

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 62
LOW 36

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Day-after shopping, gift returns slow

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Customers were not in Pampa retail stores early the day after Christmas. The stores were uncharacteristically empty.

Wal-Mart's customer service counter had no one in line around 9 a.m. to return or exchange items. This is very unusual according to Susan Toten who has been working at Wal-Mart for years.

"In the past two hours, we've only had 28 customers in the store to make returns or exchanges. Normally we have people lined up and they have to wait for a while," Toten said. "We expect longer lines this afternoon."

Jerry Franklin from Canadian was in Wal-Mart to return toys and clothes. He was very excited to just walk up to the counter and be helped immediately. He said the clothes he brought in were the wrong size and the toys were extras from his grandkids. He was on his way to Amarillo to do some after Christmas shopping.

Toten said that might be where everyone was this week.

See **RETAIL**, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
John McGuire of Pampa, left, and his son Rick McGuire of Waco were in Bealls to exchange a shirt that was the wrong size. Helping them is Bealls associate Rhonda Barnet.

Gray County escapee remains at large

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

An inmate who escaped from a work detail at Gray County Jail in the early morning hours Friday is still at large and thought to have left Gray County and the Panhandle area, according to a press release from Gray County Sheriff's Office.

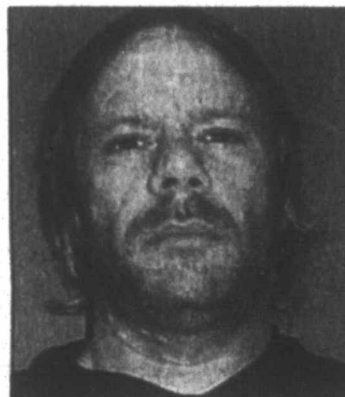
William Carl Troglin, 41, of Zephyrhills, Fla., escaped from a work detail at approximately 3 a.m. Dec. 22 at the jail, said Lt. Joe B. Hoard of GCSO in the release.

Troglin was reported seen in the area of Schwan's Fine Foods and Halliburton Energy Services, both on County Road 12 1/2 east of Pampa, at about 7:15 a.m. Friday. Search dogs from the Texas Department of Criminal

Justice's Jordan Unit were brought to Halliburton to search the oil field service company's grounds as employees were told to wait inside buildings for the search to be completed.

"He was able to remove his restraints and fled," Hoard said of Troglin's escape. Troglin reportedly was barefoot.

See **ESCAPE**, Page 3



Troglin

Moving along



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
A crew from Fuller Framing from Amarillo added on to the old Royse Animal Hospital at 1939 N. Hobart last week. Once construction is complete in about one month, the building will be the new home of a branch of Pamcel Federal Credit Union, according to the general contractor on the job, Bob Sanders from Sanders Construction.

Vandals with eggs can cause damage

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Vandalism seems to be running rampant around town recently and part of that is vehicles being egged. A local auto paint shop and several Web sites give information about the damage eggs do to the paint on cars and also advise on how to clean the mess up without doing more damage.

Apparently, if eggs are left long enough on a car they can do permanent damage to the clear coat or paint. The worst damage will be seen if the egg has "baked" onto the car in hot weather.

When evidence of egging is seen, you should clean it up as soon as possible. The longer an egg sits on the car the more damage will be done.

"Egg, if left long enough, can eat through the clear coat and paint," Chad Quarles, owner of Prestige Auto Center, said. "I have not repainted any cars in town recently due to egg, but it can do a lot of damage."

He said if a car needs to be repainted they would have to strip the car down to the metal.

In regard to cleanup, Quarles suggests mixing

See **EGGS**, Page 3

PGWCD approves tax abatement for Bell Helicopter

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER - The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board of directors met Dec. 22 and approved a tax abatement for Bell Helicopter Textron in Amarillo, approved an Amarillo Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and agreed to filing a friend of the court brief in Amarillo's lawsuit against Premium Standard Farms over water usage.

In their last meeting of the calendar year, the water district board also approved a water conservation

equipment loan of \$90,000 for a half-section center pivot sprinkler system in Carson County. The loan funding comes through the Texas Water Development Board.

They also approved permits for seven domestic wells and one irrigation well.

George Herring with Bell Helicopter appeared before the board to request a tax abatement for the company's Amarillo facility. The last tax abatement ran out for the company, which employs about 1,000 people, in September 2005. The new agreement, approved by the water board, would begin in January, 2007, and would have a life of five years.

Herring said he hopes that the Bell operation will grow to employ 1,500.

Over the past six years, the tax abatement by the water board has amounted to \$23,800.

The agreement also has to be approved by the City of Amarillo, Amarillo College and Potter County, the three other taxing districts in which the Bell facility falls.

The board also heard from Vicky Covey with the City of Amarillo, who was requesting approval of Amarillo's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, which the board approved.

Under that agreement, the water district would continue to collect taxes at the present level, but increased collections as values in the city's central business district rise with would be siphoned off for reinvestment in the zone.

Consultants for the project, Covey said, project that the amount raised for reinvestment could reach

See **WATER**, Page 3

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Retail

Continued from Page 1

morning, in Amarillo instead of Pampa.

Betty Belflower of Pampa and Melinda Herron of Grandview were enjoying the crowd-free shopping. They were buying Christmas merchandise in Wal-Mart that was marked down 50 percent.

"We are buying the blow-up snow globes that were \$129 and are now \$60 and we will use them next year," Belflower said. Also in their shopping carts were Christmas cards and ornaments.

Dunlap's and Bealls were also empty this morning. Rhonda Barnet from Bealls said they kept expecting the people to bring in exchanges, but they just were not there.

"We had to be at work at 8 a.m. this morning, which is earlier than usual for us, and we just haven't had any customers," Barnet said. She



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Betty Belflower of Pampa, left, and Melinda Herron of Grandview were taking advantage of the clearance prices on merchandise this morning by loading up their carts with Christmas items that were marked down 50 percent at Wal-Mart.

thought the lack of returns might be due to more people buying gift cards and that way people could buy what they wanted. Another thought was that people were just sleeping in this morning.

She hoped the crowds would be in later today so

her day would be busy, but she hoped those coming in would come a little at a time instead of all at once.

Water

Continued from Page 1

as much as \$259 million from all taxing entities, which include the City of Amarillo, Amarillo College and the Amarillo Hospital District. The Amarillo Independent School System would not be part of the coalition because of state funding mandates.

The monies could be used for landscaping, parking and buying property.

The reinvestment zone has been set up for 30 years so bond issues would be a potential source of funding, she said.

PGWCD will have one member appointed to a nine-member board for the reinvestment zone.

In Amarillo's lawsuit

against Premium Standard Farms, a state district judge in Dumas has ruled that water production has to be measured in gallons per minute.

Jarred Atkinson, assistant city manager for the City of Amarillo, asked the water district to file an amicus brief, a friend of the court brief, saying that the measurement of water can be in acre-feet or tract size as well as gallons per minute. Atkinson said he has also talked with other water conservation districts concerning rate of production methods.

The brief, he explained, has nothing to do with the merits of the case, but only with the accepted measurements of water production.

The case revolves around a half section in Hartley County where Premium Standard Farms has a well

field that the city of Amarillo claims is pumping 4.5 to 5.5 acre-feet of water per year.

Amarillo has had the water rights beneath the land surrounding the Premium Standard Farms' well field since 1954, but has not pumped it, holding it in reserve instead.

The North Plain Water Conservation District rules allow two acre-feet per acre of water rights. Atkinson said that Amarillo had complained to the North Plains Water Conservation District, but when the district took no action, Amarillo filed suit, seeking a temporary injunction to force the district to do something.

The case is expected to go before the Seventh Court of Appeals in Amarillo in an expedited appeals process in January.

Escape

Continued from Page 1

and wearing an orange jail-issue jumpsuit at the time of his escape.

The escapee had not been located as of press time today.

"Investigative leads developed since his leaving have led investigators to believe that Troglin has left Gray County and the Panhandle area," Hoard said. "He should be considered dangerous."

The sheriff's department is conducting the investigation of the escape, assisted by other agencies.

Jail records for Dec. 16 indicate that Troglin had been arrested at 5:35 p.m. by a GCSO deputy on charges of theft over \$50 and under \$500 and having a wrong or fictitious license plate. He remained in the county jail until his escape Friday pending bond on the misdemeanor charges.

Anyone with information concerning Troglin is asked to call the sheriff's department at 669-8022.

Eggs

Continued from Page 1

Dawn dishwashing soap with warm water and carefully wiping off the mess with a soft cloth.

Several Web sites suggest carefully removing any eggshell that is loose. A soft towel should then be used to wipe off as much as possible. Another clean towel should be soaked in a solution of half warm water and half white vinegar. That towel should be placed on the egg stain and allowed to

sit for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the wet towel and wipe away the remnants and dry with another clean soft towel.

Quarles said he has never heard of anyone using this vinegar technique and is concerned it might do more damage. That is why he advises using a less corrosive cleaner like dishwashing soap.

If permanent damage has occurred and repainting is necessary, you should contact your insurance company and see if this vandalism is covered under your policy.

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Viewpoints

Preparing for a New Year's bash

On this first day after Christmas, I thought I'd attempt a post-holiday version of Clement Moore's classic, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

'Twas the day after Christmas
And all through the house
Not an unwrapped gift was left
For me or my spouse.

The stockings were empty
of all that they held

And the tree was stripped
of ornaments and felled.
The gift wrap and bows of
bright holiday hue
Were wadded up and
bagged, no longer to view.

Empty boxes were nested
and stacked to take
Out to the Dumpster for
good housekeeping's sake.
Hubby and I in our coats
prepared to sally
Forth to take our boxes
and bags to the alley.

We opened our back gate
and, laden with trash,
Beheld such a vision as
made our teeth gnash.
Others had had the
same idea as me and spouse,
But had beaten us in get-
ting trash out of the house.

The Dumpster was filled,
even to overflowing,

With wrapping which the
playful wind was
now blowing
About the alley
and over the
fences

Causing neighbors to view their yards
with wincing.

Every Dumpster in sight
was filled past the brim
With bags and boxes and

dead holiday trim.
We carried our rubbish
back inside our gate
In hopes that Sanitation
would not run late.

We waited with hope and
anticipation
For a trash truck to help
our situation.

The next morning we
heard the welcome beeping
Of the trash truck as it was
slowly creeping

Toward our Dumpster

with many a clatter
Of lids as Dumpsters were
emptied of matter.
So we gathered up boxes
and bags yet again
And as the laden truck left
we called to the man

Cheerily, driving away
with his load,
"Thank you!" He waved
as he drove to the road.
We gleefully disposed of
our post-Christmas trash
And returned home to pre-
pare for a New Year's bash.



Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2006. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 26, 2004, more than 200,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a tsunami triggered by the world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years beneath the Indian Ocean.

On this date:

In 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1917, during World War I, President Wilson announced the U.S. government would take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1931, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical play "Of Thee I Sing"

'Time is the longest distance between two places.'

— From "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)

opened on Broadway.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the Fourth Armored Division.

In 1944, Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed publicly, at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Miss.

In 1980, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the U.S., showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In 2003, an earthquake struck the historic Iranian city of Bam, killing at least 26,000 people.

Ten years ago: Six-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colo. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

Five years ago: The Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera aired new videotaped excerpts of Osama bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader condemned the U.S. as a nation that committed crimes against millions of Afghans.

Hundreds of Iraqi Kurds, Afghans, Iranians and other refugees from a Red Cross center in France began two days of attempting to cross illegally into Britain through the Channel Tunnel, shutting down train traffic. Actor Sir Nigel Hawthorne died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 72.

One year ago: Survivors wept and prayed beside mass graves and at beachside memorials in Indonesia, marking one year since earthquake-churned walls of water crashed ashore in a dozen nations, sweeping away hundreds of thousands of lives.



Racial profiling practiced by physicians

Charges of racial, religious and ethnic profiling swirl in the wake of US Airways' removal of six imams. According to police reports, the men made anti-American statements, were praying and chanting "Allah," refused the pilot's requests to disembark for additional screening and asked for seat-belt extensions for no obvious reason. Three of the men had no checked baggage and only one-way tickets.

According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), five of the men have retained lawyers and are probably going to bring a discrimination lawsuit against US Airways.

Racial profiling controversy is nothing new. For a number of years, black Americans have made charges of racial profiling by police and store personnel who might give them extra scrutiny. Clever phrases have emerged, such as "driving while black" and now

"flying while Muslim," but they don't help much in terms of understanding. Let's apply some economic analysis to the issue.

God, or some other omniscient being, would never racially profile. Why? Since He is all-knowing, He'd know who is and is not a terrorist or a criminal. We humans are not all-knowing. While a god would have perfect and complete information about everything, we humans have less than perfect and incomplete information. That means we must use substitutes such as guesses and hunches for certain kinds of information. It turns out that some physical attributes are highly correlated with other attributes that are less easily, or more costly, observed.

Let's look at a few, and the associated "profiling," that cause little or no contro-

versy. Mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases were approximately 30 percent higher among black adults than among white adults. The Pima Indians of Arizona have the world's highest known diabetes rates. Prostate cancer is nearly

twice as common among black men as white men.

Would anyone bring racial profiling charges against a doctor who routinely ordered more frequent blood tests and prostate screening among his black patients and more glucose tolerance tests for his Pima Indian patients? Of course, God wouldn't have to do that because He'd know for sure which patient was more prone to cardiovascular disease, prostate cancer and diabetes.

It is clear, whether we like it or not, or want to say it or not, that there is a strong cor-

relation between terrorist acts and being a Muslim, and being black and high rates of crime. That means if one is trying to deter terrorism and in some cases capture a criminal, he would expend greater investigatory resources on Muslims and blacks.

A law-abiding Muslim who's given extra airport screening or a black who's stopped by the police is perfectly justified in being angry, but with whom should he be angry? I think a Muslim should be angry with those who've made terrorism and Muslim synonymous and blacks angry with those who've made blacks and crime synonymous. The latter is my response to the insulting sounds of car doors locking sometimes when I'm crossing a street in downtown Washington, D.C., or when taxi drivers pass me by.

It would be a serious misallocation of resources if air-

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



America is leaking blood and dollars overseas

Come January, President Bush, like a dog coming out of a creek, will shake off all of the advice he's been given and plod along in Iraq as he has in the past. He is not a man, in my opinion, who takes advice or admits he made a mistake.

That's too bad as far as the troops are concerned. They will go on getting killed and wounded, and won't accomplish a thing. The lack of accomplishment won't be their fault. Nobody can accomplish the impossible, and I think repairing the ethnic, tribal and sectarian divides at this point has become impossible.

I saw a small news story

the other day that said a great deal about how we fail at imperialism. According to the story, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has 1,000 employees, and exactly six

of that number are fluent in Arabic. You can be a tourist in a foreign country without

knowing the language, but not an occupier or an intelligence officer. That situation is so utterly ridiculous that it makes you wonder if perhaps the U.S. government really does take a racist atti-

tude toward Americans of Arab descent.

I've always argued that the American people are not cut out to be imperialists. We lack the sophistication, the language skills and, to our credit, the ruthlessness that running a global empire requires.

Furthermore, our main interests are in our own country. We don't have disinherited second sons looking for a career in the colonial service. For most Americans, there is no place on earth

they'd rather be than right here in the U.S.

Frankly, we're no good at overthrowing governments. Half the time, even if we succeed, we end up with some guy who's worse than the one we dumped. We dumped Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam and ended up with a succession of more than 20 corrupt incompetents. We swapped Fulgencio Batista for Fidel Castro. We abandoned Anastasio Somoza and got Daniel Ortega, and I won't go into some of the horrors we sponsored in Africa.

We've been suckered and

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Ban on pet projects won't stop horse trading of them

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats may have declared a one-year moratorium on pet projects treasured by members of Congress, but the move will hardly stop horse trading in Washington or moves by lawmakers to try to steer taxpayer money back home. Nor will it touch billions of dollars in already budgeted Pentagon earmarks, which go to everything from research into better body armor for overseas troops to finding bone marrow match-

Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis.

Earmarks have exploded in number and cost under GOP control of Congress and Congress got a black eye when former Rep. Randy Cunningham, R-Calif., admitted taking \$2.4 million in bribes in exchange for earmarking projects to defense contractors. The Bush administration and budget hawks have protested in vain.

Obey and his Senate counterpart Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., have promised to eliminate lawmakers' pet projects as they fashion a catchall spending bill to close out about \$463 billion in unfinished budget business — dumped on them by outgoing Republicans.

Byrd and Obey have announced a plan to fund most domestic agency accounts at 2006 levels, with some increases to avoid layoffs of federal employees and for politically sensitive programs such as veterans' medical treat-

Obey and his Senate counterpart Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., have promised to eliminate lawmakers' pet projects as they fashion a catchall spending bill to close out about \$463 billion in unfinished budget business — dumped on them by outgoing Republicans.

ment. Some of the money to pay for such add-ons will come from accounts used by lawmakers to send earmarks back to their districts and states. But Congress is unlikely to drain all the money from such accounts — which run the gamut from agricultural research, flood control and grants to local police and fire departments, among many others.

The temporary ban on earmarks — footnotes in spending bills that lawmakers use to deliver federal bacon to their states — has been greeted with applause by budget hawks and is seen as a savvy political move. But many in the rank and file are not happy.

"I've had my share of calls and they weren't to wish me a Merry Christmas," said incoming

HEALTH

Poor record keeping plagues AIDS effort

By RITA BEAMISH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even Bush administration officials acknowledge it was a lot to expect all at once: rush billions of dollars of help into AIDS-stricken nations, demand quick results from U.S. contractors, and then expect those contractors to produce tidy progress reports.

In the end, it was too much. Government auditors found that accurate record keeping and monitoring often took a back seat in President Bush's three-year-old, \$15 billion plan to fight HIV/AIDS in African and other poor countries.

The Bush administration says the situation has improved greatly because it has imposed tighter, standardized reporting systems on groups that receive U.S. money to ensure the accuracy of their reported results.

Lapses in verification, confusion over how to measure results and errors in counting people served by anti-AIDS programs were significant enough that at least one member of Congress wants lawmakers to investigate.

"While the Global AIDS pandemic is an urgent humanitarian crisis that demands a rapid response, we cannot

sacrifice results and accountability for speed," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif.

'While the Global AIDS pandemic is an urgent humanitarian crisis that demands a rapid response, we cannot sacrifice results and accountability for speed.'

— Rep. Barbara Lee
D-Calif.

Rep. Henry Waxman, incoming chairman of the Government Reform Committee, agreed that Congress should probe accountability questions raised by government auditors.

Ambassador Mark Dybul, the administration's global AIDS coordinator, said there is a growing "culture of accountability" in the nations receiving U.S. help, and he is confident the overall numbers reported for the program are now accurate.

Early problems were expected as the administration demanded quick

results from its contractors, Dybul said.

"You could've waited for three years to get all these systems in place, and an awful lot of people would have died," he said. "Our approach was get the services out, start moving the programs."

"In many of the cases where they say we can't find documentation, that doesn't mean people aren't getting services; that just means the reporting systems are not in place."

Auditors nonetheless plan to recommend improved reporting methods to ensure "reasonable assurance that what they say was done was actually carried out," said Joe Farinella, the assistant inspector general for the U.S. Agency for International Development which conducted the audits.

He cited "a constant challenge of insuring the quality of the data reported."

"It's not good enough for the auditors to hear from the mission that we did A, B and C but we can't prove it to you, or there's no documentation to prove that we did it."

The investigators focused on groups caring for infected people and AIDS orphans, and working to prevent spread of the disease.

See AIDS, Page 7

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Williams

Continued from Page 4

port security intensively screened everyone. After all, intensively screening someone who had a near zero probability of being a terrorist, such as an 80-year-old woman using a walker, would not only be a waste but it would take resources away from screening a person with a much higher probability of being a terrorist.

You say, "Williams, are you justifying religious and racial profiling?" No. I'm not justifying anything any more than I'd try to justify Einstein's special law of relativity. I'm trying to explain a phenomenon. By the way, I think some of the airport screening is grossly stupid, but I'm at peace with the Transportation Security Administration. They have their rules, and I have mine. One of mine is to minimize my association with idiocy. Thus, I no longer fly commercial.

—Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

owned by American "allies," past and present. When President Carter sat down with Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin to broker a peace treaty, what happened? The Israelis stuck him with a \$4 billion tab to cover their cost of leaving the Sinai, and the Egyptians stuck him with a promise of \$2 billion a year in foreign aid, which we're still paying. And I've yet to see a modern trade deal that was to our advantage.

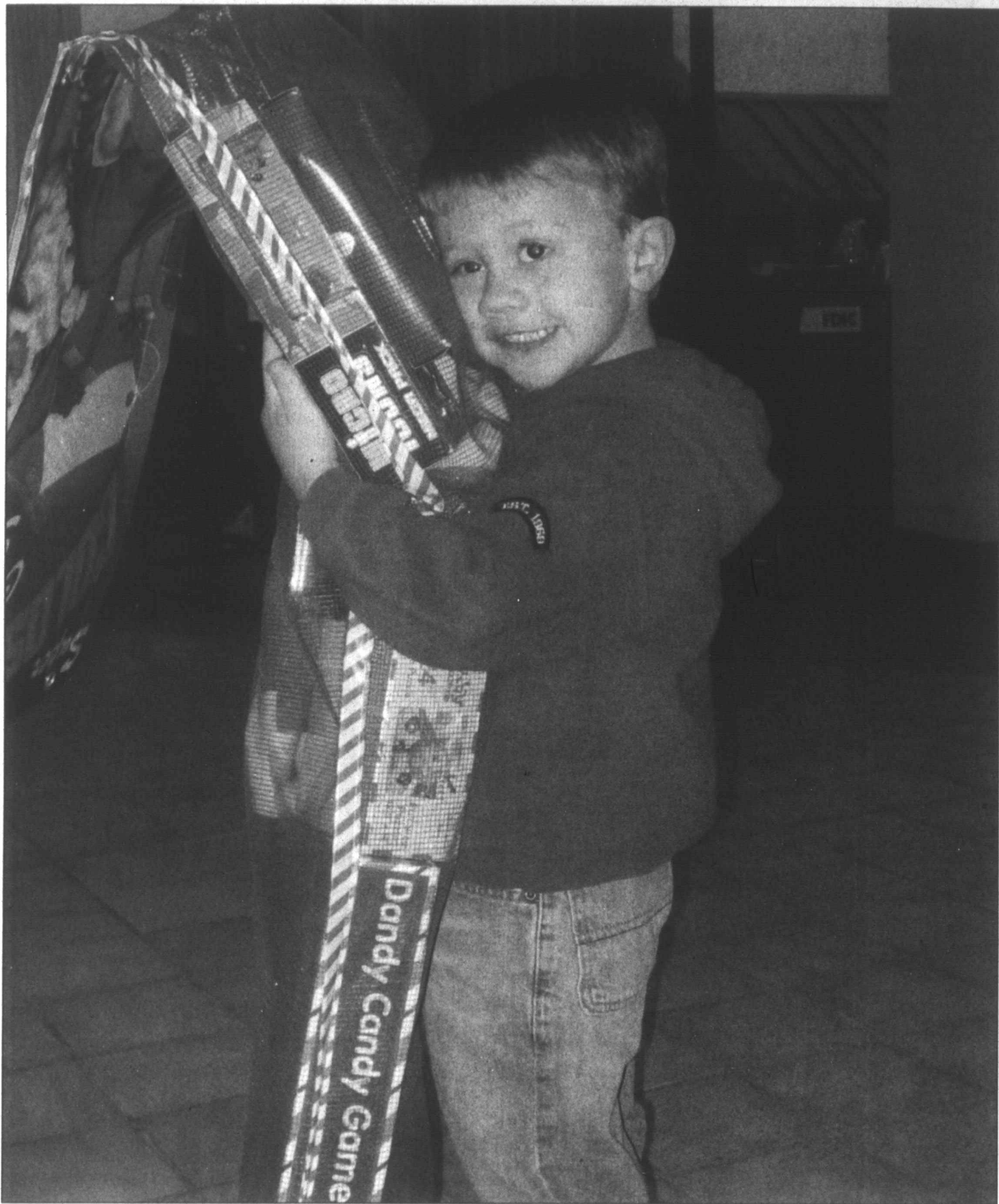
Years ago a merchant mariner laughingly told me how the Colombians would run around scooping up derelicts to show off to some visiting American official "as jailed communists." Of course, when the American big-shot left, the derelicts were let go.

We the people need to force Uncle Sucker to come home while he still has a shirt and pants. Other than rebuilding Europe and Japan after World War II, I cannot think of a single foreign-policy success. Considering what's happened to our manufacturing base, maybe those weren't successes after all. Ronald Reagan is credited with ending the Cold War, but I think the Russians just went bust before we did.

Now we're leaking blood and billions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Boy Emperor is determined to prove everybody else in the world wrong — at the cost of other people's lives, of course. I won't be surprised at all if he bombs Iran. Now, that'll be a party you will want to miss.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Big sock winner



Kyler Cook is the winner of the National Bank of Commerce giant stocking drawing.

COURTESY PHOTO

Report: Citgo plans no further refinery sales in coming year

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The head of Venezuela-owned Citgo Petroleum Corp. said the company plans no further sales of refineries or other major assets next year, according to a media report.

Houston-based Citgo, which is wholly owned by Venezuela's state oil company, sold its minority share in a Texas refinery to Lyondell Chemical Co. for \$2.1 billion earlier this year.

"In 2007, we are not planning the sale of any of our assets in other companies," Citgo President Felix Rodriguez told Venezuela's online Panorama newspaper in comments published over the weekend.

'In 2007, we are not planning the sale of any of our assets in other companies. If reports show us that profits are not the most optimum, we will probably leave that market and concentrate on the sales of other byproducts.'

— Felix Rodriguez
Citgo president

Rodriguez added, however, that Citgo would continue to review the profitability of its asphalt-producing business.

"If reports show us that profits are not the most optimum, we will probably leave that market and concentrate on the sales of other byproducts," he said. Citgo Asphalt Refining Company is a leading supplier of asphalt on the U.S. east coast.

The company plans to maintain refinery production at about 840,000 barrels a day for the next four years and, instead of expanding its business, concentrate on producing better quality products, such as low-sulfur diesel and lubricants that are in line with U.S. market regulations, Rodriguez told Panorama.

"Today, the company is working and seeking an equilibrium between the minimum investment necessary and (maximum) profits," Rodriguez was quoted as saying.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



This Week: M.E.G. Foundation

© 2006 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 23 No. 2

Village of Hope



Have you ever had an idea about how to help people, but thought it was impossible? Here's how the dream of one little girl eventually became a reality and brought love, support and hope to abandoned and orphaned children.

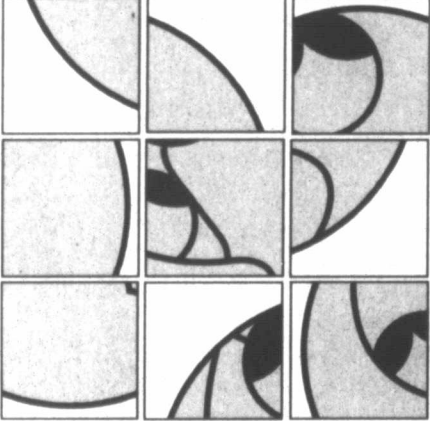
Mary-Ellen Gerber

Mary-Ellen lost her mother at age 14. She knew from direct personal experience how difficult it is to live without a mother's protection.

When she was a young girl, she made a vow to create a village where orphaned and abandoned children could find protection and happiness, surrounded by sincere and caring people.

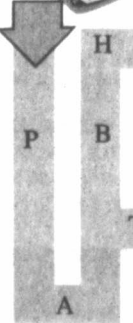
It would take years and a lot of travel before she could start the village, but she persevered.

Today, Mary-Ellen Gerber's foundation supports not one, but two villages in India serving hundreds of children every day.



Cut out the squares and rearrange them to show the logo of the Mary-Ellen Gerber Foundation.

Standards Link: Reading Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts.



The Gift of a Road

In February 2004, an access road was built in Puri and a minivan was purchased. These were made possible from donations from people in a business course taught by Patricia McDade in California. The new road allowed teachers to drive to the center of the village so they wouldn't have to walk over a mile each morning and evening to teach.

Drive the van to the end of the road. The letters on the correct path spell the name of the road.

Extra! Extra!

Who Helps Children?

Look through today's newspaper for the names of organizations that serve children in your community. List their names and describe what they do to help children.

Standards Link: Reading/Writing Skills: Summarize and paraphrase information in text.



The road is called: A D E L E R O A D

Timeline of Tenderness

Mary-Ellen Gerber arrived in Los Angeles, California with her 13-year-old daughter. They had come from France and spoke no English. A month after her arrival and with only a few dollars to her name, Mary-Ellen started an import business, selling goods from other countries.

Mary-Ellen became an American citizen.

Mary-Ellen sold her successful business and started supporting a foundation that helped children with a neurological disorder.

In October, Mary-Ellen learned of a devastating hurricane in India that had orphaned more than 3,000 children. She immediately went to India to see what she could do to help.

Mary-Ellen rented a house to lodge 24 children. She started the MEG Foundation. Eventually she was able to buy five acres of land in Puri, India, and started building the foundation's first village.

On June 21, her dream of a village for children in need was realized. Eighty-six children moved into the finished village.

A second village for children was built. In the second village, MEG Foundation began working with three other organizations to build a hospital and four convalescent homes. One of the other organizations, New Hope, takes care of children while they are sick and the MEG Foundation cares for them once they are well.

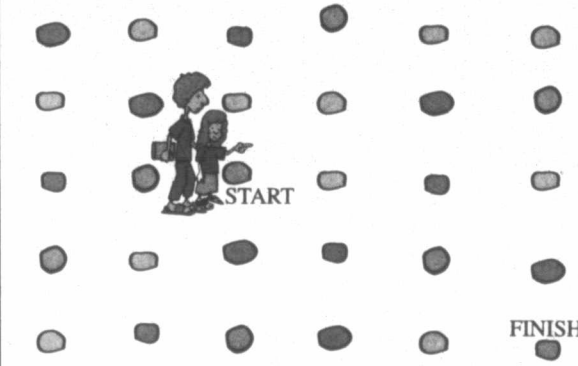
Standards Link: Historical Understanding: Understand and know how to analyze chronological relationships using a timeline.

Secret Code
Use the code to discover the dates on the timeline. Write each year on the above spaces.

- 0 = ▽
- 1 = L
- 2 = □
- 3 = ☆
- 4 = ▴
- 5 = ◆
- 6 = ○
- 7 = ▲
- 8 = ▾
- 9 = ▼

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Help the children find their way to the finish by going from stone to stone. They must touch each stone once and can only make right-hand turns.



Stumped? The solution is at: www.kidscoop.com/index/kids.html
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

ORPHANED	M N A V I N I M D A E G A L L I V E R T K C I S T O N E F R S S E C C A Y I E I A E P O H E G B L R I L E P S E R A C U D E R E V E S R E P N O L O G O N G E R I B N E R D L I H C
GERBER	
PERSEVERED	
PURI	
STO NE	
ACCESS	
VILLAGE	
CARES	
INDIA	
SICK	
HOPE	
CHILDREN	
GIFT	
MINIVAN	
LOGO	

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Who can you thank?

Look through your newspaper for people who are helping others in your community. Select a person to send a thank-you card to. Make your thank-you card by using words and photos clipped from the newspaper.

Standards Link: Writing: Write in a variety of forms, write personal letters.

Write On!

Childhood Memory

Do you have a special memory from earlier in your childhood? Write about the memory. Include what it was and why it was so memorable.

Kid Scoop Together:

FAMILY TIME

Use the timeline and today's Kid Scoop to answer the following questions.

- In what year did Mary-Ellen Gerber become an American citizen?
 - a. 1974
 - b. 1980
 - c. 1994
- How old was Mary-Ellen's daughter when she arrived in Los Angeles?
 - a. 13 years old
 - b. 19 years old
 - c. 23 years old
- How many children lived in the first house Mary-Ellen rented in India?
 - a. 13
 - b. 19
 - c. 24
- What is the name of the village where Mary-Ellen founded the first children's village on five acres?
 - a. New Hope
 - b. McDade
 - c. Puri
- What did Mary-Ellen build in 2004?
 - a. A village
 - b. An access road
 - c. An import business
- How many villages does the MEG Foundation support?
 - a. Two
 - b. Three
 - c. Four

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: PERSEVERANCE
The noun perseverance means never giving up on a dream or goal, no matter how difficult it is to reach it.

It took perseverance for Mary-Ellen to make her childhood dream come true.

Try to use the word perseverance in a sentence today when talking with your friends.

AIDS

Continued from Page 5

They found that in Guyana, the AIDS program reported inflated numbers to Congress in its annual report. The government claimed

5,200 AIDS orphans received care in that country, but auditors documented fewer than 300, many of them not even affected by AIDS.

The opposite occurred in South Africa, where some provincial governments refused to disclose information on AIDS tests and counseling, causing "severe under-

reporting" of how many benefited from U.S.-backed services, auditors said. Officials said that problem was now resolved.

After reporting that millions of people were reached by mass-media promoting sexual abstinence and use of condoms, the administration now has dropped that meas-

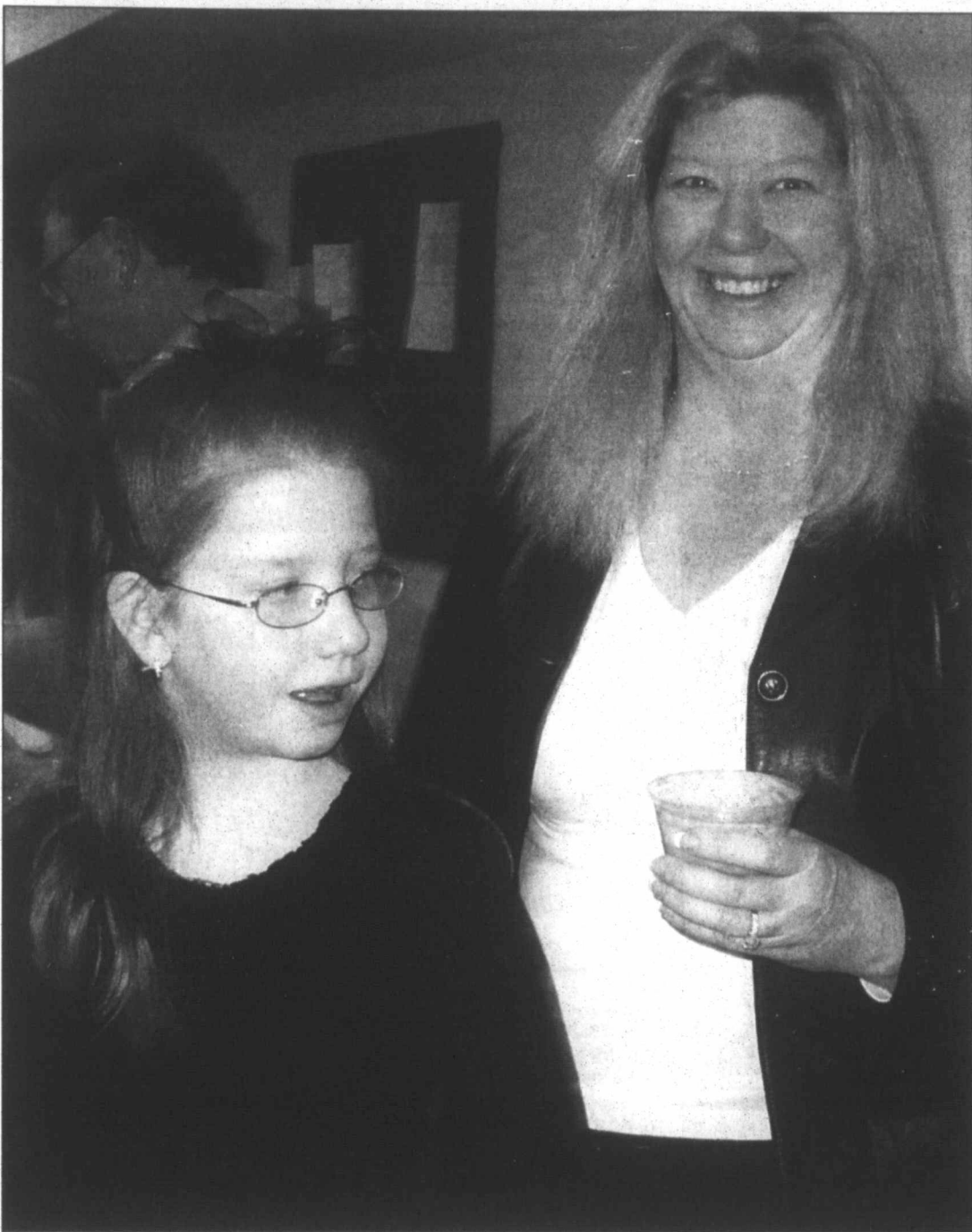
urement completely, on grounds that it is impossible to know how many people hear radio messages.

Tracking orphan care has been a problem. Because local groups were simply tallying individual handouts like meals or clothing, the administration imposed a new rule in July stating that a child can only

be counted as receiving care if provided with three of six key services.

Development experts say that some of the new religious and community organizations doing the AIDS work were ill-equipped for the reporting demands that accompanied U.S. grants.

Punch anyone?



COURTESY PHOTO

Mackenzie Smith leads her mom toward the punch bowl after performing two solos in the CREATE-a-Beat! Christmas program recently.

People in the news

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will need crutches, screws to secure his thigh bone and several weeks of recovery after undergoing surgery on his broken leg, his surgeon said.

The 59-year-old governor, actor and former bodybuilder was scheduled for surgery this morning in Los Angeles to repair his fractured right femur, which he broke while skiing with his family in Sun Valley, Idaho, during the weekend.

"As is standard for this type of surgery, the governor will be kept for observation for three days," said Dr. Kevin Ehrhart, the orthopedic surgeon performing the surgery.

Ehrhart, who repaired former President Reagan's broken hip in 2001, said Schwarzenegger's recovery would take about eight weeks and cables and screws would be used to secure his upper right thigh bone.

He said he had spoken with Schwarzenegger since the accident and described the governor as "very comfortable."

Schwarzenegger was admitted to an undisclosed Los Angeles hospital Monday. While he is under anesthesia, expected to last no longer than two hours, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante will be acting governor, said Andrea Lynn Hoch, the governor's legal affairs secretary.

Schwarzenegger does not intend to delay his second inauguration, scheduled for Jan. 5, said spokeswoman Julie Soderlund.

The fracture is the governor's third medical problem in just over a year. In January, he needed 15 stitches to repair his cut lip after colliding with a car while riding his motorcycle in Los Angeles. He also spent several hours at a University of California, Davis, hospital last December with a rapid heartbeat while he had stomach flu.

Officials haven't said which trail the governor was skiing at Sun Valley when he broke his leg. The resort has a black diamond trail dubbed "Arnold's Run" in honor of Schwarzenegger.

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Paul Rodriguez, Dane Cook, Paul Mooney, John Lovitz and other comedians dished out a free Christmas meal and a side of standup to more than a thousand people at a comedy club.

The slate of comedians performed for more than 1,400 people Monday at the Laugh Factory, said owner Jamie Masada.

Besides performing, Rodriguez was also tapped to carve a turkey.

"This really is my family," Rodriguez told KCBS-TV. "All these comedians you see out here, they might be very sarcastic on stage and say rude things, but deep down inside they are softies."

Masada described the event, which marked its 28th year, as a "little party" for those who have nowhere else to go on Christmas.

"They're down on their luck," he said. "We try to make them feel a bit better, we give them laughter."

'As is standard for this type of surgery, the governor will be kept for observation for three days.'

— Dr. Kevin Ehrhart
Orthopedic surgeon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jackson is suing his former accountants, claiming they withdrew \$2.5 million a year from his bank accounts but did not properly pay his bills.

The lawsuit by Jackson and MJJ Productions Inc. was filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court against Bernstein, Fox, Whitman, Goldman & Sloan, alleging negligence and breach of fiduciary duty.

The lawsuit asks for unspecified damages and for an accounting of money the defendants received for services.

Jackson hired the Los Angeles-based firm in 2003 for bookkeeping, opening bank accounts and filing personal, corporate and real estate taxes, the lawsuit stated.

However, Jackson alleges the accountants hired people and entered into contracts on his behalf without getting his permission.

The accountants also did not communicate directly with Jackson or keep him apprised of his financial affairs, according to the lawsuit.

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) — Comedian Gallagher, known for smashing watermelons during his performances, was accused of shoving an audience member here last summer and now faces a lawsuit.

Leo Gallagher, 59, was to perform at the Moe Bandy Theater in Branson from June 16 through Sept. 4.

The promoters that brought the comedian to the southwest Missouri resort town, Miami-based Branson Partners LLC, sued Gallagher for breach of contract after his shows were canceled because of the allegations from a theater employee.

Marcy Kowalski alleged the comedian swore at her and bruised her arm when he pushed her back into her front-row seat.

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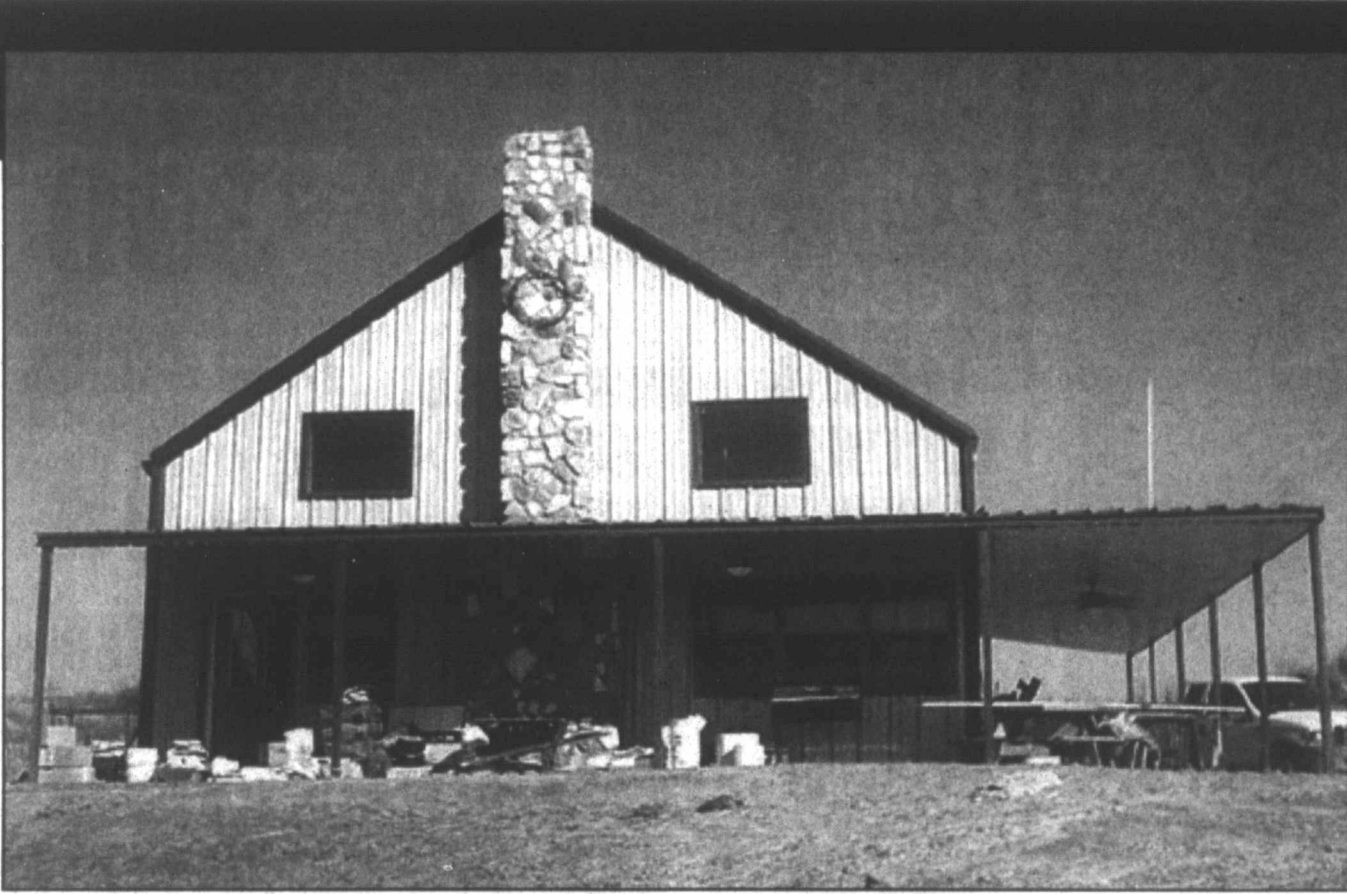
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WAR

Islamic forces retreat in Somalia

By SALAD DUHUL
Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Islamic fighters retreated today as Somali government and Ethiopian troops advanced on three fronts in a decisive turn in the battle for control of this Horn of Africa nation. Somalia's internationally backed government called on the Council of Islamic Courts to surrender and promised amnesty if they lay down their weapons, spokesman Abdurahman Dinari said from Baidoa, the seat of the interim administration.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, whose military openly joined the war Sunday after weeks of quietly aiding the Somali government, said his forces had completed about half their mission.

"As soon as we have accomplished our mission — and about half of our mission is done, and the rest shouldn't take long — we'll be out," Meles told reporters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, leader of the Council of Islamic Courts' executive body, said the group had told its troops to withdraw from some areas.

"The war is entering a new phase," he said. "We will fight Ethiopia for a long, long time and we expect the war to go everywhere."

Ahmed declined to explain his comments in greater detail, but some Islamic leaders had threatened a guerrilla war to include suicide bombings in Ethiopia's capital.

Patrick Mazimhaka, deputy chairman of the African Union Commission, expressed support for Somalia's government and defended Ethiopia's military advances.

"If Ethiopia feels sufficiently threatened, then we recognize the right of Ethiopia to defend itself if it thinks its sovereignty and its security are under direct threat," he said.

The United Nations helped set up the acting government in the arid, impoverished nation two years ago, but the administration was not able to extend its influence outside Baidoa, which is about 140 miles northwest of Mogadishu, the country's nominal capital.

Somalia has not had an effective government since warlords overthrew a longtime

dictator in 1991, plunging the country into anarchy. Warlords remained largely in control until this summer, when the Islamic movement seized power in Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia.

Experts fear the conflict could engulf the region. John Prendergast, a senior adviser with the International Crisis Group, said the war "dangerously escalates regional tensions and leaves the Horn of Africa less secure than it has been in a long time."

Some analysts also fear the Islamic movement hopes to make Somalia a third front, after Afghanistan and Iraq, in militant Islam's war against the West.

The group's often severe interpretation of Islam is reminiscent, to some, of Afghanistan's Taliban regime — ousted by a U.S.-led campaign in late 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden. The U.S. government says four al-Qaida leaders, believed to

be behind the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, are now leaders in the Islamic militia.

The African Union, Arab League and a regional group known as IGAD were scheduled to take up Somalia at a meeting Wednesday designed to restart peace negotiations between the Somali government and the Islamic movement.

But Ahmed rejected any suggestion of peace talks and appeared unbowed by his group's losses.

Skirmishes were continuing today. A witness in the town of Bur Haqaba reported hearing explosions nearby after two Ethiopian jets flew overhead.

"I saw two helicopters, I heard the sounds of bombs at Lego village," Mohamed Abdulle Siidi said by telephone. The account could not be confirmed.

Islamic militiamen withdrew more than 50 miles to the southeast from Daynune, a town just south of Baidoa. The retreat along the western front followed the bombing by Ethiopian jets of the country's two main international airports.

Advancing government and Ethiopian troops captured Bur Haqaba, one of the Islamists' main bases after it was abandoned early today.

Experts fear the conflict could engulf the region. John Prendergast, a senior adviser with the International Crisis Group, said the war "dangerously escalates regional tensions and leaves the Horn of Africa less secure than it has been in a long time."

See WAR, Page 11

Stores count on post-Christmas shopping to meet their sales goals

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's retailers ushered in the post-Christmas shopping season today by slashing prices even more on holiday items and stocking up on fresh merchandise.

With the 2006 pre-Christmas season falling short of sales expectations for many merchants, the retail industry hoped that shoppers, armed with gift cards, would spend freely in the weeks ahead on discounted items as well as full-priced merchandise.

Federated Department Stores Inc.'s Macy's opened its doors at 7 a.m. and offered discounts ranging from 50 percent to 75 percent. Toys "R" Us Inc. offered 50 percent discounts on selected toys. The toy seller was also showcasing hot toys from 2007 in its stores.

dise. That would boost business in December and in the fourth-quarter.

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Merchants "are going to use all 31 days in December," said Marshal Cohen, chief analyst at NPD Group Inc., a market research company in Port Washington, N.Y.

At Carousel Mall in Syracuse, N.Y., there were more mall walkers than shoppers when J.C. Penney opened its doors at 6 a.m. Pat Dunn of Syracuse, who was browsing around the housewares section looking for sale items, said her trek was an annual affair. And, she said,

she wasn't about to let the cold rain falling outside deter her.

"Everything is so marked up. This is the best time to shop," Dunn said. "This is for next year."

Dunn said she received gift cards for Christmas but wasn't using them now.

"I'll use them later for something for myself," she said.

After a stronger-than-expected turnout on Black Friday, the day after

Thanksgiving, stores struggled through the first two weeks of December as consumers returned to malls and stores at a disappointing pace. Stores did get a late-buying sales surge in the final days of the pre-Christmas season, but it was not enough to meet holiday sales goals.

A big negative factor this season was mild temperatures throughout most of the country, which depressed sales of winter items like coats and snow boots.

Based on data released late Sunday by ShopperTrak RCT Corp., sales for both Friday and Saturday generated a combined \$16.2 billion, with Saturday's business totaling \$8.72 billion. But Bill Martin, co-founder of ShopperTrak, said he had expected the finale to be stronger; because it wasn't, stores need a good post-Christmas season to meet ShopperTrak's 5 percent holiday forecast.

The post-Christmas season has become more important with the increasing popularity of gift cards. Gift card sales are only recorded on retailers' balance sheet when cards are redeemed.

According to BigResearch, which conducted a poll for the National Retail Federation, consumers are expected to spend a total of \$24.81 billion on gift cards this holiday season, up from \$18.48 billion last year.

Lawsuit: Funeral home company failed to pay overtime

PITTSBURGH (AP) — One of the world's largest providers of funeral and cemetery services has failed to pay millions of dollars in

back wages and overtime, according to a class-action lawsuit.

The suit was filed this month in U.S. District Court

in Pittsburgh against Service Corporation International.

Attorney Charles H. Saul, who filed the suit, said as many as 6,000 current and

former workers could be involved. The total amount of back wages and overtime could be between \$40 million and \$70 million, Saul said.

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Earthquake strikes off southwestern Taiwan creating giant wave

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A powerful quake struck off southwestern Taiwan today, triggering a potentially destructive tsunami that was headed toward the Philippines on the second anniversary of the deadly waves that killed thousands in south Asia.

The quake, with a magnitude of between 6.7 and 7.2, was felt throughout Taiwan, Japan's Meteorological Bureau said. It swayed buildings and knocked objects off the shelves in the capital, Taipei.

The bureau said the 3-foot-high tsunami was expected to hit Basco in the Philippines.

"There is a possibility of a

destructive local tsunami," the bureau said.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the quake measured magnitude 6.7, while the U.S. Geological Survey and Japanese bureau put it at magnitude 7.2.

No damage or injuries were immediately reported.

The Central Weather Bureau said a 6.4 magnitude aftershock struck a nearby area about nine minutes later.

The initial tremor was centered at sea about 13 miles southwest of Hengchun on the southern tip of Taiwan, the bureau said. Hengchun is about 260 miles south of Taipei.

Bush to spend New Year's at ranch

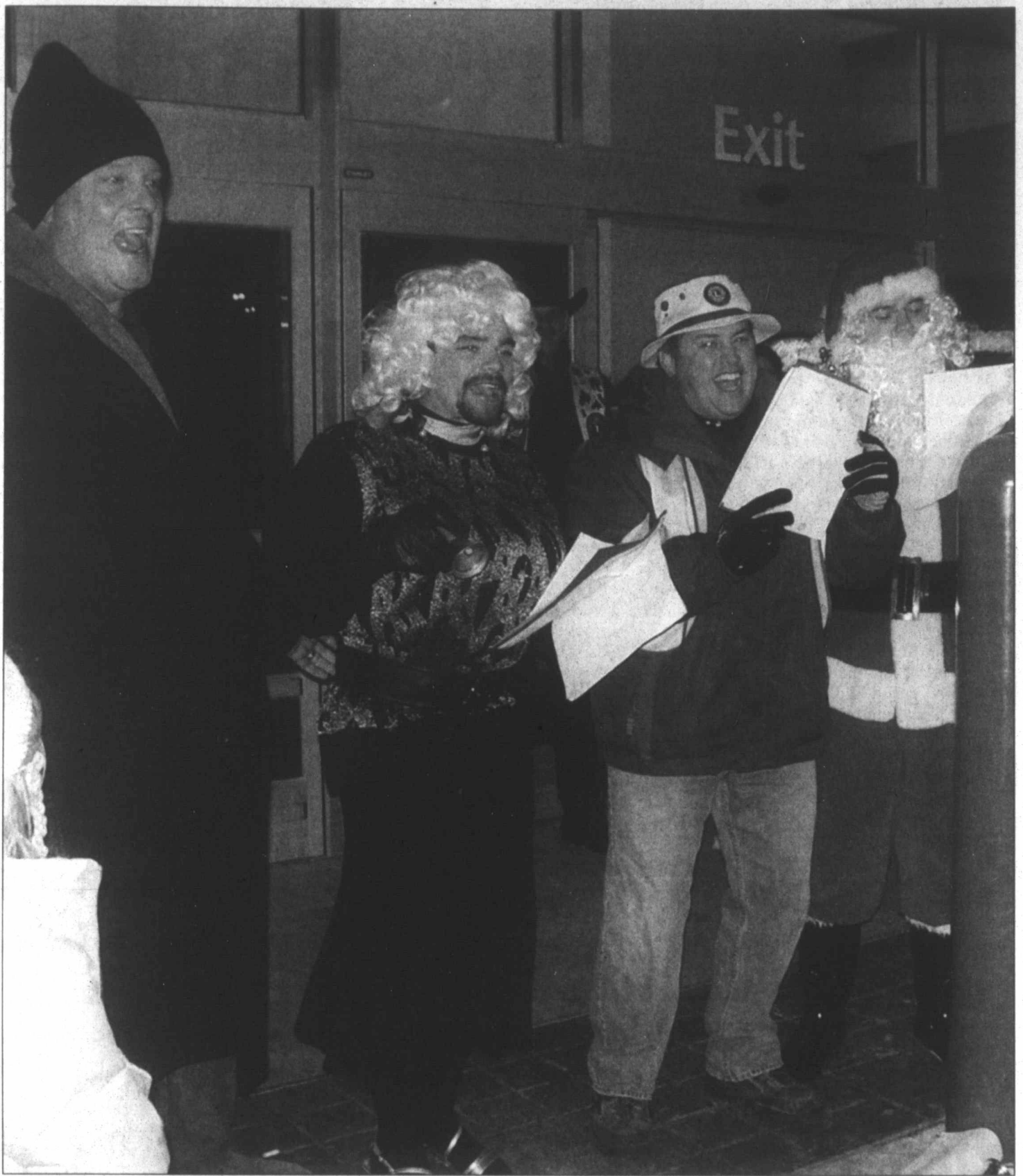
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is leaving for a weeklong trip to his Texas ranch, where he and his advisers will rethink U.S. involvement in Iraq. The president also will work on an upcoming speech outlining what he says will be a new way forward in the war.

The White House said the president, saddled with low approval ratings for his handling of Iraq, will be consulting, not making final decisions, at the National

Security Council meeting on Thursday at his ranch in Crawford. He is expected to deliver a speech on Iraq sometime before the State of the Union address on Jan. 23.

He and first lady Laura Bush were to leave Washington this morning, returning Jan. 1.

Bush spent the Christmas holiday with his family at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lions Club recently rang the bells and sang to receive donations for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. To attract more attention, some of the members decided to dress up. Pictured left are Lance DeFever, Brad Pingel as Dolly Parton, Rusty Tapp and Scott Rankin as Santa. That evening the Lions Club raised about \$1,000.

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World briefly ...

U.S. military death toll in Iraq exceeds number of deaths in Sept. 11, 2001 attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — At least 36 Iraqis died today in bombings, officials said, including a coordinated strike that killed 25 in western Baghdad. Separately, the deaths of six U.S. soldiers pushed the American toll beyond the number of victims in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The three coordinated car bombs in western Baghdad injured at least 55 people, said a doctor at Yarmouk hospital, where the victims were taken. The attacks occurred in a mixed Sunni and Shiite neighborhood.

In separate attacks, a bomb exploded in a central Baghdad market, killing four people and wounding 15 others, police said. Two roadside bombs targeted an Iraqi police patrol in an eastern neighborhood of the capital, killing four policemen and injuring 12 people.

In Kirkuk, 180 miles north of the Iraqi capital, another roadside bomb killed three civilians — including an 8-year-old girl — and wounded six other people, police said.

The U.S. military today announced the deaths of six more American soldiers, pushing the U.S. military death toll since the beginning

of the Iraq war in March 2003 to at least 2,978 — five more

The U.S. military today announced the deaths of six more American soldiers, pushing the U.S. military death toll since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003 to at least 2,978 ...

than the number killed in the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The milestone came with

the deaths of the three soldiers Monday and three more today in roadside bomb attacks near Baghdad, the military said.

Asian nations remember the 230,000 killed in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami

KHAO LAK, Thailand (AP) — It's been two years since Dorothy Wilkinson's fiancé and his parents were swept away by the Indian Ocean tsunami, but she still feared returning to where she lost them and the tears well up when she talks of it.

But like scores of other survivors of the 2004 disaster that claimed an estimated 230,000 lives in a dozen nations, Wilkinson, 38, came back today to the beaches where the tsunami struck to pay respects and take another tentative step toward rebuilding her own life.

"This is a time to remember those people who we lost," said Wilkinson, a native of England, at a memorial service. "I'm still sad. I don't want to spend Christmas at home. It is too lonely."

It was on Dec. 26, 2004, that a magnitude-9.0 earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island spawned the giant waves that fanned out across the Indian Ocean at jetliner speeds, leaving at least 230,000 dead and millions of homeless in its wake.

Mourners across the region marked the anniversary by visiting mass graves, lighting candles along beaches, and observing moments of silence. But another push was under way, as volunteers and residents took steps to protect against future tsunamis.

Parents of slain U.S. soldiers make pilgrimage to Iraq to see where their children died

LYERLY, Ga. (AP) — After her son Justin was

See BRIEFS, Page 11

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TUESDAY, JAN 2	FRIDAY 4:00PM

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DAY OF INSERTION	DEADLINE
SUNDAY, DEC 31	FRIDAY 10:00AM
MONDAY, JAN 1	FRIDAY NOON

REGULAR & CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

DAY OF INSERTION	DEADLINE
SUNDAY, DEC 31	WEDNESDAY 2:00PM
MONDAY, JAN 1	THURSDAY NOON
TUESDAY, JAN 2	THURSDAY 2:00PM
WEDNESDAY, JAN 3	FRIDAY 10:00AM

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COURTESY PHOTO

High Plains Cruisers

The High Plains Cruisers recently donated 37 bags of nonperishable items to the residents of the Schneider House. Cruisers pictured: Winfred and Linda Simmons, Audrey and Cleo Meaker, Nancy and Raymond Swaney, Amy and Kathy Hammer and Denver and Walker Bruner.

Scientists to build genetically engineered peanuts

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — A leading industry group has given scientists the go-ahead to build genetically engineered peanuts that could be safer, more nutritious and easier to grow than their conventional version.

The work could lead to peanuts that yield more oil for biofuel production, need less rainfall and grow more efficiently, with built-in herbicide and pest resistance — traits that have already been engineered into major crops such as cotton, corn, soybeans and canola.

For consumers, the work could lead to peanuts with enhanced flavor, more vitamins and nutrients, and possibly even nuts that are less likely to trigger allergic reactions, a life-threatening problem for a small percentage of the population and a major food industry concern.

A few researchers have been genetically modifying peanuts for at least a decade, but their discoveries have had little impact because the industry, fearing a consumer backlash, was reluctant to support the work.

However, with the two leading

A few researchers have been genetically modifying peanuts for at least a decade, but their discoveries have had little impact because the industry, fearing a consumer backlash, was reluctant to support the work.

peanut-producing countries, China and India, working aggressively on transgenic peanuts, the American Peanut Council and its research arm, the Peanut Foundation, this month approved a major policy change. The council represents all segments of the industry — growers, shellers, exporters and manufacturers.

The foundation urged scientists to move ahead with "due diligence" on

genetically engineered peanuts.

The work is expected to cost about \$9.5 million and will require university, government and industry support.

"It's a significant redirection in their thinking," said Peggy Ozias-Akins, a University of Georgia horticulture professor who has been working with genetically modified peanuts since the late 1990s.

The foundation also called for additional genome studies to learn more about the location and function of the natural peanut genes.

Because peanuts are considered a minor crop, their genetics still have not been studied as extensively as major crops such as soybeans, Ozias-Akins said.

Peanuts are believed to have originated in South America at least 3,500 years ago. Farmers in the Southern U.S. only started cultivating them in the early 1900s when the boll-weevil made it nearly impossible to grow cotton. Now they're grown in 15 states from Virginia to New Mexico.

War

Continued from Page 9

"We woke up from our sleep this morning and the town was empty of troops, not a single Islamic fighter," Ibrahim Mohamed Aden, a resident of Bur Haqaba said.

Islamic fighters were also reportedly retreating on two other fronts.

On the southern front, government troops captured Dinsor, the government spokesman, Dinari, said. On the northern front, government and Ethiopian troops entered Bulo Barde, where just two weeks ago an Islamic cleric said

anyone who did not pray five times a day would be executed.

Government and Ethiopian troops also were headed for Jowhar, 55 miles north of Mogadishu, after driving Islamic troops from Bandiradley, Adadow and Galinsor.

No reliable casualty reports are available. Both sides have claimed to have killed hundreds of their enemy, but independent observers were not given access to the battlefield.

Ethiopia's prime minister announced Sunday night that he had sent troops into Somalia to fight international terrorists, defend Ethiopian interests and prop up the besieged U.N.-backed government, which only has a very small military force.

But Meles has said he does not intend to keep his forces in Somalia long, perhaps only a few weeks. He has told visiting dignitaries that his goal is to severely damage the Islamic movement's military capabilities and allow both sides to return to peace talks on even footing.

Meles said he would not send troops into Mogadishu, but instead encircle the city to contain the Islamic forces.

Ethiopia and Somalia have fought two wars over their disputed border in the past 45 years, and the Islamic movement has said it want to incorporate ethnic Somalis living in eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti and northeastern Kenya into a Greater Somalia.

Briefs

Continued from Page 10

killed serving in Iraq, a grieving Jan Johnson resolved to see the place where he died and to better understand why it happened.

Johnson and her husband, Joe, who also served in Iraq, were among a group of seven parents who lost children in the war who were picked to travel to northern Iraq in November as a scout team for a bigger trip next year.

"I wanted to go see where my son died," she said. "You hear in the news how bad Iraq is, that it isn't worth saving. ... I wanted to go find out for myself."

Family members of U.S. casualties of war have made pilgrimages in the past to Vietnam and other war zones where their sons and daughters died.

But the fighting in Iraq was far from over, so a similar journey seemed unlikely until a nonprofit organization called America Moving Forward decided to organize a trip.

'Godfather of Soul,' legendary singer James Brown, dies of heart failure at 73

ATLANTA (AP) — James Brown, the undeniable "Godfather of Soul," told friends from his hospital bed that he was looking forward to performing on New Year's Eve, even though he was ill with pneumonia. His heart gave out a few hours later, on Christmas morning.

The pompadoured dynamo whose classic singles include "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)" died Monday of heart failure, said his agent, Frank Copsidas of Intrigue Music. He was 73.

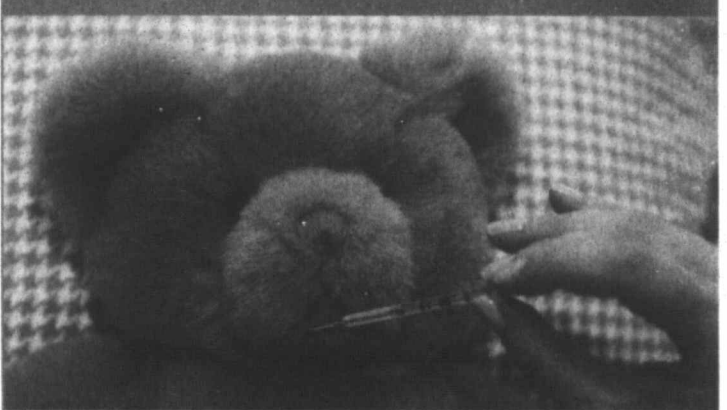
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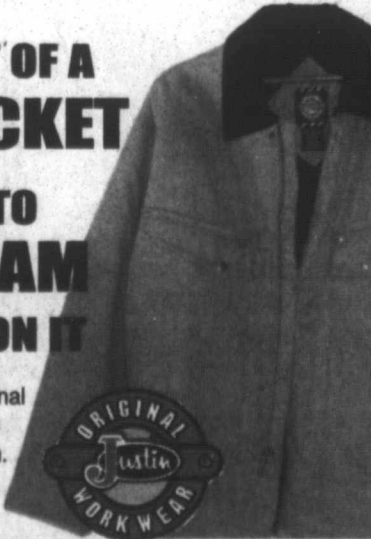
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I divorced my abusive husband of 23 years. However, when he remarried I fell apart. Friends we have in common tell me they are happy, and his new wife is "good for him." Thoughts of why he could change for someone else, but not for his own family (we had two sons) eat me up. It has been a year since his wedding, and I am still hurting as if I want him back. Please help me. — **CRYING IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR CRYING: Dry your tears and straighten up. Your husband and his new wife are still newlyweds. Leopards don't change their spots. His abuse of her may not have begun yet, because most abusers take some time to chisel away at their victim's self-esteem before the actual abuse starts happening. Also, these "common friends" may not be privy to what goes on behind closed doors. Most abused women blame themselves for it, and are so ashamed they keep it a secret. Because you are still hurting and comparing yourself unfavorably to the "new" missus, it's time to talk to your doctor about a referral to a licensed psychotherapist who can talk this out with you. It will be money well spent. Consider it a shortcut to feeling better about yourself and the wise decision you made to get away from your abuser.

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Lindy," has lived with my fiance, "Reid," and me since the death of our mother two years ago. Dad died when I was 12, so there was no other option for my sister. Everything was going fine until a month ago, when Lindy told me she was pregnant. I was upset because she is only 17. Lindy insisted that things were going to be "fine" because the baby's father was older and well-off. One night last week, Lindy and Reid (who is 28) sat me down to have a talk about her pregnancy -- and told me that Reid is the father of the baby! I am devastated at their betrayal. I

can't believe that Reid, the love of my life, and my little sister, whom I'd considered my best friend, would sleep together. I have let them both live with me and carried them financially for the last two years. I am beside myself and don't know what to do. I want to kick them out, but I'm afraid for the baby, and I can't just turn my sister out into the streets. I love my fiance and can't bear to let him go, but his actions have proven that he doesn't love me like I love him. You're the only person I can talk to about this. Please help me, Abby. — **BETRAYED IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR BETRAYED: Call off the engagement and get your two-timing deadbeat "fiance" out of there immediately. You have been his meal ticket for far too long. What your sister did might be chalked up to immaturity, but Reid is an adult. Do not let it escape you that he has used you both. If you can handle it, let Lindy stay until she's 18 and has her high school diploma. That way, she can provide for herself and the baby if she decides to keep it. The baby is not your responsibility; it is Lindy's and Reid's. If you remember that, you'll shield yourself from pain and aggravation in the future.

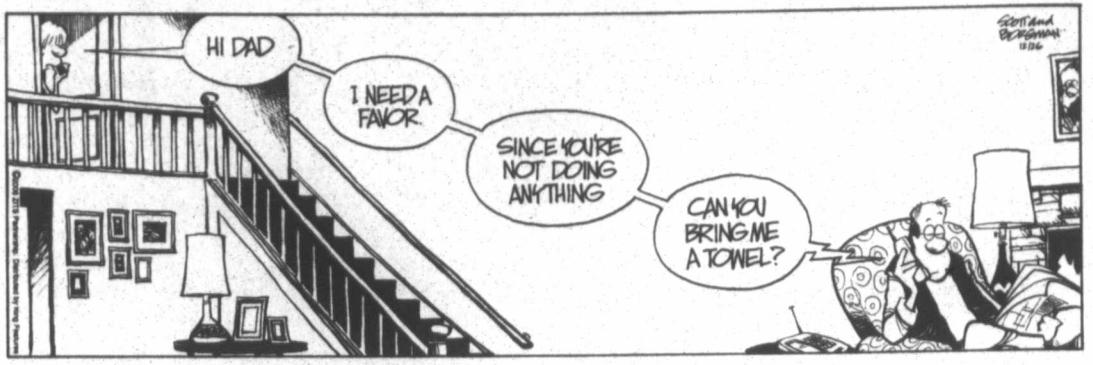
DEAR ABBY: Could you settle an argument between me and my husband? We've been married only four months. I get out of the shower and dry off, or walk into the bedroom to dry off. He says I should dry off in the shower. Who is correct? — **ANN FROM FLORIDA**

DEAR ANN: You should dry off wherever you are more comfortable drying off, and if your controlling new husband doesn't like it, then HE should dry you off in the shower.

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Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Room, in Minnow's home
 - 42 Spirited horse
 - 43 Salon offerings
- DOWN**
- 1 Copier need
 - 2 Speaks
 - 3 Generic guess
 - 4 Mom's mate
 - 5 Drench
 - 6 Block-head
 - 7 Feed like a duck
 - 8 Old markets
 - 9 Lone Star
 - 10 String section member
 - 25 Regarding
 - 28 Tries to save a sinking boat
 - 31 For fear that
 - 32 Song words
 - 34 Glacier makeup
 - 35 Haul into court
 - 36 Verb for you
 - 37 Area near home
 - 40 Follow

BRIM	SLOTS
ROLE	QUARTS
ASEA	UNREAL
GIFTTAG	ATA
ANTHERS	TUT
ONE	PETE
SHOOT	WADES
NARK	POI
ORE	IRONAGE
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37		38			39			
40				41				
42					43			

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