

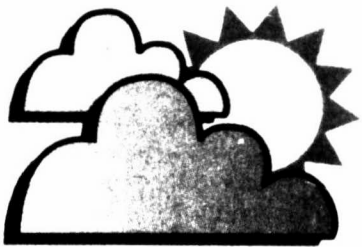
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THE PAMPA NEWS

Volume 100 • No. 1142

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Today's weather



H 61 L 36

Deaths

Mark Rodgers, 35, welder.
Irene Lois Switzer Rogers, 87, homemaker.

Odds & Ends

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Pray for snow.

It may sound lighthearted, but Jackson Hole congregations have been doing just that — and the Rev. David Bott of Redeemer Lutheran Church points to some very white results a couple weeks ago.

"But now they're wondering if it's beginner's luck," he said.

Little snow has fallen on the valley over the past two weeks, prompting resorts like Snow King to crank up their snowmaking machinery to keep the slopes well-dressed.

Bott's prayer goes like this: "that God will have mercy on us and send us snow that the area industry may flourish and that the creation in this area can be replenished with ample snowfall for the springtime melt."

Paul Hayden, minister at Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, said he has been praying fervently for precipitation.

He points out that melting mountain snow is needed to feed the Snake River, which in turn provides irrigation water for Idaho potato farmers. "It creates McDonald's French-fried potatoes. I'm concerned," he said.

COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP) — It wasn't tough for police to thwart two would-be Grinches — they just followed the telltale trail of wrapping paper.

Two unidentified boys, ages 14 and 12, were charged with burglary after they were accused of stealing Christmas presents from a family home, police said.

Authorities say Stanley Adams discovered someone had broken into his Columbus home late Friday. Two juveniles who lived nearby were suspected.

Police followed a trail of paper, ribbons and gift tags that led them to one of the boys' houses. One boy told authorities that he stole the presents. The gifts — which included an E-Z Bake oven, a set of Legos and a Pac-Man video game — were returned.

Vigil signals vigilance for justice

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Light blue balloons lifted from the hands of those gathered to remember a missing Pampa woman on a clear, cold Christmas night, rising toward the full moon in the eastern sky.

Almost two dozen people, family and friends, gathered about 8 p.m. on Christmas at Purviance and Francis, to remember Monica Appleton who disappeared Oct. 13, 1999. Her mother, Alice Appleton, last saw her daughter that night at the intersection of 17th and Hughes in Amarillo.

Monica Appleton's brother, Donny Brown, said his sister seemed to be deeply troubled by something.

Brown, a Pampa police officer, said the Christmas candlelight gathering wasn't the first to be held in memory of his sister and it won't be the last.

He expects to organize another one at 17th and Hughes in Amarillo in the new year, perhaps in May, on his sister's birthday.

Speaking to the gathering Christmas night here in Pampa, Brown said this was the sixth Christmas without his sister. In the past, he said he has stood back while others took the lead in the search for her, but that will change.

"I can't do that anymore," Brown said.

He said that he's talked to Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner, and

See VIGIL, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Alice Appleton, surrounded by her grandchildren, Lexton and Lesleigh LaRue and her daughter-in-law Connie Brown, sits huddled against the cold during a candlelight gathering regarding her missing daughter, and Lexton and Lesleigh's mother.

Toll from Asia quake, tidal wave at 22,000

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Rescuers piled up bodies along southern Asian coastlines devastated by tidal waves that obliterated seaside towns and killed more than 22,000 people in nine countries, and officials indicated Monday the death toll could climb far higher.

Hundreds of children were buried in mass graves in India, and morgues and hospitals struggled to cope with the catastrophe. Somalia, some 3,000 miles away, reported hundreds of deaths.

The death toll rose sharply a day after the magnitude 9 quake struck deep beneath

the Indian Ocean off the coast of Indonesia. It was the most powerful earthquake in the world in four decades.

Government and aid officials suggested the death toll could increase significantly, citing a report from Indonesia of thousands of more deaths on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and on India's Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Walls of water sped away from the quake's epicenter at more than 500 mph before

crashing into the region's shorelines, sweeping people and fishing villages out to sea. Millions were displaced

came too late or not at all. But officials insisted they could not know the seriousness of the threat because no tsunami warning system exists for the Indian Ocean.

The international Red Cross said it was concerned about waterborne diseases like malaria and cholera.

Rescuers converged on beaches and islands throughout the region to search for survivors, and offers of aid poured in from around the globe, as troops in the region

struggled to deliver urgently needed aid to afflicted areas. Pakistan, India's nuclear-armed rival, offered relief and rescue assistance.

Sri Lanka said more than 10,000 people were killed along its coastlines, and Tamil rebels said 2,000 people died in its territory, raising that country's toll to more than 12,000.

Indonesia reported about 5,000 deaths and India 4,000. Thailand, a Western tourist hotspot, said hundreds of people were dead and thousands more were

See QUAKE, Page 3

Wanted: Analysts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Counterterrorism agencies are shopping for talent at job fairs, dangling generous scholarships and luring staff from each other in a race to overcome a shortage of analysts that may only get worse in the new intelligence overhaul.

The problem existed even before Congress and the White House approved an intelligence restructuring this month that creates positions for people whose skills already are in high demand.

There is no consensus across the nation's 15 intelligence agencies on where staffing needs are the most acute. But few dispute that many more analysts are needed, particularly in the departments and agencies created since Sept. 11, 2001. The nearly two-year-old Homeland Security Department is a prime example.

"If you had a hundred,

See ANALYSTS, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Christmas by candlelight

Chris and Nathan Stillwagon light candles in the sanctuary of Pampa's First Presbyterian Church in preparation for a Christmas Eve service Friday. Churches throughout the city held services, many featuring candlelight, on Christmas Eve in observance of Christ's birth.

Reserves prepare to deploy

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas (AP) — While many Texas families spent Sunday snapping up post-Christmas bargains, nearly 500 soldiers on this post enjoyed a last meal with their loved ones before shipping out for a year in Iraq.

Most of the soldiers are Army reservists assigned to the 228th Combat Support Hospital. Their ranks include doctors, nurses, X-ray technicians and other medical support specialists.

Families packed a gymnasium for a brief sendoff ceremony and then they had lunch together in a Fort Sam Houston dining hall before the gear-laden soldiers boarded planes to fly to Kuwait.

They are ultimately heading to two of Iraq's most dangerous areas: the northern city of Mosul and Ikrnt.

See TROOPS, Page 3

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Obituaries

Mark William Rodgers, 35

Mark William Rodgers, 35, died Friday, Dec. 24, 2004, in Pampa. Services are to be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004, at the Cornerstone Baptist Church with the Rev. J.C. Burt, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Rodgers

Mr. Rodgers was born on Nov. 26, 1969, in Pampa where he had been a lifelong resident. He married Denise Gamon on Aug. 3, 1990, in Pampa. He was a welder for National Oilwell for six years. He was a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. Survivors include his wife Denise

Rodgers of the home; two sons, Norman Rodgers and Austin Rodgers, both of the home; one daughter, Payton Rodgers of the home; his mother and stepfather, Mary and Robert Hartley of Pampa; two sisters, Marilyn Ball and husband Geary and Cheryl Weeden and husband Jay, all of Pampa; grandmother, Maryola Trisler of Pampa; brother-in-law, Jeremy Gamon and wife Nicole of Odessa; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jack and Raedonna Gamon of Denton; three nieces; four nephews and a host of friends and loved ones. He was preceded in death by his father, Norman Rodgers; his grandfather, Frank Trisler; and two brothers, Jeffery Shapley and Leonard Rodgers.

Memorials may be made to Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

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

Irene Lois Switzer Rogers, 87

WHEELER — Irene Lois Switzer Rogers, 87, died Friday, Dec. 24, 2004, in Amarillo. Services were to be at 2 p.m., today, Dec. 27, 2004, in the Church of Christ in Wheeler with Dr. Shawn Johnson, minister, officiating. Burial was to follow in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mrs. Rogers was born Jan. 14, 1917, in Koskonong, Mo., to Alva Benton and Mary Viola Johnston Switzer. She moved to San Diego, Calif., during World War II and worked in an aircraft plant, then she moved to San Francisco, Calif., and worked in the shipyard until she moved to Pampa in 1945. She met and married Lewis Rogers on Dec. 12, 1945, in Pampa. He died in 2000. They

moved to Wheeler in 1949 and she was employed by Shamrock Nursing Home and Parkview Hospital in Wheeler. She was a member of the Church of Christ, American Legion Auxiliary and the 54 Study Club. Mrs. Rogers' hobbies were crafts and baking for people who needed her help. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, three brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include a daughter, Linda Hink of Wheeler; a son, Frank Rogers of Round Rock; a brother, C.H. Switzer of Hobbs, N.M.; two sisters, Mable Adams and Artie Harrington, both of Pampa; six grandchildren and four great-grandsons.

Memorials may be made to Wheeler Cemetery Association.

Services tomorrow

RODGERS, Mark William — 2 p.m., Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Sunday, Dec. 19

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of Fir. Estimated damage was \$55.

Monday, Dec. 20

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart. Cigarettes and food valued at \$7.25 were taken.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Burglary was reported in the 100 block of South

Faulkner. A guitar valued at \$200 was taken.

Theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported at Taylor Food Mart, 600 E. Frederic. Beer valued at \$91.96 was taken.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Possession of marijuana was reported. Attempted sexual assault was reported.

Thursday, Dec. 23

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1200 block of South Hobart.

Simple assault with minor injuries was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

Simple assault with no injuries was reported in the 1100 block of Huff.

Theft under \$50 was reported in the 1900 block of North Zimmers. A yard ornament was taken.

Found property was reported in the 2500 block of Evergreen. Christmas ornaments with lights were found.

A burglary was reported in

the 1300 block of North Starkweather. Air tools valued at \$280 were taken.

Delivery of a controlled substance to a child was reported in the 1100 block of South Christy.

Friday, Dec. 24

Seven traffic stops were made, and three residential and business alarms were reported.

A suspicious person was reported in the intersection of Crawford and Huff streets.

An unattended death was reported in the 1000 block of Murphy.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of East Brown.

Found property was reported in the 2500 block of Evergreen and in the 1900 block of Grape, where a bicycle was found.

Burglary was reported in the police department lobby and in the 900 block of East Kentucky.

An animal complaint was received from the 1100 block of East Francis.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the intersection of Harvester and Duncan streets, at One Medical Plaza, and at the intersection of Brown and Hobart streets.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of South Starkweather.

Violation of Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission laws was reported in the 1100 block of South Christy. A suspect reportedly gave a juvenile, age 14, drugs and alcohol for two days in a row.

A traffic complaint was received concerning the

intersection of Francis and Lefors streets.

An offense against family was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive.

A domestic disturbance and assault was reported in the 2700 block of Seminole.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of North Purviance.

Anthony Williams, 28, 800 N. Nelson # 812, was arrested at Gray and Texas Streets for no valid driver's license, no proof of insurance and expired motor vehicle inspection.

Timothy Remington, 28, 2713 Seminole, was arrested in the 2700 block of Seminole on a capias pro fine for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Monday, Dec. 13

12 a.m. — A 1999 Ford F-250, driven by Nicolas Martinez Salazar, 36, 845 E. Denver, collided with a legally parked 1985 Mazda, owned by Edward Vincent Ramirez, 504 S. Henry, in the 500 block of Henry. No injuries were reported. Salazar was cited for an accident involving \$200 damage.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

12:10 a.m. — A 1988 Chevrolet C1500, driven by Terry Eugene Gillis, 39, 1024 S. Prairie, collided with a 2004 Mercury Marquis, owned by Janie Morris, 1516 N. Dwight, in the 100 block of West Francis. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

12:15 a.m. — A 1990 GMC Suburban, driven by Robert Roy Robicheaux, 38, 313 Jean, and a 1998 Pontiac Transport, driven by Brian Kevin Bivolcic, 45, 1706 Evergreen, collided in the 100 block of East Tyng. No injuries were reported.

Robicheaux was cited for failure to control speed.

11:02 a.m. — A 1998 Chevrolet Malibu, driven by Daniel Rutledge Kizziah, 21, Stillwater, Okla., and a 1997 GMC Sonoma, driven by Melvin Clark, 83, 920 S. Osborne, collided in the 700 block of West Brown. No injuries were reported. Kizziah was cited for failure to control speed.

Thursday, Dec. 23

12:56 a.m. — A 2002 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Mathew Nelson Bussard, 24, Baton Rouge, La., collided with a concrete curb and fire hydrant in the 200 block of Cuyler. No injuries were reported. Bussard was cited for failure to control speed and no valid driver's license.

4:25 p.m. — A 1991 Buick Century, driven by Heather Alexis Elsass, 20, 715 N. West, a 1995 Mazda 626, driven by Laci Nichole Tupin, 18, 1601 N. Christine, and an unknown red sport utility vehicle with unknown driver, collided in the 1300 block of North Hobart. The unknown vehicle and driver then left the scene. No injuries were reported. Elsass was cited for failure to control speed and no proof of liability insurance.

7:33 p.m. — A 1995 Ford Aspire, driven by Brigett Schwin Pomerhn, 46, 1058 N. Dwight, and a 1996 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Taylor Dane Harris, 21, 2555 Aspen, collided in the intersection of Duncan and Kentucky streets. No injuries were reported. Pomerhn was cited for failure to control speed and no insurance.

Friday, Dec. 24

1:01 a.m. — A 1989 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Jason Shorter, 24, 837 E. Campbell, collided with a stop sign in the 300 block of North Sumner and then left the scene. He was later found in the 1100 block of West Alcock. No injuries were reported. Shorter was cited for failure to stop and leave information, no motor vehicle inspection, and no proof of insurance.

11:23 a.m. — A 2001 Ford Expedition, driven by Rickey Elmer Garrison, 46, 711 N. Hazel, and a 1986 Ford F-250, driven by Fidel Ramirez, 38, 1019 E. Fisher, collided in the intersection of Cuyler and Brown streets. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Sunday, Dec. 26

2:10 a.m. — A 1997 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Brandon Sessions, 21, Borger, struck the curb and a tree in the 1200 block of East Frederic, causing the tree to strike a speed limit sign. Sessions was transported to Pampa Medical Center by Guardian EMS ambulance with non-incapacitating injuries. A passenger in Sessions' vehicle, Welsley Theodore Aikens, 34, Borger, was transported to PRMC by Guardian EMS with incapacitating injuries. Sessions was cited for striking a traffic control device.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's

Office reported the following arrest today.

Sunday, Dec. 26

Victoria K. Parks, 33, Cement, Okla., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for a bond surrender on a Potter County charge of theft by check.

Fire

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

Friday, Dec. 24

11:06 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 2400 block of Fir.

11:44 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to an investigation in the 900 block of East Francis. A plug in a bathroom had shorted out.

12:08 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1800 block of Fir. No CO was found.

Saturday, Dec. 25

11:51 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1000 block of South Hobart.

2:21 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a report of smoke in the 700 block of Powell. A hamper was closed on the fireplace. Firefighters opened the hamper and vented smoke from the residence.

3:32 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

Sunday, Dec. 26

2:12 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in a half-mile east of Pampa on U.S. Highway 60. A pickup hit a tree. Firefighters helped prepare the two occupants for transport to the hospital and cleaned up the scene.

9:44 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters providing lifting assistance in the 1200 block of Christine.

4:32 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at 22nd and Hobart. The call was canceled en route.

5:32 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a report of smoke in the 800 block of Wilks. The owner of the building was working on a used oil burner.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS reported the following calls today.

Friday, Dec. 24

7:59 a.m. — A mobile intensive care unit responded to the 2000 block of Mary Ellen and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Saturday, Dec. 25

8:11 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 900 block of Mary Ellen and transported one to PRMC.

11:26 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 2400 block of Mary Ellen and transported one to PRMC.

11:49 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1000 block of South Hobart and transported one to PRMC.

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NEW YEAR'S Eve Bash at The Lonestar Bar with Copperhead. \$20 person, \$30 couple. Drink Specials!

Vigi

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Brown will find his sis "We will year than w Brown said, her."

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Missing w

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"It's one things in the these two kid mother,"

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"It is up the 228th a l sense of the Gen. C. Wil mander of Medical C during the s to you to w save lives."

Deploying returned t Houston by after a week with their fa

On Saturd day together

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Continued

we'd tak Hughes, t Security D intelligence an interview "We have t test, assess. get analysts



Vigil

Continued from Page 1

Brown will renew efforts to find his sister. "We will try harder this year than we ever have," Brown said, "to try to find her."

'She's out there somewhere. We've got to bring her home.'

— Donny Brown
Missing woman's brother

He said he misses her smile, laugh and joke.

Brown said it has been rough on his mother and his sister's two children, Lexton and Lesleigh LaRue.

"It's one of the toughest things in the world to watch these two kids without their mother," Brown said. "Nobody knows how it feels unless they've lived it.

We've lived it. It's been pure hell."

The group released 29 light blue, helium-filled balloons into the night sky. Each balloon had a photo of Monica Appleton along with her description and telephone number to call if anyone finding the balloon had any information concerning her whereabouts.

"There's 29 balloons there," Brown said. "That's how old she was when she disappeared."

A new website dedicated to finding his sister, www.FindMonicaAppleton.com, was established Dec. 23.

"My vigilance for justice will not end here tonight," Brown said. "I have stayed in the shadows in the past. I won't be doing that any longer. I will be out in the forefront to make sure all is done to find Monica."

The \$1,000 reward for information leading to his sister, Brown said, has been increased to \$6,000.

"She's out there somewhere," Brown said. "We've got to bring her home."

Quake

Continued from Page 1

missing. Deaths also were reported in Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Somalia.

Additionally, Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said the death toll on the island of Sumatra — closest to the epicenter — could climb to 10,000 people.

On the remote Car Nicobar island 150 miles northwest of Sumatra, Police Chief S.B. Deol told New Delhi Television he had reports that another 3,000

people may have died. If confirmed, that would raise India's death toll to 6,000 and the overall number to 23,900.

"The Andaman and Nicobar islands have been really badly hit," said Hakan Sandbladh, senior health officer at the Geneva headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, noting that unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 13,000 on the islands.

A Somali presidential spokesman said hundreds of people died and entire villages disappeared on the African country's coastline.

Troops

Continued from Page 1

Saddam Hussein's hometown in the so-called Sunni Triangle.

"It is up to you to make the 228th a hospital in every sense of the word," Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center, told troops during the sendoff. "It is up to you to work together to save lives."

Deploying soldiers returned to Fort Sam Houston by late Saturday after a week of leave to be with their families, he said.

On Saturday, their last full day together before deploy-

ment, McGilvray and his wife Carol had a full house: their children Kristin and Danny, relatives from around Texas and three soldiers who couldn't get home for the holidays.

Theirs was a typical Christmas Day, with a big meal, TV sports and laughter. But knowing what Sunday would bring made the occasion more emotional than usual.

"It's especially hard this time of year because it's a time when you want to be with family and not telling them goodbye," said Carol McGilvray, who as the 228th's family readiness group leader also had to help prepare other wives and children for the deployment.

Analysts

Continued from Page 1

"We'd take them," Pat Hughes, the Homeland Security Department's top intelligence official, said in an interview earlier this year. "We have to look, search, test, assess. You don't just get analysts off a tree. ... We

need people, but we need good people."

To find them, Homeland Security and other agencies are heading to job fairs, often looking near military bases where civil service is part of the culture and people may have security clearances. They're also trying to snag people from the private sector.

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Viewpoints

This must be the ultimate family feud

One of my favorite bumper stickers was on the back of a car in Santa Fe, N.M., a few years ago.

It read, "The last time we mixed politics and religion, we burned people at the stake."

This is being written Christmas morning as I wait for my son and new daughter-in-law. I had the kids last Christmas. This Christmas Day they will spend with her parents in Oklahoma. Our Christmas will be Monday morning here, although a few friends are coming by this afternoon (mostly husbands wanting to watch football and escape the in-laws).

But this morning is quiet and peaceful. It provides a

time for reflection. There needs to be more times like this.

The Christmas tree stands lighted in its corner while flames crackle in the fireplace. It is a warm contrast to the snow outside.

Yet amid this peaceful scene on the second most holy day of the year, the muted television set in the opposite corner of my living room shows images of a suicide bombing in Iraq.

Although CNN is saying in their obligatory report from Bethlehem that the city of Jesus' birth is more open than in years gone by, there are still tensions in the Middle East.

I have never understood

the religious violence between Christians, Moslems and Jews. They all worship the same God, albeit their views of that God are different.

It is said that there is no feud as bitter as a family feud. Perhaps this is the ultimate family feud.

Politics and religion mix like oil and water. They have been an explosive mixture, I suppose, since time began.

It wasn't until I walked the streets of Belfast that I truly began to appreciate the

separation of church and state and the wisdom of our forefathers.

In Northern Ireland, it's not a matter of Christian versus Moslem versus Jew. It's a matter of Christian versus Christian.

A friend sent me an email this past week that I found interesting. I have not been able to confirm it, but it is plausible given man's greed for power. It has to do with a Christmas Carol that has baffled my friend all her life.

What do leaping lords, French hens, swimming

swans and a partridge in a pear tree have to do with Christmas?

She said that she had just learned that from 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly.

During that era, a carol was written as a catechism song for young Catholics. While on the surface, it was pleasant enough, the song also had a hidden meaning for those in the Catholic Church.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds

were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings referred to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament that form the Jewish Torah.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy

See FEUD, Page 5

David Bowser
Staff writer



Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 27, the 362nd day of 2004. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

On this date:

In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France.
In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific aboard the HMS "Beagle." (Darwin's discoveries during the trip helped to form the basis of his theories on evolution.)

In 1900, militant prohibitionist Carry A. Nation carried out her first public smashing of a bar, at the Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kan.

In 1904, 100 years ago, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1947, the children's television program "Howdy Doody" made its debut on NBC.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; a total of 20 people were killed, including five of the attackers, who were slain by police and security personnel.

Ten years ago: Four Roman Catholic priests — three French and a Belgian — were shot to death in their rectory in Algiers, a day after French commandos killed four radicals who'd hijacked an Air France jet from Algiers to Marseille.

Five years ago: Space shuttle Discovery and its seven-member crew returned to Earth after fixing the Hubble Space Telescope. Former television executive Leonard H. Goldenson, who'd built ABC into a network powerhouse, died in Longboat Key, Fla., at age 94.

One year ago: Coordinated rebel assaults in Karbala, Iraq, killed 13 people, including six coalition soldiers. Actor Alan Bates died in London at age 69.

'I'm not young enough to know everything.'

— Sir James Matthew Barrie
Scottish dramatist-author



To win wars takes endurance

Once upon a time, Americans recognized the unpleasant fact that, as Sherman said, "war is hell," and they acted accordingly, accepting the pain and the losses as the price that had to be paid for victory.

Americans understood it during the Revolutionary War, when it took six long years of losing battle after battle to achieve victory. Facing the mightiest army on the face of the earth, lacking the most rudimentary tools of war, even going shoeless in the winter snow, often hungry, they endured — and by enduring they triumphed.

We don't have to go that far back to find instances where the nation took it on the chin again and again, watching in horror the growing casualty lists, going without the staples of everyday living, often waking to read about another blood-

soaked battlefield far away from the homeland, yet remaining firm in the resolve to stick it out.

We saw that in World War II when the cost of a single day's combat was the lives of 5,000 or 6,000 husbands, fathers, and sons who would

never come home to their loved ones. We understood that these things were the very nature of warfare, and we gritted our teeth and stayed the course. We went to war to win, and we endured until we did.

Something has happened since then. It may have been around before Vietnam, but it arrived in full force during that tragic war. Hammered time and time again by growing casualty lists, misled by the media's constant

anti-war drumbeat that played up every failure and played down every victory — such as depicting the Tet Offensive, which utterly destroyed the Viet Cong, as a military disaster for the U.S. — we began to doubt ourselves. We lost the will to endure, and lost our first war as a result.

It's happening again. We are fighting a war in Iraq, and the doubters and the opportunists who seek political gain are doing their utmost to create uncertainty about America's involvement there.

That's the case with those Republicans who are using Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld as the current convenient target in their efforts to separate themselves from

the Bush administration — a patently obvious maneuver to align themselves to run for president in 2008.

In the run-up to the November elections, the Democrats made it obvious they hoped that the economy would collapse before Election Day. They are now gleefully anticipating a collapse of the U.S. effort to win the war in Iraq, and they appear willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen, regardless of the damage it will do to the nation.

What we are seeing now is a steady wearing-down of our will to endure. Every death is reported as if death in combat was anything but the toll war normally exacts. We endured the deaths of 5,000 young Americans on the beaches of Normandy and forged ahead to free Europe of Nazi domination.

See WARS, Page 5

Michael Reagan
Columnist



Teens less sexually active than in past

As any parent can testify, the modern cultural landscape is a frightening place to let children roam, but many American youths deserve credit for staying on the right path.

As reported by the Associated Press, the National Center for Health Sciences this month unveiled some encouraging news about American teens:

The number of youths engaging in sexual activity is declining and more of those who do have sex are using contraceptives. The agency reported that the number of girls 15 to 17 years old who have had sexual intercourse

dropped from 38 percent in 1995 to 30 percent in 2002.

Likewise, the numbers among boys for the same time period dropped from 43 percent to 31 percent.

The number of sexually active teens using contraceptives has jumped from 61 percent in the 1980s

to 79 percent, the Associated Press reported.

A realistic approach to sex education and parental guidance can continue to move these numbers in the right direction and help reduce the number of teen pregnancies.

Americans have reason to be encouraged about the number of young people who are making responsible decisions.

Texas Thoughts

San Antonio Express-News

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Isra as g

BEITUN (AP) — Israeli owners Monday announced that they will not participate in the interim elections, the Abbas, the elections, Israel must win their terms. Som Israel on Abbas is u win their fr In the W killed a P tive. Dozens arrived Mo dropoff po Bank and C waving Pa and flashing The pris part of a sv On Dec. 5, Azzam Az who served an Egyptian he was a sp Israel relea students ac ning attack agreed Palestinian Israel ha oner relea the new Pa to free Pal Israelis. In a we demanded prisoners, promising "In princ to be relea is the relea long years shortly afte Seventee Beitunia c prisoner w group rush shake hand

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KIEV, U Opposition Yushchenko that Ukrain free after d the winner fraud-filled elections, v of his pro-R vowed to results in co The Yushchenko figured by o thanked ora ers who spe out in the streets for h electoral v Orange is color. "Now, Ukrainian p I congratula jubilant cr Independen center of n following th dential ru annulled af tions. "We have ent for 14 y not free. N this is a th Now we are

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Israel releases 159 prisoners as gesture to new leadership

BEITUNIA CHECKPOINT, West Bank (AP) — Israel released 159 Palestinian prisoners Monday as a gesture to the new Palestinian leadership.

Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, the frontrunner in Jan. 9 presidential elections, welcomed the release, but said Israel must free those sentenced to lengthy terms. Some 7,000 Palestinians are held by Israel on security-related charges, and Abbas is under intense pressure at home to win their freedom.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian fugitive.

Dozens of prisoners arrived Monday morning at dropoff points in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, some waving Palestinian flags and flashing victory signs.

The prisoner release was part of a swap with Egypt. On Dec. 5, Egypt released Azzam Azzam, an Israeli who served eight years in an Egyptian jail on charges he was a spy. In exchange, Israel released six Egyptian students accused of planning attacks on Israel, and agreed to release Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has said the prisoner release was also meant as a gesture to the new Palestinian leadership, but refuses to free Palestinians involved in attacks on Israelis.

In a weekend campaign speech, Abbas demanded that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners, including Marwan Barghouti, a promising uprising leader.

"In principle we work for every prisoner to be released, but what we are looking for is the release of those who have spent many long years in jail," Abbas told reporters shortly after the prisoners were freed.

Seventeen prisoners got off a bus at the Beitunia checkpoint near Ramallah. One prisoner waved a Palestinian flag as the group rushed off the bus to hug, kiss and shake hands with their waiting relatives.

Abdullah Hussein, 43, spent 11 months in the Ketzio military prison in southern Israel. He had five months left on his sentence for providing help to the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militant group linked to Fatah.

"We are not satisfied with this deal. My brothers gave me a message for Abu Mazen that he should make the prisoners a top priority," Hussein said. Abbas is widely known as Abu Mazen.

In Gaza, Ahmad Shaqoura, 24, said he had only 23 days left on a two-year term. "It means nothing," said Shaqoura, a Fatah member.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the prisoner release was a sign of Israel's warming relations with Egypt, and the countries' desire to coordinate a planned Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

The pullout from Gaza and four West Bank settlements, set for next year, received a boost Sunday when residents of one small Gaza community reached an agreement with the government to leave their homes voluntarily in March. Troops will begin evacuating settlements in July.

Settler leaders reacted in anger to Sunday's announcement that the Peat Sadeh settlement — home to 20 families — and another five families had agreed to move to a nearby Israeli community.

Peat Sadeh was the first settlement to reach such an agreement with the government, but Yonatan Bassi, who handles the compensation arrangements for the government, said he was negotiating with other settler families and communities.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli troops shot and killed Wael Riyahi, an Al Aqsa fugitive, the army said. Riyahi tried to drive off in his car with the approach of troops who fired at the tires, the army said. Riyahi, armed with a handgun, then tried to run over the soldiers, who shot and killed him, according to the military.

'In principle we work for every prisoner to be released, but what we are looking for is the release of those who have spent many long years in jail.'

— Mahmoud Abbas
Interim Palestinian leader

Yushchenko claims Ukraine election victory; Yanukovich vows to appeal

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko said Monday that Ukraine will finally be free after declaring himself the winner of the rerun of fraud-filled presidential elections, while supporters of his pro-Russian opponent vowed to challenge the results in court.

The Western-leaning Yushchenko, who was disfigured by dioxin poisoning, thanked orange-clad protesters who spent weeks camped out in the capital's frigid streets for helping secure his electoral victory Sunday. Orange is his campaign color.

"Now, today, the Ukrainian people have won. I congratulate you," he told a jubilant crowd in Kiev's Independence Square, the center of massive protests following the Nov. 21 presidential runoff that was annulled after fraud allegations.

"We have been independent for 14 years but we were not free. Now we can say this is a thing of the past. Now we are facing an inde-

pendent and free Ukraine." No election-related violence was reported.

Three exit polls gave the Western-leaning Yushchenko a 15-20 percent-point lead over Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the Kremlin-backed candidate.

'Now, today, the Ukrainian people have won. I congratulate you.'

— Viktor Yushchenko
Opposition leader

The official vote count gave Yushchenko a narrower but unassailable lead — 52.3 percent to 43.9 percent with ballots from 98.5 percent of precincts counted.

The Central Election Commission has 15 days after the election to announce the final results. Nestor Shufrych, a law-

maker and Yanukovich ally, told reporters the Yanukovich campaign would appeal, but he was not more specific. The campaign can appeal to either the commission or Ukraine's Supreme Court — which Yushchenko did after the Nov. 21 runoff.

Despite the huge presence of foreign observers, both campaigns still complained of some violations. Yanukovich's campaign reported problems in pro-Yushchenko western Ukraine, such as Yushchenko campaign material being found near the voting booths.

Yushchenko's headquarters, meanwhile, complained that the names of Ukrainians who died 15 years ago were included on a voter list in Donetsk.

Results were trickling in slowly from two regions in pro-Yanukovich territory in eastern Ukraine. Commission chairman Yaroslav Davydovych urged election workers to "put political issues aside" and do their jobs.

and self-control.

Ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the 12 points of belief in The

insurgent bombing we act as if it were proof that we cannot prevail. Enough of that reasoning will sap our will to endure, and we will end up turning tail and running away, leaving turmoil in the area far worse and more dangerous to our interests than what existed before we went to war there.

Many Americans either opposed going to war in Iraq or expressed serious doubts about the wisdom of going to war there, but that debate

Apostles' Creed.

I hope we as a nation never get to the point where the government tells us how we must worship and how we cannot, but I suppose they'll always be some two-bit politician trying to impose his will on us.

is over. We are there, and we have to accept what General MacArthur once said: "There is no substitute for victory."

And there is no substitute for endurance if victory is to be won.

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Calendar of Events

MS SOCIETY. The Multiple Sclerosis Society offers a monthly program for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS," "When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: / Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS web site at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation®. MDFF seeks donations of old or slightly used vehicles for sale by the organization to raise funds to help individuals and families living with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases covered under the program. MDFF's purpose is to provide wheelchairs, hospital beds, van lifts, breathing machines, clinic services and other items of aid to clients in need. For more information, call 1-800-544-1213.

Music Therapy. Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center's Quality of Life Project/Palliative Care Services offers free Music Therapy Sessions at 10:30 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays at the Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room. Patient and adult family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 291.

Narconon. Narconon, active in the field of drug rehabilitation and education since 1966, provides free professional counseling, evaluation and referral serv-

ices to internationally recognized alternative and traditional facilities via its hotline and website, 1-800-468-6933 or www.stopaddiction.com. Narconon means "No Drugs."

NIA Guides. National Institute on Aging is offering "Talking with Your Doctor: A Guide for Older People." The 30-page booklet is available in single or bulk copies. Also available through NIA is the 36-page booklet, "Who? What? When? Resources for Women's Health and Aging" to help women as they age. For more information, call the NIA Information Center weekdays between 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., toll-free at 1-800-222-2225 or TTY at 1-800-222-4225.

Open Door AA. Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

Open Door Al-Anon. Open Door Al-Anon meets at 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday each week at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-9702. Birthday night begins at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Open Door Al-Anon Alateen Winners Group. Alateen Winners Group meets at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 910 W. Kentucky.

Outreach Health Services/WIC. Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

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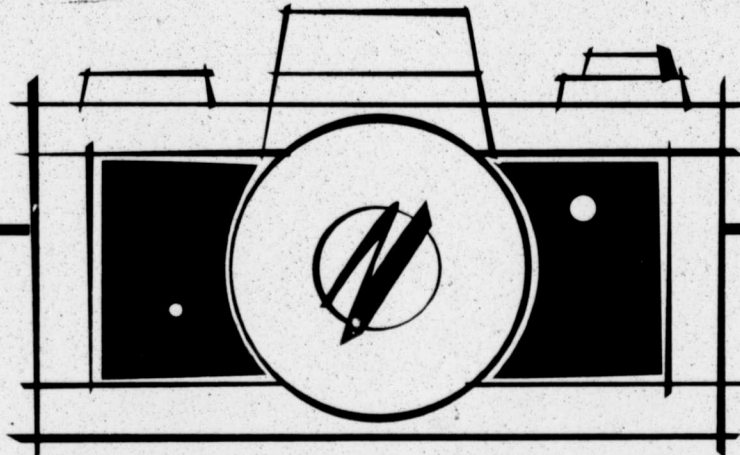
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Feud

Continued from Page 4

Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness

Wars

Continued from Page 4

We saw it as the price we had to pay to win. Some 6,000 U.S. Marines died in the sands of Iwo Jima in less than a month, but we endured that horror, and not long after we conquered Japan and won the war.

Yet when we lose 14 brave young men in a single

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have a different sort of pet peeve, but I hope you will let me air it. If you do, I'm sure it will generate a collective sigh of relief from a few million TV watchers -- and hopefully, a station manager or two might take notice.

The weather reports all start with the terrific computer-generated maps and diagrams presented by both local and national TV meteorologists. However, they insist on standing in front of their display and waving their arms madly around, which is distracting, infuriating, and adds zilch to the report.

A typical example: The weather reporter announces the temperature in Boston is 74 degrees, then he walks across the screen to point at the number on the map. Then the reporter shows how a front is moving from the Southwest, following the station manager's instructions:

"Crouch low, sweep arms around crazily and move to the center of the screen. Stand in front of the home city data. Smile proudly. Point out the local forecast because the map is now completely obscured."

Why can't the old rubber-tipped pointers used by our grade school geography teachers (who stood thoughtfully off to the side while lecturing) be retired from the chalk trays of America and put back into service? Unlike little children, TV weathercasters should be heard and not seen. -- **RETIRED TEACHER IN MORRISVILLE, N.Y.**

DEAR R.T.: I agree that at times some weather reporters get in the way of the viewing -- and your recycling idea has merit. Thanks for pointing it out. I'm printing your suggestion in the hope that those who need to see it will take it to heart. But I'm not holding my breath, and you shouldn't either.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Graham," and I were married

for 11 years. From the beginning, the relationship with his parents was rocky. During the last five years of our marriage, we hardly spoke to Graham's family at all -- his preference.

Graham died last year, and ever since the funeral his parents have wanted to have a close relationship with me. I am having a hard time with it, since we had no relationship before my husband died. I have children, and I think his parents believe that they need to be part of their grandchildren's lives, but what are my obligations toward them? -- **FRUSTRATED AND ALONE IN CLOVIS, N.M.**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your children are the only link to their son that Graham's parents have. I'm sure they regret their estrangement from your family more than words can say. Please respect that you are united in grief over the untimely death of your husband. Treat his parents kindly, encourage their participation in their grandchildren's lives, and try to find it in your heart to forgive them. If that's possible, you will all be the richer for it.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please settle a disagreement I'm having with my mother-in-law? We can't agree on the definition of New Year's Eve. If the date is Dec. 31, 2004, is it New Year's Eve 2004 or 2005? -- **IN A QUANDARY IN WEST PALM BEACH**

DEAR IN A QUANDARY: The Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Wordfinder defines "eve" as: "1. the evening or day before a church festival or any date or event (Christmas Eve; the eve of the funeral); 2. the time before anything (the eve of the election)."

Therefore, Dec. 31, 2004, is New Year's Eve 2004. New Year's Eve 2005 will be Dec. 31 of next year.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



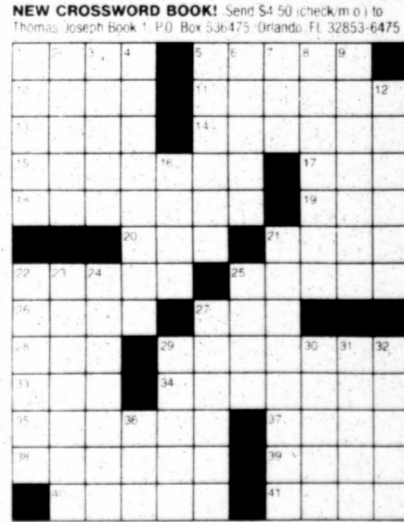
Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Driving memo letters
 - 5 Flexible bidding conjunction
 - 10 Body of law
 - 11 Made up as a phrase
 - 13 Region
 - 14 The movies
 - 15 Book buyers
 - 17 Those with power
 - 18 Patsy
 - 19 Cheering sound
 - 20 Period of history
 - 21 Musical sound
 - 22 Army bigwigs
 - 25 Jeans e.g.
 - 26 Littlest in the litter
 - 27 Stan Getz's instrument
 - 28 Tiny worker
 - 29 Shooters e.g.
 - 33 Compete
 - 34 Highest peak
 - 35 Marked down
 - 37 Simplicity
 - 38 Daze
- DOWN**
- 1 Neck wrap
 - 2 Asian peninsula
 - 3 Perfect
 - 4 At the bottom of the list
 - 5 Accumulate
 - 6 Loud
 - 7 Loud commotion
 - 8 Goller's cleek
 - 9 Left-over piece
 - 12 Short races
 - 16 Omelet base
 - 21 Developer's incentive
 - 22 Opera cheers
 - 23 Meet by chance
 - 24 Pays for a hand
 - 25 Peel
 - 27 Thrifty ones
 - 29 Breakfast fruit
 - 30 Tenant's paper
 - 31 Try
 - 32 Dance moves
 - 36 Gorilla, for one



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Marmaduke



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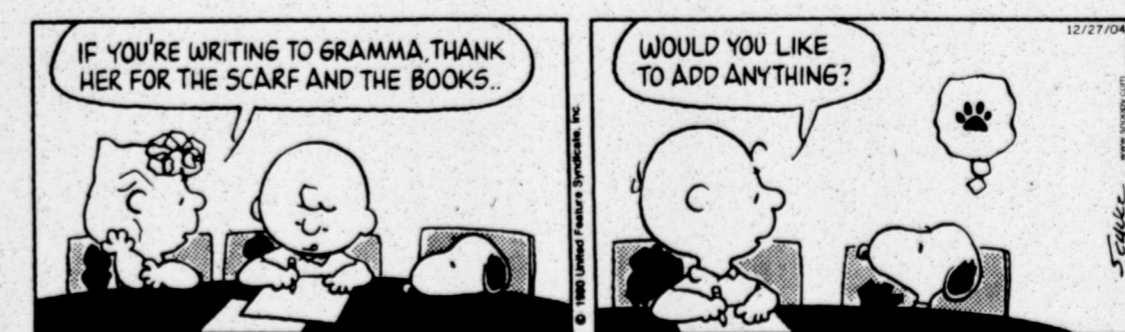
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



RATIO

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Sports Day

RATIO OR RACIAL

Skin color should not supercede skill when it comes to hiring a head coach

As the football season winds down, the coaching carousel will begin to take on riders. And there will be those who want their man to be among them. Candidates vying for the chance to be the next person to roam the sideline. To lead his team victory. To take credit for the wins as well as the losses. Not because of his skill and ability to teach and lead a program to success. But because of his skin color. They have an agenda and the soap box is rarely more occupied than it is at this time of the year.

It is about now when the argument that there are just not enough African-American head coaches strolling the side lines in either professional or college football is made. Yet, each time this argument is raised, I hardly ever hear those raising it do so while offering their man's long-term talent. They simply want their man offered a head coaching position because he is black. This is wrong. Worse yet, it is unfair to the African-American coach, community and players.

We are not living in the depressed, racially biased times many would have you think we are. For some inexplicable reason there are those special interest groups and individuals that are still trying to paint a picture of black versus white in all aspects of life. And if you believe for a moment, especially in the world of sport, that this is so, you my

friend could not be any more wrong.

You cannot govern, manage or coach based upon some preconceived notion of ratio. This alone is absolutely unfair. In fact, the only people this would satisfy are those crying out for it.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



And should that coach be unsuccessful and fan interest wane, what then? What does an owner do when ticket sales fall? When the number of recruits drops? If you fire the coach in the hopes of salvaging dollars, and possibly your existence. Will you face further attack? Yes you will.

If I were an African-American coach, I would prefer to be made an offer because you honestly believe I have the capacity to lead your team. To either continue or, to build on your current tradition. To mold young men or to humble those who think they know it all. In other words, I would prefer to earn the job. Not have it given to me because I happen to be the right color.

Why is there no loud cry for more

Hispanic coaches? The Hispanic population is the fastest growing segment in our country. Why is there no one demanding more Asian coaches? Why hasn't NOW stepped in and whined about how there are no women marching the sidelines? If we are going to make this a minority themed argument, let's do it right.

I will be the first to step up to the soap box and suggest I want to see more fat, bald men serving as head coaches. As a girth-challenged man myself, it pains me to see so many healthy looking, fit guys leading teams.

The desired goal here is winning, is it not? Can you point out a program to me that would be willing to say, "Sure, we stink. Can't seem to win a darn game. But our coach is a minority. So we got that going for us."

We are no longer living in the deep south. Despite what those with axes to grind want you to think, we have long since matured and moved on. Does that mean America has no racially motivated issues left to contend with. Not at all. There are still some who can only see color and not heart.

But when it comes to coaching, positions should be offered not out of fear or based on ratio or race. But because that man — red, yellow, green, blue, black or white — was the best man for the job.

NFL defensive great Reggie White dead

CORNELIUS, N.C. (AP) — Reggie White earned Brett Favre's respect on and off the field.

"He may have been best player I've ever seen and certainly was the best I've ever played with or against," the Green Bay quarterback said after White's death Sunday. "Off the field, he did so much for so many people. He really reached a lot of people. ... He was a great friend on and off the field. We'll all miss him."

The fearsome Philadelphia and Green Bay defensive end was 43.

"It just seems so odd, so surreal," said former Packers

Eugene Robinson, now a commentator for Carolina, where White spent his final season. "I'm still like, 'I don't believe it.' When I saw it flash on the television — 1961 to 2004 — I was just like, 'I'm not going to try to fight back any more tears. I'm just going to cry.'"

The cause of death was not immediately known. White, however, had a respiratory ailment for several years that affected his sleep, according to Keith Johnson, a pastor serving as family spokesman.

The Mecklenburg County medical examiner said Monday an autopsy was scheduled and there may be preliminary information in the afternoon.

White's wife, Sara, said in a statement Sunday: "Today our beloved husband, father and friend passed away. His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Reggie White. We want to thank you in

advance for honoring our privacy."

White died at Presbyterian Hospital, where he was taken after his wife called 911. A police officer was outside White's Tudor-style home in a gated community and would not let a reporter approach the house.

A two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and ordained minister who was known as the "Minister of Defense," White played 15 seasons with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina. He retired after the 2000 season as the NFL's career sacks leader with 198.

The mark has since been passed by Bruce Smith.

"Reggie White, was a gentle warrior who will be remembered as one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history," NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said. "Equally as impressive as his achievements on the field was the positive impact he made off the field and the way he served as a positive influence on so many young people."

A member of the NFL's 75th anniversary team, White was elected to the Pro Bowl a record 13 straight times from 1986-98. He was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1987 and 1998.

"A 43-year-old is not supposed to die in his sleep," Johnson said. "It was not only unexpected, but it was also a complete surprise. Reggie wasn't a sick man ... he was vibrant. He had lots and lots of energy, lots of passion."

See WHITE, Page 8

Cowboys 13, Redskins 10

IRVING, Texas (AP) — For more than 58 minutes, Vinny Testaverde, was the scorn of Dallas Cowboys fans. They wanted the old guy benched so they could see a young quarterback and they were more than happy to let him know it.

Testaverde tuned out the boos — and the signs, and the chanting of his backup's name — to show why coach Bill Parcells trusts him so much, throwing a 39-yard touchdown pass with 30 seconds left to beat the Washington Redskins 13-10 Sunday.

Had Testaverde been better earlier, the Cowboys wouldn't have needed his heroics. But he delivered in the clutch, driving 75 yards for the go-ahead score after taking over with 1:25 left and no timeouts. He added to the drama by starting the series with three straight incompletions, forcing him to keep it alive by converting on fourth-and-10.

Testaverde celebrated the touchdown with his arms

held wide above his shoulders, palms up. He insisted he was just soaking in the moment, not giving any sort of "How do you like me now?" gesture to the crowd. He admitted, though, that he was well aware of how they felt about him.

"My ears work. But it's what is in here," he said, pointing to his heart, "that affects how you perform."

The Cowboys beat the Redskins for the fourth straight time and 14th in 15, although it came down to the final play: a 57-yard field goal try by Washington's Jeff Chandler fell short.

Dallas (6-9) snapped a two-game losing streak but was still eliminated from the playoffs. The Cowboys end the season Sunday at the New York Giants and Parcells probably will stick with 41-year-old Testaverde, not second-year backup Tony Romo or rookie Drew Henson.

See COWBOYS Page 8

Beltran impressed by Yanks

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Carlos Beltran was impressed by George Steinbrenner after meeting with the Yankees owner earlier in the week, and told a newspaper in Puerto Rico that he would not be intimidated by playing in New York.

The free-agent All-Star center fielder who led the Houston Astros within one win of their first World Series, talked with Steinbrenner in Tampa, Fla., on Tuesday.

"The meeting with Steinbrenner was very good," Beltran said in a story published in Friday's edition of Primera Hora newspaper. "He is a professional person, super-educated. I've let them know my interest, and they have interest, too, about me joining their team."

The Yankees — and Astros — clearly will have some competition in the race for the prized outfielder.

Beltran said the New York Mets, Detroit Tigers

and Chicago Cubs have also shown interest.

"The Mets have been very aggressive," he said. "So far, they haven't made any offers. I think we'll have a meeting very soon to talk personally."

No meeting with the Mets is scheduled, but one will probably take place the week of Jan. 3.

Beltran thinks he would be prepared to play in a high-profile baseball environment, such as New York.

"In all the places, when you do something good, the people applaud you. When you do something bad, they boo you," he said. "That happens in all the big league parks."

The All-Star outfielder batted .417 in the NL championship series for the Astros with four home runs, five RBIs and four steals after hitting .455 with four homers and nine RBIs in the division series.

If Houston doesn't reach an agreement by Jan. 8, the Astros would be ineligible to re-sign him until May 1.

A record even Manning can't touch until February

By JIM LITKE
Associated Press

The big question won't be answered until the playoffs begin and even the NFL's biggest control freak is helpless to do anything about that at the moment.

But the record came exactly the way Peyton Manning wanted it — in the flow of a game, with the clock ticking down, and something left to play for. And by now, you're probably familiar, too, with a few of the details in what sounded like a harmonic convergence Sunday under the big top in Indianapolis.

How Colts owner Jim Irsay dispatched his private jet to pick up Manning's snowbound parents in Memphis and whisk them back to Indy in time to see the final 9 minutes of the game and overtime. And how Archie and Olivia Manning's middle son sidled over to wide receiver Brandon Stokley with a minute left in regulation, called a play the Colts had never used in a game, then called a dummy audible at the line to confuse the Chargers and almost everyone else in the building, and then threw the ball toward the end zone even before Stokley made his final cut at the 5.

"The ball was on me so quick, I'm just glad I was able to get my hands up," Stokley said. "I didn't have time to think about it."

"It would have been embarrassing, to turn around and get hit with it in the face."

The best thing from Manning's standpoint, however, wasn't the perfect timing, even though he conceded, "I was afraid I might have thrown it too early."

'It would have been embarrassing, to turn around and get hit with it in the face.'

— Brandon Stokley
Receiver, Indianapolis Colts

No, the best part was that touchdown pass No. 49 of the season, the one that put Dan Marino in Manning's rearview mirror, came with the Colts still needing a 2-point conversion to force the extra period, putting off the

celebrations until later. Those didn't commence until Manning had engineered a 61-yard drive in overtime to set up Mike Vanderjagt's field goal that secured Indianapolis' eighth straight win and the No. 3 seed in the AFC for the playoffs.

"I think Johnny Unitas would have been proud of that drive," Manning said afterward, which is as much celebrating as he allowed himself.

Just seven seasons into a career, Manning's link to some of the greatest quarterbacks ever is already secure. By just about any measure, he's off to the best start of any passer in history.

What remains to be seen, though, is whether Manning winds up linked with prolific Hall of Famers like Marino, Fran Tarkenton and Jim Kelly or consistent Super Bowl winners like Joe Montana.

Championships are an unyielding measure in a team game like football, where even the quarterback can only do so much.

Marino couldn't will himself a running game — ever — and John Elway had to wait until he was 37 for all the other pieces to fall into place.

See LITKE, Page 8

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White

Continued from Page 7

Johnson is the head of Christian Athletes United for Spiritual Empowerment, a ministry that White helped found. He said White had gone to see the movie "Fat Albert" on Christmas night with family and friends.

White and his wife had a son and a daughter: Jeremy, a freshman at Elon University, and Jecolia, a junior in high school.

After an All-America senior season at Tennessee, White began his pro career with the USFL's Memphis Showboats in 1984. He joined the Eagles, who held his NFL rights, after the USFL folded in 1985. For eight years, he was as an integral piece in Philadelphia's "Gang Green Defense."

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie called White "one of the greatest men ever to play the game of football" and said his "legacy on and off the football field will never be forgotten."

White played a key role in free agency — he was

one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to the current system.

"He meant as much to us off the field as much as on it," said Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association. "He had his name on the lawsuit and he didn't get one penny. That's just the type of guy he was. His character, his integrity was everything any NFL player should aspire to be."

White signed as a free agent with Green Bay in 1993 for \$17 million over four years. His signing, along with a trade for Favre, helped make the Packers champions again.

"That's what changed the football fortunes of this franchise. It was huge," Packers president Bob Harlan said Sunday. "He sent a message to the rest of the NFL that Green Bay was a great place to play."

The Packers made consecutive Super Bowl appearances, including a win over New England in 1997, when White set a Super Bowl record with three sacks.

"He was just a wonderful player, first of all," said

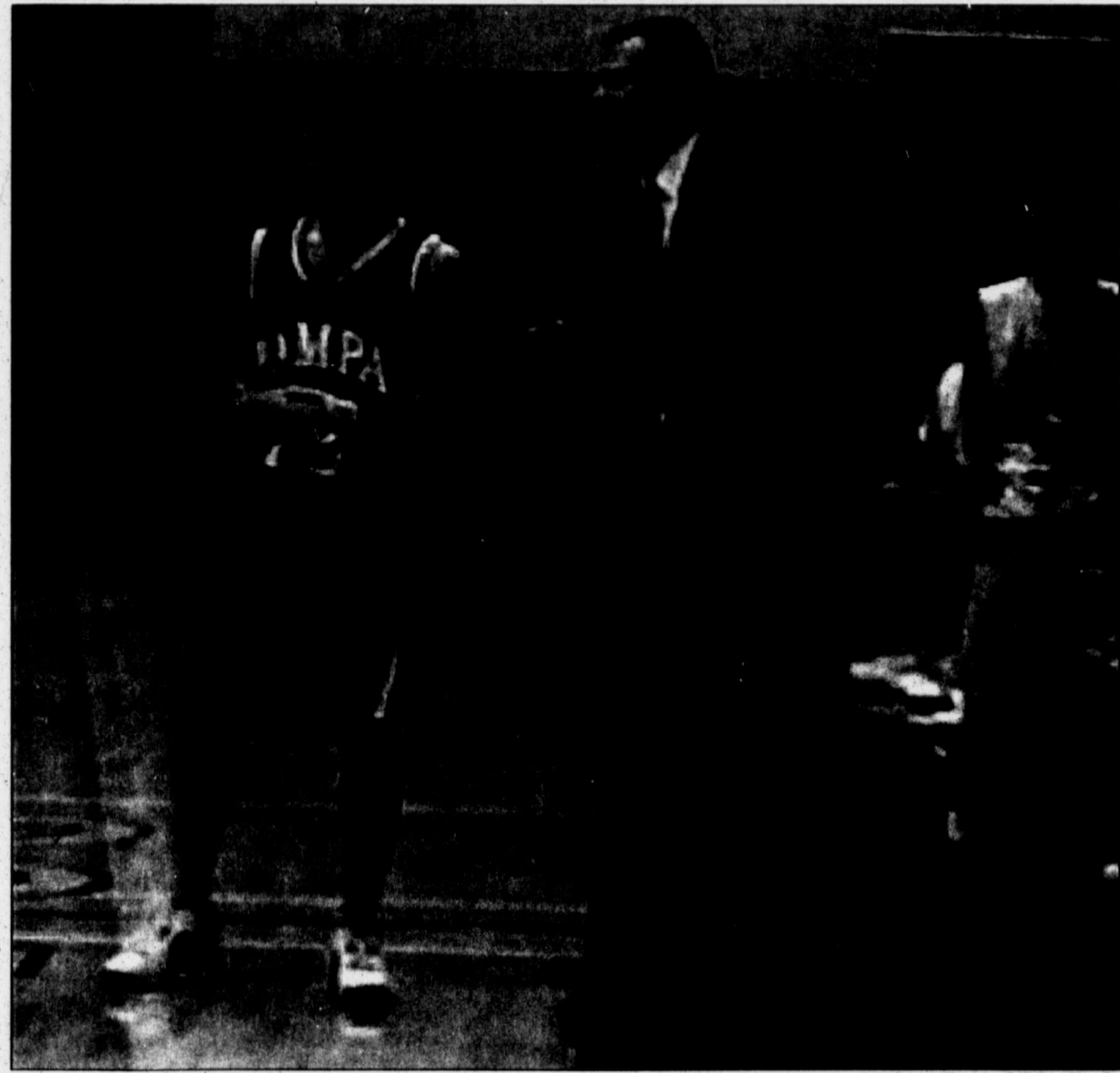
Seattle coach Mike Holmgren, who coached White in Green Bay. "Then, as a person, he was just the best. ... I'm a better person for having been around Reggie White."

White worked tirelessly in the offseason with inner-city youths. But his image was tarnished when he gave a speech in which he denounced homosexuality and used ethnic stereotypes. White later apologized.

White was 39 when he finished his NFL career with Carolina — his third retirement. He retired for one day before the 1998 season, but then said God had told him he needed to play again, and he returned to the Packers.

White retired again after the 1998 season and took a year off from football. After the Packers allowed him out of his contract, he returned to play for the Panthers and recorded a career-low 5 1/2 sacks and had only 27 tackles.

Wayne Russell, a manager at A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service in Charlotte, said funeral arrangements were still incomplete early Monday.



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa Head Coach Jeff Reed goes over some strategy with Braydon Barker during a recent Harvester game.

Cowboys

Continued from Page 7

"I'm happy our guys were able to win," Parcels said. "They've been hanging in the best they can."

The Redskins (5-10) had won two of three and were hoping to finish strong in coach Joe Gibbs' first season back on the sideline. Instead, he's already lost the most games in any season with one left — at home against playoff-seeking Minnesota.

Patrick Ramsey drove Washington inside the Dallas 11 on the first two drives, but had only a field goal to show for it. The Redskins didn't

cross midfield again until the fourth quarter.

Ramsey capped that drive with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Robert Royal for a 10-6 lead with 6:44 left. But Washington went three-and-out the next two drives and fumbled a punt in between, when it needed a few clock-eating first downs.

Ramsey finished 19-of-29 for 158 yards with two interceptions.

"You can look at 50 different plays where we could've won the game," Gibbs said. "There was no one single play that cost us this game."

Washington lost running back Clinton Portis to a chest bruise. He had just one second-half carry, finishing with 32 yards on 10 tries.

Parcels came into the game hoping to give Romo the first snaps of his NFL career, but wanted "the right situation" — preferably a big lead.

Testaverde couldn't provide it, getting only two field goals through three quarters. He threw an interception in the end zone and rookie running back Julius Jones lost a fumble inside the 5.

Romo kept limber with his helmet on waiting for his chance.

If he scanned the stands, he might've seen signs like "Bench Vinny" and "Go Romo." He certainly heard the constant jeers and the chant of "Ro-mo" that followed the interception.

After Washington went ahead, Testaverde failed to get a first down on the next two drives then turned the ball over on downs. He was sacked three times and made several poor choices on where to throw, including missing wide-open Keyshawn Johnson on fourth down.

But on the final drive, Testaverde hit rookie Patrick Crayton for 15 yards on fourth down, then stopped the clock with a spike. He hit Jason Witten for 14 yards, Richie Anderson for 7, then threw deep to Crayton down the right sideline. The seventh-round pick caught it in stride for his first career touchdown.

Testaverde finished 23-of-39 for 234 yards — and the respect of his teammates.

"If you're booing, you better continue to boo, better boo louder, because it's not going to affect him," Johnson said. "That's just something he's showed time and time again. This is one of the reasons why our head coach is continuing to play him, so that we can win football games like this."

Notes: The Redskins haven't won at Texas Stadium since 1995. ... Witten had stitches on the bridge of his nose and will have X-rays to see if it's broken.

11-4 Harvesters hope for redemption at Milk Cow Classic in Clovis

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School varsity basketball team is in Clovis today to take part in the Milk Cow Tournament. The Harvesters will tip off against Abilene Cooper at 5:30 p.m. local time this afternoon.

Pampa enters the tournament at 11-4. The team is making its second appearance in Clovis in just over a week.

Head Coach Jeff Reed pointed out a very interesting concern his team, any Texas team, faces entering New Mexico. The UIL closely governs the number of practices and rest days student athletes are allowed. New Mexico does not. UIL prohibits any sport participation on Sunday. New Mexico does not. In short, Reed's team has been off since the Plainview game last Monday. Clovis is rumored to have held practice most of the week, including yesterday. This could come in to play should Pampa advance.

However, first things first. Pampa's first opponent of the tournament is Abilene Cooper. A team, Reed says, "is

better than its record indicates."

The Cougars are a young team that has a number of players still learning the varsity game. "We need to be careful against them," said Reed. "If we do not play to our ability and give them hope, we will not beat them." "We need to play a great ball game."

As the Cougars have shown both Man and Zone defenses, Reed really isn't sure what the Harvesters will face until this afternoon's tip off.

Some motivation here could come in the hope that a win over the Cougars not only moves Pampa into the winner's bracket of a tournament (it would be their first this season), but could also lead to a rematch with Clovis. The Wildcats beat Pampa Dec. 18, 60-53. Reed and his team feel as though they were not given credit for the close game afterward. "I think they thought it was just a fluke that we were able to hang with them like we did," said Reed. "We feel like we should have won that game and would welcome the chance to meet them again."

Clovis will have to get by Tascosa to set up any possible meeting with Pampa.

Texan 21, Jacksonville 0

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Jacksonville Jaguars spent the week talking about their huge win in Green Bay, getting to the playoffs and needing some help from Pittsburgh against Baltimore.

Maybe they should have focused more on Houston.

Domanick Davis ran for a career-high 150 yards and a touchdown and the Texans crippled Jacksonville's postseason chances with a 21-0 victory Sunday.

Several Houston players said they felt slighted by the lack of attention from the Jags, and it gave a team with little to play for a definitive reason to rally.

"They're sitting there worried about Baltimore and Pittsburgh. They should have been worried a little bit about us," Texans defensive end Gary Walker said.

The Jaguars looked nothing like a team with so much to play for in the final after upsetting the Packers and pulling even with Baltimore, Denver and Buffalo in the AFC wild-card race.

Jacksonville had some excuses, though. Running back Fred Taylor missed the game

with a sprained left knee, ending his streak of consecutive starts at 46 games, and quarterback Byron Leftwich sustained a mild concussion in the first quarter.

The shutout was the first in team history for Houston and marked the first time the Jaguars have been blanked since a 44-0 drubbing at Detroit on Dec. 17, 1995.

This one could be far more costly than that loss to the Lions in Jacksonville's inaugural season.

Because Baltimore lost at Pittsburgh, the Jaguars (8-7) could have taken control of the final AFC wild-card spot with a victory against Houston (7-8). Instead, they will need to win next week at Oakland and have the Ravens, Broncos and Bills lose to return to the postseason for the first time since 1999.

"I knew we had a good chance coming in here, but for some reason these guys don't respect us and they came out and played like it," Texans defensive tackle Seth Payne said after Houston held the Jaguars to a franchise-low 126 yards.

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Litke

Continued from Page 7

Manning has been a staple on rotisserie league teams since he strolled into the league — he's having arguably the best season ever while pulling the strings for one of the most productive offenses ever. But as a student of the game, Manning knows that for all the glossy numbers Marino put up, his predecessor is still most remembered for never passing his team to a Super Bowl win. Maybe that's why, for all his impressive work in the pocket, Manning does just as much maneuvering in interviews.

He put the team's goal to win a championship at the top of his priority

list when he reported for training camp and he's managed to keep it there, no matter how much the hype focused on his individual performances. Manning shares the credit every bit as deliberately as he shares the ball, having learned that the fastest way to improve on a 2-4 record in the playoffs is to have his teammates as prepared and motivated as he is.

And so it should have come as no surprise that Dominic Rhodes, the part-time running back who returned a kick 88 yards in the final quarter to make the comeback against the Chargers possible, said afterward, "As much as it's his, I feel like it's my record, too."

"When I get old, in my 50s or what-not, I'll say I was on that team when he threw that touchdown. I was a part of

everything he's done, and we've done," Rhodes said. "It's a special feeling."

Even Manning couldn't deny that much.

"It's an individual thing, but it meant a lot to a lot of people. And that," he said, "means something to me."

But it will mean much more if the Colts are still playing when February rolls around.

"We are happy about the regular-season records," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said, staying on message. "But we are looking for the big prize once the playoffs start."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

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Center, Pampa, Texas, Phone 806-669-5760 Ext. 3. Tax-Exemption Certificates shall be furnished upon request.

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The City of Pampa, Texas, invites sealed bids for the exchange of a 0.534 acre tract of land in the 1000 block of North Somerville, Pampa, Texas described as follows:

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will consider any bids at its regular scheduled meeting which follows the bid opening.
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Table with columns: OTHER AREA, OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, listing property addresses and prices.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004:
You need to put yourself out there when dealing with others. In fact, you might want to work on a key relationship and/or your interpersonal ties in general.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might be slow to get going, but once you do, you are unstoppable. Impulsiveness stimulates your creativity. Reach out for experts. Others appreciate your efforts. Brainstorm and be open to other ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Others have a lot to share. Someone might be quite shy or reticent to express his or her feelings. Help this person open up. You have a way of putting people at ease. Muzzle yourself and be less chatty; others need time to express themselves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Use the morning to call others and for key meetings. You might be overly serious. In the afternoon, you will want to work on and complete a project. Deal with individuals, not groups. Praise comes your way. Tonight: Cuddle at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You could be stiff or overly serious as you start your day. Through concentrating on work, you'll loosen up. Co-workers certainly want to chat rather than work. Take a financial matter seriously. Tonight: Pay bills or at least organize them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Use the morning to call others and for key meetings. You might be overly serious. In the afternoon, you will want to work on and complete a project. Deal with individuals, not groups. Praise comes your way. Tonight: Cuddle at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might choose to keep certain thoughts private. By the afternoon, the Moon enters your sign, cheering you on. Ask yourself what you might enjoy. Be impulsive but direct, especially if you are in an artistic profession and/or with your sweetie. Tonight: Your wish is another's pleasure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Use the morning to call others and for key meetings. You might be overly serious. In the afternoon, you will want to work on and complete a project. Deal with individuals, not groups. Praise comes your way. Tonight: Cuddle at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Work and responsibilities weigh on you this morning. By the afternoon, you buzz around. Make calls, get busy and reach out to others. A friendship will open up if you give this person time. Express yourself. Tonight: Happy with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Use the morning to call others and for key meetings. You might be overly serious. In the afternoon, you will want to work on and complete a project. Deal with individuals, not groups. Praise comes your way. Tonight: Cuddle at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Do research in the morning, even if you don't feel like it. You take a stand through your words and/or actions. You make a financial move quickly. Enjoy what is happening between you and someone you admire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Use the morning to call others and for key meetings. You might be overly serious. In the afternoon, you will want to work on and complete a project. Deal with individuals, not groups. Praise comes your way. Tonight: Cuddle at home.

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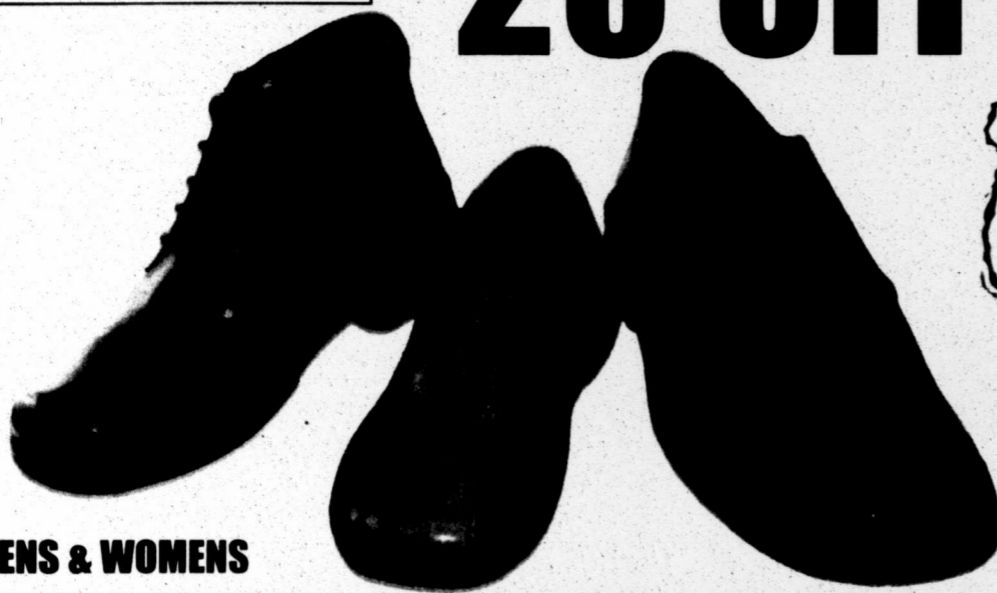
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