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Tuesday, December 20, 2005

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Treacherous, icy roads claim five lives in area

Five people have died as a result of icy roads in the area, and at least four were injured in five separate crashes since Sunday, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The first accident occurred at 1 p.m. Sunday, 13 miles south of Dumas on U.S. 87. The one-vehicle rollover was fatal to William Franklin Snodgrass, 75, of San Angelo. Two others were injured in that accident.

At 7:30 p.m. Sunday, another one-vehicle rollover took the life of Ashley Rene Cummings, 9, of Borger. This accident occurred three miles north of Stinnett on Highway 136. No one else was injured.

At 8:30 p.m. Sunday, the driver of a van lost control on the ice and crossed the median into the path of semitrailer on Interstate 40 in Oldham County at mile marker 50. Michael Patrick Moran, 21, of Paris, Texas, died at the scene, and another

passenger was injured.

Another fatal crash occurred at 3 a.m. Monday five miles north of the Canadian River Bridge. Jose Mendoza Garcia, 44, of Guymon, Okla., was driving a van southbound on U.S. 287 when he lost control on the icy road. His vehicle rolled several times and ejected Pedro Calel Lopez, 20, of Guymon, who died at the scene. Garcia and another passenger, Vicente Lopez, 55, of Guymon were wearing seat belts and

were treated at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo and released. Lopez was not wearing a seat belt, according to DPS.

The fifth fatal crash occurred at 5:30 p.m. Monday on I-40, 11 miles west of Groom. The two-vehicle crash involved a car and a semitrailer and took the life of Gilberto G. Montoya, 34, of Los Angeles, Calif. A passenger in his car was injured and taken to Northwest Texas
See **ICY ROADS**, Page 3

Cable regains KAMR

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

Cable One subscribers are once again able to view KAMR Channel 4 as of Friday.

"An agreement was reached and signed late Friday afternoon," said Terry Harris, general manager for the Pampa cable service office. "As soon as it was signed, I was given the OK to put KAMR back on. It became available to our viewers early Friday evening."

Cable One and Nexstar Broadcasting Group, owners of the Amarillo NBC affiliate, parted ways last March when Cable One refused to enter into an agreement to pay for the

See **CABLE**, Page 3

Frozen lights



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER
Larry Andrus adjusts a frozen light outside the Gray County Courthouse. The county Christmas lights this year, Andrus said, reflect a patriotic theme. They are red, white and blue.

Thaw sets in



Pampa News photo by DENNIS SPIES
The sun came out this morning and began a gradual thaw of the ice and snow that settled on Pampa and the area the past two days.

2006 beef prices should be steady

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

AMARILLO — Consumers should see steady retail beef prices in 2006, according to Jim Gill, marketing director for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

Even with tighter cattle supplies and increased demand both domestically and in export markets, Gill said beef production in 2006 should increase three to four percent. The increased supply will keep prices level.

The increase in production will be from heavier

cattle coming out of the feed yards.

Retail beef prices averaged \$4.10 per pound in 2005, up two cents from 2004's \$4.08.

"I think in 2006, you'll see the average price stay just about the same," Gill says.

Increased demand for beef has raised cattle prices over the past five years, he said.

"Our average price this year is going to be right around \$87.50 per cwt. for

See **BEEF**, Page 3

Blood drive scheduled Thursday

Coffee Memorial Blood Center will conduct a blood drive in Pampa from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

Personnel from the blood center will be at the Knights

of Columbus building at 318 N. Cuyler.

To make an appointment, call 1-877-574-8800.

Every donor will receive a Christmas ornament.

White Deer Land Museum New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31, 2005 • MK Brown Heritage Room • 8:00 pm to Midnight
Silent Auction and Dance • Tickets \$35.00 per person
for more information call 669-8041 or 662-2727

Obituaries

Jonathan Hugh Fritts, 23

STATESVILLE, N.C. — Jonathan Hugh Fritts, 23, of Robins Hill Lane, Statesville, passed away on Friday, December 9, 2005, in Morganton, N.C. Jonathan was born November 17, 1982, in York, PA.

He is survived by his estranged wife, Maranda Fritts, of Mooresville, N.C.; his parents, Carolyn Fritts-Heavener of Pampa, and Vance and wife Robin Fritts of Pampa; his sister, Jennifer Daugherty of West Virginia; a step sister, Wendy Gammage of Pampa; a stepbrother, Trent Magers of Pampa; a nephew, Garritt Gammage of Pampa; grandparents, Hugh & Greta Gegan of Pampa, Wallace Fritts of Pampa, Doug Robbins of Randleman, N.C. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, loved ones and friends who were touched by his gentle spirit. He will be greatly missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Jerry Heavner, in 1999.

Jonathan graduated from Mooresville

Senior High School in 2001, where he served as ROTC Jr. commander for three years, receiving numerous honors, ribbons and medals. Along with many awards and accomplishments, he had a special gift for mentoring those in need of friendship and compassion. He enjoyed fishing, drawing, writing poetry and exploring the mountains where he lived.

He was employed a manager at Vortex in Charlotte, N.C. and CKS Products in Mooresville, N.C.

Jonathan was preceded in death by his grandmother, Geraldine Fritts of Pampa in 2005 and his brother Timothy Fritts of Oklahoma in 1995.

A memorial service was held on December 14, 2005, at the Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel in Mooresville, N.C. His ashes were to be scattered in the moun-

tains of NC where he spent many wonderful years.

Note: as this memorial to Jonathan was being written, word was received that Jonathan's grandfather, Wallace R. Fritts of Pampa followed him home to be with the Lord on December 18, 2005. He too will be greatly missed.

Once Again
written by Jonathan Hugh Fritts
July 2005



Fritts

Morning rises to greet the sky,
chasing away the stars.
The trivial worries melt away,
and bring's to life a brand new day.
Gazing at the dawn we see,
the beauty of our life.

The sounds of nature as it awakens,
and puts to bed our strife.

Listen to the breeze,

it speaks to me.
A faint whisper,
or is it a melody?

We will never know
unless we listen.
Take time out of
our daily mission.

Slow our rush
and stop the race.
Bringing our life
to a steady pace.

The joy abounds
all around.
It's there just waiting
to be found.

The time we share
is far to short.
Don't let anger be
a last resort.

Walter Leroy Parker

Walter Leroy Parker, 79, Methodist Church in College Station, passed away in Bryan on Dec. 18, 2005. He was born June 19, 1926, in Copan, Okla.



Parker

Graveside services will be 11 a.m., Wednesday at Memory Gardens of Pampa. A memorial service will be held 10 a.m., Dec. 27, 2005, at A&M United retired to College Station

after his retirement and was a member of A&M United Methodist Church. He was a member of Modern Woodmen of America.

He was an avid sports fan and student of history his entire life. He loved his family deeply and will be sorely missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Walter Lee and Hazel I. Parker.

Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis

Ann Parker Perkins and Clancy Ferguson of College Station; nieces, Jorja Ann-Perkins Davis of College Station, Kelli Kae Perkins-Rushing of Cary, N.C., and Leslie Shannon Perkins-Drew of Temple; three great-nieces, four great-nephews and two great-great-nephews.

Memorials may be made to A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr., College Station, TX 77840.

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period

ending at 7 a.m. today. Five traffic stops were made. One stop in the 400 block of North Sumner resulted in an arrest for fail-

ure to identify. Traffic complaints were received from the 700 block of North Davis, the 400 block of North Dwight, the

200 block of South Tignor, and an undisclosed location.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 1800 block of North Sumner.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 700 block of North Russell.

Welfare checks were made in the 400 block of South Houston and the 1200 block of North Wells.

Warrant service was attempted at three locations, one of which resulted in at least one arrest.

Five alarms were reported.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Maple and Barrett streets, the 1900 block of North Nelson, and the 1200 block of Darby.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 1100 block of Varmon Drive, the 1300 block of North Starkweather, and the 500 block of North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Davis, the 1300 block of Coffee, the 1600 block of West Somerville, and the 800 block of Gordon.

Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the police department lobby. Minor injuries were reported.

A disturbance was reported in the 600 block of North Dwight. The incident involved a fight in progress. The fight was verbal only; no injuries were reported. One arrest, for possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant, was made in connection with the incident.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Evading arrest, resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia and burglary of a habitation were reported in the 900 block of Octavius.

Two counts of possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and one probation violation were reported in the 700 block of East Frederic.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.


Sunday, Dec. 18

11:18 a.m. — A 1999 Plymouth Voyager, driven by Nettie Vaughn Cole, 85, County Road 7 1/2, collided with a properly parked 1997 Chevrolet Suburban, owned by Scott Bransford Hahn, 8691 County Road 5, in the

See RECORD, Page 3

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Intelligent design shot down by Pennsylvania federal judge

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — "Intelligent design" cannot be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district, a federal judge said Tuesday, ruling in one of the biggest courtroom clashes on evolution since the 1925 Scopes trial.

Dover Area School Board members violated the Constitution when they ordered that its biology curriculum must include the notion that life on Earth was produced by an unidentified intelligent cause, U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III said. Several members repeatedly lied to cover their motives even while professing religious beliefs, he said.

The school board policy, adopted in October 2004,

was believed to have been the first of its kind in the nation.

"The citizens of the Dover area were poorly served by the members of the Board who voted for the ID Policy," Jones wrote.

The board's attorneys had said members were seeking to improve science education by exposing students to alternatives to Charles Darwin's theory that evolution develops through natural selection. Intelligent-design proponents argue that the theory cannot fully explain the existence of complex life forms.

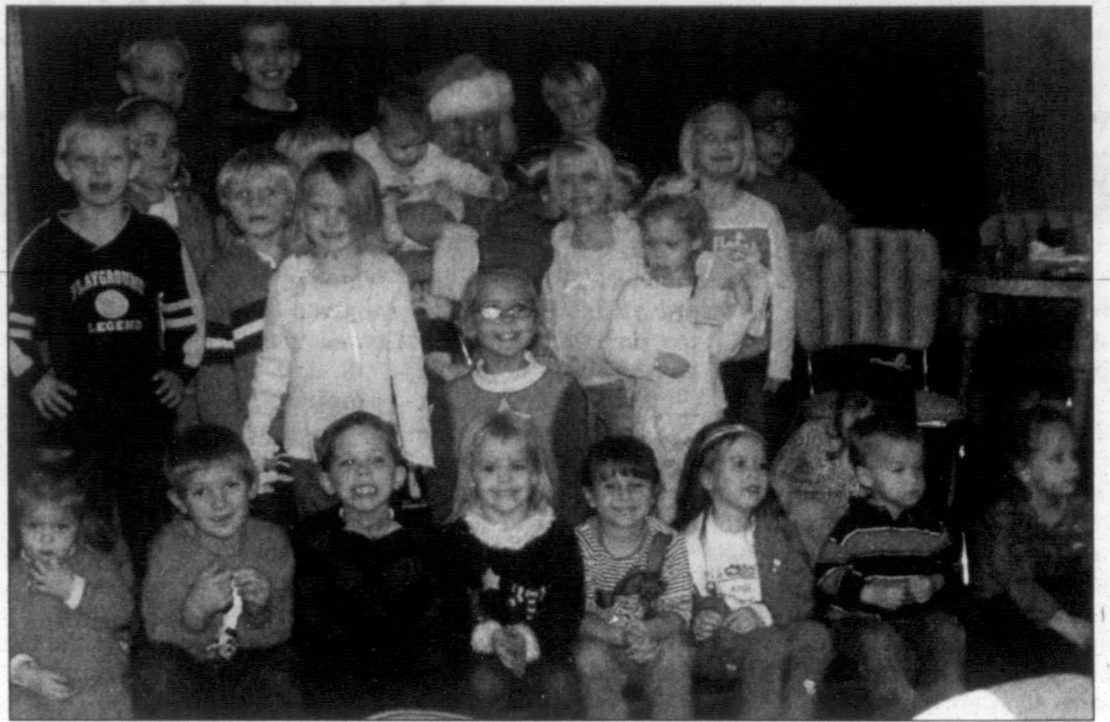
The plaintiffs challenging the policy argued that intelligent design amounts to a secular repackaging of creationism, which the courts

have already ruled cannot be taught in public schools. The judge agreed.

"We find that the secular purposes claimed by the Board amount to a pretext for the Board's real purpose, which was to promote religion in the public school classroom," he wrote in his 139-page opinion.

The Dover policy required students to hear a statement about intelligent design before ninth-grade biology lessons on evolution. The statement said Charles Darwin's theory is "not a fact" and has inexplicable "gaps." It refers students to an intelligent-design textbook, "Of Pandas and People," for more information.

School House party



Courtesy Photo
You can hardly see Santa for all the children. Carily Hernandez said a good time was had by all Saturday night at the annual School House Christmas party. It is an annual tradition for family and friends north of town to gather at the Little Red School House for a Christmas party. There is lots of food and Santa always stops in to see the children.

Cable

Continued from Page 1
right to retransmit Nexstar's stations' signals to its customers.

"We do believe that free TV should be free," Harris said March 31, the day Cable One's broadcast of KAMR programming ended. He referred to the fact that broadcasts from Amarillo television stations could be received for free if the viewer used a television antenna.

Cable One's transmission of other Amarillo stations' programming continued after KAMR was taken off

its listings.

"We are very happy to have reached a mutual agreement with Nexstar," said Jerry McKenna, vice president of strategic marketing for Cable One, in a news release.

"Our customers value the programming on the Nexstar stations, and we are thrilled we can now provide it. Cable One and Nexstar will be able to work together in a business relationship for many years with this agreement," McKenna said.

Perry Sook, CEO of Nexstar Broadcasting Group, said in the release that he was pleased to restore Nexstar's stations to Cable One.

"We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with Cable One in the years ahead," Sook said.

Cable One has also just signed a new agreement with KVII Channel 7's parent company, Harris said this morning. Agreements with other Amarillo television stations remain in place, he said.

No information was available on the terms or duration of the agreement between Nexstar and Cable One.

In the Texas Panhandle, Cable One serves in Pampa, Borger, Dumas, Sunray, White Deer, Fritch, Stinnett, Panhandle and McLean.

Transit strike shuts down NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Subways and buses ground to a halt this morning as transit workers walked off the job at the height of the holiday shopping and tourist season, forcing millions of riders to find new ways to get around.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who had said the strike would cost the city as much as \$400 million a day, joined the throngs of people crossing the Brooklyn Bridge as he walked from a Brooklyn emergency headquarters to City Hall.

It's a form of terrorism, if you ask me," said Maria Negron, who walked across the bridge. "I hope they go back to work."

Other New Yorkers car-pooled or rode bicycles in the cold; early-morning temperatures were in the 20s.

With traffic rules in place to prevent gridlock, the city survived the morning rush without the feared chaos. Manhattan streets were unusually quiet; some commuters just stayed home.

Officials said they would seek quick court action, and about eight hours after the strike began, a closed-door meeting about the walkout was under way in a

Brooklyn courtroom. It is illegal for mass transit workers to strike in New York, and the 33,000 employees could face fines of two days' pay for each day on strike.

It was New York's first citywide transit walkout since an 11-day strike in 1980. Pay raises and pension and health benefits for new hires were main sticking points.

"I'm not happy about this," said Yvette Vigo, whose teeth were chattering after she walked a couple of miles to pick up a company-

Beef

Continued from Page 1
the entire year," Gill said of fed cattle prices. "That is a new record for a yearly average."

In 2004, it was about \$83.50. Three years ago, the average price was \$67.50.

He said the cattle market has reached a plateau, and he expects the price range for fed cattle to be between \$85 and \$95 for the foreseeable future.

This is mostly due to the expansion phase of the cattle cycle. Producers are keeping more heifers, Gill says, and that has tightened the feeder cattle supply.

"Demand also remains very good for our product," he says.

With a tighter feeder cattle supply, there have been record prices for feeder cattle prices by Texas Panhandle ranchers.

A 750-pound feeder steer averaged \$1.11 a pound in 2005.

"That's about seven dollars ahead of what it was in 2004," Gill said.

He said he expects to see a continuing shortage of feeder cattle, which should help the Gray County ranchers who supply those cattle. A shortage of supply translates into higher prices.

"I think for the next couple of years you'll see tight

feeder supplies of all types of cattle," Gill said.

Lower corn prices, the primary input for feeding cattle, have also helped cattle prices, although he said corn prices have probably bottomed out.

Drought has brought more and lighter cattle into the feed yards this year, he said. The lack of moisture has hurt the wheat crop and many cattle that would normally go to wheat pasture this winter are being shipped to the feed yards.

In November, he said, placements in area feed yards were quite a bit above average and he expects to see a similar trend for December.

Record

Continued from Page 2
100 block of East Foster. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

12:52 p.m. — A 1996 Dodge Ram 3500, driven by Kelly Roy Miller, 37, 310 N. West, and towing a horse trailer, collided with a curb, metal pole and street sign at the intersection of Foster and Cuyler streets. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

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

Monday, Dec. 19
Troy Britt, 42, 1124 Huff Road, was arrested in the 1100 block of Varmon Drive by Pampa Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting arrest, evading arrest, and burglary of a habitation.

Timothy Broadbent, 25, 719 N. Zimmers, was arrested in the 200 block of West Kingsmill by PPD for open container and failure to appear.

Jacob Nocona Rowsey, 18, 1101 S. Hobart, was arrested in the 600 block of North Dwight by PPD on a probation violation for possession of dangerous drugs.

Benjamin Blanco, 26, 400

N. Sumner, was arrested in the 400 block of North Sumner by PPD for failure to identify and a capias pro fine for no insurance.

John Colby McCoy, 21, 210 N. Dwight, was arrested in the 500 block of North Dwight by PPD for theft by check.

Victor Manuel Aguilar, 24, 525 Naida, was arrested in the 200 block of North Hobart by PPD for public intoxication.

Fire
Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Dec. 17
3:52 p.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to the 900 block of East Fisher on a structure fire.

Sunday, Dec. 18
12:34 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 200 block of North West on a medical assist.

6:53 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 200 block of North Wells on a lifting assist.

Monday, Dec. 19
10:04 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of Walnut on a carbon monoxide investigation.

11:28 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway on a medical assist.

5:15 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Hughes on a medical assist.

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

Monday, Dec. 19
10:46 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded north on Highway 70 and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway. No transport.

3:36 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Hughes and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1500 block of Kentucky.

Tuesday, Dec. 20
12:37 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1700 block of Holly and transported a patient to PRMC.

Icy roads

Continued from Page 1
Hospital in Amarillo.

"All of these fatal crashes had icy roads listed as a contributing factor," said Trooper Wayne Beighle, public information officer for the Amarillo DPS office. "Drivers are reminded again to slow down and allow plenty of time when driving on slick roads. Five fatalities in a short period of time should serve as a sober reminder of just how dangerous winter driving can be."

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Dear Santa,


Hope you're doing well.

If you could swing it, here's what I would like this year:

1. A comfortable home in the country.
2. A big plot of recreational land to hunt and fish.
3. 100 head of cattle and a nice big ranch.
4. A good-sized stretch of farm land.
5. And some equipment to help me maintain all this.

Thanks so much! Tell Prancer I said "hi".

Yours Truly,
Bob Phillips
To Country Reporter



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Viewpoints

PC crowd wants to take Christmas out of the holiday

Kind of catchy, isn't it? Here, PC doesn't mean a computer. It stands for "politically correct."

I figured since at least one advertiser has changed the words of a traditional Christmas carol, I may as well do the same, even though it makes my jaws clench.

Once again, we are making holiday fools of ourselves, bending over backwards so as not to make anyone feel left out. Others are engaging in legal battles for the right to express their religious beliefs during, take your pick, Christmas or Hannukah. Or whatever holiday, if any, you choose.

A front-runner for the

Notorious Noel award this year is Neptune Beach, Fla.

A tree on a traffic island in that city has been decorated for Christmas for the past seven years. This year, a Jewish group got permission to put a menorah alongside it so they wouldn't feel left out.

Therein lies the rub. An earlier request to put up a nativity scene nearby had been denied before the menorah appeared. The resulting protest by the nativity group made it all the way to federal court, and the nativity was finally allowed to be displayed.

The city of Denver, Colo., also felt public pressure over a nativity-themed float,

which was eventually allowed to be included in a parade there.

Some people got up in arms over this year's Christmas cards from the White House because the verse wishes the recipient a "Happy Holiday." In Bush's defense, a verse of Scripture is also on the card, although it is from the Old Testament, which of course does not include the story of Christ.

Now for the advertisers.

Honda is running an ad where a group of carolers

sing "We wish you a Happy Honda Day" instead of "We wish you a Merry Christmas."



Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer

made me see red.

There's nothing wrong with trying to be cute. I do it myself. But don't mess with the words to a beloved Christmas tune. If Honda were so clever, they could make up their own lousy holiday song, rather than making my lip curl by rewriting an old standard to

suit their ad campaign.

What in the world is wrong with us? Separation of church and state means just that.

It does not mean abolition of any public form of religious expression.

It simply means that no church will govern us, and no government will interfere with religion.

I have nothing against the display of menorahs or stars of David or symbols of other religions. I expect the same respect. Don't spit on my nativity scene, and don't be afraid to wish me a Merry Christmas.

Above all, don't be so hypocritical as to engage in all the merrymaking and

then raise a stink if any words or symbols connected to Christ's birth appear.

Either celebrate the holiday for what it is, or abstain and go find a holiday that suits you, but don't try to erase the reason for the season.

After all, I don't celebrate Hannukah, and don't feel left out when others do.

I also don't celebrate holy days of other religions, although I will defend others' right to do so.

Perhaps Scrooge unwittingly had the right idea when he told his nephew, "Keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2005. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

On this date:

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

'Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art. ... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.'

—C.S. Lewis
British author
(1898-1963)

In 1879, Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1968, author John Steinbeck died in New York at age 66.

In 1976, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died at age 74.

In 1987, more than 3,000 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of General Manuel Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples.

Ten years ago: An American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

Five years ago: President-elect Bush named businessman Paul O'Neill to be his treasury secretary; Ann Veneman to be the first female secretary of agriculture; Mel Martinez to be secretary of housing and urban development; and Don Evans, secretary of commerce.

One year ago: In a sobering assessment of the Iraq war, President Bush acknowledged during a news conference that Americans' resolve had been shaken by grisly scenes of death and destruction, and he pointedly criticized the performance of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops.



Sneak attack delivered by left-wingers

Sixty-four years ago on Dec. 7, the United States was stabbed in the back and 2,338 Americans were killed in a sneak attack at Pearl Harbor.

American servicemen and women serving in Iraq, and those here at home recovering from terrible wounds were also recently stabbed in the back. In 1941, it was the Japanese wielding the knife; most recently it was Howard Dean and John Kerry and fellow members of the dominant left wing of the Democrat Party who plunged the dagger in America's back.

Dean wielded the knife during a Texas radio interview when he had the gall to declare that the "idea that we're going to win the war in Iraq is an idea which is

just plain wrong," thereby telling the parents of those brave men and women who were killed fighting for the country, or the American troops now facing death every day in Iraq, that it was all a waste of time.

In my book, that's just plain treason and I told my radio listeners that Dean should be arrested and hung for treason, or put in a hole until the end of the Iraq war.

But Dean wasn't finished. He went on to say: "This is the same situation we had in Vietnam. Everybody then kept saying, 'just another year, just stay the course,

we'll have a victory.' Well, we didn't have a victory, and this policy cost the lives of an additional 25,000 troops because we were too stubborn to recognize what was happening."

Aside from the fact that Dean's arithmetic is off — some 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam, not 25,000 — we didn't lose a war we were winning on the battlefield because we were stubborn. We lost it because members of Dean's party in Congress de-funded the war effort and demanded that we do what he and his defeatist party are once again

demanding — that the United States cut and run.

I have a suggestion for Howard Dean. He should do what I did — visit the amputees at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He can try to tell them that the limbs they sacrificed on the field of battle were sacrificed in vain — thrown away in a war that we cannot win. I also suggest that when he does so he had better do what he wants the U.S. to do — cut and run for his life.

Then we have the junior senator from Massachusetts, Sen. John F. Kerry, who is becoming a serial backstabber. Kerry, you will remember, stabbed his Vietnam comrades in the back when he accused them of commit-

See REAGAN, Page 5

Michael Reagan
Columnist



Betraying the struggle of civil rights pioneers

Last month, when Rosa Parks was laid to rest in Detroit, her eulogy contained well-deserved praise for her brave defiance of segregation laws that led to the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott and later the 1956 Supreme Court ruling that banned public transportation segregation. The passing and remembrance of her generation of blacks, who made sacrifices to deliver today's opportunities, might also be an occasion for condemnation of what's no less than a gross betrayal of that generation's struggle.

Having lived just about one-third of our nation's existence, I know, as well as

experienced, the uglier parts of our history. During the '30s, '40s and '50s, civil rights progress meant yearly black lynchings were down to single digits,

as opposed to 50 or more in previous decades. In 1954, when I graduated from Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin High School, rare was the opportunity for a black student to go off to college.

While segregation was mostly in the South, it nonetheless existed in northern cities. There were entire

Philadelphia neighborhoods where, regardless of socioeconomic status, blacks could not rent or buy. There were business establishments, including movie theaters and restaurants, where black patronage was not



Walter Williams
Columnist

welcomed.

While not every vestige of racial discrimination has been eliminated, it is nowhere near the barrier it was in yesteryear, but you'd think discrimination is everywhere listening to some of today's black politi-

cians and civil rights leaders. One wonders what those blacks, who lived during the era of gross discrimination and are now deceased, would think about so much of today's behavior, rhetoric and excuses.

What would they think about black neighborhoods, once thriving economic centers that have been turned into economic wastelands by a level of criminal activity previously unknown? During my youth, walking through some of Philadelphia's predominantly white neighborhoods, one felt a sense of relief as we approached a black neighborhood.

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Reagan

Continued from Page 4

ting atrocities during that war. Well, he just did it again on CBS, telling Bob Schieffer of "Face the Nation" there was no reason for U.S. soldiers to continue "terrorizing" Iraqi children, and saying: "And there is no reason, Bob, that young American soldiers need to be going into the homes of Iraqis in the dead of night, terrorizing kids and children, you know, women, breaking sort of the customs of the — of — the historical customs, religious customs."

He then suggested that it should be the Iraqi soldiers doing the terrorism: "Whether you like it or not," he said, "Iraqis should be doing that."
Perhaps the Senator from Hanoi should take one of those senatorial junkets to Iraq and tell our courageous men and women over there, facing death and dismemberment every day, that they aren't really there to help guarantee the Iraqi people freedom, but to commit acts of terrorism.

Then we have the Nancy Pelosi and Barbara Boxers and the rest of the bug-out-of-Iraq brigade sending a clear message to the suicide bombers and other terrorist thugs to just bide their

time and wait until their party manages to sabotage the war effort and the U.S. withdraws with the job half-done. Then they can come in and show the world the real meaning of terrorism as they enslave and brutalize the Iraqi people.

What these people are doing is undermining the morale of our troops and giving aid and comfort to the enemy in a time of war. There's a word for that — it's called treason.

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

Williams

Continued from Page 4

Today, it might be the other way around. What would they think about predominantly black schools where violence and intimidation are the order of the day, with police cars outside and metal detectors inside? What would they think about black students who seek academic excellence being mocked, intimidated and assaulted by their peers for "acting white"?

By any assessment, black Americans have made the greatest progress, over some of the highest hurdles and in the shortest span of time than any other racial group in the history of mankind. If one added the earnings of black Americans and thought of us as a

nation, we'd be the 14th richest nation. Black Americans have held some of the nation's highest positions, such as secretaries of State, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services and Education; chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and mayors of some of our largest cities.

Blacks are some of the world's most famous personalities, and a few blacks rank among the world's richest people. In 1865, neither a slave nor a slave owner would have believed these gains possible in a little over a century, if ever.

As such, it not only speaks well of the determination and intestinal fortitude of a people, but also of a nation in which such gains were possible.

For a large segment of the black community, these gains remain elusive. The gains will remain elusive so long

as black civil rights and political leadership blame and focus their energies on discrimination.

While discrimination exists, the relevant question is how much of what we see can be explained by it. A 70 percent illegitimacy rate, 60 percent of black children raised in female-headed households, high crime and poor school performance have devastating consequences. This level of pathology cannot be attributed to discrimination, considering that much of it was absent in earlier times when there was far more discrimination, greater poverty and fewer opportunities.

It's time that black people hold fellow blacks accountable for squandering opportunities won at a high cost by our ancestors. Failing to do so makes all blacks complicit in the betrayal.

Events calendar

Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following programs: Susan Egan, Broadway vocalist, Feb. 18, 2006; St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006; and The Coats, vocal harmonic band, April 30, 2006. Additional concerts, featuring 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 665-2631. PCCA memberships are available.

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Dec. 27, Shepherd's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination.

Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

USDA cost-share funds have been released for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Farmers and ranchers can apply for Farm Bill conservation programs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Eligible produc-

ers may apply for cost share assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concern recognized by the Local Work Group. Practices are implemented through EQIP. The NRCS determines eligibility. The Gray County USDA Service Center will be accepting EQIP applications through Feb. 17. To obtain an EQIP application or for more information, call (806) 665-1751, ext. 3 or log onto www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov on the Internet.

People in the news

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge has adjourned a court appearance by Boy George on narcotics charges until next year.

Criminal Court Judge Patricia Nunez granted the adjournment Monday at request of defense and prosecution lawyers. Boy George, whose real name is George O'Dowd, is scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 1. The singer was said to be in England.

The judge asked whether the case was near a resolution. Assistant District

Attorney Craig Ortner said he and George's lawyer had held discussions. But Lewis Freeman, George's lawyer, said no plea negotiations had taken place yet.

Freeman said outside court that George was excused from this court date so he could work on literary and recording projects in England.

George, 44, is famous for his androgynous persona and Culture Club hits, including "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"

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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



This Week: Interview With Santa

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SANTA ANSWERS ALL!



Imagine you had a chance to interview Santa Claus! What would you ask? What would Santa say? Here are some ideas from some Kid Scoop readers, who came up with the questions and the answers for today's page.

Q: How did you become Santa and how did you get your magic?

Santa: I was a smart, cheerful child. When my parents died, I was heartbroken. I cried, not out of self-pity, but out of true love. One of my tears dropped into the snow and froze to make an ice marble. When I held it, it glowed and took me to the North Pole. I met the elves and they needed my help. After I grew up with them I took on the greatest task of all—delivering presents. The ice marble gave me the powers I have today.

— By Chris

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow one-step written directions.



Help Santa find his way through the magic maze back to the North Pole.

Q: What kind of milk do you like?

Santa: I like whole milk best, but Mrs. Claus put me on a diet so I have to drink non-fat.

— By Nick

Q: How can you visit all of the children of the world in one night?

Santa: I fly at super speed; that's why you can't see me.

— By Adrian

Find at least 10 differences between Santa and his reflection.



Extra! Extra! Santa Comes to YOUR Town! Pretend Santa has to buy all of his Christmas presents from the stores advertising in your newspaper. Help him by selecting a gift for everyone in your class using ads in the paper. Don't spend more than \$500.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve addition problems using money amounts.



Find the two identical fruit trees.

Q: Where do you buy your groceries?

Santa: I don't buy them; Mrs. Claus grows them. On Christmas Eve I come back with a sleigh full of soil instead of an empty sleigh. We grow food in our greenhouse and eat fresh veggies and fruit everyday.

— By Laurena

Q: Do you think you'll want to be Santa forever?

Santa: As long as my heart is _____ and my belly is _____, I reckon I'll want to be!

— By Maya

Q: Has there ever been a year when you gave out more _____ than presents?

Santa: No, and I _____ that never.

— By Michael

Where does each of these words belong?

JIGGLING HOPE COAL HAPPENS POUNDING

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Create an Interview!

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter. What question would you ask a Christmas tree and a snowman? Write your question, then write what you think the answer might be.

Q: _____

A: _____



Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

INTERVIEW MARBLE SANTA ANSWERS POUNDING FRUIT REFLECTION CLASS POLE MILK CLAUS CHEERFUL SNOW BELLY DIET

P H A P M Y L L E B
P O U N D I N G A P
C W L Y S D L M A A
L D I E T W A K T T
A W E I V R E T N I
U Y S A B N T R A U
S S A L C W O N S R
C H E E R F U L A F
N O I T C E L F E R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Q: _____

A: _____



BEYOND Kid Scoop

What's the Question?

Find five to ten quotes in articles in today's newspaper. On a separate piece of paper, write the question you think each quote answers.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Analysis of media communications.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Interpret information from text.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **INTERVIEW**

Interview as a verb means to have a conversation between a reporter and a person who will be the subject of the report.

The newspaper reporter interviewed the mayor, asking her many questions.

Use the word **interview** today when talking with your friends and family.

Write On!

Interview Santa

Imagine that you could interview Santa Claus. What would you ask him? What do you think his answer would be? Write one question and make up an answer for the question as if Santa had answered it.

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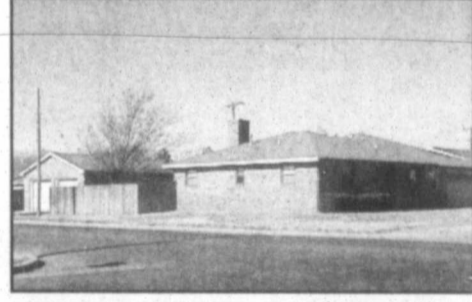
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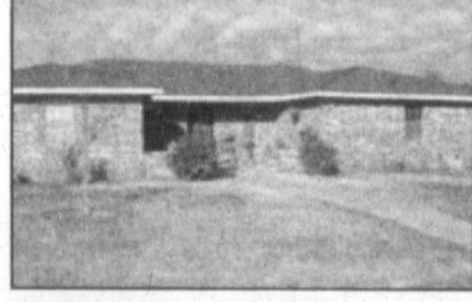
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BUSINESS REVIEW

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'Best' — What is the best hearing aid for me?

High Plains Hearing Aid Center offers a variety of listening devices for every budget

In our last article, we discussed the five steps to better hearing with admitting you have a hearing problem as being the very first step. Part of the process is also choosing the hearing aid that best suits your needs.

So, what is the best hearing instrument available today?

"A hearing instrument that works well for one person may not produce the same results for someone else since everyone has different listening needs," says Shirley Moore, hearing specialist and owner of High Plains Hearing Aid Center.

Each major manufacturer makes a product that is highly comparable to other manufacturers' products. The "best" hearing instrument for you is one that can meet your needs, offers you a good warranty and service, and one that your professional at High Plains Hearing Aid Center is experienced in fitting.

It's also important to know the differences between conventional, programmable and digital instruments.

1. The traditional analog circuitry in conventional hearing instruments acts as a basic volume control for all sounds, allowing only for minor adjustments — which you make.

2. Programmable hearing instruments with analog circuitry can be programmed by your hearing health care professional based on your hearing loss and your likes and dislikes and feature automatic volume control.

3. The digital circuitry of entry-level digital devices offers cleaner and clearer sound quality

and is programmed by your professional. They also offer automatic volume control and specific fine-tuning of sounds based upon your hearing level and likes and dislikes.

4. Advanced digital devices offer digital circuitry, cleaner and clearer sound quality, are a bit clearer in noise and may have a noise-reduction feature for constant noise sounds and are programmed by your professional. They provide very specific automatic fine-tuning of sounds based upon your hearing level and likes and dislikes.

Digital hearing instruments are for almost everyone. Today's digital hearing instruments provide both clarity and amplification. Someone with a severe to profound hearing loss, who is used to conventional technology, may now be a candidate for digital circuitry. Ask Shirley Moore and the knowledgeable professionals at High Plains Hearing Aid Center for more information.

You'll also want to ask what size hearing aid you will need. Different types of circuitry come in all sizes. Selection of a size depends upon your personal preference, your ear canal size, and your hearing loss.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call High Plains Hearing Aid Center at (806) 355-8889 or visit them at 5501 West 9th Street in Amarillo.

High Plains Hearing Aid Center also has additional offices in Dalhart, Dumas and Pampa. The Pampa office is located at 100 N. Cuyler, Suite 103. The local phone number is 665-6246.

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NO ONE PLANS TO FAIL ... THEY JUST FAIL TO PLAN!

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I would like to make a plea to your readers. All of you who still have plenty, please consider those close to you, around you, around the country and around the world who do not. With hard economic times here for many, plus wars and natural disasters, many people have lost loved ones, jobs and homes -- and happy memories have been replaced with traumatic ones.

Please do not ask them to reciprocate with expensive travel, food and gifts.

Do not expect them to "forget" what they have lost.

Do not use alcohol to "celebrate" the holidays with them.

Do not flaunt what you have that they do not.

Do not complain about the little things that bother you.

What CAN you do?

Do express that you understand their difficult times.

Do suggest name-drawing for gifts, exchanging homemade gifts or donating to charity.

Do open your home to them as a respite -- no strings attached.

Do provide practical gifts to replace those lost to natural disasters or to comfort those at war.

Do express your love and support.

Do help loved ones get mental health support if they need it.

Do volunteer your time at a shelter, rebuilding project, school or day care, senior care facility or military support group.

Do be thankful for what you have.

-- **HOPING FOR GOOD HOLIDAYS, STILLWATER, OKLA.**

DEAR HOPING: You have offered practical suggestions for this holiday season, and I hope my readers will keep them in mind. I would like to add one more suggestion to the ones you listed:

Do offer a willing ear to those who need a chance to vent, and although it may be uncomfortable to hear, don't try to minimize their feelings. A lot of people have experienced a record amount of trauma in the last few years as well as recent months. Although you may not be able to solve their problems, sometimes it can be enough just to listen, affirm what they're saying, and offer hope.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please give me some advice regarding proper wedding etiquette when it comes to giving the bride and groom a blessing? Our daughter was recently married, and her maid of honor and best man each gave a small speech with a toast. My husband was planning to give them a blessing and say a prayer over them. However, before he had a chance to get the microphone, an older friend of the family got hold of it and gave a blessing she had absolutely no authority to give. She went on for five minutes while my husband fumed the whole time. He felt like he was robbed. We have not discussed our feelings with this woman, and are unsure how to handle this situation. We don't want this to happen again at our next wedding. - **ROBBED IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR ROBBED: Your question is a first. I have never heard of "blessing etiquette" or an order of priority for offering them. As far as I'm concerned, the more prayers and blessings a couple receives, the better -- and your husband should have stepped up to the plate and offered his own.

P.S. The way to prevent someone from grabbing the microphone and speaking out of turn would be to control who has it, and have a list of scheduled speakers.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



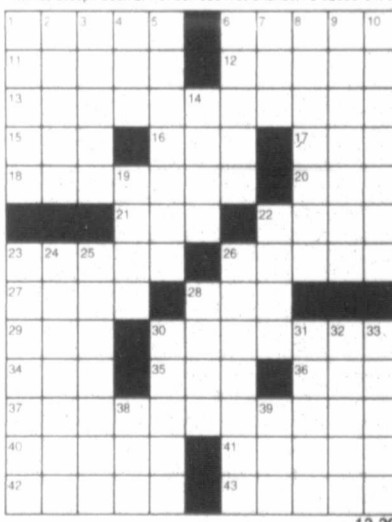
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Demarcate stuff
 - 6 Target for Tell
 - 11 Martini extra
 - 12 It's right on track
 - 13 Underwear choice
 - 15 Genesis woman
 - 16 Letter after pi
 - 17 Hamilton's bill
 - 18 Horse races
 - 20 Nest-egg choice
 - 21 Supporter's answer
 - 22 Dread
 - 23 Furious person
 - 26 Tureen accessory
 - 27 Lambs' moms
 - 28 Drops on the lawn
 - 29 Clique
 - 30 Burma, today
 - 34 Application
 - 35 By now
 - 36 Casino card
 - 37 They may play before the feature
- DOWN**
- 1 Like ears and brains
 - 2 "Lucy" home
 - 3 Informal get-together
 - 4 "I had it!"
 - 5 Toto, for one
 - 6 Friend of Aramis
 - 7 Paid player
 - 8 Revealed
 - 9 Actual
 - 10 Catch home
 - 14 Mets
 - 19 Tourney advances
 - 22 Bambi, for one
 - 23 Job seeker's pages
 - 24 Impressive
 - 25 Avenge oneself
 - 26 Belt material
 - 28 Colors
 - 30 Cry of Callas
 - 31 Opera's member
 - 32 Cast ten
 - 33 Takes agcy.
 - 38 Tax agcy.
 - 39 Bullfight "bravo!"

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

Mini Harvesters



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

These two future Harvesters were spotted among the crowd during Friday night's Lady Harvesters home game against Lubbock Estacado.

Pampa in Plainview tonight

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Game time is 7:30 p.m.
The JV game will begin at 6 p.m.

The Pampa Harvesters basketball teams are in Plainview tonight to take on the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs. This will be the final game of 2005 for the junior varsity teams. The varsity teams will get a week off before entering tournaments.

Harvesters

Pampa is riding a wave of positive emotion into Plainview tonight after taking one away from Lubbock Estacado on the road Friday night in overtime, 57-56. The win over the Matadors improves Pampa's overall season mark to an impressive 11-2.

The Harvesters face another strong challenge in the Bulldogs tonight.

Pampa has played in some very physical games so far this season and tonight should be no exception. Despite the loss Friday night to Lubbock Estacado, the Lady Harvesters continue to prove they come to play four solid quarters each and every game. Britteni Rice has been on a scoring frenzy of late. Haili Kotara and Krissie Alexander have been stout in the paint at both ends of the floor. Look for both to continue tonight.

Game time is 6 p.m.
The JV game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start.

MISSING MING

Yao to miss several weeks

HOUSTON (AP) - Houston Rockets center Yao Ming is expected to miss several weeks after undergoing surgery Monday to clean an infection in his left big toe.

Yao missed his first game of the season Sunday for what was diagnosed as osteomyelitis, a common inflammation of the bone cause by bacteria.

Rockets spokesman Nelson Luis said the surgery was successful and that Yao will require antibiotics and rest for several weeks. He did not have a timetable for Yao's return.

Yao returned home from Los Angeles

before the Rockets beat the Lakers 76-74 on Sunday night. He has had a problem with his left big toe for some time, missing two preseason games because it was bothering him.

Yao, the leading vote-getter after the first set of returns for this season's All-Star game, is averaging 19.9 points, 9.0 rebounds and 1.36 blocked shots.

The 25-year-old All-Star has played in 266 regular-season games since joining the Rockets in 2002. Sunday's game was just the third he's missed in his career.

Washburn gets big bucks from Mariners; Garciparra agrees to deal with Dodgers

SEATTLE (AP) - Jarrod Washburn agreed to a \$37.5 million, four-year deal with the Seattle Mariners, leaving the AL West champion Los Angeles Angels for a team coming off consecutive last-place finishes.

The left-hander went 8-8 with a 3.20 ERA in 29 starts for Los Angeles last season. He is 75-57 with a 3.93 ERA during his eight-year career, all with the Angels.

His best season came when he went 18-6 during the Angels' 2002 run to the World Series championship.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Nomar Garciparra and the Los Angeles Dodgers finalized a \$6 million, one-year contract

that allows the five-time All-Star to earn up to \$4 million more in performance bonuses.

Garciparra is moving to first base with the Dodgers. He was strictly a shortstop until last season, when he played third base for the Chicago Cubs in August and September.

Garciparra hit .283 with nine homers and 30 RBIs for the Cubs last season. He tore his left groin running out of the batter's box in St. Louis on April 20 and didn't return until Aug. 5.

CHICAGO (AP) - Catcher A.J. Pierzynski and the Chicago White Sox agreed to a three-year, \$15 million contract and avoided arbitration.

Former Harvester Terrance Lemons among latest added to Dusters roster

AMARILLO - The Oct. 23 workout continues to be beneficial to the Amarillo Dusters, announcing the assignment from the af2 league office of three more tryout camp attendees.

WR/DB Qiyamah-din Khalifah, FB/LB Terrance Lemons, and FB/LB Jeremiah Parker all inked contracts and will battle for roster spots in training camp in March.

"Q is a very polished route-runner, and we feel like he can develop defensively as well, based on what we saw at the camp," said Dusters General Manager Warren McCarty. "Terrance has shown tremendous dedication, commitment, and intensity, and proved to us that he is worthy of a shot at making our team. He's raw, but he's very strong and has a good frame. He fits the mold of what we are looking for at that position. Jeremiah is an animal in the weight room, and he's blessed with size and speed as well. If these two guys can make their physical gifts translate to the football field, they may have a great impact on our season."

Better known as "Q", Qiyamah-din Khalifah is a 6'0, 195 lb WR/DB from Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. While at Fort Scott, he posted 56 catches for 975 yards and seven touchdowns, as well as leading the team in punt and kickoff return yardage.

"I liked Q after watching his film," said Dusters Head Coach Steve Perdue. "When he came and worked out for us in October, he reinforced what we saw on tape. He's

smooth, and he's deceptively fast. I think he can be one of the biggest surprises of training camp."

Terrance Lemons (6'2, 242) is a native of Pampa and starred at runningback for the Harvesters. Lemons is the cousin of former Duster and NFL veteran Devin Lemons.

"Terrance worked out for us prior to last season, and he wasn't in the kind of shape physically that we require at this level," said Perdue. "He made up his mind that he could compete at this level, and he put the work in. I can't wait to see him in pads."

Head Jones
HEALTHY MARY

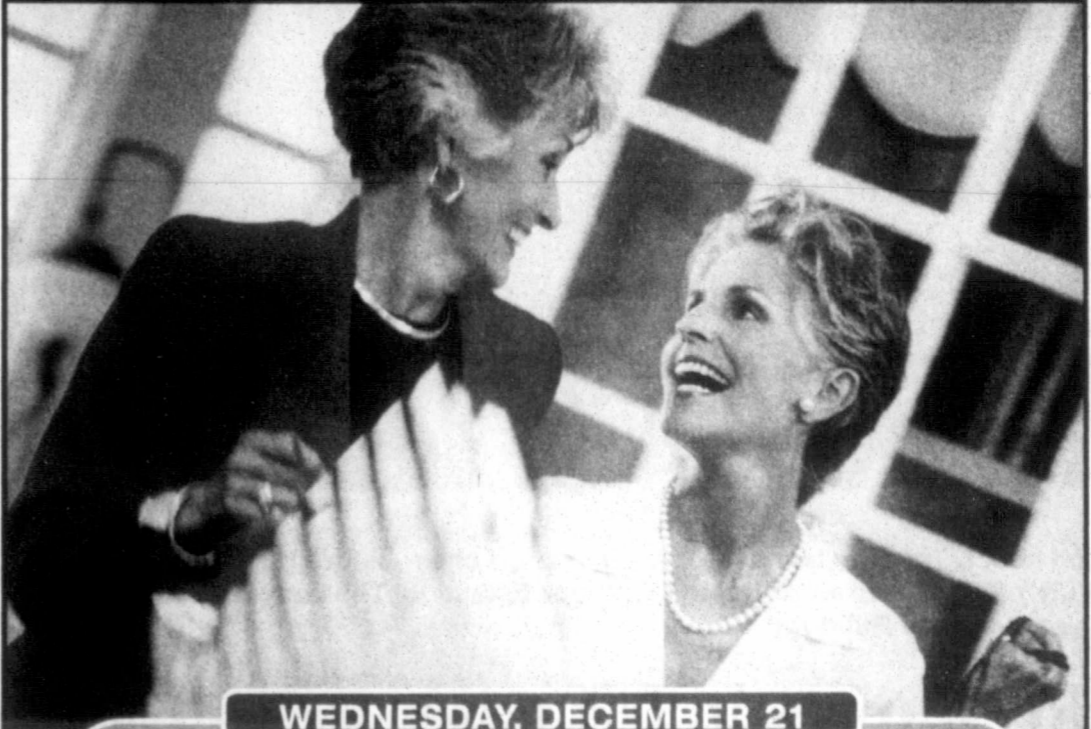
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Favre might have been the attraction, but Boller and Ravens stole the show

By **DAVID GINSBURG**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE - Brett Favre was supposed to be the main attraction. Kyle Boller and the Baltimore Ravens stole the show.

Boller put on a dazzling performance Monday night, outplaying Favre while leading the Ravens to a 48-3 rout of the Green Bay Packers.

Boller completed 19 of 27 passes for 253 yards and three touchdowns, and Favre was 14-for-29 for 144 yards and two interceptions. It all added up to the most lopsided game in the history of ABC "Monday Night Football" and the Packers' worst loss since a 61-7 defeat at Chicago in 1980.

"We just fell in a hole. Not just Brett, but all around, we struggled," Green Bay receiver Donald Driver said. "It was a shame that we played on Monday Night Football like this. Usually, we have a show, but the Baltimore Ravens were the show and we were just there."

Soon before he took a seat with 8 minutes to go, Boller made a point of thanking each of his offensive linemen for helping him avoid being sacked even once.

"It was a really good win," Boller said.

"My teammates, my guys, they allowed me to do that."

Favre, meanwhile, struggled from the outset in his final appearance on ABC's "Monday Night Football." The 15-year veteran has enjoyed many memorable moments on Monday night, but this was one he would prefer to forget.

After going a third straight start without a touchdown pass for the first time in his career, Favre was replaced by Aaron Rodgers late in the third quarter.

"I thought it was time to take him out," Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "The game was getting out of hand, and it was an opportunity to take a look at the young quarterback."

Favre's two interceptions gave him a career-high 24 for the season. One of them was made by Deion Sanders, the 53rd of his career.

Favre refused to talk to the media afterward.

"It just seemed like he was throwing balls up in the air, which is not typical of him," Ravens cornerback Chris McAlister said.

Sherman couldn't think of a worse way to spend the latter part of his birthday.

"It's bad enough being 51 years old, and you put this on top of it, and it's pretty

bad," he said. "It was tough to watch. We didn't execute any phase of our game."

It was the low point of an awful season for the Packers (3-11), who trailed 24-3 at halftime and 34-3 after three quarters.

A 35-yard fumble return by Adalio Thomas with 17 seconds left enabled the Ravens (5-9) to set a franchise record for points. But the victory did little to salvage a season that long ago went sour.

"This is what we were hoping for from the beginning," offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden said. "Better late than never, I guess."

Green Bay played the final three quarters without running back Samkon Gado, who left with a sprained knee ligament after gaining 45 yards on six carries.

Todd Heap caught nine passes for 110 yards and two touchdowns. The fifth-year tight end has 2,841 career yards receiving, breaking the team mark held by Qadry Ismail.

"That was the most fun I've had this season," Heap said. "Kyle and I said before the game, 'Let's just go out and have fun tonight.' And we did. It shows what we're capable of doing."

Jamal Lewis ran for 105 yards and a touchdown for the Ravens, who are 5-2 at home and winless on the road.

NFL standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	9	5	0	.643	322	289
Miami	7	7	0	.500	266	281
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	208	310
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	189	298

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Indianapolis	13	1	0	.929	409	206
Jacksonville	10	4	0	.714	283	236
Tennessee	4	10	0	.286	276	357
Houston	2	12	0	.143	223	373

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	11	3	0	.786	391	276
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	313	237
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	219	256
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	212	244

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	350	248
San Diego	9	5	0	.643	404	269
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	266	331

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	.714	372	258
Washington	8	6	0	.571	293	253
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	291	268
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	269	330

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	10	4	0	.714	327	224
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	246	237
Atlanta	8	6	0	.571	316	270
New Orleans	3	11	0	.214	210	358

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	10	4	0	.714	226	151
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	249	304
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	220	298
Green Bay	3	11	0	.214	258	303

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	12	2	0	.857	407	235
St. Louis	5	9	0	.357	323	395
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	271	349
San Francisco	2	12	0	.143	195	391

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's Games

New England 28, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Giants 27, Kansas City 17
Denver 28, Buffalo 17

Sunday's Games

Miami 24, N.Y. Jets 20
Houston 30, Arizona 19
Seattle 28, Tennessee 24
San Diego 26, Indianapolis 17
Philadelphia 17, St. Louis 16
Carolina 27, New Orleans 10
Jacksonville 10, San Francisco 9
Pittsburgh 18, Minnesota 3
Cincinnati 41, Detroit 17
Cleveland 9, Oakland 7
Washington 35, Dallas 7
Chicago 16, Atlanta 3

Monday's Game

Baltimore 48, Green Bay 3

Saturday, Dec. 24

Tennessee at Miami, 1 p.m.
Detroit vs. N. Orleans 1 p.m. (San Antonio)
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 4:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25

Chicago at Green Bay, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Baltimore, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 26
New England at N.Y. Jets, 9 p.m.

Team spirit



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Head coach Troy Fry leads his team in a short cheer before the Lady Harvesters return to the floor after a time-out Friday night when Pampa hosted Lubbock Estacado. The Lady Harvesters are on the road tonight in Plainview taking on the Lady Bulldogs.

No charges in UT case

AUSTIN (AP) - An attorney for two Texas football players said he's been told by police they will not be charged in an alleged downtown assault earlier this month.

Police questioned starting defensive back Cedric Griffin and running back Ramonice Taylor about the Dec. 10 incident, which happened after a team banquet.

Attorney Ken Oden said in a prepared statement that he was told Sunday by police that "no arrests will be made and no charges will be filed."

Oden's statement did not say who told him the investigation was finished and he did not immediately return a telephone message. Police spokeswoman Toni Chovonetz said Monday the investigation remains open and declined further comment.

Police said Friday they were investigating UT athletes in connection with that case and another Sept. 4, when police said a suspect pulled an automatic handgun and committed an aggravated assault.

Oden has said Griffin, a senior, and Taylor, a sophomore, were involved in a non-violent "trash-talking" incident near the Sixth Street entertainment district in the early morning of Dec. 10.

Oden has said the Sept. 4 case does not relate to Griffin and Taylor. School officials have said they have found no link between its athletes and the September robbery and that they planned no action against the players.

School spokesman Nick Voinis said Monday their status with the team has not changed.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Heisman winner Bush takes AP honors

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
Associated Press

NEW YORK - Reggie Bush loves roller coasters and it makes perfect sense. Both bring thrills with breathtaking bursts of zigzag speed.

"I guess that's kind of how I am on the field, all those twists and turns and stuff like that," Southern California's human thrill ride said.

The most exciting player in college football also became the best player in 2005, and now Bush can add The Associated Press Player of the Year award to the haul of hardware he's accumulated.

The voting went like it did in the Heisman Trophy balloting: The running back blew away the field. He received 59 votes from a panel of 65 media members.

Texas quarterback Vince Young received five votes and Georgia quarterback D.J. Shockley got the other.

Bush and the top-ranked Trojans will play Young and No. 2 Texas in the Rose Bowl for the national champi-

onships.

Bush has also won the Walter Camp player of the year award, the Doak Walker Award as the best running back in the country and was a unanimous AP first-team All-American.

For the third straight season, the AP player of the year and Heisman winner are the same. USC quarterback Matt Leinart won both last season, and Jason White of Oklahoma did it the year before.

Bush breaks a string of five straight quarterbacks to win the award and is the first running back to be AP Player of the Year since 1999, when Ron Dayne of Wisconsin did it.

Ricky Williams of Texas won the first AP Player of the Year award in 1998.

Bush, a 200-pound package of fast-twitch muscles, put to rest any doubt that he could be an every-down back this year more than just an elusive change-of-pace runner and explosive kick returner.

He added a solid five pounds to his 6-foot frame and got a taste of how one

of the best in the business prepares when he worked out with San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson during the summer.

The two have known each other since Bush was a senior at Helix High School, just outside San Diego. They finally managed to coordinate a training session and Tomlinson left Bush wiped out.

"I think he's the best running back right now and I just wanted to get a chance to work out with him, see what it takes to be that guy and get to the level he's at," Bush said in a recent phone interview. "Whatever you think is the most you can work out, double that."

Bush closed the season with two spectacular games, slashing and swerving his way to 554 yards rushing in wins over Fresno State and UCLA.

His stop-in-mid-sprint-and-cut-across-the-field TD run against the Bulldogs was the ultimate showstopper in a Heisman-clinching performance. Bush put up 513 all-purpose yards in a 50-42 victory.

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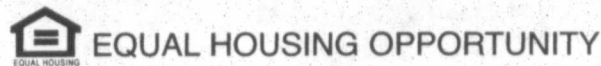
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5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

LOST male Yorkie "Ber-lee," from 1300 block Charles, Pampa. Reward. 662-5454.

FOUND Female German Sheppard puppy, about 3 months old. 1900 Alcock. 866-0033 to Describe.

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14d Carpentry

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TRUCK Driver needed. Must have current CDL, pass drug test, DOT physical, good driving record. Apply in person 8 am-5 pm., Mon.-Fri., Bourland Levech Supply, Hwy. 152 West, Pampa, Tx.

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PART TIME INSERTER Needed immediately! About 20 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat. Apply in Person The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa No phone calls please

LVN needed for 3-11. Full-time w/benefits differential. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, (806)537-3194.

PHYSICIAN Assistant wanted for busy orthopedic practice. Salary is competitive and insurance will be provided. Please send resume to Box 06, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198.

TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service-Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd. Pampa.

Wheeler Nursing & Rehab. Dietary Position-Nursing Home. FT Cook & Dietary Aide. Competitive wages, exp. preferred but will train. Apply in person to Megan McKinley 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler Tx

JANITORIAL Service taking applications, drivers license required, will train. Call 669-9186.

CHILD CARE TEACHER NEEDED For Heaven's Sake Day Care. Desires energetic and dependable person to care for one-year-olds. Previous exp. in childcare / daycare is preferred. Please apply at or mail resume to: Calvary Baptist Church 900 E. 23rd St. Pampa, TX 79065

C.N.A. needed. Full-time w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. 537-3194.

MINIATURE Dachshund puppies for sale. 8 wks. old. Call 669-0641.

FREE Puppies. Mixed Breed. 6 Weeks Old. Call 669-2767.

MINI. Schnauzer AKC Registered, 17 wks. old white plumed male. All shots, wormed, declawed, tails clipped, calm personality, paper trained. \$225. Call 580-729-1086, 580-526-3115.

FREE to good home, 2 adorable, 6 mo. Pitt Boxers & 50 lb. bag of food. Very friendly. 665-0203.

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. avail. Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

MOVE-In Special. 1st 90 days \$250 per mo. Fresh paint, appliances inc. Come check out the New Coffee St. Duplexes \$250 1st mo. ("Going Fast") Call Candy 433-6939 or 665-4274.

NEWLY remodeled. New ownership. Security Office on duty. 1 bdr.-\$385, 2 bdr.-\$490, all bills pd. Limited openings. Courtyard Apts., 669-9712.

21 Help Wanted

Loan Representative For financing program in hospital setting. Professional, organized individual with phone, computer & data entry skills required. Must have transportation, valid license / ins. Bilingual (Spanish) is a plus. Fax salary history and resume to 972-606-1312 or email to: jobs@mtpr.com

DRIVERS Needed! \$14 per hour. Must be 21 with CDL & Tanker endorsement. Will drive in Okla. & Tx. Danni's Tanker Service, 580-303-0909.

APPLICATIONS accepted for Pulling Unit Operator and Floor Hand. Wages based on exp. 11805 W. McCullough, Pampa.

CALDWELL Production needs Oilfield Pulling Unit Operator. Paid holidays, 1 wk paid vacation per yr. Top wages for top operator. Hwy. 60 West, Pampa, 665-8888.

RN, LVN & Nurse Aid Wheeler Nursing and Rehabilitation is seeking caring, dedicated employees for the position of 2-10 and 10-6 Charge Nurse; 6-2 & 2-10 Nurse Aid (will certify). \$500 Sign-On bonus for nurses. Please apply in person to Donna Cox RN DON, 1000 S. Kiowa

SEASONED Oak Firewood, delivered and stacked. 779-3284.

QU. sz. waterbed, wicker bar stools, sewing machine cabinet, roll-top desk. 665-5210

MOVING Sale. 719 N. Banks. Lots Misc. After 5:00.

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HELDLEY FEEDLOT hiring Feedmill Operator and Pen Rider. Must be exp. Call 806-856-5441.

FULL Time Teller / Scanner. Please apply at Bank of Commerce, 201 N. Main, McLean, Tx.

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Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$360. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 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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98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston, Pampa. Update each Fri.

LRG. 1 bedroom house, \$225 month. 1420 E. Browning. 665-4842.

(2) 3 bedroom homes for rent, in excellent condition. Call Shed Realtors, 665-3761.

DUPLEX: 3 bdr., 2 ba., fireplace, double gar. \$695 mo., \$350 dep. Call 665-5315 or 665-4726.

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

100 Rooms For Rent HOTEL DAVIS 116 1/2 W. Foster 440-1066 Rooms \$80 wk., bills paid

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-684

Create-a-Beat



Saeje Jameson and Sage Dorn helped one of Create-a-Beat's music instructors, Julie Long, by playing their part of the "Christmas Medley" on the xylophone.

Atlanta contractor charged in bribery investigation

HOUSTON (AP) — An Atlanta contractor faces fraud and conspiracy charges that accuse him of giving money and gifts to a woman who was Houston's building services director.

Authorities say Floyd Gary Thacker, 50, gave thousands of dollars in cash and gifts to Monique McGilbra, a city department head from 1999 to 2003. His company, Thacker Operating Co., was awarded a significant number of energy services contracts in Houston, the U.S. Attorney's Office said on Monday in a criminal information document.

"This is just another step in a very deliberate process to identify all those responsible for corrupting public officials," said assistant U.S. attorney Ed Gallagher.

Thacker was given a sub-contract with Reliant Energy to improve the efficiency of Houston traffic signals. The expected net profit was more than \$250,000, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Houston officials let Thacker design the energy saving system, but canceled his contract in 2004 and paid him \$202,000.

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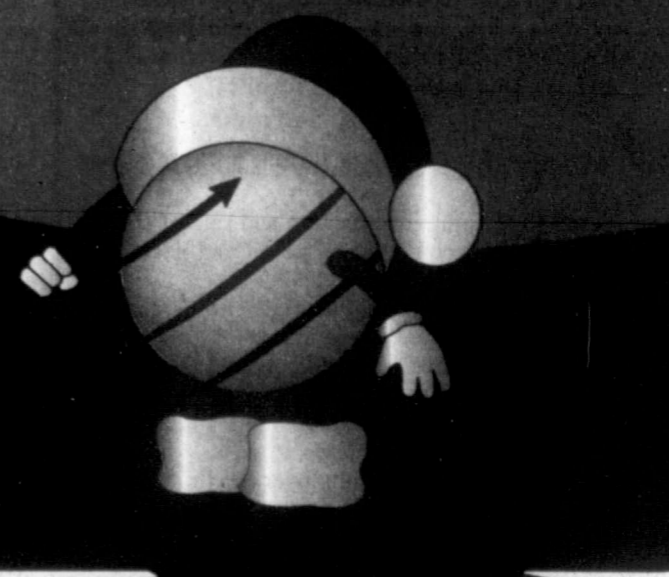
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