

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Today's weather



H 29 L 13

Deaths

James M. Dougless, 84, drilling foreman.
Yvonne A. Shuman, 70, White Deer High School graduate.

Texas Today

City to pay fine for gorilla's escape

DALLAS (AP) — A \$10,000 fine from federal regulators against the city over the March escape of a gorilla from the Dallas Zoo will be paid, the mayor says.

Mayor Laura Miller said Tuesday that she disagreed with the fine levied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But Miller said after a closed City Council executive session that the city will pay it to avoid a protracted dispute with the USDA, which regulates the nation's zoos.

Zoo officials have said that 13-year-old Jabari, a 340-pound gorilla, leaped across a moat and wall before going on a 40-minute rampage. Four people were injured before police shot and killed the gorilla.

Zoo officials said the penalty was contained in a letter sent in September.

In October, city attorneys responded that the enclosure effectively contained gorillas "for over a decade," during which repeated USDA inspections found no safety violations.

Sales soar for online calendar store

AUSTIN (AP) — The woman on the phone just had to have Clay Aiken with her every day of 2005.

"We had a lady call, and she immediately had to tell the operator, 'I'm 86 years old and I need two Clay Aiken calendars — one for me and one for my best friend who's 93,'" said Ellen Schivers of calendars.com, an Internet calendar warehouse where company officials expect holiday sales to dwarf other online retailers.

A teenage girl wanted two Aiken calendars for herself — one to keep in the wrapper forever and the other to frame each photo of the lanky, red-headed crooner, who burst into pop stardom when he finished as runner-up in Fox's 2003 American Idol contest.

The 5,000 offerings on calendars.com are as diverse as the callers, ranging from one with daily instructions for folding paper airplanes to another designed like a velvet leopard print purse with fuzzy fusia straps.

Bunker incomplete at time of attack

By MATT KELLEY
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worried about recent artillery attacks on American mess halls in Iraq, the U.S. military had nearly completed a reinforced dining area near the mess tent where an insurgent attack killed 22 people.

Iraqi insurgents have attacked several U.S. military dining hall tents with mortars or rockets over the past few months. On Tuesday, before the hardened dining hall at Forward Operating Base Marez could be

completed, an explosion ripped through a tent where hundreds of troops were sitting down to lunch.

Pentagon officials initially said a 122 mm rocket caused the blast, but on Wednesday military officials in Iraq said they were investigating the possibility of an explosive planted in the tent or brought in by a suicide bomber.

The military was building a bunker-like mess hall at the Marez base as part of continuing efforts to make the base safer. Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of the multinational force in Iraq, said the

new facility was due to be completed in February.

"We recognized the threat," Metz said Wednesday on CBS' "The Early Show." He told CNN, "We've been looking at the force-protection parameters, not only for dining facilities, but for other places we have large gatherings."

Attacks from rockets or mortars — what the military calls "indirect fire" — have been commonplace at U.S. bases in the Mosul area as well as other insurgency hot spots in Iraq. Dining halls are a prime target because they offer a readily identi-

able place where lots of troops congregate at predictable times.

For example, a mortar round hit near the mess hall of a U.S. base in Tikrit during dinner one night in March. The round didn't explode and no one was injured. Insurgents also launched rockets that month which exploded near a large military dining hall within Baghdad's Green Zone where U.S. and Iraqi government offices are located. Another mortar round injured three soldiers at a dining hall on another Baghdad base in February.

Flu shots once again available in community

Texas Department of State Health Services officials announced Tuesday that they will be giving flu shots in Pampa from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis.

DSHS officials emphasize the need to vaccinate those in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, those 65 and older who have chronic health conditions and medical care workers who provide direct patient care.

Overall, high-risk groups for whom flu vaccination are recommended this season are children 6 months through 23 months of age, adults 65 and older, anyone with underlying chronic medical conditions, women who will be pregnant during flu season, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, children 6 months through 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, medical care workers providing direct patient care and caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months old.

Health officials strongly encourage persons in these groups to seek a flu shot.

Medicare, Medicaid, or a \$10 donation will be requested for each dose, but officials said no one will be turned away for inability to pay the fee.

The vaccine supply for Pampa is part of some 124,000 doses ordered by DSHS for use by its regional offices around the state for use in filling flu vaccination gaps in high-risk population groups.



A special stocking stuffer

Pampa Regional Medical Center Auxiliary donated Christmas stockings to all babies born in December. The festive red and white stockings are large enough to hold the baby. New parents, Ronald and Ashley Blevins show off their baby girl Emily who's all snuggled up in one of the stockings.

Two men continue awaiting fate in human smuggling case

HOUSTON (AP) — The feeling that the longer a jury deliberates, the better it is for defendants might not apply in the first trial connected to the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt, according to an attorney who specializes in federal criminal defense.

Jurors resumed deliberations

Wednesday on the fate of two men prosecutors say were part of a smuggling ring responsible for the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants.

The jury has deliberated for about 6 1/2 hours on both Monday and Tuesday. It got the case late Thursday, then took Friday and the weekend off.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar are accused of helping arrange for the transport of more than 70 illegal immigrants in a hot, airless tractor-trailer from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

Each man faces 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal

immigrants. If convicted, each could get up to life in prison.

The ongoing deliberations "may just mean the jury is being careful in wanting to do the right thing," said Douglas McNabb, a Houston attorney not connected with the trial who specializes in federal criminal defense.

Full slate of Christmas activities still in works

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

The halls have been decked, the stockings have been hung by the chimney with care, and last-minute shoppers are planning a Christmas Eve spree, yet there are still activities coming up to help celebrate Christmas.

"A Celebration of Lights" service will be held at 7 p.m. today in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion at Recreation Park.

The service is sponsored by Pampa Downtown Kiwanis Club. It is intended to "provide individuals an opportunity to get together and simply celebrate the joy of Christmas with believers" as well as to support the Celebration of Lights at the park, according to a press release from organizers.

The service will begin with the Salvation Army Bell Choir, followed by Kelly Rushing of

Central Baptist Church, who will lead Christmas caroling. Jerry Lane will tell the Christmas story, followed by the song, "Silent Night."

Barry Loving of First Christian Church will read "Scripture of Jesus being the light of the world," according to the release. Lonnie Robbins of Trinity Fellowship Church will close the service by leading a prayer.

"Participants are hoping everyone will circle through the Celebration of Lights display after the services," said Pat Bagley, a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Saint Matthews Episcopal Church will hold Christmas Eve services beginning at 6 p.m. Friday. The services are open to

See HOLIDAY, Page 3



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

These penguins are among the painted characters on display at the Celebration of Lights, which is open 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, now through Dec. 31 at Recreation Park, east of Pampa on Highway 60.

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AP: Administration finalizing plan to streamline U.S. forestry regulations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Managers of the nation's 155 national forests will have more leeway to approve logging and other commercial projects with less formal environmental review under a new Bush administration

plan. The Associated Press has learned.

The long-awaited plan will overhaul application of the landmark 1976 National Forest Management Act, which sets the basic rules for management of

the nation's 191 million acres of forests and grasslands and protects forest wildlife.

Forest Service officials scheduled a Wednesday conference call to announce the changes, which will be published in the Federal

Register next week. The Associated Press obtained highlights of the plan.

The rules would leave intact some of the most contentious proposals from an earlier version released last year. Like that ver-

sion, the final plan gives regional forest managers more discretion to approve logging, drilling and mining operations without having to conduct formal scientific investigations known as environmental impact statements.

Obituaries

James Marvin Dougless, 84

PAMPA, Texas — James Marvin Dougless, 84, left this earth to join his beloved wife Tampa in heaven on Dec. 19, 2004, in Hobbs, N.M.

Services were scheduled at 10:30 a.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Rodney Tedford, minister of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Military rites will be accorded by the U.S. Army, Fort Hood, Texas, and graveside rites are courtesy of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM.

Honorary pallbearers will be Russell Sean Davis, Jimmy Dougless, Robert Dougless, Russell Dougless, Joshua Dougless, Dylan Dougless and Shane Davis.

Mr. Dougless was born March 20, 1920, to Marvin Eugene and Hettie Dougless in Wizard Wells, Texas. He married Tampa Kenner Davis on Jan. 6, 1951, in Pampa. They lived in Pampa for 50 years.

In 2002, he moved to Hobbs, N.M.

He was a retired drilling and completion foreman for Diamond Shamrock and Maxx Energy and was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union 654 of Abilene.

Jim served honorably in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II with the

405th Fighter Squadron and the 34th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron. He participated in campaigns in Northern France, Normandy, the Rhineland, and the central European air offensive.

He enlisted in 1941 and was discharged as a sergeant in 1946.

He was a member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM and the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ. He was a former board member of the Freedom Museum USA and had been active with the Pampa Army Air Force Reunion.

His wife of 50 years, Tampa Dougless, his parents, a brother Pete Dougless, and a sister Gladys Rockwell, preceded him in death.

Survivors include three sons, Russell Davis and wife Joyce and James Kirk Dougless and wife Bobbi, all of Amarillo, and Robert (Bobby) Dougless and wife Polly of Hobbs, N.M.; grandchildren, Russell Sean Davis, Shane Davis, Jennifer Wilkerson, Jill Wardlow, Jimmy Dougless, Robert Dougless, Russell Dougless, Kristi Summers, Nikki Summers, Amanda Summers, Joshua Dougless and Dylan Dougless; 11 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Cleatta Murtaugh of Fort Worth.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174.

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

Yvonne A. Shuman, 70

WHITE DEER, Texas — Yvonne A. Shuman, 70, of White Deer, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at the United Methodist Church of White Deer with the Rev. Toni Bayley, pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church of Lubbock, and the Rev. Pam Lehman, pastor of the United Methodist Church of White Deer, officiating.

Burial will be in White Deer Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Shuman was born Dec. 4, 1934, in Lefors. She was a 1953 graduate of White Deer High School. She married Morlan Shuman on July 17, 1954, in White Deer.

She worked for The White Deer News for 15 years.

She was a member of the United



Shuman

Methodist Church of White Deer. Survivors include her husband, Morlan Shuman, of the home; one son, Morlan Shuman, Jr., of Savannah, Ga.; three daughters, Heidi Roth and husband Jay of Farmington, N.M., Yvette Bryan and husband Pat, and Leia Srader and spouse Stewart Sims, all of White Deer; one sister, Beverly Moore and husband Wayne of Forgan, Okla.;

eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 835, White Deer, TX 79097, or a favorite charity.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Monday, Dec. 20

A boy's bicycle was reported found in the alley behind the 900 block of Terry.

Domestic assault was reported in the 1300 block of East Francis.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Theft was reported at Pampa Pawn, 208 E. Brown. A car ramp valued at \$300 was taken off a trailer.

Melissa Thompson, 30, Freeport, Texas, was arrested in the 1100 block of North Hobart for probation violation on a Brazoria County charge of assault causing bodily injury.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of Lefors. A vehicle's rear window was shattered, for an estimated loss of \$500.

Pamela Murphy, 19, Pampa, was arrested in the 1000 block of Huff for an expired motor vehicle sticker.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Sunday, Dec. 12

2 p.m. — A 1984 GMC

pickup, driven by Noe Junior Roe, 17, 312 N. Ward, hit a legally parked 2003 Chevrolet 1500 pickup, owned by Steve Dwight Phillips, 1817 Lynn, in the 1400 block of North Hobart. Roe then left the scene. No injuries were reported. Roe was cited for failure to leave identity information at an accident.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Dec. 21

12:55 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 700 block of North Banks.

1:29 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 100 block of South Russell.

4:11 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, Dec. 21

11:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical

Center and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

12:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

12:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Banks and transported two patients to PRMC.

1:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

2:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

4:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Hobart and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to BSAW.

9:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to BSAW.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

2:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to BSAW.

3:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Services tomorrow

SHUMAN, Yvonne A. — 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, White Deer.

Stocks

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

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY 58.25 -0.46

BP PLC ADR 58.86 -0.17

Cabot Corp.	37.56	+0.33
Cabot Oil Gas	45.14	-0.41
Coca Cola	41.55	+0.55
VLO	45.11	-0.79
HAL	39.74	-0.24
IRI	36.84	+0.06
NOI	35.71	-0.50
KMI	73.22	+0.33
XCEL	18.69	+0.06
Kerr McGee	59.49	-0.38
XOM	51.24	-0.45
Limited	22.53	-0.13
Williams	16.36	-0.09
MCD	32.89	+0.30

Atmos	27.47	+0.17
Pioneer Nat	34.80	-0.26
JCP	40.59	+0.34
COP	87.75	-0.18
SLB	66.45	-0.69
Tenneco	16.95	+0.25
CVX	52.33	+0.45
Wal-Mart	52.71	+0.11
OKI	28.97	+0.07
NS Grp	29.65	+0.83
New York Gold	441.90	
Silver	6.89	
West Texas Crude	45.54	

Gray County Weather

Today: Periods of snow, mainly before noon. High around 29. Wind chill values between 9 and 19. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Tonight: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Wind chill values between 6 and 11. Northeast

wind around 5 mph becoming calm. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high around 21. Wind chill values between 5 and 12. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow.

Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low near 8. Wind chill values between -3 and 2. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 34. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Wilmer-Hutchins officials reviewing extra fees for teachers, staff

HUTCHINS, Texas (AP) — The head of a North Texas school district that's under investigation for its administration of standardized tests says he wants to stop abuses with excess payments to teachers and other staffers.

Some Wilmer-Hutchins Independent School District employees have been receiving stipends for work they haven't done in years, said James Damm, interim superintendent.

Meanwhile, the Texas

Rangers have started a criminal investigation into allegations of cheating in Wilmer-Hutchins schools on the state's redesigned academic achievement test.

A significant number of longtime district employees have been receiving payments they shouldn't, officials of the southern Dallas County school system said. Damm said he is trying to identify those paychecks and to ensure that the excess payments stop at the end of the

school year.

"We want to pay a fair salary," said Damm.

He also said the cash-strapped district has failed for almost 50 years to hold an election on its tax rate and may have to schedule a referendum asking voters for permission to tax beyond the limit set in 1956.

In recent months, the district has been investigated by two grand juries, the Rangers, the FBI and others on alleged misappropriation

of funds and other accusations.

The district has provided many employees extra pay for working longer schedules, taking on extra responsibilities or working in high-need areas. The stipends and supplemental pay ranges from \$8,000 annually for school psychologists, who work four weeks longer each year than most school employees, to \$150 a year for a teacher who coordinates a school's entries in

state academic competitions.

All employees who are receiving legitimate stipends will continue to receive them, Damm said.

Teachers' pay last month came nearly two weeks later than originally planned because of the district's cash-flow problems. With paychecks, an attached note stated, "Notice: All current supplemental pay and stipends are voided for the school year 2005-2006, pending board approval."

Police seek son in couple's slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — Police who found a Bay City couple's bodies wrapped in plastic inside their Southeast Texas home are seeking the victims' son for questioning.

Officers are investigating the deaths of Toni K. Smith, 45, and 48-year-old Thomas Henry Smith as a double homicide. Their bodies were found in the kitchen of their residence Tuesday, said Bay City Police Chief Mike Baker.

The couple was reported missing on Sunday. Baker said that when police questioned Justin Wayne Smith

on Monday about their disappearance, the 25-year-old man told them his parents may have gone to Florida or Louisiana.

An Amber Alert has been issued for the man's 9-month-old daughter, Shelby Smith. Police say she may have traveled to Austin with her parents.

Bay City is about 60 miles southwest of Houston.

Information from: Houston Chronicle, <http://www.houstonchronicle.com>

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EARLY DEADLINE for classified line ads for Fri. Dec. 24th, Thurs. Dec. 23rd at 3pm.

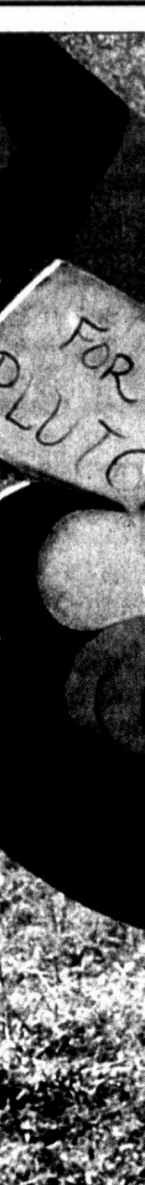
IN FRIDAY Dec. 24th edition of *The Pampa News*, there will be 2 sections of the paper. Merry Christmas!!

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The new... domestic p... Wednesday... Commerce... exceeded t... mate of a 3... rate for... September... marked the... since the o... this year a... 3.3 percent... ond quarter... Gross d... measures... goods and... in the Uni... the broad... the coun... health.

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Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Pluto

Disney character Pluto seems happy with his Christmas gift of a new bone in this painted scene, which is on display at the Celebration of Lights in Recreation Park. Several Disney characters are in the display, including Goofy, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and several Dalmatians.

Economy grows rate of 4 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy revved up its engine in the third quarter and advanced at an annual rate of 4 percent — even faster than previously thought.

The new reading on gross domestic product, released Wednesday by the Commerce Department, exceeded the previous estimate of a 3.9 percent growth rate for the July-to-September quarter. It marked the best showing since the opening quarter of this year and was up from a 3.3 percent pace in the second quarter.

Gross domestic product measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States and is the broadest barometer of the country's economic health.

Brisk spending by consumers and businesses helped the economy expand nicely in the third quarter.

The slight upward revision to GDP in the third quarter mostly reflected the fact that the trade deficit was less of a drag on the economy than previously estimated.

The new GDP figure, based on more complete data, was better than economists were forecasting.

They were predicting economic growth would remain

Spending up

Brisk spending by consumers and businesses helped the economy expand nicely in the third quarter. The slight upward revision to GDP in the third quarter mostly reflected the fact that the trade deficit was less of a drag on the economy than previously estimated.

at the 3.9 percent pace estimated a month ago.

After adjusting for inflation, the economy grew to \$10.9 trillion, on an annualized basis, in the third quarter. That represented an increase of \$106.3 billion from the previous quarter.

The latest snapshot of the economy comes as President Bush lays the groundwork for his second-term economic agenda. The centerpieces are overhauling Social Security and the nation's tax system — tall orders from both an economic and political standpoint, analysts say.

Looking ahead to the current October-to-December quarter, analysts believe the economy will perform solidly. Estimates for fourth-quarter growth range from a 3.5 percent rate to a 4.5 percent rate.

Economists on the lower end of the scale believe high energy prices will make consumers more moderate spenders in the final quarter

of the year, compared with the robust buying they did in the third quarter.

Crude oil prices hit a record high of just over \$55 a barrel in late October. Prices are now hovering around \$45 a barrel.

In the third quarter, consumers ratcheted up spending at a 5.1 percent rate, the fastest pace since the end of 2001.

Consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity. Thus their behavior is an important factor in determin-

ing the strength of the economy.

Businesses, meanwhile, boosted their investment in equipment and software at a sizable 17.5 percent pace — slightly better than previously thought — and the fastest pace since the third quarter of 2003.

The trade deficit in the third quarter ended up shaving a tiny 0.10 percentage point from GDP, an improvement from the 0.27 percentage-point reduction previously estimated for the quarter.

Encouraged by the economy's performance, Federal Reserve policy-makers, earlier this month, boosted short-term interest rates by one-quarter percentage point to 2.25 percent, the fifth rate increase this year.

The Fed meets next in early February, and economists think rates probably will go up again then.

Judges announce 'Light Up Lefors' contest winners

LEFORS — Judges in the "Light Up Lefors" decorating contest selected four homes to win the four divisions in the event sponsored last weekend by Lefors Action Group.

Archie and Suzie Summers won the "Best Use of Lighting" award. Kenny and Lindy Forsyth's yard won "Best Theme," and Mike and Anna Young received the "Most Creative" award. The "Best Single Display" was presented to Harold and Jeanne Sims.

Each winner received a recognition sign for the yard, a dated candle from the Lefors Action Group and a one-month base water bill credit, courtesy of the Lefors City Council.

Organizers say they plan to make "Light Up Lefors" decorating contest an annual event.

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Holiday

Continued from Page 1

all who wish to attend.

Christmas caroling and refreshments are planned for 6 to 7 p.m., followed by family Christmas Eve communion services from 7 to 8 p.m.

This is the 57th year for the church's Christmas Eve services. The church is located at 727 W. Browning. For more information, call 665-0701.

A free Christmas dinner for all who wish to attend will be served Saturday at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ.

The meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 1342 Mary Ellen, across from Pampa High School.

The 10th annual Celebration of Lights display at Recreation Park will be open through Dec. 31. Hours are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays,

and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

"Last year, we estimated it took 1,600-plus man hours to set up the Celebration of Lights," said Bagley, who is this year's president of the Celebration of Lights organization.

The display includes painted scenes and lighted scenes, some of which are animated. There is no charge to drive through the park and see the display, although volunteers are available to accept donations at the end of the route.

The seven scenes depicting the Nativity story will also be on display through Dec. 31. They are located at Burdette Park, immediately north of the Hughes Building on Francis Avenue.

The Nativity scenes were inspired by a display which had made its debut in Pampa in 1947 and was displayed in various locations in the city until it was finally retired some time after its 50th anniversary due to deterioration.

**Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service
December 24 at 6:00 PM**

**Adult Choir Music Worship
Pastor - Dr. Johnny Funderburg
Public Is Invited**

First Baptist Church
203 N. West Street
669-1155

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Viewpoints

Classics help us appreciate what's modern

The TV screen flickered into the darkened living room — the image of famed Holly Golightly examining her reflection in the jeweler's window while eating a Danish for breakfast. All the while, seven teens sat with their gaze glued to the classic and blockbuster hit, "Breakfast at Tiffany's." They were in the middle of an Audrey Hepburn movie marathon.

When I discovered that several of my friends had never heard of the renowned movie star, I knew something had to be done about this grave problem. Instead of appreciating the classics,

Hepburn, both Audrey and Katherine, Cary Grant and such, they would talk about their desire to see Lindsay Lohan and the Olsen Twins' upcoming movies. It was a terribly depressing situation. Do not get me wrong. The three are all fine actresses who know their craft well. However, they all pale in comparison to Audrey.

That is why I decided to host a movie night in which my friends and I would take in three great films, quintessential works from Audrey's resume: "Roman Holiday," "Charade" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's." It was only by exposing my friends to the

movies that I knew the problem could be solved.

When I suggested we watch the films, several in the group were hesitant because they thought the movies would merely be old and boring, but my friends all eventually agreed to the viewing.

Upon starting "Roman Holiday" no one seemed too engrossed in the movie, but that was to be expected. It took about 30 minutes of the

story about Princess Ann escaping from her royal duties to win over my group of friends. By the time she met up with Gregory Peck, they were all new Audrey Hepburn fans.

At the end of the film each one of my friends expressed their delight with the movie. All of the girls loved it for its romance and the guys ... well, let's just say they thought Hepburn was extremely good looking.

It was then that each one

who had watched the movies realized that you have to appreciate the classics before you can enjoy the artists of today. Everyone has always known this simple rule. That is why a student will learn about Picasso and Rembrandt in Art I before they will be instructed on techniques of modern art.

Now my friends know that this applies to the movie industry as well. By learning about the true greats from years before, they each now appreciate the actresses of today.

After all, I was reading an article about Lindsay Lohan

a few days ago and she said her role model was Audrey Hepburn. In fact, that is what got this movie viewing started.

It was when I mentioned this interesting trivia to a friend they informed me about their lack of knowledge relating to Hepburn.

So thanks, Lindsay, for appreciating the classics. Because of you, now my friends are Audrey addicts. One even informed me she was going to purchase the boxed DVD set.

Ben Briscoe is a Pampa High School senior working as an intern for The News.



Ben Briscoe
News Intern

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2004. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe reportedly replied "Nuts!" when the Germans demanded that the Americans surrender.

On this date:

In 1775, a Continental naval fleet was organized in the rebellious American colonies.

In 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act, designed to force peace between Britain and France by cutting off all trade with Europe.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah."

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Roosevelt.

In 1963, an official 30-day mourning period following the assassination of President Kennedy came to an end.

Our readers write

U.S. now the outlaw nation

I watched the Chris Matthews show about Walter Reed Hospital for wounded soldiers. There have been thousands of soldiers who have already gone through this hospital trying to rebuild their minds and bodies that were broken up in a war started by Bush and the Neo-Conservatives. They used their VIP status to keep from serving in the Vietnam War when they were young. Bush was the only one that made an attempt to serve, and even he didn't complete his obligation.

Matthews only inter-

viewed soldiers who have a reasonable chance to live a somewhat "normal" life. He didn't show the one who had extensive head injury or were blind or had their manhood taken away from them because of unarmed vehicles, and we now find out there wasn't even a rush to arm them.

I know some of you people still think George takes his orders from God and was justified in our premeditated war against Iraq. He and his Neo-Cons built up reasons to do this and browbeat all these gutless wonders who were afraid to vote against him because he was so popular.

We had controlled Iraq for 12 years. We were flying

Continued on Page 5



Beware of changing filibuster rule

If Senate Republicans change the filibuster rule to permit closure on judicial nominations by a simple majority vote, they will be undermining their own president and their electoral fortunes for years to come.

The simple truth is that the president needs the threat of a Democratic filibuster to save himself from his party's right wing. It is only by pointing to the threat of Democratic intransigence that Bush can justify appointing a moderate conservative, instead of a doctrinaire one, to the Supreme Court.

If the filibuster is made impotent by the rule change Republicans are considering, the president will have no political choice but to charge straight ahead into the kind of confrontation that could ruin his administration and

give his party the kind of black eye from which it would not recover easily.

The last election was a mandate to be tough in the war on terror. It was not about moral issues. The president didn't mention the word "abortion" much during the campaign and focused largely on his plans to keep America safe. To the extent that the vote was a mandate for any social issue, it was a repudiation of gay marriage, not a vindication of restrictions on the right to choose.

Indeed, voters oppose courts' imposing gay marriage for the same reason that they oppose a reversal of Roe v. Wade — they do not

support it when judges try to impose their own views on the social consensus. Just as most voters want marriage to remain strictly heterosexual, so most want abortion to continue to be legal, albeit with restrictions. While parental notification and consent restrictions on late abortions and limitations on Medicaid funding all meet with popular approval, the voters will treat very unkindly any effort to reverse the essential findings of Roe.

If President Bush nominates a Supreme Court justice who is a conservative in the mode of Sandra Day O'Connor or Anthony Kennedy, he will meet with a

broad public level of support. But if he tries to add another knee-jerk reactionary to the court — and jams the nomination through by changing the rules to block a Democratic filibuster — he will shatter the national moderate consensus that impelled his reelection. The nation will not tolerate seeing an electoral victory hijacked to put another William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia or Clarence Thomas on the court. If Bush tries it, he will not be able to govern effectively for the balance of his term.

Just as FDR lost his political momentum when he tried to pack the court after his landslide victory in 1936, so Bush would never live down what voters would see

See RULE, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



Drug companies betray public trust

The large drug companies are having a bad month. Costly research is yielding few breakthrough drugs, and some existing drugs have been found to be ineffective, dangerous or both.

On Friday (Dec. 17), Pfizer announced that its big-selling Celebrex painkiller raised the risk of heart problems for those who took strong doses of the drug.

AstraZeneca reported that a trial of Iressa, its lung can-

cer drug, showed that it did not extend patients' lives.

Eli Lilly issued a warning to doctors that Strattera, its drug for treating attention-deficit disorder, had caused liver damage in two patients.

As if the industry's image were not tarnished enough, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of

America has hired Rep. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-La., to be its president and chief lobbyist.

Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

Tauzin, who exercised jurisdiction over the pharmaceutical industry as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, played a key role in writing the bill creating a prescription drug benefit for

Medicare patients.

The industry benefits more than the patients.

As Tauzin will be barred from lobbying Congress for a year, his immediate hiring as a lobbyist suggests that a million-dollar salary is a reward for previous service to the industry.

Or perhaps it is a down-payment on future favors that, at Tauzin's suggestion, a Congress indifferent to the public interest will grant to the drug companies.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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New books for FCC's children's library

Trudy Sprinkle, left, and Connie Holland, center, leaf through children's books recently for First Christian Church's new children's library at a display manned by Sharon Carter, right. Church members selected and donated books to the library, part of FCC's new interactive, multi-disciplinary Sunday School program for elementary-age children.

Austin Elementary earns Gold Performance Acknowledgment

AUSTIN — About 40 percent of Texas school districts and 31 percent of campuses — including Pampa's Austin Elementary School — earned more than one Gold Performance Acknowledgment from the Texas Education Agency.

Principal Beverly Owen announced Friday that the local elementary school received GPAs in reading/English language arts, math and writing.

Overall, approximately 69 percent of Texas school districts and 53 percent of campuses earned one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgments according to a release from the TEA.

Districts were eligible for a

maximum of 11 possible GPAs, which are measures of high performance created by the Texas Legislature or the commissioner of education. Performance measures for each campus and district are available at: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2004/index.html>.

"The Texas Legislature in 2001 created the Gold Performance Acknowledgment to publicly recognize districts and campuses for high performance in areas that are in addition to those used to determine state accountability ratings," Commissioner of Education Shirley J. Neeley said. "The Gold Performance

Acknowledgments give schools an extra pat on the back. We are proud of the schools and districts that are being recognized today because they represent schools with strong instructional programs that go beyond the basics," Neeley said.

Beginning this year, high school freshmen, under Texas law, must follow the rigorous Recommended High School Program, a college preparatory degree plan. Many students in recent years voluntarily followed this diploma plan and today 51.3 percent of Texas school districts received a GPA because more than half of their students graduated under the Recommended plan in 2003.

The GPA also includes new indicators that were not previously used for acknowledgments: TAKS Commended Performance in reading/English language arts, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Twenty-one percent of the districts received an acknowledgment because of the percentage of their students who earned "commended" status on the writing component of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Almost 12 percent of the districts earned this recognition because of the percentage of students who achieved commended status on the TAKS reading test.

Rule

Continued from Page 4

as an unfair revision of the rules to pack the court with conservatives.

The filibuster has become an accepted institution in our society. With our intense partisanship — with blue and red states glaring at one another — voters want the checks and balances a filibuster offers. No longer a device to block civil-rights legislation, it is now a needed tactic to moderate the agendas of both political parties.

If Republicans change the rule to eliminate the 60-vote cloture requirement and then use the resulting power to jam right-wingers down the nation's throat, defying popular views on choice, they will incur the

enmity of all Americans.

On the other hand, if the filibuster rule remains in force at 60 votes and Bush nominates conservatives to the court, Americans will not feel it is a sneaky maneuver. They understand that Bush is pro-life and expect him to name judges who are as conservative as the Democrats will permit.

But to change the rules, midstream, as FDR tried to do in 1936, having made no mention of his intentions during the entire fall campaign, would be seen as dirty pool by moderate voters.

Had the Republican Party openly articulated its decision to change the filibuster rule during the campaign

and kindled a national debate on the subject, voters would shrug their shoulders and figure that they have to respect the will of the electorate.

But the GOP hid its plans, never mentioning them until after the election.

Republicans in swing states, such as Sens.-elect Richard Burr (N.C.), John Thune (S.D.) and Mel Martinez (Fl.),

never alluded to any change in the cloture rules during their campaigns. Voters would feel aggrieved if they try to change the rules now that the votes are safely counted.

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

The filibuster has become an accepted institution in our society.

Letter

Continued from Page 4

over, taking satellite pictures all. We had not lost a man as we controlled this outlaw government. We could have even built up a military like his daddy did, one big enough to take on the mission. The generals

who had this in mind were given retirement. The ones who didn't want to lose their jobs just shut up and did as God Bush ordered.

This war started out as a big ego trip for George. Now this AWOL pilot of 35 years ago is in over his head, but his kids are not the ones being maimed or killed.

I'm ashamed to say this, but we have become an Outlaw Nation. We have

killed hundreds of thousands of civilians in Iraq. We are better at killing than Saddam Hussein. Our actions around the world have started another arms race.

God Bush's actions are bankrupting the nation and our reputation is in a shambles. We all can really be proud of our last two elections and the results.

**Calvin Lacy
Pampa**

Calendar items

GCAP for Moms and Babies. Gray County Partnership of Moms and Babies meets at 12 noon on the third Friday of each month at Medical Office Building, second floor conference room, in Pampa. For more information, call 664-2459 and leave a message.

Grief Support Group. BSA Hospice offers "Grief: What to Expect," a one hour information session for individuals grieving the death of a loved one, from 10-11 a.m., the second Wednesday of each month at the hospice facility at 800 N. Sumner in Pampa. The support group

is free and open to the public. For more information, call 665-6677.

High Plains Epilepsy Ass'n. High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

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Overseas court acquits man of bombing

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — A High Court judge on Wednesday found a Tanzanian businessman innocent of conspiracy to commit murder in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in the East African nation.

Judge Emilian Mushi ordered the immediate release of Rashid Saleh Hemed, 34, who was charged in connection with the terror attack that killed 12 people and was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. A nearly simultaneous blast at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, the capital of neighboring Kenya, killed 219 people, including 12 Americans.

"You cannot convict someone with doubtful evidence," Mushi told the court, after declaring that prosecutors failed to prove beyond doubt that Hemed was involved in the plot to bomb the embassy.

Prosecutors said that they would not appeal the ruling. "I am not surprised with the judgment because I knew I was not guilty right from the beginning," Hemed told The Associated Press while walking out of the court.

Hemed, a car parts dealer, was the first person charged in connection with the Aug. 7, 1998 attacks in Tanzania and

Kenya. His trial began in 2000.

He was initially charged with 11 counts of murder in September 1998, but the charges were later reduced to conspiracy to commit murder. One person died from injuries after the charges were brought. Hemed pleaded innocent to the charges.

In February, three court assessors declared Hemed innocent, but under Tanzanian law, the presiding judge makes the final ruling.

The prosecution called 18 witnesses during the trial, including three FBI agents who testified last month that on Hemed's clothes they found traces of bomb-making chemicals similar to those used in the embassy bombing.

But defense attorneys argued that Hemed's clothes were mixed with those belonging to other people, including those belonging to Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian captured in Pakistan on July 25 with 13 other foreigners after a shootout in the eastern city of Gujrat.

The FBI agents conceded that the traces of chemicals found in Hemed's clothing were not in sufficient quantities to prove that he was involved in bomb-making, Mushi said.

Yushchenko taking up problem of language divide in Ukraine race

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said Wednesday that attempts to make Russian a second official language in Ukraine had become a political football — a remark likely to anger voters in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine who are loyal to his opponent, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

The emotional issue is key to Ukraine's tense presidential campaign. Almost 70 percent of population uses Russian on a daily basis.

Ukrainian is spoken mainly in the West, from where Yushchenko draws most of his support, while Russian prevails in the east and south — regions with close historical and ethnic ties with Russia that have been backing Yanukovich.

In an interview with local media, Yushchenko said "the issue of introduction of Russian as the second official language has been too politicized," a report posted on Yushchenko's Web site said. Yanukovich has backed giving Russian official status alongside Ukrainian, which is constitutionally protected as the language of government, the police and military, universities and most schools.

popular support and the backing of at least 300 deputies in the 450-strong parliament.

With four days to go until the Dec. 26 vote, ordered after the Nov. 21 runoff vote was deemed fraudulent, tension is running high in this ex-Soviet republic of 48 million, located between the expanding European Union and an increasingly assertive Russia.

Yushchenko was scheduled to broadcast his latest campaign message on

'I have been here almost three weeks now and I will not leave until Yushchenko wins.'

— Yulia Fedorenko
Schoolteacher

Wednesday night, after he and his allies lead a rally expected to draw tens of thousands of supporters to Kiev's Independence Square.

The rally marks the one-month anniversary of the so-called "orange revolution," when Yushchenko supporters began street protests that lasted for more than two weeks after the fraudulent runoff.

The protesters' once rollicking tent camp erected on Kiev's tree-lined main street now resembles an out-of-season campground — many of the tents are still there, but only the grimy, shivering stalwarts remain.

"I have been here almost three weeks now and I will not leave until Yushchenko wins," said Yulia Fedorenko, 35, a schoolteacher from the city of Zhitomyr.

Meanwhile, opposition protesters refused Wednesday to lift their four-week long blockade of the presidential administration building in downtown Kiev, ignoring a court ruling that ordered them to disperse.

A Kiev district court on Monday ordered the members of the pro-Yushchenko organization Pora, or It's Time, to end their blockade, but when court officials arrived to execute the ruling, protesters who identified themselves only as "the people" refused to leave.

'(T)he issue of introduction of Russian as the second official language has been too politicized.'

— Written report
Yushchenko's Web site

Russian-language schools and kindergartens are widespread and most children are bilingual, but Yanukovich supporters fear a Yushchenko presidency would lead to increased efforts to promote Ukrainian at the expense of Russian — as has happened with the primary language in other former Soviet republics — leading to discrimination in employment and other areas.

Yushchenko also said the issue of adopting Russian as a second official language would have to receive broad

Russia test-fires intercontinental missile

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia successfully test-fired a heavy intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday in a launch intended to extend the lifetime of aging Soviet-built weapons.

It was the first time that an RS-20V Voevoda, which NATO identifies as the SS-18 Satan, had been fired from its combat positions in Russia since the 1991 Soviet collapse. Previously, such missiles had been launched from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

The missile, which was launched from a silo in the Orenburg region in the southern Ural Mountains, hit a designated target on a testing ground on the Far East Kamchatka Peninsula, more than 3,750 miles away.

"The main result of the launch was the confirmation of the technical characteristics of the missiles, which have no analogues in the world," Russia's Strategic

Missile Forces said in a statement. It added that the missile had been on combat duty for 16 years before the launch.

The Russian strategic forces have conducted regular test launches of Soviet-built ballistic missiles to check their readiness. The post-Soviet funding shortage has left the military struggling to extend the lifetime of Soviet-built missiles, since the government lacks the funds to quickly replace them with new weapons.

Military officials have said that Russia would keep its arsenal of about 150 SS-18s for another 10 to 15 years, even though the missiles were already past their designated lifetime and were to be scrapped this decade under earlier plans.

The heavy missile, capable of slamming 10 individually guided nuclear warheads at targets more than 6,800 miles away, is the heaviest weapon in Russia's inventory.

Pet of the Week

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We will reopen December 27th.

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Tues., Dec. 28th	Thurs., Dec. 23rd, 3:00pm
Wed., Dec. 29th	Fri., Dec. 24th, 10am

NO SUNDAY PAPER

THE PAMPA NEWS WILL CLOSE
AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24TH
& CLOSED DECEMBER 27TH IN
HONOR OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

HAVE A SAFE
& HAPPY
HOLIDAY



Halliburton

Employees die in blast

HOUSTON (AP) — Seven employees and subcontractors of Texas defense contractor Halliburton Co. died and more than a dozen workers were hurt in a rocket attack on a dining area at an American military base in Iraq.

The strike at Forward Operating Base Marez on Tuesday could be the bloodiest day for Houston-based Halliburton since its involvement in Iraq.

Four Halliburton employees and three subcontractors were among those killed when explosions rocked the tent during lunchtime in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, company officials said. They said 13 other workers at the site were injured, some seriously.

A total of 22 people died and 72 were injured in one of the deadliest attacks on American troops since the war's beginning.

It was unclear whether Halliburton's casualties were included in the military's total count. The Pentagon's policy has been to report military casualties, but not contractor deaths.

Halliburton's casualties in the attack have not yet been identified.

"Family notification has not been completed," said Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall. "To protect their privacy, we will not release any additional information at this time."

So far, 62 company employees and subcontractors have died in Iraq and Kuwait.

Halliburton's subsidiary KBR manages military mess halls as the contractor responsible for feeding U.S. troops, building bases and providing other logistical support. At such dining facilities, civilian workers join the troops to eat.

The contractor's largest number of casualties previously in Iraq was April 9. At least five Halliburton truck drivers died as their convoy was ambushed near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, on Good Friday.

Eight months later, two other drivers, Tim Bell and Bill Bradley, are listed as missing in the ambush. Army Reserve Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin was captured. Pentagon officials have not been able to confirm Maupin's fate.

"These brutal attacks are unsettling, appalling and very sad for everyone," said Hall. "We are doing everything we can to assist the people on the ground."

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Community bids farewell to slain woman

MARYVILLE, Mo. (AP) — Crying and exchanging hugs, mourners said goodbye to a young mother-to-be who was strangled and whose baby was cut from her womb.

Hundreds gathered in this small northwestern Missouri town for the service, the crowd filling the funeral home. One tearful mourner carried a dozen pink roses, but became so distraught she had to be taken outside.

"I don't know what to say," the Rev. Harold Hamon told mourners Tuesday. "This is one of those times where you can't figure it out at all and words fail."

Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, was eight months pregnant when her mother found her in a pool of blood in her Skidmore home Thursday, the baby

she was carrying missing.

Lisa M. Montgomery, 36, of Melvern, Kan. — a woman Stinnett knew from breeding and dog shows — has been charged with kidnapping resulting in death.

Family and friends said Montgomery, arrested Friday, tried to pass off Stinnett's baby as her own.

The child, named Victoria Jo Stinnett, spent the weekend in a hospital before going home Monday afternoon with her father and another relative.

The Kansas City Star and The Topeka Capital-Journal reported Wednesday that Montgomery's ex-husband, Carl Boman, filed a motion seeking custody of two of the couple's four children on Dec. 10, six days

before Stinnett's death.

Two days after Stinnett was found slain, a Kansas judge, citing Montgomery's arrest, granted Boman temporary custody of all four children, aged 14 to 17.

They are staying with their stepfather, Kevin Montgomery, who said the children will move to Oklahoma to live with Boman.

In Skidmore, more than 100 people huddled together in front of a large blue funeral tent where Stinnett's golden casket was to be buried. They shivered in the steady, biting wind as Hamon led the group in prayer.

After the service, Bill Drago recalled Stinnett and her husband, who lived about a half block from him.

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Business

Microsoft fails in bid to suspend EU ruling

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A European Union court ruled Wednesday that Microsoft Corp. will have to abide immediately by an EU ruling that forces the software giant to change its commercial practices before the appeals procedure runs its full course.

The ruling of the Luxembourg-based European Court of First Instance has huge implications for the company, since it forces Microsoft to

would reopen talks.

Commission antitrust spokesman Jonathan Todd declined to comment immediately.

The two sides were involved in settlement talks before EU antitrust regulators fined Microsoft a record 497 million euros (\$666 million) and told the company to reveal some of its trade secrets to competitors and produce a Windows platform without Media Player.

Judge Bo Vesterdorf at the European court has been assessing the case since the final hearings in early October.

Both sides can appeal his decision, but Microsoft had indicated it is unlikely to do so unless it includes startling arguments against the software company.

The EU claimed Microsoft abusively wielded its Windows software monopoly

and locked competitors out of the market.

Analysts predicted the financial impact on the company would not be huge. Microsoft has already counted the fine against its quarterly earnings, said Matt Rosoff, an analyst with Directions on Microsoft.

Rosoff also predicted the company wouldn't suffer much in the near term if it's forced to release a version of Windows without Media Player, because it's already prepared a version of the operating system without it.

Even if the court makes Microsoft put "Windows lite" on the market, Rosoff said he can't imagine many manufacturers would want it and consumers are not crying out for it either, he said. "I don't see a lot of consumer demand for a PC without Media Player," he said.

Rosoff said the biggest threat was that the ruling, compelling Microsoft to strip something out of its operating system, would set a legal precedent for similar lawsuits.

divulge some trade secrets and produce a version of Windows without its digital Media Player.

The court ruled that delaying the execution of the EU ruling would not cause Microsoft irreparable damage.

"Microsoft's application for interim measures is therefore dismissed in its entirety," a court statement said.

"After examining the circumstances of the case, the President finds that Microsoft has not shown that it might suffer serious and irreparable damage as a result of implementation of the contested decision," the court statement said.

Still, a source close to the company said Wednesday's ruling still held encouraging comments on the case and hoped it would help reopen settlement talks with the European Commission.

The full appeals process could take up to five years.

EU officials have said a court ruling in their favor would make it unlikely the bloc's antitrust regulators

'Microsoft's application for interim measures is therefore dismissed in its entirety.'

— Official statement
EU court

Tanker crashes near Pentagon

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — A fuel tanker truck crashed near the Pentagon early Wednesday, sparking multiple explosions that sent flames nearly 50 feet in the air and shut down a major highway for several hours overnight. The driver died in the accident, authorities said.

The truck apparently struck a guardrail as it drove onto an exit ramp of Interstate 395 about 3:40 a.m. Wednesday, according to the Virginia State Police. The intense heat charred the roadway and damaged an overpass.

"We had flames probably about 50 feet in the air," said Capt. Tom Polera, Arlington

County assistant fire marshal.

Residents who live nearby said they heard a series of explosions that reminded them of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It sounded to me like artillery," said John F. Moroz. "I heard sirens less than two minutes later and I thought, 'Oh, my God, 9/11 again.'"

Interstate 395 was shut down in both directions while the fire burned itself out, which took about three hours.

Washington Boulevard, the site of the accident, remained closed through the morning rush hour.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Although I know you're busy beyond belief preparing for the holidays, please take a minute to go to your computers and send greetings to our troops. This is the loneliest time of the year for these brave young men and women, many of whom are away from their families for the first time. Type in www.OperationDearAbby.net and let them know we care.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 10 years. I have always had fantasies about exposing my wife naked to other men. "Hazel" is a deep sleeper, and in college, I exposed her countless times for my roommates to see. (I pretended to be asleep.) From the time we were married, I took pictures of her while she slept, including many extremely graphic close-ups. I posted a good number of them (including the close-ups) on Internet porn sites, making no attempt to blur her face, which would have ruined it for me. The thought of countless men seeing her excited me. I looked forward to reading the comments about her pictures. I saved each porn site photo spread of her into a file on my computer and viewed them often.

Well, my wife found the file. We are now in marriage counseling, but I still have the fantasies. I know what I did was wrong, but I did it anyway. I don't want to lose my wife. Please help. -- **ASHAMED IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR ASHAMED: You need more help than I can give you in a letter. You violated your wife's trust, treated her like an object, and while I applaud the fact that you are getting marriage counseling, counseling of a different sort is also in order. Please ask your doctor for a referral to a psychiatrist ASAP, and pray your wife can forgive you.

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker has planned his own retirement dinner party at \$45 a head, including tax and gratuity. That might not be

much to managers and supervisors who receive large salaries, but for those of us who don't, that's a lot of money. What's ironic is he has let us know he expects an additional \$10 from each of us for a gift.

A luncheon date with 90 percent of the staff had already been confirmed. However, yesterday a flier was distributed announcing a dinner on the same date the luncheon was scheduled. Our lunch date was canceled without consulting us. I suspect it was a maneuver to force us to attend the dinner party.

We asked him to reschedule the lunch, told him the dinner party was too expensive, and asked if he would make the \$10 gift optional. Are we unreasonable, or is he? -- **WONDERING IN SAN FRANCISCO**

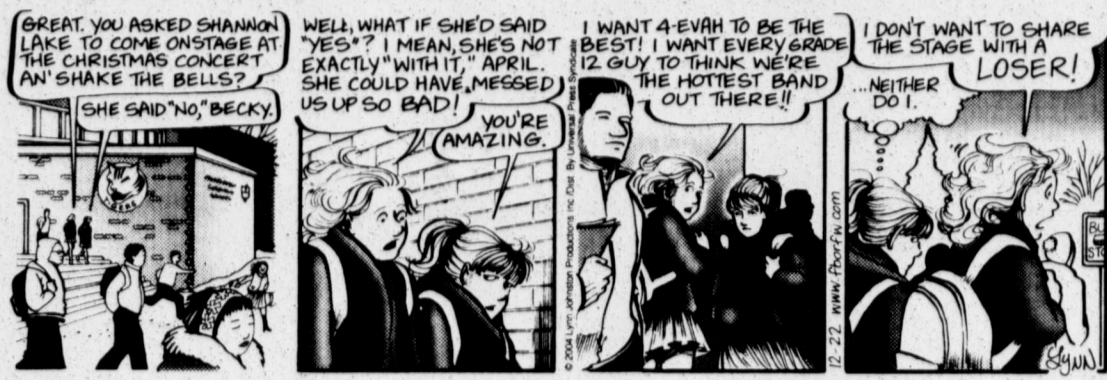
DEAR WONDERING: Wonder no more. He is. Please don't allow yourselves to be manipulated into spending more than you can afford on anything BUT shy and retiring co-worker.

DEAR ABBY: How do I tell my boss that her incessant talking keeps me from getting my job done? I am currently a week behind because I was out sick for several days last week, and my boss won't stop talking and let me catch up.

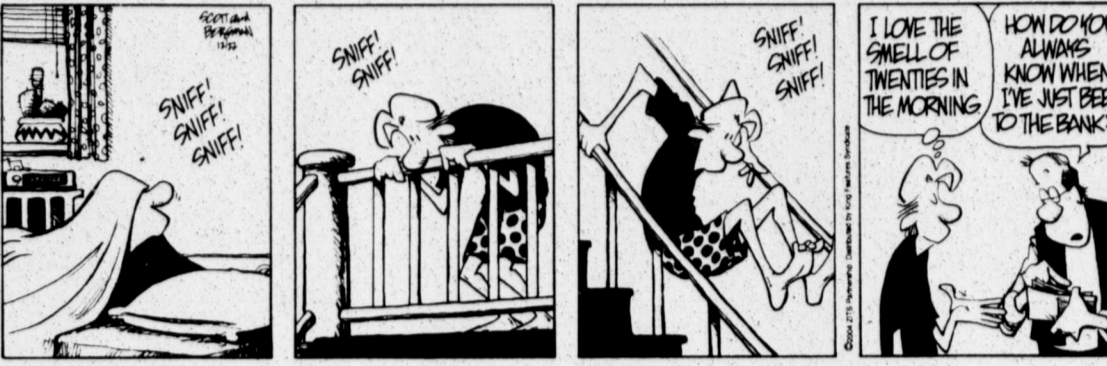
She isn't married and doesn't have many friends, so I know her need for friendship carries over to work -- but it's starting to make me very stressed. Then again, she's my boss. How do I deal with this? -- **FALLING BEHIND IN ALABAMA**

DEAR FALLING BEHIND: Your boss may not be aware the extent to which you have fallen behind in your work, so tell her -- especially if you are doing something that might be time-sensitive. Explain that you are conscientious and don't want to let her down -- and if she wants to talk, suggest you do it over lunch. Then cross your fingers and hope she takes you up on it.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Amber

1 Wanted source

6 Night light

10 In a merry DOWN

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11 Impel dropper?

12 Stan's buddy

13 City on the Missouri

14 Woes 4 New

15 Pinup item

16 Tim to Bob

17 Skill Cratchit

18 Hosp areas

19 Busy business in December

22 Orderly

23 Sunrise site

26 Hit movie of 1995

29 Two-piece piece

32 Sewer resident

33 Tall tale

34 Debt medium

36 Emulates Eminem

37 Without others

38 Bounce off

39 Barker e.g.

40 Spry

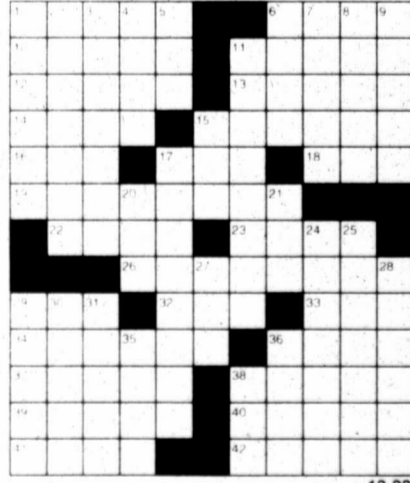
41 Alimony payers



Yesterday's answer

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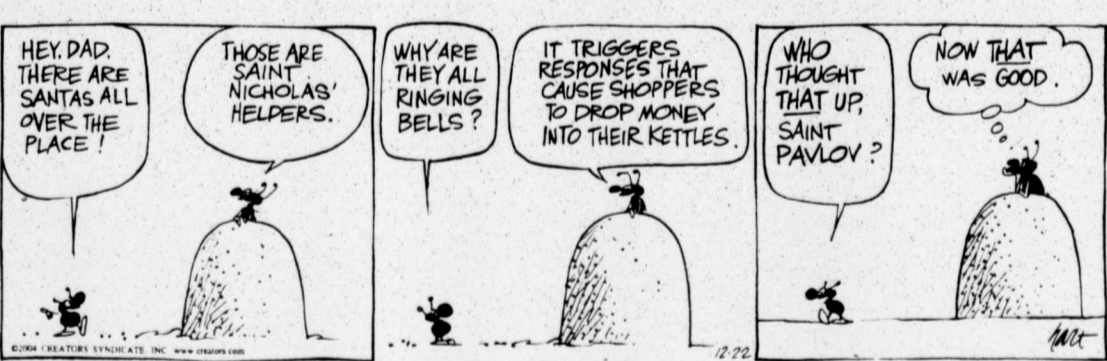
"Ever thought about taking up cross-country skiing?"

The Family Circus



"Sorry, we don't have a pear tree."

B.C.



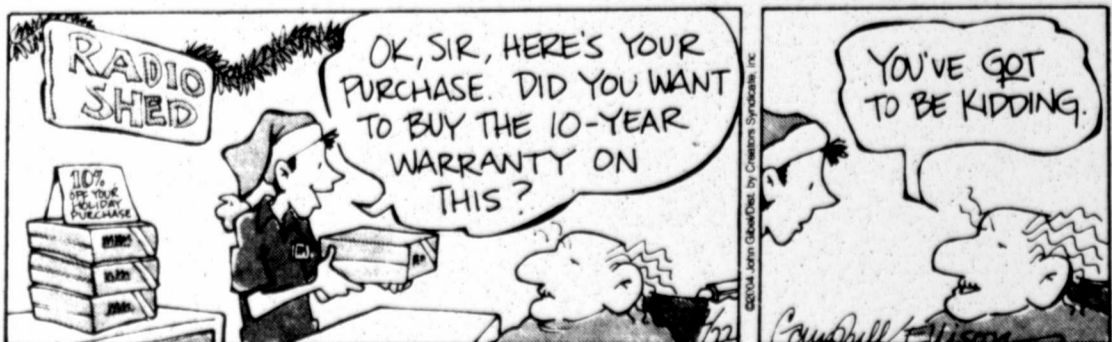
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

AP to BCS: Stop using poll

NEW YORK (AP) — It looks as if the Bowl Championship Series is headed for another major overhaul.

The Associated Press has told the BCS to stop using its college football poll to determine which teams play for the national title and in the most prestigious bowl games.

Since the BCS was implemented in 1998 by officials from the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference, Pac-10, Southeastern Conference and Notre Dame, the formula it uses to rank teams has been tweaked almost every year. But the AP poll and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll have always been an integral part.

The AP said such use was never sanctioned and had reached the point where it threatened to undermine the independence and integrity of the poll.

The AP sent BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg a cease-and-desist letter, dated Dec. 21, stating that use of the poll is unlawful and harms the AP's reputation.

"We respect the decision of the Associated Press to no longer have its poll included in the BCS standings," Weiberg said in a statement Tuesday. "Since the inception of the BCS, the AP poll has been part of our standings. We appreciate the cooperation we have received from the organization in providing rankings on a

weekly basis. We will discuss alternatives to the Associated Press poll at the upcoming BCS meetings and plan to conclude our evaluation of the BCS standings formula, including any other possible changes, by our April meeting."

Where the BCS goes from here won't be determined for a while, but even before the AP made its poll off limits Weiberg had said that the BCS planned to look into the possibility of using a selection committee to create the bowl matchups, much like the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.

This season, the AP and coaches poll were given more weight than ever in the BCS standings. Each poll accounted for one-third of a team's BCS grade and total points were factored in, not just ranking, which was the case before.

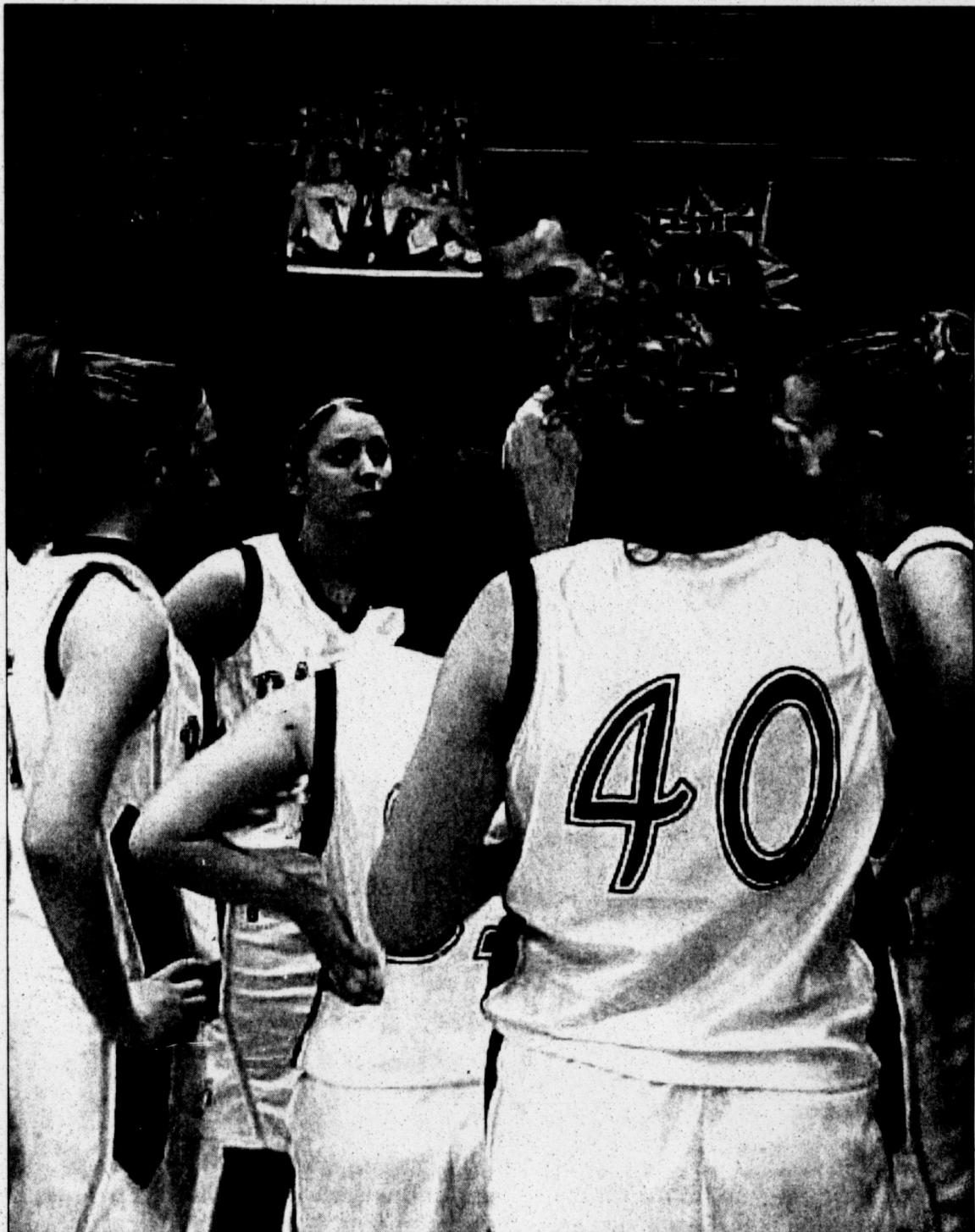
A compilation of six computer rankings made up the final third of teams' BCS grade.

The new system put heighten scrutiny on the two polls.

In its letter, the AP said some of its poll voters had indicated they might no longer participate because of concerns over having their reporters be so closely involved in the process of determining which teams play where.

See POLL, Page 10

Time out



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester Head Coach Troy Fry, goes over instructions with his team during Monday night's meeting with the Plainview Lady Bulldogs. Pampa lost that game, 47-30. The Lady Harvesters play next at the Caprock Tournament, Dec. 29-31, in Lubbock.

Texas Tech falls hard to No. 17 Iowa, 83-53

CHICAGO (AP) — The victory was a big one for No. 17 Iowa because it gave the Hawkeyes 10 wins before Christmas despite a brutal nonconference schedule.

For coach Steve Alford, though, it wasn't so simple. It never is when Bob Knight is involved.

"It's a big win, a huge win, for our program and what it means for our team, getting 10 wins with the schedule we played," Alford said after Iowa routed Texas Tech 83-53 at the United Center on Tuesday night.

"Personally, it's probably more uncomfortable than it is comfortable right now."

It was Alford's first victory in four tries over his former coach, and it doesn't get any easier no matter how many times they play. Sure, they laughed and shook hands before and after the game, and Knight draped his arm around Alford's shoulder like a proud father.

But Alford can never quite get away from the fact that the guy on the opposite bench is his mentor, the man he dreamed of playing for as long as he could remember, the man he still consults on everything from X's and O's to dealing with players.

"Coaches have many, many players, but players only have one college coach," Alford said. "So I'm happy for the team,

I'm happy for the players. But it's a little bittersweet for me. I still much more enjoy being on Coach Knight's side than going against him."

"The General" has obviously taught his prized pupil well. Iowa (10-1) handed the Red Raiders (5-3) their worst loss since March 9, 2002, when they lost 90-50 to then-No. 1 Kansas in the Big 12 tournament. The 53 points were their fewest since Jan. 11, 2003, when they lost 68-44 to Kansas State.

Texas Tech shot less than 36 percent and had 21 turnovers, 16 in the first half alone.

"We're just a team that isn't very good right now," Knight said. "As I said, I think I really underestimated something because I felt we would be a better team this year than we were last year. ... At this point, we are not capable of playing with the kind of teams like Iowa."

Adam Haluska matched his career-high with 21 points, Pierre Pierce added 15 and Erik Hansen had six of Iowa's 10 blocks, one shy of the school record.

It was the seventh straight victory for the Hawkeyes, who won despite an off night from leading scorer Jeff Horner. He finished with a season-low seven points, nine below his average, on 3-of-14 shooting.

See TECH, Page 10

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

City Park and Recreation volleyball leagues forming

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring men's, women's and mixed adult volleyball leagues which will begin play later next month.

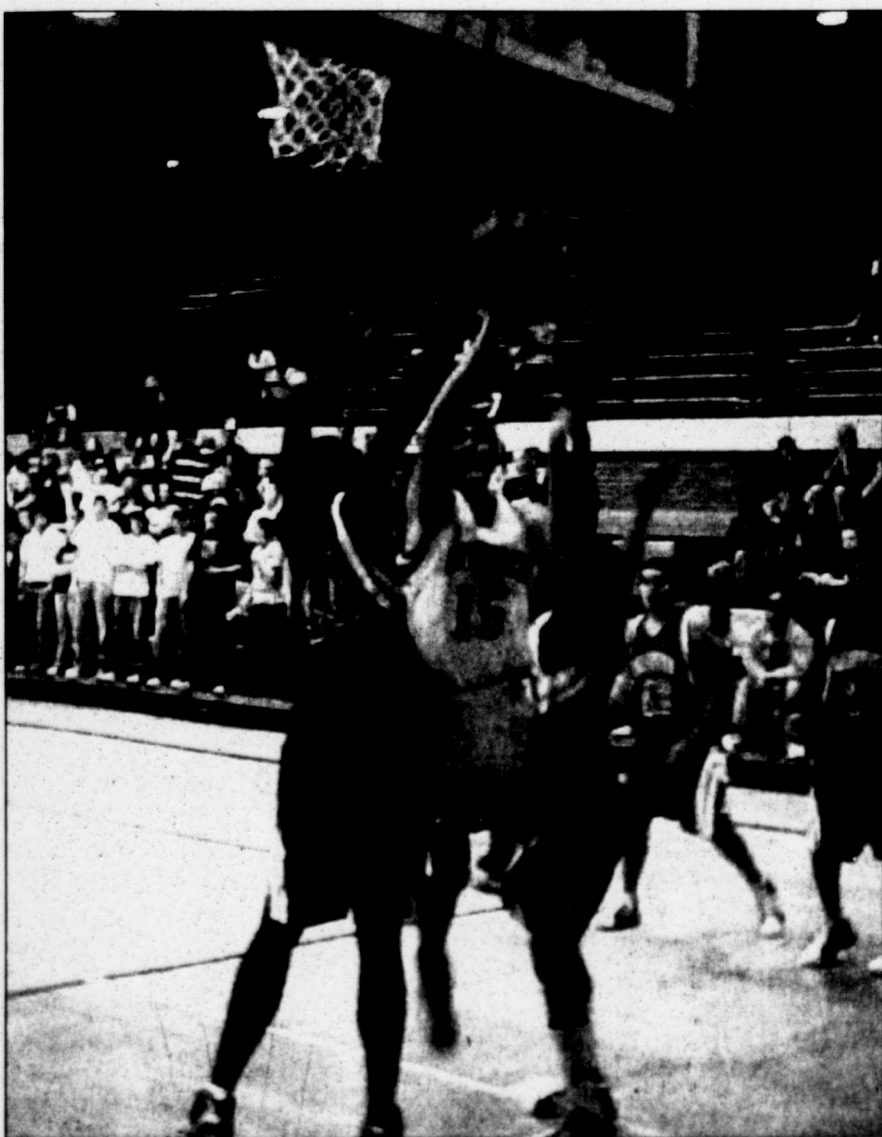
Men's, women's and mixed 4-on-4 divisions will be offered. Each team will require four players. Players must be 14 years old to participate.

Entry deadline will be Jan. 14, at 5 p.m. The league will begin play the week of Jan. 24, 2005.

Entry/Sponsor fee is \$100. The player's fee is \$15 per player with a minimum of five players per team.

Roster forms, fact sheets, and league bylaws are available at the Recreation Office at City Hall, room 204. For more information, please call 669-5740 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Being dogged



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa Harvester Clayton Hall, #15, splits a couple of defenders on his way to the basket during Monday's 65-62 win over Plainview. The win moves Pampa's record to 11-4 for the season.

Latest game of the century will be one-sided

By JIM LITKE
Associated Press

The Shaq-Kobe split is a good example of why no-fault divorces caught on so quickly.

They were never going to stay together, no matter how good the winning was. At some point, that mattered less than who got the credit. Now they're free to bicker for the rest of their competitive lifetimes about who gets the blame.

On Saturday, the rest of us start keeping score.

From a promotional angle, at least, this is already a mismatch. And as the latest game of the century approaches, it's worth remembering that maybe only Don King and Terrell Owens are better self-promoters than Shaquille O'Neal. As a carnival barker, the big man is a genius. Selling wolf tickets is practically his stock-in-trade.

Asked whether he expected Bryant to challenge him by driving the lane, Shaq's first response was, "No. Not at all. It's not something that I have time to think about, because I'm not that type of player."

But given a moment to think about it, he couldn't resist adding, "But of course, when you've got a Corvette (Kobe) that runs into a brick wall (him), you know what's going to happen."

O'Neal was smiling slyly when he said it, but that little cautionary tale works at several levels. First, it

puts Bryant on notice that business is just that — business — and that anyone else who tried to drive the lane would get the same.

Not surprising, it also fixes the differences between the two in terms most favorable to Shaq. It says one of them is fast and flashy — that would be the same guy O'Neal nicknamed "Showboat" not long after they started playing together — and the other is solid; that one is high-maintenance and the other decidedly low-tech.

'It's my job to make him lethal-er; it's my job to make him the lethal-est — if that's a word.'

— Shaquille O'Neal
Miami Heat

For those fans who still haven't chosen sides since the breakup, it's an invitation to do just that. And why not? As he reminded the nation during the interview that ran at halftime of "Monday Night Football," O'Neal has the upper hand on the court at the moment, too.

"I got somebody, that other guy, who's just as lethal," Shaq said, talking about Miami teammate and

budding superstar Dwyane Wade.

"He's a little bit younger, he's got a lot of tools and a lot to do, but he's just as lethal. It's my job to make him lethal-er; it's my job to make him the lethal-est — if that's a word."

It's not, but O'Neal had no problem getting his point across.

Winning is still about making everyone play better. While his own numbers are down slightly this season, Wade's are up across the board — points, minutes, assists, even rebounds. And with Shaq taking Tuesday night off to rest up for the weekend, Wade produced a 33-point, 11-assist performance to lead the Heat past the Celtics, extend their season-best winning streak to nine games and improve their Eastern Conference-leading record to 20-9.

The Lakers, meanwhile, are at 13-11 and still smarting over consecutive defeats by Washington, for the first time in a dozen years, and Memphis, which hadn't won in 18 tries in Los Angeles, dating to when the franchise began play in Vancouver in 1995.

Their shortcomings are evident, but none are more glaring than the weakness in the middle. Bryant still thinks he can play — or, worse yet, talk — his way out of any jam, and so he tries to paper over the holes by playing at a triple-double pace every night.

See LITKE, Page 10

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Two top Fannie Mae executives forced out in 'massive' shake-up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fannie Mae, the nation's second largest financial institution, forced out two top executives as it struggles to deal with an accounting scandal which will likely

force it to wipe out \$9 billion in profits over the past four years.

'By my early retirement, I have held myself accountable.'

— Franklin Raines
Fannie Mae chief executive

Fannie Mae chief executive Franklin Raines and J. Timothy Howard, the company's chief financial officer, stepped down Tuesday after lengthy negotiations between the Fannie Mae board and the company's chief government regulator, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

In a statement issued late Tuesday night, Raines said he had decided to leave to fulfill a pledge he made during congressional testimony in October that he would take the blame if serious accounting problems were found at the company.

"By my early retirement, I have held myself accountable," Raines said. A Fannie Mae statement announced that Howard had also resigned. The company said it had hired an executive search firm to find replacements for the two men.

Industry and congressional sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Fannie Mae's board had been pressured by OFHEO during tense negotiations over the past several days to demand the resignations of both Raines and Howard.

OFHEO Director Armando Falcon Jr. said in a statement that his agency had determined that Fannie Mae, the biggest player in

the nation's \$8 trillion mortgage market, had been left "significantly undercapitalized" because of its accounting problems.

He said the Fannie Mae board was to be commended for the steps it was now taking to address those problems. "We are encouraged that the board's announcement signals a new culture and a new direction for Fannie Mae," Falcon said.

A review by the Securities and Exchange Commission determined last week that Fannie Mae must restate earnings back to 2001 because it violated accounting rules for derivatives — financial instruments used to hedge against interest-rate swings — and for some prepaid loans.

That restatement of earnings is likely to wipe out \$9 billion — or about one-third — of Fannie Mae's profits — since 2001.

To make up the anticipated \$9 billion shortfall, Fannie Mae probably would have to sell part of its portfolio of mortgages, raise fresh capital by issuing stock or cut dividends — and its

'We are encouraged that the board's announcement signals a new culture and a new direction for Fannie Mae.'

— Armando Falcon Jr.
OFHEO director

spectacular growth of recent years could be curtailed. The company was ordered by the regulators in September to boost its capital cushion against risk by some \$5 billion by mid-2005.

In addition to OFHEO's investigation, the SEC is continuing its own probe and the Justice Department is pursuing a criminal investigation.

Government releases report on drug imports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers would see little savings from a government-sanctioned system of prescription drug imports from Canada, the Bush administration says.

But a growing number of consumers already get their drugs north of the border, where prices on brand-name medicines are at least one-third less, and aren't likely to change their ways, despite a report Tuesday from the administration depicting safety concerns with imported medicines.

Advocates for opening the borders to prescription drugs said the report ignores reality. "Call 1,000 seniors in Minnesota who currently get their drugs from Canada, I bet you won't find a single one who'd say tomorrow morning, 'You know, Hazel, I think we'd better quit buying it from Canada,'" Rep. Gil Gutknecht, R-Minn., said.

Ten million illegal shipments of prescription drugs worth \$1.4 billion entered the United States in 2003, about half of them from Canada, the report said. Authorities have not prosecuted individuals who buy

drugs abroad and inspectors are overwhelmed by the sheer number of packages.

Drug imports represent less than 1 percent of U.S. drug spending, but the number is five times greater than it was in 2001, the report said. A growing number of cities and states are helping employees and retirees buy drugs from Canada, over the objections of the Food and Drug Administration.

The administration recently negotiated the purchase of up to 4 million doses of flu vaccine from Germany to make up some of this year's shortage, but will require every patient to sign a consent form acknowledging the possibility of risks.

Lawmakers in both parties said they are convinced majorities in both houses of Congress support drug imports because of constituent complaints about fast-rising drug prices. Gutknecht and others said they would renew their push for importation legislation next year, despite opposition from Republican congressional leaders and the administration.

TEXAS FURNITURE

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