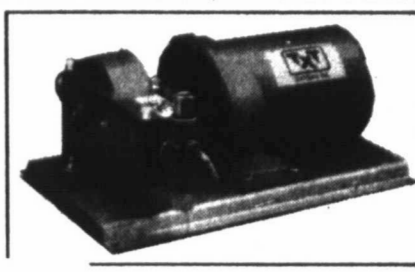




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FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2004

NEWS

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LOCAL

Miami school board to meet on Monday

MIAMI — Miami ISD Board of Education plans to meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, in the administration office, 100 Warrior Lane.

Items listed on the agenda include appointment of a textbook committee and principal evaluation and salary. Reports to be heard include school finance and litigation, school board training, cafeteria, transportation, and tax collections. Board members also plan to review bills and fund balances.

DEATHS

Elsie Irene Fuller Webb, 98, Sunday school teacher.

INSIDE...

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Bush's speech: Stay the course

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will use next week's State of the Union address to try to revive a proposal that would allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market, aides say.

His election-year agenda also calls for pressing Congress to make already-enacted tax cuts permanent, such as the elimination of inheritances taxes and

reductions in capital gains taxes. Bush is considering whether to renew his push for a new kind of tax-preferred savings accounts that could be used for retirement, college, health care or other purposes.

Bush will address the nation in a televised speech before a joint session of Congress at 9 p.m. EST Tuesday, three years to the day after his inauguration and one day after the Iowa presidential caucuses.

Approaching a battle for re-election, Bush is expected to highlight econom-

ic growth and successes in the fight against terrorism, most notably the capture of deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

It will be a stay-the-course message at a time when his Democratic rivals are urging a change at the White House.

"He needs to make the case as best he can that people are better off and more secure than they were four years ago, and that maintaining the status quo is the better course for the nation," said Phil Trounstine, the director of the

Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State University.

"He has to be political but deft. It can't sound like a political speech," said Trounstine, a former communications director for ex-Gov. Gray Davis of California. "He's got to sound like he is a statesman and the leader of the nation, not a politician and the leader of his party."

The partisan atmosphere of the campaign year may diminish the chances of major action on Bush's initiatives. (See BUSH, Page 3)

WTW receives \$175,000 grant for new study

A \$175,000 federal grant will help Worth the Wait, a local non-profit abstinence education program, study how best to motivate parents to be involved in programs for their children.

Worth the Wait officials recently received notification of the research grant award from the Office of Population, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. WTW's proposal, "Parental Involvement in Teen Risk Avoidance" was the only non-profit organization in the country to receive the grant. All others went to academic institutions.

"Programs are in place all over the country to help teens avoid drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence and sexual activity," said Stacey Ladd, Worth the Wait executive director. "We can help teens see the benefits of avoiding these risks, but it takes an involved parent or guardian to reinforce and support their child's decision to remain abstinent from these risk behaviors. That's what makes the risk-avoidance program successful in the long run."

Many reasons contribute to why parents don't take an active role in risk-avoidance programs, including having to work and not realizing the impact of parental involvement, according to a WTW news release.

"In a study done by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teens said their parents were the single most influential factor in teen

The study consists of three phases including parent focus groups, a media campaign, and a series of parent educational programs.

sexual decision making," Ladd said. "Adults wrongly assumed peers had the greatest influence."

Dr. Jeff Tanner of Baylor University will serve as the principal investigator for the project. Ladd will serve as co-investigator. Three faculty members from Clemson University are also part of the research team.

"This grant is really exciting because what we learn locally could have national impact on increasing parental involvement," Ladd said. "Plans are being made to publish the results."

The study consists of three phases and will include parent focus groups, a media campaign, and a series of parent educational programs with eye-catching topics like "The Realities of Teen Sex in the Millenium," "Risk Proofing Your Teens," "Pornography and the Teen Brain," "Conversations that Get Past the Eye Rolling," and "Media and Sex in the 21st Century." In all more than 300 parents will be utilized.

Parents of a teen interested in participating in the study can contact Worth the Wait at (806) 354-4442.

For a good cause



(Photo by Ben Briscoe)

Megan Wood holds her arm up after giving blood to Coffee Memorial Blood Center during a drive hosted by the Pampa High School Drama Department Thursday. Approximately 100 students and teachers donated blood for the project. "I think this blood drive was very successful. We were surprised and very pleased with the large amount of donors willing to come in today for such a great cause," said Heather Fuentes, PHS drama director.



(Photo by Ben Briscoe)

Pampa High School student Chance Bowers donates his blood for the high school drama department's blood drive Thursday. Each pint of blood is used to help three people in need, officials said, and will benefit Amarillo-area hospitals. Fuentes said she hopes to make the blood drive an annual event for the high school's Drama Department.

Officials work to save plan for Iraqi self-rule

BY BARRY SCHWEID
 AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Friday it would consider proposals "to refine or improve" its troubled plan for turning over power in Iraq but insisted that the United States is sticking with the framework of an agreement that calls for an unelected, temporary government by July 1.

The administration is trying to find ways to cope with Shiite demands that the U.S. plan for self-rule in Iraq be submitted directly to Iraqi voters. U.S. officials also were to discuss a possible new role for the United Nations in guiding elections.

The chief U.S. administrator in

Baghdad, L. Paul Bremer III, was called home to confer with President Bush, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and other officials. He was to meet with the president before Bush flew to his weekend retreat at Camp David.

On Monday, Bremer is due to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the U.S.-appointed Iraq governing council on the self-rule plan, which was hammered out Nov. 15.

"Obviously there are discussions about ways to refine or improve that agreement, but we're working within the framework of the Nov. 15 agreement," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan. "It spelled out a clear framework for moving forward to

transfer sovereignty quickly to the Iraqi people."

Administration officials insist they will hold to the July 1 deadline but they are exploring ways to strike a compromise with a leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, and his supporters.

Al-Sistani is pressing for direct, popular elections, rather than the caucuses envisioned in the U.S. plan, as the way to create Iraq's new government. But McClellan said, "There are a lot of things you'd want to have in place for those elections that are not in place at this point."

The cleric also is insisting Iraqis should be permitted to vote on whether American peacekeeping troops remain

in the country after transition.

Threatening the U.S. blueprint, an aide to the cleric said in Kuwait that if al-Sistani's advice was rejected, a Muslim edict would be issued to deny legitimacy to any council elected under the American plan. Even some Sunnis respect the Shiite al-Sistani, the aide, Mohammed Baqir al-Mehri, said.

Adnan Pachachi, the current Iraqi Governing Council president, said Thursday that he believes al-Sistani can be convinced that elections cannot be held right away. Still, Pachachi said, "We agreed that there is room for improvement, there are many, many ideas to make it more transparent and inclusive ... whereby the Iraqi people.

(See PLAN, Page 3)

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

An issue over a ticket written in December became a failure to identify offense. The correct suspect was later identified and charges were filed.

Patricia Adcock, 38, 1333 Garland, was arrested on a capias pro fine for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and violation of driver's license restriction.

Thursday, Jan. 15

A 15-year-old female was reported as a runaway, but was later found.

Lost property was reported in the lobby of the police department. A purse and contents were reported lost. Location and value of loss are unknown.

Illegal dumping was reported in the lobby of the police department. Tires were illegally dumped in the 500 block of South Cuyler.

Theft was reported at Albertson's Supermarket, 1233 N. Hobart. Beer, valued at \$10.25, was taken. Ryan S. Wohlford, 18, 104 N. Wynne, was arrested in connection with the incident and was charged with theft under \$50 and minor in possession of alcohol.

Allan Louis Contreras, 26, 509 Cuyler,

was arrested for issuing a bad check in Ochiltree County.

Debra Howard, 47, 713 Malone, was arrested in the 700 block of Frederic for a motion to revoke probation on a charge of driving while intoxicated, a capias pro fine for failure to appear, and an open container.

Lindsay Nicole Smith, 19, 800 N. Nelson #807, was arrested for failure to identify, no valid driver's license, minor in possession of alcohol, failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of a promise to appear, violation of a driver's license restriction, and violation of probation on possession of a controlled substance.

Charles Mathis Ashley, 56, 707 E. Frederic, was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather for public intoxication.

Friday, Jan. 16

Violation of a city ordinance concerning fireworks and possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 400 block of West Browning. A subject was cited for each offense.

Troy Dowell Britt, 40, 1125 S. Prairie Drive, was arrested at the intersection of Wilks and Barrett for possession of drug paraphernalia. During the arrest, Britt attempted to fight the officer and resist arrest, but did not succeed and was also charged in connection with the incident.

FIRE

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

Thursday, Jan. 15

11:19 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded

to a medical assist in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Friday, Jan. 16

12:38 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 1200 block of North Wells. The call was canceled before

firefighters arrived.

1:46 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a power pole fire in the 900 block of South Banks. A cross member of a power pole in the alley caught fire due to the power line arcing.

AMBULANCE

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

Thursday, Jan. 15

11:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

11:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of South Henry and transported a patient to PRMC.

10 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

Friday, Jan. 16

12:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No transport.

5:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Powell and transported a patient to PRMC.

SHERIFF

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

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Jamie Lee Davis, 27, Baytown, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Ricky James Velasquez, 24, Amarillo, was arrested on a bond surrender for criminal trespass.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.

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		XOM	40.21	-0.07
		Atmos	24.77	+0.01
		Pioneer Nat	32.28	+0.03
		JCP	26.37	-0.08
		COP	64.53	-0.25
		SLB	53.45	+0.76
		Tenneco	8.40	+0.07
		CVX	84.55	+0.12
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		ORF	22.14	-0.28
		NS Grp	8.97	NC
		New York Gold	408.55	
		Silver	6.21	
		West Texas Crude	33.44	

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for mostly cloudy skies, a 50 percent chance of rain, highs in the mid 50s and southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Tonight is expected to fall on mostly cloudy skies with a 50 percent chance of rain, lows in the upper 30s and north winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday should see partly cloudy skies with a 50 percent chance of rain. Breezy. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to

20 mph. Sunday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 5 to 10 mph. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Monday night, mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. Tuesday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Tuesday night, mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Wednesday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Tuberculosis found in Central Texas herd

AUSTIN (AP) — A herd of dairy cattle in Central Texas has tested positive for cattle tuberculosis, state officials said.

The infection at a Hamilton County dairy is the first discovered through a statewide testing program launched in November, the Texas Animal Health Commission said in a Thursday statement.

Veterinarians have tested 57 purebred herds and 82 dairies since the program began, the commission said. They plan to test about 2,400 of the state's seedstock beef herds and all of Texas' 831 dairy herds before September 2004 as part of the federally funded surveillance program.

Officials are trying to deter-

mine how the herd was infected and if the infection has spread to other herds. Tuberculosis is highly contagious among cattle, causing abscesses and leading to death, but it cannot be spread to humans. All infected animals in a herd must be killed.

The Hamilton County dairy was quarantined by the agency in late December, after a number of animals reacted to tuberculosis skin tests, said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and the commission's executive director.

Veterinarians collected tissue from several of the dairy animals and forwarded the samples to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

"Lab results in mid-January confirmed the preliminary diagnosis, and we are working with the dairy owner to determine the most appropriate way to deal with the infected herd," Hillman said.

Texas earned the U.S. Department of Agriculture's coveted tuberculosis-free ranking in 2000 but lost it in 2002 after two infected cattle herds were detected. A third infected cattle herd was found in August 2003 in Zavala County.

Hillman said the discovery of the infected herd confirms the need for the statewide testing program.

"Finding an infected herd this early in the testing effort indicates we are on the right track," he said.

OBITUARIES

ELSIE IRENE FULLER WEBB 1905-2004

DALLAS — Elsie Irene Fuller Webb, 98, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, at Dallas. A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 10, in the home of her daughter Rena Snyder with her son, the Rev. Bill G. Webb, officiating.

Mrs. Webb was born June 8, 1905, at Rosewood, to William Clayton and Susan Amanda Brooks Fuller. She earned a teaching certificate in 1926 and taught elementary school in China Grove where she met James Floyd "Bud" Webb who she married on Oct. 9, 1930. The couple moved to Pampa where they attended Central Baptist Church.

Mrs. Webb was a Sunday school teacher and was involved in youth programs such as Training Union and Sunbeams. She enjoyed singing, playing piano, reading, gardening and making needle crafts.



Baylor collects \$45.5 million in donations in 2003

WACO (AP) — Despite a rocky year marked by the slaying of a student-athlete and the fracturing of faculty relations, Baylor University collected nearly \$45.5 million in donations.

That was the fourth-largest amount ever given to the university in a single year, Baylor officials said. About 16,440 individuals, companies, foundations and organizations gave contributions in 2003, the third-largest number of donors in the school's history.

"I am deeply grateful to the legions of supporters who have financially undergirded the university this past year as we have made progress in realizing our 10-year vision to become one of the top universities in the country while maintaining and strengthening our Christian mission," President Robert Sloan said in a Thursday statement.

The donations were used to support student scholarships, academic programs, athletics and construction projects.

The university's endowment also grew to \$662 million in 2003, the officials said. "Baylor has obviously benefited from the recent rebound in the stock market, but we also realized significant strengthening of our endowment this past year from contributions and from our investment policies and practices," said David Brooks, the university's vice president for finance and administration.

Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy was missing about six weeks before his body was found July 25 near a gravel pit southeast of Waco. An autopsy determined he had been shot twice in the head.

His friend and former teammate, Carlton Dotson, 21, has pleaded innocent to a murder charge. He remains jailed in Waco without bond after his arrest and extradition from his home state of

Maryland. His trial is set to begin March 22.

Also last year, Sloan received harsh criticism from some faculty members and regents for his plan to make Baylor a top-tier research university while strengthening its Christian mission.

The Baylor Faculty Senate voted 26-6 in September to urge Sloan's ouster. But the university's Board of Regents voted 31-4 to let him keep his job.

City Briefs

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Bitter cold, blustery winds retain icy grip on East

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The East woke up Friday to another day of bitter cold and blustery winds that made it feel as cold as 40 degrees below zero in some areas, icing roads, airplanes and rivers, and making outdoor exposure deadly.

At least six people have died, including a hiker found in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

In New York City, the low reached 1 degree overnight, matching the record for that day set in 1893, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Silva. The temperature was expected to rise to 18 later Friday, but with a wind chill still well below zero.

"Any exposed skin can freeze in less than 30 minutes," forecaster Scott Reynolds warned.

In Michigan, where 10 inches of snow north of Detroit made roads dangerous, the storm has claimed at least five lives, authorities said Thursday. Some victims died while clearing the snow; others were killed in storm-related crashes.

Farther east, a hiker was found dead in New Hampshire's White Mountains, where tempera-

tures fell to minus 45 and the wind chill approached minus 100. Friends said the middle-aged man had been outdoors since Monday.

He was well-equipped, including a tent and a stove, but "in these extreme temperatures, it's not always going to cut it," said Fish and Game Department Lt. Robert Bryant.

Schools across the Northeast closed Friday morning with temperatures below zero and concerns about buses not starting in the cold and children being stranded at their stops. A weather observer in Saranac Lake, N.Y., recorded 16 degrees below zero at 6 a.m.

"I can't remember ever closing school for the temperature," said schools Superintendent Frederick Foresteire in Everett, Mass., where more than half of the 5,600 students walk to school each day.

In New York City, outreach teams from the Department of Homeless Services planned to bring homeless people in the city indoors, even against their will, if they were at risk of losing life or limb, said Jim Anderson, a department spokesman.

The storm and cold canceled or delayed scores of flights at New York-area airports, and ferries linking New Jersey and New York were iced in, forcing commuters find other ways to reach work.

On New York's Long Island, 5 inches of snow turned a 75-minute commute into the city a 2 1/2-hour crawl.

"The air we are experiencing right now is coming straight from the North Pole and basically with snow cover and especially with Hudson Bay frozen already, there is no catalyst there to moderate this air mass as it comes down," said meteorologist Tim Markle, at The Mount Washington Observatory atop New Hampshire's Mount Washington.

State leaders report campaign accounts contain more than \$10 million in funds

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's top elected leaders held more than \$10 million in combined political funds at the end of 2003, according to reports filed this week.

Gov. Rick Perry topped the group with \$3.3 million cash on hand, while Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn reported raising about \$2.7 million. House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, reported more than \$1.9 million in hand.

Lt. Gov David Dewhurst, Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and Land

Commissioner Jerry Patterson reported less than \$500,000 each.

A recent change in the state's ethics law required public officials to report not only contribution and spending but also cash on hand, a figure that previously only could have been derived through complex research. Those cash-on-hand figures were disclosed for the first time in reports on Thursday.

Norman Newton, executive director of the Associated Republicans of Texas, said the balances

accumulated by the leaders reflect "what the state is about right now."

"These folks are going to be in great shape down the road," he told the San Antonio Express-News for a Friday story.

Only a handful of Democrats are seeking statewide positions this year, and none was required to file a report because they did not launch their campaigns until the end of the reporting period. Statewide races for governor and other major offices are not slated until 2006.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BUSH

some of which have languished for years. But the administration hopes that last year's approval of sweeping changes in Medicare and the addition of a prescription drug benefit will clear the way for action on Bush's proposal to partially privatize Social Security.

As a candidate, Bush said he would shore up future funding for Social Security by giving workers the option of staying in the current retirement system or investing a portion of their Social Security taxes in individual retirement accounts.

Workers who chose to invest would receive a smaller Social Security benefit when they retire, which would be supplemented by earnings from their investment accounts.

Bush also is considering whether to renew his push for lifetime savings accounts that could be used for any purpose, with tax-free withdrawals, and for retirement savings accounts in which money

could not be withdrawn tax-free until the accountholder reached a set age.

As originally proposed last year, contributions to the accounts would not be tax-deductible. Yearly contributions would likely be capped at \$7,500.

Bush has already announced two large-scale proposals this month, rather than saving them for the State of the Union address.

On Jan. 7, he asked Congress to grant legal status to millions of undocumented workers in the United States. A week later, he said he wants to establish a long-term presence on the moon to serve as a springboard for ventures deeper into the solar system.

Rolling out those big initiatives ahead of the State of the Union garnered Bush several days of public attention, rather than one or two if he had saved them for Tuesday, Trounstein said.

In the State of the Union speech, Bush is likely to forcefully defend the immigration initiative against criticism from conservatives and from

liberals alike, one administration official said.

Other officials said they expected Bush to renew his call on Congress to make his tax cuts permanent.

Some of the reductions Bush enacted, such as the estate tax, phase out during this decade but come back in 2011.

One conservative activist who talks to White House officials often said Bush is under pressure to call for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

But Bush is unlikely to wade into such a polarizing issue at the starting gate of an election year, the conservative activist said.

Ken Khachigian, who wrote speeches for Presidents Reagan and Nixon, said Bush needs to defend his policies while "laying out a few new things to spice up the policy agenda so that he's not just sitting back."

"Without stooping to the same shouting you're getting on the Democratic side, give a very presidential response to the criticisms," Khachigian said he would advise Bush.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PLAN

in a very obvious way, can manifest their desires."

In light of al-Sistani's demands, U.S. officials said the Bush administration was reviewing its plan in ways to provide more direct voter participation by Iraqis. Al-Sistani has a reputation for being a moderate, but his stiff stance has cast doubt on whether the administration's plan can be retained.

"Obviously we are concerned about working with Iraqis," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "We are concerned about public opinion. We want to satisfy the needs and demands of the Iraqi people."

In Basra, meanwhile, a

crowd estimated by British soldiers at up to 30,000 people turned out in the streets of Iraq's second-largest city Thursday. Protesters chanted, "No, no to America, yes, yes to al-Sistani."

The United States wants regional caucuses — whose members would be at least partially appointed — to choose a new Iraqi parliament, which would then select an Iraqi administration. The Bush administration says security is too poor and voter records too incomplete for direct elections right now.

The clerics want direct elections, fearing the caucuses may be rigged to keep Shiites out of power. Al-Sistani and other clerics wield great influence among

Iraq's Shiites, believed to make up about 60 percent of the country's 25 million people.

Bremer, in interviews this week with American television networks, said it was not clear whether Shiites were in the majority inside Iraq because Iraq had not had a census in nearly two decades. But he said majority rule must prevail in a democracy.


Boucher noted that Iraqis were able to protest in Iraq in a way they could not under Saddam Hussein. "The fact that there are demonstrations in Iraq is fundamentally a good thing," he said.

Rumsfeld said Tuesday it was too early to tell whether the deadline for transition would have to be changed.

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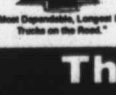
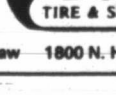
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RELIGION

Priest 'unlikely leader' in fight against gay bishop

By **BOBBY ROSS JR.**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PLANO (AP) — The Rev. Canon David Roseberry has built the congregation he started with 13 members back in 1985 into the Episcopal church that boasts the largest attendance in the nation.

His success with the flourishing Christ Church Episcopal — which draws 2,200 worshippers each weekend to this Dallas suburb — has helped make him a national leader in the conservative revolt against his denomination's consecration of an openly gay bishop.

"I feel like a very unlikely leader for all of this," said the 48-year-old rector.

Yet his church will welcome a constituting convention of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes next week — a meeting that will put Roseberry, once again, in the thick of the debate over homosexuality within his denomination.

The convention's aim will be to produce some sort of church-within-a-church arrangement, so that Episcopal conservatives — estimated by opponents as roughly 15 percent of the denomination's 2.3 million members — can

work together directly. The network's relationship to the Episcopal Church's national structure is still emerging.

Bishops, clergy and lay delegates from as many as a dozen conservative dioceses plan to develop an organizational charter and a theological platform during the two-day session, which starts Monday.

Roseberry's high-profile role doesn't surprise the Rev. Alden Hathaway, a former Pittsburgh bishop who became the priest's mentor after a chance meeting in Tucson, Ariz., two decades ago.

"He's a natural leader," said Hathaway, now retired and living in Tallahassee, Fla. "I think one reason why is the way he sees himself. He doesn't have any aspirations or any ego or any need to put himself forward at all."

When Hathaway first met Roseberry in the early 1980s, the recent seminary graduate was divorced and out of sorts, unsure what he believed. After two years of ministry in his native Arizona, Roseberry said, he was "out of gas and had no strength."

"I was preaching a kind of open-ended, God-loves-you, easy gospel, and I realized that people weren't changing."

Hathaway challenged him to "take a giant leap of faith and trust the Scriptures."

Roseberry said emphasis on the Bible as the error-free word of God was a new concept for him and changed his approach to ministry. When he started Christ Church, he said, he wanted a parish as rooted in the Scriptures as in ceremonial tradition.

His vision of a Bible-believing church plays heavily in his opposition to the Episcopal General Convention's approval last August of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as New Hampshire bishop. Robinson has lived openly with his male partner for 14 years.

"There are fewer subjects about which the Bible is more clear than homosexuality," Roseberry said.

For those on the other side, however, the issue is far less clear-cut.

The Rev. Canon Mark Harris, a Delaware priest, said he finds it offensive when conservatives such as Roseberry so easily dismiss progressive interpretations of the Bible.

"I'm glad (Roseberry) is struggling with Scriptures," said Harris, past director of the Global Episcopal Mission Network. "It just happens when I struggle with them, I come out

in a different place as to whether gays and lesbians ought to have a place in the church."

After the General Convention's vote in Minneapolis, Roseberry resigned as a delegate and booked a flight home.

In October, his church hosted a meeting of 2,700 Episcopal traditionalists at a Dallas hotel. Roseberry moderated the meeting and helped take the group's concerns to leaders of the global Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch.

As he has spoken out, his own past has drawn scrutiny. A Dallas Morning News columnist noted that Roseberry's divorce "would disqualify him as a minister or even deacon" in many churches.

"I confessed my sin," Roseberry told The Associated Press. "God gave me a new chance."

He and his second wife, Fran, married 20 years ago. He adopted her two children and they had two of their own.

Christ Church combines Episcopal liturgy and communion with a biblical emphasis that Roseberry suggests most parishes lack. The musical program ranges from the 18th century "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name" to the 21st century "Here I Am To Worship."

A little dab (of faith) won't do ya'

The journalist David Aikman, former Beijing bureau chief for Time magazine, said that just before China's former President Jiang Jemin left office, he made a statement that, if he could, he would officially decree that China be a Christian nation. Jemin isn't a Christian and wasn't trying to convert anyone. He was saying that pragmatically, Christianity is good for China.

Aikman says that studies have shown what Jemin and other Chinese leaders have learned: Predominantly "Christianized" areas in China have lower crime rates, less family breakups, fewer incidents of juvenile delinquency, and higher productivity rates. (Source: AFA Journal, January 2004)

Oh, that those facts were posted at the entrance of every city. Our nation certainly is in need of the crime rate being lowered. We must not put our choice above God's command. In thousands of years, the "Ten Commandments" never made or aided one criminal.

Recently Mr. Walter Cronkite wrote his opinion about gay marriage and abortions, indicating that laws made against gay marriage and abortions violated the sanctity of a person's right of choice. He also said that the majority of people believe as he does. I hope his latter statement is not true. Mr. Cronkite's article adds up to say that every person should be free to do that which is right in his own eyes. Israel once had exactly that. (Judges 17:6) The devil went to work



Minister's Musings

ARCHIE COOPER, RET.
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

on men's sex passion and homosexuality was the cause of war that slaughtered thousands and thousands of soldiers and other people until the tribe of Benjamin was almost totally destroyed. (Judges, chapters 9-21)

Today, the devil has great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time. (Rev. 12:12) He is renewing his effort, polishing his sword of free sex. God has always had people who were pure gold when the fire was turned on. Potiphar's wife turned on the passion fire against Joseph, but Joseph was pure gold for God. (Genesis, chapter 39) The night that I came fact to face with Jesus about my sinful life, Jesus was looking for servants, as well as newborn babies. The Holy Spirit just flooded my heart with a love for Christ and that's when I said, "Yes," to the will of God. Since that day, Oct. 16, 1932, the pleasures of this world and the entertainment thereof, including TV, have little attraction for me. I see no other way to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Matthew 22:37) The sanctity of my choice was crucified with Christ in exchange for the glorious presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.

If I am in the minority, it doesn't trouble me, for Jesus said, "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:14)

Brylcream hair dressing used to include in their ad, "A little dab will do you." People, please do not settle for a little dab of religion; it will not do at the judgment. By grace are ye saved through faith in the blood of Jesus, God's Son - not water baptism, not church membership, not taking the sacrament. Those ordinances were never given to atone for sins. Jesus forgives when you dedicate yourself to walk away from a life of sin and serve Christ in righteousness. Then Jesus becomes your glorious Savior. In your dedication, you may have not known that Christ would require you to make restitution. (Luke 19: 2-8 and Matthew 5: 23-24) However, your obedience in making restitution proves your dedication to Christ. Heaven is worth it and the sweet fellowship we have with Christ while we are on our way is just glorious.

Many lives are radically changed and in deep worship a holy laugh may be experienced. That has been my experience and is common among

Pentecostal believers. This is the kind of experience that the Apostle Paul had when he said, "Neither life nor death ... can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our lord." (Romans 8: 38-39) Isaiah had this powerful purging and empowering experience when he saw the Lord, high and lifted up, while the seraphim were crying one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6: 1-8)

St. Peter told the people that the Prophet Joel said, "In the last days, God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh" which means that it would not be just for the Priest, the Prophets and the scribes. Then St. Peter told the people, "It's for you and your children, and as many as the Lord our God shall call." As long as God keeps calling people to be born again, He will keep calling them to be baptized in the Holy Ghost and with fire. (Luke 3: 16, Acts 2: 38-39) Many people, after having this heart rendering, spirit baptism, have gone out and made great restitution for previous wrongdoing and settled the matter with God. Isaiah's mouth was unclean until he had that great purging experience before our holy God. After which, Isaiah was a clean vessel to carry God's holy word.

God's people does make this world a better place to live. The cause of Christ is badly hurt today by so many people settling for a little dab of religion, instead of a dedication to do the will of Christ.

RELIGION IN BRIEF

U.S. Christian alliance planners report progress

NAVASOTA, Texas (AP) — Fifty-three leaders from a wide range of denominations met last week to lay plans for Christian Churches Together, a hoped-for loose alliance to unite major branches of U.S. Christianity as early as next year.

Participants achieved "consensus on all major issues related to the founding document" and "a substantial number of denominations" are expected to be founders, said an announcement from the meeting at an Episcopal Church conference center.

"Never before in the history of the United States has this broad and widely representative" an array of churches sought to work together, the statement said.

A major breakthrough would occur if the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops formally joins the organization. A vote on that could occur next November.

U.S. Catholicism has had friendly involvements with other Christians since the Second Vatican Council but, like conservative and evangelical Protestant bodies, has not joined ecumenical organizations like the National Council of Churches.

Christian Churches Together seeks members from what it defines as the five "families" of Christianity: Catholic, Orthodox, "evangelical-Pentecostal," "racial/ethnic" and "historic Protestant."

One leader, General Secretary Wesley Granberg-Michaelson of the Reformed Church in America, said more than 25 groups are officially committed to the effort, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and World Vision, the evangelical relief agency.

Granberg-Michaelson said many others are seriously considering the idea.

The nation's largest Protestant body, the Southern Baptist Convention, is considered very unlikely to join.

Ten Commandments hung in Iowa Statehouse

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A display of the Ten Commandments alongside such texts as the Magna Carta and Declaration of Independence was hung in Iowa's Statehouse last week despite concerns about separation of church and state.

The display in a gallery behind the House chambers was approved by Republican House Speaker Chris Rants, who said it showed "the foundation upon which law is based, all of these things combined."

The display was donated by 22 women coordinated by the Iowa Family Policy Center. They originally offered it to the new Iowa Judicial Branch Building but court administrators said the Ten Commandments would have to be removed due to fears of a lawsuit.

Public given more access to Lateran Palace

ROME (AP) — When you think of Christianity and Rome, the Vatican is what springs to mind.

The first organized church in Rome was actually built across the Tiber River in the fourth century by the Emperor Constantine — at St. John Lateran, today the basilica for the city of Rome. Along with its adjoining buildings, St. John was the official residence of the popes until the papacy moved to Avignon at the start of the 1300s.

So it's fitting that St. John's Lateran Palace is home to the Vatican Historic Museum, which was recently made more accessible to the public.

Previously, the palace was only open on Saturdays and the first Sunday of every month. Now, it's open every day but Sunday, with four guided tours from 9 a.m. until noon, although admission for now is restricted to groups.

"This place lets us under-

stand the extraordinary importance of the history of the papacy, the reason for which Dante would later say that 'Lateran is above all earthly things,'" said Monsignor Pietro Amato, who runs the museum.

During a recent tour and interview, Amato explained the 16th-century palace's origins. Oddly, while the site was home to popes up until the 14th century, the current palace has never been a papal residence. After the return from Avignon in 1377, popes lived at the Vatican or in other church properties around Rome.

Pope Sixtus V, pontiff from 1585-1590, had the Lateran Palace built because he felt that St. John needed an adjoining episcopate, or household for the papal court. He had 12,000 square yards of frescoed galleries and salons built over seven months to serve as the papal apartments, Amato said.

No pope wound up living in the new palace because it was

located outside Rome's city walls and was considered too small to house the papal court.

The Lateran Palace has had many other lives over the years: a hospital, a home for destitute men and women, museums housing various papal collections, the Vatican's missionary museum, its ethnological museum, and now, it's historic museum.

The exhibit takes up the "piano nobile," or first floor of the palace, in a series of galleries and salons around a central courtyard that houses a small and quirky collection of

papal artifacts.

There are thrones that popes used to sit on, propped up on the shoulders of men to be better seen by the public.

There's the desk, the treaty and the room where the 1929 Lateran Treaty was signed between Benito Mussolini and Cardinal Pietro Gasparri in which the Holy See and Italy recognized each other as sovereign entities. The treaty ended decades of antagonism in which the popes refused to recognize the newly unified Italy and called themselves "prisoners" inside the Vatican walls.

Come Worship Jesus our Savior

Saturday "Sabbath"
School • 9:30 a.m.
Church • 11:00 a.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Seventh Day Adventist Church
425 Ward • 665-4492

THE Pampa NEWS

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FRIDAY • JANUARY 16, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Daughter Hurts After Hearing Mom Wish She Had No Kids

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl, and I know I am not wanted. One night I heard my mom talking to her new boyfriend about wishing she had no kids so she could do things without having to sneak around. I don't know what to do. Is it my fault that she doesn't want me? Please help me, Abby. You help so many other people — please start with me.

UNWANTED IN OTTUMWA, IOWA

DEAR UNWANTED: None of this is your fault, and if your mother knew what you overheard, she would probably want her tongue amputated. I am sure she loves you very much. However, adults sometimes speak in "shorthand" — and what she may have been trying to communicate to her boyfriend was that, overwhelmed with parental responsibilities, she was longing for the relative freedom of her youth.

Clip this column. Show it to your mother and let her explain the specific details to you — after she apologizes, that is.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up in a small town where I was sheltered from the real world. I am now in college and realize how much I don't know.

I recently encountered a situation I had no idea how to handle. My friend confessed to me that she's gay. Although I was surprised, I wasn't upset because I love her as a friend.

Unfortunately, at the moment she poured her heart out to me, I didn't know what to say. All I could muster was, "Ummm ... OK." Abby, I felt awful!

If something like this happens again, is there proper etiquette to use? I don't want to be insensitive. Coming out is difficult enough without having to figure out what the person you confided in is feeling. Your thoughts, please.

DEAR OPEN-MINDED: There is no rule of etiquette for how to react when someone

comes out to you. The best advice I can offer is to think with your heart and offer your support. Say: "Thank you for trusting me enough to tell me. It doesn't change the way I feel about you. You are my friend, and I love you." It's honest. It's clear. It's reassuring. And it's what the person needs to hear.

P.S. It's not too late to say that to your friend.

DEAR ABBY: We live in the tidy beach city of Santa Monica, Calif. Just around the corner from us is a fast-food restaurant. The number of people who stop to eat in front of our house is astounding, but that's not what bothers me.

What upsets me is the number of folks who dump their trash on our lawn when they've finished eating. They are usually construction workers or parents with young children.

Since schools often read your column in class, perhaps the students could write in and give us an explanation of why this kind of littering is acceptable nowadays.

WANTING AN EXPLANATION

DEAR WANTING: We both know the reason — it's because they're too lazy to dispose of the trash in an appropriate way. In the tidy beach city of Santa Monica, and in many other cities, there are laws against littering. I suggest you inform the police about your problem. I'm sure they'll welcome the chance to gather some extra revenue for the city.

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

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

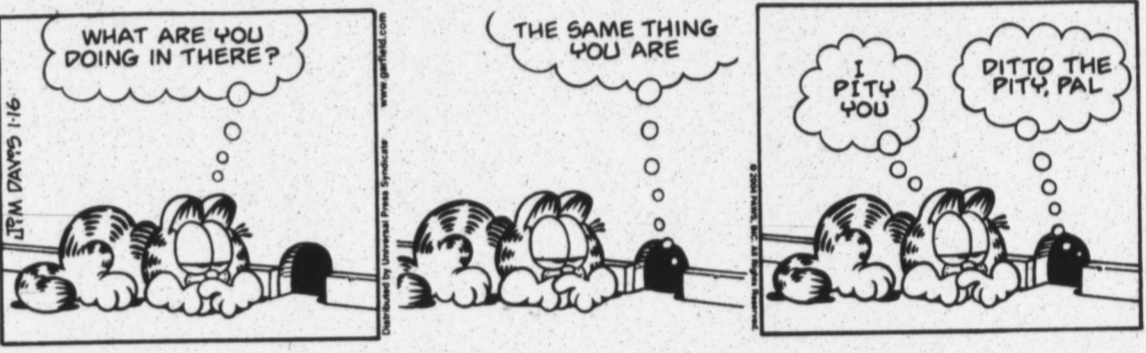
For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



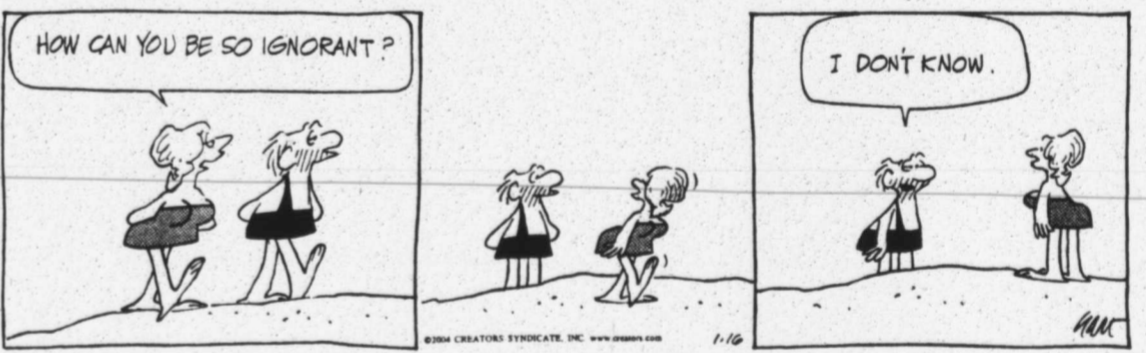
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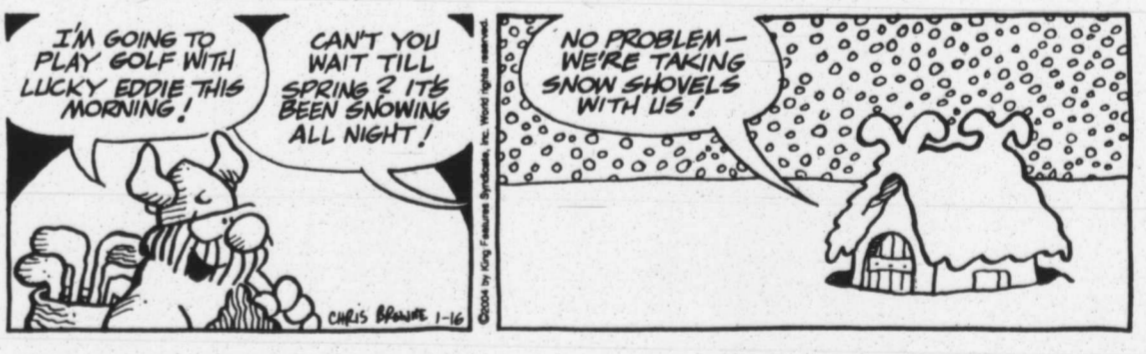
Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 39 Fixed shoes
- 1 New opera of 1871
- 5 River floater
- 9 Shopworn
- 11 Bitter
- 13 Ran swiftly
- 14 This, this, and this
- 15 Moose's cousin
- 16 Deeply felt
- 18 Place for a ship's doc
- 20 Scoundrel
- 21 Andean nation
- 22 Coaster rider's cry
- 23 Die face
- 24 Tyler of films
- 25 Rube
- 27 Temple scroll
- 29 Before now
- 30 Add pep to
- 32 Set free
- 34 Under the weather
- 35 Flag feature
- 36 Friend of Nancy
- 38 Order to the orchestra
- DOWN
- 1 Fire aftermath
- 2 Slanted
- 3 Sweet treat
- 4 Heady brew
- 5 Run-down
- 6 Massage target
- 7 Ice-cream choice
- 8 Sneezer's aid
- 10 Like some mushroom-rooms
- 12 Plow creator
- 17 Highlands
- 19 Unexpected wrinkle
- 22 Telegram
- 24 Valentine senders
- 25 Severe
- 26 Words of understanding
- 27 "— folly to be wise"
- 28 Shucked
- 30 Survives
- 31 Trudges
- 33 Pennsylvanian port
- 37 "Alley —"

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

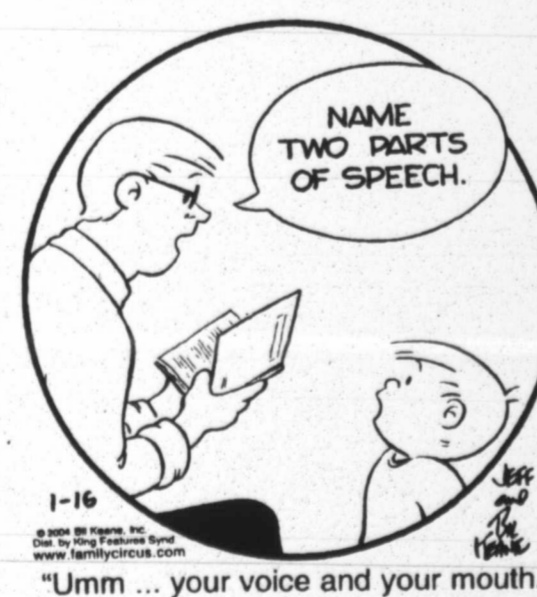
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4 Heady brew 28 Shucked
5 Run-down 29 Survives
6 Massage target 30 Trudges
7 Ice-cream choice 31 Pennsylvanian port
8 Sneezer's aid 32 Telegram
9 Valentine senders 33 "Alley —"

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



SWIM

PAM tuning f adults in Pampa A If Tammy or Anna Child must be

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(AP) — signed a tract wit on Thur Baraj games f Buck Sh in 1999 spring tr ter playe Baraj: Diamond played games ov sons. He high 80 last year pered by string an left wrist His ca with 11 h

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SPORTS

Look for Pats, Eagles to reach Super Bowl

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots already beat the Indianapolis Colts once this season, 38-34 at Indy, when Willie McGinest stopped Edgerrin James on fourth down at the 1.

One guarantee: There won't be 72 points scored when the Patriots host the Colts in Sunday's AFC championship game. Not in Foxboro's swirling winds, though the temperatures could be relatively balmy after a week near zero; the forecast calls for highs in the 20s or low 30s.

The Patriots are favored by just three points. That's primarily because Peyton Manning has been sizzling, throwing for 681 yards and eight touch-

downs and no interceptions in wins over Denver and Kansas City. He has a near-perfect passer rating of 156.9.

But the first game was indoors at Indianapolis and the second was in comfortable, 50-degree weather in Kansas City.

"It's not the cold that gets you here as much as the wind," Patriots QB Tom Brady says. "But the wind will be the same for both of us."

Maybe Brady's used to it, although Colts coach Tony Dungy points out that while his team doesn't play in the cold, the climate in Indiana isn't exactly tropical.

Manning probably won't be perfect this week. Indy's no-huddle offense can be confus-

Playoff Picks

ing to opponents, but the Patriots rarely surrender touchdowns at home — just one in their final six regular-season games at Foxboro.

Go with that home-field advantage.

PATRIOTS, 21-17.

Carolina (plus 4 1/2) at Philadelphia

The unheralded Panthers have a pretty decent shot against the Eagles. Philadelphia might not be in the NFC title game if Mike Sherman hadn't made a couple of questionable calls and if Donovan McNabb and Freddie Mitchell hadn't converted a fourth-and-26 pass that led to a tying field goal at

the end of regulation.

This is another rematch: The Eagles won 25-16 in Carolina on Nov. 30, the same day the Patriots beat the Colts. But there were extenuating circumstances in that one — John Kasay, Carolina's otherwise outstanding kicker, missed three field goals and an extra point, 10 points that could have been the difference.

McNabb against Jake Delhomme at quarterback would seem to give the Eagles the edge. But Carolina's front four is one of the best units in the NFL, and DeShaun Foster showed in the double overtime win over the Rams last week that the Panthers can overcome an injury to Stephen

Davis.

One factor is Philadelphia's mental state after losing two straight conference title games.

The Eagles managed to overcome a 14-0 deficit against Green Bay last week. But Carolina's defense is tougher and geared to stop McNabb's running — he gained 107 yards last week, a record for a quarterback in the playoffs.

The Eagles are due. **EAGLES, 17-15**
LAST WEEK: 2-2 (spread); 3-1 (straight up)
PLAYOFFS: 4-4 (spread); 6-2 (straight up)
REGULAR SEASON: 143-108-5 (spread); 162-94 (straight up)

NOTEBOOK

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.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Catcher Rod Barajas signed a minor league contract with the Texas Rangers on Thursday.

Barajas, who played 10 games for Rangers manager Buck Showalter in Arizona in 1999 and 2000, will go to spring training as a non-roster player.

Barajas was drafted by the Diamondbacks in 1996 and played 211 major league games over the past five seasons. He played in a career-high 80 games for Arizona last year despite being hampered by a strained left hamstring and tendinitis in his left wrist.

His career average is .212, with 11 homers and 66 RBIs.

BASKETBALL

MIAMI — Miami had things going its way in the second half to defeat West Texas High 66-60 in a girls non-district game Tuesday night.

Miami trailed 30-29 at halftime, but went ahead, 47-40 going into the fourth quarter.

Jennifer Hutchinson was Miami's high scorer with 18 points. Julie Davenport had 14 points and Kaylie James 10.

Johnson had 21 points for WT High. Beagle followed with 12.

The Warriorettes improved to 16-3 for the season.

HOCKEY

DENVER (AP) — Peter Forsberg claimed he hasn't played well since returning from a groin injury.

Imagine what will happen once he does.

"I've been hearing that a lot. If he keeps getting two goals every night, he can keep saying that," Colorado coach Tony Granato said after Forsberg scored two goals in the Avalanche's 4-1 win over the Dallas Stars on Thursday night.

"I think Peter is playing great." Forsberg opened the season with five goals and 11 assists in nine games, then missed 25 of the next 27 contests with the groin injury. Since returning Dec. 27, he's picked up where he left off with five goals and 12 assists in 10 games.

Against the Stars, Forsberg scored his first goal in the second period after a pass through the crease trickled in off the skate of Dallas defenseman Philippe Boucher. He added his 10th of the year in the third after stripping Sergei Zubov between the circles.

PHS wrestlers have good showing against AHS

PAMPA — It wasn't a victory, but the Pampa wrestlers continue their rapid improvement with each match.

"We had a 12-point deficit starting at 130, but the guys came back and wrestled better than they have all year," said coach Josh Cadenhead after Pampa lost to Amarillo High 55-24 in a dual Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse. "When you don't give up a pin, you've got a chance to win. You might not win, but you've got a chance. Our guys wrestled tough."

AHS 55, Pampa 24
103: Jarred Williams (A) def. Shawn Goodin, 9-3.
112: Joseph Krulik (A) def. Casey Urquhart, pin 0:36.
119: Drew Bean (A) def. Dustin Kuhn, pin 2:57.

125: Jacob Wheeler (A) def. Michael Moore, pin 0:27.
130: Ross Andreen (P) def. Michael Vigil, pin 4:36.

135: Adam Carroll (A), won by forfeit.
140: John Burns (P) def. Asher Day, pin 2:26.

145: Chance Henley (P) def. Sean Williams, 8-6.
152: Abe Avila (P) def. Tyler Dalke, 7-4.

160: Rhet Amburn (A) def. Dustin Langley, 13-4.
171: Joel Palmateer (P), won by forfeit.

180: Anthony Johnson (A), won by forfeit.
189: Adam Baker (A), won by forfeit.

215: Scott Sanderson (A) def. Michael Lopez, 2:35.
275: Kevin Parks (P) def. Blake Park, pin 1:04.

Rangers stick to plan

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers stuck to their offseason plan. They didn't go after big-name free agents or spend a lot of money.

They remain committed to developing their young players, even if their additions include a 39-year-old starting pitcher, a 37-year-old setup man and a pair of 36-year-old outfielders.

"They were needs that we did not have with our young players," manager Buck Showalter said Thursday. "We didn't have people that were ready to do what they were capable of doing. You didn't see us sign a closer, go after a third baseman or a second baseman."

The primary additions were left-hander Kenny Rogers, who returns to Texas to fill a void in a rotation filled with young pitchers, reliever Jeff Nelson and right fielder Brian Jordan.

First baseman/designated hitter Brad Fullmer, outfielder David Dellucci and Eric Young, who will play infield and outfield, were also added.

"It may not be the splash and the bells and whistles that some people equate into successful acquisitions, but these were the type of players we were looking to add to our organization," Showalter said.

The Rangers are still in a rebuilding mode after four straight last-place finishes in the AL West, but the manager likes what has been done despite tight financial con-

straints.

With last-place finishes translating into big financial losses for the organization, owner Tom Hicks mandated a reduction of the more than \$100 million payroll. Hicks said this week that the team has reached his goal of dropping the payroll to between \$70 million and \$75 million.

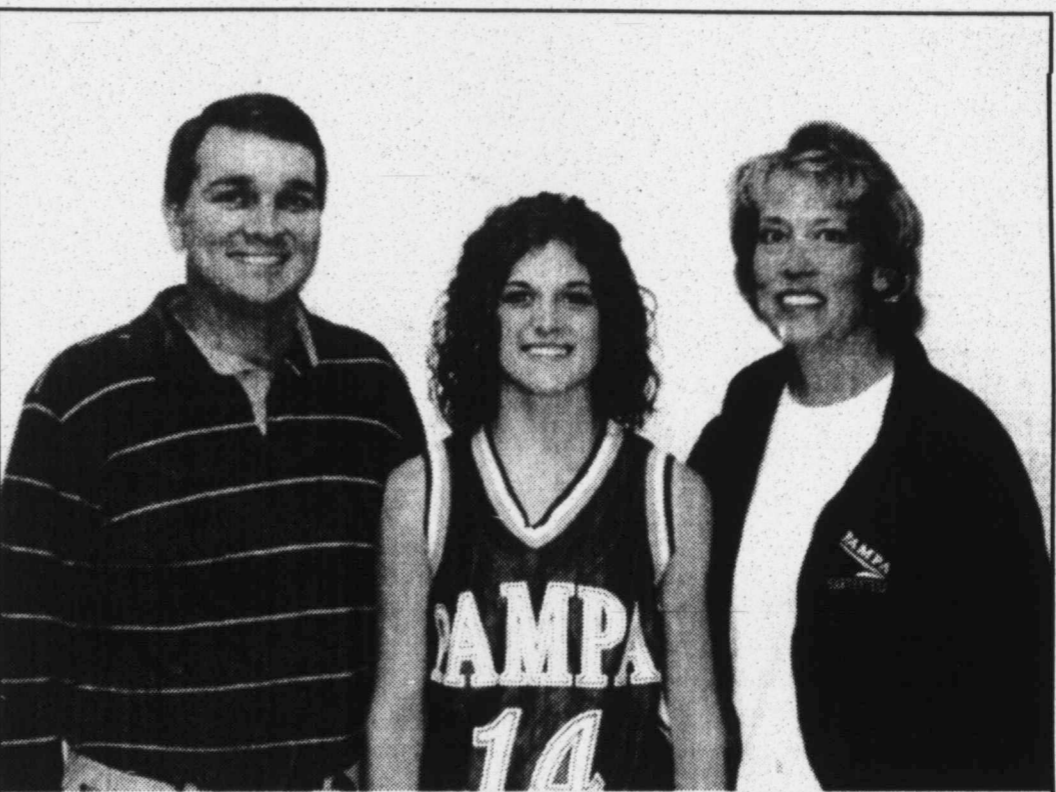
The six veteran free agents signed will make just more than \$8 million combined this season. That's less than departed slugger Rafael Palmeiro made last year.

Palmeiro left and signed a \$4.5 million deal with Baltimore this week. Two-time AL MVP Juan Gonzalez, hurt much of the last two seasons while making \$24 million from the Rangers, signed a \$4.5 million deal with Kansas City.

The only free agent that got more than a one-year deal from Texas was Rogers, who was drafted by the Rangers and spent 10 of his first 15 seasons with the team. His two-year contract is worth \$6 million (\$2.5 million this year and \$3.5 million in 2005).

"We have been able to accomplish just about everything we said when we talked at the end of the year," general manager John Hart said. "We were going to provide as much opportunity for the young players ... we were going to cherry-pick the kind of guys we wanted."

Harvester Hoops Spot-light



Jackie Gerber is a sophomore on the Lady Harvesters basketball team. Her parents are Kenney and Doretta Gerber, above. Jackie is also involved in volleyball, D-Fy-It, concert choir and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a member of St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church.

Middle School Basketball

7th Grade

Westover A 38, Pampa A 11
P - Jessica Miner 5, Holly Winegeart 3, April Silva 2, Lauren Smith 1.

Westover B 32, Pampa B 12
P - Diana Mechelay 4, Tabby Courter 4, Paige Alvey 2, Kat Aler 2.

Dumas A 30, Pampa A 13
P - Holly Winegeart 7, Kelby Doughty 3, Lauren Smith 2, Keisha Crowell 1.

Dumas B 28, Pampa B 14
P - Tabby Courter 6, Emily Watson 2, Kat Aler 2, Ricki Beesley 2, Julie Schuemann 2.

8th Grade

Westover A 47, Pampa A 32
Scoring: Sara Foster 12, Jasmaine Moore 8, Stephanie Polasek 4, Haili Kotara 4, Krishna Henderson 2.

Rebounds: Sara Foster 4, Layce Beesley 2, Haili Kotara 3, Jasmaine Moore 1.

Steals: Jasmaine Moore 4, Sara Foster 5, Trisha Moore 2, Layce Beesley 1, Stephanie Polasek 1.

Westover B 47, Pampa B 10
Scoring: Kambra Jimenez 2, Stephanie Jasso 2, Amber Brown 2, Jamie Pergeson 2, Logan McDonald 2.

Rebounds:

Logan McDonald 3, Kristen Dunn 2, Amber Brown 2, Stephanie Jasso 1, Jamie Pergeson 1, Chelsea Cain 1.

Steals: Stephanie Lasso 2, Kambra Jimenez 1, Amy Adams 1, Amber Brown 1.

Dumas A 49, Pampa A 35
Scoring: Sara Foster 21, Jasmaine Moore 5, Stephanie Polasek 3, Trisha Moore 2, Haili Kotara 2, Kayla Mendoza 2.

Rebounds: Sara Foster 9, Haili Kotara 5, Jasmaine Moore 5, Stephanie Polasek 2, Krishna Henderson 2, Kayla Mendoza 2.

Steals: Jasmaine Moore 4, Sara Foster 3, Trisha Moore 1.

Blocked shots: Haili Kotara 2, Sara Foster 1.

Pampa B 24, Dumas B 19
Scoring: Stephanie Jasso 7, Logan McDonald 7, Kristen Dunn 4, Meagan Crawford 2, Amber Brown 2, Amy Adams 2.

Rebounds: Logan McDonald 7, Amber Brown 5, Meagan Crawford 4, Kristen Dunn 4, Stephanie Jasso 4, Jamie Pergeson 2, K'lyn Holmes 1, Chelsea Cain 1.

Steals: Kambra Jimenez 2, Amber Brown 1, Logan McDonald 1.

Blocked shots: Logan McDonald 1.

Redshirt freshman QB leaving Oklahoma

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Redshirt freshman quarterback Noah Allen has left Oklahoma and plans to transfer to Division I-AA Sam Houston State.

Allen, who was the Sooners' third-string quarterback in 2003,

played in three games this season but logged no statistics.

"Noah leaves us in good standing," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said in a statement. "He is very much appreciated by our staff. We wish him the best and are certain

that he'll do an excellent job at Sam Houston State."

Allen will be a sophomore next season and will likely compete for the Bearkats' starting job with Dustin Long, who recently transferred from Texas A&M.

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Texas A&M basketball team trying to overcome slow start

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas A&M has had some embarrassing moments this season. It's not what coach Melvin Watkins anticipated or expects to continue.

After finishing 14-14 last season with high hopes centered on promising sophomore Antoine Wright leading the Aggies to the postseason, Watkins hoped to get off to a good start and have momentum rolling into a tough early Big 12 schedule.

The plan hasn't worked so well.

And it doesn't get any easier for the Aggies (7-5, 0-1), who face No. 14 Kansas (10-2, 2-

Saturday at Reed Arena, where attendance has been down.

"Starting off, this team had to establish its identity," Watkins said. "You don't lose a player the caliber of (last year's leading scorer) Bernard King without it having some effect. I'm not sure we knew who we were. We dropped a couple of games we shouldn't have."

The Aggies got an early taste of where they were in an 82-80 home loss Dec. 13 to one of their own system schools, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

That came on the heels of a 90-58 road loss to Oakland, which snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the

Aggies at the Oakland campus in Rochester, Mich.

"We've had a couple of tough losses on the road and a bad loss at home by Corpus Christi," senior Andy Slocum said. "Now we've got to go into Big 12 play and try to steal a couple there."

Wright was supposed to make a seamless transition as the Aggies go-to player after King's departure. He's averaging 15 points a game, 2 fewer than King last year. But he has struggled.

"Over that stretch when I had some bad games, I was putting too much pressure on myself," Wright said. "It wasn't from anyone else. Coach was-

n't saying anything. It was just me rushing my shots and taking bad shots."

Other low points for the Aggies this year have included surviving a scare before beating Grambling 103-101, and going 7:40 without scoring a basket and lost to Houston in overtime 70-61.

"It's been our defense," Wright said. "We know we aren't able to individually stop the other team. If one guy gets beat, we all get beat and eventually the score will go against you."

Watkins is confident that Wright is back on track.

"Antoine is stepping up now and playing better," said

Watkins, who last week signed a three-year contract extension that contains a buy-out clause. "He got off to a slow start and that put pressure on the team because we look to him as the go-to guy. It affected our mind-

set." The Aggies haven't had a winning season since 1993-94 under Tony Barone. They've never advanced past the first round in the Big 12 tournament.

White Deer drops district games

WHITE DEER - White Deer lost to Sunray 61-44 Tuesday night in a District 1-1A game.

Nick Martin paced Sunray with 20 points.

Guadalupe Rivero followed with 11.

Nick Hillman had 12 points and Tanner Mitchell 10 to lead White Deer.

Sunray won the girls contest, 58-35.

Krista Wilson and Raniel Bumpus topped Sunray in scoring with 19 points apiece.

Emily Nusser topped White Deer with 10 points. Sara Smith, Ashley Davis and Holly Miller had 5 points each.

Amarillo indoor football team schedules February tryout

AMARILLO — A tryout for some roster positions for the Amarillo Dusters, an indoor football team of the Intense Football League, is scheduled Feb. 22 at the Kids, Inc. High Plains soccer facility, Osage Street & 33rd Avenue.

Pre-registration cost online with a credit card is \$40.

The online address is WWW.AMARILLO-DUSTERS.COM. Cost is

\$55 (cash only) on the day of the tryout.

All players must be at least 19 and sign a waiver. Testing for linemen, full-back and linebackers is set for 8 a.m., testing for quarterbacks, receivers and defensive backs will be at 10:30 a.m., and testing for kickers will be at 11:30 a.m.

Same day registration for each group begins an hour before tryouts.

For more information,

contact the Dusters at (806) 322-PASS.

The Dusters will start playing games in May.

Most games will be played on Saturday or Sunday, and season ticket prices will range from \$168 to \$225.

At least five other cities — Corpus Christi, Odessa, San Antonio, San Angelo and Lubbock — will make up the league.

Wie fits right in with a first-round 72 at Sony Golf Open

HONOLULU (AP) — Michelle Wie hammered two drives more than 300 yards, and hit a few in the rough. She buckled her knees when a par putt lipped out, and waved to the gallery when the birdie putts went in.

Except for the hoop earrings and nail polish, she looked like most other players Thursday at the Sony Open.

The 14-year-old girl played like them, too.

Wie made history at Waialae Country Club as the youngest player in PGA Tour record books, making three birdies in a respectable round of 2-over 72.

That left her nine shots behind Carlos Franco and in a tie for 105th among 144 players.

But it left the PGA Tour regulars in awe.

"Amazing," Jesper Parnevik said after a 65. "I think it's 100 times more impressive than Annika playing Colonial."

Annika Sorenstam shot a 1-over 71 in the first round at Colonial, where she became the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour. She followed with a 74 and missed the cut by five.

Comparisons are difficult to make.

Sorenstam had three months of buildup, creating enormous

pressure when she stepped to the 10th tee at Colonial with more than 5,000 people lining the fairways.

Wie is the third female on the PGA Tour in the last eight months — Connecticut club pro Suzy Whaley missed the cut at the Greater Hartford Open — and some of the buzz is gone. There were about 2,000 people watching pop a 3-wood down the middle at No. 10, a gallery that grew to 3,000 by the end of the day.

Sorenstam had won more than 40 times on the LPGA Tour, including four majors.

Wie is the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links champion — the youngest ever, of course — and probably faces more pressure taking her midterms in Social Studies at nearby Punahou School.

The golf looked similar, though.

Wie didn't look out of place on the PGA Tour. Give her time, she might prove she belongs.

"I looked at her today as another player," said Craig Bowden, her playing partner who posted a 70.

Only when they chatted did Bowden realize this was no ordinary teenager playing on a sponsor's exemption.

"We don't have a lot in common," Bowden said. "I asked

her when she was going to get her driver's license."

Wie faced an afternoon tee time Friday, where she likely would have to shoot at least 67 — her best score at Waialae is a 65 — to have any chance of making the cut.

"That would be the biggest sports miracle. Don't you think?" Parnevik said.

Wie didn't see it that way.

She had two short par putts catch most of the hole before lipping out. She played conservatively, often aiming for the middle of the green.

"If I play the way I did today, with a couple of putts falling in, I think I could make the cut," she said. "I think I can shoot under par tomorrow."

Wie finished with the same score as three former major champions (Shaun Micheel, Tom Lehman and Jeff Sluman), and ahead of players such as Scott Hoch and Adam Scott (73).

Parnevik was told that Wie had a 72, and his expression went from amazement to relief.

"That was my first goal today, to beat her," Parnevik said. "That's something you would hear about forever. Annika is one thing. But if you have a 14-year-old girl..."

Franco, a two-time winner on the PGA Tour, made an eagle on No. 9 and was flaw-

less on the back to shoot 63.

Aaron Baddeley, who lost in a playoff last year at Waialae, was among those at 66. Paul Azinger got his year off to a good start with a 67.

All of them played in virtual anonymity.

Craig Barlow (66) noticed the gallery swarming around Wie on the fifth tee, turned to his playing partners and said, "I didn't know Tiger was here."

Wie couldn't have asked for better conditions.

One day after 35 mph gusts knocked out electricity to Wie's home in Honolulu, Waialae was graced with sunny skies and a breeze so slight that the palm fronds barely moved.

Wie's first birdie came on No. 12, when she ripped a drive some 25 yards beyond Bowden, and hit a 9-iron into about 10 feet. The putt curled into the cup, putting Wie's name in lights — the electronic scoreboard just down the fairway.

It didn't last long.

From the middle of the fairway on No. 13, she hit into a bunker and took two shots to get on the green, chipping to 2 feet to limit the damage to a bogey. She bogeyed the next hole, too, hitting into the other bunker.

She could've let the round get away from her, but Wie fin-

ished in style. She hit a 3-iron from 201 yards out of thick rough that ran up the green to 25 feet for birdie on No. 6, then blasted out of the greenside bunker to about 12 feet on the par-5 ninth for her third birdie.

She was three shots better than Kevin Hayashi, whom she calls "Uncle Kevin." He qualified as the top club pro from the Aloha Section, and when the round was over, Hayashi presented Wie with a purple lei.

"I'm not the only guy she's going to beat," Hayashi said after his 75. "The only thing we have in common is our age. I'm 41, she's 14. At least we've got the same numbers."

USC pulls off upset

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lute Olson has been a major college coach for 30-plus seasons, so he's seen some awfully good individual performances.

Add Desmon Farmer's name to that list.

Farmer scored 17 of his career-high 40 points in the final nine minutes Thursday night, leading Southern California to a 99-90 upset over No. 7 Arizona.

Farmer scored 23 points in the first half and none in the first 11 minutes of the second before getting it going again.

No matter what Olson's Wildcats tried, nothing worked.

"He had an unbelievable game," Olson said. "I thought

going to beat," Hayashi said after his 75. "The only thing we have in common is our age. I'm 41, she's 14. At least we've got the same numbers."

When Sorenstam missed the cut, she said didn't belong on the PGA Tour.

Wie doesn't feel the same way.

"I think I learned that I can play here, but I have to work harder on my game to be in the winner's circle," Wie said. "I never felt out of place."

even when we were doing a good job on him, he seemed to be able to get the shot off or go to the basket.

"He's constant motion. He played 40 minutes and it looked like he could have played another 40."

In other games involving ranked teams, No. 2 Duke beat North Carolina State 76-57; No. 8 Louisville topped East Carolina 76-66; No. 12 Georgia Tech downed Virginia 75-57, and No. 16 Gonzaga routed San Francisco 92-50.

Farmer's point total tied for the fifth highest in school history and was the most for a USC player since Harold Miner scored 43 in 1991.

Pampa Special Olympians compete in regional tourney

PAMPA — Pampa Special Olympics basketball team participated in the Plainview Regional Tournament earlier this month.

The Pampa Warriors and the Pampa Gold Rush were gold medal winners. Pampa Storms won the bronze medal.

In individual skills competition, gold medal winners were Dicky Don Hendricks, Mindy Hervey and Gary Carr. Team skills gold medal winners were

Chris Bradley, Katie Burris, Linda Lou Pierce, Debbie Ellis and Janis Smith.

Members of the Pampa Warriors are Liberty Bloxom and Shane Chaney of White Deer, Cody Dyer, Hector Estrada, Johnny Gallegos, Bobby Garcia, and Randy Swires. Coaches are Ronnie Haynes and David Swires.

Members of the Pampa Gold Rush are Cody Bowers, Lisa Busby and Cole Brown

of Wheeler, Stevie Contrez, Tina Hinson, Chaney Jones, and Jennifer Roden. Coaches are Ace Acevedo and Kyle Parnell.

Members of the Pampa Storm are Amy Hammer, Shawn King, Eric Knott, Jeremy Loncr, Mark McMinn, Talsey Phillips, JoAnn Morehart, Kasey and Kinsey Smith of Panhandle, and Amee Street. Coaches are John Hervey, Leslie Jones and Ron Sinyard.

Other helpers on the trip were Cindy Cannon of

Panhandle, Shannon Loter, Helen Robinson, Nancy Sinyard, Franklin and Penny Smith of Panhandle, bus driver Greg Epperson and Cindy Cooper.

Pampa is hosting the Area Special Olympic Basketball Tournament on Feb. 28. This is a one-day event and about 200 athletes-coaches from the area will be participating in the tournament.

Persons or groups who would like to help with the tournament can contact Cindy Cooper at 665-2137.

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

<p>NFL Playoff Glance By The Associated Press All Times EST</p> <p>Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 3</p> <p>Tennessee 20, Baltimore 17 Carolina 29, Dallas 10</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 4</p> <p>Green Bay 33, Seattle 27, OT Indianapolis 41, Denver 10</p> <p>Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 10</p> <p>Carolina 29, St. Louis 23, 2OT New England 17, Tennessee 14</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 11</p> <p>Indianapolis 38, Kansas City 31 Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17, OT</p>	<p>Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 18</p> <p>AFC Championship Indianapolis at New England, 3 p.m. (CBS)</p> <p>NFC Championship Carolina at Philadelphia, 6:45 p.m. (FOX)</p> <p>Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1 At Houston 6:25 p.m. (CBS)</p> <p>Pro Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 At Honolulu 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)</p>
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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004:
 You make inroads because of your style. The unexpected marks your day-to-day life. Extremes mark your life in many different ways, but remember, you do have choices and self-control. You might want to spend some time alone or do some personal work. Remember that you can control yourself and your decisions. If you are single, you will meet someone quite special who will help you develop a new way and learn more about others' personalities and customs. Romance can flourish. If you are attached, your relationship will blossom in a new direction if you so choose. You also might want to plan on that special trip together. **SAGITTARIUS** understands you.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ***** Make time for that special person in your life, and you will be well-rewarded. Don't force anyone into a mold, or you could be surprised by what he or she does. You might even be startled by what happens if you relax and let go. Tonight: Follow the music.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ***** You might want to take a second look at what is going on within a relationship. On some level, you might like the ups and downs. Share your feelings. Explore options. Work together as a team. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ***** Finish off some last-minute errands, and you'll obtain the results you want. Unexpected developments could toss plans in a new direction. A boss, par-

ent or loved one really cares. You exude a special quality of friendship. Tonight: Now, go enjoy yourself.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ***** Investigate what might be going on with a partner or special friend. You might have a hard time understanding, so go with the flow. Try to imagine what it would be like to be in this person's shoes. Understanding will help here. Tonight: Relax. Stop pushing so hard.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ***** Use your imagination, and you'll go in a new direction. Unexpected developments within partnerships make you smile. You know what you want and where you are going. Work through any obstacles. The twinkle in your eye says everything. Tonight: Take off.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ***** You make all the difference within your immediate circle. You could find others acting in strange ways. Get used to that behavior, as it will continue. Those around you become less predictable, making you more independent. Tonight: Homeward bound.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ***** Expenses climb upward, but your clout can and will make a difference. You need to network, make calls and perhaps change some patterns. Trust that through your strong social abilities you will gain. A boss or co-worker likes you a bit too much. Tonight: Out on the town. Visit a preferred spot.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ***** Handle key matters in the morning. Though you have a strong personality and a lot of charisma, be careful with commitments. You might not want to take any risks at all right now. Schedule time for a loved one. Tonight: Out with the gang.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ***** You could be all smiles by the afternoon, if you let go and worry less about having certain things happen in a way that pleases you. Your personality helps others bounce over problems. Be yourself. Keep smiling. Tonight: All grins. You have plenty to smile about, too.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ***** Use the morning to accomplish something that is very important. By the afternoon, you will want to slow down and perhaps do a little less; with any luck, you could leave work early. Take care of yourself as well as others. Tonight: Get some extra sleep while you can.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ***** You are in the limelight in the morning. Others willingly respond to your energy and drive. You might want to think through a decision that involves a friend before taking a key action. You must follow your heart. Tonight: Where the gang is.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ***** Reach out for others at a distance, especially if you think you could learn something from them. You have a very soft way of presenting yourself that makes a big difference in others' reactions. Take care of your responsibilities. Tonight: You're a force to be dealt with.
BORN TODAY
 Actor Jim Carrey (1962), singer Eartha Kitt (1928), boxer Muhammad Ali (1942) *****
 Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:
 AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW
 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
1-16 CRYPTOQUOTE
 C U V D A G J J B V D A I
 X D A O Y T Y A O V D A P C F F
 M J W J I B A O V D A I U D D O
CM CO. — QATOCM D'XQFFJV
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EXTRAVAGANCE IS THE LUXURY OF THE POOR; PENURY IS THE LUXURY OF THE RICH. — OSCAR WILDE

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 805 N. Hobart 665-1665
 1996 Ford Taurus, 89,000 miles, \$2800. 806-323-8854.
 1999 Ford Escort Wagon, 116,000 miles. \$2950. 806-323-8854.
121 Trucks
 '99 Dodge, Laramie 3/4 ton, 4X4, 138k miles, clean, \$15,000 call 665-3379 after 6:30p or 806-341-3284 ask for Keith
 1997 Ford F150, 87,000 miles, 4x4. \$5900. 806-323-8854.

Sky marshal plan causing controversy

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The United States and European nations failed Friday to bridge divisions during a high-level meeting over a U.S. proposal to use armed sky marshals on trans-Atlantic flights.

Asa Hutchinson, U.S. under-secretary for border and transportation security, sought to convince European civil aviation officials that armed guards are needed to thwart terrorist attacks in planes.

But although Britain and France were open to the idea, other Europeans largely stuck to their reservations.

"Use of weapons on board an aircraft is always potentially dangerous because there are some very sensitive electronics on board every aircraft," said Lars Lovkvist, Finnish Air Transport Authority Director.

"If there really is a grave serious threat, we would cancel individual flights and not use sky marshals," he said.

Hutchinson said the United States was not demanding air marshals on every flight — only on "selective flights on a case by case basis" — but he disagreed with Europeans that marshals were not needed.

Air marshals "give a higher level of security," he told reporters. "We have used it well in the United States, and the ultimate goal we are trying to accomplish is the safety of the passengers."

Hutchinson told reporters after the meeting that Washington would approach individual European nations to seek bilateral protocols on security measures for trans-Atlantic flights, including when and how air marshals would be used.

Separately, the European Union's head office drew up a list of items that passengers boarding in any of the 15 EU nations will be banned from taking onto planes. The list ranges from guns, explosives and machetes to ice skates, fishing rods and paint thinner.

Most of the articles are already banned individually by EU nations, but the European Commission said a standardized list for the whole bloc would improve safety and provide clarity for passengers.

It also adopted a list of goods banned baggage holds, including fireworks, bleach and radioactive material.

Following heightened security over the Christmas holidays, Washington is demanding stepped-up cooperation to counter hijackers. However, many in Europe fear the use of armed guards on commercial flights could put crew and passengers at risk.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States expanded its force of air marshals, sharpshooters who are trained to stop hijackings. They wear civilian clothes and carry special bullets designed to kill without penetrating the metal skin of aircraft.

But many countries are still wary.

"We do not want weapons in the cabin," said Bo Eckerbert of the Swedish Aviation Administration. "It may even create more problems than it solves."

Airlines already have to supply U.S. authorities with more data on passengers on trans-Atlantic flights, but a December deal brokered between EU headquarters and Washington limited the use of such data to comply with EU privacy rules.

Finland's national carrier, Finnair, which flies to New York and other North American cities, is against the use of marshals, while package tour operator Thomas Cook, which operates charter flights between London and Orlando, Fla., also said it would not accept them.

NASA looks for key questions for mission

WASHINGTON (AP) — You're an astronaut on the way to Mars in the year 2034.

Your mission is to fulfill the national goal laid out three decades earlier by President George W. Bush when he called for the United States to return to the moon and then venture on to the Red Planet.

"Mankind is drawn to the heavens," Bush had said back then. "We choose to explore space because doing so improves our lives and lifts our national spirit."

So now you're living with five other astronauts in the small cabin of a spacecraft that left Earth orbit three months ago. Your home planet is just a tiny pinpoint of light in space, millions of miles behind you, and Mars is still three months ahead.

Outside your craft, space crackles with radiation. High-energy particles stream through the spacecraft hull and zap your body, leaving an unseen, potentially damaging wake. A sudden burst of harmful radiation from the sun could force you into a reinforced safe room, a place you call the "storm shelter."

Your crewmates are beginning to get on your nerves. You see the same people, every day, all day. You eat together, work together, depend on each other for survival. You've heard the same stories, over and over. There are no more secrets. You're

alone only in the unconsciousness of sleep, and that's sometimes hard to find because the whirring, buzzing, clanking din of machinery never stops inside your home among the stars.

You feel isolated and alone, and yearn for home, ache for a loving contact with family. You know them now only as video images occasionally beamed from Earth. Your 3-year-old will be 6 by the time you get back. Conversation with your children is difficult because the words take so many frustrating minutes to make the long radio journey. Sometimes the homesickness is almost unbearable.

Weightlessness is doing its best to destroy your body — weakening bones and reducing muscle mass. Even the food tastes different. You exercise hard on special machines two hours a day just to maintain muscle tone and keep your heart strong. But still your bones grow more brittle.

You live with stress because there's always danger. Millions of things could go wrong with your complex spacecraft, and any one of them could kill you. Just beyond the window there is a vacuum and deep, deep cold. In an instant you could become a lifeless bit of space debris, ever drifting, never to return.

Jackson faces arraignment amid crush of media blitz

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — Michael Jackson supporters converged on a courthouse here Friday, gathering alongside a phalanx of international media for the multimillionaire pop star's first court appearance since he learned two months ago that he would be charged with molesting a child.

Jackson was coming to court from a leased mansion in Beverly Hills, where he has been holed up since abandoning his Neverland Ranch in this idyllic Central California valley, where the molestation allegedly occurred.

Busloads of fans traveled from Los Angeles and Las Vegas on a "Caravan of Love" to show their support.

"There's strength in numbers," said supporter Amber McCrary, 26, who boarded a bus in a suburban Los Angeles Kmart parking lot with her two children, ages 4 and 2. About 100 people spanning three generations prayed before the two charter buses departed about 4:30 a.m.

In Santa Maria, about 100 supporters gathered outside the courthouse before daylight, with many singing Jackson's "I'll Be There" and others hoisting signs that read "Stay Strong Michael" and "100% Innocent. We Believe In Michael Jackson. Leave Him

Alone." Jackson, who has maintained he is innocent, was charged last month with seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts on a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. He was freed on \$3 million bail.

The alleged victim was a cancer patient the pop star had befriended. The boy appeared in the same TV documentary in which Jackson defended letting children sleep in his bed as "sweet" and non-sexual.

With news crews arriving from around the globe to set up more than 18 trucks, mini TV studios and satellite dishes, the scene outside the courthouse Friday was reminiscent of the O.J. Simpson murder trial which became a blueprint for the celebrity trial.

Although small compared to Simpson's "dream team," Jackson's defense expanded Thursday with the addition of New York attorney Benjamin Brafman, a principal of the firm that won acquittal for Sean "P. Diddy" Combs on bribery and weapons charges in 2001.

Jackson's attorney, Mark Geragos, announced that Brafman would act as "co-lead counsel" and would appear with him at Friday's arraignment.

Amarillo to be site of High Plains Elevator Conference

AMARILLO — High Plains Grain Elevator Conference is set for Thursday, Jan. 22, at Amarillo Civic Center. The conference will focus on such topics as homeland security agricultural issues, disposal of outdated or banned chemicals, stored grain chemical protectants, pesticide laws and regulations and more.

Registration will get under way at 8 a.m. with refreshments. The workshop fee is \$30 per person. Five continuing education units will be

available for individuals holding private, non-commercial or commercial pesticide license. One hour of CEU credit will be in the laws and regulations category.

Pre-registration is encouraged.

For more information, call (806) 677-5600 or (806) 291-5274.

The program is being sponsored by Tri State Chapter of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society and by Texas Cooperative Extension.

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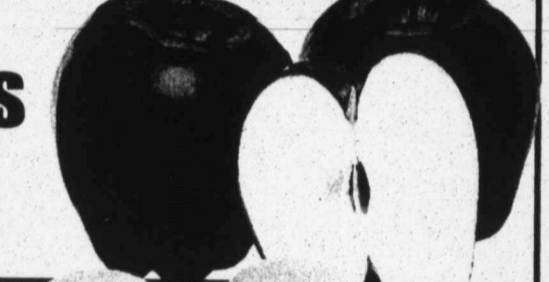
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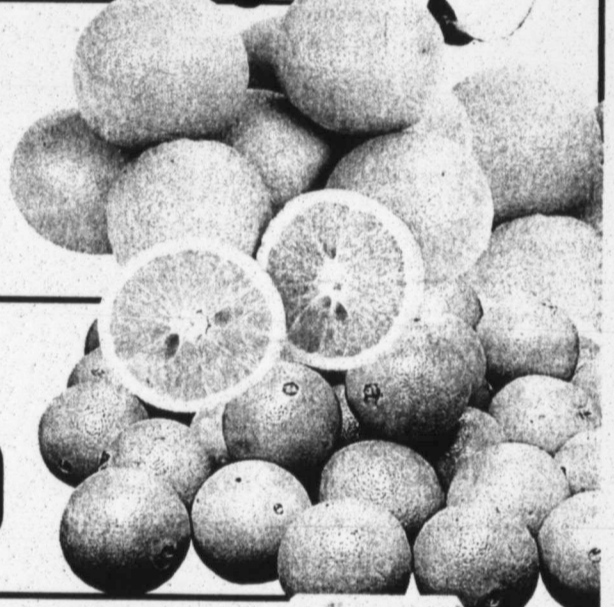
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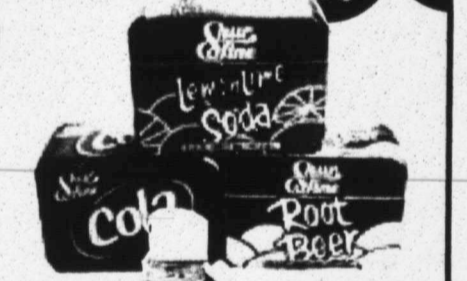


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