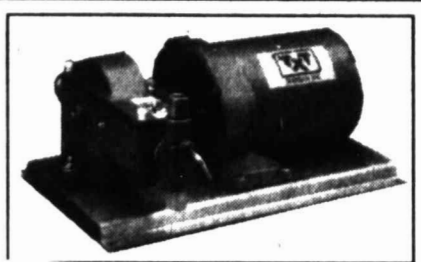




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MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2003

NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 008 • Pampa, Texas  
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



**WEATHER WEATHER**

**HIGH**    **LOW**  
**56**      **38**

**LOTTERY**

AUSTIN (AP) — Here are Saturday's Texas Lottery game results:

5-23-26-30-38. Bonus Ball: 37. No jackpot winner.

Number matching five of five: 8. Prize: \$4,348.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 15. Prize: \$2,105.

Number matching four of five: 656. Prize: \$103.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 519. Prize: \$115.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$15 million.

**DEATHS**

Glenna Beryl Matheu, 81, retired registered nurse.

Estelle Orr, 100, homemaker.

Mrs. Johnnie Preston, 89, services pending.

**INSIDE...**

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Beautiful Paving Stones...  
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# County accepts insurance, car bids

By MARILYN POWERS  
 STAFF WRITER

County commissioners approved bids on insurance and sheriff's department vehicles at their regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m. today in the county courtroom on the second floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Sealed bids were opened at 10 a.m. by commissioners and Sheriff Don

Copeland. Commissioners accepted the bid by Culberson-Stowers Inc. which included \$5,000 trade-in allowance for three vehicles to be traded in on three patrol cars costing \$18,225.15 each. Total cost of the three vehicles, including the trade-in allowance, is \$49,675.45.

West Texas Ford Lincoln Mercury had submitted a bid of \$20,827.25 per vehicle and \$5,500 trade-in allowance, for a total of \$56,981.75, plus free reg-

ular oil and filter changes.

The amount which had been budgeted by the commission for buying the new vehicles was \$54,000.

Bids by Duncan Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency Inc. and by Texas Association of Counties were considered for county insurance coverage. Commissioners accepted Duncan Fraser & Bridges' bid of \$162,002, which was more than \$30,000 lower than TAC's bid of \$193,460.

The insurance policy will cover county business, auto, property, public office and employee liability, heavy equipment floater, local airport liability, law enforcement liability and workman's compensation.

Health insurance for county employees was also discussed. Commissioners voted to raise the self-insurance rate from \$30,000 per person to \$35,000 per person. County Auditor (See COUNTY, Page 3)

# Teenager hurt in car roll over

A one-vehicle roll over on a county road east of Pampa Friday afternoon injured a 13-year-old girl. Texas Department of Public Safety officials reported today.

Kasey Wells, 13, of Pampa was taken by Rural Metro Ambulance Service to Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment of injuries she suffered in the wreck and later airlifted to an Amarillo hospital, DPS officials said.

The teenager left the scene of the accident in another vehicle and went to a Pampa residence where an ambulance was called, according to Trooper Ron Shank who investigated the wreck.

The roll over occurred at about 4:10 p.m., Friday, on Gray County Road E, 9 mile east of Gray County Road 12 1/2, according to DPS reports.

A 1993 Mercury Topaz driven by Shannon Lewis, 17,

of Pampa, was traveling east on a rocky county road when the Topaz began to slide sideways into the south ditch.

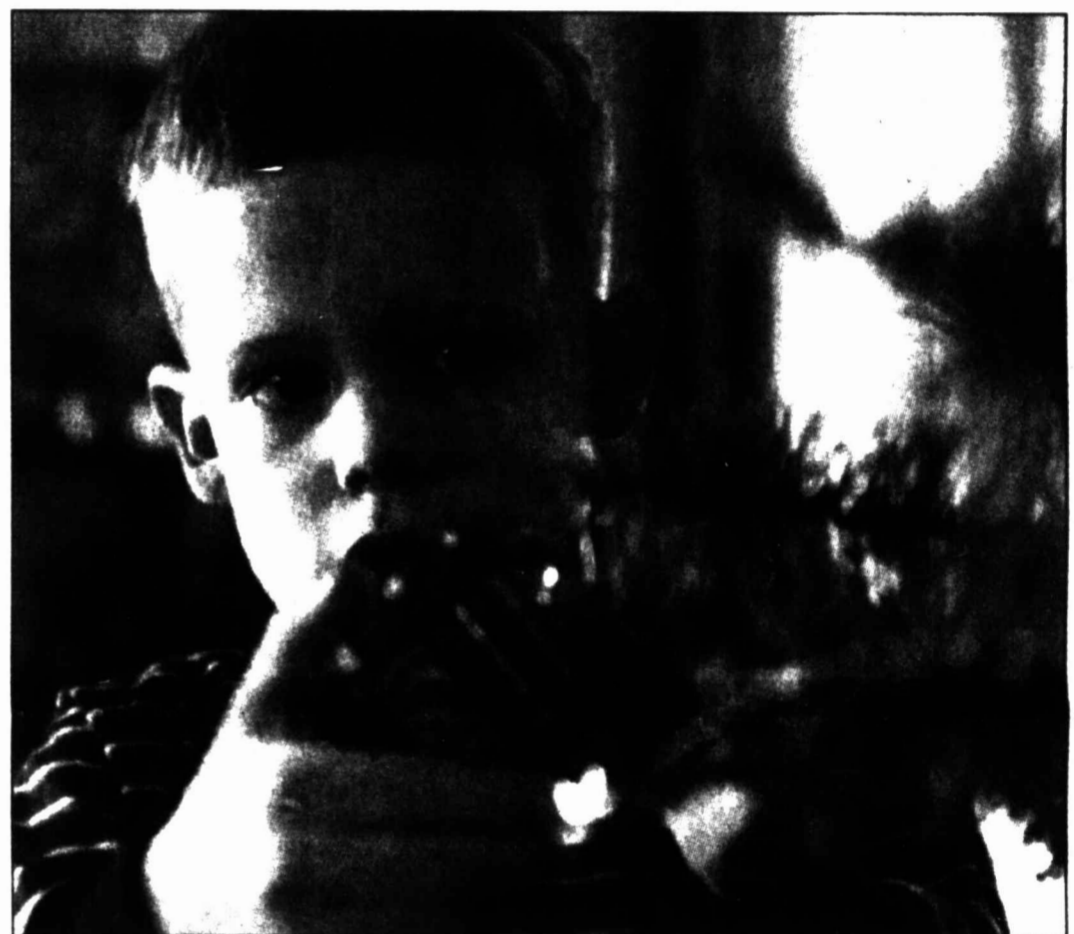
The vehicle rolled, coming to rest on its top facing northwest, the report stated. The vehicle also struck a fence belonging to the Waters Ranch.

The two front seat occupants, Lewis and Matthew Truist, 15, of Pampa, were wearing seat belts, DPS officials said. The two back seat passengers, Wells and Kenneth Hatt Jr., 18, also of Pampa, were not wearing seat belts, officials said. No one was ejected from the vehicle, according to the report.

The three other persons riding in the Topaz suffered from non-incapacitating injuries and were not taken to the hospital, DPS officials said.

Lewis was cited for unsafe

# Beginning to look like Christmas



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Five-year-old Jake Birkes readies for the holiday season by decorating the family Christmas tree at his grandparents' house, the Pampa home of Darlene and Wallace Birkes.

# U.S. military: 54 Iraqis killed in Samarra battle

SAMARRA, Iraq (AP) — The U.S. military said 54 Iraqis were killed in the northern city of Samarra as U.S. forces used tanks and cannons to fight their way out of simultaneous ambushes while delivering new Iraqi currency to banks. Residents said Monday that the casualty figure was much lower and that the dead were mostly civilians.

By the American account, Sunday's fighting was the bloodiest combat reported since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in a U.S.-led invasion.

West of Baghdad, assailants ambushed a U.S. military convoy on Monday, killing one soldier, the U.S. military said. The attack with small arms fire occurred near Habbaniyah, 50 miles west of the Iraqi capital, the military said. The soldier's name was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The U.S. military said attackers in Samarra, many wearing uniforms of Saddam's Fedayeen paramilitary force, struck at two U.S. convoys at opposite sides of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

The scars of the battle were evident on Monday. About a dozen cars lay destroyed in the streets, many apparently crushed by tanks, and bullet holes pocked many buildings. A rowdy crowd gathered at one spot, chanting pro-Saddam slogans. One man fired warning shots in the air

when journalists arrived at the scene.

There was no U.S. military presence in the city center on Monday. Shops opened, and residents moved around town.

At a news conference at a U.S. military base in Samarra, Col. Frederick Rudesheim said the American convoys were on a mission to deliver currency to banks when the coordinated ambushes took place.

"That was a given location that they knew we would go to," Rudesheim said. "This was done in a concerted fashion."

At the U.S. base, half a dozen suspects were seen with bags over their heads and their hands bound by plastic cuffs.

Many residents said Saddam loyalists attacked the Americans, but that when U.S. forces began firing at random, many civilians got their guns and joined the fight. Many said residents were bitter about recent U.S. raids in the night.

"Why do they arrest people when they're in their homes?" asked Athir Abdul Salam, a 19-year-old student. "They come at night to arrest people. So what do they expect those people to do?"

"Civilians shot back at the Americans," said 30-year-old Ali Hassan, who was wounded by shrapnel in the battle. "They claim we are terrorists. So OK, we are terrorists. What do they expect when they drive among us?"

# Merchants find solid sales gains for holiday shopping

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
 AP BUSINESS WRITER

The Thanksgiving weekend gave the nation's retailers a solid start to the holiday season, although consumers remained focused on bargains even as the economy improves.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other discounters attracted crowds of shoppers with specials on TVs, DVD players and toys and had the strongest sales. Department stores and mall-based clothing retailers were disappointing less than they did last year, and their business was uneven.

"Sales appear to be better than last year, but the consumer is still value-oriented," and looking for big bargains, said Walter Loeb, who runs his own New York-based retail consulting firm.

A dozen people were standing in line Sunday outside a Best Buy in Dunwoody, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, waiting for doors to open at 10 a.m. Charles and Susan Lynch were typical of many shoppers, willing to spend

but hoping to get a good deal.

"I was unemployed this time last year so my economic situation has greatly improved," said Charles Lynch. He said the couple was looking for a home theater system.

Vanessa Gonzalez walked out of a Wal-Mart store in Miami on Saturday afternoon after buying an HP Pavilion desktop computer with a 17-inch monitor for \$498.

"At that price, I couldn't resist," she said. She was planning to surprise her two teenagers with the computer.

Michael P. Niemira, a retail analyst at The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., said the weekend "was pretty good, but it wasn't spectacular." He described business as stronger for discounters than it was for department stores and apparel merchants.

Ellen Tolley, a spokeswoman at the Washington-based National Retail Federation, noted that "it looks like (store) traffic was about the same as last year, possibly a little better than last year."

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# SHOP PAMPA AND WIN...

Two drawings of \$500 each in Pampa Bucks. For every \$10 of purchases get a drawing ticket from "Participating" merchants November 28th - December 6th. Drawings ... December 6th • 1:00 & 5:00  
 Call Chamber For List Of Merchants ... 665-3241

## ON RECORD

### SHERIFF

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

**Sunday, Nov. 30**

Jacob Trevathan, 18, 1206 Russell, was arrested for a seat belt violation and failure to appear.

Arthur Ray Short, 42, White Deer, was arrested for driving while intoxicated - third offense.

Joshua Cole Peace, 22, Canyon, was arrested

for possession of a controlled substance over one gram/under four grams out of Randall County.

## OBITUARIES

### GLENNA BERYL MATHEU 1922-2003

Vigil services for Glenna Beryl Matheu, 81, of Pampa, will be at 6 p.m. today at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with the Rev. David Contreras officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Ms. Matheu was called home to the loving and forgiving embrace of our Lord on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003. She was born Oct. 23, 1922, at Mobeetie and was a 1941 graduate of Mobeetie High School. She attended Blackwood Business College and graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1950.

She enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Germany from 1954 to 1956 as an R.N. She was discharged as a 1st lieutenant. After the Air Force, she settled in Pennsylvania with the father of her three children, returning to Pampa in 1969.

She was a R.N. at Highland General Hospital until 1974. She was Director of Nursing at Collingsworth General Hospital from 1974 to 1977. She married Prisco Matheu in 1975 at Wellington. He preceded her in death in 1998. She retired from nursing in 1982 and was a

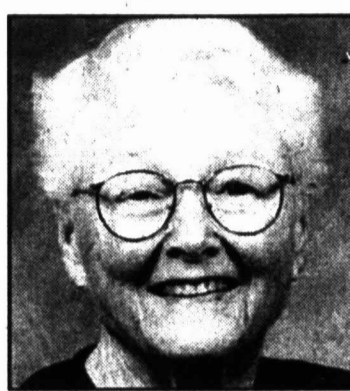
member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Lola Haynes, and two special friends, Elizabeth Houdashell and Rita "Ippy" Kubichek.

Survivors include two sons, David Inghram of Amarillo and Craig Inghram of Newnan, Ga.; a daughter, Annetta Tewes of Gun Barrel City, Texas; two sisters, Wauline Reynolds and Glorice Jones, both of Pampa; two brothers, Walden Haynes and Dale Haynes, both of Pampa; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX; or to Amarillo College Foundation in care of Nursing, P.O. Box 447, Amarillo, TX 79178.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



### ESTELLE ORR 1903-2003

Estelle Orr, 100, of Mobeetie, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, in McLean. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Tom Stribling, pastor of Hunt Memorial United Methodist Church in Dumas, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Orr was born on Aug. 23, 1903, in Tishomingo, Indian Territory, Okla. She married Rupert Henry Orr on Nov. 2, 1930, in Mobeetie. He preceded her in death on Sept. 20, 1983.

She had been a resident of Mobeetie since 1979.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Pampa.

Survivors include a daughter, Louise Hogan

and husband Chuck of Mobeetie; a grandson, Robert Hogan, Jr., of Blytheville, Ark.; two great-grandsons, Joe Farrell and Mike Farrell, both of Elk City, Okla.; and four great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065 or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



### MRS. JOHNNIE PRESTON

McLEAN — Mrs. Johnnie Preston, 89, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, at Shamrock. Graveside services are pending at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa. The Rev. Thacker Haynes of McLean will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home of McLean.

## SERVICES TOMORROW

**MATHEU, Glenna Beryl** — Funeral mass, 2 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Pampa.

## WEATHER FOCUS

### PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, highs in the mid 50s and northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight should fall on partly cloudy skies with lows in the upper 30s and south-

east winds 5 to 10 mph. Tuesday should see mostly cloudy skies. A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

### STATEWIDE

#### By The Associated Press

Weather will be good over the state this week, with some chance of showers today in South Texas, and slight chances Tuesday or Wednesday over most of the state.

North Texas may see some storms Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Highs will be mostly in the 60s and 70s all week, with a few readings in the 50s and 80s.

Sunday's high was 82 degrees at Wink. Dalhart dipped to 34 degrees overnight, the state low. Only a trace of rain was recorded in a few cities Sunday.

The West Texas forecast calls for partly cloudy skies this week, with cloudy skies in the south. In the north, highs will be in the 50s, with some 40s today and late in

the week. In the west and south, highs will be in the 60s this week, a little cooler Friday. Chances of rain are forecast Tuesday over the region, mostly slight chances, and rain chances will continue in the south on Wednesday.

In South Texas, skies will be mostly cloudy this week. A slight chance of rain is forecast over the region today. On Tuesday and Wednesday the north may see a few showers, and on Wednesday Southeast Texas may see rain. Late this week, rain chances should be confined to the deep south. Severe weather is unlikely, as are any significant accumulations of rain. Highs this week will be in the 60s north and east, with 70s and some 80s in the south and west.

### POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

**Sunday, Nov. 23**

A theft was reported in the 300 block of West Foster. A hair dryer, two hair clippers, two shampoo kits, three developers, 10 hair colors, two capes and 12 towers, valued at \$422, were reported stolen.

**Wednesday, Nov. 26**

Burglary was reported in the 2300 block of Navajo. Someone entered a residence through a window and took \$30 in change and jewelry valued at \$1,000. All items were recovered at the scene.

An assault to a family member with minor injuries was reported. One person was arrested.

A representative of Family Dollar, 421 E. Frederic, reported the possible theft of clothing valued at \$76.

A girl's bicycle was found in the 800 block of North Nelson.

A representative of Albertson's, 1233 N. Hobart, reported theft over \$50 and under \$500. Two DVDs valued at \$50.86 were reported stolen. One person was arrested.

**Thursday, Nov. 27**

Someone forced their way through a back door of a residence in the 1000 block of Huff Road, causing \$100 damage.

Someone took \$20 of gasoline from Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart, and left without paying.

A bicycle was found in the 2400 block of Navajo.

**Friday, Nov. 28**

An assault with no injuries was reported in the 200 block of Tignor.

Police received a report of a vicious animal in the 2200 block of North Russell.

**Saturday, Nov. 29**

A ring valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen in the 2100 block of Lynn.

A man attempted to evade detention and arrest. The person fled from officers on foot and was apprehended in the 400 block of South Somerville. Christian King, 22, 821 Brunow #5, was arrested on two felony warrants for forgery and charged with evading arrest.

Benito Martinez, 17, 1610 N. Harvester, was arrested for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

**Sunday, Nov. 30**

Theft over \$500 and under \$1,500 was reported in the 1800 block of North Faulkner. A 10-inch Black and Decker miter saw, Carhart bib overalls, a Dale Earnhardt jacket, a Dale Earnhardt Jr. pit jacket, a gun case, and camouflage clothing valued at \$1,030 were reported stolen.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of North Sumner. Someone entered the unlocked vehicle and took a purse and its contents valued at \$50.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 700 block of North Russell.

Michael Eugene Horton, 42, 853 S. Sumner, was arrested for violating a protective order, no driver's license and violation of probation for driving while intoxicated - third offense.

Darren Munn, 35, 1157 Varnon Dr., was arrested for running a stop sign, failure to appear, and public intoxication.

Kevin Earl Parks, 17, 1255 Wilcox, was arrested for burglary of a motor vehicle.

Zwalyne Marcell Brown, 26, Amarillo, was arrested on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, expired motor vehicle registration, failure to appear, three capias pro fines for no driver's license, and two capias pro fines for no insurance.

Journey Starr Mundell, 32, 1334 N. Coffee, Apt. 4, was arrested for domestic assault with no injuries and a municipal warrant for no driver's license.

Rodney Eugene Scott, 28, 1072 Varnon Dr., was arrested for intercepting a 911 call, driving with license suspended, expired motor vehicle inspection and defective tail lamps.

Bobby Ladell Dorsey, 40, 1041 Prairie Dr., was arrested for failure to appear and minimum housing standard violation.

### FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported, the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday, Nov. 29**

3:27 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to the 500 block of Yeager. The firefighters were called to assist a person who had gotten their fingers stuck in a pipe. The subject was free by the time the unit arrived.

**Sunday, Nov. 30**

9:07 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to the 2100 block of North Nelson on a call for medical assistance.

### ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle accidents.

**Wednesday, Nov. 26**

12 p.m. — An unknown vehicle collided with an unoccupied, legally parked 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV, owned by Jennifer Dawn Clark, 26, 1418 N. Russell, in the 100 block of North Russell.

12:52 p.m. — A 1995 Ford F150 XLT extended cab pickup, driven by Rruven Jose Chavez, 19, 906 E. Gordon, collided with a 2002 Grand Cherokee, driven by Justin Lee Johnson, 28, Allen, in the 300 block of North Hobart. Chavez was cited for failure to control speed.

3:24 p.m. — A 1985 blue Pontiac Parisienne, driven by Jonie Lee Bridwell, 20, Skellytown, collided with a 1994 Plymouth van, driven by Brenda Ryals Bennett, 50, 945 S. Faulkner, in the 1200 block of North Hobart. Bridwell was cited for failure to yield right of way (left turn).

**Thursday, Nov. 27**

At an unspecified time, an unknown vehicle collided with an unoccupied, legally parked 1997 Chevrolet Z-71 pickup, owned by James Earl Lee, 65, 2419 Cherokee, in the 2400 block of Cherokee.

**Saturday, Nov. 29**

8:30 p.m. — A 1990 Chevrolet C1500 pickup, driven by Jacob Russell, 14, 820 N. Christy, collided with a fence owned by Mark Elden Smith, 824 N. Wells. Estimated value of the fence is \$200. Russell was charged with no driver's license and for fleeing/leaving the scene, and Cheryl Russell, 820 N. Christy, owner of the vehicle, was charged with allowing an unlicensed driver to drive.

### AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls.

**Thursday, Nov. 27**

6:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Sumner and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Morrison Ranch Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:32 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

2:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Neel Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Friday, Nov. 28**

4:53 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of East Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's, Amarillo.

3:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA, Amarillo.

4:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of East Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to NWTH.

10:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Saturday, Nov. 29**

1:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to NWTH.

8:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Crane and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2000 block of Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

2:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Faulkner. No transport.

At an unspecified time, a mobile ICU responded to Brown and Somerville streets. No transport.

7:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Murphy and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Sunday, Nov. 30**

8:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Nelson and transported a patient to White Deer landing pad.

9:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Yeager. No transport.

10:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Yeager. No transport.

11:54 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Yeager and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

## City Briefs

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

**ANGELS, ANGELS** we have Salvation Army Angels! Help make someone's Holiday special! Come by and pick an angel off our Christmas tree! 8-5 p.m. *The Pampa News*, 403 W. Atchison.

**LARGE ROLLS** of Christmas paper, gift bags, ribbons, bows & tags in stock at Warner Horton 900 Duncan. Open 8-5, Monday-Friday.

**LOST ON** 11-27-03 in 900 block Terry black & white Boston Terrier. Needs medication, Reward 665-9256.

**Freeman's**  
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Over 50 Years

## Director schedules auditions for next ACT I play on Dec. 8

Area Community Theater, Inc. (ACT I) will have auditions for "The Secret Lives of Mildred Wild," directed by Kayla Pursley, on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the theater, located on the west side of Pampa Mall.

The show will open Feb. 27-28 and play for two weekends. Anyone interested in auditions who can't be there on Monday can call for a private audition.

In the tiny living quarters behind the Greenwich Village candy store which she operates with her husband, crowded with her 40 year collection of movie magazines, Mildred Wild has virtually escaped from reality into the dream world conjured up by the 3,000 movies she has eagerly devoured over the years. And when the outside world does intrude — via her husband; his meddling sister; their harbored landlady; or the foreman of the wrecking crew — Mildred meets each crisis with a hilarious fantasy scene drawn from her lode of old movies.

Cast requirements are for five women and four men, ranging in age from 20s to 60s. No prepared material is needed, auditioners will read from the script. "Being in a play takes a lot of commitment," says Pursley. "Hopefully the applause and laughs make it all worth it." Rehearsal times vary but are usually three times a week for 6-8 weeks.

"There are a lot of costume changes in the show," says Pursley. "Mildred gets to play her

versions of an exotic dancer, Scarlett O'Hara, Ginger Rogers, Sheena and Shirley Temple. The role of the butcher, Carroll, also plays Butterfly McQueen, a movie producer, a native girl to Mildred's Sheena and a follies dancer. Every character gets to play at least two different roles in Mildred's fantasy world." Mildred gets to sing and tap dance. "No previous experience necessary," assures the director.

Other characters include Mildred's husband, Roy. "Roy needs to be bald or an actor willing to wear bald headgear for the show," says Pursley. "There are a bunch of bald jokes and a very old, nasty toupee." Roy gets to play a Rhett Butler character, Fred Astaire, and Mr. Barracini, a child star. Helen is Roy's meddling sister. Helen also gets to be in a Shirley Temple dance routine. Bertha is the landlady. There is also a nun, a movie studio representative, Miss Manley, and her TV crewman, Mr. Bulby, plus parts for the Invisible Man, King Kong and a construction worker.

"I need people who are interested in being a part of the tech crew to come to auditions, too," says Pursley. "This show has lots of fast pace scene changes complete with lighting and sound cues." Crew members don't have to rehearse quite as long as the cast but need to commit to the last two weeks of rehearsal.

Scripts are available if anyone would like to read the play prior to auditions or for more information call Pursley at 665-8320.

## Groundwater district to conduct winter water level measurements

Beginning the first of December and lasting through February, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will be conducting its annual winter water level measurement program throughout the district.

Winter water level measurements help PGCD gather vital data information and benefit the general public, farmers, and ranchers with maps created from the data.

Winter water level measurements are gathered using an E-line or steel tape down the casing of a well. An E-line consists of a long measuring tape with a battery powered circuit running through it. The end of the E-line is first placed into the well casing purposely has a short in it. When this short is submerged into the water, a buzzer will sound on the reel displaying to the operator that it has found the water level.

The steel tape is used in much the same way. The end of the tape is first covered with a blue or yellow chalk covering four to five feet. This end is then inserted into the casing. In order to insert the right

**A red pickup with PGCD decals in the pasture means the district is doing its job, collecting water level data.**

amount of tape into the well, the operator must know what the previous year's depth measured. Once the tape has reached the appropriate water depth, the tape is pulled out of the well. The operator then finds the area of chalk that has been washed off of the steel tape. From this reading, the operator can then calculate the water level.

The new data allows the PGCD to be able to continuously update saturated thickness maps that are useful in locating the amount of water under the ground in a particular place. Many farmers and ranchers use these maps to locate the best places to drill, irrigation wells or windmills.

Water level and depletion maps also are prepared from this data. Water level maps show the present water level. Depletion maps point out how many feet the water table has

risen or fallen in the last year. Depletion maps are used by landowners who may be eligible for depletion allowance on income tax returns.

PGCD has conducted water level measurements throughout the district for many years. Some wells have as much as 40 years worth of collected data. Last year, PGCD measured almost 900 wells.

A red pickup with PGCD decals on the doors driving down a road or in a field or pasture means the PGCD is doing its job, collecting water level data.

For more information about the PGCD water level data collection efforts, call 1-800-320-3536 or (806) 883-2501.



When your shopping list is bigger than you are, it's time to panic.

Dec. 1  
24 shopping days to Christmas

## COUNTY

Elaine Morris reported that the fund balance for the health insurance will likely be between \$100,000 and \$125,000 by the end of the year.

Commissioners discussed, but did not take action on, raising employees' premium rates for coverage of spouses and families. The amount charged to employees currently is less than the cost to the county to provide the coverage. The topic will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting, Dec. 15.

Felipe Chavez of the Juvenile Probation Office presented a check for \$9,312.67 to commissioners. The check represents a portion of county funds which were budgeted for use by the office for fiscal year 2003 but which were not used.

Chavez said the office was able to return the money to the county through use of state funding whenever possible. The money will be deposited into the county's general fund.

District Clerk Gaye Honderich's request to hire a

person to replace an employee who has resigned was approved. Honderich's office is currently budgeted for four employees, but only three are staffing the office.

Precinct 4 commissioner James Hefley asked if it would be possible to hire a part-time worker for the position. He also said he had hoped attrition would take care of some county positions.

Hefley asked if it would be possible for the district clerk's office to make do without filling the vacated position. "I would sure insist on trying it without replacing the employee, and she already has, and it doesn't work," he said.

Honderich had explained that the employee who had resigned had been on leave for several weeks prior to deciding to resign, so the office had already tried working without that position being filled.

"I can't do without that employee. I am not asking to add a new position. I just don't think that it can be done with a part-time job right now," she said.

Budget overruns for fiscal

year 2003 were discussed. The building budget ran \$18,045 over the planned amount due to utility costs and extra building expenses related to the courthouse renovation, said Morris. Miscellaneous county court costs were higher than anticipated due to court-appointed attorneys' fees, she said.

The sheriff's department and county jail totals were about \$17,000 over budget, largely because of the cost of an intercom system, Morris reported. Other overages included insurance costs due to courthouse restoration.

Commissioners approved the transfer of Perry Lefors Airport hangar number 5 lease from Red Hawkins to Ron Unruh, and hangar number 13 lease from S. Lester to J. Leverich.

The 2004 holiday schedule for county employees was approved. Membership in the Texas Association of School Boards, costing \$200 to the county, was declined. No intra budget transfer requests were presented.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright was absent.

## Turkish officials link bombings to al-Qaida

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's government Monday made its strongest statement yet about the link between last month's deadly bombings and al-Qaida, saying the suicide attackers and their associates had ties with the terrorist group.

"According to the informa-

tion we have right now, both those who were involved in these terrorist attacks as suicide bombers, and those who had relations with them, seem close to al-Qaida, are linked to the al-Qaida terrorist organization," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener said after a Cabinet meeting.

Western and Turkish officials have said the suicide attacks on two Istanbul synagogues on Nov. 15 and the British Consulate and a London-based bank in Istanbul five days later bore similarities to attacks carried out by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

# Senior Citizens' Day!

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ENTIRE PURCHASE

This Tuesday it pays to be 55 years or older!

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Appointments from 8am to 8pm Monday through Saturday

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MONDAY • December 1, 2003

## DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

### Think Practical When Buying Gifts for Seniors

**DEAR READERS:** If you haven't already started, it's time to compile those Christmas lists. Every year I am asked to suggest thoughtful gifts for seniors — especially those living on a fixed income.

First, a gentle warning: Unless you are sure it is welcome, do not send cologne, aftershave or scented bath powder. Scents are highly personal; not every perfume works on every person.

Never give a pet to anyone unless you have made absolutely certain the person wants one and is able to properly care for it.

Unless you're sure they imbibe, refrain from giving alcoholic beverages to people. Also, while candy, nuts and holiday confections make beautiful gifts for those who are not counting calories, show compassion for those who must, and lead them not into temptation.

Many folks on fixed incomes would welcome a gift basket of goodies. Include small cans of tuna, chicken or stew; assorted flavored instant coffee and herbal teas; soup mixes, crackers, cookies, nuts, dried fruit and hot breakfast cereal. Or, fill their freezer with frozen home-cooked meals that can be microwaved in minutes.

Gift certificates can be a godsend. Give them certificates for groceries, haircuts, manicures, pedicures, massages, dry cleaning, restaurant meals, video rentals and department stores. Tickets make great gifts — to movies, concerts, the opera, a play (could be at a local community theater) and sporting events.

Homemade coupons for "Honey-dos" ("Honey, do this — and honey, do that") make thoughtful presents: Create some that are redeemable for chores such as window washing, painting, gardening, washing, waxing and car detailing, replacing light bulbs, cleaning ceiling fans, changing air-conditioning filters, moving heavy furniture for spring and fall cleaning, and transportation for

shopping or doctors' visits, etc. Because not all seniors drive, bus passes and coupons for senior transportation or taxis can come in handy.

Prepayment of utilities for a month or two can be sent directly to the utility. Then let the recipients know they have that "extra" money to spend as they wish. We all know medications are notoriously expensive. A gift certificate to the neighborhood pharmacy would also be much appreciated. (Trust me on that!)

For pet owners, remember their furry, four-legged family member with a treat — a can of dog or cat food or a rawhide chewstick or catnip toy. (They'll lap it up!)

A subscription to a magazine or newspaper you know the person will enjoy is a gift that keeps on giving. Large-print calendars with family birthdays, anniversaries, etc., marked and personalized with family photographs, are welcome, as are large-print address books with information transferred from the recipient's records.

Give a small radio or remote-control television, if finances permit. A cordless phone or answering machine makes a practical gift as well.

Other suggestions: a cuddly robe, slippers or socks with nonskid soles; sweatpants, sweatshirts and jogging shoes; stationery — and be sure to include felt-tipped pens and lots of stamps.

And remember, the holidays can be a sad time for people who are alone. If you know someone who could use an outing, give that person the most thoughtful gift of all — an invitation to have a meal with you and your family. Loneliness is the ultimate poverty. The greatest gift is a gift of self.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

#### For Better or For Worse



#### Zits



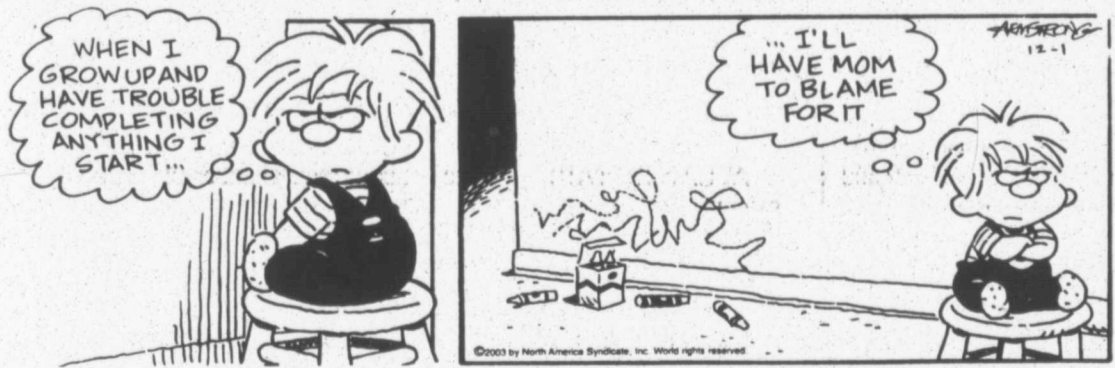
#### Garfield



#### Beetle Bailey



#### Marvin



#### B.C.



#### Hagar The Horrible



#### Peanuts



#### Blonde



#### Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Asterisk
- 5 Auto mishap
- 10 Hudson of "Almost Famous"
- 11 Saluted
- 13 Magnetic metal
- 14 Look up to
- 15 Butte's state
- 17 Great weight
- 18 Riverboat
- 19 Wallop
- 20 Animation frame
- 21 Thinker
- 22 Director
- 25 Took on
- 26 Harvest
- 27 Writing need
- 28 Concert booster
- 29 Chart
- 33 Gratuity
- 34 Gator or gecko
- 35 Enticingly different
- 37 Track shape
- 38 Infer
- 39 Movie fish of 2003
- 40 Bouquet makeup
- 41 British school



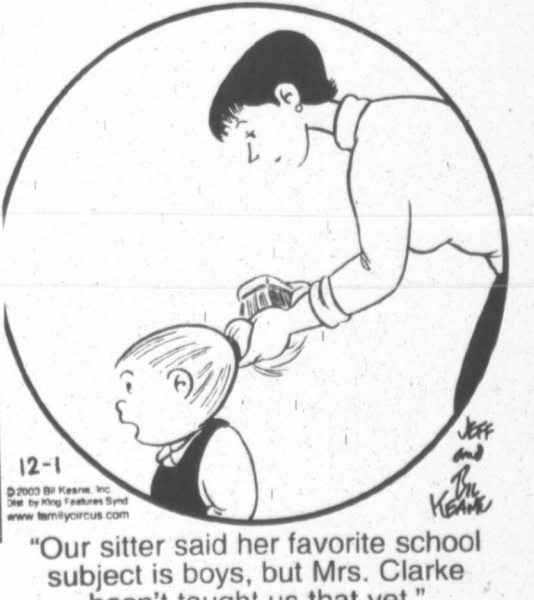
#### Saturday's answer

- 16 Hymn
- 6 Weather aid
- 7 Target
- 8 Move like a serpent
- 9 Jane Eyre, for one
- 12 Made an impression on
- 20 Spoke
- 23 Dance record creator
- 24 1972
- Winter Games setting
- 25 Pile
- 27 Components
- 21 Cell phone
- 29 Impetus
- 30 Jeans
- 31 Impetus
- 32 Texas landmark
- 33 Breakfast fruit
- 36 Frank McCourt book

#### Marmaduke



#### The Family Circus



#### Flo & Friends



#### BASEBALL

**BOSTON** (AP) — Epstein did an o building Boston's first year as gen Now he's focusin and the acquisi Schilling is only need for a top remains strong a go by. The next t closer, with free Foulke at the top

"This offseas challenges," Epst we've only start them."

After being n manager on Ne Epstein added David Ortiz, Ke Todd Walker to already had Nom and Manny Ran led the AL in Boston set a 1 record with a percentage.

#### FOOTBALL

**TUCSON, A** Mike Stoops, brother of Okla Bob Stoops, w Saturday as th coach at Arizon used a return 1 days of bowl g out defense.

The younge top-ranked St defensive coord its a team that finished last in for the first time

Stoops will Oklahoma in its game against K but will return after that and the Sooners fo game.

#### BASKETBA

#### OAKLANI

(AP) — Nich showed his skills on Satur

Van Exel s his 29 points i quarter to help State Warriors Antonio Spurs

Van Exel, backup role b sore left knee the score o Warriors the le of his seven fo baskets, includ with 20 secur proved to be t

"He's givir guys confide of his ability t Warriors c Musselman sa Golden Sta four in a row. "I can't be s it," Van Exel the way I've p life. If I miss make it, I hel and that's w about."

Said San A Gregg Popovi Nick. He love a-mano stuff, done for them.

Tim Dur missed a wide footer in the f led the defe champion Sp points and I Tony Parker points, an Nestorovic ha and 11 reboun

# SPORTS

## TCU's bowl situation still unresolved

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — TCU's bowl situation remained unresolved Sunday night after two lengthy phone calls among Conference USA officials.

The No. 19 Horned Frogs (11-1) have been invited to play in the GMAC Bowl despite having indicated their preference to go to a game that doesn't conflict with final exams.

"We discussed all of the issues, all of the ramifications," TCU athletic director Eric Hyman said Sunday night. "All of the contingencies were discussed and not all of the issues are resolved."

Hyman said he expected a resolution by Monday for TCU and the three other bowl-eligible C-USA teams waiting for invitations: Louisville, Memphis and Houston. Hyman refused to speculate.

The only of C-USA's five bowl games that is set is the Liberty Bowl, where

league champion Southern Mississippi will play Utah on Dec. 31 in Memphis, Tenn.

The GMAC Bowl, which will be played Dec. 18 in Mobile, Ala., got the second pick from C-USA.

Before losing 40-28 at Southern Miss on Nov. 20, TCU was undefeated and eighth in the Bowl Championship Series rankings.

The other bowls with C-USA ties are New Orleans (Dec. 16), Fort Worth (Dec.

23) and Hawaii (Dec. 25).

No. 14 Miami of Ohio (11-1) has already accepted an invitation to play in the GMAC Bowl. Hyman was AD at Miami before going to TCU six years ago.

The Frogs got their official invitation Saturday night after winning their regular season finale 20-13 at SMU.

TCU played in the bowl's first two games in 1999 and 2000, when it didn't conflict with exams. This semester's exams are

Dec. 15-19.

"We're not scared of Miami of Ohio or anyone else," Frogs coach Gary Patterson said after the SMU game. "Mobile's been good to us, but we have to look and see what's best for us."

Instead of a chance to play in one of the four games paying \$14-\$17 million per team that make up the BCS, TCU will play in a bowl that has a minimum payout of \$750,000.

## Harvesters down EP High at Amarillo Tip-Off Classic

AMARILLO — Pampa defeated El Paso High 55-43 Saturday in the loser's bracket at the Amarillo Tip-Off Classic.

Senior post Collin Bowers led the Harvesters in scoring with 18 points. Andy Rodgers added 15 points and Chance Bowers 10.

The Harvesters held a 27-18 advantage at halftime. El Paso's top scorers were Jeremy Bibbs and Juto Meza with 12 points each.

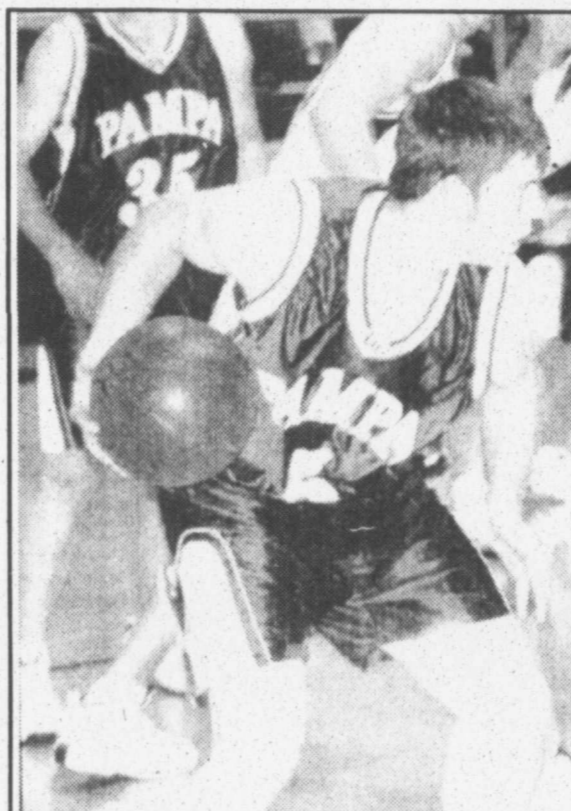
In a first-round game, Pampa fell to Tascosa 70-61. Chance Bowers topped Pampa in scoring with 24 points and Jed Martin followed with 11.

Dimmitt slipped by Pampa 52-50 win in the second game.

Nicky Guana had 13 points and Eric Ward 12 to lead Dimmitt.

For Pampa, Martin had 14 points and Rodgers 13.

Both Pampa boys and girls teams play at Perryton Tuesday night.



Collin Bowers (5) had 18 points to lead Pampa by El Paso High at the Tip-Off Classic.

### Pampa Bowling Roundup

Wednesday Night Mixed League

Team	Won	Lost
The Woodpecker Shop	26	10
Beta Tau	22	14
Bob's Bandits	20	16
Guter Busters	18	18
Team Three	17	19
Reed's Welding	17	19
Davis Minit Mart	17	19
Harvester Lanes	15	21
Lefors Fed. Credit Union	13 1/2	22 1/2

Week's Top Scores

Men

High scratch game: Ricky Addington 236; High scratch series: Dan Anderson 631; High handicap game: Ricky Addington 275; High handicap series: Ricky Addington 707.

Women

High scratch game: Kristi Lee 196; High scratch series: Kristi Lee 508; High handicap game: Gina Addington 249; High handicap series: Tony Connolly 663.

Generation Gap

Team	Won	Lost
Split This	21 1/2	1
The Winnerizers	16	2
Rice O'Roni's	15	3
We Don't Know	14 1/2	4
M&M's	14	5
Bottom of the Barrel	12	6
Dave & the Moron	11	7
Team Seven	8	8

Week's Top Scores

Girls

High scratch game: Shayley Morris 157; High scratch series: Shayley Morris 426; High handicap game: Shayley Morris 250; High handicap series: Shayley Morris 705.

Boys

High scratch game: Zach Wilson 254; High scratch series: Zach Wilson 650; High handicap game: Michael Adams 285; High handicap series: Michael Adams 741.

Women

High scratch game: Tina Beery 211; High scratch series: Tina Beery 529; High handicap game: Tina Beery 256; High handicap series: Tina Beery 664.

Men

High scratch game: Gary Winton 244; High scratch series: Gary Winton 664; High handicap game: Dave Thomas 250; High handicap series: Jesse Cannon 688.

## NOTEBOOK

### BASEBALL

BOSTON (AP) — Theo Epstein did an outstanding job building Boston's offense in his first year as general manager. Now he's focusing on pitching, and the acquisition of Curt Schilling is only the beginning.

Schilling fills the Red Sox's need for a top starter who remains strong as the innings go by. The next target: a quality closer, with free agent Keith Foulke at the top of the list.

"This offseason has its own challenges," Epstein said. "And we've only started to address them." After being named general manager on Nov. 25, 2002, Epstein added Bill Mueller, David Ortiz, Kevin Millar and Todd Walker to a lineup that already had Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez. Mueller led the AL in batting, and Boston set a major league record with a .491 slugging percentage.

### FOOTBALL

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Mike Stoops, the younger brother of Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, was introduced Saturday as the new head coach at Arizona and promised a return to the glory days of bowl games and all-out defense.

The younger Stoops, the top-ranked Sooners' co-defensive coordinator, inherits a team that went 2-10 and finished last in the Pac-10 for the first time.

Stoops will help coach Oklahoma in its Big 12 title game against Kansas State, but will return to Tucson after that and not stay with the Sooners for their bowl game.

### BASKETBALL

#### OAKLAND, Calif.

(AP) — Nick Van Exel showed his leadership skills on Saturday night.

Van Exel scored 16 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to help the Golden State Warriors beat the San Antonio Spurs 91-89.

Van Exel, playing a backup role because of a sore left knee, either tied the score or gave the Warriors the lead with five of his seven fourth-quarter baskets, including a long 3 with 20 seconds left that proved to be the winner.

"He's giving the other guys confidence because of his ability to hit shots," Warriors coach Eric Musselman said.

Golden State has won four in a row.

"I can't be afraid to take it," Van Exel said. "That's the way I've played all my life. If I miss it, I fail. If I make it, I help the team, and that's what it's all about."

Said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich: "Nick is Nick. He loves that mano-a-mano stuff. He got it done for them."

Tim Duncan, who missed a wide-opener 20-footer in the final second, led the defending NBA champion Spurs with 27 points and 15 rebounds. Tony Parker added 19 points, and Rasha Nestorovic had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

## SEC East comes down to wild final weekend

ATLANTA (AP) — The SEC East finally has a winner. All it took was a change in the tiebreaker, three games on the final Saturday of the regular season and a sneak peak at the BCS standings to sort things out.

The No. 5 Bulldogs emerged from a three-way tie with a spot in next Saturday's Southeastern Conference championship, beating out Tennessee and Florida through a convoluted formula that went into effect less than a month ago.

On the final week of the regular season, there was plenty of scoreboard watching, numbers crunching and, oh yeah, some pretty good football.

When the Bulldogs (10-2) finished the regular season with a 34-17 victory over Georgia Tech, they felt good

about their chances of meeting No. 3 LSU (11-1) for the SEC title.

But there wasn't a full-fledged celebration in the locker room at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

"We halfway believed we were going to get it, but we couldn't be certain," coach Mark Richt said. "So, we had to temper things by saying, 'Well, if we don't get in the game, we've still had a tremendous year. It looks like we are probably in position to get a nice bowl regardless of what happens.'"

The Bulldogs didn't get real rambunctious until the bus ride back to Athens, when they learned that No. 16 Florida lost to ninth-ranked Florida State 38-34 — a game marred by several questionable calls and a brawl at midfield after it was over.

"I heard they celebrated pretty good," said Richt, who remained behind in Atlanta to tape his weekly television show.

Still, Georgia's spot in the SEC championship game wasn't quite official. The final word came down Sunday, when the SEC announced that, yes, the Bulldogs won the East.

Take a breath everyone. What a ride it was, sort of like a great baseball pennant race coming down to the final day.

Kicking off a half-hour earlier than Georgia, Tennessee had to win to grab a share of first in the East. The No. 7 Vols took care of business, holding off Kentucky 20-7, but their hopes faded when Georgia beat the Yellow Jackets.

Tennessee (10-2) is still in the running for an at-large BCS berth. The Vols will like-

ly be considered for one of two spots, along with Texas and Ohio State.

Going into Saturday, No. 16 Florida (8-4) still had a slight chance to pass Tennessee in the BCS standings and win the SEC tiebreaker, based on a 16-13 victory over Georgia.

The Gators had to beat their state rival and, in all likelihood, needed Miami to lose to Pittsburgh for an extra boost in the BCS.

But that scenario faded away when P.K. Sam caught a 52-yard touchdown pass with 55 seconds remaining, giving Florida State a thrilling win at the Swamp.

Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley said he will look into changing the long-standing agreement that had an Atlantic Coast Conference crew officiating the game. There were no fewer than six

key calls, ranging from questionable to downright awful, all of which went against the Gators.

"It hurts really, really, really bad," Florida coach Ron Zook said. "It was a heck of a football game."

The Gators are likely headed to the Peach Bowl to meet Clemson.

As it turned out, Miami-Pitt didn't matter in the SEC race — and the No. 10 Hurricanes won anyway, bidding farewell to the Big East with a 28-14 victory, a share of the conference title and a likely spot in the hometown Orange Bowl.

Miami is moving to the ACC next season.

"We were pretty certain we were going to be in (the championship game) after Florida State beat Florida," Richt said. "But it's hard to know that for sure."

## Nebraska fires head football coach Solich

### Cornhuskers had 9-3 record this year

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska athletic director Steve Pederson says he knows he'll be criticized for firing a head coach who just finished a nine-win regular season.

He also knows he's taking a calculated risk by removing Frank Solich, who was hired six years ago on the recommendation of Tom Osborne.

"I am accountable for the decisions I make, and I'm accountable for the success of this program," Pederson said. "I take full responsibility."

Pederson said he's confident he's making the right move. Though the Huskers rebounded from last year's 7-7 season, they were beaten by a total of 70 points in the three games they lost this year.

Pederson said he saw grow-

ing disparity in talent between the Huskers and Big 12 powers such as Oklahoma and Texas.

Solich finished 58-19 in six seasons, but he was 16-12 in his last 28 games.

"I refuse to let the program gravitate into mediocrity," Pederson said. "We won't surrender the Big 12 to Oklahoma and Texas."

Despite firing a coach with a 9-3 record this season, Pederson said he is not running a "win at all costs" program.

"The byproduct of excellence in every area of your program is winning, and I don't apologize for having high expectations," Pederson said.

Pederson named defensive coordinator Bo Pelini interim head coach for the bowl game. The Huskers' bowl destination

has not been determined.

Pederson said he would open a nationwide search for a head coach and hoped to have a successor to Solich named quickly.

Pelini said he would be a candidate for the permanent position.

"This is the best job in the country, and anyone who doesn't want to win the national championship shouldn't bother applying for this job," Pederson said. "I understand we aren't going to win the championship every year, but I believe we should be playing for or gaining on the championship on a consistent basis."

"I don't feel that currently we are playing for or gaining on the championship."

About a dozen players stood in the back of the room as Pederson spoke to the media Sunday.

Defensive end Benard Thomas stood alongside reporters in front, glaring at

Pederson with his arms folded across his chest.

Thomas interjected with his own questions, about Pederson's expectations for next year and how Pederson can expect recruits to want to come to Nebraska if they're not sure about who their coaches will be.

Teammates eventually tugged at Thomas' arm and led him to an outside hallway.

"This decision was not an easy one, and I'm certain with a 9-3 season there will be questions," Pederson said. "But this was not a decision that would be determined by wins and losses. It was a decision based on the overall direction of our program and where I see our program headed in the next five to 10 years."

Solich took over a program that won national titles three of Osborne's last four years.

Pederson called Solich's record "solid."

"He deserves the admiration

and support from all of us who care about Nebraska football," Pederson said.

Solich's team played Miami in the national championship Rose Bowl game after the 2001 season despite a 26-point loss to Colorado in the previous game.

In 2002, the Huskers had their first non-winning season since 1961. This season they blew a 10-point fourth-quarter lead in losing 41-24 at Missouri, they lost 31-7 at Texas and then suffered a 38-9 loss to Kansas State that was their worst at home since 1958.

Chancellor Harvey Perlman said that although Solich is a man of high integrity who made many contributions to the university, he fully supported Pederson's decision.

Perlman said when he interviewed Pederson for the athletic director's job last year, one of his main concerns was the direction of the football program.

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# Sorenstam richer, grateful for first Skins experience

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Annika Sorenstam won as much money in her first Skins Game as Tiger Woods managed in his four appearances combined.

So much for the theory that inviting the world's best female golfer to this otherwise all-male, made-for-TV event was merely a gimmick to bring attention since Woods opted out this year.

"I've played with a lot of fine players," said Mark O'Meara, Woods' close friend, "and I'd have to put Annika at the top of the list."

With her parents and husband among those watching, Sorenstam won five skins and \$225,000, finishing second to Mr. Skins himself, Fred Couples, who earned \$605,000 in winning the game for a record fourth time.

"I think she played terrific golf. I certainly didn't play better than Annika," Couples said. "I just made a few more putts and a couple of lucky shots."

Phil Mickelson was third after Sunday's final nine holes

of the 18-hole competition with \$170,000. O'Meara, the defending champion, wound up with nothing after winning \$405,000 in the event a year ago.

Despite her success, Sorenstam thought an invitation to return next year was unlikely.

"I would definitely accept it, but I don't expect one," she said. "I was just flattered to get an invitation to be here this year. There's a lot of people who deserve to be here, but obviously I'm very thankful to have a chance to experience this, because it's been wonderful."

Sorenstam impressed her competitors with her unflinchingly accurate drives off the tee.

"I was surprised at how far she hit the golf ball," Mickelson said. "I think if she were to attempt to play the men's tour full-time — not that she would, but if she were going to — I don't think distance would be a hindrance for her. She hits the ball plenty long."

The 18-hole competition brought an end to Sorenstam's long season.

She led the PGA Tour with six wins, won her sixth money title and was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame. In May, she became the first woman to compete in a PGA event in 58 years, playing two solid rounds at The Colonial but missing the cut.

Her season ended with a skins competition in Singapore, the LPGA finale at the ADT Championship in Florida, and a cross-country flight to California for the Skins Game.

Now it's time for "a long break," she said, before she begins practicing for what she expects to be another triumphant year.

"It's majors I want to win. I've been fortunate to win six of them, but I believe inside that I can win more than that," Sorenstam said. "Next year I'm going to go out and try to win four in one year. Therefore, I need all the experience and all the education I can get."

Sorenstam provided one of

the most memorable moments in the Skins Game's 21-year history.

The 39-yard bunker shot for an eagle to win \$175,000 on the ninth and final hole Saturday brought the sagging event to life. She started Sunday's play with another skin, a 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th hole.

"I was happy to make another skin other than that fluke shot, the bunker shot I hit," Sorenstam said.

Couples won \$580,000 on Sunday, the second-largest earnings on the final nine holes in the event's 21-year history. Only Greg Norman's \$1 million sweep in 2001. Couples' \$605,000 is the third-largest total.

In his 10 Skins Game appearances, Couples has won a record \$2.875 million. He birdied the par-3 17th hole three times on Sunday, the first one with a 55-foot putt. The other two came as part of the four playoff holes that finally resulted in Couples winning the \$200,000 "Super Skin."

"It's a fish bowl and pot luck," Couples said of the format. "I feel like I can pull off any shot at any time, and if I

don't it doesn't take me three holes to figure my swing out. And I think the best thing that I do, I don't get flustered."

## Pampa's White named Player of Year in 3-4A Team Tennis

PAMPA Pampa's Britton White was named the Male Player of the Year in District 3-4A Team Tennis this fall.

White was ranked as the No. 1 player in singles.

White and partner Zach Hucks were No. 1 all-district first-team in doubles.

Pampa tied with Palo Duro for the district championship. The Harvesters advanced to the regional tournament in Wichita Falls where they won two of three matches.

Harvester Tennis 2003

All-District Team

Boys

Player of the Year: Britton



White.

First Team Singles: 1. Britton White, 2. Zach Hucks, 3. Adam Etchison, 4. Austin Morton, 5. Mitchell Crow.

Second Team Singles: 6. Nick Robbins.

First Team Doubles:

1. Britton White-Zach Hucks; 2. Adam Etchison-Mitchell Crow.

Girls

First Team Singles: 4. Erin Norris, 6. Payton Baird.

Second Team Singles: 1. Tara Jordan, 3. Myca Vinson, 5. Ashlee Lucas.

Second Team Doubles

3. Payton Baird-Lauren Denney.

First Team Mixed Doubles:

Erin Norris-Austin Morton.

## Kings edge past Stars, 2-1, with goal in second period

DALLAS (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings made this victory more difficult on themselves.

The Kings killed off six of Dallas' seven power plays, and Jaroslav Modry scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period of a 2-1 win over the Stars on Sunday night.

"We took too many penalties tonight. We've got to be smarter than that, but our penalty killing was good," Kings coach Andy Murray said.

Roman Cechmanek made 18 saves for the Kings, 3-3-0 in their last six games. He made 14 in the second period, when the Stars had five power plays.

"They may not have gotten many shots on goal, but they had plenty of opportunities on their power play," Cechmanek said. "I thought we played well in our own zone, especially with that many power-play chances."

A high-stick against Kings left wing Alexander Frolov cost the Stars their most skilled player, center Mike Modano, for most of the last two periods.

Modano left 2:32 into the second after sustaining facial injuries from Frolov's stick, earning Frolov a double-minor.

Modano was down on the ice for several minutes before being helped to the locker room to have a cut on his nose and bruised eye treated. He didn't return, but Stars coach Dave Tippett said Modano was held out only as a precaution and was expected to be available for Thursday night's game at Los Angeles.

"It hurts. He's our leader," Stars forward Steve Ott said. "But other guys have to step up and win these games."

The Kings knew about injuries, with top players Ziggy Palffy, Adam Deadmarsh, Jason Allison, Ian Laperriere and Derek Armstrong, all out with injuries.

But Los Angeles still had enough to beat the Stars, who had their season-best three-game winning streak snapped.

With the score tied at 1, Modry skated in from behind the net and lifted a shot over Marty Turco at 17:02 of the second period.

Turco stopped 19 shots for Dallas.

The Kings thought they had an insurance goal from Luc Robitaille with 59 seconds left, but the score was overturned on replay because Los Angeles forward Jon Sim was already inside the net.

After a scoreless first period, Michael Cammalleri scored 31 seconds into the second on a one-timer from the right circle. Cammalleri has three goals in his last two games.

Dallas tied it at 1 while on a two-man advantage. Sergei Zubov's shot from center point got through a screen and past Cechmanek at 10:55 of the second period.

Notes: The Kings announced during the third period that they acquired center Martin Straka from Pittsburgh for defenseman Martin Strbak and left wing Sergei Anshakov. ... Dallas entered 4-1-1 in its previous six contests. ... The Kings were 3-1 winners over Chicago on Saturday. Los Angeles is 4-0-0 in the second game of back-to-backs this season.

### How Top 25 Fared

1. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Lehigh, Monday.
2. Duke (3-1) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Michigan State, Wednesday.
3. Michigan State (3-1) beat DePaul 89-81. Next: vs. No. 2 Duke, Wednesday.
4. Arizona (1-1) did not play. Next: at Saint Louis, Saturday, Dec. 6.
5. Missouri (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Tuesday.
6. Kansas (2-0) did not play. Next: at Texas Christian, Monday.
7. Syracuse (1-1) beat Rhode Island 69-65. Next: vs. St. Bonaventure, Wednesday.
8. Florida (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Tuesday.
9. North Carolina (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Illinois, Tuesday.
10. Kentucky (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Marshall, Monday.
11. Texas (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Thursday.
12. Illinois (3-0) did not play. Next: at No. 9 North Carolina, Tuesday.
13. Saint Joseph's (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. San Francisco, Tuesday.
14. Oklahoma (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Tuesday.
15. Wisconsin (3-0) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Tuesday.
16. Gonzaga (3-1) did not play. Next: at Washington, Wednesday.
17. Louisville (0-1) did not play. Next: vs. Western Kentucky, Thursday.
18. Wake Forest (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Tuesday.
19. Cincinnati (3-0) did not play. Next: at Valparaiso, Tuesday.
20. Stanford (3-0) beat Rice 60-56. Next: vs. No. 6 Kansas, Saturday.
21. Notre Dame (2-0) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Marquette, Monday.
22. Pittsburgh (4-0) did not play. Next: at Duquesne, Wednesday.
23. Marquette (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Notre Dame, Monday.
24. Oklahoma State (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas-San Antonio, Tuesday.
25. North Carolina State (3-0) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Tuesday.

## SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL						
National Football League						
At A Glance						
By The Associated Press						
All Times EST						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	257	209
Miami	8	4	0	.667	241	191
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	197	194
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	210	221
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	2	0	.818	303	208
Indianapolis	9	3	0	.750	343	254
Houston	5	7	0	.417	211	290
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	202	264
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	300	238
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	268	266
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	192	224
Pittsburgh	4	8	0	.333	223	277
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	11	1	0	.917	361	222
Denver	7	5	0	.583	279	206
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	222	278
San Diego	2	10	0	.167	233	342
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	3	0	.750	245	212
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	226	208
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	202	266
Washington	4	8	0	.333	236	280
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	8	4	0	.667	234	229
New Orleans	6	6	0	.500	256	278
Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	230	191
Atlanta	2	10	0	.167	221	328
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	310	295
Green Bay	6	6	0	.500	298	255
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	219	247
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	202	280
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	9	3	0	.750	347	246
Seattle	8	4	0	.667	323	239
San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	248	230
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	166	337
Thursday's Games						
Detroit 22, Green Bay 14						
Miami 40, Dallas 21						
Sunday's Games						
Chicago 28, Arizona 3						
Houston 17, Atlanta 13						
Buffalo 24, N.Y. Giants 7						
St. Louis 48, Minnesota 17						
New England 38, Indianapolis 34						
Cincinnati 24, Pittsburgh 20						
Philadelphia 25, Carolina 16						
Baltimore 44, San Francisco 6						
New Orleans 24, Washington 20						
Seattle 34, Cleveland 7						
Denver 22, Oakland 8						
Kansas City 28, San Diego 24						
Jacksonville 17, Tampa Bay 10						
Monday's Game						
Tennessee at N.Y. Jets, 9 p.m.						
Sunday, Dec. 7						
San Diego at Detroit, 1 p.m.						
Chicago at Green Bay, 1 p.m.						
Oakland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.						
Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.						
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.						
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.						
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 1 p.m.						
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.						
Seattle at Minnesota, 1 p.m.						
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.						
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.						
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 4:15 p.m.						
Miami at New England, 4:15 p.m.						
Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 p.m.						
Carolina at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.						
Monday, Dec. 8						
St. Louis at Cleveland, 9 p.m.						
BASKETBALL						
Sunday's Major College Scores						
By The Associated Press						
EAST						
San Francisco 74, Delaware 72						
Syracuse 69, Rhode Island 65						
SOUTH						
Belmont 46, Air Force 38						
Charlotte 92, N.C.-Asheville 65						
James Madison 65, Navy 60						
Louisiana-Monroe 84, Cent. Methodist 53						
South Alabama 66, Alabama St. 49						
Tulane 77, Loyola, La. 57						
Virginia 79, High Point 64						
MIDWEST						
Cent. Michigan 71, Marist 67						
Iowa St. 79, N. Iowa 76						
Michigan 61, Butler 60, OT						
Minnesota 91, Furman 84, OT						
Toledo 72, Ohio 66						
SOUTHWEST						
Stanford 60, Rice 56						
FAR WEST						
Quinnipiac 85, Hawaii-Hilo 74						
Rider 68, Dartmouth 64						
Southern Cal 75, CS Northridge 69						
Troy St. 93, San Diego St. 84						
TOURNAMENTS						
Coca-Cola Spartan Classic						
Championship						
Michigan St. 89, DePaul 81						
Third Place						
Penn 86, Indiana St. 48						
Mohegan Sun Classic						
Championship						
Loyola Marymount 58, Cent. Connecticut St. 57						
Third Place						
Binghamton 38, Charleston Southern 34						
Montana Holiday Classic						
Championship						
Montana 75, St. Mary's, Cal. 68						
Third Place						
SE Missouri 77, UC Santa Barbara 75						

## Patriots, Eagles and Bengals continue their hot streak

By The Associated Press The Patriots and Eagles have that championship look. So do the Bengals.

The Bengals? Cincinnati won its fourth straight with a scintillating late rally Sunday at Pittsburgh. Jon Kitna's third touchdown pass, an 18-yarder to Matt Schobel with 13 seconds left, completed a last-minute drive for a 24-20 victory. The Bengals (7-5) have won six of seven to set up a first-place showdown next week in Baltimore.

"In years past, we didn't win the tough games," running back Corey Dillon said. "Now we're winning them. As long as I've been here, December was just December, it doesn't mean too much. This is different."

But it's the same old thing for New England, which has won eight in a row after edg-

ing Indianapolis 38-34. With 14 seconds left, Willie McGinest stopped Edgerrin James from the 1 on fourth-and-goal to boost the Patriots to 10-2 for the first time in franchise history.

"We got a lot of fighters in our locker room," McGinest said. "We're not going to give anything away."

Philadelphia isn't giving away a thing, either. The Eagles (9-3) took sole possession of the top spot in the NFC East with their seventh successive victory, 25-16 at Carolina. David Akers kicked four field goals, while John Kasay missed three and an extra point.

"This is no time to go wild, you only go wild in February," quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "Everybody counted us out early and nobody went crazy in here. We knew what we had

to do to get this ship righted."

**Bengals 24, Steelers 20**

At Pittsburgh, the Bengals all but eliminated the Steelers (4-8), who had won six of the last nine division titles in the AFC North or Central. Chad Johnson had six catches for 117 yards.

Hines Ward had 13 catches for 149 yards and gave Pittsburgh a 20-17 lead with a 16-yard touchdown reception with 1:05 remaining, but Kitna rallied Cincinnati.

**Patriots 38, Colts 34**

At Indianapolis, the Colts (9-3) dropped out of first place in the AFC South, at least momentarily — Tennessee plays Monday night at the Jets.

Peyton Manning brought the Colts back from a 21-point second-half deficit for the second time this season. He completed 29 of 48 passes for 278 yards and four touch-

downs, and moved the Colts 47 yards on their final drive before it fizzled at the 1.

Rookie Bethel Johnson had a 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to end the first half, then broke free again in the fourth quarter, going 67 yards to set up the winning drive.

**Eagles 25, Panthers 16**

At Charlotte, McNabb overcame his interception in six games and Philadelphia snapped a streak of four consecutive games without a giveaway. McNabb connected with nine receivers on his 18 completions.

Stephen Davis ran for 115 yards, the seventh straight game the Eagles have given up 100 or more yards. But the loss stalled Carolina's (8-4) attempt to wrap up the NFC South.

**Broncos 22, Raiders 8**

At Oakland, Clinton Portis carried 34 times for 170 yards

and two touchdowns and the Broncos (7-5) held Oakland without a touchdown for the first time this season.

That prompted Oakland coach Bill Callahan to call his team "the dumbest in America."

The Raiders (3-9) were penalized 11 times for 89 yards and lost three fumbles.

**Chiefs 28, Chargers 24**

At San Diego, the Chiefs (11-1) improved the league's best record as Priest Holmes ran 31 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns, and Tony Gonzalez caught two touchdown passes from Trent Green. Kansas City capitalized on two turnovers by Doug Flutie in the final 11 minutes.

LaDainian Tomlinson had 106 yards and one TD for San Diego (2-10):

**Ravens 44, 49ers 6**

At Baltimore, Ray Lewis

returned an interception 29 yards for a touchdown to cap a 17-point flurry in the second quarter.

One week after the Ravens trailed Seattle by 17 in the fourth quarter before rallying to win, they took a far easier path against the 49ers. Baltimore (7-5) built a 24-6 halftime lead before coasting to the most lopsided victory in franchise history.

The 49ers (5-7) are 0-6 on the road.

**Rams 48, Vikings 17**

At St. Louis, Marshall Faulk moved into fifth place on the career touchdowns list with 127, scoring three times. He gained 108 yards, his third straight 100-yard game after going 10 without one.

The Rams (9-3) and won their 12th straight home game and lead the NFC West by one game over Seattle.

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## Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2003: Taking risks develops into even more of your speciality this year. You might not be anchored in your choices, so you think, especially as others might gasp at some of the actions you take. You have an innate gift for making money, and if used wisely, you will gain through this talent. Your mind works like a ticker tape regarding financial matters. Your career will bloom through September 2004. You are likely to realize much more of what you desire. This tendency is enhanced after September, but expands to various other areas of your life. If you are single, an important relationship could be knocking on your door by your birthday next year. If you are attached, you add that old zest to your relationship. Both of you enjoy the sparks. Find ARIES to play.

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)

\*\*\*\*\* Keep your eye on your goals. You empower yourself with the help of someone you really care about. A boss finally sees the positives in your ideas rather than the negatives. You feel pleased to be acknowledged — finally. Use your newfound magnetism. Tonight: All grins, and why not? **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* You might want to keep your opinion to yourself. Others simply don't and won't agree, no matter what you try to do. Detach and walk in someone else's shoes, and you'll get a lot of answers. Observe, research and stay behind the scenes. Tonight: Happily head home. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You might want to discuss a change of pace in the near future. A partner suddenly seems to be in the mood to talk. You are relieved to clear the air. Both of you actually have similar goals. Aim for more of what you want. Tonight: You're all grins. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* Although work might be demanding, many grin from ear to ear when they see you. Associates have tremendous faith in your ability to come through. Others pitch in to make a dream happen. You have much to smile about. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about. Your ability to understand those around you makes someone care about you perhaps a little too much. Be ready to establish more boundaries if need be. Tonight: Buy some Christmas music if you don't have any. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Experiment with different ideas with the help of a partner or associate. Brainstorming only adds to your creativity and dynamic ideas. A relationship could be kindling in the background, or a present one might become much softer and endearing. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Others act in a dynamic way. You might want to sit back and watch what goes on. A family member could be unusually pliable. You might be considering a special purchase for your household. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Just don't be home alone.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Try a different route or do something very different. Your perspective could change during a discussion and soften up a lot about someone close to you. Practice a little more diplomacy. Tonight: Work off that turkey dinner with some exercise.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Being in a very playful mood, you might decide to treat someone to something he or she has always wanted, or you might decide to do something a little wild. Risking goes hand in hand with your fiery nature right now. Tonight: So what if it is a work week? **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Venus moves into your sign, adding to your allure and desirability. What you hear could put a different perspective on a domestic matter. Check out an investment with care. Tonight: Happily at home. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* You have a way of drawing people to you, which today might be a great ability to call on. Your perspective could change if you let it go and just relax with the moment. Be careful of someone you meet in the near future. Tonight: Get into the whirlwind of life. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* A friend might share a secret that you are dying to reveal. The tone of a relationship could be changing — much more to your liking. Be cautious handling funds, as money could easily slip through your hands. Tonight: Your treat.

**BORN TODAY** Fashion designer Gianni Versace (1946), tennis player Monica Seles (1973), singer Britney Spears (1981)

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

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TEXSCAN Week of November 30, 2003

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# Unofficial peace makers drafting pact for Mid-East

GENEVA (AP) — Last-minute dissent among the Palestinians and strong opposition from Israeli leaders underscored just how difficult it will be for a symbolic peace plan to sway either side after years of conflict in the Middle East.

The unofficial treaty, dubbed the "Geneva Accord," was to be signed Monday before a closely guarded guest list expected to include Jimmy Carter and other winners of the Nobel peace prize.

"For the first time in more than a hundred years of conflict a detailed and comprehensive solution was agreed upon which settles the most critical issues of this conflict," the negotiators said in a statement.

The treaty proposes borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state close to Israel's borders before the 1967 Mideast war. It also gives the Palestinians almost all the West Bank and Gaza Strip and part of Jerusalem.

The negotiators claim their work is in line with the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace and other plans.

Neither Israeli nor Palestinian leaders have backed the plan, though it is only symbolic. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said the plan is subversive, insisting that only governments may conduct such negotiations. The hard-line government opposes the far-reaching Israeli concessions that are key parts of the Geneva Accord.

Senior Palestinian officials wavered Sunday before

agreeing at the last minute to attend the ceremony, heightening Israeli fears about the Palestinians' ability to commit to even a nonbinding peace agreement.

Two Palestinian Cabinet ministers and two influential legislators who helped negotiate the plan refused to go when they were threatened by militants. They changed their minds after they said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat backed their participation, overriding criticism from Fatah hard-liners. Publicly, Arafat has given the accord only vague support.

"Any Palestinian distancing from the agreement cancels its very basis, because what it is selling is a Palestinian partner," said Israel's Channel Two TV diplomatic reporter Rina Mazliah. "What almost happened today strengthens the Israeli opponents of the accord."

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades linked to Fatah called them "collaborators," a loaded term that often marks Palestinians for death. Masked gunmen also shot at the home of Abed Rabbo, who already was in Geneva.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators of the deal left early Monday on a Swiss charter to attend the signing. In Israel, a handful of protesters outside Ben Gurion Airport greeted the group upon their arrival. One man shouted at former Justice Minister Yossi Beilin — who initiated the two years of secret negotiations — "you're alone."

## Fatal quake hits western China

BEIJING (AP) — A strong earthquake rumbled through a swath of western China's mountainous Xinjiang region Monday, killing at least 11 people and collapsing hundreds of homes near the border with Kazakhstan, the government said.

Thirty-four people were reported injured and more than 700 houses fell, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The 6.1 magnitude quake, in the sparsely populated Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, hit at 9:38 a.m. local time Monday, Xinhua said. It said the quake was felt for many miles around.

"I was just getting up out of bed, and everything in my house was rattling. The wall was vibrating," said a resident of Zhaosu County, where the quake hit hard. He identified himself only as Mr. Wu. "Fortunately, my house is made out of brick, not wood and sand."

The Russian ITAR-Tass news agency said the tremor was felt in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, about 100 miles west. It said there were no injuries or damage there.

At least 11 people were confirmed dead in Xinjiang as of Monday afternoon, Xinhua said, adding that all the dead were workers and their families in the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, and included three children age 4 or younger.

The corps, a one-time military unit similar to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was converted to a civilian construction and militia operation in 1954. Its workers live in houses built more

than three decades ago. "Houses that were built in the 1960s and 1970s all collapsed," said an official at the Xinjiang Seismological Bureau who gave only his surname, Xie.

The U.S. Geological Service's National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado confirmed the tremor but measured it at magnitude 5.7.

Rescue teams were en route to the area, Xinhua said, and investigators for the State Seismological Bureau were also on the way.

"My house is all right, but there are other houses in our town that have collapsed," said Ha Lidan, a woman who lives in Zhaosu County.

# Austria: Strikes signal new era of conflict

By VANESSA GERA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Baffled tourists stranded at train stations. Pilots on the picket line. Mass anti-government rallies.

Once considered a second Switzerland for its harmonious labor relations, Austria in recent months has looked a lot more like Italy, its strike-ridden southern neighbor.

Austria has long been a prime example of the high-tax, high-welfare systems that kept the post-World War II social peace in Europe. Now, like many of those countries, it is trying to get into shape to head off recession and mesh into the global economy.

Strikes this year by railway workers, airline crews and teachers have brought a jarring end to a long tradition of workers and management solving disputes at the negotiating table — and not on the streets.

This year has seen nine nationwide strikes. In 1999 and 2001, there were none.

"The change in atmosphere is total and brutal," wrote Guenther Neening, a commentator for the mass-circulation Kronen Zeitung daily. Like other Austrian observers, he argued that the "culture of

## Militant receives lighter sentence

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian appeals court cleared militant leader Abu Bakar Bashir of treason and reduced his sentence from four years to three, court officials said Monday.

The court upheld Bashir's conviction on lesser charges of forging identity documents.

Bashir was convicted in September of treason in a plot to overthrow Indonesia's secular government but cleared of charges of being the leader of the al-Qaida linked Southeast Asia terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The decision was widely criticized by foreign governments who maintain that Bashir is the spiritual head of the group, which has been blamed for both last year's Bali bombings that killed 202 people and the Aug. 5 bombing of the Marriott hotel in Jakarta that killed 12.

A senior court official and Bashir defense attorney Achmad Michdan said Monday that an appeals court had thrown out the treason conviction. Michdan added that his team was not satisfied with the decision and wanted all charges dropped.

He said he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Keeping Bashir in jail for three years for forging identity papers was unfair, he said.

"There is political pressure from America, Australia and Singapore," he said. "The law has proved that Abu Bakar Bashir is innocent."

consensus" was history.

He went as far as to liken the new climate to the political and labor conflict that presaged Hitler's 1938 annexation of Austria, "But minus the component of violence, thank goodness."

To some, that's an overstatement. But clearly something has changed in this alpine land that Pope Paul VI famously called "the Island of the Blessed."

"Austria was once a second Switzerland, and it's now becoming a second Italy or Belgium or France," said Anton Pelinka, a professor of political science at Innsbruck University.

"Austria is losing its predictability," he said. "And I don't think it can be regained."

The weekly magazine Profil came up with "Wolfgang Thatcher" in comparing

Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel to Margaret Thatcher, the British leader whose privatization of state industries sparked vast labor unrest.

As prime minister and leader of the pro-business People's Party, Schuessel has moved to sell off as many state-run enterprises as possible in hopes of making the extensive bureaucracy more efficient.

In March, 1,000 postal workers protested government plans to cut jobs. This month, in the country's longest and hardest-hitting strike since World War II, nationwide railway strikes delayed 1.2 million travelers in this country of 8 million.

The railway workers were protesting a plan to split the deficit-ridden industry into nine smaller companies and sell it off. Up to 12,000 work-

ers — a quarter of the railroad's employees — were to be laid off by 2010, the union's power sharply cut and many privileges eliminated, among them early retirement that lets workers retire in their 50s.

The strike was called off after nearly three days when the government offered some concessions, and a search is under way for a compromise that likely will mean fewer layoffs. But privatization is still on for January, pending parliamentary approval next month.

Schuessel also has taken on Austria's powerful teachers union with a plan to save money by cutting back on instruction time at the nation's high schools and by laying off some teachers. In May, 20,000 teachers angrily struck in protest over the plan, which threatens 434 jobs in Vienna alone.

Schuessel's overhaul would make teachers and other public servants contractual employees — an effort to end decades of job protection that made it virtually impossible to fire them.

Meanwhile, pilots for Austrian, the struggling national airline, have staged repeated walkouts to protest planned austerity measures. Their action reflects the end of

Although the airline is not a government industry, the strikes reflect the passing of the unwritten code that obliges workers and management to negotiate until consensus is reached.

## Holiday production



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Civic Ballet will stage its annual production of "The Nutcracker" at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Above: Wendy Stephens of Pampa as a dancing bear and Sara Labus of Panhandle as a mechanical doll.

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