interested in what President Bush was saying."

RECORDS

ment information is presumed to be available to the public."

Reporters were sent to city halls, school districts and police stations throughout Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron and Willacy counties and did not to identify themselves as reporters.

The newspapers kept a report card on the requests that showed 108 of the 159 agencies complied, meaning 32 percent did not cooperate. In Cameron County, 45 of the 61 agencies complied. In Hidalgo County it was 44 of 72 complying. Only three of the nine agencies in Starr County complied, and 16 of 17

complied in Willacy County.

"One of the problems we've had as a newspaper that requests information regularly is that it's difficult to get the information, either because people are reluctant to hand over any information or that the people that are actually the records keepers don't seem to know the law," said Carlos Rodriguez, managing editor of The Brownsville Herald. "We thought that if we were having trouble ... then how much more difficult would it be for the everyday person?"

Many agencies seemed to want to comply and willingly provided what was asked.

"I know how important it is,"

said Sonia Brown of the Harlingen Independent School District. "I know people have certain reasons, and it's really none of our business, the reason, because if it's public information it's supposed to be available."

But other agency personnel acted suspicious or rude, or charged hefty fees for copying costs and employees' time.

The law was enacted in 1973 as the Texas Open Records Act, and revised and renamed the Texas Public Information Act in 1995.

It requires government bodies and officials to respond promptly to open records request or within 10 days seek an opinion from the state attorney general's office.

CONT. FROM PG. 1

PROJECT

Ken Hall, Pampa emergency services coordinator.

"The site is more geared to weather data than emergency weather," Grant said.

The nearest city to Pampa with a MesoNet station is Clarendon. Other cities with stations include Memphis, Tulia, Silverton, Plainview, Dimmitt, Friona, Hart, Muleshoe, Floydada, and Olton. The southernmost sites are at Snyder and Lamesa.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is calling for mostly sunny skies in the morning, turning partly cloudy later on with highs in the mid 60s and northwest winds 10 to 15 mph, shifting to the northeast in the afternoon. Night should fall on partly cloudy skies with lows in the mid 30s and northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Monday should see partly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 50s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs around 60. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.



It's beginning to look SOMEWHAT like Christmas...

Nov. 30
25 shopping days to Christmas

FUNERAL SERVICES TOMORROW

Services today

KOCH, Lottie — 2 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Darrouzett.

SMITH-EATON, Myrtle Mozell — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Rowe Cemetery, Hedley.

Services Monday

HOWETH, Jimmy Wayne — 1 p.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

WILBORN, W.T. — 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Pampa. Graveside services, 4 p.m., Alvord Cemetery, Alvord.

ON RECORD

POLICE

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

Friday, Nov. 28

Lloyd Dean Morris, 35, Lefors, was arrested on two capias pro fines.

Tammie Young, 40, 1404 E. Browning, was arrested on instanter warrants for no insurance, failure to change driver's license and expired motor vehicle inspection.

Trevor Len Slater, 22, 432 Wynne, was arrested for no valid driver's license, no insurance, and expired motor vehicle registration.

FIRE

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

Friday, Nov. 28

9:55 a.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a report of gas odor in the 300 block of Anne. No source of the odor was found.

3:27 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters checked for carbon monoxide in the 900 block of East Browning. None was detected.

SHERIFF

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

Saturday, Nov. 29

James Leroy Logan Jr., 42, 1601 W. Somerville, was arrested for public intoxication.

Sid Sanders, DPM, R.Ph.

FOOT SPECIALIST

is happy to announce the beginning of a foot clinic each TUESDAY in Pampa

For Appointment Call 806-463-1900

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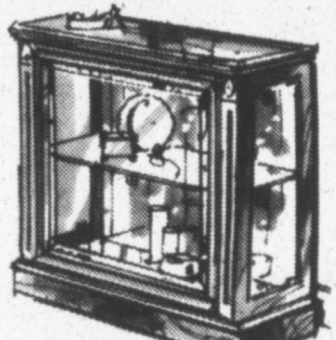
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210 CUYLER 665-1623 9:00-5:30 MON.-SAT.



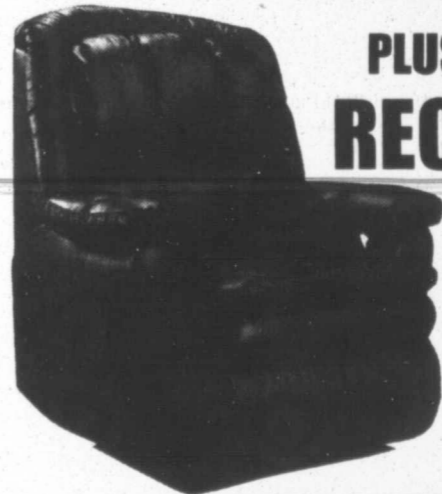
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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520
EMAIL: deedee@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net
 This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods
Composition Supervisor: Brenda Cook

SINGLE COPIES
 Daily 50¢/Sunday \$1.00
 Member: Associated Press

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 Daily\$1.50 Sunday\$2.50
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TEXAS EDITORIAL

Prop. 12 showing cracks

From the Houston Chronicle:
 In September, Texans voted to change the state constitution and give up their absolute right to seek justice in court. In exchange for this, voters were promised lower health costs for employers and employees, expanded hospital and physician care in rural areas, and more neurosurgeons and other specialists on call at urban hospitals.

All of these benefits would be derived from the Legislature's cap on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits. The constitutional amendment approved in September ratified that cap and any extension of the cap on noneconomic damages to other tort cases that the Legislature might make. If insurance company payouts for pain and suffering and other damages that are difficult to quantify declined, insurance company profits would rise, other companies would enter the state and malpractice insurance rates would fall.

Falling insurance rates, the theory went, would allow doctors here to stay in practice and attract new doctors to staff emergency rooms and treat residents of sparsely populated areas. The news this week disproves that theory, at least for the time being.

The malpractice insurance company that insures about one-third of Texas doctors will lower its malpractice rates by 12 percent, after increasing them 128 percent in recent years. A small decrease, no doubt followed by future increases, is not going to transform medical care in Texas for the better.

Two other insurance companies announced malpractice rate increases. One proposes a 19 percent jump, and another proposed increases of 35 percent for doctors and 60 percent for hospitals. The Texas Department of Insurance had the good sense to reject the second company's rate hikes.

The backers of Proposition 12 made sweeping promises to Texans, who unwisely chose to allow legislators' campaign contributors determine justice in lieu of juries. As opponents predicted, the most basic promise of falling malpractice insurance rates has proved a mirage. Without lower insurance rates, all the other guarantees are hollow.

Don't expect the backers of Proposition 12, which include Gov. Rick Perry and other statewide officials, to apologize or admit error. Expanding health care, lowering its costs and helping doctors treat their patients was never the true aim of the exercise.

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It really is the economy, stupid

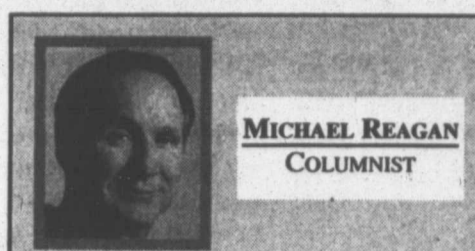
Note to the 10 Demodwarfs now running for president: Get off your knees, boys, God isn't going to answer your prayers for a rip-roaring recession. The good times are rolling.

And the way it looks now, they are going to keep rolling - that is unless one of you by some miracle gets elected and keeps his promise to repeal the Bush tax cuts, thereby sending the economy into a tailspin.

The latest figure is astounding - a growth rate of 8.2 percent in the July-to-September quarter is the fastest growth in nearly twenty years. It must feel like a dagger in the Democrats' hearts. Here they've been ranting about the alleged worst economy since poor old Herbert Hoover's days and griping about tax cuts for the rich and, oh, the injustice of it all! And then without warning it's morning in America again.

Look at the figures: new orders for "durable" goods rose by 3.3 percent last month, up from the 2.1 percent rise in September and consumer spending remained steady in October, with Americans' incomes jumping a healthy 0.4 percent. Moreover, new claims for unemployment insurance benefits dropped last week by a seasonally adjusted 11,000 to 351,000, the lowest level since January 2001.

Think of it. All of a sudden the sluggish economy skyrockets, hitting a plateau we haven't seen since 1984 when my dad was in office. And it got to that point then in the same way President Bush has gotten us there now, and the same way President Kennedy also got us there in his presidency - by



MICHAEL REAGAN
COLUMNIST

slashing taxes. According to the National Association for Business Economics a panel of 28 forecasters from various industries predicted that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, will grow by 4.5 percent in 2004. Should that forecast pan out, it would produce the fastest GDP growth rate in 20 years, since the economy jumped 7.3 percent in 1984 under Ronald Reagan.

"We are looking for a very strong bounceback," NABE President Duncan Meldrum, chief economist at Air Products & Chemicals Inc. of Allentown, Pa. told the Associated Press.

And to what do the experts give the credit for this economic boom? The tax cuts and low interest rates. "We just have an unprecedented amount of economic stimulus coming from Washington to boost economic activities," Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis told the AP. "That is going to keep economic activity at very high levels."

So how do the Democrats deal with all this bad news? They harp on the fiction that the tax cuts now putting a head of steam in the economy and creating jobs were solely for the benefit of the so-called rich. And so some are pledging that if they get back in power they will kill the tax-cut

goose that lays all these golden eggs by repealing the very measure that has produced a growth rate of 8.2 percent and all those other economic blessings.

They keep harping on the same old deceptive tax-cuts-for-the-rich theme. But they don't bother telling the American people who the rich are. They conjure up visions of bloated fat cats lolling around on their yachts, drinking champagne and laughing at all those poor suckers who pay taxes while thanks to President Bush they pocket the proceeds of the tax cuts enacted solely for their benefit.

The truth is that the top 50 percent of wage earners are those individuals or couples filing jointly who earned just \$26,000 and more in 1999. They pay 96.03 percent of all taxes. And the bottom 50 percent pays a mere 3.97 percent of all income taxes. The top 5 percent pay 53.25 percent of all income taxes, the top 10 percent pay 64.89 percent and the top 25 percent pay 82.9 percent.

The top 1 percent were those who earned \$293,000 or more. So who are the rich? The government says they are people making \$100,000 or more. And those making over \$200,000 will on average pay approximately \$99,000 in income taxes.

About all the Democrats have left now, is their old strategy of class warfare, and mark my words, in November next year they'll discover that it doesn't work any more.

The Clinton 1992 slogan "It's the economy stupid," is truer today than it was then - and it's now the Democrats' worst nightmare.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- Today is Sunday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2003. There are 31 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History:
 On Nov. 30, 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.
 On this date:
 In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.
 In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens — better known as Mark Twain — was born in Florida, Mo.
 In 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.
 In 1900, Irish writer Oscar Wilde died in Paris at age 46.
 In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, constructed for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.
 In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.
 In 1962, U Thant of Burma was elected Secretary General of the United Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjold.
 In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.
 In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.
 In 2001, Robert Tools, the first person in the world to receive a fully self-contained artificial heart, died in Louisville, Ky.; he had lived with the device for 151 days.

Soft money by any other name

The Democratic Party is being replaced by a new group called "Americans Coming Together," which has been launched with two \$10 million donations from financier George Soros and Peter B. Lewis, chairman of the Progressive Corporation. The new organization wants to raise \$94 million to finance a massive campaign against Bush - all with soft money.

The Democratic Party, which is only allowed to raise hard money (donations limited to \$2,000 per person) by the McCain-Feingold law is unable to amass the resources necessary for a national campaign, so it is ceding the main role to Americans Coming Together.

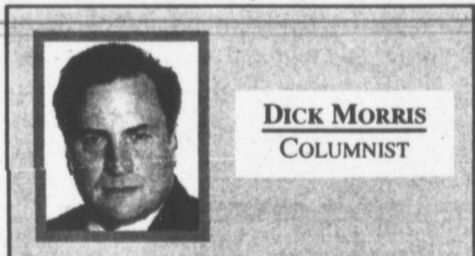
Hypocrisy in American politics at least provides material for humor. How else are we to view the attempts of Democratic Party leaders to circumvent the McCain-Feingold prohibition on the use of soft money in campaigns after their party insisted on its inclusion in the bill?

As the campaign-finance-reform bill went through Congress, Democrats demanded a ban on soft money donations to political parties. They succeeded in including it as the reform's centerpiece.

But it turns out that Republicans are raising twice as much as Democrats are in hard money: \$158 million for the GOP vs. \$66.5 million for the Democrats. So the Democrats have resorted to a loophole in McCain-Feingold and worked to maximize soft money contributions to phony political committees, allegedly independent of the party apparatus and thus not covered by the soft money ban.

The Democrats have always found hard money hard to come by. In the last election cycle, they financed 56 percent of their campaign costs with soft money while the Republicans used soft money for only 39 percent.

This latest shift is not a case of matching a Republican move. The GOP has



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

only begun to explore the loophole the Democrats are busy using. It is hypocrisy, plain and simple.

Americans Coming Together, a supposedly independent campaign committee, is reportedly one-third of the way toward its fund-raising goal. Its nominal independence from the Democratic Party, required by McCain-Feingold, is paper-thin.

Harold Ickes, President Bill Clinton's former deputy chief of staff who helped orchestrate the soft money fund-raising that financed the 1996 Clinton campaign, is working closely with Soros to fund Americans Coming Together.

Ickes has not always honored the boundaries between supposedly independent expenditures and political campaigns required by the Federal Elections Commission.

I almost fell through the floor of the White House early in 1996 when I attended a meeting chaired by Ickes of representatives of the political action committees of major American labor unions. Gathered in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, they each recounted their plans for "independent expenditures" against the Republicans in the coming election campaign. The meeting, quite illegal in many ways, represented exactly the kind of co-ordination forbidden by the campaign-finance laws.

Ickes is about as independent of Hillary as Bill is. He is her chief advisor. His photo graces her memoirs. He was her key operative in securing the Senate seat in New York. To pretend that any-

thing he would do is independent of Hillary is like saying that the left hand is independent of the right hand.

One motivation for the Clinton move to circumvent the Democratic Party and establish a lifeboat in the form of Americans Working Together is that they view with alarm Howard Dean's rise to the Democratic nomination.

Dean, upon copping the prize, is likely to fire Terry MacAuliffe and take control of the Democratic National Committee. No longer will its coffers be available to the Clintons to use as their private fund, channeling donations to candidates and causes they favor or that favor them.

So, before the hand-over of party power from Clinton to Dean takes place, they are working on stripping the Democratic Party of its central role and giving it to the more pliant Americans Working Together, instead.

The Clintons' efforts to sidetrack Dean haven't worked. Wesley Clark is collapsing in most national polls and has yet to find a primary to his liking to enter in force. John Kerry, whose campaign staff quit last week, is having difficulty raising funds even though the Clintons and the Kennedys have sent him their top operatives to try to bail him out.

Dean seems destined to win the nomination and with it control of the party. So the Clintons are moving out.

*** HILLARY GOES LIBERAL:** It's official. Hillary is a liberal. For those who doubted whether she was a "new" Democrat or an old one, her vote yesterday to continue the Kennedy filibuster of the president's Medicare prescription-drug benefit should settle the question. In the most important vote of the decade, so far, she voted with 25 other liberal Democrats against 22 moderates who voted for closure. This vote separated the left from the center of the party, and Hillary opted to go left. Big mistake.

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LIFESTYLES HEADERS

OHS/WIC

Stay-at-home moms who would like to work a few hours a week may be eligible for a part-time position as a breastfeeding peer counselor for Outreach Health Services Women, Infants and Children program. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a telephone, must have successfully breastfed an infant and must be a current or former WIC client. For more information, call 1-800-200-7121.

TDHS VOLUNTEERS

Texas Department of Human Services is seeking volunteers for its Texas Works Services Program. Tasks are varied and placement is based upon the volunteer's interest, capability and availability of openings. Hours are flexible. For more information, contact Beth Miller at 665-1863.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

Starting Nov. 22, Celebration of Lights will open every evening after dark during the holidays at Recreation Park.

WHEELER CHAMBER OPEN HOUSE

Wheeler Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual open house from 2:30-5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 30, and from 5:30-9 p.m., Monday, Dec. 1, in downtown Wheeler. Participating merchants will be open, and Santa will be present. The event will include a variety of booths and a \$250 cash drawing on Monday.

PDH GUILD

Palo Duro Handweavers Guild will meet at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 in Amarillo. Individuals interested in weaving, spinning, dyeing or fiber arts is welcome. For more information, call (806) 358-2765.

GRIEF WORKSHOPS

BSA Hospice will present two "Grief and the Holidays" workshops, designed to help individuals mourning the death of a loved one, from 7-9 p.m., Dec. 4 at First Presbyterian Church, 418 W. Coolidge, Borger, and again Dec. 11, at Hospice Pampa facility, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa. The workshops are free. For more information or to register, call (806) 665-6677 or 1-800-658-6985 (Borger) or (806) 274-9111 or 1-800-658-6985 (Pampa).

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Pampa Garden Club will hold its annual Festival of Trees from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, and from 12 noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Contact Debbie Davis at 665-0123 for more information.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will host its 27th annual holiday open house Dec. 5-6. The event will include a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, Pioneer town (with costumed storytellers), children's crafts and games. Lanny Fiel and the Ranch Dance Fiddle Band will entertain from 3-6 p.m. Saturday.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, themed this year "A Classic Christmas," will begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6.

SNACKS WITH SANTA

At 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, Shepherd's Helping Hands will present "Snacks with Santa" at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

APPRAISAL SEMINAR

The American Society of Agricultural Appraisers will offer a 4 1/2-day Personal Property Appraisal Seminar Dec. 10-14 in Dallas/Fort Worth. The seminar is designed specifically for individuals who currently are, or who desire to be, a livestock, farm equipment or horse appraiser. For more information, call 1-800-488-7570 or visit www.amagappraisers.com on the Internet.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Moonlight Extension Education Club will host its 25th Annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 14 at Bailey County Civic Center and Coliseum at Muleshoe. Booth space is available until Dec. 8. To request an application, write to Linda Huckaby, 902 W. 8th St., Muleshoe, TX 79347.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB

(haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Dec. 3 and 17, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 8, at Baker School, 723 Cheyenne Ave., Canadian.

AMARILLO QUILT SHOW

Amarillo Quilt Show is scheduled from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, March 19, and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 20 in the Regency Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. The event is being sponsored by Piecemakers Quilt Club, a member of National Quilting Association. Admission will be \$3 for adults. For show information, call (806) 359-3315; for class information, call (806) 655-7401; and for quilt show entries, (806) 353-1164.

COLGATE YOUTH SERVICE CONTEST

Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Camp Fire and 4-H organizations are invited to enter their best community service projects in the 2000 "Colgate Youth for America" campaign. Cash grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to the most creative and best executed projects from local clubs and troops. Local club and troop community service programs running between March 1, 2003, and March 1, 2004, are eligible for the contest. Entry forms are available through regional offices of the national organizations or by sending a SASE to: Colgate Youth for America Campaign, P.O. Box 1058, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-1058. Deadline for entry into this year's program is April 30, 2004. Forms are also available on-line at www.youthforamerica.com.

USS SPERRY

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

TDH targeting troubling toys

AUSTIN — Money is tight, but you need to buy a toy for your nephew who is in his "terrible twos." You find a great deal on a stuffed animal at a small discount store. Is it terrific or is it trouble?

Well, that depends. "Often product-recall information from manufacturers does not get to discount and bargain stores because they buy their merchandise through auctions rather than from the manufacturer," said Annabelle Dillard, product safety expert with the Texas Department of Health (TDH). For that reason, TDH inspectors will focus on secondary markets such as discount and bargain stores during "Toy Sweep," an annual campaign to educate Texas retailers about the latest recall information and to remind consumers that certain items have been recalled and are not safe for children.

Each fall — just before the big holiday shopping season — TDH's product safety inspectors visit retail stores making sure that certain recalled toys are no longer available and giving retailers detailed information about each of the recalled items. This year's event will be Nov. 17-20 in stores in the Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin areas.

Inspectors have 10 toys and five children's furniture products on their list this year. Some of the products that recently have been recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are a pendant that is high in lead content; pacifiers that come apart; a plush toy with small parts; bunk beds that pose a strangulation hazard because of the spacing between the guard rails; a changing table

whose poor design could cause strangulation hazard; and children's chairs that tend to break.

"Choking hazards are the most common reasons products are recalled," said Dillard, adding that toys or games with small parts cannot legally be sold for use by children under 3. Toys containing small parts that are for children 3 through 6 must have a warning label, and toys that generate heat must have a warning to alert parents and children to the risk of burns or electrical shock.

Dillard said a new product that inspectors will be discussing with retailers this year is a yo-yo water ball. TDH has received complaints that the stretchy cord of the toy can wrap around a child's neck when the child swings the toy overhead like a lasso. No recall has been issued on them, but the CPSC has issued a warning.

Some tips for buyers:

—Buy toys that are age-appropriate for the child. Toy and game manufacturers test their products for safety according to how they should be used by children and include age-range recommendations on their packages.

—Look for quality construction and design. Can the product withstand an assault by your 2-year-old nephew?

—Don't buy anything that has sharp glass or metal edges for children under 8.

—When shopping for children under the age of 3, avoid small toys or toys with small parts that could come off. A good rule of thumb: If the item is small enough to fit

(See TOYS, Page 6)

Smoke Out posters



(Courtesy photo)

Several fourth and fifth graders at Travis Elementary recently participated in a poster contest to celebrate the "Great American Smokeout." All participants received food and drink certificates from Sonic Drive-Inn and bookmarks from Travis Counselor Ashly Pitner. Three outstanding posters were chosen as winners. They were designed by: KeEra Busse (fourth grade), Chelsea Mayer (fifth grade), and Emily Nicklas (fifth grade).

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Alternate certification plan for teachers raises mixed views

By PENNY COCKERELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DALLAS (AP) — Melanie Wilkerson always wanted to teach.

Her East Texas parents — one a nurse, the other a career teacher — warned her of low pay and little appreciation, and some of their concerns are proving true.

While Wilkerson spent five years earning an early childhood education degree, the state may soon offer others a shortcut into the classroom.

State education officials proposed allowing college graduates who pass a competency exam to receive temporary certificates to teach the eighth through 12th grades.

They must complete an abbreviated pre-service training similar to college education course. State certification comes later — up to two years later — while they teach Texas' children.

The move passed earlier this month in a 5-4-1 vote by

the State Board of Educator Certification. Its purpose: To help alleviate Texas' estimated teacher shortage of 35,000 to 60,000.

"It's like a slap in her face," Jan Wilkerson said. "Why does she have to go to all the trouble she's gone through to do student teaching, get her degree, and then somebody else can be certified by the school district? That's not fair."

John Beck, who heads the Education School at Texas State University in San Marcos, agreed.

"Why do we allow people to operate on children's minds at such a malleable age without any seal of approval?" he asked. "It doesn't make sense to me to think that teaching can be done by anyone and everyone."

Beck points to the value of learning classroom management and techniques, such as teaching children to read and handling a diverse mix of students. Discipline is hard for even trained teachers, much

less those still developing, he said.

Beck recalled an aeronautical engineer who thought he wanted to teach, but learned it required more than his vast knowledge — he avoided becoming a classroom disaster.

That wasn't true of a chemical engineer who briefly taught Wilkerson's son.

"She knew nothing about teaching, nothing about classroom management, nothing about children," Wilkerson said.

Alternative teacher certification programs are nothing new in Texas. The first was introduced in 1985 by the Houston ISD.

Other states, like Iowa, New York and Maryland, have similar programs.

Texas has 27 active alternative certification programs, from giving teachers temporary permits to emergency certifications, said Robert Scott, the Texas Education Agency's chief deputy commissioner.

One in four Texas teachers participate in such programs, Scott said.

What makes the new plan different is that individual school districts provide training to certify alternative teachers, giving them full credentials if they choose.

Some argue that bringing in untrained teachers is akin to turning the classroom into on-the-job training. An untrained lawyer wouldn't face a courtroom. An untrained surgeon wouldn't practice on a patient.

Mistakes they say, should happen within the safety of a teachers' college, not in front of impressionable children.

James Windham, a Houston investment consultant and citizen appointee to certification board, balked at such a thought.

"Every classroom in America is a laboratory," he said. "Don't believe it isn't."

The need, some say, is not to create more teachers, but to learn how to keep existing ones.

"There is a myth that Texas

has a teacher shortage, but the reality is that there are thousands of certified teachers who are not in the classroom because of low pay, poor benefits and bad working conditions," said Doug Rogers of the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

But improving pay and benefits isn't all that drives teachers.

Pat Laury of Fort Worth has a doctorate in education and was a fully certified teacher. But he left in the middle of his second year.

"They expected too little of the students, both in academics and discipline, and I could not accept those standards," Laury said.

Janice Ford has taught in several North Texas school districts for 25 years. She felt alteration of certification standards again diminishes her professional respect.

"Probably more and more of my age group are looking at not being here very long," Ford said. "And these newer and younger teachers coming

in, I'm not getting a sense of that same type of dedication we had coming up."

But sometimes the alternative works.

Ronald Rushing earned a Bachelor of Science degree geared for forestry. When the job market went sour 20 years ago, he was hired at a rural northeast Texas school. He taught, while getting his teachers' certification.

What helped him most were veteran teachers who encouraged and mentored him.

Rushing ultimately taught science with the Navasota ISD near College Station. In 2000, he was chosen as one of Texas' top 20 secondary teachers of the year.

Rushing credits the honor to sharing his life experiences with students.

"A really good teacher is ultimately an information giver," Rushing said. "And if you're a dull person with no background or experiences, you'll be a dull information giver that will inspire few."

Day use, camping fees waived for military personnel on R&R from Iraq

TULSA, Okla. — The United States Army Corps of Engineers announced recently it will waive day use and camping fees for active duty service personnel on temporary leave from duty in Iraq for the duration of U.S. operations there.

"Corps lakes provide excellent opportunities to find renewal, sol-

ace, and inspiration," Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock, director of civil works, said. "Our intent is to recognize the selfless service of these men and women to our nation and the world."

"This waiving of day use and camping fees for active duty service personnel is a great way to show our

support and appreciation for those serving in Iraq," said Col. Robert L. Suthard Jr., commander, Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The Tulsa District is proud to participate and will honor the selfless service of these men and women to our nation and the world."

Service personnel on R&R will be required to show identification and leave orders to obtain the waiver. The waiver will also apply to all family members accompanying the serviceman or woman.

The Corps will waive camping fees on a walk-up and space-available basis as well as through the

National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) call center 1-877-444-6777.

Camping fees can not be waived for on-line reservations made through ReserveUSA.com website.

For information, contact the Tulsa District Public Affairs Office at 918-669-7366.

CONT. FROM PG FIVE

TOYS

through the cardboard spool from a toilet-tissue roll, it's not appropriate for children under 3.

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The CPSC Web site www.cpsc.gov is a good resource for retailers and consumers who want the latest information on recalled products. The CPSC has a free e-mail subscription list that is notified each time a recall is issued.

People who have concerns about specific products can call TDH's product safety division at (888) 778-9440 toll free in Texas. Inspectors follow up on complaints and investigate hazards associated with products. Products are tested and, if necessary, sent to laboratories for further testing. Findings are then evaluated and notices of violation will be issued to manufacturers if necessary. If the product is distributed nationally, these findings also will be forwarded to the CPSC for further enforcement action on the federal level.

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MEDICAL

Healthbeat: Lack of important nutrient worse in winter

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Americans may not get enough vitamin D, a nutrient important for strong bones. It is a problem made worse in the winter, when the sun's rays are not intense enough in most of the country to help bodies make the sunshine vitamin.

Substituting food can be difficult because of a lack of vitamin D-rich options.

Already doctors are urging that breast-fed babies get vitamin D supplements to fend off a shocking return of rickets, a soft-bone disease, most often seen in children, that was thought eliminated decades ago. With increasing evidence that adults too may lack the nutrient, scientists are debating whether it is time to pump up everybody's level of vitamin D.

Vitamin D helps bones absorb calcium, and rickets marks just the worst deficiency, specialists told a recent National Institutes of Health meeting to assess the issue.

In adults, bone-weakening

osteoporosis "cannot be prevented at currently recommended doses," said Dr. Robert Heaney of Creighton University, a specialist on bone health.

Government blood tests suggest a surprising number of Americans do not get currently recommended amounts, especially those with dark-pigmented skin that does not produce as much of the vitamin from sunlight.

Half of black women of childbearing age lack enough vitamin D in their blood during the winter and 30 percent in the summer, according to studies from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. That compares with 11 percent of white women in the winter and 2 percent in the summer. Levels among Hispanics fall in between.

The NIH is now facing two questions: What to do about people who do not meet today's allotment and whether it is time to raise everybody's recommended dose.

Both will require much more research, says Mary Frances Picciano of the NIH's Office of Dietary Supplements.

In England, researchers writing last week in the journal (See NUTRIENT, Page 9)

Lab garners accreditation

Pampa Regional Medical Cardiopulmonary Arterial Blood Gas Laboratory has received an accreditation by Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists, based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

The director of the lab was advised of this national recognition and was congratulated for the "excellence of the services being provided." PRCM Cardiopulmonary Arterial Blood Gas Laboratory is one of the more than 6,000 CAP-accredited labs nationwide.

The CAP accreditation program, initiated in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the lab's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, lab equipment, facilities, safety program and record as well as overall management of the laboratory.

The stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for the laboratory's patients.

CAP is a medical society serving nearly 16,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. It is the world's largest association composed exclusively of pathologists.

Vaccine for advanced breast cancer shows promise; 14 women participate in governmental research

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP) — After five major surgeries for a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer, Patricia Thomas called the little pinprick she received in a government study the simplest procedure she's undergone.

That pinprick above her knee was an experimental vaccine derived from tiny bits of tumor protein that researchers hope will keep the 70-year-old Arlington, Va., woman's cancer from returning.

Though only preliminary, early results in Thomas and 13 other vaccinated survivors of advanced breast cancer suggest the researchers might be on the right path.

They have detected signs that the vaccine triggered an immune-system response in all 14 that might potentially fight recurring cancer cells, said co-researcher Dr. George Peoples Jr. of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Peoples presented study results at a recent American College of Surgeons meeting in Chicago. He stressed that the experimental vaccine is not a cancer cure, but said it might someday help prevent the disease in high-risk women.

Dr. Clifford Hudis, a breast cancer specialist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, called the results promising and said they bolster previous evidence from similar breast cancer vaccine research. While it's unclear if the results will translate into disease prevention, "it's a critical first step," Hudis said.

Vaccine studies are a burgeoning area of cancer research. Unlike traditional vaccines, which generally aim to prevent disease, some experimental cancer vaccines are designed to treat or cure existing disease.

The women studied at Walter Reed all had received conventional treatment for cancer that had spread to the lymph nodes. They had no symptoms when they were vaccinated

but likely had lingering cancer cells and face a high risk of relapse.

Peoples said if his study continues to show positive results, within a few years the vaccine might be tried in healthy women at high risk for breast cancer.

"This is a field that deserves a lot of work" and the early findings "suggest they're on the right track," said Dr. Harmon Eyre, the American Cancer Society's chief medical officer.

Eyre said that vaccines have already shown promise in preventing cancers related to infections. The hepatitis B vaccine given to U.S. newborns also prevents hepatitis-related liver cancer, and an experimental vaccine against a virus linked to cervical cancer also has had good results.

The vaccine used in the Walter Reed study was safe and caused no serious side effects. Cancer has recurred in two women, but they had the weakest immune response to the vaccine, Peoples said.

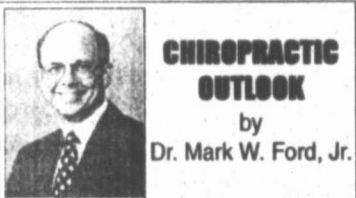
Cancer also has returned in four of 20 women with advanced breast cancer who were not vaccinated. The disease recurred much more quickly in the unvaccinated group, after an average of about five months, compared with about 10 months in the vaccinated women.

In the study, led by Walter Reed's Dr. Craig Shriver, vaccinated women got shots monthly for six months. The women have been followed an average of about 1 1/2 years.

Thomas, diagnosed three years ago, said she initially was told she had a less than 50 percent chance of surviving five years. She said she realizes she may not live long enough to benefit from the vaccine, but hopes the study will someday benefit other women, including her two daughters and grandchildren, who because of familial breast cancer face an increased disease risk.

The vaccine targets a growth-stimulating protein called HER2/neu that appears on the surface of normal cells but in

(See VACCINE, Page 9)



CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

by Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.

POUNGING HEADACHE? GO WITH CHIROPRACTIC

Perhaps you have put in a long day at work and your head is beginning to ache. Or maybe you forgot to eat lunch and are starting to feel lightheaded. You better listen to these alarms. No one wants a full-blown headache.

Unfortunately, some people regularly get headaches. Chiropractic treatment may be the answer. A 2001 report by researchers at the Duke University Evidence-Based Practice Center in Durham, North Carolina, found that spinal manipulation resulted in almost immediate improvement for headaches that originate in the neck. They also saw significantly fewer side effects and longer-lasting relief of tension-type headaches than when taking a commonly prescribed medication.

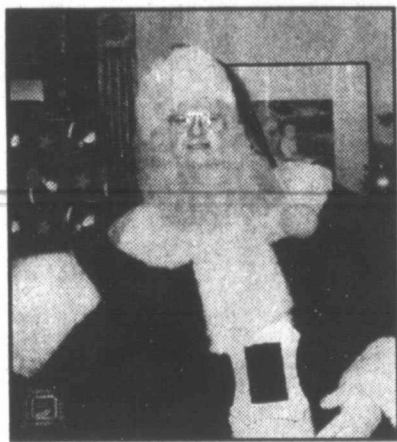
Cervical spinal manipulation as associated with improvement in outcomes in two trials involving patients with neck pain and headaches. Manipulation appeared to result in immediate improvement in severity when used to treat episodes of cervicogenic headaches. If you suffer from frequent headaches, make an appointment with a local Doctor of Chiropractic. Why have pain needlessly?

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Tiny gold shells may help battle cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tiny gold shells that absorb certain types of radiation may become a new weapon in the ongoing battle against cancer.

Called nanoshells, the golden balls have a bit of mica in their center and can be designed to absorb radiation at various frequencies.

A group of Texas researchers injected the nanoshells into tumors in mice. They then exposed the tumors to near infrared radiation, heating them enough to kill the cancer but without injuring nearby normal tissue.

Their results are reported in a recent online issue of

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Nanoshells should work in most soft tissue tumors but would be most effective on cancers that can't be removed surgically because they're in an awkward location, such as in the brain, the researchers said.

"Nanoshells can be directly injected," said Jennifer L. West of Rice University, "or, our most recent study shows that you can inject nanoshells intravenously and they will accumulate in tumor sites because the blood vessels in tumors are leakier than elsewhere in the body."

West said patients could be treated in two ways.

"Near infrared light can be applied from outside of the body for most applications, but if necessary, fiber optics can be run through catheters," said West, who led the team from Rice and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Near infrared light is a type of low-energy radiation not absorbed by living tissues. However, the nanoshells can be designed to absorb this light, which heats them up.

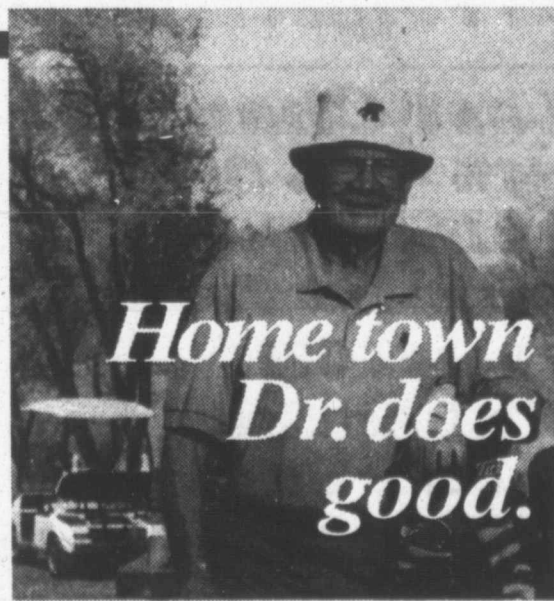
Andrei Laszlo of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis said that although the method is a novel approach for removing tumors, it "will require a considerable amount of further work" to overcome the problem of directing the nanoshells to the specific tumor sites.

The Texas researchers first experimented with cultured human breast cancer cells in a solution containing nanoshells and then turned to tumors in mice.

Temperatures inside the tumors reached levels high enough to damage cells within 4 to 6 minutes, killing the tumors but leaving surrounding tissue unharmed.

The researchers will monitor the long-term health of the treated mice.

West said a company called Nanospectra Biosciences has licensed the technology and plans to do studies in people, which could occur within 12 to 18 months.



Home town Dr. does good.

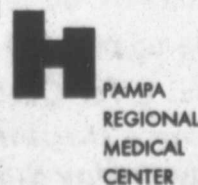
Dr. Joe Donaldson, retired surgeon, avid golfer, gardener and art collector.

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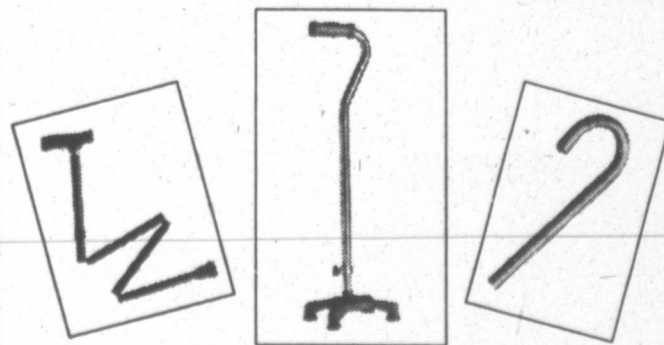
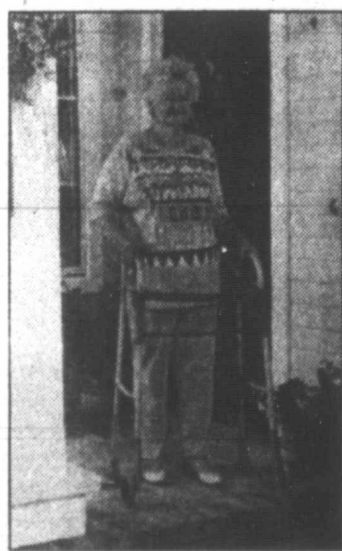
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AUSTIN — Farm Credit passed the \$71 agricultural an gage loan volu time in its 86-y In its third cial report, the ed a loan portf billion at Sept. percent incre: \$6.668 billion earlier.

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NUTRIENT

Lancet urged that children below the age of puberty and pregnant women receive vitamin D supplements as a "safety net."

While NIH considers what to recommend, people should make a special effort to eat foods fortified with vitamin D, advises CDC epidemiologist Kelley Scanlon. "We can't rely only on sunlight exposure."

The best natural sources are fatty fish such as salmon — a serving provides 90 percent of today's recommended allotment. Smaller amounts are in organ meats, egg yolks and mushrooms.

Some other foods are D-fortified. A cup of milk contains a fourth of the daily requirement; last spring, fortified orange juice began selling with just as much.

Contrary to public perceptions, few other dairy foods contain vitamin D. Only a few yogurt brands do, providing about 10 percent of the daily dose, says Mona Calvo of the Food and Drug Administration. Remaining options are fortified breakfast cereals and canned children's spaghetti.

"Is there a need for more fortified foods? I would argue there is," Calvo says. She adds, "We need to identify novel foods for D fortification that are tailored to vulnerable populations."

Standing outside 15 minutes a day three times a week lets the skin produce enough vitamin D most of the year, says Dr. Michael Holick of Boston University. But workaholicism and legitimate fear of skin cancer — sunscreen blocks D production — limit how much Americans produce even in summer. Winter sunlight is not intense enough at most U.S. latitudes to produce any, Holick says.

Without enough vitamin D in infancy,

bones do not harden, which causes bowed legs, stunted growth and pain.

Though eradicated with milk fortification, rickets was found by the CDC to be on the comeback: 9 of every million babies age six months to 1 year were hospitalized for rickets in the 1990s; most were black.

Doctors began in April recommending D supplements for all breast-fed infants until they are switched to fortified milk or formula.

Beyond childhood, too little vitamin D can weaken bones and cause muscle pain. There is some evidence that the vitamin helps prevent colorectal cancer and some autoimmune diseases, but more proof is needed.

Vitamin D consumption is measured in IUs — international units — a standard measurement for vitamins. Today, adults are supposed to get 200 IUs a day until age 50. Because vitamin D production drops with age, people age 50 to 70 need 400 IUs a day, the elderly 600 IUs.

Studies show:

—Even when black women reported taking vitamins, 12 percent remained D-deficient, the CDC found. That questions the adequacy of their dosages.

—Heaney cited one study that men needed 1,000 IUs a day during Nebraska winters to keep their vitamin D levels from dropping.

—A study of 2,600 healthy Britons given 800 IUs a day saw their risk of bone fractures drop 33 percent, he said, suggesting today's doses are insufficient to protect bones.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lauran Neergaard covers health and medical issues for The Associated Press in Washington.

Farm credit lender passes \$7 billion in loan volume

AUSTIN — The Tenth Farm Credit District has passed the \$7 billion mark in agricultural and rural mortgage loan volume for the first time in its 86-year history.

In its third quarter financial report, the district reported a loan portfolio of \$7.141 billion at Sept. 30, 2003, a 7.1 percent increase over the \$6.668 billion reported a year earlier.

The district is composed of the Austin-based Farm Credit Bank of Texas and 22 affiliated financing associations.

"The continued growth of our loan portfolio is attributed to the low interest-rate environment of the last two years, enhanced marketing and customer service efforts, and continued demand for real estate in most areas of the district," said FCBT CEO Larry Doyle.

"Despite a decline in interest income during the first nine months of the year, we successfully reduced our cost of debt to generate positive

net interest income," he said.

District net income for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2003, totaled \$37.8 million, a 12 percent increase over the \$33.6 million reported for the third quarter of 2002. Net income for the nine month period ending Sept. 30, 2003, was \$104.7 million, a 14 percent increase over the \$92.2 million in net income for the same period of 2002.

District credit quality remained strong, with 97 percent of gross loan volume rated acceptable at Sept. 30, 2003, down slightly from 97.4 percent acceptable at Dec. 31, 2002, and 97.1 percent acceptable at Sept. 30, 2002. Doyle said the portfolio benefited from government support to farmers, associations' use of Farm Service Agency guarantees and the availability of off-farm income to a large number of producers.

The bank and associations' combined assets totaled \$8.359 billion at Sept. 30,

2003, compared with \$7.690 billion at Dec. 31, 2002.

The Farm Credit Bank of Texas provides funding and financial services to 12 Agricultural Credit Associations, which make agricultural and rural real estate loans, and to 10 Federal Land Credit Associations, which specialize in rural real estate lending.

At Sept. 30, 2003, these customer-owned financing cooperatives reported a total of 63,808 loans outstanding to agricultural producers, agribusiness operators, country homeowners and other rural landowners.

The Tenth Farm Credit District is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System. Nationally, the System reported net income of \$462 million and \$1.340 billion for the three and nine months ended Sept. 30, 2003, respectively. This compares with net income of \$437 million and \$1.371 billion for the same periods last year.

Professor leads study at nuke site at Chernobyl in Ukraine

CANYON — Where better to study the consequences of continuous exposure to low-level radiation than the Chernobyl district of north-central Ukraine?

That is the location of history's worst nuclear accident, and it is where Dr. Brenda Rodgers, assistant professor of biology at West Texas A&M University, has spent hundreds of hours with a team of co-investigators and collaborators linked through a \$1.2 million federal grant.

Rodgers, project director, authored the initiative while she was a post-doctoral research associate at Texas Tech University, which administers the three-year grant. However, Rodgers joined the WTAMU faculty at about the same time the grant was awarded — September of 2002 — so her base of operations is Canyon.

"Chernobyl was a terrible tragedy for the people of that region, yet it created an environment that can't be mimicked in a laboratory," Rodgers said. "As much of a tragedy as the accident itself was, it would be an even greater tragedy not to learn all we can from it."

Sponsored by the Low Dose Radiation Research Program within the U.S. Department of Energy, Rodgers' team set out to study biological responses in the tissues of mice exposed to low levels of radiation from Chernobyl fallout in the environment.

Phase I of their study involved exposing lab mice to the Chernobyl environment. Phases II and III will be spent primarily in the laboratory, where scientists will study genetic changes at the molecular level and whether or not exposure to low-level radiation could impart a beneficial adaptive response.

"Already there are indica-

tions that mice first exposed to low-dose radiation, then to higher levels, sustain less genetic damage than mice that were exposed only to a large dose," Rodgers said. "We now will study tissues and DNA, using gene-chip technology, in hopes of determining which genes are involved in this response. Lab mice are still the best model from which to get meaningful data in terms of assessing human health risks."

Rodgers and her collaborators are interested in answers to problems far removed from lab mice. Such studies as theirs, they say, may help determine whether or not remediation of areas such as Chernobyl is best left to nature.

"Remediation of contaminated sites is very expensive," Rodgers said. "If we were to learn that such sites are best left for nature to reclaim, it would certainly mean a lot of savings in terms of remediation dollars."

"But we're also interested in learning all we can about how a repeat of the Chernobyl disaster would affect the human population. We have recently published a study on dispersion of radiation in the

Chernobyl region and are beginning studies on the impacts of radiation releases (such as dirty bombs) using the abandoned city of Pripyat, Ukraine as a model. We can learn a lot from Chernobyl."

Kristen Holmes, a senior biology student from Holly, Colo., was fortunate enough to accompany Rodgers for several weeks this past summer on one of her many trips to the Chernobyl region.

"It has added a whole new perspective and has had a huge impact on me," Holmes said. "Just the excitement of finding new and unexpected results has been very rewarding. What we are finding is totally contrary to what the press and the world have led us to believe about radiation and the Chernobyl accident."

"I think we are onto some very exciting new information, and I feel very fortunate to be part of this research team."

Co-investigators working with Rodgers on the project are Dr. Ron Chesser and Dr. Robert Baker of Texas Tech, while collaborators include scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the USDA.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

VACCINE

overabundant quantities on cancer cells in about 30 percent of women with breast cancer, Peoples said.

Cancer cells often are able to grow and spread because the body doesn't recognize them as foreign. But the researchers concocted the vaccine from tiny bits of that protein that are the most likely to trigger a disease-fighting immune response.

The vaccine also contains an approved drug that helps

boost disease-fighting white blood cell counts.

Dr. Mary Disis, director of the tumor vaccine group at the University of Washington, has had similar results with an HER2 vaccine. Disis said in some of her patients, the vaccine-triggered immune response has lasted about five or six years. She's investigating whether that immunity has translated into less disease recurrence.

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PAMPA ISD

Teacher Profile

Carol Hannah



I teach English at Pampa Middle School. Over the years I have also taught reading and a reading elective.

It is challenging to teach the language at a time when standards for writing and speaking appear to become looser and more casual daily. Students still need to be taught and encouraged to become articulate communicators.

One way to do this that is particularly relevant is to use technology. In middle school we are very fortunate to have rolling labs equipped with laptop computers. Students are extremely focused when using these to write final drafts. We also use them for research.

Our daily pace at middle school is very fast. In class I like to alternate activities a lot so that student interest remains strong.

One other challenge that we have in seventh grade is the TAKS writing test in February. We spend a lot of time writing and practicing proofreading skills that apply to this new test.

I really enjoy teaching middle school. The students are fun and interesting to know. The staff cares about helping kids learn and grow. Our school day is full of activity, and there is never enough time for all we need to do.

I am a graduate of Baylor University and have taught in Pampa 35 years. I am married to Larry Hannah, a middle school science teacher, and have two grown-up daughters.

Teacher Profiles are chosen by the PISD District Leadership Team. Advertisement provided courtesy of Pampa Regional Medical Center.

SPORTS

Harvesters lose by one to Aledo

WICHITA FALLS — It was a heartbreaking loss that ended an outstanding season for the Pampa Harvesters, who fell to the Aledo Bearcats in the regional semi-finals.

Aledo captured a 23-22 win over Pampa with a game-winning drive in the closing minutes Friday night in Memorial Stadium.

Aledo advances to meet the Plainview-Denton Ryan winner in the Class 4A Division II state quarterfinals. Pampa closes with an 11-2 record after beating San Angelo Lakeview and El Paso Chapin in the playoffs.

Leading 22-17, the Harvesters appeared headed for the fourth round of the playoffs after forcing Aledo to punt with just 4:16 remaining. However, Aledo was able to recover a Pampa fumble on the first play from scrimmage, giving the Bearcats possession on their own 40.

Quarterback Colby Thomas directed the Bearcats on an 11-play scoring drive with running back Christian Thomas plunging over from the two with just six seconds to go. On the ensuing kickoff, Pampa quarterback Johnny Moore wasn't able to connect with a pair of desperation passes as time expired with the Harvesters on

their own 49.

Aledo grabbed a 10-0 lead in the first quarter on a three-yard run by Christian and a 24-yard field goal by Jarod Tracy. Pampa struck back just before the end of the first quarter with an impressive drive from the Harvester 38. Ten plays later, running back Andrew Curtis swept into the end zone on a 6-yard run. An Aledo holding penalty on the conversion attempt moved Pampa closer to the goal line and Mac Smith dove over the top to move his team within two, 10-8.

Aledo took advantage of a Pampa fumble to get on the scoreboard again at the 7:57 mark of the second quarter. Kyle Lowe scored on a four-yard run as the Bearcats moved ahead 17-8.

In the second quarter, Junior Tyler Doughty had to replace Moore, who went to the sideline after feeling woozy from a hard tackle. Doughty was able to spark a touchdown drive after Pampa's defense stepped it up a notch. Cornerback Shea Brown tipped away an 18-yard pass that looked like a sure completion and tackle Tyrel Bolin recovered a fumble on the Aledo 22. Aided by a 15-yard personal foul penalty on Aledo, the Harvesters completed a six-play drive with Curtis somersaulting into the end zone from

the three. Seth Foster's extra point kick closed the Harvesters' 17-15 with 3:34 left in the half.

The momentum seemed to shift to the Harvesters, who continued making strong defensive plays. The Bearcats were forced to punt on their next possession as Sergio Alva and Derek Lewis delivered back-to-back hits at the line of scrimmage before the first half ended.

Pampa was forced to punt on its first possession of the third quarter, but got the ball back when Lewis recovered a fumble on the Harvester 47. That would lead to Pampa's go-ahead TD with 4:55 remaining in the third quarter on Moore's 18-yard pass to Jesse Tarango.

Things were looking good for the Harvesters, who had Aledo backed up on its own 20 with 6:15 left in the contest. Things were looking even better when Bolin and linebacker Mac Smith led a Pampa defense that forced Aledo to punt from its own 23. But the tide shifted against the Harvesters when Aledo covered the fumble after a pass play.

Statistics were close for both teams. Aledo had 308 total yards compared to 264 for Pampa. Aledo had the edge in first downs, 20-18.

Center Jerrod Carruth and tackle Michael Pergeson were the standout blockers for Pampa.

Aledo 10 7 0 6 -23
Pampa 8 7 7 0 -22

A-Ryan Christian 3 run (Jarod Tracy kick)
A-Tracy 24 FG
P-Andrew Curtis 8 run (Mac Smith run)

A-Kyle Lowe 4 run (Tracy kick)
P-Curtis 3 run (Seth Foster kick)
P-Jesse Tarango 18 pass from Johnny Moore (Foster kick)

A-Christian 2 run (run failed)
Individual Statistics

Pampa
Rushing: Johnny Moore 17-109, Jesse Tarango 4-32, Andrew Curtis 14-41, Tyler Doughty 3-(-1).

Passing: Johnny Moore 6-12-0-67; Tyler Doughty 2-3-0-15.

Receiving: Brittin East 3-42, Jesse Tarango 4-33, Dusty Lendermann 1-7.

Aledo
Rushing: Ryan Christian 33-131, Colby Thomas 8-61, Casey Blair 1-1, Brad Lehman 4-15, Kyle Lowe 2-6.

Passing: Colby Thomas 7-12-0-94.

Receiving: Ryan Christian 4-63, Tyler Watts 2-28, Blake Rice 1-3.

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Guards Gary Payton and Kobe Bryant are the most likely members of the Los Angeles Lakers to get a triple-double.

But it was forward Karl Malone who accomplished the feat Friday night.

Malone became the first NBA player to get a triple-double at age 40 despite sitting out the fourth quarter, and Devean George had a season-high 19 points as the Lakers routed the defending NBA champion San Antonio Spurs 103-87.

FOOTBALL

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU is feeling confident, maybe even a little cocky.

The third-ranked Tigers beat Arkansas 55-24 to earn a trip to the Southeastern Conference title game and move a step closer to a national championship showdown against No. 1 Oklahoma.

"We've got one more game to make a dream come true," LSU wide receiver Michael Clayton said. "I feel like we've got what it takes to win an SEC championship, because I've won one before and it was one of the best moments of my life."

LSU will play either Georgia, Tennessee or Florida for the conference championship next Saturday in Atlanta. With a win, the Tigers could have a chance to play for their first national championship since 1958.

The Tigers (11-1, 7-1) trail USC by 2.15 points for second place in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

A victory in the SEC Championship plus a USC loss to Oregon State makes up just one of several scenarios that could send LSU to a national championship matchup in the Sugar Bowl against Oklahoma. The Tigers could move ahead even if USC wins — if they can move up in enough computer rankings.

"I'm pleased with where we are," LSU coach Nick Saban said. "It's like climbing a mountain. The closer you get to the top, the more treacherous it gets."

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 6 Texas 46, Texas A&M 15; No. 15 Miami of Ohio 56, Central Florida 21; and No. 25 Nebraska 31, Colorado 22.

Pampa All-Stars take second in Perryton football tourney

PERRYTON — The Pampa 5th-6th grade All-Stars finished their football season by taking second at the Perryton All-Star Tournament.

Pampa defeated Borger 22-6 and Perryton 14-8 to reach the championship game.

Against Borger, the Pampa All-Stars scored on the first possession of the second quarter with a combination of passes and runs. Gabe Rodriguez scored on a two-yard run and passed to Jessie Jimenez for the two-point conversion.

On their next possession, Pampa converted a fourth and 10 pass to Ryan Jimenez from Jessie Jimenez to keep a drive alive. The pair hooked up again on a 30-yard pass play to make the score 14-0.

Borger was at its own 30 with a first down when Pampa's Craig Conner made an interception for a 45-yard touchdown. A Braden Hunt to Corbin Clifton pass made the score 22-0 at half-time.

Borger scored late in the game to make the score 22-6, Pampa's favor.

The Pampa-Perryton game was a defensive struggle, but Pampa was able to score early as Gabe Rodriguez broke away on a 68-yard TD run. A Braden Hunt to Jessie Ramirez pass made the score 8-0.

Both defenses took over the game until late in the third quarter. A. J. Rodriguez scored on a five-yard run and the PAT failed. Perryton scored late to make the final score 14-8, Pampa's favor.

Perryton won the championship 20-0 over Pampa.

The Pampa All-Stars entered three tournaments, taking fourth and second place in two of them.

"They played hard every time and no matter what the conditions were, they never quit. The Pampa All-Stars were small in size, but played with a big heart. Pampa fans should keep an eye on this group as they will some day make Harvester coaches proud," said head coach Mando Ramirez.



Pampa All-Stars are: (front row, l-r) Kendrick Tillmon, Erick Lewis, Kendon Horst, Koby Starnes, Mitchell Killgo, Joseph Mechelay, Ramon Jimenez and Tyler Hooper; (second row, l-r) Gabe Rodriguez, Reid Bradley, Steven Botello, A.J. Rodriguez, Corbin Clifton, Sam Newman, Anthony Allen and Leonel Madrid; (back row, l-r) assistant coach Donnie Hooper, Zach Organ Kyle Keith, head coach Mando Ramirez, Braden Hunt, Jessie Jimenez, Daniel Smith and Andrew Silva. Not pictured is Ryan Jimenez.

Parcells embarrassed after Thanksgiving debacle

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Bill Parcells isn't having trouble expressing his emotions about his team this time. The Dallas Cowboys coach went from pure elation to bitter disappointment — in just five days.

With the traditional Thanksgiving Day game providing an opportunity to showcase all they have accomplished in their first season under Parcells, the Cowboys struggled in every aspect of the game and lost 40-21 to Miami. The Dolphins led throughout.

"I'm a little embarrassed

by this ... go out here on Thanksgiving in a national game and play like this," Parcells said. "We were just awful, we really were."

The Cowboys were coming off an impressive 24-20 win over Carolina that put them in a four-way for the NFC's best record. The coach was so choked up and proud after Sunday's game that he couldn't express to his players just how much the win meant.

After the debacle against the Dolphins, he sounded less sure about his team.

"We've still got a lot on the line and I don't know whether we can do it or not," Parcells said. "I thought after last week we might be able to, but after this, I'm not sure. It's typical of being a young team,

you get on a seesaw and sometimes you can't get off."

The Cowboys (8-4) have lost three of six since a five-game winning streak. They were shut out for the other two losses in the stretch.

"We can't let this beat us into the ground," tight end Dan Campbell said. "This is the push now. This is it, this is what it is all about, to get to the month of December with a chance to get in the playoffs. Even after as bad as we played, that's what we have."

Dallas plays three of its last four games on the road, Nov. 7 at Philadelphia.

Philadelphia has a half-game lead over the Cowboys in the NFC East.

The Eagles, who are at Carolina on Sunday, have won six straight since losing Oct. 12 at Dallas.

Parcells still won't say the "P-word," but he knows what the Cowboys have to do to make the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

"We've got to probably win two out of four to get into the tournament," he said, adding they will have to win three or maybe all four remaining games for their first division title in five seasons.

"We still have a good opportunity," he said. "But, frankly, if we don't play a lot better than we played, it won't make any difference about the opportunity."

The Cowboys are assured of at least finishing

.500 after three straight 5-11 seasons before Parcells. The loss to Miami prevented nine pre-December wins for the first time since 1995, the season of their last Super Bowl championship.

Miami took advantage of a 30-yard pass interference penalty on the game's first play.

Jay Fielder's 1-yard plunge made the Dolphins the first opponent in 22 games with a touchdown on an opening drive against Dallas.

After Dallas got to 17-14, the Dolphins answered with 10 seconds left in the first half when Fielder threw the second of his three TD passes to Chris Chambers. Then on the third play of the second half, Quincy Carter fumbled, and Jason Taylor returned it 34 yards for a touchdown.

"Just like you can't let a big win dictate how the rest of your season is going to go, you can't let an embarrassing loss do the same," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said. "We've still got a shot."

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Pampa's Buster Ivory memorialized at NFR

The late Buster Ivory of Pampa will be memorialized at the National Finals Rodeo, December 7, in Las Vegas, NV. Ivory was National Finals Livestock Superintendent for the first 26 years; also served as bucking chute boss for four of those years. Ivory, died March 10, 2003, at his home in Pampa.

Buster Ivory was a third generation Irish ranch-rodeo family from Modoc County, CA.

He entered his first rodeo at MacArthur, CA, in 1938 at the age of 15. Ivory joined the Cowboys Turtle Association, the first professional rodeo association in 1938;

was a member of the RCA (Rodeo Cowboys Association) and served as secretary of that association for four years in the Denver, CO. headquarters; he was a Gold Card member of the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association, and not only was a contestant in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding and team roping, but excelled in the business section of the sport. He also serving as rodeo judge, arena director, technical advisor, as well as rodeo producer.

He was elected in 1990 to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center/Rodeo Historical Society in

Oklahoma City, and also was elected to that Board; 1991 Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame Notable, Colorado Springs, CO; and was the second recipient of the prestigious Ben Johnson Award in 1999. He was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2001. Buster was the only Texan ever selected for three Rodeo Hall of Fames and the prestigious Ben Johnson Award.

Buster was involved with the Indian National Finals Rodeo, World's Richest Roping, judge for the first National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Finals; producing several international rodeos

including World's Fair rodeos in Brussels, Belgium, and Montreal, Canada. Produced Rodeo Far West in three European countries, and appeared at a special western horse attraction for the Queen of England.

Buster and June Bull were married in 1954 during the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo; in 1958 the couple returned to Pampa to make their home. One of the many contributions to the sport was their acquisition of information and photographs for the historical "100 Years of Rodeo Stock Contractors".

The original 'Cowboy

Reunion', of which Buster and June were among the original founders, continues to be a highlight each year at the NFR, under the leadership of June Ivory.

According to former RCA President and NFR General Manager Clem McSpadden "Buster was the consummate rodeo person, and his loyalty to the sport is unequalled. He was a contestant, an employee, an advisor, producer, judge, and administrator. Most of all, his word was his bond, and was the friend everybody would be fortunate to have."

The name of Buster Ivory is synonymous with Rodeo!

Diamondbacks Schilling signs contract with Red Sox

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox have two aces now, and two pitchers who will fight the manager to stay in a big game.

"If you're going to take me out during a game, take me out," said Curt Schilling, the newest member of the Red Sox. "Don't ask me how I feel, because the competitive nature tends to make me believe that, regardless of who you bring in, they're not going to have the stuff that I have."

Schilling accepted a trade to Boston on Friday after agreeing to a contract that could keep him with the Red Sox through the end of his career. Having teamed with Randy Johnson to win a World Series in Arizona,

Schilling now joins Pedro Martinez in trying to lead the Red Sox to their first title since 1918.

Boston was five outs away from making the Series this season before Martinez persuaded manager Grady Little to leave him on the mound in the eighth inning of Game 7 of the AL championship series against the New York Yankees. Boston lost, Little was let go, and the Red Sox went into the offseason looking to upgrade.

They did so with Schilling, a five-time All-Star who shared the 2001 Series MVP with Johnson after they led the Diamondbacks to the championship.

"Curt Schilling can win a World Series in Boston. If it's

in the stars, then so be it," Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo said. "Curt was brought here to help us win a World Series, and he did that. ... He got what he was seeking, and so did we ... a World Series ring."

Boston and Arizona worked out the deal Monday, but the 37-year-old Schilling had to waive the no-trade clause in his current contract for it to go through. A deadline for negotiations between Schilling and the Red Sox was to expire at 5 p.m. Friday but it was extended for one day; they only needed a couple of hours.

A baseball source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that Schilling's new contract,

which folded in the \$12 million he was to receive in 2004; guarantees him \$12.5 million in 2005 and \$13 million in 2006. It also includes a \$13 million option for 2007 that could become guaranteed if Schilling meets specified performance levels, the source said.

The new deal does not have a no-trade clause.

"Curt wasn't out for every last dollar. Very far from it. He wanted to structure his deal so the Red Sox would be competitive for every year of his contract," Boston general manager Theo Epstein said. "He deserves a lot of credit, because that's a rare request coming from a player."

Schilling probably will fol-

low Martinez in what could be baseball's most formidable rotation, and that's fine with him.

"How many Cy Youngs has he got, three or four? At last count, that's three more than I've got. He is the No. 1 on that staff," Schilling said. "I didn't have a problem pitching behind Randy Johnson in Arizona, and I'm going to be equally comfortable pitching behind Pedro Martinez."

The Red Sox sent Casey Fossum and righty Brandon Lyon to the Diamondbacks, along with minor league pitcher Jorge De La Rosa and a minor leaguer to be named.

Arizona is trying to cut its payroll from about \$94 million to \$80 million.

Schilling had said he would only accept a trade to the Phillies or the New York Yankees, but Epstein persuaded him to come to Boston after meeting with him through the holiday and joining the Schillings for Thanksgiving dinner.

"If we didn't sign Curt, it probably would have been the worst Thanksgiving of my life," Epstein said.

Schilling was concerned that Fenway Park was unfriendly to right-handed fly ball pitchers. But he was also encouraged by the possibility of playing again for Terry Francona, his manager in Philadelphia who is the front-runner for the Red Sox job; he is expected to be hired next week.

Longhorns solidify position in BCS

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — The Texas Longhorns will be cheering for hated rival Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game. Just don't expect them to sing "Boomer Sooner" anytime soon.

No. 6 Texas solidified its place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Friday with a 46-15 win over Texas A&M. Now the Longhorns (10-2, 7-1 Big 12) want No. 1 Oklahoma to take care of business against Kansas State to prevent any Big 12 chaos in the BCS.

"If that's what it takes, I'll be a Sooners fan for a week," said cornerback Nathan Vasher, who tied the school record with his 17th career interception in the third quarter.

"I'm sitting here with one of the best teams in the nation," Texas coach Mack Brown said after the Longhorns moved a step closer to at-large bids to the Fiesta or Rose bowls and the first BCS game in school history. The Longhorns are No. 6 in the BCS standings.

"Now we have to watch and hope the system works," he said.

Cedric Benson ran for 283 yards and four touch-

downs for the Longhorns, who needed to throw only eight passes. He scored on runs of 21, 4, 8 and 35 yards.

Benson ran for 205 yards in the second half against the nation's 95th-ranked defense.

He also broke the record of the most rushing yards against the traditionally tough Wrecking Crew defense, surpassing former Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams' 259 yards in Texas' 1998 win.

"I wasn't going to be denied today. It's a rivalry game," said Benson, who has 1,277 yards this season.

"I sensed they were worn out after the first couple of plays in the first quarter," he said.

"This wasn't the usual kind of A&M team."

Terrence Murphy led A&M (4-8, 2-6) with seven catches for 150 yards.

The Aggies' fourth straight loss in a series that dates to 1894 was a bitter end to a disappointing first season under coach Dennis Franchione.

A&M wanted a quick turnaround after last season's 6-6 finish under R.C. Slocum but stumbled badly down the stretch. The Aggies lost their last three

games to finish with a losing record for the first time since 1982.

The Aggies wanted at least to spoil their rivals' BCS plans.

A&M players gathered in a huddle at midfield during pregame warmups and exchanged taunts with several Longhorns before coaches from both teams broke it up. The crowd of 84,094 at Kyle Field furiously waved their "12th Man Towels" after the Aggies' second touchdown made it 20-15 in the third.

But every time A&M seized momentum with a turnover, Texas took it right back by creating one of its own.

Tim Van Zant's muffed punt return set up Benson's second touchdown and Vince Young's 2-point conversion run with 10:33 left in the third put Texas ahead 28-15.

"It takes the wind out of your sails," Aggies offensive tackle Alan Reuber said. "It wasn't the back breaker, but you can't have that many mistakes and keep up."

Vasher's interception in

the end zone killed a third quarter drive that could have pulled the Aggies within a touchdown.

The Longhorns added two more touchdowns and a field goal late to blow it open as Benson pounded through tackles and churned up yards and time with every carry.

The easy finish mirrored Texas' fast start. Young threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to tight end David Thomas on Texas' second play from scrimmage.

Benson made it 14-0 when he capped a 95-yard, 13-play drive with his 21-yard burst through the middle, breaking two tackles 5 yards past the line.

Young set up the Aggies' first touchdown when he fumbled on the Texas 8. Reggie McNeal, who rotated at quarterback with Dustin Long, scored on an option keeper three plays later that made it 14-9 when the extra point was wide right.

Texas answered by forcing McNeal to fumble on a sack at the Aggies 17. Young scored from the 1 to make it 20-9 at halftime.



Pampa Harvester Sports Calendar

BASKETBALL

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 2

Pampa Boys & Girls vs Perryton • 6:00 at Perryton

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 4

Pampa Boys at Canyon Tournament

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 5

Pampa Girls vs Liberal • 6:00 at Pampa

SWIMMING

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 5

Pampa at Albuquerque Invitational

WRESTLING

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 2

Pampa vs Palo Duro • at Pampa

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 5

Pampa at Greater Gold Invitation • Randall

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IRS helps service men and women figure out new tax breaks

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is helping taxpayers use a new law providing income exclusions for death benefit payments and certain home sales. Both provisions are retroactive, so some qualifying taxpayers must file amended returns to claim these tax breaks. The IRS asks them to put the words "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red at the top of such returns to speed processing.

The new law doubled the gratuity paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members to \$12,000, made the entire amount tax-free and made the changes effective for deaths occurring after Sept. 10, 2001. Previously, only \$3,000 was tax-free. Recipients who already paid tax on benefits received, for deaths after the effective date may file an

amended return on Form 1040X, reducing their adjusted gross income by the \$3,000 they had reported as taxable. Those who receive such gratuities in 2003 and future years will not have to report them on their tax returns.

Taxpayers may exclude gain on a home sale, provided they have owned and used the home as a principal residence for two of the five years before the sale. A reduced maximum exclusion may apply to those who satisfy part of the two-year rule. Military personnel often retain ownership of a home while away on duty but eventually sell it without returning to live in it, perhaps failing the use test completely.

The new law allows persons on qualified extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services or the Foreign Service to suspend this

five-year test period for up to 10 years of such duty time. A taxpayer is on qualified extended duty when at a duty station that is at least 50 miles from the residence sold, or when residing under orders in government housing, for more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

This change applies to home sales after May 6, 1997. A taxpayer may use this provision for only one property at a time and may exclude gain on only one home sale in any two-year period. Although an amended return must usually be filed within three years of the original return's due date, the law gives qualifying taxpayers who sold a home before 2001 until Nov. 10, 2004, to file an amended return claiming the exclusion.

A taxpayer may use Form 4506, "Request for Copy or Transcript of Return," to get an earlier year's tax return. This form and Form 1040X are available on the IRS Web site or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Here are four examples illustrating how the new home sale exclusion rule works:

Example #1 — Lt. Green

owned a house in Georgia and lived there from December 1988 until deployed overseas in January 1991. When he returned to the United States in July 1999, he was stationed 90 miles from the house. Preferring not to commute this distance, he sold the house four months later, realizing a gain of \$150,000. Because he had not used the house as his principal residence during the 5 years preceding the sale, he reported this capital gain on his 1999 return. Under the new law, he can disregard both the 8 1/2 years he was overseas and the 4 months after his return to the States, since he was stationed more than 50 miles from old residence. His five-year test period for ownership and use now consists of the 5 years before January 1991, when he went overseas. Since he owned and lived in the house for more than two years during this test period, he may exclude the gain on the sale. He must file an amended return by Nov. 10, 2004, to recover the capital gain tax paid on the 1999 return.

Example #2 — Assume the same facts as Example #1, except that when Lt. Green returned to the U.S., his duty

station was 40 miles from the house. Only the time overseas may be disregarded, because his duty station after returning to the U.S. was within 50 miles of the old residence. His five-year test period for ownership and use now consists of 4 months in 1999 and the 56 months before January 1991, when he went overseas. Since he lived in the house for more than two years during this test period, he may exclude the gain on the sale. He must file an amended return by Nov. 10, 2004, to recover the capital gain tax paid on the 1999 return.

Example #3 — Col. White owned and lived in her Ohio house for three years before being stationed overseas in January 1988. She was still overseas when she sold the house in January 2003. She may disregard only 10 of her 15 years overseas, so her 5-year test period consists entirely of years in which she did not live in the house, leaving her not eligible for the home sale exclusion.

Example #4 — Sgt. Brown owned and lived in a Virginia townhouse for 10 months before being deployed overseas in February 1991. She returned in 1995 and lived in the townhouse for 16 months before she was assigned to a Texas duty station in late August 1996. She married and when the couple returned to Virginia in July 1999, they bought a nearby house. In July 2001, they sold the townhouse. Having lived in the townhouse only one month in the five years preceding its sale, they reported the capital gain on their 2001 return. Under the new law, they may disregard the time spent overseas and in Texas when determining the 5-year test period, which would then consist of the two years from July 1999 to July 2001, when they lived nearby, the 16 months she lived in the townhouse in 1995-96, and the 20 months before the February 1991 overseas deployment. During this test period, Sgt. Brown owned and lived in the townhouse for 26 months, so she may exclude up to \$250,000 of gain on its sale. Because her husband never lived in the townhouse, he does not qualify for any exclusion. The Browns have until Apr. 15, 2005, to file an amended return claiming a refund of the capital gain tax paid on the excludable amount.

AUSTIN HONOR ROLL

Austin Elementary School recently announced its honor roll for the second six-weeks grading period of the 2003-04 school year.

SECOND GRADE

A Honor Roll. Destry Baten, Paul Cuellar, Tre Dildy, Kaylie Evans, Brandon Gage, Taylor Giles, Trae Hannon, Joshua Hernandez, Madison Joyce, Allison Leigh, Casey Martindale, Klayton Miller, Freddy Mora, Kiersten Newton, Cager Osborne, Hannah Owens, Michael Parnell, Korbin Ramirez, Cindy Schepp, Jacob Sexton, Kelly Silva, Taylor Smith, Emily Terry, Bailey Wichert.

AB Honor Roll. Courtney Baker, Savannah Davis, Bailey Dixon, Mattie Eldridge, Leann Hinton, Chance Hoover, Hunter Hughes, Taylin Neff, Nicholas Penaranda, Samantha Woodruff.

THIRD GRADE

A Honor Roll. Kyler Allen, Patterson Alvey, Rachael Andrews, Jocelyn Brady, Cole Buck, Bethany Casas, Jonathan Cox, Jacob Crippen, Ryne Davis, Ethan Defever, Ben Dietz, Robin Doan, Caleb Dunham, Kate Ellis, Madison Fatheree, Rachael Jones, Tamra Klusmeyer, Michael Landsverk, Cameron McDonald, Levi Miller, Taylor Morgan, Nicholas Nelson, Arin Rice, Ryan Smith, Austin Starbuck, James Thompson, Sabrina Thompson, Adam Williams.

AB Honor Roll. J.T. Brown, Sydney Hoelting, Jacee Smith, Dakota Watson, Kassidy Winegeart.

FOURTH GRADE

A Honor Roll. Libby Aler, Shawn Armstrong, Talor Bowen, Lindsey Brown, Brenden Burrell, Magely Cerda, Autumn Chidester, Delaney Clendening, Heather Coffee, Latigo Collins, Cole Engle, Callie Hampton, Zac Hernandez, Harley Jacobs, Taylor Kennedy, Kirsten Kuhn, Shannon Leigh, Ty Linder, Matthew O'Rear, Ryan Pearson, Landon Powell, Kaitlynn Ramirez, Karami Rice, Caitlin Sieck, Elizabeth Terry, Nate Towry, Kailyn Troxell, Jessica Zellefrow, Justin Zeta.

AB Honor Roll. Jessica Butler, Ellen Cambern, Treyci Carroll, Tara Garcia, Austin Hinkle, Bree Howard, Logan Karbo, Karl Pfitzner.

FIFTH GRADE

A Honor Roll. Payton Alvey, Emily Barrett, Kim Bronough, Karina Cabrales, Nicholas Collins, Haley Copeland, Katie Dunham, Brenna Ellison, Garrett Ericson, Chase Ferguson, Holly Gage, Lysie Guyer, Ashlee Holland, Paige Holt, Jackie Karson, Evan McElwain, Trevor McVay,

Jonathan Polasek, Tyler Rabel, Brenden Rice, Garrett Sewell, Hannah Smith, Danielle Zuniga.

AB Honor Roll. Olin Boyd, Lena Dyer, Callie Folmar, Mary Murry, Sissy Palmer, Shaylie Thompson, Cameron Wall.

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<p>03 Ford Explorer XLT 4 Door</p> <p>\$6500 Off MSRP <small>All In Stock!</small></p>	<p>04 Ford Expedition 4x4 - Eddie Bauer</p> <p>\$7500 Off MSRP <small>S#4A10456</small></p>	<p>04 Grand Marquis LS Leather</p> <p>\$5500 Off MSRP <small>S#4X631711</small></p>
<p>NO GIMMICKS • NO PRIZES JUST LOW PRICES & GOOD DEALS (What Will We Think Of Next?!)</p>		
<p>04 Chrysler Pacifica's 4 Door</p> <p>\$6000 WAC Off MSRP</p>	<p>04 Dodge Trucks</p> <p>\$2500 WAC REBATE!</p>	<p>04 Dodge Ram 1500</p> <p>\$15995 <small>S#3J681321</small></p>
<p>04 Chrysler PT Cruiser Touring Edition</p> <p>\$16240 <small>S#3T630975</small></p>	<p>03 Dodge Diesel Trucks</p> <p>\$7500 WAC Off MSRP <small>All In Stock!</small></p>	<p>03 Dodge Durango Sport</p> <p>\$7000 WAC Off MSRP <small>S#3F066890 MSRP: \$32585</small></p>

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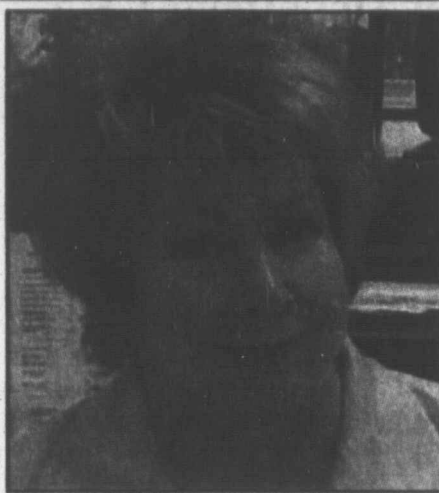
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COMMUNITY

NEWSMAKERS



Sara Wheeley

Sara Wheeley, RNBSN, was elected to the State Board of the Texas Association Concerned with School-Age Parenthood during a meeting of the association held earlier this month.

The association offers a network of specialists in teen pregnancy and associated fields to provide information or technical assistance. Members are kept abreast of current trends, research development in the field and related issues at the local, state and national level.

Mrs. Wheeley is teen parent coordinator for Pampa Independent School District and teaches parenting classes, health and biology at Pampa Learning Center.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Army Pvt. **Luke A. Bailey**, son of John E. and Deborah L. Bailey of Pampa, has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Bailey graduated from Pampa High School in 2003.

MANHATTAN, Kan. — More than 4,000 students at Kansas State University were awarded scholarships for the 2003-04 school year recently.

Among the scholarship recipients were **Max Tristan Simon** of Pampa, The Kansas State University Alumni Association License Plate Educational Scholarship, \$6,000; and **Brendan Joseph Haiduk** of White Deer, K-State Academic Scholarship, \$6,000.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PPHM EXHIBITS

This summer, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will exhibit "Neighbors: Texas Artists in New Mexico" and "Three Pueblo Painters" from June 21 through Oct. 5 at its location in Canyon.

STORY TIME

Starting Sept. 16 and continuing through Dec. 16, Lovett Memorial Library will host its fall "story time" at the library for children 18 months to 5-years of age. Shanla Brookshire, children's librarian, will read stories and prepare crafts for participants. All story times are free and require no registration. A Halloween party is scheduled Oct. 28 and a Christmas party Dec. 16. For more information, call Lovett Memorial Library at 669-5780.

PCCA

Pampa Community Concert Association's 2003-04 concert series includes the following programs: Lee and Suits Duo - 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "Guthrie in Dance and Music" - 3 p.m., Jan. 20, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "The Woods Tea Co." - Feb. 15, Heritage Room, M.K. Brown Auditorium; and Cantus - 7:30 p.m., April 26, Berger High School Auditorium. Memberships/tickets are available at the door. For more information on any of these events, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631.

(More EVENTS, Page 5)



(Courtesy photo)

Buttery dinner rolls

From ordinary to Extraordinary

BUTTERY DINNER ROLL

•Ingredients:
36 Rhodes™ Dinner Rolls, thawed
flour
butter, melted

Directions: Combine two rolls together and flatten into a 3" x 7" elongated oval. Sprinkle with a little flour and roll up like a jelly roll. Place on a baking sheet sprayed with non-stick cooking spray.

Brush entire roll with melted butter and cover with plastic wrap. Let rise until double in size. Remove plastic wrap and gently brush with butter again. Bake at 350F between 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

TIED KNOT ROLL

•Ingredients:
12 Rhodes™ Dinner Rolls, thawed but still cold
1 egg, beaten
1 tablespoon water
sesame seeds, if desired

Directions: Roll each roll into a 9-inch rope and tie in a knot. Place on a large baking sheet sprayed with non-stick cooking spray.

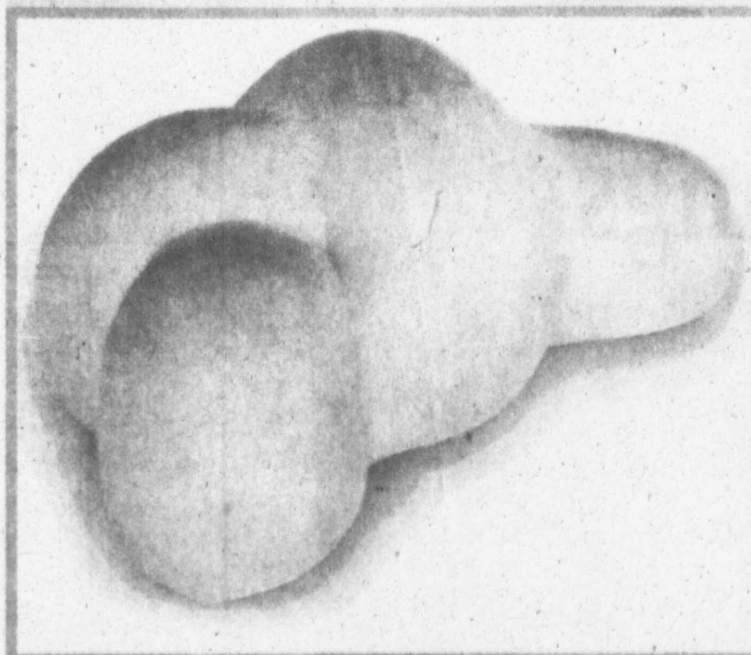
Beat egg and water together. Brush each knot with the egg mixture. Sprinkle with seeds if desired. Cover with sprayed plastic wrap. Let double in size. Remove wrap and bake at 350F between 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

BUTTERFLAKE ROLL

•Ingredients:
12 Rhodes Texas™ Rolls or 24 Rhodes™
Dinner Rolls, thawed but still cold
soft butter

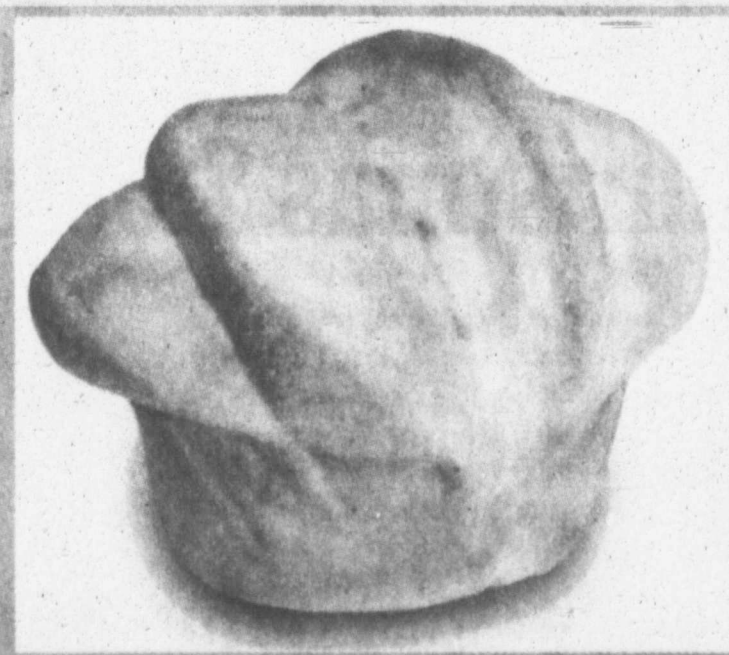
Directions: Using one Texas roll (or two dinner rolls combined into a ball), make four or five deep cuts into each roll with scissors, cutting nearly to the bottom. Brush butter into each cut and place rolls in muffin cups.

Cover with sprayed plastic wrap. Let rise until double in size. Remove wrap and bake at 350F between 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.



(Courtesy photo)

Tied knot roll



(Courtesy photo)

Butterflake roll

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LIFESTYLES

WEDDINGS

Bennett-Michael

Sara Bennett of Wichita, Kan., and Chad Michael were wed July 26 at Wichita with Gordon Rogers, of West Douglas Church of Christ in Wichita, officiating.

The matron of honor was Kami Booi. The bridesmaids were Emily Kendrick and Christie Cook. The flower girl was Jacqueline Michael.

The best man was Ronnie Riggs. The groomsmen were Rusty Stevens and James Ray Devoll. The ring bearer was Peyton Gallant.

The ushers were Kelly



Sara Bennett and Chad Michael

Wyatt and Brian Downs. The candlelighters were Kelsie Wyatt and Kylee Wyatt. Registering the guests was

Stacey Johnson. A reception was held following the service at Hyatt Regency in Wichita with

Melinda Rau and Cindy Gallant serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Debbie Bennett of Wichita. She holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Fort Hays State University and a master of science degree in nursing/nurse practitioner from Wichita State University. She is currently a registered nurse employed with Christi Regional Medical Center.

The groom is the son of Monty and Ettavie Michael of Pampa. He graduated from Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Okla., and is currently employed as an aviation maintenance technician at Wichita Executive Aircraft in Wichita.

MENUS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 1-5

Pampa Schools	cereal, toast, juice, milk.
MONDAY	Lunch: Hamburgers, cheese, all the fixens', fries, oranges, milk.
Breakfast:	Donuts, sausage.
Lunch:	Mini burritos/cheese sauce or chicken nuggets, western beans, spinach, peaches.
TUESDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Scrambled eggs, sausage, flour tortillas.
Lunch:	Harvester wrap or macaroni/cheese, French fries, salad, fruit.
WEDNESDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	French toast sticks.
Lunch:	Polish sausage on a bun or chef salad, pinto beans, salad, chocolate cake.
THURSDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Biscuits, gravy.
Lunch:	Steak fingers or hot dogs/chili, whipped potatoes, English peas, applesauce, rolls.
FRIDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Cereal, toast.
Lunch:	Frito pie or pizza, corn, salad, mixed fruit, cornbread.
Lefors Schools	Senior Citizens
MONDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Pop Tarts, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch:	Pizza, cheese sticks, mixed vegetables, apple sauce, salad bar, milk.
TUESDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Hot or cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch:	Chicken teriyaki, egg rolls, rice, stir fry vegetables, pineapple, salad bar, milk.
WEDNESDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Pancake-on-a-stick, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch:	Corndogs or chicken nuggets, tater tots, peas, vanilla pudding, peaches, salad bar, milk.
THURSDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Breakfast bars, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch:	Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy, rolls, salad bar, fruit, milk.
FRIDAY	Senior Citizens
Breakfast:	Muffins, cold
	chicken fried steak or chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, English peas, beets, beans, banana nut cake or chocolate pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
	TUESDAY
	Baked cod/rice or hamburger steak/onion gravy, cheese potatoes, Italian green beans, fried squash, beans, Boston cream pie or cherry cheesecake, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
	WEDNESDAY
	Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, carrots, fried okra, beans, cinnamon swirl cake or cherry cobbler, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
	THURSDAY
	Chicken strips or barbecued barbecue sausages/onion rings, potato salad, spinach, corn cobettes, baked beans, German chocolate upside-down cake or butterscotch pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
	FRIDAY
	Catfish/hushpuppies or burritos/chili/cheese, potato wedges, Spanish rice, pinto beans, brownies or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic toast, hot rolls or cornbread.
	Meals On Wheels
	MONDAY
	Pork roast, sweet potatoes, green beans, cake.
	TUESDAY
	Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, peas, applesauce.
	WEDNESDAY
	Chicken/rice casserole, corn, broccoli, cookies.
	THURSDAY
	Stew, cornbread, jello.
	FRIDAY
	Tuna salad, cottage cheese/pears, pickled beets, crackers, apricots.

CLUB NEWS

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m., (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Preceptor Theta Iota

Preceptor Theta Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Nov. 20 at Karen's Kitchen for a "Thanksgiving Couples' Social" and meeting with President Monica Leonard presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—PTI will assist with Celebration of Lights from 6-10 p.m. Dec. 14.

—Pat Kindle and Betty Schaffer, Friendship Committee members, will get a boy and a girl angel from the angel Christmas tree as a community service project.

—Nancy Brodgin read a poem from Kenneth Wyatt's book "Cup of Daisies."

(See CLUB, Page 15)

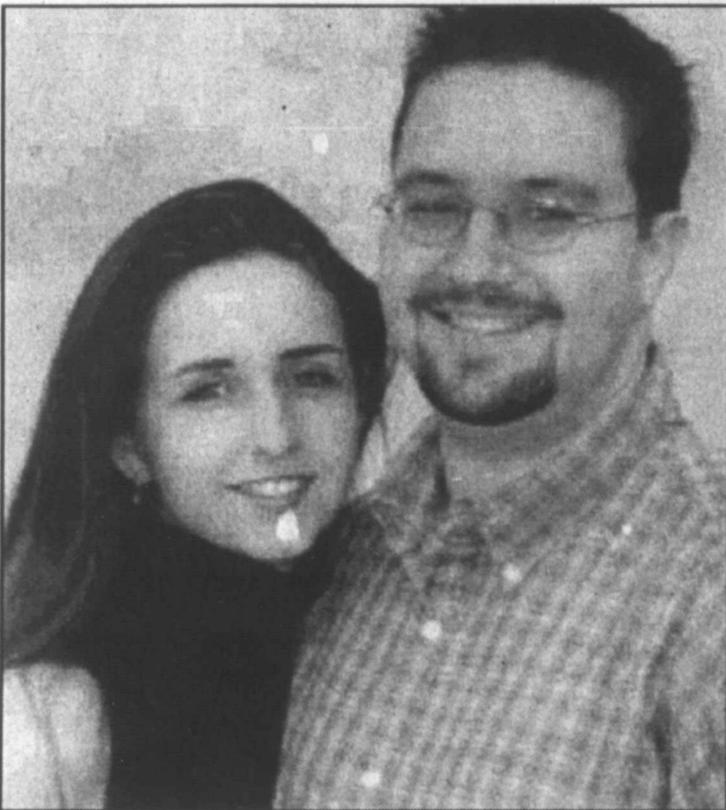
ENGAGEMENTS

Plunk-Nolte

Lacy Anne Plunk and Jason Alan Nolte, both of Austin, plan to wed Dec. 27 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Forest and Patty Plunk of Pampa. A 2000 graduate of Pampa High School, she is scheduled to graduate this December from the University of Texas.

The prospective groom is the son of Dennis and Kay Eubanks of Dallas and the late Dr. Alan Nolte of Pampa. He, too, is scheduled to graduate from the University of Texas in December.



Lacy Anne Plunk and Jason Alan Nolte

West Texas A&M gearing up for Carol of Lights

CANYON — The West Texas A&M University campus may not be as bright this holiday season as in years past, but the enduring spirit of giving will be as lustrous as ever.

The University's 13th annual Carol of Lights and Toys for Tots program is

scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 on the south side of the Jack B. Kelley (JBK) Student Center.

WTAMU faculty and staff and members of the community are invited to join students in celebrating the joy of Christmas and help support Toys for Tots by bringing a new or gently used toy.


The toys collected will be given to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, whose mission is to deliver a message of hope to needy youngsters, in part by providing them with holiday gifts.

"Last year, we gathered

about 60 toys to give to the foundation," Velma Murillo, administrative assistant to the president, said. "We hope more people will come to the celebration and bring a toy for this worthy cause."

Due to recent budget cuts, the WTAMU campus will not be fully decorated with lights this year. Lights will be limited to the tops of buildings, and Dr. Russell Long, University president, has designated a tree located on the south side of the JBK to serve as the campus Christmas tree. He will turn on the lights for


(See LIGHTS, Page 15)



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LIFESTYLES POLICY

- The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.
- All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.
- Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.
- Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.
- Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.
- Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.
- Birth announcements will only be published for 0- to 3-month-olds. (See form for more details.)
- Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.
- Two anniversary pictures may be placed for a \$25 charge or four extra lines may be added to announcements for \$25 (\$50 for both).

Support for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one

HOLIDAY BEREAVEMENT GROUPS

Amarillo	Hereford
5:30pm Tues, Dec. 2 Crown of Texas Hospice	6:00pm Mon, Dec. 8 Fellowship of Believers Church
Borger	
6:00pm Thur, Dec. 4 First United Methodist Church	
(806) 372-7696	Crown of Texas Hospice Foundation
(800) 572-6365	www.crownoftexasospice.com

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Notions of when true adulthood actually begins now shifting

By **MARTHA IRVINE**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Sunshine filters through the window into her bedroom maybe too much so for the young woman who resides here.

"It's a pretty, little room. But you kind of lose your identity in it. It's not really mine," Amy Powell says, surveying the few belongings that are hers.

To say that this is not what she'd imagined is a bit of an understatement: She is 22 years old, a recent college graduate, living in her parents' suburban home.

"To be honest, it's kind of depressing," says Powell, who's working as a waitress at a steakhouse while she searches for a job in journalism.

A weak economy has left many college grads and young professionals in a similar predicament, slowing their march to independence from the folks at home. But experts who track human development will tell you: The financial downturn is only the most recent factor pushing the start of adulthood later and later.

Gone is the notion that adulthood officially started at 18, when one typically graduated from high school.

Now many experts simply consider those markers along the way. And it appears that Americans agree. A University of Chicago survey, released earlier this year, found that most think adult-

hood begins at age 26.

"It's not like one day you wake up and you're an adult. It's much more gradual," says developmental psychologist Jeffrey Arnett. A professor at the University of Maryland, he is writing a book on what he calls "emerging adulthood."

"The new life course has become much more spread out and flexible," Arnett says, noting the fact that many of today's young people are staying in school longer, marrying later and delaying having children.

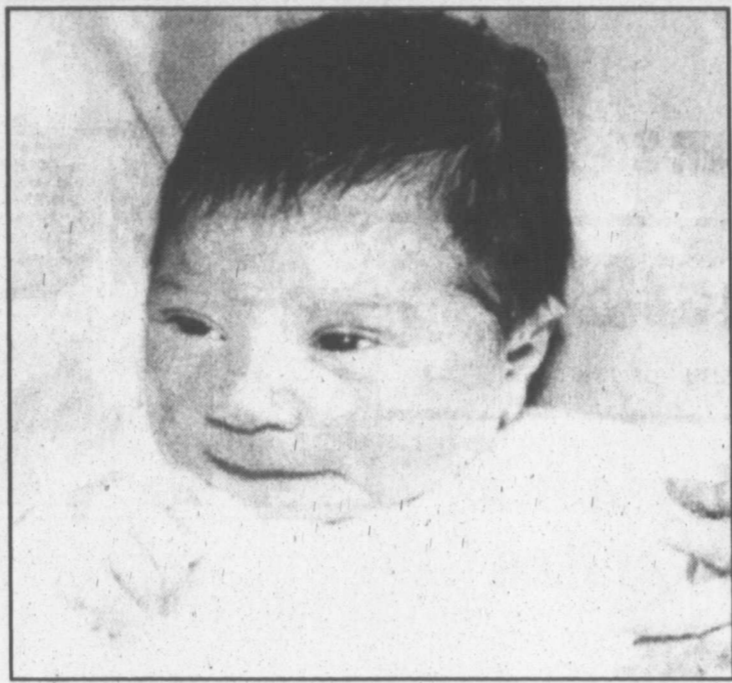
The University of Chicago survey found that most people defined getting married and having children as markers for true adulthood. But even that doesn't ring true for many twentysomethings.

"I just graduated from law school, I've been in a relationship with my significant other for over seven years, and I'm buying a house — and none of that makes me feel like a grown-up," says Daniel Gluck, a 27-year-old who lives in Honolulu. "But I'm starting to lose my hair and that's beginning to make me feel grown up pretty quickly."

Others are shunning the idea of home ownership, even with the rock-bottom interest rates that have made it possible for buy property right out of college.

"I don't believe that my sense of being is dependent on what I own," says Ashley Mohney, a 24-year-old Chicagoan and avowed renter (See **MATURITY**, Page 24)

CRADLE CALL



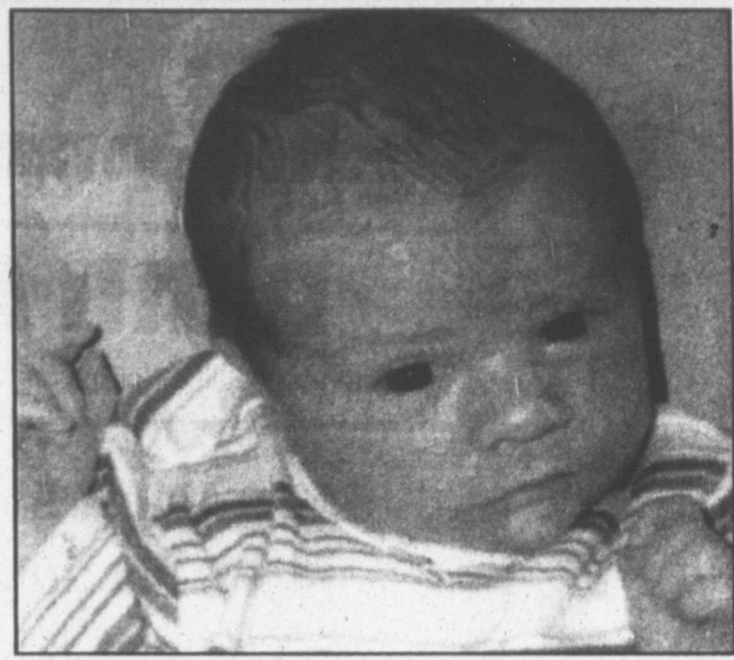
AnaLysa R. Rios

AnaLysa Rios

AnaLysa Rae Rios was born at 12:39 p.m. Sept. 27 at Pampa Regional Medical Center, to Abel and Sylvia Rios of Pampa.

At birth, the infant weighed 7-pounds, 2-ounces and was 20 3/4-inches long.

She is the sister of Anthony Rios of El Paso and Taylor Flores of Plainview and is the granddaughter of Gerry Rios of Arcadia, Fla., Janie Jennings of Pampa, Francisco Ramirez of San Juan and Felipa Ramirez of Reynosa, Mexico.



Andrew K. Davis

Andrew Davis

Andrew Keith "Drew" Davis was born at 7:50 a.m. Oct. 23 at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, to Dave and Natalie Davis of Pampa.

At birth, the infant weighed 7-pounds, 9-ounces and was 20-inches long.

Andrew is the brother of Madison Davis. His grandparents are Lewis and Debbie Davis of Pampa and Andy and Cynthia Artho of Vega. His great-grandparents are Nina Wolfenbarger; Jolynn and Bill Cash of Pampa; and Lloyd and Beth Glass of Vega.

Chimney sweeps keep home fires burning safely

By **SHARON DENNING**
ODESSA AMERICAN

ODESSA — The recent cold snap may have prompted Odessans to throw on an extra blanket and lay in a supply of firewood.

But those who know fireplaces say if chimneys aren't clean before homeowners throw that first log on the fire, the fire they start may be more than they bargained for.

Chimney cleaning season reaches its peak in October and November, so if you see a man in a top hat on the rooftops of West Texas what a sight he is, indeed, a chimney sweep.

Two hundred years ago, small children crawled into chimneys to scrape them clean, said Johnny Torres, who's been sweeping West Texas chimneys 20 years.

Now sweeps use brushes attached to rods and tackle the job from the rooftop.

"Chimney openings are a lot smaller than they used to be," said Torres, owner of the Chimney Sweep Dr. and Son. "But if there's a chimney sweep around, the kids will come out and watch him work."

It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it.

Teddy Seales, whose moniker is the Chimney Sweep Professional, said creosote from fires builds up on the inside of chimney walls, glazes the surface and is highly flammable.

"Too many houses burn every year because a fire in a fireplace got out of control," he said.

Linda M. Coppedge, owner of Bill Placers Chimney Sweeps Hearth and Home Shop, said creosote built up on a chimney will interfere with the draw (air intake), so when a fireplace suddenly starts smoking up the house, its a sign the chimney may need a good sweeping.

The National Fire

Prevention Association recommends that chimneys be professionally cleaned after homeowners have burned a cord of wood, Coppedge said.

About six times as many people have fireplaces in their homes as they did when they were growing up, she said, and, unfortunately, many don't have any idea how dangerous a fireplace can be.

"When a house burns down and people say the fire started in the attic, they assume it was due to faulty wiring," she said. "But often there was a fire in the chimney that went out of control and caught the attic on fire."

Torres said people should also have a cap on their chimney to keep out critters. In his

career as a sweep, he's flushed out raccoons, badgers, crows, doves, snakes and a fruit bat.

"I don't know how that fruit bat found its way to Midland," he said. "They have a two-and-a-half foot wing span, and when it was flying through this lady's house, you'd have thought it was Dracula himself. It was pretty hectic."

Torres said the sweeps top hat is a European tradition. Coppedge said some people say the chimney sweeps top hat and tails were hand-me-downs from morticians trying to help the lower class workers look more respectable to their employers.

But modern-day chimney (See **SWEEPS**, Page 24)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

CLUB

Brodgin served as social chairperson.

The next party will be a Christmas party at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the home of Carolyn Smith with a secret gift exchange and a covered dish dinner.

Altrusa

Altrusa International, Inc., of Pampa met Nov. 25 at Pampa Country Club with Vice-President Billie Dixon presiding. Jeanne Townson and Rubye Roysse served as greeters. Mandy Clark attended as a guest.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—The Accent was delivered by DeLynn Gordzeliak who read a list of things for which she was most thankful.

—Terri Williams reported on the School

Health Fair held recently at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

—Dixon reported on the Schneider House Project held Nov. 15.

—Mary McDaniel reported on the Sheltered Workshop Volunteer Appreciation Reception which was Nov. 13.

—Members were asked to volunteer for two projects in December — the Salvation Army Gift-Wrapping and Celebration of Lights.

—Dawn Watson, Deaf Smith County Extension agent, presented the program, "True Colors." The self-evaluation gave members the opportunity to interact and determine their personality traits.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon Dec. 9 at Pampa Country Club.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LIGHTS

the first time during the Carol of Lights celebration.

Lacye Vines, a freshman mass communications major from Lubbock and Resident Hall Association representative, will act as the mistress of ceremonies.

The Carol of Lights will

include a short Christmas program featuring the WTAMU choirs, directed by Daniel Hall, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities. Candles will be distributed to those attending the event, and participants will be encourage to

join in the singing. A reception in the JBK will follow with hot chocolate, cider, cookies, sandwiches and chips.

The Carol of Lights is free and open to the public. For more information, call 806-651-2960.

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NOV 30 2003

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 30, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Dad's Amorous Adventures Make His Daughter Mad

DEAR ABBY: I am 25 years old. My parents and I had a good relationship. Mother died nine months ago, and Dad is living with me. I'm now having mixed feelings about it. I let my father move in with me so he wouldn't be alone.

What bothers me is he has been involved with at least nine women in the months since Mom died. He and Mother were married 26 years, and it depresses me when I see him with other women in my home. He acts like it's OK to bring his ladyfriends here, but I think it's disrespectful to Mother for him to see other women so soon after her death.

What can I do about Dad's behavior?

SAD AND MAD AT DAD

DEAR SAD AND MAD AT DAD: I don't know how long your mother was ill before her death, but your father may have done his grieving at that time. It's also possible that her death has made him realize how short life is.

It was loving and caring of you to take him in. But now that he's living the life of a swinging bachelor, it's time to tell him he needs a bachelor pad of his own. What goes on under your roof is your business — so make it your business to recommend grief counseling to your father before he makes any important decisions that could affect the rest of his life. You'll be doing him a favor.

DEAR ABBY: My friend, "Michelle," is going to be 13 next month. Her mom died recently, and she's been hanging out with an older boy who encourages her to steal cigarettes from the store and smoke them. Maybe it's just a phase, but I'm worried about Michelle. Do you think that I should end our friendship?

WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND IN MONTANA

DEAR WORRIED: You are right to be concerned about your friend. Everyone knows that smoking is addictive, but it is particularly addictive among teenagers and pre-teens. Tell your mother what you have told

me. Michelle's father needs to know that his daughter is stealing. He also needs to know that the boy she's hanging out with is bad news. If he's encouraging her to steal, what else might he be encouraging her to do?

In the meantime, limit your time with Michelle. And make absolutely sure that you're not with her when she's stealing — or you could be accused of being an accessory to the crime.

DEAR ABBY: I have always loved my daughter-in-law, "Lucy," and treated her well. Last year, for my son "Tim's" birthday, Lucy surprised him by booking a cruise and inviting her mother along. I felt slighted to have been excluded, so when her mother called me two months later and asked me if I'd share her stateroom and the cost, I refused.

I see Lucy's mother only at Christmas. Last year, Christmas fell after I had refused her offer. Both Lucy and her mother treated me coldly, bordering on rudeness. I was miserable. What is your opinion on this?

MISERABLE MOTHER-IN-LAW IN FLORIDA

DEAR MISERABLE: I'd call it adding insult to injury, and I don't blame you for declining an invitation that was obviously an afterthought. Before this rift gets any wider, it's time for Tim to have a serious chat with his wife and her mother about their insensitivity where you're concerned. After all, you're all part of the same extended family now.

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 an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Caravan

1 "Chances setting Are"

singer

7 Cracked

11 Cornell setting

12 Create a lot

13 Connecticut town

14 Multi-colored

15 Far from sleepy

16 Estonian island

17 Canary snack

18 "Second April" poet

19 Raw tasks

21 Epoch

22 Simple

25 Burger holder

26 Writer Seton

27 Fiery

29 Door feature

33 Course carriers

34 Raymond's TV mom

35 Drifting

36 Layer

37 Tilt

38 Clears

39 Colleen

DOWN

1 He had gilt feelings

2 "Thereby hangs —"

3 Low card

4 Beehive and others

5 "Law & Order: SVU" actor

6 —

7 Shock

8 Fronton

9 Ordinary

10 Late flight

16 Loretta's love

18 Intended

20 "— Hope" (old soap)

22 Turkey worker setting

23 Early Bond

24 Night girl

25 Bogart's love

28 Les —

30 Stand

31 Vein

32 Beauty's love

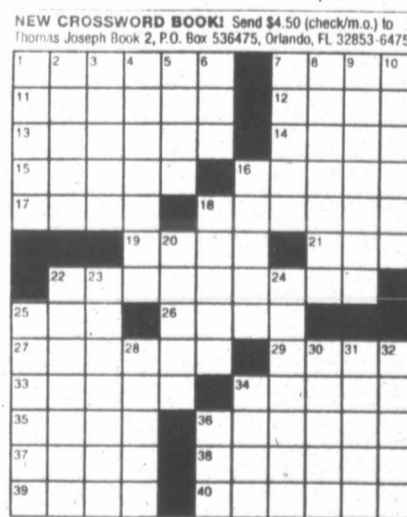
34 Stable mother

36 Was a pioneer

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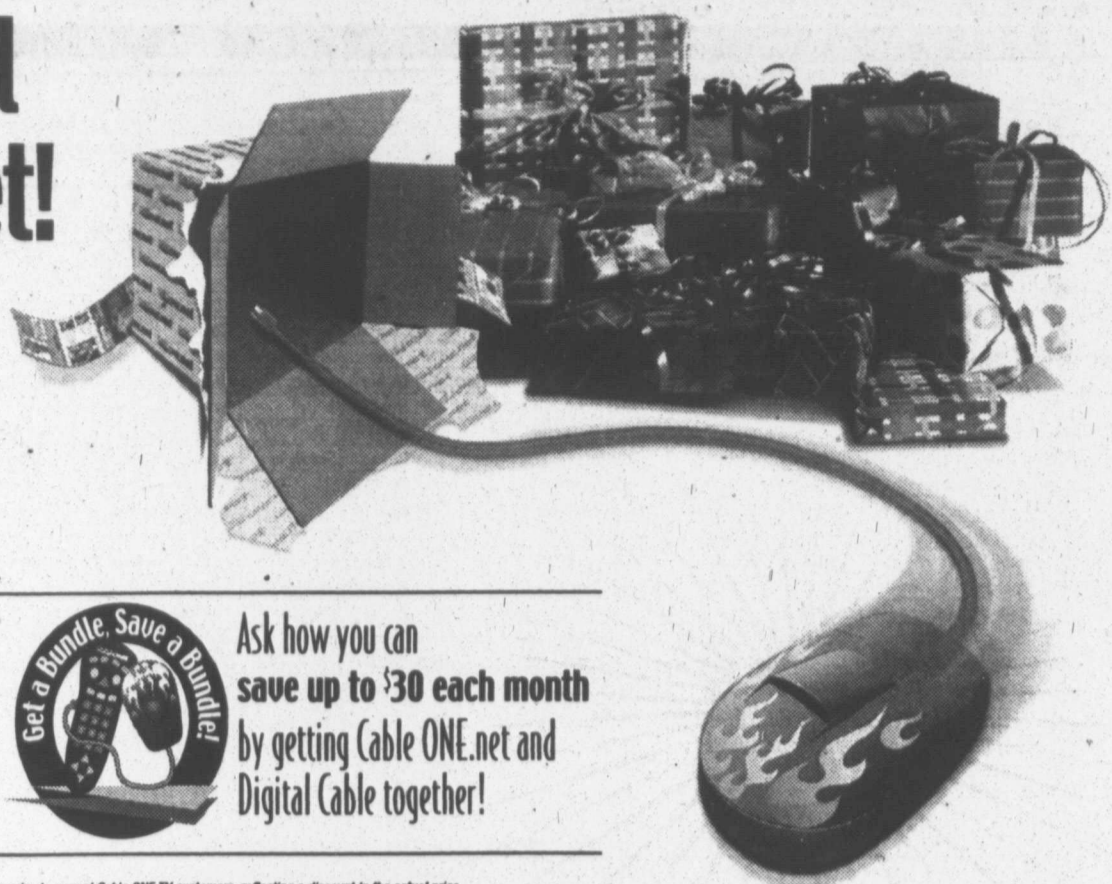
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BILLBOARD MUSIC CHARTS

By The Associated Press

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

BILLBOARD HOT 100: TOP 10

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

- "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Shawna). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "Hey Ya!" OutKast. Arista.
- "Baby Boy," Beyonce (feat. Sean Paul). Columbia.
- "The Way You Move," OutKast Feat. Sleepy Brown. Arista.
- "Holidae In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "Here Without You," 3 Doors Down. Republic.
- "Suga Suga," Baby Bash (feat. Frankie J). Universal.
- "Walked Outta Heaven," Jagged Edge. Columbia.
- "Damn!" YoungBloodZ (feat. Lil Jon). So So Def.
- "Step In The Name Of Love," R. Kelly. Jive.

THE BILLBOARD 200 TOP ALBUMS: TOP 10

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

- "In The Zone," Britney Spears. Jive/Zomba.
- "Beg For Mercy," G-Unit. G-Unit.
- "Blink-182," Blink-182. Geffen/Interscope.
- "The Black Album," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
- "Let It Be ... Naked," The Beatles. Apple/Capitol.
- "Closer," Josh Groban. 143.
- Soundtrack: "Tupac: Resurrection," Amaru. Columbia/Universal/EMI/Zomba/Sony Music.
- "Shock 'n Y'all," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
- "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," OutKast. Arista. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)

HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY

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

- "Forever And For Always," Shania Twain. Mercury.
- "Drift Away," Uncle Kracker (feat. Dobie Gray). Lava.
- "Calling All Angels," Train. Columbia.
- "Unwell," matchbox twenty. Atlantic.
- "Sunrise," Simply Red. simplyred.com/Red Ink.
- "Big Yellow Taxi," Counting Crows (feat. Vanessa Carlton). Geffen.
- "Look Through My Eyes," Phil Collins. Walt Disney/Hollywood.
- "Have You Ever Been In Love," Celine Dion. Epic.

- "I Can Only Imagine," MercyMe. INO.
- "Dance With My Father," Luther Vandross. J.

TOP GOSPEL ALBUMS

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

- "Live ... This Is Your House," The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. M2.0/Word-Curb/Warner Bros.
- "Gotta Have Gospel!" Various artists. Integrity Gospel/Gospo Centric/Epic/Sony Music.
- "Smokie Norful: Limited Edition (EP)," Smokie Norful. EMI Gospel.
- "Throne Room," CeCe Winans. PureSprings.
- Soundtrack: "The Fighting Temptations." Music World.
- "I Need You Now," Smokie Norful. EMI Gospel.
- "The Heavens Are Telling," Karen Clark-Sheard. Elektra.
- "Bringing It All Together," Vickie Winans. Verity.
- "WOW Gospel 2003," Various Artists. EMI Christian. (Gold)
- "Byron Cage," Byron Cage. Gospo Centric.

MAINSTREAM ROCK TRACKS

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

- "Still Frame," Trapt. Warner Bros.
- "Away From Me," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen.
- "Weak And Powerless," A Perfect Circle. Virgin.
- "So Far Away," Staind. Flip.
- "Numb," Linkin Park. Warner Bros. Atlantic.
- "All In The Suit That You Wear," Stone Temple Pilots. Atlantic.
- "(I Hate) Everything About You," Three Days Grace. Jive.
- "Liberate," Disturbed. Reprise.
- "Figured You Out," Nickelback. Roadrunner/DJMG.
- "Gasoline," Seether. Wind-up.

MODERN ROCK TRACKS

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

- "Numb," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
- "Feeling This," Blink-182. Geffen.
- "(I Hate) Everything About You," Three Days Grace. Jive.
- "Still Frame," Trapt. Warner Bros.
- "Hit That," The Offspring. Columbia.
- "Away From Me," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen.
- "So Far Away," Staind. Flip.
- "Meant To Live," Switchfoot. Red Ink.
- "Are You Gonna Be My Girl," Jet. Elektra.
- "Weak And Powerless," A Perfect Circle. Virgin.

HOT COUNTRY SINGLES AND TRACKS

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

- "I Love This Bar," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
- "I Melt," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street.
- "Wave On Wave," Pat Green. Republic.
- "Cowboys Like Us," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
- "Hell Yeah," Montgomery Gentry. Columbia.
- "Chicks Dig It," Chris Cagle. Capitol.
- "There Goes My Life," Kenny Chesney. BNA.
- "Who Wouldn't Wanna Be Me," Keith Urban. Capitol.
- "You Can't Take The Honky Tonk Out Of The Girl," Brooks & Dunn. Arista Nashville.
- "Walking In Memphis," Lonestar. BNA. Copyright 2003, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

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

- "Shock 'n Y'all," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
- "Greatest Hits Volume II And Some Other Stuff," Alan

Jackson. Arista Nashville. (Platinum)

- "Greatest Hits," LeAnn Rimes. Curb.
- "Room To Breathe," Reba McEntire. MCA Nashville/UMGN.
- "Martina," Martina McBride. RCA (Nashville). (Gold)
- "All I Want For Christmas Is A Real Good Tan," Kenny Chesney. BNA.
- "Unleashed," Toby Keith. DreamWorks (Nashville). (Platinum)
- "Red Dirt Road," Brooks & Dunn. Arista Nashville/RLG.
- "From There To Here: Greatest Hits," Lonestar. BNA/RLG.
- "Up!," Shania Twain. Mercury (Nashville). Copyright 2003, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLES AND TRACKS

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

- "Step In The Name Of Love," R. Kelly. Jive.
- "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Shawna). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "Walked Outta Heaven," Jagged Edge. Columbia.
- "The Way You Move," OutKast Feat. Sleepy Brown. Arista.
- "You Don't Know My Name," Alicia Keys. J.
- "Damn!" YoungBloodZ (feat. Lil Jon). So So Def.
- "Holidae In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "Stunt 101," G-Unit. G-Unit.
- "Change Clothes," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/DJMG.
- "Read Your Mind," Avant. Geffen. VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUMS

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

- "The Black Album," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
- "Beg For Mercy," G-Unit. G-Unit.
- Soundtrack: "Tupac: Resurrection." Amaru.
- "Hot & Wet," 112. Bad Boy/Def Soul/UMRG.
- "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," OutKast. Arista. (Platinum)
- "Number Ones," Michael Jackson. MJJ/Epic/Sony Music.
- "ChickenNBeer," Ludacris. Disturbing Tha Peace. (Platinum)
- "Jackpot," Chingy. Disturbing Tha Peace. (Platinum)
- "I Can't Stop," Al Green. Blue Note.
- "Blood In My Eye," Ja Rule. Murder Inc. Copyright 2003, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

HOT RAP TRACKS

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

- "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Frankie J). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "The Way You Move," OutKast (feat. Sleepy Brown). Arista.
- "Holidae In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing Tha Peace.
- "Damn!" YoungBloodz (feat. Lil Jon). Arista.
- "Stunt 101," G-Unit. G-Unit.
- "Change Clothes," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
- "Wat Da Hook Gon Be," Murphy Lee Feat. Jermaine Dupri. Fo Reel.
- "Get Low," Lil Jon & The East Side Boyz (feat. Ying Yang Twins). BME.
- "Runnin' (Dying To Live)," Tupac (feat. The Notorious B.I.G.). Amaru.
- "Right Thurr," Chingy. Disturbing Tha Peace. Copyright 2003, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

END OF GAME

These games will be closing on December 31, 2003. You have until June 28, 2004, to redeem any winning tickets for these games.



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#326 **Weekly Grand** (\$2)
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ON-LINE DRAWINGS



Notice: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-377-LOTTO. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Lottery ticket. *The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. © 2003 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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Is p

By BETSY ASS

LUBBOCK quiet college Butler reported Black Death - possibly stolen of concern t involved.

"My only vials was publ Tech Universi consider safety

But the FB otherwise. The been in federal for allegedly i plague: sample Texas Tech out lars and cheating

If convicted Butler faces sev

Yet it remain jury last week on Monday — vials of plague.

Investigators shortly after Bu in January. And He says the FBI ment in which the samples.

One thing i acquitted, Butle the plague is in into his own lab him.

The reversal whose reputati research had be

Butler's supp ty — they are guilty of nothin deeds in mish complicated pap Sept. 11 United

They say he that the case pre strains.

A year ago, relying on Bu against terroris still endemic in

It's a good January morn missing vials th federal investig

Not only does ly keeping drug administrators a their requests fo with experiment

"Things were Butler as you Webster told jur he said, "Dr. Bu

Butler was i charges, nearly a of the plague sa FBI. After he ref

jail time in early cent, Butler was related to how t the drug industr

Butler's sup charges represent and evidence of

Yet Butler's the potentially v Testimony show infected Tanzan

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By F ASSOCIA

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Law officers Instead, the 42 Lufkin, Texas, being shot a we

tor he allegedly "I am just e and we didn't said Tulsa Co

Is plague researcher scoundrel or scapegoat?

By Betsy Blaney and Paul Elias
Associated Press Writers

LUBBOCK (AP) — The FBI swept into this quiet college town the day after Dr. Thomas Butler reported 30 vials of bubonic plague — the Black Death — were missing from his lab and possibly stolen. President Bush was briefed out of concern that terrorists may have been involved.

"My only reason for reporting the missing vials was public safety," Butler, a senior Texas Tech University researcher, would later say. "I consider safety to be the most important thing."

But the FBI and federal prosecutors believe otherwise. The 62-year-old microbiologist has been in federal court most of this month, on trial for allegedly lying to investigators, smuggling plague samples into the country, defrauding Texas Tech out of hundreds of thousands of dollars and cheating on his taxes.

If convicted of just a few of the 69 counts, Butler faces several years in prison.

Yet it remains unclear — the case went to the jury last week with deliberations due to resume on Monday — what exactly happened to those vials of plague.

Investigators ruled out terrorist involvement shortly after Butler reported the samples missing in January. And Butler claims he doesn't know. He says the FBI coerced him into signing a statement in which he said he accidentally destroyed the samples.

One thing is certain, though: Even if he's acquitted, Butler's distinguished career battling the plague is in tatters. He's no longer allowed into his own lab, and Texas Tech is trying to fire him.

The reversal of fortune is stunning for a man whose reputation in the small field of plague research had been impeccable.

Butler's supporters in the scientific community — they are many and influential — think he's guilty of nothing more than bureaucratic misdeeds in mishandling plague samples and the complicated paperwork now required in a post-Sept. 11 United States.

They say he's being made a scapegoat, and that the case presages a new era in research constraints.

A year ago, national security officials were relying on Butler to help develop defenses against terrorists attacks with plague, which is still endemic in some parts of Africa and Asia.

It's a good bet Butler had no idea on the January morning when he told his boss of the missing vials that it would trigger an intensive federal investigation into all aspects of his life.

Not only does Butler stand accused of illegally keeping drug industry grant money. School administrators also say he irresponsibly ignored their requests for more details about his work with experimental drugs.

"Things were not as rosy at Texas Tech for Dr. Butler as you might think," prosecutor Bob Webster told jurors. Even before the vial incident, he said, "Dr. Butler was in trouble."

Butler was initially indicted in April on 15 charges, nearly all of them related to his handling of the plague samples and his statements to the FBI. After he refused a plea bargain that included jail time in early August — he insists he's innocent, Butler was charged with 54 more crimes related to how he negotiated and profited from the drug industry grants.

Butler's supporters think the additional charges represent a "piling on" by the prosecutors and evidence of their overzealousness.

Yet Butler's apparently cavalier handling of the potentially deadly plague has startled some. Testimony showed he hauled samples taken from infected Tanzanians in petri dishes stored in his

luggage on airplanes and in cardboard boxes in the trunk of his car.

For instance, prosecutors said during a layover between flights in April 2002 Butler opened his luggage on a London street corner to repack his plague samples in dry ice.

Scientists such as Peter Agre, this year's Nobel Prize winner for chemistry, said Butler handled his potentially deadly germs no differently than many other researchers of his generation, who joked that they transported their samples "VIP" — vials in pocket.

Losing track of vials and accidentally destroying samples in a cramped laboratory that probably contained hundreds of thousands of test tubes is not surprising, Agre said.

"I'm lucky if I can find the freezer in my lab," he joked.

Agre joined three other Nobel laureates — Sidney Altman, Robert Curl, and Torsten Wiesel in expressing in an open letter what they called the acute worry of "a growing number of leading scientists" about the Justice Department's decision to prosecute Butler.

"This respected colleague has been subjected to unfair and disproportionate treatment and the case is having a negative impact on the future of research in this crucial national-security-related field," they wrote.

Agre feels so strongly that he's contributing some of the money he won with this year's Nobel Prize to Butler's defense. He won't be precise, saying only that it's "in the thousands" of dollars.

"It looks like he broke some rules and was not in compliance with the guidelines," said Agre, who worked with Butler in Baltimore and Cleveland and has known him for more than 25 years. "But he's not a criminal. He's a guy that got caught in a speed trap and is being charged with premeditated murder."

Some microbiologists, fearful of running afoul of the same guidelines Butler's accused of violating, have destroyed deadly germs they've worked with for years and turned their attention to less-scrutinized work.

Even before Butler's arrest, scientists complained that their work faced dramatic restrictions because of new anti-terror laws, tightened national security and stricter immigration practices.

Editors of the world's most prestigious scientific journals have agreed to self-censor any scientific advances they think might threaten national security. As well, tighter immigration standards have discouraged foreign students from seeking and obtaining work in the United States.

All that research ennui was on a low boil, though, until Butler's arrest. Now scientists are speaking out in increasing numbers.

The influential Committee on Human Rights of Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft about their concerns. The committee also recruited George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley to help defend Butler at no charge.

Earlier, the presidents of the NAS

and the Institute of Medicine complained in a letter to Ashcroft about the case's "potentially alarming effect on the infectious disease research community."

The judge presiding over Butler's trial has barred both sides from publicly discussing the case outside court.

During testimony, though, it became clear that the FBI and federal prosecutors believe Butler is much more devious than the brilliant but absent-minded researcher his supporters portray.

Information that has surfaced since the April indictment, some obtained through open-records requests with the university, indicates that Butler's career had suffered several setbacks shortly before the missing-vials incident.

In 2001, university administrators temporarily suspended his work with terminally ill human subjects because they said he was slow to answer questions about why so many volunteers had died in an experiment testing a novel drug that fights the bacteria-spreading ailment sepsis. Trial testimony showed that nine of 13 patients died in

Butler's portion of the study. Only half were expected to die.

(Currently on paid leave, Butler is chief of the infectious diseases division at Texas Tech's department of internal medicine.)

In late 2002, the university suspended Butler's right to do any research with human subjects after he failed to respond to administrators' inquiries.

Scrutiny of Butler also led school administrators to demand an accounting of some \$350,000 in grants that Butler personally received from two drug companies since 1998. Butler said he donated a portion of these grants to the university. But prosecutors said they can't account for a large chunk of the money.

Butler is also charged with lying on his tax forms about the grant money.

Finally, on Jan. 9, university officials notified Butler by letter that they were moving forward with an inquiry about his work.

Four days later, Butler told campus police that the 30 vials of plague samples were missing.

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003:

Establish more of what you want in your personal and domestic lives. You might feel like you have to suppress your desires and wants for a family member or roommate. Be careful with this idea. An investment involving property could be slow to culminate, but it is worthwhile. Your career seems to bloom naturally. Relating to others sometimes takes a cumbersome tone back and forth in conversations. You also might find that a relationship or marriage is tested this year by your ability to relate and talk to each other. If you are single, you will meet someone special in the fall. A friendship could be involved with this tie as well. PISCES pushes you hard.

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)

*** Take this Sunday just for yourself. If you want a lazy few days, give yourself permission, especially as you will expend a lot of energy shortly. Read the paper, visit with favorite friends and do what you want. News from a family member could be important. Tonight: Plan on getting to bed early. This Week: Take your time until Wednesday, when you beam into the scene. The Moon in your sign makes the world your oyster. Act like it!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Have fun with your playmates and friends. A spontaneous get-together could make you very happy. Do what you need to do to make a situation work between two friends who might be uneasy with each other. Tonight: Have a long-overdue serious talk. This Week: Focus on the week's goals Monday and Tuesday. From Wednesday on, take action in your quiet way, behind the scenes. You'll get results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** You might want to think through a decision that involves work and an older relative. What might be obvious to you might not be to someone else. Use care with financial commitments right now. Carefully think through your answers. Tonight: Get a head start on tomorrow. This Week: Investigate new possibilities and network, both professionally and personally. Success will greet you mid-week, wherever you are interested.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Try to see another person's point of view, and you will feel much better. Examine what is important for you when dealing with a key person in your life. Consider sitting down to have a serious talk about your objectives here. Tonight: Share your dreams. This Week: Gather information in the next two days. Take action Wednesday, and by Friday you will see the plusses of what you have done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Relate on an individual level with those close to you. Your fatigue could get to be a bit much after this long weekend. Let your imagination work and your body stay put. A loved one might finally enjoy some quiet time. Tonight: Togetherness works. This Week: Deal with partners all week long, for better or for worse. You might want and need to detach some on Wednesday to integrate all that you have heard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Reach out for others, making the best of a difficult situation. Family, loved ones and friends all could be overly tense. As uncomfortable as it might be for you, a leap of faith might be necessary. Recognize when you need to say "no." Tonight: Go along for the ride. This Week: Others run with the ball. All the better, because you might want to put your feet up and watch the playing field. Respond to requests.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You might have plenty to do but might not be in the mood to do it. Make it OK to not think about tomorrow but to stay in the here and now. An older relative might mean well but becomes an enormous drag. Juggle your needs with his or hers. Tonight: Put your feet up and veg. This Week: Focus on your work. Go full-speed ahead. You might be stunned by what goes on when you just do your thing. Respond to others. Don't take the initiative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** You have the creativity and dynamic energy to follow through, but others seem to be on the mend from this long and crazy weekend. Take your time and get into a holiday project — addressing cards, etc. Tonight: Why not play? Find another high energy Scorpio. This Week: Think in terms of gains rather than losses. Use your creativity, and you could be delighted by the end product. Entrench yourself in work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Drop in and visit with someone who might not be inclined to go out. This person appreciates your attention. Consider what would make this person happy, as difficult as she or he can be. Your smile adds cheer. Tonight: Start thinking "work." This Week: Wherever you are Wednesday, you add a devil-may-care attitude to the environment, which punctuates the following days. You add that extra punch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Others run with the ball. You might have a difficult time keeping up, and you just might not care. You're in the mood to chat, not to have a sports event. Know more of what you want, and do just that. Answer e-mail or "snail" mail. Tonight: Out and about. This Week: Clear your desk quickly on Monday, as much could happen. You might be taking work home by Wednesday, but you'll get it all done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You might feel pushed financially, and the best way to handle that would be to stop spending or put yourself on a tighter budget. Visualize more of what you can eliminate and what isn't a necessity. Tame spending in this manner. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to be expensive.

This Week: Handle a financial matter head-on. How you think about a personal matter could change substantially. Discussions need to be direct midweek.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** You might not always know what works for you, but right now you choose to let it just hang out. A friend shares a whole other point of view involving a child or loved one. Listen. You have that special magic right now. Tonight: Whatever you want. This Week: Let your personality radiate into whatever you want to get done. Others could be highly responsive. Knowing when to say "no" could be critical as well.

BORN TODAY

Singer Billy Idol (1955), Sir Winston Churchill (1874), singer Mindy McCready (1975)

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Fugitive eludes authorities for weeks

By Kelly Kurt
Associated Press Writer

They had used bloodhounds and helicopters, bright lights and bulldozers. Yet, the scrubby northeastern Oklahoma woods gave them only rabbits — not the suspected murderer they sought.

They looked under rocks, into holes, up in trees. They made a perimeter and armed it.

But in five weeks of searching, Scott James Eizember left law officers only a shadow of himself, an imprint of his body on a creek bank to tell them how close they'd come before he'd given them the slip.

"We know without a doubt he saw us," said Creek County Chief Deputy Michael O'Keefe. "He was taking evasive moves at every turn."

The frustration of failing to catch Eizember in one of the Oklahoma's largest manhunts is tempered with relief.

Law officers had feared another killing. Instead, the 42-year-old is recovering in Lufkin, Texas, from his own wounds after being shot a week ago by an Arkansas doctor he allegedly abducted.

"I am just ecstatic that he's in custody and we didn't have another homicide," said Tulsa County Sheriff's Capt. Tim

Albin, who led a team in the manhunt outside of Bristow. "That was my big fear all along in leaving that area, that he was going to commit another homicide."

Still, law officers are anxious to learn how Eizember eluded their trap, which at one time included 300 people combing the woods almost shoulder-to-shoulder.

The search began Oct. 18, the day 16-year-old Tyler Montgomery crashed his pickup truck near a Depew football field.

The teen had been shot at his grandmother's home and fled for help — with the gunman riding in the pickup bed firing more shots through the back window.

Investigators found his grandmother, Carla Wright, beaten. Her elderly neighbors, A.J. and Patsy Cantrell had been killed in their home.

Authorities believed Eizember killed the Cantrells and then used their home to wait for the return of Wright's daughter, Eizember's former girlfriend, to her parent's home.

It's unclear exactly how long Eizember was within the law's perimeter. Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers are convinced they spotted him with night imaging devices, said Lt. Brandon Kopepasah.

"We felt he was in the perimeter most of the time," he said. "We just don't know when he got out or how he got out."

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 1, 2003:

You express your willfulness, finding that others seem to play into your plans, especially your family, a roommate or a loved one. Realize your limits. You can control yourself, but not necessarily others. Although this might be a hard lesson to learn, it is an important one. You might make a move or add to your home. Look toward something you have always wanted, and make it real. Your career will bloom naturally if you flow with the trends at work. In fact, a pay raise or promotion is likely. If single, your social life will pick up fall 2004. You could meet Mr. or Ms. Right, if you're looking for that type of relationship. If you are attached, you'll have to agree to disagree, or you could have problems. Focus on the quality of your life. You won't always agree with PISCES.

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)

** Take your time, or else you easily could make a mistake. News and information that come forward must be investigated before taking any action. Call in the troops. Have a brainstorming session. Tonight: Relax in your favorite manner. This Week: Focus on the quality of your life. You won't always agree with PISCES.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Aim for more of what you want, even if a partner disagrees with you. Don't push so hard to have things your way. Understand more of the power that lies within groups. Your perspective could change considerably. Tonight: Be where the crowds are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Touch base with a boss before giving away your power or before dealing with someone you would prefer not

to. Associates on the same level as you, as well as friends, could be testy. Learn to bypass a problem by being optimistic. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** A trip or seminar might need to be put on the back burner right now because of a work- or health-related matter. Know when to say you have had enough. Seek out information. Solutions are available. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Work with others despite the fact that you could be let down by one of your major support systems or by friends. Give people the room to change and to be more of themselves. A partner lets you know what he or she expects. Tonight: Togetherness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Others have control and let you know it in no uncertain terms. You might want to think through a personal issue, as someone shows his or her true colors. The side of this associate you are seeing does exist; be aware of that. Perhaps it is time to take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion — not that you have much choice!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Put your feet up and relax more. What you see and what might be happening with someone could upset you. Understand your limitations, not getting into World War III with this person. Concentrate on your work; not the people so much. Tonight: Go as late as you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** A financial matter could have you feeling upset. Act on it with determination and the desire to turn it around. Avoid risking, despite someone cheering you in that direction. You know what

works. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Let others come to you. You might not have a choice, as so much is going on. Prepare to change your schedule accordingly. Your fiery style certainly stops someone in his or her tracks. Recognize that you don't want to push him or her away. Tonight: Happy at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Speak your mind to someone who can understand what you are saying. Why waste your energy and words? You might need to revise your thinking about certain people in your day-to-day life. Energize others. Make calls. Tonight: Meet friends and catch up on your week-ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Once more, you might need to spend more than you would like. Question what would work and would still allow you to do what you want. Remember, you are the innovative sign, Aquarius. Solutions are your specialty, not problems. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** The Moon in your sign adds to your allure, but don't think that someone won't stand up to you — like a boss. Not everything is as it seems. Be more observant, especially with a boss. You'll learn a lot. Tonight: Whatever makes the Fish happy.

BORN TODAY

Director Woody Allen (1935), comedian Richard Pryor (1940), actress, singer Bette Midler (1945)

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

11-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

F B W B F L B W L B U B O E W F N W Y
P E Y Y T B N O B B W Y F I V B Y N Q
Q A C Z Y B F L B W Y N W I F
A C I W C P U B Z Q A C Z H Z E B W Y F
— A O Y B W W N F V
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OF THREE THINGS THE DEVIL MAKES A STEW: LAWYERS' TONGUES, 'LOVERS' PROMISES AND UNGRATEFUL CHILDREN. — ITALIAN PROVERB
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60 Household: \$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty. QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr, list \$550, sell \$236. Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr, list \$208, Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

75 Feeds/Seeds: HAY for sale. Last years crop of Haygrazer \$30 bale delivered. 663-3124, 665-8014 evening. 80 Pets & Suppl.: BIRD Dog to give away to good home. Call 806-440-1480. TO Give Away 3yr. old orange male tabby cat, neutered and declawed. Call 665-0030. 95 Furn. Apts.: 1 bdr. apt., furn. or unfurn. Starting at \$275. All utilities pd. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712. EFFL apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221. EXTRA clean 1 bd. with appliances. Quiet neighborhood. Mature Renters Only! 665-8525.

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THE PAMPA NEWS SUBSCRIBE TODAY 669-2525

Antiques-AUCTION-Collectibles. SAT. Dec. 6, 9:03 A.M. Location: Pampa, Tx., 701 West Brown (Hwy. 60/152) from Inter. of Hwy. 70 & Hwy. 60/152 (Brown st.-Stop light) take Hwy. 60/152 East approx. three or four blocks. KAREN KEYES OWNER. Will start 2nd team at 1:00 p.m. Coins, Tools & Primitives. Preview 2 p.m. til 5 p.m. Friday. ANTIQUE GLASS- Fenton, Fostoria-POTTERY-Roseville, McCoy, Redwing, Delft, Frankoma-PORCELAIN & CHINA-Old Ivory Syracuse, Roberts, Haviland, Franciscan, Wedgewood-FIGURINES-Lefton, O.T., COLLECTIBLES-TOOLS-PRIMITIVES-KITCHEN COLLECTIBLES-COINS-JEWELRY-FURNITURE Web: www.loysdauction.com Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers (7119) 806-826-5850 or 806-898-5248.

OWNER WILL FINANCE. 412 Hughes- 2 bd, 2 bath, 1 car garage, low down payment, low monthly payment. 413 Pitts- 2 bd, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Contact Milton 806-790-0827. 105 Acreage: 5 acre tracts on paved road, 2 miles from Pampa. \$2500 per acre, financing available. Call 665-4842. 115 Trailer Parks: TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg avail 665-0079, 665-2450. 120 Autos: Quality Sales 1300 N. Hobart 669-0433 Make your next car a Quality Car. Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062. CULBERSON-STOWERS Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick GMC-Olds-Cadillac 805 N. Hobart 665-1665 1998 Windstar Minivan, 3.8 V6, loaded, 148k. Excellent cond., \$5800. 665-4030 aft. 5 p.m. 121 Trucks: 1991 Ford F-150, extended cab, \$3,800 or OBO, 665-6986. 1969 Ford 3/4 ton, 360, Automatic, PS/PB, Recondition heads, Good condition \$1750. Call 669-7986.

Quentin Williams, REALTORS. Keagy-Edwards, Inc. Selling Pampa Since 1952. 669-2522 • 2208 Coffee & Perryton Pkwy. NEW LISTING - S. BANKS - Nice two bedroom with large living room. New carpet and paint, patio, storm door. Would make a great starter home. Nice yard. Single carport. MLS 6301. PRICE REDUCED - BEECH - Tastefully decorated three bedroom, 1 bath with hardwood floors. New paint inside and out. Nice kitchen with good pantry and dishwasher. Wonderful back yard with deck. Single garage. MLS 6302. PRICE REDUCED - CHESTNUT - Good location. Large country kitchen, no maintenance trim on eaves. Three bedrooms, central heat and air, and a single garage. MLS 6059. CHARLES - Nice home on tree lined street. Three bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, lots of good storage. Some hardwood floors, central heat and air, corner built-in china hutch and book shelves. MLS 5948. COMANCHE - Spacious rooms in this four bedroom home. Woodburning fireplace, new kitchen counter tops, breakfast bar, pantry, tile floors in bathrooms. Large living room. Central heat and air, double garage. MLS 6280. S. DWIGHT - Nice three bedroom on corner lot. Oversized garage with shop in back. Covered patio, large pantry in utility room. Ceramic tile in bath. MLS 5219. DOUCETTE - Nice three bedroom home in quiet neighborhood. Some hardwood floors under carpeting. One bath, storage building, single garage. Would make a good rental. MLS 5666. EVERGREEN - Completely redone from top to bottom. Four bedrooms, open living/den kitchen areas, storm cellar, woodburning fireplace, built-in entertainment center, sunroom, double garage with circle drive. MLS 6109. E. POSTER - Very nice home with lots of remodeling. Large kitchen with new cabinet tops, whirlpool tub in redone bath. Owner states that water and gas lines have been replaced. Double garage. MLS 6100. S. FAULKNER - Wonderful starter home with steel siding. Three bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, woodburning fireplace, 2-storage buildings, patio, 2 living areas, nice size utility area. Single garage. MLS 5956. GRAPE - Two story brick home with fireplace, three bedrooms, 2 3/4 baths, covered patio, storage building, central heat and air, 2 living areas, utility room and double garage. MLS 6103. HAMILTON - Great view of the park! Large open living/dining/kitchen areas. Tile floors in main bath, built-in desk and recessed lighting in living room. Wonderful view from dining area. Good storage. Single garage plus carport. MLS 6155. N. HOBART - Commercial property, great location, 8 rooms on one side 2800 square footage, and 1200 square footage on other side with 5 rooms. MLS 6299. N. RUSSELL - Nice beginners home. Two bedrooms plus a sitting room or office. Nice deck overlooking a pond. Central heat and air. Single garage. MLS 6184. N. WELLS - Brick with steel siding on eaves. Three bedrooms, central heat and air, 1 3/4 baths, large living room, double garage with large shop or storage building in back. Utility room. MLS 6248. W. 19TH - Nice corner lot. 2 living areas, central heat and air, stone fireplace, large pantry, breakfast bar in kitchen, three bedrooms, glassed in patio off garage. MLS 6253. 5 ACRES CLOSE TO CITY: Two houses both with three bedrooms, new septic system in '98. Water well, 1 bath, central heat and air in one of the homes. Water in the pasture for livestock. MLS 6291. Becky Baten 669-2214 Roberta Babb 665-6158 Danny Whitley 669-9610 Bobbie Sue Stephens 669-7790 Heidi Chronister 665-6388 Lois Strate Bkr. 665-7650 Darrel Schorn 669-6284 Joan Flabby 669-5201 Linda Burr 665-5324 Sandra Bronner 665-4218 Red Donaldson 669-1729 JUDI EDWARDS GRI, CRS MARILYN REAGY GRI, CRS BROKER-OWNER... 665-3687 BROKER-OWNER... 665-1449 Visit our new site at www.quentin-williams.com E-mail our office at qw@quentin-williams.com

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BILL ALLISON AUTO SALES 1200 N. HOBART 806-665-3992. CARS: 03 Nissan Altima, 02 Mercury Sable, 02 Chevy Malibu, 03 Chevy Cavalier, 01 Ford Focus, 01 Nissan Maxima SE, 01 Toyota Solara, 03 Toyota Camry LE, 01 VW Beetle, 02 Ford Taurus SE, 00 Chevy Monte Carlo. TRUCKS: 03 Ford Quad Cab XLT 4x4, 03 Ford Reg Cab XL, 03 Toyota Tundra SR5 Quad Cab, 00 Ford Quad Cab XLT, 01 Ford Crew Cab Diesel 4x4. SUVS: 04 GMC Envoy SLT, 02 Chevy Trailblazer LS, 02 Chevy Tahoe LS, 03 Land Rover Freelander SE, 99 Chevy Suburban LS, 02 Mercury Mountaineer AWD, 02 Suzuki Grand Vitara XL7, 00 Landover Discovery, 99 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4.

NOV 30 2003

Container Store dedicated to 'organization'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Container Store is a pack rat's dream, selling hundreds of boxes, bins, containers, racks, jars and shelves — basically, items that will help consumers store, package and organize.

The Dallas-based retailer, little known outside of the communities where its 30 stores are located, has followed a strategy known as niche marketing as it focused on storage merchandise for all its 25 years.

In the process it has avoided the temptation many merchants have to over-expand. And the privately held company has followed another path somewhat uncharacteristic of American retailers, growing very slowly and deliberately.

Yet The Container Store is willing to take a gamble, and so it recently opened a huge store in Manhattan, which, with its high rents, is one of the toughest places for retailers to turn a profit.

"When we opened our first store in Dallas, we joked that that was the worst place to open a store because people were not short on space," chairman Garrett Boone said. "We've always wanted to come to New York because we know people need us here."

Kip Tindell, president and CEO, said, "The demographic of Manhattan is the best in the country what with the whole space issue and our target cus-

Some analysts believe the company must rethink strategy of conservative expansion if it wants to stay a category killer.

tomers — high income females trying to be reasonably organized — right here."

Tindell says their conservative estimate for sales at the new store is more than \$25 million in the first year. That's \$10 million more than the best performing stores in Tyson's Corner, Va.; Houston and White Plains, N.Y.; the company's branches are located in 16 metropolitan areas across the country.

Retail analysts are a little wary about the new store.

"While New York is a ready market for them, it is very costly to operate in Manhattan," says Madison Riley, a strategist at Kurt Salmon Associates. "I hope they have addressed this fully."

Boone said the challenges of the New York market are not lost on the company. "People have less time to shop," he acknowledged.

Analysts say the appeal of The Container Store is its vast selection within a narrow merchandise category. Instead of a handful of clear plastic bins in a few sizes, the company stocks a variety of bins in dif-

ferent colors and many sizes.

The company divides its cheerfully arranged stores into sections according to rooms of a house: closets, kitchen, garage, bath. There is merchandise that will appeal to children, such as backpacks and brightly colored crates. And there is a big section devoted to seasonal items — right now it is stocked with boxes, bags, paper, ribbons and other holiday essentials.

"They have a beautifully executed category killer strategy," said Jorge Leis, a partner specializing in retail for Bain & Co., a consulting firm. "They are extremely focused on their product line and specialize in high end goods. They invest a lot back into their company and in employee training so turnover is much lower than others in the industry."

Leis said this is one reason why the company has few direct rivals.

But The Container Store does face competition from discounters Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Corp., which have a less varied inventory but are able to price their own more cheaply.

"They should not lose sight of the fact that they need to provide value," Riley said of The Container Store.

At a Container Store in suburban White Plains recently, customer Alexandra Ribis pulled out a stack of small cartons, carefully stacking them into her basket. Then, she put them back — only to get a new stack of smaller ones.

You can get any size you want here," Ribis said.

Some analysts believe the company must rethink its strategy of conservative expansion if it wants to stay a category killer.

"In order for them to remain in that position and own the concept, they have to grow," says Wendy Liebman, president of WSL Strategic Retail, a marketing and retail consulting firm. "They need to be in more places because there are an awful lot of people selling similar stuff. They need to do this without overextending themselves and yet they need to get to the people who need them most.

Otherwise, they will lose their position as the specialists and someone else will take this opportunity from them."

Not everyone thinks aggressive growth would be beneficial to the company. "Their crisply defined strategy is sustainable," Leis said.

Leis suggested that the company might want to go public, but that would carry some risk.

"They would be under tremendous pressure to grow faster and might have to abandon their breadth versus depth strategy across the country. That would affect their train-

ing procedure and probably even the way their stores are laid out," he said.

The company's founders say they have no plans to sell stock. "We've grown at about 25 percent a year and have been able to attract and retain great people," Boone said. "If we grew at 40 to 50 percent, we would not be able to do that."

For now, the strategy is to target markets with high density and high volumes, especially in the metropolitan areas. "If we do this right," Boone contends, "people will continue seek us out."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

MATURITY

who works as a library clerk at a law firm. "I don't need a status symbol such as a house or property to feel complete or accomplished."

"That comes from my writing, playing guitar and good friends," says Mohny, an avid poetry and short-story writer outside of work.

Some young people say their hesitation about marriage, family and home ownership comes from watching how others have responded to the usual trappings of adulthood.

"I've had a glimpse into their lives and realize what a change those things represent," 23-year-old Lisa Mixon says of friends who got married and started families right after college. "Many of them always feel rushed, are too busy to go out with friends — and, well, aren't happy."

Now working as marketing director at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Mixon moved in with her parents after college while working a retail job. She has agreed to stay on for the next two years to help care for an ill parent and chip in on household duties.

Her focus, she says, is "to enjoy my time now, not as a complete adult — just yet."

For Powell, reaching true adulthood would be as simple as getting a job that allowed her to move out of her parents' home in Clinton Township, a large suburban area a few miles northeast of Detroit.

"I'd be in my own little apartment, in a city with a job that puts my degree to use, paying my own bills, with nobody claiming me as a dependent," she says. Marriage and children will come later.

It is a very different life than her mother had.

When her mom was 22, she was married and pregnant — and off to a Louisiana Army base with her husband, now a retired Army engineer officer.

"We had so much more responsibility at that age," says Sue Powell, now 45. Like a lot of women of her generation and those preceding hers, Sue Powell left college to get married. So as her children grew, she promised herself, "I will never let my kids do the same thing."

"We wanted them to have

so many more experiences," she says as she stirs a pot of potato soup she's made for her daughter to eat before work.

The younger Powell feels like her life is on hold. The money she earns covers her car payment and cell phone bill, though it's been a stretch since her parents recently asked her to start paying \$100 toward her car insurance.

"Maybe it will be a little motivator," her mother says, a comment that draws a somewhat stunned and embarrassed look from her daughter.

Even those who have found jobs in their chosen field are feeling the pinch.

"I think this economy has stunted the meter of defining adulthood because so many people do not have a choice in whether to be financially independent or not," says Kristin Lunardini, a 24-year-old who works for a public relations firm. She will soon be moving from Chicago back with her parents in Aurora, Ill., to help pay off some bills and save money.

Whatever the factors that are causing it, much of society seems to be embracing the notion of delayed adulthood. And a whole line of increasingly common sayings are indicating a ripple effect — "30 is the new 20" and "40 is the new 30" and so on.

Elaine Wethington, a sociologist in the department of human development at Cornell University, believes the sayings have a ring of truth.

However, there is an exception, she notes: The age that women start to become infertile has not increased.

"So women really need to think how they're going to fit children in. You can't just let it emerge," she says. "You have to plan for it."

On the other end of the spectrum, she's also noticed that the parents of her students are more reluctant than generations past to let go of their children.

"I'm 53 and I remember when I went to college, my parents considered me an adult. And I was pretty much on my own and allowed to make my own decisions," she says. "Today, I think parents at some level want the child to still be dependent a little bit longer, if they're going to keep paying the bills."

Powell has definitely felt that from her own parents, especially since she's moved back home. And her mom doesn't deny it.

"I love having them here," she says of her two children, the younger of whom is still in college. "But I can tell Amy's changed very, very much. Living here — it's been difficult."

She's noticed that her daughter is sleeping a little later, probably because she's getting discouraged. She's also more standoffish, her mother says.

The younger Powell acknowledges that she gets annoyed by some of her parents' questions and suggestions.

"They say, 'Oh maybe you could work at the library and put together their newsletter' — stuff that's kind of" — she pauses for a moment and lowers her voice — "silly."

One recent weekend, her parents insisted that she not drive to visit her boyfriend, who's still a student at Western Michigan University, where she went to school. They told her she should stay home to work on more job applications.

She ended up staying home. "But I wasn't very happy about it," she says, as she drives to the restaurant where she works.

Later that evening, she displays a handful of change left by a customer as a tip.

"This is why I still live at home," she says with a dejected look.

She counts it: "97 cents."

Martha Irvine can be reached at mirvine(at)ap.org

CONT. FROM PG. 15

SWEEPS

sweeps get plenty of respect from little kids, who now get to watch and wonder instead of crawl down a dark cramped space.

"Kids are really curious, and if I don't pull up my ladder, they'll climb up on the roof with me to watch," Torres said.

This time of year, the question that's big on little ones minds is if that chimney is going to be nice and clean for Santa Claus annual visit. Sometimes, Torres said, the kids want to shine a light up the chimney and check out his work when he's through.

"My job is a lot of fun," he said. "I just love it. I meet everyone from millionaires to cowboys."

If a sweep comes to call, don't forget to shake his hand, no matter how dirty, and thank him for his work.

Superstition has it that if someone shakes hands with a chimney sweep, he will pass along some good luck and a little soot to boot.

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