Today's weather



Deaths

Kendall Taylor Homer, infant.

Mark S. Powell, 38, construction contractor. Robert F. 'Bob' Walker, 65, contract pumper.

Texas Today Man indicted for faking his own death

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge ordered a businessman accused of faking his death in a boating accident last year held without bond Wednesday, hours after a grand jury indicted him on bank fraud and money laundering charges.

Larry Michael Nixon, 55, entered an innocent plea to each of the 10 counts contained in the indictment during an appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Calvin Botley.

The indictment accuses Nixon of defrauding Minnwest Bank Central, a Minnesota bank, of almost \$4 million in four bank fraud counts. The other six counts allege money laundering of \$1.94 million by transferring the illegal funds into a variety of Texas banks in an effort to conceal the money. His trial is scheduled for Feb.

"It was part of the scheme that defendant would and did stage a boating accident in order to fake his death and thereby conceal his fraud," the indictment alleges.

Perry announces job training funding

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry told border officials Wednesday that he would seek an additional \$25 million for a job training fund in Texas, but one border official said the money was a "drop in the bucket" for what is needed in the region.

Edinburg Mayor H. Garcia Richard acknowledged, however, that the money still would be a big help.

"All moneys are beneficial," said Garcia, chairman of the Texas Border Infrastructure Coalition, which was meeting in Austin.

The border has the highest unemployment rate in the state.

Deputies make arrest in boy's assault

Staff Writer

A McLean man remains in today after being charged son. the age of 14.

the jail by Gray County requesting a welfare check es on his right thigh, time today.

Burrell, according to jail boy. records.

Gray County Jail in lieu of Peace Kurt Curfman set the unknown 18-year-old male \$5,000 bond as of press time bond, said a jail spokesper- and possibly sustained mod- extreme pain in his jaw, and Deputies Brooks and

with injury to a child under Deputies Chad Brooks Lt. Joe Hoard of the sheriff's and drinking, and it hurt to investigation, and the case and Burrell went to the vic- office. Andy Ray Ritchie, 17, tim's home in McLean on The beating apparently was arrested at 1:27 p.m., Tuesday after the sheriff's occurred on Monday, Hoard concerning the boy's condi- has also been notified of the Wednesday, and booked into office received a call said. The boy suffered bruist ion is available as of press incident and is involved in

By MARILYN POWERS Sheriff's Deputy Bruce be made on the 12-year-old swelling and discoloration. The victim told deputies

Precinct 2 Justice of the had been beaten by an width of his back.

to the right side of the lower that Ritchie had beaten him "The caller said the child jaw, and bruises across the because Ritchie was drunk

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"He complained of Hoard said. erate to severe injuries," said said he had difficulty eating Burrell are continuing the breathe," Hoard said.

at the time of the incident,

remains open. Hoard said.

No further information Child Protective Services the case, he said.

Analyst: Beef prices may drop

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

AMARILLO That sirloin strip should cost slightly less next year.

Jim Gill, marketing analyst for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association here, said today that retail beef prices should drop a little in 2005.

Averaged retail beef prices topped out at \$4.05 a pound this past year. It's the first time beef price averages have topped the \$4 mark.

Beef prices for 2005 should drop back to about \$4 a pound, Gill said. The main challenge for beef produc-

ers, he said, will come from increasing supplies of pork and chicken. The anticipated opening of the

Japanese beef export market should keep price from falling any lower. Gill said continued strong consumer demand for beef should also help keep beef prices from falling.

With feeder cattle supplies continuing to tighten, feedvards in the Texas Panhandle and across the Great Plains may be absorbing losses.

Ranchers should continue to make money with fewer cattle available to go into the feedvards, Gill said, but lower bids by packers will put pressure on feedyards to lower their bids on cattle from ranchers.

See **BEEF**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE

Christmas a-blooming

A brilliant red tree of 350 poinsettia plants greets visitors to First Baptist Church's front foyer this Christmas. Linda Starnes, the church's flower chairman, said the poinsettias, a total of more than 400, have been donated in honor and memory of special people to decorate the church during the holiday season. Admiring the tree are FBC staff members, from left, Roxanne Giles, Steve Wilson, Brenda Condo and Stacy Hinkle.

Sheriff's fleet to grow by three

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office will add three vehicles to their fleet as a result of action taken by county commissioners at their regular meeting Wednesday in the county courthouse.

Purchase of a 2003 Chevrolet replace the old-Trailblazer was approved by commissioners, and the vehicle has been bought from Quality Sales for \$19,644, said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing. The entire purchase price will be reimbursed by a Homeland Security grant, said County Clerk Susan Winborne.

The Trailblazer will be a special-use vehicle designated as a mobile communicating with other agencies and other counties in the event of a disaster

or other emergency, Rushing said.

two patrol units for the sheriff's office. "Every year, we try to est units in the fleet," Rushing said. Sheriff's office vehicles are kept in

ing bids for

pavement on it. Kelly Rushing Chief Deputy service a minimum of five years, he said.

"We're not sure what kind the new machines for the sheriff's office. mand unit with the capability of com- ones are going to be right now. We're Another contract, with Scottco for heatexploring the possibility of SUV (sport-utility vehicle)-type vehicles.

"We have a lot of Gray County that Commissioners also approved seek- doesn't have pavement on it. We're

looking at whether or not (buying SUVs) is going to enable us to better reach rural locations," Rushing said.

Bids on the two vehicles will be

dae Feb. 1. Closure of the cash bond and DARE checking accounts maintained by the sheriff's office was approved by commissioners. Two new checking accounts, designated as abandoned vehicles and forfeiture, will be opened.

A contract with Danka was approved for two new copy

See FLEET. Page 3

Pampa ISD board meets Friday a.m.

Board of Education members for the Pampa Independent School District plan a special meeting at 7 a.m., Friday, Dec. 17, at Pampa ISD administration building, 321 W. Albert.

Five items are listed on the agenda: Call to order, financial audit report, amendment, budget revised policy for compensation and benefits, and personnel.

Groom ISD tops accountability standards

'We have a lot of

Gray County that

doesn't have

GROOM Groom Independent School District is one of two school districts in Texas to receive the most allotments of Gold Performance Education Agency, announced Superintendent Terry Stevens.

A maximum of 11 GPAs could be attained this year, according to a news release from Groom ISD. No Texas. Carroll ISD received the most already know, that Groom ISD is one

with 10 out of the 11 areas Groom was next with nine of the

"The teachers of Groom 18D are

Acknowledgments from the Texas the best there is," Stevens said. "They work very, very hard at maling sure the kids that attend Groom ISD are getting the best education possible. The support from the parents and community all go together school district received all 11 of the to make this a wonderful school dis-1,100 public and charter schools in trict. The scores just show what we

of the top school districts in the

The GPA system was developed by the IFA to show additional Commended statewide accountability system.

districts and campuses that met the of 2003) and TAAS TASP acknowledgment standard on one or Equivalency (Class of 2003). more of these 11 areas for the 2002-2003 school year: Advanced Courses Completion, Advanced Placement International Baccalaureate Results,

Attendance. Commended Reading 11 V. Commended on Math, Commended on Writing, acknowledgments as part of the Commended on Social Studies, Recommended High GPAs were awarded this year to Program, SALACL Results (Class

> Groom ISD did not qualify in Advanced Placement International Baccalaureate Results and SAT/ACT Results, the release stated.

Services tomorrow

HARMON, Joel Lynn — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

HOMER, Kendall Taylor — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa. **KELLEY,** Flora Mae — 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Mobeetie. **WALKER**, Robert F. "Bob" Walker — 10 a.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

Kendall Taylor Homer

and Jessica Homer of Pampa, was stillborn Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, in Pampa.

Graveside services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday in Fairview Cemetery with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Survivors include his parents, Billy and Jessica; two brothers, Jaydon Flores and www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Kendall Taylor Homer, infant son of Billy Jordon Shook, both of the home; his grandparents, Tammy and John Carroll of Pampa, Donnie and Nickey Evans of Groom and James Homer of Clarendon; and his greatgrandparents, Jim and Carolyn Shook of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

-Sign the on-line register book at

Mark S. Powell, 38

DENTON — Mark S. Powell, 38, died played the guitar. Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at North Richland Hills.

Graveside services were Wednesday in Sunnyside Cemetery at Vici, Okla., with the Rev. Mike Murray, of Vici Nazarene Church, officiating. Services were under the direction of Shaw Funeral Home of Vici.

Born Nov. 8, 1966, at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Mr.

Powell had lived in the Pampa, Borger and Amarillo area most of his life. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and worked as a construction contractor. A musician, he also

Mr. Powell married Rebecca Martinez on April 21, 2000, and moved to Denton in 2002 where he was living at the time of his death.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Jesse and Luetta Smith and Claude and Florene Powell; and his great-grandparents, Byron and Lucile Whitmarsh.

Survivors include his wife, Rebecca; a daughter, Tiana Powell of Denton; his parents, Richard and Jeanie Powell of Fritch and Jerry and Kathy Cannon of Amarillo; a twin brother, Mike Powell of North Richland Hills, and two other brothers. John Powell of Amarillo and Voyn Powell of Fritch; and a sister, Lea Ann Lester of North Richland Hills.



Robert F. "Bob" Walker, 65, of Pampa, 2001. Texas, died Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Childress, the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of the Central Baptist Church, and the Rev. C.W. Parker, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Walker was born April 23, 1939, in until 1961.

He married Louise Ledbetter on Feb. 17,

1961, in Pampa.

He was a department manager for Furr's Grocery Store for 15 years. He was a contract pumper in the oilfield until retiring in



Walker

He was a member of the Central Baptist Church.

Survivors include his

wife, Louise Walker, of the home; two daughters, Gina Seitz and husband Dean and Bobbie Walker, all of Mobeetie; one son, Mark Walker of San Antonio; two sisters, Jean Marshall and Ruby Delso and husband Dan, all of Dewar, Okla.; and two brothers, Don Walker and

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065.

www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Henryetta, Okla. He was a veteran of the wife Irma and Charles Walker and wife U.S. Army, serving as a medic from 1959 Doris, all of Henryetta, Okla.

-Sign the on-line register book at

Emergency Services

Assault was reported in the 2300 block Rosewood. The incident occurred in the 500 block of North Sumner. No injuries were reported.

Pampa PD

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Burglary of a habitation

was reported in the 600

binoculars valued at \$70

Wednesday, Dec. 15

was reported taken.

Pampa

arrests today.

A domestic threat was reported in the 400 block of

Phillip Littrell, 34, 425 Carr, was arrested in the 400 block of North Wynne on a parole revocation for burglary of a building.

Reggie Ugene Williams, 34, 1040 Huff, was arrested in the 1000 block of West Wilks for possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

Thursday, Dec. 16

A report of an alleged assault in the 1300 block of North Coffee resulted in the reporting party, Williams, . 33, Hamilton, being arrested for engaging in organized crime, a felony warrant charge out of Wheeler County.

Erica Granillo, 18, 1041 Huff, was arrested in the 300 block of Cuyler for no insurance, failure to signal, running a stop sign, minor in possession, and two counts of no driver's license.

Alice Lisa Luna, 17, 1333 Garland, was arrested in the 1300 block of

Garland on a bond surrender for a Hale County Police charge of possession of a Department reported the controlled substance. following incidents and

Accidents

Pampa Police block of Lowry. A pair of Department reported the following accidents.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 4:43 p.m. – A 2000 Toyota Sienna van driven by Patricia McDowell McBee, 55, Lefors, and a 1998 Pontiac Bonneville driven by Pamela Olsen Shedd, 49, 513 Sloan, collided in the 400 block of South Cuyler. No citations were listed. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

5:12 p.m. - A 1994 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Brittany Ann Taylor, 16, 1801 N. Dwight, and a 1997 Ford F-150, driven by Jason Duane Norwood, 31, 721 E. Francis, collided in the intersection of Foster and Cuyler streets. No injuries were reported. Taylor was cited for failure to yield right of way while making a left turn.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 6:20 p.m. – A 2004 Ford Focus, driven by Suzanne Lee Summers, 50, Lefors, and a 1999 Oldsmobile 88, driven by Methalya Jackson, 57, 1015 N. Wells, collided in the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets. No injuries were reported. Summers was cited for failure to yield right of way at a red light.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Dec. 15 Andy Ray Ritchie, 17, McLean, was arrested for injury to a child under age 14.

Rusty Huff, 63, 1821 Hamilton, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Fire

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

Wednesday, Dec. 15 12:32 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1300 block of West Somerville.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

5:26 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:06 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1800 block of Banks. No trans-

10:20 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to Hilton Road and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

10:37 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Foster and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Thursday, Dec. 16

12:06 a.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block Faulkner and transported a patient to Veterans Administration Medical Center, Amarillo.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are	Cabot Corp 37.72	+0.01	Atmos
rovided by Attebury Grain of	Cabot Oil Gas45.61	-0.02	Pioneer Nat 34.79 -0.0
ampa.	Coca Cola 41.31	-0.16	JCP40.14 +0.
Vheat	VLO45.49	-0.30	COP87.27 -0.
Ailo	HAL39.77	-0.41	SLB
Com	TRI	+0.28	Tenneco 16.110.
oybeans	NOI	-0.28	CVX52.23 -0.4
oyocan,	KMI71.77	-0.10	Wal-Mart52.71 -0
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y.	XCEL 18.12	-0.14	OKE28.45 -0.
stock Market quotations are	Kerr McGee59.10	-0.50	NS Grp
urnished by Edward Jones &	XOM50.18	-0.33	
Co. of Pampa.	Limited 24.03	-0.11	New York Gold440.5
OXY	Williams 16.25	-0.15	Silver
BP PLC ADR58.76 -0.64	MCD	+0.03	West Texas Crude44.1

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 16 and 26. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 16 and 21. North northwest wind around 10

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 57. Wind chill values between 15 and 25. West northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 27.

50% OFF all Xmas decor,

T-Shirts & More, 665-3036.

The Pampa News, Fri., Dec.

24th. Show everyone your lit-

tle sweetie!! Deadline Fri.,

CASEY MARTINDALE (2

time winner) with 127 points

of Pampa, local winner of the

Pampa News Football Power

Points Game and regional

winner Gary McDaniel of

Fulton, Tx. with perfect score

GOLF SALE, David's Golf

Shop at Hidden Hills! All

great idea for your golfer.

Dec. 17th, noon. \$25

of 136.

Wind chill values between 16 and 21. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 56. North northwest wind around 15

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. North northwest wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52. North northwest wind between 10

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

Silk Flowers & Gifts.

BABY'S 1ST Christmas, in boarding. Book now 669-7387

BIG SALE at Rolanda's

HOLIDAY PET sitting &

Loop 171 S. of Hwy 60. Fem.

dog. Color similar to coyote.

NO PAMPA News on Sun.

Dec. 26th, so Lifestyles sec-

tion will be in the Fri. Dec.

24th newspaper. Deadline for

20th, 12 noon for Dec. 24th.

Merchandise Marked down, mond Shop til 8 p.m., register Pampa News. Apply in per-

25-50% off. Gift Certificates- a for Free Diamond Pendant, 6 son, 403 W. Atchison. No

p.m.to 8 p.m. nightly!

Call 665-4545 or 662-0838.

MISSING! FAM. Pet, from Deli, 665-0292.

and 15 mph. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 57. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 29. Tuesday: Partly cloudy,

with a high near 50. Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around

PACK-N-MAIL will be

open Sat. Dec. 18th, 9-5 p.m.,

for all your shipping & pack-

PARTY TRAYS for holi-

days. We deliver! Hoagies

REMEMBER YOUR spe-

lotions, bath teas & candles.

ROLANDA'S JUST re-

SKELLYTOWN NEWSPA-

Twice Is Nice.

phone calls please.

weddings, engagements & ceived new shipment of

OPEN LATE Rheams Dia- PER Carrier needed for The

cradle call will be Mon. Dec. spray-on potpourri oil.

ing needs. 1320 N. Banks

Current account deficit climbs to record in third quarter

'I've been

preaching to the

builders to keep an

eve on their

inventories of

unsold homes,

especially with the

Federal Reserve

raising interest

rates.

David Seiders

Economist

the broadest measure of trade climbed to a record high of \$164.7 billion in the third quarter of this year, reflecting Americans' hardy demand for imported oil and foreignmade goods.

The latest snapshot of the country's trade

Department on Thursday, actually was better than what economists were anticipating. They were forecasting the "current account" deficit to mushroom to around \$171 billion in the July-to-September quarter.

Instead, the deficit widened by a slight 0.2 percent from the \$164.4 billion imbalance registered in the second quar-

In other economic news, the reports were mixed:

-New claims for unemployment insurance last week plummeted by 43,000 to a five-month cial teacher with handmade low of 317,000, the Labor Department said in

an encouraging report for the labor market recovery. -The number of housing projects

builders broke ground on in November plunged 13.1 percent from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.77 million units, the Commerce Department said.

It marked the biggest decline in nearly 11 years and pulled down housing starts to the lowest level since May 2003. Economists, expecting a much smaller drop, were sur-

"I've been preaching to the builders to keep an eye on their inventories of unsold

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deficit in homes, especially with the Federal Reserve raising interest rates," said David Seiders, chief economist at the National Association of Home Builders. "So I really hope this is builders exercising some discipline here to get inventories down."

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials situation, released by the Commerce were off 17 points in morning trading.

The current account report is considered the best measure of a country's international economic standing because it tracks not only goods and services but also investment flows between countries and unilateral transfer payments, such as U.S. foreign aid payments.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, in a speech last month, warned that bloated current account deficits eventually could threaten the economy by souring foreign appetite for investing in the United States.

So far, foreigners are willing to lend the United States money to finance

its current account imbalances, Greenspan said. The worry is that at some point foreigners might suddenly lose interest in holding dollar-denominated investments.

That could cause them to unload investments in U.S. stocks and bonds, which would send prices of the stocks and bonds plunging and interest rates soaring. Japan, followed by China and then Britain, are the biggest holders of U.S. Treasury securities.

Japan pared holdings of Treasury securities in October to \$715.2 billion, from \$720.3 billion in September, according to information collected by the Treasury Department.

to spo light c LEFORS Group will s Up Lefor

Lefor

Decorating weekend of winners rece special recog Four cat judged inclu

Lighting, Be Creative an Display. Every he small, has a ning. Winne recognition their front

awarded on Gray Co. **Open Ho**

Gray Cou of the Ameri hosting it's a Open Hous until 6 p.m.. 16, at 108 N "Please o with us the h

'Together Together W Life'," said director. "E ed, especia families, ins unteers."

Fleε ing and a maintenance

sioners. The

notice to Sc

minating the days. "It is unc with anothe

Lefors group to sponsor light contest

LEFORS - Lefors Action Group will sponsor a "Light Up Lefors" Christmas Decorating Contest the weekend of Dec. 17-19 with winners receiving prizes and special recognition.

Four categories to be judged include Best Use of Lighting, Best Theme, Most Creative and Best Single Display.

Every home, large or small, has a chance of winning. Winners will receive a recognition sign placed in their front yard and prizes awarded on Dec. 20.

Gray Co. Red Cross Open House today

Gray County Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is hosting it's annual Christmas Open House from 1 p.m. 16. at 108 N. Russell.

"Please come and share with us the holiday season as 'Together We Prepare & Together We Can Save A Life'," said Jana Gregory, director. "Everyone is invited, especially our mlitary families, instructors, and volunteers."



Open House from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. Perfect attendance pays

Lamar Elementary students Michelle Rivera and Dusty Herrera, center, stand with bicycles that they won in a drawing for perfect attendance for the entire fall semester. Southwestern Bell Pioneers, led by Gary Stevens, provided the bicycles as prizes. Pioneers Jean Ladd and Helen Kastein drew Michelle's and Dusty's names and presented the bikes during morning assembly in the Lamar gym. All children who had perfect attendance for the semester received a Top Bobcat Award sign to display in their yards or in the windows of their

Fleet

Continued from Page 1

ing and air conditioning equipment maintenance, was rejected by commissioners. They approved sending written notice to Scottco that the county is terminating the contract, effective in 30

company on an as-needed basis," said County Judge Richard Peet.

One bid for landscaping of the courthouse grounds was received and opened. The bid, by West Texas Landscaping, was not accepted because commissioners asked for clarification on the gauge of PVC pipe to be used and other information on the automated watering system. West Texas Landscaping will meet with commissioners at 9 a.m., Dec. 31, to address

Jury reimbursements for 2005 were set. The rates, which are the same as for 2004, will be \$6 for appearing in response to a jury summons, and \$15 per day for serving on a jury.

Financing by CAT was approved concerning purchase of a new Caterpillar motor grader. The percentage will be between 4.5 and 5.5 per-

Salaries totaling \$219,942.80 and bills totaling \$255,183.55 were approved for payment.

Beef

Continued from Page 1

A record corn crop will mean lower feed prices in the feedyard, but for now feedyards caught between lower bids from the packer and the higher costs of cattle coming into the feedyards has caused losses in some feeding operations. Gill predicts a 750-pound feeder steer that sold for \$103.98 in 2004, will sell for about \$95 in 2005.

Fed cattle prices for 2005 are expected to sell between \$80 and \$90 a hundredweight, he said.







MATTRESS SEALY FIRM FULL SET \$349 QUEEN SET

QUEEN SET

KING SET

EXPERIENCE THE TEMPUREPEDIC SWEDISH MATTRESS TEMPUR-PEDIC PRESSURE RELIEVING SWEDISH MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS YOU'VE GOT TO FEEL IT TO BELIEVE IT!



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Viewpoints

Helping more rewarding than clean house

When will the insects die? flat in a couple of places, can guess. Since the recent rains and colder weather, several creepy-crawlies, insect and otherwise - have made their way into the house including - to my absolute horror and chagrin - a dead night crawler.

Yup, you heard right, a dead worm.

Bird food! In my house! One recent morning I awoke to find its peaceful corpse rotting unpleasantly just inside the kitchen door, where it lay sprawled across the tiles in the most loathsome fashion.

What a lovely way to start the day.

I don't know when rigor mortis in worms sets in, but this one was dried out and

How utterly disgusting!

Alack and alas. I had just vacuumed and swept the entire house the previous day. This gruesome discovery could not have come two days earlier. Oh, no, it had to occur so as to mock all my best efforts, which, marginal housekeeper that I am, are not usually nearly so conscientious. Why, I worked four hours on that house.

See if I do that again.

To make matters worse, my Labrador puppy, now well over six months old, decided the rugs smelled too good and were entirely too clean, She promptly christened them. I won't describe in what way.

put an inferior housekeeper thoroughly in the doldrums and discourage any further cleaning frenzies, quite possibly for several weeks.

How nice.

to revel in the holidays without having to man-**Bryant** any pesky cleaning urges.

This is the

News Editor

Skyla

for good cheer, and the community offers several ways to breathe a second wind into that harried holiday spirit. For example, there is the Hm-hm-hm, I'm sure you Festival of Lights, a specta-

cle to look forward to I must say, it is enough to throughout the year, as well as the many church and school pageants and programs.

Not enough to revive that initial holiday exuberance? Need the boost of a little I now have plenty of time charitable giving, but aren't

> where to give?

Pampa Meals on Wheels is taking donations

to benefit its needier patrons. MOW is instituting a special holiday program that allows individuals to pay for patrons not presently receiving meals or who can only dren in this area who may

pay the minimum 25 cents.

With increased gasoline and food prices, MOW officials say each meal is averaging around \$4. Individuals may sponsor a patron for one week at \$20; one month at \$80; or one year at \$960. Sound interesting? Then give the folks at MOW a call. They'll be glad to hear from you.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree is another worthy project. Trees are located at several local businesses United including Supermarket and our very own Pampa News. Select an "angel" off a tree and give some needy child a happy Christmas. As hard as it is to believe, there are some chil-

not have any gifts to unwrap come Christmas morn.

Tralee Crisis Center has a similar holiday project, though the deadline for it has passed. Still, you might want to keep it in mind for next

The Tralee tree is decorated with cards containing the gift requests of Tralee's most needy clients, families displaced due to unhealthy home situations. The deadhine this year to return gift items to the center was Dec. 15.

Worthy charities and holiday projects abound. Sadly, I only have time and space to list a few. Remember, time is running out. There are now only eight days until Christmas.

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 17, the 352nd day of 2004. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, went on the first successful manned powered-airplane flights, near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence. In 1830, South American patriot Simon Bolivar died in Colombia.

In 1939, the German pocket battleship "Graf Spee" was

a dry and rattling

thing.

scuttled by its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the River Plate off Uruguay.

'Intellect alone is In 1944, the U.S. Army announced it was ending its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast. In 1957, the United

States successfully test-American author, actress, fired the Atlas intercontihumorist (1905-1978) nental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in federal court in Sacramento, Calif., to life

in prison for her attempt on the life of President Ford. In 1979, in a case that aggravated racial tensions, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally beaten after a police chase in Miami. (Four white police officers were later acquitted of charges stemming from McDuffie's

In 1981, members of the Red Brigades kidnapped Brigadier General James L. Dozier, the highest-ranking U.S. Army official in southern Europe, from his home in Verona, Italy. (Dozier was rescued 42 days later.)

In 1986, Eugene Hasenfus, the American convicted by Nicaragua for his part in running guns to the Contras, was pardoned, then released.

Our readers write

Celebrate **Christmas**

If we can't celebrate the birth of Christ this year, why should we celebrate time off "Happy Holiday" or the coming of winter "Season's

Greetings."

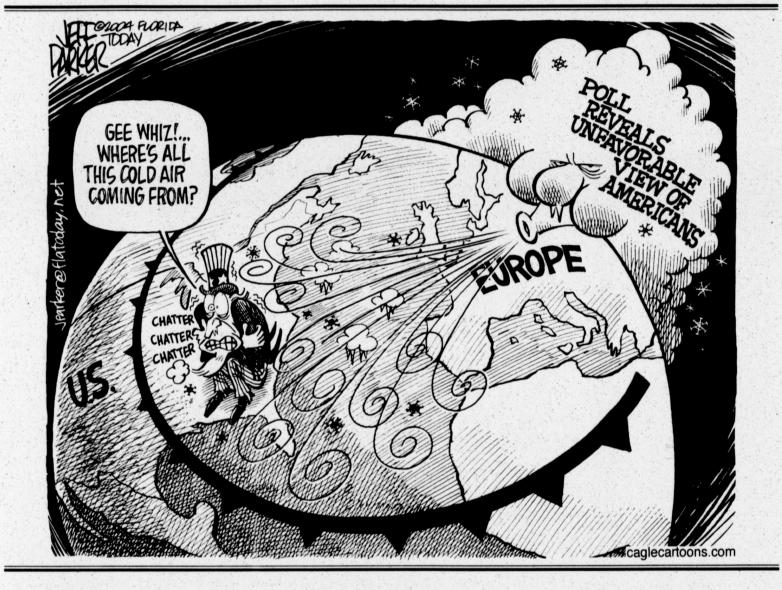
Get real, people. If you don't feel right celebrating Christmas ... don't. I feel right celebrating

Christmas and do.

In Christ's name, Merry Christmas!

Joan Braxton

Pampa



Beyond wishful thinking about Islam

three months have passed since nearly 3,000 died on a day that will live in infamy, the hills are alive with the sound of positive musings about Islam. Publisher's Weekly has reported that many new books on the religion are hitting the stores, with most assuring readers that Islam is a religion of

Many Dutch citizens, shocked by last month's murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh, are now questioning that assumption. Wishful thinking about Islam also runs up against the Koran

Now that three years and Islam offers peace at times authority and command to but (under defined conditions) gives its adherents a license to kill.

Specifying those condi-

tions is the hard part. Marvin One Internet site portrays Olasky a Christian

Columnist debating a Muslim and asking: "All

followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?" expression on the Muslim's rather than the end of discus-

that of a little boy who had just gotten caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, 'Yes.'" If only it

were that easy. reality, many Muslims contest such a definition of

jihad and say that a Muslim can fight and be rewarded by Allah only when defending Islamic lands. But that The website states that the should be the beginning itself, which shows that face "changed from one of sion: It's vital to find out

which lands a Muslim sees as Islam's. Is Israel a Muslim land? What about Spain and the Balkans, which Islam ruled for centuries?

Similarly, when a Muslim says he opposes the murder of civilians, it's vital to ask: What do you mean by civilian? Is a non-soldier Israeli who has military training and could be called into active service a civilian? A worker at the Pentagon? How about those at the World Trade Center who advanced the capitalism that undergirds U.S. military efforts?

See ISLAM, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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The new Iraq: Islamic yet democratic?

Shiites could thwart democracy in Iraq. But religion need not be a deal-killer when it comes to moving Iraq forward. In fact, Iraqis get the religion question right, or the whole democratic movement could unravel.

Iraqi elections are fast approaching. A big issue is the influence of religious leaders, most notably the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

As spiritual head of the majority Shiite population, he is by far the most important Islamic figure in Iraq.

Fortunately, he has largely

Feuding Sunnis and taken a constructive role racy and the tyranny of mob toward the enterprise in Iraq. rule. Having watched horrors unfold under mullahs in his native Iran, he has said mostly good things about democand Americans alike need to ratizing Iraq. He even issued nation. Turkey did that in a fatwa say-

> should vote and declared that it was the duty of

Shiites, who would dominate any democratically elected parliament, to protect the legitimate interests of minorities. That last point is crucial, because guaranteeing minority rights is the difference between democ-

We raise the religion issue also because some think the best way to democratize Iraq is to secularize the Muslim

1923 under

ularization

his

eligible Iraqi Texas Thoughts Kemal Ataturk, whose forced sec-**Dallas Morning News**

> of nation created only a tenuous democracy and did not

suppress Islamic devotion. Drawing a hard line for secularism seems a waste of political energy for Iraq, even though we deeply believe that any nation benefits from having a secular government. Islam is a deep and palpable force guiding Iraqi society, and it is best to give it a place in the nation's

There's a practical reason, too. Ensuring that religious Iraqis are heard could keep them from going underground and fomenting rebellion.

Islamic democracy is a novel concept. But trying to separate Islam from the larger culture, like Saddam Hussein did, will likely spawn a backlash. Iraq's secular leaders and U.S. diplomats should make room for religion in Iraqi politics in January and beyond.

Retiren Culligan W

Christmas/C Fatheree, W

left, with a company. S Dec. 31. The

Islar

Continued

Many Ame are peaceful a primarily as an gle to impro more of mili say it's allow lands that onc Muslim terror all the layers deep enough small childre eventually be occupying lar belongs to Isla Should al

blamed for Clearly not. B take responsib all too frequ history and in grows out of should Christ outrages by those who ca Christians. bloody entry o into Jerusale slavery rhet antebellum fin part of the sto compare the

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Pampa Patrol As Citizens Association p.m. the sec of each mo Cuyler. Pampa

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Pampa (Pampa G meets at 2 ond Mond month fror through M

location cha Pampa Pampa Pilo meets at 7 Tuesday of

the Airport Pampa I

Culligan Water Conditioning staff honored Cordell Schneider with a Christmas/Cordell retirement party recently. Culligan staff, from left, Tim Fatheree, Weldon Holley and James Holley, presented Schneider, second from left, with a plaque and trophy honoring him for 12 1/2 years of service to the company. Schneider plans to work Tuesday and Thursday afternoons through Dec. 31. The public is welcome to come tell him goodbye before he retires.

Data found to be lacking on effects of gun control

WASHINGTON (AP) ing guns says there is not conclusions." enough evidence to reach effectiveness.

The National Research concealed major research program on credible evidence that such toward firearms. firearms is needed.

"Policy questions related to gun ownership and proposals for gun control touch on some of the most contentious issues in American politics," Charles Wellford, chairman of the committee that wrote the report, said in a statement.

Among the major questions needing answers are whether there should be restrictions on who may possess firearms, on the number or types of guns that can be purchased, and whether safety locks should be required, said Wellford, professor of criminal justice at the University of Maryland.

"These and many related policy questions cannot be definitively answered because of large gaps in the

A new analysis of efforts to said. "The available data are increase violent crime. control violence by restrict- too weak to support strong

valid conclusions about their "right to carry" laws that aimed at steering children allow certain adults to carry away from guns have had Council said Thursday that a However, the report found no knowledge or

existing science base," he laws either decrease or

Citing another example. the report said there is almost Thirty-four states have no evidence that programs weapons. any effect on their behavior,

10th Anniversary Celebration

Pampa, Texas Recreation Park on Highway 60 East

November 20 Through December 31 6-10 PM Sunday - Thursday • 6-11 PM Friday & Saturday

Pampa invites you to visit our Winter Lighting Fantasy where the animated Santa feeding the Reindeer will greet you. Animated Rodeo Displays join in the season's festivities.

Fun and fanciful displays. Displays of the Nativity and other religious scenes add to the pleasure of the holidays. Several new displays will add that sparkle and wonder to your holiday.

Other events to be enjoyed in Pampa:

December 4...... "Snacks With Santa" St Matthews Episcopal Church Christmas Parade....... A "Texas Tumbleweed Christmas" 1:00 p.m. "The Nutcracker" Pampa Civic Ballet...M.K. Brown Auditorium , 7 pm December 12...... "Tour of Homes", Twentieth Century Cotillion Club

Islam

Continued from Page 4

Many American Muslims are peaceful and define jihad primarily as an internal struggle to improve. Some talk more of military jihad and say it's allowable to regain lands that once were Islamic. Muslim terrorists peel away all the layers and go down deep enough to blast away small children who could eventually become soldiers occupying land that properly belongs to Islam.

Should all Muslims be blamed for such brutality? Clearly not. But Islam should take responsibility for what is all too frequent in Islamic history and in the culture that grows out of the Koran. Nor should Christians dodge past outrages by Christians and those who called themselves Christians. And yet, the bloody entry of the Crusaders into Jerusalem or the proslavery rhetoric of some antebellum fire-eaters is only part of the story: We need to of Christianity and Islam.

For example, Christianity generally grew by the blood grew by the killing of its opponents. Christ's teaching eventually led to the develop-

ment of complementary roles for men and women, but Muhammad's teaching led to female subservience. Christians looked at slavery critically over the centuries and often fought for its abolition, but Muslims began the practice of enslaving Africans, and some Islamic countries today still allow slavery.

A useful book in this regard is Alvin Schmidt's "The Great Divide" (Regina, 2004). Do you want to know whether beheading is part of traditional Muslim practice? Schmidt notes that Muhammad himself ordered such killings, and that when Ottoman caliphs finally took over Constantinople in 1453, the embalmed head of Emperor Constantine XI became part of a traveling exhibit.

We are far from the end of our war against terrorism most of which these days is Muslim in origin – but we may be at the end of the beginning. It's certainly time to enter into discussions with Muslims without offering compare the normal practice either appeasement or shotgun-blast aggression.

Marvin Olasky, Ph.D., is a of its martyrs, but Islam often professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and editor of "World" maga-

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Calendar items

Pampa Citizens on Pampa Rotary Patrol Ass'n. Pampa Citizens on Patrol Association meets at 8 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at 824 S. Cuyler.

Duplicate Pampa Bridge Club. The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Carol Carpenter at 669-7940.

Pampa Fine Arts Ass'n. Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building (Chamber building). Pampa Garden Club.

Pampa Garden Club meets at 2 p.m. the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meeting location changes monthly.

Pampa Pilots Ass'n. Pampa Pilots Association meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Airport Lounge.

Pampa Rotary Club.

meets at 12 noon every Wednesday at Pampa Country Club. Takedown Pampa

Club. Pampa Takedown Club Wrestling for youth 5-15 years of age. Practice is at 900 N. Frost. Season starts Sept. 25 through February. For more information, call Rick Urguhart at 665-8321.

Pampa Woodcarving Club. Woodcarving Club meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson. Meetings are open to any individuals interested in woodcarving from beginners to all experience. Projects and instructors are available. For more information, call 669-

3008. Panhandle Piecemakers Guild. Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

ngs off original prices, Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Selection varies by store *Excludes designer collection

Entire stock by NIKE, K.Swiss;

more. Reg. 35.00-75.00.

Reebok, Skechers, Adidas and

Dear Abby. By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband took me out to an expensive restaurant. As we chatted over dinner, we realized that the couple next to us was eavesdropping on our conversation. They could hear everything we were saying. They kept turning their heads and looking straight at us. They even tried to peek when the check came.

My husband and I tried to ignore it, however, it put a damper on our nice evening. How should we tell nosy people to "butt out" of our dinner conversation? -- CONVERSA-TIONALLY SPEAKING IN **DELAWARE**

DEAR CONVERSATION-ALLY SPEAKING: You and your husband missed an opportunity to have some fun. If you invent wild enough dialogue, the reaction can be funnier than a floor show. You could have raised your voices just a bit and begun discussing how you were going to spend the "drug money" -- or which girl you planned to send on the next "call." Short of asking to be seated at another table, there is no foolproof way to discourage nosy eavesdroppers.

DEAR ABBY: My letter is in response to the one from the neighbors who complained about the noise their neighbor's children made playing basketball in the yard.

As a boy, many years ago, I probably annoyed our neighbors the same way. Now that boy has grown into a man, who has taken care of literally thousands of youngsters in my practice of behavioral pediatrics.

Experience tells me that if all youngsters would be outside playing basketball or any other fact that a person can be an activity of exertion, we would alcoholic or a dope fiend, but if have far fewer academic and a man doesn't drive, they Approximately 75 percent of my patients never go outside to play. Many of them are addicted to

vid games, and some to television. (Studies have shown that exercise reduces the need for psycho-stimulants, such as Ritalin and Adderall, as well as the dosage.)

The ramifications of this addiction are enormous. These children tend to be more agitated and anxious. Their blood pressure and pulse are often increased. Their imagination is dulled. They have a higher risk of obesity, early onset diabetes, and future cardiovascular disease. Their sleep patterns are upset (many stay up all night to play their video games after their parents are sleeping), and there is some evidence that they are at increased risk for seizures.

If the pounding of a basketball is annoying to some folks, they should step back and look at the big picture. That sound would be a symphony to my ears because I know that these youngsters are doing something that will benefit themselves and ultimately society. -- JOEL P. SUSSMAN, M.D., FAAP, COLUMBIA, S.C.

DEAR DR. SUSSMAN: Thank you for an important letter. As some readers pointed out, the complainer should be thankful the neighbor children are involved in activities as healthy as athletics. (Better to shoot hoops than each other!) People who can't stand the sound of children playing should relocate to a development for seniors. Let us not forget that children are people, too, and they have a right to play on their own property, providing they're not disturbing someone late at night.

CONFIDENTIAL TO JANIS IN SUN "Americans will accept the problems. think there must be something wrong with him." -- ART BUCHWALD

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin





Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD. By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Like 1 Play some jackets group 5 Burns 44 Inert gas and 45 Oozes Browning 46 Peer -

10 La Scala DOWN songs. 12 Fund 1 Court 13 Arose player 14 Paris 2 Scent divider 3 Kin of a

15 Flightless crunch 4 Sigma bird 16 Perched follower 5 Mexican 18 Duet weapon money

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24 Call for

26 Coarse

28 Stag

29 Faux

31. Grant

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36 Unfair

party attender

6 Addition column 21 Snopping 7 Paper workers 23 Diamond 8 Got in

shape

theater 24 Wood of film 25 Tangle

34 Poultry 22 Multibuy 35 Depleted screen 37 Profound 38 Terminates

Yesterday's answer

concerns

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33 Sarcastic

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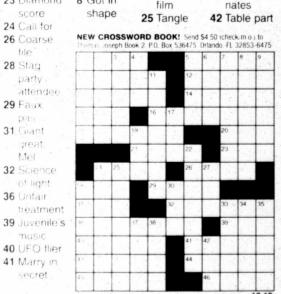
11 Buffets

17 Hockey

19 Hockey

need

42 Table part



Marmaduke



"I wouldn't have gotten a ticket if someone hadn't growled."

The Family Circus



"We picked out the ones that say 'and children.' Can we hang them in our room?"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible





Peanuts



THEN I MET HER IN THE STORE, AND SHE SHOWED ME THE NEW PAIR OF GLOVES SHE'D JUST BOUGHT





Flo & Friends



Blondie



Walker "Frost."

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Blunket

Christmas parade



Walker and Gage Kennedy enjoy a ride with "Frost."

Overseas

British cabinet official resigns scandal's wake

key member of Tony love affair. His three-year Blair's Cabinet and the relationship with the marman in charge of legisla- ried Quinn soured over the tion on crime and terror- summer, and Blunkett has ism in Britain resigned gone to court in an attempt after acknowledging that his department fasttracked a visa for his former lover's nanny.

David Blunkett's departure Wednesday was a blow for Blair, who had strongly backed him and confidently asserted he would be cleared of wrongdoing. Blunkett was Britain's top law enforcement officer and had been establishing a new system of national identity cards.

> 'I believe these issues would never have been raised had I not decided in September that I could not walk away from my youngest son.

> > David Blunkett British politician

Blunkett said he felt he Ruth had to step down because his actions led to preferential treatment for a residence visa for a Filipina nanny employed by his former lover, American magazine publisher Kimberly Quinn.

"I believe these issues would never have been raised had I not decided in September that I could not walk away from my youngest son," said Blunkett, who has gone to court to establish that he' fathered Quinn's 2-yearold son.

"Any perception of this application being speeded up requires me to take responsibility," he told reporters. He denied that about his role.

Britain's only blind legislator, the divorced were unacceptable. Blunkett gained some

LONDON (AP) — A sympathy for his shattered to gain access to the 2year-old son. Quinn, currently expecting another child whose paternity is the subject of intense media speculation, denies the toddler is Blunkett's

> Blunkett has suggested Quinn leaked details of their relationship and the "Nannygate" claim to the media as a form of

Blunkett's place in the

Cabinet became shakier with the revelation that hemade caustic comments about colleagues to the author of a newly published biography.

Blair Wednesday appointed Education Secretary Charles Clarke as Home Secretary replace Blunkett. Clarke, 54, will be replaced in the

education post by Kelly, currently Cabinet Office minister, Downing Street said. Home Secretary is a key Cabinet post with responsibility for law and order, immigration and counterterrorism.

Blunkett's problems have been a distraction and embarrassment for Blair's government since the affair was revealed in August, but it got worse this month with the disclosure of his low opinion of some colleagues.

Quinn's nanny, Leoncia Casalme, had been told by the Home Office that it might take a year to process her visa application. Quinn brought that to Blunkett's attention, and he had been dishonest he said he in turn showed the letter to officials to stress that such delays

Light-rail network being reborn perhaps

GENEVA (AP) — The old-fashioned streetcar, which had nearly clanged into oblivion by the end of the 20th century, has been making a sleek comeback with new lines opening from Sydney to Paris, Buenos Aires to Houston.

Now Geneva is laying the latest tracks in the trend.

The city on Wednesday opened a new tram line, part of an ambitious project to rebuild a network that only nine years ago had dwindled to just one route.

Passengers will be able to hop on a streetcar in the suburbs and arrive at the main train station 10 minutes later. A journey from one side of the city to

More than 35 cities around the world have introduced new tram systems in the last 25 years, and many more have expanded their existing networks to try to solve congestion problems while curbing inner-city pollu-

"It's very symptomatic of a general trend to introduce more sustainable modes of transport," said Laurent Dauby, light-rail chief for the Brussels-based public transport think tank UITP. "I think that increasingly cities are challenged to provide quality of living in urban areas."

UITP estimates that the length of light-rail track around the world will the other will be almost halved to just increase 40 percent by 2020.

In the European Union alone, 35 cities are expanding tram networks including Brussels, London, Madrid and Paris - while a further 18 are introducing entirely new systems.

Cities across the United States such as Houston, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City .- have also built from scratch, while Washington, D.C., has just started construction on a light-rail

There are some problems associated with construction of rail systems.

Cities have to meet the upfront costs of laying tracks. And a single tram costs about \$2.7 million, compared with just \$400,000 for a new extendedlength bus.



3 Bottles Get 1 Order Your Christmas Pies by Wednesday, December 22nd .**CUYLER • 669-**7

Dr. Abraham's

Sports Day

Pampa's Penrod breaks own record with 190 pts.

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS Sports Editor

The Pampa Swimming and Diving Team took part in the annual Seminole Invitational Dec. 9-10, in Seminole. The Harvesters finished eighth out of 16 teams from Texas and New Mexico.

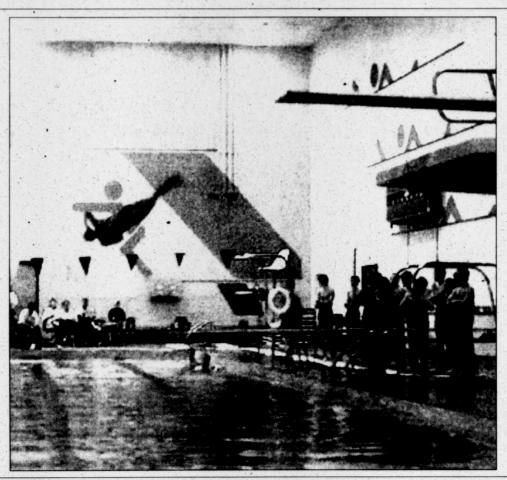
The meet began with diving. Thomas Wilson, competing in just his third diving meet, placed 14th.

Head Coach Greg Miller says his team is led by senior Whitney Penrod, who broke her own six dive record with 190 points. Penrod's nearest competitor had 112 points. "Whitney is a hard working athlete, and is preparing herself for a return trip to the state meet in February," said Miller.

Angela Henthorn (100 free style), Kirby Broaddus (200 free style) and Lydia West (500 free style) led the girls' effort, setting the pace for the rest of the team.

Juniors Tyler Wishon (50 & 100 free style), Derek Wishon (200 individual medley & 100 butterfly), Dalton Elliott (200 & 500 free style) and Thomas Wilson (100 breast & diving), scored all the points for the boys' team. Their time in the 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Free Relay still stands as second best in the region. "We are hoping to move into the number one spot by the end of our next meet." said Wilson. "That will give us a chance to go state in February." said Wilson.

The team's next meet is this weekend in Midland.



Pampa's Whitney Penrod is shown during one of her dives during the recent Seminole Invitational. Penrod, a senior, broke her own six dive record at the meet by scoring 190 points. The Harvesters ished eighth out of 16 teams from Texas and New Mexico competing Seminole. Penrod Pampa swimming and diving teammates will be in Midland this weekend.

CO-ED WRESTLING

If a girl wins without taking the mat, does she really win?

Michael J.

Stevens

Sports

Editor

ing the Pampa Harvester wrestling team's trip to Kansas last weekend to take part in the Tiger Invitational tournament, I was taken aback by the fact wrestler Richard Leal was not allowed to wrestle the opponent he was seeded against in his opening match because that opponent was a girl.

I spoke with Head Coach Josh Cadenhead via the phone that afternoon to try to gain some insight as to what happened. "We had no real control over how the wrestlers were seeded and Richard was matched with a girl," said

Cadenhead. "And according to UIL rules, no Texas boy wrestler shall wrestle a girl vrestier at any time.

He's right. Texas has separate divisions for boys and girls which is mandated by the University Interscholastic League, the state's governing body for high school athletics. According to Section 1340 of the UIL rules and regulations, "There shall be the following divisions":

(A) High School Boys (B) High School Girls

Directly below this mandate you find, 'No high school boy shall wrestle against a high school girl and vice versa."

So what's the big deal? I thought the tournament was in Kansas. Shouldn't whatever rules that govern Dorothy and Toto then apply to this tournament? "No. The UIL implemented a rule that went into affect this year that basically states any Texas high school team competing in

While writing Tuesday's article regard- another state shall do so abiding by UIL rules," said Cadenhead. Enter the 'No Texas boy shall ever wrestle a girl' rule. Thus, Leal had to forfeit. He was moved directly to a consolation match, which he lost. Can you blame him? He thought he was going to wrestle. He prepared for it. He practiced and trained for it. The girl by the

way, won her first match. Then claimed the championship in her weight class without having to wrestle another match because her opponents had to forfeit. Where's the challenge in that? How can you brag about your skill to your

pals when you can't be sure you even have

I spoke with Mark Cousins of the UIL Wednesday afternoon. I asked him why this had to happen. "Because Pampa is a Texas team," he said. Okay. But if we are going to offer girls wrestling, why not co-ed? "We implemented separate divisions for boys and girls in 1998 to allow the girls' division the chance to grow," said Cousins. "We also had members of our committee and a number of school superintendents who expressed concern over co-ed wrestling at that time," he said. Will Texas ever offer coed wrestling? "No," said Cousins.

According to Cousins, Texas and Hawaii are the only two states that offer boys' and girls' wrestling divisions. He informed me the numbers for girls participating in wrestling in Texas have been growing significantly over the years.

See CO-ED. Page 9

Banding together_



Zed Richards, center left, presents a "Remember the Tradition" wristband to Greg Brown, representing the Dennis Cavalier Scholarship Fund along with Mary Ann Richards, far left, and Paulette Hinkle, far right, of M&H Leasing. Inspired by a recent column in the Sports Day section of The Pampa News, Hinkle ordered the green wristbands in order to help raise money for the scholarship fund in memory of the late athletic director. The wristbands are available from M&H Leasing, 1945 N. Hobart, for \$5 each with a limit of five per person. M&H Leasing will donate to the scholarship fund from the proceeds.

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Wendell Palmer named to Track and Field Masters Hall of Fame

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS Sports Editor

Congratulations are in order for Pampa's Wendell Palmer. Palmer was inducted earlier this month into the USA Track & Field Masters Hall of Fame.

The 72-year old Palmer is a well traveled and well recognized Masters athlete with a number of championships and records to his credit.

Earlier this year, while competing in the Jackrabbit Invitational in Odessa, he claimed first place finishes in the Weight Pentathlon, Discus, Weight Throw, Shot Put and Hammer.

He is also a 17 time National Discus Champion. Among his other accolades, Palmer has received the

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*Dos Caballeros

*Dyer's Bar-B-Que

*Frank's Food

*Frito Lay

*Hoover Volunteer Fire Department

*Mrs. Baird's Thirft Store

*Sister's Spudnuts

*United Supermarkets

Without Your Help And Donations The Wrestling Tournament

On November 20, 2004 Would Not Have Been A Success:

Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame Achievement Award four The Pampa Wrestling Booster Club

times (1989, 1995, 1999 and 2002).

According to Masters Long Distance Running Chairman, Norm Green, Palmer and 12 others were presented as members of the 2004 Masters Hall of Fame during a meeting in Portland, Oregon on Dec. 3.

"Wendell will receive a plaque with his name inscribed on it to commemorate this honor," said Green. "He should receive that plaque by February."

Those receiving this honor were voted on and approved by members of the Masters Track and Field committee, the Masters Long Distance Running committee and previous members of the Masters Hall of Fame.

You can learn more about Palmer by clicking on to www.evaa.nu/DOCUMENT/dunton/2004/nov5.html, and scrolling down a bit.

The USATF web address is www.usatf.org.

Jones suing BALCO for \$25 million

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) Olympic track star Marion Jones filed a defamation lawsuit against BALCO head Victor Conte, who told a national TV audience that he gave her steroids and watched her inject herself with

Jones is seeking \$25 million in the suit, alleging Conte tarnished her reputastatement Dec. 3 on ABC's never used steroids. "20/20."

Conte and three others connected to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative were indicted in February by a federal grand jury for a variety of alleged offenses, including illegally distributing steroids.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, said Jones passed a lie detector test and includes a statement tion when he made the from her doctor saying she

Gang

Pampa Jui focused of

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Dan Dic after all. The poin high 23 pc point play quarter bu Orleans Ho first time Golden Sta

"I don't player, so I for me bed 190-pound chance to p make the n a little bit going to be Playing 1 **NBA** seaso

has finally He has read of seven acquired hi become a f "He's fea everything instinct, bu

play with Brown said In other night, it wa Cleveland Washington 90; Detroit 96, Memph 69; San Ar

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either side

anything u chance to



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Pampa Junior High 7th grade Lady Harvesters Lariat Lowrey (left), and Sammie Pearson (center) appear focused on a Dumas player who fights for control of the ball during this past Monday's home game.

Dickau leads Hornets to first home win

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dan Dickau can play in the NBA, after all.

The point guard scored a careerhigh 23 points — including a fourpoint play on a 32-footer at the thirdquarter buzzer — to help the New Orleans Hornets win at home for the first time this season, 98-89 over Golden State on Wednesday night.

"I don't look like your typical NBA player, so I get a lot of people that pull for me because of that," the 6-foot, 190-pound Dickau said. "I'm getting a chance to play now, and I'm trying to make the most of it. We start winning a little bit more and it's definitely going to be a great experience."

Playing for his fourth team in three NBA seasons, the former Gonzaga star has finally caught on in New Orleans. He has reached double figures in five of seven games since the Hornets acquired him from Dallas — and he's become a fan favorite.

"He's fearless. He still doesn't know everything yet. He just plays off of instinct, but he's been a pleasure to play with," Hornets forward P.J. Brown said.

In other NBA games Wednesday night, it was: Denver 100, Boston 99; Cleveland 112, Portland 88; Miami 98, Washington 93; Toronto 96, Minnesota 90; Detroit 94, New York 93; Chicago 96. Memphis 88: Houston 92. Atlanta 69; San Antonio 94, Orlando 91; and Phoenix 108, Utah 86.

Hornets' 20-5 run through the first part of the fourth quarter that gave New straight home victory. Orleans the lead for good.

help the Hornets snap an 11-game 18 points. skid.

Troy Murphy had 25 points and 12 points. rebounds for Golden State.

"This was a dangerous game against a team that hasn't won for a long time scored 25 points — including a jumper

are hungry, who haven't had a chance games. to play a lot in the NBA."

Suns 108, Jazz 86

At Phoenix, Joe Johnson had a season-high 30 points to help the leagueleading Suns improve to 19-3.

It's the NBA's best start since Dallas led by current Suns point guard Steve Nash — started 21-3 two years ago.

> 'I don't look like your typical NBA player, so I get a lot of people that pull for me because of that.

> > — Dan Dickau Point Guard, New Orleans Hornets

Amare Stoudemire added 19 points for Phoenix, which won its sixth

Spurs 94, Magic 91

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs.

Manu Ginobili added 17 points for the Spurs, who lost Tony Parker to a groin injury. Orlando's Steve Francis scored 20 points, but missed a tying 3pointer in the final seconds.

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 88

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored Dickau scored 12 points in the 25 points, and Ira Newble added a season-high 18 in Cleveland's ninth

James also had 11 rebounds and David Wesley added 18 points to seven assists, and Jeff McInnis added

Darius Miles led Portland with 21

Nuggets 100, Celtics 99

At Boston, Carmelo Anthony's

Paul Pierce had 31 points for the Celtics. He had a chance to win it, but his jumper at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Marcus Camby added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the Nuggets.

Pistons 94, Knicks 93

At New York, Chauncey Billups hit two free throws with 2.6 seconds left for Detroit. Richard Hamilton scored 29 points for Detroit.

Stephon Marbury had 18 points for New York, but fumbled a pass in the final seconds before missing an underhanded 18-footer as time expired. Jamal Crawford led the Knicks with 25

Heat 98, Wizards 93

At Washington, Dwyane Wade had 29 points and nine assists to help Miami win its sixth straight game.

Shaquille O'Neal added 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who swept the four-game season series with Washington.

Gilbert Arenas had 22 points for Washington.

Raptors 96, Timberwolves 90

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had a season-high 24 points and 14 rebounds as the Raptors snapped a seven-game skid.

Kevin Garnett, who had 23 points and 15 rebounds, was knocked to the floor late in the game by Matt Bonner.

Garnett and Latrell Sprewell went after the rookie forward before being held back. Bonner was ejected, and Sprewell received a technical foul for shoving him.

Bulls 96, Grizzlies 88

At Memphis, Tenn., Eddy Curry had 20 points to help Chicago win its second road game. Pau Gasol scored 24 points for Memphis.

Rockets 92, Hawks 69

At Houston, Tracy McGrady had 25 points, and Yao Ming scored 23 to lead Houston.

Al Harrington had 21 points and with 3.6 seconds left — to lift the ... and we didn't show up," Murphy said. "They've got a lot of guys who Nuggets to their seven victory in 10 eight rebounds for Atlanta,

Cowboys, Arlington extend agreement deadline

Texas Officials for Arlington and the Dallas Cowboys have agreed to extend the deadline to finalize a stadium deal detailing who pays for what.

Both sides said the deal may not get done by year's end because of the holidays and the massive amount of paperwork involved.

If everything is not signed by Dec. 31, the master agreement — struck by the Cowboys and Arlington officials in August — allows either side to kill the deal and walk away. But both agreed to extend the deadline until the first few weeks of January.

anything until we've had a Mosby, managing director chance to go over it with a of

Mayor Robert Cluck said, adding that there has been no hitch in the deal so far. The City Council is to be

briefed on the status of negotiations at its special meeting Monday. Denis Braham,

Houston-based attorney representing the Cowboys, said neither side is threatening to end discussions. He said he expected the deal to be finalized by the first week of January at the latest.

"We don't intend to terminate it if we're very close," said Braham, a lawyer with Winstead, Sechrest & Minick.

Such a delay would not "I'm not going to sign be unusual, said Marlin Public Financial

financial adviser on the stadium deal.

"I get no sense at all that this deal is in trouble," said

fine-tooth comb," Arlington Management, the city's Mosby, whose job is to hire several financial firms to sell the stadium construction bonds.

> 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.

12-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

DZDOX WGV NGV ODKK LIU

YIPPDPPDP.

WGVX EOFDVJP. - NENDOL Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HATRED IS NEVER ANYTHING BUT FEAR - IF YOU FEARED NO ONE. YOU WOULD HATE NO ONE. - HUGH **DOWNS**

Co-ed

Continued from Page 8

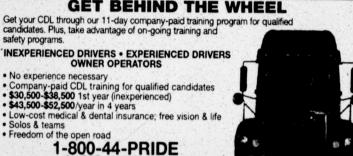
Adding the numbers for girls signing up in co-ed states are extremely low by comparison.

If I am anything when writing these columns, I am honest. That being said, I cannot say I am a real proponent of girls' wrestling anyway. As one who wrestled in junior high and high school, I am certainly not a fan of co-ed wrestling. Have you ever attended a wrestling match? Not one involving Triple H, The Rock, Jell-O, mud or a Mawashi. Take in a junior high or high school wrestling match, then let me know what you think. At least Texas and Hawaii have the capacity to restrict participation to same sex matches, which is how it should be if we are to offer and grow girls' wrestling. There is just something not completely right with a teenage boy wrestling a

teenage girl. Take morality out of the picture for a moment and think hard about - and consider - the reality of co-ed wrestling.

So what then can coach Cadenhead do to assure no member of his team will ever go through what Leal had to last week? Aside from not taking part in tournaments beyond the Lone Star state's borders, Cousins suggested, "He will need to do some advance research. I would suggest if he takes his team to another out-ofstate tournament, that he try to find out if there are any girls competing and if so, in what weight divisions." A fair statement actually. The bummer of course would be telling any of your guys they can go, they just can't wrestle. Heck, that's a cheerleader, isn't it?

Interactive Would you support co-ed wrestling? I would like to know. E-mail me at sports@thepampanews.com . I will post results early next week.



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Published December 24"

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Example

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Born... September 6. 2004

Parents.

Riley & Molly Brooks

Chance & Bailey

Sam & Twila Brooks

Paul & Martha Simpson

Brother & Sister.

Grandparents.

REAL, Respondent(s) GREETINGS: COMMANDER to appear before the Honorable District Court, 223rd Judicial District, Gray County, Texas at the Courthouse thereof, in Pampa, Texas, by filing a written answer, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation then and there to answer the Petition of VESTA THO-MAS AND JOY THO-MAS filed in said Court on the 28th day of September, 2004, against RICK Respondent(s) and suit being numbered 33648 on the docket of said Court, and entitled: IN THE INTEREST OF RAFDEN SCOTT MA-SON, BRITTNEY MI-

the nature of which suit is a request to ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AF-FECTING THE PA-RENT-CHILD RELA-TIONSHIP

Said child BETTHANY CAVINESS was born on the 1st day of January. PAMPA, TEXAS.

CHELLE PRITCHARD.

AND BETTHANY CAV-

INESS, CHILDREN

1 Public Notice

THE STATE

OF TEXAS

County of Gray

ARE HEREBY

VILLARREAL

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with the authority to consent to the child's adoption, which will be bind-

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Pampa; Texas, this the 9th day of December 2004. GAYE HONDERICH,

> 223rd District Court Gray County, Texas P.O. Box 1139 Pampa, TX 79066-1139 **Bv: PHYLLIS** CARROLL, Deputy

IMPORTANT NOTICE YOU HAVE BEEN SU-ED YOU MAY EM-PLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR AT-TORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CI-TATION BY 10:00 A.M. THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF TWENTY DAYS AF-YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITA-TION AND PETITION. A DEFAULT JUDG-MENT MAY BE TAK-EN AGAINST YOU. Dec. 16, 2004

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec.

This year, work on avoiding confusion by confirming messages and key conversations. You have the ability to make a big difference, especially in your home life. Smile, and others will respond. Learn to listen well and not to take others or their thoughts for granted. You might make an investment in your home or in a piece of real estate. Still, get feedback, especially from those you consider to be real estate gurus. If you are single, you are in the mood to nestle in this year. Be careful to choose the right person. Don't allow this need to drive you toward the wrong person. If you are attached, consider taking a class in communication with your sweetie. Work together. Agree to disagree. PISCES could be an anchor or an albatross.

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)

★★ You might worry far too much. Don't make this momentary characteristic contagious. Keep it to yourself, even if it means isolating yourself. Listen well to a loved one who has a lot to share. Tonight: Make your work a

top priority. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

** Others do reversals that could cause a change of plans. You could get upset, but on the other hand, you might be delighted by your restructured plans. Think in terms of clearing out the door and having a good time. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Work with a misunderstanding and don't take someone's comments

personally, even if he or she adds that touch of confusion. Be more in touch with your feelings about a boss or an older relative. You don't want to sabotage this tie. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might be overly nervous or uptight about what you need to complete. Just dig in and ignore calls and knocks on your door. You might be a bit overwhelmed, but you will get the job done. Reach out for someone at a distance or an expert if you need to. Tonight: Split work and town if you

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** A child or loved one raises the

roof or does something that doesn't please you. You can start a conflict or let it go. Be smart and play it easy. By all means, don't take this person's actions personally. Relate on a one-onone level. Tonight: How bout quality time with someone special?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You might not mean to misunderstand someone, but the end results might not be pleasant. Try to sort through a problem. Confirm a meeting or instructions. Don't stress yourself

out. Just be yourself. Let feelings flow.

Tonight: Accept an invitation. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

munchies on the way home.

*** Don't trust everything you hear. In fact, you might want to check information that heads your way. Do research and dive into your work. Someone might be exaggerating. Don't buy any items involved with communication. Tonight: Get your favorite

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** A financial decision might be off or too much of a risk. You are in a wild mood and might take action anyway. Play it safe, even if you don't want to. Call it an early day, if you can, and leave work. Socializing is your forte. Tonight: Let your magnetism speak. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Your thoughts might not be on work or your job. You might be concerned about a person and/or domestic matter. Confirm meetings, communication and plans in general. Don't allow a misunderstanding to get to you. Tonight: Head on home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Your instincts might confuse

you. Be realistic and practical. Ask questions and confirm meetings. You might be making mountains out of molehills. Relax and reach out for others. A walk during lunchtime could relieve some stress. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** A friendship could cost you a lot more than you had anticipated. Be careful. If someone disappoints you, don't make judgments and don't act out. Balance your checkbook before you head out the door. Work on being sensible. Tonight: Play Santa.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Your smile helps others get over a misunderstanding. A boss could be overly demanding or challenging. Confirm what he or she wants. Try to avoid confusion or a misunderstanding. Be gracious while others stress out. Tonight: Do what you want.

BORN TODAY

Scientist Joseph Henry (1797), actor Giovonni Ribisi (1974), model Milla Jovovich (1975)

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Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

CUTE 2 bdrm., liv., kit., ba. paneled. Carpet. Vinyl siding. Replacement win dows. New front door. Detached gar. \$15,000 \$1000 down, OWC. 183.48 PI 10% 10 yr. Ac-

tion Realty 665-7007. Owner Will Finance!! Must sell 1033 S. Faulkner \$24,000 2 or 3 bdr., 1 ba. Newly remodeled \$300 monthly 404 Popham White Deer. 2 bdr., 1 ba. w/ extra room in back. Needs work.

> Call Milton 806-790-0827

being remodeled.

2236 N. Wells

3 bdr., 1 ba.

cent. h/a, fenced yard

VERY nice 3 bdr., 2 ba. brick home in exc. location, 1919 N. Russell. Owner finance to responsible party. \$5000 down. Price reduced to \$60,000! Call 580-564-1327.

105 Acreage

Acre Tracts. Paved road. \$3000 per acre. Utilities available. 665-4842.

114 Recre. Veh. 1996 Wilderness 5th

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres,

Doug Boyd Motor Co. 1994 TYPE 3 AMBU-LANCE for sale. Please

If you have questions, call

1978 Ford F150 Supercab. Propane & gasoline \$1750. See at 2372 Aspen Dr., Pampa, Tx. FOR Sale 1991 Ford F-250, rough, \$900 obo, 669-7029.

02 C

030

29K Mil

98 C

00 F

4x4, XL

00 N

Sporty,

04 B

00 T

34K Mil

04 B

17K Mil

'04

MSRP

C/S Dis

Rebate

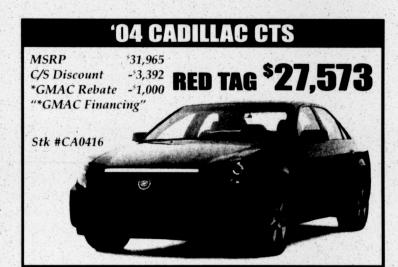


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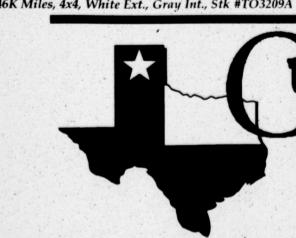








MANAGER SPECIAL 03 TO	YOTA TUNDRA Green Ext., Tan Int., Or	atdoors Or "Honey Do's" It's Up To You! Stk #TO3222A	\$21,872	
O3 OLDSMOBILE ALERO 29K Miles, Red, Great School Car, Stk #C040838B	\$9,920	OO LINCOLN LS 25K Miles, White, Sunroof, Stk #TO4170A	\$15,642	\$400
98 CADILLAC DELEGANCE 39K Miles, One Owner, Perfect - No Better, Stk #B04011A	\$9,947	O1 TOYOTA TACOMA Black, 68K Miles, 4x4, 5tk #TO4087A	\$15.674	\$100
OO FORD EXPLORER 4x4, XLT, V8, 62K Miles, Stk #3501B	\$10,846	O4 TOYOTA CAMRY 21K Miles, Beige, Stk #3495A	\$15,917	OFF
OO MONTE CARLO SS Sporty, Low Miles, Stk #C04176A	\$11,496	O1 CADILAC SEVILLE SLS Pewter, 25K Miles, Stk #TO4139A	\$16.842	
O4 BUICK CENTURY 27K Miles, 24,800 MSRP, 1/2 Price of MSRP, Stk #3487A	\$12,492	OO CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4x4, LT, Leather, Quad Seats, Stk #G04017B	\$17.897	Any Used Car Or Truck With
OO TOYOTA TUNDRA 34K Miles, 4x4, Stk #TO4187A	\$14,446	O2 CHEVY 3/4 TON HD 43K Miles, Clean, Locally Owned, Tell Taken Care Of, Stk #G0400	\$20 QQQ	A New Toy Fo Toys 4 Tots.
04 BUICK LESABRE 17K Miles, White, Stk #3506A	\$14,852	O3 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON Ext. Cao, Only 7K Miles, 4x4, LS, Stk #3508	\$22,496	See Your Used Car Salesperson
O2 CHEVY TRAIL BLAZER 46K Miles, 4x4, White Ext. Gray Int., Stk #TO3209A	\$15.270	03 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON 271, LT. 34K Miles, 4x4, It Has It All, 5tk #3510A	\$22,996	For Details.



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Company paying \$12 million over mutual fund sales

WASHINGTON (AP)—A company that sold high-fee mutual funds to military officers has agreed to pay \$12 million to settle regulators' charges that it used misleading sales material to promote the funds.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization, announced Wednesday the settlements with First Command Financial Planning Inc. over sales of the so-called "contractual plan" funds.

First Command neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing in the accords but did agree to be censured and to refrain from future violations of securities laws.

The NASD issued a warn-

ing to investors on contractual plan mutual funds, which charge commissions that can take 50 percent of the investor's contributions in the first year. Also called systematic investment plans or periodic payment plans, they allow investors to accumulate shares of a mutual fund by making monthly payments, usually as little as \$50, over a long investment period of 10,

15 or 25 years.

The fund plans all but disappeared from civilian markets in the 1970s and now are sold almost exclusively to military personnel.

The NASD also alleged that First Command, based in Fort Worth, Texas, "inappropriately" confronted a customer who complained, failed to maintain e-mail and adequate supervisory procedures,

and filed an inaccurate regulatory report.

James Provo, a First Command district supervisor based in Charleston, S.C., agreed in a settlement with the NASD to pay a \$25,000 civil fine and to be suspended for 30 days from acting in any supervisory capacity. He neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing.

The \$12 million that First

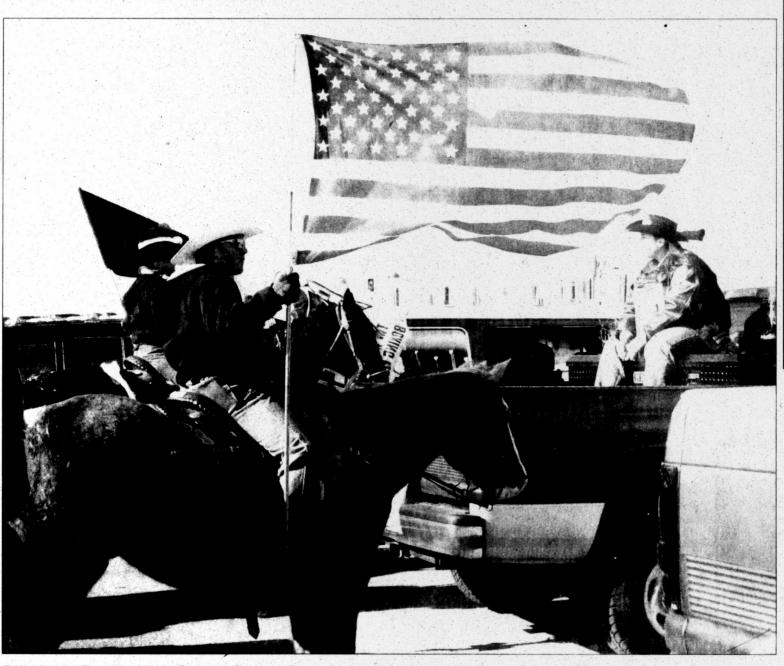
Command is paying will go to reimburse certain customers and for investor education for the military. After the customers are compensated, some \$8 million is expected to remain for investor education.

remain for investor education.

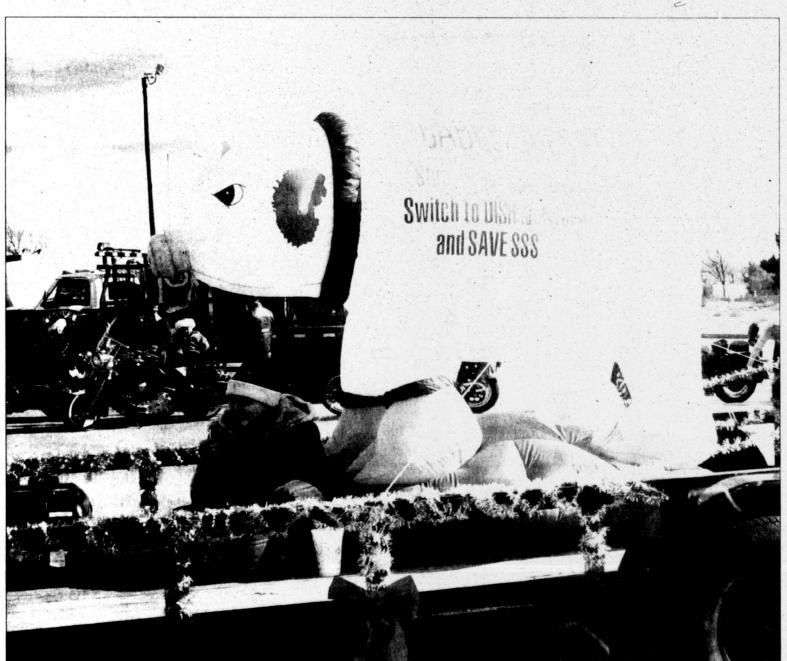
First Command also agreed to hire an independent consultant approved by the SEC and the NASD to review its sales practices, including the

scripts used by sales agents.

Christmas Parade



Bill Hoch, Pampa High School Rodeo Club, holds Old Glory aloft.



Abbie Hathcoat on the float sponsored by Pampa Communications-Dish Network.

Write-in winner of disallowed ballots

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A complete review of disqualified ballots in San Diego's mayoral race showed Wednesday that write-in candidate Donna Frye would have ousted Mayor Dick Murphy had those votes been counted.

The final tally showed that 5,547 voters wrote in Frye's name but failed to darken the adjoining bubble—enough votes to eclipse Murphy's 2,108-vote margin of victory in a three-way race.

Frye, a city councilwoman who launched her write-in bid five weeks before the Nov. 2 election, remained undecided on her

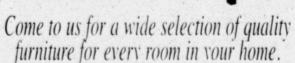
SAN DIEGO (AP) — A next move. She has until Jan. 7 — or 30 days from the election's certification — to pursue a legal challenge.

Sally McPherson, San Diego County's registrar of voters, determined that ballots with unfilled bubbles cannot be counted under state election law. A Superior Court judge upheld her position last month in a challenge filed by the League of Women Voters of San Diego.

"Law says that you got to fill in the oval. I don't think our position will change it will not change,"

McPherson said Wednesday.
Murphy began his second term last week.

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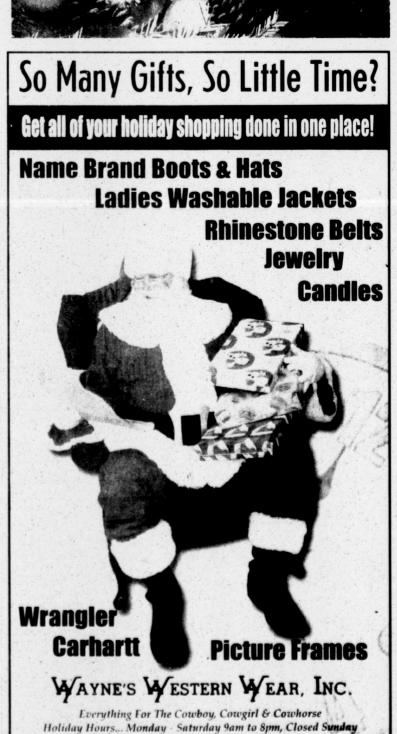


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