THE PAMPA

Thursday, December 30, 2004 — Volume [illegible] — 50¢ Daily • Sunday $1

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Death toll 114,000 +

False alarm sparks panic in tsunami-ravaged areas

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from last weekend's earthquake-tsunami catastrophe rose to more than 114,000 on Thursday as Indonesia uncovered more and more dead from ravaged Sumatra island, where pilots dropped food to remote villages still unreachable by rescue workers. A false alarm that new killer waves were about to hit sparked panic in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Up to 5 million people around the tsunami-struck Indian Ocean region do not have access to the basics they need to stay alive – clean water, shelter, food, sanitation and health care, the U.N. World Health Organization said, saying it needed $40 million dollars to get those supplies to victims.

The increase in the death toll came after Indonesia reported nearly 28,000 newly confirmed dead in Sumatra, which was closest to the epicenter of last weekend's massive earthquake and was overwhelmed by the tsunami that followed. Some 60 percent of Banda Aceh, the main city in northern Sumatra was destroyed, the U.N. children's agency estimated, and 115 miles of the island's northwest coast – lined with villages –

See **DISASTER**, Page 3

Today's weather

H 68 L 36

Deaths

L.G. Clifton, 73, business owner.

Pearlie Moosberg, 83, homemaker.

Texas Today

Dallas parents upset over medical bills

DALLAS (AP) — The parents of some Dallas students who were taken to the hospital this fall after cleaning up a chemical spill in class are upset that they have been billed for the ambulance ride.

Nine seventh-graders at Pearl C. Anderson Middle Learning Center were following a science teacher's order in October by cleaning up the chemical that had spilled onto the classroom floor. As they were cleaning, their hands began to burn.

The school called for an ambulance, and the students were taken to a local hospital where they recovered a couple of hours later. The science teacher was reprimanded but is still teaching.

Each family was billed $350 for the ambulance ride and the Dallas Independent School District is refusing to pay.

"If ... (school officials) would have called me, I would have taken her to the hospital and avoided this," said Deborah Whaley, who has received her second notice to pay the ambulance bill. "It could have all been avoided if they had told the kids not to touch it. They should have just called the janitor in."

Police investigating Wal-Mart bomb hoax

MANSFIELD (AP) — Investigators are looking at surveillance video in hopes of identifying the person who planted a hoax bomb in a Wal-Mart Supercenter, causing a three-hour evacuation.

Someone called the store Tuesday afternoon and told employees that there was a bomb inside, police said.

A bomb squad from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives removed the package and determined it was a fake.

Mansfield police spokesman officer Thad Penkala said they were working with investigators from Colleyville, where a pipe bomb was found Tuesday in a park.



Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland puts the finishing touches on a bookcase for his daughter in Oklahoma.

Gifts of himself

Sheriff crafts homemade presents for family

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The grinding of the abrasive against the wood is the only sound.

Don Copeland stands beneath a fluorescent light hanging from the ceiling working diligently and methodically on a piece of oak.

"It's pretty good therapy," Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland said, standing in the middle of his home workshop, sanding an oak bookcase.

Copeland said he's worked with wood off and on for 25 or 30 years, as time would allow.

"It's been hit and miss," he said with a grin.

This weekend he'll deliver cedar-lined hope chests to each of his two granddaughters in Oklahoma. One of them will also get the bookcase he's just finished.

"I had a little wood left over." He shrugged and nodded to the four-shelf bookcase.

The oak matches the wood on one of his daughter's homes.

It's not the first time Copeland has turned his woodworking skills into presents for his family.

Among other items, he's made canopy cradles when his grandchildren were first born.



Two hope chests made by Sheriff Copeland for his daughter and granddaughters in Oklahoma.

"I made one for each kid," Copeland said.

With a laugh, he added that his son-in-law gets out a pencil and draws detailed plans for his woodworking efforts.

"I just fiddle and pull together and hope it works," Copeland said.

The large garage-turned-cabinet-shop behind his home houses a variety of power tools, including a table saw, rotary saw, band saw and router.

"That's the most important," he said, looking down at an industrial-strength vacuum cleaner.

Many complain that Christmas has become too commercialized, but in a day when it's easy to go to the store and buy presents, Copeland gives his grandchildren something special, something personal.

Something he made himself.

Commissioners to consider bid for landscaping

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

County commissioners will once again tomorrow consider a bid from West Texas Landscape for the landscaping of Gray County Courthouse's south lawn.

Commissioners had opened the bid at their Dec. 15 meeting, but had taken no action to accept or reject the bid pending clarification on the gauge of PVC pipe to be used and other information on the proposed automated watering system.

Beautifying the courthouse grounds is part of the restoration project funded by the Texas Historical Commission.

Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. in the second-floor courtroom at the courthouse. The bid by West Texas Landscape was the only one received concerning the south lawn project.

A request from BB Investments to lease Hangar 10 at Perry LeFors Airfield will be considered.

County Judge Richard Peet's re-appointment to the Panhandle Regional Housing Finance Corporation will be decided, as will approval of elected officials' bonds.

Tax bids on 943 S. Finley

See **BID**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE

Ronnie Riggs and Ray O'Brien of R&R Trailers, from left, present the new Red Cross disaster initial response trailer (DIRT) to Heidi Phelps and Jana Gregory Wednesday afternoon.

Local Red Cross gets new 'DIRT'

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Editor

Thanks to a grant for "immediate shelter operations," Pampa-Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross now owns a new 6-foot by 10-foot enclosed trailer from R&R Trailers of Pampa.

The trailer goes by the acronym of DIRT, short for "disaster initial response trailer." It will join the local Red Cross ERV or "emergency response vehicle."

Now all the Red Cross needs is the money to stock the DIRT with the necessary emergency equipment to set up an immediate shelter on a disaster site, says Jana Gregory, executive director.

> *'We have a generator, cots and blankets but there are other things we will need to put in the trailer.'*
>
> — Jana Gregory
> *Executive Director*

"We have a generator, cots and blankets but there are other things we will need to put in the trailer," Gregory said. Monetary donations are requested so that the exact items needed can be purchased, she explained.

See **DIRT**, Page 3

DEC 30 2004
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Obituaries

Pearlie Marie Hagler Moosberg, 83

Pearlie Marie Hagler Moosberg, 83, died Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at Amarillo.

Graveside services were held Wednesday in Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery at Center with Tim Perkins officiating.

Arrangements were under the direction of Mangum Funeral Home of Center.


Moosberg

Mrs. Moosberg was born July 10, 1921, in San Augustine County, to A.E. and Alice Creech Hagler. She married Carl Avriete Moosberg on Nov. 22, 1945, at Center; he died in 1990.

Baptized at age 13, Mrs. Moosberg was a member of the Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Lee, Ramon and Truman Hagler; and a sister, Era Hagler.

Survivors include three daughters, June Sherman of Lockney, Alice Steele of White Deer and Carla Winslow of Duncan, Okla.; a sister, Margie B. Knight of Schertz; and six grandchildren.

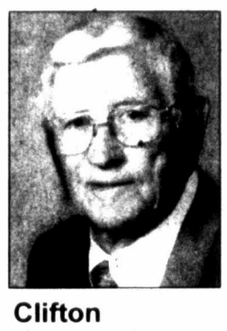
The family requests memorials be to Boles Home in Quinlan, White River Youth Camp c/o City Park Church of Christ of Floydada or Westview Boys' Home in Hollis, Okla.

L.G. Clifton, 73

L.G. Clifton, 73, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Briarwood Full Gospel Church with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor, and the Rev. Gene Allen, retired Full Gospel minister, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.


Clifton

Mr. Clifton was born Jan. 11, 1931, in Silverton at the Schott Ranch. He married Joyce Shaw on June 12, 1954, in Olney.

He started Clifton Equipment in 1969, and retired in 1995 with Clifton Supply.

He was a member of the Briarwood Full Gospel Church where he served as church board member for two terms. He enjoyed raising and racing horses.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Clifton, of the home; one son, Shawn Clifton and wife Lisa of Pampa; one sister, Melba Adams of Olney; one brother, Jimmy Clifton of Fort Morgan, Colo.; and two grandsons, Corbin Clifton and Cyler Clifton, both of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to Briarwood Full Gospel Church Building Fund, 1800 W. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065, or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Services tomorrow

CLIFTON, L.G. — 10 a.m., Briarwood Full Gospel Church, Pampa.

KIDD, William F. "Bill" — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 68. Windy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. West wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 62. Wind chill values between 29 and 34. West southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 43. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

New Year's Day: Partly cloudy, with a high around 61. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. South wind around 15 mph becoming west northwest.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 52. West northwest wind around 15 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of rain before midnight, then a slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday: A slight chance of snow before 9 a.m., then a slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., then a chance of rain, mainly after noon.

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Monday Night: A chance of rain before 8 p.m., then a chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 30. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday: A slight chance of snow before 10 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., then a slight chance of rain after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 42.Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain or freezing rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrest today.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Sixteen traffic stops were made. One business alarm was reported.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 400 block of Lowry, the 1100 block of Crane Road, the 600 block of Carr, and three times in the 1300 block of Terrace.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1300 block of North Duncan, the 1000 block of Varnon Drive and the 1100 block of East Francis.

Aggravated assault was reported in the 800 block of Murphy. The suspect reportedly had a knife and was threatening to stab himself.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of North Wells, where a wallet was reported stolen; in the 1200 block of North Hobart; and twice in the police department lobby.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2700 block of Cherokee.

An open door was reported in the 600 block of West Brown.

A narcotic drug law violation was reported in the 400 block of Red Deer and twice at the police department.

Criminal mischief was reported at the police department, the 600 block of Sloan, and the 1200 block of South Nelson.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported at Barnard and Tignor streets, and Francis and Wynne streets.

A runaway was reported in the 800 block of Talley.

Found property was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of North Wells, the 2100 block of Mary Ellen, and twice in the 1200 block of Duncan.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 300 block of West Brown and the 1800 block of Dogwood.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered at Alcock and Davis streets, and Alcock and Price streets.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1100 block of South Nelson.

Harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North Duncan.

A driver's license and concealed handgun license were reported lost in the 1100 block of Juniper.

Fraud by mail was reported in the 1400 block of Williston.

Michael Norton, 39, 519 N. Starkweather, was arrested at Crawford and Huff streets for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense; no valid driver's license; and keys in ignition.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

A 2001 Toyota Camry, driven by Shellene Gulley Dancy, 67, 2200 N. Dwight, and a juvenile pedalcyclist collided in the intersection of 22nd and Wells streets. The juvenile pedalcyclist suffered possible injury, but a parent refused medical treatment at the scene. No citations were issued.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Samuel William Cate, 31, Mascot, Tenn., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of marijuana under two ounces and possession of a dangerous drug.

Allen Carry Henry, 22, 1333 Garland, was arrested for no valid driver's license, consumption of alcohol by a minor, three counts of failure to appear - bail jump, and a motion to revoke probation on a Donley County charge of driving while intoxicated.

Thursday, Dec. 30

John Arno, 50, Watertown, Mass., was arrested by DPS for following too closely and open container of alcoholic beverage.

Fire

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29

9:56 a.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 2200 block of Hamilton. No CO was found.

3:42 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 300 block of Hamilton.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29

3:41 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 200 block of Price Road and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

4:51 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Stocks

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

Wheat	3.12
Milo	3.22
Corn	3.72
Soybeans	4.77

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

OXY	58.39	-0.06
BP PLC ADR	58.83	-0.09
Cabot Corp	38.86	-0.02
Cabot Oil Gas	43.63	-0.46
Coca Cola	41.44	-0.12
VLO	44.65	-0.12
HAL	39.35	-0.32
TRI	36.91	+0.10
NOI	35.25	-0.21
KMI	72.62	-0.05
XCEL	18.27	-0.14
Kerr McGee	58.20	+0.05
XOM	51.24	+0.11
Limited	23.08	+0.11
Williams	16.22	+0.12
MCD	32.66	+0.13
Atmos	27.52	+0.09
Pioneer Nat	34.86	-0.03
JCP	41.36	+0.01
COP	87.25	-0.06
SLB	66.70	-0.31
Tenneco	17.25	+0.03
CVX	52.74	-0.19
Wal-Mart	53.54	+0.10
OKE	28.45	+0.18
NS Grp	27.62	-0.61

New York Gold	436.45
Silver	6.81
West Texas Crude	43.64

House collapses

AUSTIN (AP) — The man who died this week when a house collapsed during renovations has been identified.

Authorities said Francisco Javier Aguilar, 35, of San Antonio, died in Tuesday's accident. Aguilar, a construction worker, was trapped underneath the 100-year-old home he was helping to renovate..

Witnesses said the two-story house had been lifted off the ground and was resting on cinder blocks when it collapsed.

City Briefs

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

AFTER CHRISTMAS Sale, up to 50% off on gift items. McLean Flowers & Gifts, 109 Cedar, McLean. 779-2098.

COLE CREEK Going Out Of Business! Inventory 50% off, Fri. & Sat.

EARLY CLASSIFIED Deadlines (class. line ads & city briefs) for the *Pampa News*. For Sunday 1-2-05-deadline is Fri. 31st-12 noon, Mon. 1-3-05 is Fri. 31st-2 p.m., Tues. 1-4-05 is Fri. 31st-4 p.m. Happy New Year!

FRI., DEC. 31st New Years Eve, Lonestar Bar Presents: Copperhead & The 3 Kings. Free Texas Style Fajitas & Briskit. Free party favors. Free beer 5-9 p.m. Tickets avail. at Onies or 662-5206.

COTTAGE COLLECTION will be closed Fri. 31st, Sat. & Sun. Happy New Year!

GENESIS HOUSE provides Tobacco Awareness Classes for Adolescents and Youth. January Classes scheduled for 3rd and 5th, 10th and 12th. $55. Call for details and sign up. 409 West, 665-7123.

KAYLEE WILLS with 117 points of Pampa, local winner of the *Pampa News* Football Power Points Game, regional winner Bernie Lenart of Temple, Tx., with 130 points.

LUNCH PLATES: chicken, fish, hb. steak, ch. fr. steak. The Hamburger Station, we deliver! 665-9131.

MCLEAN COUNTRY Club. New Year's Eve Dance. Night Life 8-12:30. $10 person

CORRECTION MEALS On Wheels will be closed Dec. 31st. (not Dec. 30th).

NEW YEAR'S Day, Blackeye Pea Dinner, VFW Post 1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Pampa, 12 noon. Public invited.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Dance. Pampa Moose Lodge. 8:30-?

PAMPA NEWS Office will be closed Mon., Jan. 3rd, but there will be a newspaper for Mon. Happy New Year!!

PART TIME Inserter needed immediately. About 20 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat. Apply in person, *The Pampa News*. No phone calls please.

PARTY AT The OCB New Year's Eve 8:00. Karoke w/ Cowboy, 9 Ball tournament.

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Americans donate $18 million to Red Cross for quake relief

ARC workers on the way to disaster area

WASHINGTON – By noon Wednesday, three days after a powerful tsunami impacted countries in southern Asia and eastern Africa, Americans have contributed approximately $18 million to the American Red Cross International Response Fund which supports both immediate and long term relief efforts for disaster victims in countries outside the United States, according to an ARC news release.

Immediately after the earthquake, the American Red Cross established contact with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and sister societies located in the nine affected countries to determine how best the organization can be of assistance to those affected by the tsunami, the release stated.

The American Red Cross, through the International Response Fund, provides international partners with trained personnel, relief supplies and/or direct monetary assistance.

"I'm heartened that the American people are turning to the American Red Cross as a conduit for their compassion and concern for the families affected by the tsunami in Asia," said Marsha J. Evans, president and CEO of the American Red Cross.

Senior leadership at the American Red Cross are coordinating with international partners to determine the scope of the monetary needs that exist as a result of this disaster, and, in the coming weeks, will make informed decisions as to how best to support this expansive international relief effort through direct cash assistance.

> *'The American Red Cross will be as transparent as possible. I want to assure all donors that their intent will be honored ...'*
>
> — Marsha J. Evans
> *ARC President and CEO*

"The American Red Cross will be as transparent as possible. I want to assure donors that their intent will be honored and their contributions to the International Response Fund will be used to meet the needs of earthquake victims in the days, week and months ahead," Evans said.

When international disasters strike, the American Red Cross has personnel trained in three key competency areas: Water sanitation services, family linking and reunification and relief supply distribution.

On Wednesday, an American Red Cross water sanitation engineer was deployed to the Maldives and two relief workers are on route to Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

An American Red Cross team of workers trained in relief supply distribution will likely be deployed to the affected areas in the next 24 to 48 hours.

The American Red Cross is also coordinating with other societies on how to evenly distribute a stockpile of $350,000 worth of relief supplies pre-positioned in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

These supplies include tents, blankets, tarps, plastic sheeting and hygiene kits.

Contributions to the International Response Fund may be sent to the local American Red Cross chapter at 108 N. Russell in Pampa or to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.



Close communication

Trevlyn Pitner, Shelly Cook and Shirley Young, from left, keep in close communication with other Children's Shopping Tour volunteers as they assist kids and chaperones with shopping at Wal-Mart. On Saturday, Dec. 11, more than 200 volunteers from the community provided 88 children an opportunity to give to others at Christmas through the Children's Shopping Tour. The children shopped at Wal-Mart and Top Of Texas Outlet for members of their households, not for themselves. The tour was a joint project between the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, Pampa Kiwanis Club and Salvation Army. The Energizer Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church, Tralee Crisis Center and the Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross also furnish members of the Steering Committee, which organizes the project. Other groups involved this year include Pampa Harvester Basketball Team, Lady Harvester Basketball Team, Pampa Harvester Football Team, Drug Free Youth in Texas, ASTRA Club, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of FUMC, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Body of Christ at Pampa, Gideons, Junior Service League, Pampa High School Rodeo Club, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, First Christian Church and its Disciple Women's Ministry and Lamplighter's Sunday School Class, the Miami Area Youth Organization, First Baptist Church of Miami and City of Pampa Police Department.

DIRT

Continued from Page 1

"This is a good time (to donate) before the end of the year," Gregory said. She said that all donations she receives that are postmarked by Dec. 31, 2004, will be posted in her books for Dec. 31 and will be eligible for 2004 income tax exemptions.

"We're also looking at a vehicle to pull the trailer," said Heidi Phelps, disaster chair for the local Red Cross.

Red Cross officials hope to receive enough donations to purchase a used ambulance to pull the trailer and serve as another ERV.

For more information, contact the local Red Cross at 806-669-7121.

Donations can be sent to the Red Cross at the Pampa office, 108 N. Russell.

Disaster

Continued from Page 1

was inundated.

Indonesia, with around 80,000 dead, was the worst hit, followed by Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. The total across 12 nations in southern Asia and East Africa was likely to rise, with thousands still missing and fears that disease could bring a new wave of deaths.

Tens of thousands of residents fled coasts in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand after warnings that a new tsunami was about to strike after new aftershocks hit the Indian Ocean Thursday.

India issued a tsunami warning at midday, but then hours later its science minister, Kapil Sibal, went on television to announce the warning was incorrect and based on information received from a U.S. research firm.

Fears of a new tsunami were "unscientific, hogwash and should be discarded," Sibal said.

But by that time, the alert sparked panic among people traumatized by Sunday's devastation.

"We got into a truck and fled," said 40-year-old Gandhimathi of Nagappattinam in India's Tamil Nadu state, who said authorities told her to leave her home. "We took only a few clothes and left behind all of our belongings, everything we had."

Sri Lanka's military later told residents there to be vigilant but not to panic, while coastal villagers climbed onto rooftops or sought high ground. "There is total confusion here," said Rohan Bandara in the coastal town of Tangalle.

Tsunami sirens in southern Thailand sent people dashing from beaches, but only small waves followed the alarms.

An estimated 5.7 magnitude aftershock was recorded in seas northwest of Indonesia's Sumatra island by the Hong Kong observatory Thursday morning, along with earlier, overnight quakes at India's Andaman and Nicobar islands. But a 5.7 quake would be about 1,000 times less powerful than Sunday's, and probably would have "negligible impact," said geologist Jason Ali of University of Hong Kong.

The false alarm highlighted the lack of an organized tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean region — which experts have already said may have worsened the crisis after Sunday's 9.0 magnitude quake hit off Sumatra's coast, sending a massive wave racing at 500 mph across the Indian Ocean.

Sibal, the Indian science minister, said Thursday's warning was based on information from a U.S. research group that "claimed they have some sensors and equipment through which they suggest there was a possibility of an earthquake."

Bid

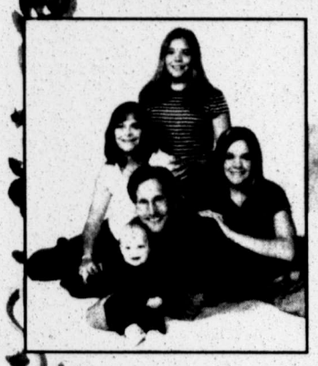
Continued from Page 1

and 827 S. Banks will be considered. Commissioners will vote on membership for 2005 in the National Association of Counties.

Also on the agenda is the question of whether to cancel uncashed juror checks older than 90 days.

Routine agenda items include paying bills and salaries, intra budget transfer requests, and an internal audit report.

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Viewpoints

How dangerous can an old chess player be?

New Year resolutions? Not from me. In fact, I can't remember the last time I attempted a new year resolution? Ask my two ex-wives; they may know ... I've a friend in Houston – Charlie Wilson – a rebel and a rouser in the grand tradition. Charlie calls New Year's Eve, "rookies night out." Charlie is one reason I stay low on New Years night. It's so much safer.

I've been following the travails of Bobby Fischer the past few months as he has traipsed across the globe with an expired visa. You remember Bobby Fischer, don't you – world chess champion Bobby Fischer. Seems Mr. Fischer is persona non grata with our federal government over his playing chess with Boris Spaasky in Yugoslavia in 1992 when there were travel restrictions on our citizens leveled by our government in regard to Yugoslavia. Had something to do with ethnic cleansing – genocide.

Bobby is under house arrest in Japan over the expired visa thing, compliments of our government canceling it. Against the requests of our state department, Iceland is ready to extend a helping hand to Bobby and let him reside in the great white north – saying statute of limitations in regard to Mr. Fischer's indiscretion have expired. You know, I like Iceland – their spunk! Way to go, Iceland! Give the U.S. a cold icicle!

Mind you, Mr. Fischer traveled to Yugoslavia in 1992 to play chess against Boris Spaasky. You remember Boris, don't you? Mr. Spaasky lost the world chess championship to Mr. Fischer in some forgotten year past – which created an embarrassment to the then Soviet Union in regard to Mr. Spaasky.

I seem to remember Boris becoming persona non grata with the USSR over his loss to Mr. Fischer? That would figure with Soviet thinking in those days, and Boris lost big time to Bobby. The rest is history until now, 2004, and Uncle Sam is after Mr. Fischer for his entering Yugoslavia against our government's wishes (orders).

Damn, I'm out of my favorite Cuban cigars. Let's see; I can jet to Toronto and make a connection to Havana? No, it's way too cold in Canada. I know! I'll go south to Mexico City and connect to Havana that way to restock on some Kinky Friedman's. While I'm in Fidel's good graces, I'll schedule a little fishing trip and dip a hook or four.

I can't tell you how many people I know in Houston that have done the above – and their visas are still good.

Oh, I need to check on some oil production in Libya. Hello? Moammar, I'm on my way, have my favorite camel saddled so I can check on my wells. Yeah, Mr. K, I'd appreciate another check to the victims of Pan Am's flight that your henchmen brought down over Lockerbie, Scotland. You know, we want to keep your borders open to our oil companies – and all your money can sure buy some happiness. Dates? Can't stand them. However, I'll bring you some cigars, instead. Ciao, Moammar!



Dennis Palmitier
Columnist

Why is our government doing this to Bobby Fischer? Was Bobby running guns to Yugoslavia? Drugs to Yugoslavia? Money laundering to Yugoslavia? No, Mr. Fischer took his chess set to Yugoslavia – to play chess with Boris Spaasky. In the scheme of things facing our great nation today, why is Bobby Fischer so harangued by our government?

Let's count them (government schemes of things). 1- Terrorism. 2- Iraq. 3- Economy. 4- Social Security. 5- Healthcare. 6- Taxation. 7- Oil. 8- Unemployment. 9- Education. 10- Bobby Fischer. Bobby Fischer traveling to Yugoslavia in 1992 to play chess with Boris Spaasky when travel restrictions were in force? Yep, some official in the state department with some scoop against an official in the justice department – both of them with an obvious dislike of Bobby Fischer – must have to do with chess – are keeping Bobby in a funk.

Doesn't our government have more important fisch (sorry, had to do it) to fry? You know, like the "Axis of Evil?" Why, I've known of some exemplary chess pieces in history that have never been brought to justice. One, in particular, comes to mind ... Marc Rich.

Remember Mr. Rich? Marc Rich owes $48 million in unpaid income taxes. Mr. Rich has 51 counts of tax evasion pending against him. Marc made gazillions of dollars running illegal oil deals with Iran during the hostage crisis of the late '70s. Marc Rich, still a U.S. citizen living the tax free life in Switzerland and pardoned of all criminal charges by Bill Clinton on his very last day as president.

Did I mention Mr. Rich is, well – rich? Remember, $48 million big ones – whose ex-wife Denise (another questionable tidbit) gave $70,000 to Hillary's senate campaign – who gave $450,000 to Bill Clinton's library.

When questioned by the feds, Denise took the 5th on where all the money came from. Looks as if our government has been chugging the 5th over the Riches.

Checkmate! Presidential pardons are granted unilaterally and cannot be reversed. Marc Rich, in my opine, seems to be the bigger fisch. Hmm? I'm willing to take some bets in 2008 that the questionable ethics of the Clintons and Riches will never come forward as fodder against a presidential campaign. Any takers?

Perhaps Bobby Fischer has reason to be at odds with our government? Seems J. Edgar Hoover; yes, lipstick and dress wearing (after hours, only) and holder of the infamous "list" of transgressions by elected officials and used (blackmail and extortion threats) for his own agenda, had the FBI trailing Bobby's mater, Regina, for well over 18 years. LBJ was quoted with this interesting wordage in regard to J. Edgar; "Better to have him inside the tent (urinating) out, than outside (urinating) in". Seems Mrs. Fischer, who could speak eight languages, was thought to be a Soviet spy by ol' J. Edgar. The Fischer family was harangued – I like that word – harangue... I know, the ADD thing rears it's ugly cabeza. The Fischer family was harangued by the FBI for many years, OK? With that kind of rep, what's a little illegal trip to war-torn Yugoslavia in Bobby's way of thinking?

Kim il Song, Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden, and Bobby Fischer – the "Axis of Evil." With our government's "No Dollar Left Behind Program", one can pretty well sum up the taxpayer money spent chasing and controlling the first three. If the tally on haranguing Bobby Fischer is up around, say $48 million – mm, teach – we got's a problem.

***

Dennis Palmitier is a Pampa native, a PHS graduate and a pharmaceutical sales representative.

Thought for today

"Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clear to the bone." — Anonymous.



Our readers write

Remember the reason

On Dec. 17, there appeared in The Pampa News an article that should awake many church people. It was a Minister's Musing article by Mike Sublett titled "No Christmas Cards in Pampa." It reminds us many people do not want to recognize Jesus Christ in the season greeting cards.

People who hate Jesus that much should not have the privilege of enjoying all the holidays that have come to our country because of Christ. The "Christ"mas parade had less than five percent depicting Christ as the reason for Christmas. This shows a careless opinion of Christ and, in my opinion, it shows a casual degree of love for Christ.

In the late 1930s, we provided table scraps for the neighbor's chickens. My oldest daughter had gotten her first pair of black paten shoes and was out in our yard. The neighbor called out, "Do you have any scraps for my chickens?" With one foot as high as she could lift it, she said, "Uh-huh, and I got some new shoes, too." Nothing could take her mind from her new shoes very long.

Christians should always be thrilled with Jesus. He never grows old and he always shines through someone's life.

I know where I stand in God's grace. Where do I stand in his pleasure?

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139: 23,24)

Archie Cooper
McLean

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Posties: 'Take that, George Bush'

If you believe the Washington Post George W. Bush is an insensitive lout devoid of compassion for the victims of the horrendous tragedy in South Asia.

Because he had the temerity to win re-election, President Bush has also won the undying enmity of the Washington Post which seems determined to slit his throat every chance they get, no matter how outlandish their complaints.

Moreover they have their correspondents cooling their heels in Crawford, Texas, deprived of so much as a glimpse of the president. In the egotism of the media elite, Bush should be wining and dining them on his ranch which they can't get near, as he enjoys the solitude of a needed respite from their constant abrasive presence.

And so they dredge up an imaginative indictment charging that the president is seen by many as being insensitive to what they call to "a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions."

In a slanderous piece titled "Aid Grows Amid Remarks About President's Absence" they cited just one source for this charge, who of course remains anonymous, and another who doesn't quite say the President lacked sensitivity and informs its readers that "Bush's decision at first to remain cloistered on his Texas ranch for the Christmas holiday rather than speak in person about the tragedy – showed scant appreciation for the magnitude of suffering and for the rescue and rebuilding work facing such nations as Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia."

And they added this piece of garbage: There was an international outpouring of support after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and even some administration officials familiar with relief efforts said they were surprised that Bush had not appeared personally to comment on the tsunami tragedy. "It's kind of freaky," a (unnamed, of course) senior career official said."



Mike Reagan
Columnist

Could it be that the president might have been occupied with putting together what is now the largest aid package headed for the victim countries as well as working out the details of a massive rescue effort on a scale never before seen? That he might have been so occupied with this responsibility that he simply had no time to go parade himself before a sullen media in Bill Clinton-style to bite his lips and tell the victims how much he feels their pain?

That's exactly what the Posties wanted, it being their preference for style over substance. They believe that emotion trumps substance - tears, biting lips and barely suppressed sobs are what such tragedies demand.

The Post also tells us "Clinton urges coordinated aid effort," giving a boost to Mr. Clinton's reported ambitions to replace Kofi Annan as Secretary General of the United Nations. Or perhaps it just a case of nobody having told Bill Clinton that he is no longer the President of the United States, a delusion he shares with Jimmy Carter.

Well, it now appears that while the media were cooling their heels in their isolation from the seat of power, putting together a coordinated aid effort was precisely what George Bush was doing. But to the Post, that doesn't matter. What does matter is that the president failed to recognize his solemn obligation to hobnob with the media at moments such as this.

It doesn't appear to have occurred to the Post that there are times when a president has to do things behind closed doors. Not all presidents like to be out in front of the press saying in effect, "Look at me, I'm important, I'm biting my lip, I know how to cry" before going back inside and laughing at a media stupid enough to fall for his act.

This whole thing is typical liberal mishmash – it's all about feelings. The Post would be happy if the president didn't give a dime as long as we saw him cry.

What we are seeing here is what we'll be seeing for the next four years. The Post didn't want George Bush in the White House for another term and they won't let up, even if they have to create stories about such nonsense as alleged presidential insensitivity.

They have no shame.

***

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

THE PAMPA NEWS

Crosswo

CROSSW
By THOMAS
ACROSS
1 Like some cheese
5 Metal men
11 Falco of "The Sopranos"
12 Maine park
13 Easy win
14 Patched up
15 Hockey player's protection
17 Pitching stat
18 Illinois city
22 New Year's Eve event
24 Tree leftover
25 Jackie's second
26 Mrs., in Marseilles
27 Literary category
30 Spoil
32 Raring to go
33 Poem type
34 Nomad
38 Gary of "CSI: NY"
41 Royal address
42 Loves to pieces
43 Use shears
44 Greeley advice

Flo & Fr



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from "J.H. in Yonkers," who fell in love on a trip to a friend's funeral. I agree with you, Abby, it's a great story. Mine is similar.

I dated Mike for 2 1/2 years and then we broke up. For eight months I couldn't forget him. On a whim, I called his mom during one of the many Midwestern blizzards of 1979. She told me her mother had died and the visitation was the next night. I made it through the snowdrifts to the visitation -- the only non-family member because of the weather. Mike invited me to the house afterward.

The next day, I met him in the church parking lot, where he told me guiltily he had whistled all the way to his grandmother's funeral because he knew I'd be there! We knew we were meant to be together and we were convinced his grandmother had a hand in it.

If we can believe that there are pennies from heaven, we can believe someone was looking out for J.H. and her love. Mike and I will celebrate our 25th anniversary in a few months. -- RUTH IN ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

DEAR RUTH: Your letter gave me goose bumps. Thank you for sharing your beautiful story. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My parents met at a funeral 80 years ago. My mother, who always hated funerals, went because the deceased had been a close friend of her mother's. After the service, Mom was very impressed by a tall, handsome, older man she met. The rest is history. -- ESTHER IN KENMORE, N.Y.

DEAR ESTHER: Which proves that sometimes an ending can also be a beginning.

DEAR ABBY: In 1997, I met the love of my life at a funeral of a mutual friend who had been murdered. I was only 16. My love and I were married a year later.

From that horrible tragedy was born a friendship and love that has weathered almost every possible obstacle one can imagine in a marriage. Out of sadness came joy and love. From a tragic death was born a loving and giving life -- our daughter. -- PEGGI IN PENNSAUKEN, N.J.

DEAR PEGGI: That kind of tragedy can make the survivors grow up very quickly.

DEAR ABBY: My father died on Dec. 19 the year I turned 20. My mother was only 48, and I had four younger brothers and sisters. Our family was devastated that Christmas. All the neighbors knew about it and were very nice to us.

A girl up the street invited my two sisters and me to her birthday party on Jan. 11. She said if we didn't come, she would come and get us.

The girl who was giving the party had a younger brother, who had asked his best friend, "Jim," to the party. Jim and I started dating that week. We knew by summer that we would marry and were engaged the next year. On Oct. 22, we celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary.

When people ask how we met, I am not reluctant to tell them. I had never dated anyone before I met Jim -- so I say that Jim was sent from heaven. -- MAUREEN IN TORONTO

DEAR MAUREEN: And I believe it.

DEAR ABBY: I met a wonderful woman, who later became my wife, at her grandmother's funeral. I knew her parents, but she and I had never met before. We became friends and went out casually at first. Then we started dating. We were married last Nov. 5. When anyone asks how we met, we tell them her grandmother set us up. Which is true, in a way. -- DAVID IN COMER, GA.

DEAR DAVID: I wish you both a long and happy life together.

******

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

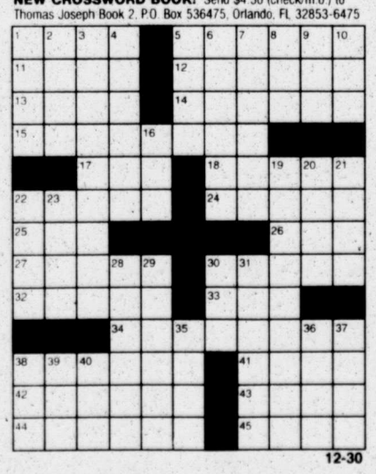
1 Like some cheese
5 Metal men
11 Falco of "The Sopranos"
12 Maine park
13 Easy win
14 Patched up
15 Hockey player's protection
17 Pitching stat
18 Illinois city
22 New Year's Eve event
24 Tree leftover
25 Jackie's second
26 Mrs., in Marseilles
27 Literary category
30 Spoil
32 Raring to go
33 Poem type
34 Nomad
38 Gary of "CSI: NY"
41 Royal address
42 Loves to pieces
43 Use shears
44 Greeley advice
45 A long time

DOWN

1 Just
2 One on a pedestal
3 Warming up for exercise
4 Send overseas
5 Highway exit
6 Globe features
7 Masked man
8 Unusual
9 Draw
10 Down in the dumps
16 Path
19 Forest work
20 Austen book
21 Ignored the limit
22 Book part
23 Scope
28 Do electrician's work
29 Clears
30 Olympus resident
31 Black Sea port
35 Comfy spot
36 Historic canal
37 Agents
38 Droop
39 Ceremony words
40 At present

E	C	H	O	■	W	A	M	P	U	M
A	R	E	A	■	A	L	A	S	K	A
S	O	R	T	■	R	E	L	I	E	D
E	W	E	■	G	E	R	E	■	■	■
■	■	A	T	E	S	T	■	H	A	M
A	M	B	E	R	■	S	C	E	N	E
M	O	O	R	■	■	■	R	A	T	S
E	R	U	P	T	■	P	A	R	I	S
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A	B	L	A	Z	E	■	G	O	N	E
D	O	O	D	A	D	■	A	U	T	O
D	O	Y	E	N	S	■	S	T	O	W

Yesterday's answer



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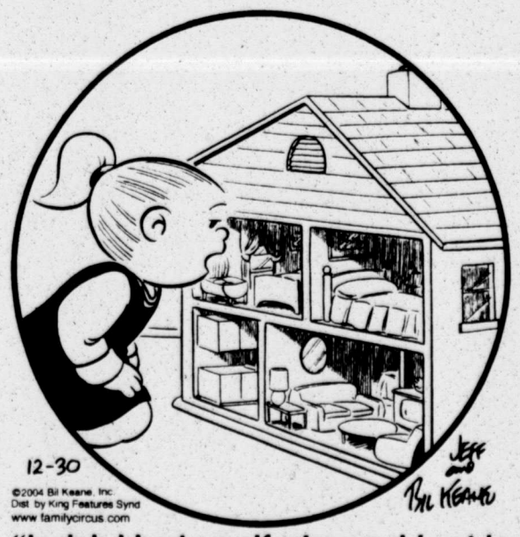
12-30

Marmaduke



"Who do I make amends to?"

The Family Circus



"I wish I had an elf who could get in there and dust."

B.C.



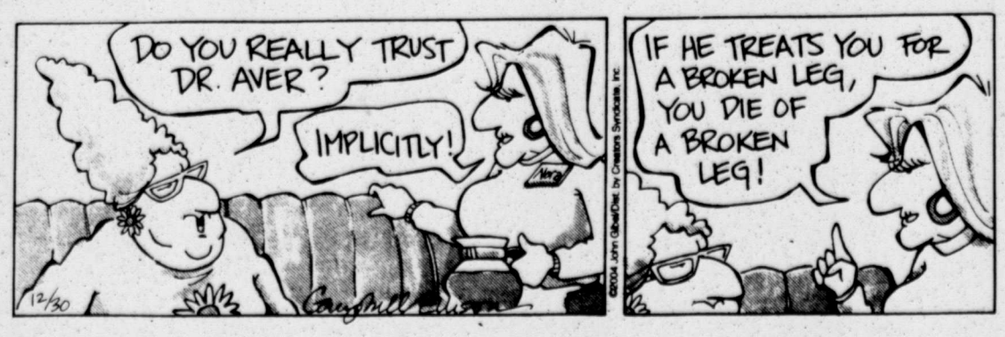
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



DEC 30 2004

Sports Day

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CUBICLE

The top local sports stories of '04? My choices just might surprise you

As one who has only sat here in the Sports Editor's cubicle for little more than six months, I don't believe I am qualified – nor would it be right for me to say with any certainty – just what or who the biggest local sports stories were for 2004.

I am better suited to offer observations as to those stories I think may be worthy of jogging your short-term memory.

For example, there was 14-year old Mercedes Larrazolo who went to Kansas City and won a boxing title. Not just a title, but a really cool belt that weighs as much as she does. Evander Holyfield would be glad to have that belt.

There were other stories like hers that came to my attention. Plenty of local kids doing some great and often amazing things. Little cowboys and cowgirls winning ribbons, plaques, saddles and more. Optimist Club baseball and football players who played hard, win or lose, each and every week.

Older kids did some cool things as well. A glaring example of this would be the Pampa Harvester junior varsity football team going undefeated (10-0). Coach Jeff Quisenberry, holding true to a preseason promise, shaving his head shortly after the team's final game against Caprock. And just in time for the cool Friday nights of fall. Now that's leading by example – Never make a promise you do not intend to keep.

There were some kids that endured tough times. You might recall late in September when the Texas Department of State Health Services issued the Hepatitis-A warning following news that the McDonalds in Hereford had been found to be a source for the disease. Unfortunately, the freshman football team had stopped to eat at the restaurant during that time and would later submit to immune globulin shots. Ever had one?



Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor

I have been told it is like trying to shoot pudding through an oversized needle. True or not, the end result has to be pain. But being the troopers they were, the team took the shots and then got on a school bus (the yellow kind) and bounced on to Dumas to take on those Demons. Pampa lost 15-14.

And there were older kids that were just as amazing. I give you Wendell Palmer. Here is a man in his 70s competing in track and field events that most of us are not even capable of. He holds a laundry list of records. He throws Discus. He competes in Shot Put. He is as physical, if not more so, than men half his age. And just a few weeks ago, Palmer was inducted into the Track & Field Masters Hall of Fame. Yep, pretty amazing.

So what about now former head football coach Heath Parker's departure to take over a struggling Tascosa program? I do believe this to be the big story of the year. However, as my coworker, Marilyn Powers, is busy putting together a "Top Stories of 2004" special, I wanted to use this column to feature those stories some may have forgotten about.

So far a a regional story, I would say the loss of the Amarillo Dillas should rank up there.

But if I am going to reflect here, I would prefer to do so positively and not in a mournful manner. Therefore, I would suggest that the Amarillo Dusters – in spite of all that was wrong even before the team played its first game in the Intense Football League's first season – winning the league's championship was big news.

Bigger still is that the Dusters have now made the move from the IFL (which has already merged with the NIFL) to AF2. As Busch is to Nextel Cup, AF2 is to the AFL (Arena Football League).

This alone places Amarillo in the sporting spotlight. It also provides a measure of hope to those players who may not make it the NFL.

So there you go. My input regarding what I think were some interesting stories. Stories I first learned, or wrote about, while sitting here in my Sports Editor's cubicle. Not really a 'best of' list. I hope to have one of those ready by December 31, 2005.

An incomprehensible death

By STEVE WILSTEIN
Associated Press

It's in the nature of athletes to imagine themselves immortal, if not impervious to harm, as though they live by a different set of rules from ordinary people.

The rest of us often buy into that illusion, too, admiring these charmed lives blessed with luck and skill, strength and wealth, passions that drive them to succeed.

When something goes wrong — a serious injury or illness, an unexpected death — it feels doubly shocking, as if they were unfair victims of misfortune. Those who played with them, those who watched them, the millions who were touched by them, experience the loss in a personal way.

The death of Reggie White at 43 is one of those that seem especially incomprehensible. Here was a larger-than-life figure, a man of deeply religious principles, compassion and charity, an ordained minister who was aptly known as the NFL's "Minister of Defense."

That he should die so young and suddenly — a preliminary autopsy showed he might have had a respiratory disease combined with other health problems — strikes us as particularly undeserved.

At a funeral home in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, former teammates, foes and fans mourned White while his family issued a statement of how he lived "the essence and the spirit of life by faith." A private funeral for White's family and friends will be held Thursday.

Former Green Bay Packers coach Mike Holmgren said a few days ago that what stood out about White was his sheer pleasure in the game. You could see it wherever he played — Philadelphia, Green Bay, Carolina — and in the way it propelled him to 198 sacks, making him the NFL's all-time leader at the time he retired in 2000.

"I've never seen a guy enjoy it more," Holmgren said. "It was contagious. He set the tone for the whole football team that way. You couldn't help but get caught up in it, players and coaches."

Others spoke of how he brought that rapture to his evangelical Christian ministry, to his work with the poor and with schools.

"He was absolutely passionate about everything," said former Packers teammate Eugene Robinson, now a commentator for the Carolina Panthers, where White spent his final season.

See WHITE, Page 7

Harvesters take fourth place at Milk Cow Classic with 56-47 loss to Valley Vikings

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester varsity boys' basketball team went 1-2 at the annual Milk Cow Classic in Clovis, wrapping up the tournament last night with a 56-47 loss to the Valley Vikings.

Valley (9-2) used a 26-point fourth period to seal the win and a third place tournament trophy. The Vikings were also accurate from the charity stripe, making 11 of 12 free throws.

Harvester starters played the entire first half of the game.

Pampa, now 12-6 on the season, claimed a fourth place tournament finish. Three Harvesters managed double-digit scoring last night, including Jarett Kotara, who ended with 13 points.

Pampa is home Tuesday night against Claude in The Pit. Tip off at 7:30 p.m.

Phelps gets 18 months probation

SALISBURY, Md. (AP) — Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps was sentenced to 18 months' probation Wednesday after pleading guilty to drunken driving.

Judge Lloyd O. Whitehead granted Phelps probation before judgment, meaning his record will be expunged if he follows the terms of probation. Phelps pleaded guilty to driving while impaired, and prosecutors dropped charges of driving under the influence, underage drinking and failure to stop at a stop sign.

The 19-year-old Phelps was fined $250 and ordered to pay $55 in court costs, must attend a meeting sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and must give speeches to students at three local schools by June 1, advising them about making choices and warning them about the dangers of alcohol.

Whitehead also ordered Phelps to abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs during his probation.

"I recognize the seriousness of this mistake," Phelps told the judge in a packed courtroom. "I've learned from this mistake and will continue learning from this mistake for the rest of my life."

Under the terms of his probation, Phelps must report to a probation supervisor once a month by telephone or as directed by the court.

"The reason for that is because of his travel," State's Attorney Davis Ruark said.

Normally a probationer would have to report in person.

Phelps, who grew up near Baltimore, recently moved to Michigan. He's scheduled to enroll in January at the University of Michigan, where his longtime coach Bob Bowman is the new men's swimming coach. As a professional, Phelps cannot compete for Michigan.

Colorado outlasts Texas-El Paso 33-26

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas El-Paso had the lead midway through the fourth quarter, the mostly orange-clad crowd was on its feet and Colorado was about to punt.

That's when Gary Barnett went deep into his bag of tricks.

Punter John Torp ran 22 yards on a fake punt for the first down and Joel Klatt followed with his second touchdown pass of the game, leading Colorado to a 33-28 victory in the Houston Bowl on Wednesday night.

"It seemed to be there," Barnett said of his rarely used trick play. "We have run them a couple of times, but not this year. We thought it would work."

Barnett was right, and the Buffaloes (8-5) went on to rebound from a humiliating 42-3 loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game with its first bowl victory since the 1999 Insight.com Bowl.

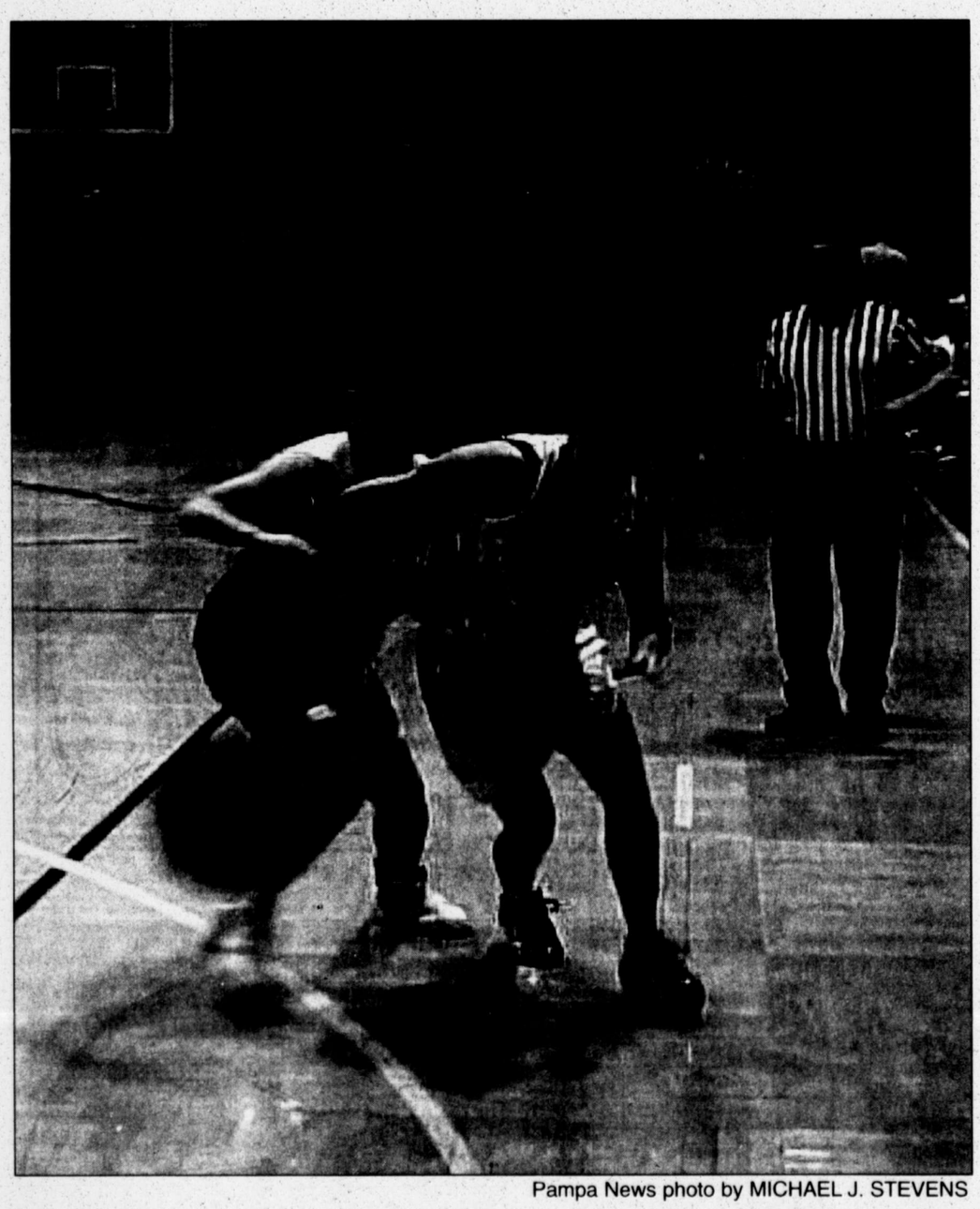
Klatt finished 24-of-33 for 333 yards and directed a fourth-quarter comeback by the plodding Buffaloes (8-5), who tried to keep pace with UTEP, which ranks eighth in the nation in scoring offense.

Colorado led 3-0 midway through the first quarter and trailed until seizing the lead late in the game.

Facing a fourth-and-3 at its own 35 and trailing by two, Colorado benefited from a nifty call by Barnett.

Torp, who holds four track records at his suburban Denver high school, hustled around the left end for the first down.

See UTEP, Page 7



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester Callie Cobb, #20, does her best to keep a Plainview player from a lose ball during a recent game at McNeely Field House. Pampa is competing at the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock.

Lady Harvesters win tournament opener

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Lady Harvesters opened the 46th annual Caprock Tournament in Lubbock yesterday on a winning note. Pampa defeated Lubbock Monterey 42-32.

Pampa held the Lady Plainsmen in check in the first half of the game, allowing just 10 points total. Lubbock Monterey came to life however in the second half, scoring 11 points in both the third and fourth periods.

Top scorers for the Lady Plainsmen were Melody Paton had eight points. Shamika Jones added six points. Payne Tarver tossed in five points as well.

Britteni Rice led the Lady Harvesters with 11 points. Lindsey Ammons ended the night with nine. Callie Cobb posted seven points while McKensie East had five points in the Pampa win.

Pampa made just two 3-point shots in the game, both by Ammons.

The Lady Harvesters will play at least two games today. The first was scheduled for 9 a.m. this morning. The other will be played later this afternoon.

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Phelps

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Phelps won eight medals at the Athens Olympics, including six golds.

Whitehead agreed to go along with the terms of a probation agreement worked out between defense attorneys and the state.

"We learn from our mistakes, and this was a mistake," the judge said after listening to a description of Phelps' accomplishments, background, and community service.

Defense attorney Steve Allen described Phelps as a "remarkably decent young man."

"Michael knows he's a role model and he knows he made a mistake," said Allen, who said Phelps' arrest occurred during "a brief period of decompression after the Olympics."

Phelps was stopped by a state trooper on Nov. 4 for running a stop sign near Salisbury University, about 85 miles southeast of Baltimore.

Phelps was charged with driving under the influence, driving while impaired, violation of a license restriction and failure to obey a stop sign. Maryland's drinking age is 21.

Ruark told the judge that a state trooper stopped Phelps after seeing a car turn right at an intersection in downtown Salisbury without stopping at a stop sign, then abruptly make a left turn onto anther road.

Ruark said the trooper detected "an extremely strong odor" of alcohol when he approached the car. And he reported that Phelps' eyes were bloodshot and glassy.

Phelps initially denied drinking, but after performing a variety of field sobriety tests, the trooper advised Phelps that he believed that he had been drinking.

"The defendant responded, 'I know. I'm sorry. I was just scared because I have a lot to lose,'" Ruark said.

Testaverde will start Cowboys finale

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Bill Parcells still isn't ready to start one of his young quarterbacks, even in the last game of a losing season for the Dallas Cowboys.

Vinny Testaverde will start the season finale Sunday night at the New York Giants. Rookie Drew Henson will prepare as the backup to the 41-year-old quarterback and get one-third of the snaps in practice, a switch from last week when Tony Romo was in the No. 2 spot.

"It's the same thing I've been trying to do," Parcells said Wednesday. "If the opportunity comes to play (Henson), I will play him. Again, I'm open-minded about using him at quarterback if the opportunity comes along."

The Giants will start rookie quarterback Eli Manning, the No. 1 overall pick last April, for the seventh straight game.

But Parcells has refused to make such a move for the Cowboys (6-9).

"I didn't want to, and don't want to still, risk damage," Parcells said. "I want them to have the best chance to succeed. ... I just didn't think the time was right."

Despite his reluctance to play Henson or Romo now, Parcells considers both part of the team's future.

"I should have a reasonably good opinion with what I've seen to this date," he said. "I will tell you, I do want to go forward with both of them in some capacity, however that works out."

Parcells prepared Romo as the backup last week, but Testaverde played the whole way against Washington. Testaverde led a game-winning 75-yard drive, throwing a 39-yard touchdown with 30 seconds left in a 13-10 win.

Testaverde has played in every game, missing just one start. He started at least 15 games only four times his previous 17 seasons, with just 11 starts the past two seasons for the New York Jets.

"Heck, I didn't know if I could make it," Testaverde said. "You work and prepare to get ready for the season, then there are 25-year-olds that don't make it through the season. You never know. You've got to be lucky, as far as injuries go."

Light hearted



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester Head Coach Troy Fry shares a light moment with his team Tuesday morning before leaving for Lubbock where Pampa is taking part in the annual Caprock Tournament. The Lady Harvesters opened with a 42-32 win over Lubbock Monterey yesterday. Lady Harvester Autumn Darden is also pictured.

UTEP

Continued from Page 6

The play quieted the mostly pro-UTEP crowd of 27,235 and immediately swung the momentum in Colorado's favor.

"I guess we watched it too long because it worked," UTEP coach Mike Price said. "We should have maybe tackled the guy that was running."

Two plays later, Klatt threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Evan Judge for the go-ahead score with 8:43 left.

Klatt was flattened by UTEP defensive end Ibok Ibok as he released the ball and didn't see the touchdown. He got up off the turf slowly and wobbled off the field into the arms of celebrating teammates.

"I couldn't tell you happened," Klatt said. "The linemen told me (about the score), when they picked me up." The Miners (8-4) still had a chance to win in the final minutes.

On third-and-4 from the UTEP 25, Jordan Palmer completed a 15-yard pass to Johnnie Lee Higgins, keeping a late drive alive. But Palmer misfired badly on his final four passes, and the comeback try fizzled.

Colorado coach Gary Barnett was doused with a cooler in the waning seconds, and dozens of players embraced their embattled leader.

Barnett's program was the target of sexual assault claims dating to 1997, followed by an investigation that discovered sex, alcohol and drugs were used as recruiting tools, although there was no evidence that university officials sanctioned it.

'We sort of finished the way we started the season.'

— Gary Barnett
Head Coach, Colorado

Then, Barnett was put on three months of administrative leave for making insensitive remarks about two accusers, including a former kicker who said she was raped by a teammate in 2000.

Barnett was reinstated May 28, and began building the foundation for a turnaround from a 5-7 record in 2003.

Colorado won its last three games of the season to earn a share of the Big 12 North title, and Barnett was voted the Big 12 coach of the year.

"We sort of finished the way we started the season," Barnett said. "We were determined to fight and stay together. Every game has been a fight. Nothing has been easy."

The Miners put up quite a fight, but simply couldn't hold off the faster, stronger Buffs in the second half.

Palmer, the younger brother of former Heisman winner Carson Palmer of Southern California, completed his first eight passes for 120 yards as the Miners raced out to an early 14-3 lead.

But Palmer began to struggle, Klatt began to find his rhythm and UTEP began to wear down as Colorado tailback Bobby Purify (80 yards on 22 carries) began pounding away at the Miners' smaller defensive line.

"In the first half, we executed our offense," Palmer said. "In the second half, I didn't pick up the blitzes and we didn't execute nearly as well."

Palmer finished 22-of-42 for 328 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions — both to Colorado safety Tom Hubbard. Boyd had seven catches for 140 yards and Higgins also had seven for 122.

UTEP, which won two more games this season than in the previous three combined, has lost in all three bowl appearances since winning the 1967 Sun Bowl.

"Right to the very end, our guys were giving a big effort," Price said. "This is a team that was picked to finish last and these guys have been browbeaten for three years. I'm very, very proud of them."

White

Continued from Page 6

"That's what I loved about Reg; he was just so passionate. I always told him, 'Man, you've always got to have a cause.'"

The past several days have been a time of unspeakable grief around the world, death on a grotesquely grand scale. The earthquakes and tsunami waves in Asia have claimed more than 77,000 lives, and the Red Cross predicted the death toll could exceed 100,000. Neither war nor terrorism kill so quickly and sweepingly as this natural tragedy.

Among the stories that have emerged from the disasters in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and other countries are the accounts of how some athletes and celebrities were among those who were killed or barely escaped death.

Swedish skiing great Ingemar Stenmark, winner of two golds at the 1980 Olympics and 86 World Cup races, ran for his life when he saw an immense wave roaring to shore as he lay sunbathing in Thailand.

"The water from the first wave disappeared, but then it came back with terrifying speed," Stenmark told Swedish media.

Australian Rules football player Troy Broadbridge, on his honeymoon in Phuket, Thailand, was still among the missing after he and his bride were swamped as they strolled along the beach. Trisha Broadbridge survived.

Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, who appeared on the cover of the 2003 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, was severely injured and her boyfriend, fashion photographer Simon Atlee has been missing, after a huge wave in Phuket carried them away.

Water swirled around Nemcova, 25, as she clung to a tree for eight hours. She is recovering in a Thai hospital from broken bones and internal injuries.

The catastrophe was an indiscriminate killer, claiming rich and poor, famous and anonymous, young and old. Thousands of children died, thousands of others were orphaned. Waterborne diseases threaten thousands more.

Every death is its own tragedy, and none is more or less significant owing to fame or wealth.

Reggie White, widely and deservedly mourned by American sports fans, understood better than most the singular dignity of individuals and, as his family said, "the essence and the spirit of life by faith." He saw a divine hand at work in everything and felt a calling to lend his own.

He helped rebuild churches that were burned. He took to the streets to aid the homeless and get work for the jobless. He and his wife Sara opened Hope Palace, a home for unwed mothers.

His faith led him down paths that alienated some and pulled in others, making a difference wherever he went.

As we watch the disaster unfold in Asia — none of us so far removed even from those distant shores — perhaps the memory of the good works of a man like Reggie White will inspire thoughts of how we, too, can make a difference in others' lives.

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein(at)ap.org

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LOST! All White Mini. Jack Russell Terrier w/ 1 brown ear & cropped tail. E. of town near Hwy 60. 665-0289 or. 665-8269

LOST on Hiking Trail at City Recreational Park. Tues. prescription glasses. 669-9215

13 Bus. Opp.

BARBER / BEAUTY Shop for sale. Great location!! Call 341-0675.

14d Carpentry

NEW Const., remodeling, replacement windows. Shawn Deaver Constr. 662-2977, 665-0354.

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14n Painting

INT./EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

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19 Situations

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21 Help Wanted

FULL-TIME C.N.A.'s 6-2 p.m. & 2-10 p.m. McLean Care Center call 806-779-2469 for the Administartor or the D.O.N.

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder-fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

POSITIONS avail. for Exp. Heavy Equip. Operators and Exp. "Finish" Blade Operators, interested in long term employment. Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187.

21 Help Wanted

STOP LOOKING AND GET TO WORK

Tired of looking for just a job? **Call** us today and begin a **Career**. If you are self-motivated and have a sales personality, you may be what we are looking for. Call now to find out how you can support your family in today's job market, only serious inquiries please. **669-0672**.

Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa

Is looking for 1 or 2 highly motivated persons to talk to families in the Pampa area about Cemetery Pre-Planning. If you're good with people & enjoy a challenge, call Daniel today at **665-8921.**

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OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES needs providers in Pampa. Call 1-800-800-0697.

SEM CRUDE has an opening for Crude Oil Transport Drivers within the Texas Panhandle area. Requires Class A CDL, with endorsement. Excellent benefits are included. Please call Joe Critchlow at 806-228-1127. or 806-934-7505 for application.

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FULL-TIME help needed. Apply at Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center.

DRIVERS needed. Class A CDL & DOT Hazmat req. No license violations. Uniforms, & health insurance provided. Inquire: 129 S. Price Rd., Pampa, Triangle Well Service. No phone calls please!

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE

Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

COOK: Full time. IMMEDIATE OPENING. Must have ability to prepare meals for special diets, reliable and dependable. Exp. in a school or medical facility a plus.

DIETARY AIDE: Immed. opening. Various duties in kitchen & dining room. Must be reliable & dependable. EOE. Please apply in person to Richard at CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER, 1504 W. Kentucky Ave., Pampa.

PART TIME INSERTER **needed immediately. About 20 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat. Apply in person, *The Pampa News*. No phone calls please.**

WES-TEX Services hiring exp. Oil Field Truck Drivers. Competitive pay, medical ins., retirement, uniforms, safety equip. Contact Tonnie, 101 Carolina, Borger, Tx. or call Tonnie 806-273-2362.

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White House Lumber
101 S. Ballard
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HOUSTON LUMBER
420 W. Foster
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60 Household

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69 Misc.

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FRED Brown Tree and Turf. Tree/yard spraying. Insect/weed control. Deep root feed. 662-3141

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3 br., 2 ba.-Scribner home, fpl., metal shop, overh. crane, 309 Miami. Billy 806-683-5982 , 665-3954, Becky 665-9443.

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CLEAN 3/1/1, central h/a, cellar. stg bldg, $34,000 negotiable, 2134 Sumner, 669-3780. Owner will not carry.

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1033 S. Faulkner
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Call Milton
806-790-0827

106 Coml. Property

2222 Perryton Parkway, Vacant Commercial Lot. Price Reduced by 1/2. C-21 Realtor, 665-4180.

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120 Autos

Doug Boyd Motor Co.
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821 W. Wilks 669-6062

1986 Olds 98, exc. motor, needs some trans work, $600 or OBO, Lefors, 662-5366.

1993 Toyota Corolla Green. $1900 688-0146

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1985 GMC 4x4 shortbed. Runs Good. $3800 Cash (OBO).SERIOUS BUYERS ONLY! 898-5984.

1991 Ford F-250 for sale. Rough. $900 obo. Call 669-7029.

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TX Dept. of Criminal Justice is now accepting applications for: Parole Caseworker II / Parole Officer I for the Pampa area. Minimum requirements, Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Major course work in Criminal Justice, Counseling, Social Work, Psychology or Sociology preferred. Experience in the operation of computers and related equipment preferred. Training in cultural diversity and sensitivity preferred. Submit a state of Texas application to:
Kim Mendonca, Human Resources
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Call (512)406-5377 for application forms and a complete job description or visit our website at www.tdcj.state.tx.us

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 31, 2004:

You instinctively make the right choices this year. You have the ability to detach and see the big picture. You will want to think through important decisions and surround yourself with people who don't think rigidly. You will strive to learn more, whether through travel or taking a class or two. A foreigner or someone very different could influence your life and thinking. If you are single, be open to different styles, but check out the apple of your eye carefully. You are unusually sensitive. If you are attached, you will gain more understanding of your sweetie. Share more of yourself, even if you find it a bit scary. Capricorns will see gains in their public life, possibly professionally. VIRGO can nitpick.

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)
★★ Nurture yourself and do what is necessary to perk up. Some might want to clear out some work, whereas others opt for extra zzz's. Think New Year's resolutions. Tonight: A force to be dealt with, but honor your feelings. Come in early if you feel like it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You have a mischievous twinkle in your eye as you kiss this year good-bye. Whatever you do, you add to the atmosphere and mood of the celebration. If you can, take off early. Opt for different New Year's plans. Tonight: Follow the music. Or put on music if you stay home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might want to stay home and nestle in. If you have to work, call it an early day. Your personal touch makes a big difference in your relationships and associations. Confirm that you and a family member are on the same page. Tonight: Snuggle in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Though you might be a bit irritable as the day begins, you feel much better as the New Year greets you. List the people you want to call to wish a happy New Year. Your calls and wishes touch the recipients. Tonight: Don't stay in, unless you throw a party. Celebrating suits your mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could go over the deep end with extravagance and indulgence. Remember, you don't have to do anything to attract others. The Lion's desirability is well known. Do you want to make a New Year's resolution? Tonight: Be good to yourself too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You happily enter the New Year with the Moon in your sign. Your desires are highlighted. Don't hesitate, especially with a romantic tie or a loved one. Others will have a good time if they are with you. Tonight: Smile and greet 2005 beaming.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Some days still might be difficult even with all the major positive transits in your sign. Today you are out of kilter. Hide out or lie low. Allow yourself to reflect on what you want. You can make it so this coming year. Tonight: Vanish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You enjoy yourself in crowds. You make the party wherever you are. You know what to say to help people who aren't into greeting the New Year with a smile. Around you, people beam. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)★★★ You might not be in the mood for what you have agreed to do. In any case, you follow through with a smile. Be aware of how much you are spending. Some might choose to go into work for a little while. Tonight: Radiate in the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You are particularly enjoying the moment. Some might be fortunate enough to get away or do something very different. Be open to discussing your long-term goals. Think of what you want to change this coming year. Tonight: Music helps you greet 2005.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have some strong feelings that you might want to share with someone else. Your plans need to involve a special person. Don't stand on ceremony. Talks are productive. Tonight: The theme is togetherness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out left and right. You might even receive some last-minute invitations. Go and do what you want. Touch base with those you care about. Friendship plays a key role, even if you are working. Tonight: Try to fit as much as you can into one night.

BORN TODAY
Actor Anthony Hopkins (1937), singer John Denver (1943), actor Val Kilmer (1959)

***

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

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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

12-30 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Y G X I S B I W I D B Q D I S B E

J Y U E I S U M R M U E Q K Q D U E Q

G W Q M N J Y W W W Q U X I S

M W I D Q . — Q A D Y Q V X W Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MIDDLE AGE IS WHEN YOU'VE MET SO MANY PEOPLE THAT EVERY NEW PERSON YOU MEET REMINDS YOU OF SOMEONE ELSE. — OGDEN NASH

FINAL DAYS

RED TAG SALE

SALE ENDS JANUARY 3, 2005

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0% APR 72 MONTHS WITH GMAC FINANCING

IN LEIU OF REBATES TILL JANUARY 3, 2005

'04 CADILLAC DEVILLE DTS

MSRP	$55,040
C/S Discount	-$13,914
2 Value Cert	-$1,000

$40,126

Stk #CA0415



'04 CHEVY MONTE CARLO

MSRP	$24,150
C/S Discount	-$2,400
Value Cert	-$1,000
Rebate	-$3,500
GMAC Fin	-$2,000

$15,250

Stk #C03084



'04 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 1500 Z71

MSRP	$40,635
C/S Discount	-$4,436
Rebate	-$3,500
2 Value Cert	-$1,000

$31,699

Stk #C04057



'04 CHEVY SILVERADO HD 2500 CREWCAB

MSRP	$37,828
C/S Discount	-$4,106
Rebate	-$3,500
GMAC Rebate	-$1,000

$29,222

Stk #C04123



'04 CHEVY TRAIL BLAZER 2 WD

MSRP	$28,380
C/S Discount	-$2,200
Rebate	-$4,000

$22,180

Stk #C04062



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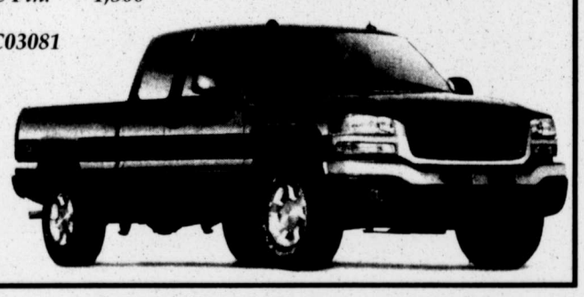
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C/S Discount	-$3,576
Rebate	-$3,500
GMAC Fin.	-$1,500

$24,551

Stk #C03081



'04 GMC YUKON 4WD

MSRP	$44,650
C/S Discount	-$5,130
Rebate	-$4,000
GMAC Fin.	-$1,500

$34,020

Stk #G04004



'04 YUKON XL 4WD

MSRP	$45,075
C/S Discount	-$5,137
Rebate	-$5,000
GMAC Fin	-$1,500

$33,438

Stk #C04123



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Sporty, Low Miles, Stk #C04176A

04 BUICK CENTURY $12,492
27K Miles, 24,800 MSRP, 1/2 Price of MSRP, Stk #3487A

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66K Miles, 4X4, Stk #3509A

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25K Miles, All Weather, All Families, Stk #3482C

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17K Miles, White, Stk #3506A

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46K Miles, 4x4, White Ext., Gray Int., Stk #TO3209A

00 LINCOLN LS $15,942
25K Miles, White, Sunroof, Stk #TO4170A

04 TOYOTA CAMRY $15,917
21K Miles, Beige, Stk #3495A

00 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN $17,897
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03 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON $22,496
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03 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON $22,996
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DEC 30 2004

Giving of cars on rise as tax change looms

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Charities that raise money through vehicle-donation programs are seeing a small but steady increase in donations ahead of a Jan. 1 change in tax laws that will limit the deductions taxpayers can take for such gifts.

Many charities that rely on the programs say they will retool after the new year to help donors obtain the maximum value for their gift, and are hopeful that the donations will continue.

Under current law, a taxpayer who donates a vehicle is allowed to deduct the fair market value of the car or truck on his tax return.

That has made vehicle donations particularly attractive options, because the fair market value is usually higher than the value one gets in trade at a car dealership.

In tax year 2000, about 733,000 taxpayers filed for car donation deductions, collectively reducing their tax liability by an estimated $654 million, or $892 each, according to a November 2003 audit by the General Accounting Office that provided the impetus for the tax law changes.

Under the changes to take effect in 2005, a taxpayer can deduct only the amount that a charity receives when it sells the vehicle. (Taxpayers may still deduct the fair market value of a vehicle worth $500 or less.) When charities sell the vehicles through wholesalers or auction lots, they may only receive a fraction of a vehicle's fair market value, severely limiting a taxpayer's deduction.

'We want everybody to know that we'll be open for business on Jan. 2, and that the donations are still very much in need.'

— Jim Hartman
Program director

Charities say they are seeing accelerated vehicle donations as the new year approaches. Jim Hartman, director of the vehicle-donation program for the Alexandria-based Volunteers of America, estimated that donations are running 8 percent to 9 percent ahead of last year.

Melwood, a charity in Upper Marlboro, Md., that heavily relies on car donations to provide job training and other services to the disabled in the Washington, D.C., area, also reported an increase in donations.

The spike might be larger if the charities were advertising the upcoming tax change. But Hartman said his organization does not want to create the impression that the vehicle-donation deduction is ending.

"We want people to continue to donate next year," Hartman said. "We want everybody to know that we'll be open for business on Jan. 2, and that the donations are still very much in need."



Shopping tour

Volunteers in "Santa's Corner" wrap gifts at the Optimist Club for children participating in the annual Children's Shopping Tour held this year on Dec. 11

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Delivers Any Unit - New or Used!

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