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The PAMPA NEWS

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 Page 8 Page 3

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 201 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

School bus involved in snowy collision

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

A child was taken to the hospital and two others sustained minor injuries after a wreck involving a school bus in Monday afternoon's snowy weather.

At about 4:20 p.m., a Pampa Independent School District school bus and a 2008 Hyundai Elantra collided in the intersection of Tignor and Hwy. 60. A

full report of the wreck was not immediately available from the Pampa Police Department, but according to Public Information Officer Stormy McCullar, PISD bus driver Gary Epperson, 66, was issued a citation for failure to yield at a stop sign.

The car, driven by 40-year-old Too-intza Rowell, collided with the rear of the bus, with eyewitness reports stating that the impact dislodged part of the bus' rear bumper.

The most severe injury was sustained by a child who was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center with a possible wrist injury, according to Danny Seabourn of the PISD. Two other kids were evaluated by emergency medical personnel for minor injuries and picked up by their parents from the accident scene.

PISD Transportation Director Mike Haynes said that based on the number of children on the bus

at the time of the accident, the bus was carrying children from Pampa Junior High School. A new bus was sent by the district to pick up the kids from the collision scene and bring them home while authorities worked the accident. Seabourn said.

"We also had a few people come by and we released the kids to those parents," said Seabourn. "Most of the kids were OK, luckily."

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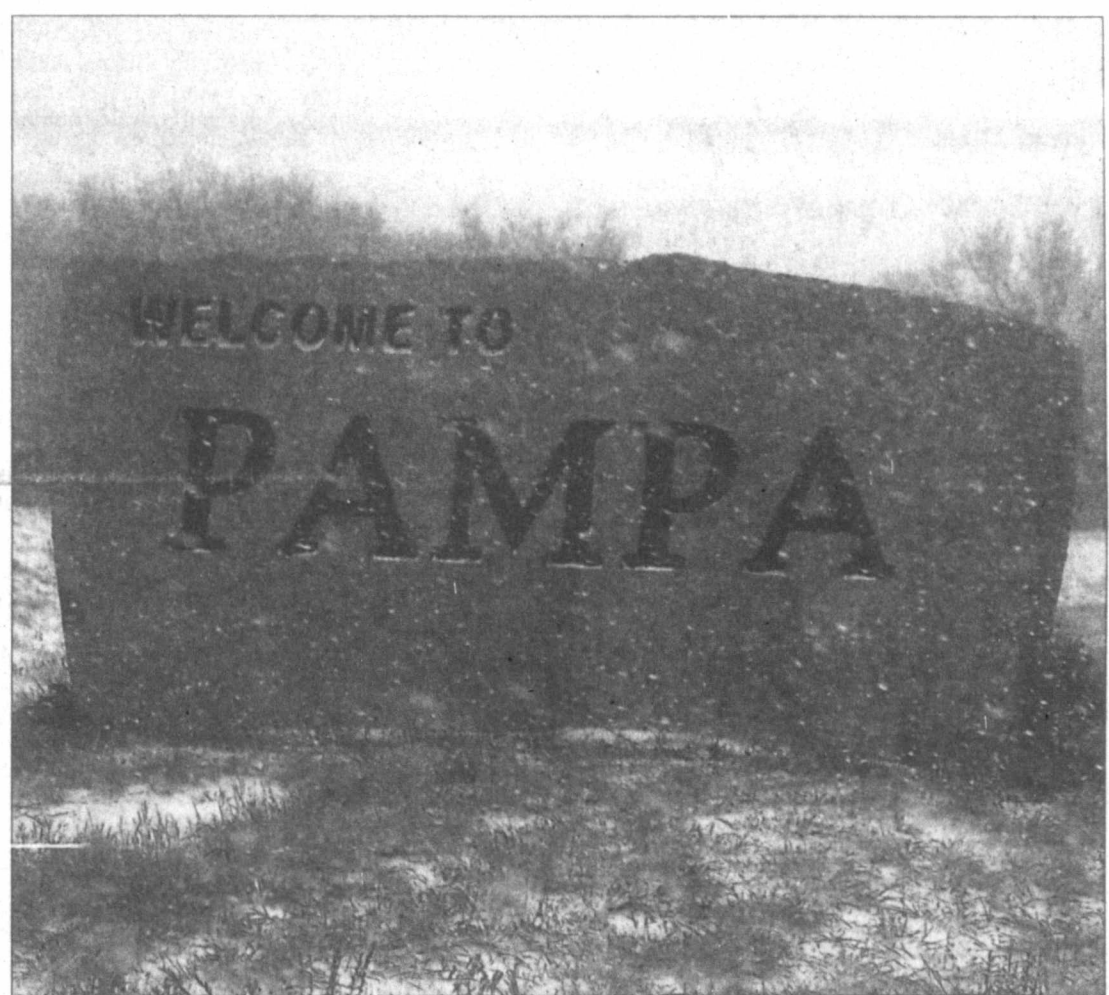
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WINTER'S HERE



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

The skies didn't open until after the weekend, but Pampa finally got its share of winter weather when Monday brought snow tossed around by blustery gusts of wind. The Texas Department of Public Safety issued a travel advisory encouraging drivers in the Panhandle to stay off the roads on Monday going into this morning.

Seminar on counterfeits tomorrow

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A seminar will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Chamber of Commerce to address counterfeit money in the Pampa area. Presented by the US Secret Service, the Pampa Police Department and the Chamber of Commerce, the seminar will inform people on how to identify counterfeit bills, and what to do if you encounter one.

Pampa PD has seen a surge of counterfeits lately, mainly \$20 bills.

"We will talk about what you can do if you encounter counterfeit bills. If you can keep it safely, do so, and get a detailed description of the person passing it," said Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar.

The seminar will also address counterfeit bill detector pens, which aren't always the best way to identify the fake bills.

"The pen will accurately show a counterfeit depending on the age

SEMINAR cont. on page 3



McCullar

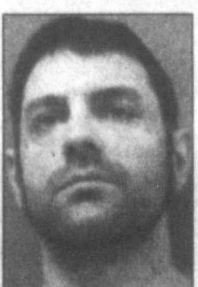
Man nabbed after drug bust at motel

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Christian Dale King, 30, was arrested Sunday evening for possession of a controlled substance in an amount greater than four grams and less than 200 grams, a second degree felony charge.

An officer received information on drug activity at a local motel, and made contact with the suspect. King denied any wrongdoing, but consented to a search of his room. The officer found a substance believed to be methamphetamine.

King was arrested at 8:12 p.m., and remains in custody at the Gray County Jail. His bond is \$6,000.



King

images from christmasonmain



photo courtesy of **Della Moyer**

Art Bowen (from left), Julie Hester and Tommy Hester wave to the crowd from atop the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 float at Saturday's Christmas parade.

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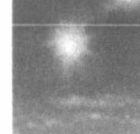
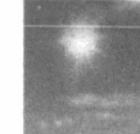
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 27 Low 13	High 42 Low 19	High 41 Low 19

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 27. Wind chill values between 1 and 11. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 13. Wind chill values between 5 and 10. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 42. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 41. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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The Pampa News



Trial for New Mexico redistricting starts

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The political tilt of New Mexico's three congressional districts will be influenced for the rest of the decade by the outcome of a trial that started Monday.

It will be up to state District Judge James Hall to decide how to revise congressional district boundaries.

Democrats currently hold two of the state's congressional seats. Groups of Republicans, Democrats and minority voters are recommending options to the judge to consider in drawing new district boundaries.

District boundaries must be adjusted for population changes during the past decade. The goal is equalize district populations as much as possible to ensure that each New Mexican's vote is of equal weight. That's necessary to comply with the legal requirements of one person, one vote.

GOP Gov. Susana Martinez, other Republicans and some Democrats, including Rep. Brian Egolf of Santa Fe, support a "least change" plan making few revisions to current districts. The proposal would shift fewer than 25,000 New Mexicans into new districts, lawyers told the judge during opening arguments.

That's far less than other redistricting plans outlined to

the judge.

A separate Democratic group, including Rep. Antonic "Moe" Maestas of Albuquerque, proposes consolidating most of Bernalillo and Valencia counties into the 1st Congressional District. The plan would make the district slightly more Democratic in its voting, and would move more than 180,000 people into new districts.

Paul Kennedy, a lawyer for the governor, said that proposal is "nothing more than a political gerrymander."

But Stephen Durkovich, a lawyer for the Maestas group of Democrats, told the judge that their proposal did the best job of equalizing district populations. "The issue for the court is meeting one-person, one-vote," said Durkovich.

A Hispanic civil rights group, the New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, advocates creating a Hispanic majority district in southern and south-central New Mexico. If the judge adopted that proposal, it would transform a solidly GOP seat into a swing district that would give a Democratic candidate a much better chance of winning. The proposal would move about 250,000 New Mexicans into new districts.

Obituaries

Mary F. Cauthorn, 84

BRIGHTON, Colo. — Mary F. Cauthorn, 84, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, in Brighton, Colo.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 8, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church in Pampa, officiating.

Entombment will be at Cauthorn Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Pampa, under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Cauthorn was born Sept. 15, 1927, in Cambridge, Mass. to Joseph and Mary Vincent Ferreira. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1951. She married Charles "Buddy" Cauthorn on Dec. 14, 1946, in Cambridge. He preceded her in death on March 23, 2009. She was a homemaker and loved playing bridge, camping, and spending time with her many friends and family.

Survivors include three sons, Charles Cauthorn Jr. and wife Virginia of Brighton, Colo.; Don Cauthorn of Dallas, and Tom Cauthorn and wife Janice of New York, N.Y.; five grandchildren, Charity and husband Travis and Chad, all of Dallas, Erica and husband Todd and Kelly and husband John, all of Brighton, Colo.; and Ashley of Oklahoma City; four great grandchildren, Conner, Brooklyn, Madison, and Ashton.

The family will receive friends from 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home in Pampa.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Cauthorn

Curt Buxton Beck, 87

Curt Buxton Beck, 87, died December 3, 2011, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 8, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Kenny Rigoulot, pastor, and Nancy Ruff, commissioned lay pastor, officiating. Private burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Our Lord needed an engineer in heaven and called Curt to be with him on Saturday, December 3, 2011. For his family and friends he was so much more than a great engineer. He will be missed.

Curt was born in Dallas, on August 6, 1924, as the oldest son of Curt Walter Beck and Anna Nash Buxton Beck. His younger brother Cameron was born 22 months later. Both boys grew up in Dallas. They attended Texas Country Day School, which later became St Mark's School of Texas.

Curt graduated as Valedictorian and was admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). However he chose to go one year to the prep school Phillips Academy in Exeter, N.H. Then he attended MIT on a scholarship. He was too tall for military service, so he was class F. Due to the war, the classes at MIT went nonstop through the years. Curt graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1945.

He then started his 40 year career at Cabot Carbon Co.



Beck

(now Cabot Corporation) working in their Research and Development Division in Pampa. In 1950 he returned to MIT for a Master's degree which he received in 1952. While working on his degree, he attended the MIT School of Engineering Practice in Oak Ridge, Tenn. and also spent time working for Cabot in Japan and Chester England on an exchange program.

In 1957 he married Wilhelmina Paula von Wolzogen Kuhr ("Wil") from the Netherlands, whom he had known since they met as children in 1934. Curt's aunt Viola was married to Wil's Uncle Paul, the Dallas Symphony Conductor at that time. They made their home in Pampa and started their family. Their three children, Curt Emile, Anna Catherine and Paul Buxton were born over the next five years.

Although he had numerous chances to transfer to other cities, Curt never wanted to leave Pampa. He elected to stay and work for Cabot in various capacities (he ultimately became the Corporate Environmental Control Officer) until his retirement in 1984. He then opened his own engineering consulting practice where he applied his environmental and regulatory expertise to the benefit of his many clients. He never officially retired as he loved working and sharing his knowledge through his engineering practice and monthly newsletters until his recent passing.

Curt was a Registered Professional Engineer in several states. He was a member and a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, the Air and Waste Management Association and was a Diplomat of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He also served as the Texas Panhandle area advisor to his beloved MIT and screened hundreds of area high school senior applicants.

But most will remember Curt for his never-ending civic and community contributions. He served on the Vestry of St Matthew's Episcopal Church and later several times as a ruling Elder of the First Presbyterian Church. He also has served on the board of numerous civic organizations. To mention a few: the Pampa School Board where he served as President, Jaycees, Toastmasters, the Community Concert Association, Girl and Boy Scouts (he was a Cub Master and Webelo Den Leader for many years), Outdoor Arts, Southside Senior Citizens, Salvation Army and the United Way of which he was drive chairman in 1992, Tralee Crisis Center, and many more. Curt was selected as Citizen of the Year in 1998 by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. He was a Rotarian and served as the local chapter president, the Rotary regional president and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also an integral figure in the recent money raising effort to build the chapel at the Jordan Unit outside Pampa. Curt also enjoyed the many friendships dealt from his weekly Friday night poker games over the past 60 plus years.

Curt is survived by Wil, his wife of 54 years, his three children, Curt and his wife Rhenalea and their three children, Kelsi (23), Austen (21), and Kaylen (20); Anna and her husband Kelly and her children Erin (20) and Sara (18) and stepchildren Carly (21) and Taylor (15); and Paul and his wife Carol and their children Gregory (17), Steven (15), Catie (10) and Jessie (8).

Over the past few years, both Curt and Wil have received very special and loving care from a number of caregivers. His family would like to express their deepest appreciation to Rolanda Bowman, LaVern Fulton, Donna Jones, Candace Sinyard, Kandy Soliz, Brandi Soliz, and his primary caregivers and friends, Barry Bowman, Roger Rainey, Jim Sinyard, and especially Tommy Henson.

The entire Beck family wishes to thank all for their loving condolences and best wishes during this difficult period. For those who would like to donate in honor of Curt, we believe Curt would have preferred donations to any charity that reflects his spirit. We also ask that you keep Wil, his loving wife, in your hearts and prayers.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

For the record

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 72 hour period ending Monday, December 5 at 7 a.m.

Friday, December 2
 Amanda Lou Bennett, 19, was arrested by deputies for nonpayment of court costs or fees.

Kenneth Dale Putman, 29, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance.

Randall Jack Hatcher, 19, was arrested by deputies for tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Saturday, December 3
 Leon Clyde Murdoch III, 26, was arrested by DPS

officers for driving while intoxicated.

Cody Andrew Frew, 21, was arrested by police for theft of property greater than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

Gerardo Dominguez, 20, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and running a stop sign.

Kathrine Lucille Fulcher, 32, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Guillermo Antonio Lopez, 21, was arrested by police for driving while intoxicated.

Jason Louis Dyer, 37,

was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Sunday, December 4
 Luis Mireles, 40, was arrested by police for driving while intoxicated.

Cecil Ray Turner, 37, was arrested by police for driving while intoxicated.

Joshua James Curtis, 20, was arrested by DPS officers for driving under the influence and minor in possession of alcohol.

Joshua John-Michael Feltner, 24, was arrested by police for criminal trespassing.

Nicholas Ryan Day, 21, was arrested by deputies on warrants of driver's license restriction violation and

failure to appear in court.

Christian Dale King, 30, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance greater than four grams but less than 200 grams.

Mark Steven Ray Simons, 49, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated and failure to appear in court.

Monday, December 5
 Kelley Aljean Liberty, 46, was arrested by police for driving while intoxicated.

Francisco Rodriguez, 43, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

MORNINGRUSH

10 Texas mail centers set to close

DALLAS (AP) - Ten mail processing centers in Texas are among 252 nationwide targeted for closure this spring as part of a \$3 billion cost-cutting move. The U.S. Postal Service said Monday that it seeks to move quickly to shut the processing units and slow first-class delivery, amid declining mail volume. The Postal Service is projected to have a record loss of \$14.1 billion next year.

The agency in September announced the list of processing facilities being studied, including sites in Abilene, Austin, Beaumont, Bryan, Dallas, Tyler, Lufkin, McAllen and two facilities in Waco.

The agency on Monday said the cuts are now being finalized to close the processing centers, starting in April.

The cost of mailing a first-class letter goes up a penny, beginning Jan. 22, to 45 cents.

Journalist injured by propeller

DALLAS (AP) - A Dallas-area woman has lost her hand after walking into the propeller of a small airplane following a flight to view Christmas lights.

A spokeswoman at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas says 23-year-old Lauren Scruggs of Plano was in serious condition Monday. She's founder and editor of LoLo Magazine.

The Federal Aviation Administration says the accident happened Saturday night at a private airport in the McKinney area, about 30 miles northeast of Dallas.

Family spokeswoman Jane Harrell says Scruggs had just gotten off the private plane after a trip to see holiday lights. Harrell told The Associated Press that Scruggs lost her left hand in the accident, plus suffered head, brain and shoulder injuries.

Harrell says the pilot wasn't hurt.

Perry mulls returning money

AUSTIN (AP) - Rick Perry is mulling returning at least \$80,000 in past contributions from a donor convicted of public corruption.

Perry spokeswoman Catherine Frazier says his presidential campaign "is looking into the situation and will take appropriate action."

Robert "Bob" Jones is former president of the National Center for Employment of the Disabled in El Paso, Texas.

The El Paso Times reported Sunday that Jones made contributions between 2002 and 2005 to Perry's campaigns for Texas governor.

Jones pleaded guilty in February to charges including fraud and bribery dating from schemes in 1998.

He also made donations to Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas.

The Times reported that those three have promised to return the contributions or donate them to charity.

Lit blowtorch used in holdup

EL PASO, Texas (AP) - Police say a lit blowtorch has been used in an attempt to rob a West Texas convenience store.

El Paso police say the uninjured clerk fled early Monday and managed to flag down an officer, who was on patrol, and report a man with a flaming blowtorch had demanded cash.

Police arrested 42-year-old Osbaldo Estrada after a foot chase. The blowtorch has been recovered.

Estrada is charged with aggravated robbery. Online jail records did not list an attorney for Estrada, who's held on \$150,000 bond.

Police did not immediately provide details on any alleged stolen money.

Body in luggage deal rejected

HOUSTON (AP) -The U.S. Supreme Court has refused the appeal of a San Antonio man condemned for the 2005 slaying of a pregnant Lubbock woman whose body was stuffed inside a piece of luggage found at the Lubbock city landfill.

Rosendo Rodriguez was condemned for the death of 29-year-old Summer Baldwin. She's identified in court documents as a drug-addicted prostitute 10 weeks pregnant.

The 31-year-old Rodriguez was a Marine reservist training in Lubbock. He contended the slaying was in self-defense, that he choked her when she came at him with a knife. He said he went to a Walmart, purchased the suitcase, put her body in it and tossed it in a trash bin.

The high court decision Monday is on Rodriguez's direct appeal following his conviction. Other appeals are likely.

New look for Harbor Bridge

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) - A South Texas bridge has a new \$2.2 million look.

Organizers say several thousand people were on hand Sunday night to see the colorful display of light patterns on the Harbor Bridge in Corpus Christi. The 950-LED light system wraps around the span, which is located near the Texas State Aquarium.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports the bridge, during a patriotic song, was transformed from a red, white and blue spectrum to the image of a fluttering flag.

The public and private partnership behind the bridge upgrade involved the city, Texas Department of Transportation, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and American Bank.

The Harbor Bridge opened in 1959. Lights were first installed in 1986. The lights were turned off in 1998 after numerous circuit failures and corrosion.

Weather delays NM ceremony

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Snow, wind and freezing temperatures have delayed the lighting of New Mexico's state Christmas tree.

Gov. Susana Martinez was set to light the tree during a ceremony in Santa Fe on Monday evening.

Officials decided to postpone the event after the state was slammed with severe winter weather.

The governor's office says the lighting of the state tree has been rescheduled for Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Treasure what America still offers

TERRY SAVAGE
Creator's Syndicate

The Savage Truth on money



Like most Americans, you probably spent Thanksgiving weekend eating turkey once or twice and then sitting stuffed on the couch watching interminable football games or dozing off to be roused only when a touchdown was scored. You may have ventured out to do some holiday shopping, getting caught in the crush of people seeking great deals on stuff they may or may not need.

Hey, this is not a story with a moral. If that's how you spent a few days, it was relaxing and fun. If you were the cook (and dishwasher), it was pleasantly exhausting. And if you have a job with a retailer, you were certainly too busy to think about global issues.

And that brings up a question: What would happen to the world's economic and political woes and wars if we just didn't think about them? It's not an idle question.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday. But Canadians have their Thanksgiving holiday in October, so they were busy building a pipeline to the West Coast, so they can export the oil that America doesn't want badly enough to allow them to build a pipeline to our country.

In the Middle East, militants killed dozens in Yemen, NATO attacked Pakistan killing 24 soldiers, and the Arab League voted to sanction Syria.

The Occupy Wall Street movement moved to London, where protesters set up a tent city in the heart of the financial district. Germany and France are still trying to fix the euro, and European banks are still scrambling to borrow money

in a bond market that is demanding high interest rates as a huge risk premium.

All while we were dozing on the couch.

Even at home as the campaign for the Republican nomination draws closer to the Iowa primary, the networks were reduced to rehashing the foreign affairs debate from earlier last week. Newt Gingrich remained a strong contender, and no one could stoke a fire on the immigration issue. Presumably the candidates and their supporters were also dozing in front of the TV.

The only economic issue that could rally interest was the extent of the deals being offered on Black Friday, which started on Thursday night. ShopperTrak predicted a more than 6 percent increase in sales — based on foot traffic in the stores. But it remains to be seen if those sales will be profitable ones for retailers or just loss leaders that put them in the red for the season.

For many consumers, the mania of the shopping season will end in the depression of January as the bills come due. But this is the season for thinking of the here and now.

This is the fifth holiday season in which we've faced economic challenges and uncertainty about our financial future. In 2007, we had just seen the market take a sharp drop from its August peak. In 2008,

the holiday season began just after the September collapse of Lehman. In 2009 (after the market made its lows around 6700 in March), we were swept into the holidays with a report that the recession had ended in July — something no one believed. And last year, the holidays came in the midst of ever-rising unemployment numbers.

This year, we know we're mired in slow growth, a stagnant housing market, a leaden job market and a scary stock market. Not to mention an imminent financial collapse in Europe.

But we're still going shopping. In fact, every year at this time, people hit the malls to spend billions of dollars in just a few weeks. This year, it's estimated that we will find more than \$11 billion to spend. Gosh, compared to the problems of the rest of the world, things aren't so bad in America.

We still go shopping. We still have a choice of political candidates. We still believe in our system, sort of. And we still have football — at least for a few more weeks. No wonder the U.S. dollar is so strong. A lot of people around the world want what we have. We should treasure that — even if we aren't thinking about the world's problems. And that's the Savage Truth.

Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"

One of 14 in child rape case pleads

LIBERTY (AP) — One of the 14 men accused in the repeated sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl accepted a plea bargain Monday during a court hearing in a case that has horrified and divided their small Southeast Texas town.

Isaiah Ross, 21, of Cleveland, was facing life in prison on a charge of continuous sexual abuse of a child, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Under the deal, Ross agreed to testify against his co-defendants, whose trials are expected to begin next month.

Prosecutors recommended a 15-year prison term for Ross, though his sentencing won't be held until Feb. 6. Ross, his family, his defense attorney and

prosecutors declined comment about the guilty plea. A gag order bars anyone potentially involved in the case from speaking to the media.

Authorities say the girl was assaulted on at least five occasions between mid-September and early December 2010 in Cleveland, about 45 miles northeast of Houston. The investigation began that December, after one of the girl's friends told a teacher he had seen a lurid cellphone video that showed the girl being raped in an abandoned trailer.

Six juvenile boys were also charged in the case, and three of them have pleaded guilty.

Most of the adult defendants appeared at Monday's hearing in Liberty, and District Judge Mark Morefield indicated

he didn't want any more delays in the case. He said trial dates would likely be announced during a hearing Jan. 5.

"These cases are taking priority. In January, these cases are going to trial," Morefield said.

Prosecutor Joe Warren told Morefield that all DNA testing has been completed. He said the trials of the remaining defendants, who have pleaded not guilty and are expected to be tried separately,

could begin in January or February.

Warren didn't detail the results of the DNA testing, which had caused delays.

Warren also told Morefield that a plea bargain offered to another defendant, 19-year-old Jared Cruse, would carry a 25-year prison term in exchange for his cooperation. Cruse is being held without bond and has been charged with continuous sexual abuse of a child. A

PLEADS cont. on page 8



Special Christmas Service

Servicio de Navidad Especial

24 de Diciembre 2011
6 pm

Iglesia Bautista Emanuel
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Pastor - Willy Jaramillo

Seminar

cont. from page 1

of the bill," said McCullar. "Older money can show as counterfeit when it isn't, so you can't solely rely on the pen."

The seminar will be open to businesses, banks and the community in general.

"We especially encourage businesses to attend. If we can stop businesses

from taking the money, we can stop consumers from recirculating it," said McCullar.

There will be two chances to catch the presentation, with one at 9:30 a.m., and another at 1 p.m.

Cinema 4

Movies Showing
Friday, December 2 through
Thursday, December 8.

Happy Feet 2 (PG, 3-D)
Fri 7:15 9:30
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:30
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15
Mon/Thu 7:15

Breaking Dawn (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thu 7:00

Arthur Christmas (PG)
Fri 7:15 9:30
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Mon/Thu 7:15

The Muppets (PG)
Fri 7:00 9:30
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
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"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year"
Charles Dickens

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 2011. There are 25 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 6, 1921, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, was signed in London. (The treaty came into force one year later on this date.)

On this date:

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1884, Army engineers completed construction of the Washington Monument by setting an aluminum capstone atop the obelisk.

In 1889, Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans.

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, W.Va.

In 1917, some 2,000 people died when an explosives-laden French cargo ship collided with a Norwegian vessel at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the city.

In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry S. Truman.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about four feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding.

In 1960, nearly 9 million acres of Alaska was set aside as an Arctic National Wildlife Range by order of Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton.

In 1971, the original Auto-Train, which carried rail passengers and their motor vehicles from Lorton, Va., to Sanford, Fla., went into operation. (Although the privately owned line went out of business in 1981, Amtrak revived the service in 1983.)

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life.

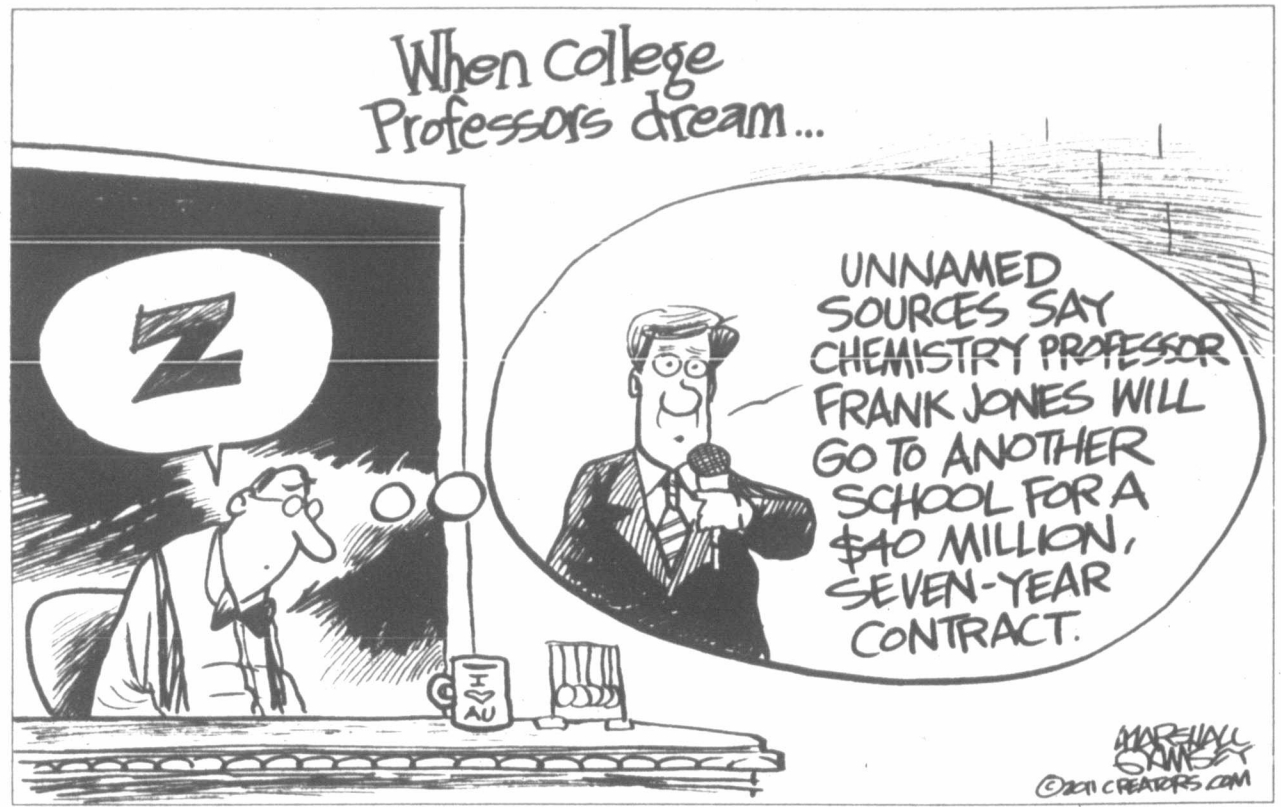
Ten years ago: The House of Representatives, by a one-vote margin, gave President George W. Bush more power to negotiate global trade deals.

Five years ago: The bipartisan Iraq Study Group concluded that President George W. Bush's war policies had failed in almost every regard, and said the situation in Iraq was "grave and deteriorating."

One year ago: President Barack Obama announced a compromise with the GOP to extend Bush-era income tax cuts despite Democratic objections; the agreement included renewing unemployment benefits and reducing Social Security taxes for one year.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Dave Brubeck is 91. Comedy performer David Ossman is 75. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 73. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 70. Actor James Naughton is 66. Actress JoBeth Williams is 63. Actor Tom Hulce is 58. Actor Kin Shriner is 58. Actor Wil Shriner is 58. Actor Miles Chapin is 57. Rock musician Rick Buckley (The Jam) is 56. Comedian Steven Wright is 56. Rock musician Peter Buck (R.E.M.) is 55. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 50. Actress Janine Turner is 49. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 44. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 40. Actress Colleen Haskell is 35. Actress Lindsay Price is 35. Actress Ashley Madekwe is 30.

Thought for Today: "Americans have always been able to handle austerity and even adversity. Prosperity is what is doing us in." - James Reston, American journalist (born 1909, died this date in 1995).



Environmental programs fall victim to cuts

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - When lightning ignited a wildfire near Idaho's Sun Valley in 2007, environmental regulators used monitoring gear to gauge the health effects for those breathing in the Sawtooth Mountains' smoky, mile-high air.

That equipment sits idle today after the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality was hit by \$4 million in spending cuts, a quarter of its budget, since the recession began. Water testing on selenium-laced streams in Idaho's phosphate mining country also has been cut back, as have mercury monitoring and hazardous waste inspections.

The cuts to environmental programs in Idaho provide a snapshot of a national trend. Conservation programs and environmental regulations have been pared back significantly in many states that have grappled with budget deficits in recent years.

Because environmental programs are just a sliver of most state budgets, the cuts often go without much public notice. More attention is focused on larger reductions in Medicaid, public education or prisons.

A 24-state survey by the Environmental Council of States, the national association of state environmental agency leaders, showed agency budgets decreasing by an average of \$12 million in 2011. The Washington, D.C.-based group also says federal grants to help states administer new federal Environmental Protection Agency rules regarding air and water quality also have waned, falling by 5.1 percent since 2004.

Regulators in many states say they are trying to maintain fundamental environmental protections required by the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and other federal laws.

"Hopefully, even with all the cuts in place, we're still doing a good job of protecting that," said Martin Bauer, Idaho's air quality administrator.

Yet environmentalists and some state regulators are concerned that the budget cuts imperil programs designed to safeguard public health and safety.

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican presidential candidate, signed a budget that cut funding for the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality more than 30 percent, from \$833 million to \$565 million. That included reducing air quality inspections and assessments.

Colin Meehan, of the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin, worries that Texas will struggle to meet Clean Air Act obligations.

"We see this as not just a problem from a regulatory standpoint," he said. "It's a public health issue."

While the Texas agency reduced state incentive programs to cut pollutants, those were not required by federal law, agency spokeswoman Andrea Morrow said. The reductions "are only one part of the state's overall approach" to paring emissions, she said.

In some states where conservatives control the Legislature and the governor's office, environmentalists have been critical of deep cutbacks to the programs they had fought to implement. Some suggest the severity of the cuts is due as much to a political agenda to reduce government regulations as it is to cope with state budget deficits.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott's first budget included his veto of a \$500,000 water quality study on Lake Okeechobee and some \$20 million in cuts to Everglades' restoration. Scott, a Republican, said the steps were necessary to balance a state budget hard hit by home foreclosures and real estate losses.

But the Republican-dominated Florida Legislature also cut \$210 million from property tax revenue intended for local water-management districts that protect Florida's swamplands. Environmentalists blasted those cuts, complaining they were meant to help Scott fulfill pledge to cut taxes.

"It would have been appropriate for there to have been some level of budget reductions," Audubon of Florida advocacy director Charles Lee said. "But it's clear what happened in Tallahassee in 2011 was targeted, ideologically driven, and I would add, mean-spirited."

Scott insists his administration uncovered overly generous pension payments and questionable purchases by the local water districts. He said water resources deserve protecting, but the agencies that oversee them also must be fiscally responsible.

Budget cuts have affected high-profile programs in several other states, as well.

In South Carolina, they mean health officials will not perform a statewide study of how mercury-tainted fish affect those who eat them. Contaminated fish have been found in some 1,700 miles of the state's rivers. That state's Department of Natural Resources' budget was cut more than 50 percent, dropping to \$14 million from \$32 million.

The state Department of Environmental Protection in Pennsylvania has seen general fund support slip from \$217 million in 2009 to \$140 million, levels last seen in 1994.

"This is a silent train wreck that's happening," said David Hess, the former secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. "What these cuts do is cut the capacity and the ability of environmental agencies to do their jobs."

At best, states will know less about how their air and water quality are faring. At worst, they could become dirtier and more dangerous places to live, Hess said.

Oregon, for example, reduced air pollution monitoring, as the Department of Environmental Quality faces budget cuts through 2013. In North Carolina, lawmakers eliminated a \$480,000 mapping program created after a landslide killed five people in 2004, jettisoning the jobs of six geologists who said more maps were needed to help protect Appalachian mountain residents by helping them decide where it is safe to build.

"It's very shortsighted," said DJ Gerken, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center in Asheville, N.C. "We've had 48 landslide deaths since 1916. What's changed is the appetite for building in these areas where risks are most abundant."

In some cases, it's difficult to know what effect the spending cuts will have over the long term because environmental problems often evolve over time.

When Washington's Legislature trimmed \$30 million, or 27 percent, from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget, three employees who had been diving in the Puget Sound to hunt down invasive sea squirts lost their jobs.

The gelatinous invaders, known as tunicates, form a goopy mat on the sea floor, raising fears that they will hurt the shellfish industry, as they have in eastern Canada.

"We are basically addressing tunicates on an emergency basis only," said Allen Pleus, Washington state's aquatic invasive species coordinator.

While the state's oyster growers will not rule out the potential for future problems caused by the sea squirts, they say they do not see an immediate threat to their livelihoods.

"There isn't any place I'm aware of that the tunicates are causing harm on the shellfish farms," said Bill Dewey, of Taylor Shellfish Farms in Shelton, Wash.

Elsewhere, budget cuts to invasive species programs have caused more alarm.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council, a main player in that state's fight against non-native plants and animals, saw its budget cut by more than half to \$1.8 million.

Fearing "a collapse of our inspection capacity," spokeswoman Deborah Ward said her agency redirected 40 percent of its remaining money to preserve inspections that help keep invasive pests such as brown tree snakes from hitchhiking their way into the islands from Guam. Hawaii has no native snakes, so experts fear their arrival could decimate native bird species.

As the money was shifted, however, the state cut back on field crews who targeted invasive species already on the islands. Those include pigs, wild goats and sheep that can decimate an ecosystem full of plants that evolved without natural protections, like thorns.

"They're like bonbons for pigs," Christy Martin, a spokeswoman for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species in Honolulu, said of the state's native plants. "If there's nobody out there actually doing the work, you get astronomical reproduction. We have a year-round breeding season here, so everything goes crazy, and you lose ground."

We welcome your letters

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- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
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Department of Ag pledges \$50 million for Gulf river basins

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Monday pledged \$50 million to a program designed to restore seven river basins from Florida to Texas in an attempt to show a blueprint for rebuilding the Gulf Coast's fragile ecosystem is more than just another federal report.

The USDA's announcement accompanied the presentation of the final report of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, a team established by President Barack Obama after the April 2010 oil spill that highlighted decades of environmental decline in the Gulf of Mexico.

The task force's plan for reviving the Gulf and the ecosystems and watersheds linked to it calls for rebuilding and conserving wetlands; cleaning polluted rivers and streams; strengthening communities along the storm-prone area and better preparing them for the storms that brew over the warm ocean waters; and allowing more sediment to naturally flow downstream to slowly rebuild barrier islands meant to provide natural protection from storms.

"We are all dedicated to making sure that the treasures we grew up with are still around for future generations," said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, a New Orleans native who chaired the task force.

Jackson and officials from other federal and state agencies made the announcements in Houston at a summit sponsored by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. The summit focuses on the Gulf, its importance to the U.S. economy and the need to reverse decades of damage and neglect.

Jackson said the USDA project — an offshoot of an existing national program aimed at conserving, improving and preserving the nation's watersheds — is only the first of many initiatives she expects will be announced in the coming months.

"I expect a flurry of activity to get some meat on those bones," she said.

The Gulf of Mexico, long neglected and underfunded, is a vital part of the nation's economy. More than 90 percent of the nation's offshore oil and natural gas production originates in the Gulf and 13 of the top 20 ports by tonnage are in the region. If the five coastal states were a country, it would

rank seventh in global gross domestic product. In 2009, the Gulf Coast produced 30 percent of the nation's gross domestic product.

While this committee has been assigned the task of identifying problems and pinpointing possible solutions, Congress has been considering a bill called the Restore Act that would allow most of the penalties BP would pay for fouling the waters to go back toward restoring the environment in the five Gulf states: Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Texas. The House is to hold hearings on the proposed bill later this week.

The first project administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service gives farmers and ranchers the finances they need to change their land or water use practices to help clean, conserve and preserve the watersheds, said Harris Sherman, the USDA's undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. The USDA provides them with a "tool kit" of options for joining the program, he added.

The program — called the Gulf of Mexico Initiative — also requires matching funds from state, local and nonprofit entities, and so the funds available could total some \$90 million, Sherman said. Similar projects are already under way elsewhere, and have successfully reversed some damage done to waterways.

The \$50 million commitment to the Gulf Coast, however, is unique because it significantly increases the department's funding to the region. Already, Sherman said, officials have met with ranchers and farmers in the area and are confident they

will participate. The funding will be made available over the next three years, with the first \$20 million available immediately.

The seven river basins identified for immediate assistance are already on the federal Clean Water Act's list of polluted waterways. In Alabama, the program's goal in the Weeks Bay watershed is

to reduce agricultural-related nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment running downstream and to preserve wildlife habitats.

In a watershed shared by Alabama and Florida, the program aims to reduce the sediments and nutrients that flow into tributaries of the Escambia River. The USDA believes this will ultimately "improve

wildlife habitat and the quality of water delivered to Pensacola Bay" and the Gulf. The project has similar goals for another Florida watershed.

In Louisiana, it will focus on the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary and the Mermentau basin, once again by reducing the harm fertilizers have as they flow downstream

from rivers and streams into the Gulf of Mexico. In Mississippi the Jourdan River basin is the focus, while in Texas the goal is to clean up the Guadalupe River basin.

Officials believe the project will improve water quality for thousands of residents in Pensacola, Fla., Mobile, Ala., and San Antonio.

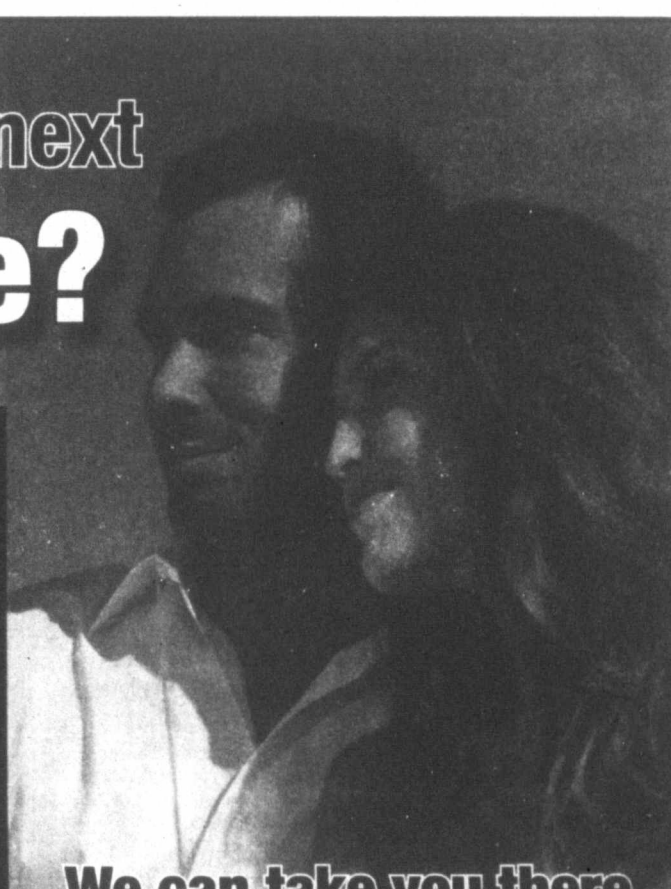
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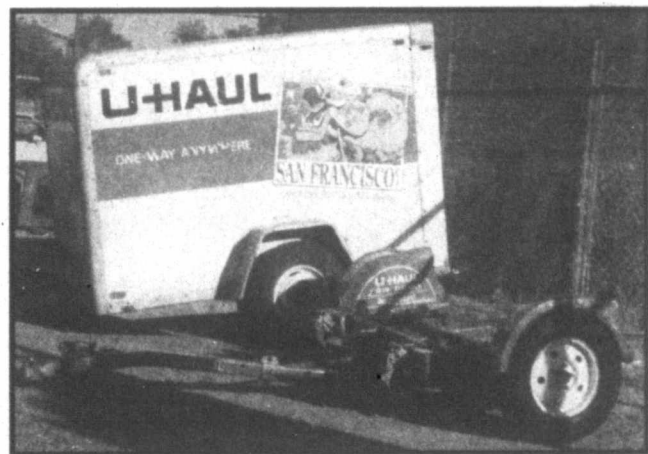
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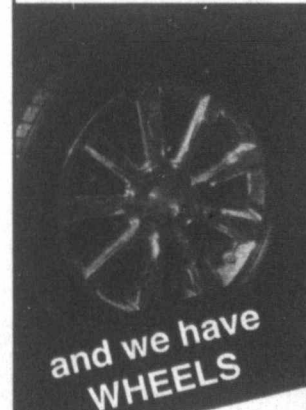


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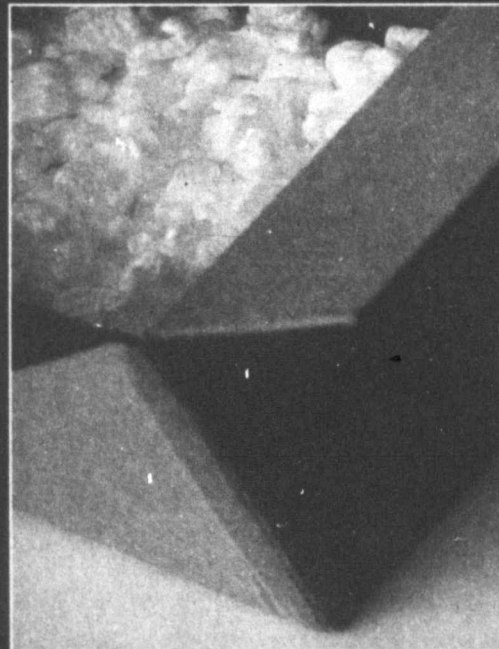
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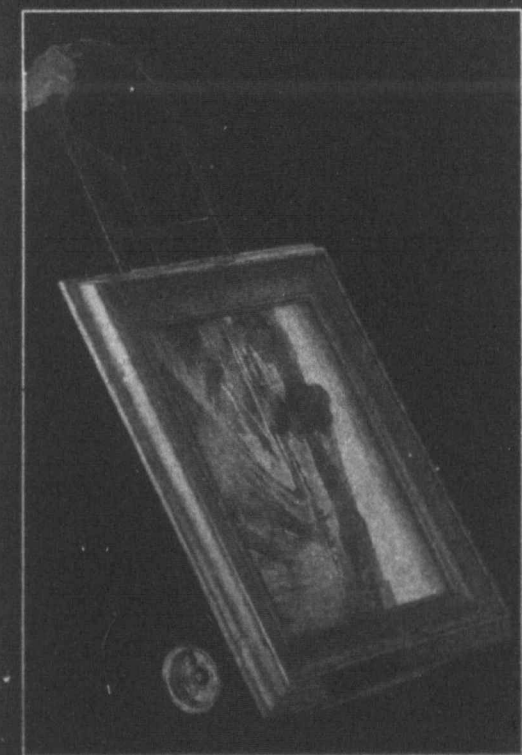
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images from christmas on main



staff photo by David Bowser

Captain Mark Martin (standing, left) and the kids on the Salvation Army float interact with the crowd at Saturday's Christmas parade in downtown Pampa.

Okla. judge denies conspiracy request

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma County judge Monday denied a prosecutor's request to authorize conspiracy charges against a state representative and a former state senator who already face felony bribery charges.

District Judge Ray Elliott handed down the ruling in the case against Republican Rep. Randy Terrill of Moore and former Democratic Sen. Debbe Leftwich of Oklahoma City.

Prosecutors claim Terrill and Leftwich were part of a scheme to set Leftwich up in an \$80,000-a-year state job so a Republican colleague of Terrill's could run for her open seat. Both deny the allegations but face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Leftwich's attorney, Robert McCampbell, praised the ruling and said he will ask District Judge Glenn Jones to also dismiss the bribery charges. Leftwich and Terrill are scheduled to be formally bound over for trial on the charges at a hearing Friday before Special Judge Stephen Alcorn.

"This case is without merit," McCampbell said. "It is

very weak."

Assistant District Attorney Gayland Geiger said he will probably appeal Elliott's decision to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.

Following a preliminary hearing last month, Alcorn ruled there was sufficient evidence to try Terrill and Leftwich for bribery but not conspiracy. Prosecutors appealed Alcorn's ruling on the conspiracy count, arguing that witnesses testified that Terrill and Leftwich plotted last year to secure a job at the state Medical Examiner's Office in exchange for Leftwich's promise not to seek re-election so Rep. Mike Christian, R-Oklahoma City, could run.

Christian campaigned for the Senate seat but pulled out of the race when the investigation was announced. He was not charged and was re-elected to his House seat.

Elliott ruled there is insufficient evidence to authorize conspiracy charges in the case. He also ruled that state law bars conspiracy charges in the case under a legal guideline that prevents fewer than three people from being charged with conspiracy in certain cases.

Pleads

decision on the plea offer is on hold until Jan. 5, because Cruse intends to hire another attorney. His current attorney declined comment.

Most of the defendants are free on bond, and none of those who appeared in court Monday spoke to the media. Many were allowed to leave the courtroom through a back entrance to avoid reporters.

The suspects range in age from a middle-school student to a 27-year-old, and include two star athletes at the local high

school and adults with criminal records.

Most of the men face charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child, while four face a charge of continuous sexual abuse of a child.

The case shined an unflattering spotlight on Cleveland after some in the town of about 9,000 residents suggested the girl was culpable in part for what happened, claiming she wore makeup and looked older. Some also accused her parents, immigrants from Mexico, of not

watching her more closely.

But those suggestions were sharply criticized by many Cleveland residents, along with community and religious groups outside the city. Also complicating the case was a belief by many in the predominantly black neighborhood where several of the suspects live that the arrests were racially motivated. All of the suspects are black, while the girl is Hispanic.

The girl, now 12, remains in foster care while her parents, who

have health problems and moved out of Cleveland after receiving threatening phone calls, work with authorities to get her back.

cont. from page 1

BANANAGRAMS!

For each of the three words below, change one letter to a T and then rearrange the letters to spell a part of the body.

PHOTO

□ □ □ □ □

HOKUM

□ □ □ □ □

REACH

□ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Answer: MINI, MAIN, NAIL, LAWN, WALK, DODO, DOOR, ROAD, DARE, REAR

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

3	2	5	1	7	6	4	9	8
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4	6	9	8	5	3	1	7	2
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Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Weather data
- 6 Coffee add-in
- 11 Parting word
- 12 Soup server
- 13 Sprouting
- 15 Mineo of movies
- 16 Paver's goo
- 17 Danson of "CSI"
- 18 Olympic sleds
- 20 Fable fellow
- 23 Florida city
- 27 Act the rodent
- 28 New Mexico resort
- 29 Moved laterally
- 31 Foot, to fathom
- 32 Eternal City resident
- 34 Mont Blanc, for one
- 37 Singer Tillis
- 38 Comedy first baseman
- 41 Close
- 44 Burger topper
- 45 Pitcher of the Revolution

DOWN

- 46 Near-sighted cartoon character
- 47 Book section
- 1 Crores
- 2 Inking
- 3 Lass
- 4 Skirt edge
- 5 Prepare to play
- 6 Dinner wine
- 7 Scoundrel
- 8 Fix copy
- 9 Lotion additive
- 10 Patch up
- 14 Old horse
- 18 Inferior
- 19 Gown material
- 20 Longevity
- 21 Wrap up bit
- 22 Decline
- 24 Painter Ernst
- 25 Cook's need
- 26 Volcano output
- 30 Game piece
- 31 Deli buy
- 33 Gents
- 34 Cyclotron
- 35 Musical Home
- 36 Prudish one
- 38 Untamed
- 39 Doughnut feature
- 40 Cameo stone
- 42 Cattle call?
- 43 Cargo unit

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T	E	R	R	A		O	B	I	E
R	E	E	D		S	A	N	D	

Yesterday's answer



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This letter is to offer sympathy to "Trish in Louisiana" (Sept. 25), who was seated next to two large passengers on a three-hour flight. It has happened to me.

The airlines control the size and weight of baggage, whether it's checked or carry-on, and charge when it's overweight. So why do they turn a blind eye when it comes to passengers who, must endure being crowded out of the seats we have paid for? If airlines aren't willing to screen passengers for size, perhaps they should provide a few rows of larger seats to accommodate them.

Airlines have sacrificed comfort for economy to the point that the seats are simply too small. I'm an average-size woman, but I find the seats are barely large enough. They're crowded so close together you can't move your legs, and they don't actually recline. I agree with your advice to speak up if you find yourself being squeezed. — ELLEN IN LAS CRUCES

DEAR ELLEN: While your letter reflects the views of many readers, they ALL emphatically agree that airlines need to do a better job of customer service regarding the seating on passenger planes. My newspaper

readers comment: DEAR ABBY: As America grows larger, airline seats grow smaller. Trish was right to be compassionate. If airlines treat large people (who are also paying customers) like dirt so they can turn a profit by squeezing passengers into every inch of space, they are WRONG.

There are ways to be creative and not humiliate anyone. The flight attendant could have moved a child to her seat with Mom across the aisle.

I recommend that flight attendants think along those lines, because having a gate attendant drag people off flights is not the best way to handle this and should only be a last resort. We're all customers, and we all deserve to be treated with dignity. — MARY IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

DEAR ABBY: The fault lies with airline management. They should specify up front in their ad campaigns that if the passengers' dimensions exceed certain parameters, they must buy two tickets. — COMFORTABLE ON THE GROUND

DEAR ABBY: My heart goes out to all three. I am a plus-size woman and my husband is "normal" size.

His field is marketing, and I showed him your letter. He said recent surveys have shown that one-third of people who refuse to fly do so because of the tight seating, and not fear of an accident. Airlines pack people in like sardines to make more money, and it is resented.

I quit flying years ago because of claustrophobia. If I had to fly now, I'd buy a first-class ticket. I wonder why the planes don't have six or eight seats in the back of coach that are larger and cost more money, but less than first class.

Something has to be done to make flying safer and more comfortable for everyone. Surely we have the intellectual capacity to solve these problems. — NO LONGER A FREQUENT FLIER IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: It's unfortunate that Trish didn't stick to her guns and continue with her complaint. I believe airlines should head these problems off at the gate. They have a box to check the size of carry-on luggage; they should also have a passenger seat to check the size of people. If someone doesn't fit, then that person must buy an additional ticket for a second seat. — REFUSES TO BE SQUISHED

Find your answer to the crossword puzzle in today's puzzle. Go to www.thepampanews.com or call 806-669-2525.

Sports

Lady Harvesters start brutal stretch with Lady Sandies

ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com

After losing five of their last six games, things aren't going to get easier for the Pampa Lady Harvesters as they host the Amarillo Lady Sandies and visit the 3A No. 5 Shallowater Fillies.

Pampa (4-7) is coming off of a 1-2 record at the River Road Tournament last weekend. The Lady Harvesters play against Amarillo 7:30 p.m. today. The teams met twice last season with Amarillo High winning both meetings by at least 25 points.

Senior Kirsten Kuhn said the team has to get off to a good start.

"As soon as we start doing our job and get used to playing a physical game then we will be successful."

The Lady Harvesters have struggled at the beginning of games being outscored by an average of 13-8 and 25-18 in the first half. Head coach Gene Valentine said the team is picking up the intensity

in practice.

"We are going to practice at game intensity," Valentine said. "So when we get into the game it wouldn't be hard to adjust to."

The Lady Sandies (9-2) are ranked eighth in the Texas Girls Coaches Association poll.

Senior Caitlin Sieck said the team needs to start games like it finishes games.

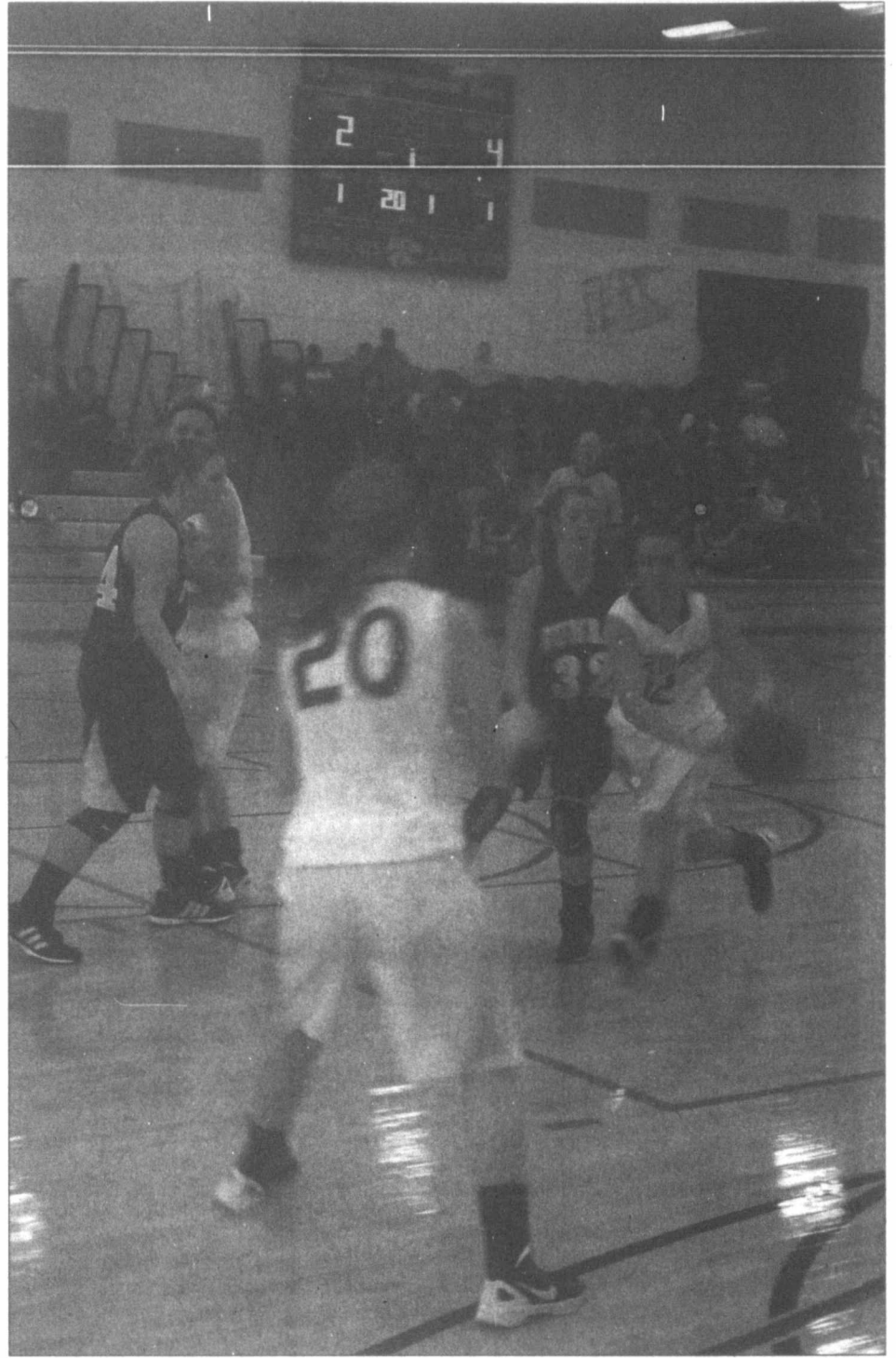
"We've learned that we have to start out fast," Sieck said. "If we can start like we play in the second half we will start winning games."

Pampa visits Shallowater 5 p.m. Friday. The two teams could potentially meet in the bi-district playoffs. The Fillies (10-1) beat Pampa 64-38 last year in Pampa.

Valentine said the next two games will be difficult but will be good preparation for district.

"They know that," Valentine said.

"They know where we are at and where they want to go. I told them to come in Monday and get after it."



Senior Caitlin Sieck passes to Delaney Clendening with Kaitlyn Scroggins defending in the first quarter against Sunray Saturday. *staff photo by Andrew Glover*

THE PAMPA NEWS
athletes
of the
week



Kirsten Kuhn
Pampa High School



Latigo Collins
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Kirsten Kuhn** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Kuhn averaged 10 points per game in the River Road Tournament. The senior guard helped Pampa to a fourth place finish. This is Kuhn's third player of the week award this year and sixth overall.

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Latigo Collins** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Collins averaged 25 points in three games during the River Road Tournament. Collins earned a spot on the All-Tournament team. This is Collins first player of the week award this year and second overall.

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

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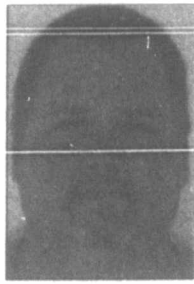
Sports

Pirates land several on football All-District first team

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

After returning to the playoffs and finishing as runner-ups in Six-Man District I Division II, the Lefors Pirates earned several all-district selections.

Head coach Joey Czubinski said he was proud of all his athletes that earned recognition.



Czubinski

"It was a great year with a great bunch of young men," Czubinski said. "They deserve all the awards they receive."

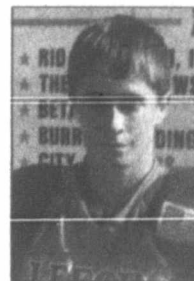
Senior Dennis Sprouse earned a spot in the Six-Man All-Star game in July 2012. Seniors Seth Scully and Andrew Chambers earned alternate positions. Scully was named offensive MVP. Sprouse earned a selection as first-team wide receiver and cornerback. Chambers



Sprouse

earned first-team spread back and punter.

Other offensive honors went to junior Gatlin Reagan as first team tight end, junior Spencer Nicholson was selected as first team quarterback, junior Colten Helfer was selected as first team running back. On defense, junior Tjaeden Swires earned first team nose tackle and junior Lane Stegall was selected as first team linebacker.



Scully

The Pirates earned second team selections with sophomore Aaron DeLeon at receiver, sophomore Brian McBee at center, Swires at full-back, freshman Justin Cresswell at special teams, Nicholson at linebacker, freshman Jason Solis at safety and Helfer as utility player.

Lefors finished 8-3 and qualified for the bi-district round.



Chambers

Pampa boxer Garcia stays unbeaten in Oklahoma City



submitted photo

Francisco Garcia (front) poses with his trophy after beating Giovanni Williams. Standing with him are (back, from left) Alex Perez, Cris Larrazolo and Luis Cruz.

CRIS LARRAZOLO
Special to The Pampa News

Pampa boxing club member Francisco Garcia, 17, kept his undefeated record alive after winning a match in Oklahoma City.

Garcia boxes in the lightweight division and went against Giovanni Williams, who was also unbeaten at 6-0. Coach Cris Larrazolo said he had Garcia pace himself in the first round and be aggressive in the second.

"Garcia came out aggressive catching

Williams off guard," Larrazolo said. "It was a close fight and I told Garcia to give it his all."

Larrazolo said Garcia landed many aggressive combinations to come away with the victory.

Garcia's teammate Luis Cruz, who boxes in the heavyweight class was supposed to fight but his opponent pulled out of the fight.

Larrazolo said Cruz was a little upset.

"He has been itching for a chance to step in the ring again," Larrazolo said. "Luis was a good sport about it."

Many snubs in bowl selections

While Alabama prepares to play for the BCS championship, the Oklahoma State Cowboys can only wonder how they would match up with the SEC's best.

Oklahoma State finished No. 3 in the final BCS standings Sunday night, missing out on the title game thanks to a loss at Iowa State last month.

"You just want everything for the players. They wanted to play in that game and they believe they could have won that game," Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said.

The Cowboys were one of a handful of top teams settling for less this weekend. Michigan State narrowly missed out on a Rose Bowl trip by losing in the Big Ten title game, then fell all the way to the Outback Bowl. Boise State, which finished No. 7 in the final BCS standings, is going to the MAACO Bowl. Kansas State was one spot behind Boise State but is headed to the Cotton Bowl after being passed over by the BCS. "We understand why certain programs are

picked at certain places," Michigan State athletic director Mark Hollis said. "You don't beg for respect, you earn it."

Oklahoma State was hoping its 44-10 win over Oklahoma on Saturday night would be enough to push the Cowboys past the idle Crimson Tide and into the No. 2 spot. Instead, Alabama held on to set up an all-Southeastern Conference BCS title game against LSU. The SEC is now guaranteed its sixth consecutive BCS championship.

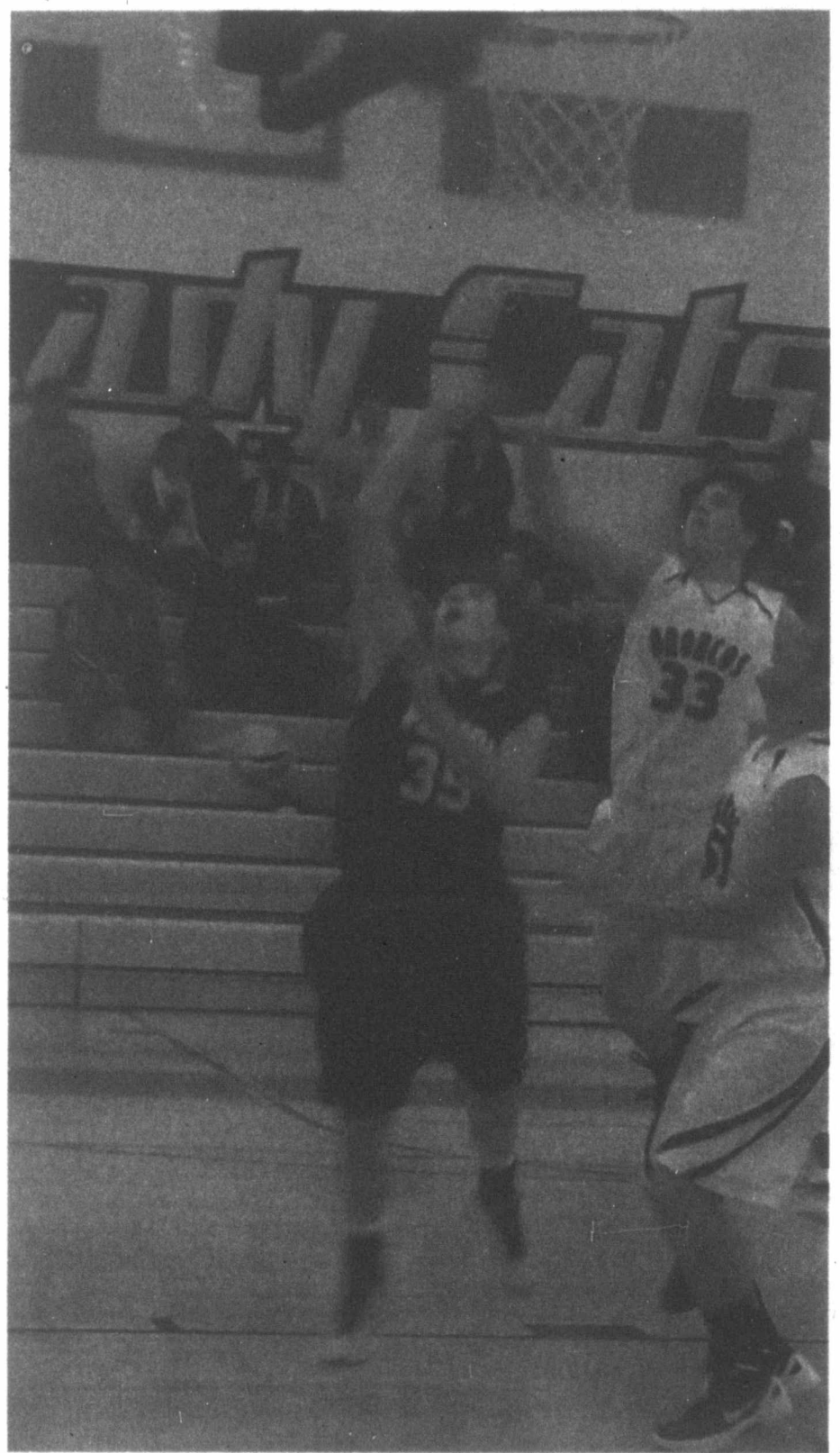
Burns Hargis, Oklahoma State's president, offered his critique of the outcome. The Cowboys were ahead of the Crimson Tide in the computer rankings but trailed in the Harris and coaches' polls, which also play a role in the BCS rankings.

"I think there's some bias toward the SEC right now, and I think some of it is deserved just because of their winning the national championship so much recently," Hargis said. "I'm sure there was some negative effect there."

Oklahoma State will play Stanford in the Fiesta Bowl.

Michigan State narrowly missed a BCS bid for a second consecutive Bowl.

LAYING IT IN



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

Junior Tyler Powell makes a layup in the second half against Clarendon Saturday. The Harvesters won 70-42.



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