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Tax drop reflects slipping economy

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Economic worries fueled by declining oil prices and a poor agricultural summer are taking a toll on Pampa's businesses as evidenced by continuing drops in sales tax receipts.

While there were some drops toward the end of the last fiscal year, the downward trend started in earnest during the first month (October) of the current fiscal year, said John Horst, city finance director. Sales tax reports reflect sales from two months prior. For example, October's report is for August sales.

"I think what we're seeing this month is just more of the same only it's more disastrous," Horst said in an interview. "With the drop in oil prices and the poor agricultural summer people are more cautious. They aren't spending as much."

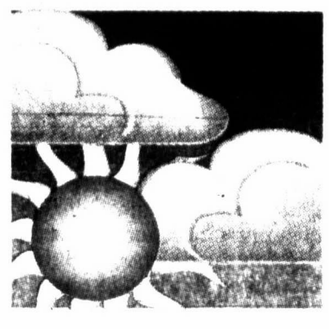
Layoffs in oil-related industries, tied in part to the Asian economic crisis, and rumors of additional area job cuts are also playing a role in making consumers more spending conscious.

Finance Director John Horst says the numbers show the negative economic impact "is more than we realized" it would be. "I wasn't too concerned when I got the first report (four months ago) but it's continued to drop."

"While he can't put a percentage on how much of the local economy is tied to the oil industry, Horst said that figure is "a lot.

"We have a number of independent producers and their employees and there are still some major oil companies operating here, too," he said. "Then there are the businesses that ser-

(See TAX, Page 5)



High today mid 50s
Low tonight low 30s
For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — Community Partners, a group of peace officers and citizens dedicated to fighting drugs in Pampa, will meet tonight at 7 at the Police Station in the basement of City Hall. Anyone interested in helping fight the drug problem is invited.

PAMPA — The Pampa Kids Club is still accepting registration forms for all youth grades K-12. Over 300 kids have signed up to date, and "we want your child to join as well," said Tinde Haskins. (Parents who are not ready for your 4th and 5th grade girls to stop playing basketball are being asked to sign the girls up to provide a girls league.) Registration fee is $15. Call Sonny or Tinde Haskins at 669-7762 or 669-6732.

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The family of a slain Tarrant County sheriff's deputy is relieved to see the man convicted of killing him more than 15 years ago finally put to death.

"I hope it means this matter is over and done with," Charles Foster, the uncle of slain Deputy Clark Rosenbalm Jr., said after watching convicted killer Troy Farris receive lethal injection Wednesday.

- **Arthur McPherson, Jr., 74,** retired lumber company employee.
- **Samuel D. Motley, 79,** self-employed shoe repairman.
- **Eugene Chenoweth "E.C." Sidwell, 94,** worked in the oil and gas industry for 75 years.
- **Robert Smallwood, 62,** retired farmer.
- **Fred Haley Tinsley, Sr., 81,** retired Cabot Corporation sales supervisor.

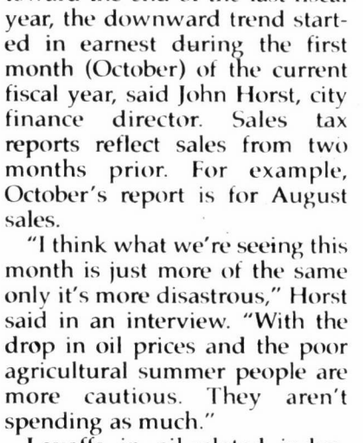
Classified 8
Comics 6
Editorial 4
Sports 7

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Child molester's probation revoked; to serve 10 years


Humberto Valdez

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

A Pampa man's probation for sexual assault of a child has been revoked and he will have to serve his original 10-year sentence.

Humberto Valdez, 28, was convicted in February 1993 for the sexual assault of an underage female relative. He was sentenced to 10 years but the sentence was probated.

In August of 1998 a woman who had married Valdez that January reported to Pampa police that her 11-year-old daughter said Valdez had raped her.

Valdez later left the area, possibly going to Mexico, without notifying his probation department.

In a probation revocation hearing held in Judge Lee Waters court Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Matt Martindale began the prosecutor's case by putting the young girl on the stand. The girl's mother also testified against her husband.

(See MOLESTER, Page 5)

IRI's future? Officials won't say

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Managing Editor

Local IRI officials refused to comment today when asked if the company will lay off more employees Monday or switch to a schedule that will have workers on the job for two weeks on and two weeks off.

Referred to the Houston office, a spokesman there said jobs at the Pampa plant are dependent on work orders. The spokesman said he could not to be quoted by name.

He said he didn't forecast anything to be done as soon as Monday.

If there is a period when the company has completed its back work orders, you have to adjust the labor force, he said.

As a manufacturer of drilling rigs, IRI's business is both nationally and internationally geared to the price of oil, and right now company officials say they don't have a clear visibility of what is going to happen.

During the last half of last year, there were layoffs at the local plant.

Y2K group aims to keep city on track

By Staff and Wire Reports

Pulling together with a spirit of preparedness was the message that repeated itself at the first public meeting for the City of Pampa's Y2K planning committee.

The committee, comprised of city officials and chaired by the city's financial director, John Horst, was opened to public officials and interested citizens this month to discuss local Y2K issues.

The city's Y2K committee began meeting four-to-five months ago and was created to ensure that the City of Pampa's in-house services will continue normal operations after Jan. 1, 2000, according to Local Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall.

"Before 1999 rolled around, a lot of people were apathetic about Y2K issues. It was difficult to raise outside interest. But finally, we decided it has got to expand out into the community," said Hall.

Y2K what?



Stories on the Year 2000 computer bug

About 10 to 15 representatives from Rural Metro, PISD, SPS, NBC Bank, Cabot, Red Cross, the appraisal district, Trinity Fellowship Church, the Harvest House and the City of Pampa came of the approximately 30 organizations contacted.

"I've talked with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, SPS, Intergas, Southwestern Bell

(See Y2K, Page 2)





(Special photo)

Haley Hipkins (left photo) of Wheeler FFA took top honors winning Grand Champion Lamb in the Top O' Texas Livestock show. Chris Umsted (right photo) won Reserve Grand Champion Lamb. A rundown of all the winners can be found on Page 3.

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

NEWSOM, Lee R. — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

SIDWELL, Eugene Chenoweth "E.C." — 2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Pampa.

Obituaries

ARTHUR McPHERSON JR.

CHICO, Calif. — Arthur McPherson Jr., 74, brother of a Pampa resident, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 1999. Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in Newton-Bracewell Chico Funeral Home. Burial will be in Cherokee Cemetery.

Mr. McPherson was born at Canadian and attended Amarillo College and Texas A&M University. He held a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University School of Forestry. He had been a Chico resident since 1958. He worked for Chico Molding Company and D.R. Middleton Lumber Sales. He was a lifetime member of National Rifle Association, John Birch Society, was a past officer of Western Pine Association, Western Wood Molding Association and was past president of Lakeview, Ore., Chamber of Commerce.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, enlisting in 1943.

Survivors include two sons, Robert of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and David of Greenville, S.C.; a sister, Selma Heard of Pampa; two brothers, Robert McPherson of Walla Walla, Wash., and William McPherson of Point Blank, Texas; a stepmother, Laverne Holcomb of Amarillo; and five grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

The family requests memorials be to National Rifle Association, John Birch Society or Christian Anti-Communist Crusade in care of Newton-Bracewell Chico Funeral Home, 680 Camelia Way, Chico, CA 95926.

SAMUEL D. MOTLEY

Samuel D. Motley, 79, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1999. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Open Door Church of God in Christ with the Rev. Hubert Kelly officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Motley was born Aug. 26, 1919, at Teague, Texas. He married Lula Mae Johnson on Sept. 8, 1946, at Pampa. He had been a Pampa resident since 1946. He was a self-employed shoe repairman for 60 years and owned Sam's Shoe Service. He was a member of Progressive Baptist Church.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II and attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

Survivors include his wife, Lula, of the home; a daughter, Karen L. Andrews of Amarillo; a son, Edward Earl Motley of Valley Mills; a brother, Diamond T. Allen of Brownwood; and a grandchild.

EUGENE CHENOWETH 'E.C.' SIDWELL

AMARILLO — Eugene Chenoweth "E.C." Sidwell, 94, a former Pampa resident, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1999. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in First Presbyterian Church in Pampa with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Mr. Sidwell was born Jan. 3, 1905, at Monticello, Ky. He was raised at Blacksville, W.Va., and graduated from Blacksville High School in 1921. He attended Davis and Elkins College for one year and at 17 left West Virginia to begin a 75-year career in the oil and gas business. He married Sarah Pauline "Polly" Reid on Jan. 8, 1928, at Shawnee, Okla.

He moved from Oklahoma to Wyoming, Texas and Kansas where he spent 10 years working for oil equipment supply companies. He founded Texwell Corporation for the exploration of oil and natural gas in 1934; Oil Well Servicing Company, Inc., in 1938; and Beacon Supply Company in 1947. At its height, Beacon operated 12 stores in five states including the first oil field supply store in the San Juan Basin. La Coma Corporation was established by Sidwell in 1948 and had extensive gas production in Collingsworth and Wheeler Counties. His ranching interests included operations in Collingsworth, Hemphill and Wheeler Counties.

He was a former member and elder of First Presbyterian Church in Pampa. He belonged to Masonic Lodge of Shawnee, Okla., and the Khiva Shrine of Amarillo. He served on the executive board of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch for 30 years and was a former Amarillo Children's Home board member. He was mayor of Pampa from 1962-63 and served on the Pampa School Board of Trustees.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia in 1985 and wrote an autobiography entitled "One Man's Journey" which was published in 1983.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Polly; a daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Hobart Fatheree of Fair Oaks Ranch; a son and daughter-in-law, E.R. "Gene" and Donna Sidwell of Amarillo; a sister, Edna Emmitt of Hutchinson, Kan.; a brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Georgia Sidwell of Pampa; eight grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Amarillo Children's Home or Book of Remembrance at First Presbyterian Church of Pampa.

ROBERT SMALLWOOD

MATADOR — Robert Smallwood, 62, brother of a Skellytown resident, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1999. The body was donated to medical research. Arrangements are under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador.

Mr. Smallwood was born at Matador and had been a lifelong resident of the community, graduating from Matador High School. He married Karen Smith in 1958; she died in 1966. He was a retired farmer.

Survivors include two daughters, LaFonda Shearer of Lubbock and Rockie Littlefield of Austin; two sisters, Lorene Thompson of Skellytown and Lillie Cooper of Denison; and two grandchildren.

FRED HALEY TINSLEY, SR.

Fred Haley Tinsley, Sr., 81, of Pampa, died Thursday, Jan. 14, 1999. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in First Christian Church with the Rev. Darrell W. Evans officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Graveside rites will be provided courtesy of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM.



Mr. Tinsley was born Jan. 1, 1918, at Gainesville, to S.A. "Sparky" and Ida Belle Tinsley. He married Juanita Phy in 1937. He had been a Pampa resident since 1939. He worked for Cabot Corporation, retiring as supervisor in sales after 38 years of service. Following his retirement, he served as vice president of PUPCO for 10 years.

He was a member of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, Lubbock Scottish Rite Consistory, Khiva Temple of Amarillo and Pampa Shrine Club. He was president of Top of Texas WBCCI in 1989 and belonged to First Christian Church since 1940, serving as a deacon and elder.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita, of the home; a daughter, Becky Lynn Tinsley Dossett of San Benito; a son, Fred H. Tinsley, Jr., of Houma, La.; a sister, Helen Tinsley Crow of Huntington Beach, Calif.; two brothers, S.A. "Shorty" Tinsley of Keys, Okla., and Tom Tinsley of Arlington; and six grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be in lieu of flowers to Crown of Texas Hospice of Amarillo or to First Christian Church of Pampa.

Fires

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

Wednesday, January 13

4:44 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of E. Frost on a CO check.

Correction

Justin Freeman, winner of Reserve Champion barrow in the Top O' Texas Livestock Show was incorrectly identified Wednesday in a photo caption.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 13

Roy Dale Welborn Jr., 18, 723 N. Zimmers, was arrested on charges of violation of probation/minor in possession and failure to id.

Accidents

The Department of Public Safety reported the following accident during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 13

12:05 a.m. — Thomas Carl Harris, 16, Skellytown, was treated and released from Columbia Medical Center after losing control of the 1990 Sunbird when swerving to avoid an oncoming vehicle in the wrong lane of FM 294. The Sunbird rolled three times ending up in a field. The other driver did not stop.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and reports during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 13

Jeffrey Ethan Young, 26, 118 W. Albert, was arrested on charges of aggravated assault.

Forgery was reported in the 1600 block of of N. Sumner.

Burglary was reported in the 800 block of S. Sumner.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.67
Milo	3.20
Corn	3.50
Soybeans	4.60

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation.

Occidental	17 1/2	up 1/8
Magellan	121.14	
Puritan	19.88	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Amoco		NA
Arco	62 5/16	dn 3/4
Cabot	27 7/16	NC
Cabot O&G	15 9/16	dn 1/8
Chevron	81 3/16	dn 1/8
Coca-Cola	63 7/8	dn 1 5/16
Columbia/HCA	21 3/4	dn 1/8
Enron	62 1/2	dn 1/8
Halliburton	31 13/16	up 1
IRI	3 11/16	up 1/16
KNE	23 5/16	up 5/16
Kerr McGee	38 7/8	NC
Limited	29 5/8	dn 1/16
McDonald's	76 3/16	dn 13/16
Mobil	85 5/16	NC
New Atmos	30 7/16	dn 5/16
NCE	46 1/16	dn 1/2
Penney's	41 11/16	up 5/8
Phillips	41 5/16	dn 3/16
Pioneer Nat. Res	9	dn 1/8
SLB	49 5/8	up 5/8
Tenneco	34 1/16	up 3/16
Texaco	51 1/2	up 1/8
Ultramar	24 13/16	up 1/8
Wal Mart	80	dn 5/8
Williams	29 7/8	dn 1/8
New York Gold		285.50
Silver		5.11
West Texas Crude		12.33

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	665-5777
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
SPS	1-800-750-2520

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Y2K

Telephone and local government agencies," said Hall in a later interview. "Maybe I'm a bit naive, but I think there are enough measures being taken by those in industry, that once Y2K rolls around, they'll see the weak link and fix it."

The government has passed legislation making it mandatory that industry take measurers to make computers systems Y2K compliant.

But still, Hall maintained, there is nobody who can forecast if there will be a weak link. Or how many links in the chain will be broken as a result of the Y2K problem, which occurs when computers — unless software is adapted — read the year 2000 as 1900.

"I think it's reasonable to believe a slow down in transportation could happen," said Hall. "I'm hoping we won't have anything to do with the worst case scenario."

The worst case scenario? Electricity goes out. Water systems down. Transportation diminished. No coal, no heat. Chaos. But industry spokespeople, in Pampa and nationwide, are reporting that precautions are being taken.

Utilities are spending more than $2 billion to test and prepare their computers and replace software to deal with the Y2K problem.

The review by the North American Electric Reliability Council said there likely will be "only minimal impact" of the "nuisance" variety on electricity production and distribution, according to an article by the Associated Press.

"We don't feel there's going to be a problem keeping the lights on," Gerry Cauley, the council's program manager for the Y2K review, told a news conference Monday. But when asked whether he could guarantee a trouble-free transition into year 2000 for power companies, Cauley hedged.

"No one will stand up here and give you ... a guarantee," he said. "There's just enough uncertainty."

The same message of uncertainty was emphasized at the meeting.

"People should plan on having a 2-weeks of supplies on hand," Hall said. "Make plans like you're going camping for x amount of time."

Food, canned goods, toiletries, fuel and "whatever devices you need to go camping," are the kinds of items, he said, people need to get together when planning for any emergency that may arise next year.

"Examine your needs and be prepared in supplies ... put extra food on your shelves. Do a little research and be ready," he said.

"And it sounds like everyone in our local area is preparing," Horst said near the end of the meeting.

The majority of the organizations represented said they are making efforts to ensure uninterrupted service.

But a discussion on the "big picture" emphasized the idea that as prepared as Pampa may be for a crisis, the city cannot prepare other global systems that the Y2K problem may affect.

"Realistically, it's a networking problem on a global scale," Hall said in a subsequent interview.

"There are greater ramifications on that scale. It could have a great effect on our economy. But there are local issues. If the power and gas go out, that's a life threatening situation. The meetings we have here will help us to keep clear communication and to know what people are doing and planning," he said.

The next Y2K planning committee meeting is scheduled to meet in the M.K.Brown Heritage Room on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.

Police want to crack down on laser pointer abuse

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Amarillo's thin blue line wants to crack down on the use of thin red lines.

Police announced Wednesday that prosecutors have agreed to press charges against anybody who uses a laser pointer in a menacing or dangerous way.

Because they are relatively cheap high technology — about $15 — the lasers are popular with kids, who may not use them responsibly.

There have been cases in other cities of children using them to blind motorists or threaten each other.

Another possibility is that police could react as if the bright lights were being used to aim weapons.

"We had one (laser toy) pointed at a SWAT officer at a restaurant a while back and the officer went into survival mode and chased the subject down and it turned out to be a 9-year-old," said Lt. Ken Farren.

He demonstrated Wednesday at the Potter County Firing Range that the beam thrown by a laser pointer looks the same on target as the aiming light from a firearm.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literary Council office will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

THEE PLACE

Thee Place for Singles is open 7-10:30 p.m. Saturdays at 520 W. Kingsmill.

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP

If interested in the ADHD/ADD Sport Group call Connie at 669-9364.

EMMAUS REUNION

Emmaus Reunion Group meets the second Thursday of each month. For more information, call 669-3426 or 669-9226.

PANHANDLE PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

Panhandle Piece Makers Quilt Guild regular meeting Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. at Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. Visitors welcome. For more information, call 669-0568 or 665-4718.

TEXAS PANHANDLE MENTAL HEALTH

Texas Panhandle Mental Health meeting, 218 Cuyler, Jan. 14, 7 p.m. Sarah Bumgarner from Borger will be speaking on the nutritional aspects of the brain.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Partly cloudy today with a high in the mid 50s and northwest wind at 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear with a low in the low 30s and south winds at 10-20 mph. Tomorrow, mostly sunny with a high in the upper 60s and southwest-west winds at 10-20 mph. Yesterday's high was 53; the overnight low, 28.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS — Panhandle — Tonight, mostly clear with a low around 30. South wind 10-20 mph. Friday, sunny with a high near 70. Southwest to west wind 10-20 mph, increasing to 15-25 mph and gusty during the afternoon. Extreme Southern Panhandle/Low Rolling Plains — Tonight, clear. Lows around 30. Friday, sunny, breezy and warmer. Highs around 70. Permian Basin/Upper Trans Pecos — Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 25-30. Friday, mostly sunny and warmer. Highs from the mid 60s to lower 70s. Concho Valley/Edwards Plateau — Tonight, clear. Lows around 30. Friday, sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 60s. Far West Texas — Tonight, clear. Lows in the 20s. Friday, sunny. Highs in the middle 60s. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — Tonight, mostly clear. Lows from near 20 Marfa Plateau to the lower 30s elsewhere. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs from lower 50s Guadalupe Mountains to the lower 70s along the Rio Grande.

NORTH TEXAS — Tonight, clear. Lows middle 20 north to middle 30s west. Friday, mostly sunny and warmer. Windy west and central. Highs 59 east to 67 west.

SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Tonight, fair skies. Lows in the 30s south central to 20s to near 30 Hill Country. Friday, mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the 60s to near 70. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Tonight, clear and turning colder. Lows from the mid 30s inland to near 40 at the coast. Friday, sunny and warmer. Highs in the lower to mid 60s. Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Plains — Tonight, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the 60s.

BORDER STATES

NEW MEXICO — Tonight, friday and Friday night, fair to partly cloudy skies. Lows zero to the teens mountains and northwest, 20s to lower 30s warmer Friday with highs 40s to 50s mountains and northwest with mid 50s to around 70 lower elevations east and south.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows mostly in the 20s. Friday, mostly sunny, Windy and warmer. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s.

New computers trigger backup in support pay

DALLAS (AP) — Complaints of delayed child support payments have soared since Dallas County converted to a new computer system that was supposed to dramatically speed the mailing of checks.

Ron Mackay, administrator of the Dallas County Child Support Office, said it has taken longer than expected to train workers and to work out problems.

The backlog reached 8,500 cases at one point and is expected to continue until the end of January, he said Wednesday.

The switchover to the new computer system caused about 5,000 parents not to get their child support checks on time, Mackay said.

The new computer system replaced one installed in 1982.

About 95,000 people have accounts with the child-support office, which processed $87.3 million in payments last year, Mackay said. The checks, which people receive weekly, biweekly or monthly, are for as much as $2,500.

On Tuesday, Dallas County commissioners approved $3,800 in overtime pay for employees to work weekends to try to catch up with the backlog.

With the old computer system, it took the county four to six days to mail a child-support check after receiving it, Mackay said. Once the new system is operating properly, county officials should be able to mail the checks in two or three days, he said.

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City briefs

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

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CLOTHING ROOM Mary Ellen & Harvester. If you need clothes contact church office. 665-0031 All Welcome. Adv.

TEX'S BAR - Open under new management. Come see who! Adv.

MOOSE LODGE - Dance Sat. 16th, Sound of Country. Members & Guests. Adv.

CLUB BIARRITZ new location 618 W. Foster. Open Mon. thru Sat. 4-close. Come check out our Daily Specials! Adv.

TRALEE-RESALE Shop, 308 S. Cuyler. All clothing 1/2 price. Adv.

Top O' Texas Junior Livestock Show results

The results of the 1999 Top O' Texas Junior Livestock Show are as follows:

The Grand Chapions were Hayley Hipkins, lamb, Wheeler 4-H; Camille Graves, steer, Perryton, FFA; Byron Norton, barrow, White Deer FFA.

The Reserve Grand Champions were Chris Umsted, lamb, Wheeler FFA; Brian Ash, steer, Hemphill 4-H; and Justin Freeman, barrow, White Deer FFA.

BREED CHAMPIONS

Lambs

Jessica Fish, fine wool and fine wool cross, Gray 4-H; Hayley Hipkins, medium wool, Wheeler 4-H; Shaun Smith, Southdown, Pampa FFA.

Steers

Shane Thompson, English and English cross, Roberts 4-H; Camille Graves, exotic and exotic cross, Perryton, FFA; Sandy French, American and American cross, Carson 4-H.

Barrows

Candy Hilburn, Berkshire, Fort Elliott FFA; Lindsey Couts, Chester, Pampa FFA; Justin Freeman, Duroc and Yorkshire, White Deer FFA; Byron Norton, Hampshire and Cross, White Deer FFA; Justin Thomas, Spots and Polands, Gray 4-H; Glen Moon, other pure breeds, Fort Elliott FFA.

RESERVE BREED CHAMPIONS

Lambs

Hesten Smith, fine wool, Miami FFA; Travis Fish, fine wool cross, Gray 4-H; Chris Umsted, medium wool, Wheeler FFA; Nicole Bruton, Southdown, Pampa FFA.

Steers

Emily Nusser, English and English cross, Gray 4-H; Brain Ash, exotic and exotic cross, Hemphill 4-H; Cody Britten, American and American cross, Carson 4-H.

Barrows

Michael Hilburn, Berkshire, Fort Elliott FFA; Ramsi Bowling, Chester, Lipscomb 4-H; Raydn Bowling, Duroc and Yorkshire, Follett FFA; Kayla Blount, Hampshire, White Deer FFA; Joel Bolz, Spots and Polands, Pampa FFA; Elizabeth Thomas, other pure breeds, Gray 4-H; Meredith Couts, cross.

SHOWMANSHIP/SENIOR DIVISION

Lambs

Jessica Fish, first place, Gray 4-H; Hayley Hipkins, second place, Wheeler 4-H; Joseph Smith, third place, Miami FFA.

Steers

Dara Whatley, first place, Carson 4-H; Brain Ash, second place, Hemphill 4-H; Sandy French, third place, Carson 4-H.

Barrows

Raydn Bowling, first place, Follett FFA; Kelby McClellan, second place, Pampa FFA; Lindsay Scribner, third place, Pampa FFA.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Lambs

T'Andra Holmes, first place, Gray 4-H; Hesten Smith, second place, Miami FFA; Cody Lee, third place, Gray 4-H.

Steers

Camille Graves, first place, Ochiltree 4-H; Emily Nusser, second place, Gray 4-H; Stephen Holmes, third place, Ochiltree 4-H.

Barrows

Byron Norton, first place, White Deer FFA, Danielle Arnold, second place, Panhandle FFA; Kirk Roda, third place, Roberts 4-H.

FINEWOOL CLASS #1

Jessica Fish, first place, Gray 4-H; Hesten Smith, second place, Miami FFA; Travis Fish, third place, Gray 4-H.

FINEWOOL CROSS CLASS #2

Jessica Fish, first place, McLean FFA; Travis Fish, second place, Gray 4-H; Shaun Smith, third place, Pampa FFA; Joseph Smith, fourth place, Miami FFA; Bron Bohlar, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Nicholas Odom, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT MEDIUM WOOL CLASS #3

Chris Umsted, first place, Wheeler FFA; Kaycia Mitchell, second place, White Deer FFA; Katie Baggerman, third place, Roberts 4-H; Hayley Hipkins, fourth place, Wheeler 4-H; Joseph Smith, fifth place, Miami FFA; Berklee Ruthardt, sixth place, Carson 4-H; Nikki Jo Hefley, seventh place, Gray 4-H; Berklee Ruthardt, eight place, Carson 4-H.

MEDIUM WEIGHT MEDIUM WOOL CLASS #4

Hayley Hipkins, first place, Wheeler 4-H; Travis Fish, second place, Gray 4-H; T'Andra Holmes, third place, Pampa FFA; Claire Yauck, fourth place, Lipscomb 4-H; Donald Basham, fifth place, McLean FFA; Travis Fish, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

MEDIUM HEAVY WEIGHT MEDIUM WOOL CLASS #5

Kurt Baggerman, first place, Roberts 4-H; Rusty Jackson, second place, Hemphill 4-H; Jessica Fish, third place, Gray 4-H; Casey Coleman, fourth place, Gray 4-H; Tanner Mitchell, fifth place, White Deer FFA: Claire Yauck, sixth place, Lipscomb 4-H; Justin Holman, seventh place, Miami FFA.

HEAVY WEIGHT MEDIUM WOOL CLASS #6

Josh Cartwright, first place, Armstrong 4-H; Schuyler Fulton, second place, Pampa FFA; Jessica Fish, third place, Gray 4-H; Bryce Roda, fourth place, Roberts 4-H; Kelby McClellan, fifth place, Pampa FFA; Cody Lee, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

SOUTHDOWN CLASS #7

Shaun Smith, first place, Pampa FFA; Nicole Bruton, second place, Pampa FFA; Kristen Dunn, third place, Pampa FFA; K'Lyn Holmes, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Schuyler Fulton, fifth place, Pampa FFA: Robyn Lowrey, sixth place, Pampa FFA.

AMERICAN AND AMERICA CROSS CLASS #1

Sandy French, first place, Carson 4-H; Cody Britten, second place, Carson 4-H; Courtney Crawford, third place, Gray 4-H; Meagan Crawford, fourth place, Gray 4-H; Angie French, fifth place, Carson 4-H; Royce O'Neal, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT ENGLISH AND ENGLISH CROSS CLASS #2

Emily Nusser, first place, Gray 4-H; Nathan Matthews, second place, Carson 4-H; Jamie Pergeson, third place, Gray 4-H; Marcus Arnold, fourth place, Carson 4-H; Daniel Rankin, fifth place, Roberts 4-H; Tyler Rankin, sixth place, Roberts 4-H.

MEDIUM WEIGHT ENGLISH AND ENGLISH CROSS CLASS #3

Shane Thompson, first place, Roberts 4-H; Dara Whatley, second place, Carson 4-H; Tate Baumgardner, third place, Collingsworth 4-H; Tucker Long, fourth place, Collingsworth 4-H; Sean O'Neal, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Jarrod Schwalk, sixth place, Perryton FFA; Katrina Matthews, seventh place, Carson 4-H; Tate Baumgardner, eighth place, Collingsworth 4-H.

HEAVY WEIGHT ENGLISH AND ENGLISH CROSS CLASS #4

Phil Williams, first place, Follett FFA; Whitney Peil, second place, Perryton FFA; Clint Matthews, third place, Follett FFA; Megan Cout, fourth place, Gray 4-H; Michael Pergeson, fifth place, Gray 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT EXOTIC AND EXOTIC CROSS CLASS #5

Sydni Benge, first place, Hemphill FFA; Brandon Harvey, second place, Ochiltree 4-H; Haley Sprague, third place, Lipscomb 4-H; Whitney Peil, fourth place, Perryton FFA; Meagan Crawford, fifth place, Gray 4-H.

BOB BENTSON CLASS #6

Brittany Boxwell, first place, Ochiltree 4-H; Blake Nusser, second place, Gray 4-H; Megan Cout, third place, Gray 4-H; Shanna James, fourth place, Collingsworth 4-H.

MEDIUM HEAVY WEIGHT EXOTIC AND EXOTIC CROSS CLASS #7

Camille Graves, first place, Perryton FFA; Brian Ash, second place; Shanna James, third place, Collingsworth 4-H; Cody Britten, fourth place, Carson 4-H; Erin Williams, fifth place, Lipscomb 4-H; Holly Davis, sixth place, Collingsworth 4-H; Derek Schilling, seventh place, Follett FFA; Meredith Couts, eighth place, Gray 4-H.

HEAVY WEIGHT EXOTIC AND EXOTIC CROSS CLASS #8

Stephen Holmes, first place, Ochiltree 4-H; Brittany Boxwell, second place, Ochiltree 4-H; Dara Whatley, third place, Carson 4-H; Larkin Davis, fourth place, Collingsworth 4-H; Austin Heck, fifth place, Ochiltree 4-H; Marcus Arnold, sixth place, Carson 4-H; Cody Heck, seventh place, Ochiltree 4-H; Michael Hagg, eighth place, Perryton FFA.

BERKSHIRE CLASS #1

Candy Hilburn, first place, Fort Elliott FFA; Michael Hilburn, second place, Fort Elliott FFA; Jeremy Harper, third place, Pampa FFA; Courtney Lowrance, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Justin Hampton, fifth place, Gray 4-H.

CHESTER CLASS #2

Lindsey Couts, first place, Pampa FFA; Ramsi Bowling, second place, Lipscomb 4-H; Justin Holman, third place, Miami FFA; Lucas Seymour, fourth place, Gray 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT DUROC CLASS #3

Justin Freeman, first place, White Deer FFA; Austin Pritchett, second place, Gray 4-H; Tara Kirby, third place, Carson 4-H; Ben Campbell, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Collin Bowers, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Jeremy Pritchett, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

MEDIUM WEIGHT DUROC CLASS #4

Raydn Bowling, first place, Follett FFA; Byron Norton, second place, White Deer FFA; Justin Homen, third place, Groom FFA: Shane Morgan, fourth place, Wellington FFA: Megan Craig, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Kelby McClellan, sixth place, Pampa FFA.

HEAVY WEIGHT DUROC CLASS #5

Jennifer Maddox, first place, Fort Elliott, FFA; T'Andra Holmes, second place, Pampa FFA; Jake Booze, third place, Roberts 4-H; Kori Dunn, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Casey Stokes, fifth place, Pampa FFA: Danielle Arnold, sixth place, Panhandle FFA.

LIGHT WEIGHT HAMPSHIRE CLASS #6

Brandon Crain, first place, White Deer FFA; Kurt Baggerman, second place, Roberts 4-H; Chris Bonner, third place, Panhandle FFA; Kori Dunn, fourth place, Pampa FFA; T'Andra Holmes, fifth place, Pampa FFA; K'Lyn Holmes, sixth place, Pampa FFA.

MEDIUM WEIGHT HAMPSHIRE CLASS #7

Megan Couts, first place, Pampa FFA; Kody Roda, second place, Roberts 4-H; Blake Nusser, third place, Gray 4-H; Parker Petty, fourth place, White Deer FFA; Russell Lang, fifth place, Panhandle FFA; Shane Slover, sixth place, Panhandle FFA.

MEDIUM HEAVY WEIGHT HAMPSHIRE CLASS #8

Byron Norton, first place, White Deer FFA; Kayla Blount, second place, White Deer FFA; Kelby McClellan, third place, Pampa FFA; Tanner Cochran, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Elizabeth Campbell, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Kevin Smith, sixth place, Gray 4-H.

See SHOW, Page 10

Eastern Star



(Special photo)

The school officers at the recent Order of the Eastern Star School of Instruction were, front row from left, Virginia Fore, deputy grand matron, Margie Curry, district II secretary; back row from left, Kimi Kidd, grand examiner and Alma Lynn Bain, worthy grand matron.

CEUs offered at vegetation workshop

AMARILLO — Keeping Texas roadways beautiful requires more than smoothing over potholes and picking up trash, according to organizers of a workshop focused on managing vegetation along the state's thoroughfares. The training will be held Jan. 21 at Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Amarillo. The program is geared to commercial, non-commercial and private pesticide applicators.

"This seminar is designed to help the right-of-way applicator do a better job of what he already does quite well," said Levon Harmon of Texas Department of Agriculture and coordinator of the workshop.

TDA has approved five continuing education units for this event.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The training is offered at no-cost to participants. The program will start at 9 a.m.

Martha Edwards, TDA inspector from Canadian, will serve as moderator for the morning sessions.

The morning agenda consists of Clay Salisbury, Extension agronomist and Experiment Station weed scientist, addressing weed identification and control; Alex Mimms, Tri-State Chemical, speaking on understanding the label and Material Safety Data Sheets; and Howard Pierson from Estes Inc., covering off-target problems.

The afternoon sessions, moderated by Shawn Davis, pesticide supervisor from Lubbock, will feature Brent Bean, Extension specialist, instructing participants on choosing the right nozzle and Pro-Chem Sales' Gary Rich discussing personal pesticide safety. Harmon, TDA, will wrap up the workshop by advising participants on the changes and requirements for application records.

For registration information, call the Amarillo TDA office at (806) 358-7285.

MDA to hold contest at Westgate

AMARILLO — Sonic Drive-In, 95.7 The KAR, Family Photo, and KFDA NewsChannel 10 are Sponsoring the 1999 Kids Are Cute Contest Saturday, Jan. 30 at Westgate Mall in Centercourt.

The contest will be open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 months and 6 years. Experienced judges will judge the contest and will score the children based on appearance, personality and overall stage presence. There will be limited space available. A maximum of 250 participants will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. An optional photo and fundraising contest will also be available. Prizes include trophies, gift certificates and more.

Join NewsChannel 10's Karl King, and Michael J. Stevens from 95.7 The KAR for the 1999 Kids Are Cute Contest to benefit MDA. Registration is $25 and entry forms can be picked up at the Westgate Mall Office, Family Photo, or by calling the MDA office at (806) 359-3141.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association, Panhandle Chapter provides services to over 250 individuals diagnosed with one of 40 neuromuscular diseases. Both patients and their families have access to monthly clinics, and support groups, educational materials, referral services, and much, much more.

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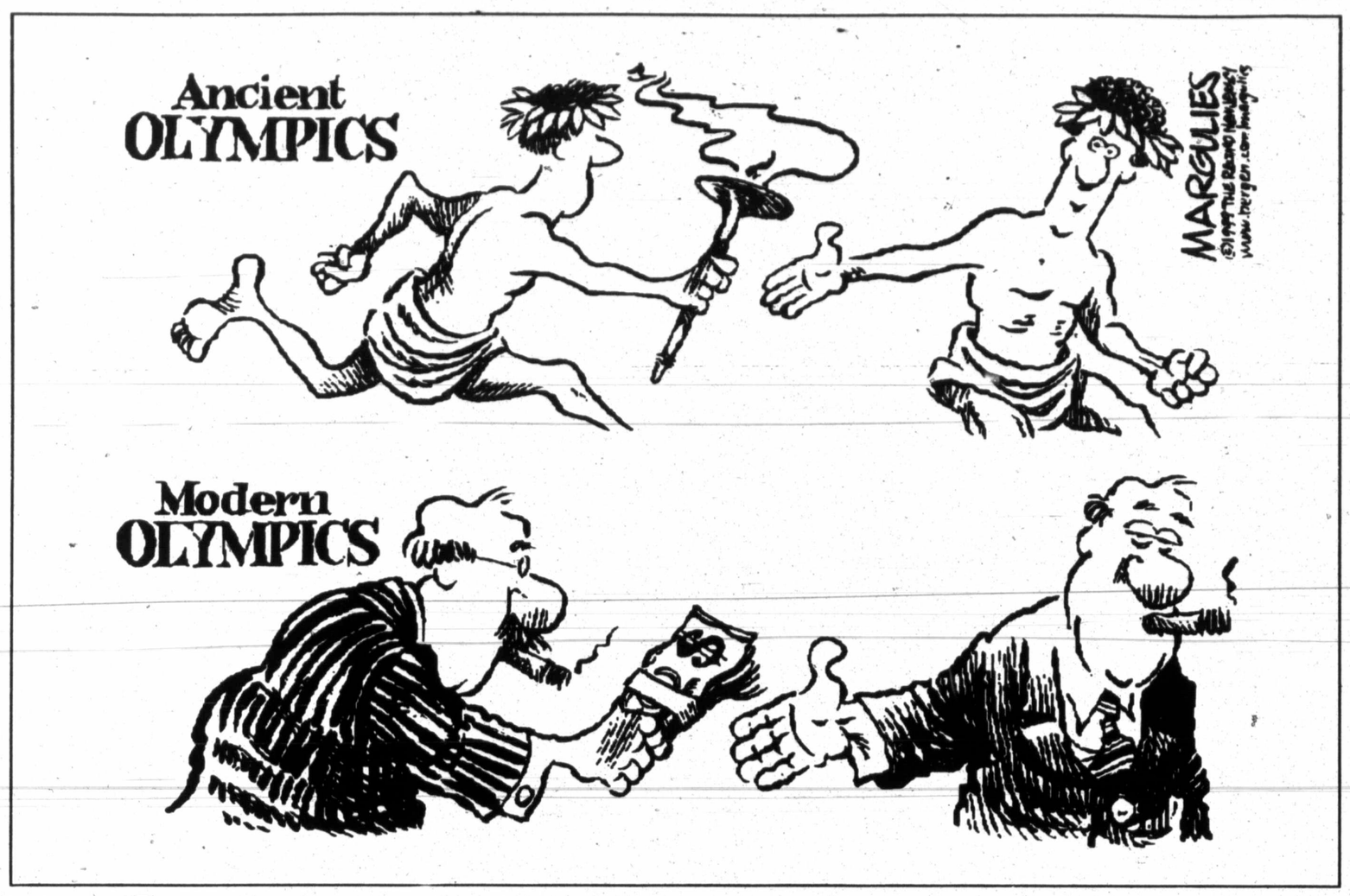
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Texas Editorial

The Dallas Morning News on death penalty reforms:

The majority of Texans support capital punishment. Texas juries fairly routinely condemn murderers to death, if the prosecutor has sought that option. In the past few months, both Dallas and Tarrant counties have added new residents to death row. Texas prisons hold more than 450 men and women who await execution.

But allegations of capriciousness and unfairness haunt the death penalty process in Texas — and most of those charges are justified. The system needs reforms at trial and appellate court levels, at the legislative level, and at the level of the governor and state parole board.

The first safeguards for fairness occur at the trial court level. Judges have become much better at appointing competent defense attorneys in death penalty cases. And the Dallas County jail has improved its system for screening mental illness. But more needs to happen:

Juries should be informed of alternatives to the death penalty. For instance, jurors can give convicted capital murderers "capital life" instead of death sentences. The capital life sentence requires killers to serve 40 years in prison before they could be considered for parole.

Jurors need unbiased information about how to interpret the courtroom behavior of defendants with mental retardation or mental illness. Such defendants may smile or laugh inappropriately or have physical tics or lethargy because of medication.

Local authorities must be drilled in their responsibility to determine a suspect's citizenship. The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations requires law enforcement agencies to tell foreign citizens they have the right to contact their consulates. The pending execution of Canadian Joseph Faulder has sparked an international uproar, partly because Texas didn't follow those treaty obligations.

Prosecutors, jurors and judges must be more skeptical about testimony from co-defendants who have been offered lighter sentences in exchange for their statements. The robbery-murder defendant who fired the deadly shot, but turns state's evidence, should not receive a lighter sentence than the co-conspirator who snatched the wallet.

State law gives the Court of Criminal Appeals the responsibility to appoint lawyers for indigent death row inmates.

It has done a less-than-stellar job. It repeatedly changed guidelines for appointed attorneys' pay and investigative spending. It drafted unqualified lawyers to represent death row inmates. When those attorneys messed up — by missing deadlines or completely misunderstanding the habeas appeals process — the court typically low. d the inmate rather than the lawyer.

Some of those situations have improved. But the court can do more:

Jurists should write clear, written standards for appointed appellate attorneys. The court should suggest ways to sanction incompetent attorneys who do ngent inmates' habeas appeals. Lawmakers should even consider creating a replacement for the now-defunct Death Penalty Information Center. cknowledge that pay for appointed attorneys is, in many cases, unrealistically low.

To speed up appeals and executital illness. There is no moral justification for executing prisoners who cannot understand what is being done to them. ey. Thwmakers sh expect to spend at least $6 million per biennium to pay for indigent inmates' habeas appeals. Lawmakers should even consider creating a replacement for the now-defunct Death Penalty Information Center.

Legislators should prohibit the execution of inmates with mental retardation, severe brain damage or significant mental illness. There is no moral justification for executing prisoners who cannot understand what is being done to them.

Lawmakers should clarify that the Texas Open Meetings Act applies to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. It should require the board to meet to deliberate clemency applications. ...

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New brand of common sense



Random Revelations
Miranda G. Bailey
Pampa News staff writer

At work, I like to think of myself as a fairly efficient, responsible person who gets things done and more importantly, gets "it." As in, gets the big picture, for lack of a better way to explain it.

At home, it's a different story.

In the company of the man I love, and the boy I love to threaten to ground, four words seem to fall off my lips more than I'd like to admit: I don't get it.

It's not that I'm dumb, the boy says, I just have a lack of common sense.

I happen to disagree with that statement. If I didn't have common sense, I'd probably be out sweeping the sidewalks for fun and ha-ha's. Point being — what is common sense, anyway?

The things I usually don't "get" at home have to do with long jokes, television one-liners, a male's eye view on things. (More on that later) Besides, most women would not only admit, but boast about not getting the latter.

And sometimes me not getting something has to do with the fact that I can't hear. Or I don't choose to hear, whatever the case may be. Regardless, according to my husband, I should wear a T-shirt that says "I don't get it."

Maybe he's right, except for the fact that I don't like to wear T-shirts that say things; it goes along with my anti-bumper sticker theory.

Who wants common sense, anyway! (I say to myself with a snort and a crossing of the arms.) I like to be everything but common. I'm quite sure no one wants to be known as a commoner, or a common sensor or a commoner sense, or in a sense, a commoner. I don't.

What goes along with common sense? Common, sensible shoes as best I can tell. Nobody wants sensible shoes. Unless you're rich and you can afford to have a pair of non-sensible shoes as well.

I like shoes. The bigger and louder and more obnoxious, the better. If my mama says I'm wearing the ugliest shoes she's seen, I know I've done my job.

See where this conversation is going? No where. Which brings me back to the point. I don't thrive off of making sense. Common or not.

So I exclaim it to the masses: I DON'T GET IT! ... if that's really what you want to hear. (But if you think about it, I'm getting things perfectly fine to be writing about this)

Alright, I'm ending already.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 1999. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 14, 1784, the United States ratified a peace treaty with England ending the Revolutionary War.

On this date:

In 1639, the first constitution of Connecticut, the "Fundamental Orders," was adopted.

In 1742, English astronomer Edmond Halley, who observed the comet that now bears his name, died at age 85.

In 1858, French emperor Napoleon III escaped an attempt on his life.

In 1900, the Puccini opera "Tosca" received a mixed reception at its Rome world premiere.

In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered.

In 1953, Josip Broz Tito was elected president of Yugoslavia by the country's Parliament.

In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with a pledge of "segregation forever."

In 1969, 25 crew members of the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise were killed in an explosion that ripped through the ship off Hawaii.

Ten years ago: President Reagan delivered his 331st and last weekly radio address, telling listeners, "Believe me, Saturdays will never seem the same. I'll miss you."

Five years ago: In post-Cold War breakthroughs, President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed Kremlin accords to stop aiming missiles at any nation and to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine. In Phoenix, Ariz., Shane Stant, who admitted to being the "hit man" in the clubbing assault on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan, surrendered to authorities.

One year ago: Whitewater prosecutors questioned Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House for 10 minutes about the gathering of FBI background files on past Republican political appointees. (Sources quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying she knew nothing about any such collection of files.) NBC agreed to pay Warner Bros. $13 million per episode to retain the highly-rated TV show "ER."

Today's Birthdays: CBS commentator Andy Rooney is 80. Former CBS newsman George Herman is 79. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., is 71. Country singer Billy Walker is 70. Blues singer Clarence Carter is 63. Country singer Billie Jo Spears is 62. Singer Jack Jones is 61. Singer-songwriter Allen Toussaint is 61. NAACP Chairman Julian Bond is 59. Actress Faye Dunaway is 58. Actress Holland Taylor is 56. Actor Carl Weathers is 51. Singer-producer T-Bone Burnett is 51. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is 50. Rock singer Geoff Tate (Queensryche) is 40. Movie writer-director Steven Soderbergh is 36. Rapper Slick Rick is 34. Actor Dan Schneider is 33. Actress Emily Watson is 32. Actor-comedian Tom Rhodes is 32. Rapper-actor LL Cool J is 31.

On Cuba, nothing sounds like failure



Steve Chapman
Syndicated columnist

If your only means of transportation were a rusted-out clunker sitting on blocks in the garage, you would conclude it was time to get a new car. Not Bill Clinton. He'd figure that since the jalopy is paid for and never costs him money for gas or insurance, he's got the perfect vehicle. If that reasoning makes sense to you, you'll have no trouble understanding his latest policy shift on Cuba, which turns out to be no shift at all.

For 37 years, the United States has done its best to isolate, ostracize and squeeze Fidel Castro's regime in the hope of bringing it down. The latest indicator of its effectiveness came on Jan. 1, when Cuba's Communist dictatorship celebrated its 40th anniversary. But the Clinton administration thinks mere failure is no reason to try something different.

So when he finally got around to a sober reevaluation of the U.S. embargo on Cuba, the president reached the conclusion that it's nearly perfect just the way it is. He announced only a few token changes — proposing to let any American, not just relatives, send money to Cubans, allow direct mail service between the two countries, expand the number of charter flights and, for those who wanted a really bold stroke, send the Baltimore Orioles there to play the Cuban national team. (Fine — but only if Castro agrees to keep Albert Belle.) The idea of appointing a bipartisan commission to address American policy, raised by two dozen senators and the likes of Henry Kissinger, was studiously ignored.

Anti-Castro exiles in Florida, who normally can be relied on to emit fire from their nostrils and smoke from their ears whenever relaxation of the embargo is mentioned, did not think this plan was worth denouncing. In fact, the conservative Cuban American National Foundation issued a statement *praising* Clinton.

Asked about claims that it had gotten its way with Clinton, the head of the group cheerfully acknowledged, "I'd have to agree with that." The administration apparently is more concerned about elevating Al Gore — a task that depends partly on Florida's 25 electoral votes — than on bringing down Castro.

Diehard defenders of the status quo say that expanding U.S. trade and investment would ease the economic crisis in Cuba and thus perpetuate Castro's grip on power. But listening to these partisans tell us how to get rid of Castro is like soliciting investment advice from a panhandler. If they had the answer, we wouldn't still be asking the question.

Once one of the most prosperous countries in Latin America, Cuba is now among the poorest. Its per capita income is less than $1,500 per year — half the level in Guatemala and one-fifth the level in Mexico. Things were bad when Cuba was on the Soviet dole, but they have gotten worse since the Russians abandoned communism and stopped sending money.

Shortages abound, and most goods have to be bought in state-owned stores that accept only dollars, not pesos. Thanks to rampant prostitution — much of it employing children — "Cuba is now second only to Southeast Asia as a sex tourism destination," reports the left-leaning on-line magazine Salon. Cubans aren't allowed lobster or shrimp because they're reserved for export, causing one cabdriver to grouse to a USA Today reporter, "We are on an island, and we don't eat fish."

But Castro, like Saddam Hussein, has an ever-ready excuse for every economic problem: the U.S. embargo. Washington's implacable pressure lets him escape much of the blame for the wretched poverty of his workers' paradise. It also gives him a stature he otherwise wouldn't have: He must be very important to deserve such imperishable hostility. As with Hussein, merely surviving lets Castro stand as a defiant symbol of opposition to the Yankee imperialists. Without our persistent efforts to inflate his importance, he would be just another Third World tyrant.

Breaking down the existing barriers between the United States and Cuba would mean more Americans traveling and doing business in Cuba, exposing ordinary Cubans to ever-increasing contact with unapproved ideas and ways of doing things. It might also spur economic growth, which almost infallibly serves to stimulate demands for democracy and personal freedom.

So why does Castro favor junking it? He thinks a lifting of the embargo would be to his advantage — but then, Daniel Ortega thought his Sandinista regime would easily win a free election in Nicaragua in 1990.

Dictators don't gain from measures that expand the amount of things that are outside their control. If we had the nerve to lift the embargo, Castro would soon discover that it was the best friend he ever had.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TAX

vice the oil industry such as suppliers, roustabout services, repair firms and so on."

Horst says the numbers show the negative economic impact "is more than we realized" it would be. "I wasn't too concerned when I got the first report (four months ago) but it's continued to drop," he said.

January's report for November shows a 15.68 percent drop under what had been budgeted, according to a finance department report. It had been anticipated that $151,620 in sales taxes would be returned to the city. Instead, that figure is $127,842.

If the economy stays on the decline, Horst projects the fiscal year city sales tax shortfall will amount to $165,857 under budget.

And while the city's coffers are suffering, the Pampa Economic Development Commission, is seeing its money supply cut, too, because a half-cent sales tax is its funding source.

But Horst said he doesn't believe the PEDC will have a problem keeping up with its obligations because it has "been conservative" in its financial operations.

Just this week, Horst sent a memo to city officials warning them of the funding problem in anticipation there will need to be cuts in the city's 98-99 FY budget.

While Horst said he made no recommendations as to where cuts should be made, the finance director speculated the reduction will be an "overall" one.

"I think each department will probably have to share the burden," he said. "If there's something the department can get by without this year, it'll most likely be cut."

Horst described the situation as "really tragic from a sales tax standpoint," and says he is concerned about what the next report, which will reflect December sales, will show."

If December sales tax numbers are down, he predicts that will be a forerunner of what to expect the remainder of the year "unless something happens and we get a boom."

Otherwise, Horst says, "It's going to be a (financial) challenge this year for the city."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MOLESTER

Martindale then played a video tape made by The Bridge, a private organization that interviews sexually abused children. The tape showed the girl pointing to charts of male and female drawings and told the interviewer what had happened. Martindale said her testimony was essentially unchanged between that interview and her appearance in court.

"She said he had sex with her and described it. That had to be the watershed of the case," Martindale said.

Defense attorney Gene Thompson objected to the introduction of the video tape and several other pieces of evidence but Waters allowed the items to be introduced. Thompson called on Jack Thompson (no relation), who helps with a jail ministry. He testified he had visited in the Valdez home several times and said, "It seemed to be a loving family. It looked like he had started to get his life turned around."

The defense also recalled Mrs. Valdez who said she originally suggested to her husband that he should go to Mexico because she would rather see him in Mexico than jail.

On cross-examination Martindale asked her. "If the court finds these charges are true do you think it best that he goes to prison?"

"Yes, I do," she replied.

Valdez was returned to Gray County Jail where he will remain until he is transferred to a state prison.

"I wish we could have put him away longer," Martindale said. "But I think the judge did the right thing. Children don't deserve to have that kind of treatment from an adult. They should be allowed to retain their innocence as long as they can."

House prosecutors say they need trial witnesses to appear

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening their impeachment case against President Clinton, House prosecutors told senators today they need trial witnesses to prove the president should be removed from office. They argued Clinton's defense defies "evidence as well as common sense."

Hours before beginning their opening argument in Clinton's impeachment trial, the Republican House members filed a rebuttal brief that dismissed Clinton's earlier written arguments and tried to use them to bolster their own case for calling witnesses.

"To the extent that President Clinton's trial memorandum raises issues of credibility, those issues are best resolved by live testimony subject to cross examination," the House prosecutors said. Senators won't decide whether to allow witnesses until after both sides make their opening arguments at the trial.

Among the witnesses the prosecutors are considering calling are the president and Monica Lewinsky, House officials said.

The White House fired back today that the House case is based on political revenge, not law. Press secretary Joe Lockhart said Clinton would not testify. "Any witness opens up this process to lengthy delays," he said.

The press secretary charged that the House prosecutors have "consistently bent, changed, shifted the rules" according to their political goals, have flip-flopped on matters such as the need for witnesses and have tried repeatedly to introduce "extraneous issues" such as campaign finance.

"I don't think the founders intended a party that is in the majority in the Congress could remove a president at their whim based on partisan political differences," Lockhart said.

The rebuttal to the White House memorandum was submitted to the Senate just hours before the trial was to resume in the Senate. Clinton is accused of perjury before a grand jury and obstruction of justice. Sixty-seven of the 100 senators must vote to convict him to oust him from office.

Rejecting Clinton's argument that he did not lie in his testimony before a federal grand jury investigating his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, the House managers reiterated their contention that "a complete and impartial review of the evidence reveals that the president did in fact commit perjury before the grand jury."

"President Clinton discounts substantial evidence as well as common sense when he maintains he testified truthfully," the House prosecutors wrote.

Anticipating a Clinton motion to dismiss the case ealry in the trial, the House prosecutors also argued that the Senate "has never granted a motion to dismiss or strike an article of impeachment."

The lead prosecutor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and the rest of the House managers have discussed calling Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky but have made no final decisions, according to prosecution officials. Under Senate rules, Clinton is the only witness who could not be subpoenaed to appear.

Ms. Lewinsky's lawyers rejected a House request to interview her earlier this week.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said his opening statement on behalf of the prosecution team would focus on "laying out the case and showing very clearly that the president committed an impeachable offense."

The House case will continue Friday and possibly Saturday. Clinton's lawyers will follow next week with their defense contending he is not guilty of perjury or obstruction of justice and that the charges, even if proved, do not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" warranting removal from office.

In a preview of the White House rebuttal, a trial brief submitted Wednesday asked, "If the Senate removes this president for a wrongful relationship he hoped to keep private, for what will the House ask the Senate to remove the next president, and the next?"

Hyde insisted that the matter had to be pressed forward, regardless of the outcome.

Whatever the senators "decide is perfectly acceptable to me. I won't lose sleep over either ... verdict. But I will lose sleep if we lay down on the job and didn't do our level best," Hyde said on ABC's "Nightline" program on Wednesday.

In the interview, Hyde also said threats have been made against his life.

The White House lawyers and the House prosecutors each can make arguments for 24 hours spread over three days, if all the allotted time is used.

The charges, in the first presidential impeachment trial since 1868, relate to Clinton's attempts to cover up his sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

In addition to prosecution staff members contacting Ms. Lewinsky's attorney, two House prosecutors joined staff members in speaking with another potential witness, Kathleen Willey, legal sources said on condition of anonymity.

Mrs. Willey is a former White House volunteer who contends Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance in a room near the Oval Office in 1993. House managers are divided over attempting to call her, since the House did not use any evidence of her involvement with Clinton in building its impeachment case.

Some House prosecutors believe there could be a connection to the obstruction charge if there was any attempt to intimidate her by the president or his allies. Starr is investigating that subject with a grand jury meeting in Alexandria, Va., a Washington suburb.

Clinton, in his first public comments in three weeks on the trial, said Wednesday that lawmakers "have their job to do in the Senate, and I have mine. I trust that the right thing will be done."

Speaking at the White House, the president said, "The important thing for me is to spend as little time thinking about that as possible and as much time working on the issues we're here to discuss as possible. I need to work on the business of the people."

Officials said Democrats had suggested canceling next Tuesday's scheduled trial session to avoid an awkward appearance on the day of Clinton's scheduled State of the Union address. Senate Republicans discussed the issue at a closed-door meeting. Most were opposed, according to sources familiar with the discussion.

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Autopsy: Heart attack killed 'Walker' stuntman

DALLAS (AP) — Stuntman William Charles Skeen suffered a fatal heart attack while filming an episode of "Walker, Texas Ranger," medical examiners said Wednesday.

Skeen, 49, of Campbell, had suffered from hardening of the arteries and had undergone heart surgery several years ago, relatives said.

A funeral is scheduled at 1 p.m. Saturday at League Street Church of Christ in Sulphur Springs, followed by burial at Conner Cemetery in Dike.

Skeen, a veteran actor and stuntman, stopped breathing after the GMC Suburban in which he was riding slammed into the ground during a car chase scene that involved a 140-foot launch from a ramp.

The driver of the car was hospitalized for treatment of back and neck injuries.

Skeen went to work as a stuntman in Hollywood during the 1970s and four years ago moved to Texas to join the "Walker" crew. He moved to Hunt County four years ago.

Skeen is survived by his wife; Michele and daughter, LaDawna; his father, William Perry Skeen of Cash; a foster daughter and four brothers.



SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

Anyone Can Do It ... And It's This Simple

Just Fill Out The Following Questions (you do not have to answer all the questions to be a Sunday Snapshot) And Bring It To The Pampa News Office. We Can Take Your Picture In The Office Or You Can Bring A Favorite Photo With You.

It's That Easy ... And It's For All Ages!

- Name: _____
- Occupation/Activities: _____
- Birth Date & Place: _____
- Family: _____
- If I had a different job, I'd be a: "or"
  When I grow up I want to be: _____
- My personal hero: _____
- The best advice I ever got was: _____
- People who knew me in High School thought: "or"
  My classmates think of me as: _____
- The best word or words to describe me: _____
- People will remember me as being: _____
- The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: _____
- My hobbies are: _____
- My favorite sports team is: _____
- My favorite author is: _____
- The last book I read was: _____
- My favorite possesion is: _____
- Thje biggest honor I've ever received is: _____
- My favorite performer is: _____
- I wish I knew how to: _____
- My trademark cliche or expression is: _____
- My worst habit is: _____
- I would never: _____
- The last good movie I saw was: _____
- I stay home to watch: _____
- Nobody knows: _____
- I drive a: "or"
  Someday I want to drive a: _____
- My favorite junk food is: _____
- My favorite beverage: _____
- My favorite restaurant is: _____
- My favorite pet: _____
- For my last meal, I would choose: "or"
  My favorite meal is: _____
- I wish I could sing like: _____
- I'm happiest when I'm: _____
- I regret: _____
- I'm tired of: _____
- I have a phobia about: "or"
  My biggest fear is: _____
- The electrical device I couldn't live without is: _____
- My most embarrassing moment: _____
- The biggest waste of time is: _____
- If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: _____
- If I had three wishes they would be: _____
- If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: _____

JAN 14 1999

THE Pampa NEWS
Thursday January 14 Page 6

Cell Phones in Cars Add To Arsenal of Distraction



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: As a longtime member of our local traffic safety commission and past volunteer AARP 55-Alive driving instructor, I wish to comment on the recent letter from Tom Lynch of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. Lynch suggested that the use of cell phones is safe because truck drivers have used CB radios for many years. What he failed to add is that accidents involving trucks have increased dramatically in recent years. Part of the reason is the increased number of trucks on the road — but how many others are due to inattentive driving because the driver was on the radio or otherwise occupied?

He also suggested that you will next advocate passing laws against tuning the radio while driving, looking at your passenger and conversing while driving, adjusting the temperature while driving or driving without adequate sleep. While I don't advocate laws preventing those activities, if drivers could be convinced to refrain from those practices, we would have much safer highways.

Driving is a full-time responsibility. Inattentive driving is the cause of more motor vehicle accidents than any other single activity, although it's not always listed on accident reports as such, because it's too difficult to prove in a court of law.

Thanks for your support of highway and driver safety, Abby.

JAMES G. SEIDL, MEDFORD, WIS.

DEAR JAMES: You put your finger on the problem when you said that inattentive driving is the culprit. I have received mail from many readers complaining about having been caught in traffic with commuters who apply makeup while driving, who turn around to converse with passengers in the rear seat, or to try to control animals that are loose in the car. What many people seem to forget is that the car continues to move while the driver is distracted.

So many drivers ignore stop signs and red lights that some cities have begun installing cameras at busy intersections to record the license plates of the scofflaws. Pedestrians shouldn't have to fear stepping off the curb.

In my own defense, I wasn't entirely off the wall when I suggested there ought to be a law. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle is against the law in Connecticut, and has been since the days of the old radio-telephone. However, the law is seldom enforced.

Some drivers even keep a telephone headset draped over their rearview mirror for hands-free telephony.

R.C. JESPERSEN, KEENE, N.H.

DEAR R.C.: Thank you for the information. Whether it's enforced to the max or not, I'm pleased to learn that law is on the books. One down, 49 to go. Other countries have such laws, and we should, too.

DEAR ABBY: I won a gift certificate for two free dinners at a very nice restaurant. If I call another couple to join us for dinner, should I be expected to share the certificate with them — or do I explain that my wife and I will be eating for free because of the certificate and they will pay for their own dinner?

JOSEPH F. IN SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF.

DEAR JOSEPH F.: It would be far more diplomatic if you and your wife went alone to the restaurant and enjoyed your windfall, rather than pulling out your certificate for two freebies while your friends present cash or their credit card.

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Horoscope

FRIDAY, JAN. 15, 1999

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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)
★★★★ You could be a powder keg to deal with. Be aware that others see you as a role model. Use your volatile energy and nervousness to clear your desk, get the job done and accomplish an unusual amount. You aren't particularly patient; be careful with your words and attitude. Tonight: Relax with co-workers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Reach out and make an extra effort. You could be frustrated by another's response; it could be difficult not to overreact. Distract yourself by plugging into work. Concentrate on one item at a time. Use your high energy positively. Tonight: Off to the movies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Discussions need to be kept on a one-to-one level to maintain effectiveness. You could feel as if another simply isn't getting the message. A light, jovial attitude could help them loosen up. Touch base with a child or loved one who is out of kilter. Tonight: Work out to relieve stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others are clear about what is going on, though agreement could be difficult. Changes on the home front or with a family member challenge you. Fighting erupts where you least expect it. Listen to another; though you don't have to agree with them, understanding helps. Tonight: Where the action is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Push hard to get your work done. Another's behavior is off the wall. Your temper could flare with a boss or co-worker. Pressure is very intense. You might have a lot of calls to make. Your sense of accomplishment will be high when you finish all you need to do. Tonight: Go for a massage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A gamble could backfire emotionally or financially. Being conservative is a positive asset. Allow yourself to be a stick-in-the-mud, even if others pressure you. Practice the word "no"! Creativity is high, as is charisma. Use these time-worn assets! Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Anchor in, rather than continuing to gloss over situations. You could be a lot angrier than you realize. Rather than suppressing it or avoiding the issue, handle it. Your health and well-being are key. Releasing anger makes sense in the long run. Tonight: Tidy up around the house.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Reach out to others and ask for important feedback. Another clearly has strong feelings and lets you know. You could surprise yourself with an equally strong reaction. Conversations are important in clearing the air. Tonight: Hang out at a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Though you have been on a roll, you need to settle in and handle financial matters. A friend could have a very different idea about what you should do. Avoid conflict, take charge and make your own choices. Your monetary wisdom comes into play. Tonight: Treat yourself!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You come on a lot stronger than you have in the recent past. A boss or someone you care about a lot creates uproar. Claim your power. Do what you must to manage key issues. Excellent communications allow others to understand where you are coming from. Tonight: Whatever you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take a deep breath and think through decisions. You might want to break through a barrier; however, timing is off. Trust your instincts. Listen carefully to others right now. You get opposing points of view; rather than react, use these ideas to strengthen your concept. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Make time for meetings and getting together with others. You are personality plus; others want to be with you. Recognize that you could disappoint a partner by your choices. Be realistic. Think about how to make everyone happy. Tonight: You are the party!

BORN TODAY
Actress/singer Charo (1951), actor Chad Lowe (1968), actress Margaret O'Brien (1937)

* * *

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, $2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

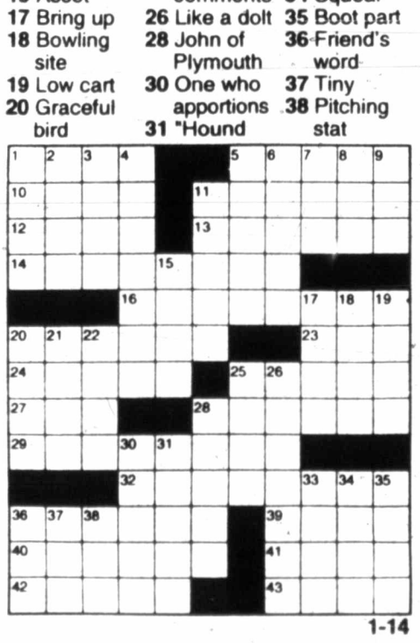
Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Animal's stomach
5 Boxes
10 Actress Anderson
11 Mark of disgrace
12 Church agreement
13 Mariel's grandfather
14 "1984" language
16 Europe
20 Gumshoe
23 Attention
24 First Ladies, e.g.
25 Hunting goddess
27 Fuss
28 Rex's "My Fair Lady" co-star
29 Indian city
32 Antebellum area
36 Midnight
39 Corner
40 Below, in contracts
41 Man, for one
42 Calendar spans
43 Phone
DOWN
1 Family
2 The Eternal City
3 Freshly
4 Charming
5 Scarecrow filler
6 Leftist, in slang
7 Mature
8 Apt. units
9 Posed
11 Watermelon waste
15 Asset
17 Bring up
18 Bowling site
19 Low cart
20 Graceful bird
21 Pelt
22 Swear
25 Dolt's comments
26 Like a dolt
28 John of Plymouth
30 One who apportions
31 "Hound Dog" singer
33 Stellar bear
34 Squeal
35 Boot part
36 Friend's word
37 Tiny
38 Pitching stat



Yesterday's Answer



1-14

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-454-7377!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



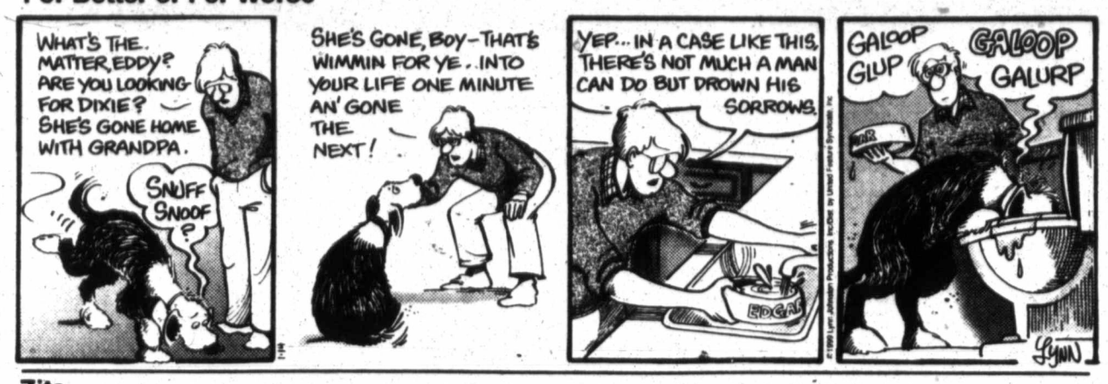
"This is the first time I've had a delivery to a doghouse."

The Family Circus



"There wasn't enough snow for a whole snowman."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



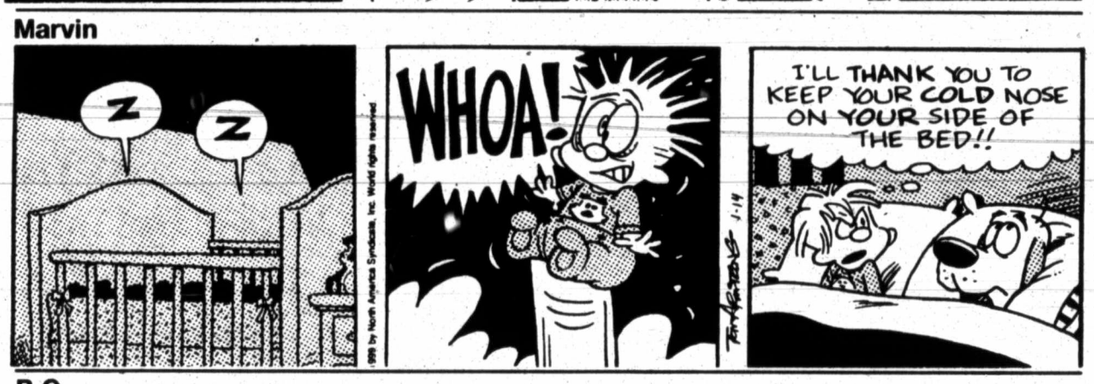
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



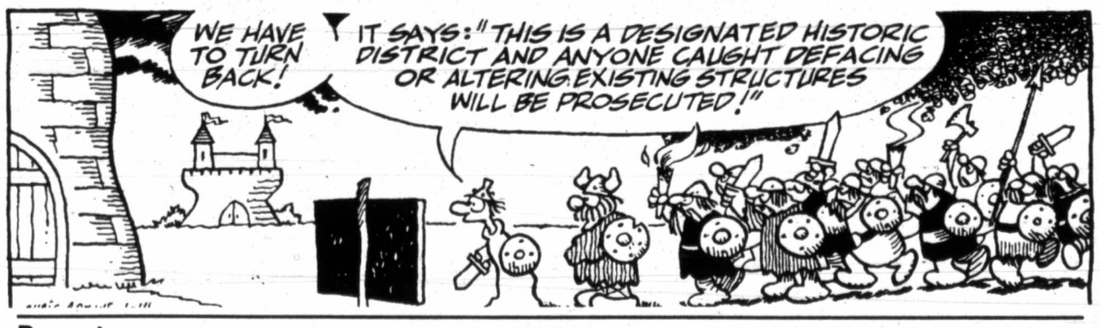
Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — Pampa Kids Club is still accepting registration forms for all youth from grades kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Over 300 youngsters have signed up and Kids Club officials urge others to sign up also.

"Parents, if you're not ready four your 4th or 5th grade girls to stop playing basketball, we ask you to sign her up so we may provide the girls with their own league play. Kids Club is growing, so come join the fun," said Sonny Haskins.

Registration fee is $15.

Call Sonny or Tinde Haskins at 669-7762 or 669-6732.

PAMPA — Pampa Optimist Club is offering two boys' basketball leagues: third-fourth grades and fifth-sixth grades.

Sign-ups are scheduled for tonight and Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 and Saturday from 9 to 1 at the Optimist Club.

Sign-up fee is $35.

Anyone interested in helping with the basketball program can call Bill Simon at 669-3353 (work) or 669-9695 (office).

HOCKEY

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San Jose defenseman Bill Houlder falls back to an old adage to explain the Dallas' Stars dominance over the Sharks. "An old hockey phrase is: 'Good teams win the one-goal games,'" he said. "They've been the better team this year." It was certainly true Wednesday night, when the Stars withstood a barrage of late shots by the Sharks to claim a 2-1 victory.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Jarome Iginla scored the go-ahead goal with 11:22 left in the third period and Theo Fleury had two assists Wednesday night as the Calgary Flames beat the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 2-1.

Jason Wiemer scored his first goal in more than a month for the Flames, who have won two of three following an eight-game losing streak.

Fred Brathwaite, the seventh goaltender to play for Calgary this season, made his third consecutive start since joining the club from the Canadian National Team and stopped 31 shots. The only one to elude him was Fredrik Olausson's power-play goal in the second period.

Iginla scored at the end of a two-on-one break, beating Guy Hebert high to the stick side with a wrist shot from the left circle for his 16th goal and first game-winner of the season.

Playing before a crowd of 13,542, their smallest home crowd since joining the NHL in 1993, the Ducks did not get a shot on net during the first six minutes of the first or second periods.

RODEO

DENVER, Colo. (AP) — Bareback bronc rider Neal Dillahunt of Herford, Ariz., scored 85 points on a horse named Starlight in the first performance of the National Western Stock Show Rodeo Wednesday night.

Dillahunt's ride bested three Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world champions in the opening performance.

Mark Gomes, the reigning world champion from Hutchinson, Kan., scored a 79; Eric Mouton from Weatherford, Okla., scored a 78 while Deb Greenough from Red Lodge, Mont., scored out of the top four.

Seven-time all-around cowboy Ty Murray of Stephenville, Texas, will headline Thursday night's performance. He will compete in bareback bronc, saddle bronc and bull riding.

Three-time world champion calf roper Fred Whitfield from Hockley, Texas will compete in both the calf roping and the team roping.

Johnson says he's staying after all

■ Huizenga rushed back from a baseball meeting in California after word surfaced late Wednesday that Johnson was prepared to end his tenure after three seasons.

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Jimmy Johnson, on the verge of quitting, changed his mind today and will remain as coach of the Miami Dolphins.

Instead of announcing his resignation, Johnson said former Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt, a former assistant of his in Dallas, will join the Dolphins as assistant head coach to give him more free time.

"My determination and my commitment is not one bit less than it was before," Johnson said. "But I will spend a few more hours with my family. ... For some of you, you have me for at least one more year."

He told a news conference he would "coach like the dickens" to bring Miami a championship.

Johnson said the death of his mother, Allene, on Dec. 20 and his father's battle with cancer had made him realize that he needed to spend more time with his family, especially since he was marrying his longtime girlfriend, Rhonda Rookmaaker.

Johnson's voice broke and he turned emotional when he spoke of arriving late at his mother's funeral.

"There's time you pull back and you say, 'Be with people you care about. Don't shortchange them.' That's what I plan on doing," he said.

Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga convinced Johnson today that hiring Wannstedt would allow him to have more time off from the 15-hour workdays during the season.

Instead of announcing his resignation, Johnson said former Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt, a former assistant of his in Dallas, will join the Dolphins as assistant head coach to give him more free time.

Huizenga rushed back from a baseball meeting in California after word surfaced late Wednesday that Johnson was prepared to end his tenure after three seasons.

That stunning news came less than a week after the Dolphins were eliminated from the NFL playoffs with a 38-3 loss in Denver.

The 55-year-old Johnson is under contract through 2000 after signing a one-year extension in April.

"I really believe that we're a couple of playmakers away offensively from getting that championship," Johnson said.

He said Wannstedt would be a "true" assistant head coach, and not a figurehead.

"He will work with all three areas — offense, defense, special teams, just like I do," Johnson said.

Asked who will wear the headset on Sundays, Johthe 1987 national championship and led the Dallas Cowboys to consecutive Super Bowl titles in 1992-93. He was hired by the Dolphins in January 1996 and said he would have the team in the NFL title game in three years, but he has won only one playoff game with Miami

Miami has made steady progress since Johnson replaced Don Shula. The Dolphins went 8-8 in his first season, 9-7 in 1997 and 10-6 this season.

They reached the playoffs in 1997 and earned their first playoff victory in four years this season, beating the Buffalo Bills 24-17. Johnson's competitive zeal seemed as intense as ever after that game, when he celebrated by crushing a box of Flutie Flakes in the locker room.

Johnson said recently that he believes Miami needs only a couple of offensive playmakers to join the NFL's elite. Following the Denver debacle, he said he didn't consider the loss devastating, but said Miami simply must earn a higher seed in next season's playoffs.

"I told our players that you need to win enough games during the season to get a bye, get people healthy and get ready for an opponent," Johnson said. "We didn't win enough games during the season to get that advantage."

Johnson simplified the team playbook this season to put more emphasis on the run and less pressure on his 37-year-old quarterback, Dan Marino, but the offense frequently sputtered. The defense, however, allowed the fewest points in the NFL.

A wave of late-season injuries and playing at Denver were too much for the Dolphins to overcome. Johnson was uncharacteristically pessimistic before the game, saying the Dolphins faced almost insurmountable odds to win the Super Bowl.

Harvesters tip off Dist. 3-4A season against Hereford

PAMPA — Friday night, the Pampa Harvesters start their search for a way back into the playoffs with a District 3-4A opener against Hereford in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Harvesters have missed out on the playoffs the past two years after winning the Class 4A championship in 1996.

Hereford, meanwhile, is coming off a playoff season. The Whitefaces finished second in the district race and advanced to the area round before being eliminated.

Pampa completed the non-district season with a 9-11 record. Hereford closed at 15-6.

Pampa gained some momentum for the district opener after outlasting a strong Childress squad, 51-47, last Friday night. Sophomore guard Gary Alexander paced the Harvesters with 17 points while senior guard Shawn Young chipped in 12. The Childress win snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Harvesters are expected to be a full strength for the clash with Hereford.

Junior guard Jesse Francis has been bothered by the flu bug, but he's expected to be healthy for tomorrow night's 7:30 tipoff. Francis is averaging around 6.0 PPG.

Alexander and Young are Pampa's scoring leaders with Alexander averaging almost 15 points a game and Young,10.0 ppg. Junior inside player Russell Robben is averaging right at 9 points per outing.

Guards Colby Hale and Bobby Holmes are both averaging around 4.0 pgg.

Hereford's attack is paced by two sophomores, guard Cody Hodges and forward Chayse Rives. Both have been averaging in double figures. Hodges has had a 25- point outing.

Another sophomore, Slade Hodges, and senior forward Mitch Wagner are also scoring threats.

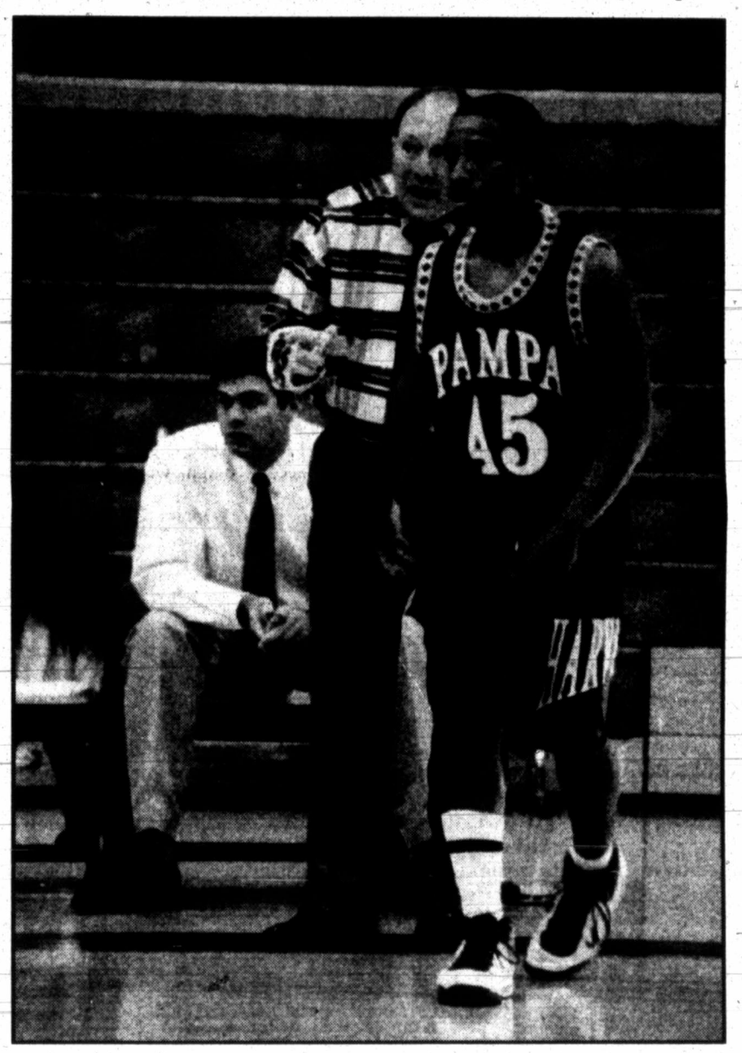
• • • • •

Pampa's Lady Harvesters will be looking to get back on the winning track in their District 3-4A game against Hereford at 6 Friday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Lady Harvesters, 1-1 in district play, dropped a 36-35 heartbreaker to Dumas on Tuesday night.

Hereford, also 1-1, will be looking for a win after dropping a 50-40 decision to Palo Duro on Tuesday night.

Pampa is 9-8 on the season while Hereford is 16-9.



(Pampa News photo by Jerry Heasley)

PHS coach Robert Hale discusses a play with sophomore guard Gary Alexander during a recent game. Alexander is Pampa's scoring leader going into Friday night's District 3-4A opener with Hereford. Tipoff will be around 7:30.

Groom teams win loop tilts

GROOM — Groom girls opened their District 9-1A basketball season in a big way.

The Tigerettes on Tuesday night rolled to a lopsided 79-31 victory over Samnorwood.

Groom's Candace Bohr led all scorers with 15 points. Jessica Stapp added 12 points and Jessica Kepley had 11.

Candice Brewer had 5 points to lead Samnorwood.

Groom downed Samnorwood, 57-35, in the boys' game and the Tigers evened their district mark at 1-1.

Josh Evenson had 17 points to lead the Tigers while Chris Ollinger chipped in 11 and Daniel Treadwell 10.

Luke Carter had 17 points for Samnorwood.

McLean cagers sweep Lefors

McLEAN — Amanda Cline scored 25 points as McLean defeated Lefors, 81-22, Tuesday night in a District 9-1A girls' game.

Lacey Steel added 16 points to the Tigerettes attack.

Penny Summers had 9 points and Amber Ehmann 6 for Lefors.

McLean downed Lefors, 55-41, in the boys' game.

Brett Montgomery led McLean scorers with 17 points. Ike Hanes and Randy Floyd had 10 points each.

Michael Steel and Len Lock had 11 and 10 points, respectively, for Lefors.

New baseball economic system committee meets

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) — With some owners calling for a new economic system, baseball has appointed yet another study committee.

Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, Yale president Richard Levin and television commentator George Will were selected Wednesday for a "Blue Ribbon Task Force on Baseball Economics."

"I thought this time, frankly, I wanted to find some people outside the game who could bring a fresh approach, an insightful approach, whose credentials are impeccable," commissioner Bud Selig said.

Selig emphasized that he doesn't think baseball "can take another work stoppage," but also said, "We have to find other ways to make changes.'

Change is exactly what the players association, which vows to defend free agency and salary arbitration, is opposed to.

Eying the salary ceiling NBA owners got their players to agree to last week, some baseball owners have called for massive economic change — which could lead to another labor confrontation.

"I'm convinced the current leadership of baseball will bring about change," said John Henry, whose $150 million purchase of the Florida Marlins was unanimously approved. "I think Florida baseball would be in a sad state of affairs without change."

Volcker was head of the independent study panel appointed jointly by owners and the union following the 1990 spring training lockout. Mitchell, currently heading a panel investigating alleged bribes involving the awarding of the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City, was mentioned as a possible candidate for commissioner several years ago.

Will is on the boards of the Baltimore Orioles and the San Diego Padres. Levin did economic study work for owners during the last round of collective bargaining.

"The player compensation system we have is a Rube Goldberg contraption. It is completely out of whack," San Diego Padres president Larry Lucchino said.

Fourteen club officials also were picked for the panel, which will be chaired by Boston's John Harrington and Colorado's Jerry McMorris.

This time, the union won't be involved, but will be invited to attend some meetings. Union head Donald Fehr, reached at his home, declined comment.

"I can't stand here and tell you we don't have a disparity problem. You know that we do and I know we do," Selig said. "The thing we can't ignore is the economic realities we confront. We need to address them."

Owners' desires to change the system led to the 232-day strike in 1994-95 that wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years. It was baseball's eighth work stoppage since 1972.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' $105 million, seven-year contract with Kevin Brown — baseball's first $100 million deal — has prompted several teams to call for an overhaul.

"The player compensation system we have is a Rube Goldberg contraption. It is completely out of whack," San Diego Padres president Larry Lucchino said. "It is one thing to have the first million dollar player, it is another thing when you have the first hundred million player."

Baseball's collective bargaining agreement runs through the 2000 season, but the players association is expected to exercise its option to extend it for an additional year. If that happens, the earliest a confrontation could occur would be in spring training 2002.

Henry purchased the Marlins from H. Wayne Huizenga, a billionaire who also owns the NFL's Miami Dolphins and heads the public company that owns the NHL's Florida Panthers.

Huizenga founded the Marlins, who started play in 1993. He became disenchanted in 1997 when Florida failed to fund a publicly financed ballpark with a retractable roof. He became convinced the government wouldn't finance a ballpark for a billionaire.

"It's been six years since the Huizenga family brought baseball to South Florida," he said. "We did not want to sell our team."

The team Henry takes over is a shell of the club that won the World Series in 1997. After the Marlins beat Cleveland to win the World Series in their fifth year of existence, Huizenga began a payroll purge.

Florida's payroll dropped from $52.5 million to $19.1 million, and the Marlins went 54-108, the worst record ever for a defending champion and the poorest record in the National League since 1969.

Henry, who formally takes over after the deal closes next Tuesday, has said he would pay for a stadium if the government doesn't fund one. But he said that route would condemn the Marlins to low payrolls and perennial mediocrity.

"You have to pay for players or pay for a ballpark," he said.

Henry approved as Marlins new owner

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) — By this time next week, the Florida Marlins will have a new owner. Change on the field, however, could be years away.

"I've been thinking about what to do to return winning baseball to South Florida. It's a big challenge," John Henry said Wednesday after his $150 million purchase was given unanimous approval, ending H. Wayne Huizenga's topsy turvy reign.

Henry, a 49-year-old commodities trader from Boca Raton, Fla., formally takes over after the deal closes next Tuesday.

"It's been six years since the Huizenga family brought baseball to South Florida," said Huizenga, who has not attended many owners' meetings in the past five years. "We did not want to sell our team."

Huizenga founded the Marlins, obtaining the franchise in July 1991. The expansion team started play two years later, saw attendance plummet after the 1994-95 strike, then won a surprising World Series title in 1997 after doubling its payroll from $25.3 million to $52.5 million.

But Huizenga, a billionaire who also owns the NFL's Miami Dolphins and heads the public company that owns the NHL's Florida Panthers, became disenchanted when Florida and Miami officials failed to fund a stadium with a retractable roof. He became convinced the government wouldn't finance a ballpark for a billionaire.

Just weeks after the Marlins beat Cleveland in Game 7, he ordered an unprecedented payroll purge that saw the Marlins go from fifth-highest to No. 27 at $19.1 million.

Florida finished 54-108, the worst record ever for a defending champion and the poorest record in the National League since 1969. Just four players remain from the World Series roster: Antonio Alfonseca, Craig Counsell, Cliff Floyd and Livan Hernandez.

Among Henry's first tasks is convincing Florida and Miami officials to fund a ballpark. While he says he would pay for a stadium if the government doesn't fund one, he also says that would condemn the Marlins to low payrolls and perennial mediocrity.

"You have to pay for players or pay for a ballpark," he said.

Henry also is hampered by an ongoing relationship with Huizenga, who also owns Pro Player Stadium and SportsChannel Florida, which has the local television rights to Marlins games. Huizenga originally agreed to a deal between the Marlins and the TV network that extended for the next 25 years; as part of his negotiations with Henry, the TV deal will end after 12 seasons.

Henry immediately joined the ranks of baseball owners calling for economic change. NBA players agreed last week to the first-ever limit on individual salaries among the four major North American professional sports. Some baseball owners want that, too, when it comes time to renegotiate their collective bargaining agreement, probably after the 2001 season.

"Things have gotten so bad that something will have to be done," Henry said. "I'm convinced the current leadership of baseball will bring about change. ... I think Florida baseball would be in a sad state of affairs without change."

Huizenga, who was the wealthiest individual owner in baseball, gave a goodbye speech during the 2-hour major league meeting, then introduced Henry.

"It was an emotional moment for everybody," Marlins general manager Dave Dombrowski said.

IOC rules out sanctions; grand jury reportedly will hear evidence

By KRISTEN MOULTON
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The IOC has ruled out further punishment of the battered Salt Lake Olympics effort. Federal investigators probing bribery allegations surrounding the city's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Games might not be so charitable.

A federal grand jury in Salt Lake City will begin hearing evidence of tax fraud and bribery as early as next week, The Salt Lake Tribune said today.

Prosecutors will deliver subpoenas to key players in the Olympic scandal. Many of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee records already reviewed by the International Olympic Committee, the U.S. Olympic Committee and by SLOC's own ethics panel have made their way to the FBI's Salt Lake City headquarters, where Department of Justice attorney Richard Wiedis is heading the government's bribery probe.

"It's the horse before the cart kind of thing," one federal official told The Salt Lake Tribune. "This is the natural next step."

The speed of the subpoenas might suggest the scandal presents federal investigators with a troublesome time limit. Much of federal law is ruled by a five-year statute of limitation. Any violation of the fraud and bribery laws prior to 1993 could fall outside the Justice probe unless it was shown to be part of an ongoing conspiracy to defraud.

Meanwhile, Jacques Rogge, a member of the IOC panel looking into allegations, announced, "The commission will not recommend any action against Salt Lake City. There is no action to be taken."

Rogge said he understood that "around a dozen" IOC members had been implicated in the investigation of Salt Lake, but rejected calls for IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch's resignation as "ridiculous."

USA Today, citing unidentified sources with knowledge of the inquiry, reported today that the IOC sent letters to 13 of its members demanding explanations of activities in the Salt Lake City bid.

Rogge also said the IOC was prepared to investigate charges of corruption in other campaigns, including claims that Sydney officials were approached for bribes during their successful bid for the 2000 Summer Games.

Rogge, a Belgian member of the IOC's executive board, said the six-man investigative panel had considered sanctions against Salt Lake officials connected with the 2002 bid.

But he said such action was ruled out when the organizing committee's two top officials, president Frank Joklik and vice president Dave Johnson, resigned last week amid four investigations of cash payments, lavish gifts and scholarships from Salt Lake bidders to IOC members.

"The people who were in the bid are no more," Rogge said in a telephone interview. "They took the actions they thought were needed."

In other developments Wednesday:

— Utah officials confirmed that Olympic boosters used state airplanes to ferry IOC members and others to scenic spots.

— Salt Lake's KTVX-TV resurrected the long-rumored allegation that the Salt Lake bid committee arranged female escorts for IOC members.

The station quoted unidentified sources it said were close to SLOC and the escort industry as saying IOC members asked SLOC staffers both in Salt Lake City and at IOC meetings overseas to arrange escorts. One source said SLOC leaders were flabbergasted at the much higher cost overseas. The station said a downtown hotel provided a free room for IOC members and escorts.

State spokesmen have said they've never been able to confirm the reports that escorts were provided.

— IOC member Anita DeFrantz says one way to avoid corruption in the site selection process is to permanently end site visits.

"If you are not visiting, then you are not put in the position of saying, 'Thank you, but I don't want to accept that gift,' " DeFrantz told The Denver Post in an article published today.

Competition among cities to host the Olympics then would be "reduced to what it ought to be," said DeFrantz, one of two U.S. members of the IOC. "Not a competition of who has the best gifts under $150, but a competition of who has the best opportunities for athletes to have safe and fair competition."

Travel simply isn't necessary in judging which city would do the best job playing host to the Games, DeFrantz said from her office in Los Angeles.

Michael Payne, the IOC's marketing chief, said IOC leaders will consider this and other reforms this month. Meanwhile, Samaranch has issued a temporary ban on site visits in connection with the 2006 Olympics.

Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll fared Wednesday:

1. Connecticut (14-0) did not play. Next: vs. Pittsburgh at Hartford, Conn., Saturday.
2. Duke (16-1) beat Wake Forest 82-72. Next: vs. Florida State, Saturday.
3. Cincinnati (15-0) did not play. Next: at North Carolina Charlotte, Thursday.
4. Stanford (13-2) did not play. Next: at Southern California, Thursday.
5. Maryland (16-2) beat No. 9 North Carolina 89-76. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
6. Kentucky (14-4) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Saturday.
7. Arizona (11-1) did not play. Next: at Arizona State, Thursday.
8. Auburn (16-0) beat Mississippi 74-59. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.
9. North Carolina (14-4) lost to No. 5 Maryland 89-76. Next: at North Carolina State, Saturday.
10. UCLA (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
11. St. John's (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Saturday.
12. Iowa (13-1) did not play. Next: at No. 19 Minnesota, Saturday.
13. Purdue (14-3) beat Illinois 63-54. Next: vs. No. 23 Indiana, Saturday.
14. Michigan State (13-4) beat No. 19 Minnesota 71-55. Next: at Illinois, Saturday.
15. Kansas (12-3) did not play. Next: at Massachusetts, Saturday.
16. New Mexico (15-2) beat San Jose State 82-81, OT. Next: vs. No. 7 Arizona, Saturday.
17. Wisconsin (15-3) beat Penn State 61-58. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
18. Syracuse (11-4) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Saturday.
19. Minnesota (10-3) lost to No. 14 Michigan State 71-55. Next: vs. No. 12 Iowa, Saturday.
20. Texas Christian (13-2) did not play. Next: at Wyoming, Thursday.
21. Ohio State (13-4) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Saturday.
22. Oklahoma State (11-4) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Sunday.
23. Indiana (15-5) beat Northwestern 81-78. Next: at No. 13 Purdue, Saturday.
24. Arkansas (12-4) beat Mississippi State 61-59. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.
25. Clemson (12-5) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Sunday.

TRANSACTIONS

Baseball, American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Eric Fox coach for Akron of the Eastern League; Eric Wedge manager of Kinston of the Carolina League; Brad Komminsk manager, Ricky Gutierrez coach and Carl Willis pitching coach for Columbus of the South Atlantic League; and Jack Mull manager, Billy Williams coach, and Sam Militello pitching coach for Burlington of the Appalachian League.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with OF-DH Billy Ashley on a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with C John Marzano on a minor league contract.

National League

MONTREAL EXPOS—Agreed to terms with OF Derrick May and C Darron Cox on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association<B>

CHICAGO BULLS—Announced the retirement of G Michael Jordan.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Named Chris Ford coach and Jim Brewer and Jim Todd assistant coaches.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed Tom Coughlin, coach, to a four-year contract extension through 2003.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Fired Paul Boudreau, offensive line coach, and Steve Walters, wide receivers coach.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Added Paul Chryst and Mark Banker to the coaching staff.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Named Fritz Shurmur defensive coordinator, Mike Sherman offensive coordinator, Jim Lind linebackers coach, Tom Lovat offensive line coach, Nolan Cromwell wide receivers coach, Larry Brooks defensive line coach, and Bob Valesente defensive backs coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

COLORADO AVALANCHE—Assigned G Marc Denis to Hershey of the AHL.

DETROIT RED WINGS—Assigned F Petr Klima to Adirondack of the AHL.

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Assigned F Peter Worrell to New Haven of the AHL.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Acquired D J.J. Daigneault from the Nashville Predators for future considerations.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Assigned F Steve Kelly to Cleveland of the IHL.

COLLEGE

MID-CONTINENT CONFERENCE—Suspended Chicago State men's basketball coach Bo Ellis and Oakland men's basketball coach Greg Kampe one game each for violations of the league's Code of Ethics.

ALABAMA—Announced that OL Mookie Moore has transferred to Troy State.

FLORIDA—Named Jon Hoke defensive coordinator.

MICHIGAN—Suspended OL Jason Brooks and FB Ray Jackson indefinitely for violating team rules.

TEXAS SPORTS

Houston Bowl Game

HOUSTON (AP) — The commissioner of the Mid-American Conference has submitted an application to the NCAA bowl certification committee to return postseason college football to Houston.

"The interest is there from Houston and the metropolitan area," the commissioner told Houston television station KRIV. "We haven't identified which conferences we'll be working with, but we are close."

He helped create both the Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn., and the Motor City Bowl in Detroit. The earliest a Houston game could take place would be December 2000.

The initial site for the game would be the Astrodome.

Houston hasn't hosted a postseason game since the Bluebonnet Bowl, which last was played in 1987. The Mid-American Conference mostly features schools from the Midwest.

St. Louis-Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Justin Love scored 18 points as St. Louis beat Houston 69-61 Wednesday night.

Four St. Louis players hit double figures with Virgel Cobbin getting 16, Matt Baniak 11 and Justin Tatum 10.

The Billikens (8-8, 3-1 in Conference USA) hit eight of nine free throws the last 1:30 to hold on after leading by as many as 12 late in the game.

Houston (6-8, 1-3) got game highs of 20 points and 13 rebounds from Kenny Younger and 16 points from Gee Gervin. William Stringfellow added 11 rebounds.

The Cougars took a 13-8 lead six minutes into the game with Younger scoring 6 of his 12 first-half points. But St. Louis rallied by hitting 5-of-6 in the field over the next three minutes to tie it at 17.

Texas Tech-Texas A&M women

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — No. 6 Texas Tech survived against unheralded Texas A&M, but Lady Raiders coach Marsha Sharp says her team didn't deserve it.

Angie Braziel had 29 points and 17 rebounds and Rene Hanebutt sank a pair of free throws in the final seconds Wednesday as No. 6 Texas Tech held on to beat Texas A&M 68-65.

"We were the David and they were the Goliath," said Texas A&M head coach Peggie Gillom. "But David didn't come through tonight. I'm proud of these girls. I told them to believe we could win this game tonight."

The Lady Raiders (15-1, 4-0 Big 12) led the entire game, including 35-27 at halftime, but could never pull away from A&M (6-8, 1-3).

Prissy Sharpe, who led the Lady Aggies with 20 points, hit a 3-pointer with 5:06 to cut Texas Tech's lead to 64-62.

Texas-Baylor women

WACO, Texas (AP) — Lara Webb had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 9 assists and Danielle Crockrom added 20 points Wednesday night, leading Baylor in an 82-63 victory over Texas.

The Bears (9-6, 1-3 Big 12) led 35-25 at halftime and opened a 20-point lead in the second half. It was Baylor's largest margin of victory over a Texas team since 1975.

Edwina Brown scored 23 points for Texas (8-6, 2-2), which was outrebounded 53-49 and outscored 42-26 in the paint.

Toya Ellis had 14 points, while Monica Arnold and Kacy Moffitt each added 10 to join Webb and Crockrom in double figures for the Bears.

Kim Lummus added 10 points for Texas.

Stars 2, Sharks 1

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Mike Modano scored his 14th goal of the season just 46 seconds into the game and the Dallas Stars went on to hold off the Sharks 2-1 Wednesday night, ending San Jose's four-game unbeaten streak.

The Stars, who defeated the Sharks in the first round of the playoffs last year, remain atop the Western Conference with the NHL's best overall record at 26-7-7.

The Sharks, who had not lost at home in six games, avoided the shutout with Stephane Matteau's goal 2:10 into the third period. Matteau tapped the puck past Stars goalie Roman Turek after Mike Ricci's shot hit the left post and bounced across the crease.

Turek stopped 31 shots, including 15 in the third period alone.

The Stars struck early, when Modano beat Sharks goaltender Mike Vernon from in front of the crease less than a minute into the first period.

Brett Hull, who missed Tuesday night's game with a slight lower back strain, earned an assist on the play.

It took only 1:51 for the Stars to score in the second period. Sergei Zubov got his sixth goal of the season with a blast from the right point that sailed over Vernon's shoulder and into the net, putting Dallas up 2-0.

Vernon, who earned the 21st shutout of his career Monday in a 4-0 victory over the Los Angeles Kings, stopped 18 shots.

The Stars are 10-0-4 in back-to-back games this season. On Tuesday night, Dallas skated to a 2-2 tie at Edmonton.

Despite the long trip, the Stars skated confidently against the Sharks and wrapped up the season series between the two teams with a 4-1-1 record.

Stars center Joe Nieuwendyk was held out of the second-straight game with inflammation in his knee. He remained day-to-day.

Chicago's Jordan says it's perfect time to leave

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — He still can't shut the door.

Sitting on a stage at the middle of the same basketball court where he spun so much magic, Michael Jordan promised one final illusion. He was going to make himself disappear.

"It's the perfect time to walk away from the game," he said. "I'm at peace with that."

Contentment, though, is apparently not the same thing as a commitment.

Once the question-and-answer portion of the program was under way, someone asked Jordan if he was sure he would never don an NBA uniform again. He grinned, started at 95 percent, then bumped it to 99.9 percent, then once more to "never." A few minutes later, he was challenged to clean up the decimal point, to make the number a neat 100 percent.

He balked.

Why?

"Because it's my 1 percent," Jordan said, defiant to the end. "Not yours."

The correct answer would have been one-tenth of 1 percent, but why quibble over the math on this day? He is gone. For now. And at the very least, his leave-taking was so much more satisfying this time than last.

Five years ago, he was haunted by the ghost of a murdered father. His body was worn out from too many postseasons and the carnival atmosphere that surrounded the Dream Team. His nerves were worn thin from the constant demands of celebrity. He felt like he was living the movie of Elvis' final days.

On this dreary winter Wednesday, there was the sense that very little in Jordan's life was in need of repair. His health, his fortune and his family were intact. His legacy had never been more secure.

Back in 1993, Jordan said he would have no problem facing the day when a better man came along. "That's not one of my fears," he said. The ink on those words was barely dry by the time he set out to prove otherwise.

The following September, Jordan played in teammate Scottie Pippen's charity basketball game at the old Chicago Stadium. The lineups were packed with kids contending to become that better man. It turned out to be an exercise in futility. Jordan soared over, under and around Generation X to score 52, every one an exclamation point. One comeback and a three-peat later, he leaves again, without question, as The Man.

This time, when he says there is nothing else to prove, it is easier to take him at his word. He doesn't seem quite as restless. The competitive fire that made him punish teammates and opponents alike doesn't burn nearly as bright. What remains are embers, and those only smolder.

"The desire is always going to be there," Jordan said, "because if the desire is not there, that means the love wasn't there."

He is not fooling himself this time. He knows much of the romance is about to go out of his life. Jordan said he is prepared for that, too, that filling up the hours won't be the dilemma that some of us think.

"I don't think I can go into seclusion and certainly I can't solve the world's problems," Jordan said. "There's a lot of things out there, there's a lot of things I can lend my support to."

Other than raising his kids, most of Jordan's causes remain mercenary ones. He has an empire to look after, endorsement contracts to honor and a line of shoes and athletic wear — called "Brand Jordan," appropriately enough — to push.

He said he would be willing to help the Bulls and the NBA made the adjustment to life without him — but only so far. One reason Jordan gave for coming back last time was to school "the knuckleheads," to teach the youngsters who would take his place the proper respect for the game and the paying public. This time he leaves believing the kids will be all right.

Six victims, one village mortally wounded

PATIMA, Greece (AP) — This is a ghost town in the making.

And here the ghosts have names: the victims of a nearly five-year-old blood feud that has spilled far beyond this mountain village on Crete. The chain of vengeance — often called a "cycle of blood" — has reminded Greeks that some old ways persist in a country struggling to reinvent itself as fully modern.

"The vendetta is still a way of life to some people. Greece may be becoming more like the rest of Europe on the surface. But mentalities and customs don't change so quickly," said Aristides Tsantiropoulos, a former university professor who researches vendettas on this gun-flooded island.

On Jan. 5, a gunman took aim from an unfinished building in Athens. The bullets from the Kalashnikov tore into 31-year-old Yiannis Mouzourakis' chest. Mortally wounded, but clutching the Magnum pistol he always carried, he crawled between two parked cars in a place called Freedom Square. He died a short while later in a hospital.

Mouzourakis, who was living under an alias with his two children and pregnant wife, was the sixth death attributed to a vendetta that began in May 1994. Mouzourakis' mother was sexually abused and strangled on a road near their village of Patima, about 25 miles southeast of the port of Chania on Crete.

The two attackers, who were jailed, were part of a clan at odds with the Mouzourakis family over land disputes, police said.

Then came a series of killings over the next 13 months. The death toll: one member of the Mouzourakis family and three victims from the rival Dikonimakis clan. The slayings moved from Crete to the Greek mainland and back out to the Aegean island of Mytilene as the feuding families tried to avoid being hunted down, authorities said.

The alleged killer of one victim, Yiannis' 24-year-old brother Costas Mouzourakis, was caught but later escaped from prison. Several alleged accomplices also have been arrested, but no principal suspects have been caught.

Police investigations of all vendetta slayings are frustrated by the families' and neighbors' usual refusal to cooperate — similar to the "omerta" vow of silence among Italian mobsters.

"Everyone is too scared," said George Hohalakis, a police officer who patrols the villages of western Greece. "Fear that they could be next keeps them quiet."

An empty tavern stands at the entrance to the village, with its panoramic view of the sea and steep slopes of olive trees, laurel groves and the tentacles of huge aloe plants. Most homes are padlocked shut. Weeds and ivy vines shroud porches and gates. The town sign on the dirt and gravel road is riddled with bullet holes.

In Patima, the hub of the current vendetta, the violence is also bleeding life from the village.

Less than 10 people remain — a tenth of its population a decade ago. Families involved in the vendetta have scattered. Some moved to other parts of Greece and there is speculation some children were sent abroad to live with relatives.

An empty tavern stands at the entrance to the village, with its panoramic view of the sea and steep slopes of olive trees, laurel groves and the tentacles of huge aloe plants. Most homes are padlocked shut. Weeds and ivy vines shroud porches and gates. The town sign on the dirt and gravel road is riddled with bullet holes.

A child's bicycle rusts in front of a vacant home.

"The vendetta killed our village," said an elderly woman who refused to give her name. "I look around and want to cry."

The question of why the vendetta culture continues in Crete attracts a range of speculation.

Most theories point to the near-universal devotion to firearms, which are strictly regulated in Greece. Although illegal, guns are blasted with abandon at festivals and weddings. Nearly every rural household on Crete has at least one unregistered gun — a custom linked to the many battles of conquest and intercommunal rifts on the island.

In October, residents of a central Crete village took up arms against election officials to protest plans to merge with a larger community.

Some experts add that the long tradition of opposing central authority — dating back to centuries of Ottoman rule — feeds the vendetta culture.

"It is more important than anything else, even the law," criminologist Vasso Artinopoulou was quoted as saying.

Even a former Greek president, Christos Sartzetakis, had fled Crete for northern Greece to escape a vendetta involving relatives.

Similar blood feud traditions exist in Sicily, other parts of southern Greece and especially in neighboring Albania. Increasingly, the Albanian vendettas are slipping over into the large Albanian community in Greece.

But Greeks have felt particular consternation in the high-profile family war that began in Patima.

"This is returning us to the ruthless past — an age where you pick up a gun before thinking," wrote the daily newspaper Exousia.

Police have stepped up patrols around Patima, hoping to intercept one of the main suspects in the blood feud. Airports and ferries also are under surveillance, police said.

"I don't think this is the end," Hohalakis said. "There are too many people out there looking to pay back a killing."



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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF FRIEDA MAE LEWIS

Notice is hereby given that original letters of independent administration upon the Estate of Frieda Mae Lewis, Deceased, were granted to us, the undersigned, on January 11, 1999 in Cause No. 8458, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to me within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 11th day of January, 1999.

Don E. Ross
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
Frieda Mae Lewis,
Deceased
c/o Buzzard Law Firm
Suite 436, Hughes
Building
Pampa, Texas 79065
C-17 Jan. 14, 1999

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Juanita Ray Bewley, Deceased, were issued on January 11, 1999, in Cause No. 8459, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas to: IRA FREEMAN BEWLEY.

The residence of the Independent Executor is Pampa, Gray County, Texas; the post office address is:

c/o: Gene Thompson
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1461
Pampa, Texas 79066-1461

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 11th day of January, 1999.

By:Gene Thompson
Attorney for the Estate
State Bar No.: 19909720
C-18 Jan. 14, 1999

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JAN 14 1999

Administration looking for ways to get inspectors back to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Using a French proposal as a springboard, the Clinton administration is huddling with U.S. allies to try to find a way to get weapons inspectors back to Iraq to spur the country's disarmament.

While the administration is seeking to keep the pressure on Iraq on inspections, it also is signaling a new U.S. willingness to ease restrictions on Iraqi humanitarian purchases.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials said there were two more incidents in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq early today. In both cases, said the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, Iraqi defenses posed a threat to U.S. and British planes patrolling the zone.

An Air Force F-16 fighter fired a high-speed anti-radiation missile at a surface-to-air missile site and anti-aircraft artillery system.

An F-15 launched a precision guided missile at another surface-to-air missile site. In both cases, U.S. officials said, the American planes returned safely to base. There was no immediate report of damage to the targets.

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It was the fourth straight day Iraqi forces challenged the no-fly edict enforced by the United States.

A French proposal unveiled Wednesday at the United Nations would lift a nine-year-old U.N. oil embargo on Iraq in exchange for a new monitoring system that would focus on deterring Iraq from acquiring weapons of mass destruction rather than accounting for what it may have hidden.

In a tepid reaction, the State Department spokesman, James P. Rubin, said the French approach had some "positive elements." But, reflecting U.S. policy, he said Iraq should not be liberated from the sanctions until it rids itself of all weapons of mass destruction.

"We have a number of questions and concerns" about the French proposal, Rubin said. "The United States has always been skeptical and perhaps others are not as skeptical as we are" of Iraq's intentions.

Later, Vice President Al Gore, in a speech in New York City, said the United States "is willing to look at ways to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian programs in Iraq, including lifting current ceilings on funds which can be used to purchase food and medicine."

Gore, who was speaking to the Israel Policy Forum, a U.S.-based lobbying group, did not say when the administration would make a decision or whether it would monitor how Iraq would spend the money.

Iraq is now allowed to export up to $5.3 billion worth of oil over 180 days under the U.N. "oil-for-food" program. Proceeds are used primarily for food and medical supplies and to compensate Gulf War victims.

Privately, State Department officials stressed the United States was prepared to attack Iraq again if it continues to defy U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for disarmament or if it persists in interfering with U.S. flights over northern Iraq.

They said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would take up with government leaders in Egypt and Saudi Arabia tactics for deposing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. She will go to Cairo and Riyadh for talks at the end of the month after a three-day visit to Moscow.

Also on Albright's agenda is finding ways to get Iraq to distribute to its people the food and medicine it purchases from proceeds of the oil sales.

Rubin said that much of the purchased medicine and food is stored in government warehouses while Iraq insists the suffering of the Iraqi people should be alleviated.

On Tuesday, Iraq announced it planned to boost oil production to 3 million barrels a day from the current level of 2.5 million barrels.

Iraq's refusal to admit U.N. inspectors led to a missile and bombing attack last month by the United States and Britain. Russia, China and France all objected. In the aftermath, the Clinton administration is struggling to keep an inspection system alive.

Albright has consulted by telephone with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and will return to the subject on her trip to Moscow. State Department officials, insisting on anonymity, said some inspection system was essential to keep tabs on Iraq's remaining nuclear, chemical and biological weapons caches.

The French proposal has opened the door to active discussions, the officials said.

Local lender staff changes

Panhandle-Plains Federal Land Bank Association recently announced changes on its board of directors and staff beginning this month.

Wayne Garrett of Gruver was selected by the board to serve out the term of Jon "Mike" Garnett of Spearman. Garrett has been a member of the association some 17 years, operating in Hansford and Sherman Counties. Garrett and wife, Lou, produce corn, wheat and stocker cattle. Both of their children currently live in Lubbock.

Former chairman Garnett stepped off of the local board effective Dec. 31 to begin a term on the Farm Credit Bank's District Board. He will certainly be missed on the local board, but this area is fortunate to have Garnett representing it on the district board.

Staff changes were also announced in the Amarillo office. Steve Donnell was promoted to vice president and officer in charge of the Amarillo office. Cory Bruce was promoted from trainee to loan officer.

Gregg Lloyd, former officer in charge of the Amarillo office, was promoted to executive vice president, credit and chief financial officer of the association.

Panhandle-Plains FLBA has approximately $142 million in loans outstanding to farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in 16 counties. Officers are located in Amarillo, Pampa, Perryton and Plainview.

The association is under the direction of a stockholder-elected board of directors. Members include Larry E. Fairchild of Adrian; Dennis Babcock of Groom; Ervin J. Davis of Happy; Ronnie N. Hopper of Petersburg; Dean Turner of Matador; Jerry K. Oswalt of Abernathy; Dean H. Burger of Pampa; John C. Duke of Follett; and Steve Brown of Floydada.

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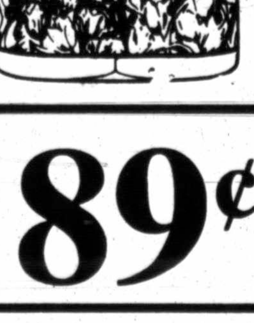
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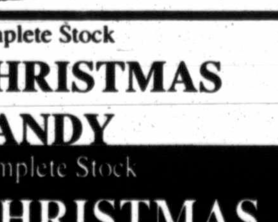
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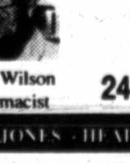
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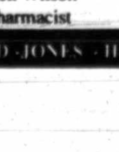


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President proposing five-year, $6 billion package to put 100,000 officers on beat nationwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, celebrating new data for 1998 that show a record low number of serious violent crimes, is proposing a five-year, $6 billion package to raise the ante on his nearly fulfilled pledge to put 100,000 new officers on the beat nationwide.

In the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics midyear report, due for release today, the total number of violent crimes for 1998 — both incidents reported to police and those unreported — is expected to fall below 3 million for the first time since 1973, when the bureau started its annual interviews with crime victims.

In conjunction with the release of the preliminary survey data, Clinton was venturing across the Potomac to Virginia today to outline a new community policing initiative. With a speech at an Alexandria police station, aides said, Clinton wants to dramatize the grassroots support for COPS, the community police project he began with the 1994 Crime bill and a call for 100,000 new cops on the beat.

"The momentum is so strongly on our side that if we continue to hire more police, to engage the community and to give police the technology they need to do a better job, we can continue to have dramatic reductions in the crime," Jose Cerda, crime specialist on the president's Domestic Policy Council, said Wednesday.

Clinton's new budget will ask Congress for $1.3 billion in fiscal 2000 — and a total of $6.4 billion over the next five years — to extend the COPS program, Cerda said. New hires under the program are expected to meet that goal by midyear. As of October 1998, the Justice Department reported the total had reached 88,500 and was climbing.

The balanced budget agreement reached by Clinton and congressional Republicans in 1996 planned to phase out COPS, allotting $300 million for fiscal 2000 and then shutting it down the following year.

But Clinton's proposed package would earmark $600 million for fiscal 2000, which starts Oct. 1, for the hiring of 30,000 to 50,000 additional officers, "with an effort to target new police officers to crime hot spots," Cerda said.

"We are hopeful that Congress will see the wisdom of continuing a very successful program that has, and will continue to have, strong law enforcement and local-level support," he said.

According to an advance copy of the Bureau of Justice Statistics' mid-year report, the 2.88 million serious violent crimes in the 1998 preliminary report compares to 3.04 million that the bureau reported in its final data for 1997. The number has been steadily dropping since a high of 4.19 million in 1993.

The survey defines serious violent crimes as rape, robbery, aggravated assault and homicide. If simple assault is factored in, the 1997 total rises to 8.61 million.

Property crime rates for 1998 are expected to be less than half what the 1973 rate of 520 per 1,000 households, according to the BSJ preliminary report.

In addition to the money designated for hiring new police, Clinton's proposed $1.3-billion package for fiscal 2000 would provide funds for competitive grant programs, including:

—$350 million for local police agencies to tap into new communication, crime-solving, and crime-analysis technologies.

—$150 million for communities to hire prosecutors and "neighborhood DA's" for locally tailored, preventive and crime-solving programs.

—$50 million for communities to acquire the technology for community-based prosecution programs.

—$125 million for innovative community programs, such as bringing schools and churches together in the fight against crime.

"This initiative is one of the few billion-dollar-plus increases" that Clinton is proposing in this year's budget, Cerda said. "The data from (the Bureau of Justice Statistics), we think, is a good indicator that it is working."

Third annual Vocal Camp slated for area youngsters

AMARILLO — The third annual Vocal Camp '99 will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 at St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 4600 S. Western, Amarillo.

For youngsters age 8-14, the event will feature classes in sight-singing, vocal pedagogy, ensemble practice, microphone techniques and other areas of vocal performance. Participants will alternate classes throughout the day and join together for a combined sing at the camp's conclusion.

Instructors will include Royal Brantley, West Texas A&M University Art, Communication and Theatre Department; Myla Gibson, Amarillo Opera director; Rod Zeman, Bonham Middle School choir director; Katrina Perales, Amarillo Opera; Jerry Perales, director of Amarillo Boy Choirs; and other area music educators.

Cost for Vocal Camp '99 is $25 for pre-registration or $30 at the door. Lunch is included. All children who register and pay by 5 p.m. Jan. 23 will receive a free camp T-shirt.

Private voice lessons will also be available for an additional $10 fee. These are limited and will be assigned to pre-paid registrants on a first-come basis.

"Vocal Camp is a rare opportunity for children to experience excellence in instruction from professional people who share their expertise and experience in a wide range of music applications," said camp director, Debbie Simpson.

To pre-register or for more information, call (806) 622-1955 or (806) 355-6614.

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STOCK

HEAVY WEIGHT HAMPSHIRE CLASS #9

Jennifer Maddox, first place, Fort Elliott FFA; Lindsay Scribner, second place, Pampa FFA; Danielle Arnold, third place, Panhandle FFA; Marcus Arnold, fourth place, Panhandle FFA; Bridget Craig, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Kari Lewis, sixth place, White Deer FFA.

MEDIUM WEIGHT SPOTS AND POLANDS CLASS #11

Justin Thomas, first place, Gray 4-H; Joel Bolz, second place, Pampa FFA; Kristen Dunn, third place, Pampa FFA; Jeremy Harper, fourth place, Pampa FFA.

HEAVY WEIGHT SPOTS AND POLANDS CLASS #12

Rindi Bowling, first place, Lipscomb 4-H; Justin Thomas, second place, Gray 4-H; Emily Nusser, third place, Gray 4-H; Lindsey Hampton, fourth place, Gray 4-H; Katie Schafer, fifth place, Hemphill 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT YORKSHIRE CLASS #13

Raydn Bowling, first place, Follett FFA; Byron Norton, second place, White Deer FFA; Kirk Roda, third place, Roberts 4-H; Jacob Seymour, fourth place, Shamrock FFA; Ramsi Bowling, fifth place, Lipscomb 4-H.

MEDIUM WEIGHT YORKSHIRE CLASS #14

Justin Freeman, first place, White Deer FFA; Meredith Couts, second place, Gray 4-H; Ashley Freeman, third place, Pampa FFA; Shaun Smith, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Meagan Crawford, fifth place, Gray 4-H.

HEAVY WEIGHT YORKSHIRE CLASS #15

Danielle Arnold, first place, Panhandle FFA; Blake Nusser, second place, Gray 4-H; Sy Slover, third place, Panhandle FFA; Melissa Brown, fourth place, Panhandle FFA; Ashley Price, fifth place, Gray 4-H.

LIGHT WEIGHT CROSS CLASS #16

Kody Roda, first place, Roberts 4-H; Bo Bryant Bohannon, second place Collingsworth 4-H; Justin Freeman, third place, White Deer FFA; Kurt Baggerman, fourth place, Roberts 4-H; Tanner Cochran, fifth place, Pampa FFA; Cory Jackson, sixth place, Gray 4-H; Jake Hopkins, seventh place, Gray 4-H.

MEDIUM WEIGHT CROSS CLASS #17

Meredith Couts, first place, Gray 4-H; Suni Jo Petty, second place, White Deer FFA; Samantha Parker, third place, Collingsworth 4-H; Cassie Hamilton, fourth place, Gray 4-H; Emily Nusser, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Brian Fuller, sixth place, McLean FFA; Shane Morgan, seventh place, Wellington FFA.

MEDIUM HEAVY WEIGHT CROSS CLASS #18

Byron Norton, first place, White Deer FFA; Kari Lewis, second place, White Deer FFA; Amy Freeman, third place, Pampa FFA; Cody Douglas, fourth place, Pampa FFA; Elizabeth Thomas, fifth place, Gray 4-H; Marcie Langley, sixth place, Collingsworth 4-H; Ashley Winton, seventh place, Pampa FFA.

HEAVY WEIGHT CROSS CLASS #19

Jimmy Craig, first place, Gray 4-H; Marcus Arnold, second place, Panhandle FFA; Aaron Haynes, third place, Pampa FFA; Cassie Petty, fourth place, White Deer FFA; Shane Morgan, fifth place, Wellington FFA; Alan Parker, sixth place, Gray 4-H; Blake Nusser, seventh place, Gray 4-H.