*** ALL FOR ADC 780 *01 BV04227 12/31/14 SOUTHWEST MICROPUBLISHING

Twenty Five Plus Years Experience

Today's weather



Deaths

Dennis L. Combs, 62, fisherman.

Bernice Hollars, 88, services pending. Grace H. King, 88, services pending.

Carrie Melton, 93, services pending. **Beatrice** Hallmark

Neill, 77, LVN. Rosa Lee Weaver, 84, nurse aide.

Texas Today

State school worker wounded in attack

RICHMOND (AP) -An employee at a state school for the mentally retarded remained hospitalized Monday after she was shot multiple times by a co-worker, who later died of what authorities called a self-inflicted wound.

Richmond State School officials and authorities were investigating the attack Friday in the dining hall of the facility that houses about 500 people on the banks of the Brazos

Dorian Randle, a food service employee, was shot in the arm, leg and back at the facility's dining hall, said her mother.

A co-worker identified by investigators as Bedah Amwoka entered the dining hall about 6 p.m. Friday and told Randle he would "give her what people like you should get" before opening fire, said Doris Bonner, Randle's mother.

No residents were in the hall when the attack occurred.

Burial sites located with dowsing rods

PILGRIM (AP) — Using the same technique that helps locate water wells, a South Texas woman has been helping find old family graves where headstones were

But Marjorie Lee Burnett says she's not sure how the metal rods allow her to find unmarked

graves. Most of the time, the only clues the 68-year-old woman has are family tales passed on through generations of an ancestor being buried near a large rock, under a tall tree or on top of a rolling hill.

Using two L-shaped rods, one in each hand, Burnett walks around a suspected graveyard until the metal starts to wiggle. If the rods pull apart from each other, she's stumbled

upon something.
"They just move. You don't hold them. You don't grasp them," Burnett said. "You just let them rest in your hands until they move.

Tough times take tough Texans

Area soldiers part of largest deployment of Texas National Guard since WWII

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

WACO - "If you think today was something," Major Gen. Mike Taylor said New Year's Day, "won't it be a helluva homecoming.

It's that homecoming that William White of Pampa, Kenneth Curtis of White Deer, James Kephart of



Kephardt

Mobeetie, Rusty Lee of Wellington, their family and friends and the family and friends of the rest of the 36th Infantry Division are looking forward to.

Some 3,000 Texas National Guardsmen, which make up the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division, said their farewells to family and friends here over the weekend. In the largest deployment of Texas National Guardsmen since World War II, these troops head for Iraq this week.

They are expected to return beginning about



White

to El Paso and

and Fort Polk, La.

John Dalton of Fort Worth, who returns a year from now. was in Waco with his wife Anne to

Year's New Day, 2006. National that his son had told him the panhan-two girls can

from Denton well during training at Fort Polk. "They should be proud," the senior Memphis. from Pampa to Dalton said. Michelle Lee of Wellington said Lee said the activated Aug. she has moved her family to family had set 15, and began Memphis until her husband, Sgt. a series of their training at Fort Hood, Texas, Rusty Lee, who in civilian life is the goals in the Collingsworth County Sheriff, past

The couple's two girls are enrolled ing one thing **Lee**

Some 35,000 family and friends filled the stands at the Baylor University football stadium New Year's Day to say good-by to 3,000 Texas National Guardsmen who will deploy to Iraq this week. It is the largest deployment of the National Guard since World War II. see off their son, Capt. Scott Dalton, in school at Memphis. If Michelle, at a time. First, was the sheriff's eleccommander of Amarillo's Company Lee is called up – she's also a ser- tion in November. Then it was

Guard units dle soldiers had acquitted themselves stay with his parents Michelle

months, fac-



A, 2nd Battalion, 142 Infantry, said geant in the reserves – the couple's Christmas. Now, it's her husband's deployment to Iraq.

Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

'We've been counting up to get here," Mrs. Lee said. "Now, we're ready to begin counting down."

That count will be 365 days until the unit returns to Texas

Theresa Cline has moved back to Pampa from Fort Worth to stay with her parents Ronny and Gail Smith. The Smiths, Theresa Cline and the

See **TEXANS**, Page 3

New Year's quiet here

a lot worse

than this.'

Gray Co. Sheriff's Office

Kelly Rushing

Chief Deputy

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

The New Year's holiday, even though it fell on a weekend this year, was not notable alcoholic beverages in parts of town. Seven for arrests and motor vehicle accidents reports of fireworks being exploded inside involving intoxication.

"We've had lots worse than this," said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing of Gray County Sheriff's

Office. Constable Chris Lockridge made one arrest at 11:50 p.m., Friday, for public intoxication, according to Gray County Jail arrest records. Deputy Robert Douglas made one arrest at 1:50 a.m., Saturday, for driving while intoxicated.

Pampa Police Department Officer Tobie Bias made one

arrest for DWI at 11:30 p.m., Friday, and we were real pleased with the low number Officer Cade Logue made one arrest for of detected impaired drivers. We believe DWI at 3:30 a.m., Saturday, according to the media attention given combined with jail records.

Nineteen traffic stops were made definitely made a difference," Beighle said. Saturday by police officers, with 13 of those between midnight and 5 a.m., Friday and midnight Sunday for the holiaccording to the department's incident day. blotter. No motor vehicle accidents were reported during that period, and the first ties, Beighle said.

accident of the new year to be worked by police did not occur until 3:18 p.m. Saturday.

Fireworks seemed to be as popular as city limits were received by police.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers also had a comparatively quiet holiday as of 'We've had

10 a.m. Saturday, arresting three people for DWI in Potter and Randall counties and working five accidents, of which none were major and only one involved injuries, according to Trooper Wayne Beighle, public information officer for DPS in Amarillo.

"Overall, with this being such a celebrated holiday,

our increased presence, focused on DWJ,

Troopers stepped up patrols between

Texas leads the country in DWI fatali-

Massive U.S. military relief effort builds up; Powell heads to area

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — A massive American military relief operation picked up steam Monday, with U.S. helicopters dropping off cartons of food aid in Sumatra and warships with 2,200 Marines arriving in the Malacca Straits to ferry supplies to the tsunami-battered Indonesian island.

As the death toll around the Indian Ocean rim approached 140,000, a delegation led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush began a trip that will include stops in Thailand, Indonesia and possibly Sri Lanka. The White House also said former Presidents Clinton and George H.W. Bush will lead a fund-raising effort for victims.

U.S. Navy helicopters rescued dozens of weakened survivors along Sumatra's devastated west coast, carrying them to a hospital in Banda Aceh.

Searchers all but gave up hope of finding more survivors from the Dec. 26 killer earthquake and tsunami, with authorities saying that thousands listed as missing were presumed dead. The world turned its full attention to getting food and water to the living.

Confirmed deaths from the disaster reached 139,253 after hardest-hit Indonesia increased its death toll to 94,081, and Sri Lanka and Thailand both raised their tolls by lesser amounts. Aid agencies have said the death toll was expected to hit 150,000. Sri Lanka, India and Thailand said they were prepared to give up on the more than 15,000 people still unaccounted for.

Suicide car bombs, roadside explosion kill 16 in Iraq

diplomats commonly make

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) Three suicide car bombs, including one that exploded near the Iraqi prime minister's party headquarters in Baghdad, and a roadside explosion killed at least 16 people Monday as insurgents pressed their deadly campaign to disrupt national elections, which Iraq's defense minister said could be postponed to give the Sunni minority time

to participate. A car bomb exploded late Monday near a U.S.-manned checkpoint to the Green Zone, the heavily fortified area housing the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices, U.S. Embassy spokesman Bob Callahan said. U.S. troops surrounded a burning sport utility vehicle at the scene.

burning inside the destroyed

the victims were not immediately known.

Iraqi police Lt. Khalid Mohammed said the bomb targeted a U.S. civilian convoy and there were casualties at the checkpoint, which is the main Green Zone exit for trips Baghdad International Airport west of the city. Three bodies were seen American contractors and

vehicle. The nationalities of the journey along the dangerous airport road in SUVs.

Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan raised the possibility that elections scheduled for Jan. 30 could be postponed to try to persuade minority Sunni Muslims to participate in the vote.

The first strike by an explosives-laden car near interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Iraqi National Accord party

headquarters killed two police officers and one civilian and injured 25 other people. The secular Shiite leader was not inside the building at the time, aides said.

Monday's second attack took place in Balad, about 50 miles north of the capital, killing four Iraqi National Guardsmen and wounding 14, U.S. military spokesman Neal E. O'Brien said.

Dennis L. Combs, 62

Dennis L. Combs, 62, died Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004, in Pampa. Memorial services were to be at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 3, 2005, at Calvary Baptist Church, with the Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor, officiating. Cremation arrangements were under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Combs was born Aug. 31, 1942, in Dalhart. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1957, living here most of his life and graduating from Pampa High School. He spent some time in Oregon, Washington and Louisiana. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during peace time. He was an avid fisherman and loved the outdoors.

Survivors include two sons, Dennis E. Combs of Pampa and Ronald W. Combs of Seattle, Wash.; one brother, Kenneth E. Combs of Las Vegas, Nev.; four sisters, Cheryl Robichaux and Susan Nabors, both of Pampa, Dana Combs of Canyon, and Carla Atkins of Barstow, Calif.; four grandchildren, Jessica Moore and Jaden Combs, both of Seattle, Wash., and Joshua E. P. Combs and Jonathan W. V. Combs, both of Pampa.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

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

Bernice Hollars, 88

Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Hollars was born Oct. 18, 1916, in Oklahoma City, Okla. She graduated with honors from Draughn's Business College in Oklahoma City. She married Homer E. Hollars on June 2, 1936, in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death on Jan. 31, 1996. She was employed as office manager for Panhandle Industrial for 30 years. She was a Methodist. She was an avid reader and bridge player.

Survivors include one daughter, Nita Hill of Pampa; one son-in-law, Preston Olive of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren, Rory

Bernice Hollars, 88, died Sunday, Jan. 2, Hill and wife Margaret, Beth Rice and hus-2005, in Pampa. Services are pending with band Clay, and Jana Patton and husband Rick, all of Pampa, Steve Olive and wife

Sha, and Stan Olive and wife Heather, all of Oklahoma City. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Olive; a son-inlaw, Tommy Hill; and a greatgreat-granddaughter, Mickala Miller.

Memorials may be made to Breast Cancer Awareness or a favorite charity.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005.

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

Grace Hazelwood King, 88

Hollars

Jan. 3, 2005, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. King was born Jan. 7, 1916, in Baylor County, Texas, to William Jefferson and Maggie Caroline Howe Hazelwood. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1934. She married Jim King on April 26, 1936, in Sayre, Okla. He preceded her in death on March 19, 2000. She was a nurse for the Pampa Clinic for 25 years. She was a member of the First Christian Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Carolyn

Grace Hazelwood King, 88, died Monday, Gerik, of Pampa; a son, Robert Mike King of Pampa; two sisters, Betty Gillis of Littleton, Colo., and Letty McGahan of Savannah, Ga.; one brother, Jay Hazelwood of Amarillo; four grandchildren, seven greatgrandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Mindy Hutchens, in 1996.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

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

Carrie Melton, 93

Carrie Melton, 93, died Jan. 2, 2005, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Temple. She married Wayne Thomas Melton on Dec. 21, 1927 in Wellington. She and her husband managed the Town House Apartments in Borger from 1965 until 1976. He preceded her in death on April 30, 1993. She had been a resident of Borger from 1943 until 1986 when she moved to Pampa. She was a former member of the Bunavista Methodist Church in Borger. She was a devoted mother and grandmother.



Melton

Survivors include two daughters, Susie Lindsey and husband Tommy of Pampa, and Wanda Spence and husband Choppy of Mrs. Melton was born Jan. 30, 1911, in Grand Prairie; four grandchildren, Stephanie

Poticny and husband Dan of Arlington, Lisa Farina and husband Jayme, and Leigh Ann Huber and husband Nathan, all of Keller, and Lori Lindsey of Lubbock; four great-grandchildren, Todd Poticny and Taylor Poticny, both of Arlington, and Elisabeth Farina and Presleigh Huber, both of Keller.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

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

Beatrice Hallmark Neill, 77

SKELLYTOWN - Beatrice Hallmark Neill, 77, died Jan. 1, 2005, in Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, at the White Deer Cemetery in White Deer, with Mr. Gary Bodine, evangelist with the Church of Christ at Borger, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Neill was born April 13, 1927, in Albuquerque, N.M. She married A.J. Hallmark on Jan. 20, 1944 in San Francisco, Calif. He preceded her in death on June 11, 1966, in Hamlin, Texas. She has been a resident of Skellytown since 1968. She married Melvin V. Neill on July 19, 1968, in Skellytown. He preceded her in death on April 13, 2000. She retired from the Worley Hospital in 1974 as a LVN. She attended the Church of Christ at Borger. She was active in the Hutchinson Co. Genealogical Society and was the founder of the Red Bonnets of Texas Chapter of the Red Hats Society.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Tommie and Judy Elliott of Princeton and Randy and Debra Elliott of Skellytown; five daughters and four sons-inlaw, Ruth and Rusty Robbins of Flower Mound, Gwyn and Warren Kayler of Skellytown, Kathleen and Chris Gould of Wilmington, N.C., and Deborah and Larry Hendrick of San Leon, and Linda King of Skellytown; two sisters, Ann Hearne of West Virginia and Kay Hallmark of Arizona; 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Skellytown Benevolence Fund, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 176, Skellytown, Texas, 79080.

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

Rosa Lee Weaver, 84

SKELLYTOWN - Rosa Lee Weaver, 84, died Friday, Dec. 31, 2004, in Skellytown. Graveside services were to be at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 3, 2005, at the White Deer Cemetery in White Deer, with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of

Mrs. Weaver was born Aug. 26, 1920, in Slick, Okla. She married Virgil O. Weaver on June 25, 1938, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on Jan. 12, 1996. She had been a resident of Skellytown for over 65 years. She

was a member of the First Baptist Church of Skellytown. She was a nurse's aide at Highland General Hospital, retiring in 1972 after 15 years of service.

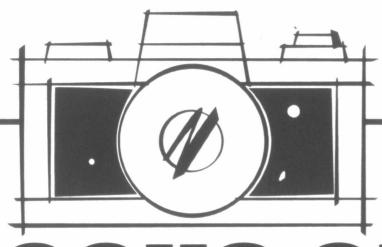
She is survived by a son, Robert Benjamin Weaver of Pampa; two daughters, Carolyn Rutherford of Skellytown and Sandra Delores Keys of Borger; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, James Wesley Weaver on Sept. 11, 1955, and Virgil W. Weaver on Jan. 25, 1997, and two sisters, Lenora Johnson and Betty Parr.

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

Services tomorrow-

BURNS, Peggy — 1 p.m., Southside Baptist Church. **NEILL**, Beatrice Hallmark — Graveside, 2 p.m., White Deer Cemetery.



FOCUS ON PAMPA

With A

COMMUNITY CAMERA

THE PAMPA NEWS

We want to share with our readers events throughout the community ...so come by to borrow a camera for Church Socials, Family Reunions, School Activities or Any Other Ideas You Have!

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. ATCHISON • 669-2525

Gray County Weather-

This Afternoon: A 20 percent chance of showers. between 10 and 15 mph. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 48. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a low around 40. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a high around 25 mph, with gusts as high

47. South southeast wind as 35 mph. Chance of pre-Chance of precipitation is

a low near 29. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and

Tuesday Night: Rain showers likely before midnight, then a chance of freezing rain. Mostly cloudy, with

cipitation is 60%. Wednesday: A 30 percent

chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. Windy, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 13. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Emergency Services

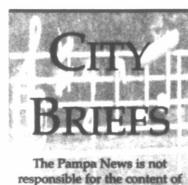
Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Saturday, Jan. 1 Officers made 19 traffic

Criminal trespass was reported twice in the 700 block of East 16th, where someone was knocking on a back door, and in the 600 block of Yeager.

Violation of city ordinance was reported twice in the 2600 block of Seminole, three times in the 200 block of North Russell, and twice



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

REMEMBER JOY'S Unlimited Christmas Sale starting tomorrow at Joy's Unlimited, 110 N. Cuyler.

in the 1600 block of North Faulkner, concerning fireworks. Violation of city ordinance was reported twice in the 1100 block of Christine concerning a fire in a front yard. Violation of city ordinance was also reported in the 1200 block of South Faulkner and the 1100 block

of North Starkweather. A domestic disturbance was reported at two different times in the 900 block of South Wells, and in the 1300 block of Coffee.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 1200 block of Garland, the 100 block of West Albert, and at two different times in the 120 block of North Russell.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported in the 400 block of Red Deer and the 600 block of Deane Drive.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered at Jorden and Magnolia streets concerning a field sobriety test.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of Evergreen, the Cuyler Street underpass, the 300 block of Roberta, and the intersection of Thut and Gray streets.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 600 block of Yeager.

Emergency medical services assistance was rendered in the 700 block of Mora.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster and the 100 block of South Sumner. Unauthorized use of a

motor vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Tignor. An animal complaint was

block of Mary Ellen. Found property was

received from the 2200

reported in the 600 block of North Banks.

A traffic complaint was received from the 700 block of Deane Drive and the 1500

See **RECORD**, Page 3

Stocks

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The following grain	n quotations are provided	by XCEL	18.18	-0.0
Anebury Grain of Part		Kerr McGee	.56.60	-1.1
Wheat	•	XOM	50.65	-0.6
Milo		Limited	. 22.64	-0.3
Corn		Williams	15.85	-().4
Soybeans		MCD	32.03	-0.0
Soyocans	4.76	Atmos	.27.01	-0.3
The following 9:3	0 a.m. N.Y. Stock Mark	ket Proneer Nat	34.01	-1.0
	ished by Edward Jones		41.76	+0.3
Co. of Pampa.	,	COP	85.78	-1.0
OXY 57	35 -1.01	SLB	65.11	-1.8
BP PLC ADR . 57		Tenneco	16.75	-0.4
Cabot Corp38		CVX	51.78	-0.7
Cabot Oil Gas. 42		Wal-Mart	53.91	+10
Coca Cola41	80 +0.17	OKE	28.26	-0.1
VLO 43	61 -1.79	NS Grp	26.06	-1.7
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Kenneth Cu to right, Dus to his unit's

Continued 1 Cline childr

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Continued f

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1200 block of and the 700 Zimmers. Disorderly was reported

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Kenneth Curtis of White Deer, in uniform, is surrounded by his sons, from left to right, Dustin, Joshua, his wife Kandi and Justin, following ceremonies prior to his unit's deployment to Iraq this week.

> byes to family and friends with Gen. Taylor, commandnoon Sunday at Fort Hood's north gate.

Some 35,000 of those family and filled friends Floyd Casey Stadium, Baylor University's football stadium here, on New Year's Day for deployment ceremonies. The troops stood in formation for the two-hour cer-

speeches by the governor, a senator, three congressmen and a Baptist preacher, along

Ronny Smith

ing officer of the 36th Infantry Division and Col.

emony, which featured As citizen soldiers, called to duty by their countrymen, laid down their domestic tools and picked up the tools

James K. "Red" Brown, the commanding officer of the 56th Brigade Combat Team.

"Today," Col. Brown told the assembled throng, 'we participate in and we witness one of the oldest traditions in the United States of America.

other gates.

Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

Michelle Lee video tapes the farewell ceremonies at the Baylor University football stadium New Year's Day for the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas **National Guard.**

of war."

That tradition began the United States of America, Brown said, and

has sustained it for more than 200 years.

Although the ceremony wasn't until 2 p.m. Saturday, the line of family and friends began forming outside the stadium at 10 a.m. By noon,

more than 900 people were lined up at the one gate to get in and officials opened two

Chrysler Sebring, driven by

Jennifer L. Kidd, 27, 827 N.

Nelson, collided at the inter-

section of Rham and Hobart

No injuries were reported.

Friday, Dec. 31

1:50 p.m. – A 1991 Toyota

driven by Dirk Leottos

Murrary, 44, 1132 Charles,

collided with a telephone

pole in the 800 block of

No injuries were reported.

Fry was cited for failure to

vield right of way.

West Crawford.

travel.

Gail Smith

The large television Brown said. screen on the scoreboard broadcast the Cotton Bowl at the request of Col. Brown,

> a Texas A&M University graduate, until about 1:30 p.m. when it began showing the troops' family pho-

To allay fears of the families, Col. Brown said the unit has been provided with latest equipment.

"I want to assure family me.nbers and friends that these soldiers have been provided with the latest and greatest equipment available anywhere in the world,"

With the units having been in training since August, Brown said that many families are beginning to feel the strain of separation and employers are feeling the strain of employees being away.

"Deployments are often more difficult for families and employers than they are for the soldiers themselves," Brown said.

He said families and employers serve along side the soldiers during the deployment.

"We are a nation at war," Brown said, "and these are tough times, but we are Texans, and we are tough people."

Tina Holt

Record

Kenneth Curtis returns.

Texans

Continued from Page 1

Cline children, Garrett, 8;

Haile, 4; and Kelly, 13, were

in Waco to say good-by to

Sgt. Dallas Cline and begin

counting the days until his

It's a count, too, that

Kandi Curtis of White Deer

will be keeping with her

twin sons, Dustin and Justin,

15, and the youngest son,

Joshua, 13, until Spc.

They said their final good-

return.

Continued from Page 2

block of Dogwood. A business check was conducted in the 700 block of South Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart.

A welfare check was conducted in the 1100 block of Gwendolyn.

Evading arrest was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee. Assault was reported in

the 1300 block of Coffee and the 500 block of East Foster.

A missing person was reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner.

Jerwody Moler, 21, 701 N. Somerville, was arrested in the 1300 block of Coffee for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, assault on a public servant, escaping detention, and open contain-

Sunday, Jan. 2

Six traffic stops were conducted. One motorist was assisted in the 800 block of Deane Drive.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered at Coronado and Sumner streets and at Wilks and Faulkner streets.

A welfare check was requested from the 1200 block of North Wells and the 700 block of Bradley Drive.

A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of Murphy and twice in the 2500 block of Christine.

Violation of a city ordinance concerning fireworks was reported in the 600 block of North Wells, and twice in the 100 block of East 28th.

A silent/abusive 911 call was reported in the 1100 North block of Starkweather, the 1600 block of North Faulkner, the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the 700 block of North Zimmers.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported twice in the 2700 block of Duncan.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Harassment was reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive, the 1400 block of North Hobart, and in the police department lobby.

Emergency medical services assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of North Duncan.

A missing person was

reported in the 900 block of Cinderella.

Burglary was reported in the 300 block of Davis.

A water shut-off due to a line break was reported in the 100 block of South Dwight.

A traffic complaint was received from the 100 block of East Harvester. An animal complaint con-

cerning a Rottweiler was reported in the 1200 block of North Russell, Orth Russell, Criminal mischief was

reported in the 300 block of North Dwight. A suspicious vehicle was

reported at Texas and Frost Joseph Wilson, 56, 1117 N. Starkweather, was arrest-

ed in the 1100 block of Starkweather for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Sheriff

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

Saturday, Jan. 1 Danny Roy Boyd, 57, 320

Anne, was arrested for Pampa Police Department for forgery.

Fire

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

Saturday, Jan. 1

9:06 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 700 block of Mora.

11:21 a.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

8:32 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1300 block of Coffee.

Sunday, Jan. 2

11:33 a.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1200 block of North Duncan.

3:26 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Crawford and Hobart.

7:43 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1600 block of North Christy.

Ambulance

Guardian Ambulance Service reported the following calls by 7 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 31

8:58 p.m. – A mobile intensive care unit responded to a local nursing center and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical

Saturday, Jan. 1

12:24 a.m. – A MICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported one to PRMC.

responded to the 1100 block of South Wells and transported one to PRMC. 9:05 a.m. - A MICU

12:51 a.m. - A MICU

responded to the 700 block Murrary was cited for failure of Mora and transported one to maintain single lane of to PRMC. 11:12 p.m. – A MICU

responded to Coronado Health Care and transported one to PRMC. 4:14 p.m. – A MICU responded to the 2200 block

of North Dwight. No patient transport. 6:06 p.m. – A MICU responded to PRMC and

transferred one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. 8:13 p.m. – A MICU responded to a local nursing

home. No transport. 8:37 p.m. – A MICU responded to the 1300 block of Coffee and transported one to PRMC.

11:08 p.m. – A MICU responded to the 500 block of East Foster and transported one to PRMC.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Saturday, Dec. 18 11:47 a.m. – A 1992 Oldsmobile, driven by Jeffery R. Cole, 18, 701 N. Frost, and a 1992 Ford F-150, driven by Dean Ray Bliss, 45, 1115 S. Wells, collided in the 700 block of North Russell. No injuries were reported. Cole was cited for failure to yield right of way at a private drive.

Thursday, Dec. 30 11:44 a.m. - A 1989 Ford Tempo, driven by Faye Marie Bennett, 21, 937 S. Faulkner, and a 1992 Pontiac Transport, driven by Susana Retona Salazar, 47, Wheeler, collided in the 1300 block of North Hobart. A passenger in Salazar's vehicle, Daniel Juan Torres, 8, Wheeler, was listed as having possible injury, but was not treated at the scene or transported by ambulance. Bennett was cited for changing lanes when unsafe and no valid driver's license.

3:30 p.m. – A 1997 Chevrolet Lumina, driven by Tammi Gay Fry, 43, 128 N. Nelson, and a 2003

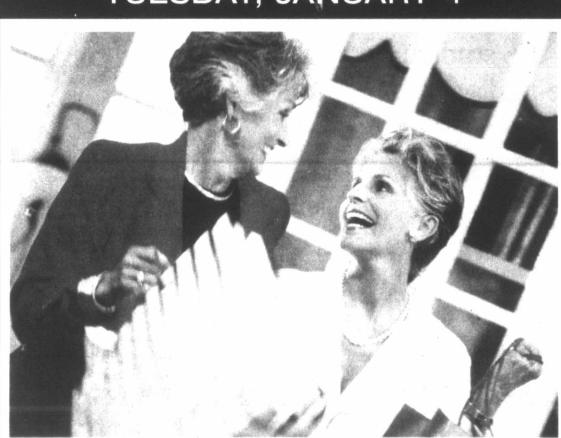


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Viewpoints

The best hamburger and malt I ever had

I was leaving the stadium young man going off to Saturday afternoon, when a couple passed me going the other way with their uniformed son.

"Do you want to go to Outback?" the father was asking his son.

National Guard deployment ceremonies at Baylor University's football stadium had just ended and families were leaving to spend a final evening with their soldier sons, fathers, mothers, daughters and wives.

I turned and watched the family as they headed across the green grass of the football field. The soldier in his desert camouflaged uniform looked awfully young.

It reminded me of another

another war long ago.

When I was in college, many of my meals consisted of hamburgers, pizza or peanut butter.

On holidays, when I drove across state to come home to Plainview, my parents were always up and waiting for me. It didn't matter what time I got in, Mother would always have a steak ready to grill. It could be the middle of the afternoon or midnight. There was a steak waiting.

After school, it was the Navy and Vietnam. I don't remember what I ate before my parents drove me to Lubbock to put me on a plane to California and eventually to the Republic of

Vietnam, but I do remember flying back into Lubbock a little more than a year later and being picked up by my parents.

We drove back to Plainview that evening and

neared the **David** south side **Bowser** of town and the high-**Staff Writer** way turned i n t o

Columbia Street, my mother turned around in the front seat, looked at me and beamed, "I put out a steak for you."

The Navy is built around

part, but it was not neces-

It was a nice effort on her

ships. There is little to do aboard ship when you're off duty. The Navy's primary morale booster is food. The living and working conditions may not be great, but the food generally is, and that spilled

> over many Naval facilities in Vietnam. We ate

> > well.

steak had three or four times a week and lobster at least once a

I hesitate to say that there wasn't anything else to do. In addition to my regular duties, I was recreation offi-

We had a lot of activities for off-duty personnel. There was a marina with sailboats, a ski boat, a swimming pool, an outdoor movie theater, a library and a full intramural sports program.

I didn't enjoy many of the recreational opportunities at the time. My swimming pool sank, the Army stole my ski boat and an auditor took exception to my accounting practices at the movie concession stand (we made between \$15 and \$25 a

Probably the only thing that saved me from a court martial was the club. My budget \$100,000. The clubs had an operating budget of over a

million dollars a year. The auditor moved on to the clubs and the big bucks.

I tried to help the clubs as much as I could. After eating a couple of steaks, I would normally spend the rest of each evening at the club.

After one particular Sunday in November spent grilling steaks on the beach and drinking a lot of beer, a few sunburned friends and I decided to dress up in our helmets and flack jackets and take pictures. I sent one home to my parents. A week or so later I got a letter back thanking me for the picture but asking who was the fat kid in the helmet.

See BEST, Page 5

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2005. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed

the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J. On this date: In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the

Roman Catholic Church. In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military

rulers known as "shoguns." In 1938, the "March of Dimes" campaign to fight polio

was organized. In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New

York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress. In 1959, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation

admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state. In 1961, the United States severed diplomatic relations

with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, died in a Dallas hospital. In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a servant.

In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.



Our readers write

AFS student e-mails status

Vlad Rybalkin of eastern Ukraine, an AFS exchange student at Pampa High School last year, finally got through with e-mails just before Christmas and Jan. 2 sent from his home town.

He is really enjoying his school at the International Christian University of Kiev-Vienna. It is not theological, he wrote, but "it provides all necessary courses with a stress on Christian doctrines." His teachers are from the USA,

Canada, India, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine.

"My parents pay for me and the cost is pretty expensive. It equals a bit more than \$1,000 a year, while my parents don't make a lot of money." (His mother is a physician.) "We are struggling, because I like my university and I have a chance to get a good education there. One of the biggest problems is to find a good and cheap apartment (at Kiev) because their cost has risen a lot."

He is going back to school on Jan. 7, the

Continued on Page 5

Western values under attack

recently banned songs and to Santa Claus, Jesus and other religious Christmas symbols. The New York City school system permits displays of Jewish menorahs there's and the Muslim star and Kandice crescent but not the Smith, an Christian nativity scene.

According to Associated Press story (Nov. 26, 2004), "A public school teacher is suing his district and principal for barring him from using excerpts from historical documents in his classroom because they contain references to God and Christianity." The historical themes from public spaces, part of the ongoing attack on

School boards have documents in question are: giving as his reason the need American values. The Declaration the music containing references Independence and "The religious holiday in the Rights of the Colonists" by workplace." This year, a John

Walter

Williams

Adams. Then

Columnist Alabama sixth-grader

who was threatened with discipline for exhibiting a cross necklace. Just a few years ago, the city manager of Eugene, Ore., Jim Johnson, banned Christmas trees and holiday decorations with religious

of to "put a neutral face on a

claiming "Merry Christmas" was banned f r o m Denver's Parade of Lights.

Under the pretense of the First Amendment's prohibitions against "establishment of religion" and the court's bogus "separation of church and state" interpretation of the same, we're witnessing a Constitution's "establishment of religion" clause was written to prevent the formation of anything similar to the official Church of England in the United

So why the attack on religion? Read the Declaration of Independence. You'll read phrases such as: "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," "Laws of Nature and Nature's God," and "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world." The vision held by the framers is that our rights.

See ATTACK, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Face fact: There is no magic pill

The recent revelations that some widely prescribed pain medicines can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke should serve as a warning to all of us: There is no magic pill.

We are probably the greatest pill-popping nation in history. In part that's because the Rockefeller interests set up a commission years ago to study medical schools and decided those that didn't train doctors to prescribe drugs were "unscientific." Then, in cahoots with the American Medical Association, they began to lobby legislatures to outlaw most forms of nonallopathic medicine. Of course, by

coincidence, Rockefellers were in the drug business, among many others.

It's only been in recent

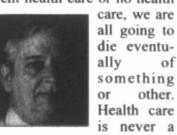
years that alternative medicine has become Charley

available to Reese m o s t Americans, Columnist though there is no

magic in that field either, and there are plenty of quacks. Most drugs treat symptoms. Few offer cures. I'm often reminded of a chiropractor's statement about medical doctors that "if they can't drug it or cut it, they don't

know what to do."

The fact is that the mortality rate for the human species is 100 percent. Whether we receive excellent health care or no health care, we are



die eventually something other. Health care is never a question of saving lives but

rather of prolonging them. Surgeons, who can be

thought of as body mechanics, can prolong some lives by cutting stuff out and sewing new stuff in, though one should always remem-

ber that surgery is traumatic and carries with it certain

risks. Doctors of allopathic medicine, which is what most medical doctors are, generally prescribe drugs or refer you to a surgeon. Those diseases that are caused by bacteria, which are separate little critters, can often be combated with antibiotics. Unfortunately, these are often overprescribed, and as a result, some bacteria are developing a resistance to the antibiotics. As with all drugs, there can also be some unpleasant side effects in some people.

See PILL, Page 5

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president, at The Mon Coming Sho looking for help man th more informa 2459.

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Harrington C has announc ing upcoming screening cl Shephard's (Agency, 916 in Pampa. P receive a exam mamm breast heal along instruction by nurse in brea nation. Fundi through Department Texas resider for assistance are by appo

For more int (806) 356-19

The idea that government doesn't grant rights is offensive to those who wish to control our lives. Therefore, to gain greater control, the idea of natural rights, Godgiven rights and Christian values must be suppressed. The idea that rights precede government was John Locke's natural law philosophy, which had a significant influence on our nation's founders, but they chose to refer to natural law as rights endowed by the Creator.

The attack on Christian ideas and Christian public displays is part and parcel of the leftist control agenda in another way. Certain components of the leftist agenda require that our primary allegiance be with government. As such, there must be an

attack on allegiances to the cesses in the courts and teachings of the church and intimidation of public offifamily. After all, for

example, if he idea that you want rights precede popular acceptance government was of homosex-John Locke's natural marual law philosophy, which riages, there must be a had significant campaign influence on our against church nation's founders ... teachings

demn such practices.

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make other demands; there's no logical end point except

will no doubt

cials,

complete Christian capitulation. There are Christian symbols and exhibits in m a n y

leftists

Washington, D.C., government buildings Emboldened by their suc- that will come down, such

as: Moses with the Ten Commandments inside the U.S. Supreme Court, George Washington praying in the Capitol Building, Abraham Lincoln's speech mentioning God carved inside the

Lincoln Memorial. Religious programming on the radio and television will come under attack. After there's Federal Communications Commission permission to use the "public airwaves." If leftists say they have no such intention to go after television, radio and other public expressions of Christianity,

Charley Reese is a retired

journalist and syndicated

columnist. Write to him at

P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL

32802.

what they really mean is that they haven't softened us up enough yet. I'm not quite sure of just how we should respond to the ongoing attack on Christianity and American values, but we'd better do something quickly.

Walter Williams, Ph.D., is John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

401(K) ROLLOVER HEADQUARTERS



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Continued from Page 4

Science has been far less successful in dealing with viruses and the diseases they cause. That's because a virus, unlike bacteria, is not an independent little fellow that can reproduce itself. Instead, it has to insert itself into a cell and use the cell's reproductive mechanisms to replicate. Scientists are having a difficult time trying to figure out how to kill the virus without killing the cell. The fact that viruses mutate doesn't make anything easi-

The best thing the government can do is to ban prescription-drug advertising on television. Drugs should not prescribed because

patients demand them after Neither doctors nor lawyers having watched the ridiculous television ads that make ing up their own houses.

Drug companies should not be allowed to bribe doctors with fancy vacations or other premiums, nor pay consulting fees to people in the research field.

Money is no less a corrupting factor in health care than it is in politics or other forms of business. A lawyer recently asked

pro-doctor, and the answer is I'm neither. Some doctors

have a good record of cleanthem seem like magic pills. Both professions, however,

are neces-

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Almost everything in health care, including drugs, is a matter of balancing risks against benefits. Nothing is risk-free, including life itself.

pointme if I was pro-lawyer or ed out, sanitary engineers have saved more lives than the medical profession by kill their patients, and some providing people with clean water and sanitary sewers.

President of the country."

He wrote that he missed

everybody and wanted to say

"hi" to all his friends, which

included this listing: Jerrod

Busse, Ben Ponce, Sunil

Kamnani, Taylor Reeves,

Practicing personal hygiene, drinking sufficient water, a proper diet and exercise remain the best prescription for a healthy life. When that's not enough, try to find a good doctor, and keep your brain fully engaged. Don't be afraid to ask questions or second opinions. seek Doctors, after all, are fallible human beings like the rest of it us. As for drugs, prescription depends or otherwise, more is definitely not better than the correct dosage.

> Try not to get uptight. All the media attention on drugs and diseases can easily make one a hypochondriac by exaggerating risks. Almost everything in health care, including drugs, is a matter of balancing risks against benefits. Nothing is riskfree, including life itself.

Chavez, Omar Jacob Stillwagon, Zach Ammons, Samantha Ceniceros.

His e-mail is: <texanvlad@mail.ru> **Darlene Birkes**

Pampa

it's like the Marines with whom I spent some time, I ate better in college.

I just hope that young soldier returns home safely a year from now and his parents take him to get a steak...or a hamburger and chocolate

It was the best hamburger

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about the political situation Letter in Ukraine, and stated (in the Continued from Page 4

Orthodox Christmas. He

promised to write more

Continued from Page 4

I began to limit my intake

of beer and started eating no

more than one steak at any

meal. I exercised regularly,

even though I lost one of the

Executive Officer's water

skis, but that's another story.

Best

Jan. 2 e-mail) that "the crisis is settling down and the candidate from government Yanukovich has Victor accepted Yuschenko as the

lawyers rob the survivors.

When I returned, I had lost some of the weight, but even though my Mother had set a steak out for me that night of my return, it wasn't steak that

I'd missed. The bright smile on her enjoyed it. saintly face sagged as we entered town and I asked simply, "Couldn't we stop at the Dairy Queen and get a hamburger and chocolate malt

instead?"

I don't know where the family in Waco went for dinner Saturday night. I hope it was to Outback. I hope the young soldier had a steak and

I hope he enjoyed being with his family.

I don't know how or what the Army feeds their troops. If and malt I ever had.

malt.

Calendar of Events

 Pampa Community **Association** Concert Presents "Live on Stage" 2004-05 concert series includes the following programs: Pianist Richard Glazier on March 19; and Southern Fried Jazz Band on April 7. Each concert will get under way at 7:30 p.m. at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Additional concerts, some with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 675-2631.

 The Moms and Babies **Coming Shop** in Pampa is looking for volunteers to help man the shop. For more information, call 664-2459

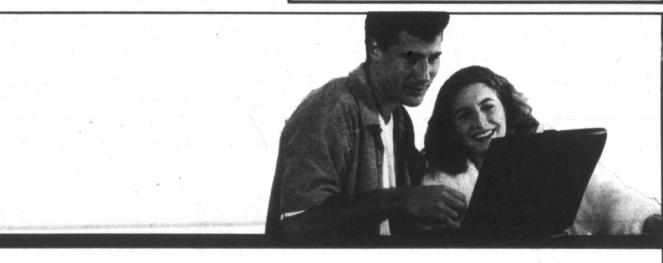
 2CARE for Moms and Babies is conducting free car seat safety classes. Limited car seat distribution is also available through the program. For more information, call 665-5339.

 The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Jan. 31, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost selfexam mammogram and a breast health appraisal with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available Texas the Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800377-4673.

 The next Pampa Area Singles dance is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15 at the Sportsman Club on South Barnes Street. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. Snacks welcome. For more information, call 665-7059. Southwest Farm &

Ranch Classic will be staged Feb. 3-5 at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock. The new indoor show will feature unique events, entertainment and demonstrations along with a large exhibit area of commercial agricultural exhibits and displays. Show goers will be able to pick and choose from a full schedule of entertainers and family programs each day of the event. Local health organizations will conduct health checks and a blood drive is planned Saturday. If interested in exhibiting or attending the show or for more information, call (806) 798-7825 or e-mail swclassic@cox.net.

 The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Jan. 5, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and 12:30-4 p.m., City Jan. 10,



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DEAR ABBY: I need to know if I should forgive my husband, "Kurt," or move on and start over.

I had been married 26 years when Kurt called me one day at work to say he no longer knew how he felt about me. I was speechless. At first, I thought he was joking, but it went from bad to worse, and he asked for a divorce. He became verbally and emotionally abusive after that and moved out for a while. Then we reconciled. Everything was OK until a well-meaning friend called and told me Kurt had been involved with the office slut for more than a year.

When I confronted him, he lied, he cried, and then he spilled his guts.

I get sick thinking of the way Kurt treated me. He abandoned me for her like I was a weekend fling. He took money from us to support her, because she was "all alone and needed someone to help her out" -- all the while telling me that at age 44, I needed to learn to take care of myself! (I am a college graduate with a full-time job.)

My feelings for my husband have changed since I learned the truth. Had I known about the affair, I don't think I would have reconciled with him. What I thought was a midlife crisis turned out to be a true betrayal -but where do I go from here? Since Kurt has returned home, I have been the "queen" in his life. He is truly a different person. He says he's sorry; however, I'm not sure if he's sorry he cheated or sorry he got caught. What do you think? -- FURIOUS IN OHIO

DEAR FURIOUS: I think he's sorry for the mess he made of things and for hurting you. Let's not forget, if he didn't care for you, he could have ended the marriage. You and your husband must talk this out until it is laid to rest, and the place to do it is in the presence of a marriage counselor. I

know you're hurt, but make no decisions based on anger and bitterness. Other couples have survived infidelity - and so can you, if that's what you both want. The choice is yours.

DEAR ABBY: For the past year, every time I visit my parents, my mother has commented on items in their home that she wants to go to specific family members after she and Dad are

My siblings and I don't always get along, and I'm afraid that after our parents pass on, there will be a nasty battle over who gets what.

I have suggested to Mom that she write this all down, but she refuses. She keeps insisting, "You'll remember this." Should I help my parents write down their wishes? Also, is it inappropriate to make them aware of what antiques or items I would like to have? It's an uncomfortable topic discuss. -- DUTIFUL to DAUGHTER IN MIDDLE-TOWN, N.J.

DEAR DAUGHTER: It's a shame that two of the most important subjects -- sex and death -- are also the most difficult to discuss. In the interest of family harmony, your mother and father should be writing down their wishes concerning their property. However, since your mother seems unwilling, when she points out certain items, give her an indelible pen and suggest that she label them with the name of the person she would like to have them. It would take only a moment, and would not be morbid.

P.S. I see nothing wrong with telling your mother which items you'd like to have, as long as your siblings are also able to speak up for what they would like to have.

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For Better Or Worse



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

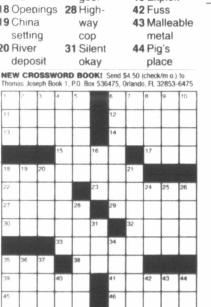
ACROSS

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34 Painter Edgar 35 Actor Sharif

24 Buffalo's 25 Bullets 36 Ship of 1492 37 Way to go 40 Exploit 42 Fuss 43 Malleable metal 44 Pig's



Marmaduke



"He chased a cat up a tree. The fire department rescued the cat, and now the cat is a celebrity."

"Don't pack them too hard, 'cause we might be throwing some of them at Mommy."

By Bil Keane

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts







Flo & Friends

poems 39 Muddle

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Sports Day

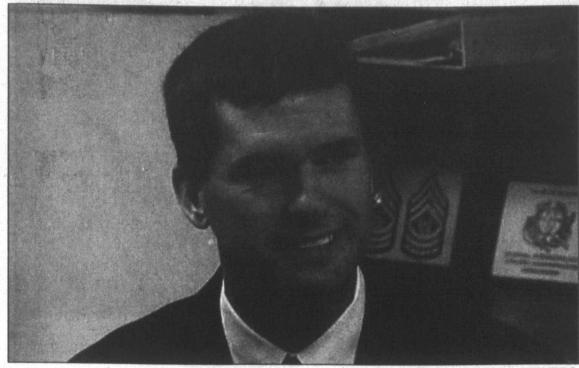


Photo by CAROLYN THERO

New Pampa Harvester head football coach Bryan Wood answers questions from the media at the PHS Athletic Office Monday morning.

Sunray's Wood named new Pampa head football coach

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS Sports Editor

Pampa has a new head football coach. Bryan Wood was introduced to the team at 8:30 a.m. today. Shortly afterward, he met with the local media.

Wood comes from Sunray where he has served as head football coach/athletic director for the past four years. In that time, the Bobcats compiled an impressive 43-9 record. Wood's overall record as a head football coach is 55-17.

While at Sunray, wood guided the Bobcats to the District 1-1A Bidistrict Championship in 2001. The Area Championship in 2002. A state semifinal game in 2003. And this year, Wood led Sunray to an impressive 13-1 mark, making it to the state quarterfinals where they lost to district foe, Stratford.

A 1988 graduate of Vega High School and a 1992 graduate of Texas Tech, Coach Brownwood, Texas.

bers of the search committee were looking for in the man that would take over the helm

of Pampa football, Pampa ISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch said, "It was important we find someone who knew and understood the panhandle area." As for what it was about Wood that impressed them, Haenisch replied, "We had an idea about what we wanted with regard to keeping and building on the Pampa High School tradition and philosophy. What we believe to be part of Pampa's success. We never got the chance to ask Coach Wood his thoughts. He answered them before we had the chance to ask." Haenisch continued, "It was obvious to us that he already knew about it. We were all very impressed with him."

Athletic Director Dick Dunham shared one story of a reference - a coach - who said, "I gave 30 years plus to coaching. If I went back tomorrow, Wood would be the first coach I would hire." Both Dunham and Haenisch said all reference checks were just as positive.

Some insight as to what kind of coach Wood has coached in Roby, Rotan and Wood is came when he was asked what he planned to implement so far as schemes this When asked what he and the other mem-season, "Whatever these kids do best," he

See WOOD, Page 8

PHS booster club meets tonight

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS **Sports Editor**

The Pampa High School Football Booster Club will hold a meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the Athletic Office. The focus of

tonight's meeting is the planning and preparation of the upcoming banquet. Parents are asked to bring photographs of their sons. If you need additional information, please contact a booster club member or call the athletic office at 669-4830.

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

riting never hurt so good

fortunate enough to have obtained some fun and interesting stories not often seen in Sports Day. Not because I don't like them. Not because you don't like them. These stories don't get a lot of press simply because my staff is unable to get to them (remember, I am a staff of one). Or space limits their insertion due to other events taking place. Basketball. Football. Wrestling.

Soon, baseball will be getting underway. Still, it was nice to bring you the little feature on Pampa iron man

Stevens

Sports

Editor

angler John Dawes. When Michael J. you actually want to stand on the end of the pier at a local fishing hole with the wind blowing and the temperature barely above 35 degrees and fish, well sir -

you got it bad. When I first saw the pictures Pampa News photographer Ben Briscoe took of Dawes, I got the sense that if he (Dawes) was only wearing his parka to keep from making anyone else who might be at the lake look silly. The man was fishing in the freezing cold - and he liked it.

I come to work most mornings now and whine about how cold my fat little toes are because the floor of my cubicle just allows the cold to poor in. In response to my childlike carrying on, my boss managed to scare up a small space heater that I keep tucked away under my desk. You know, just In case Mr. Dawes or some other weather warrior stops in for a visit. They will never know I am keeping my earth pads toastie warm with a miniature furnace.

My favorite one was Charla Shults celebrating a great shot. You could see the emotion in her face. Her body language alone tells you she had just done something great. The more I looked at the pictures and began

Over the past week or so, I have been to read some of the scores, I thought back on how much I used to like to bowl. Was kind of good at one time. I think my best game was a 247. Those days are apparently about 60 pounds or more behind me now.

See, our son was in town for Christmas and among the things we did while he was here was...you guessed it - bowl. Had to. Charla and the rest of her pals made it look

So, we headed off to the local bowling alley, rented our clown shoes - found a

house ball - and away we went. I was so bad I think I frightened the little girl in the lane next to us away. She looked over after one of my rolls and the next thing I know, she's gone. She split in a hurry too. She left all her gear

behind. Some fancy carrier on wheels, a bag and other things. "Do you think she just forgot it," my wife asked. I said, "I dunno." We continued on.

The family on the other side of us was doing great. Even their baby was outscoring me. Then I noticed the secret to their success and high scores. They had these things in the gutter that kept your ball on the lane. It was like training wheels for a bowler. After my first game, I envied them.

We had fun though. Actually, I had forgotten how much fun bowling is. What's more, as I write this column, I am also beginning to realize just how out of shape I am. Brother, my legs hurt. My shoulder hurts. My arm hurts. And I can't wait to go

And there were the bowling pictures. So here's to you + the John Dawes' and Charla Shults' of the world. Here's to your enthusiasm. Here's to your spirit. Above all, here's to your health. May you be an inspiration to us all. You have most certainly inspired me.

Pampa freshmen face Bulldogs tonight; varsity and JV teams home tomorrow

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS Sports Editor

The Pampa High School freshmen boy's basketball team will take to the road tonight. The Harvesters will travel to Borger to face the Bulldogs. That game scheduled to get started at 6 p.m.

A full night of basketball is slated for both The Pit and the MPAC building tomorrow night as the varsity and junior varsity squads will play host to Claude.

The varsity girls will start the night off at McNeely Field

House with a 6 p.m. tip off against the Lady Mustangs. Across the street, the junior varsity boys will take on its Claude counterpart.

The varsity boys will take to the floor of The Pit at 7:30 p.m. The junior varsity girls will be in action in the MPAC building at 7:30 p.m. as well.

The home court will look good to the varsity teams, both coming off tournament appearances in Clovis (boys) and Lubbock (girls). The junior varsity teams have not played since the Christmas break.

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Central Hockey League standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTHERN CO		ENCE			
Trontinodot Divion	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF GA
Boss/Shvport	18	8	3	39	96 74
Fort Worth	15	10	3	33	81 80
Tulsa	14	14	3	31	95 105
Oklahoma City	10	15	5	25	86 92
Memphis	11	17	1	23	82 108
Northwest Divisi	on				•
	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF GA
Wichita	22	7	1.	45	100 73
Colorado	17	5	5.	39	98 59
New Mexico	15	10	3	33	89 88
Topeka	11	18	2	24	83 104
SOUTHERN CO	NFER	ENCE		*	
Southeast Divisi					
	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF GA
Laredo	16	10	1	33	93 63
Corpus Christi	15	10	3	33	96 92
Austin	13	12	2	28	75 83
Rio Gr. Valley	9	18	1	19	65 108

	>	_				0	_
Southwest Div	rision						
	W	L	OTL	Pts	GF	GA	
Lubbock	16	9	2	34	82	69	
San Angelo	16	10	2	34	79	85	
Amarillo	12	12	4	28	75	89	
Odessa	11	10	5	27	71	74	

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for loss in overtime or shootout. Overtime or shootout losses are only denoted in the OTL column, not the loss column.

Saturday's Games Corpus Christi 3, Odessa 1 Lubbock 7, Topeka 4 Tulsa 5, Fort Worth 2 Bossier-Shreveport 3, Memphis 1 New Mexico 4, Amarillo 3, OT Laredo 2, Austin 0 San Angelo 3, Rio Grande Valley 1 Wichita 5, Colorado 4, OT Sunday's Game Bossier-Shreveport 4, Tulsa 3, SO Monday's Game Topeka at Wichita

Utah's Meyer wins Robinson award as coach of the year after 12-0 season

Football Writers Association/Eddie Robinson coach of the year award Saturday after leading the Utes to a 12-0 season.

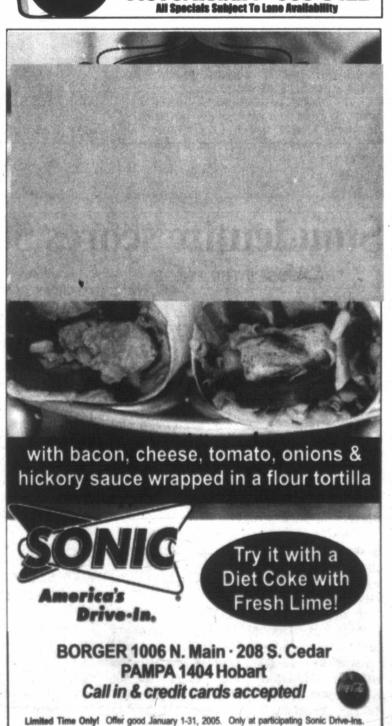
The honor was announced during the Utes' 35-7 victory over Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, the final piece in Utah's first perfect season since 1930.

The other finalists for the award — first presented in 1957 to Ohio State's Woody Hayes - were Southern California's Pete Carroll, Tommy Tuberville of Auburn,

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Utah's Urban Meyer received the Mike Price of Texas-El Paso, Iowa's Kirk Ferentz and California coach Jeff Tedford.

Meyer was 22-2 at Utah and guided the Utes to the first Bowl Championship Series game for a team from a conference without an automatic BCS berth.

Saturday's game was Meyer's last with the Utes. He was hired by Florida to replace the fired Ron Zook, but was allowed to coach Utah one last time.



National Football League standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All	Times	EST	Γ		
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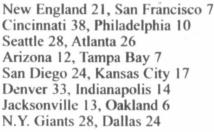
East	1102					
East	W	1	T	Pct	PF	DA
N E I I		L				PA
x-New England	14	2	0	.875	437	260
z-N.Y. Jets	10	6	0	.625	333	261
Buffalo	9	7	0	.563	395	284
Miami	4	12	0	.250	275	354
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Indianapolis	12	4	0	.750	522	351
Jacksonville	9	7	0	.563	261	280
Houston	7	9	0	.438	309	339
	5	11	0	.313	344	
Tennessee	3	11	U	.313	344	439
North	***		OF.	ъ.	D.F.	
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
xy-Pittsburgh	15	1	0.	.938	372	251
Baltimore	9	7	0	.563	317	268
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	374	372
Cleveland	4	12	0	.250	276	390
West						
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Diego	12	4	0	.750	446	313
	10		0	.625	381	
z-Denver		6				304
Kansas City	7	9	0	.438	483	435
Oakland	5	11	0	.313	320	442
	/					
NATIONAL CONFEREN	CE					
East						
	W	L.	T	Pct	PF	PA
xy-Philadelphia	13	3	0	.813	386	260
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	303	347
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	293	405
Washington	6	10	0	.375	240	265
	O	10	U	.373	240	203
South	***		TE	р.,	DE	D.A
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Atlanta	11	5	0	.688	340	337
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	348	405
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	355	339
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	301	304
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Green Bay	10	6	0	.625	424	380
z-Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	405/	395
Detroit		10	0			
	6			.375	296	350
Chicago	5	11 -	0	.313	231	331
West				*		
	\mathbf{W}_{-}	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	9	7	0	.563	371	373
z-St. Louis	8	8	0	.500	319	392
Arizona	6	10	0	.375	284	322
San Francisco	2	14	0	.125	259	452
	_	A - V	U	.123	20)	102

x-clinched division y-clinched conference z-clinched wild card

Sunday's Games

Tennessee 24, Detroit 19 Baltimore 30, Miami 23 Green Bay 31, Chicago 14 St. Louis 32, N.Y. Jets 29, OT Cleveland 22, Houston 14 Washington 21, Minnesota 18 Pittsburgh 29, Buffalo 24 New Orleans 21, Carolina 18

New England 21, San Francisco 7 Cincinnati 38, Philadelphia 10 Seattle 28, Atlanta 26 Arizona 12, Tampa Bay 7 San Diego 24, Kansas City 17 Denver 33, Indianapolis 14 Jacksonville 13, Oakland 6





No. 15 Texas 89, UNLV 82

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas forward P.J. Tucker and his teammates came alive just in time to escape upset-minded UNLV.
The 6-foot-5, 225-pound Tucker was too
much for the Runnin' Rebels to handle late

in the 15th-ranked Longhorns' 89-82 victory on Sunday night. Tucker finished with 25 points, 14 in the

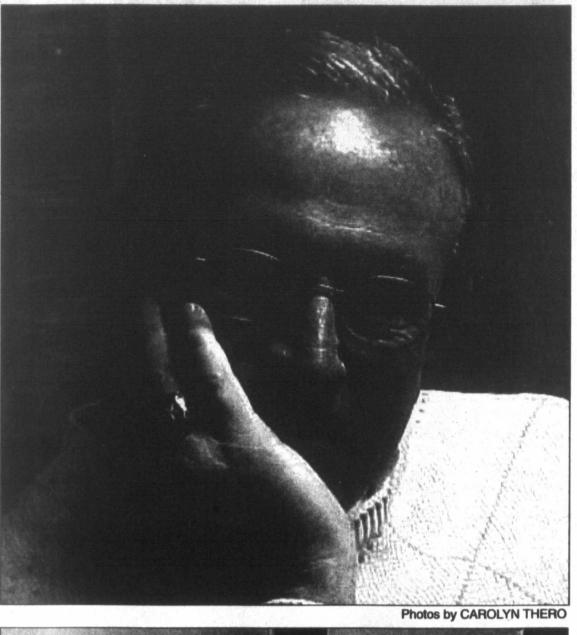
second half, and 10 rebounds to help offset UNLVs hot 3-point shooting. "P.J. Tucker is the kind of player that's going to fight and claw every possession," first-year UNLV coach Lon Kruger said.

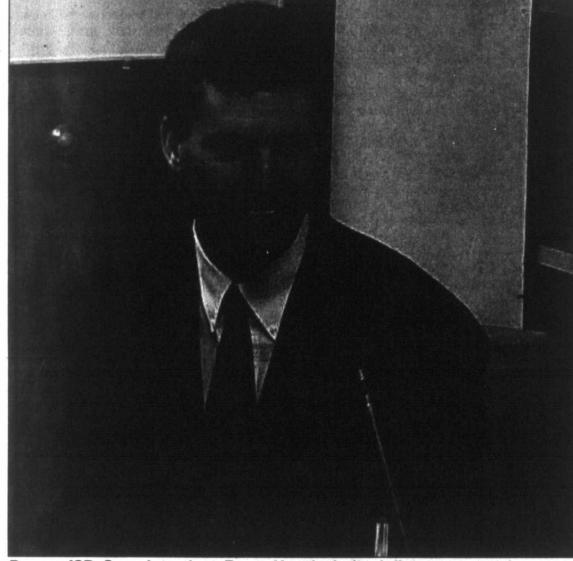
"He does everything he can to make his Texas (10-2) finally shook off pesky

UNLV (6-5) late in the second half. The Longhorns trailed 67-65 with 5:50 to play after UNLV guard Michael Umeh nailed a 3-pointer from the left wing, one of seven the Runnin' Rebels made in the half. But

Texas went on a 12-1 run to take control. Tucker's three-point play followed by his powerful defensive rebound and no-look pass to LaMarcus Aldridge for a layup gave the Longhorns a 72-67 lead with 4:20 left. After Brad Buckman hit two free throws for Texas, Daniel Gibson passed to Jason Klotz for a fastbreak layup to give the Longhorns a 77-68 lead with 2:01 to play.

Romel Beck and Jerel Blassingame each had 17 points for UNLV.





Pampa ISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch (top) listens as newly named Pampa High School football coach Bryan Wood answers questions Monday morning. Wood replaces Heath Parker who took over the Tascosa job after two seasons as the Harvester head man.

Continued from Page 7

Wood met with his Bobcats at 11 a.m. this morning to inform them of his decision. "This will be the hardest part of the whole thing," he said. So far as a start date, Wood expects to begin full time by the first of February. He will be bringing three assistants with him.

During his meeting with the Pampa players this morning, Wood said he told the team a little about himself and his background. He said he knew about the Pampa tradition, adding such things are "Worth protecting and hard to keep. I'm not going to try to change anything." He told them about his expectations and that, "I'm just a country boy who grew up in Vega."

Wood is 34 years young and looks like a student himself. Spend some time with him and you will notice he sounds like a coach that has been roaming the side lines for more years than he has

His answers are quick and honest.

His thoughts and philosophies are sound. Coach Wood will be a great fit for Pampa. Better still, there is reason to believe he can, and will, advance the Harvester program to the next level.

Stoudemire scores 50 to lead surging Suns; Mavs drop Bucks

'Amare

like Wilt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amare Stoudemire had 30 points after three quarters against Portland, and scoring 50 was still far from his mind.

It wasn't until he heard a voice from the crowd that the young Suns' phenom realized he had a chance to reach that milestone.

"I wasn't thinking about it," Stoudemire said. "I heard one of the fans say 46, and that's when I thought about it, but I wasn't pressing and trying to get 50 points. It just came to me in the flow of the game."

Stoudemire finished right at 50, leading Phoenix to a 117-98 win over the Trail Blazers on Sunday night.

With the crowd of 18,166 cheering wildly in the final minutes as Stoudemire approached the mark, the fans got their wish with 43.2 seconds left when he nailed a 15foot turnaround jump shot.

In other NBA games, the Los Angeles Lakers beat Denver 99-91: Sacramento defeated San Antonio 86-81; Dallas topped Milwaukee 123-104; Detroit beat Boston 100-88; Houston beat Utah 99-80; Washington defeated Atlanta 104-101; and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Philadelphia 89-83.

Stoudemire scored on a variety of shots dunks, jumpers and power moves to the basket. He was so dominant, he reminded his teammate Quentin Richardson of one of the NBA's greatest players.

"Amare Stoudemire looked like Wilt Chamberlain," Richardson said.

Stoudemire shot 20-of-27 from the floor and 10-of-17 from the foul line. Richardson added 20 for Phoenix. Darius Miles led Portland with 25 points, while Zach Randolph had 22 points and 14

Lakers 99, Nuggets 91 At Los Angeles, Kobe

Bryant scored the Lakers' first 14 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 42.

Former Lakers star Michael Cooper lost for the first time as an NBA coach. He was promoted to head coach in Denver last Tuesday after the firing of Jeff Bzdelik and won in his debut Friday against Philadelphia.

Bryant recorded his third consecutive 40point game for the Lakers, who won back-

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 27 points in his second game back since missing six with a sprained ankle. Kenyon Martin returned to the Denver lineup after missing Friday's game with a sore back and finished with 11 points in 28 minutes.

Kings 86, Spurs 81 At Sacramento, Calif.,

Peja Stojakovic had 28 points, including six 3-pointers, and Mike Bibby scored Stoudemire looked 13 of his 16 points in the second half for the Kings. Chris Webber added 14

Chamberlain.' points and 13 rebounds for Sacramento, which snapped — Quentin the Spurs' five-game win-Richardson ning streak. The Kings also Phoenix Suns avoided their first three-

game home losing streak since April 2000. Manu Ginobili scored 18 points for San Antonio, but Tim Duncan got just six of his 14 points in the second half as the Spurs lost in Sacramento for just the second time in

five trips: Mavericks 123, Bucks 104

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 39 to-back games for the sixth time this season. points and Josh Howard got 11 of his 25 in

the fourth quarter to help the Mavericks pull

Nowitzki hit 14 of 25 shots from the floor in his 11th 30-point game of the season. Dallas shot 53 percent from the floor and equaled its season-high point total.

Howard held Milwaukee's Michael Redd to 18 points, nearly five below his average. Mike James led the Bucks with 20 points.

Pistons 100, Celtics 88 At Auburn Hills, Mich., Rasheed Wallace had 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead Detroit, which won for the fourth time in

five games. Six Pistons scored in double figures, including Tayshaun Prince, who had 18

Rookie Tony Allen led Boston with a career-best 18 points. Jiri Welsch added 14

points, and Paul Pierce had 13. The Celtics have won just one of their last five games.

Rockets 99, Jazz 80

At Houston, Tracy McGrady scored 25 points to lead the Rockets to their third straight win. Bob Sura tied season highs with 24 points, 10 rebounds and five steals for Houston, which won for the 10th time in 14 games.

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.....3/1/1 - 980 SF/GCAD

.....3/1/1 - 1144 SF/GCAD

............3/1/T Det. - 1092 SF/GCAD

.....2/1/1 - 936 SF/GCAD

.....1/1/1 - 560 SF/GCAD

......4/2/2 - 2258 SF/GCAD

......3/1.75/2 - 2150 SF/GCAD

.....3/1/1 - 1064 SF/GCAD

.....3/1/1 - 1130 SF/GCAD

......2/1/1 - 1067 SF/GCAD

......3/2/1 - 1269 SF/GCAD

......2/1/1 - 1405 SF/GCAD

......3/1.75/1 - 1100 SF/GCAD

......3/1/1 - 1020 Sf/GCAD

.....3/1/1 cp - 1284 SF/GCAD

..... 3/2/2 - 2190 SF/HCAD 13.64 Acres

......3/2/2 - 1834 SF/GCAD

......3/1/2 - 1257 SF/GCAD

......2/1.75/2 - 1600 SF/CCAD

Jim Davidson (BKR)662-9021

Robert Anderwald665-3357

Twila Fisher (BKR)665-3560

Melba Musgrave669-6292

Sharon McKee440-1516

.3/1/1 - 1064 \$F/GCAD

.4/2/1 - 1678 SF/GCAD

.3/2/2 - 1993-SF/GCAD

.4/2.5/None - 1848 SF/GCAD

.2/1/1 cp - 1084 SF/GCAD

..3/1/None -1 208 SF/GCAD

West and North West

.3/2.5/2 - 2204 SF/GCAD

. .4/2.75.2 - 2605 SF/GCAD

.4/2/2 cp - 2196,SF/GCAD

.3/1.75/2 - 1413 SE/GCAD

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AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

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WE HOPE AND PRAY FOR. --- YOUR FAITHFUL

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

NYUCV YBNX

TN

I.T. VQTUD

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

21 Help Wanted

SIVALLS Inc. is looking NOTICE welder-fabricators. Readers are urged to fully Welding and drug tests investigate advertisements req. Benefits: health ins., which require payment in profit sharing, 401K, 8 advance for information. paid holidays and 10 days services or goods. vacation per year. 806-

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69 Misc.

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bedroom, furnished. bills paid from \$200 mo. 520 N. Frost. Call 665-4842 or 662-3572.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005:

OUDOKSBU,

OUDOKSBU

YUNYBU

This year, opt not to play into the coldness or negativity of others. Remain optimistic and choose to revamp your opinions and find new ways to look at people and situations. You could revolutionize your thinking because of a key association. Some of you will find a trusted adviser, the perfect person to brainstorm with. Open up to new ways of viewing and handling situations. Your work tosses you into the limelight. A promotion and/or pay raise becomes possible. Others become more aware of your efforts. If you are single, late fall 2005 provides new friends and opportunities to meet someone special. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom the more you share your work and stresses, especially toward your next birthday. Develop an even closer bond. SCORPIO wants you as a friend.

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)

★★★ Recognize how negativity could be affecting you and others. Toss this attitude to the wind and help others be more positive. A discussion opens up your thinking. In fact, you might need to revise an opinion. Tonight: Share news over dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

** You might easily be misunderstood or have a difficult time getting your day started. Fighting the inevitable won't help. Just deal with problems. Debate, brainstorm and listen to a key associate's presentation or ideas. Tonight: Accept an invitation to go out. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You could easily get tripped up by a financial matter this morning. Be realistic when coming up with solutions. Open up, and then others can help you. Together solutions are easily found. Work with a co-worker or friend. Tonight: Walk or exercise --

whatever works for you. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ** You could be far more difficult or touchy than you realize. Take some more time off if you need it. You could use it. Indulge yourself instead of everyone else. Yes, schedule a massage or some other welcomed indulgence. Tonight: Express your inner child. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Something might be bothering

you on a subconscious level. Still, put your best foot forward. Seek out others, return messages and update co-workers on recent events. Your ability to present your point of view makes all the difference. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Juggling funds and doing price comparisons could take up a large part of your time. Try to postpone these activities until you complete some work, if you can. A discussion about family or a domestic matter opens your mind. Tonight: Pick up the phone. Talk to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** A boss could rain on your parade. You might want to let go and be yourself. You find that a conversation later in the day reveals a lot of what he or she was thinking. Approach communication differently. You'll get results. Tonight: Avoid a power play or money hassle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

** Listen and check out information. Somehow facts don't emerge readily. Avoid gossip as well. Talk to an

associate or friend about money and perhaps a new way of handling it. Be willing to try a new bank or different type of approaca. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Seize the moment wherever you are. Though an associate could be negative, you are capable of making white rabbits pop out of a black hat. Your perceptions help a boss or associate. Share your view. Tonight: Time for vourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** You find some people to be difficult and negative. Bypass negativity by rethinking what has happened Renew your outlook through a confidential discussion. Responsible actions lead to success. You know what you are doing. Tonight: Find your pals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** If you find that you are tired, use your mental abilities to shorten various tasks. Delegate as much as you can. You find that relaxing and letting go of stress will help as well. Take charge and claim your power. Tonight: Out late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Listen to a partner or someone

who has a very different perspective on money. You might need to rethink your attitude toward a partner or your work. Discuss options with a boss or someone you respect. Tonight: Watch a movie. Hop on your computer.

BORN TODAY

Author Jacob Grimm (1785), singer Michael Stipe (1960), actress Jane Wyman (1914)

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Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Flying over the troops

A formation of Apache helicopters from Houston flies over a formation of 3,000 Texas National Guardsmen at Floyd Casey Stadiam in Waco during deployment ceremonies New Year's Day. In the foreground is the 2nd Battlion, 142 Infantry, which includes Detachment 1, Company B, from Pampa.

School finance on Austin list

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas legislators are marching toward the Capitol to the steady drumbeat of vows to revamp the state's school finance system.

After two years of failed attempts, lawmakers will enter the upcoming legislative session facing a court order to pump more money into the state's K-12 public schools. An appeal is pending.

"It's very important. The court has outlined a very serious case of funding inadequacies and has said that the Legislature has to fix it by October 1," said former state District Judge F. Scott McCown, who now

heads the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a think tank that tracks issues affecting low- and moderate-income families. "So they are faced with a big challenge."

The session starts Jan. 11 and lasts until the end of May.

"I hope that the first bill we get to the governor's desk will be a school bill," finance Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, who chairs the House Public **Education Committee.**

As it works now, schools are paid for in large part by local property tax money. Cash-strapped districts are

forced to raise local property taxes to the legal limit, with little room for growth.

Property poor districts get money from more affluent districts, but both say they still don't have enough money. Many districts are laying off teachers and some fast-growing districts are using temporary buildings as classrooms.

Homeowners are frustrated with high property tax rates and legislators have campaigned on promises to reduce the state's dependence on the expanding taxes, but so far haven't been able to agree on a suitable replacement.

Education funding battle rages in Capitol and courts last year

DALLAS (AP) — Texas educators scored in favor of Robin Hood. a decisive victory for better school funding in 2004, when a judge ruled the state's sharethe-wealth finance system is "inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable."

State District Judge John Dietz's September ruling capped a six-week trial in a lawsuit filed by more than 300 school districts that claimed Texas' \$30 billion education funding system violates the state consti-

The ruling also followed a 30-day springtime special session called by Gov. Rick Perry to examine the issue. No legislation was passed during the session.

Under the so-called "Robin Hood" system, about 13 percent of the 1,087 school districts in Texas are required to share a portion of their property tax revenue with the state's less wealthy districts.

On Tuesday, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed a notice of appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. Abbott urged the court to hear the case as soon as possible. Dietz said the state must stop funding public education by October if the constitutional violations are not corrected.

George Bramblett, one of the attorneys for the districts that sued the state, called Dietz's decision a seminal ruling in Texas school finance history. He compared it with the 1989 Texas Supreme Court ruling that forced Texas to junk its old funding system

"The judge issued a thorough and impressive ruling that vindicates our position that the state has significantly been underfunding the system," he said.

Many districts that joined the lawsuit, launched three years ago by the property wealthy West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District, say the state's schools don't have the money they need to educate Texas' 4.3 million students. The plaintiffs included both wealthy districts and those that are property poor.

Dietz agreed with their contention that the state's cap on local property taxes amounts to an unconstitutional statewide property tax. He also agreed that the funding shortfall made it impossible for both rich and poor school districts to provide an adequate edu-

Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley testified during the trial that state-mandated academic standards can be met with current

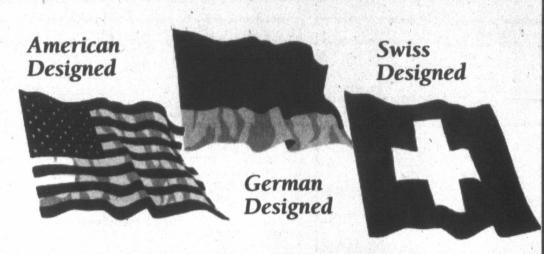
But she acknowledged telling a newspaper that she believes the state's share of public school funding should move back toward 60 percent. The level has dropped to 38 percent, with the rest coming from local proper-

Most lawmakers agree they want a new, equitable system that provides property tax relief for homeowners.

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