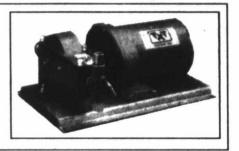


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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004



OTTERY

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

Winning numbers drawn: 15-16-27-34-38. Bonus Ball: 20.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: None. Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: \$15,335.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 25. Prize: \$1,670.

Number matching four of five: 821. Prize: \$110.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$52 million.

DEATHS

R.B. 'Jiggs' Cooke, 84, retired city official. Agnes Angela Homer, 83,

retired nurse. **INSIDE...** Classified9 Editorial4



EDITOR

State Bank of Mobeetie dows and chrome or alu-Wednesday afternoon.

build.

He reportedly wore a dark ball cap, a blue and silver money was taken in the robjacket, grey or white wind- bery which occurred at 1:49 type or sweat pants with a p.m., Wednesday. blue stripe down the leg and white tennis shoes.

according to a news release the robbery suspects.

Rick Walden.

By DEE DEE LARAMORE available for comment today. The other suspect remained outside the bank in

Area law enforcement a black or dark-colored today continue to search for Chevrolet or GMC extended two men who robbed First cab pickup with tinted winminum wheels, according to The man who robbed the the release. The second man bank is described as a white is described as wearing a ball male with dark hair and dark cap and small-lensed suneyes, six-foot, two-inches glasses. He had dark curly tall, and slender to medium hair that covered his ears, the release stated.

An undisclosed amount of

Gray County - Sheriff's Department and Pampa He was carrying a small Police Department officials blue gym-type bag and an today said their departments unknown caliber handgun, assisted with the search for

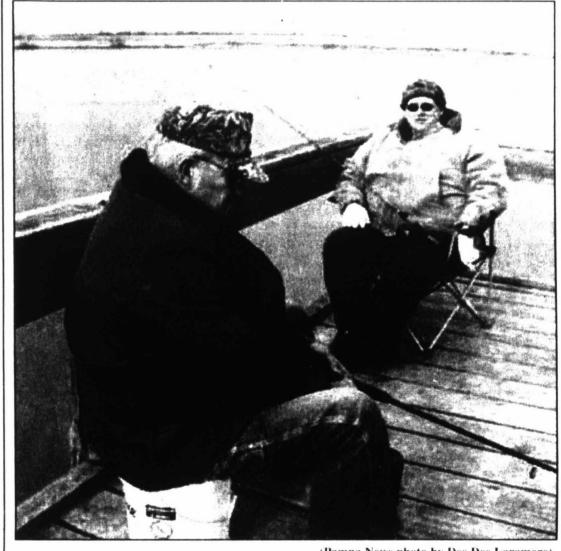
from Wheeler County Sheriff No arrests had been made in connection with the rob-Sheriff Walden was not bery by press time today

SOUTHWEST MICROPUBLISHING 2627 E YANDELL DR EL PASO TX 79903-3743 H....H.d.,.H.....H....H.d.,..d.d.,.H.d.,....H.d.H....H.d.H...

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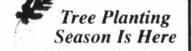
ALL FOR ADC 780

Dedicated fishermen



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Pampa fishermen Tom Chumbley, left, and Louis Bryant, bundled up to brave brisk breezes in search of trout at City Lake in Recreation Park. Bryant said he caught a trout with his first cast Wednesday, but so far, neither fisherman had felt even a nibble today.









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Warrani yielus crack, Guunity lu rghgw marijuana and arrest

BY DEE DEE LARAMORE EDITOR

A Pampa man remained in Gray afternoon.

4 p.m., Shortly before Somerville, according to a release under four ounces. from Det. Donny Brown of the Pampa Police Department.

cocaine, approximately a quarter- in lieu of bond.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - The

Spirit rover successfully rolled onto

Mars early Thursday, placing its six

wheels on solid martian ground for the

first time since the robot bounced

down on the Red Planet nearly two

Engineers and scientists at NASA's

are ready to play and learn," said JPL

director Charles Elachi.

weeks ago.

cakey dust.

cess

pound of marijuana, a set of scales and other drug paraphernalia inside the residence.

Officers also found items County Jail today on drug charges believed to be from previously stemming from the results of a reported residential and business search of his home Wednesday burglaries, Brown said in the release.

Michael D. Mitchell, 35, 1005 N. Wednesday, officers of the Pampa Somerville was arrested on a felony Police Department, Panhandle charge of possession of a controlled Regional Narcotics Task Force and substance over four grams and the District Attorney's office execut- under 200 grams and for possession ed a search warrant at 1005 N. of marijuana over two ounces and

Mitchell's bond was set this morning at \$1,000 for each charge, During the investigation, officers Gray County Jail officials said. He discovered 6.2 grams of crack remained in jail at press time today

investment policy

By MARILYN POWERS STAFF WRITER

regular meeting on the second floor of meeting. Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

meeting.

under a policy first created in March as certificates of deposit. 1989, with a change in 1998 concerninvest funds. The 1998 change ruled of county funds in-Texpool. that the county's involvement in Texpool be limited to 50 percent or less

of county funds.

The November 2003 treasurer's report had reflected a 60 percent Gray County commissioners voted investment of county funds in Texpool, to renew the county's investment poli- prompting commissioners to question cy for another year at this morning's the situation at their Jan. 5 regular

Cornelison had explained at the Jan. 5 meeting that at certain times of the "We have no policy because it has to year, more funds needed to be immedibe renewed annually," said Lee ately available to meet payroll and Cornelison, county treasurer, at the other expenses. He said checks could be written on the Texpool account but The county has been operating not on other county investments such

The December 2003 treasurer's ing Texpool, a state investment pro- report, approved by commissioners gram in which local governments can this morning, showed 28.778 percent

> The report also reflected a rise in (See COUNTY, Page 3)



'Mars now is our sandbox, and we are ready to play and learn.'

- Charles Elachi JPL director

Jennifer Trosper, mission manager three days to give Spirit time to reposi- dozens of yards a day. tion itself atop its lander, where it had

cushioned the rover's Jan. 3 landing ancient past. blocked that way, forcing Spirit to per-"We at NASA, we move awfully form a slow pirouette, turning clock- "Adirondack" and "Sashimi," both wise in three separate moves.

Mars. Spirit has landed," said Rob lander onto Mars. Engineers said the time to find its bearings and perform before its twin, Opportunity, lands Jan. some preliminary analysis of the soil 24 on the opposite side of the planet. and pebbles around it.

On Friday, Spirit should deploy its robotic arm and take its first photographs with its microscopic imager, said Steven Squyres of Cornell University, the mission's main scientist

NASA then planned for Spirit to begin a meandering trip in the direction of an impact crater about 825 feet Engineers delayed the move for away. Spirit was designed to travel

On its way, scientists said Spirit place 115 degrees to line up with one that the now dry Red Planet was once wetter and hospitable to life. Spirit Originally, Spirit was to roll straight landed in the middle of Gusev Crater, a off the lander on its ninth day on Mars. 95-mile-wide depression scientists But the now-deflated air bags that believe contained a lake during the

One of two rocks, dubbed about five yards from the rover, is Mission plans call for Spirit to expected to be Spirit's first target. The spend three to four days parked beside rover then might visit a shallow its lander after rolling off, giving it depression if there is enough time

(See MARS, Page 3)

+

and the second second second

sion. "Our wheels are finally dirty."

Jet Propulsion Laboratory cheered for surface operations, opened a celeloudly after receiving confirmation at 5 bratory bottle of champagne at a news sat since arriving. Spirit had to turn in would prospect for geologic evidence a.m. EST that the maneuver was a suc- conference.

"Now we are the mission that we all of the exit ramps that ring the lander. "Mars now is our sandbox, and we envisioned 3 1/2 years ago," she said. Elachi noted President Bush's call

Black-and-white pictures beamed long-term robotic and human journeys from Spirit showed its two rear wheels to Mars on the martian soil, with its lander 32

inches behind it. Two parallel tracks fast," Elachi joked. "In less than 15

"This is a big relief. We are on 10 feet from the unfolded petals of its Manning, manager of the entry, move likely would be the riskiest of descent and landing portion of the mis- Spirit's entire three-month mission

on Wednesday for moon missions and

led away from the lander through the hours, we are doing our first step."

Spirit took 78 seconds to travel the

2 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - THE PAMPA NEWS

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Mrs. Homes

was preceded

in death by her

parents; two

brothers, Leo

Koetting; and

Sophia Leven

Survivors

Bernard

sisters,

Katie

extended family members.

include her husband, Alfred Anton Homer;

three daughters, Rose Mary Eakin and husband

Jim of Pampa, Ruth Helen Williams and hus-

band Don of Amarillo and Rita Agnes Lister

and husband Mike of Cedar Hill; four sons,

James Alfred Homer and wife Jeannie of

Clarendon, John Edward Homer and wife Doris

of Groom, Joseph Louis Homer and wife

Barbara of Groom and Jerome Donald Homer

of Portland, Ore.; 18 grandchildren; 16 great-

grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and

hundreds of nephews, nieces, cousins and

Ambulance Fund, P.O. Box 217, Groom, Texas

The family requests memorials be to Groom

and

two

and

Kempf.



OBITUARIES

R.B. 'JIGGS' COOKE 1919-2004

of

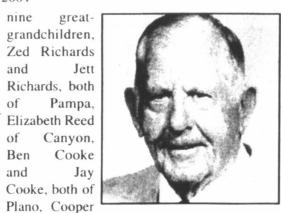
Ben

and

R.B. "Jiggs" Cooke, 84, of Pampa, Texas, nine died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Zed Friday, Jan. 16, 2004, at Hillcrest Cemetery in and McLean, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. of

Mr. Cooke was born April 28, 1919, in Elizabeth Reed McLean. He came to Pampa in 1947. He married Izlon "Cookie" Rosson on April 29, 1937, in McLean. He retired from the City of Pampa in 1983 after 37 years and seven months of service. His last 23 years were spent as director of public works. He was a 50-year member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, Pampa Shrine Club, and Khiva Temple of Amarillo. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Izlon "Cookie" Cooke of the home; a daughter, Paulette Hinkle Kirksey and husband Benny of Pampa; a son, (Ret.) Col. Harold L. Cooke and wife Betty of Sugarland; four grandchildren, Mary Ann Richards of Pampa, Joe Reed of Amarillo, Paul Cooke of Baltimore, Maryland, and Chris Cooke and wife Kathy of Sugarland;



Cooke, Coleman Cooke, Cade Cooke, and Campbell Cooke, all of Sugarland. He was preceded in death by a son, Lt. Joe G. Cooke in 1964, who was lost at sea during the Vietnam War, by six sisters, one brother, three halfbrothers and two half-sisters.

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

The family will receive friends from 3:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004, at the funeral home.

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

AGNES ANGELA HOMER 1920-2004 AMARILLO - Agnes Angela Homer, 83,

of Amarillo, died Monday, Jan. 12, 2004. Vigil services will be today at 7 p.m., Jan. 14, 2004, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Groom. Funeral Mass will be Thursday at 10 a.m., Jan. 15, 2004, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Groom with the Rev. Kevin Hand and the Rev. John Valdez as celebrants. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Groom, Texas, under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Homer was born Feb. 5, 1920, to Rosa and Goswin Koetting in St. Thomas, Mo. The family moved to Groom in the 1920s. She graduated from Groom High School in 1937. She married Alfred Anton Homer on Nov. 28, 1939. She was member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Groom and the Christian Mother's Alter Society.

She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. In 1970, she went to nursing school, earning an LVN degree, and worked at Groom Memorial Hospital until retiring in 1977.

She loved her nursing as well as crocheting and quilting. She made over 800 lap cover quilts that were donated to area nursing homes. The family will be at 503 Ware Street in Groom, Texas.

SERVICES TOMORROW

79039.

COOKE, R.B. "Jiggs" - Graveside services, 10 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, McLean.

URBANCZYK, Fred E. — Mass, 11 a.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Deer.

Consumer prices up in December

WASHINGTON (AP) — Higher costs for medical care, energy products and food pushed consumer prices up by 0.2 percent in December, although overall inflation remained subdued at a time when the economy is gain-

The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out weekly fluctuations, dropped last week to 347,500, the lowest level in nearly three years.

On Wall Street, the latest batch of econom-



total co \$2,160,398 \$3,229,641

Cornelis collateraliz funds over one financ not federall financial in savings ins eral for-Cornelison collateraliz funds free there needs the county concerning "The ban

of our polic with us," he

Gray Richard Cornelison tions conce financial r recommend **Public Fun** on types of ments. Commis

Cornelison mendations financial investments tion, at the County Morris' na

Peet's and contact f Reserve B serve as an case of va other abse Cornelison.



NASA v for the three following arrival so \$820 millio can focus o

Even v inches abo lander, Spi

ON RECORD

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported no calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m today.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

An aggravated sexual assault was reported. No further details were released today. Investigation continues.

Gas theft of \$17.54 was reported at Taylor

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests. Wednesday, Jan. 14

John Sullins, 24, 413 Powell, was arrested for theft over \$50/ under \$500.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported no calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.



Mart, 600 E. Frederic.

Identify theft was reported by a person living in the 2100 block of Coffee. Someone had written checks and used the complainant's driver's license. Amount of loss and location of the incident is unknown.

A simple assault involving juveniles was reported by someone living in the 1200 block of North Charles. The assault reportedly happened at an unspecified school. No injuries were reported

An aggravated assault involving juveniles was reported to have occurred in the 100 block of West Foster. No injuries were reported.

Michael Don Mitchell, 35, 1005 N. Somerville, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance over four grams/ under 200 grams and possession of marijuana over two ounces/under four ounces. (See related story, Page 1)

James Dale Twigg, 25, 421 Doucette, was arrested for disorderly conduct-language.

George Sanchez, 19, 832 Scott, was arrested for tampering with a serial number.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Jacklyn Renee Brittonham, 22, 613 Browning, was arrested on two capias pro fines for failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired motor vehicle registration.

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

2 p.m. - An unknown vehicle struck a legally parked 1999 Chrysler Sebring owned by Louise Long, 2114 Williston, in the 2000 block of Williston.

4:25 p.m. - An unknown white pickup with a camper struck a legally parked 1994 Chevrolet S-10 pickup owned by Jenny Tollison, 308 N. Christy, on Rodeo Drive.

STOCKS

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provided by Attebury (Grain of	XCEL	-0.13
Pampa.		Kerr McGee 48.98	-0.25
	2 4 7	Limited 17.75	-0.08
Wheat		Williams 10.71	-0.08
Milo	.4.47		
Corn	.5.03	MCD	-0.18
Soybeans	7.65	XOM	-0.32
00,000		Atmos	-0.14
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y.		Pioneer Nat	-0.02
Stock Market quotation	ons are	JCP 25.91	-0.30
furnished by Edward Jones &		COP	-0.47
Co. of Pampa.		SLB	+0.34
OXY	-0.23	Tenneco	-0.08
BP	-0.32	CVX	-0.63
Celanese	-0.21	Wal-Mart	-0.39
Cabot Corp	-0.36	OKE	-0.05
Cabot Oil Gas 31.49	-0.24	NS Grp 9.15	-0.04
Coca Cola 43.91	-0.49		
VLO	-0.09		
HAL	-0.11	New York Gold	419.55
Triad	-0.16	Silver	6.41
NOI	-0.02	West Texas Crude	.34.50

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling upper 50s and south winds 5 to for cloudy skies, a 30 percent chance of rain, highs in the cloudy skies with a 40 percent

10 mph. Tonight should fall on



chance of rain, lows in the lower 40s and south winds 5 to 10 mph. Friday should see cloudy skies with a 50 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Friday night, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 15 to 20 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Tuesday, mostly cloudy. Highs around 50. Tuesday night, mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Wednesday, mostly at 5:00 am. cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.

ing momentum.

The mild increase in the Consumer Price Index, the government's most closely watched inflation barometer, comes after prices dipped by 0.2 percent in November, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

For all of 2003, consumer prices rose by 1.9 percent --- the smallest advance since 2001 --and down from a 2.4 percent rise in 2002.

Excluding food and energy prices "core" consumer prices went up by just 1.1 percent last year, the smallest increase since 1960. In 2002, core prices registered a 1.9 percent increase

That's all good news for consumers. A long bout of lackluster economic activity created a climate that made it difficult for many companies to raise prices and motivated some to cut them to encourage more sales.

"With inflation being this tame, the Fed will be in no hurry to raise rates," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Sales at the nation's retailers rose by a solid 0.5 percent in December, following a brisk 1.2 percent increase in November, which was stronger than previously estimated, the Commerce Department said.

New claims for unemployment benefits dipped by a seasonally adjusted 11,000 last week to 343,000, the Labor Department said in a second report that suggested companies are feeling more confident the recovery is real and thus are slowing the speed at which they lay off workers.

City Briefs

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ic reports failed to cheer investors. The Dow Jones industrials were off 41 points and the Nasdaq was down-20 points in morning trading.

The CPI report was on target with economists' expectations. The retail sales report was a bit weaker than forecasts. The jobless claims figures were better than analysts' predictions.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan this week said he was hopeful the U.S. economy would eventually produce "marked increases in employment" but he didn't elaborate on the timing. The nation's payrolls grew by a minuscule 1,000 jobs in December. Although the jobless rate fell to 5.7 percent, it was because thousands of potential workers gave up looking.

On the nation's pricing climate, Greenspan also this week said that inflation has remained benign even as the dollar has fallen by roughly 25 percent against major foreign currencies since early 2002.

With inflation under control and the fragile labor market still struggling to get back to full health, Fed policy-makers have leeway to hold their main short-term interest rate at 1 percent, a 45-year low, at their next meeting on Jan. 27-28, economists said.

Some economists believe the Fed will keep rates near rockbottom levels through the rest of the year and into 2005. Others, however, believe there's a chance the Fed could begin to nudge rates up later this year, depending on how the economy is doing.

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By M **AP AEF** WASHI President B missions a

beyond is enthusiasts to hear. Eve how the ag that's sure dreds of bi "I hope making this

put the hor sustain it Sen. Bill only cu Congress t

From Wednesday there.

Bush is billion Aeronauti Administr five years tiative, an "nowhere needed. The pre ed NASA

> next five up costs back to th ly, on to N The go on the mo

lion within

no later th nor NAS O'Keefe Wednesda on Mars, specifics would re carry ast

Clements will be celebrating 94th b-day at Long John's Silvers Sat. Jan. 17th, 11-2 p.m. All friends and customers

THE PAMPA NEWS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

total county assets from \$2,160,398 for November to \$3,229,641 for December.

Cornelison also discussed collateralization, in which funds over \$100,000 at any one financial institution are not federally insured and the financial institution must buy savings instruments as collateral for those funds. Cornelison said he checks on collateralization of county funds frequently, and that there needs to be an item in the county's financial policy concerning collateralization.

"The bank requires a copy of our policy in their contract with us," he said.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet asked Cornelison for recommendations concerning the county's financial policy. Cornelison recommended following the Public Funds Investment Act on types of acceptable investments.

Commissioners asked Cornelison to prepare recommendations on the county's financial policy, including investments and collateralization, at the Feb. 15 meeting.

County Auditor Elaine Morris' name was added to Peet's and Cornelison's as a contact for the Federal Reserve Bank. Morris will serve as an alternate contact in case of vacation, illness or other absence of Peet or Cornelison.

for the three days immediately

arrival so scientists in the

\$820 million double mission

Even while parked 16

inches above Mars atop its

lander, Spirit remained busy.

It used its nine cameras to

can focus on Opportunity.

Opportunity's

MARS

following

County Attorney Josh Seabourn reported he had obtained his bond, in the amount of \$2,500, through

Eastern Panhandle Insurance Agency. The bond is a requirement of the office. Seabourn's name was

approved by commissioners to be placed on the county attorney hot check fund account, along with his secretary, Kelly Packard. Former County Attorney Todd Alvey's name was removed from the account.

Commissioners also approved removing Jennifer Jones' name from the child support general fund and Trust 2 checking accounts. Jones, a former employee in the district clerk's office, resigned her position recently. Don Lane was appointed to

Deer Land Museum board.

Commissioners authorized payment of \$250 to Pampa Properties for miscellaneous expenses related to vacated offices at the Hughes Building which the county had occupied during the recent courthouse renovation. Peet said the miscellaneous expenses included patching small holes ed. in some walls.

Commissioners also accepted a bid of \$2,075 from Hi-Plains Equipment to repair and repaint the stairwell at the Hughes Building. The stairwell sustained some damage. county tax assessor-collector as a result of the county's move in and out of the build-

ing during courthouse renovation.

Commissioners had entered into an agreement with an individual to do the stairwell work last summer, but that person has suffered a back injury and his doctor will not release him to do the work, said Peet.

Another bid, \$2,280 by Donaldson Construction, for the work was not accepted.

A contract with the State of Texas for automation equipment to be installed in the tax assessor-collector's office in McLean was approved. The state has required the automation equipment to be used in order to generate motor vehicle license registration stickers, which will no longer be pre-printed but will be blank and require printing at the a three-year term on the White local tax assessor-collector's office.

> Initial setup fee for the equipment is \$2,500, with an annual fee thereafter of \$1,500. The funds include initial setup of the equipment by state personnel, and regular maintenance and repair by the state, along with a help desk to call for assistance as need-

The state claims the new, unprinted stickers will cut down on theft and on waste, said Gaye Whitehead, Gray County tax assessor-collector.

The McLean office of currently has one employee, who works full-time.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

planned movements.

Sojourner, the far smaller rover that NASA landed on NASA wants to park Spirit Mars in 1997, spent a single day atop the Pathfinder lander 300 feet and provided 500 pictures of Mars' surface before losing contact. Spirit is far more complex and took 12 days to unfold and ready

ter and praised the staff as "America's most dedicated and successful scientists and researchers."

His visit Wednesday coinbefore shoving off to roam its cided with President Bush's surroundings. It rolled about announcement in Washington of a renewed push for space research.

> Bush unveiled a plan to send astronauts back to the moon as early as 2015 and to

land someone on Mars.



take at least 3,900 pictures of itself. its surroundings. Mission scientists used those images, including sweeping panoramas, to chart the rover's

A few hours before the rover's big move, Vice President Dick Cheney toured the Mars mission control cen-

On the Net: http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.g ov/home/index.html

To the moon and beyond

Even supporters of space plan wonder how to pay for it

By MARCIA DUNN AP AEROSPACE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) -President Bush's call for moon missions and journeys to worlds beyond is what NASA and space enthusiasts have been hungering how the agency will cover a tab that's sure to soar into the hun- the universe, to gain a new dreds of billions of dollars.

"I hope that by the president pare for new journeys to the here on Earth." making this announcement, he'll put the horsepower behind it and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., the only current member of Congress to fly in space.

Wednesday, the horsepower isn't there.

Bush is proposing an extra \$1 billion for the National Aeronautics Space and Administration over the next five years for the new space initiative, an amount Nelson says is "nowhere close" to what will be needed.

The president also has directed NASA to reallocate \$11 billion within its budgets over the next five years to cover the startup costs of sending astronauts back to the moon and, eventually, on to Mars.

The goal is to land astronauts on the moon as early as 2015 and no later than 2020. Neither Bush nor NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe offered a timetable Wednesday for putting humans on Mars, and neither offered specifics on the spacecraft that would replace the shuttle and carry astronauts beyond low-

Earth orbit.

for America's space program," Bush said in a speech at NASA headquarters that was interrupted several times by applause. "We will give NASA a new Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the focus and vision for future new space plan will face tough to hear. Even supporters wonder exploration. We will build new scrutiny. "As we go forward ships to carry man forward into foothold on the moon and to pre-

worlds beyond our own."

sustain it for the long run," said represents the boldest space Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., goals since President Kennedy laid the groundwork for the outer space and sacrificing what Apollo program that landed we need to do here." From what Nelson heard Americans on the moon in 1969, just eight years after the president committed the nation to the Bush's plan. Just over half of daunting goal.

> NASA employees, O'Keefe said the space exploration decisions care rather than on space were reached after months of intensive discussion among gov-House, NASA and other agencies.

Bush, said O'Keefe, was "inquisitive" throughout the of all of the options. The president's decisions, said O'Keefe, thinking" by Bush.

into a space program shattered by last February's loss of the space shuttle Columbia and its crew of seven, Bush's proposal advances, and it faces tough questions in Congress. Many Democrats say the administra-

tion should take care of prob-"Today we set a new course lems at home before setting its sights on costly space initiatives, particularly in the face of budget deficits of about \$500 billion.

> House Minority Leader with any initiative we have to examine our priorities," she said. "We have serious challenges

And while professing support Bush's election-year initiative for space exploration, Sen. said, "We shouldn't be going to

An AP-Ipsos poll this week found the public evenly split on Americans said it would be bet-At a meeting Thursday with ter to spend the money on programs like education and health research.

Bush's father, the first ernment officials from the White President Bush, used the 20th anniversary of the first manned moon landing to call for moon colonies and a Mars expedition, but that less-detailed plan went decision process and was aware nowhere. The estimated cost: \$400 billion to \$500 billion.

John Glenn figures the price came after "lots of intensive in today's dollars might be close to double that, "at a time when Intended to inject new life we are running unprecedented deficits." The retired Democratic senator, the first American to orbit the Earth, would much rather see the International will require major technological Space Station completed and operating at full capacity, as promised by the Clinton administration.



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4 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - THE PAMPA NEWS



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Thoughts about constables

To the editor:

The business of being a constable apparently varies from county to county as do their work loads, salaries and overall cost to counties.

A constable incumbent in Randall County and his two challengers all state they will take no salary if elected. Two constable candidates in Gray County in two different precincts, 2 and 4, have filed in an attempt to do away with the offices.

The Randall County sheriff told the incumbent the constables were unnecessary as the deputies take care of the constable work. Randall County has a much more active court than does Gray County and a larger population.

The salaries vary and are set by the county. In Polk County, Texas, a larger populated area than Gray, the salaries are set at \$7,500 plus a \$5,000 annual car allowance. Compare these figures with a county with a smaller population and less court action and less need for the positions.

IEWPOINTS

Can national news be trusted?

In not two, but in three separate stories moved by The Associated Press last week, reporters made headlines, bringing into question just how much faith to place in the national news media.

None of the reporters under scrutiny are run-of-the-mill hacks hailing from obscure media outlets either. Oh, no. One works for The Associated Press, another is a 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winner and the third is a 16-year veteran sports writer with a resume that included The Dallas Morning News, The Boston Globe, The Washington Post and, most recently, The New York Times.

The Associated Press writer, H. Josef Hebert, grabbed headlines by refusing to reveal his sources in conjunction with a lawsuit brought against the federal government by Wen Ho Lee, an ex-nuclear weapons scientist at Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico.

Lee is suing the Department of Energy and the Department of Justice because he believes government officials wrongly, and perhaps irresponsibly, released information about him to the press during an investigation surrounding Los Alamos, branding him a spy who sold government secrets.

Lee was cleared of a hefty 58 of 59 charges against him and was treated to a



formal apology from then-Commander in Chief President Bill Clinton.

Hebert, according to the Associated Press article, failed to cooperate with Lee's attorneys though ordered to do so by a federal judge.

Hebert seems intent upon protecting government officials who evidently failed to accord Wen Ho the same luxury. Where is the honor in that? And how are we, the public the fourth-estate supposedly serves, to place faith in those who publish such articles when they themselves may or may not be worthy of our trust? If a "source" can't be named, how then are we to determine whether or not that source actually exists? Take the press corps' word for

In an altogether different story, Jack Kelley, 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winner and longtime employee of USA Today, made headlines after an anonymous letterwriter cast doubt on his credibility and led

USA Today to take inventory of his work. According to the AP's initial report, based on an earlier article which appeared in The Washington Post, Kelley stood behind his stories (and still does), citing as his defense the fact that USA Today hadn't, at the time of the Post article, published anything to the contrary.

In a subsequent story by the AP appearing this week, USA Today officials broke silence to say Kelley was not forthcoming during their audit. Kelley apparently "encouraged" a translator to pretend to USA Today officials that he'd been present at an interview conducted by Kelley in 1999.

Needless to say, Kelley and USA Today have parted company.

Meanwhile, a sportswriter named Mike Freeman vacated his brand-new post as a sports columnist for The Indianapolis Star, 'fessing up to "falsifying" his resume.

What, exactly, did Freeman do? He lied about graduating from the University of Delaware.

In lieu of such dreary revelations regarding leading media personalities, it strikes me as rather bold to take as certainty anything relayed in print or via broadcast news.

WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMS FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY PAUL O'NEILL'S CLAIM THAT, DURING CABINET MEETINGS THE PRESIDENT WAS, IN FACT-"like a blind man in a room full of deaf people."

Hey, It's Not Like I Made the Market Drop On Purpose! 22)

U.N. on A

HANOI, V Vietnam on T four more s cases of the infected poult countries, wh imports of c World Healt warned of urgent situatio

Vietnam al pected human flu, with 12 d four suspected died.

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The WHO infectious dise Oshitani, arriv Thursday.

WHO Vietnamese officials are d contain the ou tests have co three people infected with the H5N1 flu

Bird flu h lions of chicl South Kore prompting th order huge sl try farms.

A central slaughtered 1 Thursday aft birds tested milder strain "The illnes

tial, but not threat, and we

A simple review of the per-each cost of court papers served would astonish you. As tax payers and those who prepare the operating budget for Gray County, the situation requires an overhaul. Gray County has an adequate law enforcement level without the office of constable, regardless of the make-work activities utilized to enhance the position in the public eye.

Bill Reeves McLean

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

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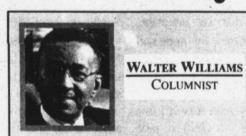


Facts belie doomsday predictions

It might have been Ross Perot who first used the expression that America is turning into a nation of "hamburger flippers," in reference to the decline in good paying manufacturing jobs replaced by low-pay service sector jobs.

Here's my question: If millions of high-paying jobs are leaving the country only to be replaced by millions of lowpaying jobs, what prediction would you make about the trend in our standard of living? It would have to be in steep decline, but the facts don't square with that. Per capita GDP, the population divided into the value of goods and services produced, is one of the methods used to gauge the standard of living. The historical trend, including today, is a rising American standard of living. In fact, our per capita GDP in 1980 was \$21,500 and, as of 2002, it was \$36,000 -- a 59 percent increase. So how can it be that we're becoming a nation of low-pay hamburger flippers?

How about this pronouncement: The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer? The Census Bureau just came out with a report saying that 35 million Americans are living in poverty. Robert Rector and Kirk A. Johnson addressed this figure in their recent publication "Understanding Poverty in America," produced by the Washington-



based Heritage Foundation.

From various government reports they find that: 46 percent of poor households actually own their homes; 76 percent have air conditioning; the typical poor American has more living space than the average non-poor individual living in Paris, London, Vienna, Athens and other cities in Europe; nearly 75 percent of poor households own one car, and 30 percent own two or more cars; 97 percent have at least one color television; 62 percent have cable or satellite reception; and 25 percent have cell phones.

While "poor" Americans don't live in opulence, they are surely not poor either by international or historical standards in our own country. I'm betting if God condemned an unborn spirit to a lifetime of poverty but He left him free to choose the country in which to be poor, he'd choose United States.

How many times have we heard that the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer? Contrary to that non-

TODAY IN HISTORY

party was represented as a donkey for the first time in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru succeeded Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's National Congress Party. In 1943, work was com-

sense, the fact of the matter is that some of the rich are getting poorer, and many of the poorer are getting richer.

According to the 1995 Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, only 5 percent of those in the bottom 20 percent category of income earners in 1975 were still there in 1991. What happened to them? A majority made it to the top 60 percent of the income distribution -- middle class or better -- over that 16year span. Almost 29 percent of them rose to the top 20 percent.

The evidence suggests that low income is largely a transitory experience for those willing to work. There's no mystery to it: As a function of age, people get wiser and gain more experience. That means it's not very intelligent to think one can make meaningful statements about poverty simply by measuring income at a particular point in time. By the way, people are also mobile downward, as suggested by the joke that the easiest way to become a Texas millionaire is to start out as a Texas billionaire.

Here's Williams' roadmap out of poverty: Complete high school; get a job, any kind of a job; get married before having children; and be a law-abiding citizen. Among both black and white Americans so described, the poverty rate is in the single digits.

> pleted on the Pentagon, now the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League in the first Super Bowl, 35-10.

Intentio

HEMPHIL Newfield Ex Con, Inc., #1 from South & line, Sec. #142, PD 915 HEMPHIL HEMPHILL

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Samson Lone

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1900' from #4015, 1 467' from V HEMPH N.W. ME Wash) Mew Mendota North &

ROBER **McMORDI** Bracken Or Hale, 1457 5921' from County S 10000'.

40,1,1&GN.

ROBER SOUTH

Morrow)



BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS King Jr. was born in Atlanta. On this date: Today is Thursday, Jan. 15, In 1559, England's Queen

In 1870, the Democratic

Elizabeth I was crowned in the 15th day of 2004. There are 351 days left in the year. Westminster Abbey. Today's Highlight in In 1844, the University of Notre Dame received its charter from the state of Indiana.

On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther

History:

THE PAMPA NEWS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - 5

U.N. agency calls for measures on Asian bird flu as cases rise

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) -Vietnam on Thursday reported four more suspected human cases of the bird flu that has infected poultry in three Asian countries, while China banned imports of chicken and the World Health Organization warned of an increasingly urgent situation.

Vietnam already has 14 suspected human cases of avian flu, with 12 deaths. One of the four suspected new cases has died.

WHO officials said the latest patients probably didn't have the bird flu.

"These four new cases, they may figure in the local health authorities' list but they don't figure on any list WHO is now using," WHO Western Pacific regional spokesman Peter Cordingley told Associated Press Television News in the Philippines.

The WHO's top expert on infectious diseases, Dr. Hitoshi Oshitani, arrived in Hanoi on Thursday.

WHO experts and Vietnamese health ministry officials are discussing how to contain the outbreak. WHO lab tests have confirmed that the three people who died were infected with Influenza A, or the H5N1 flu strain.

Bird flu has infected millions of chickens in Vietnam, South Korea and Japan, prompting those nations to order huge slaughters at poultry farms.

A central Taiwan farm slaughtered 20,000 chickens Thursday after some of the birds tested positive for a milder strain of the flu.

"The illness posed a potential, but not an immediate threat, and we decided to take

the most stringent measure," Agriculture official.

Beijing halted poultry imports from Vietnam, South Korea and Japan to the Chinese mainland, following similar measures by its Hong Kong territory and by Cambodia earlier this week. China's health ministry urged local authorities to tighten surveillance.

"We are moving to a phase of greater urgency," said Pascale Brudon, the WHO representative in Hanoi. "There was a lot of awareness about the strong need to work quickly. Vietnamese officials are taking the matter very seriously."

The virus is believed to spread to humans through contact with infected birds. There have been no reports of the disease being transmitted from one person to another.

The same strain of bird flu killed six people in Hong Kong in 1997, when more than 1 million chickens and ducks were destroyed in the territory.

Officials also have said they believe there is no danger from eating properly cooked meat and eggs from infected birds.

Regional WHO officials have warned, however, that if human-to-human transmission occurs, it could turn avian flu into a deadlier epidemic than SARS.

On Thursday, officials at Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi said a 31-year-old man from northern Thai Binh province, 60 miles southwest of Hanoi, died after contracting what doctors suspect was bird flu.

Three of his relatives were admitted to the tropical disease unit's isolation ward.

Vietnam is killing an estisaid Lin Shih-yu, a Council of mated 1.4 million infected birds, with losses of \$2.7 million to the poultry industry, agriculture officials said.

> "I've lost everything. I'm more worried about my lost money than my health, even though I'm also afraid of contracting the disease," said Nguyen Van Giang, 30, of Phu Nghia Tri village in southern Tien Giang province, some 45 miles southwest of Ho Chi Minh City.

Giang said a third of his 2,100 chickens have died. The provincial government is giving farmers 30 cents for each slaughtered chicken, but farmers say their market value is about \$2 each.

"I'm trying where I can to keep the remaining chickens, but I'm not sure whether they can survive," he said while incinerating his dead birds.

Starbucks opens first shop in Paris, France

By LAURENCE FROST AP Business Writer

PARIS (AP) — Starbucks has finally arrived in the country that likes to think it invented the cafe. Almost six years after it began establishing itself in Europe — starting with Britain, Switzerland and Austria -Starbucks Corp. inaugurated its first Paris store Thursday, with Spanish partner Grupo VIPS.

The king of Frappucinos-togo nevertheless accepts it may not be easy to make ends meet right away in a country where people still like to sit down to drink their "express," preferred short, black, bitter - and above all, cheap.



(Courtesy photo)

Ronnie Holmes, left, president of Pampa Community Concert Association, Ruth Riehart, past president of PCCA, and Judy Flanders, president of Borger, Stinnett and Fritch Tri-City Community Concert association, visit following a recent planning session for the current CCA season. The Vanaver Caravan's "Pastures of Plenty - Woody Guthrie in Dance and Music," a concert association presentation, is scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Memberships/tickets will be available at the door. For more information, contact Holmes at 665-2631.

> delayed Starbucks' entry into the French market.

Executives from four major French food companies said they turned down offers from Starbucks to form a joint venture in this notoriously difficult mar-

"Their contract was way too expensive," said Jean-Paul Brayer, former head of Groupe Flo, the French reference company in upmarket chain restaurants, which declined a Starbucks offer in 2000. "It was a win-win situation — but only for Starbucks."

Hamburger chain Quick and restaurant groups Elior and Le Duff said they also rebuffed offers from Starbucks.

Schultz dismissed as "rumors and speculation" the suggestion he initially wanted a local partindustry association showed that the traditional bistros and cafes it represents have been closing at a rate of about 1,500 a year for the past two decades, as lunch breaks contracted and takeout sandwich bars flourished.

The organization's president, Andre Daguin, nevertheless remains calm in the face of adversity and Arabian Mocha Java.

"The first cafe was founded in Paris over 300 years ago," Vaguin said, referring to Le Procope, a Latin Quarter eatery that claims to be the world's oldest restaurant still open for business.

Two new copies of movies sent to Oscar voters

DRILLING INTENTIONS

Intentions to Drill

Texas, L.L.C., #4 Fields & PD 12500'. Amended location

HEMPHILL (BUFFALOW

"Our success in other coun-

Starbucks CEO

tries does not provide us with an

entitlement to be successful in

Howard Schultz told The

French remain skeptical about

"whether coffee from America

can measure up," Schultz con-

ceded, but they are aware of the

Starbucks brand — and "their

curiosity will drive them into the

When the first branch, at

Avenue de l'Opera, opens to the

public on Friday, customers will

find familiar croissants and pains

wasn't cultural resistance that

Some business insiders say it

Research has shown the

France,"

stores."

au chocolat.

Associated Press.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con, Inc., #1 Singer Strip, 325' from South & 581' from West line, Sec. 50,OS-2,Abstract #142, PD 9150'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.P., Hobart Ranch '50', Sec. 50,A-2,H&GN, PD 12500', for the following wells:

#8, 500' from North & 1875' from West line of Sec.

#10, 2000' from South & 467' from East line of Sec.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & **FELDMAN** SOUTH Tonkawa) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #1-68 Laubhan, 1750' from North & 660' from East line, Sec. 68,2,John Graffis Survey, PD 8400'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & MIAMI) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., Abraham, Sec. 15,1,I&GN, PD 12000', for the following wells:

#3015, 467' from North & 1900' from West line of Sec.

#4015, 1900' from North & 467' from West line of Sec.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. MENDOTA Granite Wash) Mewbourne Oil Co., #1 Mendota '40', 1980' from North & West line, Sec. 40,1,I&GN, PD 11750'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & McMORDIE Upper Morrow) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #2 Hale, 14578' from North & 5921' from East line, Clay County School Land, PD 10000'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & SOUTH PARSELL Upper Morrow) Peak Operating of West line, Sec. 49, A-2, H&GN,

Sullivan '139', 660' from South & Sec. West line, 139,42,H&TC, PD 11800'. Rule 37

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & QUINDUNO Lower Albany Dolomite) Duncan Oil Inc., #1-126 Properties, Maddox, 1200' from South & 467' from West line, Sec. 126,M-2,BS&F, PD 10625'.

WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Granite Natural Wash) Bravo Resources, Inc., #7 Miller '2', 467' from South & 1902' from East line, Sec. 2,A-3,H&GN, PD 14000'.

Amended **Intentions to Drill**

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #2 Lola '236', 280' from North & 480' from East line, Sec. 236,C,G&MMB&A, PD 12350'. Amended location HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & SPARKS Tonkawa) EOG Resources, Inc., #5 Lockhart '57', 2100' from South & 2160' West line, Sec. from 7800'. 57,42,H&TC, PD Amended location

HEMPHILL 9WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #4 Hobart Ranch '20', 587' from North & 2152' from West line, Sec. 20,A-12500'. 1,H&GN, PD

Amended location **HEMPHILL (WILDCAT &** HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd., Partnership, #12 Hobart '49', 1200' from South & 567' from

Oil Well Completion ROBERTS (COURSON RANCH Upper Morrow) Range Production Co., #103 Courson Ranch S.PA-5, Sec. 3,A,H&GN, spud 10-8-03, drlg. compl 10-21-03, tested 11-28-03, flowed 5 bbl. of 42 grav. oil + no water thru 6/64" choke on 24 hour test, GOR 34000, TD 9261', PBTD 9165'

Gas Well Completions CARSON (WEST PAN-HANDLE) ConocoPhillips Co., #3R Burnett 'A', Sec. 44,5,I&GN, spud 10-23-03, drlg. compl 10-29-03, tested 11-21-03, TD 2667', PBTD 2667' ---

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #4614 Abraham, Sec. 46,A-2,H&GN, spud 7-24-03, drlg. compl 9-5-03, tested 10-27-03, TD 13663', PBTD 12640' - Plug-Back (Orig. filed as #1046 Abraham)

WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #1208P Carr '12', Sec. 12,4,AB&M, spud 9-11-03, drlg. compl 9-28-03, tested 12-12-03, TD 11825',

PBTD 1174' ---HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #5516P Carr '55', Sec. 55,M-1,H&GN, spud 9-19-03, drlg. compl 10-2-03, tested 12-12-03, TD 11900',

PBTD 11848' ----HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #4308P Teas '43', Sec. 43,M-1,H&GN, spud 9-7-03, drlg. compl 9-20-03, tested 12-12-03, TD 11906', PBTD 11780'-

(STILES WHEELER RANCH Granite Wash) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., #2069 Atherton, Sec. 69,A-7,H&GN, spud 9-30-03, drlg. compl 10-17-03, tested 12-4-03, potential 1934 MCF, TD 13660', PBTD 13507' ----

ner. But he acknowledged having wide-ranging talks with French firms.

"Many of those conversations were not so much about partnering but learning about doing business in France and sharing information about their experience," Schultz said. "We were in discussions with lots of people, never made a proposal."

Seattle-based Starbucks sees its international business posting an operating profit overall in fiscal 2004 for the first time in an eight-year global expansion drive.

Another outlet opens Monday in the La Defense business district, the second of about 10 planned for Paris in the next year.

There are already some signs that French coffee drinkers are ready for a change.

A recent study by the UMIH

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Two additional movies sent to Oscar voters have surfaced on the Internet, with a screener copy of "House of Sand and Fog" briefly up for sale on an auction site and "Cold Mountain" available for downloading, studios said.

Miramax said Wednesday it was looking into how an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences screener copy of its Civil War epic "Cold Mountain" was posted on the Internet.

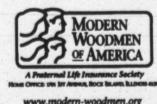
The actual videocassette copy of the grim drama "House of Sand and Fog" was up for sale on eBay before DreamWorks SKG contacted the site and asked that it be removed.

The Los Angeles Times reported that security features on the tape indicated that it belonged to Ivan Kruglak, an academy member and president of a wireless data communications company.

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written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Cat's Death Shows Girl That Comfort Can Come Out of Grief

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl. My grandfather passed away. Then my rabbit died. On top of that, my cat, "Rocky," was diagnosed with cancer. It spread to all parts of his body. After hearing Rocky cry out in pain at 3 a.m., my family and I made the heart-wrenching deci-sion to have him put to sleep. We took him to the vet, where I stroked his fur and spoke softly to him as he peacefully departed.

My parents stayed behind to speak to the vet, but I couldn't stand seeing Rocky lying on the table, so I walked out to the waiting room, still sobbing. The only other person there was an elderly man with a black Lab. With a foreign accent he asked what was wrong, and I tearfully told him my cat had just been put to sleep.

He handed me a tissue and said, "You made the right choice, dear. You were very unselfish. Just think how your pet would have suffered had you not done this for him."

I askeu if he had ever put a pet to sleep, and he nodded. "Many times," he said. "Although it is sad, I think of it as one last act of love." I thought about his words because I had never thought of it like that. "Here," the man said, gesturing to his dog, "sometimes animals can comfort best." I knelt beside his dog, still crying, and the friendly Lab made me smile in spite of my sadness

Then my parents came out and said it was time to go. I never found out the man's name, but I'd like to thank him for that act of kindness. I'll never forget how he helped me when I was hurting. MISSING ROCKY

IN MOUNT PROSPECT, ILL.

DEAR MISSING ROCKY: Our guardian angels seem to show up just when we need them most. (I'll bet you didn't expect you. It's worth remembering.

A Dog's Prayer by Beth Norman Harris

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

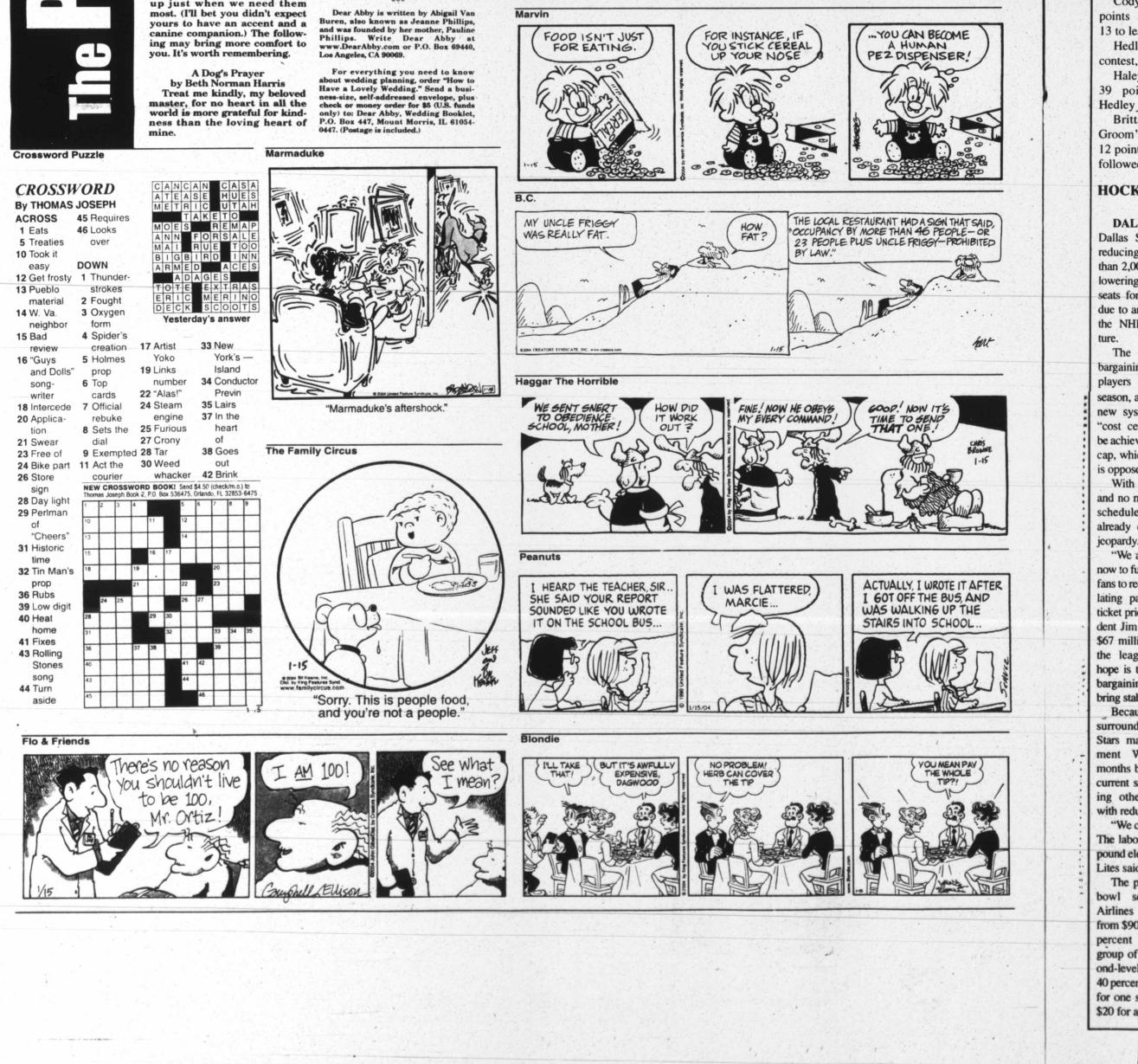
Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though you had no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted

worshipper. Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, will-ing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest — and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.





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THE PAMPA NEWS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - 7

20

SPORTS

Panthers are misfits of NFL's final four

for looking around and asking: "What are we doing here?"

include the 2002 Super Bowl champion (New England), a team in its third straight NFC title game (Philadelphia), and a team led by a co-MVP (Indianapolis' Peyton Manning).

Then there are the Panthers, in their eighth year of existence and, with the exception of 1996, relatively ignored outside the Carolinas. Hey, they haven't played on Monday night since November 2000, while the Eagles, their hosts for Sunday's conchampionship game, ference appeared in three prime-time games this season.

"You've got to do something the year before to get one of those," Eagles tackle Jon Runyan said Wednesday. "They'll get one next year."

This year and this month, though, the Panthers have been a major surprise.

Bowl champion Tampa Bay twice and running away with the NFC South, they manhandled the Cowboys in the

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The wild-card round. Then they ended St. ence in a franchise that went 1-15 in Carolina Panthers could be excused Louis' 14-game home winning streak with a 29-23 overtime victory.

So they should be the darlings of The NFL's final four this weekend the postseason, right? But they aren't. In fact, they're pretty much being ignored.

> 'We've only had one winning season around here, so a lot of people don't look at us because of that," said safety Mike Minter, referring to 1996, when the Panthers lost to Green Bay

guys, I don't care what happened up to this point. From this point on, this is a new era and this is the way we are

2001 under George Seifert.

going to run things. The guys who have been here, I am sorry you had to go through that, but this is something new about to start.""

"I think it turned when John Fox

came," Minter said. "He said, 'Look

What they went through was an

"We've only had one winning season around here, so a lot of people don't look at us because of that."

Carolina safety Mike Minter

in the NFC title game. "And we don't unimaginable string of off-field probhave that big name. If we had that big name, a Brett Favre or somebody like that, that would help."

Yes it would. But instead of a Manning, Donovan McNabb or Tom Brady at quarterback, they have the low-profile Jake Delhomme. And instead of a Bill Belichick, the AP After beating defending Super NFL Coach of the Year, or Tony Dungy at the helm, they have the unheralded John Fox.

lems. Former wide receiver Rae Carruth is serving 18 years in prison for conspiring to kill his girlfriend. Fred Lane, a former Panthers running back, was shot and killed by his wife in 2000.

Kerry Collins, now with the Giants, was accused of using a racial slur to a teammate. Collins was punched by another player for using another racial slur, and the quarter-

Those are not the kind of headlines a sports franchise wants.

"Anytime you have situations like we had off the field, it's definitely embarrassing, because that's all people were talking about," Minter said. "They weren't talking about football, and that's what we do for a living. They weren't talking about the Carolina Panthers winning championships. They were talking about the Carolina Panthers and their off-field problems."

Much nicer are the dramatics in St. Louis last week, and the fact the Panthers are one victory away from their first Super Bowl.

Much nicer is the way they haven't been spoiled by sudden success.

"We feel no pressure," linebacker Dan Morgan said. "We're having fun with it and will just come out and try to win the game."

Added Delhomme: "It's a pretty good fairy tale."

Yet, it's a fairy tale that has not become a household story. Manning's precision, Belichick's brilliance, the Eagles' failures with a Super Bowl berth on the line — those have been the juicy subplots.

"I think we'll get noticed," Morgan said, "if we win Sunday."

7th graders beat Dumas, Westover

PAMPA — Pampa Casey Trimble 8. downed Dumas 49-27 in a 7th grade boys basketball game earlier this week.

Matt Smith had 19 points and Blake Seik 14 for Pampa. The Pampa team has a 7-3 record.

The next middle school games are Monday at home against Canyon. Starting time is 6:30.

7th grade Division Pampa B 36, Dumas B 24

P - Heath Skinner 11, Kenny Hightower 10.

31

Pampa record: 7-3 Pampa A 46, Westover A 45 P - Matt Smith 26, Byron Smith 6, Blake Seik 5. Westover B 33, Pampa 16

> **B 30** P - Casey Trimble 9, Shavious Kelley 4. Raymond Cox 8.

8th Grade Division

Hereford A 58, Pampa A

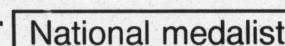
P - Shavious Kelley 11, Fortenberry 6.

Pampa B 32, Hereford B 26 P - Jeremy Martinez 8, Dane Howard 8, Colden Fortenberry 7. Dumas A 65, Pampa A P - Jacob Davis 5,

Pampa record: 1-8.

Dumas B 31, Pampa B

P - Josh Humphrey 8, Garrett Eggelston 6, Colden





But Fox has made a huge differ- back later quit the team.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — There will be a Harvester Booster Club meeting at 7 Thursday night in the keady Room at the high school athletic building.

All baseball parents are urged to attend.

SWIMMING

PAMPA - Signups are continuing for both youngsters and adults interested in joining the Pampa Aquatic Club.

If interested, contact Tammy Henthorn at 665-1049 or Anna Saiz at 669-1740

Children who wish to join must be able to swim.

BASKETBALL

HEDLEY — Groom was defeated by Hedley in District 4-1A basketball action Tuesday night.

Eric Alston scored 22 points to lead Hedley to a 68-57 win in the boys game.

Cody Schaeffer had 15 points and Kelby Noack 13 to lead the Tigers.

Hedley won the girls contest, 99-33. Haley Bennett tossed in

39 points to lead the Hedley offense.

Brittany Martin was Groom's high scorer with 12 points. Jennifer Jenkins followed with 10.

30

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) - The Dallas Stars are drastically reducing the cost of more than 2,000 season tickets and lowering the price of other seats for next season, partly due to anticipated changes in the NHL's economic structure.

The league's collective bargaining agreement with its players expires before next season, and the NHL wants a new system that guarantees "cost certainty." That could be achieved with a hard salary cap, which the players' union is opposed to.

With the sides far apart, and no negotiations currently scheduled, next season is already considered to be in jeopardy.

"We are taking these steps now to fulfill our pledge to our fans to reduce the burden escalating payrolls have put on ticket prices," said Stars president Jim Lites, whose team's \$67 million payroll is among the league's highest. "Our hope is that a new collective bargaining agreement will bring stability to the league."

Because of the uncertainty surrounding 2004-05, the Stars made their announcement Wednesday, 2 1/2 months before the end of the current season and are offering other incentives along with reduced prices.

"We can't ignore the issue. The labor issue is like a 500pound elephant in the corner," Lites said.

The price of 1,283 lowerbowl seats at American Airlines Center is dropping from \$90 to \$65 a game (a 28 percent decrease), and a group of more than 800 second-level seats by more than 40 percent - from \$60 to \$34 for one set, and from \$34 to \$20 for another.

AMES, Iowa (AP) -Anne O'Neil will always have a great memory from Wednesday night, even though everything she did

wasn't so pretty. O'Neil hit a 15-foot jump shot with two-tenths of a second to play, lifting Iowa State to a 64-63 victory that ended second-ranked Texas Tech's 15-game winning streak.

O'Neil, who had 16 of her 20 points in the second half, missed the first of two free throws, but made the second to give Iowa State a 62-61 lead with 18 seconds remaining.

with eight seconds left gave coach Bill Fennelly. He told Texas Tech a 63-62 lead. But his team to get the ball to O'Neil brought the ball up, drove to the left side of the free-throw line and connected on just her sixth field goal in 20 attempts to give the

Cyclones (8-5 overall, 2-2 Big 12) the victory.

"I had missed so many I thought I might as well try to make one," O'Neil said. "I felt like I was dribbling too much, and I thought time was going to run out. "So, I did a quick spin and shot it and I saw it go through the hoop." She did exactly as

A jump shot by Jia Perkins instructed by Iowa State

HEREITERITERING

O'Neil and told her to push it up the floor as hard as she could.

"I said, 'If you see an opening, shoot it or if they come quick, dump it off,' " Fennelly explained. "I think it was appropriate Anne made that shot. It was nice to see it go in for her."

Texas Tech guard Erin Grant didn't like what she saw up close.

"We knew we needed to get a big stop at the end and we didn't get it done," she said. "She just hit a big shot. I was in her face."

exhibits the medal she won after taking second at the National Tournament held recently in El Paso. Krysten was entered in the Division One 60-pound class. Last weekend, she competed against Texas panhandle wrestlers in a tournament in Lubbock and came away with the championship medal in her division.

Pampa cagers at Caprock

District 3-4A basketball action a 23-1 record. Friday night.

Gametime is 6 for the girls and 7:30 for the boys.

The Harvesters (1-2 district, 5-11 overall) are locked in a three-way tie for fourth with Dumas and Randall.

Caprock (3-1, 12-1) holds down second place behind 4-0

PAMPA - Pampa travels Palo Duro, which is currently to Amarillo Caprock for ranked No. 3 in Class 4A with

> The Lady Harvesters (2-3 district, 9-12 overall) are tied for fifth in the girls' standings.

Caprock girls are looking for their first district win after five game.

The Lady Longhorns have only one win on the season.

Canadian sweeps Highland Park

BEST SALES AND RENTALS

201 N. CUYLER • 669-0558

CANADIAN - Canadian downed Highland Park 43-38 in District 6-1A boys play Tuesday night.

Canadian's scoring attack was led by Tony Livingston and Kyle Jahnel with 11 points each.

Flashback

1978: Pampa defeated Plainview 72-49 in high school boys basketball Harvester in action Fieldhouse.

Steve Duke led the Harvesters in scoring with 22 points. Ronnie Faggins followed with 14.

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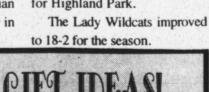
Member SIPC

Canadian held a 22-15 lead at halftime. Colby Carpenter had 12 and Ashley Johnson added 10

points to lead Highland Park. each. Tandi Rankin, a 5-8 senior, scored 25 points as Canadian blasted Highland Park 83-19 in the girls game.

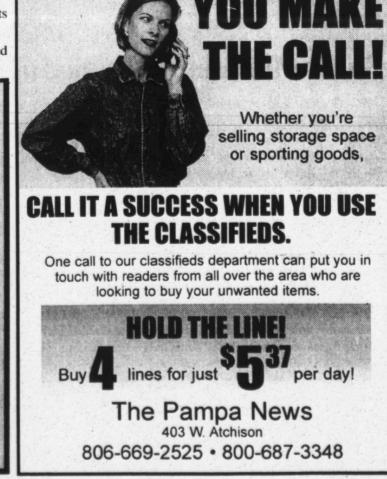
Carlee Culver followed with 12 points, while Shila Provence

Teryn Murphy had 6 points for Highland Park.



The Lady Wildcats improved





Pampa record: 4-6. Lady Raiders upset by Iowa State

Pampa Takedown Club member Krysten Miller

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SCOREBOARD

BOWLING HARVESTER LANES **League Standings 50 To Heaven** (Week 1) Team Won Lost Grey Ghosts 3 Future Forensics 3 Geritol Go-Getters 3 **Polygrip Pals3** Metamucil Maulers1 **Rolaid Rollers** Going, Going Gone 1 **Prilosec Prowlers** Week's High Scores Men

High game: Andy Anderson 267; High series: Andy Anderson 657; High handicap game: Andy Anderson 267; High handicap series: Andy Anderson 657.

Women

Team Eight 4

High scratch game: Judy Anderson 169; High scratch series: Judy Anderson 464; High handicap game: Pat Martin 214; High handicap series: Judy Anderson 581.

Celanese Mixed League (Week 1) Won Lost Team Darcy's Team

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Pin Busters	3	1	
Pin Heads	3	1	
D. J.'s	1	3	
Team One	1	3	
Team Five	0	4	
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We	ek's Hi	igh Scores	
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High scrate	h game	e: Monty Micha	el
225; High scra	tch serie	es: David Fritz 57	5;
High handica	p game	: Phillip Murrac	k
259; High har	ndicap s	series: David Fri	tz

626.

Women High scratch game: Diane Sims 191; High scratch series: Gay-Lynn Couts 490; High handicap game: Diane Sims 242; High handicap series: Gay-Lynn Couts 616.

FOOTBALL **NFL Playoff Glance By The Associated Press All Times EST** Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 3 Tennessee 20, Baltimore 17 Carolina 29, Dallas 10 Sunday, Jan. 4 Green Bay 33, Seattle 27, OT Indianapolis 41, Denver 10

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 10 Carolina 29, St. Louis 23, 20T New England 17, Tennessee 14

Sunday, Jan. 11 Indianapolis 38, Kansas City 31

Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17, OT

Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 18 **AFC Championship** Indianapolis at New England, 3 p.m. (CBS)

NFC Championship Carolina at Philadelphia, 6:45 p.m.

(FOX)

Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1 **At Houston** 6:25 p.m. (CBS)

Pro Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 At Honolulu 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Clemens still considers himself 'a Yankee'

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NEW YORK (AP) ---Roger Clemens had only year contract for \$5 million good things to say about the with Houston on Monday, New York Yankees a few days after coming out of retirement for the Yankees in the World and signing with his home- Series against the Florida Fame plaque. town Houston Astros.

Award winner signed a onethree months after pitching a Yankees cap on his Hall of Marlins

changing.

"If Andy Pettitte was a Yankee, I'd still be retired." Clemens has said he wants

The New York Times

Pats' Harrison back in playoffs

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) - Rodney Harrison could see the disappointment in New England last winter. That's what sold him on the place.

"I knew that they were a year removed from the Super Bowl and they finished 9-7," the Patriots safety said Wednesday as he prepared for the AFC Championship game. "I can't remember the last time I finished 9-7 - and it

was disappointing to them." Harrison, who spent his entire career with the San Diego Chargers before signing with New England as a free agent, is a big reason why there's little disappointment around Foxboro this winter. The Patriots will play the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday for the conference title, and Harrison is back in the play-

offs for the first time since his second year. This after a season in which Harrison led New England

with 140 tackles and added three interceptions while helping instill an attitude in a defense that posted three shutouts in its last four regular-season home games. But with his reputation as a big --some say cheap - hitter and the fact that the woeful Chargers didn't want him, some of his Patriots teammates wondered what they were getting.

"With any free agent, you wonder how he's going to fit in. There's always questions at first. He answered those right away," linebacker Tedy

DALLAS (AP) - The leading 85-70 early in the Dallas Mavericks would be a lot more satisfied with the fourth. Helping Antoine way they won their last two Walker notch a second games if it wasn't for the way straight triple-double seemed they almost lost them. to be all that was left, espe-

Their 125-122 double- cially considering that

Day 1, he's established himself as a force with big hits."

Actually, it was the second day of practice in training camp when Harrison belted New England receiver Troy Brown on a route across the middle. In case there were any doubts remaining, he had a team-high 11 tackles in the first week.

"I really can't comment on what San Diego thought," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "I just think Rodney Harrison is a good football player from 'A' to 'Z.' He's a pro — on the field, off the field. He has the ability to play in all situations - run, pass, blitz, tackle, special teams when he's been asked to do that.

"I think he is a complete player. He has had a good year for us, and he's had it in a lot of different areas. It's not all in the run. It's not all in the pass.

Hidden Hills Golf News

PAMPA — The team of Jerry Davis, O.K. Lee, Jess Mathis and Marvin Allison shot a 61 to win the Hidden Hills Senior Regular Scramble on Wednesday. They shot a 26 on the front nine.

Placing second were Pat Montoya, Ray Covalt, Bob Henderson and Joe Mabry, 62. Placing third were Harley Knutson, Duane Cash, Travis Taylor and Travis Johnston, 62. Placing fourth were Jim

Mavericks claim two-overtime win

The Mays responded by

Bruschi said. "I think, from It's not all on blitzes. It's on everything."

> Since Harrison has forgotten: The last time he went 9-7 was in 1995, his second year in the league after a rookie year in which he led the AFC champions in special teams tackles.

> But since '95, the Chargers haven't been back to the playoffs. So when they decided to start a youth movement last offseason — jettisoning Harrison and linebacker Junior Seau — he was happy to look elsewhere.

The Patriots signed him the day after they signed former Chicago Bears linebacker Rosevelt Colvin.

Harrison liked the idea that New England was investing in its defense.

"They were a year removed from the Super Bowl," he said. "So I knew I could come here and be competitive right away."

Brashears, Ron Parnell, Jack Norman Davis and Willingham, 63.

Closest to pin: Jerry Davis, No. 6.

Closest to pin: Jerry South, No. 15.

Pampa golfer Bill Washington, 76, shot a 74, two below his age at Hidden Hills. Playing with him were Doug Dubose and Everette Butler, also of Pampa.

for Philadelphia. Samuel Dalembert added career highs with 24 points and 16 rebounds, but he missed a free throw that would've tied it with 18.5 seconds left.

Michael Finley had 32

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby that an election wi held within and for RECTOR PRECI NO. 3 and DIREC PRECINCT NO. 7, 0 PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION TRICT, on Februa 2004, at the polling ces hereinafter set o elect one District Di in each Precinct, 1 four-year term. Upon each ballot sha pear the names of qualified candidates have filed for electi the office of Distric rector. Blank spaces be left on said ball order, that names of legally qualified pe may be written in LOCATIONS OF P

ING PLACES: PRECINCT NO. 3 portion in Gray Co Gray County Building, 12125 E. erick Avenue, P. Texas. PRECINCT (the portion in R County) Red S County) Red House, Highway 7 FM 282, Roberts Co

Texas. PRECINCT NO. 7 ami Community 103 S. Main St., N

Texas Absentee voting by sonal appearance w conducted each we at the following loca

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The Stars Show 5-Dy Have: 3-Average; 2-So

"I still consider myself a Yankee," Clemens told ESPN Radio on Wednesday. His comments appeared in the New York Post on Thursday.

"The New York fans I've run into have been nothing but supportive," he said. "The only ones who weren't supportive were Cubs fans who said, 'Stay retired.""

last season he was 99 percent sure he would retire, but he was lured to Houston after good friend and former Yankees teammate Andy Pettitte signed with the

Astros. "I had no intentions of playing," Clemens said. "Then when Andy signed, The six-time Cy Young that's when everything started

Clemens said at the end of reported Thursday that Yankees owner George Steinbrenner sent Clemens a friendly letter after he joined the Astros.

> "Roger Clemens was a performer," great Steinbrenner said in a statement. "I only have the best things to say about him. I'm not at all bitter about what happened."

Franchise founder George

"Papa Bear" Halas helped

create the NFL, and some of

the greatest names in the his-

tory of the game once wore a

There's some intriguing

talent, too, with Pro Bowlers

Brian Urlacher and Olin

Kreutz, Mike Brown, Marty

Booker and promising young

a consistent force since the

Ditka days. Chicago has had

just one winning season in the

past eight years, and hasn't

won a playoff game since

But the Bears haven't been

quarterback Rex Grossman.

Bears uniform.

overtime victory against the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night was tarnished by the fact they let a 15-point lead slip away in the fourth quarter. They even had to recover from a four-point deficit in the final three minutes of regulation.

In the previous game, Dallas beat New York in overtime for its first road victory against an Eastern Conference team this season. However, the Mavs blew a 20-point lead along the way, capped by giving up six points in the final 10.7 seconds of the fourth quarter.

"That's the way the season has gone," said Dallas coach Don Nelson, whose job security has become a popular topic because of his talented team's inconsistent play. "We haven't been able to sustain leads and we can lose them in a hurry because we are not effective on the defensive end."

Before tipoff, Nelson spent about a half-hour discussing his status with team owner Mark Cuban. Cuban told Nelson, "You ain't going anywhere."

Philadelphia was without injured starters Kenny Thomas and Derrick Coleman.

Then the 76ers started nailing 3-pointers — nine in 12 attempts over the fourth quarter and first overtime. Dallas finally won in the second OT when Philadelphia went 0-for-3 from behind the arc, including a last-second try by Eric Snow that never even made it to the rim.

"No moral victories," said Allen Iverson, who had five 3s and finished with 31 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

"We had opportunities to win the game, we just couldn't get it done," he said. "That's the sad part about everything. The game was right there for us to win. We just didn't execute the way we needed to down the stretch."

Dirk Nowitzki had five of his 25 points in the second overtime, including one with 24.1 seconds left that put Dallas ahead for good, 122-120.

Glenn Robinson had 34 points and seven rebounds

points. Walker got his milestone with 11 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists but shot 4-of-19 and fouled out in the final minute of the

second overtime. "I'm upset because I'm not shooting the way I should," said Walker, who had only five points in his last home game. "The shots I'm used to making aren't falling. But the good thing is this team has a lot of other offensive weapons."

This was Dallas' only home game in a stretch of five games in seven days including trips to Denver on Friday and Portland on Saturday. So the Mavs could've done without the extra 10 minutes against the 76ers, especially two days after going an extra five against the Knicks.

It hasn't helped Steve Nash, who added a bruised hip to his already aching back. His backup, Tony Delk, is out up to three weeks with a sprained ankle.

"I don't want to miss any time," Nash said. "I'm going to try to keep going out : there."

Bears hire Smith to be head coach

LAKE FOREST, III, (AP) — The team that brought the • NFL the Monsters of the Midway has a new coach.

A guy named Lovie.

Desperate for someone to pull the once-proud franchise out of the dumps, the Chicago Bears named Lovie Smith their new head coach Wednesday and gave him a four-year deal. He'll be formally introduced Thursday afternoon.

Lovie may not have the same smashmouth, SuperFan ring as, say, Ditka. But he's a career coach who's spent the past three seasons as defen-

sive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams, who trump the Bears in recent Super Bowl appearances.

And if he wins, Bears fans won't care what his first name is. They'll just call him 'Coach.'

"I'm excited for Lovie, and I'm also excited for the Bears organization," Rams coach Mike Martz said. "I'm not sure they fully realize the quality individual and the professional they are getting. They will soon realize that and fully appreciate it."

Smith inherits a team with a long, storied history. January 1995.

Baseball meetings scheduled next week on Dodgers; owners mull Expos' future

(AP) — The sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers to a Boston real estate developer will come down to the Jan. 31 deadline, with baseball officials concerned about the financing of the deal.

Baseball's ownership committee discussed the \$430 million agreement between News Corp. and Frank McCourt on Wednesday and will send a delegation to meet with him in Los Angeles next week. The group will include Atlanta Braves chairman emeritus Bill Bartholomay and Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. examining the financing for know there is a desire by the the deal and whether it complies with baseball's rules on the allowable amount of debt, a baseball official said on the condition of anonymity.

McCourt also met with several owners last week, and his agreement calls for the sale to close by the end of January. It won't be voted on at Thursday's meeting of all owners, and Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, wouldn't say whether commissioner Bud Selig would call for a vote later this month by telephone conference call.

"That's all up to the com-The committee has been missioner," DuPuy said. "I

buyer and seller to conclude by the end of the month, and the commissioner is aware of that.'

McCourt's spokesman, Duffy Jennings, declined comment.

DuPuy said another timely topic in baseball was not brought up.

"For the first time in about three weeks, the subject of Pete Rose was not addressed," DuPuy said after the executive council met.

The fate of the Montreal Expos also was up for discussion, with the relocation committee talking about visits earlier this month to Monterrey, Mexico, and

last year with groups from Northern Virginia; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C.; and DuPuy said Las Vegas and San Juan, Puerto Rico, also were candidates.

The Expos were bought by the other 29 teams before the 2002 season, and are scheduled to play 22 "home" games in San Juan for the second straight year to raise revenue.

"One of our highest priorities in New York is to get it resolved," DuPuy said, adding that Selig would address the topic after Thursday's meeting.

Baseball at first hoped for a decision in time for the

Norfolk, Va. Baseball spoke 2003 season, then for 2004. Owners want financing in place for a new ballpark before moving the team.

> "There's nothing we can do about it this year," DuPuy said. "We have a little breathing space."

The proposed start of a World Cup in March 2005 and plans to start a baseball channel will be discussed Thursday.

In addition, owners will vote on changes to the annual amateur draft and the winter meeting draft of players not protected on 40-man rosters.

Currently, teams are ranked from lowest winning percentage to highest in their

leagues, and the NL and AL alternate picks. The change would have all teams ranked together from lowest winning percentage to highest.

If adopted, the new order would start with the 2004 winter meeting draft in Anaheim, Calif., and the 2005 amateur draft.

Baseball officials also discussed having the World. Series champion Florida Marlins play the Houston Astros in a pair of exhibition games at Mexico City on. March 13-14.

DuPuy said it was possible that some regular-season games could be moved to Monterrey this year, but it wasn't definite.

ARIES (March **** You m fused, but you'l Work with per you'll find that each other and c meaningful. Exa of a partnership Tonight: Make r TAURUS (Apri * * * * * Let but you really k where you are j need to say muc the day, others h A meeting coul Split and start y **GEMINI** (May



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GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DIS-TRICT, on February 7, 2004, at the polling places hereinafter set out, to elect one District Director in each Precinct, for a four-year term. Upon each ballot shall ap-

pear the names of those qualified candidates who 79097 have filed for election to the office of District Director. Blank spaces shall be left on said ballot, in order, that names of other legally qualified persons may be written in. LOCATIONS OF POLL-

ING PLACES: PRECINCT NO. 3. (the portion in Gray County) Gray County Annex

Building, 12125 E. Frederick Avenue, Pampa, Texas. PRECINCT NO. 3 (the portion in Roberts County) Red School House, Highway 70 and FM 282, Roberts County, Texas.

PRECINCT NO. 7, Miami Community Center, 103 S. Main St., Miami, Texas.

Absentee voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at the following locations;

1 Public Notice Precinct No. 3- Gray County Courthouse: Non-Jury Room, 205 N. Rus-

sell, Pampa, Texas. Precinct No. 7- Roberts County Clerk's office, US 60 at Kiowa, Miami, Texas, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., beginning on January 21, 2004 and ending on February 3, 2004. Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Yvonne Thomas, Absentee Voting Clerk, Panhandle-Groundwater Conservation District, P.O. Box 637, White Deer, Texas Applications for ballots

by mail must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2004. Issued this 11th day of

November, 2003. Charles Bowers, President **Board of Directors**

> ww.panhandlegroundwater.org Jan. 15, 2004

3 Personal

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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 16, *** You have great ideas, but don't person might feel like family, he or she 2004:

way isn't the only way. Learn to under- Take it easy. stand different styles and people. CANCER (June 21-July 22) Always keep your wallet in a safe spot as other relationship. Sometimes you con- weekend. well. If you are single, you are likely to fuse others. If you walk in another's CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) because he or she could be very special. town red. If you are attached, make the most of this LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) friendship over and over.

Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ting to know others. Network both per- round travel or perhaps office gossip. closet? Tonight: Keep smiling. sonally and professionally. As a result, You also need to verify before running SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) you will gain a lot. Also know that your with anything. Be your own PI. Tonight: **** You might want to try anoth-

up a new hobby that you both would of whack without your immediate clarity. Only where you want to be. enjoy. SCORPIO proves his or her Some might think that what another is AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

informed. In this manner, you will be case of distorted vision. Tonight: Leader

try to realize them by yourself. might not be as clear as you would like. Expand your horizons this year by get- Investigate new possibilities that sur- Could there could be skeletons in your

er approach before you decide what is impossible. You need to take a stand, Confusion surrounds finances and what *** You might want to understand whether you're comfortable with it or you want. Use kid gloves here, and dou- more of what you want from a key rela- not. Listen well to a friend who cares. ble-check all your money dealings. tionship, be it with a child, a flirtation or Tonight: Rest up for what could be a wild

meet someone quite unusual and differ- shoes, you'll understand a lot more. *** Make do with what is going on ent. Be open to relating to this person, Tonight: Kick up your heels. Paint the right now. You could have pushed someone away. Ask appropriate questions. Walk in another's shoes. You will get the special year by doing more together. You **** Focus on home and family. You answers you're looking for. Stay light naturally have a good time together. Take might find that everything gets a bit out and easy with those around you. Tonight:

saying is gibberish, and they might not *** Your creativity might not evoke be far from wrong. Tonight: Treat a loved the response you desire. Don't let it get The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll one to dinner or a night out on the town. to you, but rather follow through on what you need to do. Investigate different *** Listen, inform and get approaches carefully. You could have a

or not. Verify what you hear before you

act on it. Your mind could be drifting to

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THE PAMPA NEWS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - 9

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

you'll find that you are able to inspire Tonight: Split work. each other and connect on a level that is LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) of a partnership or money association. ments. You will be able to take a strong Tonight: Split ASAP. Tonight: Make nice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

where you are going. In fact, you don't you. Tonight: Your treat. need to say much, because by the end of SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Split and start your weekend. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

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able to get the messages across that oth- of the gang. *** You might start the day con- ers cannot. If you want, make plans for PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) fused, but you'll end it most satisfied. the upcoming weekend. You could be a **** Avoid sabotaging yourself. You Work with people individually, and bit uncomfortable around a co-worker. have that tendency, whether you want to meaningful. Examine the pros and cons *** Review recent financial develop- other lands, especially this weekend.

stand because of your sixth sense about such matters. Allow your imagination to BORN TODAY *** * Let others spout their ideas, go to new levels. Share more of your Singer Sade (1959), singer Aaliyah

but you really know what you want and inner voice with those who care about (1979), model Kate Moss (1974)

the day, others have a similar conviction. *** You might want to rethink more Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at A meeting could be important. Tonight: carefully a decision that surrounds a http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2004 by King Features Syndicate Inc. friendship. Though on some level this

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1-15 # CRYPTOQUOTE JMSQVZVNVTBJ EF SCJ XPMPQI DL SCJ RDDQ; RJTPQI EF SCJ XPMPQI DL

SCJ QEBC. — DFBVQ KEXYJ Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AN EXCUSE IS WORSE AND MORE TERRIBLE THAN A LIE; FOR AN EXCUSE IS A LIE GUARDED. -ALEXANDER POPE

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10 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 - THE PAMPA NEWS

FCC chairman seeking larger fines for indecency violations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Federal Communications Commission, upset over a growing use of profanity on television and radio, wants to sharply increase the penalties for broadcasters airing indecent programs.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said at a National Press Club luncheon on Wednesday that the current maximum penalty, \$27,500 for each incident, should be 10 times higher.

"Some of these fines are peanuts — they are peanuts because they haven't been touched in decades," Powell said. "They're just the cost of doing business to a lot of producers, and that has to change."

Powell's proposal, which needs congressional approval, comes amid continued criticism of the FCC for a ruling in October that an expletive uttered by the musician Bono on a network TV program was not indecent because it was used as an adjective rather than to describe a sex act. And it follows a report in September by a conservative advocacy group, the Parents Television Council, which found much more foul language on network TV.

Powell, who has asked his four fellow commissioners to overturn the FCC ruling on Bono, said it was irresponsible for broadcasters to air profanity during hours when children may be watching.

Federal law and FCC rules ban radio stations and over-the-air television channels from airing obscene material at any time, and from airing indecent material between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. The FCC defines obscene material as describing sexual conduct "in a patently offensive way" and lacking "serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value." Indecent material is not as offensive but still contains references to sex or excretions.

"It's irresponsible of our programmers to continue to try to push the envelope of a reasonable set of policies that tries to legitimately balance the interests of the First Amendment with the need to protect our kids," Powell said. "I think that line is beginning to be crossed."

One of the two Democratic commissioners, Jonathan Adelstein, backed Powell's call for higher fines.

"We get a lot of complaints," Adelstein said. "We're getting serious about it now. Hopefully, we'll see less people crossing the line on this. We want to give them incentives to do that."

The National Association of Broadcasters declined to comment. So did NBC, which aired the Golden Globes Awards show last year where Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock group U2, said "this is really, really, fbrilliant."

The FCC's enforcement bureau said Bono's comments were not indecent or obscene because the F-word was used as an adjective.

But lawmakers have been quick to react. Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on telecommunications and the Internet, said he would introduce legislation to increase the maximum fines for indecency. His subcommittee plans a hearing on the issue Jan. 28.

"Clearly, we're beyond the 'Ozzie and Harriet,' days but we still don't need some of this language that's out there," Upton said. "It's on the air because they can get away with it."

Watchdog groups say broadcasters are trying to compete with racier cable television channels, which are not covered by the same FCC rules, and trying to attract the young males coveted by advertisers.

"This is a game where you're competing for audiences," said Celia Wexler, research director for Common Cause. "They're not thinking about what the soccer mom and their kids might enjoy; they're thinking about what that 18 to 24 year old male might enjoy."

The commission's two largest penalties for indecency were \$1.7 million against Infinity Broadcasting in 1995 to settle several cases against radio disc jockey Howard Stern and \$357,000 in October against Infinity for a segment on the "Opie and Anthony" radio show in which a couple was said to be having sex in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

On the Net:

Federal Communications Commission: http://www.fcc.gov

Auditors want wider Halliburton probe

WASHINGTON (AP) -Pentagon auditors say Vice further investigation. President Dick Cheney's for-

mer company should be inves- ians in Iraq as part of its con- award a replacement oil indus-

decision to refer the case for vide the Army with emergency logistical services. The Army KBR delivers fuel to civil- Corps of Engineers plans to tigated for possibly overcharg- tract to rebuild the country's try reconstruction contract through competitive bidding later this spring. Later this year, the Pentagon agency which supplies fuel for military vehicles will take over deliveries of fuel to civilians in Iraq. Democrats have called for further investigations of the matter and criticized the Halliburton contract as evidence of the Bush administration's rewarding its corporate friends. Cheney ran Halliburton from 1995 until he quit in 2000 to become Bush's running mate, and the company's executives donated thousands of dollars to the Bush campaign. White House and Pentagon officials say political considerations do not affect the Defense Department's contract decisions. Cheney, a former defense secretary, is not involved in those decisions.



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ing the military for gasoline delivered to Iraqi civilians.

The Defense Contract Audit Agency this week asked the department's inspector general to investigate Halliburton, Pentagon officials said. DCAA auditors determined last month that Halliburton subsidiary KBR may have overcharged by more than \$61 million for fuel it bought in Kuwait and delivered in Iraq.

The request for a deeper probe indicates DCAA auditors found evidence of possible violations of the law or federal regulations. The auditors only track spending on Pentagon contracts and have no power to rule on whether laws or rules were broken.

The referral comes despite Army contract managers' findings that Halliburton's contracts were fair and proper. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last month expanded Halliburton's duties to include shipping kerosene into Iraq from Kuwait.

Halliburton has denied any wrongdoing. The company said in a statement Wednesday it had not been notified of the crumbling oil industry. Because Iraq's ability to refine gasoline was blocked by the war and postwar sabotage, the largest part of the oil industry contract has been delivering U.S.-subsidized fuel to Iraqis.

The DCAA auditors found that KBR paid double the price for gas from Kuwait than for gas from Turkey.

Halliburton says it had to pay that price because it was set by Kuwait's Altanmia Marketing Co., the only firm authorized by the Kuwaiti government to sell fuel. Halliburton says it saved the military more than \$100 million by buying the majority of Iraq's fuel from Turkey.

Auditors also say they found an internal Halliburton document questioning the price paid for fuel in Kuwait. Halliburton refuses to turn over a copy of that document to auditors.

Halliburton said the document did not suggest any wrongdoing and said the auditors may have broken the law by looking at it.

Halliburton got the oil industry contract without bidding as part of its deal to pro-

Halliburton has called the Democrats' criticisms unwarranted and politically motivated.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the Pentagon auditor's request for an investigation on its Web site Wednesday night.

Some civil rights leaders upset at planned MLK visit

 ATLANTA (AP)President Bush's plan to observe the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 75th birthday at his Atlanta grave site Thursday upset some civil rights leaders, who say the president's politics and poor scheduling conflict with their plans to honor King.

"For him to have entered the war in the manner in which he did and now to come to lay a wreath for Dr. King is the epitome of hypocrisy," said the Rev. Tim McDonald of Concerned Black Clergy, which was planning a protest.

McDonald said the president's appearance shows "that he wants black votes, that he

wants to give the appearance that he's not a racist, that he's not a war hawk, but we can see through that veil."

State Rep. Tyrone Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, said Bush's policies on the Iraq war, affirmative action and social service funding have been "in direct contradiction to the King legacy."

"It's wonderful to come lay a wreath, but there must be a commitment beyond laying the wreath," Brooks said. "Everyday programs and actions will do that."

Bush planned to lay a wreath Thursday afternoon at the late civil rights leader's

crypt at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. King Center officials said they extended no formal invitation to Bush but accepted his offer to come.

"The president is coming because he called to say, 'I'm coming by to lay a wreath on the 15th. Mrs. King, will you join me?' And as we do for all the presidents and dignitaries who come through ... out of respect for that office and out of respect for Dr. King, he's coming," said Lynn Cothren, special assistant to Coretta Scott King at The King Center. Local leaders said the visit conflicted with other King holiday events.



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