

THE PAMPAS

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Thursday, December 23, 2004

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GREAT FLOORING... FOR A GREAT PRICE
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Twenty Five Plus Years Experience
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Today's weather



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67

L
45

Deaths

George Dale Beard, 67, NGP supervisor.
L.G. Clifton, 73, retired business owner.
William F. "Bill" Kidd, 80, Celanese retiree.
Carl Edward Summers, 77, land surveyor.

Texas Today

Committee: Insanity standard works

HOUSTON (AP) — Recent crimes involving horrible facts and fatal results — including the drowning of five children, fatal beating of two with rocks and a 6-year-old whose body was found in an oven — have Texas legislators thinking about the state's definition of insanity. Those accused, convicted or acquitted in some of the headline grabbing crimes have used or plan to use the insanity defense, prompting a Senate committee to spend recent months reviewing the state's insanity standard and making recommendations on how to improve it.

When the Legislature convenes in January, it's expected to consider the committee's recommendations, which include improving data collection and new standards for expert testimony.

In Texas, defendants are presumed sane. To prove insanity, they must convince a jury they suffered from a severe mental disease or defect and did not know their action was wrong.

State moves to appeal school-finance ruling

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott took the first step Tuesday in appealing a judge's ruling that the state's \$30 billion system for financing public schools is unconstitutional.

Abbott filed a notice of appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

"Because this is a critical matter of statewide importance, and because the students, parents, school districts and taxpayers need closure on this matter, we urge the Texas Supreme Court to hear the school finance case at the earliest possible date," Abbott said.

In a written ruling last month, State District Judge John Dietz said the school finance system is "financially inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable."

Bittersweet Christmas

Local family spends holidays with loved one bound for Iraq

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

This Christmas was the best of times and the worst of times.

It was the first time in 20 years that Irman and Joann Coker had all their children and grandchildren home in Pampa for Christmas.

"It was wonderful," Mrs. Coker said. This weekend their only grandson ships out for Iraq.

Spe. 4 Kenneth Curtis, 40, of White Deer, will leave Fort Hood with his unit, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry for Iraq. His National Guard unit is now a part of the 56th Brigade, 36th Infantry Division.

Fort Hood officials said this is the Texas National Guard's largest combat deployment since World War II.

While Curtis' wife and three sons will journey to Waco this weekend for a farewell ceremony for the some 3,000 soldiers being deployed, Irman and Joann Coker took their grandson and his family to Childress Tuesday afternoon where the grandpar-

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Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Pampan Joann Coker hugs her only grandson, Kenneth Curtis of White Deer, who is headed to Iraq next week as part of the largest Texas National Guard combat deployment since World War II.

Law to be out 'in force' for New Year's

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Traffic laws will be strictly enforced by a larger-than-usual number of law enforcement officers during the New Year's holiday this weekend.

Extra Pampa police officers, Gray County sheriff's

deputies, and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers will all be patrolling the area over the weekend.

"DPS will have all available troopers on Texas roadways. Troopers will be looking for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from New Year's Eve through midnight

on Jan. 2," said Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr., director of the DPS, in a news release.

A local DPS spokesperson confirmed that troopers would be out "in force" to help keep roadways safe by stopping drunk drivers and others.

"We're going to be aggressive in enforcing the

driving while intoxicated, seat belt, and other traffic laws. We'll be out there working," said Sheriff Don Copeland.

"We'll have some extra officers out New Year's Eve, and will be actively enforcing the DWI laws," said Lt. Fred Courtney of Pampa Police Department.

"We hope everybody buckles up and observes the traffic laws, and names a designated driver. Don't drink and drive," Courtney said.

"Please resolve to drive responsibly this year," said Davis in the DPS release.

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Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Lights go down

Darlene Sugar takes down the Christmas lights on her house in the 1900 block of Fir Street to pack them away for next year. With only two days left in the year, the 2004 holiday season is drawing to a close. While the Sugar family is taking down their holiday lights, area residents can still see the Celebration of Lights presentation at Recreation Park through Friday, Dec. 31.

Tsunami death toll 76,700; aid arrives

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Cargo planes touched down with aid Wednesday, bearing everything from lentils to water purifiers to help survivors facing the threat of epidemic after this week's quake-tsunami catastrophe. The first Indonesian military teams reached the devastated west coast of Sumatra island, finding thousands of bodies and increasing the death toll across 12 nations to more than 76,700.

The international Red Cross warned that the toll could eventually surpass 100,000. The race was on to try to prevent an outbreak of diseases and to curb food shortages among millions of homeless — which the U.N. health agency said could kill as many as the waves and quake.

Sri Lanka said it was getting its first reports of measles

and diarrhea. Paramedics in southern India began vaccinating 65,000 survivors against cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and dysentery, and authorities sprayed bleaching powder on beaches where bodies have been recovered.

"Even those people who (didn't lose homes) can't get food. Nothing is available," said Father Raja Perera, of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church in Sri Lanka's second largest city, the hard-hit southern resort of Galle, where refugees from ravaged homes crowded into churches, Buddhist temples and mosques.

Town after town along Indonesia's Sumatran coast was covered with mud and sea water, with homes flattened or torn apart, an Associated Press reporter saw on a helicopter overflight with the military commander of the island's Aceh province. The only signs of life were a handful of villagers scavenging for food on the beach.

Western Sumatra suffered a double blow in Sunday's disaster, shattered both by the most powerful earthquake in 40 years and perhaps the deadliest tsunami in recorded history, which wreaked destruction across a dozen nations.

"The damage is truly devastating," Maj. Gen. Endang Suwarya said. "Seventy-five percent of the west coast is destroyed and some places it's 100 percent. These people are isolated and we will try and get them help."

The first military teams reached the devastated fishing town of Meulaboh on Sumatra's coast and across the coast they found thousands of bodies, bringing Indonesia's toll to 45,268, with 1,240 reported missing, according to the Health Ministry's official count. That toll was likely to rise — one official on Tuesday estimated that as many as 10,000 people were dead in Meulaboh alone.

Sri Lanka on Wednesday listed more than 22,400 people dead,

See TOLL, Page 3

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Obituaries

George Dale Beard, 67

George Dale Beard, 67, of Aubrey, died Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at St. Paul University Hospital in Dallas. He was born July 20, 1937, in Borger to Ed P. and Mary E. (Gowen) Beard. He graduated from Dumas High School and attended Texas A&M University. He was married to Gloria Jean Meeks on Oct. 26, 1968, in Chico. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was a Supervisor for Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America.



Beard

Private memorial services will be held.

Memorials may be made to either the American Cancer Society, Denton Unit, 3301 West Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76107-5709, or the American Lung Assoc of Texas, 8150 Brookriver Dr. S-102, LB 151, Dallas, TX 75247.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Jean Beard, of Aubrey; daughters and sons-in-law, Shannon and David Hergenrader of Denton and Stephanie and Adam Smith of Pampa; sister, Darla Sue Bowyer of Peoria, Ariz.; brothers, Eddie Joe Beard of Arlington and Leon Beard, of Alvarado; and two grandchildren, Garrett Beard and Trevor Smith.

Mulkey-Mason, Jack Schmitz and Son Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

L.G. Clifton, 73

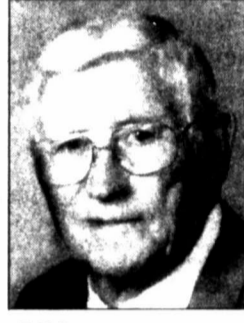
L.G. Clifton, 73, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Clifton was born Jan. 11, 1931, in Silvertown at the Schott Ranch. He married Joyce Shaw on June 12, 1954, in Olney.

He started Clifton Equipment in 1969, and retired in 1995 with Clifton Supply.

He was a member of the Briarwood Full Gospel Church where he served as church board member for two terms. He enjoyed raising and racing horses.



Clifton

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Clifton, of the home; one son, Shawn Clifton and wife Lisa of Pampa; one sister, Melba Adams of Olney; one brother, Jimmy Clifton of Fort Morgan, Colo.; and two grandsons, Corbin Clifton and Cyler Clifton, both of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to Briarwood Full Gospel Church Building Fund, 1800 W. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065, or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

William F. 'Bill' Kidd, 80

William F. "Bill" Kidd, 80, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Lynn Hancock, minister of Briarwood Full Gospel Church, officiating.

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

Mr. Kidd was born June 19, 1924, at St. Charles, Ark., and married Renetta Berryman on Nov. 3, 1944, at De Witt, Ark. He moved to Pampa in 1953 and worked as an operator at Celanese for 33 years.

Mr. Kidd was a U.S. Army Air Corps Air Rescue veteran, serving in the Pacific during

World War II. An active member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, he helped organize the WWII Veteran Memorial in Pampa.

He was a Baptist. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Rachel Kidd; two sisters, Lillie Mae Duncan and Faye Chisum; three brothers, Early Kidd, John Kidd and George Kidd; and two grandchildren, twins Shawn and Shana Albus.

Survivors include his wife, Renetta, of the home; four sons, Donnie Kidd of Amarillo, Phillip Kidd of Dallas, William Kidd of Lefors and Toney Kidd of Pampa; a daughter, Sharon Albus of Trinity; three brothers, Ed Kidd of Odessa, Scott Kidd of Dumas, Ark., and Danny Kidd of Velonia, Ark.; three sisters, Grace L. Ross of De Witt, Dimple Christy of Columbia, Miss., and Minnie Rose Miller of Carolton, Ky.; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

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



Kidd

Carl Edward Summers, 77

LEFORS — Carl Edward Summers, 77, of Lefors, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004, at Pampa.

Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. today in Memory Gardens West Mausoleum in Pampa with Mike Sublett, pastor of Hi-Land Christian Church of Pampa, and Larry Haddock, pastor of Alamosa Christian Church of Alamosa, Colo., officiating.

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

Born May 30, 1927, at Laverne, Okla., Mr. Summers came to Pampa in 1951 and moved to Lefors in 1977. He married Carolea Booth on Feb. 7, 1948, at Arnett, Okla. He was a land surveyor with George W. Thompson, Merriman & Barber

Topographic of Pampa for 30 years. Mr. Summers belonged to Hi-Land Christian Church and was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, serving during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Carolea, of the home; two sons, Lincoln Edward Summers of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Archie Glen Summers, Sr., of Lefors; three daughters, Carol Faye Ziegelgruber and Melba May Woelfle, both of Pampa, and Sue Seitz of Amarillo; a sister, Mabel Harris of Kingman, Ariz.; 21 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Three traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from the 1000 block of South Nelson, the 1100 block of South Dwight, the 1000 block of Sirroco, and the 800 block of West Kingsmill.

A suspicious person was reported from the 1000 block of Huff Road, the 200 block of Tignor, and the 900 block of North Sumner.

Harassment was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

A missing person was reported in the 200 block of Kingsmill.

Found property was reported in the 2300 block of Fir. A pocket knife was found.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive, the 700 block of East 16th, and Elliott Glass at 1432 N. Banks. Tools valued at \$1,000 were taken from the 700 block of East 16th. A drill, videocassette recorder and two telephones were taken from Elliott Glass, for an estimated loss of \$250.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 900 block of Varnon.

A welfare check was made in the 800 block of West Francis.

Silent/abusive calls to 911 were made from the 700 block of North Dwight and the 1500 block of Williston.

Law enforcement assists were made at Kingsmill and Wynne streets, Varnon and Huff streets, and the 200 block of North Russell.

A suicide attempt was reported in the 1800 block of Chestnut.

An animal complaint was reported in the 2100 block of North Christie.

A vehicle with the motor running and a door open was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Williston. The dispute was verbal only.

A narcotic drug law report was made from the 2300 block of Christine.

Dixie Wilson, 50, 425 Carr, was arrested in the 200 block of North Wynne for possession of marijuana under two ounces, and warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 300 block of South Henry. The victim had minor injuries which required no treatment. The weapon used was a knife or cutting tool.

Keisha Childress, 18, Whitney, Texas, was arrested in the 2200 block of North Christine for possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

Zachery Mitchell, 21, Amarillo, was arrested in the 2200 block of North Christine for possession of a controlled substance under one gram, no tag light, no valid driver's license, and failure to display motor vehicle inspection.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Monday, Dec. 27

1:58 p.m. — A 1996 Ford Crown Victoria, driven by Amanda Leigh Dominey, 25, 412 N. Russell, and a 1998 Nissan 200SX, driven by Samantha Jo Dyer, 21, Amarillo, collided in the intersection of Francis and Gray streets. No injuries were reported. Dominey was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Hoyt Eugene Larue, 38, 104 N. Faulkner, was arrested for a seat belt violation.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Dec. 28

10:09 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 2200 block of Hamilton. Firefighters found high levels of CO coming from a defective heater. No injuries were reported.

10:39 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 500 block of North Nelson. No CO was found.

2:40 p.m. — Five units and nine firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 800 block of West McCullough. A single-wide mobile home sustained approximately \$750 damage from a fire in the hot water heater closet. No injuries were reported.

6:38 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a gas odor investigation in the 300 block of Baer. No problem was found.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, Dec. 28

7:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Miami and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:59 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

1:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Francis and Purviance and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

2:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

6:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Lowry and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

9:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Amarillo.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

1:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 600 block of Craven. No patient.

Stocks

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

Wheat 3.14

Milo 3.29

Corn 3.79

Soybeans 4.81

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

QXY 58.50 +0.46

BPPLCADR 58.70 -0.13

Cabor Corp. 39.01 -0.17
Cabor Oil Gas 44.18 +0.08
Coca Cola 41.52 -0.33
VLO 44.58 +0.17
HAL 39.20 -0.09
TRI 36.37 -0.07
NOI 34.78 +0.01
KMI 72.09 +0.02
XCEL 18.38 +0.05
Kerr McGee 57.90 +0.02
XOM 51.04 -0.01
Limited 22.90 +0.49
Williams 15.96 -0.03
MCD 32.53 +0.07

Atmos 27.42 +0.04
Pioneer Nat 34.80 +0.10
JCP 41.72 +0.47
COP 80.60 +0.05
SLB 66.60 +0.29
Tenneco 17.22 -0.09
CVX 52.37 -0.07
Wal Mart 53.35 +0.12
OKE 28.37 +0.08
NS Grp 28.10 -0.36
New York Gold 443.85
Silver 7.01
West Texas Crude 41.77

Wife to fill in for lawmaker in National Guard

HOUSTON (AP) — As a major in the Army National Guard, Democratic state Rep. Rick Noriega of Houston will be on active duty in Afghanistan when the legislative session starts in January.

His seat in the Texas House of Representatives will not be empty, though. His wife, Melissa Noriega, will fill in for him.

"This is really an honor, both that my husband would trust me with the responsibility and we've also gotten a lot of feedback from the district," she said. "This isn't

something we just did. We've been discussing it with precinct judges and community leaders."

A state constitutional amendment approved last year allows lawmakers who are called to active military duty to designate their replacement until they return or their term expires. Noriega won re-election last year while on active duty in Afghanistan, where he is training that country's army to fight terrorists.

When asked why her husband chose her, Melissa Noriega told the Houston

Chronicle in Wednesday's editions: "For one thing, I'll give it back."

Melissa Noriega, 50, said the toughest part of serving in Austin for the five-month legislative session will be knowing that she will have to leave her 7-year-old son in Houston.

"I think both my mother and my mother-in-law are going to pitch in to keep his life as much the same as possible," she said. "He's got one parent gone now. Having both parents gone is going to be a real sacrifice for that child."

CITY BRIEFS

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

EARLY CLASSIFIED Deadlines (class. line ads & city briefs) for the Pampa News. For Sunday 1-2-05 deadline is Fri. 31st-12 noon, Mon. 1-3-05 is Fri. 31st-2 p.m., Tues. 1-4-05 is Fri. 31st-4 p.m. Happy New Year!

FRI., DEC. 31st New Years Eve, Lonestar Bar Presents: Copperhead & The 3 Kings. Free Texas Style Fajitas & Briskit. Free party favors. Free beer 5-9 p.m. Tickets avail. at Onies or 662-5206.

GENESIS HOUSE provides Tobacco Awareness Classes for Adolescents and Youth. January Classes scheduled for 3rd and 5th, 10th and 12th. \$55. Call for details and sign up. 409 West. 665-7123.

KAYLEE WILLS with 117 points of Pampa, local winner of the Pampa News Football Power Points Game, regional winner Bernie Lenart of Temple, Tx., with 130 points.

COTTAGE COLLECTION will be closed Fri. 31st, Sat. & Sun. Happy New Year!

MEALS ON WHEELS will be closed Dec. 30th.

PAMPA NEWS Office will be closed Mon., Jan. 3rd, but there will be a newspaper for Mon. Happy New Year!!

PART TIME Inserter needed immediately. About 20 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat. Apply in person, The Pampa News. No phone calls please.

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 67. Wind chill values between 30 and 35. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind around 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 65. Windy, with a west-southwest wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 35.

Wind chill values between 28 and 33. West wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

New Year's Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 63. South-southwest wind around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming northwest.

Sunday: Partly cloudy,

with a high around 46. North-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 26. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday: A slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday Night: A slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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Pampa News photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE

Now that's hot water

Smoke shrouds Pampa firefighters, far left, as they work to extinguish a fire in the water heater closet of a single-wide mobile home at 801 W. McCullough Tuesday afternoon. The occupant of the house, identified as Sean Greer by fire officials, was home at the time the fire broke out, but was not injured. The trailer, owned by Jim Osborne, sustained approximately \$750 damage, according to fire reports.

Motivational speaker to appear at Perryton Expo Center

PERRYTON — Leadership Perryton Alumni and Perryton-Ochiltree Chamber of Commerce will host motivational speaker Steve Gilliland of Pittsburg, Pa., from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6 in the Perryton Expo Center.

Registration for the semi-

nar, entitled "What to Say When You Talk to Yourself," is scheduled from 5:30-6 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and includes a special rate for business groups.

"Steve Gilliland," a press release promoting the upcoming seminar said, "is one of the most sought after

speakers and trainers in America. His colorful background includes Major League Baseball, broadcasting, and 11 years of corporate management on three different levels. ... He is the author of 10 books, has been on radio and TV across the country, and trained clients

such as the US Marine Corp, CBS, General Motors, and Hilton Hotels."

For more information, contact Cynthia Shattles at (806) 435-3831, Dana Donahue at (806) 435-6575 or Sheryl Hardy at (806) 435-4014.

Soldier

Continued from Page 1

ents said their good-byes. The twins, Justin and Dustin, 15, and their younger brother Joshua, 13, sat stoically in the back of the Cokers' car with their Dad. Kandi, his wife, quietly dabbed at tears as the family headed to Childress to meet a bus chartered by the Army

to take Curtis and his comrades to Fort Hood. The unit has been training there and in Louisiana since August.

"He's our only grandson," Mrs. Coker said. "We have four great-grandsons, but he's our only grandson. He's our only daughter's son."

Curtis' mother, Elizabeth Petka, who lives in California, returned to Pampa for Christmas to say her good-bye to her son.

"She was up here for

Christmas because she knew he was going," Mrs. Coker said. "It was the first time all my children have been together for 20 years."

The Cokers have two daughters, a grandson and two granddaughters.

"We really had a merry Christmas," Mrs. Coker said, "but they came here to see him."

Curtis, a Pampa High School graduate, will be driving Humvees in Iraq.

"He joined the National Guard to help out his country here at home and get a little extra money for his family," Mrs. Coker said. "Then he got deployed."

Curtis has also driven tanks, but Mrs. Coker said he's been training with Humvees for the past several months.

"He's quick to learn everything," Mrs. Coker said. "He's mechanically inclined."

Toll

Continued from Page 1

India close to 7,000 — with 8,000 missing and feared dead. Thailand put its toll at more than 1,600. A total of more than 300 were killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya.

From East Africa to southern Asia, chances faded of finding more survivors of Sunday's massive, quake-driven walls of water. Tens of thousands of people were still missing. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said 1,000 Germans were unaccounted for.

"We have to fear that a number of Germans clearly in the three-digit numbers will be among the dead," Schroeder told reporters. Currently, 26 Germans have been confirmed dead.

"We have little hope, except for individual miracles," Chairman Jean-Marc Espalieux of the Accor hotel group said of the search for thousands of tourists and locals missing from beach resorts of southern Thailand — including more than 2,000 Scandinavians.

In Sri Lanka, reports of measles and diarrhea were beginning to reach health authorities, causing concern of an epidemic, said Thilak Ranaviraj, the government's top official handling relief efforts.

In a field in Banda Aceh,

the capital of Sumatra's Aceh province, bulldozers shoved more than 1,000 unidentified bodies into mass graves. The corpses had been picked off the city's streets as authorities rushed to get decaying bodies into the ground.

"What worries us is the lack of drinking water," said Dr. Georg Petersen, the World Health Organization representative in Indonesia.

"That means that people might drink contaminated water and they can get sick from waterborne diseases like diarrhea."

Four relief planes arrived in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, bringing a surgical hospital from Finland, a water purification plant from Germany, doctors and medicine from Japan and aid workers from Britain, the Red Cross said.

Meanwhile, trucks fanned out across the island nation to deliver bandages, antibiotics, tents, blankets and other supplies to the hardest hit areas, the southern and eastern coast. A dozen trucks left the U.N. World Food Program depot in Colombo on Tuesday. The military said a fleet of 64 trucks packed with rice, sugar, tents

and other essentials entered Tamil areas Wednesday

But officials in the east said at least four WFP trucks bound for Tamil areas in the north were forcefully diverted by Sinhalese mobs and low-ranking government officials to predominantly Sinhalese areas. Selvi Sachchithanandam, a WFP spokeswoman, declined to comment on the report.

Sri Lanka has been torn for years by a conflict with separatist Tamil rebels who control parts of the north, demanding independence from the mostly-Sinhalese nation.

Indonesia's military said a navy flotilla was headed to Sumatra's western coast to being him. Supplies — including 175 tons of rice and 100 doctors — reached Banda Aceh, but with aid not arriving quickly enough, desperate people in towns across Sumatra stole whatever food they could find, officials said.

Widespread looting also was reported in Thailand's devastated resort islands of Phuket and Phi Phi, where European and Australian tourists left valuables behind in wrecked hotels when they fled — or were swept away by — the torrents.

Law

Continued from Page 1

"Wearing seat belts and obeying the speed limit can

save lives." He also urged anyone who plans to drink alcoholic beverages to have someone else do the driving.

DPS suggests the following driving habits: Make sure everyone is buckled up; drive sober; use turn signals;

do not tailgate; obey the speed limit; do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes; report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities; and do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

Public radio station KTOT undergoing tower repairs

The High Plains public radio station, KTOT, has been off the air for weeks as a result of damage caused by lightning during a storm last summer.

After the lightning damaged the station's antenna, the 89.5 FM frequency was operated at lower power for several months, according to Executive Director Rick Hicks, and eventually even that lower power signal failed.

"Repair operations required new parts and a specially trained crew to climb the 1000-foot tower. The required parts are now in hand and the crew is in the area, working to complete the repairs needed to return KTOT to full power, but they are able to work only when weather conditions are favorable. We now estimate returning KTOT to the airwaves by early January," Hicks said in a news release.

Texas Coordinator Stacy Yates said listeners could continue to monitor 89.5 FM because the exact date and time that the station will be

back on the air is uncertain.

"Listeners can also check our website for updates on our repair progress. We've heard from so many of our listener-members in the KTOT area who miss the service; we want to assure those members of the HPPR family that we are doing everything possible to restore our signal to the KTOT listening area," Yates said.

Deb Stout, HPPR director of promotions, said the station continues to stream on-line at www.hppr.org.

"We hope our listeners will take advantage of that service as much as possible while we work to correct the problem," Stout said.

High Plains Public Radio is a non-profit radio station broadcasting in Western Kansas, Southeastern Colorado and the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. KTOT serves Texas Panhandle communities including Spearman, Perryton, Canadian, Pampa, Borger and Dumas at 89.5 FM.

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Viewpoints

When one goal achieved, time to set another

I simply do not know what to do.
For the past five years I have held the same new year's resolution: To lose my unwanted weight. I tried each year to achieve the goal, but I never made it despite the exercising, relentless dieting and plenty of obsession over this resolution.
Finally last year, I was able to reach my goal by being introduced to one of my now good friends, the

South Beach Diet, a take-off on the Atkins diet in which you not only avoid carbs but also foods high in fat content.
After the first two weeks of last year, the diet helped me drop 16 pounds. Six months later, I had shed a total of 40. But the climatic moment came when I got on the scale this morning. Over the course of the last year, I have overwhelmingly achieved my goal by losing a total of 64 pounds.

While I am thrilled with the results, I am left puzzled. For so many years, I used the resolution of losing weight as a mere stock goal. I never really needed to look for another resolution, but now, I can no longer rely on listing "lose weight" as one of my new year's goals. I am now forced to examine the possi-

bilities of different objectives for 2005.
What is difficult about this is that the next year is such a period of transition for me, it is hard to tell what resolution would be appropriate.
Since, I am going off to college in seven months, I am simply not able to decide on a new goal.

To help me out, I have been asking some of my friends for advice. I have learned that their hopes for the new year range from raising their grade point average to learning to drive a stick shift. I have also asked each one how long, they have had their resolution.
My very scientific poll informed me that the average number of years to keep a resolution before it is achieved or no longer valued is four. That is why I have

decided to go ahead and set a resolution that will help me four years down the road, my new year's resolution is to get into graduate school.
Okay, it is really simpler than that. I just want to enjoy each new experience that comes my way for the next 12 months because I know my year will be filled with them.

Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School and an intern at The Pampa News.

Ben Briscoe
News Intern



Today in History

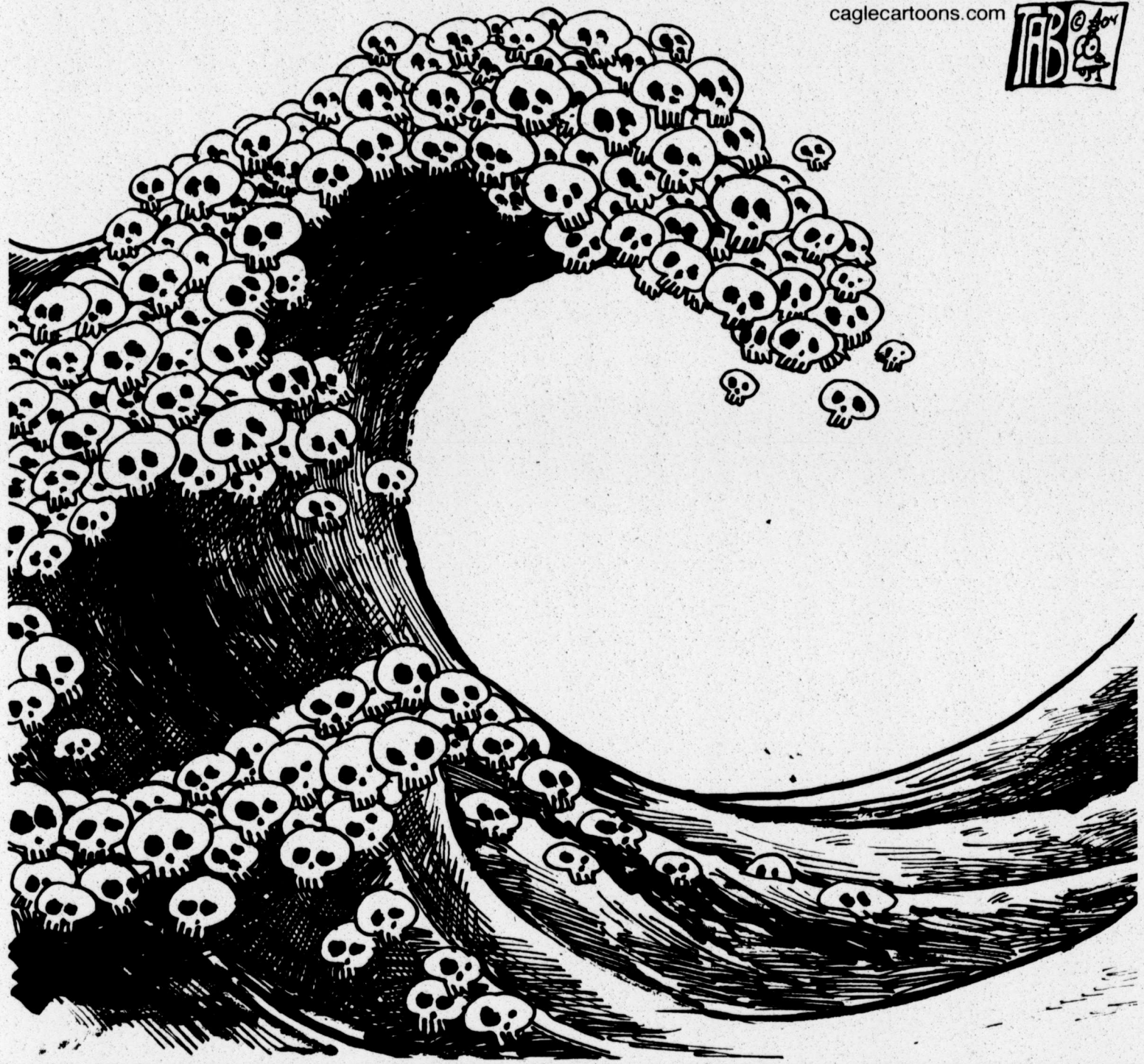
By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 29, the 364th day of 2004. There are two days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.
On this date:
In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.
In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.
In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.
In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.
In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.
In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.
In 1940, during World War II, Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on London.

'Ours is the age of substitutes: Instead of language we have jargon; instead of principles, slogans; and instead of genuine ideas, bright suggestions.'

— Eric Bentley
British-born American author and educator

time difference, it was Dec. 30 in Korea when Hall crossed the demilitarized zone to freedom).
Five years ago: The Nasdaq composite index closed above 4,000 for the first time, ending the day at 4,041.46.
One year ago: Monsignor Michael Courtney, Pope John Paul's ambassador in Burundi, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. Actor Earl Hindman, who'd played the mostly unseen neighbor Wilson on "Home Improvement," died in Stamford, Conn., at age 61.
Today's Birthdays: Actress Inga Swenson is 72. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 70. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 67. Actor Jon Voight is 66. Country singer Ed Bruce is 64. Rock musician Ray Thomas is 63. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 58. Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 58. Actor Ted Danson is 57. Actor Jon Polito is 54. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 53. Actress Patricia Clarkson is 45. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 45. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 43. Actor-comedian Mýstro Clark is 38. Actor Jason Gould is 38.



Annual baring of soul, cupboard

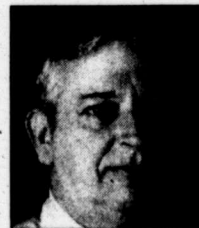
This is the time of the year when I declare all my conflicts of interest, both financial and philosophical. I think readers are entitled to know from whence we journalists are coming, but so far as I know, I'm the only one in America who does this.
It's amazing how easy it is for a blue-collar guy to avoid financial conflicts of interest. Now that I've retired from my corporate newspaper job, my income comes entirely from the sale of these columns and Social Security. I rolled over my IRA, and that, such as it is, is handled by a financial adviser who has put most of it in money-market funds, CDs

and a couple of mutual funds. I couldn't tell you what they are without looking them up.
I quit accepting fees for speeches a long time ago, mainly because I think it is silly. I've never desired to be a performing monkey. I only speak to people I like, and I say what I please.
I don't belong and never have belonged to any private clubs. It goes against my blue-collar grain to pay people for the privilege of

spending money at their establishment. I belong, in fact, to only two organizations: the National Rifle Association and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I am registered as a Democrat.
That occurred after years of listening to Republicans make conservative speeches and then provide us with liberal policies. I prefer the company of an honest liberal any day to a hypocrite posing as a conservative.
Nevertheless, my personal philosophy is about as con-

servative as you can get. I am a traditional conservative, not a neo- or paleo- or any of those other buglike classifications. As I have often said, you can read George Washington's Farewell Address and know exactly where I stand on every issue, foreign and domestic. I'm with the first George all the way.
I am a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson. In fact, one of the most moving moments of my life was the first time I stood in the snow at the foot of his grave. Nevertheless, a lot of experience has caused me to not

Charley Reese
Columnist



See **BARING**, Page 5

Recruitment campaign better work

The Army National Guard has fallen a shocking 30 percent below its recruitment goals for the past two months and has undertaken an expensive incentives campaign to turn those numbers around. It had better work: Almost 40 percent of the 148,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq are Guard members or Reservists. America cannot carry out its mission in Iraq without them.
The situation is so bad that last week, Lt. Gen. James R. "Ron" Helmly, the Army Reserve's top commander, told The Dallas Morning

News that if recruitment doesn't turn around soon, a military draft could be around the corner. Gen. Helmly blamed government bureaucracy for the recruiting shortfall.
Let's be honest here: Can anybody fault potential recruits for staying away from the Guard and Reserves these days? The Guard now asks a lot more than giving up one weekend a month and two

weeks in the summer from its soldiers. It reserves the right to send them to combat postings and keep them there for a year or more.
It's one thing to require that of an active-duty soldier. It's quite another to require that of someone who holds a full-time civilian job and who serves in the Guard to help with emergencies on the home front. The government cannot expect men and

women who have families and civilian commitments to put those aside to sign up for what could easily become a veritable active-duty position in a combat zone.
With the bottom falling out of Guard recruiting and states being left with reduced capacity to attend to their own natural disasters and other emergencies, this crisis could destroy the Guard and Reserves system.
The bill for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's failure to plan adequately for the war is coming due.

Texas Thoughts

Dallas Morning-News

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Supporting Crime Stoppers
Carol Carter, manager of the new Pampa Super Wal-Mart, left, presents a \$1,000 check to Pampa Police Lt. Fred Courtney on behalf of Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers. The donation is a continuing effort on the part of Wal-Mart to provide support for local community-based organizations, officials said.

Deadly tsunamis rival past's worst

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tsunamis that claimed thousands of lives across the Indian Ocean are the deadliest great waves in more than a century and probably in modern history.

More than 36,000 people were killed by tsunamis following the explosion of the volcano Krakatau in the Sunda Strait near Java on Aug. 27, 1883. Many estimates of the number killed in that disaster were even higher.

The toll from Sunday's tsunami has now topped 60,000 deaths in 11 nations.

Following the 1883 eruption, waves estimated as

high as 90 feet slammed ashore on nearby islands, wiping out coastal communities in what is now Indonesia. They had been the deadliest tsunamis of modern times until now.

The earliest description of a tsunami-type wave comes from 479 B.C. in the northern part of the Aegean Sea. Similar waves have been reported worldwide, though they are more common in the Pacific, with its earthquake-prone perimeter.

Many historians believe the explosive eruption of Santorini in the Aegean Sea in 1500 B.C. caused a tsunami that brought widespread

devastation to the eastern Mediterranean and Crete.

Thousands of coastal residents in Spain, Portugal and North Africa were killed by waves spawned by an earthquake at Lisbon, Portugal, in 1755.

Over the centuries, Japan has been the land most plagued by tsunamis, with at least 66,000 deaths recorded there since A.D. 684.

Among the deadliest tsunamis was one that struck Honshu, Japan, in 1896, killing an estimated 27,000.

Many coastal residents were in the streets celebrating a holiday when the wave struck. The next day, fisher-

U.N. official's comment on charity strikes nerve

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is defending American generosity, even as it figures out how to pay for \$35 million it has promised to tsunami victims in Asia.

Administration officials took umbrage at a U.N. official's suggestion the world's richest nations were "stingy" and said they expect to spend much more to help the victims.

But the journey from the \$35 million promise to its payment is fraught with bureaucratic twists.

First, the U.S. Agency for International Development, which distributes foreign aid, will have to ask for more money, since the initial \$35 million aid package drained its emergency relief fund, said Andrew Natsios, the agency's administrator.

"We just spent it," Natsios said in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press. "We'll be talking to the (White House) budget office

... (about) what to do at this point."

Natsios said the Pentagon also is spending tens of millions to mobilize an additional relief operation, with C-130 transport planes winging their way from Dubai to Indonesia with tents, blankets, food and water bags.

As of early Tuesday, dozens of countries and relief groups had pledged \$81 million in help for South and East Asia, said the Geneva-based U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Natsios said, "The notion that the United States is not generous is simply not true, factually."

But measuring the generosity of the United States depends on the yardstick.

The U.S. government is always near the top in total humanitarian aid dollars, even before private donations are counted — but it finishes near the bottom of the list of rich countries when that money is compared to gross national product.

Such figures were what prompted Jan Egeland — the United Nations' emergency relief coordinator and former head of the Norwegian Red Cross — to challenge the giving of rich nations.

"We were more generous when we were less rich, many of the rich countries," he said. "And it is beyond me, why are we so stingy, really. ... Even Christmas time should remind many Western countries at least how rich we have become."

Baring

Continued from Page 4

share his unlimited faith in the people. Too many people these days too often more resemble sheep than citizens of a free republic.

I was born in Georgia, and I have been at one time or another a grocery clerk, a janitor, a printer, a reporter, a soldier, a photographer, a reserve deputy sheriff, an advertising copywriter, a political aide, a speechwriter, an assistant city editor, an assistant to the publisher, and I even have one of those silly honorary doctorates. It's not a distinguished career, but I'm proud of the fact that since the age of 13,

I never have been without a job. I was born in a lucky year and avoided all the wars, though I have been shot at twice by civilians. As Winston Churchill said, it's fun to be missed.

I am opposed to abortion. It is taking an innocent human life, and I cling to the notion that human life is sacred. As for the issue of gay marriage, I don't care one way or the other. If they wish to deliver themselves into the hands of divorce lawyers, it's no skin off my nose.

There is, for those with the eyes to see it, a great deal more decadence to worry

about than that one issue.

I love the South, the land and its people. I'm proud of my Confederate ancestors and the flag they fought for. I understand why some blacks might feel offended

by that flag. It's been misused by some y a h o o s . Nevertheless, there is no protection in t h e Constitution for sensitive feelings.

With the exception of slavery, the South was right, and everything wrong with this country today — centralized government, imperial wars, pork-barreling and corruption — stems from the fact that the North won the war.

Too many people these days too often more resemble sheep than citizens of a free republic.

Calendar of Events

Pampa Caregivers Support Group. Pampa Caregivers Support Group will meet at 12 noon the second Thursday of each month at Shepards Nursing, 918 N. Crest Road. The meetings are open to all caregivers of individuals suffering from medical conditions such as stroke, heart attack and Alzheimer's.

Panhandle Alliance for the Mentally Ill. A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

Pathways. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer "Pathways," a four-part support series for those who have lost a loved one, from 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays throughout the month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

Power Wheelchairs. Miracle on Wheels is offering Power Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens (65 years and up) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. The chairs are provided to those who cannot walk and self-propel a manual wheelchair at their home or independent living quarters

and who meet additional qualifications of the program. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. For more information, call 1-800-749-8778 or visit www.durablemedical.com on the World Wide Web.

Prescription Drug Booklet. The Cost Containment Research Institute in Washington, D.C., recently published at 32-page booklet, "Free & Low Cost Prescription Drugs." The revised third edition provides information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs. Consumers can obtain a copy by sending \$5 to cover printing, postage and handling to: Institute Fulfillment Center, Prescription Drug Booklet #: PDF-370, P.O. Box 462, Elmira, NY 14902-0462. The information is also available at www.institute-dc.org.

Princess Warriors. Princess Warriors, a support group for women with gynecologic cancer, meets at 5:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month in the Harrington Cancer Center Amphitheater in Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 359-4673 or (806) 934-2364.

Quit Club. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer the "Quit Club" for smokers from 6-7 p.m., the third Monday of each month at various intervals at the center's Quality of Life Center. For more information or to register for the next session, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 214.

men returning home found a scene of devastation, strewn with bodies and ruined homes for miles.

Indonesia has seen more than 50,000 deaths in more than 30 destructive tsunamis over the centuries — not including the most recent disaster.

On April 1, 1946, a Pacific-wide tsunami was generated by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake near Unimak Island in Alaska's Aleutian Island chain.

A huge wave destroyed the U.S. Coast Guard's Scotch Cap lighthouse on Unimak, killing all five of its occupants.

The more you study that war, the more you realize that slavery was a sideshow. The war was about regional differences and the Constitution.

At any rate, that part of the river went to the sea a long time ago, and all of us — North, South, East and West — have our own sets of problems to solve.

My only purpose in writing a column is to stimulate people to think about those problems. I don't care if anyone agrees with me as long as he or she thinks and acts.

What will kill us as a country is apathy, and we should all take the field against that.

Charley Reese is a retired journalist and syndicated columnist.

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Pet of the Week

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- Male Chocolate Chihuahua
- Female "young" Brindle Boxer

All of these pets were found during the holidays.

Please call or come by to reclaim.

New Years Holiday Hours ... Closed January 1 & 2

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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.
NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm.
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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband comes from a family of practical jokers. When I first married "Vince," I tolerated it. However, after my sister-in-law, "Vicki," sent a stripper to my office as a birthday surprise, I asked her politely and firmly to stop. All my request did was provoke her to continue hounding me and to escalate the jokes.

Her last "joke" was the last straw. Vince and I had planned a dream vacation to Europe. Vicki called our travel agent and attempted to cancel it over the phone. She had our confirmation number and my credit card information. It's lucky that I'm close friends with the travel agent, who knew it wasn't me. Thinking we were victims of a credit card scam, she ended the call and contacted me at work.

Besides nearly costing us thousands of dollars in unrefundable travel costs, we realized that Vicki had snooped through our personal belongings. How else could she have obtained my credit card numbers and the confirmation number for the trip? We canceled all our credit cards, had new ones issued, and warned Vicki that we're thoroughly checking all of our records.

This has caused a huge rift in the family. While my in-laws agree that what Vicki did was wrong, they insist in the next breath that we shouldn't take it so seriously, and we need to have a sense of humor. Vince and I are standing firm that Vicki is no longer welcome in our home. She has never apologized and seems to enjoy showing up at our house, forcing us to deny her entry. How can we get her to stop harassing us, and how can we get the family to recognize the seriousness of this? -- TICKED OFF IN HOUSTON

DEAR TICKED OFF: Your sister-in-law appears to have gone off the deep end. There is a difference between a practical joke and malicious mischief, a fact that seems lost on the woman. Until she grows up

and sobers up, you are within your rights to distance yourself from her. It may take a restraining order to keep her away, but it might be an effective way to impress the seriousness of the problem upon the family.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my 30s with an outgoing personality. A few weeks ago I struck up a conversation with an elderly man in a store. We shared a common interest in computers, so I gave him my e-mail address.

In his first two e-mails, he suggested we have lunch and asked if I was married. I ignored his questions and wrote about other things -- computers and pets. In his third e-mail, he volunteered that he only "co-existed" with his wife and said they were probably headed for divorce.

At that point, red flags went up. I e-mailed him that I didn't think our correspondence was a good idea because it could cause problems for him, even if he was looking only for friendship. I also said I hoped he would consider marriage counseling.

He replied with an angry e-mail saying I had offended him by suggesting that he would cheat on his wife, and that I should refrain from such arrogant assumptions in the future.

I'm not sure if I overstepped my bounds and owe him an apology, or if he is a Jekyll and Hyde who should be avoided altogether. -- WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING IN CAROLINA

DEAR WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING: The right thing to do is stop the e-mails. Delete him from your computer and your life. You do not owe him an apology or any further contact. You thought he was a harmless old man, and you were only half right.

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For Better Or Worse



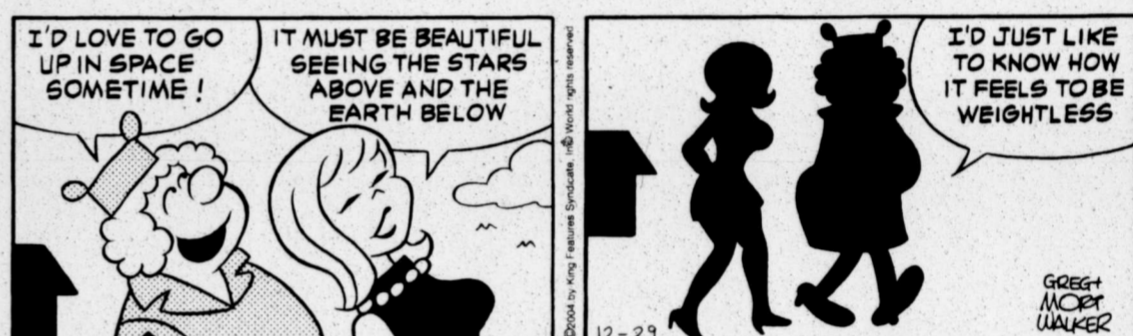
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Marvin



B.C.



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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

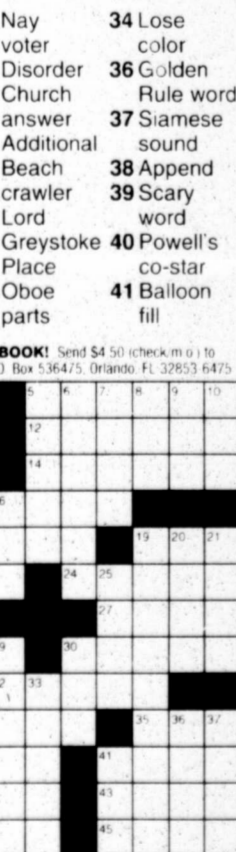
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Cave
- 2 Move sound
- 3 Native currency
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- 5 "Seward's Folly"
- 6 Do post office work
- 7 Depend
- 8 Ram's mate
- 9 "Chicago" star
- 10 This is only
- 11 Scenery
- 12 Traffic
- 13 light color
- 14 Play part
- 15 Othello
- 16 "Doggone!"
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The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



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By M...
It wasn't for, but a le last night's Wildcats by your head in a seat.
Harvester Reed took t last night's loss at the M in Clovis to cipline in pr trict play w 14. "They v up and gett was makin Reed in an i game.
Reed, wh sit Jarett K foul trouble out, but son a little bit, t "I didn't January 14

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Sports Day

Poor shooting dooms Pampa at Milk Cow Classic in Clovis

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

It wasn't the outcome they were hoping for, but a lesson may have been learned in last night's loss to the Clovis Wildcats by Pampa — keep your head in the game or take a seat.

Harvester Head Coach Jeff Reed took the opportunity in last night's 63-52 semifinal loss at the Milk Cow Classic in Clovis to instill a little discipline in preparation for district play which begins Jan. 14. "They weren't stepping it up and getting it done and I was making a point," said Reed in an interview after the game.

Reed, who was forced to sit Jarett Kotara early due to foul trouble said, "He was out, but some of our other starters were out a little bit, too."

"I didn't care if we lost this game or not. January 14th is when it counts, when we

play our first district game. These guys have got to understand that they need to do what they're supposed to do — or they're not going to play," Reed said.

Though the zone defense managed to hold Wildcat big man Tigg Bunton, who scored 30 points on Pampa Dec. 18, to 17 points last night, the Harvester offense managed little better than 20 percent shooting from the field.

Pampa had 13-point performances from both Clayton Hall and Sharod Young.

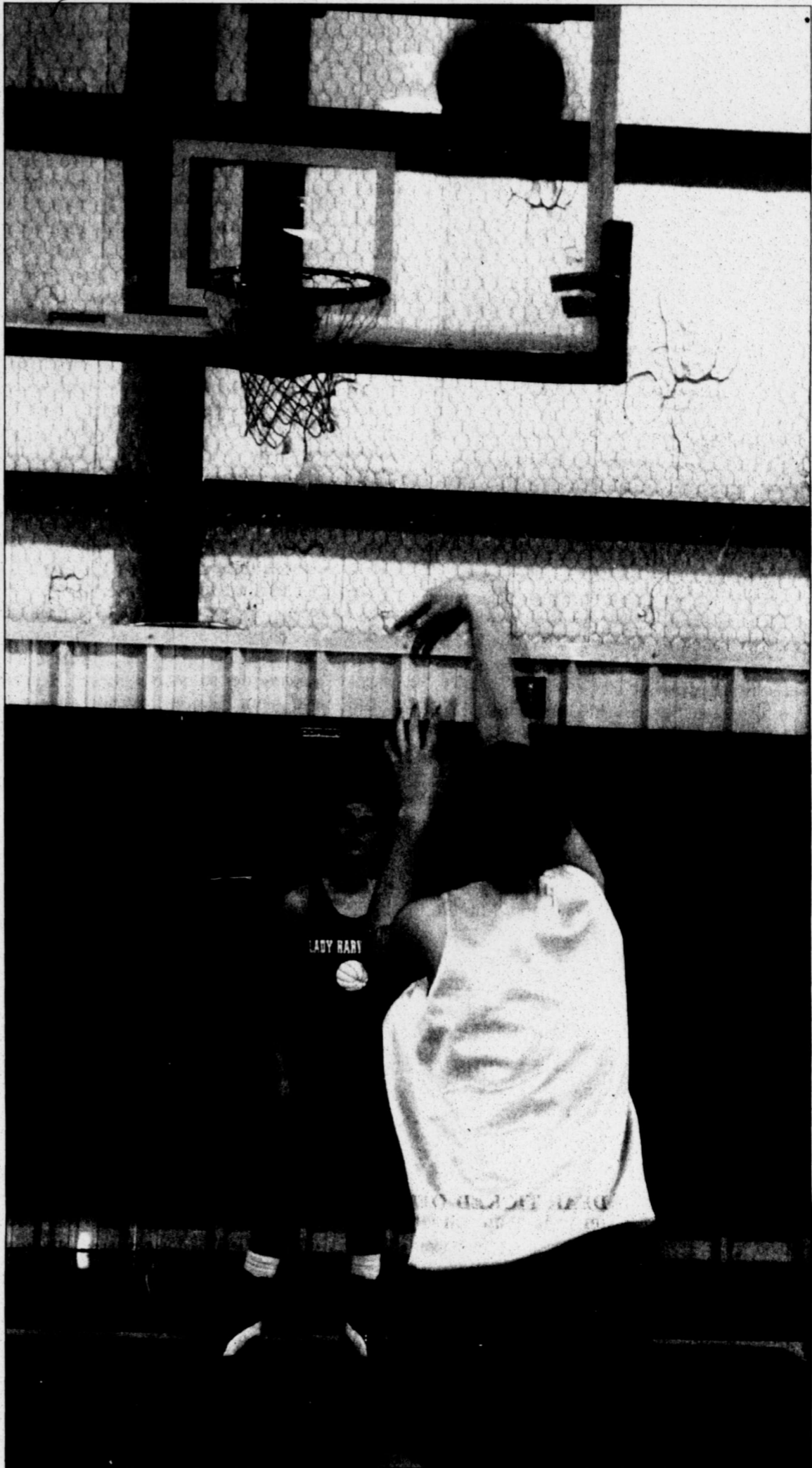
The Harvesters will wrap up their appearance at this year's Milk Cow Classic with a game this afternoon.

Pampa is back home to host Claude next Tuesday night. The varsity game will tip off at 7:30 p.m. The junior varsity team will play at 6 p.m. in the MPAC building across from McNeely Field House.

'These guys have got to understand that they need to do what they're supposed to do — or they're not going to play.'

— Jeff Reed
Head Coach, PHS Boys Basketball

Travel plans



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

A couple of Lady Harvester basketball players spend some time working on free throws during a practice session Tuesday morning at the MPAC building. Pampa left for Lubbock yesterday afternoon to compete in the Caprock Tournament. They had a 1:30 p.m. meeting today with Lubbock Monterey.

City volleyball leagues forming

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The City of Pampa Recreation Department is sponsoring men's, women's and mixed, adult volleyball leagues. Men's, women's and mixed 4-on-4 (four players on each team) divisions will be offered. Players must be fourteen years old to participate.

Entry deadline is Jan. 14, at 5 p.m. The season will begin the week of Jan. 24.

Sponsor fee is \$100, and player's fee is \$15 per player with a minimum of five (5) 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.

SAYING GOODBYE

750 pay respects to former Rangers manager Oates

COLONIAL HEIGHTS, Va. (AP) — About 750 relatives, friends and former baseball peers, including a contingent from Texas, paid their last respects Tuesday to former Rangers manager Johnny Oates.

He died Friday 58 after a three-year fight with glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive brain tumor.

Most of those at the funeral service at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church were associated with Oates through his 35-year baseball career of playing, coaching and managing.

Oates was best known for managing the Rangers to their first three postseason

appearances, in 1996, '98 and '99. He also managed the Baltimore Orioles from 1991-94.

Jeff Zimmerman, a former Rangers pitcher, said that Oates was far more than just a manager to his players.

"He was more like a father figure than a manager," Zimmerman said. "Just the way he loved life and loved his family was a great example. There was more than just baseball to him."

Rangers manager Buck Showalter was among the approximately 25-man contingent that flew in from Texas. Orioles owner Peter Angelos also was in attendance.

Fancy footwork



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Dakota Tavlington celebrates sunshine and warm temperatures by catching air Tuesday at the Central Park skate facility.

A peek at Parcell's offseason goals

By JAIME ARON
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas (AP) — As much as Bill Parcells professes to be focused on this season, he's dropped enough hints lately to make it clear he's already started thinking about how he'll improve the Dallas Cowboys this offseason.

And since Parcells is an avid list-maker, breaking down his offseason priorities into must-gets, need-to-gets and want-to-gets, here's a potential rough draft based on his statements from the last two weeks.

MUST-GETS

— Defensive playmakers, preferably more than one.
You were expecting something

about a quarterback, weren't you? Sorry, that comes much lower.

Parcells points out that mediocre QBs (like Trent Dilfer and Brad Johnson) won recent Super Bowls. Teams with mediocre defenses haven't.

"We've got a lot of work to do on defense. Matter of fact, I think we need more things on defense than we do on offense," Parcells said. "We need more dynamic, opportunistic, aggressive, catalytic kind of players. Every good defense in the league has some."

Dropping from first to 21st in yards allowed is only part of the problem. He's bothered more by Dallas' inability to generate turnovers.

The solution starts with pairing Pro Bowl tackle La'Roi Glover and end

Greg Ellis with better players. Marcellus Wiley was a bust, as were the gaggle of tackles Parcells counted on.

"I think you need some kind of defensive pressure player," Parcells said. "It would be nice to have two so they can't pay attention to one all the time."

Hurrying quarterbacks also would help the secondary. So would the addition of another safety and a right cornerback.

Plug those holes and odds are Roy Williams and Terence Newman can become the difference-makers the Cowboys expected when making their top-10 picks.

See ARON, Page 8

Houston Bowl capping redemptive seasons

HOUSTON (AP) — When Gary Barnett was mired in scandal earlier this year, the Colorado coach could always count on an encouraging word from longtime friend Mike Price.

Price himself was just emerging from scandal, getting a second chance at Texas-El Paso. So it was from experience that he told Barnett to stay strong, that better days would be ahead.

This season proved to work out just fine for both of them — so well that they're capping it by coaching against each other Wednesday in the Houston Bowl. UTEP (8-3) will be making its first bowl appearance in four years against Colorado (7-5).

"We're supporting each other 100 percent and we understood what the other one was going through," Price said. "In a good way, we kind of lean on each other."

Barnett's program was the target of sexual assault claims dating to 1997, followed by an investigation that discovered sex, alcohol and drugs were used as recruiting tools, although there was no evidence that university officials

sanctioned it. Then Barnett went on three months of administrative leave for making insensitive remarks about two accusers, including former kicker Katie Hnida who said she was raped by a teammate in 2000.

The layoff kept him away from spring workouts.

He was reinstated May 28, and began laying the foundation for a turnaround from a 5-7 finish in 2003. Colorado won its final three games of the season to earn a share of the Big 12 North title and Barnett was voted the Big 12 coach of the year.

"Our team has really overcome so much to get where we are this year," Barnett said. "Especially with us being a team that no one picked to be anywhere near a bowl game at this point in time."

A few months after he was hired at Alabama, Price was fired for allegedly spending a boozy night with strippers. He sat out a season, then began his career makeover at UTEP, which had just six wins over the previous three years and just three winning seasons since 1970.

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Aron

Continued from Page 7

— Upgrading the offensive line. Though the unit has been decent this season, Parcells said Monday, "There are other things we need to add. When the season's over, I'll be trying to do that."

The right side needs the most work, with guard Andre Gurode and a recent smorgasbord of tackles playing themselves out of the lineup. The left side will be interesting, too, with guard Larry Allen not getting any younger and tackle Flozell Adams regressing after making the Pro Bowl last season.

Something else to watch: Second-round pick Jacob Rogers can't crack the field at right tackle, but Parcells said he could handle left tackle. Asked whether that will affect his plans for '05, Parcells said: "It definitely could."

"That is some of the things that I am thinking about that I guess wouldn't be obvious," he said.

NEED-TO-GETS

— TE Dan Campbell and WR Terry Glenn returning from season-ending foot injuries.

That's right, still not a quarterback. But we're getting close because of how important those two are to the offense.

Glenn is the deep threat who stretches defenses. Campbell is the sixth lineman; his blocking helps the running game and his presence makes Jason Witten more effective.

As often as Parcells has bemoaned their absence, it's clear the trickle-

down effect of replacing both has been among the reasons he's stuck with 41-year-old Vinny Testaverde instead of newcomers Drew Henson and Tony Romo.

'I don't think there's any question we're going to have to get another runner at some point.'

— Bill Parcells
Head Coach, Dallas Cowboys

"If we start one of these young guys next year, it's going to be an absolute that we have to have the right combination of characters around them," Parcells said. "Right now, with everybody healthy, we've got a good start on that."

— A QB game plan. Taking care of the previous three to-do items will take money and-or draft picks. Don't expect more to be spent here.

And if those three things get done, the 2005 starter would be set up at least as good as Quincy Carter was in leading Dallas into the playoffs at 10-6 last year.

So expect Testaverde to start the opener and save your venom over replacing him until August. Whether Henson or Romo eventually replaces

him will depend on where they spend their offseason (Valley Ranch or NFL Europe) and how well they do there.

"There's a very good chance one of those two could be the quarterback in 2005," Parcells said.

WANT-TO-GETS

— More running backs. Parcells wants his RB corps to resemble a baseball bullpen, with everyone having a role.

Julius Jones is set as the featured back. Now Parcells wants a nimble guy with good hands for third downs and a bruiser to help wear out defenses.

"I don't think there's any question we're going to have to get another runner at some point," Parcells said. "You'd like to have a combination of a little bit bigger one. But if I had to pick one, I'd pick an elusive back."

Bigger linebackers.

Starters Dexter Coakley (5-foot-10), Dat Nguyen (5-11) and Al Singleton (6-2) have combined for just one sack, two fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

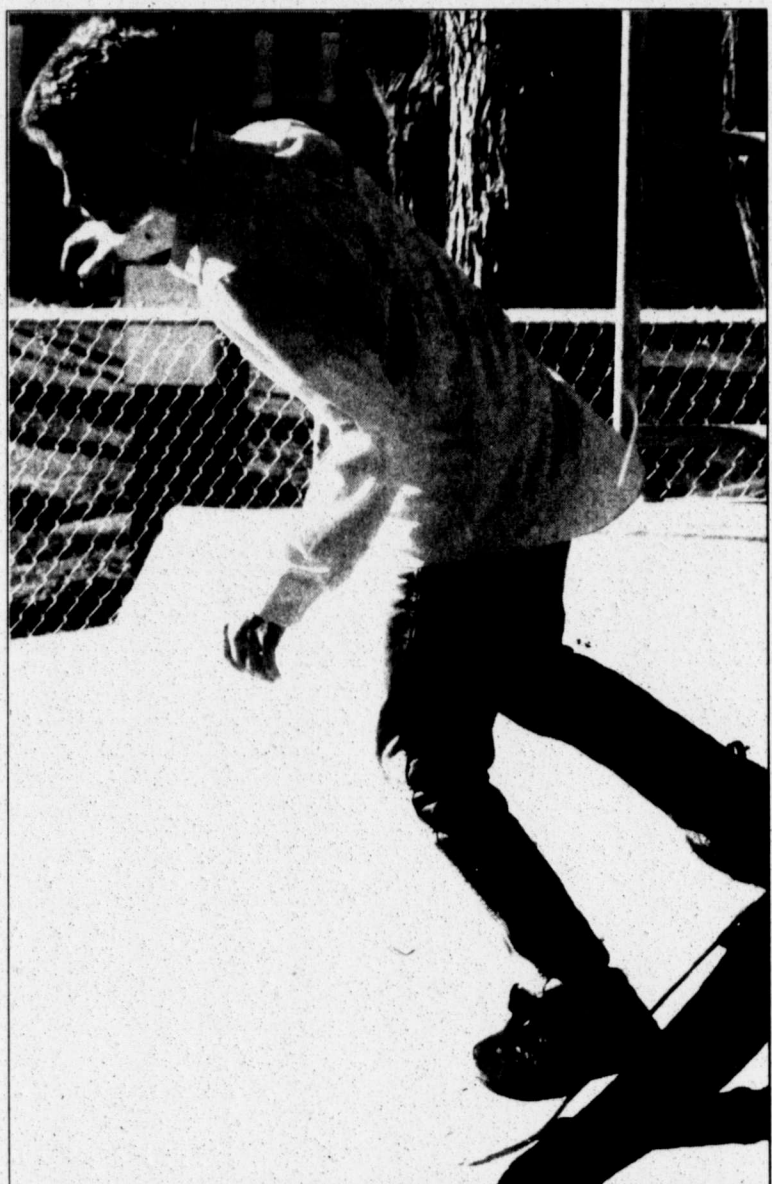
Size doesn't necessarily lead to more big plays, but to Parcells it certainly helps. This one is more of a hunch, based mostly on how often he says things like, "We have to be able to create more things on defense, many more than we've created."

BOTTOM LINE

The Parcells Lovers of 2003 have turned into Parcells Bashers in '04. Someone with his track record doesn't lose his touch that quickly.

Besides, he's set up to succeed. He's got this blueprint to help get him started, plus two first-round picks and plenty of salary-cap room.

Radical



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE
Matt Heisen works a ramp at the skate facility in sunny Central Park yesterday afternoon.

Spurs cool hot Suns 115-94

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs matched the Phoenix Suns' running style for a quarter as both teams pushed the ball up the court as fast as they could.

Then, San Antonio decided to play some defense.

Tony Parker scored a season-high 29 points in just 30 minutes, and San Antonio shot 52 percent in a 115-94 victory that ended Phoenix's 11-game winning streak. It also amplified the ongoing chatter over just how good the Suns really are despite their NBA-best 24-4 record. "We didn't show a lot of poise or focus tonight," said Suns point guard Steve Nash, who scored all 12 of his points in the first. "We got embarrassed, but we can use that positively. We can make this a turning point in our season."

San Antonio held Phoenix to 34 points in the

second and third quarters, and limited the Suns to a season-low 39.7 percent shooting for the game.

'We know they can score points, but let's see what they can do against hands being in their face on contested shots.'

— Bruce Bowen
Forward, San Antonio Spurs

Phoenix's full-throttle offense — the league's most productive at nearly 110 points per game — was ground to a near-halt by the Spurs' defense — the NBA's stingiest, giving up an average of 85 points per game.

"Everybody understood that defense is what was going to do it for us," the Spurs' Bruce Bowen said. "We know they can score points, but let's see what they can do against hands being in their face on contested shots."

San Antonio's defensive effort came after coach Gregg Popovich was hit with a technical foul by referee Violet Palmer.

"He knows how to get things working our way," said Tim Duncan, who had 16 points and 12 rebounds. "It changed the tides."

San Antonio fell just one point shy of its highest point total of the season and held the Suns to just one point more than their season-low. Midway through the fourth, Phoenix trailed by more than 30.

Parker, defended mostly by Nash, penetrated seemingly at will. Eight of his 14 baskets came in the paint.

"We didn't do a good job containing Tony Parker on the pick-and-roll," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We let them in the paint too much."

San Antonio, up 61-54 at halftime, won with a 20-6 run to open the third quarter. Parker scored three baskets inside and Bowen added a pair of 3-pointers during the decisive burst.

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Red Sox nab AP top story

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

There was no Commissioner's Trophy last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series.

No commissioner, in fact. So when the Red Sox won it all for the first time since 1918, they didn't think it would be right to stick their trophy on a shelf somewhere to gather dust.

Instead, they took it to every state in New England, to a fan hangout in California and the team's academy in the Dominican Republic, to Christmas tree lightings and churches and nursing homes, where octogenarians have waited all their lives to see their favorite team win just once.

At the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where they treat sick children thanks in part to the Red Sox and the Jimmy Fund, the trophy caused such a hubbub when pitcher Tim Wakefield brought it by last week that order, finally, had to be restored.

"I just want to get some kids up here!" activities coordinator Lisa Scherber shouted as the patients, too young to understand, watched their parents pose for pictures with the prize. "We've got a lot of adults."

The World Series trophy has been a much-welcomed and well-traveled guest this offseason. And how it got to be that way is the sports story of the year, according to a vote by the newspaper and broadcast members of The Associated Press.

Boston's first World Series title since 1918 and the unprecedented comeback against the Yankees that made it possible was a runaway winner with 108 first-place votes and 1,325 points.

Lance Armstrong's sixth straight Tour de France title (seven first-place votes, 785 points) finished second and the Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons brawl was third (six first-place votes, 662 points).

The New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory and 21-game winning streak was next (zero first-place votes, 498 points), followed by sports' steroid stories (eight first-place votes, 495 points).

Merely winning the Series after an 86-year drought probably would have been enough to make the Red Sox the year's top story. But the way they did it was one for the ages.

After falling five outs short of the World Series last year and firing their manager because of it, the Red Sox acquired Curt Schilling, the top starting pitcher on the market, and Keith Foulke, the top reliever.

Their pursuit of Alex Rodriguez — a deal that would have involved unloading Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez — ended late in 2003. But before spring training got started the reigning AL MVP went to the hated Yankees — thanks in part to the groundwork the Red Sox had done.

It seemed like Boston would be New York's runner-up once again.

The Red Sox played .500 ball for most of the year, prompting general manager Theo Epstein to trade Garciaparra for shortstop Orlando Cabrera and spare parts Dave Roberts and Doug Mientkiewicz.

But the regular season was, as expected, merely the undercard for a Red Sox-Yankees playoff rematch; for the seventh consecutive year, Boston finished second to New York in the AL East.

The only indication that things might be different this year was that the Red Sox won 11 of 19 meetings between the teams during the regular season — Boston's first edge in the season series since 1999.

"Just about everywhere I go, people get very emotional. These people have been waiting a lot longer than I have," said Bill Mullaly, a 30-year-old Red Sox security guard who escorts the trophy on many of its visits.

Nowitzki gets double-double in 113-94 win

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks got serious about defending their home court.

Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and 11 rebounds for his 15th double-double of the season, and Michael Finley added 21 points as the Mavericks built a 28-point first-half lead and eased to a 113-94 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

Erick Dampier matched his season-high with 16 points, all in the first half, and Jason Terry had a season-high 14 assists for Dallas.

The Mavericks, beginning a stretch of five straight home games, improved to 9-6 at home. Dallas, 36-5 at home last season, had lost three of its previous four home games and has been more successful on the road with a 10-4 record.

"It's nice to win on the road, but we've been letting games slip away here," Nowitzki said. "We have to find a way to get that right."

Paul Pierce and Jiri Welsch had 17 points each, and Raef LaFrentz scored 16 points to pace the Celtics, who've lost eight of their last nine meetings with the Mavericks.

After trailing by 24 at halftime, Boston came out with more energy and started the third quarter with a 24-11

spurt to pull to 84-73. But Dallas recovered with a 7-0 run capped by Finley's buzzer-beating jumper to take a 91-73 lead into the final quarter.

Dallas missed its first shot of the game, then converted its next nine in bolting to a 41-20 lead after one quarter.

'We were able to get in the lane and guys got in their spots. It all worked out.'

— Jason Terry
Guard, Dallas Mavericks

Dampier had 12 points and Nowitzki scored 11 in the opening quarter while the Mavericks shot 17-of-22. Dallas had nine layups and dunks in the first quarter, five dunks from Dampier, to post its highest-scoring quarter of the season.

"We came out and set the tempo at both ends," Terry said. "We were able to get in the lane and guys got in their spots. It all worked out."

The Mavericks went on to a 73-49 halftime advantage helped by a 16-0 late second-quarter run. Dallas was led by Nowitzki's 20 first-half points.

Shooting 28-for-43 from the floor in the first half (65 percent), Dallas rolled to its biggest lead (68-40) with 1:57 left until halftime.

"They exploited our defense," LaFrentz said. "It took them two possessions to figure out what we were doing and then they went to work."

Boston turned up its defensive intensity in the third quarter, doing a better job defending Nowitzki on the pick-and-roll.

Dallas scored only 18 points in the third quarter, four from Nowitzki.

"They were dancing behind the pick-and-rolls and picking us apart," Welsch said. "We changed that and in the second half we were trapping the guy with the ball and it was much better."

Notes: Mavericks G-F Jerry Stackhouse sang the National Anthem, receiving a standing ovation from the crowd and hugs from teammates.

The teams combined for nine technicals and two flagrant fouls. "With all the technicals, it wasn't a pretty game in the second half," said Mavericks assistant coach Avery Johnson.

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Notice is hereby that original lettermentary upon the estate of OLIN JESSE DON, Deceased, granted to me, the signed, on Decem 2004, in Cause No pending in the Court of Gray Texas. All persons claims against this which is currently administered are to present them within the time manner prescribed law. DATED Decemb 2004.

APPL Independent Exce the E OLIN JESSE WE D c/o Vanessa G. I Peterson Farr & Park 208 N. Pampa, Texas 806/66

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Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the Estate of OLIN JESSE WELDON, Deceased, were granted to me, the undersigned, on December 21, 2004, in Cause No. 9150, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to us within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED December 21, 2004.
APPLICANT Independent Executrix of the Estate of OLIN JESSE WELDON, Deceased c/o Vanessa G. Buzzard Peterson Farris Pruitt & Parker, P.C. 208 N. Russell Pampa, Texas 79065 806/665-9764

1 Public Notice

806/669-9756 FAX Attorney for Applicant B-47 Dec. 29, 2004

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1991 Ford F-250 for sale. Rough. \$900 obo. Call 669-7029.

21 Help Wanted POSITIONS avail for Exp. Heavy Equip Operators and Exp. "Finish" Blade Operators, interested in long term employment. Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187.

GET paid at home/assembly, crafts, mailing letters, etc.. Send \$8 with a self address stamped envelope to D. E. Houston, 1017 S. Wells, Pampa, Tx. 79065.

Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa Is looking for 1 or 2 highly motivated persons to talk to families in the Pampa area about Cemetery Pre-Planning. If you are good with people & enjoy a challenge, call Daniel today at 665-8921.

WANTED: CNA 3-11 shift, FT w/ benefits, St. Ann's Nursing Home, 537-3194.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES needs providers in Pampa. Call 1-800-800-0697.

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Parole Caseworker II / Parole Officer I \$2138 Mo. / \$2410 Mo. TX Dept. of Criminal Justice is now accepting applications for: Parole Caseworker II / Parole Officer I for the Pampa area. Minimum requirements, Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Major course work in Criminal Justice, Counseling, Social Work, Psychology or Sociology preferred. Experience in the operation of computers and related equipment preferred. Training in cultural diversity and sensitivity preferred. Submit a state of Texas application to: Kim Mendonca, Human Resources 8610 Shoal Creek Blvd. Austin, TX 78757 Call (512)406-5377 for application forms and a complete job description or visit our website at www.tdcj.state.tx.us

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3.6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004:

Work with the key people in your life. You will get better results. Treat each person as a unique individual, and you'll find that your bonds flourish. An investment could really go your way if you use your instincts and listen to those around you. Get feedback and brainstorm before deciding on a course of action. If you are single, you could meet someone out and about or at work. Check out this person thoroughly, as he or she might be unavailable or not all that he or she seems to be. If you are attached, share your feelings more often. Learn to express your anger as well. Be willing to take your sweetie out and about more often. LEO understands you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** Infuse others with the happiness of the New Year. Look at this turnover as a new beginning. A partner shares his or her feelings in a detached manner. Talk about the future together. Discuss the direction in which your bond is going. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** You might have something special up your sleeve for this New Year's. If you can, don't let the cat out of the bag. Reorganize your schedule if you need to; others will adapt and understand. Use your intuition. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Speak your mind and don't hold back. Others appreciate your feedback and dynamic ideas. Someone

might need to revamp his or her schedule. Work with this person. Allow more laughter into your life. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Get feedback from those who understand your needs. Your likes and daily life could be instrumental. Work with suggestions. You might want to start a home-based business or establish an office at home. Why not? Tonight: Talk with a roommate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Don't start any new projects or even initiate an important conversation, as you will have to repeat much that you do today. Let your social side emerge. Take off early and enjoy the celebrations. A flirtation or love tie heats up. Tonight: Go for frivolous and carefree.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Do what you want. If you can, take the day off. Don't undertake anything of significance, as you will have to repeat this experience again. Head home as early as you can. You will be happiest there. Tonight: Don't even think about New Year's resolutions until tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** What a friend does and says might be very nice and make you quite happy. He or she likely won't come through in the long run. Don't have great expectations. Make calls and reach out to those around you. Tonight: Let the kid in you out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Your image and leadership make a difference. Being a role model is the best way to encourage others to change. Be gracious. Use your instincts with a money matter. Buy a lottery ticket if you wish, but don't break the

bank. Tonight: Try to make it an early night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Your opinions are valued. Quite clearly, another wants to tap into your mind and perspective. Help others, and you will realize more of what you want. Discuss New Year's plans with friends. Tonight: Go with unusual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Listen to a boss, but also share some of your ideas. You might need to revise your thinking about a relationship or partnership. Detach and think. You might need to talk more with this person. Tonight: Opt for a close encounter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** You don't need to do anything, as others will seek you out. You are presented with many different options or invitations. Opt for something unusual and very different. You will be delighted with the outcome. Tonight: Flex with a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** You dig into whatever you need to do and clear out a bundle of your to-do list. You will complete so much that you feel free to join the celebration or a get-together with friends. Make an appearance with a special partner. Tonight: Get some extra sleep; you're going to need it!

BORN TODAY

Golfer Tiger Woods (1975), singer Bo Diddley (1928), comedian, actress Tracey Ullman (1959)

*** Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. (c) 2004 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



TexSCAN Week of Adoption December 26, 2004

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

World news

Ukraine: Supporters of new president-elect blockade headquarters

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Boisterous supporters of President-elect Viktor Yushchenko blockaded the government headquarters on Wednesday, preventing the prime minister from convening a Cabinet session.

Yushchenko had called for the blockade after Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich refused to concede defeat in Sunday's presidential election. Yanukovich submitted four appeals to Ukraine's Supreme Court late Tuesday.

The court was expected to decide later Wednesday whether to consider them, said Liana Shlyaposhnikova, a court spokeswoman.

About 1,000 demonstrators gathered at the government building early Wednesday, blocking off the entrances. People showing up for work were turned away.

"Resign! Resign!" the crowd chanted, banging on drums. Many wore ribbons and carried banners of orange, Yushchenko's campaign color. A few carried the red and black flags of Ukraine's Una-Unso, an ultranationalist group.

Protesters also gathered in a park nearby and on Kiev's main square.

"We will show the criminal government that they cannot ignore the people's will," said one who gave only his first name, Vasil.

Later in the morning, Irina Lobanova, a spokeswoman

'We did not blockade the Cabinet of Ministers. We blockaded only one person: Viktor Yanukovich.'

— Yuriy Lutsenko
Socialist Party member

for the Cabinet, said that the prime minister would not meet with his ministers as planned. Soon after the protesters began to disperse and near midday only a couple hundred remained outside the main entrance.

"We did not blockade the Cabinet of Ministers. We blockaded only one person: Viktor Yanukovich," said Yuriy Lutsenko, a law-

maker and member of the Socialist Party, which backed Yushchenko in last weekend's court-ordered revote.

Lutsenko said the protesters were given guarantees that Yanukovich would not attempt to enter his office Wednesday or Thursday. He said Yanukovich might hold the session outside Kiev, in which case there were no plans to try to stop him.

"We don't plan to follow Yanukovich all over the country," he said.

Yanukovich has remained defiant, submitting four appeals of Sunday's court-ordered revote to Ukraine's Supreme Court. The court is now studying the appeals, and is expected to decide later Wednesday whether to consider them, said Liana Shlyaposhnikova, spokeswoman for the court. The appeals were submitted late Tuesday.

Oleksandr Ternavsky, Yanukovich's spokesman, called Yushchenko's move "completely illegal."

Ukraine's parliament passed a no-confidence vote in Yanukovich's government on Dec. 1 but the prime minister refused to resign. Ukrainian law allows his government to continue operating until a new Cabinet is in place, but no longer than 60 days.

Yushchenko won 51.99 percent to Yanukovich's 44.19 percent in Sunday's court-ordered rerun of the vote, according to a final preliminary vote tally — a difference of about 2.3 million votes.

"In principle, we have the result," said Yaroslav Davydovych, the head of the Central Election Commission. "I don't know who can doubt it."

Abbas hitting campaign trail

TULKAREM, West Bank (AP) — Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas condemned Israel's West Bank separation barrier during campaign stops Wednesday at towns fenced in by the concrete slabs, urging Israel to remove the massive structure.

Abbas, the front-runner in next month's Palestinian presidential election, has hit the campaign trail this week, addressing large audiences in the West Bank towns of Jericho and Tulkarem.

For a second day, Abbas received a warm welcome, injecting some energy into the low-key politician's campaign to succeed Yasser Arafat. Arafat, the longtime Palestinian leader, died on Nov. 11.

Several thousand people in Tulkarem greeted Abbas. Many held pictures of Abbas and Arafat and chanted slogans for the two men.

Tulkarem, located along the line between Israel and the West Bank, is surrounded on two sides by the 25-foot slabs of the Israeli barrier, and Abbas spoke at a stadium just 500 yards from the wall.

"I say to our neighbors ... no fence will bring peace or bring you security," Abbas told the rally.

Israel says the structure is needed to block suicide bombers from entering the

country. But Palestinians say the barrier is a land grab that will prevent them from establishing an independent state. The barrier, expected to run about 425 miles, is about one-third complete and juts into the West Bank in many areas, keeping Palestinians from reaching farmland and complicating Palestinian travel.

Later, Abbas traveled to the nearby town of Qalqiliya, which has been virtually enclosed by the barrier. Abbas toured the wall and addressed a crowd of several hundred supporters.

"We hope the Israelis will take the wall down," he said. "If the Israelis want to reach a fair and just peace, they will take down the wall."

Throughout the day, Abbas repeated his main campaign themes: establishing an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem through negotiations; a plea for Palestinian unity; and a fair solution for refugees displaced after Israeli independence in 1948.

Israel is quietly backing Abbas, whom they consider to be a moderate pragmatist. Although Abbas has frequently spoken out against violence, he has also raised concerns among Israelis with his constant references to Arafat.

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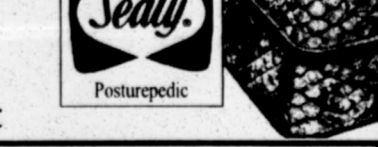
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