

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

BRIGGS, Florence Ardelle — 11 a.m., First Baptist Church, Lefors.
COPELAND, L.B. — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Shamrock.

MARIA HERRING

AMARILLO — Maria Herring, 45, died Monday, Feb. 4, 2002, at Amarillo. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

CHRIS WARD KELLEY

Chris Ward Kelley, 52, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2002. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

GUADALUPE CAMPOS 1943-2002

Guadalupe Campos, 58, of Pampa, died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2002, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Thursday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Francisco Perez, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Mr. Campos was born Dec. 11, 1943, at Victoria, Texas. He had been a Pampa resident for the past five years, moving from Slayton, and was a roofer in the construction business. Survivors include three brothers, Antonio Campos of Brownwood, Rudolfo Campos, Jr., of Wellington and Bruno Campos of Virginia; three sisters, Hortensia C. Vasquez of Pampa, Paz Beign of Slayton and Ephinia Garcia of Shamrock; and several nieces and nephews.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

A snow advisory is in effect through this afternoon. Today, snow with temperatures remaining steady near 30. East to southeast winds 5 to 15 mph becoming northeast 10 to 20 mph late. Total accumulations of one to three inches. Tonight, a 60 percent chance of evening light snow otherwise becoming partly cloudy. Lows near 22. North to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Little additional snow accumulation. Wednesday, mostly sunny. Highs around 41. West winds 5 to 10 mph. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows near 26. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs around 45. Thursday evening, partly cloudy. Friday and Saturday, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs in the middle 50s. Sunday and Monday, mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s to around 30. Highs in the middle to upper 50s.

STATEWIDE

Light rain and snow fell early Tuesday across the South Plains and extreme southern panhandle, with forecasters predicting the wintry mix would move eastward and intensify before midweek.

Winter storm warnings and snow advisories were posted by the National Weather Service. They covered the panhandle, South Plains and Permian Basin as well as North Texas.

Light snow was occurring from Lubbock to Childress and in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Meanwhile, rain covered much of the Permian Basin, Concho Valley, Trans Pecos and the far western mountains, extending across North Texas to Texarkana.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from 30 degrees at Dalhart to 59 at Brownsville.

Other readings included 43 degrees at Fort Stockton.

Winds were generally southeasterly around 10 mph, except for northerly gusts to 20 mph over the northwest panhandle.

Most rainfall amounts in North Texas were light — generally less than one-quarter inch. The National Weather Service said radar estimates were for one-half to three-quarters of an inch accumulations in some areas.

But forecasters predicted steady rain will change to snow north of a line from Graham through Decatur and McKinney to Emory by sunset. South of the line, snow will become mixed with rain with no accumulation expected.

Over a half-inch of rainfall was received north of Hamilton and northern Lake Whitney through Tuesday morning.

The North Texas forecast included a snow advisory for up to two inches in the northern-most two tiers of counties along the Red River and widespread rain elsewhere.

Highs should range from the 30s in the panhandle and South Plains to 50s in the Trans Pecos, far west and along the Big Bend.

Overnight lows were expected in the 20s except for 30s in the Edwards Plateau and Concho Valley.

Snowy weather hits West, North Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Bursts of large, wet snowflakes threatened to glaze parts of North Texas with a veneer of slush Tuesday as a winter storm brought the first wintry weather of the year to the area.

The same storm dumped snow in West Texas and the Panhandle as cold air clashed with an area of moisture. Forecasters said it was expected to pull out of the state by Wednesday.

There were some minor rush hour traffic delays in the Dallas area, but no other problems were reported.

From Dallas north and east to the Red River, snow amounts of 1-2 inches were possible by Wednesday morning, said National Weather Service meteorologist Shane Snyder.

He said the wintry weather could move westward to Fort Worth, depending on the how far the cold air spreads.

"Basically we have a cold area of high pressure to the northeast and we're kind of getting that cold air," he said.

City Briefs

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ON RECORD

FIRE

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

Monday, Feb. 4

4:04 p.m. — Three units and five firefighters responded to a possible drowning in Highland Park, 400 W. Pennsylvania. Two sisters were playing in the creek. One pushed the other into the water, then jumped in to help. Both were treated for hypothermia. (See related story and photos on Page 1.)

7:58 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1800 block of North Evergreen.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Feb. 4

7:58 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Wells and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

3:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Super Playground and transported two to PRMC.

7:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Charles and transported one to PRMC.

7:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Evergreen; no transport.

8:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Golden Plains Community Hospital in Borger and transported one to PRMC.

ACCIDENTS

The Pampa Police Department filed the following accident reports.

Friday, Feb. 1

No injuries were reported when a 1990 Toyota SUV driven by Ricky Speller, 18, 1128 N. Starkweather, backed from a parking space at 1420 N. Hobart and struck a parked Pontiac owned by Billy Van Sickle, 520 Lefors.

A possible injury was reported at the intersection of Price Road and Kentucky when a tanker truck driven by Juan Marquez, 47, 1431 N. Faulkner, hit a 1990 Ford pickup driven by Joseph Daniel Thomas, 28, Rural Route, Pampa. Conditions were icy. Thomas reported a possible injury.

A citation for being over height was issued to Randy Paul Grohs, when the load he was hauling with a Volvo tractor and trailer in the 100 block of South Hobart struck the railroad overpass knocking six large bales of hay into the roadway. No injuries were reported.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Icy conditions were blamed for an accident in the 700 block of East 15th where a 1991 Ford driven by Gary Lynn Hoskins, 812 Locust, slid into a legally parked 1999 Ford Crown Victoria owned by the City of Pampa. No injuries were reported.

Zachary Wade Skinner, 16, 1421 N. Williston, was cited for failure to control speed and driving with no driver's license after the 1993 GMC pickup he was driving in the 400 block of Randy Matson was involved in a one-vehicle accident. No injuries were reported.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	2.39	NOI	17.43	-0.53
Milo	3.29	KMI	50.04	-0.39
Corn	3.50	XCEL	25.60	-0.40
Soybeans	3.49	Kerr McGee	51.65	-0.43
		Limited	16.80	-0.95
		Williams	15.78	-0.58
		McDonald's	26.78	+0.18
		Erxon Mobil	38.30	-0.05
		Atmos	20.87	-0.04
		Pioneer Nat.	17.23	-0.24
		Penney's	24.03	+0.23
		Phillips	57.50	-0.43
		SLB	52.75	-0.72
		Tenneco	2.24	-0.01
		CVX	83.10	-0.82
		Wal-Mart	58.73	-0.17
		OKE	16.70	-0.11
		New York Gold	289.65	
		SiFer	4.30	
		West Texas Crude	20.07	

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

BP	45.78	-0.72
Celanese	18.96	-0.21
Cabot Corp.	32.55	-0.25
Cabot Oil Gas	19.56	-0.24
Coca Cola	44.97	+0.29

Budget holds \$'s for Pantex

AMARILLO (AP) — President Bush proposed a \$2.13 trillion budget Monday that pumps billions into the war on terrorism but challenges Congress by reining in resurgent deficits through cuts to job training, highways and scores of other programs.

Bush's proposed budget announced Monday gives both Pantex and the Bell Helicopter Textron V-22 project hefty increases.

Pantex would receive \$366.92 million for nuclear weapons assembly-related activities, up from \$352.83 million in the 2002 budget and \$316.8 million in 2001.

The Pantex Plant total budget is \$387.98 million, compared to \$376.71 million this year and \$340.32 million in 2001.

The budget proposal calls for a \$1.8 million decrease throughout Department of Energy weapons facilities for dismantlement and disposal.

The DOE budget notes indicate that part of the savings comes through management efficiencies at Pantex.

Containers and storage spending would increase from about \$18 million this year to \$32.3 million to meet safety requirements and to repackage plutonium pits in sealed inserts.

However, environmental restoration and waste management projects were cut from \$13.9 million in this year's budget to a proposed \$10.62 million.

The V-22-Osprey program, which was slowed for the better part of the past two years because of two fatal crashes, would receive

\$1.9 billion for production of 11 aircraft, compared to \$1.68 billion this year to produce nine MV-22 models for the Marine Corps and two test models in a version called the CV-22 for special forces operations.

The 2003 budget proposal calls for \$496.3 million to correct technical problems and additional testing.

In Washington, Democrats embraced Bush's national security plans. But they also blamed him and the ample tax cut he won last year for bringing back deficits and shortchanging domestic programs.

They complained that the budget would divert \$1.5 trillion in Social Security and Medicare surpluses during the next decade to pay for other programs. In flusher times, lawmakers from both parties promised to use that money for debt reduction.

"The budget should promote long-term economic growth through fiscal responsibility, investments in people and technology and honoring our commitments to Social Security and Medicare," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. "The administration's budget fails on all three counts."

The Democrats' criticism is just one reason Bush's blueprint will hit election-year trouble in Congress.

Conservative Republicans oppose letting deficits return on the GOP's watch. Party moderates may resist his proposed spending cuts in toxic waste cleanups, economic and urban development grants, and other programs.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CATTLE

Johnson is running for re-election this year in what is expected to be a tight race from his Republican challenger. The loss of one seat for the Democratic Party in the Senate would mean the loss of South Dakota's other Senator's job as leader of the upper chamber.

Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., is the Senate Majority leader.

The Senate is expected to take up the new farm bill within the next week or two. If and when they pass their version of the legislation, it will then go to a conference committee to be

reconciled with the House version which was passed last September.

Dr. Ronald Knutson, professor emeritus from Texas A&M who tracks agricultural politics in Washington, said there are actually two bills in the Senate dealing with the farm bill. One is backed by Daschle and the chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. The other was authored by Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, and Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.

Knutson said that if the Senate cannot decide between the two Senate proposals, it may send both to the conference committee.



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Business Review

First Class design at Pampa's Avenues

It's the only interior design in Pampa, and it has the latest in interior designs.

Avenues at 119 S. Western is the place to go for all your needs. The business offers a complete selection of interior design materials and services.

DeLynn Gordzelik and her mother, Pam Ashford, began the local business by custom making draperies and bedding in their work room. A few years later, Lori Fulton-

Groenwald joined them in the business as a licensed designer, #3907. She has been licensed for about 13 years.

Lori and DeLynn will go anywhere to assist their customers. They have designed homes all over the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles — including Stratford, Amarillo, Canadian, Miami, Panhandle and Guymon, Okla.

While reds, golds, purples and greens are very popular, it is the customer's preference that is important, said DeLynn.

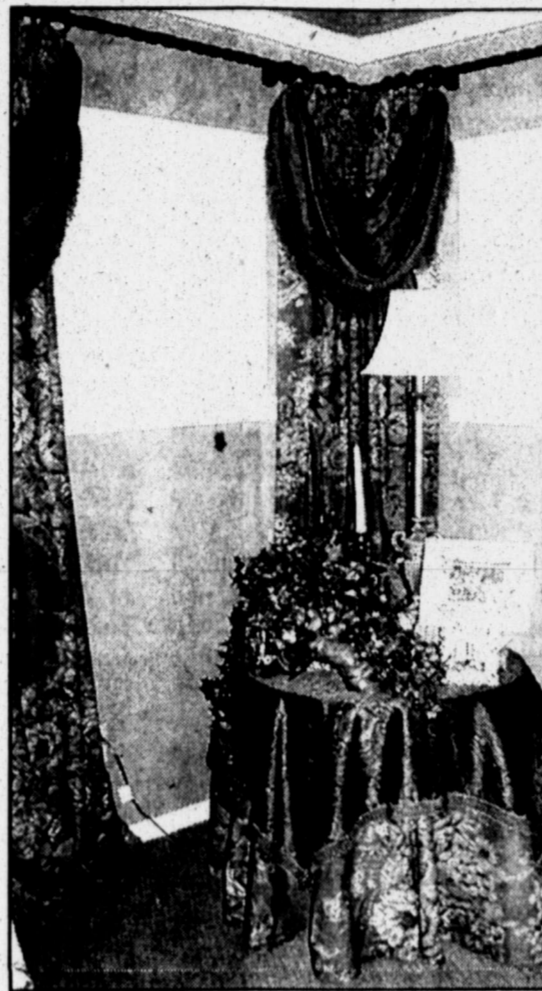
Blues and yellows are fashionable, but she said neutral colors are always popular.

"It just depends on the colors the client wants," said DeLynn. "Some people like bold colors and others prefer the most subdued and neutral colors."

She also said animal prints remain in vogue. Texture and colors of the fabrics has changed somewhat, she said. "The animal prints are available in an even broader range," said DeLynn.

Animal prints which are currently in fashion include leopard, mink, fox and zebra.

Whether it be the popular animal skins, fabrics with an oriental flair, the vintage look, or even the lodge design, DeLynn and Lori will uniquely design your home. The vintage look, or shabby chic, is quite



Custom-made drapes flank a table attractively decorated by Avenues' staff. The latest in lighting design and other accessories are available at the business at 119 S. Western.

transitional.

Lori, Pam and DeLynn are constantly updating their skills by attending seminars and workshops in design. The women keep abreast of the latest changes in styles and/or trends in fashion.

The women will help redecorate an entire home or only one room.

Avenues has a wide selection of wallpaper books for customers to browse through to make their selections. Four lines of wallpaper books are carried at the local business. Approximately 20 lines of fabrics and trims are available at the local store for the customer to make their selection.

Avenues has an attractive selection of accessories in stock for their customers.

Also available in Avenues are custom-made blinds as well as

anything made of fabric. A wide selection of upholstery fabrics is available to the customers, and the staff will make cushions to the customer specifications.

Lori and DeLynn go to their customers homes to assist with the arrangement. "We'll even help pick paint colors to match the draperies and wallpaper," said Lori.

The women say they will help pick out furniture or anything for the home.

Shopping for customers is another feature offered by the young women. If a customer prefers, Lori and DeLynn will obtain the customer preferences and do the shopping for them.

Providing high quality work is important to the young women. They will be pleased to discuss with customers any interior design job—large or small.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Lori or DeLynn at 665-0983 at their Pampa-based business.

Avenues, 119 S. Western, has an attractive selection of accessories in stock for their customers.



Lori Fulton-Groenwald and DeLynn Gordzelik provide the latest in design for their customers at Avenues, 119 S. Western.



Fresh flowers provide an added feature to a beautifully designed nook for Avenues' customers.

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SPORTS

National signing day brings no suspense

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — There is no more suspense to national signing day in Texas.

By Tuesday, 99 of the top 100 Texas recruits listed by Rivals100.com had already made public their college decisions. They just had to wait another day to sign their letters of intent and fax them to the college of their choice.

National signing day, when those verbal commitments of top high school seniors can be made official,

is Wednesday.

"The proverbial signing day announcement where a guy has three hats on a library table and picks one and puts it on, that's in the past," said Bobby Burton of the Rivals100.com.

With an unending stream of recruiting information available virtually year-round, there are few, if any, surprises any more.

"The way I look at it, it's much better on the coaches and players," Burton said. "It is getting players to make more deliberate decisions. There will also be some last-minute changes, but not last-

minute decisions.

"It's not as scintillating for fans and not as hair-raising for coaches."

It will be another good February for Texas coach Mack Brown, whose Longhorns have commitments from 18 of the top 100 recruits — including Houston Madison quarterback Vincent Young, the top-rated prospect nationally and statewide.

The Longhorns expect to sign 13 of the top 25 state prospects, with Flower Mound Marcus wide receiver Robert Timmons joining the group over the weekend and

becoming the latest member of the recruiting class already ranked the nation's best by Rivals100 and SuperPrep.

"There are an awful lot of good players," said Allen Wallace of SuperPrep. "I love what they've done in the trenches, their offensive and defensive line combination is about as good as you can ever hope for."

Only two of the other top 25 prospects, Lufkin's Reggie McNeal and 6-foot-3, 270-pound defensive lineman Earl Anderson from San Marcus, plan to stay in the state.

Reggie McNeal, the only one of the top five not going to Texas, is among 12 players from the state's top 100 list expected to sign with Texas A&M. Anderson plans to go to TCU.

Baylor and Texas Tech each expect to get three players from the top 100.

Longview linebacker Marvin Byrdsong, who made his verbal commitment to Mississippi State over the weekend, is one of the highest-ranked Texas players leaving the state. Notre Dame also expects to sign two of the top Texas players.

NOTEBOOK

FOOTBALL

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Larry Coker, the Miami Hurricanes' head coach was rewarded handsomely for winning the national championship, receiving a five-year, \$5.25 million contract.

CORRECTION

PAMPA — Nikki Medley of the Youth Survival Club of Pampa is being sponsored by Greg Brown of A.G. Edwards.

Nikki is a member of the club's boxing team, which will be competing later this month at the Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Championships in Lubbock.

BASEBALL

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota's Supreme Court refused to consider an appeal of an injunction that forces the Twins to fulfill their Metrodome lease, all but killing baseball's contraction plan for this season.

The high court's action means an injunction issued by a Hennepin County judge in November will stand — barring intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court, which is unlikely.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig did not return telephone calls seeking comment and Selig's spokesman, Rich Levin, said baseball was reviewing the decision.

MIAMI (AP) — Florida Marlins employees, worried about their future with the sale of the team pending, were told the franchise remains in limbo barely a week before the start of spring training.

Approval of the sale of the team to Montreal Expos owner Jeffrey Loria is likely next week, and he is expected to bring many Expos employees with him. That includes manager Jeff Torborg, interim general manager Larry Beinfest, executive vice-president David Samson and much of the scouting and player development departments.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bobby Abreu had an emergency appendectomy but won't miss the start of spring training.

Vacationing in Caracas, the Venezuela-born Abreu fell ill, hours after participating in a home run derby before the Caribbean Series. He was released in good condition and was expected to spend two to three weeks resting with family in the central city of Maracay.

BOXING

TOKYO (AP) — Willie Jorin remained unbeaten and retained his WBC super bantamweight title Tuesday after a draw against challenger Osamu Sato of Japan.

At Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum, the 32-year-old American knocked down Sato twice in the third round and looked set for an easy victory. The 25-year-old challenger fought back and held his own in the latter stages of the 12-round bout.

"I tip my hat to Sato," Jorin said. "He's a durable fighter."



(Courtesy photo)

Members of the 7th grade girls A basketball team are (front, from left) Whitney Morris and coach Deanna Polasek; (middle row, from left) Stephanie McVay, Nicole Clark, Candice Dildy and Shandale Young; (back row, from left) Logan Boles, Cassy Tice, McKinsie East and Britteni Rice.

7th grade girls end season

PAMPA — Pampa's 7th grade girls basketball team finished their season with games against Borger.

Pampa was defeated in the A team game by a score of 35-28.

Britteni Rice was Pampa's leading scorer with 20 points. Others who scored were Logan Boles 3, Cassy Tice 3, and Whitney Morris 2. Tice and McKensie East had 5 rebounds each, while Candice Dildy had 3.

Pampa finished fourth in district behind Canyon, Borger and Westover.

In the B team game, Pampa came out ahead 40-27 against Borger.

Scoring for Pampa were Maggie Hopkins with 10 points, Haley Skinner 9, Tanna Stowers 6, Kelsie Wyatt 5, Destiney Dora 4, Tamara Trevathan 2, Angela Mechelay 2 and Meredith Coutts

2. Wyatt led in rebounding with 6 rebounds, while Dora had 3, Trevathan 2 and Skinner 2.

Pampa finished tied for first with Canyon in the B team district.

Pampa also competed in the District Tournament held in Borger.

Pampa's A team placed fourth in the tournament.

Pampa's individual points and rebound totals were as follows: Britteni Rice 37 points, 14 rebounds; McKinsie East 14 points, 16 rebounds; Nicole Clark 12 points, 4 rebounds; Cassy Tice, 9 points, 4 rebounds; Logan Boles, 6 points, 10 rebounds; Stephanie McVay 4 points, 11 rebounds; Candice

Dildy 9 rebounds; Whitney Morris 2 points, 3 rebounds.

Pampa was fifth in the tournament's B team division.

Pampa's individual points and rebound totals were as follows: Haley Skinner 31 points, 11 rebounds; Maggie Hopkins 20 points, 10 rebounds; Angela Mechelay 18 points, 2 rebounds; Tanna Stowers 13 points, 7 rebounds; Kelsie Wyatt 9 points, 16 rebounds; Erika Silva 4 points, 8 rebounds; Meredith Coutts 4 points; Destiney Dora 3 points, 10 rebounds.

"Both teams have a great season," said Pampa coach Deanna Polasek. "They worked hard and played together so well. It was such a joy and privilege of mine to coach these girls this year. This group of girls will go a long way. I look forward to watching them play in the future."

Rockets snap Jazz 3-game win streak

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets considered the victory a matter of overcoming adversity. The Utah Jazz looked at the loss as a gift for the Rockets.

"Free throws were the story of the game," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "We had 50 points in the paint and we only shot 16 free throws. You tell me how that's possible."

Steve Francis shot 18-for-22 from the line and scored 33 points to lead the Rockets to a 104-97 victory over the Jazz on Monday night, snapping Utah's three-game winning streak.

"Any time you get the ball inside and score that many points, you would expect to have at least the same number or close to the same number of free throws as the other

team," Sloan said. "But they went to the line 41 times. That's a lot of free throws for a team that scored only 20 points inside."

Pampa at Borger for district games

PAMPA — Pampa travels to Borger for District 3-4A basketball action tonight.

While the Harvesters are still in the playoff hunt, the Bulldogs will be playing strictly for pride. Trying for a win in Borger's gym, however, is always a test for any Harvester team.

Pampa, (6-5 district, 16-14 overall), greatly increased its playoff hopes after last Friday night's 70-65 win over Randall. In that contest, the Harvesters hit 13 of 19 attempts from three-point range.

Despite the Bulldogs 2-9 district record, they came close to upsetting district leader Canyon last weekend. The Eagles won 61-57, holding off Borger in the fourth period.

Pampa is tied with Hereford for fourth place, a game behind Randall and Palo Duro. Canyon is the only team to clinch a playoff spot.

It will be the season's final game for the Lady Harvesters, who dropped a 52-50 thriller to Borger on Jan. 11 in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The Lady Harvesters were a perfect 18 of 18 from the foul line in a 55-33 loss to Randall last weekend.

PAMPA — Pampa defeated Randall 47-43 last weekend to take sole possession of first

High School Basketball

place in the district junior varsity standings.

Jed Martin had 12 points and Chance Bowers 11 to lead Pampa in scoring. Bowers and Clayton Hall had 5 rebounds each, while Hall was a defensive standout.

The Shockers made good on 15 of 22 field goal attempts. With three games remaining, the Shockers are 10-1 in district and 19-7 for the season.

GROOM — Groom dropped a District 3-1A doubleheader to Hedley last weekend.

In the boys game, Groom dropped a 50-33 decision after falling behind due to a second-half scoring drought.

The score was tied 15-all at halftime.

Aaron Bugg topped Hedley in scoring with 15 points.

Clay Britten had 10 points and Luke Pavlovsky 9 for the Tigers.

Groom fell 73-60 in the girls game.

Leading the way for Hedley was Rebekah Howard with 23 points.

Groom's high-point scorer was Candace Bohr with 23 points. Amanda Conrad followed with 17.

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Super Bowl championships open to all contestants

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Now we can expect the Houston Texans and Carolina Panthers in next year's Super Bowl, right?

The way things are going in the NFL lately, the road to the championship is paved with losing. The weaker you are one season, the stronger you might be the next.

Take, for instance, the New England Patriots. They were 5-11 in 2000 and now are champions after upsetting the 14-point favorite St. Louis Rams 20-17 in the Super Bowl.

The oddsmakers don't

believe they will stay on top, and why should they? The last three league champs were 4-12, 8-8 and 5-11 the previous season.

The Patriots, 50-1 shots this season, at least have improved their standing with Las Vegas oddsmakers. For next season, they are lumped with the Denver Broncos and Indianapolis Colts on the Imperial Palace board at 15-1, with the Rams favored at 3-1.

"We'll be underdogs, like we were all season, but that's OK," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said.

"We'll reload and be back here next year," Rams star Marshall Faulk said.

They might. But given

recent history, it makes more sense to look at the mediocre — or worse — for the 2002 season favorite. Consider that the last team with the NFL's best regular-season record that won the championship was Green Bay after the 1996 season.

While it's probably stretching things to pick the expansion Texans or the rebuilding Panthers, who come off 15 straight defeats, it isn't outrageous to look to the middle of the pack for contenders. Or maybe even below that.

Perhaps the Colts, with new coach Tony Dungy, make sense. If anyone can upgrade the Indianapolis defense, Dungy figures to be the guy.

And the Colts have another piece of ammunition in their bag: They went 6-10 this season.

Or perhaps New Orleans (7-9) has the right stuff to replicate what the Rams did in '99, the Ravens in 2000 and the Patriots on Sunday.

Remember that only the Rams have repeated their trip to the Super Bowl since the 1998 season. Otherwise, we have seen Atlanta, Denver, Tennessee, Baltimore, the New York Giants and the Patriots.

Here's another weird fact: Both top-seeded teams in the league have not made the Super Bowl together since the 1993 season, when Buffalo

and Dallas did it. In fact, wild-card teams aren't such long shots anymore, with Baltimore getting to the big game and winning it a year ago.

"It's a fact of life these days," Belichick said. "Every team changes players from season to season. Every team is forced to lose players it doesn't want to lose. I'd be happy to start next season with this same team, but we all know that's not going to happen."

Thanks to free agency and the salary cap, every team changes from year to year. How well teams keep their core players usually is more decisive than which free agents they bring in.

Usually, but not always. The Rams brought in defensive coordinator Lovie Smith, traded for Aeneas Williams, signed free agents Kim Herron and Don Davis and had a terrific draft. Can they expect such success in this offseason? Not likely.

The Patriots have to decide whether to keep Drew Bledsoe as the league's most expensive backup, at about \$7.5 million. With Tom Brady clearly their quarterback, Bledsoe probably is gone.

Maybe he'll go to the Panthers and turn them into the miracle team of 2002. Stranger things have happened — just about every year recently.

Red Wings start second half with victory over Avalanche

By **IRA PODELL**
AP Sports Writer

The Detroit Red Wings were ready to resume the NHL season. The Stanley Cup champions weren't.

The Red Wings improved on the NHL's best mark Monday, the first night after the All-Star break, by topping the lethargic Colorado Avalanche 3-1.

Colorado was outshot 32-11 through two periods, and by the time the Avalanche woke up in the third period — Detroit goalie Dominik Hasek was more than up to the challenge.

Hasek turned aside 13 shots in the third and 23 overall to help Detroit raise its league-high point total to 82.

"We played great the first two periods," Hasek said. "We outshot them, we outskated them and we were completely better. It seemed like they were not ready. They were very sluggish. Patrick Roy kept them in the game."

Roy stopped 30 shots — including 18 of 20 in the second period. The Red Wings scored on their only attempt in the third.

"In the third period, they had some good shots," Hasek said of Colorado. "But we played well defensively. We played just the way we needed to."

In other NHL games, it was Boston 8, Columbus 0; Ottawa 4, Tampa Bay 4; the New York Islanders 6, Florida 6; Vancouver 4, Phoenix 2;

and Philadelphia 3, Los Angeles 1.

The Avalanche have lost three straight — all at home — by a combined 14-7 score. It's the first time they've lost three in a row at home since Feb. 13-29, 2000, when they dropped four consecutive.

"Everyone had a layoff," Colorado coach Bob Hartley said, refusing to use excuses. "We are not sharp. Our decision-making is not there. Our reactions are not there. We are not supporting each other."

"Not to take anything away from the Red Wings, but we are capable of much better than this."

Darren McCarty and Kirk Maltby scored second-period goals, and Nicklas Lidstrom scored an empty-net goal with 2 seconds left for Detroit.

Scott Parker was the only Avalanche player to solve Hasek.

"Our team has a lot of confidence in Dominik," Detroit coach Scotty Bowman said. "We had a good goalie in Chris Osgood, but this guy is experienced. He has been one of the three better players in the league the last couple of years."

Islanders 6, Panthers 6

Dick Tamstrom scored the tying goal with 4:16 left in regulation as New York salvaged a draw in Florida after squandering a three-goal lead in the third period.

New York led 5-2 heading into the third, but the Panthers scored four times in a 7:13

span. Florida took the lead with 12:14 left in regulation on Robert Svehla's second goal of the game.

Alexei Yashin and Kenny Jonsson each had a goal and two assists for the Islanders.

Niklas Hagman, who had two goals and an assist, started Florida's comeback 33 seconds into the third period.

Senators 4, Lightning 4

Daniel Alfredsson scored two goals, including the equalizer with 40.7 seconds left in regulation, as Ottawa tied Tampa Bay.

The Senators are unbeaten in five games (2-0-3).

Tampa Bay took a 4-3 lead after Pavel Kubina and Brad Richards scored two minutes apart late in the third period.

The Senators, who also had goals from Magnus Arvedson and Karel Rachunek, are 7-0-1 in the last eight meetings with Tampa Bay.

Vincent Lecavalier and Vaclav Prospal had goals for the host Lightning.

Bruins 8, Blue Jackets 0

Bill Guerin had three goals and an assist and John Grahame made 30 saves for his first shutout of the season as Boston won at Columbus.

It was the most lopsided loss in the Blue Jackets' two seasons. The Bruins scored their season high in goals against a team they had never beaten.

All the goals were even strength, with the Bruins on the power play for only one second of the game.

Roller hockey



Justin Cottrell awaits the puck during Sundays Roller Hockey game. Pampa Kids and Youth Club had a big turn out for their first year sponsoring Indoor Roller Hockey. Eleven co-ed teams were formed and games are played on Sundays from 1p.m.- 4 p.m. at Baker Elementary at Barnes and Tuke streets. The public is welcome to come out and watch.

Gonzaga at No. 9

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Two wins over Portland and a loss by Oklahoma State helped Gonzaga vault to No. 9 in The Associated Press college basketball poll, the first appearance in the Top 10 in the school's history.

Gonzaga also became the first Washington state team since Washington was seventh in 1984-85 to reach such a high poll ranking.

The Bulldogs (20-3, 7-1 West Coast Conference) were ranked 11th last week.

"This is great for the program," coach Mark Few said. "As I've said before, I think this program is to the point where it deserves the respect it is now getting."

Few said the Bulldogs' final six regular-season games pose challenges to their high ranking.

"We have a bigger target painted on us," Few said. "Plus, we go to two of the toughest gyms in our league this week. They'll be ready and waiting for us."

The Bulldogs visit Santa Clara on Thursday and San Diego on Saturday.

But their toughest remaining opponent likely is Pepperdine, which handed Gonzaga its only conference loss to leave the Bulldogs second in the WCC. The Waves travel to Spokane on Feb. 16.

Last week, Gonzaga beat Portland (5-17), 102-76 in Spokane and 94-80 on Saturday night in Portland.

Oklahoma State's loss to Kansas State dropped the Cowboys from No. 9 to No. 14 in the latest poll, making room for the Bulldogs.

Self also has some injury problems to contend with. Starting center Cory Violette and key reserve Ronny Turiaf are hobbled by ankle injuries suffered in Wednesday's game. Turiaf did not play on Saturday, while Violette had nine points and seven rebounds in limited minutes.

Gonzaga's success is quite a departure from the less-than-storied tradition of Washington college basketball.

Washington State has not appeared in the Top 25 since 1983.

Winter Olympics give Americans a reason to cheer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Americans needed a reason to cheer.

It was February 1980, the dawn of a new decade, yet the United States was drained of all optimism. The nation was in a recession. Fifty-two Americans were held captive in Iran. The Soviets had invaded Afghanistan, and President Carter was vowing to boycott the Moscow Summer Games.

Then the Winter Olympics arrived in Lake Placid, N.Y., and a reason materialized in a group of college hockey play-

ers who defeated the mighty Soviets, won the gold and gave a spirited country something — finally — to celebrate.

Twenty-two years later, the country is struggling through a recession. Fighting in Afghanistan dominates the news, this time with U.S. soldiers on the ground. Americans, in a sense, are being held hostage again, this time on their own soil — fearful of flying, afraid of anthrax-tainted mail.

The country desperately needs a reason to cheer.

And once again, Americans will have the Olympics.

When the Winter Games open Friday, they will provide more than a chance for Salt Lake City to shine. Barring more violence, they'll offer a nation shaken by terror a two-week excuse to finally have fun.

"We've undergone a period of national mourning, and now our country is more than ready for a national celebration," said Brenda Light Bredemeier, a sports psychologist and co-director of the Mendelson Center for Sport, Character and Culture at the

University of Notre Dame.

"The Olympics emphasize the 'we'-ness of American culture. This is 'our' team. These people represent us," she said. "It allows you this temporary release from typical obligations, from typical responsibilities and from the horror of life."

The games are the largest international gathering since the Sept. 11 attacks. For Americans, they are a chance to show the world what resilience is all about.

Some people, though, view the games with more dread

than enthusiasm. An Associated Press poll last month found that a third of the public believes a terrorist attack is likely, despite heightened security.

"I'm concerned, but so is everyone," Connie Casias said as she stood in a snowstorm last month watching the Olympic torch pass through Denver.

Despite her anxiety, Casias also sees the games as an opportunity to prove America is healing. "It's a way to show we've bounced back," she said.

Spurs notch big win over division rival Timberwolves

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs didn't need Tim Duncan to get a big win over division rival Minnesota.

Duncan and Kevin Garnett were ejected early in the third period after a brief argument, but Duncan's teammates came through Monday night in the Spurs' 113-83 rout of the Timberwolves that ended San Antonio's four-game home losing streak.

Six other Spurs joined Duncan by scoring in double figures, while David Robinson grabbed 15 rebounds to go with 13 points.

"It was great. We actually made shots early in the game, which was nice," said

Robinson, who went 5-for-11 from the floor. "The defense was there — it was good as usual — but when we make shots, it helps us out a lot."

Garnett was also tossed out of the game following the verbal exchange with Duncan after some rough play under the basket, but Minnesota coach Flip Saunders said his team looked sure to lose from the start.

"This game was decided in the first three minutes," he said. "They came out aggressive and jumped all over us, and we never responded in a positive way."

The win pulled third-place San Antonio within a half-game of Minnesota in the Midwest Division. Dallas

leads the division by 1 1/2 games.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich praised his team's effort, giving much of the credit to Robinson.

"David was great defensively and rebounding-wise," said Popovich, who has been critical of Robinson's focus and intensity this season. "He was a force out there."

Robinson said his game has improved since he became more a part of the team's offensive game plan.

"Pop is calling my number and giving me a lot more opportunities," he said. "I think since we sat down and talked a couple weeks ago, everything has been a lot better."

With Garnett on the court, the Timberwolves shot just 30 percent from the field.

After he was ejected with 9:49 left in the third quarter and Minnesota trailing 60-33, the team responded, but by then it was too late to make much difference.

Referee Luis Grillo called a technical on Garnett after he started yelling at Duncan during some rough play under the Spurs' basket.

Duncan smiled and was walking away, but he then turned and said something to Garnett. Grillo hit him with a technical and ejected both players. There was no physical contact between the players.

Duncan didn't talk to

reporters after the game, but Robinson said Garnett "was frustrated a little bit and talking a little bit. Maybe he was trying to motivate his team or something."

Minnesota, which scored just 19 points in the previous 19 minutes, outscored the Spurs 25-17 through the rest of the quarter, closing to 77-58 after three periods.

Duncan and Antonio Daniels each scored 13 points for the Spurs. Duncan also had nine rebounds.

Reserve Gary Trent led Minnesota with 16 points. Joe Smith, Wally Szczerbiak and Chauncey Billups each scored 10 points for the Timberwolves. Garnett had eight points and six rebounds.

Minnesota, limited to 18 points in the first quarter, scored a season-low 11 points in the second as San Antonio pushed its lead to 56-29 by the break.

Notes: The ejection broke Duncan's streak of 28 straight games with 20 or more points. ... The victory was San Antonio's 23rd in 28 games against Minnesota in the Alamodome. ... Minnesota's Terrell Brandon, who left Sunday's game against Sacramento with a knee injury, started and played 13 minutes. ... Monday's game was the 1,000th in the Timberwolves' franchise history. Minnesota is 391-609.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Mom's Internet Fantasies May Have Real-Life Consequences

DEAR ABBY: I found out that my mom has been exchanging e-mail love letters with a man from out of state. I know because she had been staying up until 2 and 3 a.m. on the computer. I did a little detective work and found the letters. They talked about meeting and how much they love each other.

Mom uses a fake name and has told this guy numerous lies about her life. She's portraying herself as a young, pretty girl when she's really a 53-year-old frumpy housewife. The man is married with two kids; Mom has been married for 30 years and has three kids and two grandchildren. She is seriously addicted to the Internet and has been sneaking around to get on it. I found out she also calls this guy.

I know personally how addictive the Internet can be. It can ruin your life by making infidelity easier. I don't know if I should confront her. Please help. I'm desperate for advice.

DAUGHTER
 IN THE LONE STAR STATE

DEAR DAUGHTER: Talk to your mother in confidence. Apologize for snooping and tell her what you have discovered. Ask her what she would do if your father were to find out what has been going on. If she has been spending so much time on the

computer that it aroused your suspicions, it would be interesting to know what your father is thinking. She needs to consider if her creative writing is worth jeopardizing her marriage. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Disillusioned in Clarksville" about the flake she married after meeting him on the Internet, I want to let you know that sometimes meeting someone on the Internet does work out. I met my husband online.

I wanted to chat with people all over the world. The Internet was new to me, and I thought it was a great way to talk to people everywhere, all at the same time. I wasn't looking for romance. We met when he was in the Marine Corps in California and I was living in New York. We hit it off from the start. It was almost "love at first talk." We met online in July 1998 and in person in late November of that year. We were married the following month and just celebrated our third anniversary.

He is everything I could ever want in a man, and so much more. God bless the U.S. Marines. (They do laundry, iron and clean!)

IZABELA IN SCIOTA, PA.

DEAR IZABELA: Now that's a ringing endorsement. May you enjoy many more years of happiness together.

The Internet is a wonderful tool. Although a decade ago people were predicting it would replace letters, telephones and malls, those predictions were a bit premature. For the foreseeable future, they will all co-exist together.

As for meeting people online, the same precautions should be observed as for meeting people through a personal ad, at a nightclub or a gym. The dating game is both a gambol and a gamble. Take your time. Check the facts. Caveat emptor (Let the buyer beware). The person can turn out to be a lump of coal in your Christmas stocking or the jewel of a lifetime.

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) for Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Yakked it up
- 3 Air conditioner abbr.
- 4 Base
- 5 Computer key
- 6 Small valley
- 7 Ship part
- 8 Com-mo-tion
- 9 Jiffy
- 10 Chiding sound
- 11 Thrill
- 12 Ob-tuse
- 13 Painter
- 14 Matisse
- 15 Michael of Monty Python
- 16 Manuscript copier
- 17 Map dot
- 18 Throne occupant
- 19 Some children
- 20 Health bar order
- 21 Birdie
- 22 Phobia
- 23 Concert bonus
- 24 Wrong
- 25 Oozed

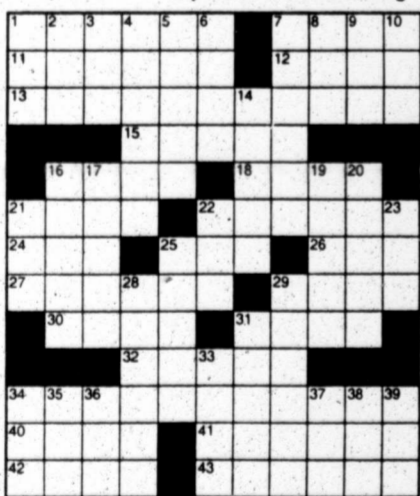
DOWN

- 1 Argon, for one

AGAPE	PERKS
SATED	TRENE
SPEND	LADEN
NICE	SET
PLAYEDUP	
HULA	SPELLS
TRONS	SNOOUT
LETTER	NAINA
EVERYDAY	
BIO	EVITL
ADMAN	NAMED
LEANT	KINAVE
MARTY	SEDAN

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Revue
- 21 TV spots
- 22 View
- 23 Secret agent
- 24 Kid's shooter
- 25 Michael of Monty Python
- 26 Revue segments
- 27 TV spots
- 28 View
- 29 Secret agent
- 30 Kid's shooter
- 31 Michael of Monty Python
- 32 March time
- 33 One-kind connector
- 34 Fresh Corn unit
- 35 Music category
- 36 Exist
- 37 Blushing



STUMPED?

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