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Childhood recollections

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SEE PAGE 7



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Trade secrets theft trial ends with 1 guilty, 1 not

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A Pampa woman was sentenced to 30 days in Gray County Jail, 10 years' probation and a total of \$40,000 in fines and restitution while her husband was found not guilty Monday in 223rd District Court on charges of theft of trade secrets.

Donna Miller Mauldin and Sidney Wayne Mauldin were each indicted on two counts of theft of trade secrets, a third-degree felony, on Nov. 14, 2003, by a 223rd District grand jury. Bond on each of the

indictments was \$3,000, resulting in \$6,000 total for each of the two.

The indictment against each of the Mauldins stated that they allegedly made a copy of each of two articles representing a trade secret without the effective consent of William Berry, the owner of the trade secret. Berry is president and an owner of Titan Specialties on Highway 152.

Each of the two articles named in each indictment is a drawing which includes "Titan Specialties" on the page.

The decisions of guilt or innocence and sentencing was

announced by 223rd District Judge Lee Waters Monday after a week of testimony in a bench trial, in which no jury is chosen or present and the judge determines the outcome, according to 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer.

The trial began at 9 a.m. Jan. 9 and ended at 4 p.m. Jan. 13, with one-half day not in session due to a prior commitment by John Mann, an Amarillo attorney and former 31st District attorney who defended the Mauldins in the trial, Switzer said.

Donna Mauldin was sentenced to 10 years in a Texas Department of

Corrections facility, but the sentence was probated.

In addition to the 10 years' probation, Donna Mauldin was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine on each of the indictments, for a total of \$10,000 in fines. She was also ordered by Waters to pay \$30,000 to Titan Specialties in restitution.

A 30-day sentence in Gray County Jail on each indictment was also handed down by Waters, making a total 60 days' jail time, but the sentences are to run concurrently, result-

See TRIAL, Page 3

Perry names Claude man to state board

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has announced the appointment of three individuals, including one from Claude, to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2011. The board oversees the operations of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Tom Mechler of Claude is president of Makar Production Co. He is a registered professional engineer and previously served as a volunteer chaplain at the Clements Unit in Amarillo. Mechler received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and a master's degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Charles Lewis Jackson of Houston has been the pastor of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church for 44 years. He is a member of the Baptist Ministers Association, the Independent Baptist Ministers Association, the Texas State Chaplains Association and the Harris County Council of Organizations. A former board member of the Harris County Houston Sports

See BOARD, Page 3

District to consider 6 well permits

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER -- The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board of directors will consider six well permits, selling tax delinquent properties and expanding their storage facilities Friday afternoon.

The board, which celebrates the district's 50th anniversary Friday, will consider selling tax delinquent properties in Donley and Carson counties during their monthly meeting at their offices here at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

They will also consider approving or amending six well permits.

James Dye, Potter County; the Mays Trust, Potter County; Rusty Steve with West Texas Landscapes, Carson County, and Jim Davis, Gray County, have all applied for one-inch well drilling permits.

Boone Pickens has applied for a 14-inch well drilling permit on his ranch in Roberts County and amended acreage on an Initial Production Permit from 5,132 acres to 3,212 acres.

The board will also consider buying a lot from the city of White Deer to expand their holdings



File Photo

The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District offices in White Deer after a summer thunderstorm. The district will celebrate its 50th anniversary Friday.

across from their offices at 201 W. Third in White Deer in order to construct a storage building. The area

across the street from the offices is now being used for parking.

No improprieties found in audit of Roach records

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A preliminary audit report concerning bank accounts during the time of her predecessor has been received, according to 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer, and does not indicate any improprieties.

Brown, Graham and Co. conducted the independent audit.

"Due to the ongoing criminal prosecution of Richard J. Roach, the details of the audit cannot be released," Switzer said in a press release Wednesday.

Perryton attorney David Scott, 31st District Attorney pro tem in the prosecution of Roach on state charges, announced April 29, 2005,

that he had hired Brown, Graham and Co. to perform the audit of all accounts of the 31st District Attorney's office at the request of Switzer.

Scott's press release on April 29, 2005, indicated that Brown, Graham and Co. of Pampa would conduct the audit. A bill dated Sept. 30 totaling \$6,725.20 and presented by the company for payment listed a Perryton address. The bill has been paid by the district attorney's office, according to Switzer.

"There were several recommendations by the auditors regarding accounting practices and procedures, some of which had already been implemented," Switzer said of the

preliminary audit report.

"The audit report does not indicate any improprieties regarding the seizure account and the forfeiture account. However, the report is currently being reviewed by District Attorney Pro Tem David T. Scott to determine if any further criminal charges will be brought against Richard J. Roach," Switzer said yesterday.

Roach is currently serving a five-year sentence in Federal Medical Center of Fort Worth on a federal charge of addict or user in possession of a firearm. He pled guilty to the firearms charge in a plea bargain agreement Feb. 8 in federal court in Amarillo, the same day that he

resigned as 31st District Attorney. He was sentenced June 1 in Amarillo to the five-year term followed by three years' supervised release.

Roach was also indicted in federal court on three other charges involving possession of methamphetamine and cocaine, but those charges were dropped in the plea bargain.

A Gray County grand jury indicted Roach on May 17 on two state charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. One indictment concerns methamphetamine, and the other specifies cocaine.

Both indictments state that a hand-

See AUDIT, Page 3

JANUARY CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 17 ••• 11:45AM ••• MK Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building ••• \$8.00 Per Person

Speaker: Ken May, Site Director for Celanese Chemicals-Pampa Plant ••• Catered by Texas Rose Steakhouse

Sponsored by Centramedia ••• For Reservations Call 669-3241 ••• Everyone Is Invited

Obituaries

Raymond L. Bryant, 74

MIAMI — Raymond L. Bryant, 74, died Jan. 18, 2006, at Miami. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

A Miami resident most of his life, Mr. Bryant was born Nov. 18, 1931, in Hopkins County. He married Ella Mae Cunningham on Aug. 7, 1951; she died March 8, 1997.

Mr. Bryant was a master electrician for H.L. Price & Sons in Amarillo, was maintenance supervisor for Miami Independent School District for 16 years, and owned-operated Raymond Bryant Builder Services for a number of years.

He belonged to Miami Lions Club, Miami Chamber of Commerce and IBEW #602.



Bryant

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles Bryant and Richard Bryant.

Survivors include two daughters, Pamela Nicholson and Brenda Sewell, both of Amarillo; two sons, Raymond Darrell Bryant and Danny Lynn Bryant, both of Amarillo; two sisters, Mary Inez Benge of Lubbock and Rita JoAn Bryant of Ardmore, Okla.; two brothers, Bill Bryant of Pampa and Don Bryant of Amarillo; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Donald N. Gray, 79

Donald N. Gray, 79, of Pampa, died Jan. 18, 2006, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Gray, a lifelong Pampa resident, was born Oct. 27, 1926, at Enid, Okla. He was formerly an operator for Celanese Corporation.

He was preceded in death by a son, David Gray in 2004; a sister, Sylvia Beede; and a granddaugh-



Gray

ter, Carrie.

Survivors include two sons, Eugene Gray of Pampa and Dwayne Gray of Plano; a daughter, Vicki Gossard of San Antonio; a brother, Marvin Gray of Lefors; and six grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Louisa Mae Melzer, 74

ELK CITY, Okla. — Louisa Mae Melzer, 74, died Jan. 17, 2006, at Elk City. Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday in Whinery-Savage Funeral Service Chapel with Gary McClellan officiating.

Burial will be in Fairlawn Cemetery under the direction of Whinery-Savage of Elk City.

Mrs. Melzer was born May 28, 1931, at Catesby, Okla., to Mollie Appel and Theodore R. Brace. The family moved to Minnesota for a few years before moved to Shattuck, Okla., where she graduated from high school in the late 1940s. She married Melvin "Steve" Melzer on Oct. 9, 1949, at Shattuck.

After following the oilfield in the 1960s,

they moved to Elk City in 1975 where they were both later residents of Bell Avenue Nursing Home.

Mrs. Melzer was a homemaker and enjoyed crocheting, cooking, gardening and canning food.

She was preceded in death by Mr. Melzer; her parents; a grandson, Brian Ditmore; and a great-granddaughter, Darian Mackey.

Survivors include two daughters, Linda Joy Ditmore of Pampa and Brenda Ann Pittser of Elk City; a son, Steven Ray Melzer of Elk City; a brother, Johnnie Brace of Bent, N.M.; a sister, Evelyn Holt of Gage, Okla.; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Gray County Weather

CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

DON'T FORGET to pick up your Baby's 1st Christmas picture at the Pampa News.

Today: Increasing clouds, with a high near 67. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Wind chill values between 26 and 31. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: A slight chance of snow, mixing with rain after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 42.

Wind chill values between

23 and 29. North wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Friday — Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 22. North-northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Services tomorrow

MELZER, Louisa Mae — 10 a.m., Whinery-Savage Funeral Service Chapel, Elk City, Okla.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Nine traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from the 1400 block of Charles and the 400 block of North Wells.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 100 block of West Foster.

Found property was reported in the 100 block of North Faulkner. A suitcase containing miscellaneous jewelry was found.

Welfare checks were made in the 1200 block of North Wells, the 900 block of Duncan, the 700 block of North Wells, the 500 block of North Cuyler and the 300 block of Anne.

One burglar alarm was reported. Lost property was reported on two occasions in the police department lobby.

Warrant service was attempted at four locations, resulting in at least one arrest.

A civil matter was reported in the 200 block of South Sumner.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2300 block of Evergreen.

A suspicious person call was received from the 700 block of Mora.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of Mary Ellen and the 200 block of West Craven.

A narcotics violation was reported in the police department lobby.

Harassment was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1800 block of Zimmers.

Sexual assault was reported in the 3000 block of Perryton Parkway.

Assault was reported in the 2200 block of Dogwood. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Assault was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of Jupiter.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2400 block of Mary Ellen. A car window was shot out. Estimated cost of damage is \$400.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Darby. A door and door knob were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$125.

Forgery was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of Duncan. City water valued at \$49 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Warren. Taken were a purse, three birth certificates, three shot records, a marriage license and a passport.

Theft was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the 900 block of North Gray. The back seat of a car was taken. Estimated value of loss is \$600.

Burglary was reported in the 1900 block of Alcock.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of North Wells.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Ryan Dean Mears, 24, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on bond surrenders for possession of a controlled substance and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Matt Heiskell, 17, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 2200 block of Dogwood for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Zachary Taylor Wilson, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Rangers on a federal charge of burglary of a building.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Jan. 18

12:07 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1200 block of North Hobart on an odor investigation.

3:29 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the Cole Addition on a service call.

6:56 p.m. — Two units and five personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Hobart on a grass fire.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, Jan. 18

3:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Thursday, Jan. 19

12:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

4:43 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to NWH.

Heard Jones

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Prosecutor's report details internal battle in Cisneros probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The independent counsel who investigated former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros charged in his final report today that the Clinton administration thwarted his work, drawing the curtain on the longest-ever probe under a post-Watergate era reform law.

Officials who worked in the Clinton administration flatly deny the allegations by prosecutor David M. Barrett, who closed a decade-long probe with a report detailing a

behind-the-scenes battle inside the government as he tried to look into possible tax violations by Cisneros.

Cisneros, a former San Antonio mayor who was housing secretary during the Clinton administration, pleaded guilty in 1999 to a misdemeanor of lying to the FBI about payments to a former mistress when he was answering questions during his confirmation for the Cabinet-level post. President Clinton eventually pardoned him.

When Barrett went to the

Department of Justice seeking to broaden the probe, Attorney General Janet Reno allowed the prosecutor to look into only a single tax year, the report maintains.

"Beginning in the summer of 1997, the OIC developed, to the extent it could, evidence concerning efforts by officials of DOJ and the IRS to contain and limit the investigation of Cisneros's actions," the report stated.

"In the end enough high-ranking officials with enough power were

able to blunt any effort to bring about a full and independent examination of Cisneros' possible tax offenses in the face of what seemed to many to be obvious grounds for such an inquiry," the report added.

In strongly worded rebuttals, officials from the Justice Department and IRS rejected Barrett's allegations.

Allegations about Cisneros's 1991 and 1992 tax returns were based on his failure to include amounts of speaking engagement

income. Allegations relating to his 1993 return were based primarily on claimed specific deductions.

According to the former assistant chief counsel for criminal tax matters, the certified public accountant who prepared Cisneros's tax returns had access to records of all the omitted income. In addition, the IRS lawyer wrote in rebuttal, Cisneros's CPA signed an affidavit taking responsibility for providing faulty advice regarding the improper deductions.

Drought

Continued from Page 1

ble for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production for physical losses, or a maximum of \$500,000. The agency also offers additional programs, such as technical assistance, to eligible farmers.

On Dec. 26, Perry declared a statewide disaster due to the threat of wildfires caused by extremely dry weather conditions. On Jan. 11, President Bush approved Perry's request for a statewide Presidential Disaster Declaration, making Texans whose homes and property were destroyed or damaged by wildfires eligible to receive individual assistance, and local jurisdictions that have been fighting the costly fires will be eligible for public assistance.

Audit

Continued from Page 1

gun was present at the time of the incident, that the amount of the substance was four or more but less than 200 grams, that the incidents occurred Jan. 11, and that they occurred within 1,000 feet of a drug-free zone.

Roach was indicted June 21 by a Gray County grand jury on charges of aggravated perjury in connection with an affidavit of financial status and request for court-appointed counsel which had been filed June 10 by Roach's attorney, Bill Kelly, of Canyon.

Trial

Continued from Page 1

ing in a total time of 30 days for Donna Mauldin.

"Officers found 3,179 blueprints belonging to Titan Specialties at Specialty Welding and Machine, the Mauldins' place of business, upon execution of a search warrant," Switzer said.

Donna Mauldin had been a Titan employee; her last day with the company was July 28, 1999.

"Sidney Mauldin was a distributor for Titan, but he never actually worked for them as an employee," Switzer said.

A civil suit brought by Titan Specialties against the Mauldins is still pending, Switzer said.

A telephone call to Mann this morning had not been returned as of press time.

A current telephone book lists the address of Specialty Welding and Machine as 2225 West Alcock. Donna Mauldin's home address at the time of the 2004 indictments was listed as 8708 Loop 171. No address was listed for Sidney Mauldin on the indictments.

Barton thinks big by chartering fund-raising train

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Joe Barton, currently the most powerful Texan in Congress, has arranged for a re-election money train to travel from Fort Worth to San Antonio this weekend.

Barton, the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chartered a train from Fort Worth-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. Supporters will pay \$2,000 per individual or \$5,000 per political action committee to spend about seven hours with him on the trip.

"It's a fund-raiser like any other high-dollar fundraiser," Barton consultant Craig Murphy said

Wednesday.

Barton became Texas' most powerful member of Congress since Rep. Tom DeLay left his job as House majority leader following his September indictment on money laundering and conspiracy charges. Barton's committee has broad jurisdiction over government and federal programs and is considered one of the most powerful in the House.

Barton's campaign did not say who will be on the train or how much the trip will cost. That information will be included in campaign finance reports due to be filed with the Federal Election Commission by

Feb. 23, Murphy said.

A federal bribery investigation stemming from the work of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff has put lawmakers and the people they deal with under heightened scrutiny, but fundraisers are legal and commonplace in Washington.

Texas' primary elections are March 7. Barton has no Republican opponent.

David Harris, a military veteran and assistant professor at the University of Texas Arlington, is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Barton in the November elections.

Harris said that in light of the Abramoff scandal and spotlight on congressional travel, "I would think (Barton) would be a little bit smarter and not do it. He basically thumbs his nose" at the concerns about Washington corruption.

Harris acknowledged fund raising "is part of the game," but he said Barton has about \$2 million in his campaign coffers and is a 22-year incumbent.

"Why does he have to do such a huge fund-raiser if our campaign is not a threat?" Harris said.

Computer error hits stock quotes

NEW YORK (AP) — Computer problems at the Nasdaq Stock Market led to erroneous stock quotes on a number of major online financial news sites and brokerages today, potentially leading individual investors around the world to believe that a stock was up when it was really down, or vice versa.

The errors that occurred Wednesday also prevented approximately 81,000 trades from being reported in the last minutes of the session, possibly leading to investors, both institutional and individual, from receiving the best listed price for their transactions.

The stocks affected are all listed on the New York Stock Exchange, but were traded electronically on the Nasdaq's computer platform. Nasdaq is responsible for reporting those trades to a consolidated listing service so investors can see the lat-

est price for a given stock, whether it was traded on the floor of the NYSE or through Nasdaq's computers.

Due to the computer errors, individual investors using popular financial sites like MSN Money or Yahoo Finance were seeing inaccurate price swings Thursday. Customers of online brokerages E-Trade and Charles Schwab also saw erroneous stock quotes from their homepages, though it was unclear whether logged-in customers were receiving the same errors.

A Nasdaq spokeswoman had no immediate comment on the errors beyond a statement issued by Nasdaq Operations late Wednesday.

NYSE-listed companies were calling the NYSE Thursday, asking why their quotes were wrong. At least a dozen listed companies called the exchange to complain, according to

spokesman Rich Adamonis.

"There were no technical problems at the New York Stock Exchange," Adamonis said. "We're monitoring the incident."

The Nasdaq said a computer glitch occurred at approximately 5:50 p.m. Eastern time Wednesday, when a number of transactions involving NYSE-listed stocks that had been made at 9:50 a.m. were reposted to the consolidated tape. That resulted in erroneous closing prices for a number of NYSE-listed stocks being reported, according to a notice issued by Nasdaq Operations late Wednesday.

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District

50th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, January 20, 2006

9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

201 W. Third Street
White Deer, Texas

Please join us for refreshments and reminiscing.

Board

Continued from Page 1

Authority, Jackson currently serves on the board of the Disaster Team of the American Red Cross. He also serves as a council member of the Harris County Citizen

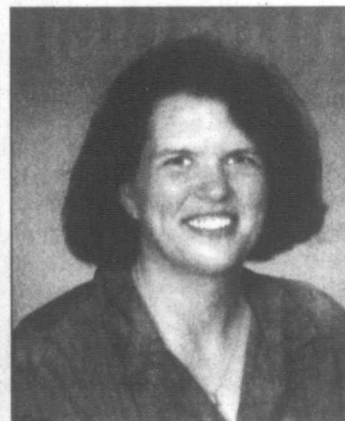
Corporation. A graduate of the Institutional Baptist Theological Center in Houston, Jackson received a doctoral degree from Union Baptist Theological Seminary in Houston.

Leopoldo R. Vasquez, III of Houston is chief finan-

cial officer of Cadeco Industries, Inc., a Texas-based coffee processing firm. Vasquez is the immediate-past chairman of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Commission. He is a board member of the Harris County Health Facilities Development Corporation. Vasquez has participated in Leadership Houston and the Center for Houston's Future programs. A graduate of Yale University, he received a master's degree from Columbia University School of Business.

These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

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Viewpoints

Is your vacation getting too tame for you?

Got any plans for 2009? Getting bored with whitewater rafting and bungee jumping? Then consider making your future vacation destination the stars.

Think I'm kidding? According to the Associated Press, "British entrepreneur Richard Branson" is building a spaceport in New Mexico — in Upham, to be exact. He even has a catchy title for this daring new business venture — Virgin Galactic.

"We're about to embark on a wonderful adventure ... we're going where no one has gone before. There's no model to follow, nothing to copy," AP writer Alicia A.

Caldwell quoted Branson as saying.

Um, I think that speech wonderful, but why do I feel I've heard it before, like in the opening credits of Star Trek? Only Branson forgot to throw in the part about "exploring the last frontier" or something like that.

The thing I can't get past is Branson's name. I realize the man can't help his moniker, but I hear Branson and think Branson, Mo., not Upham, N.M. I might have went to a spaceport in Branson. That way I'd still have a nice vacation even if I sort of missed my space flight.

However ... New Mexico?

Remember Roswell? What if the aliens find out, and they don't like it? Think domestic terrorists are bad, who wants to tempt fate and risk being hijacked by an extraterrestrial?

Anyhoo, Mr. Branson plans to have this "space hub" up and running as early as 2009.

According to the AP, Branson, who is worth millions, is "colorful" and "adventurous." I wonder if he wasn't so rich, would they call him spacey? OK,

OK. I agree. That was not even remotely humorous.

The AP article said the name for the planned space-

port is derived from Branson's Virgin Group which he evidently

used as a springboard for other ventures.

He formed Virgin Galactic, the article read, "after SpaceShipOne, designed by Burt Rutan and funded by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen, became the first privately

manned rocket to reach space last year and went on to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize."

Virgin and Rutan have an agreement to manufacture five spacecraft. I wonder how centenarians feel? I can't get used to the concept of commercial space travel. How must folks in their 90s feel about computers and rocket science?

And what is the planned destination of these flights? Earth? Because when I go somewhere, I want to go somewhere, not go, leave, come back — all without ever leaving the taxi. And how much will a flight cost?

Let me rephrase that.

How much will a third-class ticket set me back?

No, wait. Will there be a third-class?

On second thought, some people are just not meant to soar with the eagles much less glide with the stars.

Er, that would be me.

I don't leave the ground without a parachute, and if the parachute is doomed to failure, then forget it. I'm not going. But for those of a more pioneering nature, don't forget to pack an extra spacesuit. And be sure to book yourself plenty of downtime once you return to earth — I hear space lag (har, har) can be exhausting.



Skylia Bryant
Lifestyles
Editor

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2006. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 19, 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.

On this date:

In 1736, James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, was born in Scotland.

In 1807, Robert E. Lee, the commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies, was born in Stratford, Va.

In 1809, author Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston.

In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.

In 1861, Georgia seceded from the Union.

In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in seven hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads following settlement of a wage dispute.

In 1955, a presidential news conference was filmed for television for the first time, with the permission of President Eisenhower.

In 1970, President Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views.

In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an agreement paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.

Ten years ago: The Bosnian peace agreement suffered its first setback as a planned nationwide prisoner release fell far short of its goal.

Five years ago: In a deal sparing himself possible indictment, President Clinton acknowledged for the first time making false statements under oath about Monica Lewinsky; he also surrendered his law license for five years. Former NFL player Rae Carruth was acquitted of first-degree murder but convicted of conspiracy and two other charges in the fatal shooting of his pregnant girlfriend. (Carruth was later sentenced to a minimum of 18 years, eleven months in prison and a maximum of 24 years, four months.)

One year ago: Previewing his second inauguration, President Bush pledged to seek unity in a nation divided by political differences, saying, "I am eager and ready for the work ahead."

'When liberty is taken away by force it can be restored by force. When it is relinquished voluntarily by default it can never be recovered.'

— Dorothy Thompson
American newspaper columnist (1894-1961)



Time to get a new version of 'Office'?

Last week, I discussed Windows XP. This week, we dive into Microsoft Office 2003. Should you get it? Well, it depends on how far "behind" you are in the version game. To find out which version of Microsoft Office you own, pull down the Help menu in either Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Access and choose "About."

Chances are, you will see version 97, or 2000, or 2002. If you see something that says version 97, version 5, or version 6, well, I wouldn't go around bragging about it. Those versions are so old, they aren't even supported by Microsoft anymore!

Interesting sidenote: Office 2002 was also known as Office XP. However, Microsoft has dropped the cutesy abbreviation in its newest version, making it, simply, Office 2003.

Office 2003 comes in basically four flavors: Professional, Standard, Small Business, and

Academic. The cheapest package is Academic. For about \$150, you can get Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. This price also allows you to install it onto three computers. The catch?

Someone in your house must be attending or teaching school. The "Standard" package is the same set of software for the commercial sector. Upgrades run \$240 while new installations will set you back \$400.

The Small Business edition (\$280 upgrade, \$450 new install) includes the four basic programs, but adds Publisher. Professional is the high-end package (\$330 upgrade, \$500 new install), includes everything in Small Business, and throws in Access. To qualify for the upgrade edition, you must be using (1) a previous edition

of the software or (2) a qualifying competitor's product.

So, what can you expect in an 2003 upgrade? Read on ...

General Updates. The biggest feature Microsoft is touting with Office 2003 is

"improved collaboration." In other words, multiple people can now work on the same documents much easier. For instance, using shared attachments, you can send a document for revision to five people without having to worry about incorporating all of their changes into a master document. You can even "chat live" within the document with other collaborators.

Each individual program in Office has also changed for the better with 2003:

Word

What could you possibly add to Microsoft Word that isn't already in there? Believe it or not, Microsoft found a few bells and whistles that hadn't already been added. Formatting and setting styles has greatly been improved. They've also added a new way of looking at your documents called, "Reading Layout View." It optimizes the document for reading on screen, including larger text, shorter lines, and pages that fit exactly on the screen.

Excel

Wizards, wizards, wizards. Microsoft is attempting to make every feature of Excel accessible to even the newest user. Don't know which function to use? Type your question in plain English to get the answer! More functions have been added in the statistical arena, specifically as it relates to collinear detection, calculations of sum of squared devi-

See OFFICE, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Jan. 7

Victoria Advocate on Bush's push for bilingualism:

When he was the governor of Texas, George W. Bush pushed bilingualism for the state's schoolchildren. Unlike the xenophobes and nativists who still occasionally pop up in this border state, he understood that Texas' future largely depends on a healthy relationship with its southern neighbor.

Learning Mexico's predominant language enables Texas schoolchildren to understand that country and its culture. So it was no surprise Thursday when President Bush, speaking to college

and university presidents from across the country, pushed bilingualism in a different - but no less compelling - context.

"The Bush administration on Thursday proposed spending \$114 million on educational programs to expand the teaching of Arabic, Chinese, Farsi and other languages typically not taught in public schools," The New York Times reported. "In order to convince people we care about them, we've got to understand their culture and show them we care about their culture," Bush said. "You know, when somebody comes to me and speaks Texan, I know they appreciate the Texas culture. When somebody takes time to figure out how to speak Arabic, it means they're interested in some-

body else's culture," the president added.

(Since Texas is a "whole other country," it is not so odd or inappropriate for this adopted son of Texas to talk about speaking Texan, no matter the laughs and jeers that may draw outside the Lone Star State.)

Bush also stressed the need for students to become fluent in languages that directly affect national security. "We need intelligence officers who, when somebody says something in Arabic or Farsi or Urdu, know what they're talking about," he said. And it is not just being able to translate the words from another language into English. It is also being able to put

See BUSH, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Editor: Dennis Spies

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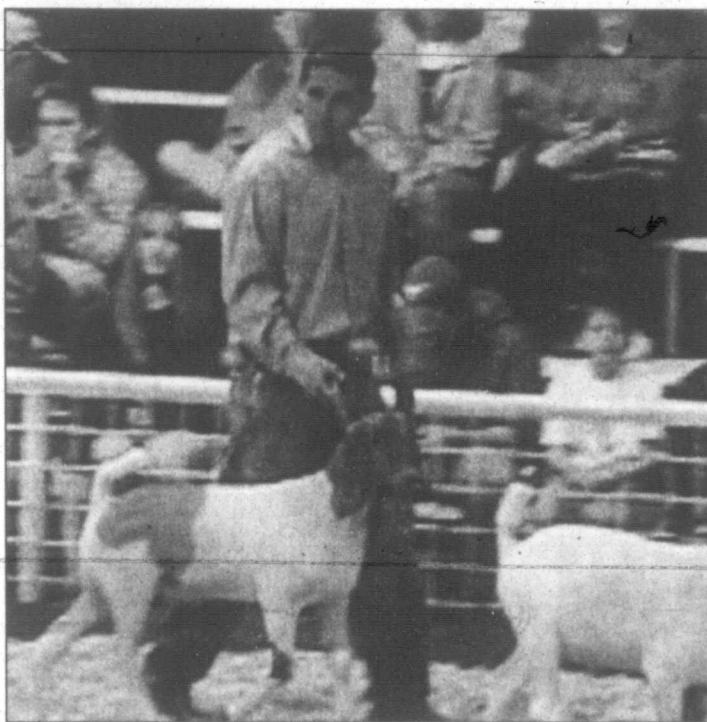
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Stock show



Chelsie Douglas, 15, will participate in the upcoming Gray County Junior Livestock Show Saturday and Sunday in Pampa. A livestock sale will be held Monday. A steak dinner will be provided to all bidders.



Anthony Ruiz, 16, of McLean will also participate in the upcoming stock show. Ruiz has shown livestock, including pigs and goats, for three years.

Events calendar

Panhandle Community Services has received funding for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program. The program provides emergency utility assistance for qualifying low-income, elderly and disabled/handicapped families. To apply, Social Security cards for everyone in the household, proof of income, current electric and gas bills and a 12-month billing history of electric and gas bills must be provided. Applicants may call their local Panhandle Community Services office at 665-0081 for more information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic will be offered: 12:30-4 p.m., Monday, City Hall, Canadian.

The Kwahadi Kiva Indian Museum will host the Kwahadi Indian Dancers on the dancers 40th Annual Winter Night Ceremonials at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Jan. 27, 28 and Feb. 25 at the museum in Amarillo. Dinner will be served prior to the show. Reservations are recommended. For more information, call the museum at (806) 335-3175.

College-bound high school students have until Friday to register to take the ACT exam on the next nationwide test date, Feb. 11. Late registration will include an extra fee. Normal cost of the ACT is \$20 or \$43 with the optional writing test. Students can register online at www.actstudent.org or by mail. Registration materials are available from high school guidance counselors.

This month's Third Thursday of the Month at Amarillo Museum of Art will feature classical guitarist Svetlana Petrey from 6-9 p.m. today. Petrey was born and raised in Russia. Past performances include a solo concert at San Angelo Museum of Art and an appearance at "Stars of the Panhandle" in March 2005. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

The next Pampa Area Christian Dance, an alcohol- and smoke-free event, will be from 8-11 p.m. Saturday at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes. Admission is \$6 per person. Snacks are welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

Office

Continued from Page 4

deviations, normal distributions and continuous probability distribution functions. (Did you catch all that?)

PowerPoint

For those of you that design kiosk-style presentations, Microsoft has now added a "CD Package" feature. With this option, you can hit a button, causing PowerPoint to burn your presentation to CD along with the new and improved

PowerPoint viewer. The CD is set up in such a way that it will automatically play when inserted into a drive. You can also add more types of multimedia files to presentations, including full-screen video.

Access

Microsoft has added numerous improvements in the testing area. New error messages are written in plain English, making it much easier to find mistakes in forms, tables and reports. In addition, more wizards have been added to ease complex tasks. And numerous templates give your database a

more professional look.

Outlook

Perhaps the largest number of improvements and changes were made in Outlook. The most noticeable relate to Outlook's handling of junk e-mail (spam). This edition will now automatically block access to an unannounced Web site so you don't have to see "inappropriate graphic images." A new "Reading Pane" has been added to the standard screen layout. Think of it as a vertical Preview Pane. I've found it quite useful.

Overall, I think you'll find Office 2003 to be much eas-

ier to use, faster and much less likely to crash than its predecessors. Speaking of crashing, Office 2003 has a great feature that allows you to save a document even if the program has locked up. So, the big question is, "Should you get it?"

If you are an individual with no need for collaborative tools and own Office XP, don't upgrade. You won't benefit that much. But if you are two or more versions behind or work in an office group, I would highly recommend this package.

See you in Cyberspace!

Bush

Continued from Page 4

those words into context, to comprehend their nuances and the culture that gives them meaning. Without that, much that could be important is lost in translation.

The administration is launching what it calls the National Security Language Initiative, which would both expand existing programs and create new ones, according to The Times. The primary purpose would be to increase fluency among military, diplomatic and intelligence personnel. It is regret-

table that important educational initiatives such as this one seem to have to wait for national security justification to give them the emphasis and funding they need.

That was true of the massive jump-start science and technology education received in the wake of the Soviet launch of Sputnik in the late 1950s. It is true now of the president's emphasis on foreign language instruction. While we fully concur with Bush's push for teaching languages from parts of the world that directly involve national security, this expanded focus should not stop there.

Languages from countries

that do not currently or potentially threaten this nation's future also are important in the increasingly globalized economy. Unlike their international counterparts across the industrialized world, too few Americans have the language skills they will need to compete in this new economic era. Fewer than half of U.S. high school students are studying foreign languages, according to Barry Lowenkron, the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor.

And too few of them will continue their studies far enough beyond basic levels to become not only linguisti-

cally, but also culturally fluent. The significant gaps in foreign language skills among too many Americans "have restrained social mobility, lessened our commercial competitiveness, limited the effectiveness of public diplomacy, and restricted justice and government services to sectors of our society," according to a 2005 report by leaders in industry, government and education.

"And they have threatened national security," the study ominously added. The president is right to address this compelling national need. He should do so as broadly as possible.

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12 MONTHS NO INTEREST FINANCING WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Regarding "Stressed-Out Driver," whose boyfriend wants her to drive him to and from the airport -- you blew it! That boyfriend -- and you -- are out of touch with current reality. No one in his right mind would permit, much less encourage, his girlfriend to travel alone by car, cab, bus or subway during the hours of darkness as a "romantic gesture." It could result in her suffering severe mental or physical injury as a result of a car-jacking, assault, rape or kidnapping. Please reverse your stance and caution all women to limit their exposure to violent criminals by avoiding unnecessary nighttime travel, particularly while they are alone. Personally, I think she'd be better off finding a boyfriend who is more concerned with her personal safety. -- **JACK B., COL., U.S. ARMY, RET.**

DEAR JACK: Although other readers disagreed with my reply, I think you may have overstated your case. If your thesis is that all women must remain inside after dark due to threat of car-jacking, assault, rape or kidnapping, allow me to point out that those crimes also happen during daylight hours. Would the solution be that women not be allowed out without permission from, and escorted by, a male relative? (Just kidding.) Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The woman who wrote you is an example of modern women today. They expect everything but aren't willing to put forth any effort, sacrifice, or give back to their partner. She should be ashamed of her attitude. I hope her boyfriend recognizes her letter and dumps her, because this is just the tip of the iceberg! -- **TONY IN TAMPA, FLA.**

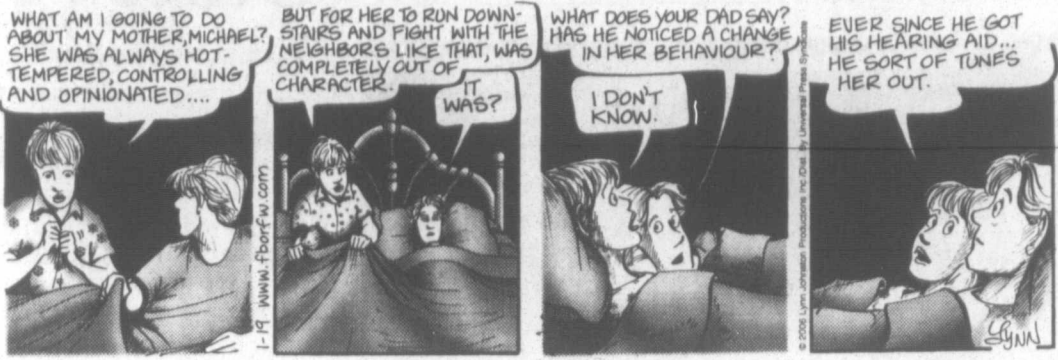
DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your answer to the woman who doesn't like to drive at night, yet her boyfriend wants her to meet him at the airport after a business trip.

He should use a car service and charge it as a business expense. Why should she subsidize his business travel? What he calls a romantic gesture sounds more like a gesture of control to me. If he hired a car service, they could both enjoy the ride, giving each other their full attention, without having to watch the road. -- **ARTHUR IN OSSINING, N.Y.**

DEAR ABBY: What's romantic about dragging yourself out of bed at midnight to make a stressful trip to the airport? Alert cab drivers get paid to do that. I think his attitude is controlling and selfish. Pampered men don't make good husbands. She should get rid of him, or she'll be cutting the grass every week for the rest of her life. -- **FRED IN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS**

DEAR ABBY: My story is a little different from "Stressed Out's," but it applies. I live near a beautiful trail in California. If you take the path to the left, it takes about an hour and a half to walk, and it is beautiful and peaceful. My husband always wanted me to walk that way. On the occasions when I agreed to walk, I'd insist we go the opposite way, which took only 45 minutes and wasn't nearly as pretty. I had too much to do and not enough time to do it, considering the kids, the errands, the house, etc. Now I walk that trail the long way almost every day, but I'm doing it alone. My husband died two years ago. Now I ask myself what was so important I couldn't take the extra 45 minutes to go the longer and more beautiful way with him. It's the little things I miss the most, Abby. Life is so short, and there are no guarantees. -- **ALONE NOW IN CALIFORNIA**

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

1 Greeted the opposing team

6 Deadly (generally)

12 Recital bit

13 Take — (try)

14 Man of steel

15 Freeway entrance

17 Politico

19 Clock

20 Mine

23 One of Santa's team

25 Violinist

26 As a rule

28 Make ready

29 Smitten

30 Spout

31 Next-to-last letter

32 Bureau worker

33 Tends the turkey

35 Spoof

38 Pastoral poem

41 Wow

42 Year, in France

43 Seasonal song

44 Added liquor to



Yesterday's answer

6 Physician

7 Enrico

8 On the roof of

9 Uproar

10 Hire

16 Holly-wood greeting

17 Take on

18 Gene

21 "Super-man" star

22 Goofed

24 Old dance

25 Maximum amount

27 First

31 Discus-sion group

33 Doofus

34 Writer

35 Lobbying org.

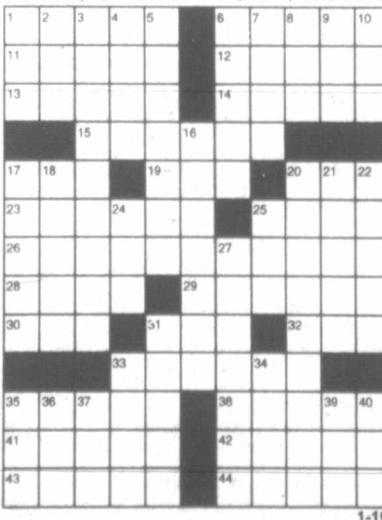
36 Thurman of "Kill Bill"

37 Cigarette component

39 Spike of film

40 Was in front

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



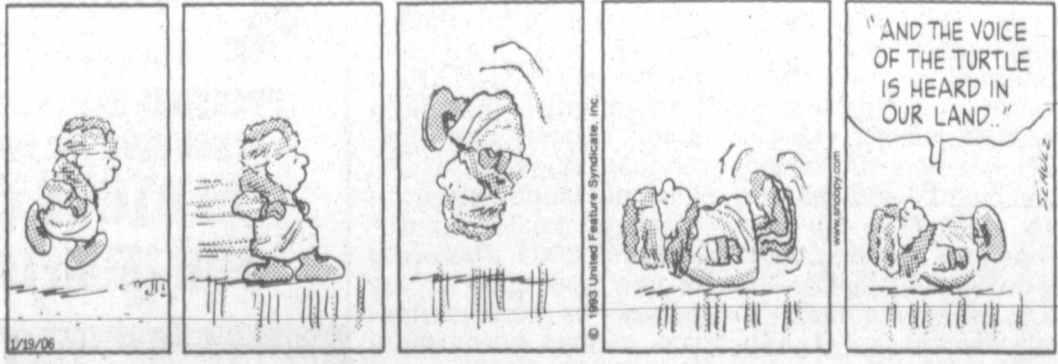
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Gloves are off as Hooper, Stokes battle for F-5 title



Donny Hooper

1. Name
Donny Hooper
2. Place of birth
Borger
3. How long have you lived in Pampa?
Fifteen years
4. Occupation/How long?
My mind is on winning this contest. Right now I am a football prognosticator and that is what I have always wanted to be.
5. Are you what you wanted to be when you grew up? If not, what was it?
I have decided to not grow up yet. But when I do I want to be ANYTHING that Shane Stokes is not.
6. The 60s, 70s or 80s? Why?
80's for sure! The music, the hair, the parachute pants. We had it all!
7. Favorite junk food?
Cereal
8. Dumbest thing you ever did?
I stick my foot in my mouth about 30 times a day

and you want me to narrow it down to just ONE thing? No way.

9. Which team will win the AFC Championship game this weekend and why?
The Pittsburgh Steelers. First of all let me say that I will be pulling for Denver but Jerome Bettis is on a mission. Bill Cowher is preparing his team very well every week. Big Ben has been awesome with 12 TD passes in eight road games this year and a passer rating of 108.3. Defense: Pittsburgh is ranked 4th overall. Can they stop the Broncos offense? I think so. Jake better protect that football. Close game but Denver will watch the Super Bowl on TV this year.

10. Which team will win the NFC Championship game this weekend and why?
Seattle will destroy Carolina. They have a great defense and an offensive line that does everything well. The Panthers will be on fewer days rest having travelled more than 5,600 miles combined with this week and last week.

Delhomme has been unbelievable throwing 10 TDs in six playoff games. The Panthers are without DeShaun Foster and that spells big trouble. Sorry Panthers, nice run.

Bonus Question:

The winner of the Fantastic Five Football Pick's inaugural season should receive:

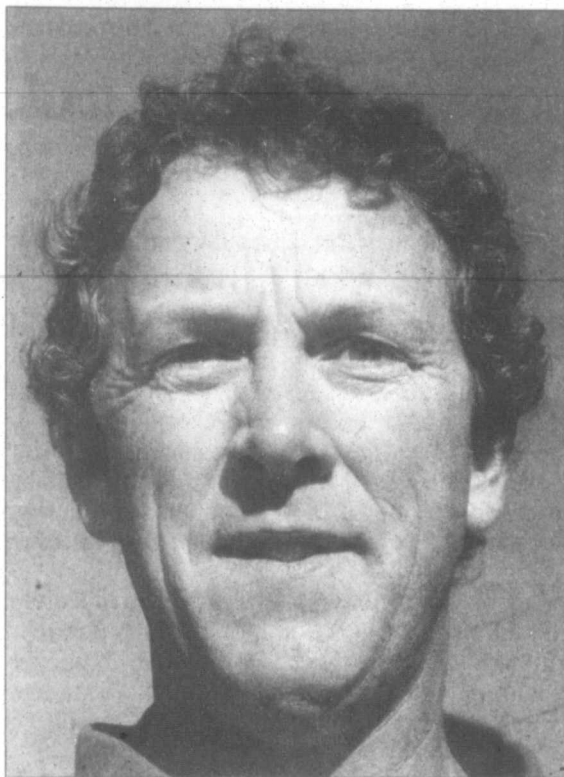
—A: A mayoral proclamation and/or parade in his honor.

—B: A victory dinner party.

—C: A sweet certificate suitable for framing.

—D: None of the above. My ability to guess better than 4 other people should not be celebrated. Just knowing our local Sports Editor was gracious enough to afford me the opportunity to show off my amazing guessing skill is reward enough, unless there is a cool ring that comes with the title.

Answer: B. I am always down for some free food! Shane is a pretender. I will have the prime rib, thank you.



Shane Stokes

1. Name
Shane Stokes
2. Place of birth
Pampa
3. How long have you lived in Pampa?
All my life
4. Occupation/How long?
City of Pampa, 12 years
5. Are you what you wanted to be when you grew up? If not, what was it?
Yes, an adult. Well, I guess I would have liked to have been the Sports Editor for my local newspaper or the sports play-by-play guy for the local radio station.
6. The 60s, 70s or 80s? Why?
80s. Mullet, hair bands and NO INSTANT REPLAY
7. Favorite junk food?
How about junk drink? Dr Pepper from Easy's Pop Shop. Hard to beat!
8. Dumbest thing you ever did?
I stick my foot in my mouth about 30 times a day

Probably this competition of skillful prognostication that you keep referring to as a "guessing game." That probably explains the order of finish.

9. Which team will win the AFC Championship game this weekend and why?
Denver Broncos. When I spoke to Mike Shanahan earlier this week and told him that I was concerned about Jake Plummer reverting back to his old ways and completing more passes to the defensive backs than his own receivers, he said "Don't worry, we know we must win for you to have a chance in your newspaper picks." So I won't worry.

10. Which team will win the NFC Championship game this weekend and why?
Carolina Panthers. They are still so upset with that tail whipping that the Cowboys put on them a few weeks ago, that they will continue to walk through the NFC.

Bonus Question:

The winner of the Fantastic Five Football Pick's inaugural season should receive:

—A: A mayoral proclamation and/or parade in his honor.

—B: A victory dinner party.

—C: A sweet certificate suitable for framing.

—D: None of the above. My ability to guess better than 4 other people should not be celebrated. Just knowing our local Sports Editor was gracious enough to afford me the opportunity to show off my amazing guessing skill is reward enough, unless there is a cool ring that comes with the title.

Answer: E.

I've been telling my kids all season that the winner gets a million dollars. Almost makes me hope I lose so I don't have to explain why we can't get that new boat. Almost, I said.

Hooper is a little girl!

*Stokes opted to spin a yarn for his children rather than choose from the list provided.

Note: Donny Hooper holds a two game lead over Shane Stokes going into this weekend.

CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

'Rapid' Ricky Romero: Thanks for the memories

As a youngster growing up in Colorado Springs, there wasn't a lot to do when it came to entertainment such as we know it today, especially in the early to mid 70s.

We had movie theaters like The Chief downtown, the dome-shaped UA 150 which sat across the street from Montgomery Wards and the Cinema 70 located behind the screen of the Arcadia Drive-in on the east side of town. We had a roller skating rink, Skateland. The closest thing to an amusement park was a giant slide on the north side of town. If you ever fell off the burlap bag, you would burn a giant hole in your skin on the way down.

Colorado Springs just wasn't the industry and technology Mecca it is today. And light years away from laying any claim to entertainment enclave.

We did have the City Auditorium. A small, older facility about the size of Pampa High School's McNeely Field House as I recall. It was barely big enough to host a basketball game, though it did have retractable backboards at both ends of the floor. I never saw a basketball game played there.

At the time, my dad was into things like playing softball for his company's team and Saturday nights at the local roundy-round. He was also something of a wrestling fan, which is why I can still remember the old home town City Auditorium. It's there where I first met guys like Terry and Dory Funk, Mr. Wrestling and Rapid Ricky Romero.

I can't say with any measure of honesty that I was drawn to wrestling, let alone a fan. But there were two things I did enjoy on those rare occasions we got to go to the matches. The first was that my dad saw fit to take my siblings and me with him. We didn't have a great deal of money, so anything that didn't involve a rake, shovel,

or pulling weeds was absolutely awesome.

The other was Rapid Ricky Romero. I can't tell you what it was, but there was something about the man I really liked. Heck, I'm not sure I understood the sport at the time, but I knew Rapid Ricky was my favorite wrestler.

He would sometimes toss these little sombreros out to fans. I wanted one, but was never lucky enough to catch one.

Following one night at the wrestling matches, Romero and others were standing near the exit, shaking hands with fans as we left. Some were lucky enough to get their picture taken with him. I thought of how cool that would be.

Romero passed away in Amarillo Sunday at the age of 74. He was laid to rest this afternoon.

Little causes me to reflect on my youth much. Now and then a certain song or television rerun might take me back in time. My younger brother and I recently spent a night reliving our childhood, but focused on the stupid things we did more than anything else. When I learned of Rapid Ricky Romero's passing, fond memories instantly came to mind. Until then, I had forgotten all about The Chief, Arcadia, Skateland and the old City Auditorium. I had forgotten about how special it was to go to the wrestling matches with my dad. And though I now live in the same city in which Romero began his career — and where he lived — I had forgotten all about the man who threw out the little sombreros.

His was one of the earliest names I can recall when it comes to a sports star. Whether you consider what he did a sport or not is up to you. My dad thought it was and that was good enough for me. In my mid 40s now, turns out I am still that kid. I am still a Rapid Ricky Romero fan wishing I had caught a little sombrero.

Michael J. Stevens

Sports Editor



Meetings & events

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**
Sports Editor

Baseball

The annual Pampa Harvesters baseball brisket lunch is set for Jan. 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

The all-you-can-eat event will cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 8 and under, and will include brisket, desert and all the trimmings.

For tickets or additional information contact Marie Hickman, 665-6689; Shelly Teichmann, 665-4242 or Lynn Ferrell, 665-2105.

Volleyball

The Pampa Volleyball Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the PHS Library. The club will be discuss Pampa Volleyball Club, summer fund raisers and elect officers for next year. For more information, contact a booster club member or the Athletic Department at 669-4830.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 20, 2006:

Often, you will find yourself challenged to think outside the box — something you'll do with ease this year. Go into your mind when feeling bogged down by someone close. Imagine what it might be like to be this person. Through understanding and empathy, you can work through quite a few barriers. Late fall, you find yourself very lucky, expanding your friendships and your life in general. Your public and/or professional life takes precedence prior to this period. You will see years of work pay off. If you are single, you hit bingo emotionally fall 2006. The relationship you fall into could be important to your life's history. If you are attached, share more of the multiple areas of your life with your sweetie. **LIBRA** helps you grow.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Others continue to maintain a lot of control. If you focus on what you want rather than who is in control, you will be much happier. Your efforts do make a difference. Discuss options in a manner that others are encouraged to join in. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You want to dig into work and get as much done as humanly possible. You will find that your endurance is tested. You happily complete projects. Say yes to a must appearance in the near future. A family member doesn't mean to be a downer. Tonight: Choose a relaxing happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to see situa-

tions in a new light. Something that has bothered you needs to be aired out. Your perspective opens up new possibilities. Enjoy finding them out. Give up negatives — at least for a day. Tonight: Lighten up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Fundamentals count. Listen to offers. Think about a difficult financial decision in a positive vein. Family and roommates could have many different points of view. Don't overspend or get carried away in another form of indulgence. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You are coming from another point of view. Share your thoughts, and give others the same opportunity. Others seek you out. Listen to feedback and allow more opinions to float. No one has to be right; deal with different opinions. Tonight: Hang out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Listen to a financial suggestion, but also realize that you don't need to act on it. Your instincts could play a very strong role in making a decision. Consider starting a health plan or exercise program. You will feel better. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You cannot stop yourself. You are focused on obtaining the results you want. Manipulation won't work; creativity will. A brainstorming session draws very positive results. Encourage free-thinking. Tonight: Get together with an old friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Security and a home office might be linked. Don't jump on a good idea just yet. Possibilities will continue to appear if you remain open to someone you look up to. Tonight: A night off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Wishing upon a star is not a frequent activity, but today you just might find that it works. Don't minimize the role of others in achieving your goals. Meetings point you toward the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Tonight: Find your friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your financial savvy comes to the forefront. Others might be asking an extraordinary amount. Your expectations of what you can handle could be a bit extreme. Work on realism for both yourself and for others. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Taking an overview might help explain why someone is acting the way he or she is. Understanding will help you get past this stumbling block far faster than being critical. Yes, sometimes people make life harder than it needs to be. Tonight: Split town or opt for something different.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ The universal implications of what might be going on professionally and/or in your daily life cannot be ignored. Know when you need to make a change or revitalize your life. You don't need to decide immediately. Tonight: Chitchat with a partner.

BORN TODAY

Actress Patricia Neal (1926), director, screenwriter Federico Fellini (1920), director David Lynch (1946)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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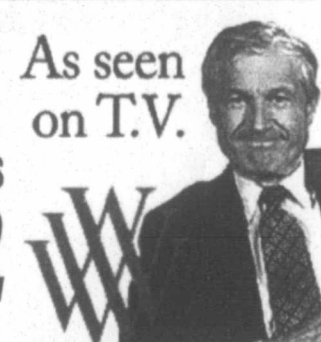
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As seen on T.V.

Three unbeatens — Duke, Florida and Pitt — all win

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The three Division I unbeatens had another perfect night.

Top-ranked Duke, No. 2 Florida and No. 9 Pittsburgh all remained undefeated Wednesday, and they all will play on the road this weekend.

Duke closed its 81-68 victory over No. 14 North Carolina State with a 16-3 run. Florida was never challenged in a 113-62 victory over Savannah State, while Pittsburgh pulled away for a 76-68 win over Rutgers.

On Saturday, Duke is at Georgetown, Florida visits Tennessee and Pittsburgh faces St. John's at Madison Square Garden.

Duke's seniors again were the keys to the Blue Devils' latest win as J.J. Redick scored 28 points, Shelden Williams had 21 and Sean Dockery and Lee Melchionni combined on the consecutive 3-pointers that started the closing run.

"Sean and Lee, they both played like veterans," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We're going to need that. You have players like Shelden and J.J., so they're going to get open looks. And they knocked them down."

Dockery's 3 broke a 65-all tie and when he missed a free throw for a potential four-point play, he grabbed the rebound and found Melchionni for another 3 for the Blue Devils (17-0, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

"Plays like that, we practice that a lot," Dockery said. "Coach always talks about plays that take the life out of the other team. And that play right there, that's what it did."

Duke is 17-0 for the second time in school history. The other was on the way to the 1992 national championship.

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 4 Memphis 88, Tennessee 79; No. 19 Ohio State 77, No. 15 Wisconsin 67; No. 18 UCLA 66, Southern California 45; and No. 23 Iowa 76, Minnesota 72 in triple overtime.

Dockery did have a bigger 3-pointer this season, the 40-foot heave at the buzzer that gave Duke a 77-75 victory over Virginia Tech. He doesn't mind that Redick and Williams draw most of the attention from fans and media.

"If people overlook me, oh, well," said Dockery, who had 10 points, five assists and no turnovers in 32 minutes. "My team and my coach, that's my family, and they know what I'm doing. That's a great feeling."

Cedric Simmons had a career-high 28 points, nine rebounds, seven blocks and three steals for the Wolfpack (14-3, 3-2).

"That's the best team we've played," Krzyzewski said. "They know what they're doing and they do it well. It's a big win for us."

The Wolfpack lost to North Carolina earlier this season when the Tar Heels closed the game with a 13-0 run for an 82-69 victory.

"I can't compare games," N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said. "I thought our team played great basketball. Our guys have nothing to be ashamed of. Our guys competed really hard and played really well. I want them to feel good about themselves."

No. 2 Florida 113, Savannah St. 62
Joakim Noah had 21 points on 10-for-10 shooting and reserve Walter Hodge added 18 points for the Gators (17-0), who extended the best start and longest winning streak in school history. It is the first time in coach Billy Donovan's 10 seasons Florida finished undefeated in non-conference play.

Javon Randolph had 22 points for the Tigers (1-18), who last season became the second winless NCAA Division I team in the last half-century. They have lost 18 straight since a season-opening victory over Wilberforce University.

No. 4 Memphis 88, Tennessee 79
Shawne Williams had 21 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks for the Tigers (16-2), while Rodney Carney added 22 points as they won their fifth straight.

Dane Bradshaw led the Volunteers (11-3) with 21 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

The game was tied at 69 with 6:45 left when Williams had seven points in a 10-0 run over the next 2:30.

No. 9 Pittsburgh 76, Rutgers 68
Seven-footer Aaron Gray went 7-for-10 from the free-throw line and scored nine of his 20 points in the final 3 minutes for the Panthers (15-0, 4-0 Big East).

Quincy Douby, the Big East's leading scorer at 23.3 points per game, had 27 for Rutgers (12-5, 2-2), which scored only five points in the first 17 minutes of the second half as Pitt slowly pulled away.

Rutgers came close for the second time in a week on their home court against a Top 10 team. Last Wednesday, the Scarlet Knights lost to then-No. 3 Villanova 84-78 in overtime.

No. 19 Ohio St. 77, No. 15 Wisconsin 67

Terence Dials scored 15 points and Ron Lewis, Jamar Butler and Matt Sylvester each added 14 for the Buckeyes (13-2, 3-2), who ended Wisconsin's seven-game Big Ten winning streak and dealt a defeat to the last unbeaten team in the conference.

Kammron Taylor and Alando Tucker each scored 21 points for the Badgers (14-3, 4-1), who had their worst shooting game of the season, hitting 38 percent (25-of-66).

Ohio State used an 8-0 run to take a 52-43 lead and went on to beat a ranked team for the first time in three tries this season.

No. 18 UCLA 66, Southern California 45

Jordan Farmar scored 11 of his 15 points in the first half and the Bruins (15-3, 5-2 Pac-10) beat their crosstown rival for the third straight time.

Reserve Dwayne Shackleford had 12 points for the visiting Trojans (12-6, 3-4), who scored their fewest points in the series since 1969, when they won 46-44 at Pauley Pavilion. The margin of victory equaled last year's 90-69 victory by UCLA.

No. 23 Iowa 76, Minnesota 72, 3 OT

Iowa (14-4, 3-1 Big Ten) won the first triple-overtime played in Carver Hawkeye Arena by making free throws in the extra sessions while Minnesota didn't.

Erek Hansen scored a career-high 20 points for the Hawkeyes, who made nine straight free throws during a stretch of the second and third overtimes to win their third straight game. Greg Brunner had 17 points and a career-high 23 rebounds for Iowa.

Maurice Hargrow had 16 points for the Gophers (9-6, 0-4), who went 5-of-12 from the line in the overtimes, including missing four straight when they had a chance to seal the victory in the final minute of the second overtime. Minnesota lost its fourth straight in conference and sixth in its last seven in Iowa City.

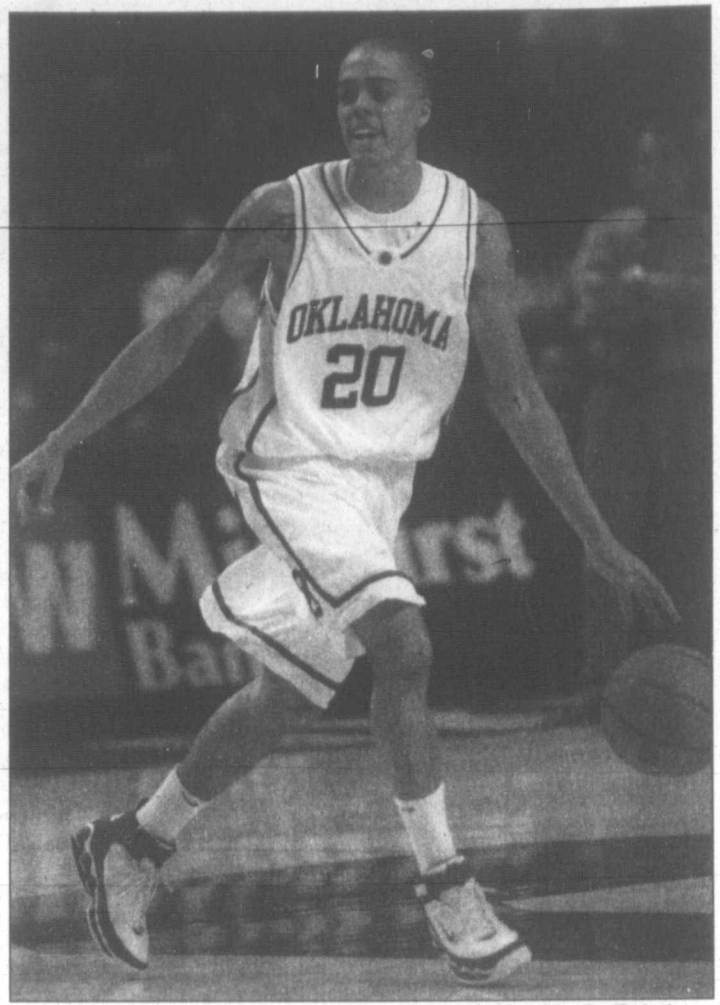


Photo by Lisa Hall/OU Media Relations

Oklahoma Sooners freshman Austin Johnson.

Johnson sporting new look

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

His was either a popular or unpopular name for four years, depending on who was speaking about him at the time.

Oklahoma Sooners freshman Austin Johnson haunted District 3-4A basketball as a student at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo. Among the teams that had to face him and his Dons at least twice each season was Pampa.

Harvesters head coach Dustin Miller shared memories of one game in particular. "My first year on the staff he was a sophomore and he hit six 3-pointers in the first half," Miller added, "He was hitting shots from all over the floor."

Now getting optimum playing time for coach Kelvin Sampson and the Sooners, Johnson hasn't changed much.

OK, those who tuned in to watch the Big 12 opener between Oklahoma and Nebraska a couple of weeks ago might have noticed a small change. Johnson is sporting a new 'do'.

Gone is the braided hair. Johnson is now sporting a short-cut look. Curious, I reached OU Associate Media Relations Director for Men's Basketball, Mike Houck, to ask why Johnson opted for the new style. "I asked Austin after he cut it and he said, 'I just decided to get it cut,'" said Houck.

"I do like his haircut," said Miller.

Johnson and his Sooners (10-4, 1-2) are currently ranked No. 25 in the latest Associated Press poll, and will host Texas Tech Saturday afternoon.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Lions ink Marinelli

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Rod Marinelli, who spent the past 10 seasons in Tampa Bay as defensive line coach, said Thursday that as coach of the Detroit Lions he doesn't plan to worry about the team's struggling past.

"The issue now is what we do at this point. The issue is us and how we're going to move forward," Marinelli said during a news conference at the team's practice facility to announce his hiring.

In his time with the Buccaneers, Marinelli's unit helped establish an NFL record with 69 straight games with at least one sack from 1999-03. He had the title of assistant head coach added in 2002.

"Football is a show-me game. I'm tired of talking," said Marinelli, who signed a four-year contract. "You start putting on pads and do the work. Let our film talk for us."

With Lions president Matt Millen's players and coaches, the Lions are an NFL-worst 21-59 over the past five seasons — since the former linebacker and TV analyst became an NFL executive for the first time.

"We have a lot of work to get done here and I believe we have the people who want to get that work done," Millen said.

Marinelli has not been a head coach at any level, but attracted interest from at least one other team with an opening this offseason. The Oakland Raiders interviewed Marinelli on Monday, then he traveled to suburban Detroit for a second interview with Millen.

"I'm not interested in Pro Bowl players, I'm interested in world champions," Marinelli said.

Unlike Millen's first two coaching searches, he took his time and interviewed several candidates. Millen hired Marty Mornhinweg quickly in 2001, hoping Cleveland wouldn't hire him. Two years later, Millen hired Steve Mariucci with such haste that he was fined \$200,000 by the NFL because he didn't follow the league's minority interview policy.

Dick Jauron, who took over when Mariucci was fired in November, was one of many candidates Millen interviewed during a two-week process. Among the coaches Millen also interviewed were: Pittsburgh offensive line coach Russ Grimm; Denver offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak; Cleveland offensive coordinator Maurice Carthon; New York Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis and San Francisco assistant head coach Mike Singletary.

Former New Orleans Saints coach Jim Haslett said he was scheduled to travel from his home in Louisiana to Michigan on Wednesday night for a second interview. But on Wednesday evening, he told the AP he had not heard from the Lions about his travel arrangements or his prospects for the job.

Marinelli's coaching career began in 1973 as an assistant at Rosemead (Calif.) High School. He was an assistant at Utah State from 1973-82, before moving on to California for nine seasons, Arizona State for three seasons and Southern California for one season.

"I want to be physical, that's my style," Marinelli said. "I want to run the ball with power, defend with power."

Road teams are live in the championship games

By DAVE GOLDBERG
Associated Press

Unpredictable year, unpredictable playoffs.

So it's probably not a surprise that two wild-card teams, Pittsburgh and Carolina, are trying to become only the second and third teams ever to win three games on the road and get to the Super Bowl.

They are live underdogs. The Broncos are favored by 3 over the Steelers in Denver, and the Seahawks are 3 1/2 point favorites at home over the Panthers.

That means the oddsmakers consider both games just about even. Those spreads are simply the edge given to the home teams, who in this case are both 9-0 in their own stadiums.

Pittsburgh (plus 3) at Denver

The Steelers seem to be a much more relaxed bunch on the road than at home, where they are 1-4 in AFC championship games under Bill Cowher.

Last week in Indianapolis, they came out throwing, very much against their offensive tendency, which is to run first, then pass. That helped them jump off to 14-0 and 21-3 leads while their blitzing defense kept Peyton Manning off-balance.

The Broncos prefer to run. If they can get out early, the Steelers aren't built for coming from behind.

LeBron vs. Carmelo: 'Melo wins this round

DENVER (AP) — LeBron James missed the one he wanted to miss. He couldn't make the one he needed.

James pulled down his own missed free throw — which he purposely misfired with 2.6 seconds left — and drew another foul with Cleveland trailing Denver by two points.

After swishing his first foul shot, he missed his second with six-tenths of a second left. Alan Henderson's tip-in attempt bounced out at the buzzer, leaving Carmelo Anthony and the Nuggets to celebrate a 90-89 victory over the Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

"It worked out, but then I missed again," James said. "It is something I need to work on and we will be a better team when I get better at it."

He had no problem missing on purpose.

Andre Miller fouled James, who scored 24 points, before he could get off a 3-pointer to tie it and send it into overtime. So, after pulling Cleveland with two, at 90-88, James purposely missed his second free throw and grabbed the rebound while Kenyon Martin got whistled for the foul.

"It was a perfect miss," James said. "That sounds crazy, but I missed it perfectly, and I followed it and got fouled, and we were in a position to go to OT, but I lost the game for us. I've never practiced that, but I know how to hit the

back of the rim and make it pop out."

Nuggets coach George Karl questioned how James could have gotten his own miss within the rules.

"My gut says he's not allowed to break the plane until the ball hits the rim," Karl said. "He's pretty Superman-like if he could get where he got without him breaking the plane."

Nuggets forward Eduardo Najera was left scratching his head, too.

"I don't know. I didn't see the play. I need to see it again. But most of the time, it's a violation when the free-throw shooter comes in, right?" Najera said. "It might have been the right call, but anyway, we got it done. We did it the hard way again."

Anthony and Earl Boykins led the Nuggets with 17 points each, and Martin and Najera each scored 16.

Anthony was held to his lowest output in a full game since Nov. 23, but he sure was proud of his defense.

"The whole game, my focus was to stop LeBron from getting 30 points out there," Anthony said. "It was a tough task, but overall I feel like I did a pretty decent job while I was in the game on him. The most important thing is that we came away with a victory."

Anthony did have one very huge basket, as usual.

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1-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

K Z L H S L H Z S K X
A J L B H S L H O X F C G X F
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RIMYLIH HDGIH
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE HISTORY OF HUMAN OPINION IS SCARCELY ANYTHING MORE THAN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN ERRORS.
— VOLTAIRE



Fourth grader Miguel Soto, center, was recently honored as Student of the Month during the fall semester at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School. The award was presented by the Rev. Francisco Perez, left, during a weekly Mass. Also pictured is Miguel's father, Miguel Soto Sr.

Convict to go free after DNA test

HOUSTON (AP) — A Montgomery County man convicted of sexual assault in 1986 is expected to be freed after 18 years in prison based on recent DNA testing.

Arthur M. Mumphy, 42, was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to 35 years behind bars for his alleged role in the rape of a 13-year-old girl in the Dobbin area, about 50 miles northwest of Houston.

Mumphy maintained his innocence, and DNA test results released earlier this week show Mumphy's blood and saliva samples do not match stains on the victim and her clothes.

Mumphy's lawyer, Eric J. Davis, said the DNA test prompted State District Judge Kathleen Hamilton to order a bench warrant for Mumphy's return from a

state prison in Pampa.

Davis said Hamilton is expected to release Mumphy on a personal recognizance bond until he is granted a pardon, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Thursday editions.

Marc Brumberger, a Montgomery County assistant district attorney, said he expects Mumphy to be pardoned. Brumberger plans to file a request with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, which will then make a recommendation to Gov. Rick Perry. Perry has the final say on a pardon.

"As soon as we found out biological material was available, we were in agreement that it should be tested," Brumberger said.

Mumphy and his wife hired Davis about three years ago after his appeals were exhausted.

Davis learned about material evidence in the case and eventually tracked down DNA evidence stored in a Texas Department of Public Safety refrigerator. Hamilton approved a motion for DNA testing in the fall of 2005, Davis said.

"If we had given up, he'd still be in jail," Davis said.

Mumphy and co-defendant Steve Thomas were accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting the victim in a wooded area near Dobbin. Thomas confessed and agreed to testify against Mumphy in exchange for a 15-year sentence.

A jury found Mumphy guilty based largely on testimony from Thomas and the victim. DNA testing was not available at that time, but a blood analysis did not exclude Mumphy as a suspect.

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