

LOCAL:
Clarendon College still taking
building fund donations, Page 3

GOOD EVENING
Thursday, December 21, 1995

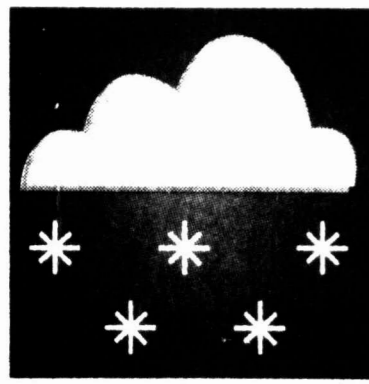
SPORTS:
Harvesters to open against
Granbury in tourney, Page 9

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 88 NO: 222

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in low 20s,
high tomorrow in upper
20s. See Page 2 for
weather details.

WHITE DEER — A single
precinct election for a posi-
tion on the board of directors
of Panhandle Ground Water
Conservation District No. 3
will be held Jan. 20 in
Clarendon.

John Morrow, Clarendon,
will oppose incumbent board
member Jerry Green, also of
Clarendon, for the Precinct 5
position. Balloting will be 7
a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Donley
County Courthouse.

The board Wednesday
night certified Precinct 1, 3
and 7 candidates as victors
for those positions because
the races were unopposed.
Retaining their seats on the
groundwater board are
Phillip Smith, Panhandle,
Precinct 1; Robert Clark,
Precinct 7, Miami; and
John Spearman, Pampa,
Precinct 3.

PAMPA — City and coun-
ty offices will observe a holi-
day schedule for Christmas
and New Year's.

Gray County Courthouse
will be closed Friday, Dec. 22,
and Monday, Dec. 25. The
courthouse will be closed in
observance of the New Year
on Friday, Dec. 29, and
Monday, Jan. 1.

City of Pampa offices will
be closed Monday, Dec. 25,
and Tuesday, Dec. 26. New
Year's will be observed on
Jan. 1.

PAMPA — City of Pampa
landfill will be closed
Monday and Tuesday, Dec.
25 and 26, in observance of
the Christmas holidays.

Residential and commer-
cial sanitation routes will not
be run on these two days,
said Sanitation Superintendent
Rick Stone.

Landfill and sanitation
routes will resume normal
operations on Wednesday,
Dec. 27.

PAMPA — Due to
Christmas Eve and Christ-
mas Day falling on Sunday
and Monday this year, there
will be no Monday edition of
The Pampa News.

All offices of The Pampa
News also will be closed for
those days to allow employ-
ees to enjoy the holiday with
family and friends.

Regular publishing and
office hours will resume on
Tuesday, Dec. 26.

AUSTIN (AP) — No tick-
ets correctly matched all six
numbers drawn Wednesday
night for the twice-weekly
Lotto Texas game, state lot-
tery officials said. The jackpot
was worth \$19 million.

The numbers drawn from a
field of 50 were: 2, 7, 16, 36, 38
and 41.

Lottery officials estimate the
jackpot for Saturday night's
game will be \$25 million.

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GWCD board approves Quixx permit amendment

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

WHITE DEER - A battle over
the authority of a conservation
district to regulate production
of water and the subsidiary of a
major utility which wants to
sell those rights may be about
to end.

Wednesday evening, the
board of directors of Panhandle
Ground Water Conservation
District No. 3 voted to amend
the production permit sought
by Quixx Corporation of
Amarillo to allow higher pro-
duction levels than the permit
granted by the board Aug. 2.

Quixx, a subsidiary of
Southwestern Public Service,
was earlier granted a permit
which allows it to pump 37,800
acre-feet per year and up to
45,000 acre-feet per year during
unusual or emergency
conditions.

It is that permit which will be
transferred with the water
rights when and if a sale of
water rights to Canadian River
Municipal Water Authority sale

is consummated.

The new permit will allow
40,000 acre-feet per year and
50,000 acre-feet per year under
unusual or emergency condi-
tions.

Other conditions of the Aug.
2 permit still apply, and permit-
ting fees as required by district
Rule 30 are applicable, accord-
ing to the motion made by
Frank Simms of Panhandle.

The motion also makes the
changes contingent upon
uncontested acceptance by
Quixx, which is attempting to
consummate the sale of 35,813
acres of water rights in Robert
County to CRMWA for use by
its 11 member cities.

The vote by the board was
not unanimous.

Robert Clark of Miami voted
against the permit offer. He
declined to discuss the vote
today.

Voting for the permit were
Jerry Green, Clarendon; Phillip
Smith, Panhandle; Jim
Thompson, Claude; Charles
Bowers, Pampa; and Simms.

John Williams, general man-

ager of CRMWA, told the board
he would present the adjusted
production levels to the operat-
ing committee of the agency.
Whether they will decide to
accept the amended permit -
through the purchase from
Quixx - or defer the decision to
member cities, he said he does
not know.

"I'll see what I can do," John
Williams said.

District directors gave John
Williams a deadline of 5 p.m.
Jan. 2 for his board to respond
to the permit offer.

The district is to meet at noon
Jan. 3 to consider a Quixx
motion for rehearing on its ear-
lier permit. It was tabled last
night in anticipation of a
CRMWA response on the new
permit.

A final judgment on Quixx's
motion for summary judgment
was entered in early December.

According to conservation
district manager C.E. Williams,
it varies little from the earlier
declarations entered by District
Judge Patrick Pirtle of Amarillo
on Oct. 24.

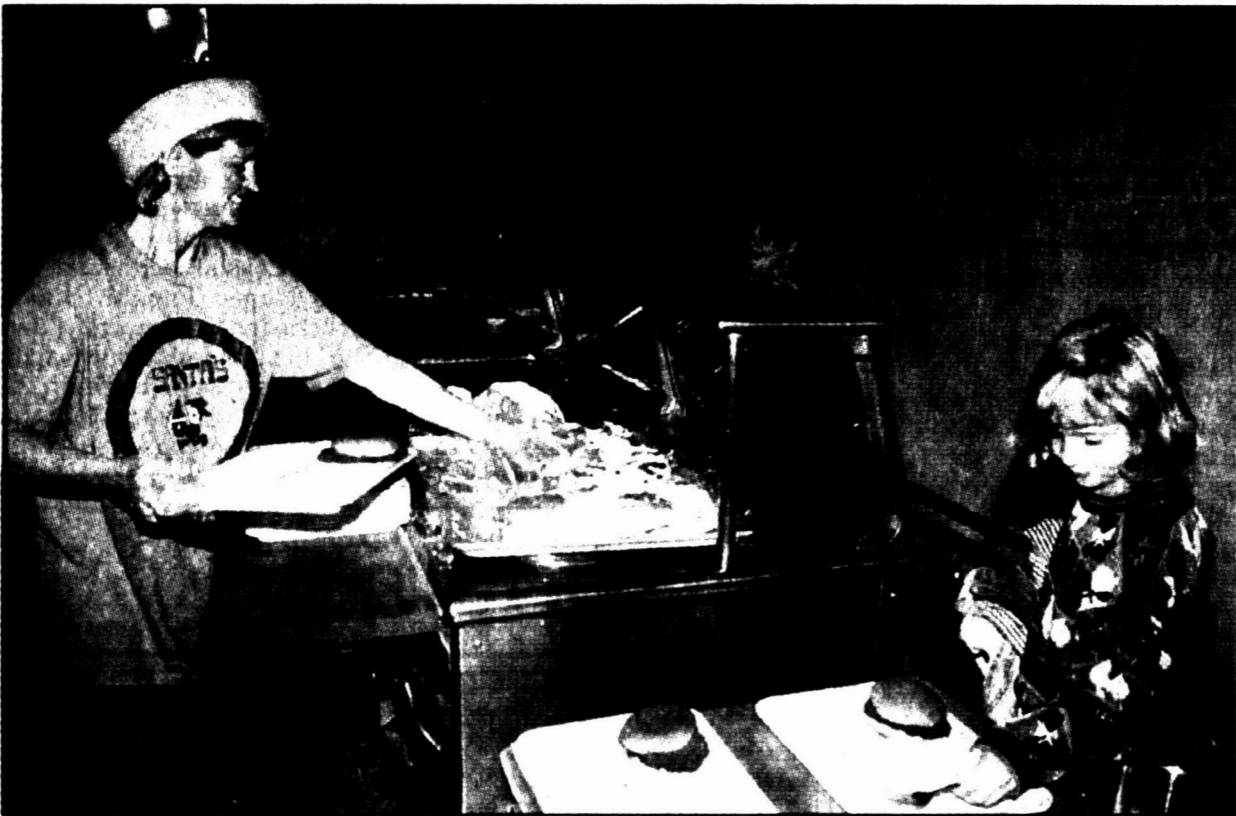
Chatting with Santa



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Sierra Flippo, 11 months, gazes with amusement at
Santa Claus (a.k.a. Bud Adair) as her mother Mandy
tries to interest the child in her gift. Santa Claus was
visiting Pampa Learning Center students and their
children at a Christmas party held at the center
Wednesday afternoon.

An elf in the cafeteria



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Debbie Hendricks, an Austin Elementary School cafeteria worker, displays the
holiday spirit as she dressed as an elf for the amusement of the students on
Wednesday. "The kids enjoy it," she said. The students were also dressed for Cap
and Bow Day at the school. Pampa students are now out of school for the
Christmas and New Year's holiday period.

TCFA economist predicts beef bargains

AMARILLO - An economist
for the Texas Cattle Feeders
Association today predicted bargains
on beef for consumers in
1996.

"The overall price of retail beef
is the lowest it's been in five
years," said Jim Gill, market
director for the TCFA. "With
record beef and poultry produc-
tion predicted for 1996 and near
record pork production, it is like-
ly that retail prices will continue
trending down in 1996."

Lower prices for consumers
buying beef, however, translates
into problems for area cattlemen.

"Feeder cattle supplies are still
increasing," Gill said, "and with
continued high grain prices,
pressure will continue on feeder
cattle prices."

Grain prices have hammered
feeder cattle prices this year, he
said. Due to a small 1995 corn
crop, the price of corn, the pri-
mary grain fed to cattle in the
Panhandle, has almost doubled.

Cattlemen can expect to see
high corn prices through at
least the first six months of
1996, Gill said. That means
higher feedyard costs and con-
tinued lower prices for cattle

coming into the feedyard.

With feeder cattle supplies
increasing, overall beef produc-
tion will rise which means lower
prices for fed cattle sent to
slaughter.

Add the effect of competitive
meats, such as pork and poultry,
and fed cattle prices will remain
low, he said.

Gill predicts fed cattle prices
will range from \$67 to \$70 per
cwt. in the first quarter of 1996,
\$63 to \$67 in the second quarter,
\$62 to \$65 in the third quarter
and \$66 to \$68 by the end of
1996.

Thornberry supports veterans check plan

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep.
Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon,
released a statement in support
of Wednesday night's passage of
House legislation to provide
funding for veterans checks dur-
ing the partial shutdown of the
federal government.

"This is one battle veterans
shouldn't have to fight,"
Thornberry said. "And make no
mistake about it - it is a battle.
Not only over whether we bal-
ance the budget in seven years,
but also over whether we keep

our promise to the American
people and make the federal
government smaller, smarter
and more accountable to the
people."

Thornberry said he and others
were not elected "to back down
from our principles."

"But providing money to
ensure veterans checks get mailed
out on time is common sense, and
I'm glad the House took this
action as we continue our fight to
balance the budget," he said.

In another matter, the Texas

13th District congressman joined
others in sending a letter to
President Clinton strongly criti-
cizing the administration for
putting forward a Medicare plan
"that unfairly penalizes rural
communities."

According to Thornberry, the
main objection to Clinton's plan
is the Adjusted Average Per
Capita Cost payment formula,
which Thornberry says will not
make fair payments to rural areas
and inhibits managed care facil-
ties going into rural counties.

PISD trustees OK PLC accreditation plan, hear complaint on tardy policy

By CHIP CHANDLER
Staff Writer

Pampa school trustees has-
tened through a list of action
items before beginning their
hearing on elementary school
consolidation Tuesday night,
finishing a relatively lengthy
block of issues in about 90
minutes.

In quick order, the board
approved:

- Expenditures for Novem-
ber
- The district financial
audit, called "clean" by the
independent auditors of
Brown, Graham and Com-
pany
- Local policies for contrac-
tual employees and invest-
ments
- Superintendent Dr. Daw-
son Orr and Business Man-
ager Mark McVay as invest-
ment officers
- An amendment to the
1995-96 budget
- Bids from Culberson
Stowers for a 1996 Chevrolet
suburban for \$26,983 and a
1996 Chevrolet pickup for
\$19,964
- A bid from West Texas
Ford for a 1996 Aerostar mini-
van for \$15,664
- Sale of delinquent tax
properties at 1308 E. Francis
and 435 N. Ballard, and
- Tax refunds based on
decisions by the Gray County
Appraisal District Appraisal
Review Board.

The board also rejected bids
for renovating the middle
school and high school audi-
toriums, saying the two they
received were "not the best
value."

In addition, the board
approved a change in the
alternative accreditation plan
for Pampa Learning Center.
PLC leaders will use the
TAAS scores of students on
high school diploma tracks as
appraisal indicators.

Previously, PLC had sub-
mitted a plan using attend-
ance or credits earned as
evaluation indicators as in
Pampa High School, but
members of a review team
from the Texas Education
Agency who visited in
October suggested another
method.

Since PLC deals with a
number of at-risk students,
the school's leaders decided
TAAS scores would be a bet-
ter indicator.

The board also heard, in

open session, the complaint
of a guardian of a middle
school student regarding
tardy policies.

The guardian, Frances
Higgins, said her grandson
was being punished for a
tardy he had no control over.
She and Kelly Lane, the
child's aunt, explained their
car had a flat tire, causing the
child to be late to school for a
third time.

The student handbook says
students are allowed three
tardies without punishment.
A fourth tardy in one semes-
ter requires a 50-minute ses-
sion in detention hall.

Higgins said she contacted
the school that her grandson
would be late. Middle school
Principal Tim Powers agreed,
but said that the next day the
child was tardy again.

Higgins said she told the
child's teacher that the tardy
was his fault because he "did-
n't watch the clock."

That fourth tardy would
normally trigger a punish-
ment, but Higgins and Lane
protested detention hall.
They felt the child should not
be given the punishment
because one of his tardies was
not his fault.

Powers explained that the
reason students are allowed
three tardies punishment-free
is for incidents out of their
control.

The board took no action,
thus upholding the punish-
ment.

Disciplinary hearings are
normally conducted in closed
session, but Higgins and Lane
requested an open hearing.

In the administrative report
session, held after the public
hearing, the board decided to
meet Saturday, Jan. 13, for a
superintendent and board
evaluation workshop as well
as to follow up on a work-
shop held last month on dis-
trict planning and goal set-
ting.

Powers told the board that
all sixth grade students will
begin using the Saxon Math
method at the first of next
semester, as well as all sev-
enth grade students in regu-
lar math classes.

By next year, Powers said,
the entire middle school will
be using the method.

Business manager McVay
reported on the Lone Star
Investment Pool, a pool he
said would be better long-
term for the school.

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Clarendon College still accepting donations for new campus facility fund

Pledges and donations are still being accepted by the Pampa Center Foundation for the proposed Clarendon College building to be located at the 1600 block of West Kentucky.

Checks should be made out to the Pampa Center Foundation and mailed to Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 900 N. Frost, Pampa, TX 79065. Donations are tax deductible.

Year-end donations can also be made to the Pampa Center Foundation in the form of memorials and honorariums.

"The goal for beginning construction is January 1997, but construction can not begin until all of the money for the \$4.9 million complex is raised," said Dr. Jerry Lane, counselor at Clarendon College Pampa Center. Applications are currently being written for area and national grants.

"We have been awed by the generosity of people in Pampa and the surrounding area," said Lane. "We are continuing to work toward our goal of \$600,000 through donations and pledges. We want to see our dream come true."

The pledges and donations have reached approximately \$550,000, and this is in addition to several in-kind donations, including the 12-acre site donated by Dr. Ray Hampton and family.

Plans are for a 54,000 square foot building that would provide an additional nine lecture classrooms, a computer lab, seven teacher offices, a multi-purpose

meeting-classroom, a student lounge, study areas, an EMT lab room and an electronics lab. The facility will be computer networked and cable television ready for access to Internet and distance learning.

"Through the use of two way-video conferencing, Pampa Center will be able to provide junior, senior, and graduate level courses," Lane said.

Approximately 22,050 students have taken courses at the local college during the 21 years courses have been offered in Pampa. The college has been located at 900 N. Frost in the former Sam Houston Elementary School building which is 65 years old and was built for elementary students.

A steering committee of Pampa citizens studied renovation possibilities and other site alternatives and concluded that a new facility was necessary in order to expand and to offer a quality, higher-education program in a collegiate atmosphere for Pampa and the surrounding area.

The local college program currently has a payroll of \$261,000 a year, with \$85,000 going for part-time instructor salaries. The remainder is for seven full-time staff.

With rising college costs, more students will take advantage of the local school and the smaller classroom situation, Lane said. With the distance learning capabilities, the curriculum can be expanded for students as well as area companies needing employee training.

Pampa Toastmasters officers



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

The Toastmasters of Pampa elected incoming officers for 1996. From left are Bart Arbuthnot, lieutenant governor of District 44 Toastmasters and installation officer; Daniel Silva, outgoing president; Alfonso Walker, president; Vernell Houska, vice president of education; Scott Flathouse, treasurer; and Gary Casebier, sergeant at arms.

State briefs

Thief steals toys meant for foster children

KINGSVILLE (AP) — Police in this South Texas city are trying to find the Grinch who stole toys that had been donated for some 40 foster children.

They didn't have to go too far to investigate the case. The toys were taken from a box just inside the Kingsville Police Department's front door.

Police Chief Felipe Garza said a receptionist sits behind a glass window in the lobby on weekdays, but the lobby is unattended at night and on weekends.

"We get a couple hundred people in and out of here every day," Garza said. "We don't have many officers going in there. It's not something you notice right away."

Officers had secured the toys in an evidence room at the end of each weekday, but they did not secure the weekend donations, Garza said.

Law allows nursing homes to battle allegations out of court

AUSTIN (AP) — Nursing homes facing state allegations of wrongdoing could fight those battles outside the court system under a new law taking effect next year.

The legal change will keep the state from forcing nursing homes into court to collect fines and penalties assessed for alleged wrongdoing.

Instead, nursing homes could opt for less public and less restrictive arbitration hearings.

Nursing homes and their allies say the new system will save money and time. But opponents say residents of Texas nursing homes will get less protection.

January hearing set in appeal by Davidians

WACO (AP) — Attorneys will appear next month before a federal court to seek reduced sentences for six of the eight Branch Davidians convicted in connection with the Feb. 28, 1993, gunfight that killed four federal agents.

Attorneys will appeal their cases Jan. 4 in oral arguments at the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. None of the members of the group once headed by David Koresh will be in court personally.

Four Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and six Koresh followers died during an exchange of gunfire that broke out when scores of agents on two trailers arrived at the cult compound 10 miles east of Waco to arrest Koresh on weapons charges.

"I think we've got some excellent points," Waco attorney Richard Ferguson, who represents Brad Branch, told the Waco Tribune-Herald. "If they don't give us some relief, we've got some pretty good grounds to go up to the Supreme Court."

White House, congressional negotiators reach accord on telecommunications bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A wide-ranging bill that would allow cable TV and local and long-distance companies to get into each other's businesses, lift price regulations on millions of cable customers and restrict smut on television and computers is a crucial step closer to becoming law.

The White House and key congressional negotiators said they reached agreement Wednesday on contentious media ownership provisions, the last big hurdle to reconciling separate telecommunications bills passed by each chamber this year.

The bill, which would be the most dramatic overhaul of U.S. communications law in 60 years, is supported by broadcasters and cable and local Bell telephone companies, and opposed by consumer groups. It was unclear whether the bill will satisfy long-distance com-

panies, who have waged a multi-billion-dollar lobbying campaign against provisions allowing the Bells to provide long-distance.

The White House had threatened a veto, but finally was won over by the compromise on media ownership and additional restrictions on Bell company entry into long-distance.

Vice President Al Gore said President Clinton would sign the legislation once the House and Senate act on it, expected this week or next.

While there was some concern whether House Republicans, who wanted more freedoms for media companies than the agreement provided, would accept it, a House GOP aide said Wednesday evening: "This bill is moving forward. There is tremendous momentum behind it."

"I learned not to declare win-

ners until they turn the scoreboard off," said Bill McCloskey, spokesman for BellSouth Corp., a regional Bell.

Long-distance companies had no immediate comment.

The bill would gradually deregulate cable companies that were put under government regulation just three years ago. Rates for customers of small systems would be deregulated immediately and rules on the rest of the industry would come off by 1999 or sooner upon local phone companies getting into the cable business.

In addition to banning transmission of sexually explicit and other indecent materials to kids over computer networks, the bill also would give parents a powerful new tool — a computer chip in TV sets allowing them to zap violent, sexually oriented and other objectionable shows off their screens.

Queen Elizabeth II urges royal couple to divorce

LONDON (AP) — Fed up with the bickering and fearing harm to the monarchy and the royal couple's two sons, Queen Elizabeth II has urged — some reports say ordered — Prince Charles and Diana to divorce soon.

"The queen wrote to both the prince and princess earlier this week and gave them her view ... that an early divorce is desirable," said a Buckingham Palace statement Wednesday night.

It said Charles has told Diana he agrees with his mother's plea, which the statement said is backed by his father, Prince Philip.

"The queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (Philip) will continue to do all they can to help and support the Prince and Princess of Wales,

and most particularly their children (William, 13, and Harry, 11) in this difficult period," the statement said.

Diana was reportedly in no rush to reply to her mother-in-law.

Under the headline "Diana keeping her options open," the Daily Mail tabloid today quoted an unnamed friend of the princess as saying that because her lawyers were on vacation for two weeks, "there is nothing she can do."

Diana said in a BBC television interview Nov. 20 that she did not want a divorce, indicating concern for her sons was the main reason. However, she added: "I await my husband's decision of which way we are all going to go."

Home insurers cite weather, propose state rate increase

AUSTIN (AP) — Insurance companies say Texas' volatile weather has created a need for higher average homeowners' insurance rates.

Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, says the industry's rate-hike request can be described in three words.

"Weather, weather, weather." "The threat of potentially violent weather has been demonstrated by hail storms in Dallas and Fort Worth in excess of \$1 billion and a similar hail disaster in Austin, costing \$125 million," Johns said.

Insurers and consumer advocates argued Wednesday before administrative law judges over where the benchmark, or average, homeowners' insurance rate should be set.

Insurance groups are seeking increases ranging from 1.7 percent to 7.4 percent. However, the Office of Public Insurance Counsel, a state agency that argues issues on behalf of consumers, recommended an overall 3.5 percent reduction in benchmark rates.

The judges hearing the annual rate review didn't immediately make a decision but ultimately will make a recommendation to Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer. Any change he approves in the benchmark rates could take effect next year.

The benchmark varies

between the state's 23 insurance rating territories. In each area, insurers can charge from 30 percent below to 30 percent above the state-set rate.

Under insurance group proposals, renters' benchmark rates would be as much as 20.4 percent lower, while homeowners' average rates would see increases of as much as 8.3 percent.

Noting that any change to benchmark rates does not automatically mean changes for individual policyholders, insurers say they need a slightly higher benchmark to protect themselves from growing claims.

But consumer groups said insurers already collect enough.

The Office of Public Insurance Counsel's recommendation would include a 1.5 percent drop for homeowners' rates and a 26.4 percent cut for average renters' rates.

During the meeting, a consumer group new to Texas staged a protest because it was prohibited from speaking or asking questions of other case participants.

United Policyholders of Texas filed its paperwork to be a party to the case in time, but refused a request from State Farm Insurance Co. to produce a list of its members.

The judges said the group had to produce the list and could not participate otherwise.

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays and holidays by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Second class postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: Wayland Thomas
Managing Editor: Larry Hollis
Advertising Director: Rick Clark
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Pampa, Texas

Viewpoints

GOP losing its taste for freedom

THE PAMPA NEWS
EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

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Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Welcome back, Senator Bob

At times in recent months, it has been almost pathetic to watch Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., run for president. The Senate majority leader has contorted himself, forsaking his long record of solid, sensible, Midwestern conservatism for positions that looked as if they were dictated from the playbook of the fringe Right. Apparently he was convinced that he had to do so if he wanted to win his party's nomination. Recently, the old Bob Dole seemed to emerge, and a welcome sight it was. Let us hope this is the start of a new effort that will let Dole be Dole.

Earlier this month, Sen. Dole announced he would support President Clinton's deployment of 20,000 American service members to Bosnia to help implement the peace agreement among the belligerents there.

He'd have preferred to see the arms embargo against the Bosnian government lifted so there would have been no need to send American troops, Dole said. But since that policy was not adopted and the president now has decided that Americans will go in, Dole said, he deserves Congress' support.

Dole's principled, partisanship-ends-at-the-water's-edge approach contrasted sharply with the strident opposition to the Bosnian mission of his harshest GOP rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas. And it was all the more impressive because the Bosnian deployment is not popular with the American people.

It would be preferential that the U.S. commitment hadn't been made. But once made and relied upon by the parties, it must be honored. America's honor and leadership are at stake.

The old Dole emerged in another context as well. Speaking before he appeared at a Christmas parade in South Carolina, the majority leader said he would support extending the current continuing resolution rather than allowing the government to shut down again if there has been no agreement on a budget between Congress and the president by Dec. 15.

"Around the holidays isn't the time to be closing down the federal government," he said.

It may be that, having seen by the example of House Speaker Newt Gingrich where relentless partisanship can lead, Dole has been emboldened to assert himself and his natural instinct as a legislative compromiser.

Whatever, it is a pleasure to see these glimmers of the old Bob Dole. Welcome back, Bob.

In his 1960 manifesto *The Conscience of a Conservative*, Barry Goldwater said that "there is no difficulty in identifying the day's overriding political challenge: It is to preserve and extend freedom." Ronald Reagan never tired of echoing that theme, declaring in his second inaugural address that Americans should strive for "the ultimate in human freedom consistent with an orderly society."

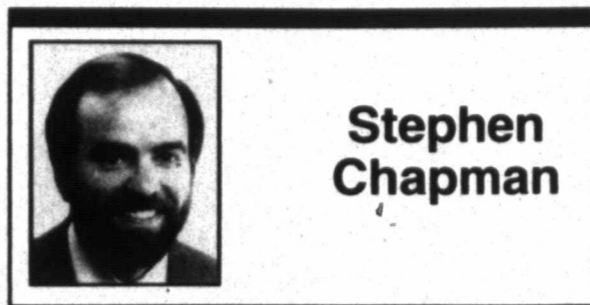
Congressional Republicans are supposed to be the heirs of Goldwater and Reagan, but freedom is a word seldom on their lips and even less seldom on their legislative docket. They are more at home curtailing our rights than protecting them.

In truth, Goldwater and Reagan were not consistent libertarians; they knew the words of freedom but were often deaf to the music. The Gingrichites on Capitol Hill, however, have shown little interest in either. When Newt Gingrich invokes the Declaration of Independence, he quotes the part about being "endowed by our Creator," not the part about "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

None of the 10 promises in the GOP Contract With America was concerned with augmenting personal liberty. In fact, the document didn't contain a single reference to the issue. Tax cuts, term limits, the death penalty, anti-missile defenses, tort reform and a balanced budget amendment - all found a place. Safeguarding the rights and autonomy of individual Americans from overreaching government power, once a vital concern of conservatives, did not.

The GOP agenda has not changed for the better since last November. The strong repressive impulse long evident in most Republicans has become even more pronounced with their new power.

The constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration illustrates the urge to silence unpalatable dissent. In its 1989 decision striking down a Texas flag-burning statute, the Supreme Court recognized that the law served to punish a form of political expression purely because of its offensive content. But Republicans (along with quite a few Democrats) would like to incorporate that explicit suppression of symbolic speech into the Constitution.



Stephen Chapman

Why? Because desecration of the flag offends "American values," said the amendment's co-sponsor, Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch. Banning it, however, spurns the response to offensive ideas envisioned by the First Amendment - which is for people who disagree to make the case for their own ideas. If Congress is going to outlaw every type of expression that offends our values, it will be very busy.

Republicans do not shrink from the task. They have been fighting for months for a measure that would virtually end political advocacy by non-profit organizations that commit the unpardonable sin of accepting federal grants authorized by the Republican Congress.

The supposed goal is to end "welfare for lobbyists" and to stop tax dollars from being used for lobbying. But the latter is already against the law,

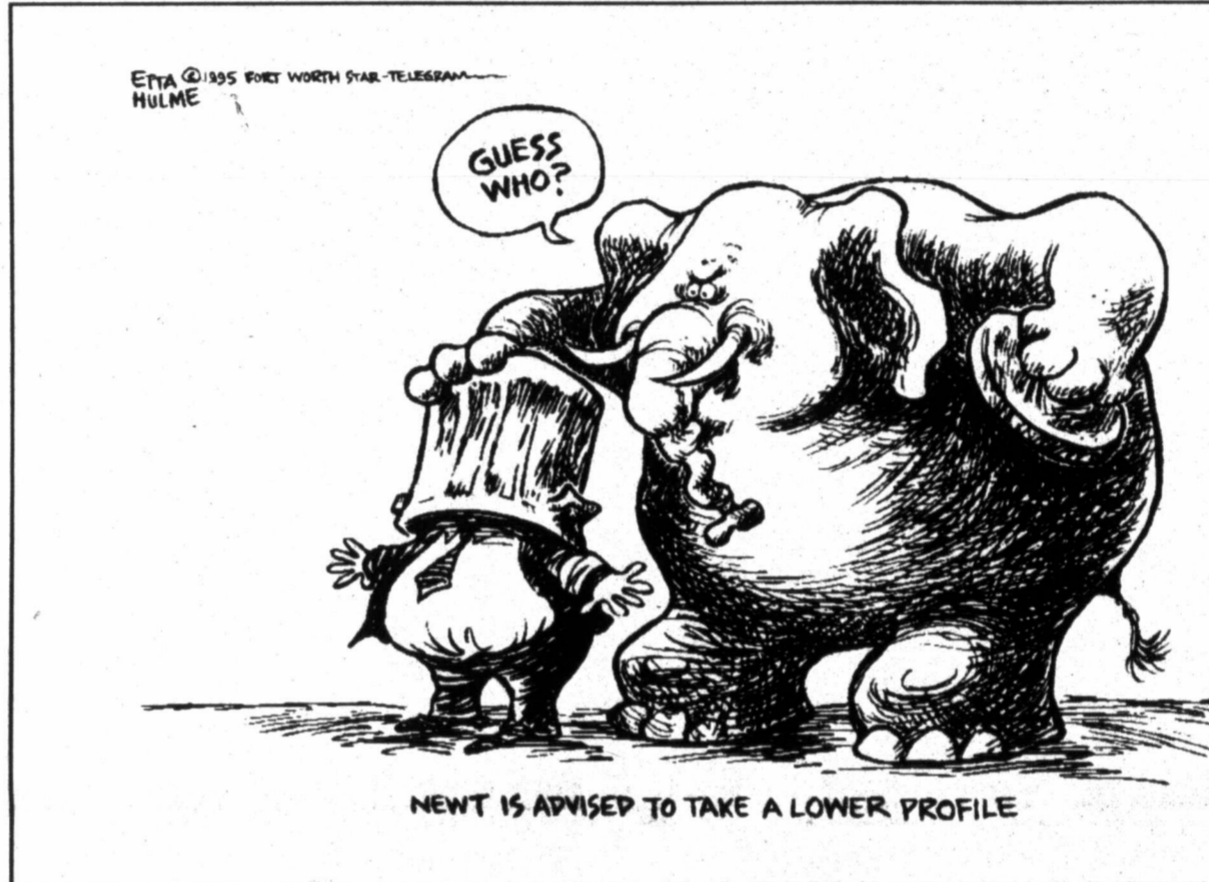
and Republicans have not been able to find any actual violations. Their real objective is to muzzle groups that have had the gall to question the GOP's legislative agenda. As in the case of flag desecration, the Republicans are saying quite candidly: We don't agree with you, and we will use any means available to shut you up.

The censorial impulse also made itself felt in the debate over what to do about sexual material on the Internet, which both houses have resolved by electing to ban anything "indecent" that could possibly be accessible to minors - with infractions punishable by a \$100,000 fine and five years in prison. Erotic photos and four-letter words that are perfectly legal in magazines made with ink and paper will be illegal in magazines composed of electronic impulses.

But it would be deeply unfair to accuse Republicans of hypocrisy, since they would be delighted to forbid "indecent" in traditional media as well. The Meese Commission on Pornography, you will recall, threatened dark consequences for convenience stores that merely sold *Playboy* magazine. There you have the GOP view: A society that allows *Playboy* cannot be considered a decent society.

A party that was truly dedicated to the cause of human liberty would take the opposite view: A society cannot be considered decent if it does not tolerate *Playboy*, flag-burning, criticism of the government even by groups that get money from the government and all sorts of other activities that offend many and even most people.

Ronald Reagan once said, "There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect." Today's Republicans think it's high time we erected some.



Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 1995. There are ten days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 21, 1898, scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered radium.

On this date:
In 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at what is now Plymouth, Mass.

In 1891, basketball is believed to have been played for the first time, at Springfield College in Massachusetts.

In 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published, in the Sunday supplement of the New York World.

In 1914, the first feature-length silent film comedy, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," was released.

In 1942, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled all states had to recognize divorces granted in Nevada.

In 1945, 50 years ago, Gen. George S. Patton died of injuries he suffered in a car accident in Heidelberg, Germany.

Your representatives

- State Rep. Warren Chisum**
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Pampa Phone: 665-3552
Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
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- U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison**
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Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922
- U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm**
Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Washington Phone: (202) 224-2934
- Texas Gov. George W. Bush**
P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711
Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789

'Decline of the American Republic'

Charley Reese

I like to read old books. That way, with hindsight, you can tell if the author knew what he was talking about.

When you read a lot you'll find that not much besides names and numbers change. Human nature seems constant and human problems have a way of just recycling themselves.

In *The Decline of the American Republic* by John T. Flynn, published in 1955, you find both a discussion of the federal deficit and an attempt to pass a balanced budget amendment - no more successful, of course, than the attempt this year.

"Next in order," writes Flynn in his prescription for saving the Republic, "should be the adoption of what is known as the Bridges-Byrd amendment to the Constitution to protect the people, their institutions, and their liberties from the outrageous abuses of power in the hands of a federal administration (Eisenhower's) armed not only with the immense power to tax without limit but to borrow without limit. It is that dangerous weapon that has been used to bring the government to the brink of bankruptcy."

When this was published, the total federal budget was \$67.7 billion, the deficits were double digits, and the entire national debt was \$277 billion - about what we pay today in annual interest on the \$5 trillion national debt.

So, you can see, that in 40 years the federal gov-

ernment's budget has grown from \$67 billion to \$1.4 trillion and the debt has grown from \$277 billion to \$5 trillion. Part of this huge increase just reflects our devalued currency, an inevitable result of deficit spending. A dollar today is worth only about 5 cents in purchasing power compared to what a dollar would buy in 1955.

Only 30 years ago, I thought that if I could ever make \$10,000 a year I'd be on an easy street. Today, \$10,000 a year puts you well below the poverty level.

So, the next time some guy says it's not important to balance the budget or someone wants to know what's wrong with deficit spending, you can tell them: it destroys the purchasing power of the dollar. It robs people of their savings through inflation.

That's how governments go bankrupt. They don't pay their bills - they just pay them in depreciated currency. Old Ernie Hemingway was dead right when he said, in the 1930s: "The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency; the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity; both bring a permanent ruin. But both are

the refuge of political and economic opportunists." If we are going to avoid permanent ruin, then we will have to get a lot more serious about politics and start rooting out the political and economic opportunists no matter where we find them.

There is no secret, there is nothing esoteric about managing a government. It has to be done the same way a family or a small business manages their affairs. You must spend less than you take in and you must save rather than borrow.

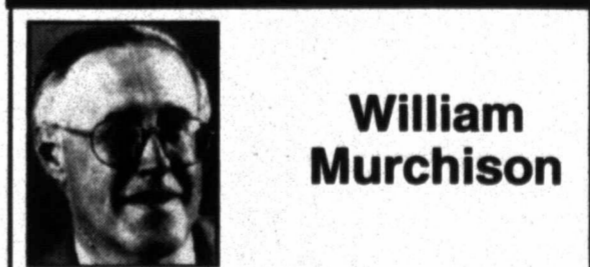
Politicians by borrowing pretend to be giving the people something for nothing. "Look what I can give you and I don't have to raise your taxes," they say. But, of course, they lie, because eventually taxes will have to be raised, not only to pay the principal, but to pay the interest on the borrowed money.

As a nation, we're about at the end of the rope. We will have to decide soon if we are tired and wish to let go and fall or if we have the strength to start climbing back up the cliff to safety.

I have no crystal ball. I just have a hunch the American people, on the whole, are too gutsy and sensible to give up and let the opportunists take them all the way down.

The American people always were in the past. A financier said it well: "You'll lose if you sell Americans short."

Think Gingrich's wild? Consider Bonior



William Murchison

Like Phil Gramm, when it comes to public affairs, I rely on "my mama" as wind gauge and sounding board. "My mama" isn't happy with Newt Gingrich at the moment, but her unhappiness doesn't track House Democratic Whip David Bonior.

Bonior, as Dick Arme pointed out on *Nightline*, hates Gingrich with a deep hatred and wants him not just called to account for alleged ethical abuses but also put to screaming flight, along with the rest of his tribe.

You can see Bonior's point. Here's a party - Boniors - without an idea that commends itself to most modern voters. It's wedded to the social programs of 30 years ago, even those that (like welfare) hurt more than they help and that (like Medicare) cost more than we can afford.

So, Bonior attacks Gingrich: an easy enough target in all conscience. He's as volatile as he is voluble, and that's a lot. The House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct plans to hire a tax lawyer who will look at esoteric complaints that center on outside donations to a college course taught by Gingrich.

Bonior boastfully claims victory - notwithstanding that the committee exonerated the speaker on 64 other charges the Democrats had lodged against him and notwithstanding either that a former Internal Revenue commissioner, Donald Alexander, *already* has examined the charges and declared them to be "based upon a fundamental misunderstanding" of the tax code.

But that's OK. Bonior doesn't require justice in the abstract. He requires the thwarting of the Contract With America. That's what all this is

about. It's also what stirs "my mama" to indignation - not so much at Bonior for seeing his chance and taking it as at Gingrich for the kind of slovenliness that puts him, and the Contract, in such jeopardy. "Just when the Republicans get a chance to do something," she groaned by telephone. You can extrapolate the rest.

Well, she has a point. The speaker has a bad habit of not attending to business - or, in another sense, of attending to it so precisely as to overwhelm it. The gentleman from Georgia can be a bull in a china shop. We all know this. He knows it himself.

Do we hold it against him? I don't think so. We owe him too much, for one thing. How did the bull get in there to begin with? we need to ask. He muscled his way in.

Before Gingrich, House Republicans were a bunch of sissies: They're too timorous to take on the Democrats at their own game, much less beat them. Gingrich provided his colleagues with intellectual and financial firepower. We all see what happened last November.

The speaker does need to cool it some. But a cool Gingrich is a contradiction in terms - like a hard-boiled soufflé or a temperate speech by David Bonior. Gingrich simply doesn't operate "cool." If he did, Speaker Tom Foley might now be negotiating the budget with Bill Clinton.

In the end, Gingrich's power - which includes the power to undermine that power - rests less upon his personal skills than on the shifting tides of political fortune. These aren't big government times any more. No wonder Bonior is stressed out! The conservative philosophy, which Newt adopted rather than invented, drives Washington.

History is headed Gingrich's way. Just in the last few days, another seven Democratic office-holders in Alabama, Maryland and Louisiana switched to the GOP. That's 168 since Bill Clinton's inauguration. The number of Republicans going the opposite way? Zero.

My mama, and possibly Sen. Gramm's as well, frets that too much public capering by the speaker could undercut the "revolution" the speaker himself hopes to promote: the curbing of runaway government, the lowering of taxes and the handing off of federal power to the states.

It is likelier that the speakers caperings will slow the revolution than derail it, as Bonior hopes. This thing, I would hate to tell the speaker, is bigger than he is. On the other hand, why take chances? Newt does need to slow down - to reflect more and talk less.

As for Bonior, his need is greater still. The bearded bomb-thrower from Michigan needs, for his sake and ours, to get a life.

Berry's World



"My wife has a thing about saving empty boxes that we may need someday."

Overhaul of welfare system moves toward votes in the House, Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — A massive overhaul of the nation's welfare system, designed to get more people to work and give states more control, is moving toward final votes in the House and Senate.

The GOP-led House, which made welfare reform a part of its "Contract with America," was preparing to take action today.

The compromise bill faces a tougher path in the Senate where critics worry it cuts spending too much — something that also could prompt a Clinton veto.

The sweeping legislation would replace the 60-year-old federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program with block grants to states; trim food stamp benefits; and curb aid to immigrants, disabled children, drug addicts and alcoholics. It also would include an experimental change in the federal school lunch program instead of turning it totally into a state-run program financed with federal block grants.

The bill would save an estimated \$58 billion over seven years, House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, said Wednesday after the blended version of the House and Senate bills emerged from a conference committee.

"This bill achieves long overdue welfare reform by stressing work, personal responsibility and the return of power and flexibility to the states," said Archer, whose committee wrote much of the bill.

Details of compromise bill weren't expected until later today, but four moderate Republican senators who had been watching its progress closely raised concerns that could hurt its chances in the Senate.

Saying they were "dismayed at the significant changes made to the Senate bill in conference," the four senators outlined specific objections in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

The committee cut \$14 billion more out of the various welfare programs over seven years than the Senate bill did, said Republican Sens. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, William Cohen of Maine, John Chafee of Rhode Island and Olympia Snowe of Maine.

That added cut includes \$4.1 billion from chil-

dren's Supplemental Security Income, \$2.7 billion from child welfare and foster care programs, \$5.8 billion from programs for immigrants and \$1.4 billion from mandatory child care spending, they said.

The moderates said they also opposed several policy changes made by the conference committee, including:

—Severing the linkage between AFDC and foster care eligibility and Medicaid. They said that action would virtually eliminate health care protection for millions of women and children.

—Creating a system for deciding which children would be eligible for Supplemental Security Income that would make "arbitrary distinctions between disabled children."

—Establishing block grants to cover costs of foster care and adoption assistance programs, releasing states from the federal regulations designed to eliminate abuse that had existed in some foster care situations.

—Cutting child care spending to \$6.6 billion, which is \$1.4 billion less than in the Senate bill.

Republicans and Democrats, including President Clinton, have long called for reforming the welfare system to move more people to work. But the parties generally diverge on how best to achieve that goal with Democrats largely believing that programs for the poor are a national responsibility.

Clinton once praised the Senate-passed welfare bill, but indicated he would veto the conference version if it cut too deeply.

Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt. and Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., also have reservations about the compromise version.

Both were on the conference committee and refused for weeks to sign off on House demands that the federal school lunch program be replaced with block grants. At least one of their signatures was needed.

Jeffords gave in when negotiators agreed to limit block grants to demonstration projects in no more than one state in each of seven regions. He cautioned his action wasn't a signal of how he would vote on the floor.

Helping the Christmas angels



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Dennis Godwin, standing, First American SSB main bank branch manager, along with Andrea Baker, supervisor of First American's North branch office in Pampa, and Cheryl Waters, assistant main bank branch manager, show all the gifts bought for 23 children, or angels. Twenty-one area businesses were the sponsors for the children who asked for clothing items as well as toys. Pampa Community Day Care Center also supplied the names of children for the sponsors for the project to help provide Christmas gifts for needy children.

Department to ease payment of farm subsidies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers may have as long as three years to return \$1.7 billion in advance subsidy payments that were made before corn and wheat prices skyrocketed.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Wednesday his department would announce the relief as early as this week. Senate Democrats said the Agriculture Department would give farmers up to three years to repay the money.

The refunds have been a selling point for the Republican farm plan, contained in a larger budget-balancing bill being negotiated

between the Clinton administration and congressional Republicans.

The GOP-passed plan, which would give farmers lump-sum payments that decline over seven years, won farmer support partly because it will let growers deduct the refunds from their next year.

Glickman and other Democrats have criticized the Republican plan, engineered by Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, for rewarding farmers when crop prices are high.

Subsidies traditionally fall when crop prices rise. The Republican

plan would end the traditional subsidies and the red tape surrounding them, using the lump-sum payments to ease the switch.

A House Agriculture Committee aide, Tom Hemmer, said Glickman's announcement on repayments undercut Democratic arguments. USDA is acknowledging that "many farmers, despite high prices, are experiencing extreme financial difficulties this year," he said.

Most farm programs end Dec. 31, putting pressure on Congress to either agree or extend existing programs. At this point, even Democrats are feuding among themselves.

BIG NATE'S SECRET SANTA by Lincoln Peirce



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Letters to Santa

To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,
I want a kaputgame. I want a now book and my mom want a nekles. My dad want a dekrashens for the Christmas tree. I want a saga for Christmas. I want a lot of toys. Santa can you bild a snowman? Santa I had a party.
love,
John Ulloa

Dear Santa,
I want a baby doll and a baby dog and I bin gud. My sistr wants a cd plaer and my litter sistr want a baby doll too. My mom wants a cd too. and my dad wants a cd too. And my flamy wants sum tvchrase. And I want sum close. And my flamy wants sum colse too. I ned toohave a pars of snow boots.
Love,
Andrea Burkhalter

Dear Santa,
I like a dall and scates and a bus. My sister has ben good to. So have I and my bruther has ben good. My bruther wots a car. All of us has ben good. My sister wots a bebgun. And I wot a stocing. My mom wots clos. My dad wots shoes. I wots a big prasit it will a ball. I ned snow boots. My bruther all so wood like a bus.
love,
Traci Rodriguez

Dear Santa
Will you get a ring for my mom? She has wanted one from you. I wood also want new ear rings and a baby dall. My mom and dad have bin good too. I allso want a computer. Will you get my kittins a stokeying? They will like one. How are your elfs doing? My list is at home. I allso want a baby brother. How do your elfs make all thos toys?
Love,
Amber Rena Williams

Dear Santa
I want a doll. I want a cat. I want a swing. I want a toybox. I want a house. I want a ball. My brothr wots a jeep. My mom wots a car. My dad wots a car too. I want a bice. I want a nekles. I want toys. I want some dows. I want some shoes. I want a swing. I want a cat. I want some dows. I want some shoos. I want som books.
Love,
Krista Kay McClelland

Dear Santa
I wot like a cmpuotr. I wot a bop bed. I do want a granfather kloc. I want a cat. I want a bonerabet. I do mont a transet. I want a hot whel set. I want a game boy. I want a soprntendoe.
love,
Bobby Helm

Dear Santa,
I want a toy jeep. My baby brothr wants a toy jeep like me. I want a pet dog? I want a nu set of tires? My sestr wants a pet cat? My mom wants som candle for Christmas? My dad want the bordr patrol.
love Zachery Fullagar

Dear Santa,
I want a saga. My mom wants a indan book. I want a big ball a big puppy to. I have ben a good girl. I want a Christmas shirt to. I'm going to bake cookies for you. I can bild a good snowman. Win is Christmas eve. We can have Christmas diner. We have gifts under the tree. We have lights on our tree. Lets have a good Christmas.
love,
Geneva Wildcat

Dear Santa,
We all wot a happy Christmas. I bin a good good girl. Will you fix my dads back? Santa ples bring me a my size brbe.
love,
Brandy Parks

Dear Santa;
I want a red bice. I want a bol and I want a play bat. Ples! What duz my btr want for Christmas he wants a soqr bol. whant dus my mom four Christmas she want a plan nekles. wohnt dus my dad want four Christmas he wants tools. I whant a mrdslcl bat. I whant a defret bice. I whant a vdvases bice.
Love,
Kelsi Hinds

Dear Santa,
Merre Christmas. Bring my sistr a walkeytok. I ben good. Ples giv me a cat and a dog. I love you santa. How is rwedofoo. I hope your not sigke. I got candy on my tree. I am going to mak a snowman. It is going to be fun I hope. I whnt a Christmas bells. Wulde you bring me a angel be cus I like thim.
love,
Alicia Laycock

Dear Santa,
I bin a good girl and my sistr bin a good girl to. Now I want a barbie. And a babydol. I hope you breing me a Christmas angel. Odar my Christmastree. I want a babycat and a little Santa.
love,
Megan Addington

Dear Santa
Will you bring me a Barbejeep? Santa Will you bring a Christmas tree? Santa will you bring me a Barbe. Santa will you bring me a puppye. Santa will you bring me a book. Santa will you bring me a candy cane.
love Dulces Baca

Dear Santa,
You are my faft Santa. Santa you are a very nice man. Santa I have a baby sistr. Santa do you no what? Santa I wish you can bring me two pits of candy. Santa I wut a cat and a dog.
Love
Kera Pendrgrass

Dear Santa,
Ples bring me a jack in the box. We have a lot of preses. I can't wat til Christmas. Ples bring me a bike. Ples bring me a pupye. Don't bring me a cat. Ples bring us sum chickin. I am going to bild a snowman. I am going to get a kert nos for my snowman. Ples bring my mom sum food. Ples bring my brutr a bike. Ples bring my brutr a gotcar.
Love,
Lisa Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I want Mortal kombat 3 and doctor dreankfuls food lab. I want a remot control car. I want a remot and a nife. I whant gack and phone gack. Ples bring me sub-zero and scorpion. Will you pleas bring me creapycrallers?
love,
Jake Russell

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Ples bring me a guitar and a mountain bike. Yull finde my house at Sumner street a 2 story house. Ples bring me a candy cane in my stocking. The reindeer can't be to loud you mite wake up

my mom and dad. I have bin good.
Love,
Jordan Miller

Dear Santa,
How is the elfs working? Santa I wut a nife. Santa I wut a nuow supr nitndle. Santa I wut a big nitndl. I wut a big bibi gun. Santa I wut a nitndl game. I wut a big shot gun. Santa I wut a big gack. Will you ples bring a big bike? Will you ples bring me a nuow regulr nitndlo.
love,
Shawn Johnson

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is he well? Is your elfs bise making boys and girls stuf? I want a big doll house and a big trampolen. Ples bring me a peice of paper to Rite on a pecher and a cabeg pache kid. My sistrs want a tee shirt with there name on it.
Love,
Erica Arreola

Dear Santa
How is Rudolph? Ples bring me a mountain bike. Will you ples bring me a doll house? Ples bring me two bells off your reindeer. My mom wants a new house. My dad wants a car, a red one. My bruther wants a little toy car.
Love,
Amber Fisher

Dear Santa
I wood like a batman and a new base ball bat. But what I wood like for my mom is a necklace with a rose. For my dad a too belt. For my 2 dogs a ruber ball. ok? But I rily want a reindeer bell.
love,
Michael Cooper

Dear Santa,
Ples can I have a gliter rader, a jazzy jewelry and a baby so rel. How is your reindeers today Santa? I ben good this year Santa. I will leve sumthing out sumthing good this year for you Santa. Come to my house frst Santa. Ples can my sistr morgan have a pokahotis, sega game, a barbay minny van, and fantasteck finger nels.
Love,
Brittany Reagan

Dear Santa,
Will you come to my home? Will you go to my home. I want a dog for Christmas. I want a cat for Christmas. I want a bell for Christmas. Santa I want a gifts for Christmas. I want a tree for Christmas. I want a angel for Christmas. I want a light for Christmas. Love,
Molly Davis

Dear Santa,
I am 5-years-old. This is what want a white Ranger and his Falcan, Rollerblades, Rebound Remote control car, and V-Tech computer and ples bring my sister and I SNES Donkey Kong Country.
Have a Merry Christmas!
Love,
Keith Rollins

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a 10 speed bike, and a clay spinwheel you can make clay pots out of it. I would like to have a C.D player and some tapes to go with it too if you give me some tapes these are some I would like Sallena, Faith Hill, and Martina McBride, Mariah Carey and I would like a camra.
Love,
Teri Rollins

Dear Santa.
I am 5 years old.
My name is Jacob Maciel.
I want a new bike.
Foot ball an vcr.

Dear Santa
I want Doctor Dreadful food land. AND A Rock collection (in my stoking). I want a Game Boy and a candy caney. And the power rengers movy and a toy renedeer an a power pro Geckter and in my stoking a rock.
Love Jonathan Maciel

Dear Santa,
My name is Kyle. I am 6 years old. I have been good this year. I would like for you to bring me a rocket and a robot. I would also like another Robin action figure because my dog chewed up my other one.
Thank you.
Love,
Kyle Hargus.

Dear Santa,
My name is Paige and I am 3-years-old. I have been a good girl this year. Would you please bring me a High Stepper Horse for my Barbie Doll and a Braid 'n Beauty Pocahontus?
I will leave some milk and cookies for you.
Love,
Paige Hargus

Dear Santa
I want a TV, tranpoline, baby all gone, a new coat, and a teddy bear.
Love,
Lauren Denney
7 years old

Dear Santa:
I love you! Please get me a Princess Bride Doll and T.V. with movies. Also, Santa, could you get my little brother Jared some toys and clothes. One more thing, please get me an angel for my little Christmas tree.
Thank you,
Jessica Miner

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas,
My name is Kirby Broaddus, and I am 6 1/2-years-old. I have a sister, Shelby, who is 13-months. So I am helping her write to you also. She would like a Baby Tumbles, a telephone, a talking ball and a riding car. I would like a Doodle Bear, a talking girl, tapes and video movies and whatever else you would like to bring us. Be careful. We will leave you a snack.
Love,
Kirby and Shelby Broaddus

Dear Sauta.
I Love you. I've been a good girl. Please bring me a ballerina TeDox (Teddy) playtime puppy snowwhite video
Please bring my bubba a batman toy. I want a bike too. Thank you
I want to put Rudolph I am five years old. Bubba is two.
Love, Danielle Frazier

Dear Santa
my name is Lindsay Garmon. I am 14-months-old. My Mommy is writing for me.
I would like some clothes, shoes, toys and anything else you think I might like to have.
Santa please remember all the other little boys and girls. We will also leave you some cookies and milk!
Love Lindsay Garmon
P.S. I hope you have a safe trip.

Honored for service



(Pampa News photo)
Jimmy Jeffers, left, accepts a plaque for his service to Genesis House from David Gantz, president of the board of the adolescent drug and alcohol abuse treatment facility, during recent ceremonies at a luncheon of the Genesis House board of directors at Dyer's Bar-B-Que in Pampa.

Nation briefs

Mill workers sentenced to life in prison

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Two mill workers were sentenced to life in prison for their roles in the death of a co-worker who was beaten and thrown into a vat of wood pulp with a 50-pound weight tied to his neck. Michael Hirn, 31, and Reynold Moore, 49, must serve 15 years before becoming eligible for parole, Circuit Judge James Bayorgeon said Wednesday in sentencing the last of six defendants. Moore maintained his innocence and pleaded for leniency; Hirn said he was ashamed of his role in the Nov. 21, 1992, death of co-worker Thomas Monfils. A jury convicted Hirn, Moore and four co-workers at the James River Corp. mill of killing Monfils after accusing him of telling police about Keith Kutska's plans to steal an extension cord.

Culprit calls police to stop robbery in progress

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A man's 911 call stopped a burglary in progress — his own. Ronald Haegele slipped into a health center on Tuesday and hid in a bathroom until the building closed, police said. After discovering that valuable equipment and medicines were locked up, he started stuffing office supplies into his pocket. Then he realized there was no way out.

American jet crashes, no survivors

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — An American Airlines jetliner carrying 164 people from Miami crashed in the Andes Mountains on its final approach to the southwestern Colombian city of Cali. There appeared to be no survivors. The cause of the crash, which happened Wednesday evening in an active rebel area, was not known. A local military battalion reached the scene today, and the army said in a statement that there were no survivors. American Airlines, in a statement from its Fort Worth headquarters, said everyone on board apparently was killed. American Airlines said the plane was carrying 156 passengers — including four infants — and eight crew members. The army said 152 people were on board. It did not explain the discrepancy. "The plane plunged into a hill and was reduced to little pieces," said a statement from a local military post in Buga, a town 40 miles north of Cali. Flight 965 lost radio contact while flying over Buga on Wednesday evening, officials said. Police said they received telephone calls from people in the area reporting an explosion. "We saw when the plane crashed against a mountain and then a huge fireball erupted," witness Carlos Buitrago told Radio Caracol. He said skies were clear.

Dinosaurs brooded like birds, dramatic fossil find shows

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have found the fossil remains of a dinosaur sitting on a nest of eggs like a mother hen, a spectacular discovery that suggest birds inherited this behavior from dinosaurs. The nine-foot-long creature, which resembled a wingless ostrich with a long tail and arms, died in Mongolia's Gobi Desert some 70 million to 80 million years ago. It may have been engulfed in a giant sandstorm. The discovery is astonishing, said dinosaur expert David Weishampel of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Scientists didn't know that dinosaurs brooded their nests, he said. And the fossil is "amazingly beautiful," he said. "It's just there. Without any imagination at all you can imagine this critter sitting on a nest." Jack Horner, curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Mont., said he considered it "one of the two best specimens of dinosaur fossils ever found" because it reveals behavior. "We've had nests and babies and all sorts of things, but we had never had the direct evidence of the parent with the eggs," Horner said. "By far this is the strongest evidence of some kind of parental attention." The find is reported in today's issue of the journal *Nature* by researchers at the American Museum of Natural History in

New York, George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia. The dinosaur is called an oviraptor. Mark Norell of the museum, lead author on the paper, said it's no surprise to him that oviraptors brooded because they were so closely related to birds. Paul Sereno, an associate professor of paleontology at the University of Chicago, said that before the fossil was found scien-

tists could only guess that oviraptor brooded. "Here we have a smoking gun," Sereno said.

ists could only guess that oviraptor brooded. "Here we have a smoking gun," Sereno said.

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Dr. Philips wishes to announce the relocation of his office to 408 W. Kingsmill, Suite 100 in the Hughes Bld. 669-1242

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All other DEADLINES will remain at their regular times. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your friends a safe and happy holiday.

Newsmakers

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio - Technical Sgt. Joe Lemke, a 1982 Pampa High School graduate, Air Force Reservist and resident of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, was recognized recently as a superior performer in the 445th Airlift Wing (U.S. Air Force Reserve).

The recognition came as a result of the 445th AW Quality Air Force Assessment in September. A team from Air Force Reserve Headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., visited the 445th for a week to assess the unit's ability to accomplish its mission of training and providing resources to meet global taskings. The unit did very well in the overall assessment, thanks in part to the distinguished efforts of unit members like Lemke, Wing officials said.

Lemke is an Air Force Materiel Command supply advisor in the 88th Support Group and an active duty Air Force advisor to the 445th Combat Logistics Support Squadron, part of the 445th AW. He has been in the Air Force for 13 years. The sergeant and his wife Theresa have two children, Joshua, 10, and Thomas, 4.

The 445th Airlift Wing consists of four attached groups and 14 squadrons (including the 445th CLSS), with approximately 2,200 reservists altogether. The unit's mission is to maintain operational readiness, provide strategic transport of personnel and equipment, provide aeromedical evacuation, and recruit and train toward these goals. The unit flies the C-141B Starlifter, a long-range troop and cargo transport.

ABILENE - Homecoming at Hardin-Simmons University had a different twist this year. Instead of the annual All School Sing, students were given the opportunity to participate in the Broadway musical, *Guys and Dolls*.

Guys and Dolls was presented Nov. 2-5 in HSU's Behrens Chapel by the School of Music and the department of theater.

Students involved came from all different areas of study including biology and English. This added a unique diversity to the cast.

Tracy Bruton of Pampa portrayed the role of Sightseer.

Major parts in the production were double-cast because, as Dr. James Ivey said, "I just couldn't make up my mind... there was so much talent in the auditions."

Guys and Dolls is a musical comedy set during the era of gamblers and the ministry of the Salvation Army in New York City.

CLARENDON - Clarendon College students were recognized for their academic accomplishments with the release of the President's List and Dean's Honor Roll.

The President's List highlights students taking 12 or more hours and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Among those making this list was Joe Hunter of Pampa.

Students who maintained a 3.6 to 3.9 GPA were named to the Dean's Honor Roll. Among those making this list were Jeffery Beyer, Melanie Brasier and Brenda Taylor, all of Pampa; Ginger Hannon of Lefors; Rodney Ingersoll of Allison; Chad Williams of White Deer; and Lance Lindley of Shamrock.

NEW YORK - Three Oklahoma State University students have captured the first-ever team competition prize in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers National Student Design Competition.

The award, which consists of a \$600 stipend, was presented during the Institute's annual meeting held last month in Miami Beach, Fla.

One of the team members, Jamie Jo Simons, previously held summer posts with Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group and with the Natural Gas Clearinghouse in Ringwood, Okla. Graduating this month, Simons has accepted a post as a process engineer at the Hoechst Celanese Pampa Plant in Pampa, Texas.

She is active in Blackwell, Okla., a native of AICHE and the Society of Women Engineers and has served as a Red Cross volunteer and a student academic mentor.

Also working on the winning project, "Production of Methanol by a New Process Utilizing Methyl Formate as an Intermediate," were Janet L. Wilson of Ponca City, Okla., and Ulrike L. Krause of Holsteinischer, Germany.

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Bride Shuns Wedding Excess By Riding Away From It All

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, I have noticed a great many letters about weddings in your column. I have attended dozens of weddings and was maid of honor for each of my older sisters.

My parents set aside a generous sum of money for each of my sisters' weddings. In both cases, the pre-wedding months were a trying time for my mother, baffling for my father, and just plain unpleasant for everyone else in the house. It rained on the garden wedding, and it was hot at the indoor wedding.

Now it's my turn. When I announced I was getting married, Mom paled and Dad groaned and said, "I'll give you an extra \$500 to elope."

This was music to my ears because I had already decided I didn't want the muck, fuss and expense of a fancy wedding. We plan to be married by a justice of the peace and take a three-week bicycle trip for our honeymoon. We're thrilled with the extra money and my parents are relieved.

Can you believe my sisters think we are being hateful about the whole thing? My middle sister said, "I didn't get any money," and my oldest sister thinks it is dishonorable to marry without an elaborate ceremony. My fiancé, my dad and I laugh off their comments, but my mom is hurt. Abby, what do you think?

WEDDING-FREE BRIDE-TO-BE



Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR WEDDING-FREE: Follow your heart. Your sisters had the kind of wedding they wanted, and your mom should support you in your choice of a simple ceremony — regardless of what your sisters think.

Please accept my best wishes for a long and fulfilling marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to those who were disturbed by the outcome of the Simpson trial. Many people say they are upset with "the system" now and have lost faith in it. Many of those who complain are the very ones who routinely judge jury duty — and therefore have no firsthand knowledge of how the system works.

In most cases, the defendants do get a fair trial. I know, because I perform my jury duty. So, if you have a complaint, take yours to the

jury box.

BEEN IN THE JURY BOX IN L.A. **DEAR BEEN THERE:** You are correct. If any system is going to work, it is because all citizens do their part. I don't know if it's happening nationwide, but in Los Angeles there is an official crackdown on citizens who ignore their obligation to perform jury duty.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to the mother in Ohio who thinks her daughter's boyfriend should not wear a baseball cap at the dinner table. I realize it's her house and she should be able to make the rules, but I wonder if she ever considered why he was wearing one in the first place.

We have all heard the term "bad hair day." Guys are allowed to have them too. I have a younger brother who struggles with his hair on a daily basis. To rid himself of the agony, he wears a baseball cap frequently. Not only would it make the young man feel uncomfortable to be asked to remove his hat by his girlfriend's mother, he would have to put up with the embarrassment of "hat hair."

To the mother in Ohio, leave well enough alone and bite your tongue. Be happy that your daughter has found a nice guy, and be thankful he's wearing a hat and not carrying a loaded weapon.

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST

you do collectively what you can't do alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The possibility of increased earnings or greater success in regard to your career will be strong, so continue to operate along your present course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do what you think is best today, especially if you're organizing a new endeavor. With your guidance, the finished product will resemble the blueprint.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not procrastinate when making changes to bring your efforts to fruition. The sooner you get things in order, the sooner you can enjoy the holidays.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) This will be a good time to press forward with new plans or projects you feel will better your lot in life. It will be imperative to act as well as think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) As of today, you may begin to see improvements in conditions affecting your material security. It will be your responsibility to capitalize on these trends.

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Horoscope



Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 22, 1995

In the year ahead, do everything in your power to improve your management and executive skills. Something beneficial will be stirring, and you'll want to take advantage of any changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your current cycle may enable you to turn certain events to your advantage. Take charge of developments instead of letting them take charge of you. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make

sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The restrictive conditions that have impeded your progress could be noticeably lessened in the near future. Some of these changes might happen slowly.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not lose hope when considering your future prospects. If your attitude is positive, you will be more likely to make the right moves.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Fresh ambitions and objectives might awaken in you today. You may realize that you can achieve what you thought was beyond your reach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not limit your imagination today. If you can visualize doing something, you can accomplish anything. Test this theory for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Financial trends will move in your favor at this time, so remain alert for new ways to add to your resources through a second or third channel.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In this cycle, competent help or assistance will enable



Calvin & Hobbes



Arlo & Janis



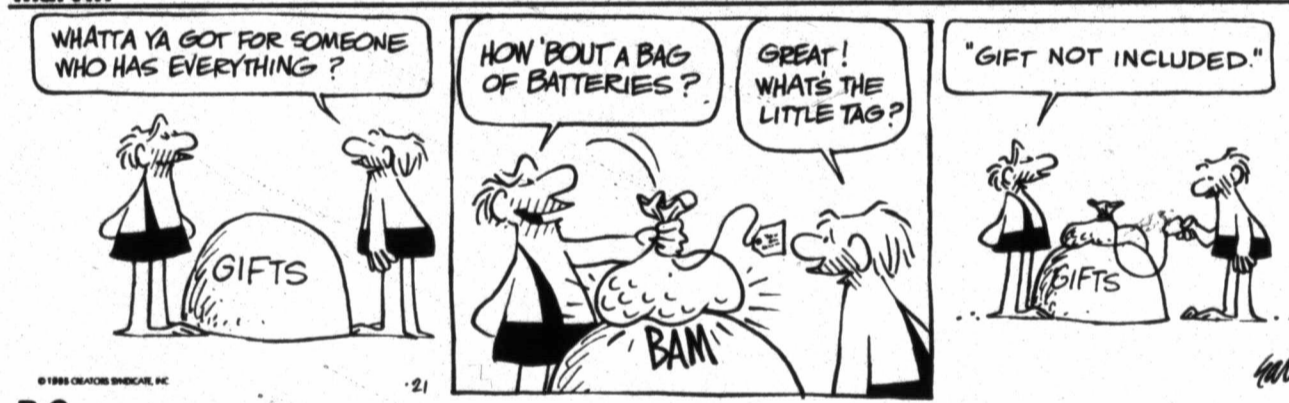
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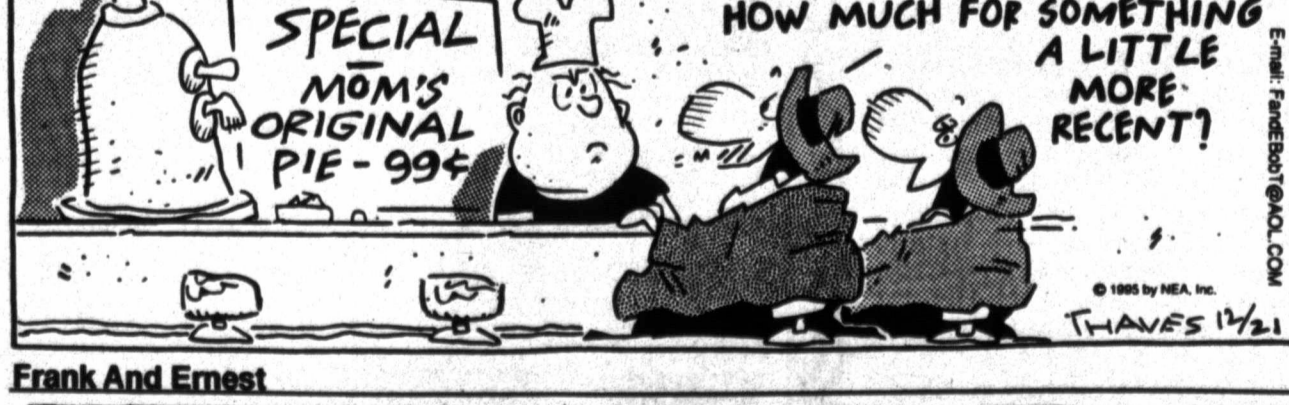
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore



"Instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, I'll bet Mary wished they brought diapers."



"Is there a password?"

The Family Circus



Marmaduke



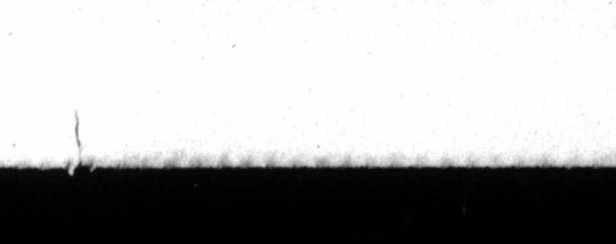
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Sports

Notebook

49ers can clinch home field advantage

FOOTBALL

By DAVE GOLDBERG AP Football Writer

PAMPA — The football season ended three weeks ago for the Pampa Harvesters, but the rankings continue on.

The Harris Rating System has the Harvesters ranked No. 8 in Class 4A going into the championship finals between No. 2 Denison (15-0) and No. 1 La Marque (15-0). Denison, which eliminated the Harvesters, 14-13, in the first round of the regional playoffs, is a 6-point underdog against La Marque.

Denison defeated Mount Pleasant, 13-6, and La Marque downed Corpus Christi Callahan, 32-21, in the semifinals.

Denison, which won its first and only state championship in 1984, defeated two-time defending champion Stephenville, 38-13, in the quarterfinals. Stephenville had defeated Denison, 31-7, in the second round of the playoffs a year ago.

By defeating Callahan, La Marque will be making its third consecutive trip to the state finals. La Marque lost to Stephenville the two previous years.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees appear to be losing ground in the competition to sign free agent pitcher David Cone.

Cone wouldn't say which way he was leaning, but several agents said Wednesday they heard his preference was the Baltimore Orioles, not the Yankees. And some said the deal might be for four years.

"The likelihood is something will happen with one of the two clubs (today), but I don't know which," said Cone's agent, Steve Fehr. "It's a question of making a decision and finalizing details."

If they Yankees don't resign Cone, they likely will turn their attention to free agents Kevin Brown, Kenny Rogers, Chuck Finley and Andy Benes.

The Yankees agreed to a \$2.1 million, two-year contract with second baseman Pat Kelley. He gets \$900,000 next season and \$1.1 million in 1997. The Yankees have a \$1.4 million option for 1998 but must pay a \$100,000 buy-out if they don't exercise it.

OLYMPICS

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of the International Softball Federation said he would remain on a nominating panel for the next U.S. Olympic Committee president despite an ethics board recommendation that he resign.

Don Porter said there was nothing in his organization's dealings with a foundation headed by Bill Hybl, the front-runner in next year's USOC elections, that should lead to his withdrawal.

The USOC's ethics review board said Tuesday it found no evidence of conflict of interest on the part of Hybl, Porter or Warren Brown, executive director of USA Basketball. But it recommended to the executive committee that Porter and Brown voluntarily resign from the nominating panel.

HOCKEY

TORONTO (AP) — Kirk Muller was removed from the New York Islanders' payroll after informing the team he won't report.

The Islanders had been paying Muller's \$1.9 million salary since former general manager Don Maloney sent him home in mid-November while they tried to work out a trade. Muller plans to stay in Kingston, Ontario, and skate with the city's junior team until he is traded.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Damon Flint had 20 points and Darnell Burton added 17 as ninth-ranked Cincinnati remained unbeaten by handing No. 24 California its first loss of the season 77-70 Wednesday night.

PRO PICKS

When the Atlanta Falcons examine their playoff possibilities, they're faced with one startling fact.

They can make the playoffs if they lose. But it's a lot easier if they win, which isn't likely to happen when San Francisco comes to town.

This is not an even rivalry, nor is it a ho-hum game for the 49ers, who can clinch home field for the playoffs with a win.

The 49ers, who are 10-point favorites, have won six of the last seven meetings, scoring (in reverse order) 41, 50, 42, 37, 41 and 56 points in those victories.

And it's not only the Falcons.

Since the 49ers began their six-game winning streak with that 38-20 shocker in Dallas, they've averaged 36.3 points a game. Combine that with a defense that's probably the best in the NFL, an Atlanta defense that's

Detroit (minus 8 1/2) at Tampa Bay (Saturday)
The Lions are the hottest team in the NFL. The conventional wisdom is it was William Clay Ford's ultimatum to Wayne Fontes that did it. But Herman Moore, Brett Perriman, Barry Sanders and Scott Mitchell also had something to do with the turnaround.
The Lions are still playing for a division title.
LIONS, 27-17

Pittsburgh (plus 3 1/2) at Green Bay
This game means nothing — both teams are in the playoffs.
This game means everything — the Packers need to lock up the division and the Steelers can still get home field throughout the playoffs.
PACKERS, 12-10

New England (plus 6) at Indianapolis (Saturday)
The Colts need to win, the Patriots don't.
COLTS, 22-17

Philadelphia (plus 2 1/2) at Chicago
The Eagles have clinched a home playoff game, but they want more — if they win and the Cowboys stumble in Arizona, the Eagles are NFC East champs. They're also 0-13 in their last 13 visits to Chicago.
So what.
EAGLES, 13-0.

Dallas (minus 9) at Arizona (Monday night)
The Cowboys are struggling and Buddy's boys play them tough in any circumstance.
COWBOYS, 21-20

San Diego (minus 5) at New York Giants (Saturday)
The Chargers, with four straight wins, need one more to

clinch a playoff berth.
CHARGERS, 20-17

Seattle (plus 6 1/2) at Kansas City
Strange things are happening in the northwest. But the Chiefs win when they have to.
CHIEFS, 23-17 (overtime)

Minnesota (minus 5 1/2) at Cincinnati
Give the Vikings credit for not lying down Monday night. Carl Pickens is good, but he's not Jerry Rice.
VIKINGS, 28-20

Denver (minus 5) at Oakland
Why should the Raiders turn things around now?
BRONCOS, 20-17

Miami (minus 6) at St. Louis
Since the opening month, the Rams have been playing like the Anaheim Rams.
DOLPHINS, 27-10

Houston (plus 4 1/2) at Buffalo
The Bills have a habit of tanking once they've clinched all that they can clinch. Todd Collins at quarterback?
OILERS, 20-11

Carolina (plus 4 1/2) at Washington
The Panthers can get to .500. They won't.
REDSKINS, 20-13

Cleveland (minus 3 1/2) at Jacksonville
Adios. Farewell.
BROWNS, 27-2

New Orleans (minus 2 1/2) at New York Jets
The Saints gave up 45 points in their first Meadowlands visit.
JETS, 9-6

Last week: 8-7 (spread); 11-4 (straight up)

Season: 100-122-3 (spread); 137-90 (straight up)

Basketball tonight



Pampa's Kristi Carpenter looks for a shot in last week's District 1-4A opener against Hereford. The Lady Harvesters are back in action tonight against White Deer with the non-district game set to begin at 7:30 in McNeely Fieldhouse. Pampa is entered in the Slaton Tournament next week. First-round opponent is Abilene Wylie at 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Cowboys hope to build momentum for playoffs by defeating Cardinals

By JAIME ARON AP Sports Writer

IRVING (AP) — The way Jay Novacek sees it, there's plenty of time for healing his body. Healing the Dallas Cowboys is much more important.

Add Novacek to the roll call of Cowboys who'd rather play all out Monday night against the Arizona Cardinals no matter what is on the line as opposed to resting up for the postseason.

"Personally, I think I'll be feeling pretty good physically after about six months off in the offseason," Novacek said Wednesday. "A week is not going to matter a whole lot. The momentum is much more important."

Dallas will know the importance of Monday night's game long before kickoff.

The Cowboys would be in a must-win situation if:

a) Philadelphia beats Chicago on Sunday, or
b) Philadelphia loses and San Francisco falls to Atlanta.

Situation "a" means the Cowboys need a victory to seal the NFC East title and a first-round bye. The "b" scenario means a Dallas victory would

give the Cowboys homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

But should the Eagles lose and 49ers win, then Dallas' finale is moot to the standings.

Yet, the Cowboys say there's something more important on the line: building for the playoffs.

It's not that easy, though, as coach Barry Switzer could be forced into another of those fourth-and-1 type decisions.

The conservative approach would be to rest his top players to avoid new injuries or the chance of aggravating old ones (and there are plenty of those). The aggressive attitude would be to dance with who bring ya to make sure everyone will be in synch in January.

Dallas definitely has been a bit out of whack lately. Although 11-4, the Cowboys barely ended a two-game losing streak Sunday as they needed a last-second field goal to beat the New York Giants.

Safety Darren Woodson has come up with a solution to make everyone happy.

"I'd like to see it like this: we get up real fast on them, we play well and get guys like Troy, Emmitt, Michael and Deion out

of the game. Then everybody else can rest up, too," said Woodson, one of the many other walking wounded also needing time to rest.

Woodson figures it should take only one or two quarters to get things clicking again.

"We can build momentum (that quickly) as long as those guys have that good feeling when they come out of the game," he said.

The Cowboys are so banged up now they could hardly practice Wednesday. Smith, Woodson, Novacek, Tony Tolbert, Brock Marion and Russell Maryland were held out of drills.

"We got to get a lot of people well," Switzer said.

Switzer refused to speculate about the luxury of resting players vs. the importance of momentum.

"Do you have a little crystal ball we can look at to solve that?" he said. "We've just got to prepare to win the football game."

"I hate these scenarios that it doesn't mean anything. Philly is probably going to win. That's the way we've got to approach it. We're not going to get any help so we've got to take care of our own business."

Arizona Cardinals' assistant possible Oklahoma coach?

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator Ronnie Jones, a candidate for head coach at Oklahoma a year ago when the job went to Howard Schnellenberger, says he might be a candidate again.

On Wednesday, Oklahoma regents accepted Schnellenberger's resignation after a single year in the post during which his team finished 5-5-1.

Athletic director Donnie Duncan refused to discuss possible candidates, but John Blake, a Dallas Cowboys assistant coach who played for the Sooners, and Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Davie have expressed interest in the job. Each said he hadn't been contacted by the university.

Jones, whose Cardinals are 4-11 as they face Dallas this weekend, said he has been contacted about Oklahoma indirectly and would await a formal contact by university officials before responding.

"I'd sure listen to them. I still think Oklahoma is one of the best jobs in the country," said Jones, who had been a candidate for head coach at Rutgers until Terry Shea, a former Stanford assistant, was awarded the post on Wednesday.

Jones, in his eighth NFL season, was to have flown to Norman, Okla., to interview for the Sooners job last year, but Schnellenberger accepted it the day before Jones was to leave.

Jones said he'd be content to remain in his current post to help get the Cardinals on track for a winning season, but The Arizona Republic said Wednesday it was told by a source in Oklahoma's athletic department that Jones can expect to be interviewed.

The need to reach a decision could come quickly, Jones said.

"Word out of Oklahoma is, they want someone in place by the first of the year," he told the Republic. "Recruiting is vital at this point."

Lady Longhorns fall to No. 3 Vanderbilt, 61-57

AUSTIN (AP) — Vanderbilt Coach Jim Foster said he got what he expected coming into the unfriendly confines of the Erwin Center Wednesday night.

"Typical (Texas coach) Jody Conradt team. Aggressive, plays 40 minutes of tough defense," Foster said, after his No. 3 Lady Commodores edged the Lady Longhorns 61-57.

However, the game was not what Conradt expected.

"We planned on winning this game," said Conradt, the winningest coach in women's basketball. "It's disappointing to play

so hard and not come out on top."

Sheri Sam had 20 points and Mara Cunningham had 14, including two crucial free throws, to lead Vanderbilt to victory.

Cunningham grabbed her own rebound, was fouled and knocked down the two free throws with 47.1 seconds left to give the Lady Commodores (7-0) a 59-57 lead.

Erica Routt had 18 points, Danielle Viglione had 16 and Vanessa Wallace 11 for the Lady Longhorns (2-3), who lost to

Tennessee's other ranked team, the University of Tennessee, in their last game.

For Foster, the game indicates that the team that lost to Purdue in the NCAA's last year has a lot of potential.

"It's the kind of win that separates a good season from a great season," Foster said.

The Longhorns made it a game despite shooting only 27.3 percent and being outrebounded 56-33. They forced 19 turnovers to Vanderbilt's 12.

The teams fought to a 28-28 tie at the half.

Astros trade Veres, Chavez for Montreal third baseman Berry

HOUSTON (AP) — Sean Berry is glad this week for what Craig Biggio did last week.

Berrio became the Houston Astros new third baseman Wednesday, complementing Biggio at second base and Jeff Bagwell at first.

"We'll be one of the best infields, especially on the right side," Berry said. "Hopefully I'll be able to help the left side out and take some of the weight off of those two guys' shoulders," he said.

Biggio re-signed with the Astros last Thursday, agreeing to a \$22.36 million, four-year contract after considering offers from Colorado, St. Louis and San Diego.

That was the Astros' first objective. Their second was to find a third baseman.

"This is one of the last big pieces to our puzzle," general manager Gerry Hunsicker said after announcing that right-handed reliever Dave Veres and minor league catcher Raul Chavez would be sent to Montreal in exchange for Berry.

"Sean was the one that we had targeted all along as our first choice," Hunsicker said.

Berrio, 29, started last season as the Expos No. 1 third baseman but finished the year sharing the position with Shane Andrews, expected to be Montreal's starter next season.

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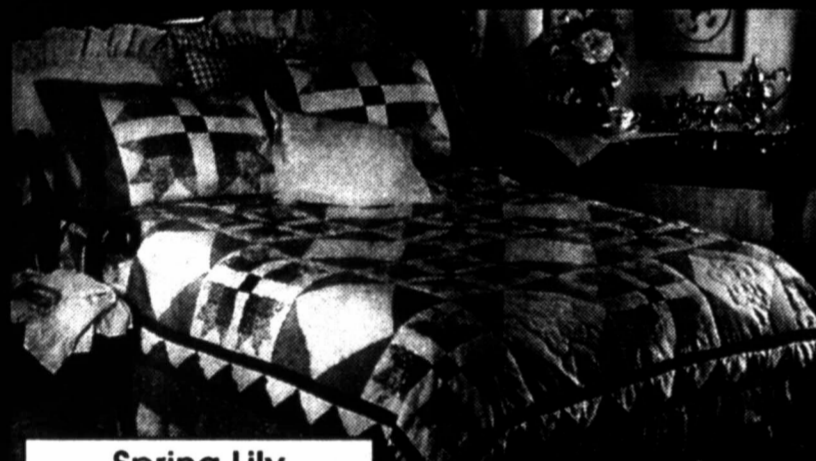
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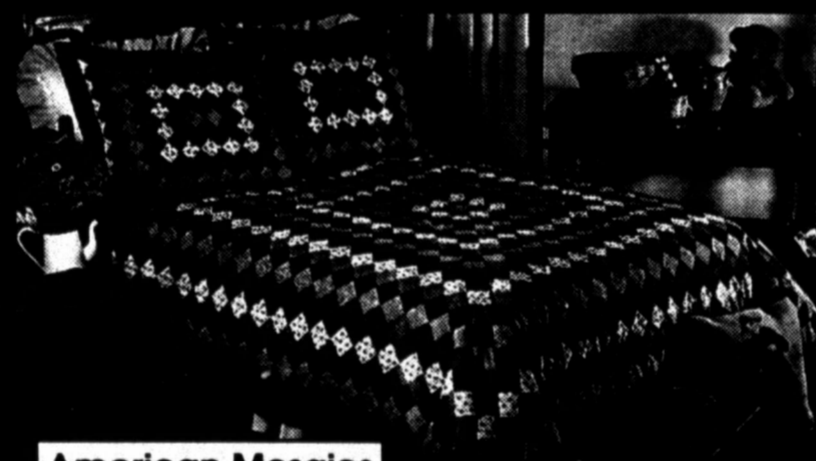
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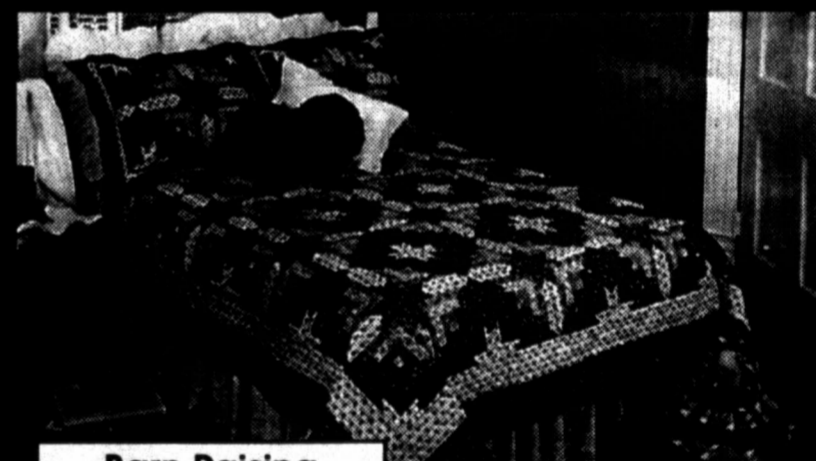
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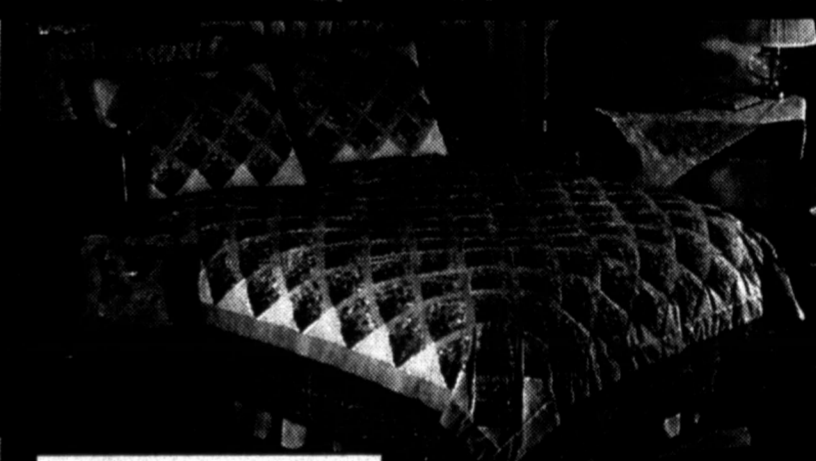
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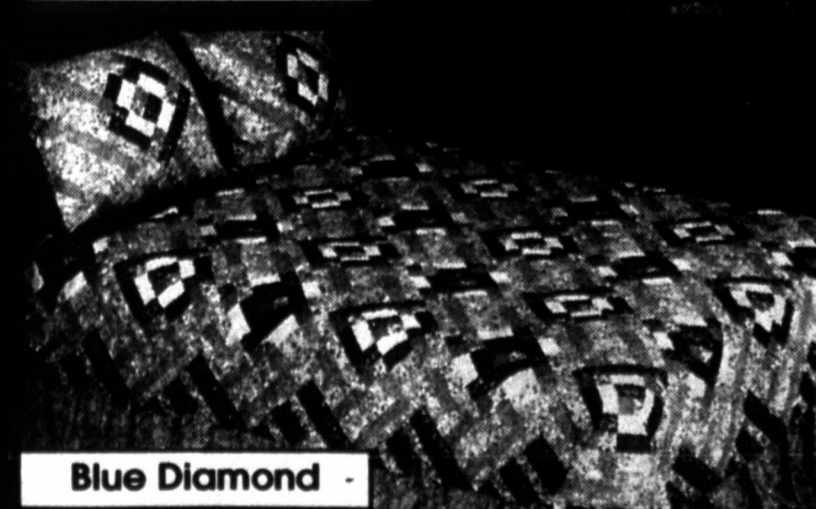
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