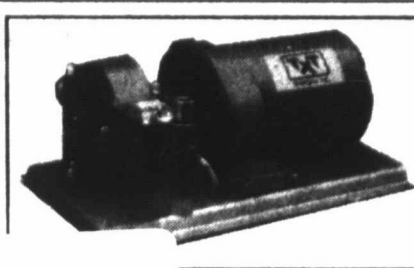


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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2004

NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 834 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



A new year brings new hope for harmony and goodwill around the world. Please join us in a prayer for peace as we celebrate the arrival of a brand-new beginning.

The Pampa News



LOTTERY

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

Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-15-34-39. Bonus Ball: 33.

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

Number matching four of five: 1. Prize: \$42,658.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 18. Prize: \$2,150.

Number matching three of five: 805. Prize: \$103.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 665. Prize: \$110.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$39 million.

DEATHS

Irene M. Ball, 94, mother of Pampan.

Irene Pakan, 89, homemaker.

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Nation rings in New Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Amid continuing conflict overseas and a dark mood of apprehension at home, revelers across the nation greeted the dawn of 2004 under an orange terrorism alert and the watchful eye of police officers.

Nearly 1 million revelers rang in the new year with the dropping of the traditional crystal ball in Times Square — a joyous, confetti-filled bash against the backdrop of some of the tightest security measures in U.S. history.

With police snipers posted on rooftops and helicopters patrolling overhead, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and guest of honor, former Iraq prisoner of war Shoshana Johnson, sent the 1,070-pound crystal ball on a 60-second drop that culminated at the stroke of midnight.

"It was brilliant," said Tanya Starkin, a 23-year-old waitress from Ireland, as fireworks lighted up the sky. "Everyone was so worried about everything, and now everything is good."

The raising of the national terrorism alert to orange, its second-highest level, prompted cities across the country to step up police patrols, plan aerial surveillance and install equipment to detect chemical, biological or radiological contamination.

"Everything went off very well," New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said after the ball dropped. He called 2003 a good year: "Another year where we haven't had a terrorist attack here."

In a sea of glitter and confetti outside the MGM Mirage hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip, sixth-grade teacher Bob Kelly cheered the new year

and his newly won \$1,000 from a video poker machine.

"What better way to end 2003?" asked Kelly, of Newport Beach, Calif. "I'm going to go back in there and win another one. What better way to start 2004?"

An estimated 270,000 revelers jamming the Strip and downtown's Fremont Street, watched over by about 2,600 police officers, more than 100 FBI agents and 4,000 hotel security guards, authorities said.

The festivities in Boston drew about 1.5 million visitors, reaching the same levels of the previous year. Boston's "First Night" is the oldest and largest New Year's Eve arts festival in the country.

In San Francisco, about 30,000 people gathered along the city's waterfront to watch the fireworks display against the backdrop of the Bay Bridge, which was the focus of stepped up security. Coast Guard boats trolled San Francisco Bay on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Thousands gathered in Seattle to enjoy the city's 7 1/2-minute firework show featuring fireworks bursting from the Space Needle. More undercover officers worked the crowd than last year.

In New Orleans, an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 people watched the lowering of a giant, grinning papier mache baby in the French Quarter as helicopters patrolled the banks of Mississippi River.

Denver authorities called in off-duty officers to ensure celebrations did not get out of hand, especially at two fireworks shows on a downtown pedestrian mall, where about 160,000 people gathered. That was 50,000 more than last year. (See NEW YEAR, Page 3)

Officially official



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

223rd District Judge Lee Waters, right, congratulates the new Gray County Attorney Josh Seabourn, right, after swearing Seabourn into office on Wednesday afternoon in the district courtroom. Seabourn was recently appointed by the Gray County Commissioners Court to fill the position after Todd Alvey resigned. Seabourn told family, friends, county employees, and local attorneys who gathered for the ceremony that he had plans and goals that he feels will make the county attorney's office more effective in the coming year.

DPS finds 200 pounds of marijuana in trunk

GROOM — Two Philadelphia residents were arrested Tuesday along Interstate 40 after Texas Department of Public Safety troopers discovered more than 200 pounds of marijuana hidden in their vehicle.

"This is the latest of several huge loads of marijuana our troopers have seized along I-40 in what appears to be a record year for drug

busts in our area," said Trooper Wayne Beighle, DPS public information officer based in Amarillo.

Christopher Hernandez, 25, and Diana Ocasio, 25, were traveling in a 1995 Toyota Avalon eastbound on I-40, three miles west of Groom just after 10 a.m. Tuesday when officers stopped the vehicle on a traffic violation. After troopers

became suspicious, the driver gave consent to search the Avalon and 209 pounds of marijuana, packaged in nine bundles, were found in the trunk.

The marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$123,101, was believed to have originated in Tucson, Ariz., and was headed for the Philadelphia area, according to DPS reports.

New Year's supplies



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Michael Craig of Pampa gets ready for the new year with a 2004 calendar and cans of black-eyed peas. Craig found the new year's supplies at National Bank of Commerce, which provides the items for its customers. Black-eyed peas, when eaten on New Year's Day, are supposed to bring good fortune for the coming year.

Death toll rises to eight in car bomb attack that destroys Baghdad eatery

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The death toll rose to eight in a car bomb attack that destroyed a Baghdad restaurant crowded with New Year's Eve revelers, officials said Thursday. Three Los Angeles Times reporters were among the 35 wounded.

No group has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing, which came despite tightened security amid warnings of possible holiday terror attacks.

"The glass came flying. Everything else blew up. People were blown apart," said Basam Sarhan, a 25-year-old baker working in the kitchen at the back of the Nabil restaurant, located in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood.

The Los Angeles Times said three of its reporters and five local staff members suffered cuts and other wounds that did not appear life-threatening. The reporters were Chris

Kraul, from the newspaper's Mexico City bureau; Tracy Wilkinson, the paper's Rome bureau chief; and correspondent Ann Simmons, who formerly was the Times' bureau chief in Nairobi, Kenya. Also suffering minor injuries were three Iraqi drivers, a translator and a computer technician employed by the Times.

Salar Jaff, the Times' Baghdad bureau office manager, was driving to the restaurant behind three cars carrying his colleagues when the blast hit.

"I heard the screams. I saw two people putting their hands on their faces all covered with blood and their bodies were bleeding severely," Jaff told the Times. "The glass was everywhere. People were just lying there. The cars were smoking, they were on fire."

Lt. Col. Peter Jones of the 1st Armored Division, said he pulled four bodies from the rubble and Iraqi police later

found another four. At least five of the dead were Iraqis, said Lt. Gen. Ahmed Kadhem, the deputy interior minister and Baghdad chief of police.

The blast was caused by a car booby-trapped with about 500 pounds of explosives, said Col. Ralph Baker, division commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division.

After the evening explosion, helicopters buzzed overhead as ambulances and U.S. soldiers converged on the Nabil, a popular spot with foreigners that advertised a New Year's Eve party with live music and belly dancing.

An American soldier leaned into the rubble after discovering a victim.

"She's got a pulse! She's got a pulse!" he screamed.

Several cars outside the restaurant were wrecked and in flames. Gunfire was heard after the explosion, which left

(See BOMB, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

EVANS, the Rev. Darrell W. — Memorial services, 2 p.m., First Christian Church, Pampa.

NATTA, Chester Willis Van — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

PAKAN, Irene — 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Shamrock.

IRENE PAKAN

McLEAN — Irene Pakan, 89, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Trinity Lutheran Church at Shamrock with the Rev. Mark Carter, of Redeemer Lutheran Church at Bartlesville, Okla., and Pastor Vern Appel, of the church in Shamrock, officiating. Burial will be in Pakan Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home of McLean.

A McLean resident for more than 60 years, Mrs. Pakan belonged to Trinity Lutheran Church's Ladies Aide, Pioneer Study Club and

the library board. She was a homemaker and worked at Marie Foundation in McLean. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, crocheting and telling stories.

Survivors include a son, John Pakan of Alaska; three daughters, Dorothy Brinson of San Angelo, Ruth Jones of Parker, Colo., and Margie Eschenburg of China Springs; and nine grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Trinity Lutheran Church, 900 S. Main, Shamrock, TX 79079.

IRENE M. BALL

1909-2003

BELOIT, Kan. — Irene Mary Ball, 94, mother of a Pampa resident, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, at Hilltop Lodge in Beloit. Services were Wednesday in McDonald Funeral Home in Beloit with Father Henry Baxa, of St. John The Baptist Catholic Church, officiating. Interment was in Glasco Cemetery in Glasco, Kan. Arrangements were under the direction of McDonald-Roberts Funeral Service.

Mrs. Ball was born Sept. 28, 1909, on a farm southwest of Simpson, Kan., to John and Mary Dora Cerveny Komin. She attended Coursen Grove country school and graduated from Simpson High School. After graduation, she returned to Coursen Grove, her childhood

alma mater, and taught school.

She married Melvin Glenn Ball on Dec. 26, 1928, at Salina, Kan.; he died in 1968. The couple settled on Mrs. Ball's family's farm. She enjoyed membership in Busy Bee-Hive Club and playing cards with her friends.

After her husband's death, she moved to Simpson where she was city clerk. She later relocated to Beloit and became active in Beloit Senior Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister Goldena Eichman.

Survivors include her children, Melvin Ball of Pampa and Audrey Budke of Beloit; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

ON RECORD

SHERIFF

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Johnny Dewayne Bridges, 21, 109 N. Dwight, was arrested for failure to appear, failure to report a change of address, and running a stop sign.

Earl Jiles III, 37, Amarillo, was arrested for failure to maintain financial responsibility and no driver's license.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Ramiro Reyes, 41, 332 N. Christy, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, driving with license suspended and possession of marijuana under two ounces.

Joel Arguello, 41, 1008 N. Wells, was arrested by DPS for public intoxication.

Ernesto Castillo, 45, 727 E. Denver, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, third offense.

Debbie Alvarado, 37, 325 N. Doyle, was arrested by DPS for public intoxication and possession of marijuana under two ounces.

James Miller Ashford, 33, 1909 Mary Ellen, was arrested for credit card abuse, theft of property by check, and hindering a secured creditor.

Donny Johnson, 53, 312 1/2 N. Wells, was arrested for public intoxication, disorderly conduct/language and possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Josue Vargus, 23, 1033 S. Faulkner, was arrested for two capias pro fines.

Howard Andrew Hayden II, 31, 1031 N. Summer Apt. 18, was arrested for harassment by telephone.

Jerry Dale Ledford, 32, 101 S. Dwight, was arrested on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

Jesse Chavez, 18, 1006 E. Frederic, was arrested for public intoxication.

Aaron Keith Glaspie, 37, Rosamond, Calif., was arrested for public intoxication.

Jose Silva Jr., 25, 910 E. Browning, was arrested for public intoxication, disorderly conduct/language, and a motion to revoke probation on a charge of criminal mischief.

AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31

9:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Frederic. No transport.

10:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Northwest Texas Hospital and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of North Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Loop 171 and 9 1/2 and transported a patient to PRMC.

FIRE

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31

5:29 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a reported structure fire in the 1800 block of North Nelson. Upon arrival, firefighters determined that a smoke haze and smell in the structure came from a pot that had boiled over on the stove.

Thursday, Jan. 1

12:10 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a small grass fire in the alley. The fire was out upon arrival. No cause was listed in the fire report.

12:22 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a grass fire in the 1000 block of South Wells. The fire, which had spread to the back and front yards of a residence, was out on arrival. No cause was listed in the fire report.

Houston police officer charged with releasing suspect for sex

HOUSTON (AP) — A veteran Houston police officer has been accused of allowing a shoplifting suspect at a Heights area grocery store to go free in exchange for sex, Harris County officials reported.

Officer Lance William Elliott, 34, was charged Tuesday with three counts of improper sexual activity with a person in custody and one count of tampering with a government record.

Elliott, of Alvin, was released from jail Wednesday on \$8,000 bond, the Houston Chronicle reported in its online edition Wednesday.

A Houston Police Department spokesman declined comment, but he did confirm Elliott was an officer on the force.

Elliott's attorney Aaron Suder also declined to comment, but said Elliott has no significant black marks on his police department disciplinary file.

Elliott is accused of having sex with a woman he picked up for allegedly shoplifting from a supermarket Sept. 17.

Court documents said Elliott parked behind a warehouse instead of taking the shoplifting suspect to jail.

"She talked to Elliott about releasing her and his response was, 'What's in it for me?'" the document stated.

City Briefs

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Rehnquist scolds Congress, lawmakers reduce judges' discretion in sentencing

By JENNIFER C. KERR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress should have sought the judiciary's advice before limiting the ability of judges to impose lighter sentences than specified in federal guidelines, the nation's top judge says.

"During the last year, it seems that the traditional interchange between the Congress and the Judiciary broke down when Congress enacted what is known as the Protect Act, making some rather dramatic changes to the laws governing the federal sentencing process," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote Thursday in his annual report on the state of the judiciary.

The changes that Rehnquist objects to were tucked into an anti-crime bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in April. It targeted child kidnappers, molesters and pornographers and included a national Amber Alert network.

But it also included a provision sponsored by Rep. Tom Feeney, R-Fla., and supported by Attorney General John Ashcroft, that reduced federal

The changes that Rehnquist objects to were tucked into an anti-crime bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in April. It targeted child kidnappers, molesters and pornographers and included a national Amber Alert network.

judges' discretion in sentencing criminals, and required reports to Congress on any judge who departs from sentencing guidelines.

Collecting this information on judges, Rehnquist said, is "troubling." He said cataloguing such data "could appear to be an unwarranted and ill-considered effort to intimidate individual judges in the performance of their judicial duties."

Other critics say it could lead to a "black list" of judges deemed soft on crime.

In the report, the chief justice lectured Congress on the importance of a strong working relationship between the judicial and legislative branches, and he cited historical examples in which the two arms of government consulted on drafting laws.

He complained that the measure changing judges' sentencing authority was enacted "without any consideration of the views of the judiciary." He added, "It surely improves the legislative process at least to ask the judiciary its views on such a significant piece of legislation."

Mary Cheh, a law professor at George Washington University Law School, said

Rehnquist has a legitimate complaint.

Congress adopted "rules and procedures that really are quite unacceptable as far as the judges go because it so restricts their discretion and so straightjackets the process that it really has caused a lot of consternation," she said. The new law means "the sentencing process is even more removed from the judge ... and placed more heavily in the hands of prosecutors."

Prior to the new law, prosecutors had long complained that judges had too much leeway in imposing sentences.

Supporters of the measure argue that it was needed to ensure fair and equal sentencing justice throughout the judiciary. House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said too often judges were handing down sentences less than those specified in federal guidelines.

"The Feeney amendment seeks to correct these sentencing disparities so that one person doesn't receive a sentence three times as long as another person committing the same crime," Sensenbrenner said in a statement responding to Rehnquist's report.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast for the first day of the new year is calling for partly cloudy skies, highs in the upper 60s and southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Night should fall on partly cloudy skies with lows in the lower 40s and southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday should see partly cloudy skies. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the upper 30s. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy. Cooler.

Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 20. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Jamie is half of eighty



Jamie, In "64" you were Gray County's first girl baby, could that mean you're 40 maybe?

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Police chase ends with shooting death of robbery suspect

ARLINGTON (AP) — A man suspected of beating a man in a carjacking in Forest Hill was killed in a shootout with police after a chase that rambled through Fort Worth before ending at an Arlington apartment complex, police said.

Arlington police Sgt. Will Johnson identified the man killed Wednesday as Don Henry Burns, 41.

Police were continuing to piece together the details of the pursuit, which included the carjacking and at least two other attempts to take people's vehicles.

Johnson said that Burns began shooting at officers as soon as they became involved in the chase.

Police said the man beaten in Forest Hill suffered a serious head injury but was expected to survive.

Pete Doughty of Arlington said in a story in Thursday's editions of The Dallas Morning News that a man in sport utility vehicle sped into his driveway and garage. He said the man told him he wanted his car and Doughty said he would have to go inside for the keys.

"I saw he was holding a gun. I told him he could have anything he wanted," Doughty said. He heard a noise as he turned to go inside. "It was a big bang," he said. "The bullet went through the wall about 18 inches from me. It hit my refrigerator."

Doughty said he ran into the house and told his daughters, ages 21 and 18, to grab his 5-month-old granddaughter and get out of the house. But while

Doughty called 911 the Bronco left. Police received several reports of a Bronco driving recklessly.

About 10 minutes later Matt Gruver said he heard shots from his home in the 500 block of Norwood Circle. He looked out the window and saw a man waving a silver handgun and shooting in the air toward a pickup truck.

The gunman apparently had thrown a suitcase into the truck and demanded the keys, but police say the people in the truck apparently threw him the wrong set of keys and ran. The gunman drove off in the Bronco.

A suitcase full of what appeared to be stolen items was found in the truck, police said. Arlington

officers spotted Burns a few minutes later and began chasing him when he did not pull over.

"As soon as we got into this chase, he started shooting," said Sgt. Will Johnson, an Arlington police spokesman.

Officers said they could see Burns reloading an assault rifle during the chase. Bullets struck police cars, as well as civilian cars, but there were no injuries, police said.

The chase ended when Burns pulled into Rivercrest Village Apartments in North Arlington.

Burns jumped out of the Bronco and ran to a stairwell, firing at police with a semiautomatic weapon, police said. Police officers returned fire and Burns was shot to death.

Search under way for remains of child

FORT WORTH (AP) — Police cadets and cadaver-finding dogs have recovered additional bone fragments in their search of a rural area of northwest Fort Worth where a portion of skull was found.

Investigators wouldn't speculate about the gender or age of the remains first spotted Tuesday. But the Fort Worth Star-Telegram quoted unnamed sources in its Thursday edition as saying the remains are those of a child and had been in the area for some time.

Relatives of 6-year-old Opal Jennings are watching the investigation closely but not getting their hopes up, the newspaper reported. The spot is less than 10 miles from where the child was abducted in 1999.

"We are just going about our regular business," Teresa Sanderford, Opal's aunt, said. "If it turns out it is Opal, that would be great."

Sanderford said several times there had

been what seemed to be promising developments that didn't yield anything.

Opal was abducted March 26, 1999, as she played with two other children near her grandmother's home in Saginaw.

Richard Lee Franks of Fort Worth was convicted of aggravated kidnapping in the girl's disappearance in 2002. He told investigators that he gave her a ride to a convenience store and dropped her off safely. Franks is serving life in prison.

Lt. Jesse Hernandez, a police spokesman, said a couple on horseback spotted a section of skull in a culvert Tuesday afternoon. The remains were found near the western shore of Lake Worth. Dozens of police cadets helped search Wednesday. The search was to resume Thursday.

"We'll search the entire area or until we are satisfied we have found everything that needs to be found," Hernandez said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

NEW YEAR

year's crowd, said Michael Krikorian of the Downtown Denver Partnership.

Special police units in Philadelphia patrolled neighborhoods just before midnight to look, and listen, for people ringing in the New Year by firing shots into the air. Police reported 10 to 20 such incidents, and several people were arrested on firearms violation charges. No injuries were reported.

New York City put more officers on duty this year than last, though officials declined to give numbers. Last year the department said it deployed 2,000 officers in Times Square alone.

Metal detectors were brought in, manhole covers were sealed, and mailboxes, trash cans and newspaper boxes were removed. Police had seven helicopters to patrol

above the crowd, including one with communications equipment and crowd-scanning cameras. The Department of Homeland Security sent fighter jets over New York for the night.

Police said there were no reports of crowd trouble. Tracey Talley, 31, said her birthday was Jan. 1 and that when she was a girl she believed the Times Square celebration was in her honor — "So I've always wanted to come be here in person," she said, laughing.

Although some revelers complained that police barricades and closed streets made them feel hemmed in, several said the precautions enabled them to enjoy the once-a-year celebration.

"It's real controlled, but I understand the reason why," Talley said.

New York-born performer Cyndi Lauper took the stage

to lead the revelers, many of whom were wearing bright orange hats and waving red balloons, in a sing-along of tunes from her latest album.

The Federal Aviation Administration banned flights, except for scheduled commercial flights, over Manhattan and Las Vegas for several hours during the celebrations.

Crowds began gathering early Wednesday in Pasadena, Calif., for Thursday's 115th annual Rose Parade. Parade-goers staked out spots for a curbside sleeper as law enforcement officers — many of them undercover — fanned out along the route.

Tim Tussman, 46, of Grantsburg, Wis., brought his girlfriend, Becky Melin, 45, to see the parade as a belated birthday gift. "It's an obvious target, but you hope they've taken all that into account," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BOMB

a large crater on a side street near the building.

Sarhan said there were about 25 people in the restaurant at the time of the blast.

"The people who are carrying out such attacks do not discriminate about the place," said Police Brig. Hamid Alyasiry, who is in charge of Karrada, an upscale shopping and restaurant district where the blast occurred. "They want to frighten everyone to create terror."

One witness, Ahmed Hassanain, said a white Toyota Corolla car drove by the area five or six times before the bombing. The last time it passed, he said, the guard at the restaurant shot at it. It drove away. Two minutes later, there was an explosion. He said he did not know whether it was the Corolla that blew up.

"These people are terrorists," Hassanain said. "Nobody here supports them."

Outside the restaurant, a young man and a woman with blood on her face and shoulders wept and hugged each

other. She said they were a family of six having New Year's dinner in the building next door when the blast ripped away the side wall. Her uncle was taken to a hospital, she said.

The area of the blast is frequented by rich Iraqis who shop and visit restaurants, and is lined with chic shops selling items such as cosmetics, curtains and upholstery. Three blocks from the restaurant, the windows of a big clothing shop were shattered.

Nabil serves wine and other alcohol — a rarity in Baghdad — and Western and Arabic dishes. Inside, big round tables set for dinner were covered with food. A bottle of White Horse scotch was still standing but its neck was blown off.

U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police had stepped up security in Baghdad on Wednesday, erecting more razor wire and checkpoints in key areas. Military officials have report-

ed the possibility of attacks by insurgents over the holiday period.

Earlier, a car bomb exploded as a U.S. convoy passed on a Baghdad street full of shops, destroying a Humvee, Iraqi police Sgt. Thabet Talib said. An 8-year-old Iraqi boy was killed and 21 other people were wounded, including five U.S. soldiers and five Iraqi civil defense personnel, authorities said.

Later in the evening, a bomb hidden in shrubs outside a separate restaurant in Baghdad exploded as a U.S. military convoy passed, wounding three American soldiers and three Iraqi civilians.

Near the southern city of Basra, a South Korean was killed in a gunbattle between Romanian soldiers and Iraqi insurgents, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Wednesday. There was no immediate confirmation of the report.

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9:00AM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
9:00AM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
2:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

January 1st - 31st, 2004

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The Tampa News Comics

THURSDAY • JANUARY 1, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Welcome This New Year With Goals You Can Reach

DEAR READERS: Rise and shine, and welcome to the New Year! This is our chance for a new beginning, the day we discard destructive habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I'm printing Dear Abby's oft-requested list of New Year's resolutions — adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

Just for today, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

Just for today, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

Just for today, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

Just for today, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I will not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

Just for today, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily — if only for today. And just for today, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

Just for today, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that

was sent to me last year, too late to print for New Year's. It was sent by a reader, I.J. Bhatia, who lives in New Delhi, India, with the following message:

DEAR ABBY: Every year we make New Year's resolutions — only to break them. This year no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say, "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature." The following Prayer of Saint Francis contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

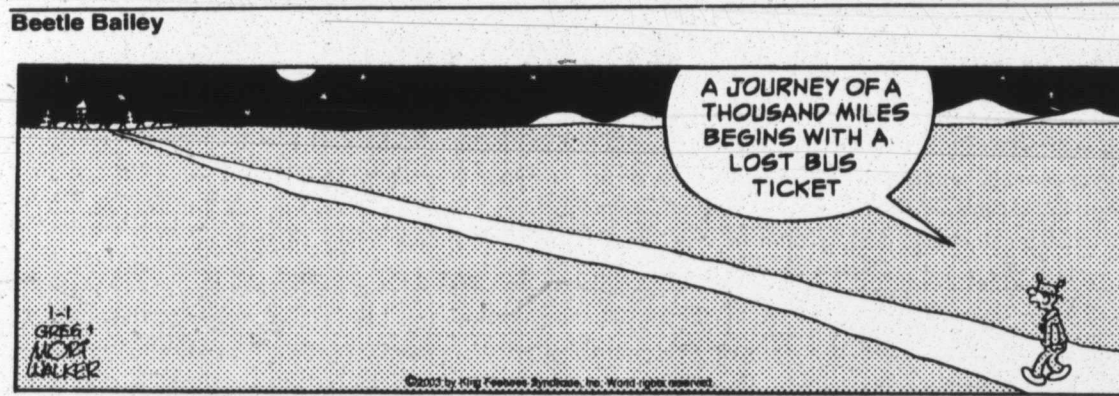
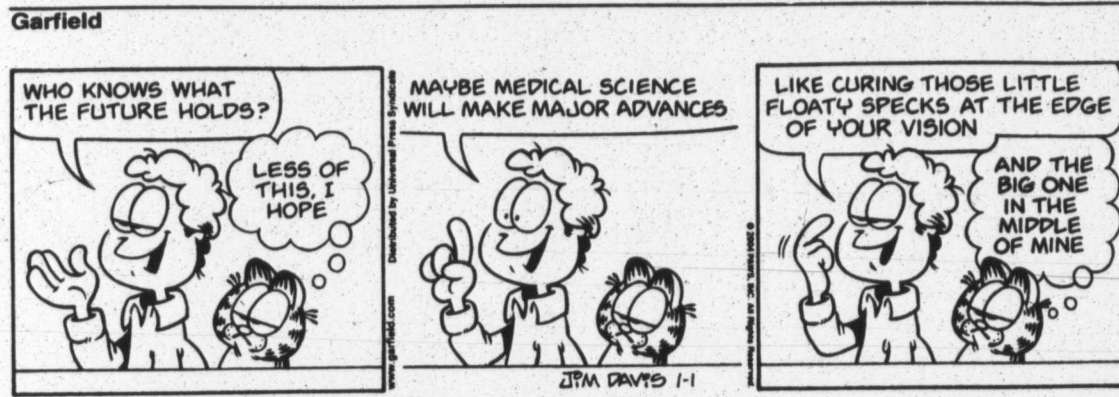
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May we find peace and joy in this new year.

To one and all, a happy, healthy 2004!

Love, ABBY

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.



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Ballpark figure

1 Shopping haven

5 PC screen

8 Neighborly

11 Busy as buyers'

12 Iroquois League member

13 Cougar got a goal

15 Burner setting

17 Fresh take it easy

18 Take it easy

22 Disloyal poem

24 Setting item

25 One — million

26 Chess piece

27 Battling creation

30 Verdi inventor

32 Nikola suffer

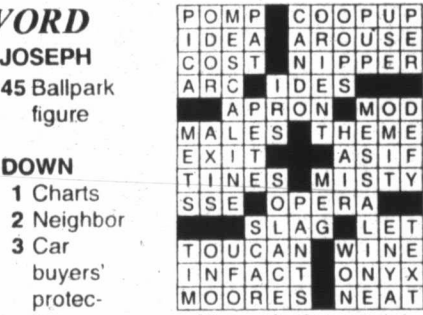
33 Jim Carrey film

38 Team Shrek, for one

41 Secured, in a way

42 Like dimes

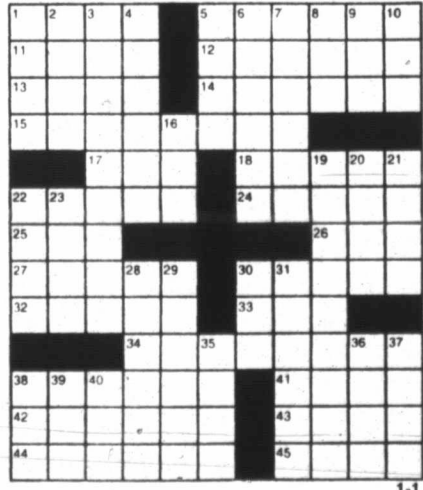
43 Goes 80



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Center of attention
- 20 Distantly
- 21 TV warrior
- 22 Decree
- 23 Pot starter
- 24 Exalted
- 25 "Gnarly!"
- 26 Lamb's mom
- 31 Airline employees
- 32 Tacks on
- 33 Verdi piece
- 34 Monthly bill
- 35 Sit-up targets
- 36 Jazz variety
- 37 Low bill

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Angel Tree



(Courtesy photo)

Each year Altrusa helps wrap gifts donated for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. This year's community service project brought out members from Altrusa, ASTRA and AFS foreign exchange student group. Among the ASTRA members lending a hand were (left-right) Stephanie Nelson, Greg Wiley and Briana Russell.

Republicans rule, Democrats flee in Texas' political scene

By **KELLEY SHANNON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN (AP) — Dominance was the magic word for Texas politics in 2003.

Republicans dominated the political landscape as they made deep budget cuts, placed limits on civil lawsuits and pushed through a GOP congressional redistricting plan despite the protests and road trips of Democrats.

"Texas politics? Year of the elephant," summed up Tony Proffitt, a veteran political consultant who was an aide to the late Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

The GOP already held all the statewide offices and had the edge in the Texas Senate before the 2002 elections. With a sweeping victory, Republicans took control of the Texas House for the first time since Reconstruction and proceeded to remake state government.

"We had the first Republican majority in both houses of the Legislature in the last 130 years, and they delivered real results on some issues that are very important to the people of Texas," said Ted Royer, spokesman for the Republican Party of Texas.

Democrats, on the other hand, waged headline-grabbing fights but in the end were rolled over by the Republican parade.

All the nation watched as 51 House Democrats fled to Ardmore, Okla., for four days in May to break a quorum and kill a congressional redistricting bill.

Redistricting was the subject of three subsequent special sessions called by Republican Gov. Rick Perry, with 11 Senate Democrats blocking a redistricting bill in the second special session by jetting off to Albuquerque, N.M., for six weeks to bust a quorum.

"I am both excited and proud about the resurgence of enthusiasm in the Texas Democratic Party, which was fueled by our state reps and senators who had the courage to stand up and use whatever means necessary to block the partisan redistricting power grab," state party chairman Charles Soechting said.

The senators' boycott was broken when one of their own, Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, defected and returned to the Capitol. With the quorum they needed to do business, Republicans passed a redistricting bill that aims to give the GOP up to 22 seats in the 32-member Texas congressional delegation.

Democrats hold a 17-15

advantage in the delegation and don't want to relinquish it.

U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas pressed the redistricting effort, saying Republicans wanted more Texans from their party in Congress to reflect the state's conservative voting patterns.

Democrats accused DeLay of strong-arming state leaders and inflicting Washington-style partisanship on a state where President Bush, the former Texas governor, had championed its tradition of bipartisanship.

By December, the two parties were still fighting over redistricting, this time in a federal courtroom. A three-judge panel will decide, perhaps by the start of the new year, whether the new map violates the federal Voting Rights Act, which seeks to provide minorities fair representation in government.

The year also gave Texans a new crop of state political leaders.

Republican Tom Craddick of Midland was chosen House speaker after spending years in the Legislature's minority party. He ruled the House his way, and there were few cracks in the GOP armor on major votes.

Newly elected GOP Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst led the Senate and emerged as a surprisingly bipartisan leader early in the year. Then came the nasty feuding over redistricting between the two parties. Republicans even battled among themselves over the drawing of a congressional district in West Texas.

"He got caught up in the maelstrom of congressional redistricting and maybe got bumped around a little bit," Proffitt said.

By the time the 140-day regular legislative session ended in June, lawmakers had overcome a \$9.9 billion shortfall and written a \$117 billion two-year budget that cut health and human services and assorted other programs. Legislators didn't raise taxes, though they increased certain state fees and fines.

Republican forces won passage of a bill that capped non-economic damages, like pain and suffering, in medical malpractice lawsuits and placed strict limits on the waging of other civil lawsuits. Voters validated the caps by approving a constitutional amendment in September.

Left hanging was an overhaul of school finance.

The Senate and House quarreled over how best to replace the state's share-the-wealth education funding system, nicknamed Robin Hood. Legislators left that massive undertaking for another year, with a special session likely next spring.

When lawmakers do tackle school finance, they won't have two veteran Republican state senators around to help them.

Sen. Bill Ratliff of Mount Pleasant, the former acting lieutenant governor, and Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo, nominated by Bush to be ambassador to Sweden, both announced they are resigning from the Legislature in early January.

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HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) B&W Operating, L.L.C., #1 B&W Meadows '4', 1980' from North & East line, Sec. 4,4,AB&M, PD 11650'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.P., Hobart Ranch '20', Sec. 20,A-1,H&GN, PD 12500', for the following wells:

#5, 1910' from South & 650' from West line of Sec.

#6, 2288' from South & 2314' from West line of Sec.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & SPARKS Tonkawa) EOG Resources, Inc., #5 Lockhart '57', 2100' from South & West line, Sec. 57,42,H&TC, PD 7800'.

Gas Well Completions
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #1 Lola '235', Sec.

235,C,G&MMB&A, spud 10-2-03, drlg. compl 10-21-03, tested 11-20-03, potential 5294 MCF, TD 11880', PBTD 11745' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Peak Operating of Texas L.L.C., #2059 L.A. Johnson, Sec. 59,M-1,H&GN, spud 7-28-03, drlg. compl 11-3-03, tested 11-7-03, potential 12000 MCF, TD 11998', PBTD 11956' —

HEMPHILL (HEMPILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #4 Hobart '49', Sec. 49,A-2,H&GN, spud 9-18-03, drlg. compl 10-9-03, tested 11-13-03, potential 3809 MCF, TD 12050', PBTD 11978' —

ROBERTS (PARSELL Lower Morrow) Mewbourne Oil Co., #2 Parsell Ranch '165', Sec. 165,42,H&TC, spud 9-28-03, drlg. compl 10-18-03, tested 11-7-03, TD 11300', PBTD 11156' —

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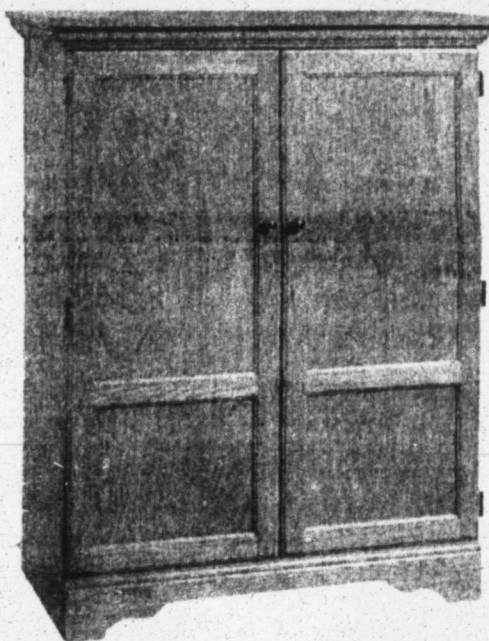
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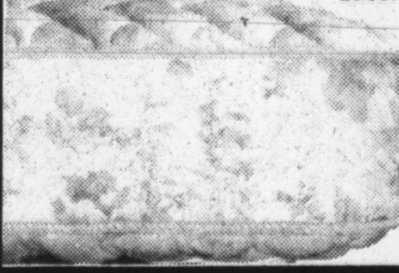
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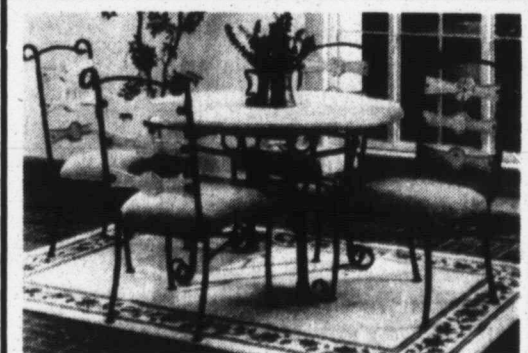
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Ports, ships fail to meet deadline on terror protection plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Terror strikes from the sea could be even more catastrophic than those from the air, intelligence officials say. They fear a hijacked oil tanker could be rigged with explosives or a radioactive dirty bomb could be smuggled ashore in a shipping container.

But almost 5,000 ships and about four out of every five of the nation's ports, ferry terminals and fuel-chemical tank farms failed to meet a Wednesday deadline for submitting security plans showing how they will deal with those potential threats.

Security measures to prevent attacks at seaports and inland waterways have fallen far behind efforts to protect airports and airplanes since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Congress last year ordered the maritime shipping industry to tighten security amid fears that an attack on a port could kill thousands, cause tremendous property damage and cost tens of billions of dollars in lost revenue to the U.S. economy.

Coast Guard officials said the deadline for submitting the plans was met by about 5,200 of 10,000 ships told to submit them and only 1,100 of 5,000 port facilities — despite a potential fine of \$25,000.

"We do not have all the plans," Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Carter said. "We recognize that despite our best efforts, there are those who won't comply for a variety of reasons."

Wednesday also was the deadline for airports to start screening all airline baggage electronically for explosives. But Deputy Homeland Security Secretary James Loy told Congress two months ago that the deadline would not be met at five airports. "A handful" of airports still don't have the screening equipment installed, said Darrin Kayser, a Transportation Security Administration spokesman.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Congress required the electronic screeners to be in place a year ago. But when it became clear it couldn't be met, lawmakers moved the deadline back a year.

One reason ships, ports and other facilities were missing their deadline is they were given too little time, said Maureen Ellis, a spokeswoman for the Association of American Port Authorities. The government didn't finalize what it wanted until Oct. 22, though the industry was told July 1 they had six months to submit the plans.

Ellis also said some ports found the regulations and requirements to be "overwhelming." The "plan review approval form" for cruise ship terminals, for example, is 20 pages long.

"The new law requires a difficult attitude adjustment, said Thomas Allegretti, president of the American Waterways Association, which

Neil Bush denies any inside information on company

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential brother Neil Bush made at least \$798,218 on three stock trades in a small U.S. high-tech company where he had been a consultant, according to his tax returns, including \$171,370 buying and selling the company's shares in a single day.

Bush's big paydays in the stock of Kopin Corp. of Taunton, Mass., included the July 19, 1999, purchase and quick sale of stock as the company announced good news about a new Asian client that sent its stock value soaring.

Bush said he did not have any inside information from Kopin, and simply acted on a recommendation from his financial adviser.

"Any increase in the price of the stock on that day was purely coincidental, meaning that I did not have any improper information," Bush said in e-mails to The Associated Press. "My timing on this transaction was very fortunate."

The AP obtained Bush's tax returns for the years 1997 through 2001 from a source familiar with his finances.

Bush noted that he lost \$287,722 on Kopin stock after the market in high-tech stocks crashed.

Unlike the ordinary investor who buys at the market price, however, Bush benefited from the fact that his stock purchase costs in some cases were minimal because he got a bargain, paying \$13 a share when he exercised stock options that were part of his

consulting compensation from Kopin. The company's stock price was selling for many times that amount during much of the time Bush was trading. The company granted him 20,000 stock options.

Bush's returns, as well as records that have come to light in Bush's divorce case with his wife, Sharon, show that since his controversial tenure with the failed Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association of Denver, more than a decade ago, he has become a globe-trotting businessman with a variety of consulting deals.

Bush says he first came in contact with Kopin when he was a consultant for an Asian company, Telecom Holdings, a telecommunications company whose executives wanted to invest in the United States. "We searched for a viable fit and found Kopin Corp.," Bush said. "The bulk of our equity compensation for the transaction came from" the Asian company, which took Kopin stock in exchange for its investment.

"Neil helped put together an approximately \$27 million deal and was awarded stock options for his efforts. Stock options can range from anywhere to being utterly worthless to very valuable," Bush lawyer John Spalding said in an interview.

After the 1995 deal, Kopin snapped Bush up as a consultant for two years "to see what other doors he could open up for us" in Asia, according to Kopin's chief financial officer, Richard Sneider.

represents owners and operators of tugboats and barges. It's hard for tugboat captains, used to worrying about running aground, to suddenly start thinking about a terrorist hijacking a tanker and using it to inflict damage, he said.

The tugboat and barge industry submitted plans to the Coast Guard that include training crews about potential threats, securing vessels' perimeters and restricting access to vessels, Allegretti said.

Lt. Cmdr. Richard Teubner said the Coast Guard expects to get plans in the mail next week from many ports, stevedoring companies, offshore oil drillers and ship owners.

The plans have to be implemented by July 1, when the Coast Guard can start turning away ships and shutting down ports that don't comply.

James Carafano, a homeland security expert with the Heritage Foundation, thinks major ports will meet the July deadline. Otherwise, he said, "the economic consequences are too horrifying to contemplate."

Man freed from rubble of Iranian quake

BAM, Iran (AP) — A young man was pulled alive from the rubble Thursday, six days after Bam's devastating earthquake, as relief workers restored some electricity and rushed more aid into the ruined ancient city.

A provincial official said the death toll would top 30,000 but that it would not reach 40,000.

Although hopes for survivors were fading, Iranian television said 27-year-old Yadallah Saadatmand was rescued from the rubble that morning with only a broken pelvis. Television footage showed smiling nurses around Saadatmand, who was wearing an oxygen mask and did not speak.

A Taiwanese team hoped it could rescue a baby detected by sniffer dogs but found only the infant's body.

U.S. aid workers who set up a field hospital on New Year's Day said they were shocked by their initial look at the damage brought by the 6.6-magnitude quake last Friday.

"The one in Turkey was the worst, and this is worse than that," said aid worker Robert Dube, of the Urban Search and Rescue Unit from Fairfax, Va. "The destruction is just complete. Everything that is not down looks like it's at the point where it's not going to be used again."

The American assistance stands out as rare contact between the nations since U.S.-Iranian relations were broken by the seizure of the Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

The Bush administration temporarily eased restrictions on exports and private assistance to Iran, with Secretary of State Colin Powell saying Wednesday in Washington that "at this time of great emergency we must do everything we can to help people in desperate need."

Aftershocks have rumbled Bam repeatedly since the quake — with two to three a day — and remain a "real danger" because the ruins could easily topple over, said Ted

For others, finding the money for fences, guards, lights or closed-circuit TV will be difficult, Ellis said.

"It's one thing to come up with a plan to see what you need to do, but it's a whole other issue how it's going to be paid for," she said.

The General Accounting Office, Congress's investigative arm, agrees that paying for the security upgrades will be a challenge. "Where the money will come from to meet these funding needs is not clear," the congressional auditors said in a Dec. 15 letter to Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.

As one example, the new regulations require more than 4,000 U.S. ships to install transponders that transmit a signal, giving port officials early warning of an unidentified vessel. But only a handful of ports have the money for installing the equipment to receive the signals, the GAO said.

The Coast Guard estimates that meeting the new requirements will cost \$7.4 billion over the next decade.

Pearn, the top U.N. relief worker in Bam.

Taking a first assessment of the structural damage, six American aid workers passed the mangled remains of crushed cars, women in chadors cooking by gas stoves on the sidewalk beside their tents and people still sifting through the rubble for their battered possessions.

Iranian authorities have begun registering people and issuing food ration cards, while aid workers have begun restoring electricity to parts of Bam. Street lights are now working on main thoroughfares.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was to hold a memorial service in Bam by dusk to end a seven-day mourning period, Iranian radio reported.

Among the recently rescued survivors, an 80-year-old deaf and blind woman pulled from the rubble on Wednesday was expected to recover after suffering only a broken shoulder, doctors said.

"This is the power of God," Dr. Bahman Fasihpour told reporters who saw the woman covered in a blanket and receiving intravenous medication. "She has a fracture in her shoulder. That's her only injury. She will be OK."

Medical workers reported more good news amid the gloom as three baby boys were born in a French field hospital — one on Tuesday and two on Wednesday.

Pearn said officials plan to start setting up three camps with heated tents to get the homeless out of small tents pitched on the roadside that offer little protection from near-freezing nighttime temperatures.

Officials estimate the camps will need to house about 40,000 people — but they're still not clear how many remain in the city after many residents fled after the quake. It's also unclear how many bodies remain buried beneath the rubble or if any more survivors can be found.

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