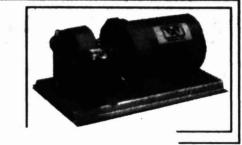
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Vol. 99 No. 821 • Pampa, Texas 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1

HIGH Low

23 48

LOCAL

Fund to benefit Roy and Carol Hermanski

A fund has been set up at NBC Bank in the name of Roy and Carol Hermanski, who lost their mobile home to fire over the weekend.

Persons interested in making a donation should contact Marilyn Howell at NBC Bank.

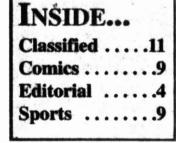
Mr. Hermanski is employed at Larry Baker Plumbing and Mrs. Hermanski has "Cakes by Carol."

DEATHS

B.R. Counts, 73, welder. W.M. "Bill" Ledbetter, 91,

administrator. Linda Reames, California native.

Johnnie Davis Smith, 87. secretary.



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about city's future Wal-Mart By David Bowser proposed In addition to the

STAFF WRITER

While the number and value of building permits were down through November compared to the same period for last year, Danny Winborne, who heads the city's building code division, says he is very optimistic about the new year.

"Right now, permits are pretty well in line with the past few years," Winborne said.

Because of the timing of construction projects, permit and inspection numbers are down through 2003, but Winborne said today that his office is getting many more inquiries about future projects than they have

"Probably next year past few years. will be a record year for permit values," Winborne said.

In addition to a mercial building permit for a

Super Center, Winborne said there are several other projects in the works. Some of the projects predate the notification by Wal-Mart of its intentions to build a Super Center on

Although there are no applications yet for permits, Winborne said there have been a number of people in contact with his office concerning zoning and the application process, which is usually an indication of things to

Pampa's north side.

come. "I'm really optimistic," Winborne said. There has been a

marked increase in interest concerning construction during the last couple of months, in the past several he said, but it is a trend he has noticed over the

> If it all comes into play, it could be an excellent year for compermits," Winborne said of 2004.

commercial interests, Winborne said developers have shown an interest in building new housing in and around Pampa. Some of the home construction could be inside the city limits while there have also been inquiries concerning housing

the city limits. "This is a key factor in growth for a city," Winborne said.

developments beyond

When there is interest in new homes, it is an indication of community growth, he said.

"I've been in this office for nine years," Winborne said, "and I am totally optimistic about what is happening to Pampa right now."

The life-long Pampa resident noted that oil production and exploration is up in the area

"That's what really stimulates our economy," Winborne said.

(See CITY, Page 3)

Official optimistic County names new attorney

By MARILYN POWERS STAFF WRITER

Josh Seabourn was named interim county attorney by Gray County commissioners after an executive session yesterday during their regular meeting in the county courtroom on the second floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Commissioners interviewed Seabourn during a 45-minute executive session and then voted unanimously to appoint him to the position.

"We were very impressed with his responses, and very pleased to appoint him," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet by telephone after the executive

session. "I'm very excited about it," Seabourn told *The Pampa News* during a telephone interview this morning.

Seabourn was the only applicant for the position, which will be vacated by Todd Alvey on Dec. 31. Alvey announced his resignation on Nov. 12. His unexpired term runs through Dec. 31, 2004.

"I do plan to," Seabourn said this morning when asked if he will file as a candidate for the position. The primary election for nine county offices, including county attorney, will be in March 2004, with Jan. 2, 2004, as the deadline to file as a candidate. Winners in the March primary will be on the ballot in the November 2004 general election, and those elected in November would take office in January 2005.

Seabourn, 28, currently is a part-time assistant district attorney for 31st District Attorney Richard Roach, and also works part-time for Pampa attorney

John Warner. "I think he'll do a fine job there. We're going to miss him. He's been a big help here," Roach said in a telephone interview this morning. He said he currently has no plans to replace Seabourn, but is in the process of applying for a state grant for a special prosecutor. The special prosecutor, who would work full-time on district cases,



Josh Seabourn

would prosecute mainly domestic violence and other cases involving families,

"Since I've gone to work for the district attorney. I've discovered how much I enjoy being a prosecutor and being on that side of things. I think I have something to contribute to the community," Seabourn said earlier this month concerning why he had applied for the county attorney position.

Seabourn, 28, grew up in Pampa, having moved here with his family when he was 5-years-old. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1993. He attended Oklahoma University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1998 and a juris doctor degree

He returned to Pampa immediately after receiving his law degree in May 2001, and was employed by Warner to work on criminal cases, probate work, wills and trusts, real estate, and family

On April 1 of this year, he was hired as a part-time assistant for Roach and continued to work part-time for Warner.

Seabourn's work in the district attorney's office has included case intake, research, witness interviews, presenting cases to the grand jury and trying cases

Seabourn and his wife, Heather, are Pampa residents, as are his parents, Danny and Sherry Seabourn.

Cities, counties may prohibit assisted motor scooter' use

By MARILYN **POWERS** STAFF WRITER

The operation of motorized scooters on certain streets has been legalized the Texas Legislature, according to Trooper Wayne Beighle, public information officer for the Texas Department Public Safety in Amarillo.

Texas cities and counties, as well as Texas Department Transportation, may prohibit operation of the scooters, also known as "motor assisted scooters," on particular streets or highways for safety rea-

sons. Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner said that currently there are no city ordinances or local restrictions concerning motorPampa. He said the law concerning the scooters, which was passed Sept. 1, does not include such items as motorized wheelchairs.

The Texas Transportation Code defines a "motor assisted scooter" as a "selfpropelled device" with the following characteristics:

wheels in contact with the ground during operation, · a braking sys-

· at least two

tem that can stop the device during normal operating conditions,

• a gas or electric motor of 40cc or

 a deck which allows the operator to stand or sit during vehicle operation, and

 is capable of being self-propelled by the operator. Most motorized

scooters have a top speed of 20 miles per hour, Pitner

said. Motorized scooters may be legally operated on the following sur-

 a street or highway having a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or

 a street or highway with a higher posted speed limit if crossing the street.

· a path designated for the exclusive use of bicycles, and · a sidewalk.

"In general, a law which applies to bicycles also applies to these scooters," Beighle said in a recent press release. 'That means the operator must obey the usual traffic laws that bicycle operators must obey, such as speed limit, signal

turns, stop at stop

etc."

signs,

Signaling a turn or stop requires use of accepted hand signals, Pitner said.

Some provisions that apply to a motor vehicle do not apply to the motorized scooters, Beighle said. Scooter operators do not need a dri-

ver's license or liability insurance. The scooter does not have to be registered or have a license plate. No low speed vehicle emblem is required on the scooter, and it doesn't have to be inspected. The operator is not

required to wear a

helmet, nor is there

any age limit on

who can operate a motorized scooter. "Our department has recently received increased questions regarding the legality of the scooters, which are gaining in popularity," Beighle said.

Over budget *can* be a good thing By David Bowser

STAFF WRITER

Being over budget is a good thing when it comes to income, and that's the good news for Pampa this holiday

John Horst, Pampa's director of finance, said today that sales tax collections, an income revenue stream for the city, is 12.01 percent over budget so far this fiscal year. Pampa's fiscal year began Oct. 1.

"For the three months through December," he said, "we're over budget by about \$57,000. It looks way better than this time last year."

The city has collected \$21,314.80 more so far this year than it had at this

"It's much more encouraging than last year this time." Horst said.

The Texas Comptroller's office reports that Pampa reflects the increased sales tax revenue being reported across the State of Texas.

"State sales tax revenue is up for the third month in a row," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said this month. "The last time state sales tax revenue increased three months in a row was July-September, 2001, before 9-11.

November sales tax revenue statewide was up 4.3 percent compared to the same month a year ago."

"This is the largest growth since August 2001, before the terrorists' attacks," Strayhorn said.

The state received \$1.36 billion in sales tax revenue in November. For the last two years, the state experienced declining sale tax revenues.

"Last December." Strayhorn says, "the Grinch stole Christmas. We were seeing declining sales tax revenue at both the state and local level, and tough economic times were also taking a toll on other revenue sources. This year, the Grinch isn't going to steal Christmas. State sales tax revenue is up and overall, local taxing entities will receive more sales tax this calendar year than they took in last calendar year.

So far this fiscal year in Pampa, Horst said the city has received \$530,311.31 of its \$1,950,000 annual budget, well ahead of the \$473,466.73 they expected to collect in the first three months of the fiscal

"We're looking positive on our sales taxes," Horst said.



Borger.

W.M. 'BILL' LEDBETTER 1912-2003

W.M. "Bill" Ledbetter, 91, of Pampa, died of Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born Jan. 3, 1912, at Dallas, Mr. Ledbetter was a 1930 graduate of Oak Cliff High School in Dallas and held a bachelor of science degree from Southern Methodist University (1934). He married Elaine Walker on June 26, 1942, at organized Tonkawa, Okla.; she died May 8, 2002.

He coached football, taught math and science at high schools in Milford, Canon, St. Jo, Texas, and Blackwell, Okla., and was a high school football and basketball official.

He worked for Skelly Oil from 1942 until retiring as personnel administrator in 1977.

He was active in First United Methodist Church, serving as chairman of the finance committee, the house and grounds committee for 16 years, and the administrative board. For several years, he belonged to WinSome Sunday School Class and was a member of Men's Fellowship Class.

He held membership and was past president www.carmichael-whatley.com.

JOHNNIE DAVIS SMITH

1915-2003

Johnnie Davis Smith, 87, of Pampa, died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at Canadian. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Smith was born Jan. 1, 1915, at Hood, Texas. She lived in Pampa from 1917 until 1945, graduating from Pampa High School in 1933, and from 1986 to the present. She married Raymond Peter Smith on Feb. 28, 1947, at Pampa; he died April 4, 1981.

LINDA REAMES

Linda Reames, 56, of Pampa, died Sunday, Dec. 14, 2003. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Reames was born May 5, 1947, at Fresno, Calif. She had been a resident of Pampa for approximately 20 years.

She was a Baptist.

Today's forecast is calling

for partly cloudy skies, highs

in the upper 40s and north-

west winds 15 to 25 mph.

Caution is advised on area

lakes. Tonight should fall on

mostly clear skies with lows

in the lower 20s and west

winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday should see mostly

Free

Delivery

on

Christmas

Gift

Baskets,

Call for

Custom

Order

She was preceded in death by a daughter, www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Rotary Club and Knife and Fork Club. He volunteered **Pampa** Meals on Wheels and Skel-Tex Credit Union.



Survivors include a cousin, Leonard Sullivan of Waxahachie; and his caregivers, Maria Vasquez, Emma Trejo and Kelly Collins, all of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0930; or to WinSome-Fellowship Sunday School Class in care of First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981.

-Sign the on-line register book at

She was society editor for The Pampa News for 5 1/2 years, was secretary with Cabot Research and Development and secretary with United Carbon/Ashland Oil Company in Borger, Houston and Columbus, Ohio, retiring in 1977 after 31 years of service.

She was a member of Pampa Community Concert Association.

Mrs. Smith has no known survivors.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

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

1947-2003

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

mph. Wednesday night, partly

cloudy. Lows in the upper

20s. North winds 10 to 20

mph. Thursday, mostly sunny.

Highs in the lower 50s. North

winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday

night, partly cloudy. Lows in

the lower 30s. Friday, partly

Pamela Kay Reames in 1984.

upper 50s. West winds 5 to 15 clear. Breezy. Lows in the

Survivors include a son, George Thomas Reames, Jr., of Pampa; a daughter, Tamie Young of Pampa; five sisters, Marie Mansell of Duncan, Okla., Rosie Toe of Claremore, Okla., Laura Starr of Ringwood, Okla., Mona Marie of Comanche, Okla., and Louise Moss of Del Rio; a brother, Danny Marine of Marlow, Okla.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

-Sign the on-line register book at

B.R. COÚNTS 1930-2003

B.R. Counts, 73, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, at Amarillo. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Counts was born Oct. 4, 1930, in Dill City, Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1955. He worked for Cabot and IRI for 40 years as a welder, retiring in 1997.

He married Mary Matney on Jan. 24, 1960, in

He was an active member of Moose Lodge #1163 and belonged to Fellowship Baptist Church. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Counts, of the home; two sons, Steven Ray Counts and Gregory Lee Counts, both of Pampa; a sister, Sue Kunkel of Saratoga, Fla.; and a brother, Glen Counts of Point.

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

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported offense had been committed. the following incidents and arrests.

Thursday, Dec. 11

Burglary of a building was reported in the 1100 block of Terry Road. Several tools were taken from a storage building in the rear of the house. The building was unlocked, and no forced entry was made. Estimated loss was \$2,000.

Friday, Dec. 12

Criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the lobby of the police department. The incident occurred in the 900 block of East Francis. A lock on a vehicle door was slightly damaged. Estimated loss was

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of Roberta. The passenger side window of a vehicle was broken out, and a stereo and speakers were taken. Amount of loss was unknown.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 600 block of North Lowry. A vehicle was used as a weapon. Minor injuries were reported.

An information report was taken in the 400 block of North Starkweather. Possible harassment was reported. Officers found that no

Sunday, Dec. 14

Assault by a family member was reported in the 800 block of Campbell. Minor injuries were reported.

Theft under \$50 was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. Gasoline valued at \$18

Family violence was reported in the 700 block of North West Street. The incident was verbal with no injuries reported.

Monday, Dec. 15

Theft was reported in the 200 block of Miami. Taken was \$47 in change.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of Anne. A red bicycle was recovered in connection with the incident.

Violation of a protective order was reported at the police department. The incident occurred in the 2200 block of Lea.

Assault/family violence was reported in the 800 block of West Campbell. Minor injuries were reported.

A fight was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. Two males were arrested and taken to municipal court.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 1100 block of Crane Road. Staci Proctor, 37, 1117 Crane Road, was arrested at the scene.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Monday, Dec. 15

10:20 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Sunset and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 12:13 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block

of Crane. No transport.

1:32 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Hobart and Kentucky streets. No transport.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

11:55 a.m. – Two units and six firefighters responded to the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway on a false alarm.

City of Pampa Landfill on a grass fire. Some compost and

2:56 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to the 1400 block of North Williston to assist the fire marshal with an investigation.

Monday, Dec. 15

1:43 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to machinery were burning which the firefighters put out.

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

ACCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 15

12:58 p.m. - A 1992 Buick Regal, driven by Esther Rodriguez, 24, 1113 Seneca, and a 1993 Lincoln Mark, driven by Joyce Wilton Daniels, 60, 209 Tignor, collided in the 1200 block of North Hobart Street. No were reported. injuries Rodriguez was cited for failure to control speed.

3:08 p.m. - A 2003 Chevrolet C1500 pickup, driven by Richard Daniel Clifton, 33, Garden City, Kan., and a 1995 Chevrolet van, driven by David Glen Cushman, 43, Amarillo, collided in the intersection of Hobart Street and Kentucky Avenue. No injuries were reported. Clifton was cited for disregarding a red light.

cloudy. Highs in the upper sunny skies. Highs in the 50s. Friday night, mostly

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20%off

Clay Works Christmas Village

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MON-SAT 9AM-6PM

STOCKS

lower 30s. Saturday, partly

cloudy. Highs in the upper

50s. Saturday night, partly

cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs

in the lower 50s. Sunday

night, mostly cloudy. Lows in

the lower 30s. Monday, most-

ly cloudy. Highs around 50.

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of

The following 9:30 a.m N.Y. Stock Market quota-tions are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of

39.94 +0.07 .45.92 +0.32 .39.88 +4.08 Cabot Corp. 31.59 -0.14 29.13 +0.13 49.91 +0.12 Kerr McGee 44.11 +0.70 Limited16.72 -0.45

Atmos .6.08 -0.02 .80.18 +1.23 NS Grp

New York Gold 409.25 Silver...........5.64 West Texas Crude33.18

City Briefs

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mas tree! 8-5 p.m. The Pampa

News, 403 W. Atchison.

bart. Hurry-going fast!!

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'TIS THE Season To Relax With A Massage.....To make an appointment call Zane Walters, 664-2629. Gift Certificates are avail. at Body Works, 118 E. Browning.

San Antonio reservists return from overseas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Ten soldiers returned home to San Antonio after serving



John Mann

115 W. Foster "Across From The Concy" three months in the Iraq war. Cheering family members and comrades greeted the reservists at San Antonio International Airport Monday night.

The reservists are assigned to the 433rd Maintenance and Aircraft Maintenance squadrons at Lackland Air Force Base.

The soldiers were in Qatar where they maintained and repaired C-5 cargo jets deployed

in support of the war effort. The reservists were activated three years ago after the Sept.

11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Families were excited to see their loved ones. "Now that he's back, we're

going to keep praying for everyone else over there," said Mary Morin, mother of Master Sgt. Rodrigo Morin Jr. "We appreciate the sacrifice the men and women are making for us."

are poring of after a nurse claimed he kil to alleviate t with murder.

Charles C administered patients out years in nine New Jersey a "The evide may very wel

Forrest said N If Cullen's be one of the recent U.S. hi nurse's aide, Kentucky to l them patients other killings. Cullen was

charges could want a lawyer In court M judge, "I am to fight this." Investigato

murder and

ities where Ci ment his clair

And Pamp Winborne in Dumas and "Childress spurt right no excited. I real The City of operate and h

"City Mana instrumental Winborne attitude over t "As I drive being cleaned

past," he said a building off Winborne (ness merchan "They've b Recounting Houston, Wir tour of the Ce

Park and the Winborne s ularly by the "I think it's said of the ap

Alaska

He said he

By MIKE

ASSOCIATED JUNEAU, Cruise lines w passenger for in Alaska und proposed by Murkowski.

budget, anno also includes a bling assessme senger counts tax on excursi operators. Murkowsk

The Repub

ing a \$1 ir state's cigare would give I ond highest



Nurse charged with murder, claims he killed more than 30 patients

are poring over patient records in two states after a nurse with a checkered work history claimed he killed 30 to 40 terminally ill patients to alleviate their suffering and was charged with murder.

Charles Cullen, 43, told authorities he administered drug overdoses to put "very sick" patients out of their misery over the last 16 years in nine hospitals and a nursing home in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"The evidence that we have indicates that may very well be the case," prosecutor Wayne Forrest said Monday.

If Cullen's contentions prove true, it would be one of the biggest hospital murder cases in recent U.S. history. In 1987, Donald Harvey, a nurse's aide, entered guilty pleas in Ohio and Kentucky to killing at least 34 people, most of them patients. He also claimed involvement in other killings.

Cullen was charged with one count each of murder and attempted murder, but more charges could follow. Cullen said he did not want a lawyer, and was held on \$1 million bail.

In court Monday, Cullen stood and told the judge, "I am going to plead guilty. I don't plan to fight this."

Investigators are examining records at facilities where Cullen worked as they try to document his claims about the other killings. One

SOMERVILLE, N.J. (AP) — Investigators body has already been exhumed to undergo from hospital to hospital. In August 1997, he needles, Lehigh County District Attorney toxicological tests and Forrest said other exhumations were possible.

> Cullen was charged with murder in the death of the Very Rev. Florian J. Gall, a Roman Catholic vicar who died June 28 at Somerset of an unauthorized dose of digoxin, a heart medication. He was also charged with the attempted murder of a 40-year-old woman at the same Somerville hospital.

Prosecutors were notified by Somerset Medical Center officials after the hospital fired Cullen on Oct. 31. An internal review had found questionable lab results involving six of Cullen's patients.

Somerset turned over information on the six cases to the prosecutor's office, said Dr. William Cors, the hospital's chief medical officer. All six patients had "multiple, serious medical problems," Cors said.

Gall's sister, Lucille Gall, said she did not know there were questions about her brother's death until prosecutors told her there were questions about lab reports.

"I'm almost in shock. I'm a nurse, so I'm embarrassed this had to happen, and I'm also horrified," she said Tuesday on NBC's "Today." "This is something you hear on television. It doesn't happen to someone you love or

Cullen had a checkered career and bounced

was fired from Morristown Memorial Hospital for "poor performance," a spokeswoman for the hospital's parent company said.

Cullen worked at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa., from June 2000 to June 2002. and resigned amid allegations that he had at least twice hidden unopened heart and blood pressure medications in a safety bin for used

James Martin said.

St. Luke's spokeswoman Susan Schantz said Cullen was immediately removed from contact with patients. The hospital also commissioned an independent cardiologist to review the records of 67 cardiac patients who died in the ? previous six months. The review turned up no • evidence that any of them had been harmed.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

And Pampa isn't alone.

Winborne said he's seeing the same thing in Dumas and other towns in the Panhandle. "Childress is going through a growing spurt right now," Winborne said. "I'm really excited. I really am."

The City of Pampa, he says, is trying to cooperate and help build businesses in the city. "City Manager Mitch Grant has really been

instrumental in this," Winborne said. Winborne said he's noticed a change in

attitude over the last year or so in Pampa. "As I drive around, I've been seeing places being cleaned up that haven't been in the past," he said. "It's an exciting time for me as a building official."

Winborne commended the downtown business merchants association for their work.

"They've been excellent," Winborne said. Recounting a recent visit by friends from Houston, Winborne said he took them for a tour of the Celebration of Lights at Recreation Park and the downtown area of Pampa.

Winborne said they were impressed, particularly by the downtown area.

"I think it's pride of ownership," Winborne

other parts of the city organize in a similar

way, particularly along U.S. Highway 60. "That's a major thoroughfare," Winborne

People driving through town on U.S. 60 perceive Pampa from what they see along the high-

way, he said. As for new construction next year,

Winborne said he's looking forward to seeing a new Wal-Mart and at least one new motel. Winborne doesn't think the proposed Wal-

Mart Super Center is the savior of the city, but it will help the local economy with increased sales taxes and more job opportunities.

"I cannot see a downside to it," Winborne

Wal-Mart is not the only project that Winborne sees adding to the growth of the

He commended Chuck White for his efforts to clear the old Coronado Inn and get a new motel built in town.

"Kudos to Chuck White," Winborne said. Another motel may also be in the works, Winborne said. A sign north of the hospital indicates it could be the site of a motel, although Winborne said the city hasn't gotten

any paperwork on it yet. "This is exciting," Winborne said. "This is said of the appearance of downtown Pampa. the first time in a long time that I've been He said he would like to see merchants in optimistic about the growth of Pampa."

Alaskan governor proposes cruise ship tax

By MIKE CHAMBERS ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Cruise lines would pay \$5 per passenger for every night spent in Alaska under a new budget proposed by Gov. Frank Murkowski.

The Republican governor's budget, announced Monday, also includes a cruise ship gambling assessment based on passenger counts and a 5 percent tax on excursions run by tour operators.

Murkowski is also proposing a \$1 increase in the state's cigarette tax, which would give Alaska the secnation behind New Jersey.

Cruise ship industry officials who have been under mounting criticism from Alaskans for not paying state taxes — say they are being asked to shoulder too much of the load.

"We're hoping to have a discussion with the administration very soon to review the details of this and give our response to the administration," said John Hansen, president of the North West CruiseShip Association.

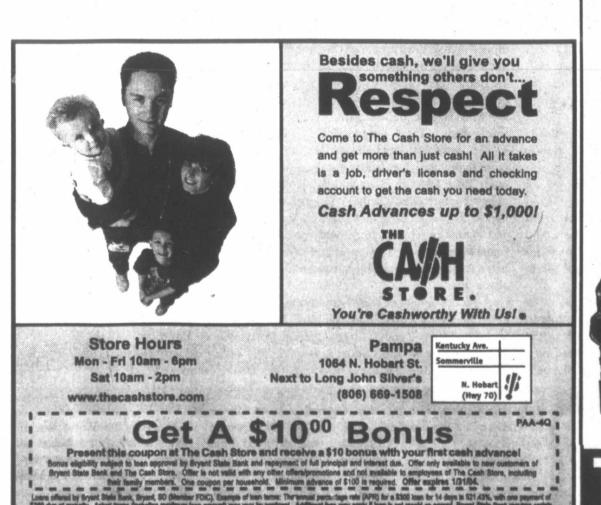
The industry injects an estimated \$800 million into Alaska's economy including money spent by tourists and taxes and fees paid to local governments, Hansen ond highest such tax in the said. "We pay our own way,

and then some," he said.

Alaska faces a \$573.5 million deficit in the fiscal year that begins July 1 next year, according to the state Department of Revenue.

IF SANTA COMES DOWN THE CHIMNEY, WHY DO I HAVE TO SHOVEL?

> Dec. 16 9 shopping days to Christmas



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just what exactly constitutes 'the rich' in this country?

To the editor,

In a recent letter to the editor, the writer wrote "Bush has bankrupted our country with his giveaway to the rich in this

Well, just who are the rich in this country?

According to an IRS report based on the year 2000 tax returns, the top 50 percent of taxpayers paid 96 percent of all

The top 50 percent is anyone who reported over \$27,682 of income. So the next time a politician or an individual says the recent tax cuts need to be repealed to make the rich pay their fair share, just remember who the government considers rich.

B.A. Watson Pampa

Thought for Today

Elegance in prose composition is mainly this: a just admission of topics and of words; neither too many nor too few of either; enough of sweetness in the sound to induce us to enter and sit still; enough of illustration and reflection to change the posture of our minds when they would tire; and enough of sound matter in the complex to repay us for our attendance.

> -Walter Savage Landor, 1775-1864 Ibid. Chesterfield and Chatham

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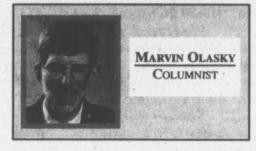
Press year in review

Does the thrashing about of liberal reporters in 2003 signify the death throes of the old media order or a second wind? Look at this howler from Charles Pierce in the Boston Globe on Jan. 5: "If she had lived, Mary Jo Kopechne would be 62 years old. Through his tireless work as a legislator, Edward Kennedy would have brought comfort to her in her old age." (Kopechne, of course, drowned in Kennedy's submerged car Chappaquiddick Island in 1969; Kennedy did not report the accident for several hours.)

Or what about the latest fugues from Walter Cronkite, long retired from CBS but still putting out a syndicated column? Look at this Sept. 22 gem: "Attorney General John Ashcroft has earned himself a remarkable distinction as the Torquemada of American law." Torquemada tortured those seen as heretics, and Cronkite acknowledged that Ashcroft was not "burning people at the stake (at least I don't know of any such cases). But one does get the sense these days that the old Spaniard's spirit is comfortably at home in Ashcroft's Department of Justice."

And what about historical illiteracy, as great as ever among reporters, even one like Helen Thomas, who's been around for decades? On Jan. 19, she twice labeled George W. Bush "the worst president in all of American history." (As worldmagblog.com notes, Democrats think Bush is awful, but could he be worse than James Buchanan? Warren G. Harding? Richard Nixon?)

Competing for the "don't know much



about history" blue ribbon was James Traub, who stated in The New York Times on Oct. 26, "Today's Republican Party is arguably the most extreme - the furthest from the center - of any governing majority in the nation's history." (Conservative reasons to criticize today's big-spending GOP Congress abound, and Traub has his liberal reasons, but "the furthest from the center"? What about Radical Republicans following the Civil War, or some 20th century Democratic congresses?)

The year's worst reporting probably came from Iraq. Many journalists opposed the war and offered reports like this one by Peter Jennings on Jan. 21: "This week, we were surprised to see several hundred artists and writers walking through the streets of Baghdad to say thank you to Saddam Hussein. ... Whatever they think about Saddam Hussein in the privacy of their homes, on this occasion they were praising his defense of the homeland in the face of

American threats." In recent months, many journalists have tried to justify their earlier position by emphasizing difficulties in Iraq rather than progress. MSNBC producer Noah Oppenheim deserves a gold medal for

traveling to Iraq to "find out if things had really gone as horribly wrong as the evening newscasts and major print dailies reported," and then describing "the failure of American journalism" in the latest Weekly Standard: "America has brought to Iraq the notorious Red State-Blue State divide. Most journalists are Blue State people in outlook, and most of those administering the occupation are Red. (Since) most journalists did not support this war to begin with, (they) "feel vindicated whenever the effort stumbles."

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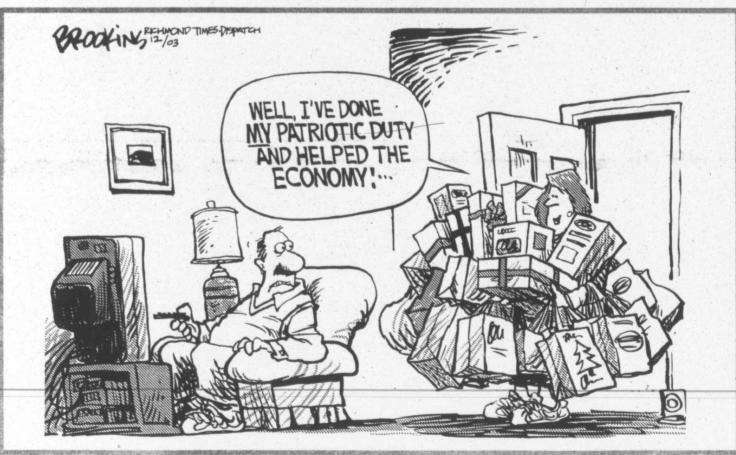
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But here's the good news: Editors at the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune during 2003 acknowledged their newspapers' pro-abortion bias. Don Wycliffe, public editor at the Tribune, quoted complaints by pro-life readers about Tribune headlines ("Anti-choice groups celebrate victories ... Anti-choice victories alarm pro-choice groups") and commented, "The perspective of those who define the issues involved in terms of 'choice' was taken as normative. ... The result was two headlines that couldn't have been more slanted if they had come directly from the public relations office of NARAL Pro-Choice America."

Meanwhile, the big media lie for 2004 Howard Dean is a moderate - already has emerged. The Media Research Center, which supplied the quotations above, notes that recently CBS announced that Dean "had a moderate record during his 10 years in the Vermont statehouse." Look for more of that, as we find out whether the Dean drive represents the death throes of the old McGovern order or a second wind.

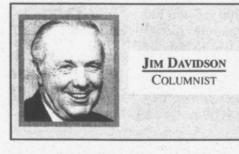


What goes around comes around

It's been some time now since I have talked with you about the great law that controls everything in the universe. This great law is known as the "Law of Cause & Effect." What this means is that for every action there is and equal and opposite reaction. Make no mistake; if our actions or causes are good, the effects will be good. By the same token, if our actions or causes or bad, the effects will be bad. All we have to do as unique individuals, is take care of the causes, the effects will always, in time, take care of

In reality, this law allows every thinking person to tell his or her own future. What is so sad, at least to me, is that millions of people in America really do not understand this great law and that it applies to them. I make this statement based on common sense. Why else would untold numbers of people set out to deliberately destroy themselves or to fail in life?

The good news is that we can all be winners, if we will just take the time to learn the great laws that operate in the universe and how to use them to our own advantage. When we do this, it's like pad-



dling a canoe downstream all the time and not struggling against the tide, as so many are doing. This allows us to take our failures in stride. You want to be a real winner in the game of life? Always do the right thing. Treat other people with respect, work hard and always do a little more than your share, with a positive attitude. Take pride in what you do, it has your signature on it whether it's signed or not. If you want financial success, save and invest your resources with sound financial practices. This is what I mean when it comes to using natural laws to our advantage.

A good example of what I am saying is embodied in a cliché that we have all heard, "What goes around comes around." What we don't know is how big a circle it is going to make or how long it's

going to take. I keep up with sports a good deal and I've seen coaches who were on top just pound their opponents into the ground or court by running up a big score on them. But low and behold, in time, the worm turns and these same coaches are on the other end of the beating. Most of us simply sit back and smile and say, "What goes around comes around." What's important to understand here is that this law or principle works in all of life and not just in sports and those obvious cases that we know, read or hear about.

Because we live in a "negative" world, when we hear the cliché, "What goes around comes around," we usually think of something bad. The point I'm making here is that this law also works on the good side too. When we do good things to help and serve others, this comes back to

Someone once said to have a truly happy life, we should "Work like we don't need the money. Love like we have never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching, Sing like nobody's listening. Live like it's Heaven on Earth."

(Write to Jim Davidson at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72034.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2003. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more Bonn, Germany.

than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes.

On this date: In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of

England, Scotland and Ireland. In 1770, composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in

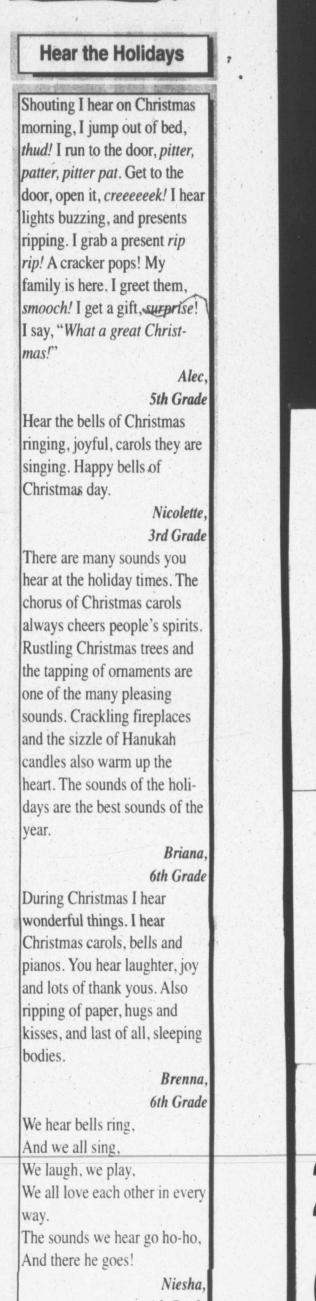
Napoleon 1809, Bonaparte was divorced from the Empress Josephine by an act of the French Senate.

In 1916, Gregory Rasputin, the monk who'd wielded powerful influence over the Russian court, was murdered by a group of noblemen.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise counter-attack against Allied forces in Belgium.

In 1950, President Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "Communist imperialism."

Weekly Writing



6th Grade Have you heard the sounds of the holidays? When having a snowball fight, my cousin and sister are laughing like hyenas! Cheerfully, all of the family sings Christmas carols. On Christmas morning, I can hear "thank you" a million times when we're all opening gifts. Don't you love the sounds of

> Caitlin, 6th Grade



the holidays?

inside a part of your ear called the cochlea (coke-lee-uh). 5 Inside the cochlea are

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Jeff Schinkel, Graphics

tiny nerve endings that send the sound information to your brain. Jingle!

© 2003 by Vicki Whiting, Editor

make it vibrate.

stirrup.

4 These bones

cause fluid

inside your

ear to move.

The fluid is

Now Hear This?

find out how our ears work!

sounds waves into the ear canal.

Follow the sound of the jingle bell to

1 The outer ear acts like a funnel and directs

2 Sound waves bump against your ear drum and

3 These vibrations get three little bones shaking.

The bones are called the hammer, anvil and

Ingle! Jingle!

Elwood the Elf has spelled ten (that's right 10!)

Can you find 10 or more?

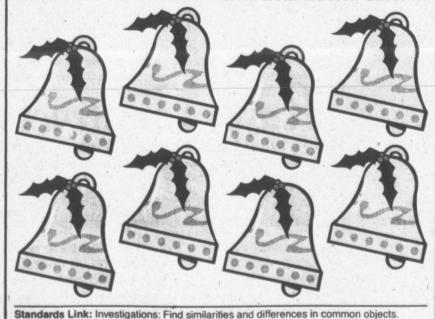
Elwood has hidden lots of crun ny candy canes on this

page. How many can you find?

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell three-letter words

Ring in the Holidays 🤰

Ding! Dong! Dong! Are all of these bells the same? Look closer – one bell is different from the rest. Circle it!



Double Find the words in the puzzle,

Church bells, jingle bells,

Wrapping paper crinkles,

How marvelous it is to hear,

All because of our two ears!

Holiday sounds from toots to tinkles.

It's the jingle of

a bell!

3

STEED .

Extra!

Holkiby

Sounds

The The The

Make a Tic Tac

Toe grid.

Look through the

newspaper to find

and cut out words

that describe sounds.

With a friend, take

turns putting

sound words on

the grid. The first one to get three in a row wins.

Standard Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words correctly. Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Laughter,

BRAIN COCHLEA STIRRUP VIBRATIONS FUNNEL CANAL **BONES**

NERVE

JINGLE

FLUID DRUM

BELL

CHURCH

SOUND

EAR

SNOITARBIV HCRLHCOAGL PBRAINERVE UNDYELSJAX RQNSHEIRTD RSUCANALIR IMOTGNFUBU TCSLQULRCM

then in this week's Kid Scoop

stories and activities.

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

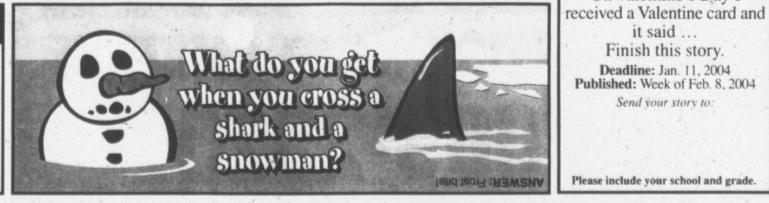
SBELLFPYEL

BEYONDKIdScoop

Holiday Sounds Poem

Look through the newspaper for words that describe sounds. Try to find pictures of things that make sounds. Use these words and pictures to create a poem about holiday sounds!

Standard Link: Writing Application: Write simple narrative poems



Please include your school and grade.

The Mystery Valentine

On Valentine's Day I

it said ... Finish this story.

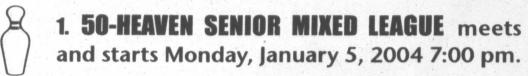
Deadline: Jan. 11, 2004 Published: Week of Feb. 8, 2004

Send your story to:

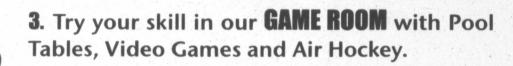
FUN AND MORE IN 2004 HARVESTERLANES

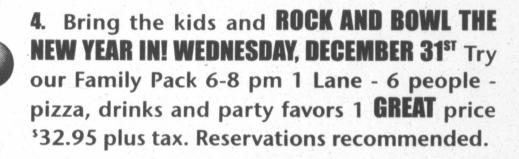
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Top Ten Ways To "STRIKE" Up Some Fun In Your "SPARE" Time







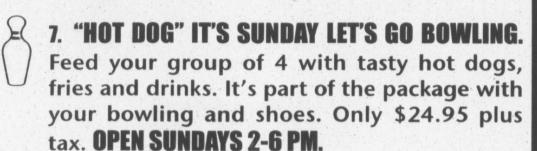


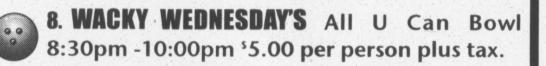
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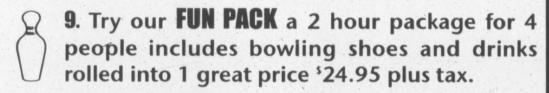


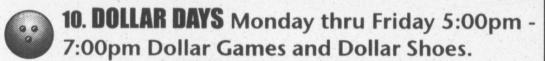
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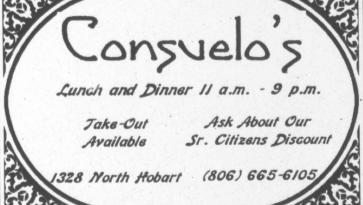
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If FDA's a move and the ly lifts th requirement, would become ing-after pills shelves next other easily ucts, or have by pharmacis That option advice availab

Already, fi women to b contraception certain pharm prescriptions,

Afghan constitutional convention hits snag

(AP) — The opening celebrations over, Afghanistan's constitutional council hit its first controversy Monday, with women delegates denouncing their colleagues for trying to shut them out of leadership positions.

After much wrangling, one woman was granted a deputy chairman's position, but some still expressed anger over second-class treat-

"From the very beginning, the process was flawed because we are totally outnumbered here by the men," said Palwasha Hassan, a delegate from Kabul. "It was symbolically important for a woman to be in a high position, but the bigger battle will be over the constitution."

Women's rights are a hotbutton issue for the council, or loya jirga, which began Sunday in a huge tent on the grounds of a Soviet-built university in Kabul. Some 500 delegates are meeting to hammer out a new charter for this war-ravaged land, a major milestone ahead of elections scheduled for next June.

The council is taking place under intense security, with hundreds of soldiers lining the roads and helicopters hovering overhead. Three rockets struck some six miles north of the council site before dawn Tuesday, damaging a mud house but causing no injuries.

The target of the rockets was not clear, but the U.S. military has warned that

KABUL, Afghanistan Taliban insurgents might try to strike the council. Leaflets denouncing the gathering have been appearing in sever-

The peacekeepers said a missile was fired toward its downtown headquarters Saturday, landing well short and causing no injuries.

After a day of procedural back-and-forth, delegates selected three men -Mirwais Yasini, Mohammed Ahzam Dadfar, and Mawlawi Qiamddim Kashaf — to fill deputy chairman positions. Another man, moderate former president Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, was selected chairman on the council's opening day Sunday.

The voting produced outrage from many of the women delegates.

"It is a betrayal of women," said Jameela Mujahed, a delegate from Kabul and the first female radio news anchor to go back on the air after the fall of the hardline Taliban regime.

Mujaddedi later broke with protocol and selected a woman — Safia Sediqi, a lawyer from eastern Nangarhar province — to a created fourth deputy position. He named two other women as deputy's assistants.

Several women delegates said they were satisfied but determined to fight on to ensure women's rights that were eroded under the Taliban. The religious militia barred girls from school and banned women from all pub-

Bush proposes regs to cut mercury pollution

By JOHN HEILPRIN ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) -Days after a scientific panel urged the government to warn pregnant women and children about mercury levels in certain fish, the Bush administration is proposing to give power plants up to 15 years to install technology to reduce mercury pollu-

The proposal, released by the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday, would require immediate action in some cases once the new regulations took effect a year from

The move comes a week after scientists told the Food and Drug Administration that it should issue stronger warnings to pregnant women and young children about mercury levels in fish, particularly tuna. White, or albacore, tuna has nearly three times as much mercury as cheaper "light"

Mercury pollution can taint fish once it enters water and turns into a more dangerous form, methyl mercury. In high levels, it can damage the growing brains of fetuses and young children.

EPA's first-ever proposed controls on mercury pollution from power plants would ease limits envisioned by the Clinton administration, letting owners in some cases delay meeting requirements until 2018. They would let industry meet the first six years' goals by using pollution controls already installed to stem smog and acid rain.

The controls were issued to meet a deadline under a settlement with the Natural Resources Defense Council. The group sued during the Clinton administration to force mercury limits on power plants. The rule must be made final within a year.

"These actions represent the largest air reductions of any kind not specifically mandated by Congress," Mike Leavitt, the new EPA administrator, said Monday. "We are calling for the largest single

industry investment in any clean air program in U.S. his-

In a related measure, EPA proposed that power plants in 30 states cut smog- and sootforming chemicals from their smokestacks.

EPA estimates the industry will pay at least \$5 billion to comply with both programs.

The Bush administration mercury plan is a departure from the Clinton administration approach. In 2001, EPA estimated that mercury could be cut by as much as 90 percent, to 5.5 tons, by 2008 if the best available technology were used as the Clinton EPA had hoped, according to EPA documents obtained by advo-National group Environmental Trust.

But the White House and Leavitt want to let utilities meet mercury pollution limits the first six years using the benefits of controls installed for other pollutants that cause smog and acid rain.

That approach, EPA says, would eliminate about 14 tons a year of mercury emissions from the currently unregulated 48 tons a year generated by coal-fired power plants. Such plants account for about 40 percent of the nation's mercury pollution.

After that, the proposal would cut an additional 19 tons a year of mercury emissions, EPA says. The result would be a 70 percent reduction — from 48 tons to 15 tons — by 2018, the agency says.

The Clinton administration listed mercury as a "hazardous air pollutant." The Bush administration would undo that by placing mercury into a less strict category of the Clean Air Act, which will allow companies to buy and sell pollution rights with other

"What we're trying to do is to maximize the total reduction of pollution from power plants," said Jeffrey Holmstead, head of EPA's air office. He said an interim cap on tons of mercury pollution would be set between "the high 20s to low 30s" by 2010.

Proponents frequently point to the acid rain trading program begun in 1990 as the model for using market forces to reward companies that surpass their pollution reduction targets. But it would mean the toughest mercury requirements would not take force until

EPA's regulation for cutting smog and soot would require power plants in 30 states to cut sulfur dioxide emissions, which contain soot and lead to acid rain, to 3.2 million tons by 2015 from current levels of about 10 million tons a year. It also would require cutting

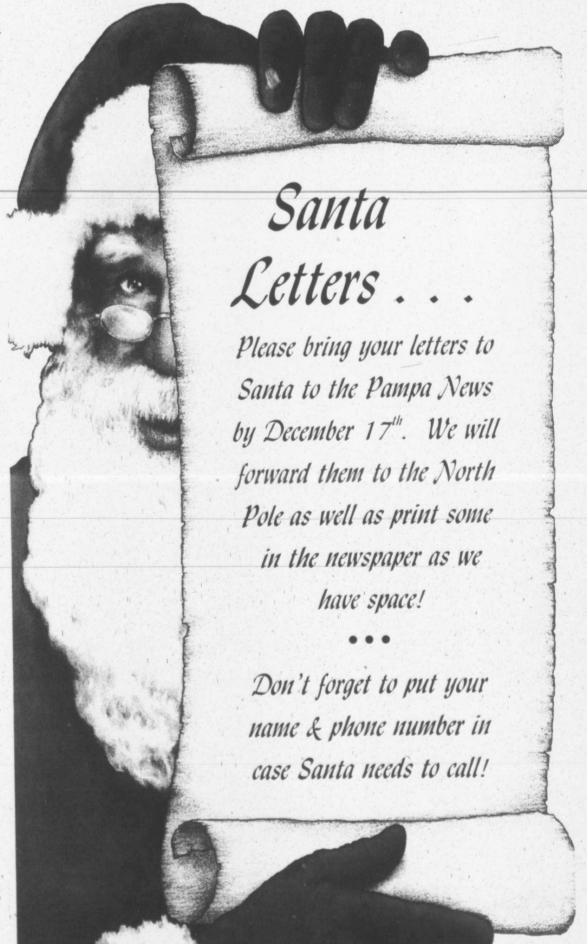
Tralee donation



(Courtesy photo)

(Left-right) Misty Payne and Kim Thompson, vice president and president, respectively, of Junior Service League, recently presented Karen McGahen, administrative assistant at Tralee Crisis Center, with a check in the amount of \$105 to help buy turkeys for needy families over the holidays.





Agency debates lifting prescription requirement for morning-after pill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medical and women's groups are asking the government to allow a morning-after pill to sell without a prescription, saying easier access could prevent more than a million unplanned pregnancies and hundreds of thousands of abortions every year.

The Food and Drug Administration says emergency contraception is very safe, having been used by 2.4 million American women and millions abroad with few side

The question the FDA poses to its scientific advisers Tuesday is whether women will understand how and when to take emergency contraception without professional advice.

Using the drug within three days of unprotected sex can greatly reduce the chance of getting pregnant; the sooner it's used, the more effective it is. Proponents of nonprescription sales say it's hard to find a doctor to write a prescription in time, especially on weekends and holidays, and that's if women even know the morning-after pill is available.

Two brands of emergency contraception are sold in the United States; the maker of Plan B has asked that its version be sold over the counter.

If FDA's advisers back the move and the agency ultimately lifts the prescription requirement, the question would become whether morning-after pills would sit on shelves next to aspirin and other easily available products, or have to handed over by pharmacists upon request. That option would make advice available if desired.

Already, five states allow women to buy emergency contraception directly from certain pharmacists without prescriptions.

behind-the-counter sales. The programs are in Washington, California, Alaska, Hawaii and New Mexico.

Proponents want no restrictions on nonprescription sales.

"Putting safe, effective backup birth control on the drugstore shelves next to conwomen a second chance to prevent pregnancy," Kirsten of Health Reproductive Technologies Project. Her group coordinated a petition by more than 70 health and advocacy groups urging overthe-counter sales.





Autumn Macy Woods

September 6, 2003

Parents... Keith & ReDonn Woods

Grandparents... Dwayne & Cindy Hall,

Monty Elkins, Regina Woods, Mike Woods

Crossword Puzzle

TUESDAY - December 16, 2003

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Deceitful Husband Destroys Wife's Hopes for Their Future

ried to "Peter" for almost four years, and we have three children under the age of 4. It is a second marriage for both of us, and I assumed it would be for a lifetime.

About a year ago, I discovered Peter was picking up prostitutes two to three times a week. When I confronted him, he accused me of making it up. He continued to cheat and has become physically abusive as well.

Peter expects me to behave as though nothing happened! My hopes and dreams have been destroyed by this man. I don't know if our marriage can survive the trauma. Can you shed some light on this for me?

TIRED OF BEING A DOORMAT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TIRED: Gladly, because it's time for you to see the light. Your husband is a sexually addicted abuser. Is this the kind of person you want to spend the rest of your life with? How do you think it will affect your children to see you being brutalized?

I urge you to make an appointment with your doctor to be sure your husband hasn't given you an STD - or to be treated in case he has. Then call the domestic violence toll-free hotline: (800) 799-7233, and contact an attorney who specializes in family law.

DEAR ABBY: My husband took his own life nearly 30 years ago. I have been in individual and group therapy for 20 years and in 12-step recovery for 15. Not surprisingly, my problems affected my kids when they were young.

They both live far away now. My daughter, "Margie," is in therapy and recovery. My son is in denial.

Five years ago, Margie asked her brother and me not to contact her for a while. She said she needed time and space to work on specific issues independently. I have friends who have done this with good long-term

DEAR ABBY: I have been mar- results, so it made sense to me.

Recently a few friends have urged me to write Margie and tell her I miss her. Others, including my AA friends, praise my respect for her process and say they wish they had received similar support from their families.

I regard contacting her as disrespectful, if not abusive. The door is not closed. Margie said she would resume contact when she is ready.
What do you think?

WILLING TO QUESTION

DEAR WILLING: Since you're gathering advice, I'll put in my 2 cents' worth. Five years of silence is enough. Write Margie and tell her that while you respect her "process," you miss her. If she ignores your letter, it's her prerogative. At least you will have made the gesture of trying to bridge the gap, and that is what is important.

DEAR ABBY: I was married a little over a year ago. My husband and I received many lovely gifts. I immediately sat down and wrote my thank-you notes. However, it's been a busy year and I haven't addressed the notes or mailed them yet.

Do you think it's too late? Or should I still send them?

BLUSHING BRIDE IN BALTIMORE

DEAR BLUSHING BRIDE: It's never too late to do the gracious thing. Send 'em out! ***

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

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

For Better or For Worse



















Beetle Bailey



Marvin

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible

THE BIG PROBLEM TODAY IS THAT NO ONE TRUSTS

ANYONE!

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST COURSE TO MASTER IN PHARMACY SCHOOL?

PHARMACY

I AGREE -IT'S A REAL SHAME!

YOU ACTUALLY WENT THE ENTIRE DAY WITHOUT THROWING ANY TANTRUMS OR MAKING ANY MESSES



SCRIBBLING 101.

OKAY... BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO SEE YOUR MONEY

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 47 Poet 1 Angels strings 6 Metal DOWN

11 Peer for one 2 Blue 12 Sports setting shade 3 Ladder

1 Tarragon

follower

18 Fix code

19 Pottery

ovens

13 Ball part carrier 4 Bad often 15 Sack review 5 Breaking

16 Pound resident 17 Golf prop **18** Bo of

man

20 Scuba user 14 Neither

23 "The same 27 Mecca native 28 Maine

20 Pop bird 29 Bit of 31 Fantasy character

32 Wise teachers 34 Dove call

37 Opposite of "oui" 38 Doc's charge 41 Top-of page

book feature 44 Early Mexican 45 Abode 46 Diner choice

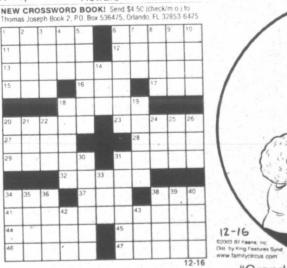


21 Lyricist 34 Beach Gershwin creature

pitch 35 Greek 22 Dyeing 6 Unkempt liquor 7 Sphere 24 Addition-36 Atop 8 Thrash 38 Family 9 Formerly 25 Huck's fight 10 Confiscate 39 Luxury pal

26 Singleton 40 Spot for a serpent 30 Bavarian 42 Fishing aid

31 Eager 33 Director 43 Greedy Howard one



Marmaduke



and a dozen Christmas cookies!"

The Family Circus



"Grandma, did you used to date Santa Claus?"

Peanuts









Blondie





GIMME ANOTHER

BEER



BASKETI

BRISCO Elliott's Lad Booker 52-2 Saturday to tournament.

Katie D Fort Elliott i 15 points. (had 11 for B In the b Booker de Elliott 45-32 pionship.

Dakota Booker's top points. Russ had 10 for th HEDLEY Deer fell to

in girls bas Monday nigh Rebekah in 33 point Hedley at Bennett adde For Whit Smith had Ashley Davis scoring.

record. SOCCER

Hedley

PAMPA a Harvester Club meeting tonight in the in the Pamp building. All club

VOLLEY

urged to atte

PAMPA Pampa

Department soring men's adult volle Men's and v (four players divisions w Players mus old to partici Entry dea

Jan. 14 at 5

season will l

of Jan. 19, 2

Entry fee is \$100 and \$10 per play mum of five Roster for and league available at Office at Ci 204. For mo please ca

Monday thro **FOOTBA**

between 8 a

LINCOL - Without a two weeks, ball player behind close Athletic Pederson fire late last mor ed defensive Pelini as

coach. Omaha te KETV, citin mous source football pro secrecy of t new coach Monday to sibility of and even a p of the Dec. against Micl

A large r ers, more th they would if Pelini is coach, the to said.





SPORTS

Revolving door: Connecticut returns to No. 1



BASKETBALL

BRISCOE - Fort Elliott's Lady Cougars beat Booker 52-26 in the finals Saturday to win their own tournament.

Katie Donaldson led Fort Elliott in scoring with 15 points. Chesey Brown had 11 for Booker.

In the boys' division, Booker defeated Fort Elliott 45-32 for the championship.

Dakota Sena was Booker's top scorer with 17 points. Russell Lohberger had 10 for the Cougars.

HEDLEY - White Deer fell to Hedley 89-69 in girls basketball action Monday night.

Rebekah Howard tossed in 33 points to lead the Hedley attack. Haley Bennett added 14.

For White Deer, Sara Smith had 18 points and Ashley Davis 13 to lead the scoring.

Hedley has an 11-2 record.

SOCCER

PAMPA — There will be a Harvester Soccer Booster Club meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the Ready Room in the Pampa High athletic building.

All club members are urged to attend.

VOLLEYBALL

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

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

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

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

FOOTBALL

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) Without a head coach for two weeks, Nebraska football players have met behind closed doors.

Athletic director Steve Pederson fired Frank Solich late last month and appointed defensive coordinator Bo Pelini as interim head coach.

Omaha television station KETV, citing two anonymous sources close to the football program, said the secrecy of the search for a new coach led the team on Monday to discuss the possibility of not practicing, and even a potential boycott of the Dec. 29 Alamo Bowl against Michigan State.

A large number of players, more than 20, indicated they would leave Nebraska if Pelini is not named head coach, the television station By JIM O'CONNELL **AP Basketball Writer**

Connecticut is back on top. The No. 1 team in The Associated Press men's college basketball Top 25 changed for the fourth straight week, with the Huskies moving up one place Monday to reclaim their preseason spot.

The Huskies (7-1) were also No. 1 for the first two polls of the regular season. But their loss to Georgia Tech in the Preseason NIT led to a revolving door of top teams; Kansas and Florida also took turns leading the poll.

The Gators were No. 1 last — it's still probably in the 10- Carolina (6-0) was first on six the Top 20. week, but lost two straight games.

UConn didn't even receive the most first-place votes from the national media panel, outpolled 26-21 in that category by No. 2 Kentucky. But Connecticut had a total of 1,685 points, 67 more than the Wildcats (5-0).

Kentucky is No. 1 in the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, followed by UConn.

"The way it is today, it's not even parity," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said Monday. "I disagree with those who say there are 30 to 40 teams that can win the title

to-12 neighborhood. But we have to wait to see who evolves out of the group."

Once again, Connecticut has the top team in both AP polls; its women's team has been No. 1 since the preseason.

Florida (5-2) dropped 14 spots to No. 15 after losses to Maryland and Louisville, which both moved into the rankings Monday. They replace Michigan State and

Duke (6-1) received one first-place vote and was No. 3, the first of three straight teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference. No. 4 North

ballots, while No. 5 Georgia Tech (8-0) — unranked in the preseason — had 14 firstplace votes.

Kansas, which fell from No. 1 after losing to Stanford, was sixth, followed by Arizona, Oklahoma, Stanford and Missouri.

Arizona and Stanford each received two first-place votes, bringing the total of teams with No. 1 votes to

Saint Joseph's and Texas tied for 11th. Gonzaga, Wake Forest, Florida, Cincinnati, Purdue, Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Louisville rounded out

The last five ranked teams were Illinois, Wisconsin, Marquette, Dayton and Maryland.

Connecticut closes out December with home games against Iona, Ball State and Massachusetts. The team's first six games of 2004 send the Huskies on the road three times, including matchups with ranked teams Oklahoma, North Carolina Pittsburgh.

"I'll know a lot more about us after those games. I'll know then if we're still one of those teams that can win it," Calhoun said.

inning Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP) --- Bill Parcells isn't satisfied yet, even though he's made the Dallas Cowboys winners again in his first season.

While the Cowboys (9-5) are guaranteed their first winning season in five years, they still have to win one of their last two games to be assured a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

"I'm happy about it, but my standards are a little higher than nine wins," Parcells said Monday, a day after the Cowboys' 27-0 win at Washington ended a two-game losing streak. "I would like to try to get above that."

After clinching at least a 500 season and matching the NFC's best record with an emotional win over Carolina three weeks ago, the Cowboys followed with big losses to Miami (40-21) and NFC East-leading Philadephia (36-10).

Redskins with their first shutout onship seasons. since Thanksgiving Day 1999. Dallas forced six turnovers (four interceptions, two fumbles) and held Washington to 161 total yards while Troy 189 yards on a cold, rainy day.

"We got our swagger back," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover

on them in these game because simple message to his team, there were starting to be some repeatedly telling them "do not negative things here," Parcells said. "It was important to get back and get things back under control."

The Cowboys play their home finale Sunday against the struggling New York Giants, who have lost six straight games. They end the regular season Dec. 28 at New Orleans in a game that could have playoff implications for both teams.

DIMMITT - Sharod

Young and Braydon Barker

combined for 49 points as

Pampa downed Dimmitt 79-

52 last weekend in a junior

Pampa grabbed a com-

quarter after leading by six

Young had 29 points and

varsity basketball game.

(35-29) at halftime.

Because of the inconsistency the past two months, with the Cowboys going 4-4 since a 5-1 start, Parcells isn't certain of what his team is capable of

'About every time I think I do, something happens ... like that Thanksgiving Day game (against Miami)," he said. "I do have a young team that doesn't really have a clue about a lot of things. But I would say if you look at the whole season, I would say generally that this team has been trying pretty hard to do what we want. Now we've got work to do. I can't say a lot, because it's not a lot now."

One more win gets the Cowboys in the playoffs, and doubles their win total from each of the past three 5-11 seasons. If they win both of their remaining games, they would have their most wins since going 12-4 in 1995, the last of They rebounded against the their five Super Bowl champi-

"That was a big win for us. Obviously we needed to get ourselves in position that we wanted to be at the end of the season," defensive back Mario Hambrick ran for a career-best Edwards said. "At the beginning of the season we had the saying 'Why not us?' We've come this far, why not?"

Throughout last week, "There was a lot of pressure Parcells kept pounding home a give into the Redskins," a team they've now beat 12 of 13

> So what's his message going to be this week with a playoff berth on the line?

"I don't think there has to be a big message," he said. "By time we got on the plane last night, everybody kind of had an idea of what's going down."

Others who scored were

Weston

Tyson Hickman (8), Brett

Teichmann (5), Craig

Crowell (4), Tyler Hall (3),

Eric Kingcade (3) and Aaron

Anguiano (2). Barker had

Young and Hall had one

Pampa JVs host Hereford

Ferrell (5),

Pampa wins junior varsity tilt

manding lead in the third three 3-point goals, while

Pampa swim team places at Seminole

SEMINOLE - Whitney Penrod was once again the pacesetter for the Pampa High swim team.

Penrod, a junior, captured first place in the one-meter diving event as both the Pampa boys and girls teams placed seventh in a 16-team field from both Texas and New Mexico.

"Whitney is really getting stronger and more confident every time she dives, and we know that if she keeps this up, there is a strong possibility she will be diving in the state meet this year," said Pampa coach Greg Miller.

Penrod has now won three diving events this season and holds the school record in the event.

Freshman Kirby Broaddus Miller pointed out. and sophomore Derek times of the year. Broaddus 10.



Whitney Penrod

was timed at 7:00.13 in the 200-yard individual medley.

good effort by the team. A lot of the younger swimmers are starting to step up and drop their times," coach

Pampa is entered in the

500-yard freestyle and Wishon had a 2:31.15 in the

"It was another really

Wishon recorded their best Lubbock Invitational Jan. 9-

TABC high school basketball polls

HOUSTON (AP) — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Dec. 15:

1. Houston Milby, 2. Cedar Hill, 3. San Antonio Southwest, 4. Tyler John Tyler, 5. Dallas Carter, 6. Dallas Skyline, 7. San Antonio Taft, 8. Humble Kingwood, 9. Pearland, 10. Round Rock McNeil, 11. Mansfield Summit, 12. Amarillo, 13. Pflugerville, 14. DeSoto, 15. Katy Cinco Ranch. 16. Corpus Christi Ray, 17. Colleyville Heritage, 18. Spring Westfield, 19. Corpus Christi Mood Class 4A

1. Fort Worth Dunbar, 2. North Crowley, 3. Amarillo Palo Duro, 4. Seagoville, 5. Fort Worth Eastern Hills, 6. Del Valle, 7. Dallas South Oak Cliff, 8. Austin LBJ, 9. Lubbock Estacado, 10. Dickinson, 11. Lancaster, 12. Killeen Shoemaker, 13. Angleton, 14. Wichita Falls, 15. Texas City, 16. Beaumont Ozen, 17. SA Alamo Heights, 18. Azle, 19. El Paso Chapin, 20. Brenham.

1. Kountze, 2. Wimberly, 3. Midland Greenwood, 4. CC West Oso, 5. Abilene Wylie, 6. Everman, 7. White Oak, 8. Crockett, 9. Lindale, 10. Aransas Pass, 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 12. Tatum, 13. Canyon, 14. Navasota, 15. Wharton, 16. Hardin-Jefferson, 17. Dallas Madison, 18. Pittsburg. 19. Barbers Hill, 20. Merkel.

Class 2A 1. Brock, 2. Shallowater, 3. Argyle, 4. Hitchcock, 5. Olney, 6. Buffalo, 7. Panhandle, 8. Howe. 9. Clarksville, 10. Wall, 11. Cooper, 12. Van Vleck, 13. Jim Ned, 14. Lockney, 15. Hemphill, 16.

Johnson City, 17. Ponder, 18. Woden, 19. Brookshire Royal, 20. Winona. Class 1A Div. II Utopia, 2. Grady, 3. Gordon, 4. Oakwood, 5. Avinger, 6. Round Top Carmine, 7.
 Aspermont, 8. Trinidad, 9. Ropes, 10. Chireno, 11. Nazareth, 12. Water Valley, 13. Chillicothe, 14.

Rising Star, 15. Karnack, 16. Calvert, 17. Follett, 18. Zephyr. 19. Channing, 20. Bellvue. Class 1A Div. I Normangee, 2. Morton, 3. Tenaha, 4. Thrall, 5. Claude, 6. Big Sandy, 7. Lorenzo, 8. Irion County, 9. Frost, 10. Baird, 11. Crosbyton, 12. Sam Rayburn, 13. Medina, 14. Slidell, 15. Memphis, 16. Lipan, 17. Sudan, 18. Falls City, 19. Corpus Christi Academy, 20. Graford.

Class 5A

1. Tyler John Tyler. 2. San Antonio Taft. 3. Pasadena Dobie. 4. Mansfield Summit. 5. Duncanville, 6. El Paso Eastwood, 7. Plano West, 8. Lubbock Coronado, 9. The Woodlands, 10. Colony, 11. Amarillo, 12. Sugar Land Hightower, 13. Mesquite, 14. San Antonio Holmes, 15, Sugar Land Dulles, 16. Arlington Sam Houston, 17. Houston Madison, 18. Spring Westfield, 19. Longview, 20. Aldine. Class 4A

1. Plainview, 2. Lincoln. 3. Kerrville Tivy. 4. Bay City. 5. Fort Worth Wyatt, 6. Boerne, 7 North Crowley, 8. Mesquite Poteet, 9. Angleton, 10. San Antonio Houston, 11. Pflugerville Connally, 12. Denton, 13. Wolfforth Frenship, 14. West Orange Stark, 15. Marble Falls, 16. Conroe Oak Ridge, 17. Longview Pine Tree, 18. Lancaster, 19. El Paso Jefferson, 20. Del Valle

 Canyon, 2. Winnsboro, 3. Muleshoe, 4. Liberty, Hill, 5. Canton, 6. Corpus Christi West Oso,
 Graham, 8. Ballinger, 9. Carthage, 10. Kountze, 11. Wimberly, 12. Groesbeck, 13. Cleveland,
 Vernon, 15. Crandall, 16. Fairfield, 17. Burnet, 18. Atlanta, 19. Orangefield, 20. Snyder Class 2A 1. Brock, 2. Rio Vista, 3. Shallowater, 4. Seagraves, 5. Kerens, 6. Aubrey, 7. Olney, 8.

Buffalo, 9. Canadian, 10. Hamilton, 11. Nixon-Smiley, 12. Tyler Chapel Hill, 13. Kenedy 14. Anson, 15. East Chambers, 16. Leonard, 17. Millsap, 18. Refugio, 19. Jim Ned, 20

Parks places third at meet

ULYSSES, Kan. Pampa placed 10th with 42 points in a 14-team field at Tiger Invitational last weekend.

Kevin Parks (275pound class) had the best finish among the PHS wrestlers, taking third with a 3-1 record. Kasey Urquhart (103-pound class) finished fourth with a 2-2 record.

Other Pampa wrestlers who had victories were Ross Andreen, 1-2; John Burns, 1-2; Chance Henley, 1-2 and Jesse Marcum, 1-2.

In the junior varsity division, Pampa was seventh with 61 points in a 14team field.

Shawn Goodin (103) and Taylor Fatheree (145) both went undefeated at 3-0 to win their weight classes. Goodin won all three matches with pins while Fatheree won three decisions.

Chris Veal (215) posted a 2-1 record with his two wins coming by falls in 0:33. He placed second.

Other Pampa wrestlers with wins were Richard Leal and Dustin Kuhn, both with 2-2 records.

Thursday, Pampa hosts Dumas in dual matches in McNeely Fieldhouse. Matches start at 5 p.m. (middle school), 6 p.m. (junior varsity) and 7 p.m. (varsity).

Wood hospitalized

ABILENE, Texas (AP) - Gordon Wood, who retired as the winningest high school football coach in Texas, is suffering from a bronchial illness and is in the intensive care unit of Abilene Regional Medical Center.

The 89-year-old Wood, who won nine state championships at eight different schools, was airlifted from Brownwood to Abilene on Monday.

His wife, Katharine, said he was suffering from a bronchial illness and that doctors also wanted to run tests on his heart.

on Friday night and Clovis, Barker 20 to lead Pampa N.M. on Saturday night. Takedown Club wrestlers look good at Nationals

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Pampa Takedown Club entered the Panhandle National Wrestling Tournament.

"We have been working really hard and I am super proud of the their efforts this year," said coach Rick Urquhart. "The wrestlers are excited about wrestling for the schools in the future."

Takedown Zachary Bradley and Steven Botello were awarded championship belts after winning their respective divisions.

Pampa results at the national tournament are as follows:

> **Division Two** First: Zachary Bradley,

wrestlers 115 pounds.

Division Three First: Steven Botello, 95 93 pounds. pounds.

Division One Second: Krysten Miller, Jr., 93 pounds.

60 pounds. **Division One**

90 pounds.

Tots Third: Andrew Smith, 75 pounds.

heavyweight.

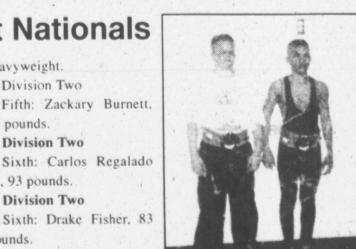
Division Two Fifth: Zackary Burnett,

Division Two

Division Two

Sixth: Carlos Regalado

Second: Alec Hendricks, pounds. Division Four



Sixth: Cody Schiffman, Zachary Bradley (left) and Steven Botello.

Oklahoma ties record with five All-Americans

it comes to All-Americans, Oklahoma is this year's undisputed No. 1.

Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Jason White was among a record-tying five Sooners on The Associated Press All-America announced Monday.

Defensive lineman Tommie Harris, linebacker Teddy Lehman, cornerback Derrick Strait and all-purpose player Antonio Perkins also represented Oklahoma, which equaled the record set by Army in 1945 and matched by the Sooners in

"It just goes to show what kind of athletes we have at Oklahoma and how good we have it going on there now," said Lehman, the winner of the Chuck Bednarik Trophy as best defensive player in the nation.

"If you ask me, we should have had 10 or 11 All-Americans just from the

NEW YORK (AP) — When "defense. We work really hard, Udeze. we're well coached, and this shows you how good we played all year."

> The Sooners; who led the nation in total defense, were No. 1 in the polls all season until a loss in the Big 12 title game to Kansas State dropped them to third. Oklahoma still made it to the Bowl Championship Series title game at the Sugar Bowl against No. 2 LSU.

> No. 1 Southern California finished third in the BCS standings and will play No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl. If the Trojans win, there could be a split national title, with USC winning the AP poll and the Sugar Bowl winner taking the coaches' poll.

> USC was second with three All-Americans — receiver Mike Williams (87 catches, 1,226 yards, 16 TDs), offensive lineman Jacob Rogers and defensive lineman Kenechi

LSU was represented by defensive lineman Chad

White led the nation in passing efficiency, completing 64 percent of his passes for 3,744 yards, 40 touchdowns and only eight interceptions.

He won the Heisman Trophy and the AP Player of the Year award.

"The guy is the reason we scored all those points," coach Bob Stoops said. "We couldn't do that if he didn't see the whole field and have the touch he has throwing the football."

Heisman finalist Manning of Mississippi was the second-team pick at quarterback, and Ben Roethlisberger of Miami of Ohio was the thirdteam selection.

The two other Heisman finalists were first-teamers.

Pittsburgh receiver Larry Fitzgerald was picked after catching 87 passes for 1,595

yards and 22 touchdowns; 1/2 sacks. while Michigan's Chris Perry earned his spot for gaining 1,955 yards from scrimmage and scoring 19 touchdowns.

Kansas State's Darren Sproles was the other first-team running back after gaining 1,948 yards on the ground.

There were three repeat selections — Harris, Lehman and Arkansas tackle Shawn Andrews.

Miami and Iowa were the only other teams with two firstteam picks. The Hurricanes had safety Sean Taylor and tight end Kellen Winslow, while Iowa had offensive lineman Robert Gallery and kicker Nate Kaeding.

The other offensive picks were Virginia Tech center Jake Grove and Florida State tackle Alex Barron.

UCLA lineman David Ball headlined the defensive picks after leading the nation with 16

East

Pittsburgh

Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson, West Virginia linebacker Grant Wiley, Ohio State safety Will Allen and Florida cornerback Keiwan Ratliff were the other defenders.

Tennessee's Dustin Colquitt was the All-American punter.

Oklahoma also had two players apiece on the second and third teams, giving them a total of nine players who were honored. Receiver Mark Clayton and offensive lineman Jamaal Brown were on the second team, and defensive lineman Dan Cody and Dusty Dvoracek were third-teamers.

Cornerback Will Poole and punter Tom Malone made the second team for USC, while defensive lineman Shaun Cody was on the third team.

LSU had four second-teamers: center Ben Wilkerson, guard Stephen Peterman, allpurpose player Skyler Green and cornerback Corey Webster.

Receiver Michael Clayton made the third team.

There are 13 seniors, 10 juniors and two sophomores on the first team.

The Big 12 led all conferences with seven first-team All-Americans, followed by the Big East with five, and the Big Ten, Pac-10 and SEC with four apiece.

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Yeste

The All-America team was selected by the following sports

Lee Barfknecht, Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald; Herb Gould, Chicago Sun-Times; Craig Hill, Tacoma (Wash.) News-Tribune; Lenn Robbins (New York Post); Keith Whitmire (Dallas Morning News); Greg Beacham (AP San Francisco); Stephen Hawkins (AP Dallas); Mark Long (AP Miami); Rusty Miller (AP Columbus, Ohio); Paul Newberry (AP Atlanta); and Josh Dubow (AP national college football writer).

Eagles slip by Dolphins, 34-27

Philadelphia Eagles took advantage of a fast start, and now the Miami Dolphins are just about finished.

The Eagles gained 59 yards on the first play. They scored on the third. They kept a proud defense in retreat all night Monday to win 34-27, leaving Miami on the brink of elimination from the playoff race.

The victory extended the Eagles' winning streak to nine games, equaling the franchise record set in 1960, when they won the NFL title. Philadelphia (11-3) matched the St. Louis Rams for the NFC's best record.

'We're not near where we want to be," said Brian Westbrook, who gained 104 yards rushing and receiving. "We're a work in progress."

Donovan McNabb threw for 236 yards, including a long pass on the first play, and receiver Freddie Mitchell's first career completion went for a 25-yard touchdown to Westbrook.

"We're opening up some eyes," McNabb said. "We've gotten better and better each week. Guys are out here having fun."

The Dolphins (8-6) slipped

Nash gave the Dallas

Mavericks a spark just when

they thought the game was get-

Nash had 23 points and 11

assists, and Antoine Walker had

27 points to help coach Don

Nelson move into sole posses-

sion of second place on the

career victories list with the

Mavericks' 111-94 win over

from a 13-point deficit with

nine points and four assists in

third quarter," Walker said.

"His penetration put a lot of

pressure on them. That helped

early in the third quarter, Dallas

After falling behind 63-50

pick up our energy level."

Nash led Dallas' comeback

"Steve got us going in the

the Toronto Raptors.

the third quarter.

ting out of hand.

DALLAS (AP) — Steve layup to tie it at 65.

MIAMI (AP) — The swoon with a second consecutive loss. They could miss the playoffs for the second year in a row even if they win their final two games against Buffalo and the New York

> "Do we need a little bit of help? Sure," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "Anything can happen."

Wannstedt fell to 7-9 with Miami in December. When asked if he's concerned about his job security, he said, "I'm just concerned about Buffalo, to be honest with you."

Philadelphia has averaged 32 points in the past five games, and McNabb and the Eagles continued to roll against a Miami defense that ranked third in the NFL in points allowed.

The 34 points and 401 yards given up by the Dolphins were season highs. The Eagles scored touchdowns on three of their first four possessions.

"They just whupped us all around," Miami linebacker Zach Thomas said. "I'd like to play them again, but they'd probably whup us again. They've got a great team. We're not a good team."

Three times, the Dolphins into their traditional December came from behind, but they

Nash sparks Mavericks victory

Dirk Nowitzki's 11-foot

"There were times when we

turnaround with 2.8 seconds

left in the third quarter put the

were still getting baskets,'

Raptors being outscored 31-22

in the third. "They were just

scoring faster and they were

Toronto got as close as 82-

81 early in the fourth quarter on

Lonny Baxter's three-point

play. But Dallas used a 12-2

run capped by Walker's 3-

pointer with 5:32 remaining to

adaisical effort in the first half,"

Nash said. "We all just decided

enough is enough and we

played with more energy."

"We really gave a lack-

push the lead to 94-83.

scoring 3s."

Mavericks in front 77-76.

couldn't rally after Correll Buckhalter scored on a 2-yard run with 14:53 left to break a 24-all tie.

Buckhalter reached over the goal line with the ball extended as he leaped across the corner pylon. A replay review determined the play was a touchdown after the officials originally ruled Buckhalter out of bounds short of the end zone.

David Akers' second field goal gave Philadelphia a 10point lead. Olindo Mare kicked a 50-yard for Miami with 14 seconds left, but Miami's bid to recover the ensuing onside kick failed.

Ricky Williams ran for 107 yards and a touchdown for the Dolphins. But he carried only 18 times, while Jay Fiedler threw 40 passes — a ratio sure to be questioned Wannstedt's critics.

The Eagles needed just three plays to take the lead. Todd Pinkston beat Sam Madison deep for the Eagles' longest pass of the season, a 59-yard gain. After an incompletion, Westbrook ran up the middle 21 yards for the score.

"They hit us for a score early," Thomas said. "That rattled us a little bit. We're not used to that.'

game as a coach and player, has

1,111 coaching victories — one

Former Raptors coach

"He's a Hall of Fame coach

Lenny Wilkens leads with

Nash said. "It's special to be

Antawn Jamison had 23

Nowitzki added 14, and

Vince Carter, bothered

points off the bench, two more

Howard had 14 points and 14

rebounds as the Mavericks

recently by a sore Achilles' ten-

don, had 21 points, and

Donyell Marshall added 18

his NBA debut in his home-

Rookie Chris Bosh, making

improved to 12-1 at home.

points for Toronto.

than all of Toronto's reserves.

part of this milestone."

more than Pat Riley.

1,292 victories.

Toronto's Jalen Rose said of the - and it's great to play for him,"

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL National Football League At A Glance AMERICAN CONFERENCE

W L T Pct PF PA y-New England 12 2 0.857 296 222 Miami 6 0.571 268 237 Buffalo 8 0.429 240 228 N.Y. Jets 8 0.429 246 255 South W L T Pct PF PA

x-Indianapolis 3 0.786 410 288 4 0.714 375 287 Tennessee Houston 5 9 0.357 214 333 Jacksonville 4 10 0.286 242 291 North W L T Pct PF PA Cincinnati 6 0.571 322 335 Baltimore 6 0.571 343 271

Cleveland 4 10 0.286 232 273 West W L T Pct PF PA 2 0.857 433 284 y-Kansas City 12 Denver 9 5 0.643 347 253 4 10 0.286 249 317 Oakland San Diego NATIONAL CONFERENCE

9

0.357 250 290

East W L T Pct PF PA x-Philadelphia 0.786 315 249 Dallas 5 0.643 263 244 Washington 5 9 0.357 256 314 4 10 0.286 216 331 N.Y. Giants

South W L T Pct PF PA y-Carolina 5 0.643 268 266 New Orleans 7 0.500 308 299 Tampa Bay 7 7 0.500 260 201 3 11 0.214 248 380 Atlanta North L T Pct PF PA

6 0.571 370 297 Green Bay 6 0.571 354 315 Minnesota 8 0.429 253 291 Chicago Detroit 4 10 0.286 226 339 West

W L T Pct PF PA y-St. Louis 11 3 0.786 400 288 6 0,571 352 300 Seattle 8 0.429 336 285 San Francisco 6 3 11 0.214 197 407 Arizona

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division Sunday's Games

Tennessee 28, Buffalo 26 Chicago 13, Minnesota 10 Indianapolis 38, Atlanta 7 St. Louis 27, Seattle 22 N.Y. Jets 6, Pittsburgh 0. Kansas City 45, Detroit 17 Tampa Bay 16, Houston 3 Cincinnati 41, San Francisco 38 New England 27, Jacksonville 13 Denver 23, Cleveland 20, OT Oakland 20, Baltimore 12 Dallas 27, Washington 0

New Orleans 45, N.Y. Giants 7 Monday's Game Philadelphia 34, Miami 27 Saturday's Games

Green Bay 38, San Diego 21

ima 20, Arizona 17

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1:30 p.m. Kansas City at Minnesota, 5 p.m. New England at N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 1 p.m. Detroit at Carolina, 1 p.m. Washington at Chicago, 1 p.m. Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.

Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m. New Orleans at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. San Diego at Pittsburgh, 4:05 p.m. Arizona at Seattle, 4:15 p.m. San Francisco at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.

Denver at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22 Green Bay at Oakland, 9 p.m.

BASKETBALL **National Basketball Association** At A Glance EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division WL Pct GB .500 Philadelphia 12 12 .480 12 13 1/2 Boston New Jersey 11 12 .478 1/2 3 1/2 New York 16 .360 8 15 .348 3 1/2 Miami

16

Washington

.304

4 1/2

20 Orlando .167 8 **Central Division** WL Pct GB 19 6 .760 Indiana 2 New Orleans 17 .680 14 10 .583 Detroit 4 1/2 13 11 .542 5 1/2 Toronto Milwaukee 18 ,280 12 Atlanta .273 Chicago 6 16 11 1/2

.250 Cleveland 6 18 12 1/2 WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division GB WL Pct Dallas 15 8 .652 1/2 San Antonio 16 10 .615 14 9 .609 Denver 1 14 9 .609 Minnesota 13 9 .591 1 1/2 Houston Memphis 13 10 .565 2 .565 2 Utah 13 10

Pacific Division WL Pct GB .783 18 5 L.A. Lakers .762 1 Sacramento 16 .524 6 Portland 11 10 .524 6 Seattle 11 10 Golden State 10 .476 11 9 .450 7 1/2 L.A. Clippers 11 10 1/2 Phoenix 16 .333

> Sunday's Games Miami 90, Toronto 89 Seattle 108, Milwaukee 102 Utah 94, Philadelphia 86 New York 89, Washington 87 Sacramento 107, Phoenix 102 Monday's Games

Minnesota 116, Boston 95 Indiana 95, Cleveland 85 San Antonio 78, Memphis 67 Dallas 111, Toronto 94 L.A. Clippers 109, New Orleans 80 **Tuesday's Games**

Utah at Washington, 7 p.m. Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Golden State at New York, 7:30 p.m. Sacramento at Memphis, 8 p.m. Houston at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Orlando at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. New Orleans at Denver, 9 p.m. Seattle at Phoenix, 9 p.m. Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Houston at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Orlando at Indiana, 7 p.m. Miami at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. Utah at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m. Golden State at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m. Toronto at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Denver at Seattle, 10 p.m. Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m. Horo:

HAPPY BIR Dec. 17, 2003 Use this year want. Don't l explain your once. Sometii the message, words, and do others. Your drawing the single, you n through a pr covering wh attached, you if neither of LIBRA is you

The Stars She 3-Average; 2-ARIES (Mar

*** Ho standings run weeks. In fa want to sign holidays are exhausted fro you. Tonight TAURUS (A *** Dig be careful ab

come across serious longmight not wor Tonight: Rela GEMINI (M tate others b Careful! With grade the nex

answered with a 15-2 spurt Nelson, who also was town, had 14 points and eight involved in his 3,000th NBA capped by Josh Howard's rebounds for the Raptors.

BOYS RANCH — Pampa went against Boys Ranch and Hereford in a middle school wrestling triangular last weekend.

Pampa lost to Boys Ranch 64-4 in the opening dual. Pampa's only win came from Jimmy Logan (134pound class) in a major decision 10-0.

Pampa defeated Hereford 60-12 in the second dual.

Results are as follows: 86: Michael Taylor, won by pin, second period. 94: Colbey West, won by

Pampa Middle School wrestlers pin Hereford

forfeit. 102: Scotty Brown, won

by forfeit. 110: Andrew Dunn, won by pin, second period.

118: Trevor Collins, won by pin, second period. 134: Kevin Kirkham, won

by pin, first period. 142: Jacob Wichert, won Starting time is 5 p.m.

by pin, second period. 152: Nick Dudley, won by

165: Cody Wood, win by pin, second period.

Hwy: Jonathan Olsen, won by pin, second period.

The next middle school match will be held Thursday, Dec. 18 at McNeely Fieldhouse versus Dumas.

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insertion. Requests for corrections should be made within 24 hours of the first publication. The publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or properly classify any copy.

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES - Here's how to work it: AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

CRYPTOOUOTE

TZ PFF LBQ UQPV YQVQ

OFPUTAD BEFTJPUR, LE ROEVL

YEMFJ SQ PR LQJTEMR PR

LE YEVH. — RBPHQROQPVQ Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHILE I TAKE INSPIRATION FROM THE PAST, LIKE MOST AMERICANS, I LIVE FOR THE FUTURE. -RONALD REAGAN

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CONOCO Phillips, Borger Refinery and NGL Center is looking for motivated ndividuals with a desire to join our Team. We are looking for applicants with a positive attitude who get along well with people. You should be able to demonstrate that you have a good work ethic, you are reliable, you have a good safety record and a willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done. We are hiring for entry level positions within our Maintenance function (Yardman) with progression into our Operations and Maintenance Crafts. The beginning rate of pay for a Yardman is \$13.68/ hr with increases to \$17.35/hr in eighteen months. At this time, the top wage rate for an Operations employee is \$26.32/hr and \$25.61/hr for a Maintenance Craft position. To be considered you must have the following:

- 1. A minimum of a High School Education or equivalent. A current valid drivers license.
- Experience in construction, maintenance, or operations within an industrial environment, which can include refineries, chemical plants, manufacturing plants, machine shops, fab shops, commer cial construction or oil field servicing. Applicable agricultural and military experience will also be considere
- Individuals with technical training and demonstrated skill in one or more of the following areas will also be considerd:

 - Machinist Millwright (pumps, compressors, engines, etc.)
 - •Welder
 - · Heavy Equipment Operator(big trucks, backhoes, dozers cranes, etc.)
 - · Pipefitter/Boilmaker

Conoco Phillips Petroleum Company is an equal opportunity employer. All appli cants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age, handicap, disability or veteran status.

Applications must be completed at the Texas Workforce Commission Office lo cated at 1224 N. Hobart, Ste. 101, Pampa, Tx. Applicants MUST apply in person At the time applications are completed, resume with work history must be attach ed Applications will be taken beginning Monday, December 15, 2003 through Wednesday, December 31, 2003. Job order #77550138



HOTOSCOPE BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday,

Use this year to zero in on what you

want. Don't be surprised if you have to

explain yourself to others more than

once. Sometimes people really don't get

the message, and vice versa. You need to

be very careful with your choice of words, and don't stand on ceremony with

others. Your creativity is unusually high,

drawing the results you want. If you are

single, you might date a lot, networking

and meeting new people. You will go

through a process of growing and dis-

covering what you want. If you are

might not work with you as well as usual.

*** * Your playfulness could irri-

tate others but delight you right now.

Careful! With your ruler going retro-

Tonight: Relax at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Dec. 17, 2003:

1 Public Notice

COUNTY OF GRAY NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE By virtue of an execution issued out of the 153rd Judicial District Court, Tarrant County, Texas on a judgment rendered in said such Court in favor

STATE OF TEXAS

of Federal Debt Management, Inc., in Cause No. 153-155472-94 in such Court, I did on the 11 day of December, 2003, levy upon the following described tracts of land in Gray County, Texas, as the property of the defendant, Patrick D. Robertson, to wit:

All of Defendant's undivided interest in the oil. gas and other minerals on or under out of:

Block 23, Section 115 and Block 25, Section 1 of the H and GNRR Co. Survey of Gray County, Texas and being further referenced as account numbers 421086745001077000200

(sometimes called "Texo-1" Lease #00107700) 421067396001070300200 (sometimes called "Bailey Freeda No. 1" Lease #00107030) and including Patrick D. Robertson's undivided percentages of all oil, gas and other minerals produced from said land and Patrick D. Robertson's interest in all oil, gas and mineral leases of said land, as more further described in those assignments filed in the following volume and pages of the real property

Volume 428, Page 1; Volume 501, Page 76; Volume 428, Page 9; Volume 430, Page 269; Volume 465, Page 940; Volume 468, Page 718. and of the 6th day of January, 2004, being the first Tuesday of said month, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on said day, at the courthouse door of said county. I will offer for sale and sell at public auction for cash, all the right, title and interest of said de-

records of Gray County,

property Dated: Dec. 11, 2003 Don Copeland, Sheriff Gray County, Texas D-72 Dec. 16, 2003

fendant in and to said

Dec. 23, 30, 2003 5 Special Notices

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

14b Appli. Repair

FREE Service Call (labor only) thru Christmas, to Servicemen's Wives. Williams Appliance 665-8894

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447. OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347. ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs.

Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx 665owner-operator. 3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

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IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo, Tx.

♦ Taylor Ceramic Tile Works+ **Handicap Conversions** Shower Installation Floor Tile & Regrouting Keith 665-0328 or lv. msg

SUPERIOR Quality Kensington replacement windows and doors. Guaranteed 30% fuel savings! Also steel & vinyl siding. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

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14n Painting

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14s Plumbing/Heat 21 Help Wanted

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems instal-

led. Visa/MC Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

CARPENTER needed F/T Needs transportation and hand tools, drug test maybe required 665-4274° TEXAS Rose is now taking applications for kitchen help. No Phone Calls Please!

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740-360-1907. WEEKEND RN needed, 7 a.-3 p. shift Sat. & Sun. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. Apply in person or call Kay 537-3194. SONIC is now taking applications. Apply in per-0173 FOE son, 1418 N. Hobart,

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ed application forms must

be returned to the Gray

County FSA Office and

must arrive by January

12. 2004 to be considered.

Faxed Applications will

not be accepted. USDA is

an EEO employer

APPLICATIONS are being accepted until January 2004 for temporary fulltime positions with top double sided mattress USDA-Farm Service set new, still pkgd, warr, Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC User with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Positions will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own reliable transportation. Application . form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at Gray County FSA Office, 12125 E. Frederick, Pampa, TX, or by calling (806)665-6561. Complet-806-517-1050:

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

69 Misc.

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in

services or goods. NOW Hiring For These Positions Experienced shop/

advance for information.

diesel mechanic CDL drivers Reliable transportation

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White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used list \$550, sell \$236, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr, List \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180. \$230 King mattress set. brand new, still pkgd. warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed. List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc ON 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

69 Misc.

GIFTS, Deco; Unique One of a Kind: Nursing Hm Family, Boss or Best Friend. 300 W. Foster #11, 1431 N. Hobart #37

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1 bdr. apt., furn. or unfurn: Starting at \$275. All utilities pd. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712.

EFFI. apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone, 669-3221

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669-7682 NICE 1 or 2 bedroom. N. Gray st. References required. Call 669-9817.

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niper, 637 N. Dwight 2

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Nice, clean, brick, 3-1-1,

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\$2500 or OBO.

Call 665-7792 1984 4x4, GMC Suburban, \$1,200 OBO, 665-

Deadline 12 Noon, December 17th Published December 24th · Photos need to be of baby only • Payment in advance

fused on its way or others just don't get it attached, your relationship will develop if neither of you stands on ceremony. makes no difference. You're the most competent person to get the job done. LIBRA is your pal. Tonight: Find your friends, The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Not everyone gets the gist of Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult your messages or actions in the next few weeks, as your ruler goes retrograde. Don't get too frustrated and take any ARIES (March 21-April 19) major action. You visualize a work situa-*** Hold on tight, as misunderstandings run rampant for the next few tion far differently from many. Tonight: weeks. In fact, wise Rams might not Don't push yourself. want to sign any agreements until the LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Though you might be feeling

holidays are past. You could be overly on top of the world, apparently others are exhausted from what goes on around you. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation. floundering. Run in and help right now, TAURUS (April 20-May 20) especially if it involves a domestic matter. A close associate might be feeling a *** Dig into work with gusto, but be careful about the details. You could lot more than you are aware of. Tonight: Be careful with a work-related crush. come across a mistake that might have serious long-term implications. Others

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★ ★ ★ Take your time making a decision that involves a discussion or a new purchase. Also, others suddenly seem to be working against you. Take your time right now and observe the lay of the land. Be ready for some surprises. Tonight: grade the next few days, you might have Check out another's opinion.

more problems than you would like.

** You might feel better working

from home. Everyone understands the

need for a day off or a day spent in qui-

eter circumstances. Don't push your luck

during a talk. You could find that anoth-

*** You might have to go after

what you want rather than depending on

others. Whether your message gets con-

Tonight: Find a fun playmate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) * * * Meetings carry a sense of disruption that could be quite distracting. You also discover that agreements arrived at right now could backfire quickly. Understand more of what you need from others, but don't expect immediate results. Tonight: Where the crowds

er has a totally different opinion or just CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) doesn't "get" you. Tonight: Put your feet * * * You might need to take a stand while others flounder left and right. In the next few weeks, you might need to work extra hard to get your message across. Once more, your intuition comes through financially. Lucky-you. Tonight:

A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ** * Read between the lines. It is what someone isn't saying that is significant. A partner might have difficulty

expressing his or her feelings, but so-

might you. Use caution with those close

to you in the next few weeks. Tonight: Consider a trip. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) * * * Deal with someone close, letting him or her know exactly what you want from a situation. Partners and associates could be a bit off as they try to explain their feelings. Don't get frustrat-

BORN TODAY Scientist Joseph Henry (1797), singer Art Neville (1937), musician Paul Butterfield (1942)

ed when dealing with others. Tonight: Be

with your favorite person.

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

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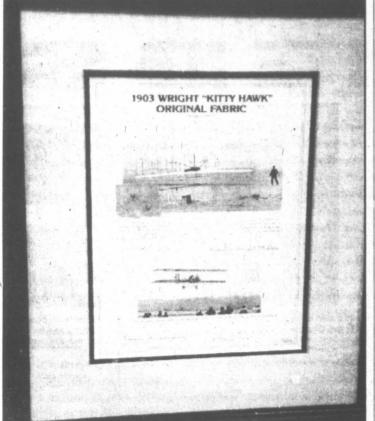
EXAMPLE

Autumn Macy Woods September 6, 2003

Monty Elkins, Regina Woods, Mike Woods

Parents... Keith & ReDonn Woods Grandparents... Dwayne & Cindy Hall,

7792, 207-0040.



(Courtesy photo)

Freedom Museum USA in Pampa will host an open house from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C. Above is a framed certificate donated to the museum by Chuck Dempsey, a former cadet at Pampa Army Air Base, that includes a picture of the original flight along with a scrap of fabric from the original plane.

Freedom Museum USA plans special open house

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's historic first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903, Freedom Museum USA in Pampa will host an open house from 12 noon-4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the museum located at 600 N.

The museum has a direct link to the Wright brothers' first successful flight thanks to Charles Dempsey, a former cadet who was stationed at. Pampa Army Air Base during World War II. Dempsey became a friend of the Wright brothers' niece while working to build a replica of the Wright "B" Flyer, the first military plane designed, built

Ivonette Wright Miller passed on to Dempsey two framed certificates which original flight and a scrap of fabric from the first plane. The fabric was damaged in the Dayton Flood of 1913 and was later replaced by identical material by Orville while preparing the plane for public exhibition.

After his death in 1948 we found that he had preserved some of the original coverings of the wings," Miller, niece to toric achievement with spethe brothers, said. "We certify cial exhibits in the National that this piece of fabric was Air and Space Museum used by Orville and Wilbur including a look at Orville Wright on 17, December, 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in the world's first

heavier-than-air flights in which man achieved free, controlled, powered, and sustained flight."

Several articles will be on display including a set of wings from the first Wright "B" Flyer Military Squadron. A photo of the first successful flight was donated by Dempsey and the Engineers' Club Board of Directors of Dayton, Ohio.

Dempsey graduated from the cadet class 44-G at Pampa Army Air Base in 1944 and went on to fly B-24s with the 8th Air Force during WWII. He later was a test pilot at Wright Field at Dayton and was a research scientist in the Aerospace Medical Research Lab at Wright Field.

One of Dempsey's major interests in the 1970s was constructing and flying a replica of the Wright "B" Flyer. In 1974, he and a friend consisted of a picture of the , started work on the project, and in 1981 the "new" Wright "B" Flyer (built with some modifications to meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards) took flight from Huffman Prairie at Wright Patterson Field and has been flown many times since.

> The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., is marking the Wright brothers' hisand Wilbur, their technical achievements and impact on the world.

U.S., Central American nations work on trade pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration may have suffered a setback in its effort to forge a hemisphere-wide free trade agreement, but it is pushing ahead with a smaller deal that would cover five Central American countries.

Negotiators from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have been meeting with U.S. officials for over a week in Washington, trying to overcome the final obstacles to a Central American Free Trade Agreement,

They say a deal is within reach and could be completed by next Tuesday. It would remove virtually all trade barriers among the nations over the next decade.

But the agreement is expected to face considerable opposition in Congress from some politically potent groups including labor unions, textile makers and the sugar industry.

The plan is meant to help U.S. industries expand their export opportunities in Central

To gather support, the administration already announced it will try to add the Dominican Republic to the CAFTA agreement early next year before sending it to Congress for approval.

That approach may win votes in congressional districts with large Dominican immigrant populations, but it isn't swaying

opposition from the sugar and textile indus-

"As it now stands, CAFTA would result in the loss of thousands of U.S. apparel and textile jobs," said Mark Levinson, chief economist for the Union of Neddletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. "CAFTA is good for the big retailers, not for apparel and textile workers.'

American growers of sugar cane and sugar beets fear competition would increase if sugar imports from the five CAFTA countries are allowed into the United States without the steep tariffs imposed on sugar imports from other countries.

The five Central American countries currently produce 2 million tons of sugar annually, more than the United States

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., contends increased imports from Central America could wipe out the U.S. sugar beet industry and gouge U.S. cane sugar production.

"The sugar industry in our region and the family farms and rural communities it sustains would be devastated," Dorgan said.

The administration, however, sees CAFTA as a stepping stone to a much bigger prize of a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, covering all 34 democracies in the Western Hemisphere.

In talks last month, the administration

was forced to accept a watered-down outline for the FTAA that will allow each nation to determine the extent it is willing to lower trade barriers on various politically sensitive industries.

That compromise covered over deep disagreements between the United States and Brazil concerning the scope of the negotiations that were threatening to derail the entire enterprise, which is supposed to conclude by January 2005.

To put more pressure on Brazil and its allies to negotiate as broad a free trade deal as possible, the administration is forging ahead with negotiations on smaller free trade deals such as CAFTA and individual agreements with a number of other Latin American countries.

The administration's hope is that the more free trade pacts it can strike with willing countries, the more pressure it will place on holdouts, such as Brazil, which would then face the prospect of losing access to the world's largest market, the United States, to competitors who face lower trade barriers.

Congress passed free trade deals with Chile and Singapore this year, which will take effect Jan. 1. Mexico, Canada, Israel and Jordan are the only other countries that have free trade agreements with the United



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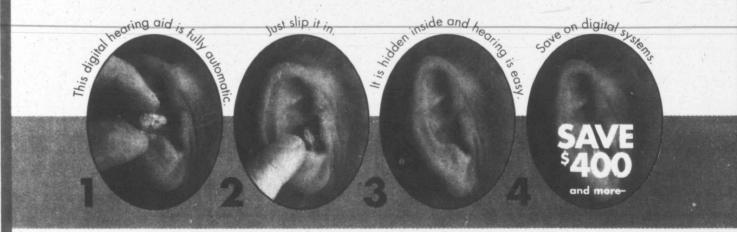
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Boy Scouts helping out



(Courtesy photo)

Boy Scout Troop 404 of Pampa recently volunteered to help residents at Pampa Nursing Center with a recent Veterans Day program. They helped put up Christmas lights as well. Above: Bill Schroeder, Kevin Kirkham, Justin Cotrell, Jacob Maciel, Ricky Maciel, Joseph Johnson, Russell Carter and Tyler Dodson.

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