

THE PAMPA NEWS

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PEDC takes a step closer to closing

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

Pampa Economic Development takes another step this week toward closing down.

The PEDC board approved paying off the last of their loans. A check to the National Bank of Commerce for \$125,534.80 is expected to be issued this week.

"We're rolling toward

shutting down in March, 2005," Doug Locke, president of the PEDC, said.

According to the PEDC's financial statement, after paying the NBC loan off and paying \$3,768 for officers

liability insurance, the PEDC has \$102,064.54 left in cash.

"There will be a few other minor bills," Locke said today.

The PEDC contracts with

the city for accounting services and there will still be the attorney's fees for closing down the organization in accordance with a mandate

See PEDC, Page 3

Today's weather



H 54 L 41

Texas Today

More rain expected in southeast Texas

EL CAMPO, Texas (AP) — More rain was expected early Monday morning across already saturated areas of Southeast Texas, including the town of El Campo where about 250 people were evacuated from their homes in boats and large trucks the day before.

Mayor Randy Collins said that between 50 and 100 homes as well as some businesses were flooded there Sunday.

El Campo resident Ray Hillyer, 62, said he felt helpless as 7 inches of water filled two bedrooms in his home.

Portions of U.S. Highway 59 were closed after up to 15 inches of rain fell across parts of Wharton and Jackson counties in Southeast Texas on Sunday.

Schools stumped over testing regs

DALLAS (AP) — State and federal laws on how to test special education students are on a collision course in Texas, stumping school leaders who must meet contradictory demands and parents who want to know how well schools are performing.

About 9 percent of the nearly 2.9 million Texas children in the third through eleventh grades were given an alternate test to the more rigorous Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, known as TAKS, after their schools determined that the state's standardized test would be too difficult for them to pass.

The alternate test measures the skills of students with learning disabilities, ranging from dyslexia to Down syndrome, based on their skill level rather than the grade level appropriate for their age.

For example, a school can measure a teenager's year-to-year growth with the alternative test to see if she moves from a third-grade reading level to a fourth-grade level.

But the federal No Child Left Behind Act says states should only administer such tests to the 1 percent of students with the most severe cognitive disabilities.

Water may be hot topic

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

It's not the action items, but the discussion item on the Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday afternoon that may be heated.

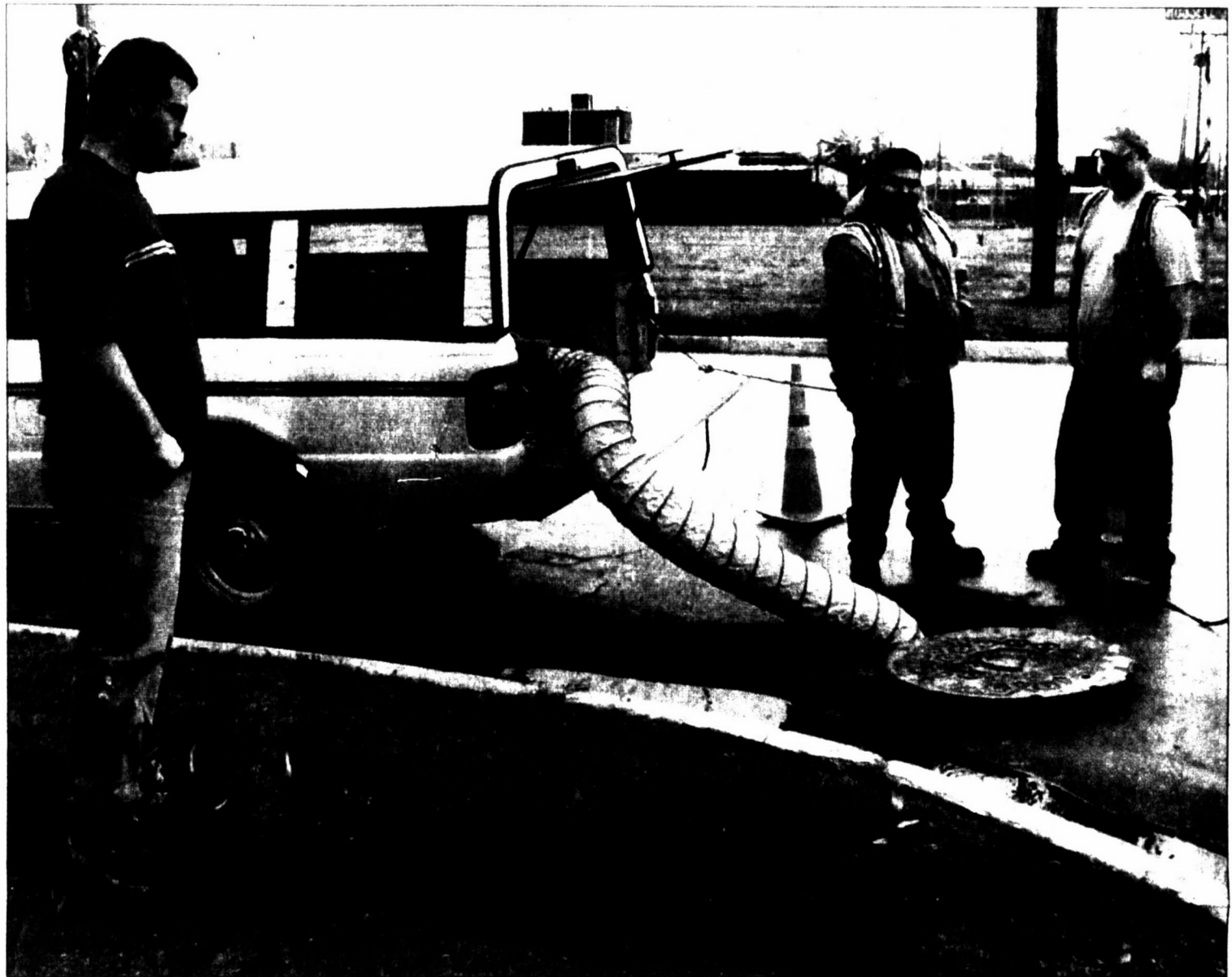
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority is planning to issue bonds to buy and develop more water rights. Pampa City Manager John Horst is expected to go over the costs to the city of the bond issue. Pampa is one of 11 cities that are members of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

In other business, city commissioners will consider a bid of \$100 by Alonzo Lednardo Jr. for delinquent tax property at 943 S. Finley.

The commission is also expected to renew a mutual aid agreement between Pampa and the City of Borger for law enforcement support services.

They will also consider an agreement with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission to conduct a communications tower study.

Pampa City Commission meets at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Water woes lead to early dismissal at PHS

Jeremy Casida, far left, of SM&P, a utility service company under contract to SBC telephone company, pumps out excess water from a manhole with the help of Michael Campos, center, and Robert Hutchison, right, both of the City of Pampa Water Department. The manhole is on Russell Street immediately north of Randy Matson Avenue. The water was coming from a water leak further south on Russell, near Harvester Avenue. Pampa High School dismissed students and closed at 11:45 a.m. today due to the water leak.

Bush touts U.S.-backed anti-drug efforts

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — President Bush aims to highlight American drug-fighting aid in Colombia and boost a conservative Latin American leader with a stop in the Andean nation where thousands of security forces are deployed to safeguard his brief stay.

Bush's four-hour stay Monday in

the seaside city of Cartagena to see Colombian President Alvaro Uribe marks the final stop of a three-day Latin American trip. Bush says the United States will stand with the Colombian government to oppose the drug trade because it destroys lives and threatens the stability of the hemisphere.

Uribe told Colombian radio on Monday that he intended to discuss continued U.S. aid to fight rebels and drug trafficking under Plan Colombia, which expires next year.

"It is very important that we are clear that we can't leave this task halfway completed," Uribe said. "It must be brought to a happy conclu-

sion for the Colombian nation." Briefing reporters on Air Force One before it landed in Cartagena, a senior administration official said there is no commitment that Plan Colombia would be renewed. The official suggested that Colombia

See BUSH, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Don Vermilyea walks along Foster toward the Pampa post office before heading down U.S. Highway 60 to White Deer and then on to Clovis, N.M.

Walking for Jesus

W. Va. farmer crossing country to 'plant seeds of Christianity'

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

Don Vermilyea hopes to find a warm place to sleep in White Deer tonight.

"I'll hunker down there for a day," Vermilyea said, noting that it's supposed to snow tonight.

It's been more than 26 million steps ago since he left Tucson, Ariz., on his journey to plant the seeds of Christianity during his Walk Across America.

"I'm very blessed to do this," Vermilyea said, trudging up Foster toward the post office.

In February 2002, Vermilyea, 54, left his farm in West Virginia on a Greyhound bus headed west. He decided to launch his walk from the Southeastern Arizona city. He said it was a good place to start for a novice walker.

For the last two years and nine months, he's criss-crossed the West

and Midwest, visiting congregations of his church, the Church of the Brethren.

"A year ago I was in Kansas," he said. "The Fourth of July, I was in Montana."

He spent the winter traveling in the subfreezing cold of Iowa as candidates prepared for the Presidential caucuses.

Sunday morning, he spoke from the pulpit of the Church of the Brethren in Pampa. Sunday afternoon, he ate a turkey dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in Pampa.

"I'm a vegetarian," he said, "but that turkey dinner tasted good."

Next week, he's to meet with the ministerial council in Clovis, N.M. By January, he'll have doubled back from New Mexico to be in Fallurrias, Texas.

He's supposed to be in Illinois for the Fourth of July, 2005.

See WALKER, Page 3

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Albers Grain of Pampa:		Cash Oil Cap	44.34	+0.47	Pioneer Nat	54.61	+0.10
Wheat	4.24	Cash of Cash	49.76	+0.11	ICP	40.08	+0.18
Milo	4.30	ALD	49.42	+0.40	COF	88.11	+0.68
Corn	4.88	HM	49.71	+0.12	SLB	68.94	+0.16
Soybeans	4.81	IRI	46.00	+0.05	Tenneco	14.76	+0.11
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:		SOI	44.54	+0.15	CVX	54.08	+0.18
QNY	58.01	KMI	68.55	+0.20	Wal-Mart	55.04	+0.21
HFPLC ADR	59.85	NEI	18.00	+0.01	OKI	27.52	+0.15
Clanetse	44.30	Ken McGee	60.80	+0.32	NS Grp	21.98	+0.36
Cabot Corp	46.64	NOM	50.58	+0.20	New York Gold	447.05	
		Limited	26.85	+0.01	Silver	7.58	
		Williams	18.15	+0.02	West Texas Crude	48.44	
		MEI	29.13	+0.17			
		Amos	26.10	+0.18			

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Gray County Weather

Today: A 40 percent chance of rain. Widespread fog before noon. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high around 54. East wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Tonight: Periods of rain, mainly after 3 a.m. Low around 41. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Tuesday: Periods of rain. Temperature falling to around 38 by 5 p.m. Wind chill values between 27 and 32. Windy, with a northeast wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph.

Obituaries

Irene Graves Dodd, 83

Irene Graves Dodd, 83, of Pampa, Texas, died Friday, Nov. 19, 2004, at Weatherford, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor of the First Christian Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Dodd was born April 25, 1921, in Turkey, Texas. She had been a resident of Pampa from 1926 until 2000 when she moved to Fort Worth to be near her children. She married King Dodd on June 19, 1940, in Roswell, N.M. He preceded her in death on Nov. 25, 1990.

Mrs. Dodd was a social worker for the Texas Department of Human Services for 10 years. She was a member of the First Christian Church, the Opti-Mrs. and was a foster parent for 21 years.

She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who died peacefully, surrounded by her family.

Survivors include two daughters, Sandra Dodd Hackney of Fort Worth and Meredith (Katy) Dodd Martin of Hermosa Beach, Calif.; one son, Keith Ronald Dodd of Fort Worth, one foster son, Richard Fishburn of Jacksboro; five grandchildren, Tracy Owen of Larchmont, N.Y., Lynde Williams of Denton and Amy Mitchell, Bradley Dodd and Kevin Dodd, all of Fort Worth; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Gordon (Corky) Dodd in 2002 and by two sisters.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Friday, Nov. 19

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of West Kentucky. No damage was reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of East 25th. The rear spoiler of a vehicle received \$398 in damage.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Yeager. A vehicle was keyed, causing an estimated \$600 in damage.

Burglary of a building was reported at World Finance Corporation, 1534 N. Hobart. Taken was \$329.07 in cash.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of East Foster. Taken was \$70 in cash.

Burglary was reported at Trinity Fellowship Church, 1200 S. Sumner. Sodas were taken and a microphone stand was damaged. Total estimated value of damage and loss is \$250.

Saturday, Nov. 20

Three arrests were made in the 1100 block of South Clark. One suspect was arrested for driving while intoxicated, second offense; no valid Texas driver's license; and no valid inspection. The second suspect was arrested on one City of Pampa warrant, and the third suspect was arrested on two City of Pampa warrants.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart. Sugar was poured in a gas tank, causing an estimated \$3,500 in damage.

A gas drive-off was reported at Taylor Mart, 1340 N. Hobart. Taken was \$18 in gasoline.

Assault was reported in the lobby of the police department. The incident occurred in the 1000 block of Sierra. Minor injuries were reported.

Sunday, Nov. 21

An unattended death was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of Carr. A guitar and guitar case were taken, for an estimated loss of \$500.

A fight between two females was reported in the 2200 block of Dogwood. No injuries were reported. The incident was forwarded to Municipal Court.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of East Scott. Furniture and electronics valued at approximately \$15,900 were taken.

Avenue. No injuries were reported. Joiner was cited for making an improperly wide right turn.

Sunday, Nov. 21

6:24 p.m. — A 1997 Dodge extended-cab pickup, driven by Jess William Bennett, 83, 916 Wilcox, and a 1982 Ford F250, driven by Barry Shane Malone, 35, 1536 Williston, collided in the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets. Malone, Bennett, and a passenger in Bennett's vehicle, Maxine A. Bennett, 73, 916 Wilcox, all reported possible injuries. Jess and Maxine Bennett were transported by Guardian EMS ambulance. No citations were issued.

Sheriff

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

Sunday, Nov. 21

Manuel Alvarez Rizo, 38, McLean, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, second offense, and a Potter County warrant for probation violation for possession of a controlled substance.

Antonio Sanchez, 22, McLean, was arrested for public intoxication and is being held for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Joaquin Retana Flores, 24, McLean, was arrested for public intoxication and is being held for the INS.

Raymond Ray Diaz, 45, 2931 W. Alcock, was arrested for a probation violation for failure to register.

Tamara Paredes, 39, Tucson, Ariz., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of marijuana over 50 pounds and under 200 grams, and possession of a controlled substance over 4 grams and under 200 grams.

JoAnn Boulanger, 37, Tucson, Ariz., was arrested by DPS for possession of marijuana over 50 pounds and under 200 pounds, and possession of a controlled substance over 4 grams and under 200 grams.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Nov. 20

11:35 a.m. — Firefighters received a false alarm from

Genesis House that was canceled before they left the station.

3:15 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a report of smoke odor in the 2100 block of North Wells. No source of the odor was found, but probably came from a fireplace, according to the report.

8:12 p.m. — Two units and eight firefighters responded to a vehicle fire in a garage in the 800 block of East Locust. Residents had moved the 1989 Buick out of the garage and extinguished the fire before firefighters arrived. The engine compartment was totaled.

Sunday, Nov. 21

6:25 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Hobart and Somerville streets. Firefighters helped prepare two patients for ambulance transport to the hospital.

6:29 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 100 block of Prairie Drive.

7:30 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 900 block of Twiford.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS Transport responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Nov. 19

12:26 p.m. — A mobile intensive care unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred one patient to BSA, Amarillo.

4:49 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to BSA, Amarillo.

5:11 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 100 block of Russell. No patient transport.

5:50 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1600 block of North Nelson and transported one to PRMC.

7:38 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

Saturday, Nov. 20

4:36 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported one to PRMC.

9:31 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported one to PRMC.

10:59 a.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to BSA-West, Amarillo.

4:01 p.m. — A MICU responded to Pampa High School and transported one to NPTH, Amarillo.

5:14 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to NPTH, Amarillo.

Sunday, Nov. 21

3:43 a.m. — A MICU responded to 2200 block of Chestnut and transferred one to PRMC.

5:56 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 700 block of Jordan and transported one to PRMC.

6:28 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1100 block

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See RECORD, Page 3

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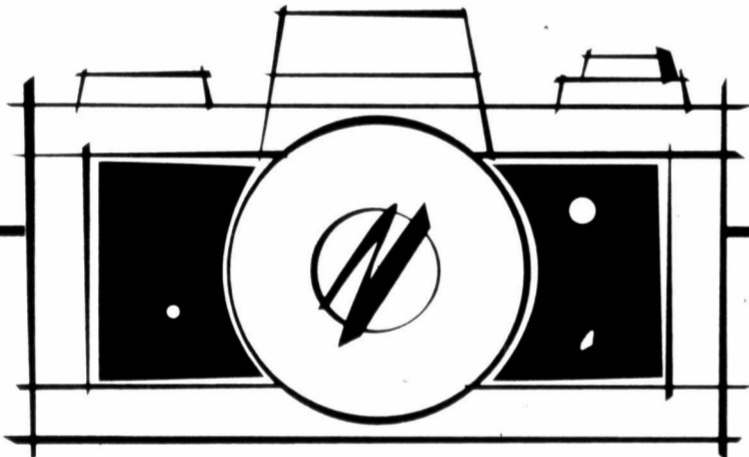


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PEDC

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by Pampa voters. While the PEDC still lists \$60,164.08 as receiv-

able on one note and \$11,381.58 on another, the PEDC must also set up a fund to pay incentives earned by United Medical Corp.

Under an agreement with United Medical Corp., the

PEDC agreed to pay bonuses for new jobs the company brings to the city.

The PEDC board has indicated they plan to set up an account to pay United Medical Corp. and meet Pampa's obligations to the

company so the PEDC can close down.

"We got to save enough money," Locke said, "to fund the United Medical Corp. agreement for the next three years."

In addition to money

from the receivables account, the PEDC will continue to receive money from the sales tax until funds have been built up to pay off United Medical Corp.

Locke said the anticipat-

ed shutdown target for the PEDC is March, 2005. The next PEDC meeting is planned for January.

Walker

Continued from Page 1

Vermilyea said he thought he could cover the nation in five years. Now, he's planning on 10.

"Three down," he said, shouldering his backpack, "and seven to go."

It's a bigger country than he had anticipated.

Vermilyea said he has

covered 12,206 miles in his 1,025 days on the road.

"I walk for the Lord as a homeless person," Vermilyea said.

Although he can quit anytime he wants and has a home to go to, Vermilyea said he's treated as a homeless person. He's been accused of being a drug addict, a child molester and a terrorist by people

who don't know him and don't have the time to learn who he is.

"I've been the subject of a lot of 911 calls," he said.

His journey is not one of self discovery.

"I'm too old for that," Vermilyea said.

But he said he's learned a lot about other people. It's not so



Vermilyea

much the weather or dogs that give him trouble as he walks down the highway or through the nation's towns. It's the people.

He's been invited to stay in homes twice in more than a 1,000 nights on the road.

Vermilyea said his travels are to connect the dots between the different locations of the Church of the Brethren and to plant the seeds of his faith.

"God's truly great," Vermilyea said, "but we

Bush

Continued from Page 1

would continue to get at least the same amount of aid, or an even more assistance that's restructured.

That very drug trade led to extraordinary security measures for Bush's visit.

About 15,000 Colombian security forces, backed by combat helicopters, radars on the lookout for hostile planes or missiles, and submarines and battle ships prowling the waters, were deployed to protect the American president.

U.S. Navy commandoes, armed with assault rifles and peering through binoculars, patrolled the Caribbean waters in rubber boats off Cartagena, where Monday's meeting was to take place. Colombian Navy Capt. Nelson Fernandez said the United States would take control of security at the meeting site.

Despite the relative peace of the former Spanish fort compared with other parts of the country, Bush and Uribe weren't going into the walled city; they were meeting at a colonial estate on an island just off the coast. Officials even banned the

sale of alcoholic drinks for 24 hours and gave workers the day off.

Washington has given billions in U.S. military aid for Colombia to combat cocaine production and the leftist rebels that finance themselves through drug trafficking, kidnapping and extortion. White House aides hinted in advance of the trip that, as Uribe hopes, more money could be in the cards after the \$3.3 billion, five-year package expires in 2005.

Under that Plan Colombia program, the United States gives Colombian forces training, equipment and intelligence to root out drug traffickers and destroy coca crops.

The official said that for the second year in a row, there has been a 20 percent decrease in coca leaf production and that Colombia was at a point where the entire coca crop can be sprayed.

As part of a broader effort to improve the U.S. image in Latin America, Bush was expected to highlight the progress the American generosity has helped purchase. The trip was also meant as a high-profile statement by Bush of his commitment not to neglect the region as he wages a global campaign against terrorists, officials said.

Indeed, in the two years since Uribe came to power, some measure of stability has been restored. The White House sees the reduced crime rates and kidnappings that have given many Colombians new hope as at least in part an American success story.

Though Plan Colombia has helped reduce the coca crop and jail scores of traffickers, it has failed to visibly reduce cocaine production or keep cocaine off U.S. streets.

And the 40-year-old insurgency by rebel groups — the Revolutionary Armed Forces

of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym FARC, and the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN — continues to claim an estimated 3,500 lives every year. Rebels hold dozens of hostages, including Colombian politicians, government soldiers and three American military contractors seized in early 2003 after their plane crashed in a southern rebel stronghold.

There was also an economic component to the Bush-Uribe meetings. Both were interested in advancing negotiations on an Andean free-trade pact with Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Bush was arriving in Colombia from a weekend summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Santiago, Chile. While there, he met with other allies including Mexican President Vicente Fox and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos in an effort to mend relations damaged by the Iraq war.

Also in Cartagena, Bush planned a public appearance with major league baseball players from Colombia. He was to end the day in Texas, where he was spending the rest of the week and the Thanksgiving holiday at his ranch.

As part of a broader effort to improve the U.S. image in Latin America, Bush was expected to highlight the progress the American generosity has helped purchase.

Record

Continued from Page 2

of Prairie Drive and transported one to PRMC.

6:28 p.m. — A MICU responded to

Hobart and Somerville and transported two to PRMC.

7:29 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 900 block of Twiford. No patient transport.

9:22 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to NWTW, Amarillo.

9:38 p.m. — A MICU responded to

Pampa Nursing Center and transported one to PRMC.

Monday, Nov. 22
1:56 a.m. — A MICU responded to 1900 block of Christy. No transport listed.

6 a.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to NWTW, Amarillo.

Israeli leaders pledge to Powell they'll allow Palestinian elections

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli leaders told Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday that they will do their utmost to allow Palestinian elections to take place, including easing travel restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a sign of improving ties after four years of Mideast fighting, Israeli officials also said they are willing to renew talks with the Palestinians on some issues, including security, and to coordinate the aftermath of Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank in 2005.

Israel had refused to negotiate with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat's death Nov. 11 provided a "moment of opportunity that should not be lost," Powell said.

He told Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom that the United States wants to seize the moment, and to make sure Palestinian presidential elections are held Jan. 9, as planned.

Later Monday, Powell met with Palestinian officials in

the West Bank town of Jericho and visited a voter registration office there.

Palestinian officials asked Powell to ensure that Israel withdraws troops from West Bank population centers ahead of the elections. They said he did not pass along any specific Israeli commitments regarding the vote.

Shalom said it is in Israel's interest to see the Palestinian elections go forward. "The

first priority is the Palestinian election which will hopefully bring about a Palestinian leadership with whom we can sit down and address all the issues on our agenda," he said after a meeting with Powell.

"I have reassured the secretary today that Israel will do everything in its power to ensure their smooth running," he said.

Shalom did not say whether Israel would pull back troops.

He said that the Palestinians would have "freedom of movement" in the run-up to the elections. He said Israel would coordinate the arrangements with the Palestinians but would not compromise on security.

"I have reassured the secretary today that Israel will do everything in its power to ensure their smooth running."

— Silvar Shalom
Israel's foreign minister

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NOV 22 2004

Viewpoints

Public lands: This land belongs to you, me

This is a broad and diverse land, made up of many peoples and many outlooks.

Sometimes I forget that, but it was brought back to me earlier this month as I attended an environmentalists meeting in New Mexico earlier this month.

There were a number of subjects discussed at the meeting, hosted by a group out of the People's Republic of Santa Fe, but basically the meeting revolved around public lands, those lands that belong to all of us and managed by the federal government.

Basically, the government's policy is to make those lands available to a variety of groups including

hikers, campers, people with all terrain vehicles, equestrians, cattlemen who can graze their cattle there, miners who can dig for what ever they want and loggers who can cut the timber. The policy is officially known as "multi-use."

Often there are fees and permits required, but the policy is based on the concept that the land belongs to all of us, and we can all use it.

Those who use it for commercial purposes, say cattlemen or miners (including oil and gas producers), pay more than the day hikers, but still the policy is that all are welcome.

Well, maybe not welcome. Tolerated maybe a better

word, and in some cases, not even tolerated. In the case of loggers, not even tolerated.

With a few exceptions, loggers are no longer cutting timber on the public lands thanks to some of the environmentalists' actions.

David Bowser

Staff Writer



If the more radical of the environmentalists have their way, cowboys will soon be out of business on public lands as well.

In the complex world of public lands grazing, livestock producers have permits to graze a certain num-

ber of animals for given periods on allotments managed by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The permit is essentially a contract between the federal government and the livestock producer, and we all know about such contracts the federal government had with the Indian. Now, it's happening to the cowboys.

There was a time I thought it would be nice to live in the mountains of New Mexico or Colorado or Wyoming or any of the other Western

States. After dealing with public lands issues, there is no way I will ever live any place other than Texas!

When Texas joined the union, it reserved all its public lands for the state. Eventually, the state sold off the land to pay for things like constructing a Capitol Building.

Consequently, there is little public land in the Lone Star State. Most of the state, some 98 percent of it, is privately owned as opposed to states like New Mexico where about a third of the land is privately owned. A third is owned by the State of New Mexico, and a third is owned by the federal government. A majority of the

land in some states, like Nevada, is owned by the federal government.

That land belongs to you and me.

The problem arises when you and me don't agree on how to manage that land.

I've always questioned the sanity of public lands ranchers. After all, who would willingly take the federal government on as a partner in a business enterprise. I mean how many of us would like to have a government employee walking through our backyard telling us it's time to mow the grass or weed the flowerbed or run the sprinkler.

See LAND, Page 5

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 22, the 327th day of 2004. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, President Kennedy was shot to death while riding in a motorcade in Dallas. Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same limousine as Kennedy, was seriously wounded. Suspect Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested.

On this date:

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, was killed during a battle off the Virginia coast.

In 1906, the "S-O-S" distress signal was adopted at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel made its debut in Paris.

In 1935, a flying boat, the "China Clipper," took off from Alameda, Calif., carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific air-mail flight.

In 1943, President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan.

In 1943, lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1977, regular passenger service between New York and Europe on the supersonic Concorde began on a trial basis.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced her resignation.

In 1993, Mexico's Senate overwhelmingly approved the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Ten years ago: A gunman opened fire inside the District of Columbia's police headquarters; the resulting gunbattle left two FBI agents, a city detective and the gunman dead. Serb fighters in northwest Bosnia set villages ablaze in response to a retaliatory airstrike by NATO.

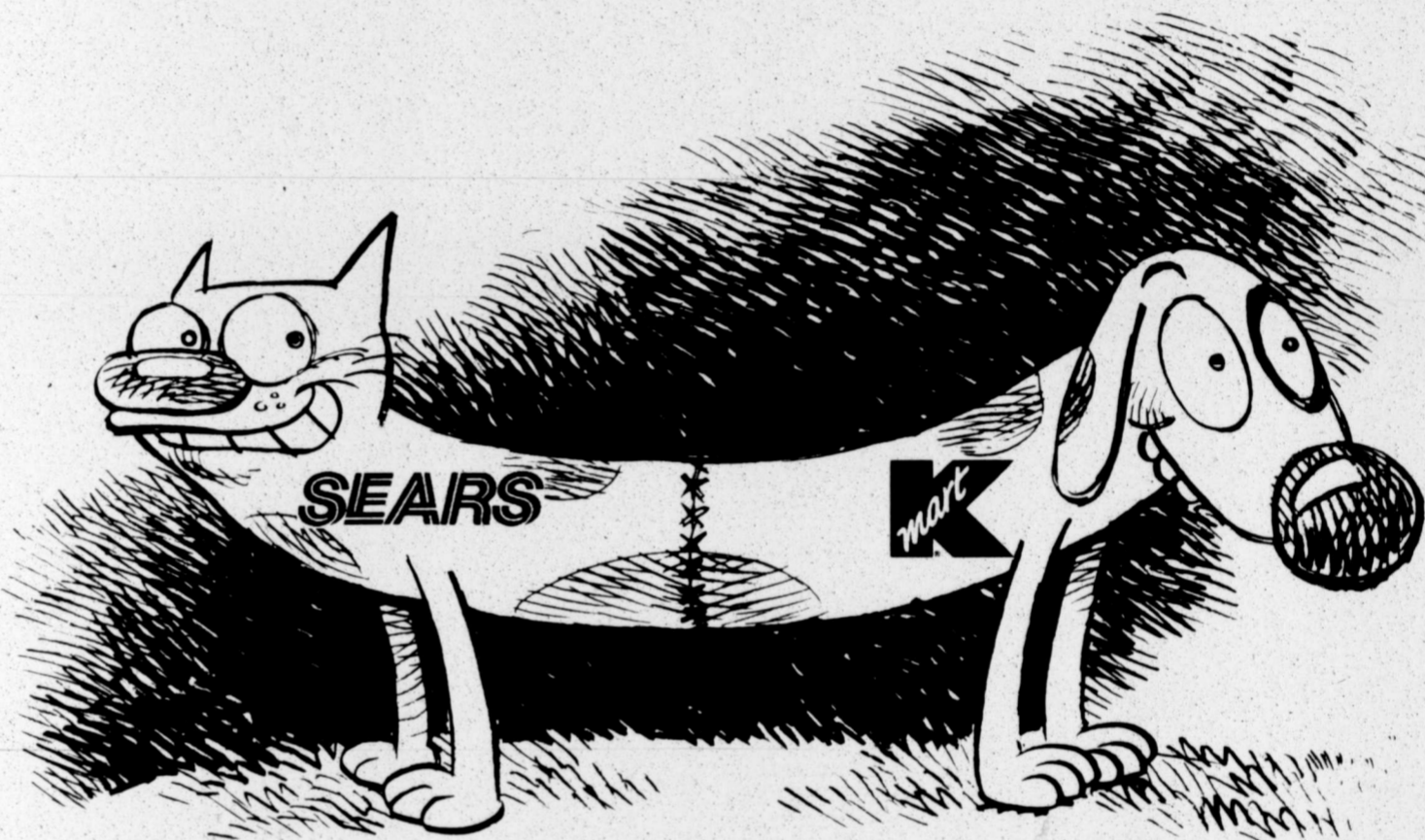
Five years ago: During a visit to the former communist country of Bulgaria, President Clinton promised tens of thousands of cheering Bulgarians in Sofia that "you, too, shall overcome" in their difficult struggle for democracy and prosperity.

One year ago: The Medicare prescription drug bill narrowly passed the House, 220-215, following a dusk-to-dawn debate. Thousands of mourners gathered in downtown Dallas along the street where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated 40 years earlier.

'In youth we feel richer for every new illusion; in maturer years, for everyone we lose.'

— Anne Sophie Swetchine

Russian-French author



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APOLOGIES TO NICKELODEON

Bill's library, Hill's campaign

Events in Little Rock (last week) had less to do with a library retrospective of the Bill Clinton years than a campaign launch for the prospective presidency of Hillary Clinton.

Doubt it? Then why it was Hillary, not Bill, who appeared on all the talk shows? It's his library. But it's her candidacy. So she did all the softball TV interviews, not him — reminding voters of her availability for 2008 while seeming to talk about the '90s.

The timing is perfect: Democrats demoralized by John Kerry's defeat get to behold hope for the future.

It also re-launches Hillary as a red state kind of girl. Needing to live down her recent New York pedigree,

Clinton gets to renew her identification with Arkansas so she can avoid being labeled a bi-coastal liberal.

And it gives Hillary a moment to bask in the reflected glory of her husband's middle-of-the-road policies and presidential programs. To wash away the Kerry identification with gay

marriage and opposition to the war in Iraq, Hillary can summon forth memories of welfare reform, balanced

budgets, anti-crime initiatives and the Defense of Marriage Act her husband signed.

In short, the library gives Hillary the chance to moderate her image, relocate her venue and update her profile to position her for a White House.

Promoting a "nonpartisan" event, interviewers let

Hillary get away with anything she wanted to say. For example, when she spoke of the transparency of the architecture of the library building as symbolic of the openness she deems admirable in government, Larry King didn't ask why the names of the donors to the library remain cloaked (let alone why Hillary sued to keep the records of her health-care task force secret) if she is so committed to transparency.

Plus, Hillary now has all the staffing she needs for a White House run. When she

See HILLARY, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



Bush's cabinet has revolving door

Under President Bush, the Cabinet has had an unusually steady composition. Until Bush's re-election, only one of the 15 department heads, the unstopably candid Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, was shown the door; only one, Mel Martinez at Housing and Urban Development, voluntarily jumped into a successful U.S. Senate race in Florida.

Now that a second Bush term is in view, the pace of change has, not surprisingly, picked up. The revolving door gave a big whoosh Monday as the White House announced the exit of four more Cabinet members.

The departure of three of

the secretaries Rod Paige at Education, Spencer Abraham at Energy and Ann Veneman at Agriculture will have little effect on the national policies or the federal departments that they were supposed to oversee.

At more than one point in their tenure, all seemed miscast or irrelevant or both.

Anything really big in their portfolio was handled elsewhere, such as the White House's direct negotiations on the education measure, known with increasing irony as "No Child Left Behind."

The administration's industry-friendly energy proposal emerged from secret meetings between Vice President Dick Cheney's office and the oil-and-gas confraternity.

Veneman's attempt to restructure price supports was quietly disowned by the White House, which eventually signed off on increased farm subsidies as it sought to round up votes on tangential measures.

Unfortunately, sometimes the same treatment befell the most consequential and disappointing of the departures,

Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Despite his memorable appearance at the United Nations, in which he pronounced the Bush line on Iraq and its alleged weapons of mass destruction, Powell's voice was often a welcome note of moderation in the administration's otherwise headlong rush to battle.

That Powell often lost intra-administration battles is no discredit to him, but it is regrettable, in many cases, for the nation.

In fact, Bush and the nation's military and our position in Iraq would be in better shape today if the plan

See CABINET, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Calendar of Events

• **Pampa Meals on Wheels** is insinuating a special holiday program that allows individuals to pay for patrons not presently receiving meals or who can only pay the minimum 25-cents for meals. With increased gasoline and food prices, MOW officials say each meal is averaging \$4. For

more information, contact MOW. Individuals may sponsor a patron for one week at \$20; one month at \$80; or one year at \$960.

• **The next scheduled Pampa Area Singles Dance** will be from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 at M.K. Brown

Auditorium. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. Featured entertainment will be Mike Porter. Snacks are welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **The Women's Center** of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has

announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Nov. 29 and Dec. 23, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment.

Pampan goes on 'Geek Cruise'



Pampan Kayla Pursley, center, recently returned from a "geek" cruise for Macintosh computer users. Sailing to the eastern Caribbean on Holland America's MS Oosterdam, about 260 people from all over the world met onboard with some of the most prominent names in the computer industry to learn and share knowledge of making the Mac computer and related programs operate at their maximum efficiency. A variety of classes in Photoshop, Filemaker, Applescripting, Flash animation, iMovie, iPhoto and iLife were offered while the ship was at sea. Speakers for the event include from left front: Marc Rubenstein, keynote expert; Leo Laporte from the television show "Call for Help," Steve "Woz" Wosniak, originator of Apple computers; and Neil Bauman, cruise organizer. Back row: Sal Soghadian, Apple programmer; Ben Long, freelance writer and digital photography expert; Laura Gutman, designer and computer programmer; and Janet Hill, education developer for Apple.

Land

Continued from Page 4

A friend with the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association said ranchers there aren't crazy about hikers crossing their pastures and leaving gates open or having to pick up the trash left by tourists, but they are willing to share the land with these people because that's what the rules say.

The environmentalists, however, want to get rid of the ranchers, no matter what the rules say.

Talking with a professor from Colorado State University a few weeks ago, he said he didn't think the cattle industry would exist in the 11 Western States within a few decades. The professor, who also ranches with his father in Colorado, said the state has been cursed with beautiful landscapes and city folks who want to enjoy them — without cattle, cowboys or ranchers.

He pointed out that over the past couple of decades the trend has been for cattle oper-

ations to move to the southeastern United States where most of the land is privately owned.

When he was a kid, he said, he'd go to the movies and watch John Wayne. John Wayne was always in the West. John Wayne was always horseback, out on the frontier.

Now that western frontier is eastern Kansas, he lamented, as the cattle industry moves east.

For three days, I sat in a hotel meeting room listening to environmental extremists

curse ranchers and cowboys and George Bush and cry about how the Republicans had won the White House, the House of Representatives and the Senate. They longed for the days of the Democrats, whom they claimed would understand how the country needs more public lands. The fact that the government can't take care of the land it has is beside the

point.

One speaker, talking about buying out the public land ranchers, said he could do a lot of good with the government's money, money from the taxpayer, your money and mine.

While to some extent battles over public lands have raged for a century or more, I wasn't ready for the woman who wants to return the Great Plains to the buffalo.

"I'm from New York City," she said happily as I interviewed her.

I had heard about the Buffalo Commons, a concept she and her husband propose. They are college professors living in New Jersey now.

They want to return the Great Plains to the buffalo so the shaggy beasts can roam from Calgary to Chihuahua.

Pointing to the loss of population on the Great Plains, the shrinking rural communi-

ties, the rape of the Ogallala Aquifer and any number of other ills visited upon the vast plains by humans, she said she thinks it would be a grand idea to let the buffalo roam.

I never did quite grasp her reasoning of how it would improve the economy of the plains by removing me from my home and dislocating millions of other people.

As she babbled on about how the idea has grown and more and more people want to see the idea she and her husband first proposed in 1987 come to reality, I could only take solace in the fact the pen I used to take notes had a big "W 2004" on it. It is a pen from the Bush Campaign.

Diversity can be a good thing, but then there's always the lunatic fringe like the environmental group that wants to bring elephants back to Arizona because the Woolly Mammoth once roamed there.

There are some strange people out there in the world.

Write to Staff Writer David Bowser at reporter2@thepampanews.com.

"The fact that the government can't take care of the land it has is beside the point."

— David Bowser

Hillary

Continued from Page 4

sought the Senate seat, she used the White House staff. Now she has the library workers to prepare her background papers, develop policy initiatives and provide the staffing overhead it takes to run for president. Funded with donations from Democratic Clinton allies,

the library is really a support network for Hillary's candidacy.

How typical of the Clintons to refuse to release the names of the library donors or the amount of their contributions. And how exemplary of their shady ethics are the known contributors: Denise Rich and others who benefited from Bill's outrageous presidential pardons.

Give money directly to a

president, and it's a bribe. Contribute to a campaign, a party or a 527 Committee, and the use of the cash is severely restricted by law. But donations to a presidential library can be used in any way the Library Board allows. And Bill can replace the board anytime he chooses. Sure, the library can't spend money on overtly political purposes, but it can provide the staff and creature comforts the former

president and his candidate/wife require.

Why did Bill Clinton build a library with hidden donations and use the opening ceremony to promote his wife's candidacy for president three weeks after his party's defeat? Because he could.

Dick Morris is a political analyst who was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Cabinet

Continued from Page 4

of battle in Iraq had been based on the part of the Powell doctrine, proved up in the first Gulf war, that called for overwhelming force rather than the generally discredited light-and-lively approach of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, with its Panglossian anticipation of Iraqis dancing in the streets.

Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, brought to the nation's top diplomatic post the natural restraint that is often the best

mark of a long-serving military man who has seen combat.

He displayed, in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the ability to marshal an international coalition to fight terrorism. His effort recognized the capabilities, limitations and local circumstances of each nation. It avoided the us-versus-them typologies that did nothing to advance the fight against terrorism and eventually kept the coalition in Iraq from being more than illusory.

It is testimony to Powell's service that Democrats express more sorrow that he's leaving than did some of his fellow Republicans. U.S.

Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, caught the heart of the matter in a statement saying that Powell's resignation is "a major loss to the country. Secretary Powell has been by far the most responsible, thoughtful, realistic and credible member of the administration's foreign policy team."

As Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, an ambassador to the United Nations in the Clinton administration, noted, Powell's resignation is "a loss to the moderate, internationalist voices in the Bush administration."

Richardson voiced the hope that Powell's successor, White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, will be "a pragmatist rather than an ideologue."

It's a worthy desire but not one that has us holding our breath.



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I lost my wife of 16 years to cancer. "Ethel" and I didn't have a perfect marriage, but we worked at it. We both had grown children from first marriages. We also had a child together, a boy, "Ben," who is 13.

Last spring I began seeing a very nice lady I'll call Blanche. Ethel's daughters have little to do with me since their mother's death and are encouraging Ben to be rude and distant to Blanche. I realize Ben has issues, but I have tried to explain to him that life goes on. Blanche is not trying to replace his mother; she would like to be his friend.

My question is, when should I tell my in-laws about Blanche?

To everyone reading this: If at all possible, become a donor of some sort. My eternal thanks to the caring individual who gave his bone marrow to Ethel in an effort to save a complete stranger. God bless you. -- NEEDS TO MOVE ON IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR NEEDS: Ethel's daughters most likely have already told your in-laws about Blanche, so you should tell them the "news" now. If you don't, it will appear that you are sneaking around -- and it's important not to create that impression. It may be painful for Ethel's relatives to hear, so don't be surprised if they are less than thrilled.

Family counseling might be helpful for you, your son, and Ethel's daughters if they are open to it. Should the "girls" refuse, go with Ben. He is still young, and he lost his mother at a time when he still needed her. You are probably further along in the grieving process than your son because you had a chance to grieve for your wife during her illness.

For Ben's sake, I hope you

take your time before remarrying. He apparently needs more time to adjust and to understand that the new lady in your life is not a threat to his mother's memory.

DEAR ABBY: I met my biological father last June, after waiting 15 years to do so. His side of the family was very warm and welcoming. They treated me as though they had known me all my life. I was nervous about meeting them, so I took my boyfriend. They treated him like family too.

I have not told my mom that I went to see the other family, because she would no longer speak to me, and I don't want her mad at me. My parents had an extremely bitter divorce. Mom still holds a grudge, and she expects me to as well.

I am being married soon, and now I am being forced to choose between my mom and my biological father. I would like everyone to be there, and for my stepdad to walk me down the aisle. My fiance likes my biological father and his side of the family and wants them all to be there, too. I am stuck in the middle. What should I do? -- IN THE MIDDLE OUT WEST

DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: It's time to grow up and tell your mother what you did. Although the divorce was devastating, you have the right to know your father and paternal relatives if you wish. Ask her, as her wedding gift to you, to bury her enmity for one day so you can have the wedding of your dreams. Many other families have done this, and the experience can be healing.

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Bring

1 Swimmer's together

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11-22

Marmaduke



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The Family Circus



"If they ever need referees at a horse race, they could use zebras."

B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



The Harvest Parkland, S Foster #3, 1

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By MIC

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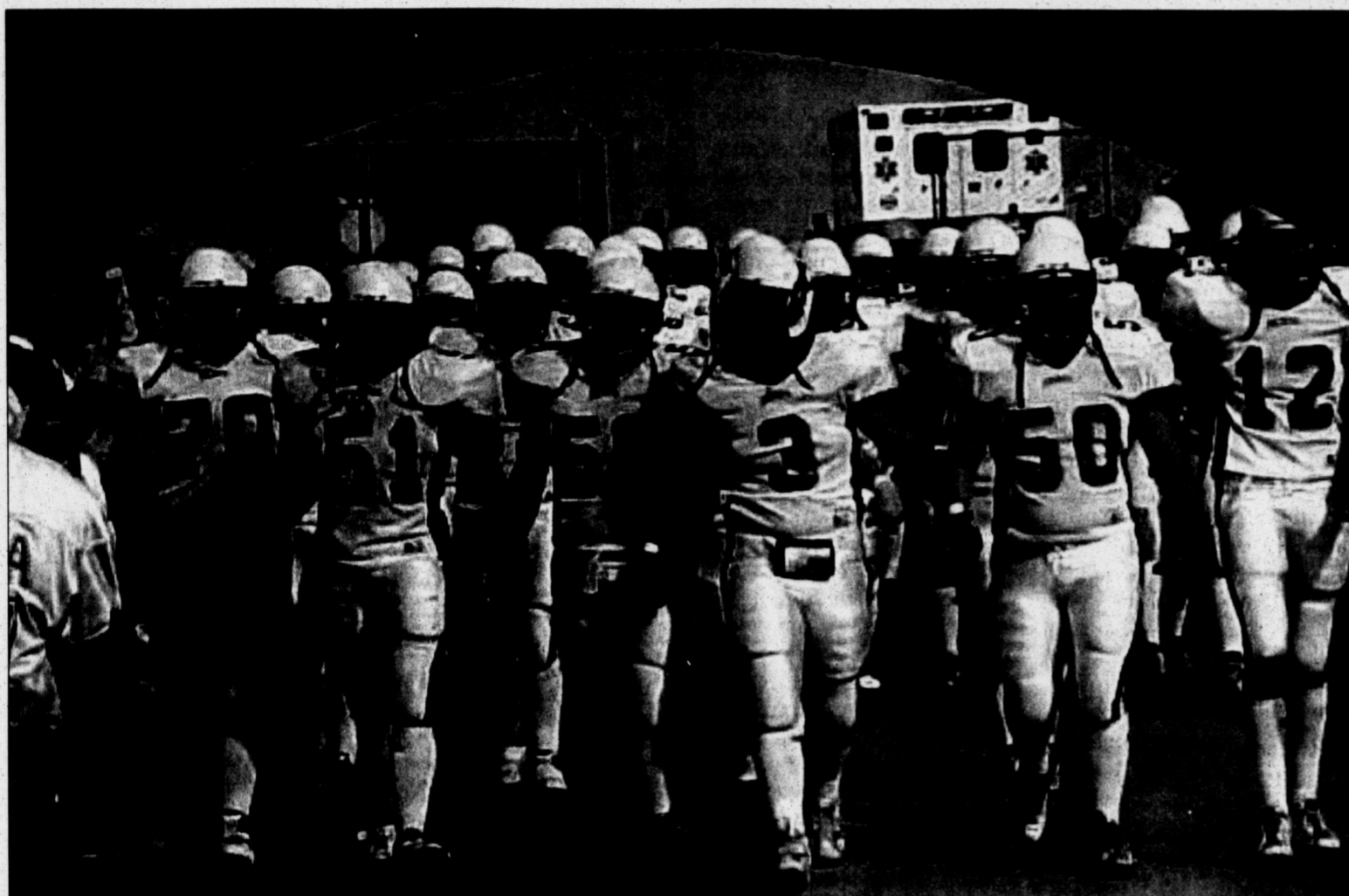
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Sports Day



Photos by CAROLYN THERO

The Harvester football team enters the inflatable tunnel prior to Saturday's game against El Paso Parkland. Shown in front are, left to right- Daniel Resendiz #70, Jared Wingart #51, John Meza #59, Seth Foster #3, Tyrel Bolin #50 and Drew Morrison #12.

Parkland prepared for wrong team

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

So what do you do when the team you prepared for doesn't show up? Such was the case for El Paso Parkland Saturday.

The Matadors learned hard and fast that the Pampa Harvester team they thought they were ready for was not the team that took the field against them. They expected Pampa to run the ball. What they got was a huge dose of quarterback Tyler Doughty's right arm. They expected ball control and clock-eating drives. What they got were quick strikes. One after another.

Pampa unleashed a scoring storm on a sun-drenched Midland afternoon. A storm the Matadors were simply unable to weather or recover from. At

one point, a Parkland coach yelled to his team, "Come on Parkland. It's nothing you didn't see on film."

Obviously, they prepared for the wrong team.

This Pampa team was as ready for an opponent as it has been this season. It brought the total package to Midland. An offense that made the Matadors pay for their mistakes which included three interceptions, two fumbles and a safety. A relentless defense that caused those mistakes. And special teams play that provided great field position for its team, while pinning Parkland deep in its own side of the field.

Pampa scored 22 points in the first quarter alone. Another 14 in the second. The Harvesters led 36-0 at the break.

Doughty was amazing. His stats are somewhat misleading. He finished the day completing only 6 of 14 attempts with one interception. But of the 6 completions, four were for touchdowns of 10 (Seth Foster), 47 (Clayton Hall), 30 (Foster) and 54 yards. The 54-yarder came off a fake punt during which Doughty stepped in front of the snap and hit a wide open Sharod Young down the left side line. Doughty ended the day with 207 total passing yards.

The Harvester offensive line should be given plenty of credit. It allowed Doughty plenty of time to scan the field and make his reads. It also opened holes for the Pampa running backs including Brody Smith who rushed for 75 yards on the afternoon.

See PAMPA, Page 8

Pampa gets big win over Canyon

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa varsity boy's basketball team gave the school a big home win this past Friday night by defeating a very good Canyon team, 71-64.

Head Coach Jeff Reed says his guys played above and beyond their potential. "Our kids played an awesome game. They came out ready to play."

It wasn't an easy win for the Harvesters. They had to hang on against the Eagles as they mounted a bit of a comeback. "It was good for our team to go through that," said Reed. "To have the lead, lose it and then hang on. It was a real confidence builder for them."

Pampa helped itself out from the charity stripe, making 20 of 27 free throws.

The Harvesters are on the road tomorrow night to face Borger. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Lady Harvester varsity team will take the floor against the Lady Bull Dogs at 6 p.m. tomorrow night.

BASKET-BRAWL

Who needs the NHL when we have the NBA

There is absolutely no excuse that can be given to justify or explain away the horror that took place in Auburn Hills, Mich., this past Friday night. None. Nada. Zip. Zilch.

You can tell me till you're blue in the face either Ron Artest or Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers were within their rights to enter the stands and start swinging fists at fans. Fans who had apparently raised the ire of some players through voice and by tossing drinks at them.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



Pacer Jermaine O'Neal and Detroit Piston Ben Wallace were also involved in the melee while it was still on the court.

The on-court bickering began when Artest fouled Wallace hard during a layup. Wallace took exception to the foul and shoved Artest. The benches cleared. All seemed to be settling down when a drink was tossed at and hit Artest. Artest hurled himself over the scorer's table and into the seats where he grabbed one young man and began assaulting him. Jackson was caught on camera catching another fan off guard with a fist to the head. Shortly afterward, the fight moved back to the court, but in doing so, Artest and Jackson seemed to seek out opportunities to beat on someone. Any one.

The truly horrifying shots taken during this whole ordeal didn't come from players or those fans taking part. It was the shots taken by the television cameras. In particular one that showed a father and his little girl. He with the most stunned look I have ever seen. The girl crying as she held on to her father tight.

This is a black eye the NBA did not need and it will most certainly do all it can to help soften the impact of what took place Friday. It is already getting help from at least one sports network.

A couple of blind, unintelligent ESPN analysts were engaged in conversation regarding the riot. One asked the other, "Do you think any or all of the players involved should be suspended for the rest of the season?" To which the other replied, "No. I don't think it was serious enough to warrant such a suspension. It does not warrant the death penalty."

See BRAWL, Page 8



Eric Willingham, left, holds the trophy he and his Harvester teammates claimed in Saturday's 43-7 Class 4A Division II Area Championship game in Midland. #14 Clayton Hall, right, runs toward a Matador defender.



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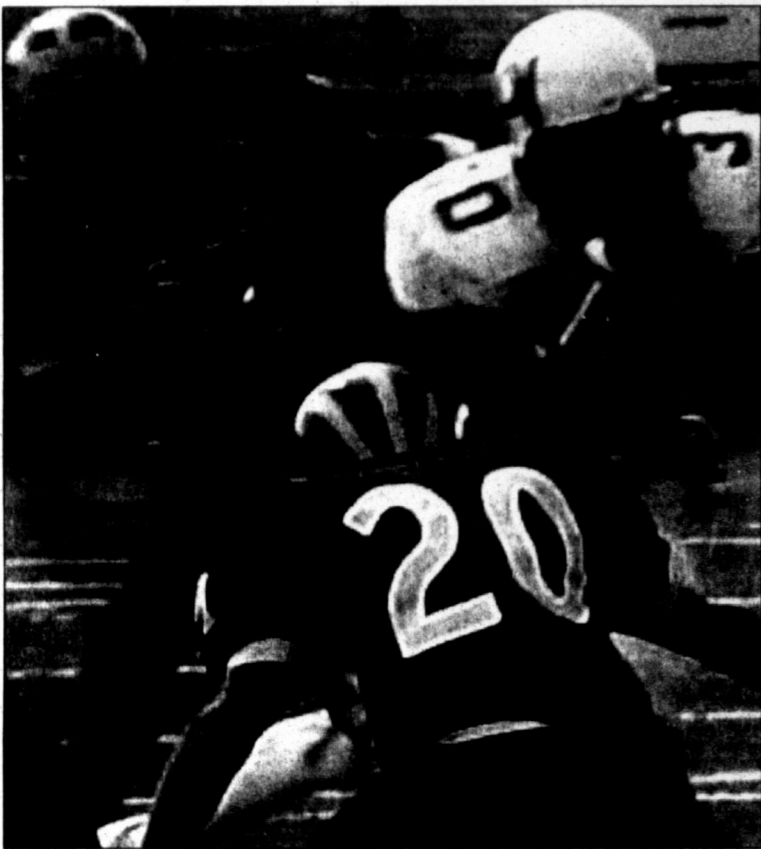


Photo by CAROLYN THERO

#30 Sharod Young returns a kick during Saturday's 43-7 win over El Paso Parkland.

Pampa

Continued from Page 7

The defense was absolutely awesome, holding the Matadors to just 134 yards total offense and one touchdown — scored late in the game after most of the Pampa starters had been pulled.

Shea Brown, Brody Smith and Cam Seger account for the three Parkland interceptions. While Dusty Langley and Jacob Potter recovered Parkland fumbles.

As it had for the game against Andrews, the Pampa coaching staff had this team ready. And Saturday's victory secured Pampa's preseason goal of returning to the Regional Championship game.

Now the 8-4 Harvesters are less than a week away from playing Aledo (9-3) in

the Class 4A Division II Regional Championship. Aledo beat Azle Friday night, 48-35.

It will be a rematch from a year ago when Pampa lost a heartbreaker to Aledo, 23-22.

That game is scheduled for 8 p.m. this Friday at Pennington Field in Bedford.

Tickets Sales: Tickets will be on sale at the PHS Athletic Office Monday and Tuesday morning, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And again Monday night, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

No sales on Thursday.

Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Tickets purchased in advance will be \$7 for adults, \$5 for students. All tickets purchased at the gate will be \$8.

Please call 669-4830 for more information.

Brawl

Continued from Page 7

As I watched this, I wondered if they would feel the same if I came to the ESPN set, jumped over the desk and just started beating them senseless? That would be considered assault with intent, would it not? What then is the difference between that and what happened in Auburn Hills?

The question of security has been raised in the fallout. "They need more security," many have suggested. No they don't. Security Friday night didn't have time to react. Artest was in the stands before security could take care of the fans(s). Believe me, if Artest and his partner-in-crime had simply stood there or gone to a ref or game official and said, "Look, can't you do something about that idiot," it would have been taken care of. It usually is. Such fans are commonly tended to and dealt with. But stadiums and arenas are kind of big. You have to give security personnel time to get to the unruly fan(s).

By choosing to go after

them, Artest and Jackson became criminals and should be dealt with accordingly. It is time for athletes to learn they are not bigger than their sport, nor are they above the law. Hockey has at least made an attempt at it. It is time for other sports to follow.

If the NBA is serious about saving what reputation it may have left — if not its very existence — it needs to recognize this was not just an "unfortunate incident." It was a crime. There is no excuse for what happened. So what if the fan was an idiot. He would have been dealt with, I assure you.

The trouble the league now faces goes beyond the shame and embarrassment of what happened. As is the American custom, lawsuits will be filed. No doubt by those smacked around by Artest and Jackson. The players will be named as will the league, commissioner David Stern and most likely the venue. And unless checked now, this will spawn copycat brawls. Why not? The risk of heckling a million dollar athlete to the point of causing him or her to take violent action against

you is well worth the reward. For some, it will be like a lottery of sorts.

But the one that should be filed has nothing to do with the fans that may have provoked the action. Attorney's should be beating down the door of the father of that little girl shown clutching dad in fear. She has the greatest case of all. She has been traumatized beyond what we may be able to comprehend.

Any sport and/or its

teams truly interested in assuring this never happens again should hang a picture of that child throughout its offices and locker rooms. They should use the fear in her eyes to remind themselves they are blessed to be playing a game that people pay to watch. Money that provides the means with which they can purchase their mansions, cars, clothes and Bling-Bling. Idiots or not, without them (fans), they (athletes) have nothing.

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PHS freshmen in action tonight

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School freshmen boy's basketball season tip's off at 6 p.m. tonight in Plainview.

The girls got underway last Monday at Plainview, dropping that game 25-48. However, they bounced back against Tascosa Saturday, winning that game 38-24.

Head Coach Troy Owens was very proud of his team's performance. "When we ran our offense, they could not contain Sara Foster. It was probably the most physical game our team has ever played."

Foster finished the game with 14 points. Kiersten Taylor had 5 points as did Stephanie Jasso and Meagan Crawford.

The Lady Harvester freshmen team went 8 for 13 at the free throw line.

The girls host Amarillo High tonight at 6 p.m.

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Arafat's nephew: Records do not point to 'known poisons' as cause of uncle's death

PARIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat's medical records show no sign he was poisoned but are inconclusive as to the cause of his death, his nephew said Monday.

At a news conference in Paris, Nasser al-Kidwa pinned some of the blame for the Palestinian leader's death on his long confinement to his West Bank compound.

"I believe the Israeli authorities are largely responsible for what happened," he said shortly after taking possession of the medical files from French authorities.

Al-Kidwa said toxicology tests were conducted but "no poisons known to doctors were found." But he did not rule out poisoning categorically, saying "we don't have proof" it wasn't a cause.

"I am not asserting anything but we are not in a

position to exclude anything given the facts," said al-Kidwa.

He also said that the files gave no clear diagnosis for the reasons of Arafat's death on Nov. 11 in a Paris-area military hospital after two weeks of treatment. The medical dossier consists of more than 500 pages, plus X-rays, he said.

The lack of solid information about the cause of Arafat's death has provided fertile ground for rumors in the Arab world that he was poisoned, despite earlier official denials.

French officials have said

that judicial authorities here would have acted had they suspected wrongdoing.

Al-Kidwa took possession of the records Monday morning.

Al-Kidwa is also the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations and collected the dossier on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, which has promised to make public the cause of Arafat's death.

Suha Arafat, who also has a copy of the records, had threatened a legal fight to prevent other family members from obtaining them.

Mrs. Arafat's lawyers said

in a statement late Sunday that the Percy Military Training Hospital that treated her husband "would alone face the consequences" if his medical records were released to any other family members.

"Madame Arafat fully understands the diplomatic and historic reasons that exist, but that does not mean the state should be able to ignore the law," the statement said.

Al-Kidwa played down Suha Arafat's objections, saying "the Palestinian people have the right to know."

French law does not specify how closely related a family member must be to have access to medical information. French officials said they had determined that al-Kidwa qualifies as close enough to have access to the files.

'I believe the Israeli authorities are largely responsible for what happened.'

— Nasser al-Kidwa
Yasser Arafat's nephew

Iran suspends uranium enrichment, related nuclear activities

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran suspended uranium enrichment and all related activities, state-run radio said Monday, honoring an agreement with Europe designed to head off possible U.N. sanctions.

In Vienna, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, said the suspension appeared confirmed.

"I think pretty much everything has come to a halt," Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told reporters.

ElBaradei said he expected to have a definitive ruling by Thursday on whether Iran has honored its pledge

earlier this month to freeze the activities, which can be used to make nuclear weapons.

The radio announcement was brief. "To build confidence and in line with implementing the Paris Agreement, Iran suspended uranium enrichment (and related activities) as of today," it said.

After negotiations with Britain, France and Germany, Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and related activities to dispel suspicions it is trying to build nuclear arms. In turn, European Union nations have agreed not to have Iran hauled before the

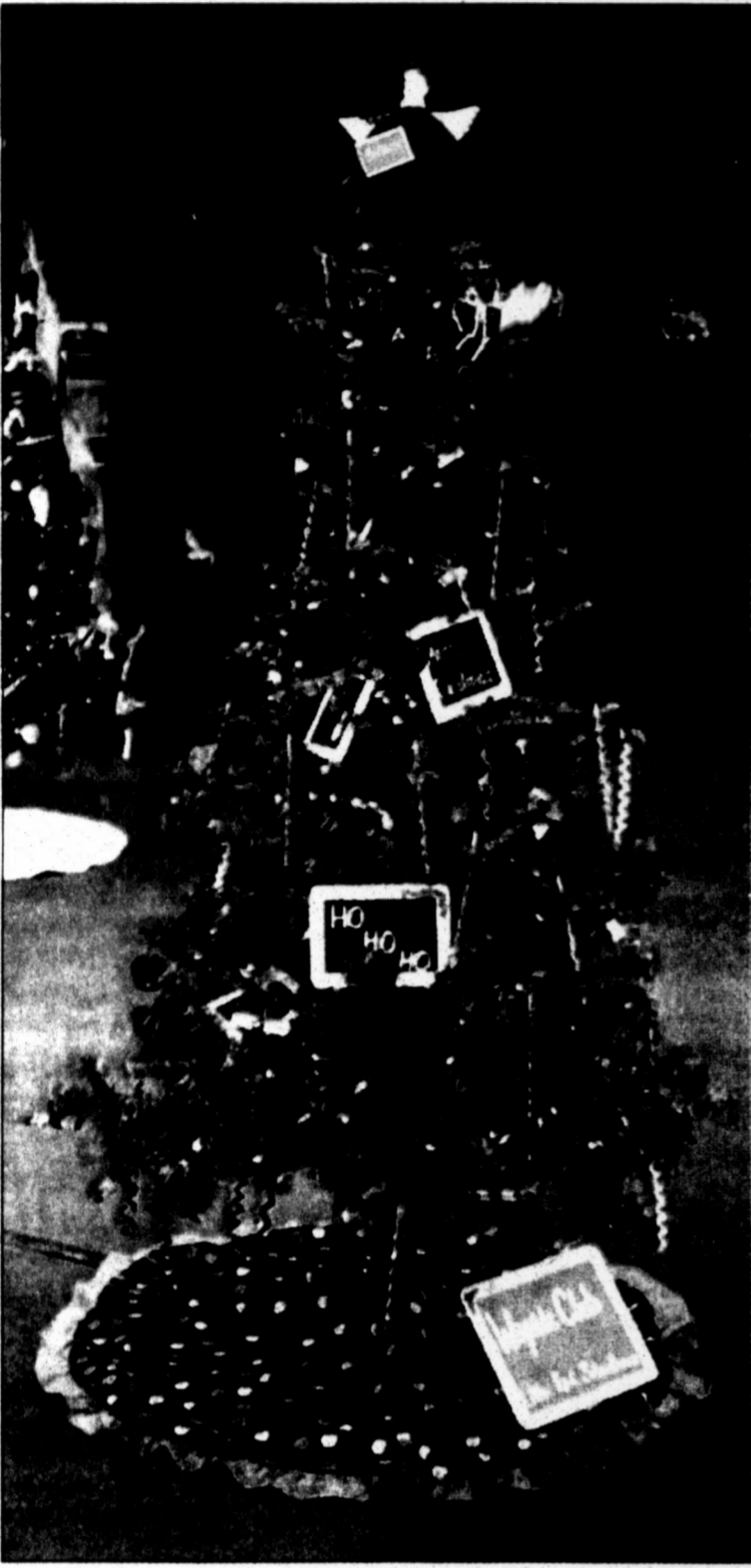
U.N. Security Council for allegedly contravening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Iran portrays the agreement as European support for what it sees as its right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program.

The United States accuses Iran of secretly pursuing nuclear weapons and has pushed the international community to take a hard

line. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said last week that Washington has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons.

Britain, France and Germany have spearheaded efforts to find a diplomatic solution. They plan fresh negotiations with Iran early next month to reach a long term agreement.



Festival of Trees

Wayside Club entered this tree in last year's Festival of Trees held at M.K. Brown Auditorium in December. This year's event will take place Dec. 3-5 at M.K. Brown. Hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5.

Chinese officials seeking crashed plane's 'black box,' say no evidence of terrorism

BEIJING (AP) — Investigators have found no evidence of terrorism or other "man-made destruction" in the crash of a Chinese airliner that exploded after takeoff and plunged into an ice-covered lake, killing 54 people, according to official reports Monday.

Divers searched the lake for the "black box" flight data recorders of the Bombardier CRJ-200 belonging to China Eastern Airlines. The plane went down Sunday after taking off from the northern city of Baotou on a flight to Shanghai.

Investigators sent from Beijing had not determined the cause of the crash but found no evidence of terrorism, state television said. The official Xinhua News Agency said they found no sign of other "man-made destruction."

The government grounded all CJR-200s in China following the crash, the

country's deadliest airline disaster in two years.

Among the dead was the president of one of China's biggest software companies, news reports said.

Witnesses said the Canadian-built plane began to shake after takeoff, Xinhua said. They heard a loud bang and "the plane broke into flaming fragments," then hit the lake, spreading burning oil across the icy surface, the report said.

All 47 passengers and six crew members aboard were killed, as well as one person on the ground. One passenger was Indonesian and the rest were Chinese. Rescue workers had to break through the ice of the lake to retrieve the bodies, Xinhua said.

The dead included Chen Suyang, president of Fudan Forward S&T Co., Ltd., software maker affiliated with elite Fudan University in Shanghai,

news reports said. An employee of the company who wouldn't give his name confirmed that Chen was on the flight.

The disaster marred intensive official efforts to improve China's air safety following a string of deadly crashes in the 1990s.

Shanghai-based China Eastern planned to fly relatives of the dead to Baotou on Monday, airline official Li Jiang said. Li said he had no additional information about the crash or the airline's response.

The airline referred other questions to a China Eastern subsidiary that operated the flight. Phone calls to the subsidiary weren't answered.

Reporters in Shanghai saw about 50 relatives, many of them elderly and some weeping, board buses to the airport. They were accompanied by dozens of security guards who prevented reporters from speaking to them.

Journalist who filmed Marine shooting of wounded Iraqi says injured man made no movements

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The NBC correspondent who filmed the fatal shooting of an apparently injured and unarmed Iraqi by a U.S. Marine inside a Fallujah mosque has written on his Web site that the wounded man made no sudden movements before he was shot.

Before the opening of the Nov. 8 assault on the rebel-held city, Marine commanders told infantrymen that the rules of engagement allowed for use of deadly force against men of military age deemed holding hostile intent, even if the enemy didn't fire on the Marines first.

In a posting on his Web blog dated Sunday, Kevin Sites, a freelancer on assignment for NBC, wrote that he didn't see the wounded Iraqi make any movement before the Marine shot him — but that only the Marine can explain his mental state before the shooting.

"Through my viewfinder I can see him (Marine) raise the muzzle of his rifle in the direction of the wounded

Iraqi. There are no sudden movements, no reaching or lunging," Sites writes.

"However, the Marine could legitimately believe the man poses some kind of danger. Maybe he's going to cover him while another Marine searches for weapons. Instead, he pulls the trigger. There is a small splatter against the back wall and the man's leg slumps down," Sites writes.

"Well he's dead now," says another Marine in the background.

"I was not watching from a hundred feet away. I was in the same room," Sites writes. "Aside from breathing, I did not observe any movement at all."

"I can't know what was in the mind of that Marine," the posting reads. "He is the only one who does."

The U.S. military is investigating the Nov. 13 incident by a member of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, footage of which has been broadcast worldwide.

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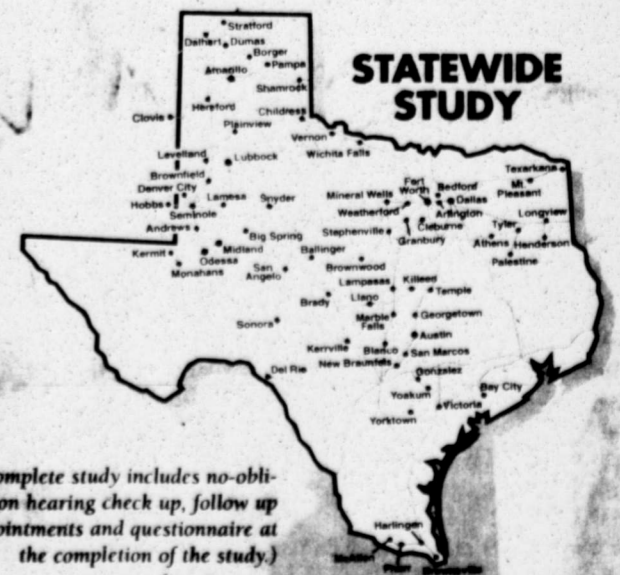
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