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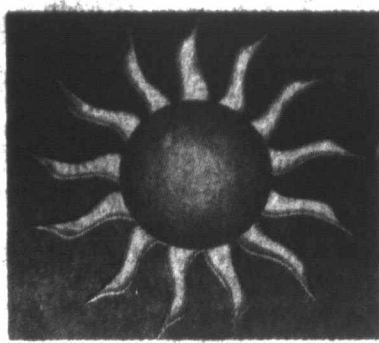
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PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 227

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



High today in upper
60s, low tonight in
upper 30s. See Page 2
for weather details.

PAMPA — A 31-year-old man was rushed to Columbia Medical Center from the Pampa jail Saturday afternoon suffering an apparent stab wound.

Thomas Joseph Carpenter was taken to the medical center by ambulance about 4 p.m. Saturday when officers discovered a puncture wound to his lower left abdomen. Carpenter was arrested earlier Saturday afternoon for assault and public intoxication, officers said.

Authorities said Carpenter told them he didn't know how he got the wound. Carpenter also suffered cuts and bruises to his right hand. Carpenter was returned to the city jail about 5:30 p.m. Saturday after being treated for his wounds.

LEFORS — The Women's Center of the Don Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening Clinic at Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, in Lefors on Jan. 8.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered nurse. The total cost is \$70.

A minimum of 15 women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns. Funding is available through the TDH residents who qualify for assistance.

All exams are done by appointment only. Call 359-4673 or 1 (800) 377-4673 for more information.

CLARENDON — Clarendon College's Spring 1997 semester will kick-off with January registration in Clarendon, Pampa, Childress and Wellington.

General registration for Spring classes will be held in Clarendon and Pampa beginning Jan. 7. Clarendon's registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Bairfield Activity Center, while Pampa registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clarendon College Pampa Center at 900 N. Frost.

Registration in Childress will be held at 6 p.m. on Jan. 6 in the Childress High School library. Wellington registration will be held at the Junior High Annex beginning at 6 p.m. on Jan. 7.

Individuals who wish to enroll in spring classes need to complete an application for admission and submit high school transcripts or a GED certificate. Transcripts are also needed from each college attended.

For a Spring class schedule, call Clarendon College at 1-800-687-9737.

Agriculture	17
Business	6
Classified	18
Comics	16
Editorial	4
Entertainment	15
Lifestyles	11
Sports	8

Some Republicans pulling back support for Gingrich

WASHINGTON (AP) — While House Republican leaders want firm commitments for Rep. Newt Gingrich's re-election as speaker, at least eight Republican members want more information first about his ethical wrongdoing.

Several of the uncommitted Republicans want the House ethics committee's guidance — before the scheduled speaker's election Jan. 7 — on how Gingrich should be punished.

Gingrich admitted to ethics violations Dec. 21, confessing "I did not seek legal counsel when I should have" on projects financed through tax-exempt organizations.

He also acknowledged, "In my name and over my signature, inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable statements" were given to the committee.

The eight rank-and-file Republicans commented during the past week, including Friday. During that time, the collective Republican leadership has written all GOP members that

Gingrich owned up to his mistakes — and said his errors were not serious enough to deny him a second term.

"I just think it's premature to get too far out in front at this point," said Rep.-elect John Thune, R-S.D., liaison for GOP freshmen to the House leadership. Thune said he won't make a decision until the ethics committee finishes its work and makes a recommendation.

The committee's chairwoman, Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., said she wants to press for an early and public decision on Gingrich's fate before the 105th Congress convenes on Jan. 7.

"My goal has been and is to wrap this up as promptly as possible and finish our business on our own watch," she told *The Washington Post* in an interview in Saturday's editions. She said she hoped to have a timetable early next week.

None of the eight Republicans said Gingrich had lost their votes. Republicans control the House 227-208, so if 20 members

say simply "present" — meaning they aren't voting — Gingrich could lose his job.

Thune, despite his own uncertainty, predicted Gingrich would win in the end.

"I think there's an expectation there that he will be elected speaker and that people will fall in line behind him," Thune said. "I haven't detected any sign of defection at all."

Nonetheless, Republicans awaiting the committee's guidance may have a dilemma Jan. 7, because Democrats are pursuing a strategy that would delay a recommendation for punishment. The Democrats want to keep Gingrich under a cloud a while longer.

Gingrich is hoping for nothing worse than a reprimand, a House vote that would admonish him for wrongdoing but allow him to retain his speakership. If the House supports a more serious censure resolution, party rules would prevent Gingrich from serving as speaker.

Wake service scheduled for shooting victim

A wake is scheduled Monday for the victim of a Christmas Eve shooting.

Richard Lamont Proctor, 18, of 1109 Huff Rd., was killed by a single bullet shortly before midnight Tuesday as he got into a four-door sedan in Southeast Pampa.

A wake is planned from 1 to 8 p.m., Monday at the Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm St. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Macedonia Baptist Church with the Rev. I.L. Patrick officiating.

Police officials said Proctor was shot once with a larger caliber handgun in the back of the head as he closed the passenger door of a 1984 Cadillac sedan. The bullet, fired from behind the car, shattered the rear window of the blue-gray automobile. Police said they recovered the bullet from inside the car.

Officers said there were two 16-year-old boys with Proctor at

the time of the shooting. They were released Christmas morning after being questioned by police. Authorities indicated that a high speed chase involving the Cadillac and a red pickup may have followed the shooting.

Authorities said they found Proctor slumped over inside the car in the 100 block of West Albert when they arrived in response to an emergency call shortly before midnight Christmas Eve.

Authorities continued their search this weekend for a red, extended cab pickup made by General Motors that may have been involved in the shooting. Officers said Friday they were questioning witnesses and following tips phoned in to the police department.

Proctor was a student at Pampa High School.

In relation to Proctor's death, family members said they would like the public to think about

these words of wisdom: "The junky can never start to cure himself until he recognizes his true condition." — Malcolm X

"Now we know what the problem is. Now we can do something about it. The truth of our problem is we can't handle alcohol or other drugs. They handle us. They control us. The Steps ask us to face the truth, and the truth sets us free. What a wonderful gift!"

"We feared the truth, but now it's our friend. It's a relief. Facing the truth means we're honest. And honesty is our best friend in recovery. It's like a cozy fire on a winter's night. Honesty is how we get well. It's also what will keep us well: Do I truly believe I can't use alcohol or other drugs."

"We offer this prayer for the day. Higher power, help me see my illness for what it is. It is my enemy. Help me see that honesty is my best friend."

Donating blood



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Coffee Memorial Blood Center staff were on hand Friday at Columbia Medical Center for another holiday blood drive. Mary Jane Laureano prepares Don Campbell for donating blood. Campbell said this is his second year to donate blood. All donors received Holiday Hero T-shirts.

Abandoned animals problem in rural areas

By DIANNA F. DANDRIDGE
Staff Writer

Abandoned animals, left on the side of the road to either to fend for themselves or get picked up by a caring human, are an all too familiar sight to rural residents.

They may be cute, fuzzy puppies or adult dogs that, for some reason, the owners have decided are no longer wanted.

These abandoned animals cause problems for residents, drivers and local stock men.

Residents are left with the dilemma of feeding or caring for them out of kindness or leaving them to go hungry or to get killed by a speeding vehicle.

Another concern is disease and illnesses that uncared-for animals spread. During hot, dry months, rabies is always a threat. At other times, distemper and parvo can be spread to wild animals and possibly other domestic animals.

Drivers are faced with the problem of hitting a stray or possibly having an accident from a fast stop or swerving to miss the animal.

Stockmen often have no choice but to kill these animals. When young stock is being killed by dogs which have returned to feral ways, producers have to protect

their property and livelihood.

Local resident Denise Carter said someone has dumped three dogs off not far from her house.

"This is so terrible. They've been out there in all this cold with no food and water. Why would anyone do this?" she said.

According to Carter, the dogs are still waiting for their owners, but shy away from anyone who approaches them.

Monty Montgomery, a Pampa Animal Control officer, said, "Abandoning domestic animals is a Class A misdemeanor. The law prescribes definite guidelines for people who abandon animals. The problem is catching them."

Many people give children puppies or kittens as gifts. Montgomery said that unless children have been taught to care for an animal, this is not a good idea.

"It's always a parent that cares for an animal, and until kids are ready to take that responsibility parents have to be willing to," he said.

Beautiful puppies and fuzzy kittens grow up to dogs that need attention and cats that are not nearly as independent as some people think.

The animals that often get dumped are the ones that no one

ever really wanted, perhaps were put in the backyard and forgotten about as they grew out of their cuteness, said Montgomery.

He said that the animal shelter staff members work very hard to find homes for animals, but they are not nearly as successful as they would like to be.

People wanting to adopt a pet have to fill out a questionnaire and meet the requirements of the office.

"We do just give a puppy or kitten to someone who comes in and says they want one," Montgomery said.

Texas law requires the shelter hold stray animals for at least 72 hours. "This doesn't mean that is as long as we hold them. We evaluate the animals and keep them as long as possible," he said.

Donated animals may be placed immediately.

He stresses that the only way to prevent animals from being abandoned or filling the animal shelters is to have animals spayed and neutered.

The county does not have a dis-counted or sliding scale neutering program, but they do have a reduced cost rabies drive in late April or early May, Montgomery noted.

Sign of the times



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

This sign, located on a pole at the corner of Crawford and Huff Road, reads, "Jesus said, 'No crack. It kills. It kills.'" Another related sign on the other side of the pole reads, "Never. You better think about it."

FDA approves drug for use by epilepsy patients

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has approved a drug that, when added to other medicines, may help hard-to-treat epilepsy patients control their seizures.

Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical's Topamax, known chemical-

ly as topiramate, was approved as an adjunctive therapy to treat partial seizures, the most common type, in adults.

Some 2 million Americans have epilepsy, and many control the resulting seizures with medication. But about 30 percent of patients

continue to suffer breakthrough seizures despite treatment.

In a study of 181 patients who suffered about 11 seizures a month, 44 percent of those who added Topamax to standard epilepsy medication cut by half their number of seizures.

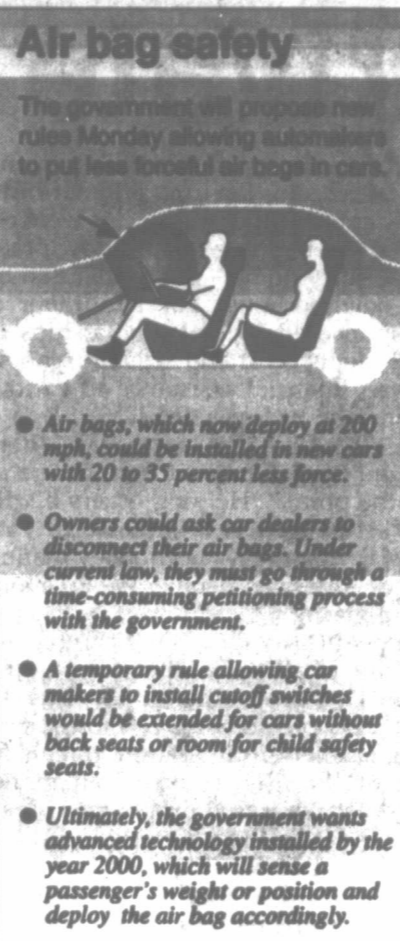
Mother protests sending her son to Texas prison

RACINE, Wis. (AP) — It may be good for Wisconsin's prison system, but a mother here does not want her 19-year-old son going to a Texas jail in a move by Gov. Tommy Thompson to help ease prison overcrowding. "It's his first time in trouble and he won't be able to see his family," Mary Myers said about her son, Antonio Shannon. "Tony needs us there for him." Shannon was sentenced to nine years in prison for injuring three people when he fired a handgun in April at a house party in Racine. Shannon is serving his time at a prison in Dodge County. He recently told his mother he just found out he is on a list of inmates who may go to a Texas jail. "Why would they send a young kid to Texas?" Myers said. "He doesn't want to go. He didn't have any say in it at all. They just tell people who is going. And that isn't fair." "I can understand it if it was somebody who has been in trouble more than one time, but this is Tony's first time," Myers said. State prisons are about 3,100 inmates over their 9,538 rated capacity and are expected to grow to 18,960 inmates within three years. Thompson plans to send 700 inmates to Texas jails. The plan is to hold the inmates in Texas jails for a year, then return them to the Wisconsin prison system to complete their sentences. "We're doing this for the health and safety of both the inmates and staff," Corrections spokesman Bill Clausius said of sending inmates to Texas. "Crowding creates all sorts of problems." Some prisoners already are in

Texas, and Shannon is the type of prisoner the state is sending, said Secretary of Corrections Michael Sullivan, head of the state's prison system. Inmates who are confined in medium security areas and who have significant time left to serve are the most common type of inmate to be sent to Texas, Sullivan said. The inmates being sent to Texas can't require maximum security because they are going to jails in Texas, not prisons. "Family input is taken into consideration but so is the sentence," Sullivan said. "Just because he is on the list doesn't mean he will be going." "Sullivan may say they take the family's wishes into consideration, but the family really doesn't have any rights on this at all," said Christopher Ahmuty, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin. "There is no constitutional right that inmates get to stay in the state that is holding them." The ACLU sued Colorado in federal court because it claimed Colorado was sending inmates to jails in Texas where the conditions were not adequate. Ahmuty said Colorado had sent juveniles and inmates with medical problems to Texas. "Hopefully Wisconsin will do a better job as to who it sends to Texas," he said. Lawsuits also are pending in New Mexico and Massachusetts. The lawsuit in New Mexico, like in Colorado, deals with conditions at the jails, and the suit in Massachusetts contests the state's right to send inmates out of state.

Feds set to OK less forceful auto air bags

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is set to give automakers the green light to install less forceful air bags in new cars while making it easier for worried consumers to have the devices disconnected. Responding to pressure from motorists, safety advocates and the auto industry, widely anticipated new federal air bag rules will be formally proposed Monday, a Transportation Department official said Friday. Air bags have saved more than 1,600 lives, officials say. But they also have killed 32 children and infants and 20 adults — mostly smaller women — in low-speed accidents that the victims would have otherwise survived. "Today I'm pleased to announce we are sending forward three additional proposals to protect our children," President Clinton said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "This much is clear," he said, "air bags do save lives." But, he added: "At the same time, air bags inflate with considerable force and can pose risks to children sitting unbuckled in the front passenger seat instead of buckled up in the back seat where they belong." Clinton predicted the rules could take effect by this spring. The proposed rules, which have been in the works at the



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Transportation official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Advocates of the new rules have said they must have permission by mid-February to guarantee that the less forceful air bags are installed in 1998 model automobiles. Under the proposal: — Air bags, which now deploy at speeds of up to 200 mph, could be installed in new cars with 20 to 35 percent less force. Even at the slower speed, passengers wearing seat belts would be protected in a crash. — Owners could ask mechanics to disconnect their air bags after being told the risks. Under current law, owners must petition the government for permission, something some 800 people have done. Only about 10 percent of the requests have been granted, all for people who cited medical problems. — A temporary rule allowing automakers to install cutoff switches for cars without back seats or room for child safety seats would be extended. That allows those who have only a front seat to carry a child to switch off the air bag when the child rides in front. These changes are viewed by government and auto industry officials as an interim solution to a growing safety problem that

has caused widespread confusion among motorists over the safety value of air bags. Ultimately, automakers and regulators are looking to more advanced technology, which will sense a passenger's weight or position and deploy the air bag accordingly. The government wants this technology installed beginning with the 1999 model year. In his radio speech, Clinton mentioned air bags in the broader context of calling for responsible driving over New Year's. "Especially at this time of year, too many people pose a threat to themselves and to others by drinking and driving," he said. Federal officials said more than 41,000 Americans died in highway crashes last year and 40 percent of the accidents were alcohol-related. Last year, Clinton pushed for "zero tolerance" alcohol laws prohibiting people under 21 from driving with any alcohol in their systems. Such laws have been adopted by 34 states. Saturday, he suggested teenagers pass a drug test to qualify for a driver's license. "Let's send a simple message to our children, our families and our friends: Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is wrong. It's illegal. It can kill," he said.

Runaway hotline available

AUSTIN — A statewide campaign has been launched to promote the Texas Runaway Hotline's new toll-free telephone number, 1-888-580-HELP, according to Jay Smith, director of the hotline. "The number of incoming calls from Texas has increased by more than 175 percent during the past two years to an average 2,500 calls per month," Smith said. "We hope the new toll-free telephone number will make our services even more accessible to runaways, troubled youths and their families." Smith said many youths contact the hotline during the holiday season to find food, shelter or simply to hear a caring voice. "The holidays can be a lonely and depressing time for homeless youths away from their families," he said. Smith said youths also call the hotline to utilize the program's

confidential message relay service that is used to promote communication between runaways and their families. Smith identified the following message left by a 14-year-old runaway named "Amy" as a typical first message: "I'm safe. I want to know if you want me to come home so we can work things out. I love you." According to Smith, "Amy's" mother was overjoyed to hear that her daughter was safe. Both mother and child were reunited the following day. "We hope our new toll-free telephone number will enable us to assist many more Texas families with message relays and other hotline services," Smith said. "During the upcoming winter months, hotline staff and volunteers will work around the clock to keep as many youths as possible safe and off the streets."

Northwest braces for another storm

SEATTLE (AP) — Northwesters scrambled Saturday to dig out roads clogged by more than a foot of snow and restore electricity to thousands of blacked-out customers before the next storm hits. Another dose of snow — 4 to 10 inches possible — was expected to move into the region during the night. A winter storm watch was in effect Saturday through Sunday for all of Washington, including the usually temperate Puget Sound, and the northern half of Oregon. In addition, a flood watch was posted for all rivers in northwest Oregon. The two major routes across the Cascade Mountains in Washington — Interstate 90 and U.S. 2 — were reopened Saturday morning after as much as 2 feet of snow halted scores of travelers. In Oregon, I-84 east of Portland in the Columbia River Gorge also was reopened after being shut down by thick ice. Anne and Jim Howell and about 100 other travelers had

spent two nights at a Red Cross shelter in North Bend, Wash., because I-90 was closed at Snoqualmie Pass. "It's a good place to be stuck if you're going to be stuck," Ms. Howell said. "We pretended we were in a winter resort." "It was kind of like a party," said Kathleen Torchia, a volunteer at the shelter. "We had one lady who was an entertainer. She was singing." Ms. Howell said the food was good and the sing-a-longs entertaining. But when the highway was reopened Saturday, they still couldn't leave because their 1967 Rambler had engine trouble. Amtrak said Saturday it had restored passenger rail service between Seattle and Oregon's Willamette Valley, after flooding and mudslides shut down service during the week. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was open again Saturday, after hundreds of flights were canceled Friday, but flights were running no more than 60 percent of normal, said spokeswoman

Anita Risdon. In Oregon, only a handful of cancellations were posted Saturday at Portland International Airport. Security officers had been requested by almost every airline at Seattle-Tacoma because of concern over flaring tempers among stranded passengers, said port police Lt. Ed Wortman. No arrests had been made. United Airlines was back to its normal schedule out of Seattle, said spokeswoman Mary Jo Holland. But she said the company that supplies the chemical used to clear ice off airplane wings couldn't replenish its stocks at the airport because of ice-covered streets in the area. Roughly 200,000 homes and businesses were without power in Oregon and Washington on Saturday, down from 300,000 on Friday. Utility crews at Portland, Ore. — where sunshine briefly broke through Saturday — got their first look at some areas of east of the city that were hardest-hit by Thursday's ice storm.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 40-hour period ending at 3 p.m. Saturday. **FRIDAY, Dec. 27**
11:03 p.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to 1900 N. Hobart for a diesel spill.
SATURDAY, Dec. 28
3:38 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to a grass fire in north Roberts County.
5:03 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to 743 Brunow for a structure fire.
6:46 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to 2128 Lea for a medical assist.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST
Today, sunny and warm, with a high in the upper 60s. Southwesterly winds 10-20 mph. Tonight, generally fair with a low in the upper 30s. Monday, generally sunny with a high near 70. Saturday's high was 62.
REGIONAL FORECAST
West Texas — Panhandle: Today, mostly sunny with highs from mid 60s to near 70. Tonight, generally fair to partly cloudy with lows in mid to upper 30s. Monday, partly cloudy with highs in mid 60s to around 70. South Plains: Today, sunny. Highs around 70. Tonight, fair. Lows around 40. Monday, mostly clear. Highs 70-75.
North Texas — Today, cloudy east with areas of drizzle and fog in the morning. Partly cloudy

elsewhere. Highs 67 to 72. Tonight, partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers southeast. Lows 45 northwest to 58 southeast.
South Texas — Hill Country and South Central: Today, patchy dense fog in the morning, otherwise partly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Highs in low 70s. Tonight, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Lows in mid 50s, 40s Hill Country. Upper Coast: Today, patchy dense fog in the morning, otherwise mostly cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Highs in low 70s inland to near 70 coast. Tonight, cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Lows in upper 50s inland to low 60s coast. Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Plains: Today, patchy dense fog in the morning, other-

wise cloudy with a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms. Highs in mid 70s coast to upper 70s inland. Tonight, cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Lows near 60 coast to upper 50s inland.
BORDER STATES
New Mexico — Today throughout, fair skies with some high clouds at times, mainly northwest. A little warmer most sections today with additional warming east Monday. Highs 40s to mid 50s mountains and northwest with upper 50s to mid 70s lower elevations east and south. Lows teens and 20s mountains and northwest with mid 20s to 30s elsewhere.
Oklahoma — Today, partly cloudy. Highs in the 60s. Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows from mid 30s northwest to mid 40s along the Red River.

THE PAMPA NEWS
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403 W. ATCHISON
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TELEPHONE: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348
FAX: 669-2520

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Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following incident for the 40 hour period ending at 3 p.m. Saturday. **FRIDAY, Dec. 27**
Gray County Deputies responded to a report of a theft under \$20 at The Taylor Mart on Highway 60.

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Jill Lewis - Owner Johnny [Name] Field Rep.

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24th

Love...Mom, ReDonn, Kevin & Ned!

Principal faces prison term in lewd acts case

TYLER (AP) — A former Tyler school principal will begin a jail sentence next week for committing lewd sexual acts. A Dallas judge revoked a misdemeanor probation sentence for veteran educator James Larry Nolen and ordered him jailed for 250 days starting Dec. 31. Nolen, 43, was twice given probation sentences for 1995 incidents involving the same adult movie theater and bookstore in Dallas. He had indicated on school employment contracts that he never committed an offense involving moral turpitude. After Nolen became principal of Stewart Middle School, the school district and newspaper learned he was wanted on an outstanding warrant for failing to obey the terms of the probation sentence for the first offense. Authorities say Nolen committed an additional offense while on probation for public lewdness stemming from a January 1995 incident at the Lido adult bookstore and theater in Dallas. The additional offense, according to court records, was an Aug. 7 no-contest plea to a public lewdness charge related to a December 1995 incident at the Lido. Dallas police say Nolen grabbed the genitals of an undercover detective who was working in the theater.

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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.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the covenanted commandment.

Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Proposed air regs too much

To live is to take a risk. Just by leaving your house to go to work or run an errand, you're incurring some sort of risk. A traffic accident, perhaps.

Except for the most terminally timid among us, we go about our daily duties anyway. That doesn't mean we're oblivious to the risks involved or that we don't take reasonable steps to offset them. But we can't let them paralyze us.

Nor is it realistic for us to undertake some extraordinarily expensive precautions just to eliminate even the remotest degree of risk. And yet that is the kind of solution the federal Environmental Protection Agency appears ready to impose on America in pursuit of cleaner air.

Draconian new standards are imminent. The unprecedented, wide-ranging regulations could involve everything from wood burning stove bans to higher electric rates to mandatory car pooling to limits on growth. It's not yet clear how far the measures will go.

What is clear so far is the crackdown promises to add hundreds of cities to the EPA's "bad air" list. That means not only America's more heavily populated metropolitan areas with their historically dirtier air, but smaller places.

Isn't our air supposed to be comparatively good? In fact, most air already meets current EPA standards for carbon monoxide, ozone and dust in the air. However, the new rules would mandate still less ozone and dust, and come up with a previously unheard-of standard for the smallest kinds of particles believed to contribute to air pollution.

The implications could be severe.

It's possible there could be new restrictions on coal burning power plants; having to install multimillion dollar scrubbers would doubtless jack up our electrical rates. Maybe there'll be more restrictions on auto emissions. As insult to injury, gas retailers might even have to install those awkward collars you see at the end of gasoline hoses in some other cities, to prevent the escape of gas fumes.

What are the touted benefits of all this? The EPA says it should reduce the health risks to children, the elderly and those with lung problems like asthma. Doubtless some folks in those groups suffer from fouled air in some major metropolitan areas. But how many of them are affected in communities like ours? Do we really need a tough new federal standard?

Certainly, government has a role in keeping our air breathable. Air isn't anyone's private property and we all should respect others' right to it.

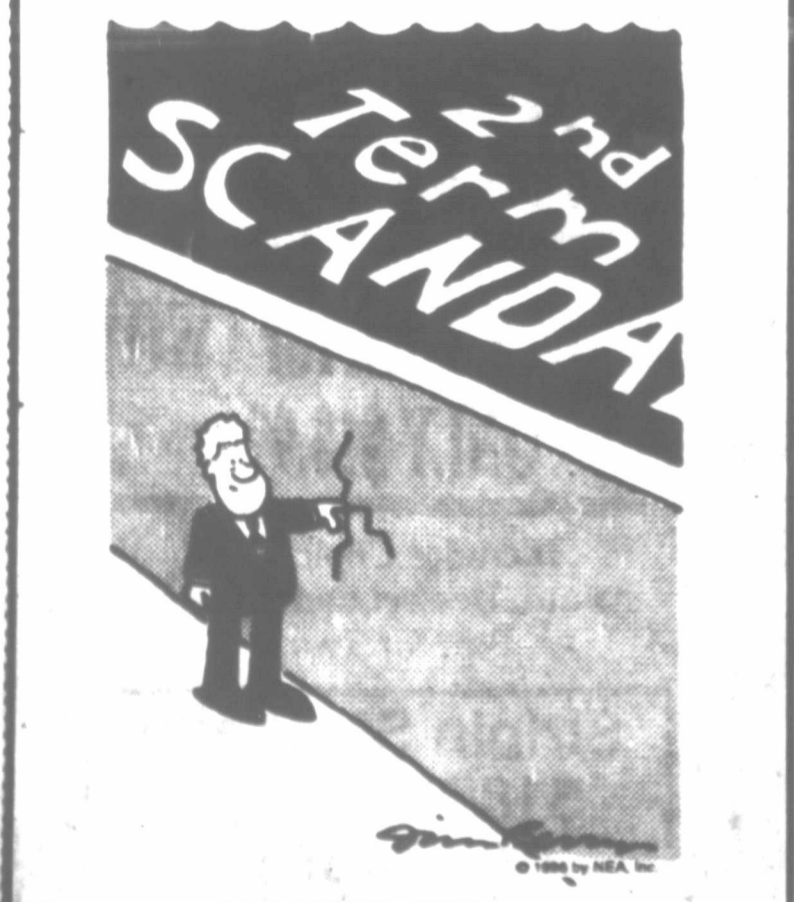
But just how clean must it be? Even if there is some hypothetical hazard for those whom the EPA deems to be at risk, are even stricter standards worth the colossal cost to our community and the nation, in dollars, in inconvenience, in a different lifestyle? Should we, can we, ever eliminate all risk?

Assorted industries no doubt will be in an uproar over such an expansion of federal regulation. The rest of us have reason to be just as concerned. Write your congressman, write the EPA.

Your representatives

- State Rep. Warren Chisum**
Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
Pampa Phone: 665-3552
- State Sen. Teel Bivins**
Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994
- U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry**
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Amarillo Phone: (806) 371-8844
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Berry's World



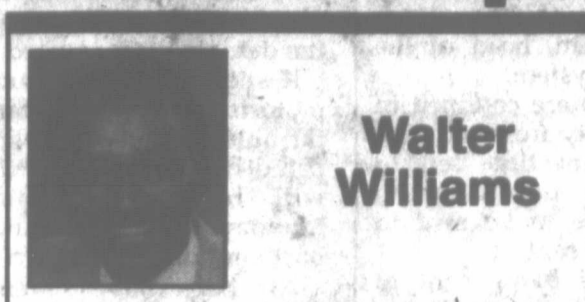
Private virtue is public vice

Several years ago, Mrs. Williams and I purchased a condo for my 85-year-old mother because, among other things, we were concerned about her safety going up and down the stairs in her three story home - not to mention her safety in the neighborhood. For a number of years, we've sponsored several scholarships to enable black students to attend private schools. We've also given financial assistance to various family members who have needed it.

"OK, OK, Williams," you say, "don't think you're the Lone Ranger. I help others out too - what's the point?" Helping others by digging in one's own pockets is a laudable private virtue. Generosity has always been a key distinguishing feature of American people. We do about 85% of all world giving.

Some people say there's not enough generosity to take care of all needs; therefore, we need government. That proposition differs little from saying that if people do not give enough voluntarily, then government intimidation, threats and coercion should be used to take their money. Good people must ask if that proposition should serve as the foundation for a moral society.

Let's go back to my story. Suppose my wife and I couldn't afford to buy a condo for my mom, give scholarships or help family members. And suppose you agreed with me that my mom



Walter Williams

should have safer surroundings, that black youngsters should have an alternative to rotten government schools and our family members should be helped. Would that consensus justify my private use of intimidation, threats and coercion to take another person's money to finance those worthy goals? "Williams," you say, "that'd be theft, and you should go to jail." I agree.

Here's my question: Would your conclusion change if I managed to get one other person to agree to take someone else's money to finance those worthy goals? What if ten other people went along with me, or 100, or 1 million, or 269 million other people? From a moral point of view, your conclusion that it would be theft shouldn't change. The only differences would be technique and the number of people involved.

There are many Americans who believe that a majority consensus and legality establish morality. They see private confiscation of property as theft but public confiscation as a virtue, a sign of caring and accepting social responsibilities. Americans who make the pretense of Christian faith act as though God's law to Moses, "Thou shalt not steal," really means "Thou shalt not steal unless you do it legally through a majority vote."

Private efforts to help our fellow man, aside from being moral and praiseworthy, are far more effective. The giver is more likely to become a monitor and part of the solution. Very few of us would, year after year, voluntarily give to people who lay around watching television all day, engaging in self-destructive behavior and making no effort to get a job or educate themselves. We would scold, threaten, help and encourage that person to get his or her act together. That kind of involvement with solutions is virtually impossible through today's government handout system.

I am optimistic. Americans are coming to recognize that a private virtue can easily be a public vice. I'd be even more optimistic if church leaders began to teach their congregations that God did not put any escape clause in his commandment "Thou shalt not steal."

Today in history

Today in History
By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 29, the 364th day of 1996. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date:
In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.

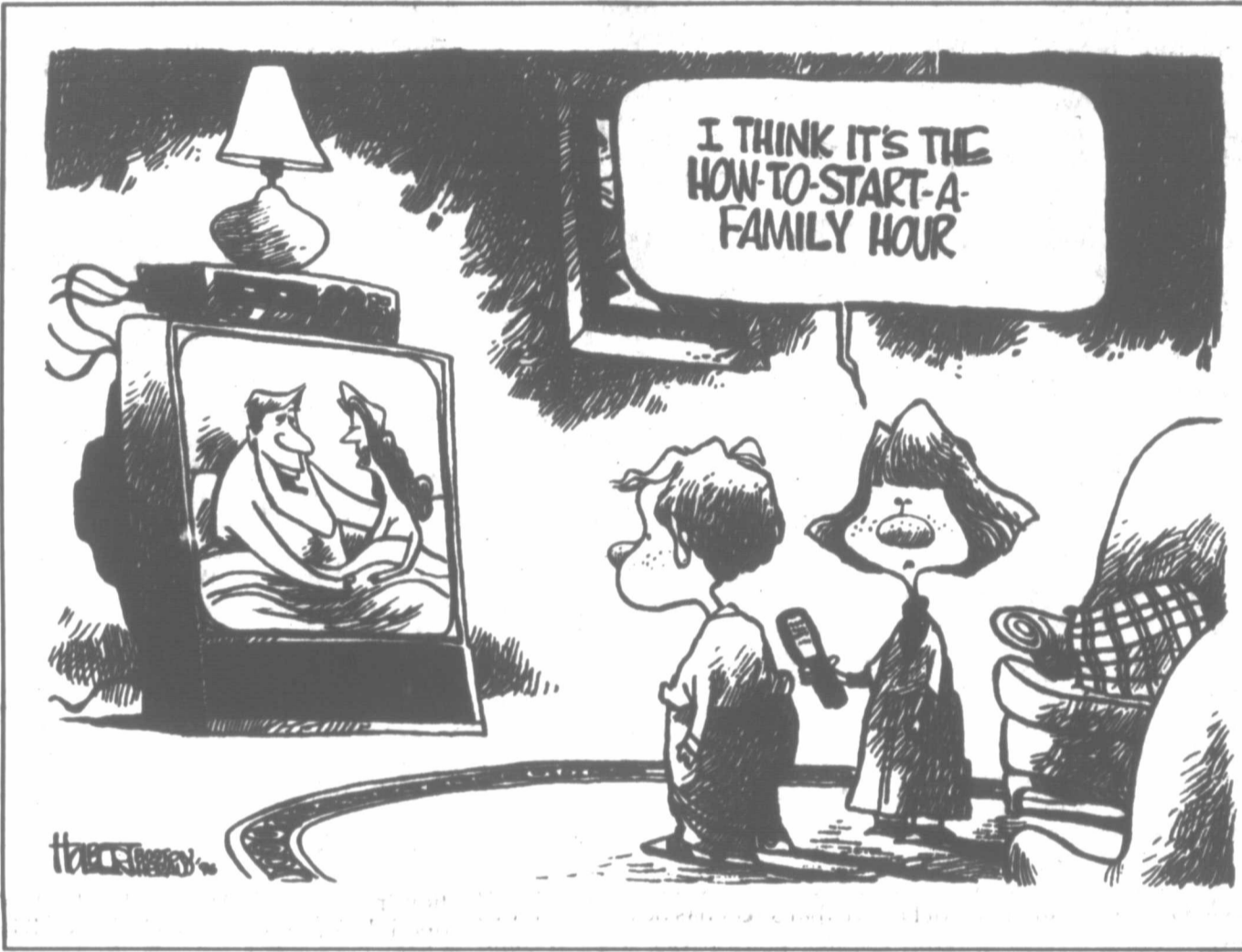
In 1837, Canadian militiamen destroyed the Caroline, a U.S. steamboat docked at Buffalo.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1913, the first movie serial, "The Adventures of Kathlyn," premiered in Chicago.

In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.



How abortion divides our country

Charley Reese

I don't know why people are surprised that a society that legalizes and condones the killing of innocent children has become in all areas brutish, violent and corrupt.

A civilization cannot be segmented or compartmentalized. You can't say to young people, it's wrong to kill or use violence, except in the case of unborn children. How can you make a moral case against the entertainment industry, as vile and corrupt as it is, and at the same time support an industry that kills children in huge numbers?

In 2000 B.C., the Assyrian Code had this to say about abortion: "If a woman of her own accord drops that which is in her, they shall crucify her and not bury her."

The Hippocratic Oath, which some doctors ignore these days, says, "I will not give to a woman an instrument to procure abortion." Even pagans, long before the advent of Christianity, recognized the wrongness of killing the innocent.

How can people complain about incivility and then condone the killing of babies? How weird to prosecute women for damaging the child in their womb by taking crack cocaine when the same government condones the same woman killing the same child in an abortion clinic? How can you prosecute a man who kills a child in the womb with a gun but not prosecute a man who kills a child in the womb with forceps and saline solutions?

The above two examples are blatant contradictions in the law. When you see contradictions in the law, then you know that you live in a society that is not governed by the rule of law but is instead a society governed by whim, political pull, fads and arbitrary decisions.

An American consensus? Of course there is no consensus today, and no consensus is possible between people who have no respect for life and people who believe life is sacred. Consensus is common agreement that presupposes common beliefs. There are no common beliefs between those who condone the killing of the unborn and those who oppose it.

People should understand what abortion is: It is using death to solve a problem. This new life, a creature of God, is inconvenient or too expensive or too troublesome. So terminate it. Laws and court decrees that legitimize abortion are laws and court decrees that legitimize the murder of the innocent.

What is the moral difference between a robber who kills a store clerk and a abortionist who kills a child? Neither the store clerk nor the child had done anything to merit death. Neither was a

threat to anyone's life. Both were creatures of God. Both, if we believe the Declaration of Independence, were endowed by God with unalienable rights among which is life.

There are a lot of lives that are inconvenient or expensive or troublesome to maintain: the severely retarded, the severely disabled, the elderly, the terminally ill. How long do you think it will take for a society that condones killing babies as a solution to social or economic problems to get around to killing others for the same reasons? The arguments for death are exactly the same. The economics and the efficiency are all on the side of death.

This decaying society elevates rationalization to the status of argument, but evil is not something solid that can be contained and segregated. It is more like gas, which once let loose, permeates the whole area. You can't get away with condoning murder over here and condemning it over there. Condone it anywhere and you create a brutal, violent society.

To put the matter bluntly, when consensus fails, when too many people share completely contradictory beliefs and values, there are only in the long run two possible outcomes: war, in which one group imposes by force its beliefs on the other; or separation. We need to think seriously about what we are doing to ourselves in this country.

Indignant art community is organizing

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

Let us depart from that eternity that is the Clinton scandals. Let us allow the "mainstream" (as in dead in the water) press to tussle with this week's scandals, that is to say, new scandals that by next month will be forgotten scandals. That is the way the American press operates in the Age of Clinton.

This week, we have the story about those malodorous donations finding their way in and out of the Clintons' legal defense fund and the Clintons' ongoing familiarities with the source of those funds - namely, a Little Rock restaurateur capable of conjuring up \$600,000 for The Cause. We also have the story of former White House Director of Administration David Watkins revealing details about prior Clinton scandals in January's *American Spectator*. Watkins is now playing the role John Dean once played in the Nixon debacle. Only Watkins has been closer to his president for a longer period of time than Dean, and Watkins reveals a more sordid story. Surely, by the time you read this, the mainstream press will be airing his allegations from the ten hours of tapes he did with *Spectator* reporter Rebecca Borders. The mainstream press would not be censoring the news for the American people, would it?

So, let us get on with another throbbing story, to wit, the "arts community's" angst over this year's reductions in grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. The cuts are the consequence of Congress' attempts to balance the federal budget. Hundreds of arty applicants who had become reliant on the endowment's munificent teats will have to make do with less this year unless they can cadge more money out of their

local communities. And their relations with those communities are not good. The "arts community" has the utmost contempt for ordinary Americans leading ordinary lives. Our federally endowed Beethovens and da Vincis are more comfortable traipsing, hat-in-hand, to some Washington bureaucrat cast in the role of a Medici than in selling art to the locals.

Nearly two-thirds of the 887 applicants to the endowment got nothing at all this year. That means many will have to go back to hanging out on street corners, scribbling graffiti and pursuing lives of petty crime. Many of the members of the so-called arts community are shiftless picaroons. It is a fact that there is a higher incidence of crime among them than among almost any other stratum in our society. The automobile salesperson is a paragon of virtue next to the average performance artist. Compare the high standards of sexual hygiene practiced by golf pros and babysitters with those standards that were the boast and the product of, say, the homoerotic photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Thus, with the endowment's budgetary cuts, we might expect some small increase in the crime rate. Marginal dancers, painters, poets and those most idiotic of all moochers, the performance artists, will return to shoplifting and picking pockets. Some will have to take their lives of debauchery off stage to public parks and lavato-

ries, where such practices are usually misunderstood by the vice cops. Unlike the bureaucrats at the endowment, these public servants in uniform do not provide grants for squalid acts. They lock the "artists" up, and the public is satisfied.

Now, the "arts community" is angry. "There is a real sense of frustration and anger," groans Lee Kessler, executive director of something called the American Arts Alliance. Her colleagues expect the endowment to subsidize their inscrutable and frequently repellent output. The taxpayer is to shell out, notwithstanding local zoning laws, environmental standards, health regulations and common standards of decency. Of the many delusions held by the members of the "arts community," one of their most popular is that they are the American equivalent of Europe's royal families. They must be treated accordingly. Government is, by right, to supply them with cash for their gaudy lifestyles. Where would downtown Chicago be without the federally subsidized lumps of stone and the rusting metal monstrosities that the aristocrats of the arts community provide? What would the sex perverts and other mental defectives do without the local performance artists onstage?

The indignant artists are organizing. They are going to mail their congressmen protests - assuming they can master the postal system. Of course, their congressmen are now most likely Republicans and devotees of Rush Limbaugh. Their constituents want the budget balanced, even if it means returning the members of the "arts community" to the ministrations of government's most qualified minders, the police and psychiatrists.

Letters to the editor

Safety for children

To the editor:
While I feel my efforts to address this problem will be in vain, I must try. It concerns the safety of our children.

Previously, I complained at the school office about people leaving their parked cars in the drive-thru lanes and even worse, people driving in the fire lane. They said that they had gotten other complaints and promptly sent a note home asking that parents not to do these things.

This letter is directed towards a select group of Austin School parents - they know who they are.

I just returned from taking my daughter to school. I was sandwiched in one of the drive-thru lanes and couldn't get out because there were empty cars to the side and in front of me. I had to back up (the car in back of me also had to back up), then I had to wait for the lady beside me to move. Instead of her exiting to her left, which was clear, she pulled through my lane in front of me and drove right through the fire lane! Why? What was her purpose?

Cars left unattended in the drive-thru lanes are a big inconvenience to the parents (as explained above) and to the children because then they have a longer way to walk to the door.

On the other hand, people driving in the fire lane is a danger to our children.

On several occasions, my daughter has gotten out of the car (where we were in the drive-thru lane), thinking she was safe to cross the fire lane - only to be almost mowed down by an irresponsible parent.

It's very frustrating. Did everyone get the same letter I did? Some people actually think they are so important that they don't have to obey the rules like everyone else. They ignore letters like the one the school sent home and truly believe that it doesn't apply to them.

Other people justify driving in the fire lane because they are late for work and don't want to wait for the few cars in front of them to move. To these people I say, don't be late. I've been late plenty of times and have never driven in the fire lane.

I have noticed that people are forced to drive through that lane because of parked cars on all sides of them: It's a chain reaction. The parking lot was designed in such a way that if everyone obeys the rules, traffic should flow smoothly. Instead, everyday the parking lot is a mess.

What if you hit a child? What if you hit my child? You will be sued and I'm sure the school will be, too. Worse yet, if you should kill a child, you go to jail and then some family will have to deal with a lifetime of pain because some jerk who was late for work killed their only child. You people need to stop and think about what you're doing.

The people in the office told me that the police won't patrol the parking lot because it's private property. Is this true? If it is, now what do concerned parents and teachers do? The school sent home a note that has, for the most part, been ignored. What is the next step? I want something done.

If you're concerned about this problem, I urge you to write letters or make phone calls also. Nothing will be done about this until people speak up.

I usually feel better after I write a letter like this, but this time I don't. I feel it will fall on deaf ears. If they didn't pay attention to the letter sent home, then they won't pay attention to this one either.

Before I close: What are you teaching your children by breaking rules and being disrespectful to others? That's why this world is in the shape it is.

Mrs. Sheri White
Pampa

Nation of morality

To the editor:
I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Buddy Allen for his thought-provoking letter to the editor of two weeks ago. It was very obvious he had done his scriptural "homework," and that he was speaking from the heart of a dedicated Christian. I would like to supplement his truly incisive letter with some historical facts.

This nation was founded on some very moral principles as our founding fathers were truly devout men. Christian principles were incorporated into every document they proposed for the creation of this new nation. In the early days of our nation, sodomy was a crime punishable by death. While commander of the Continental Army, George Washington kicked an individual out of that same army for the repulsive offense of homosexuality. More recently, President Dwight Eisenhower required government employees to swear they were neither communist nor "gay." Just in the last few years, a group of these "abominations" demanded permission to place pink ribbons on veteran's graves in the national cemeteries, professing that 10 percent of all veterans who had sacrificed and died for this nation were "queer." Veterans groups across the nation took a very strong stand against this outrage, and that desecration was never allowed to happen.

The founders of this nation would have never sacrificed that which is moral, decent and honorable for the sake of being "socially and/or politically acceptable." Those principles that guided our founding fathers and gave birth to this nation are the very same ones that have forever stood the test of time. I can only wonder what is going through the minds of the founding fathers as they watch the nation they gave birth to and nurtured through its infancy as that same nation is actually considering giving special privileges and marital rights to that which was abhorrent and abominable to their strongly held convictions.

May the Good Lord continue to bless the one nation founded on Christian principles, and with patriotism and love of country once again flourish in this nation.

John L. Tripplehorn
Pampa

Don't hide Nativity

To the editor:
This is CHRISTMAS DAY, the day our SAVIOR was born, and I too wondered why the Nativity was hidden at Recreation Park. I feel that it should be the focal point of our celebration, not the forgotten point.

The Celebration of Lights organization has put in lots of work, and I, by no means, mean to put them down. I just feel it is time to return to the REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. For without CHRIST, there is no CHRISTMAS.

The Nativity that is in one of the parks is also somewhat hidden. It faces the Schneider House, and I do not believe that street has near the traffic as some of the other streets past parks, where it could have been placed.

Why are we trying to hide the birth of our SAVIOR? We should be proclaiming it like the angels, the shepherds and the wise men. JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD HAS COME!

Nelda Dickman
Pampa

Pile-up kills one, injures 24 on bridge

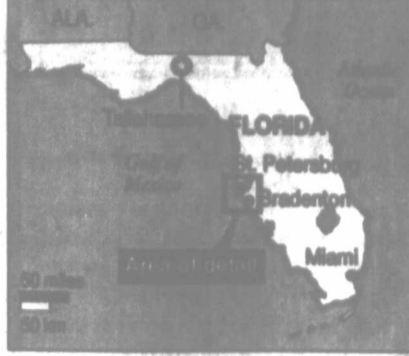
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - More than 50 cars, trucks and vans collided in a string of chain-reaction accidents Friday on the foggy Sunshine Skyway Bridge, killing one person and injuring 24 others.

Dozens of other vehicles were trapped on the bridge by the wreckage, and the soaring 1,260-foot span across the mouth of Tampa Bay was closed in both directions.

Preliminary reports led highway troopers to believe that fast driving and lane changing in the thick fog triggered the crashes.

"It was extremely fortunate. There could have easily been 10 or 20 people killed out here," said Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Harry Moffield. "It was such a mess out here."

Monitors who scan the bridge's 13 closed-circuit cameras said the thick fog prevented them from seeing the nine separate accident sites after the chain reaction began



about 11:30 a.m.

"You couldn't even see the bridge in spots, no less the vehicles," said Hugh Bogaert, a toll booth supervisor.

Most of the wreckage had been cleared by 5:30 p.m. Wreckers were still pulling cars, some of them folded like accordions, from the scene. Some front ends were bashed in as far as the steering wheels. On others, the trunks were totally collapsed.

Five of the injured were admitted to Bayfront Medical Center. An 11-month-old girl was reported in critical condition at All Children's Hospital. Officials at other hospitals were unable to immediately confirm how many of the 18 others who were injured were admitted or treated and released.

The bridge is the high point of an 8.1-mile causeway connecting the St. Petersburg-Tampa area to the north and the Bradenton-Sarasota area to the south. Motorists were forced to drive an extra 40 to 50 miles as a detour to skirt the bridge between Pinellas and Manatee counties.

Driver's license leads to suspected robbers

HOUSTON (AP) - Police had little trouble tracking down a married couple they believe used a frying pan as a weapon in robbing a Montgomery County convenience store.

A purse left behind by the couple contained the driver's license, complete with a current address, of 32-year-old Lisa Morrison, police said.

The robbers also left behind the frying pan with which Michael Kevin Morrison, 38, is believed to have hit Quick Mart clerk Shain Nanji, police said.

Both Morrisons were charged with aggravated robbery and were being held Saturday in the Montgomery County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond each.

The robbery occurred shortly after 11 p.m. Tuesday, just west of Conroe.

Nanji said the man and woman came in and made small talk with him as they browsed the aisles.

The man eventually walked up to the counter, tightly clutching the woman's purse to his chest, and pulled a small iron skillet from the purse. A security camera videotape shows the man raising the pan above his head with both hands and striking Nanji on the head.

The tape shows the man then

reached across the counter, grabbing Nanji and pushing his face onto the counter. The robber then reached into the cash register, took the cash drawer and headed out the door with the woman behind him.

Nanji was hit so hard on the head with the pan that the handle broke off. He was treated at the scene and was back on the job Friday.

"I'm damaged, but it's OK," Nanji told the Houston Chronicle.

Sheriff's Lt. Dan Norris said leaving the purse was the couple's crucial mistake.

"It definitely was our foremost clue," he said.

Sims helps train newly elected, appointed judges

DALLAS - District Judge M. Kent Sims of Wheeler helped orientate newly elected and appointed judges at the College for New Judges in Dallas Dec. 8-13. Sims, judge for the 31st District Court, served as dean of the education program of the conference.

The Texas Center for the Judiciary Inc., a judicial education provider in Austin, developed the conference, which gives

judges the opportunity to analyze the role and responsibilities of being a judge and to develop the skills necessary to be effective in this position.

The conference featured an intense six-day program that discussed such topics as Transition to the Bench, Decision Making, Judicial Ethics, Evidence, Family Violence, Courts and Media, and Trial Management. The classes

provide information and training to assist new judges in making the transition from an advocate in the court to that of a fair and impartial administrator of justice.

The conference utilized a diverse and distinguished faculty of outstanding Texas judges. In addition, some courses offered the expertise of professionals in communications, court reporting and computer technology.

16 die on Texas highways in Christmas holiday period

AMARILLO - The Texas Highway Department has issued the results of deaths on Texas highways for the Christmas holiday which ended at 3 p.m. on Thursday.

The department had projected a count of 10 deaths during Christmas; as of 3 p.m. Thursday there were 16 confirmed deaths.

Of the people involved in the deaths, none were wearing seat belts and eight were ejected from the cars.

"If this doesn't make people buckle up, I don't know what will," said L.B. Snider, public information officer Amarillo region DPS.

Fourteen deaths occurred during night hours; there were seven

one-vehicle rollovers and nine two-vehicle accidents, six of which were head-on collisions. Only two accidents were alcohol related.

Snider said the department expects 15 deaths over the upcoming New Year's celebrations. The higher death count is expected due to the

increased use of alcohol. He advises travelers to avoid night driving, watch out for the other drivers, stay alert and, most of all, don't drink and drive and buckle those seat belts.

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Dennis Godwin

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First American Bank

Dennis Godwin
Branch Manager

TENNESSEE'S STORY
I played college football for the Tennessee Volunteers. I had a lot of pro teams looking at me. In one game Herschel Walker threw a block on me and tore my knee and ankle up. I was 6'4" and weighed 285 pounds. I had a 38" waist and was playing defensive tackle. This stopped my football career and I went to lifting weights. I ruptured four disc one day and over the next year I ballooned up to 365 pounds and had a 52" waist.
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Companies converting to open space layout

By CLIFF EDWARDS
AP Business Writer

CHICAGO (AP) - As a partner and controller at Andersen Worldwide, Rene Ordogne gets a room with a view. Farther down the corporate totem pole, so does senior analyst Randy Scasny.

In fact, everyone gets a view - of everyone else.

The days when executives were ensconced in comfortable corner offices while the staff labored in cubicles are gone at this global consulting company.

Now, everyone lives in "neighborhoods" - workplace groupings aimed at increasing collaboration and spontaneous interaction.

It's a concept quietly gaining momentum in corporate America as management looks at ways to increase productivity.

"It's different than we had ever expected," Ordogne said while sitting in one of several office lounge areas that look surprisingly like living rooms, with comfortable chairs, foot rests, eye pleasingly painted walls and artwork.

Ordogne gave up a posh office where privacy was as simple as closing his mahogany door. His "home base" is now the same kind of 8-by-10-foot low-walled desk that his executive assistants and staff have - and they sit right beside him.

"I had a reasonably nice office at the other spot, but I was just too excluded before," he said. "I like the ability to just kind of see people. I don't know how they feel about it. I don't think there were volunteers standing by to sit by me, but I respect that and go out

of my way to let them have their space."

One of the largest proponents of change, not surprisingly, is Steelcase Inc., the world's largest maker of office furniture, based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The company this year made the changeover at its own corporate offices, with the chairman getting the same type of permanent workstation other workers have.

Several other companies, such as Mobil and Shell, have done similar things with their offices, said Carrie Tennesen, a researcher at the International Workplace Studies Program at Cornell University.

Castec Software Factory in Toronto and several Dutch government offices also have turned to Steelcase for their needs.

"This is something we're going to see continue," Ms. Tennesen said. "But it has to be more than just design change. The management needs to consider the whole picture in terms of changing the behaviors you would expect to see go along with workplace changes."

Executives and managers at Andersen attended numerous seminars on how to give workers space and trust under the new arrangement. Workers in turn get more flexibility, but ultimately are held more accountable.

Steelcase worked closely with Andersen to design the Chicago-based company's new offices, which cost millions of dollars.

Andersen expects it will save at least \$1 million annually from the move in real estate costs alone. The firm's 1,100 employees now have offices on five floors, compared with 22 floors in its previous building.

"We saw an opportunity to enhance department cooperation and interaction by eliminating the physical areas and obstacles to spontaneous communication," said John Lewis, Andersen Worldwide's chief financial officer.

"From my personal point of view, it's been fantastic. I'm getting visits from people I hardly ever see. It's just a far more interactive environment than what we've had before and exactly what I hoped to achieve."

The open space design makes the new offices appear almost empty despite the new density. To let people get away from it all, each neighborhood has "shared" areas - empty workstations, mini conference rooms, even private cubicles - where an employee or group can meet, work on the computer or use the telephone in relative privacy. But all offices have glass doors now.

White noise is pumped in through the ceiling to deaden sound. And the firm provides about 100 mobile phones to allow employees to take or make calls from anywhere in the office.

Investment houses appear to be leading the trend toward open workspaces, followed by high-technology firms. Law firms and doctors' offices have been most resistant, in part because of privacy concerns, office designers say.

Scasny said he wouldn't go back to the old offices.

"In the old building, I had a cubicle with three walls," he said. "I never had a choice to go into a private office, to make a phone call or otherwise. Here, I can do what I need to do. I think it's great."

Words of Wisdom ...

It is nearly the end of another year. A year that is passing quickly as we move toward the end of not only a century, but also a millennium. What wisdom will the next thousand years bring? Perhaps, less than you might suppose.

Many of the words of wisdom we use to guide us and improve our quality of life have actually been around a millennium or two. Though many of the quotes in this column are attributed to more recent philosophers and wordsmiths, I believe you'll find that most of this week's wisdom predates the more recent usage.

Timeless wisdom

- God gives every bird its food, but he does not throw it into the nest. — J. G. Holland
- Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. — Theodore Roosevelt
- No one knows what he can do till he tries. — Publilius Syrus (first century B.C.)
- I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker. — Helen Keller
- He who neglects to drink of the spring of experience is likely to die of thirst in the desert of ignorance. — Ling Po
- Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. — Ecclesiastes 9:10
- The hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer. — Ralph Waldo Emerson
- It is not the going out of port, but the coming in, that determines the success of a voyage. — Henry Ward Beecher
- I am still learning. — Michelangelo (his favorite saying)
- Learn to unlearn. — Benjamin Disraeli
- Learning is a treasure which will follow its owner everywhere. — Chinese proverb
- Thoughts for the new year**
- The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it. — John Ruskin
- My father taught me to work; but he did not teach me to love it. — Abraham Lincoln
- A great man leaves clean work behind him, and requires no sweeper up of the chips. — Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way. — Booker T. Washington
- ... Government should do only those things the people cannot do for themselves. — Ronald Reagan
- To be a success in business, be daring, be first, be different. — Marchant
- Who begins too much accomplishes little. — German proverb
- A man cannot be comfortable with his own approval. — Mark Twain
- If we abide by the principles taught by the Bible, our country will go on prospering. — Daniel Webster
- Time is really the only capital that any human being has and the only thing he can't afford to lose. — Thomas Edison
- Do the best you can, with what you have, where your are. — unknown
- A good example is the best sermon. — Herbert J. Taylor
- The opportunity that God sends does not wake up him who is asleep. — Senegalese proverb
- If I keep my good character, I shall be rich enough. — Platonius (first century B.C.)
- Don't talk unless you can improve the silence. — Vermont Proverb

FCC approves merger to form nation's largest radio group

WASHINGTON (AP) - Removing the last regulatory obstacle, the government agreed recently to let Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Infinity Broadcasting Corp. merge into the nation's largest radio group.

The Federal Communications Commission's approval of the \$3.9 billion deal, announced in June, had been expected.

The new group will operate 79 radio stations in 17 markets, accounting for more than \$1 billion in revenues, said Westinghouse, which plans to close the deal by the end of the year.

"The radio industry is poised to expand its seven percent share of the advertising mar-

ket, and we intend to lead that expansion," said Mel Karmazin, who will lead the new combined CBS Radio group upon closing the merger. Karmazin is now Infinity's chief.

Westinghouse is the parent company of CBS.

The Justice Department cleared the deal in November.

The radio industry has been undergoing rapid consolidation in the aftermath of Congress' approval earlier this year of the Telecommunications Act, which makes it easier for one company to own more radio stations locally and nationally.

To comply with new federal

ownership rules, Westinghouse has filed applications to divest two radio stations in Chicago and three in Dallas-Fort Worth, the FCC said. Earlier to get Justice Department approval the two companies had also agreed to sell one station in Philadelphia and another in Boston.

The new ownership rules say a company can't own more than eight radio stations in the largest local markets.

Westinghouse had asked the FCC for waivers of rules in nine markets so that it may own both TV and radio stations.

The FCC, however, granted temporary waivers so that the company may hold stations up

to six months after the FCC issues a final decision in proceeding that could further relax local ownership rules, making such media combinations possible.

Those markets are: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Separately, the FCC also gave Westinghouse, as it requested, permanent waivers of local ownership rules so that it retain radio and TV stations acquired in November from CBS Inc. Those stations are in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit and Chicago.

Business briefs

Chevron U.S.A. ordered to pay \$61 million

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) - A jury has ordered Chevron U.S.A. to pay nearly \$61 million to a contractor that claimed its workers were sickened by unsafe conditions at one of the oil company's refineries.

The Dec. 17 jury decision stemmed from maintenance and construction work that AltairStrickland did during a shutdown of the El Paso Chevron refinery in March 1995.

Chevron will appeal the verdict and may ask District Judge Gary Sanders to set aside the judgment, El Paso Chevron spokesman Santana Gonzalez said.

The jury found Chevron guilty of fraud and gross negligence in the contract dispute. The award includes \$43.5 million in damages for AltairStrickland and \$17.4 million in its attorney fees.

AltairStrickland sued Chevron U.S.A. Products Co., a division of San Francisco-based Chevron U.S.A., in June 1995 in Beaumont, where Chevron also has a refinery.

been turned back by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Peter C. Dorsey is letting the state proceed with a suit in state court that attempts to recover from tobacco companies the taxpayer money spent on treating smoking-related illnesses.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said Thursday he believed it was the first time a judge has thrown out one of the lawsuits tobacco companies have filed to block states from bringing Medicaid claims against them. Nineteen states, including Connecticut, have such claims against the industry.

Former toy executive named CEO of Montgomery Ward

CHICAGO (AP) - Former Toys R Us executive Roger Goddu has been chosen as the new chairman and chief executive of Montgomery Ward & Co., the nation's largest privately held retailer.

With the appointment, Goddu replaces Bernard F. Brennan. The company said Brennan, 58, is stepping back from day-to-day

responsibilities to assume a more strategic role at the retailer's parent, Montgomery Ward Holding Corp., where he will remain chairman.

Trade Commission tentatively allows General Mills purchase

WASHINGTON (AP) - General Mills Inc. can move forward with its \$570 million purchase of Ralcorp Holdings Inc.'s Chex brand cold cereals, but with some restrictions, the Federal Trade Commission said.

St. Louis-based Ralcorp makes the Chex brands. It is the fifth-largest cereal maker and largest producer of private label cereals - products that are identical or very similar to name brands but which carry the grocery store, retailer or wholesaler name on its label.

Ralcorp keeps its private label business under the acquisition and Minneapolis-based General Mills has agreed, in a settlement Thursday with the FTC, to permit the introduction of private label competitors to the Chex brands.

Texas Worker's Compensation Commission offers free program

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission recently developed a free program to help small business owners reduce employee injury exposures and control workers' compensation costs.

Established to target businesses with 150 or fewer employees, the Small Business Assistance Program was designed for employers who want the services of a professional safety consultant to assist in developing and carrying out a cost-effective Accident Prevention Plan. The goal is to provide a safer work place for Texas workers.

The Safety Consultations section of the Commission's Workers' Health & Safety Division is offering this program free of charge to qualified employers who will cooperate in implementing recommended Accident Prevention Plans and employee safety programs.

In return, Safety Consultants staff will then monitor the injury frequency rates of participating companies. The rate for the twelve months after joining the program will be compared to the twelve months prior to participation in the program.

Some of the free services a business can receive include:

- access to a professional safety and health consultant;
 - assistance in developing a workable and cost-effective Accident Prevention Plan;
 - free posters and handouts for safety meetings and training;
 - access to hundreds of audio-video films in English and Spanish;
 - help with developing the company's safety training schedule;
 - help with establishing a comprehensive inspection program;
 - on-site hazard surveys and inspections;
 - recommendations for correction of identified hazards;
 - help with written programs required by law; and
 - annual review of the accident prevention program.
- Several small businesses are participating in the pilot program and many more are expected to take advantage of this free resource in the months ahead. Program participants will benefit by acquiring a customized safety program that should be effective for many years to come.
- For more information regarding this free program, please call the Commission's Safety Consultation section at 512-440-3798.

MDK Inc. recalls model trains from market

WASHINGTON (AP) - MDK Inc. is recalling about 20,000 model trains that may create a fire hazard if the train derails.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Tuesday the danger comes if the coupler coil spring overheats, although neither the commission nor the company is aware of any injuries.

Trains involved are the Heavyweight line of O-scale passenger cars, sold under the brand name K-LINE Electric

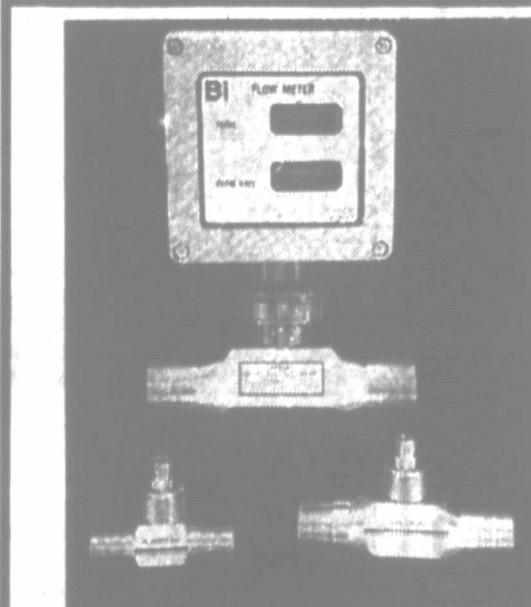
Trains, produced from 1991 through 1995. These cars are 1-to-48 scale models of railroad passenger cars from the early 1900s, designed to operate on a three-rail, O gauge track.

Cars included in the recall are: coach, pullman, baggage, railway post office, diner and observation car. They sold for about \$75 to \$125 per car.

For a free repair kit, call the Chapl Hill, N.C.-based company at 810-866-9986.

Tobacco industry loses bid to block billion dollar suit

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - A tobacco industry bid to block Connecticut's \$1 billion lawsuit has



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Happy New Year!

College Information Hotline available for Texas students and families

BRYAN — The College Information Hotline (available via a toll-free call — 1-800-347-3475 — provides timely information concerning post secondary educational opportunities to Texas students and their families.

One weekend in January is set aside for the Hotline operation each year. This year the Hotline will be Jan. 18-19.

The 1997 Hotline is the 12th year the project has been in operation. Last year, close to 1,000 calls about college admission and financial aid were handled by the Hotline volunteers.

The Hotline is directed to anyone in the state who has questions about any aspect of college admission, financial aid, degree programs, housing, student life and activities, or special programs. Callers may also request information from specific colleges and universities. If coun-

selors are unable to answer any of the caller's questions, they will research the answer and provide the information within the week following the call.

Hotline operators also field many questions about vocational, technical schools and community colleges. They will also provide information about any college in the United States.

During the calls, counselors spend much time counseling students and their parents about planning for college and careers.

The toll-free number (1-800-347-3475) is publicized through radio, television, newspapers and high school guidance offices throughout the state of Texas. A hotline information packet is distributed in December and early January.

Teams of high school and college admission counselors will man 10 incoming WATTS phone

lines. Each year, about 75 professional counselors from schools across Texas volunteer to field incoming calls. Spanish speaking counselors are available each shift.

The Hotline is operated from the offices of the Greater East Texas Servicing Corporation in Bryan. All volunteers are members of the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC).

Historically, callers are predominately high school students and their parents, but an increasing number of information requests are coming from middle school students, current college students, adults who did not complete college or have never attended, and veterans with questions about their benefits.

Admission representatives from over 25 public and private college and universities in Texas

will be on duty throughout the weekend. Although it is impossible to guarantee that a counselor from a particular school will be present, the service is often able to let the caller speak to a representative from the school of interest.

Counselors' sources of information include college publications, computerized information systems and the collective experience of the 75 admission professionals who are volunteering their time. Members of the Texas Association of School Financial Aid Administrators will be available to assist with detailed questions about the financial aid process and application procedures.

Funding is provided by the Greater East Texas Servicing Corporation. The Texas Hotline is the largest project of its type in the nation.

Newlyweds die in plane crash

AUSTIN (AP) — Cary and Jamie Lindley spent their first Christmas as husband and wife with relatives in Del Rio, leaving that evening on a moonlight flight home to Austin.

Then, with Cary Lindley at the controls, something went wrong over the remote ranch country west of San Antonio.

Around noon Friday, about 1 1/2 days after the plane was reported as overdue in Austin, searchers found the wreckage of their single-engine Cessna 210 aircraft in the isolated hills about 25 miles north of Brackettville.

Among the debris were found the Lindleys' bodies. They had been married less than a month.

Brackettville is about 160 miles southwest of Austin, between San Antonio and Del Rio.

Lt. Col. Fred Deyeso, who coordinated the search for the Civil Air Patrol described the area as a graveyard for aircraft.

The abundant hills and sparsely populated terrain in that area can make it difficult for pilots to fly because there are few lights on the ground to help pilots of small aircraft orient themselves, Deyeso said.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators have begun an evaluation to determine why the small plane went down.

The Lindleys were reported missing by family members Wednesday when the couple failed to arrive in Austin after leaving from Del Rio at about 7 p.m. The flight should have taken no more than two or three hours, Deyeso said.

The Civil Air Patrol, a volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, rallied 10 planes to search for the Lindleys and had been looking for the couple since about 10 a.m. Thursday.

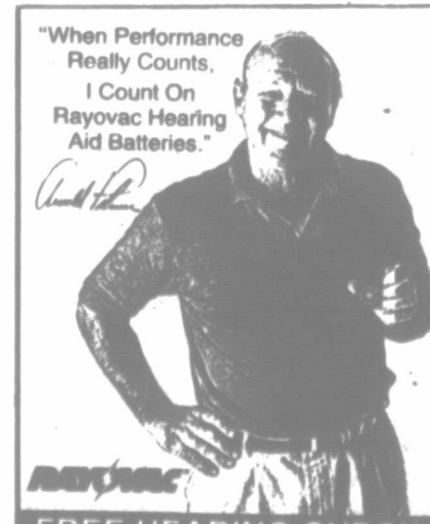
Simmons named honorary AICPA

Edwin E. Simmons, a certified public accountant whose office is at 1313 N. Hobart in Pampa, was recently named an honorary member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Simmons, at age 88, is still in active practice, specializing in taxes and related matters. He holds Texas State Board of Public Accountancy Board Certificate Number 1184, and Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Certificate Number 924. These numbers may be the lowest (oldest) in the state held by anyone still in active practice.

The honorary member certificate is given to CPAs who have been members of the AICPA for 50 years. The AICPA is the national professional association of CPAs with more than 325,000 members in public practice, industry, government and education.

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Cowboys, Jacksonville Jaguars dominate Saturday

By The Associated Press
The Jacksonville Jaguars, who labored in the shadow of their expansion partners from Carolina, beat the Panthers to one bit of history on Saturday — a playoff victory.
The Dallas Cowboys, meanwhile, were back in Super Bowl form.
While the Panthers waited at home for their first playoff game next Sunday, the Jaguars beat the Buffalo Bills 30-27 on Mike Hollis' 45-yard field goal with 3:07 left. That sends them into the AFC semifinals next week at either New England or Denver.
"We wanted to make a statement to the world," said wide receiver Keenan McCardell. "We wanted to say these Jaguars are pretty good and you've got to recognize us."
Dallas, meanwhile, made its statement, crushing Minnesota 40-15 in perhaps its best performance of an up-and-down year. The Cowboys now play the

Panthers at Charlotte next Sunday.
The Cowboys were led by safety George Teague, who returned an interception 29 yards for a touchdown and stripped Minnesota's Amp Lee as he was about to score. Minnesota self-destructed with five turnovers that led to 23 Dallas points.
Two more first-round games will be played Sunday — Indianapolis at Pittsburgh in the AFC and Philadelphia at San Francisco in the NFC. Denver and New England in the AFC and Green Bay and Carolina in the NFC were idle.
It was the second straight week the Jaguars won on an unusual kick. Last week, they qualified for the playoffs when Atlanta's usually flawless Morten Andersen missed a game-winner from 30 yards. On Saturday, Hollis' winner hit the top of the right upright and caromed through.
It was the first playoff loss ever at Rich Stadium for Buffalo,

which had won its previous nine there. And it may be the end of an era for the Bills team that dominated the AFC by going to the first four Super Bowls of the 1990s.
Jim Kelly was carted off with a concussion and Todd Collins played the last two series after Hollis' winning kick. Pass-rusher Bruce Smith was handled well by tackle Tony Boselli, the Jaguars' first pick in the 1995 draft. Kelly also had a poorly executed shovel pass intercepted by Jacksonville's Clyde Simmons and returned for a touchdown.
"The end of an era? Well, it's the beginning of one for us," said Tom Coughlin, the Panthers coach.
Boselli helped clear the way for Natrone Means, who rushed for 175 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown run and 62-yard burst that set up Hollis' first field goal.
Nor could the Bills deal with Mark Brunell, who improvised

Wild card teams that made it to the Super Bowl

Buffalo Bills	Super Bowl XXVII	(Lost to Dallas, 52-17)
N.E. Patriots	Super Bowl XXI	(Lost to Chicago, 46-10)
Oakland Raiders	Super Bowl XV	(Beat Philadelphia, 27-10)
Dallas Cowboys	Super Bowl X	(Lost to Pittsburgh, 21-17)

Source: NFL Record and Fact Book

under constant pressure to hit Jimmy Smith and McCardell for big plays, the biggest an 11-yard third-down completion of McCardell on the drive to the winning field goal.
Thurman Thomas opening the scoring for Buffalo with a 7-yard reception from Kelly. It was 17-17 at the half and 20-20 after three quarters. Jeff Burris' 38-yard return with an interception tipped by David White gave the Bills a 27-20 lead but Brunell responded with a 2-yard TD pass to Smith to tie it again.
In Dallas, the Cowboys rolled to a 30-0 halftime lead as Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin were in top form.
Sunday's games
Philadelphia (10-6) at San Francisco (12-4)
This is only the second time the 49ers have found themselves stuck in a wild-card game — they lost to another NFC East team, the Giants, 17-3 in 1985.
This time they face a team with

a lot of San Francisco in it. Eagles coach Ray Rhodes was an assistant on all five 49ers Super Bowl teams, and Ricky Watters, Guy McIntyre, Don Griffin, Rhett Hall and Adam Walker all were 49ers.
Indianapolis (9-7) at Pittsburgh (10-6)
A replay of last year's AFC title game in which the Steelers won 20-16. That game went down to the last play, a desperation heave by Jim Harbaugh that Aaron Bailey nearly caught for the Colts in the end zone.
The Colts have history going against them, the law of averages going for them. They haven't beaten the Steelers in 12 years and are 0-9 in Three Rivers Stadium.
Kordell Stewart of the Steelers may play more than usual at quarterback following his performance last week in Carolina, where he ran 80 yards for one touchdown and passed for another.

Syracuse Orangemen beat Houston Cougars in Liberty Bowl

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Paul Pasqualoni never doubted that his Syracuse team would find a way to end their season with a victory.
The Orangemen beat Houston 30-17 Friday in the Liberty Bowl, capping a season started with two losses and extending their unbeaten bowl streak to eight going back to a 16-16 tie in the 1988 Sugar Bowl.
"It's the nature of the Syracuse program ..." Pasqualoni said. "Tradition is great, and football's awful important at Syracuse."
After all, his Orangemen lost to

North Carolina and Minnesota before reeling off eight straight wins. A regular-season ending 38-31 loss to Miami cost them a chance at a slot in either the Carquest or Gator Bowls.
"Then they rose back up and played awfully hard (again)," he said.
Syracuse responded with its best rushing performance ever in a bowl. The Orangemen (9-3) rushed for 396 yards, its best since 348 in the 1966 Gator Bowl, and totaled 472 yards offense while holding the ball for 38 minutes.
"We couldn't get the ball away from them in the second half," Houston coach Kim Helton said. "They held onto the ball, and

they made the plays on third down. They had a great outside running game."
Senior Malcolm Thomas rushed for a career-high 201 yards on 24 carries. Despite a sprained ankle that hampered him for most of the second half, he capped the scoring with his only touchdown.
Pasqualoni didn't plan on running that much against Houston (7-5). McNabb only threw 10 passes, completing 4 for 76 yards.
"I thought we would probably have a little bit more to do with the pass, but it worked out that way so we continued to run it," Pasqualoni said.
He spent some time after the

game trying to dispel talk that his Orangemen weren't happy playing in the Liberty Bowl, sponsored by St. Jude Children's Hospital.
"I think our kids showed today they wanted to be here very, very badly," he said.
Houston cornerback Delmonico Montgomery didn't expect Syracuse to be anything but ready Friday.
"Anytime a football player gets on the field, he's ready to play so we never thought that. We came in ready to play, but they just made more plays than we did."
Syracuse had 19 more plays than Houston thanks to the Orangemen's defense, which allowed the Cougars 341 yards

offense and intercepted Chuck Clements once in the end zone.
"We stalled offensively in the third quarter, and by the fourth quarter, they had scored 30 points and we couldn't catch up," said Clements, who was 14-of-28 for 217 yards.
Syracuse stayed on the ground from the opening possession behind Thomas and McNabb, who scored his first of two TDs on a 1-yard plunge. The Orangemen dominated the clock most during the second and third quarters when they held possession for more than 20 minutes.
Antowain Smith pulled Houston within 16-14 with a 3-yard TD just before intermission.

A chance to take the lead in the third quarter ended when Rod Gadsdon intercepted a Clements' pass in the end zone.
Houston came close twice more, settling for a 23-yard field goal from Sebastian Villareal with 10:50 to go and getting nothing when Clements overthrew Damion Johnson in the end zone on fourth-and-2.
The Liberty Bowl was Houston's first postseason game since 1988 and capped the Cougars' first winning season since 1990.
"We stayed with them for three quarters," said Smith. "I tip my hat to them, but I wouldn't trade this season for anything. It was a great year for us."

Wisconsin victorious over Utah in Copper Bowl

By MEL REISNER
AP Sports Writer
TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Wisconsin freshman Ron Dayne generated Heisman talk with his performance in the Copper Bowl.
That is welcome conjecture to coach Barry Alvarez. What he'd like to dodge is NFL talk.
"They keep talking about him as a Heisman candidate," Alvarez said Friday night after Dayne rushed for 246 yards and three touchdowns in 30 carries during a 38-10 win over Utah. "I think he is. He's special, and he can only get better."
Others wonder how long Dayne, who has breakaway speed despite his 260 pounds, will stay in college if he continues to put up the numbers he did this year. He broke Herschel Walker's 16-year-old freshman record by more than 200 yards with 1,863 before this postseason date with the Utes.
Dayne wasn't thinking along those lines, though.
"We went out with a win," he said. "The seniors got a win, and the young guys got a win."
It was a kind of redemption for the Badgers (8-5), who had an 0-4 start in their Big Ten Conference schedule, including tough losses to Penn State, Ohio State and Northwestern, before they recovered

with five victories in their last six games.
"We overcame what happened in October. That's in the past, and this was the best way to finish it," said Tarek Saleh, who deflected a pass by Utah's Mike Fouts that Cyrril Weems turned into an 82-yard interception return for a game-turning TD. It was one of four that set a Copper Bowl record, doubling the previous standard held by three teams.
Alvarez praised his seniors, probably thinking of the defense. Saleh and Neil Miklusak, who deflected another pass into the hands of a teammate, are seniors, along with Weems, Pete Monty and Pete Diatelevi, who got the first three picks.
Quarterback Mike Samuel ran 38 yards for Wisconsin's first TD. Dayne scored on runs of 40, 3 and 1 yards, and John Hall kicked a 38-yard field goal.
Utah (8-4) got its points on a 24-yard field goal by Daniel Pulsipher and 1-yard run by Juan Johnson.
The game was decided before halftime, when the Badgers led 31-3 after blunting both ends of Utah's attack.
The Utes ran 55 percent of the time this year, but weren't able to do that after 275-pound running back Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala sprained his left ankle 9:02 into the game and had to watch the second half on crutches.
After the injury, Fouts kept a 16-play drive

going for Pulsipher's field goal, cutting Wisconsin's lead to 7-3 with 3:53 left in the quarter.
But after the ensuing kickoff, Dayne covered 77 yards in two carries, sprinting outside to his right for 37 yards on the first and bursting up the middle for the score on the next.
"Ron Dayne is a great football player," Utah coach Ron McBride said. "He's just what they advertised."
The Badgers scored 17 points in the second quarter, starting the rout when they began turning Fouts' passes into turnovers.
The Utes reached the Wisconsin 14 before Saleh batted a swing pass to Weems, who outran everyone to the far end zone, sending the Badgers to a 21-3 lead 1:32 into the second quarter.
Monty returned the second interception 24 yards to the Utah 12 with 1:28 left in the half. Dayne covered the distance in three carries, scoring from 3 yards with 42 seconds remaining.
Fouts, who finished with 327 yards on 27-of-49 passing but had two more interceptions in the second half, didn't use Fuamatu-Ma'afala as an excuse.
"That's what happens when 11 guys don't play," Fouts said. "We just didn't execute what we said before the game."

"Tremain was truly terrific," Miami coach Butch Davis said. "I don't think I've ever been around a guy who can make so many big plays in so many different areas."
Clement completed 16 of 26 attempts, including a 70-yard touchdown pass to Yatil Green.
"We basically intimidated them," Clement said. "Their heads were down at halftime."
The game took place just 20 miles from Miami's campus but drew only 46,418 fans in 74,916 Pro Player Stadium. Clement, a junior, said the Hurricanes will shoot for a better record and bigger crowds next season.
"I hope the city of Miami can get behind us," he said. "I want to plead with Hurricane fans to come out and support us next year and bring 65,000 of your friends. We won't let you down. Don't let us down."

Death of player's mother hits Hawkeye team hard

By GREG SMITH
Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Iowa Hawkeyes may dedicate Sunday's Alamo Bowl game to the mother of reserve linebacker Mark Mitchell, who was killed in a one-car crash on an icy road while traveling to the game with her family.
Coach Hayden Fry said he met with his players Saturday afternoon before their walk-through at The AlamoDome, but the coach said the Hawkeyes' hadn't immediately decided how to commemorate the game.
The Mitchell family was driving on U.S. Highway 34 in south central Iowa Friday night when their van lost control after trying to pass another vehicle, the Iowa Highway Patrol said.
Lucas County Deputy Sheriff Paul Cochran said the van rolled onto its top, pinning Diane Mitchell underneath. The driver, her husband Bob Mitchell, was reported in serious condition at a Des Moines hospital.
Four others were in the van, including Mark's two brothers, David and Brian, David's wife Shari, and Eric Martinez. None received life-threatening injuries. Brian Mitchell and Martinez are Iowa baseball players.

Mark Mitchell is a senior linebacker for the Hawkeyes who also played on special teams.
Mitchell, linebacker coach Bret Bielema and trainer John Streif were flown to Des Moines by a bowl sponsor's corporate jet. Bielema and Streif returned Saturday, but Mitchell will miss the game, Fry said.
His replacement will be freshman Raj Clark, who's been injured most of the year but is healthy now, he said.
Mrs. Mitchell's death hit the team hard, the coach said.
"Mark's such an outgoing guy. You give him a break and he's out deer hunting or duck hunting or whatever, and he always takes along seven or eight other guys who've never been hunting in their lives.
"Then they go over to the house and mama fixes them something to eat. The kids, they just love the Mitchell family."
School spokesman Phil Haddy said none of the Iowa players would be available to comment on the death.

Miami Hurricanes blow doors off Virginia Cavaliers in Carquest Bowl

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer
MIAMI (AP) — With a pregame scuffle and a bowl-game victory, the Miami Hurricanes looked like the team that once dominated college football.
Virginia battled Miami to a draw in a showing match during warmup drills Friday, but the Hurricanes took charge when the game began and won the Carquest Bowl 31-21.
Tremain Mack scored twice on turnovers and blocked a kick Friday to help Miami claim its first bowl victory in five years.
"We seem to play well with that intimidating style," said Ryan Clement, who threw for a career-high 274 yards.
The 19th-ranked Hurricanes (9-3) took the field with an attitude reminiscent of their ill-mannered national championship teams. As they came out of the stadium tunnel 45 minutes before the game

and made their way through the Virginia team conducting drills, players began pushing and shoving.
At least one Virginia player was knocked to the ground, and witnesses along the sideline said punches were thrown before coaches quickly separated the sides.
"We told them we'd beat them in boxing or on the field at the same time," Miami cornerback Earl Little said. "I guess they're 0-2 tonight."
"We were saying, This is no joke bowl," Mack said. "We came out to win this game, and we did."
The victory also included vintage showboating by the Hurricanes. After scoring to go ahead 24-7, the kickoff team began dancing in the huddle as the partisan crowd roared.
"They definitely tried to intimidate us," Virginia's Tiki Barber said. "They had a lot of enthusiasm."

Barber, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, bruised his left hip in the first quarter and was limited to 14 yards in seven carries.
"It's frustrating," said Barber, a senior. "It's not how I envisioned going out of the sport of college football."
Unranked Virginia finished 7-5. "It's like any other loss; it's tough to take," Cavaliers coach George Welsh said. "A lot of work is put into these bowl games."
Mack's 79-yard fumble return and 42-yard interception return built that lead, and he blocked Rafael Garcia's 29-yard field goal attempt to protect a 10-point edge in the third quarter.
"This is the way I expect to play all the time," said Mack, a unanimous choice as the most valuable player.

"Tremain was truly terrific," Miami coach Butch Davis said. "I don't think I've ever been around a guy who can make so many big plays in so many different areas."
Clement completed 16 of 26 attempts, including a 70-yard touchdown pass to Yatil Green.
"We basically intimidated them," Clement said. "Their heads were down at halftime."
The game took place just 20 miles from Miami's campus but drew only 46,418 fans in 74,916 Pro Player Stadium. Clement, a junior, said the Hurricanes will shoot for a better record and bigger crowds next season.
"I hope the city of Miami can get behind us," he said. "I want to plead with Hurricane fans to come out and support us next year and bring 65,000 of your friends. We won't let you down. Don't let us down."

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THURSDAY, JAN. 2	MONDAY, DEC. 30, 12 NOON
FRIDAY, JAN. 3	TUESDAY, DEC. 31, 12 NOON

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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.

Rebels to sign final peace accord in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Peacefully entering the capital they once dreamed of seizing, unarmed rebels waited Saturday for their top leaders to return to sign a pact ending Central America's last and longest war.

"Long live peace!" announced a white banner in blue letters on a major thoroughfare. It was signed "URNG," the Spanish initials of the Guatemala National Revolutionary Unity.

Guerrillas long hidden from the public have grown bolder in the days leading up to Sunday, when their leaders and the government will formally end the 36-year-old war that killed at least 140,000 people.

With the pact, Guatemala will join its Central American neighbors in ending the fratricidal fighting that burned across the region in the 1980s.

Sources inside the rebel organization said scores of guerrillas were returning to the capital Saturday, when a new national reconciliation law protecting them from arrest took effect.

The law forgives many crimes committed by both sides during the conflict, but excludes torture, genocide and forced disappear-

ances. Human rights advocates have criticized the law, saying vagueness in its language could foil prosecution of government agents accused of atrocities.

Rebels in recent days have staged hit-and-run propaganda theater in the capital's bus station and impoverished neighborhoods, calling on Guatemalans to join the political party they will form after laying down their arms.

Ski-masked rebels speaking in a poor section of Guatemala City on Friday night called on residents to join them at Sunday's signing ceremony.

"Please show your support for peace," one of the unarmed guerrillas said. "Our party will be the party of the people."

But the majority of the AK-47-toting guerrillas in olive green uniforms will remain in their jungle hideouts, listening to the ceremony on shortwave radios.

At a camp in the southern province of Escuintla, rebels on Saturday rehearsed the precision movements of 36-gun salute — one shot for each year of the civil war — which they plan to conduct while their leaders sign the peace deal in the capital.

Two uniformed woman rebels watched, cradling their babies. Like other rebels gathered at the camp, they are waiting to be demobilized.

In Guatemala City, several dozen paratroopers in camouflage uniforms and black cowboy hats were dispatched to the National Palace, where workmen hammered together wooden platforms for the signing ceremony.

"I think it is good they will sign that paper tomorrow," said Pedro Coy, a peasant from the northern province of Peten. The area suffered some of the worst atrocities during the government's scorched-earth campaigns of the 1980s.

"But peace is not born on paper," Coy said. "It is born in the heart."

Scores of national police in black berets and elite soldiers patrolled the capital's international airport, providing extra security during the arrival of the rebel commanders and dozens of foreign dignitaries.

The aging rebel commanders Rolando Moran, Carlos Gonzalez, Jorge Rosal and Pablo Monsanto, were to return from exile later Saturday. Members of the rebel general command have

lived in Mexico during the peace negotiations, which started six years ago.

Many of those who died in the war were civilians, killed during counterinsurgency campaigns that wiped hundreds of villages off the map.

Once a viable military force, the rebels' ranks were decimated during the early 1980s and their hopes of toppling the government destroyed. Full-scale fighting diminished to sporadic skirmishes.

Sunday's peace accord will activate a definitive cease-fire, constitutional and electoral reforms, and a plan for reincorporating rebels into civilian life.

Demobilization of the rebels could begin in the next few weeks. The U.N. has proposed sending 155 military observers to help gather and disarm the estimated 3,000 rebel troops still hiding in the countryside. The proposal awaits Security Council approval.

China has indicated it could veto the plan because of Guatemala's ties with Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province. But U.N. diplomats say they believe China will back off.

Clarendon College participates in Texas Tomorrow Fund plan

CLARENDON — Ensuring your child's future just got easier with the Texas Tomorrow Fund. A prepaid higher education tuition program, the Texas Tomorrow Fund covers tuition and required fees at any state-supported college or university in Texas, including Clarendon College.

According to John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, more than 40,000 contracts were sold during the initial enrollment period. The next enrollment period for the program runs through Feb. 18, 1997.

"The Texas Tomorrow Fund will make it easier for tens of thousands of Texas families to pay for their children's college," Sharp said.

By paying into the Texas Tomorrow Fund, parents, grandparents, friends, businesses or anyone else may lock in the price of tuition and required fees for one, two, three or four years of credit hours at any state-supported junior or senior college in the state, or, if they prefer, get a good jump on the tuition and fees at any private college in Texas.

Sending a child to college can be costly, and based on recent trends, the cost of tuition and fees will quadruple by the time a baby born today graduates from high school.

The Texas Tomorrow Fund offers four college plans:

1. The Junior College Plan pays up to 64 credit hours of tuition and required fees at any public junior or community college in the state.
2. The Senior College Plan pays up to 128 credit hours of tuition and required fees at any public senior college or university in the state.
3. The Junior/Senior College Plan also pays a total of 128 credit hours of tuition and required fees. The first 64 credit hours of tuition and required fees are paid to any public junior or community college in the state. Then up to 64 credit hours and required fees are paid to any public senior college or university in the state.
4. The Private College Plan pays the estimated average cost of tuition and required fees at the private colleges and universities in Texas (up to 128 hours).

As a state-supported community college, Clarendon College is participating in the Texas Tomorrow Fund. Currently, in-district tuition is \$18 per credit while in-state is only \$20 per credit hour. By participating in the program, parents can lock in these rates for their future students.

Avalanche blocks tunnel in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Rescuers led about 50 people to safety from an avalanche-blocked tunnel in the Caucasus Mountains on Saturday, but hundreds more remained inside to guard their cars.

The Interfax news agency said many of the motorists refused to leave because they feared their cars would be stolen or vandalized.

Rescuers brought food, medicine and other supplies to those inside.

A series of avalanches had trapped more than 100 vehicles and as many as 300 people Friday inside the 2 1/2-mile Roksky tunnel and other sections of the Trans-Caucasus Highway.

In falling snow and a thick fog, rescuers reached the stranded travelers by Saturday and began unblocking the tunnel and leading people out, most of them women.

Striking workers clash with South Korean riot police

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's biggest labor strike turned violent Saturday when police fired tear gas to stop 7,000 marchers demanding the abolition of a law they fear threatens their jobs.

Protesters threw rocks as they faced off against 3,000 riot police. To the incessant beat of gongs and drums, they denounced the country's president: "Kim Young-sam betrayed us!" and "Down with Kim Young-sam!"

Many waved huge, brightly colored union banners through the dense fog of tear gas.

Most of the marchers were among the 373,000 workers participating in the country's largest organized labor strike, which has idled hundreds of car, shipbuilding and other export plants for three days. Students also protested in solidarity.

Police fired the tear gas to stop protesters from marching into the streets after a union rally in central Seoul. No injuries were reported, and police arrested 12

people for taking part in an illegal march. Workers later regrouped and marched to a nearby Roman Catholic church.

Unions called the strike Thursday, after ruling party legislators passed a labor bill in a secretive, pre-dawn parliamentary session. No opposition members were present.

The government has said it will stick to its new law, which allows companies to lay off employees en masse — something unheard of in South Korea. Many South Korean workers assume that once they enter a company they have a job for life. But businesses say they cannot compete in world markets without the flexibility to restructure and lay off workers.

The government had hoped to prevent labor unrest by expanding the workers' rights to unionize. But workers are angry that the new freedoms won't take effect for several years, and union leaders vowed Saturday to step up protests.

Tens of thousands of union



workers were en route to Seoul for a rally on Sunday.

"The strike is illegal and not helpful for anyone," Jim Nyum, the labor minister, said. "All parties should exercise restraint to overcome the difficulty facing the country."

The unrest comes at a particularly sensitive time, as South Korea is expected to register a record \$20 billion trade deficit this year — twice that of last year.

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TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

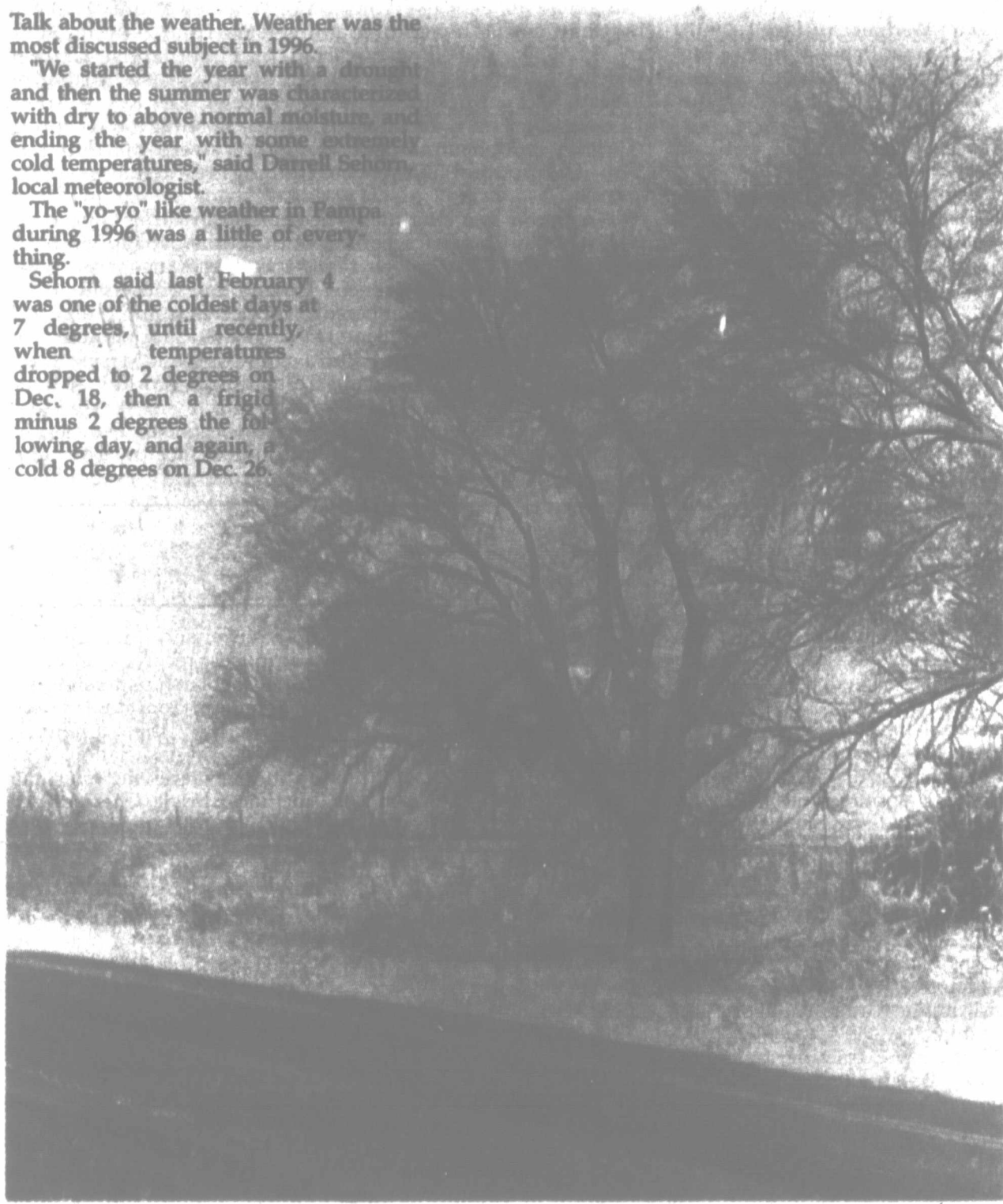


Talk about the weather. Weather was the most discussed subject in 1996.

"We started the year with a drought and then the summer was characterized with dry to above normal moisture, and ending the year with some extremely cold temperatures," said Darrell Sehorn, local meteorologist.

The "yo-yo" like weather in Pampa during 1996 was a little of everything.

Sehorn said last February 4 was one of the coldest days at 7 degrees, until recently when temperatures dropped to 2 degrees on Dec. 18, then a frigid minus 2 degrees the following day, and again, a cold 8 degrees on Dec. 26.



Pampa News photos taken throughout the year by Darlene Holmes and Sherry Cromartie text by Sherry Cromartie layout by Marijane Kent

The Panhandle suffered the longest drought period from mid-1995 through the summer months, not reaching the norms in moisture until late fall.

"Moisture wise, to date we've received 24.32 for the year, compared to 21.62 average; so Pampa measures a little above average for the year," Sehorn said.

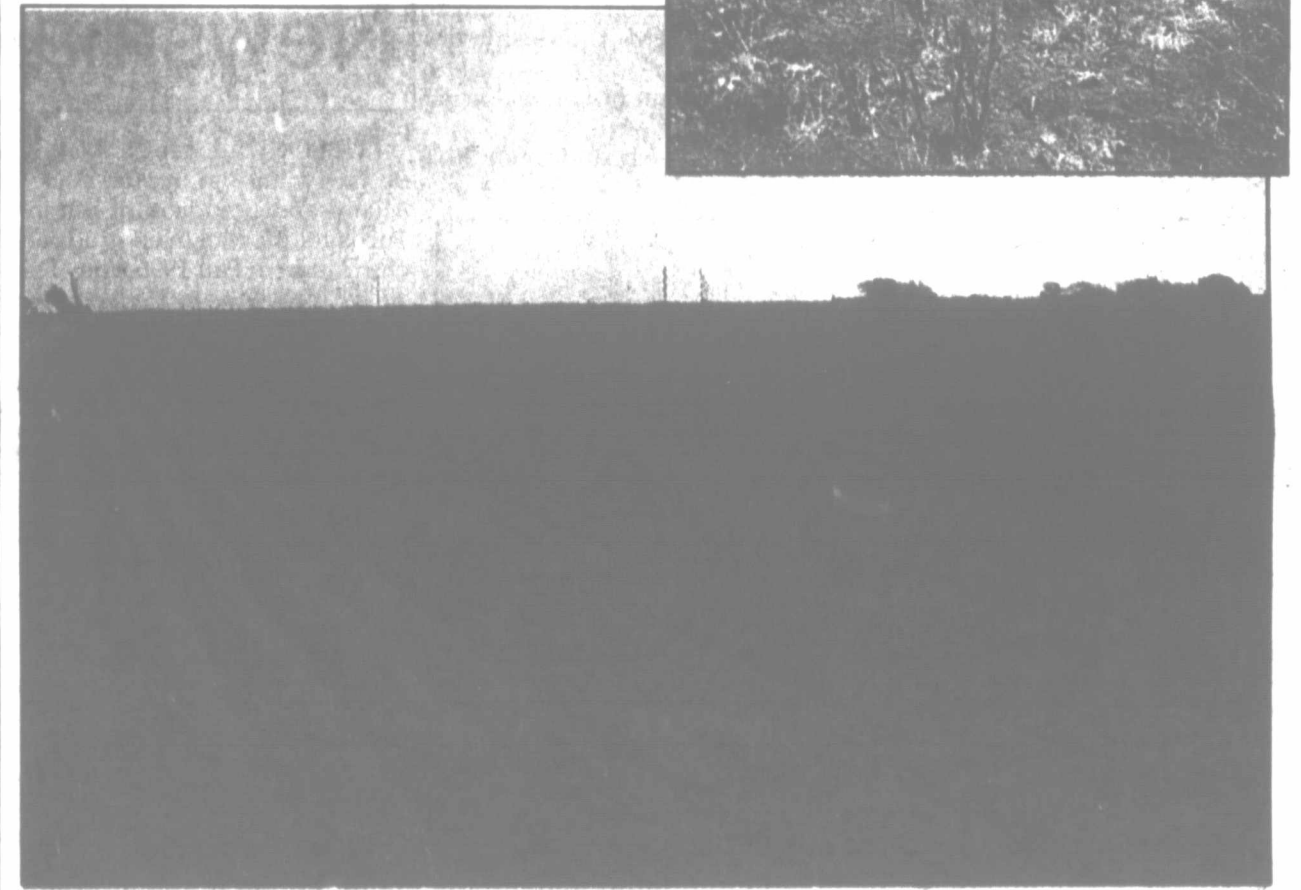
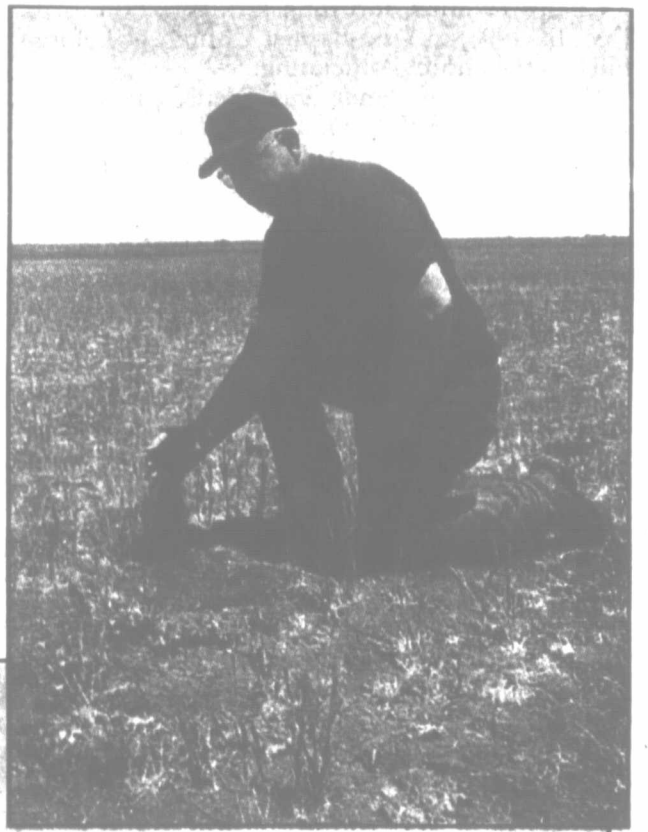
Recapping the measurable moisture for the year, Sehorn's records reflect as little as 0.13 inch of moisture from January through April, then in May the skies opened up with 2.72 inches. July was the wettest month, measuring 7.63 inches. He does not predict rains nor snow before the year ends.



"Of course, the outstanding weather subject for the year was the drought, first, then followed by the welcomed rains. And we experienced a few electrical thunderstorms with high winds through the summer," he said. He does not predict a repeat of extremely dry periods for 1997.

Local farmers and cattle raisers experienced practically everything in one year, according to Gray County Agriculture Extension Agent Danny Nusser. The 1995-1996 drought caused trauma to area ag producers suffering huge losses in wheat crop production early in the season, and cattle suffered due to lack of grass and water.

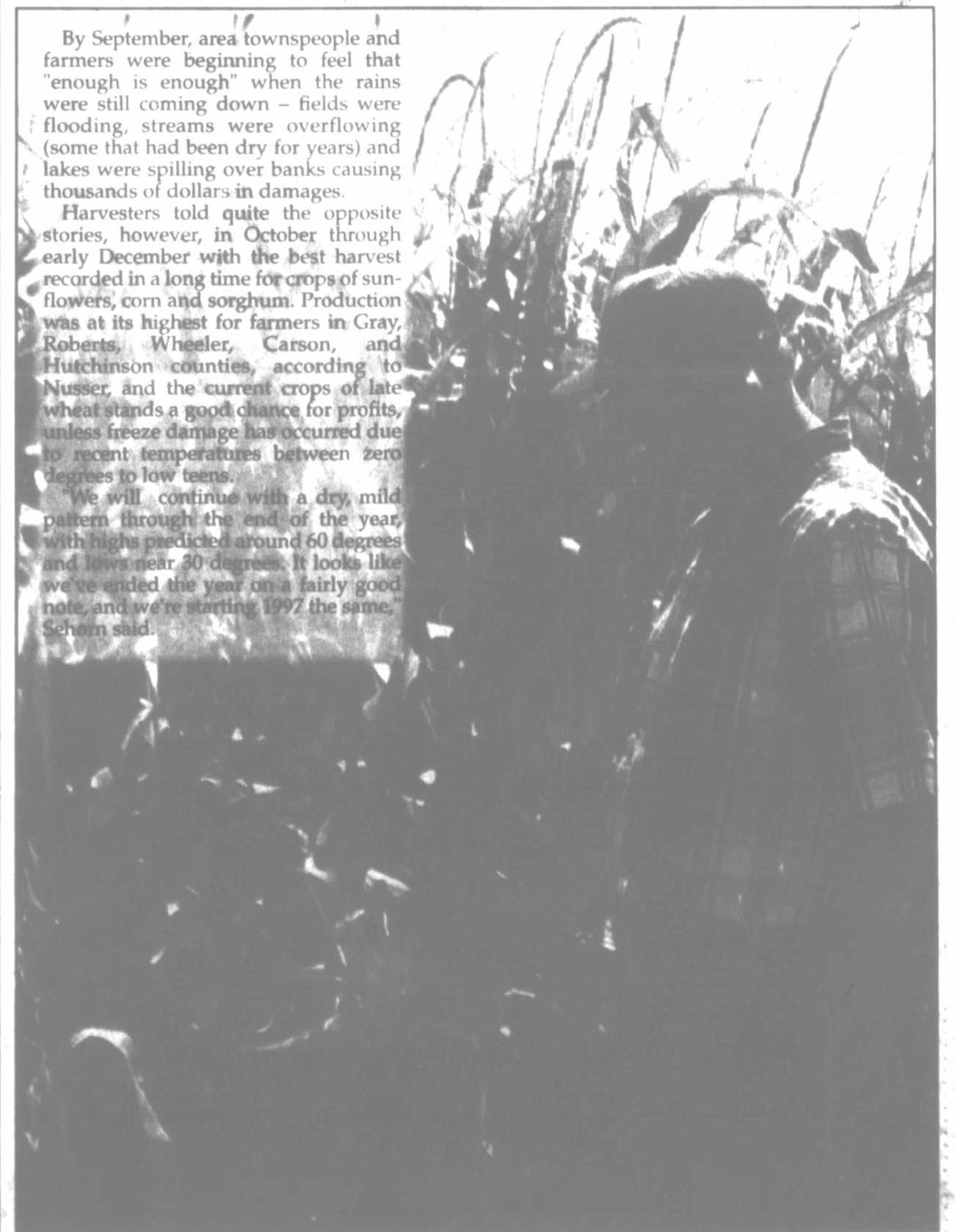
Wheat farmers who planted a second time had successful harvests, but the majority of Gray County producers filed loss-claims on their crops. Some fields of wheat or grazing grass were lost to fires that whipped across Panhandle acres in early spring through June and July, even though rains had begun.



By September, area townspeople and farmers were beginning to feel that "enough is enough" when the rains were still coming down - fields were flooding, streams were overflowing (some that had been dry for years) and lakes were spilling over banks causing thousands of dollars in damages.

Harvesters told quite the opposite stories, however, in October through early December with the best harvest recorded in a long time for crops of sunflowers, corn and sorghum. Production was at its highest for farmers in Gray, Roberts, Wheeler, Carson, and Hutchinson counties, according to Nusser, and the current crops of late wheat stands a good chance for profits, unless freeze damage has occurred due to recent temperatures between zero degrees to low teens.

"We will continue with a dry, mild pattern through the end of the year, with highs predicted around 60 degrees and lows near 30 degrees. It looks like we've ended the year on a fairly good note, and we're starting 1997 the same," Sehorn said.





Ginger Hannon and John Jernigan

Hannon-Jernigan

Ginger Hannon and John Jernigan, both of Lefors, were married Dec. 14, 1996, in First Baptist Church of Lefors with the Rev. Lewis Ellis, of the church, officiating.

The matron of honor was Cynthia Leach, sister of the bride, of Amarillo. The bridesmaids were Nanette Allen of Canyon and Misty Hannon, sister-in-law of the bride, of Amarillo. The flower girl was Megan Dunlap, niece of the groom, of Canyon.

Standing in as best man was Craig Harkcom, cousin of the groom, of Lefors. The groomsmen were Brian Jernigan, cousin of the groom, of Pampa, and Jimmy Hannon Jr., brother of the bride, of Amarillo. The ring bearer was T.J. Leach, nephew of the bride, of Amarillo.

The ushers were Kelly Leach of Amarillo and Jerry Dunlap of Canyon, both brother-in-laws of the bride and groom.

Filling in as candlelighters were Brittany Tarbet, niece of the bride, and Shea Tarbet, nephew of the bride, both of Amarillo.

Registering guests was Valarie Dunlap, sister of the groom, of Canyon.

Music was provided by vocalists Johnny Woodard and Keith Roberson and organist Carole Watson, all of Lefors.

A reception was held following the service in Fellowship Hall of the church. Serving the guests were Melyndia Dallas of Pampa and Angie Turpen, Darcy Harkcom and Kathy Woodard, all of Lefors.

The bride is the daughter of Jimmy and Betty Hannon of Lefors and is a junior currently attending West Texas A&M University at Canyon.

The groom is the son of Keith and Shirley Jernigan of Lefors. He is currently employed at Drive Lumber in Canyon.

The couple plan to honeymoon in Angel Fire, N.M., and intend to make their home in Canyon.



Mr. and Mrs. Newt Secrest

Secrest anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Newt Secrest of Pampa will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1997, in First Presbyterian Church Parlor in Pampa. Renee White of Big Sandy, Stephanie Hazlewood of Round Rock and Rebecca Secrest of Bethel, Maine, all daughters of the couple, will be hosting the reception.

Newt and Miriam "Mim" Schmidt were married Jan. 1, 1947, at Milwaukee, Wis.

The couple have been Pampa residents since 1949. They came to Pampa so Mr. Secrest could play baseball with the Pampa Oilers. In 1953, he went into the insurance business and Mrs. Secrest assisted him in the office.

The couple are semiretired and are members of First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Secrest is a member of the Optimist Club and has been involved in civic activities for many years.

Mrs. Secrest is a charter member of the Opti-Mrs. Club.

Children of the couple are Renee White of Big Sandy, Rebecca Secrest of Bethel, Stephanie Hazlewood of Round Rock and Richard Secrest of Salem, Ore. They are the grandparents of seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Darville Atherton

Atherton anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Darville Atherton of Wheeler County will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, 1997, in Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Wheeler. LaDell and Ted Atwood of Pampa, Russell Atherton of Duncan, Okla., Mick Atherton of Wheeler, Lee Royce Atherton of Princeton, Texas, and friends will be hosting the reception.

Darville and Sammie Lee Dougherty were married Jan. 5, 1946. The couple have been lifelong residents of Wheeler County.

Mr. Atherton is a longtime Wheeler County farmer and rancher. He was voted Comeback Farmer of the Texas Bankers Association in 1973 and, in 1994, was named Farmer-Rancher of Wheeler County. He is a 19-year Wheeler County Soil Conservation Board member, is a 50-year member of Wheeler Masonic Lodge #1099, and is a member of 1st Marine Division Association of the United States of America and American Legion. He is a Marine veteran, serving in Okinawa, Peleliu and China during World War II.

The couple belong to First Baptist Church. Children of the couple are Russell Atherton of Duncan, Mick Atherton of Wheeler and Lee Atherton of Princeton. They are the grandparents of six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Newsmakers

LUBBOCK — Larry D. Back, son of Larry and Margaret Back of Miami and grandson of Marjorie Turnage of McLean, graduated cum laude in Fall 1996 from Texas Tech University in Lubbock with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering.

GREAT LAKES, Ill. — Navy Airman Melissa A. Carroll, 1996 Pampa High School graduate and daughter of Phyllis K. Carroll of Pampa, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes.

During the eight-week program, Carroll completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety with an emphasis on physical fitness.

Carroll and other recruits received special instruction on the Navy's core values — honor, courage and commitment — and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct. Carroll joins 55,000 men and women who will enter the Navy this year from all over the country.

Even as the naval service gets smaller over the next few years, highly motivated young people

like Carroll are still finding an opportunity to improve their knowledge and education as they become part of the most highly technical naval force in history. This year alone the Navy will have more than 57,000 job openings and opportunities, most of which include guaranteed training.

LAWTON, Okla. — Army Pvt. David J. Bridge, 1996 Pampa High School graduate and son of Sonja D. and Gearld E. Moore of Pampa, recently graduated from basic military training at Fort Sill, Lawton.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Airman Jimmy L. Reed Jr., 1996 Pampa High School graduate and son of Jimmy L. and Dinah M. Reed of Pampa, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force at San Antonio.

During six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

BORGER — Frank Phillips College recently released its President's List and Dean's List honor rolls.

Students named to the President's List include Melanie R. Friemel, of Groom; Jaylene Watkins of McLean; and Peggy J. Chaney and Barbara M. Love, both of Skellytown.

Students named to the Dean's List include Micah R. Brooks, Robert W. Justice, Barbie L. Kile, Linda J. Landsverk, Jeffrey C. Miller, Silvia G. Silva, Cathy L. Torres, Tasha J. Waters and Ramona E. Yebra, all of Pampa; Shawn S. Hill of Canadian; Bo M. Burgin of Groom; Keith R. Franks and Jerimery R. Howard, both of Lefors; and Tiffany A. Day, Carre M. Jacobs and Amanda J. Thompson, all of Skellytown.

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The University of Kansas recently released the names of students receiving scholarships from private gifts during the Fall 1996 semester.

This fall, students on the

Lawrence and Medical Center campuses received more than 6,786 scholarships totaling about \$3.6 million from funds administered by the university's Endowment Association.

Students receiving scholarships include Christa Cher Jefferis, a junior from Pampa pursuing a degree from the KU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M University cadet Kyle Sparkman of Dumas, a 1994 Pampa High School graduate, has been inducted into the Ross Volunteer Company, the oldest student organization in Texas. He is among 72 students in the university's Corps of Cadets receiving this distinction.

Ross Volunteers is an honor company of junior and senior cadets selected for academic and leadership excellence. The group forms the honor guard for the governor of Texas at the inauguration and at other state events, performs in traditional campus ceremonies and marches as the King Rex Parade's lead unit at Mardi Gra in New Orleans.

Sparkman is a junior biomedical science major and is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Sparkman of Dumas.



Crystal Beatrice Gideon and Monty Ray Waters

Gideon-Waters

Crystal Beatrice Gideon and Monty Ray Waters, both of Pampa, were married Dec. 14, 1996, in Central Baptist Church of Pampa with Rick Parnell officiating.

The matron of honor was Kelly Gideon, cousin of the bride, of Borger. Standing in as best man was Speck Waters, father of the groom.

The ushers were Brandon Martin, nephew of the groom, of Canyon, and Erin Lundahl, sister of the bride, of Pueblo, Colo.

Registering guests was Brooke Hopkins, niece of the groom, of Canyon.

Music was provided by Amy Parnell of Pampa.

A reception following the service was held in the parlor of the church. Serving the guests were Tena Martin, sister of the groom, of Canyon, and Renee Brawley, cousin of the bride, of Alamogordo, Colo.

The bride is the daughter of Harold Gideon of Amarillo and Trudy Lundahl of Pueblo. She is currently employed as assistant office manager of Sights and Sounds of Amarillo.

The groom is the son of Speck and Cheryl Waters of Pampa and is the grandson of Maudie Wheeler of Pampa. He is currently employed as a foreman at Vibra-Whirl in Panhandle.

The couple plan to honeymoon in San Antonio and intend to make their home in Amarillo.

Kimchi knowoff delights tastebuds in Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Franks and beans. Fish and chips. Burgers and kimchi?

At the dinner table of his dreams, Park Wan-soo sees a world happily munching sideorders of Korean kimchi — one of the most mouth-jarring, eye-popping foods ever devised from a cabbage.

Really? "Sure! Maybe it's possible," said Park, head of a highly nationalistic government effort to export the spicy pickled dish around the globe.

"In the future, I imagine the people of the world with hamburgers and kimchi — our kimchi — on the same table. You can imagine it."

Yes, you can. But it helps if you're Korean.

Fermented with fiery red peppers, radishes, ginger, salt and lots of garlic, kimchi has been a cherished staple in the Korean diet for centuries.

DENTON — The new year is a traditional time to make a new beginning. However, the success of following through on New Year's resolutions depends on planning and realistic expectations, according to Dr. Donald Rosen, director of the Texas Woman's University Counseling Center, and Dr. Frank Vitro, chairman of the TWU department of psychology and philosophy.

"Most people make resolutions because they want to change something about themselves that they don't like," says Rosen.

Making resolutions and keeping them is one of the most difficult tasks for anyone to manage at the beginning of the new year, says Vitro.

"People usually don't think out resolutions very well. They tend to make impulsive and rash goals. It has been estimated that more than 60 percent of all reso-

lutions are abandoned in the first quarter of the year," he adds.

Resolutions are difficult to keep because they are unrealistic.

Keeping resolutions is also difficult because people fail to plan steps to achieve their goals successfully.

Both Vitro and Rosen suggest that resolution makers follow these steps:

- Assess yourself. Look at your skills and use them to establish

steps toward setting goals.

- Select resolutions based on small increments of achievements — have subgoals within goals.

- Keep a daily or weekly ledger of your progress to help monitor behavior.

- Make a written contract with yourself, specifying the details of the steps.

- Reward yourself, but not necessarily with material items.

Graciously accept and enjoy complements and positive feedback from peers.

- Be patient with yourself. Often, people are their own worst critics.

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Menus

Dec. 30-Jan. 3

<p>Senior Citizens MONDAY Chicken fried steak or meat loaf, mashed potatoes, okra/tomatoes, baked cabbage, beans, slaw, tossed, or jello salad, Mississippi mud cake or tapioca, hot rolls or cornbread.</p> <p>TUESDAY Fried chicken or taco salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, squash, blackeyed peas, slaw, tossed, or jello salad, Boston cream pie or banana pudding, hot rolls or cornbread.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Holiday</p> <p>THURSDAY Hamburger steak with onions or sausage and kraut, mashed potatoes, broccoli, Harvard beets, beans, slaw, tossed or jello salad, applesauce cake or butterscotch pudding, hot rolls or cornbread.</p>	<p>ding, hot rolls or cornbread.</p> <p>FRIDAY Fish or chicken fried chicken breast with cream gravy, potato wedges, brussel sprouts, beans, slaw, tossed, or jello salad, angel food cake or chocolate pie, hot rolls, cornbread, or garlic bread sticks.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels MONDAY Stew, cornbread, peaches.</p> <p>TUESDAY Sausage/rice, cauliflower, green beans, pineapple.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Holiday.</p> <p>THURSDAY Salisbury steak with gravy, blackeyed peas, fried okra, orange cake.</p> <p>FRIDAY Tuna casserole, English peas with onions, carrots, applesauce.</p>
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Jane Brown and Bryan Calfy



Farrah Oxley and Curt McCuiston

Brown-Calfy

Jane Brown, of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Bryan Calfy, of Fort Campbell, Ky., were married Dec. 27, 1996, in First United Methodist Church of Pampa with the Rev. R.L. Kirk, minister of the church, officiating.

The maid of honor was Laura Johnson of Pampa. The bridesmaids were Amanda Kludt and Julie Noles, both of Pampa.

Standing in as best man was Josh Calfy, brother of the groom, of Norman, Okla. The groomsmen were Darin Wyatt of Pampa and Ryan Erwin of Galveston.

The ushers were Marc Hampton of Pampa, Matt Clark of Amarillo and brothers of the bride Mark Brown, of Farmington, N.M., and David Brown of Waco.

Registering guests was Misty Scribner of Pampa.

Music was provided by vocalist Johnny Glover and organist Jerry Whitten, both of Pampa.

A reception was held following the service in Cory Court and Parlor at the church. Serving the guests was Laura Miller, Amy Bradley, Kelley Vinson, Laura-Marie Imel, all of Pampa, and Kimberly Sparkman of Dumas. The bride and groom used a loving cup handed down from the bride's parents' wedding.

The bride is the daughter of Paul and Marilyn Brown of Oklahoma City and is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fite and Mrs. Paul N. Brown, all of Pampa. She is a freshman currently attending Austin Peay State University at Clarksville, Tenn., and is a member of Delta Zeta Sorority. She attended the University of Central Oklahoma at Edmond, Okla., prior to enrolling in the university at Tennessee.

The groom is the son of Jim Calfy of Pampa and Cindy Calfy of Yukon, Okla., and is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Farmer of Marlow, Okla., and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Calfy of Walters, Okla. He is currently serving in the United States Army with 101st Airborne Division stationed at Fort Campbell.

The couple will honeymoon in New Orleans and intend to make their home in Clarksville.

Oxley-McCuiston

Farrah Oxley, of Pampa, and Curt McCuiston, of Sugar City, Colo., were married Dec. 7, 1996, in Christian Church at Ordway, Colo., with Wade Robinson, brother of the bride, of Galee Baptist Church at Loveland, Colo., officiating.

Serving as maid of honor was Sarah Oxley, twin sister of the bride, of Pampa. Deanna Jones, aunt of the bride, was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Janelle Baldwin, aunt of the groom, of Fowler, Colo., and Tanja McCuiston, sister of the groom, of Borger. Lacie Oxley, niece of the bride, of Pampa was flower girl.

Standing in as best man was Bill Myers of Sugar City. Groomsmen were Dan Buhr of Ordway, Paul Waldroupe of Sugar City and Jeremy McCastide of Plainview. The ring bearer was Bryant McCuiston, cousin of the groom, of Fowler, Colo.

Whitney Oxley, brother of the bride, of Pampa, and J.W. McCuiston, brother of the groom, of Sugar City, doubled as candlelighters and ushers.

Susie Hamon, aunt of the bride, registered guests.

Music was provided by Jimmy Baldwin, Mark McCuiston, both uncles of the groom, and Lex Nichlos and Jackie Hinger, all of Fowler.

Following the service, a reception was held in the parlor of the church. Serving the guests was Jennifer Oxley, sister-in-law of the bride, of Pampa, Joy Baldwin of Folwer and Katie Kuhn, 16-year-old cousin of the groom, of Sugar City. Kuhn was responsible for making the wedding cake.

The bride is the daughter of Ed and Christy Robinson of Pampa. She is a Pampa High School graduate and has attended Frank Phillips College at Borger. She is currently employed at Dale Rusher and Son.

The groom is the son of Jim and Holly McCuiston of Sugar City. He is a Sugar City High School graduate and has attended Frank Phillips College. He is currently employed at K.J. Foods.

The couple plan to honeymoon in Colorado Springs, Colo., and intend to make their home in Ordway.

Entries being accepted for Miss Lake Meredith Scholarship Program

The 1997 Miss Lake Meredith Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Borger Chamber of Commerce, will be conducted January 18, 1997, in the Frank Phillips College Auditorium.

Entry blanks are being accepted now at the Chamber office, 613 N. Main, Borger or by calling the director at 274-2379.

The program is open to young women between the ages of 17 and 24; who reside in the state of Texas, or attend a college therein.

Each contestant must also fulfill all the rules and regulations of the Miss Texas/Miss America Organizations. The Miss Lake Meredith pageant will be conducted consistent with the high standards of the Miss Texas/Miss America system.

As in the Miss America, there will be four areas of competitions: personal interview, talent, physical fitness in swimsuit and on-stage expression in evening wear.

No fee, of any kind, is charged to enter the Miss Lake Meredith Scholarship pageant.

The program also includes opportunities for youth development for young ladies between the age of 3 and 17, in the following Divisions: Teen Miss Lake Meredith, ages 14 thru 17; Junior Miss Lake Meredith, ages 10 thru 13; Miss Minnow, 7-9; and Mini Miss Minnow, 3-6. There will be an entry fee charged for participation in the Youth program.

The Miss America organization is the largest provider of scholarships for women in the world. In 1996, the Miss Texas Organization and participating colleges and universities, awarded over \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind tuition scholarships. Scholarship funds are contributed by corporate and individual sponsors who commit their support to the professional advancement of young men and women.

The Miss Lake Meredith is conducted by a team of local volunteers. In 1996, through the volunteer efforts of the Scholarship Chairmen, Donna Murray and Beth Rapier, Miss Lake Meredith 1996 Heather Wilson received \$1,000 cash scholarship plus \$8,500 in scholarships from seven universities. Heather also received \$700 from Miss Texas organization for placing in the top 20 during the Miss Texas competition and another \$200 for receiving the Most Talented Musician Alpha Award.

"The first step to the title of Miss America begins on the local level with the Miss Lake Meredith Scholarship Program. This will be an opportunity for young ladies to compete in an official franchised Miss Texas preliminary, with the winner competing for the crown of Miss Texas 1997 in Fort Worth."

For additional information and entry blanks, contact the Pageant Executive Director LaRona Maxwell at 274-2379.

Researchers form theory about brain's functioning

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A perpetually lost mouse is helping scientists find answers to one of life's basic mysteries — how memories are made.

The scientists created a mutant strain of mouse that is missing a single protein in one tiny part of its little brain. As a result, it cannot remember where it has been.

Watching the behavior of these mice has given scientists a fundamental understanding of the way many creatures — almost certainly including people — store up memories of the places they have visited and the things they have seen.

In a way, those findings are no surprise, because they support the theory scientists have held for 50 years: that memories are made by strengthening the connections between nerve cells in the brain.

Nevertheless, the new work provides strong proof where before there had been only circumstantial evidence and supposition.

Equally important, perhaps, is the technique used to knock out the gene responsible for making the brain protein.

Since the human brain is wired pretty much the same as the mouse's, the researchers believe that the ability to do the same thing with other genes in the brain could revolutionize the field of brain research and have important uses for delving into diseases that rob memory, such as Alzheimer's.

"It's the dawn of a new age, if

this is true," said Larry Squire of the University of California at San Diego.

The work was done by a team involving Nobel laureate Susumu Tonegawa and Matthew A. Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Eric R. Kandel of Columbia University. Three reports detailing the work will be published in this week's issue of the journal Cell.

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES AND SIGNS

"Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in His name." (Jn. 20:30-31.) The one basic fact upon which the hope of salvation rests is the Divine Sonship of Jesus. John states that the signs were written that we might believe that Jesus is the Son of God and have eternal life therefrom. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He has all authority in heaven and on earth and is the author of eternal salvation (Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 2:7-9.)

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned, and these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spo-

Girl awakens to song about angels

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP) — For twelve days, nine-year-old Heather Harcum lay in a coma. Then her mother played Heather's favorite song, *Angels Among Us*, by the country group Alabama. And Heather came out of it.

"When it came on, she started crying, which we always did when we heard that song," Penny Harcum, 30, said in an interview. "That clued me in that she knew what was going on. 'I crawled in bed with her, told her 'I love you,' and asked her to tell me 'I love you' back. She did. I asked her to say it again because her voice was muffled, and she did."

Mrs. Harcum was driving home from Christmas shopping Nov. 30 when she got into an accident with two other cars. She and her six-year-old daughter, Holly, were uninjured, while the crash caused some bruising or swelling and hemorrhaging on Heather's brain, leaving the girl in a coma.

Because it's believed that people in a coma can hear things around them, doctors suggested the family read books to her and play music that she liked.

Mrs. Harcum thought Heather would like to hear the song,

which always made Heather, Holly and Mrs. Harcum cry because it reminded them of deceased relatives. She went home and fetched the tape, which had been tucked in Heather's Christmas stocking.

"When Mommy played the song, I woke up and started crying," Heather said. "I think it's a pretty song."

The song tells about angels coming down to Earth "in our darkest hours to teach us how to live."

Heather's doctors said she had been making slow and steady gains, but a major step had been accomplished when Mrs. Harcum played the song.

"The first time the little girl said a whole sentence that made sense was when she listened to the little song," said Dr. Jean Shelton, director of rehabilitation services at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk.

Lifestyles policies

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing weddings, engagements, or anniversaries. We reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.
2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday, prior to Sunday insertion.
3. Engagement, wedding, and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.
4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.
5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.
6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more, and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.
7. Information that appears on engagement, wedding and anniversary forms will be used at the discretion of the editor. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

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How to conquer huge workload

By L.M. SIXEL
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON (AP) — What do you do when your boss piles you up with so much work that you know, just know, that there's no way you can do it all by the deadline?

"Do you tear your hair out?" "Sometimes I just sit down and look at all the projects and veg out," said one banker who faces a particularly bad crunch time at the beginning of each year when the books are audited.

When it all looks impossible, he goes to his boss and asks what should be the top priorities. And then he takes a deep breath and does them.

Talking to your boss about priorities is critical, said Frances Gladish, senior vice president and chief administrative officer for retail banking at Texas Commerce Bank. One of the first things Gladish said she does each week is talk to her boss about what she's working on and which has top priority.

Of course, you can tell yourself that it's critical to tell the boss when you're overwhelmed because folks who try to do it all tend to have trouble doing anything at all that well.

But telling the boss that you just can't do it all is daunting for many people, said Kathleen Kelley, president of the Houston Human Resource Management Association.

Some workers worry that if they approach their supervisor with work overload the boss will think the employee isn't capable of doing the job, said

Kelley, who is the manager of employee training at one of Houston's fastest growing companies. Nor do they want to admit to themselves that they can't do it all, she said.

Employees also assume that the boss knows everything that they have to do, Kelley said. However, bosses are often focused on other things.

But running work priorities by your boss so you can get the most important jobs done helps you focus on what you're doing rather than what you're not doing, she said. And that helps you be more efficient.

But some of those worries about heading to the boss' office are justified.

Betsy Johnson, vice president of organizational services at the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Co., said it bothers her when her subordinates tell her they can't get the work done on time — especially if she gets the news at the 11th hour.

When she gives an assignment, Johnson expects an employee to point out initially that it can't be done in a day or two because it's not three simple steps.

But if the deadline appears reasonable and the job was properly explained yet the employee announces he's going to be late, Johnson wonders whether the employee is just having a stress reaction or maybe just can't do the job.

If you're overwhelmed by work at work, you've got to set your own internal boundaries, said Cathie Weiss, president of CMSolutions, which runs corporate wellness programs.

"Ninty percent of people will (gripe) first — gripe and go home in a bad mood," said Weiss, who teaches workers how to cope with stress. But workers have to put their foot down.

If you're at your desk 10 hours a day and not getting overtime and you're not doing anything about it, the company will never hire someone else to lighten the load.

"Why should they hire someone else — they don't need to," Weiss said.

And you're not going to get anywhere by yelling and crying either, she said. Instead, start out by taking a stand on something insignificant.

Weiss has a client who is over-worked with payroll and other administrative duties, so Weiss suggested she quietly stop refilling the soda machine and changing the air filter — duties that aren't officially hers but fell to the one woman in the office.

One of the men in the office remarked that the air filter needed changing and Weiss' client agreed that it was time and suggested he do it.

It worked but she was terrified, Weiss said.

You get more work dumped on you if you don't object because people take the path of least resistance, she said.

If one employee says he or his employees can't do a project by a particular deadline, the boss will go to the worker who always agrees to do it and then stays all night at work to get it done. But it's the worker who sets boundaries — and has the time to do the work well — that gets the promotion, Weiss said.

Britain wants 10,000 new bell ringers

By SUE LEEMAN
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Needed: Quasimodo. Or anyone with stamina and a good sense of rhythm.

Britain wants to ring in the millennium with a national peal of bells on Jan. 1, 2000.

The call is going out for 10,000 volunteers to ring the country's 1,200 unused sets of chimes, most of them in churches belonging to the state Church of England. Some have been silent for a century.

The country's 40,000 existing ringers aren't enough for the planned festivities, said Harold Rogers of the Central Council of Church Bellingers, which has overseen the ringing of Britain's 5,000 sets of bells since 1891.

"So in January, we launch the 'big push' to recruit some more, with adverts on TV, radio and in the press," he said.

"Everyone is welcome — you don't have to be a Christian. Our message is that bell ringing is important church work — but it is also a fun hobby and a good way to socialize."

Volunteers will be given accelerated training, starting with lessons in how to control the bells and then ring simple "changes," or sequences. Normally, bell ringing is mastered in six sessions of 1 1/2 hours, he said.

Rural counties like Norfolk and Northamptonshire are worst off because they are dotted with remote hamlets, each with its own church and bells — but no ringers.

Many of the disused bells need replacing or restoring, a project the Central Council of Church Bellingers says will cost 6 million pounds (\$9.6 million).

The Millennium Commission, which receives money from Britain's highly successful national lottery, announced a grant of \$5 million for the Central Council of Church Bellingers in July.

The money will be used to revamp the bells in 100 churches and other buildings across the country.

Rogers said bell ringers need not be musical, and can be aged from 9 to 90.

"But it does help if they are well coordinated," he added. "Some people take longer than others, but almost anyone can be taught to ring."

Bells have traditionally been rung to call the faithful to worship, to toll the hours and to mark important public events. While technically the next thousand years of the calendar don't begin until Jan. 1, 2001, Britain's bell ringers will join with most people in welcoming the millennium with the arrival of 2000.

Chiming bells, which are swung through a short arc using a rope or lever, date from the Middle Ages, and "change ringing" in which the bells of a set are rung in shifting patterns began around the 15th century.



(AP photo by Adrian Dimble)

Alexander Crutch, 10, learns the art of bell ringing from Harold Rogers, who has been a bell ringer since 1934, in the tower of the 14th century All Saints Church in Isleworth in west London.

It was only in the 17th century that British ringers developed a wheel structure that allows a ringer to control a bell as it rotates through 360 degrees.

That means bells weighing up to two tons can be rung without extraordinary strength.

Rogers has been ringing bells since 1934 and keeps records of the "peals" — 5,000 or more changes without breaks or repeats — that he has rung. Some last more than three hours.

In the 14th century bell tower of All Saints Church by the River Thames at Isleworth in west London, he is currently training a class of new recruits, including the vicar's 10-year-old daughter.

"In the beginning, it's all about getting control of the bell," said Stef Symak, who has reported to the small bell room each Tuesday for more than three months.

His friend Barbara Jones signed up because she thought bell ringing "would be a nice, historical thing."

"It's great fun. But it's definitely harder than it looks," she said.

Some marketing firms use religious overtones to lure students to sign up

By CHRIS NEWTON
Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH (AP) — Some firms are using high-pressure tactics with religious overtones to entice college students to sign up as sales people, a practice that many experts find questionable.

The ads can be seen on college campuses across Texas, boasting that students can earn hundreds of thousands of dollars in just a few months by selling company products. The modest brochures, which don't include company names, are posted at student hangouts and university post offices.

"These organizations are just like any other cult out there," said Diane Patric, an expert on cult issues at the Loyola University in Louisiana.

"They prey on college kids that need a place to belong and they provide that place. I don't think there's any question that these companies know the kids they're recruiting won't be able to sell the product," Ms. Patric said. "That's what makes it unethical."

Better Business Bureau officials say the companies, which use students as salespeople for their products, find college campuses a successful site for recruits. There are no statistics that record how many college students join the ventures, said Fort Worth BBB executive officer John Riggins.

This is just one more thing that college students will have to watch out for," said Riggins.

The problem is that some students find they are saddled with thousands of dollars in debt from buying the products which they in turn are supposed to sell.

The multi-level marketing firms also suggest that recruits convince their friends to sell. The recruits receive some of the profit made on sells by the people they get to join the companies.

"When people join, they've been converted," said Chris Crouch, a student at Texas Christian University. "The students I joined with would've done anything to help us succeed. It's not just a job — it becomes your life."

Crouch says he was lured in by the promise of big bucks and the friendly atmosphere at Millennium Marketing, a Fort Worth independent branch of Equinox International.

"They make it like a family environment," Crouch said. "It's almost like it's a privilege to be brought in. They make it seem like there is a lot of money to be had."

But several months after joining the company, Crouch and a friend had lost thousands of dollars.

"I feel lucky ... I have parents that can help me out, but I know there are people who are stuck with the debt and quit school."

Crouch says he was unable to sell the products, and couldn't

convince friends to join him in the venture. The company's response was that he could not get his money back.

Equinox headquarters in Las Vegas called Fort Worth product distributor Millennium Marketing completely independent, while local officials refused to comment, saying that only the national office could speak for the company.

Equinox officials refused to answer questions posed over the telephone and released a statement saying recruits are not guaranteed success.

The company's practices have been criticized in 13 states, including Texas. The attorney's general offices recently agreed to a settlement with Equinox that requires the company to regulate claims by its independent offices.

The settlement also declares that as of September, Equinox must offer a 90 percent refund to employees if they return products in good condition within a year.

But critics say the settlement with the state agencies may do little to change the high intensity persuasion techniques. And that even a one year buy-back policy won't necessarily keep students from losing money.

"It's not unusual for it to take more than a year for someone to come to the conclusion that they aren't going to make money on this kind of venture," Riggins said.

The loyalty garnered to the companies also creates a problem. Patric says the "high intensity persuasion tactics" are similar to those used in cults.

Charismatic speaking starts from the beginning for prospective employees at Millennium Marketing.

"It was kind of like a revival," said Lorallyn Horton, a former TCU student who responded to one of the campus ads last month. She said in her interview a man was "ranting and raving" about the deadly toxins that exist in toothpaste, make-up and water.

The company often tied the environmental products to spreading Christianity during seminars, Crouch said.

"I am a Christian and they really make it sound like you're doing God's work by selling these products," he said.

The company's products include such items as "mind-power" tablets, "respiratory sup-

port" pills, shampoo and toothpaste.

Not only was Crouch convinced that he was "doing God's work," he also was told by local company executives to beware of those who told him that investing might be a bad idea.

He said local executives used this phrase, "let them be right ... you be rich."

Anthony Pratkanis, a professor of psychology at California criticized that practice.

"They get you in a different environment, they tell you not to listen to those who try to dissuade you and then your self esteem is tied to the selling their product," Pratkanis said.

"Whenever people are told to watch out for friends that tell them what they are joining is a bad idea, that can be considered some kind of brainwashing," Pratkanis said.

Crouch said he was also constantly assured that he would make money.

It was standard practice at the company to show student recruits the paychecks of some local representatives, he said.

"They showed us six-digit paychecks," he said. "They said they wouldn't even be surprised when I'm driving a new BMW in a few months. They made me feel like that would be easy to achieve."

Once at a seminar, Crouch said, some students were even taken to test drive new cars.

"They want you to start envisioning yourself with more money than you ever dreamed of. Once they do that, you're hooked."

According to Riggins many firms count on the revenue produced by those who get hooked — even those who can't sell the product.

"In many cases a consumer never purchases the product that is for sale," Riggins said. "The only profit made from the product is when it is sold to people who intend to sell it. That means the people at the top get rich, but somewhere along the line, the recruits usually get the shaft."

Riggins said it is up to college students to educate themselves and make good decisions because recruiting tactics are rarely regulated by the law.

"No one is questioning that the companies and what they do are legal. We just have to make sure our college kids are looking before they leap."

Couple has run dry goods store for 50 years

By GARY CARTER
Herald Democrat

BELLS, Texas (AP) — Wes and Charlie Washburn get up every morning, have breakfast and make their way down to their dry goods store in downtown Bells. They've done so for 50 years now. The more things change in this world, the more things stay the same.

Just about everybody who has lived in Bells has plodded across the creaky wood floors of Washburn's Dry Goods and Hardware over the last half decade, looking for a new pair of overalls or boots.

The couple has worked together in this store, chatting and selling jeans and boots all their married life. For Charlie, whose father owned the store (Anderson Dry Goods and Grocery) before the couple took it over, that old building has been her second home since she was tall enough to see over the counter.

Both of the Washburns were born and raised in Bells. Wes went off to Europe to command a tank in World War II. You may have heard of his commanding officer, Gen. George Patton. But

that's another story.

But after 50 years of service to Bells, the two have finally decided ... to keep on going. "I may wear out, but I'll never rust out," Wes proclaimed.

So how did Wes and Charlie get into the business? Well, it was in Charlie's blood, but it took Wes some gettin' used to. "I never did sell nothing but a pig," Wes said of his start in retail. But what kept him in the business all these years? "I guess I never did find a quittin' place."

But the two befriended people from all around the area and their business flourished through word of mouth. "We never had to do any advertising either. People would just hear about us and drop by," Wes said.

Looking out the front glass of the small store, Wes and Charlie said Bells hasn't changed much in the years they've been there. "Well, the Arcadia picture show used to be next door, but it closed

down. Then the post office was there for 30 years," Charlie explained.

Stiles didn't change much either. Wes said the Levi 501s and overalls look pretty much the same nowadays as back in the 1940s. The Red Wing boots didn't change much. "Now, you had your bell bottoms back in the '70s, but that's about it," he said.

The two have raised two sons in Bells and have a bevy of grandchildren spread across the country, as well some great-grandchildren. Pictures of the youngsters adorn the old-timey cash register at the counter.

"People always ask me why I keep that old cash register," Wes said, in his Texas accent. "I tell them, 'It's an antique and so am I. It stays.'"

Wes and Charlie don't get paid vacations or a retirement fund. "We thought about retirement ... but we wouldn't know what to do," Wes said.

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Entertainment

TV rating system: Not appropriate for parents, or children either

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A bunch of people are trying to come up with a Richter scale for TV. The trouble is, TV shows aren't earthquakes, objectively measurable in terms everyone agrees on.

On the contrary, it's pretty hard to codify how much a given show is likely to shake viewers up — especially since each of us probably has our own ideas for evaluating programs.

So the long-awaited TV rating system, due to be put into effect in January, is almost certain to fall far short of its stated goal of helping parents determine in advance what their kids should and shouldn't see.

Oh, it may fill some viewers and activists into a false sense of security that now, as if we'd belled the cat, the perceived hazards of TV can no longer stalk us.

This sort of thinking makes us all a bunch of mice.

For all the time and work that reportedly went into it, the proposed six-tier, age-based plan seems

cloned from that used for movies since 1968. It is being promoted as an information resource, an aid for beleaguered parents who want an early-warning system for what's on TV.

So what's wrong with that? For one thing, this exercise, which some observers found wrongheaded from the get-go, has others in a lather for not going further.

They already are complaining that the categories are too broad to be useful and that the age-based structure offers no details to a program's content — how much violence, coarse language or sexual display might be part of the mix.

Under the plan, programs would be rated using the following categories: K, for children of all ages; K-7, for children 7 and older; TV-G, for all audiences; TV-PG, parental guidance is suggested; TV-14, may be inappropriate for children under 14; and TV-M, mature audiences only.

Will such information, no matter how "informative," really help the viewer make informed decisions? (Just recall that information-age acronym, GIGO: garbage in, garbage out.)

For instance, how does a series like Fox Broadcasting's *Millennium* score? The rating the

show's producers would confer upon it (you gotta love this: Producers and networks assign their own show's ratings) would almost certainly be TV-14.

But does that really address the substance of this singular new drama? Does a TV-14 properly reflect the episode where a priest is shown screaming in agony as he's burned on a cross?

Does the show's shocking imagery or stark meditations on evil have any kinship to a fellow TV-14 candidate, *NYPD Blue*, and its workaday violence, street language and occasional bare tush?

And, come to think of it, don't these shows already come with a parental advisory?

If approved, the new ratings would be used with V-chips installed in the next generation of television sets (still more than a year away) to let parents electronically block out programming they don't want their children to watch.

But listen to Rep. Edward Markey, the Massachusetts Democrat who sponsored the original V-chip legislation. Apparently referring to the catch-all TV-PG category, he complains that the current plan "lumps in *Sainfeld* with *Terminator II* with *Married ... With Children*." He called for the Federal Communications Commission to reject it.

Would a different plan work any better? Doubtful. With, by one estimate, 2,000 hours of programming a day (even excluding sports and news, which under the current proposal won't be rated), there's just too much TV for anyone to compile a comprehensive guide — or for viewers to make use of it.

Of course, such concerns miss the point. Whatever form it takes, the rating system is intended as a way for Washington to score points with riled-up constituents by scapegoating Hollywood as noisily as possible. And, meanwhile, a way for Hollywood to get itself off the hook by doing as little as it can get away with.

The result, then, is jointly self-serving, even oddly symbiotic. As for the children? Just an afterthought.

So, rather than prolong the call for an outside authority to help us shield our families from "inappropriate" programming, we viewers might instead take a look at the assumptions underlying that outcry: that we can control neither our kids nor our appliances by ourselves.

Feeling that helpless is a bigger problem than anything TV could foist on us.

TV's big question: Who (or what) am I?

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This was the year TV plunged into an identity crisis, faking the audience with it.

As 1996 began, two of the major broadcast networks, ABC and CBS, were adjusting to mammoth new owners (purveyors of, respectively, mouse ears and refrigerated trucks). Confounding enough. But then Westinghouse announced it was splitting itself in two — and didn't even know what to call the media company that would become CBS' parent.

Meanwhile, the continued identity of the Big Four broadcast networks as truly Big was further threatened in 1996 by competition from other broadcast outlets and cable channels. (In an article headlined "Webs losing fight against erosion," this week's *Variety* makes an alarming observation: NBC's *ER* is again the top-rated show so far this season — yet its audience size is 10 percent lower than last season at this point.)

But if many networks continued to lose their grip on their audience, they also seemed to be losing their grip on reality, as they offered open invitations for their viewers to look elsewhere.

Elsewhere, as in personal computers.

For instance, every show and every network, it seemed, was boasting a web-site address to which we could point-and-click for more information about, or to participate in, whatever it was we had abandoned on our TV screens by retreating to our computers.

We saw this phenomenon most markedly with the new MSNBC,

whose cable-TV component explored the viewer to "get connected" — by cruising the corresponding MSNBC web site.

Being interactive with television — which used to call for nothing more than firing up the set, then flipping channels — had gotten mighty demanding. Increasingly in 1996, our identity as "viewers" seemed in jeopardy. With phone calls, faxes and e-mail, we were meant, more and more, to perform along with the performers.

Meanwhile, the identity of TV was getting fuzzy as the computer infiltrated itself into the very instrument we call the television set. A hot item for Christmas this year was WebTV, a plug-in gadget that allows the TV to double as a computer screen and carry images off the Internet.

Conversely, Internet programmers were turning the computer into television, or at least trying to. A company called PointCast Network, for instance, was "televising" news and weather directly to desktop computers.

Other impresarios were attempting "Webcasts" — transmissions of live events over the Internet. ("The Internet for couch potatoes," hailed a Microsoft executive.)

What does all this mean? That with a WebTV device you could replace on your TV screen boring old TV shows with boring new Web pages and jerky, murky Webcasts.

TV is the medium where, three decades ago, both Patty and Cathy looked like Patty Duke. Now, as 1997 approaches, how will we deal with identity conundrums such as these:

— What am I? TVPG or TV14? That's the kind of self-scrutiny the

TV industry will engage in now that a rating system for programs has been announced. But many parents, put off by this sop to their concerns that TV might be harming their children, may be tempted to respond, "What am I — an idiot?" (See above story.)

— Who is "Ellen"? Week after week this ABC sitcom has toyed with viewers by offering hints that the protagonist was not only gay, but was about to make her lesbianism part of the show's storyline.

Trouble is, none of this addressed two other problems: The *Ellen* character, as played by Ellen DeGeneres, exhibited less sexual energy of any stripe than a Tickle Me Elmo. And the show delivered far fewer giggles.

— Who's on the air? At the end of the night's election coverage, ABC's veteran commentator David Brinkley lit into the president-re-elect with some candid, even salty comments. Then correspondent Sam Donaldson broke in: "You can't say that on the air, Mr. Brinkley."

"Well, I'm NOT on the air," said Brinkley, further surprising amazed viewers.

— Who's that guy who says he's O.J. Simpson? One of the year's stranger programs has been nightly coverage of the Simpson civil trial by the E! Entertainment cable channel, complete with courtroom reenactments staged by actors.

But adding to the strangeness two weeks ago was the abrupt replacement of one faux O.J. (Stephen Wayne Eskridge) by another (Gil Colon). Reportedly asking for more money, Eskridge was released in his own recognition.

Kiss is surprising top concert draw for 1996

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kiss Army helped march the quartet of fire-breathing, blood-spitting rockers to the top of the concert heap in 1996.

Kiss' reunion tour was the year's top money-earner, taking in \$43.6 million and beating acts like Garth Brooks, Neil Diamond and Rod Stewart, the concert industry trade publication *Pollstar* reported.

Consumers spent an estimated \$1.05 billion on concerts during 1996, *Pollstar* said. That's up slightly from the \$950 million in 1995 but not approaching the record \$1.4 billion set in 1994.

The increased dollar volume was largely due to higher ticket prices and masked a particularly weak showing for many veteran artists out on the road, said Gary Bongiovanni, *Pollstar* editor.

Kiss was the spectacular exception, as legions of their fans

(called the Kiss Army during the band's 1970s heyday) trekked to their shows. The band reunited its original members, donned the cumbersome costumes and used truckloads of special effects for 92 dates.

"Probably everybody except (Kiss member) Gene Simmons was surprised by how strong that was," Bongiovanni said.

The concert circuit was flooded this summer with stars of the 1970s — Styx, Kansas, Steely Dan, Steve Miller, Chicago and Crosby, Stills and Nash. Many played to a lot of empty seats.

On the plus side, a number of acts established themselves as

solid, if not spectacular, concert draws this year: Alanis Morissette, Oasis, Bush, Smashing Pumpkins, Phish and Tori Amos in particular, Bongiovanni said.

Phish made a bigger and bigger splash in 1996: The rock quartet's "Clifford Ball," where 70,000 fans overran an abandoned Air Force base in upstate New York, was the summer's biggest event.

The H.O.R.D.E. festival, led by acts like Blues Traveler and Natalie Merchant, supplanted Lollapalooza as the summer's biggest traveling festival. H.O.R.D.E. took in \$18.1 million to Lollapalooza's \$15.9 million, *Pollstar* said.

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Best sellers

Publishers Weekly Best Selling Books

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. *Airframe* by Michael Crichton (Knopf)
2. *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans (Simon & Schuster)
3. *Executive Orders* by Tom Clancy (Putnam)
4. *The Fallen Man* by Tony Hillerman (HarperCollins)
5. *Silent Honor* by Danielle Steel (Delacorte)
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks (Warner)
7. *The Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard (Viking)
8. *The Laws of Our Fathers* by Scott Turow (Farrar Straus Giroux)
9. *M' Is for Malice* by Sue Grafton (Henry Holt)
10. *The Christmas Tree* by Julie Salamon (Random House)

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. *A Reporter's Life* by Walter

Cronkite (Knopf)

2. *My Sergei: A Love Story* by Ekaterina Gordeeva with E.M. Swift (Warner)
3. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt (Scribner)
4. *Dogbert's Top Secret Management Handbook* by Scott Adams (HarperBusiness)
5. *Everyone Is Entitled to My Opinion* by David Brinkley (Knopf)
6. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach (Warner)
7. *The Dilbert Principle* by Scott Adams (HarperBusiness)
8. *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* by John Gray (HarperCollins)
9. *Make the Connection* by Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey (Hyperion)
10. *Forever, Erma* by Erma Bombeck (Andrews and McMeel)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. *The Rules: Time-Tested Secrets to Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right* by Ellen Fein and Sherrill Schneider (Warner)
2. *The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans (Dell)
3. *The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan (Ivy)
4. *The Lost World* by Michael Crichton (Ballantine)
5. *Absolute Power* by David Baldacci (Warner)
6. *The Cry of the Halidon* by Robert Ludlum (Bantam)
7. *Shock Wave* by Clive Cussler (Pocket)
8. *The Final Judgement* by Richard North Patterson (Ballantine)
9. *Silent Night* by Mary Higgins Clark (Pocket)
10. *Intensity* by Dean Koontz (Ballantine)

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Visionary Program Helps Low-Income Workers See

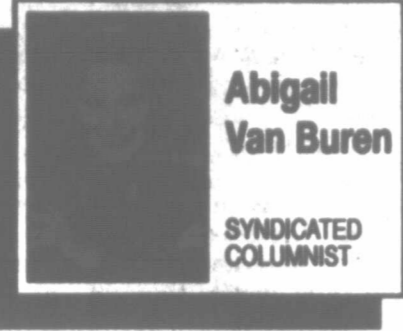
DEAR ABBY: The 1997 VISION USA program is about to get under way, and once again we hope you will help to spread the news that low-income workers with no health insurance can apply to this program for free eye care. We are among 8,000 optometrists who, for the last six years, have volunteered our services to provide more than 200,000 children and adults with needed eye care.

Last year, one of our VISION USA patients was an elementary school student who was legally blind due to a congenital vision problem. This child had gone without glasses for two years because there was no money to replace the pair that had broken. With help from us, the Indiana University School of Optometry and the Ronald McDonald Foundation, this child received an eye exam, a low vision evaluation, glasses, a lighted stand magnifier and a special pair of filter sunglasses.

Most of the approximately 200,000 people who have received care through VISION USA don't have such dramatic situations. However, the American Optometric Association, which sponsors the program, reports that nine out of 10 have eye health or vision problems that can interfere with their ability to work or go to school. Some have sight-threatening conditions such as glaucoma.

Abby, we appreciate your passing the word along to your readers. There are many people out there who need eye care and could benefit from VISION USA.

DEBRA McCONNAHA, O.D.,
LILJEN VOGL, O.D.,
RICHARD SCHAMERLOH, O.D.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR DRs. McCONNAHA, VOGL AND SCHAMERLOH: I'm pleased once again to alert my readers to your worthwhile volunteer program.

To qualify for free eye care, persons must have a job or live in a household where there is one working member; have no health insurance of any kind; have an income below an established level based on household size; and have had no eye examination within the last two years. (Eligibility requirements may vary in some states.)

From Jan. 2-31, 1997, low-income working people and their families can be screened for eligibility for the 1997 VISION USA program by calling 1-800-766-4466. Phone lines will be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (CST). Because phone lines are sometimes very busy, it may be easier to apply by mail. Application forms are available from VISION USA, 243 Lind-

bergh Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63141. (Completed forms must be post-marked by Jan. 25.)

The comprehensive eye exams will be given in optometrists' private offices in March, coinciding with the celebration of Save Your Vision Week, March 2-8.

DEAR ABBY: Add this to your list of things for which Harry Truman can be admired:

When Truman's term as president expired, he and Bess were offered the use of the presidential train to make their trip back to Independence, Mo.

He turned down the offer. Harry and Bess left Washington with Harry driving their relatively old Dodge automobile.

CALVIN S. HOLM,
THIENSVILLE, WIS.

DEAR MR. HOLM: According to an archivist at the Truman Library, you have your stories mixed up. After a farewell luncheon in Washington with Cabinet members, Harry and Bess returned to Independence by train on Jan. 20, 1953. When the train arrived the next night, they were welcomed by an enthusiastic hometown crowd. But they did drive their new Chrysler back to Washington in June of 1953 to visit friends.

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69490, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

carefully before requesting a special favor from a close friend today. She might want to help you, but she might not be in a position to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A significant personal objective can be achieved today, provided you do not tie yourself down with an associate who lacks initiative.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Try to move around today; you should not be lethargic. Select activities that stimulate your circulation. If you are more active, you will succeed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The behavior of someone to whom you're closely attached might irritate you today. However, if you ignore the infractions, the situation will return to normal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Commitments you make early in the day should be acknowledged and completed as promised. Keep your word, regardless of how much it may inconvenience you.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) If you schedule your time well today, you'll find little ways to resolve situations that have

annoyed you. This experience will be rewarding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The temptation to buy more than you can afford could be strong today. Your will is weak, so be prudent and careful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will have only a flimsy excuse today for not clearing up an unpleasant development. It will have to be resolved eventually, so why not do it now?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your charisma will be very appealing to members of the opposite sex today. However, try not to flirt, because your actions could be misunderstood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) This could be a profitable day for you, provided you focus your mind on business. Forge pleasurable distractions until after you close your deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Important matters should be attended to as early in the day as possible. You will be fast out of the starting blocks, but you might lack staying power.

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For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



Garfield



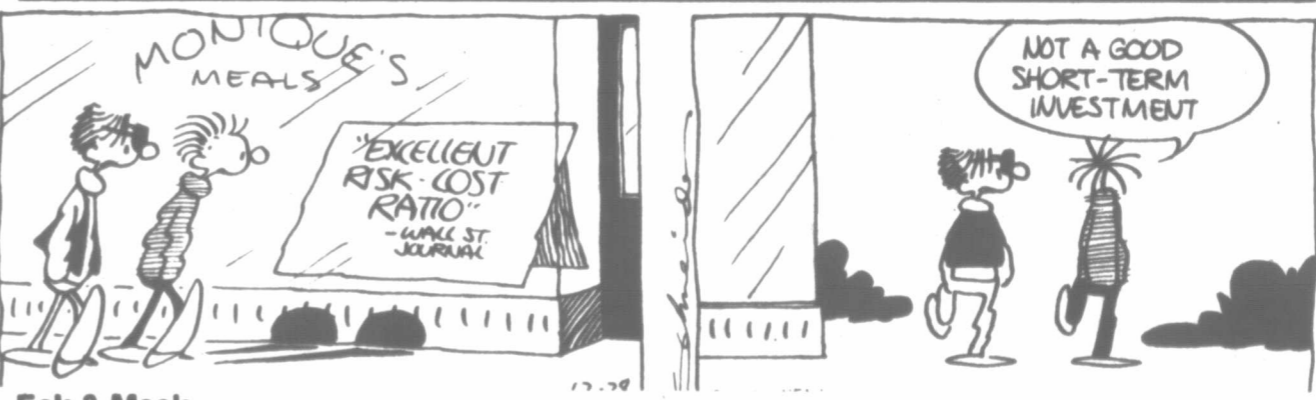
Walnut Cove



Marvin



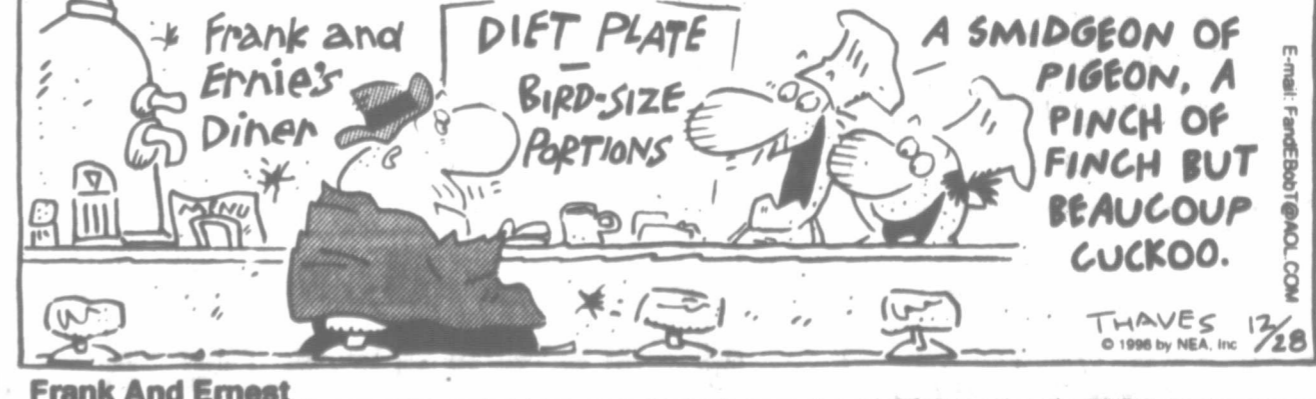
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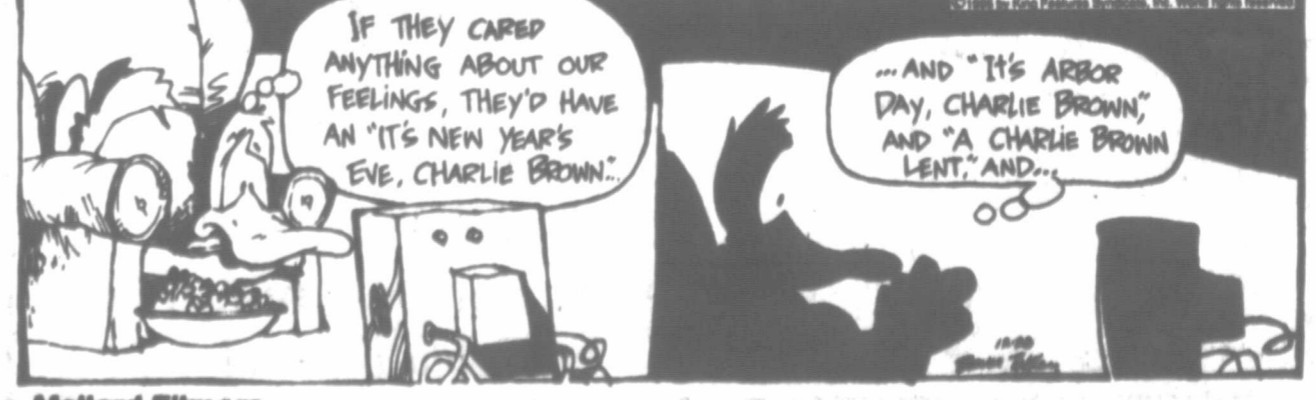
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank and Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Monday, Dec. 30, 1996

Several constructive relationships with people in your field are indicated for the year ahead. You will help them and they will acknowledge you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Unfortunately, you might not be able to operate as independently as you would like today. An ineffective associate may cause problems. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$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) Think



"I wish oranges had tear strips."



"We are staying here awhile... Marmaduke's got the keys."



The Family Circus



Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Dogs Fetch

WHEAT profits farmer chance the rec I took of '96, then at Great I conditi great c Wheat high, dollars Every led to (from) The U respon record Canada good, America Austr back to So n are ad U.S. market to any year. In some p ing so some u currenti loo side ris Strat yields vest ti outlook Season works put op not fu waiting purcha the cor Trade a brd Minne or belo

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The Market Forecaster

By George Kleinman

WHEAT — (BULL/BEAR)

Outlook: Did you enjoy record profits this past year? Wheat farmers and traders did have the chance. This one was a year for the record books.

I took a look at our first column of '96. We were concerned even then about dry conditions in the Great Plains. We now know these conditions resulted in one of the great crop failures of our lifetime. Wheat prices hit all time record highs, the north side of seven dollars in April.

Everything went wrong, which led to everything going right (from a production standpoint). The U.S. spring wheat farmer responded to record prices with record acreage. So too the Canadians. These crops were good, and not only in North America but South America and Australia as well. Prices retreated back to "normal."

So now what? World supplies are adequate, not burdensome. U.S. supplies remain tight. The market should be very sensitive to any weather problems this year. In my mind the odds favor some production problem surfacing somewhere in the world at some unknown point in time. At current prices, the upside potential looks to be higher than downside risk.

Strategy: *Hedgers:* With normal yields supplies will jump at harvest time. However, the yield outlook is uncertain at this time. Seasonally, the market generally works higher into the spring. Use put options for price protection, not futures. I would consider waiting a bit, however, looking to purchase the options cheaper in the coming four to six weeks.

Traders: We are looking to buy a break in the March Minneapolis futures [\$3.70 level or below]. Risk 20¢/bushel, for

CORN — (BULL/BEAR)

Outlook: 1996 was one for the record books. Our first column of '96 had the bull in the box. We were bullish every week in '95, too (starting with the 230 level). In '95 I suggested a significant bullish fundamental change had developed, when one of the world's largest exporters of corn, China, turned into a major importer.

Shortage was the key word early in '96. With corn near \$3.60 then, we boldly predicted corn prices would hit all new highs — surpassing the record \$4.09 registered in December of 1980 (just prior to Carter's grain embargo). This was a piece of cake. The market blasted to an historic high of \$5.54 1/2 in July.

But '96 turned out to be a transition year with major fundamental changes again. A big U.S. crop pushed our carryout back above 1 billion bushels, and China became an exporter again. Prices plummeted back to "normal." What does '97 have in store? Barring a crop failure, I look for a trading range type market. Excellent feed demand (higher hog and cattle number) will keep prices above \$2.40 (nearly futures). But all those bushels out there will cap prices under \$3.00.

Strategy: *Hedgers:* This year, more than most, you must be a nimble marketer. The windfalls are behind us. Most years offer precious few opportunities to lock in a decent profit using options or futures, but in most years these opportunities do come and go. Most farmers do not take advantage of them because the market generally looks the most bullish at the top. We need to be ever vigilant this year, and will try to help you find those precious few.

Traders: You should be out of our spread at a modest profit. This year will not be as easy as last, but profitable opportunities do happen every year. Stay tuned!

CATTLE — (BULL/BEAR)

Outlook: 1996 was a year that corn controlled cattle. Due to the corn shortage, feedlots emptied in the second quarter. Producers feared "running out of corn" After July, as crop prospects brightened and bins refilled, so did the feedlots.

The common wisdom as we enter the New Year is to expect a deluge of market ready cattle into late winter/early spring. The problem is, common wisdom is not wisdom which will enrich you. The futures market is already at a hefty discount to today's cash, and has left no room for a bullish surprise. Last year the market bottomed in the spring. This year I look for the bottom to come even earlier, since all the negative news appears discounted in price.

Strategy: *Feeders and Cow/calf operators:* Over the past few years we have, at times, used futures for hedging purposes. They work best when the futures are at a premium to the cash and you can lock in a decent profit. However, we've used put options to a greater extent and I believe for a cattle feeder or cow/calf operator this has been a better way to go.

Options do have a cost attached, but you gain quite a bit. First of all, you set a floor price to avoid a catastrophic loss. You should not worry about losing one or two dollars/cwt. — try to avoid those \$10 hits. Secondly, the puts never limit your upside in good markets. The objective is to cut the losses, and let the profits run. We will continue to use these strategies in the months to come.

Traders: It was a good trading year, and we look forward to an even better one. No new recommendations until after the New Year.

Holiday note: I will be taking a vacation next week, but I want to take this opportunity to wish my readers a joyous holiday period and a healthy and profitable 1997! Keep in touch! George K.

The information and recommendations presented herein are believed to be reliable; however, changing market variables can change price outlooks. Neither Pampa News nor George Kleinman assume liability for their use. Use this section as a guide only. Futures and options trading can involve risk of loss. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Follow the recommendations if they make sense to you and for your operation.

George Kleinman is president of Commodity Resource Corporation (CRC), a licensed brokerage firm which specializes in marketing strategies using agricultural futures and options. CRC welcomes questions — they can be reached at 1-800-233-4445.

Computer short-courses to be offered

AMARILLO — Area farmers and ranchers can start registering for upcoming computer shortcourses offered by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, using its traveling computer lab, both in February and March at several locations around the Panhandle.

Each shortcourse will be taught by Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension economist who specializes in farm and ranch management.

Computer shortcourses taught will be restricted this year to Quicken 6 for WINDOWS 95 and BUDPRO due to the high level of interest in these particular programs.

Classes will be taught in a two-day and a one-day format and will begin each day at 9 a.m., ending at 3:30 p.m.

Registration fee is \$75 for the two-day Quicken 6 course. The fee for the one-day BUDPRO will be \$45. The registration fees cover computer lease payments and teaching materials for the courses. BUDPRO training registration fee includes the cost of the software, a \$100 value.

Couples are encouraged to attend and will be charged

only one registration fee if they share one computer. Registration will be limited to 14 to provide hands-on experience for all participants.

Several BUDPRO workshops are scheduled. Sites include Wellington on Feb. 7, Claude Feb. 10, Booker Feb. 11, Perrytown Feb. 17, Panhandle Feb. 18, Dumas Feb. 19 and Dalhart Feb. 20.

BUDPRO addresses the question of "to make money or not to make money." The stand-alone menu driven package includes six "user friendly" programs utilized in projecting budgets for corn, wheat, sorghum, cotton, stocker cattle and cow-calf enterprises. In addition, the package calculates break-even prices and provides sensitivity analysis for varying prices and quantities produced. Each registered participant will receive the BUDPRO software, valued at \$100.

Classes for Quicken 6 for WINDOWS 95 are scheduled in Claude on Feb. 3-4, Wellington Feb. 5-6, Booker Feb. 12-13, Stratford Feb. 27-28, Spearman March 3-4 and Silverton Mar. 5-6.

Quicken 6 for WINDOWS 95 is an inexpensive, easy to use record keeping program widely used by agricultural producers, Amosson said. Participants will use a case study to learn in a hands-on setting. Tasks include entering transactions in the register, write check screens, categorized by type of income and expense, split and saving transactions to help develop meaningful financial reports. No prior computer experience is necessary.

To register, send a check with the registration form to reserve a place in the course. Checks should be made payable to Texas Agricultural Extension Service and sent to: Regina Linder, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Boulevard West, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Information about these and future classes with the Extension Service traveling computer lab is available through any county agricultural agent in the Panhandle, or by calling the Extension Service District Office in Amarillo at (806) 359-5401 and asking for Regina Linder.

Wheat Producers Board to hold elections

AMARILLO — The Texas Wheat Producers Board will hold its 13th biennial mail elections between Feb. 18 and March 4, 1997.

Five of the current 15 board members terms expire this year. All members with expiring terms are eligible for re-election.

Producers will also be able to vote on the proposition to limit wheat assessment to a rate not to exceed a maximum of 2 cents per bushel, but not exceed 1.5 cents until the year 2000.

The board was originally

developed in 1971 to help producers increase value of their wheat.

In the next three- to five-year period, wheat production is expected to increase due to land coming out of CRP and producers shifting more land to wheat production.

The board plans to address these issues and many others in the coming months.

Any farmer producing wheat in Texas is eligible to vote for a board member for the district in which he resides or the proposi-

tion to limit assessment rate.

Any person qualified to vote may also submit his name for nomination.

Persons choosing to nominate themselves must submit an application, signed by himself and at least 10 eligible voters from his district, at least 30 days prior to the election to have his name placed on the ballot.

Ballots should be mailed to qualified voters 15 days before the election or they can be picked up at the local Agricultural Extension Service Office.

TCFA considers creation of marketing cooperative

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

AMARILLO — The Texas Cattle Feeders Association is discussing the creation of a marketing cooperative, according to the head of the association.

"We had a board meeting back in January where the board of the Texas Cattle Feeders put forth for the first time discussions concerning a cooperative marketing venture that would imply cattle being priced by carcass," James Herring, president of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, said last week. "These were big steps for us to do."

Most of the cattle in Texas are now sold on live weight basis.

This indicates a movement among TCFA members to try to find a better way to price and value livestock, Herring said during year-end comments at the association's headquarters in Amarillo.

"We have a very concentrated packer industry out here and a very segmented and fragmented feeder industry," Herring said. "Those two are not playing on equal footing. We're trying desperately to figure out new and innovative ways to level the playing field."

Creating a cooperative marketing group to build a packing plant would only create more packing capacity, Herring said. Most TCFA members feel there is plenty of packer capacity.

"There has to be another solution," he said. "A packing plant has been considered and we discussed that at length, but I think most of our people think that's probably not in our best interests. There's nothing

wrong with people thinking about it, for sure."

He said he admires the people in Nebraska and Kansas for exploring that option.

The biggest story in cattle for 1996 was the grain price increase that caused a dramatic change in the cost of production for members of Texas Cattle Feeders Association, he said.

"A 7.4 billion bushel crop in 1995 plus low world stocks created an explosive situation in feed grain supplies and costs during this period," Herring said.

Five dollar per cwt. corn and milo during the first quarter of 1996 rose to \$10/cwt. corn and milo during the second and third quarters.

"It put an almost devastating price increase for most of our customers," Herring said.

That, coupled with drought that initiated massive liquidation of cows, calves and feeder cattle, caused a downturn in cattle prices.

The great volatility in cattle prices in fed cattle prices resulting from the grain and liquidation situations went from April lows of \$55/cwt. to October highs of \$73/cwt., an 18 percent increase or a 33 percent volatility rate for 1996.

"This caused a lot of consternation," Herring said. "It was an element of great surprise for a lot of our cattle feeders and was difficult to deal with as well."

TCFA also discussed establishing a branded beef program

during its meeting last week but rejected the idea for now, according to Herring.

He commended Nebraska cattlemen for their recent announcement that they would start a branded beef program.

"That is certainly an idea that might have some merit," Herring said.

He said the general feeling among TCFA members is that such a move could best be done by a packing plant.

"We see that really coming from the packing side," Herring said. "The real deal in that kind of an idea would be to have a packing plant that could validate the brand concept and promote a product and add additional value to it. As a generic brand, we don't see that there is a whole lot of value to it."

In other matters, Herring said he supports the Freedom to Farm legislation passed this year by Congress.

"This legislation will begin to decouple government subsidies for the U.S. farmer," he said.

"Land will be allowed to produce according to market signals. I think this is very important for us in the cattle feeding business. A great example would be this year in the spring of '96 when prices elevated so dramatically, we needed land routed to feed grain supply," Herring said.

The Freedom to Farm Act will allow that to happen, he said.

"Of course, we encourage that, and we're supportive of that," Herring said.

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