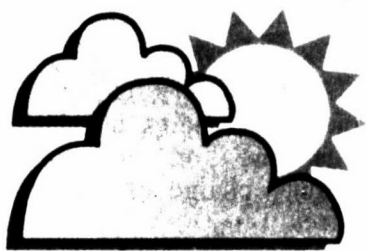


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Today's weather



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Deaths

Maxine Mauldin, 88,
beauty shop owner.
Wayne Mitchell, 87,
mechanic.

Texas Today

Survivors say they were told half-truths by smuggling ring

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Honduran women who survived the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt thought their journey into America would be made inside the cabin of a tractor-trailer.

But that was just one of the many half-truths Maria Leticia Lara-Castro and her sister-in-law Doris Sulema Argueta said they were told by the smuggling ring authorities say is responsible for the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants.

Argueta and Lara-Castro testified Tuesday at the trial of three people who authorities say are members of the ring that packed more than 70 illegal immigrants inside an airless truck trailer that traveled from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Authorities found 17 immigrants dead inside. Two died later.

The three on trial, Victor Jesus Rodriguez, Claudia Carrizales de Villa and Freddy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar, each faces 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants.

If convicted, each could get up to life in prison. Defense attorneys have said their clients had minimal involvement.

Vintage plane crash kills both occupants

MONTGOMERY, Texas (AP) — A single-engine vintage plane that spiraled to the ground near Lake Conroe, killing a pilot and his passenger, had apparently lost a wing only miles away from the site where a similar craft had crashed.

Pilot Richard Gillenwaters of Conroe and passenger Tietro Migliori, of Venezuela, died in the crash Tuesday during a training flight, said Texas Department of Public Safety officials.

Supreme Court hears checkoff challenge

Area cattlemen await justices' decision whether First Amendment right violated

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The future of dollars paid into the beef checkoff program by Pampa ranchers was the question before the Supreme Court of the United States today.

Questions by the eight members of the Supreme Court today hearing oral arguments concerning the beef checkoff program centered around

whether ads paid for by checkoff dollars constitute government speech and, if it is, whether there's a difference between paying for such advertising through an industry-funding checkoff program or an excise tax on cattle.

Justice John Paul Stevens announced as he took the bench that Chief Justice Rehnquist, who was absent and is under treatment for cancer, would participate in the case by reading the legal briefs and transcripts of the arguments.

Industry-funded checkoff programs, government supervised programs funded by producers through payments in to specific funds, have been challenged before, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor noted this morning, but not on free speech grounds.

The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, known as the beef checkoff program, requires cattlemen to pay assessments to fund

generic advertising and promotion.

A lawsuit brought against Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and another brought against Nebraska Cattlemen by the Livestock Marketing Association, mostly sale barns where much of the checkoff dollars are collected, question whether producers can be forced to pay such assessments if they disagree with the advertising or whether

See COURT, Page 3



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Holiday Harley

Wearing a Santa hat and cool red shades, Shawn Blackmon sits patiently on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle decorated with a wreath and ribbon waiting for the Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Parade to start.

Children's Shopping Tour plans under way

Pampa's annual Children's Shopping Tour will take place Saturday, Dec. 11, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Pampa Optimist Gym, according to Gayla Rigdon, a Kiwanian who is the general chair for the event.

"Chaperones will gather in the gym and be assigned children," Rigdon explained. "They will be given information collected by the Salvation Army about the ages and sizes of everyone in the child's household."

Capt. Patricia Stewart, of the Salvation Army, and Sandra McKinney, of the Texas Department of Human Services, are in charge of inviting the children to participate.

Kiwanis member John Wagner is in charge of registration.

Tralee Crisis Center will provide orange juice, coffee and donuts for chaperones to munch on while Rigdon gives the chaperones an orientation about the project.

'This will be the first time many of them have ever been able to experience giving at Christmas.'

— Gayla Rigdon
Tour chairperson

"We are hoping that the chaperones will leave the Optimist Club between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. to go pick up the children," Rigdon said. "They may shop anywhere in town, but Top of Texas Outlet is offering a 50 percent discount on items they buy and Wal-Mart is offering a 10 percent discount."

The children, who are between the ages of 5 and 10, buy presents for family members, not for themselves.

"This will be the first time many of them have ever been able to experience giving at Christmas," Rigdon explained.

After the children complete their shopping, they will return to the Optimist Gym for a wrapping party sponsored by the Opti-Mrs. Club. Whitney Davis is in charge of the wrapping party.

"The Opti-Mrs. need some volunteers to help wrap gifts," she said. "Last year we helped the volunteers and the children wrap an estimated 800 presents in about an hour and a half. Some of our members are going to be out of town that

day so we need additional volunteers to help with the wrapping."

When the wrapping is finished the chaperones and children will be treated to a hamburger luncheon by the Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

"We cooked 310 hamburgers last year and are expecting to cook around 400 this year," said Kevin Davis, the Optimist chair for the event.

The Energizer Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church, led by Alex Clendening, will help entertain the children who finish wrapping their packages early. The children will sing Christmas carols, hear Christmas stories and hear a devotion by Danny Hendricks about the true reason for the Christmas season.

See TOUR, Page 3

Senators expect final passage of intelligence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate worked toward approval Wednesday of legislation transforming the nation's Cold War-era spy network into a more agile system aimed at preventing terrorist attacks like those on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We are rebuilding a structure that was designed for a different enemy at a

different time, a structure that was designed for the Cold War and has not proved agile enough to deal with the threats of the 21st century," said Senate Governmental Affairs chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said, "For the first time in over half a century, we are going to modernize

our national intelligence structure to meet the new challenges we face in today's world."

As debate in the GOP-controlled Senate opened, the chambers leaders predicted the bill would easily pass.

Said incoming Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, "This vote

is not close or controversial in any way."

The House passed the bill overwhelmingly on Tuesday, 336-75, after Bush endorsed it and House Republicans satisfied themselves that the measure would not negatively affect the nation's military.

The president "greatly looks forward to Senate pas-

sage and ultimately to signing the bill into law," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said late Tuesday as the president flew back to Washington from a visit with Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The legislation would:

— Create a new national
See SENATORS, Page 3

DEC 08 2004

Obituaries

Maxine Mauldin, 88

Maxine Mauldin, 88, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, at Mesquite, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor of the First Christian Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Mauldin was born Dec. 15, 1915, in Dallas. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1927. She married Chester "Red" Mauldin on Sept. 2, 1937, in Sayre, Okla. He

preceded her in death on Sept. 5, 1984.

She was the owner and operator of Maxine's Beauty Nook for 50 years.

She was a member of the First Christian Church and the National Hairdressers Association.

Survivors include one son, Richard L. "Dick" Mauldin and wife Lynda of Mesquite; one stepbrother, E.E. "Buck" Seitz of Fort Collins, Colo.; and special friends, Roberta Pugh and Minnie Olive Jackson, both of Pampa.

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

Wayne Mitchell, 87

Wayne Mitchell, 87, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 6, 2004.

Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Thursday in Central Baptist Church with the Revs. C.W. Parker, pastor of the church, Rick Parnell, associate pastor, and Paul Nachtigall, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors courtesy of the U.S. Army at Fort Hood. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born July 2, 1917, at Campbell, Texas, Mr. Mitchell married Ola Winegeart on Nov. 8, 1939, at Wellington and was a mechanic for Johnny Smith Motor Company of

Andrews for 14 years.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Central Baptist Church.

Mr. Mitchell was preceded in death by two brothers, Mark Mitchell and Gordon Mitchell.

Survivors include his wife, Ola, of the home; a daughter, Joyce Fogle of Fredericksburg; a son, Troy Mitchell of Oklahoma City, Okla.; a sister, Evadale Scott of Weatherford; two brothers, J.L. Mitchell of Amarillo and Bill Mitchell of Irving; three grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas, or to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Mitchell

Services tomorrow

MAULDIN, Maxine — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

MITCHELL, Wayne — 2 p.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 60. Wind chill values between 25 and 32. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 65. Wind chill values between 28 and 33. Northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly

clear, with a low near 36. Wind chill values between 29 and 34. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. West wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 66. West southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. North northwest wind around 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 28.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 49.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 49.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Monday, Dec. 6

Found property was reported in the 2800 block of Charles. A wallet and contents valued at \$10 were found.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

A Nokia cell phone was reported lost at Wal Mart Supercenter, 2801 Charles. Estimated value of loss is \$160.

Theft of water services was reported in the 1000 block of Huff Road. Estimated value of loss is \$38.97.

Daniel Dion McGregor, 57, 1800 Williston, was arrested in the 1900 block of North Hobart for public intoxication.

Jeremy Cook, 21, 1713 Coffee, was arrested for no insurance, no payment of fine, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to report change of address, and running a stop sign.

block of Duncan. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

6:30 p.m. — A 2004 GMC Sierra, driven by Dianeth Cole, 38, Amarillo, collided with a parked 1986 Ford Mustang, owned by Julie Pilkington, 909 Fisher, in the 900 block of Fisher. No injuries were reported. Cole was cited for unsafe backing.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

2:32 p.m. — A 1997 Buick, driven by Betty Joyce McKnight, 63, 1041 S. Wells, and a 1996 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Angela Fern Carver, 21, 918 Reid, collided at the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets. No injuries were reported. McKnight was cited for failure to yield right of way while making a left turn.

3:08 p.m. — A 1994 Chevrolet 1500, driven by Natacha Alvarez Renteria, 31, 717 N. West, and a 1997 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Erin Dawn Winegeart, 17, 1534 N. Nelson, collided in the 1700 block of Duncan. Renteria was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Guardian EMS ambulance with possible injuries. Renteria was cited for failure to control speed and no driver's license.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Brandon Alan Smith, 21, 1301 Terrace, was arrested for a sentence on a parole violation for illegal drugs.

Tommy Porter Heath, 40, Canyon, was arrested on a motion for enforcement of child support.

Shelli Brandt, 34, 1136 Wilcox, was arrested for bond forfeiture on a Randall County charge of theft by

check, motion to revoke probation on a charge of theft of property, and bond forfeiture on a Potter County charge of theft by check.

Abel Rodriguez, 32, 926 Faulkner, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury and criminal mischief.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Dec. 7

3:10 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to 17th and Duncan on a motor vehicle collision.

5:40 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to Foster and Hobart to clean up a small oil spill in the roadway.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, Dec. 7

7:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Garden City Kansas and transported a patient(s) to a local nursing facility.

11:11 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Farley and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1100 block of Frost and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

12:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Coffee and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

2:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to the 1000 block of Farley.

3:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to 17th and Duncan streets and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

8:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Kingsmill. No transport.

11:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

1:18 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

3:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to the 1000 block of Wells.

Correction

A caption beneath a front page photo of the Fenton Motor Co. Christmas parade float listed an incorrect name for one of the people who made the float. The person on the right is Patricia Winkler.

Stocks

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

Wheat 3.08
Milo 3.09
Corn 3.72
Soybeans 4.52

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

QVY 54.22 -0.76
BP PLC ADR 58.05 -1.21

Cabot Corp. 36.45 -0.05
Cabot Oil Gas 43.58 -0.07
Coca Cola 40.30 +0.14
VLO 41.82 -0.41
HAL 38.10 -0.35
TRR 35.98 +0.34
NOL 32.95 -0.21
KMI 67.86 +0.38
XCEL 17.96 -0.04
Kerr McGee 56.97 -0.78
XOM 49.08 -0.48
Limited 23.84 +0.04
Williams 15.05 -0.33
MCD 31.37 +0.15

Atmos 26.75 -0.06
Pioneer Nat 33.38 -0.47
JCP 39.65 -0.01
COP 83.56 -1.19
SLB 61.66 -0.59
Tenneco 16.19 +0.39
CVX 51.61 -0.52
Wal-Mart 52.27 -0.23
OKE 27.00 -0.40
NS Grp 20.10 -0.17
New York Gold 451.25
Silver 7.81
West Texas Crude 41.46

The firm of Holt and Fields, attorneys, announces the impending deployment of our associate, First Lieutenant Jeffrey T. Jones, United States Army National Guard, to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, for approximately one year. We are proud of Jeff's service and wish him and all of his unit a safe return.

A reception honoring Jeff will be held in the Hospitality Room of the Combs-Worley Building from noon to 2:00 p.m.

on Thursday, December 9, 2004.

Friends, colleagues and clients are invited to attend.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Saturday, Nov. 27

1:50 p.m. — A 2003 Dodge Ram, driven by Joy Anne Hilbern, 30, 711 E. Browning, collided with a legally parked 2004 Dodge Ram, owned by Peggy Chase, 510 N. Perry, in the 100 block of South Cuyler. No injuries were reported. Hilbern was cited for unsafe backing.

Monday, Dec. 6

11:50 a.m. — A 2002 Chevrolet Z-71, driven by David Brett Ferrell, 16, 2213 Chestnut, and a 1988 Chevrolet C-1500, driven by Erica Page Nelson, 17, 329 Henry, collided in the 1400

CITY BRIEFS

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

ANGELS, ANGELS, we have Salvation Army Angels on our tree! Come by the Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.), pick up an angel & help make someone's Christmas a little brighter this year!! Return your packages to the Salvation Army, 701 S. Cuyler, or the business where you picked your angel from, Mon. thru Sat. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., deadline to return gifts is Dec. 13th.

BRICK REPAIR, Harley Knutson 665-2317 or 664-0543

COODER GRAW live at the Lonestar Bar, Sat., Dec. 11th, tickets \$8 in advance at Wayne's Western Wear, Onie's, Tarpley's or call 662-5206. 21 yrs. & over.

GOLF SALE, David's Golf Shop at Hidden Hills! All Merchandise Marked down, 25-50% off. Gift Certificates- a great idea for your golfer.

HEARD-JONES, Thurs. from 6-8 p.m. only, 25% Off all merchandise, excluding cigarettes & prescriptions.

LISA WILLS with 114 points of Pampa, local winner of the Pampa News Football Power Points Game and regional winner Shirlene Mahoney of Lufkin.

TRASH & Treasure Shop Christmas Open House, Sat., Dec. 11th, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Refreshments, door prizes. Savings thru-out the shop!

Spirit of the Season

Imagine a magical weekend of ballet, basketball, shopping and more!

The *Spirit of the Season* package includes:

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- Nutcracker tickets
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Pampa News photo

Tots bring toys

Some local children recently brought their donations to the Toys for Tots program at Culberson-Stowers Inc. on North Hobart Street. These gifts will remain in Gray County to be distributed by the Salvation Army. New unwrapped toys can be brought to the dealership between now and Dec. 17. Pictured, from left, are Daniel Leal, Serenity Leal, Melissa Leal holds Geri Laub, Madiyn Shults holds Marlee Quarles, Jana Shults, Shelby Carpenter, Connie Leal, Jazmyn Hair and Cameron Hair.

Tour

Continued from Page 1

Other entertainment will include a coloring contest for the children who finish shopping early to be conducted by Jana Gregory of the Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Santa Claus has indicated that he will make an appearance during the event.

Kiwanian Shelly Cook is in the process of recruiting 250 volunteers.

"We could not have done this project last year without help from our high school students," she said. "The Harvester Basketball Team, the Lady Harvester Basketball Team, the Student Council, ASTRA and the Cheerleaders were a tremendous help."

Cook continued, "We also had youth groups from the First United Methodist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, the Catholic Church and other groups. This year we anticipate having members of D-FY-IT and the Pampa Rodeo Club serve as chaperones."

Optimist John Warner serves as treasurer for the project.

"It costs \$65 to sponsor a child on the tour," Warner said. "The checks need to be payable to 'Pampa Optimist Youth Club' and sent in care of me at Box 645, Pampa, Texas 79066-0645. All contributions are tax deductible."

The Steering Committee in charge of planning the project expects to invite 130 children and serve 400 family members. The children on the tour will be allowed to spend \$30 per family member.

"The \$30 per family member is regardless of the number of children from the family on the tour," Rigdon explained. "If one child attends and there are five in the family, the chaperones will have \$150 to spend. If two children attend from the same family and there are five in the family, they will still have \$150 to spend."

Rigdon, a State Farm agent since 1983, moved to Pampa earlier this year. She is a member of the Pampa Kiwanis Club and the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. Rigdon and her husband, C.D., have two sons and two grandsons.

Community members serving on the Steering Committee include Bob Marx of the Salvation Army, Trevlyn Pitner, president of the Kiwanis Club, Ronnie N. Haynes, president of the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, Wagner, Kevin Davis, Whitney Davis, McKinney, Stewart, Kim Davis and Karen Hooper of Tralee Crisis Center, Gregory, Dr. Dan Powell, of the Body of Christ Church, Ann Franklin, of the Kiwanis Club, and Warner.

Persons interested in serving as chaperones should contact Shelly Cook at 669-2899.

'We could not have done this project last year without help from our high school students.'

— Shelly Cook
Volunteer recruiter

Reforms

Continued from Page 1

Lawmakers stood and cheered as President Leonid Kuchma signed the measure.

"Today was the day for critical compromise," a jubilant Yushchenko said outside the doors of parliament after the laws passed. "Tomorrow could have been too late."

The United States and other Western governments praised

the decision, coming after a tense two weeks of round-the-clock street protests in Kiev.

"Ukrainian and Russian authorities are hearing a clear message from North America and Europe, in diplomatic stereo — and that stereo sound makes a difference," Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Brussels, where he was attending NATO talks. "And what do we say? Let the people decide."

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier

Solana, congratulated "all sides on the crucial decisions that were taken today" in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

After signing the text of the amendments and laws package in two blue leather folders with a golden Ukrainian trident, Kuchma shook hands with parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn and deputy speakers. Lytvyn then firmly clasped both folders and held them up to show to deputies.

"Over the last 100 years, Ukraine has more than once suffered through a crisis, but there was always enough common sense to find a way out and a decision," Kuchma said.

Campaigning in eastern Ukraine, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the Kremlin-backed candidate whose support in Ukraine is slipping away, said he was "not happy" with parliament's decision. He described it as a "soft coup d'etat."

Senators

Continued from Page 1

intelligence director. —Establish a counterterrorism center.

—Set priorities for intelligence gathering. —Tighten U.S. borders.

It would implement the biggest change to U.S. intelligence gathering and analysis since the creation of the CIA after World War II.

The bill also included a host of anti-terrorism provisions, which would:

—Allow wiretaps of "lone wolf" terrorists not associated with groups or states.

—Improve airline baggage screening procedures.

—Increase the number of full-time border patrol agents by 2,000 a year for five years.

—Impose new federal standards on information that driver's licenses must contain.

The Sept. 11 commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the nation's 15 intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to stop the

2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The new structure should help the agencies work together to prevent such disasters in the future, lawmakers said.

"This legislation is going to make a real difference to the

security of our country," said Senate Governmental Affairs Committee chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine. "It is going to improve the quality of intelligence provided to our military and it will help to keep civilians safer here at home."

Senators said Tuesday they

were confident the bill would pass.

But because Congress had to hold a special session to get a final agreement, Wednesday's vote was expected to be extended to late in the day to accommodate senators rushing back to the Capitol from across the nation.

You're Invited

to

Meredith House Annual Santa Shop

Meredith House invites you and your family!

Date: Friday, December 10th, 2004

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

Come and holiday shop with several different vendors from around the Panhandle!

812 W. 25th St. • Pampa, TX 79065

For more information call 806-665-5668



Court

Continued from Page 1

that violates the producers' First Amendment rights concerning free speech.

"Is it government speech, even when the government is not speaking?" asked Justice Anthony Scalia of Richard Kneeder, representing the U.S. Agriculture Department.

Kneeder argued that it meets the Supreme Court's definition of government speech based on previous rulings.

"Some people may be more resistant if they think the government wants you to eat more beef," Scalia added with a grin.

Kneeder said that the checkoff funds are collected by the Beef Board, which he claimed is a government entity. He also argued that the Secretary of Agriculture has to approve all the advertising that is done using the checkoff funds.

Kneeder also said that only about half the checkoff funds go to advertising. The other half goes to education and research.

"This program has been successful," Kneeder told the court.

Several Justices questioned whether the program could be adjusted or changed to meet the objections of the plaintiffs.

Laurence Tribe, the attorney representing the Livestock Marketing Association, was vague concerning the organization's objections, but he did say that some cattlemen wanted to advertise beef as being American, but under the current plan, they couldn't. That, he claimed, is a violation of those cattlemen's right to free speech.

"I don't understand your claim," Justice O'Connor told Tribe.

Tribe accused the program of being an elaborate structure that purports to represent cattlemen.

The Beef Board is an independent organization of industry officials created by the Beef Promotion and Research Act to oversee how the checkoff dollars are spent.

Tribe indicated that if the government levied an excise tax on cattle and the money went into the general tax fund, but Congress then paid for the advertising, it would solve the First Amendment question.

The Justices then questioned whether Congress could require people to pay taxes to support programs some individuals objected to. Obviously, several Justices pointed out, it can, such as in using excise tax on tobacco to fund a message saying smoking is bad for a person's health.

A decision on the beef checkoff program is expected before the Supreme Court ends their term next June.

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Holiday Recipe Contest

Bring your recipe to The Dixie Cafe by December 20th and your recipe may be chosen as the new addition to our menu. Plus... win a gift certificate from the Dixie.

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PLUS 3 SIDES
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Feeds Family Of 4
Offer Expires Soon

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Viewpoints

Fun of producing play worth being 6'4" elf

I looked through my closet last night to find a plaid shirt which would match a brand new pair of bright red suspenders. I was putting together my costume for our high school theater department's Christmas and children's play, "Have You Seen This Reindeer?"

As the play's stage manager, I am dressing up as a six-foot four-inch tall elf, so I can move the set pieces without distracting the audience members.

The play is an original script from one of our

department's senior thespians, Luke Dyer. It is a take-off on the story of Rudolf, the red nose reindeer. The first scene takes place at the 25th Annual Reindeer Games. Here the other pullers of Santa's sleigh are mean to Rudolf and cause him to run off and hide. The remaining reindeer spend to rest of the play trying to find their red-nose friend so they can apologize for their harsh actions. The reindeer eventually catch up with Rudolf and in the process manage to save Christmas from the evil

and ever allusive Frost Giant. In all, it is an entertaining script.

But more entertaining to me is how much fun I have had helping to put the play together. Our cast has a great ensemble, and each rehearsal brings enjoyment and laughter to all involved in the production.

One of the things we have

chuckled about the most has been the scenery colors. They are truly awful. I can freely say this because I,



Ben Briscoe

News Intern

s a d l y enough, am the one who picked out the uncoordinated mixture of '50s pink, m a n g o orange, punky purple and jalapeño green, which to tell the truth, looks more like lemon yellow.

The wide spectrum of

neon shades was carefully crafted to hold the highest possible appeal to our child audience, but the rest of the cast and crew members just seem to see it as an eyesore.

Being a part of this play has reminded me why I love theater. It is the team work and group participation that is required to produce a play that I love. Working together to make the best possible performance on opening day, in this case Friday, is what makes the long rehearsal hours and all of the required dedication worth it. In the

end, it all pays off.

When the curtain goes up, it is easy to experience a true feeling of euphoria. And you and everyone around you never want it to end. That is why I am willing to be a freakishly, unnaturally tall elf with pointy shoes. I know no embarrassing costume to ever compare to the rush I get from working on and bringing in a production with all of my friends.

Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School and intern at The Pampa News.

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 343rd day of 2004. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

In 1854, 150 years ago, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Roman Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the reconstruction of the South.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1978, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir died in Jerusalem at age 80.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1987, the "intefadeh" (Arabic for uprising) by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed into U.S. law the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect at the start of 1994.

Ten years ago: Bosnian Serbs released dozens of hostage peacekeepers, but continued to detain about 300 others. In Los Angeles, 12 alternate jurors were chosen for the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Five years ago: A jury in Memphis, Tenn., hearing a lawsuit filed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family found that the civil rights leader had been the victim of a vast murder conspiracy, not a lone assassin. A Russian diplomat was ordered to leave the U.S. after he was allegedly caught gathering information from the State Department with an eavesdropping device.

One year ago: President Bush signed a \$400 billion Medicare overhaul bill that included a prescription drug plan for the elderly. Congress approved legislation to stem the flood of unwanted junk e-mail known as "spam." U.S. Rep. Bill Janklow, R-S.D., resigned after being convicted in the traffic death of a motorcyclist, Randy Scott.

'So long as governments set the example of killing their enemies, private individuals will occasionally kill theirs.'

— Elbert Hubbard
American author



Most influential philosopher alive

PRINCETON, N.J. — Republicans are winning elections, but the long-term problem of the left dominance within academia remains. Consider, for example, the influence of Princeton professor Peter Singer.

Many readers may be saying, "Peter who?" — but The New York Times, explaining how his views trickle down through media and academia to the general populace, noted that "No other living philosopher has had this kind of influence."

The New England Journal of Medicine said he has had "more success in effecting changes in acceptable behavior" than any philosopher since Bertrand Russell.

The New Yorker called him the "most influential" philosopher alive.

Don't expect Singer to be quoted heavily on the issue that roiled the Nov. 2 election, same-sex marriage.

That for him is intellectual child's play, already logically decided, and it's time to move on to polyamory.

While politicians debate the definition of marriage between two people, Singer argues that any kind of "fully consensual" sexual behavior involving two people or 200 is ethically fine.

For example, when I asked him recently about

necrophilia (what if two people make an agreement that whoever lives longest can have sexual relations with the corpse of the person who dies first?), he said, "There's no moral problem with that."

Concerning bestiality — should people have sex with animals, seen as willing participants? — he responded, "I would ask, 'What's holding you back from a more fulfilling relationship?' (but) it's not wrong inherently in a moral sense."

If the 21st century becomes a Singer century, we will also see legal infanticide of born children who are ill or who have ill older siblings in need of their body parts.

Question: What about parents conceiving and giving birth to a child specifically to kill him, take his organs and transplant them into their ill older children?

Singer: "It's difficult to warm to parents who can take such a detached view, (but) they're not doing something really wrong in itself." Is anything wrong with a society in which children are bred for spare parts on a massive scale? "No."

When we had lunch after

our initial interview and I read back his answers to him, he said he would be "concerned about a society where the role of some women was to breed children for that purpose," but he stood by his statements.

He also reaffirmed that it would be ethically OK to kill 1-year-olds with physical or mental disabilities, although ideally the question of infanticide would be "raised as soon as possible after birth."

These proposals are biblically and historically monstrous, but Singer is a soft-spoken

professor.

Whittaker Chambers a half-century ago wrote that, "Man without God is a beast, and never more beastly than when he is most intelligent about his beastliness," but part of Singer's effectiveness in teaching "Practical Ethics" to Princeton undergraduates is that he does not come across personally as beastly.

C.S. Lewis 61 years ago wrote "That Hideous Strength," a novel with villainous materialists employed by N.I.C.E. (the National Institute of Coordinated Experiments).

Their offices were to be in a building that "would make quite a noticeable addition to the skyline of New York." But Singer sits in an unostentatious office at Princeton's Center for Human Values, which is housed in a small and homey grayish-green building with a front yard that slopes down the street. The center even has a pastoral-sounding address: 5 Ivy Lane.

C.S. Lewis's N.I.C.E. leaders are totalitarian. They use media control and a police force to push opponents into submission. Singer says he's not totalitarian because he accepts debate and says that "people can draw the line anywhere."

But, within Singerism, should they? He scorns attempts to set up standards of good and evil that go beyond utilitarianism, and hopes to convince people willingly to do it his way.

The challenge for conservatives during the next several decades will be not only to win elections, but to win the intellectual battles.

Marvin Olasky is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and editor of "World," a weekly magazine from a Christian perspective.

Marvin Olasky
Columnist



State coffers look better than schools'

At the top of the Texas Legislature's agenda next month will be public school funding, a dilemma that has been plaguing lawmakers for way too long.

However, at least as far as the budget, there shouldn't be too many fuss-budgets.

Considering how a plan to pay for public schools has been the proverbial monkey on the backs of lawmakers,

Texas Thoughts

Amarillo Globe-News

they deserve some good news, and got just that last week.

According to the comptroller's office, the Legislature won't have nearly the trouble creating a budget as it did

two years ago, when lawmakers were forced to slash nearly \$10 billion just to make ends meet.

While the budget is predicted to swell to a record \$130 billion, estimates are the state is in sound enough financial condition to handle it.

That's the best news we've heard in a long time.

Now about how to pay for public schools...

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Sports Day



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Brittin East dribbles the ball past a Rebel defender at McNeely Field House last night. East and his Harvester teammates defeated 5A Tascosa 60-54 and improved the Pampa season record to 8-3.

Pampa bounces Rebels 60-54

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Head Coach Jeff Reed said entering last night, "It would be great to get a 5A win tonight." Wish granted.

The Harvesters hosted Tascosa last night at The Pit and wasted little time in getting things going. "Our guys came out ready to get after it," said Reed. "They looked better than they have all season. It was impressive."

The Harvesters were on their way to a double digit victory when Reed began to insert his non-starters. "I wanted to get them some playing time," said Reed. Those players started taking the floor with not much more than 4:30 left in the game and Pampa up big on Tascosa.

The Rebels then mounted a late charge, getting to within four points of Pampa at

one point. But the Harvesters held on to win by six, 60-54.

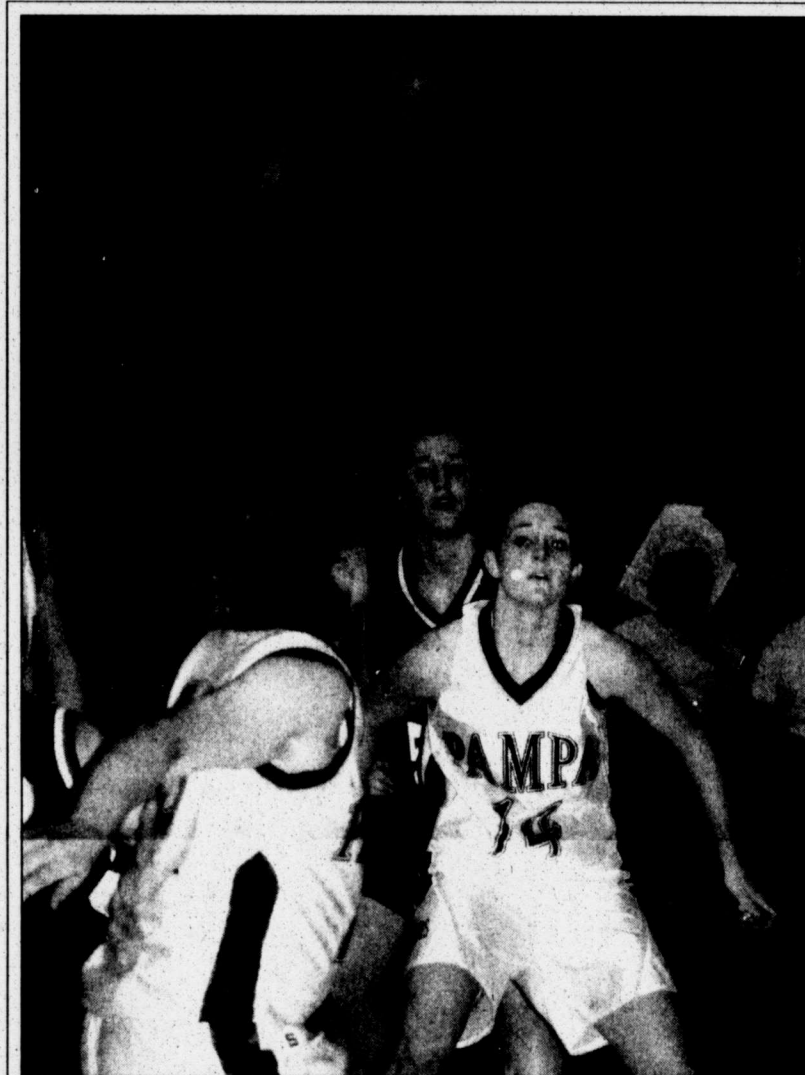
Said Reed, "I wanted to see how they played against Tascosa. Even when they made that run on us, I was determined to win or lose with the guys on the floor."

Reed doesn't believe you win with two or three guys. "We are only as good as our eleventh man." By that, Reed means those who may not start or get the minutes others do, still need to be ready to go and play at that same level in the event of foul trouble or injury. "I don't want our guys to get complacent. I want them ready at all times," Reed said.

'I don't want our guys to get complacent. I want them ready at all times.'

— Jeff Reed
Head Coach, PHS Boys Basketball

Next up for the Harvesters, now 8-3, is a trip to Amarillo Friday to meet Trinity Fellowship. Both the varsity and junior varsity boys' teams will play. Junior varsity at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Lady Harvester's defense helps tame Tascosa 59-43

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters scored in double digits in all four periods last night en route to a 59-43 win over Tascosa at McNeely Field House. The win improves Pampa's record to 5-7.

Pampa scored 28 points in the first half (13, 15) to take a 28-18 ten point lead to the locker room at halftime. The Lady Harvesters were just as strong in the sec-

ond half, posting 31 points (19, 12) to the Lady Rebels' 25.

Lindsey Ammons and Britten Rice each scored 14 points in the winning effort.

McKensie East hit double digits as well with 11 points for the night.

Pampa next faces Lubbock Coronado Friday night at 6 p.m. That game will be played at Canyon High School.

Pampa's Jackie Gerber, #14, appears to be looking at her teammate to determine who will get the free ball in last night's meeting with the Lady Rebels of Tascosa. Pampa used four solid periods of double digit scoring to win 59-43.

Coach Cadenhead keeps team home

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Pampa pulled out of last night's scheduled wrestling matches at Amarillo High School. The Harvesters were to face off against Randall and Amarillo High.

In explaining why his team did not participate in the match, Head Coach Josh Cadenhead said, "I decided not to go to

Amarillo due to conflicts and injuries. We are going to stay at home and heal and prepare for this weekend's tournament."

The tournament Cadenhead references is the Tiger Invitational in Ulysses, Kan. That two day tournament will start Friday.



PHS JUNIOR VARSITY

Pampa JV teams turned away by Tascosa Rebels

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Both the boys' and girls' junior varsity teams fell to their visiting Tascosa counterparts last night.

The boys' team lost to the JV Rebels 53-20.

The girls' lost to the JV Lady Rebels 45-27.

The boys' team will make the trip to Amarillo

with the varsity team on Friday to face Trinity Fellowship. That game will start at 6 p.m.

The girls' team will play next Tuesday when they join the varsity squad in hosting the Lady Bulldogs of Borger. That game will begin at 7:30 p.m.

IOC investigates Jones in wake of allegations

LONDON (AP) — The IOC opened an investigation into doping allegations against Marion Jones, who could eventually be stripped of her five medals from the 2000 Olympics.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge set up a disciplinary commission to look into the claims made by Victor Conte, head of the California-based lab accused of illegally distributing steroids.

Conte told ABC's "20/20" in a broadcast aired Friday that he gave Jones performance-enhancing drugs before and after the

Sydney Olympics. He said he watched Jones inject herself with human growth hormone.

Jones won three gold medals (100 meters, 200 and 1,600 relay) and two bronze (long jump and 400 relay) in Sydney. She repeatedly has denied ever using banned drugs, and has threatened to sue Conte for defamation.

Optimist basketball sign-ups, tryouts to be held next month

Sign-ups and tryouts for Optimist Boys' Basketball will be held January 3-5, 2005, a group of interested parents and coaches decided Monday at an organizational meeting of the league held at the Optimist building.

"Sixth graders and fourth graders who were on a Pampa Optimist basketball team last year will remain on the same team," said Commissioner Huey Green. "New players will need to attend two of the three tryout sessions so coaches can get an idea of their degree of skill."

Green went over some of the Optimist rules relating to boys' basketball. In order to assure insurance coverage to protect the players, the club and the coaches, all managers and coaches will be required to be members of the Optimist Club. Teams playing the late game will be responsible for running the concession stand and providing

referees for the early game. Teams playing the early game will do the same for the late game. Each team must find its own sponsor. The cost to sponsor a team is \$100 for the boys' basketball season.

"We plan to have two games a night and will avoid nights when the Harvesters or Lady Harvesters have a home game," said Green.

Attending the meeting were Jad and Danny McGuire, Lance Wood, Ron Carr, Raymond Cox, Joe Michelay, Tom McElwain, Martin Avila, Bill Simon, Bill Lewis, Russ Hughes, Optimist President Ronnie N. Haynes, Optimist Vice-president Kevin Davis and Optimist Treasurer Judy Green. Not present, but indicating a desire to coach, were Kevin Hunt, Dr. Dan Powell and Eugene Polasek.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Pet of the Week

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Astros offer Beltran, Clemens arbitration

HOUSTON (AP) — Carlos Beltran and Roger Clemens were offered salary arbitration Tuesday night by the Houston Astros, giving them until Jan. 8 to re-sign two All-Stars who helped the team win its first playoff series in club history.

However, second baseman Jeff Kent was not offered arbitration and will not return to the team.

"We felt like we made some very fair offers to Jeff," new Astros general manager Tim Purpura said. "It just didn't work out."

In addition to Kent, relievers Dan Miceli and Darren Oliver were also not offered arbitration.

Earlier Tuesday, free-agent outfielder Orlando Palmeiro agreed to an \$800,000, one-year contract and "right-handed reliever Russ Springer was signed to a minor league contract."

Palmeiro, who turns 36 on Jan. 19, batted .241 with a career-high three home runs and 12 RBIs for Houston last season. He played in 102 games, making 17 starts.

The negotiations are just starting with Beltran, whose postseason performance made him baseball's biggest offseason catch.

Beltran batted .417 in the NLCS with four home runs, five RBIs and four steals after hitting .455 with four homers and nine RBIs in the division series.

"We've accomplished one of the steps," Purpura said. "We know where we stand and we're ready to get started."

Meanwhile, the 42-year-old Clemens, who won his record seventh Cy Young Award a month ago, is again considering retirement.

The AP Top 25

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Sports Editor

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 4, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (44)	12-0	1,599	1
2. Oklahoma (14)	12-0	1,556	2
3. Auburn (7)	12-0	1,525	3
4. California	10-1	1,399	4
5. Utah	11-0	1,345	5
6. Texas	10-1	1,337	6
7. Louisville	10-1	1,183	7
8. Georgia	9-2	1,117	8
9. Virginia Tech	10-2	1,111	10
10. Boise St.	11-0	960	11
11. Iowa	9-2	948	12
12. LSU	9-2	929	13
13. Michigan	9-2	917	14
14. Miami	8-3	776	9
15. Tennessee	9-3	651	15
16. Wisconsin	9-2	648	17
17. Florida St.	8-3	647	16
18. Virginia	8-3	482	18
19. Pittsburgh	8-3	415	19
20. Florida	7-4	325	20
21. Arizona St.	8-3	222	21
22. Texas A&M	7-4	213	22
23. Texas Tech	7-4	168	24
24. Ohio St.	7-4	155	25
25. Boston College	8-3	150	23

Others receiving votes: West Virginia 97, Toledo 86, Purdue 49, Navy 28, Memphis 26, Fresno St. 24, Oklahoma St. 16, UTEP 6, Syracuse 5, N. Illinois 4, Bowling Green 3, New Mexico 3.



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Got your back



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Junior guard Callie Cobb, #20, appears to be frustrating her Lady Rebel counterpart in last night's game at McNeely Field House. Pampa defeated Tascosa 59-43.

Kings fail to gain ground on Suns

(AP) — The Sacramento Kings won again. And again, they failed to gain any ground on the Phoenix Suns.

Peja Stojakovic had season highs of 30 points and 12 rebounds, and Brad Miller scored 27 points in the Kings' 12th victory in 13 games, 109-92 over the Charlotte Bobcats on Tuesday night.

With Chris Webber sitting out to rest his sore left knee, Darius Songaila matched his career high with 17 points and 11 rebounds in Sacramento's fifth straight win.

Bobby Jackson scored 16 points for the Kings, who have lost just once in four weeks but haven't been able to gain any ground on the Pacific Division-leading Suns, who also have won 12 of 13.

"It's a little early to be thinking about the standings like that," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "Mike (D'Antoni) has got Phoenix just playing great, and we've been on a good run for a while, too."

"It's going to be about consistency in our division. We're just going to try to stay at as high of a level as possible. If we can stay consistent and not go into a funk like last year, I think we'll be fine."

In other games, Phoenix defeated Golden State 116-104, Cleveland downed New Jersey 103-97, Dallas beat Minnesota 97-87,

Memphis topped New York 89-86, Houston topped New Orleans 89-81 and Milwaukee edged Indiana 89-86.

At Sacramento, the Kings had a 15-0 run spanning halftime and easily held on for their ninth win in 10 home games this season.

Suns 118, Warriors 104

At Phoenix, Steve Nash had 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, when the Suns rallied from seven points down.

Cavaliers 103, Nets 97

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 27 points and assisted on Lucious Harris' clinching 3-pointer with 6 seconds left as the first-place Cavaliers won their eighth straight at home.

At 12-6, the Cavaliers have the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference — the first time they've had that distinction after 15 games since March 21, 1989, when they were 48-17.

After his two free throws put the Cavaliers up 97-93 with 1:35 to play, James stole Richard Jefferson's crosscourt pass and streaked in for a thunderous slam dunk.

The Nets pulled within 100-97 on Jason Collins' tip with 30.9 seconds to go, but James fed Harris in the right corner and the shooting guard, who spent seven seasons with the Nets before signing with Cleveland as a free agent last summer, drilled his 3.

Mavericks 97, Timberwolves 87

At Minneapolis, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points, including 23 in the second half, to snap the Timberwolves' five-game winning streak.

Josh Howard had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks, who overcame the early ejection of coach Don Nelson and out-rebounded Minnesota 54-35 to win for the third time in four games.

Kevin Garnett had 32 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Minnesota, which was playing without starter Latrell Sprewell. Sprewell was suspended for one game by the NBA for yelling a sexual vulgarity at a fan in Los Angeles on Saturday night.

Grizzlies 96, Knicks 88

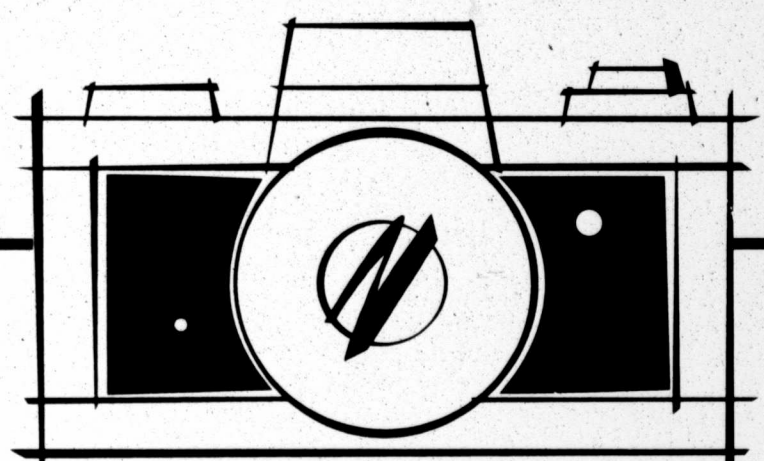
At Memphis, Earl Watson scored a career-high 22 points, missing only one of his 10 shots, and Mike Miller added 20.

Rockets 89, Hornets 81

At Houston, Yao Ming scored 21 points and had nine rebounds, and backup point guard Andre Barrett scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Bucks 89, Pacers 86

At Indianapolis, Michael Redd scored 28 points to lead Milwaukee to its first road win of the season. It was the fifth straight loss for the Pacers, the longest losing streak for Indiana under second-year coach Rick Carlisle.



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THE PAMPA NEWS

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF IVA STUDEBAK. Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the estate of IVA STUDEBAK, Deceased, were granted to me, the undersigned, on December 6, 2004, Cause No. 9146, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas. Persons having claims against this estate are currently being administered are required to present them to us within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED December 8, 2004.

BILLIE STUDEBAK, Independent Executor of the Estate of IVA STUDEBAK, Dec'd. c/o Vanessa G. Bruce, Peterson Farris & Parker, 208 N. R. Pampa, Texas 79706, 806/669-9756. Attorney: BILLIE STUDEBAK. B-36 Dec. 8, 2004.

4 Not Respon.

AS of this date, Dec. 8, 2004, I, Christian E. Bruce, will no longer be responsible for any other than those in my possession. Signed, Christian E. Bruce.

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The Stars Show Have: 5-Dynasty Average: 2-So-

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) ***** Work longer be appearing new ground and thoughts and ideas ask questions. and brainstorming concepts. Tonight: cial friend. **TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20) ***** Other masse. What see another's inspirational as out where and good will and along with other **GEMINI** (May 21 - June 21)

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a married mother of two, with what I thought was a good marriage. My husband, "Charles," and I like to surf the Web, and trust each other enough not to check user histories -- but one morning he forgot to close a window on his computer.

What I saw shook me. Charles had joined a "married but looking" Web site about a year ago. It was news to me. I thought we had a strong marriage. His profile said he wanted a casual, discreet "fling" with no strings attached. It said that he was married, but not happily! (He never said that to me.) It also showed that he had contacted three women, one here in our small town.

I am deeply hurt. Even if he hasn't followed through, I feel that he has cheated on me by contacting those women. I know I need to talk to him and find out what is going on, but I don't know how to approach him without him claiming that I invaded his privacy.

Marriage counseling is not an option. Money is tight, and the minister of the church where we attend is his uncle. Why didn't he come to me and say he isn't happy? Please tell me what to do. -- HURT AND HUMILIATED IN ADRIAN, MICH.

DEAR HURT: Your husband may be as scared of telling you he's unhappy as you are to tell him that you know. Subconsciously, I suspect he wanted to be caught. That's why he "forgot" to close the window on his computer. For the sake of your marriage, it's time to clear the air.

Tell Charles that you are aware of his extracurricular activities and how you feel. Do not allow him to put you on the defensive. If

you think he might lie, contact the women and ask what's been going on. If you can't afford marriage counseling, seek aid and comfort from a clergyman. Since you prefer not to confide in your husband's uncle, consult another minister.

P.S. Because you now question Charles' fidelity, talk to your doctor and ask to be checked for STDs.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my 30s with a group of close friends who have been together since college. We have a question on which we are divided.

A couple of the women feel it is OK to apply lipstick, or powder their noses, at the table in a restaurant. The others feel it's inappropriate. We realize that in the scheme of things, this is a small issue, but it's causing unrest among us. There is also the question of whether or not it is appropriate to talk on a cell phone at the restaurant table. -- NEEDS A REPLY IN DAVIDSONVILLE, MD.

DEAR NEEDS: You're right; in the scheme of things, it is a small issue. I was taught that if the repair is a "quickie" -- a dab of powder or an unobtrusive application of lipstick -- it is permissible at the table. If it takes more than a minute, the repair job should be done in the ladies' room.

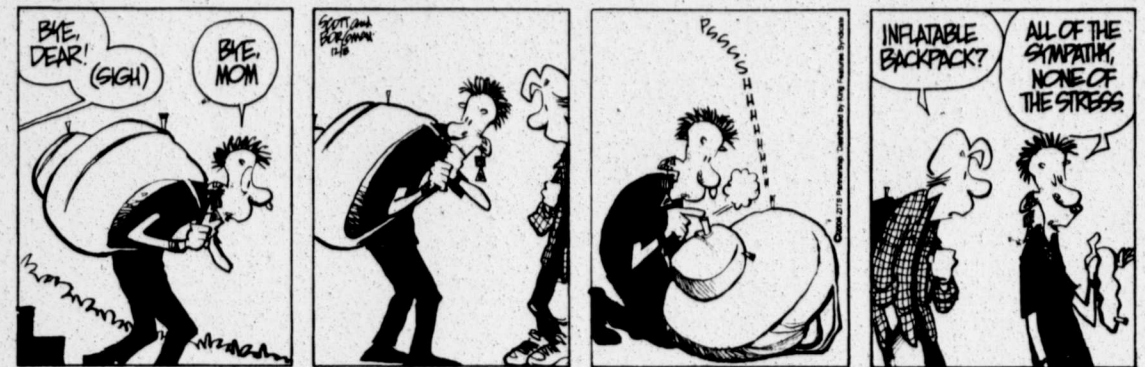
As to cell phones: It is rude and distracting to use one at the table, and some restaurants ask guests to turn them off so other diners are not disturbed by the ringing.

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



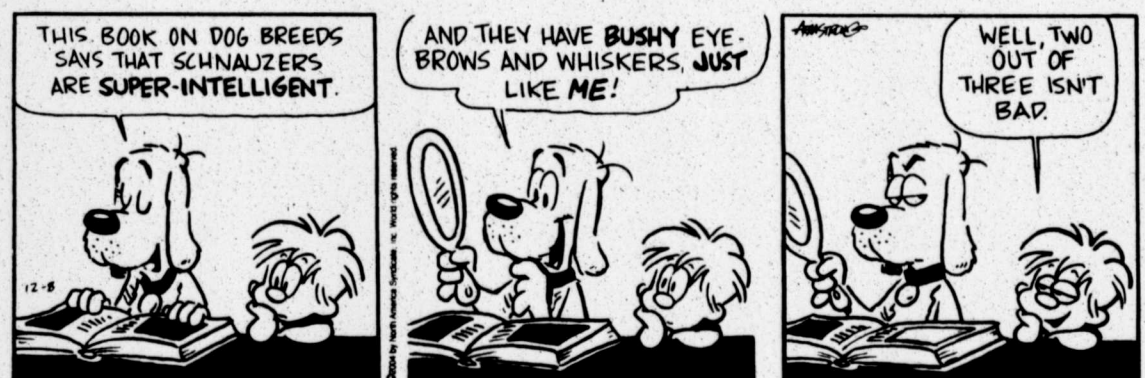
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Live

1 Places for pampered guests

5 Abner's creator

9 Uses a sponge

11 Turning tool

12 Bumbling

13 Change

14 Candy counter choice

15 Informer

17 "I don't want to hear it!"

19 Siegfried's colleague

20 Elvis expression

21 Dress edge

22 Word separator

24 Diet no-no

26 Pub activity

29 Address for the general

30 Ore

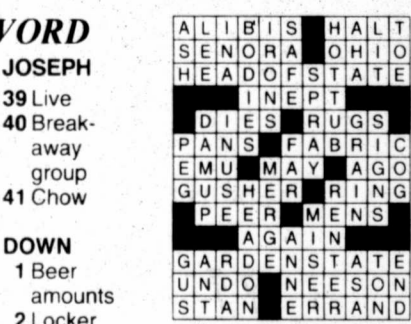
32 Grumpy

34 "— Were a Rich Man"

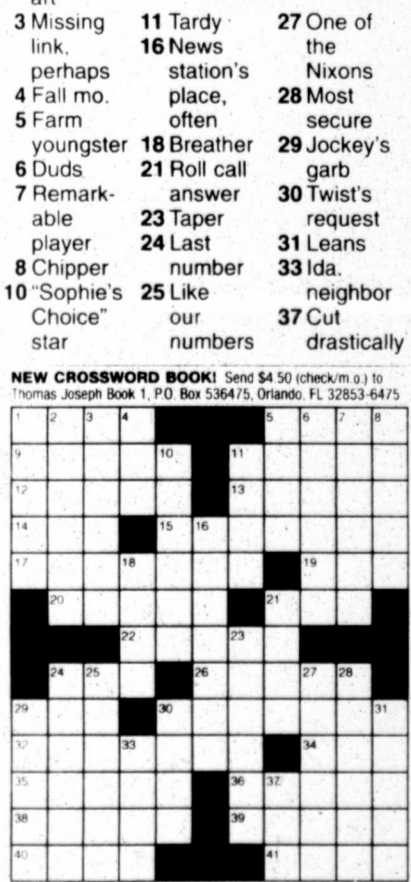
35 Part of a repair bill

36 Oxford feature

38 "Sophie's Choice" co-star



Yesterday's answer



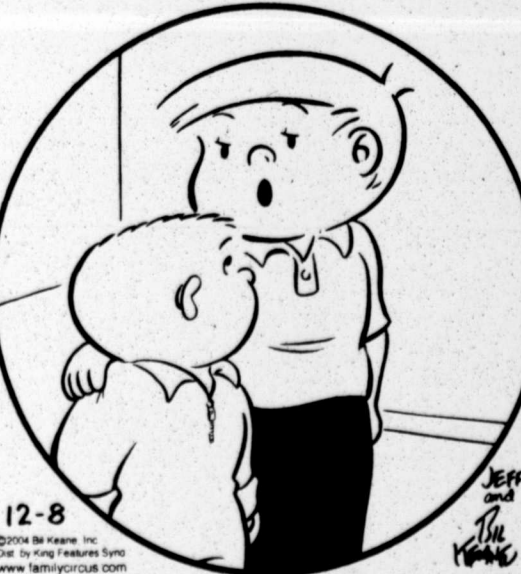
12-8

Marmaduke



"You should listen to the weathercast. School is closed for a snow day."

The Family Circus



"Remind me to tell you about the good old days sometime, P.J."

B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends

