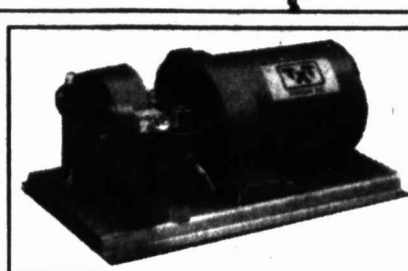




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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003

NEWS

Pampa, Texas
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WEATHER

HIGH **Low**
55 **40**

LOCAL

Holiday ball planned at Heritage Center

LUBBOCK — From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock will host the 25th Annual Candlelight at the Ranch "Cowboy Christmas Ball." The ball will open from 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday for visitors with special needs.

Though donations are welcome, admission is free to this "living history event."

DEATHS

Helen Purdy Maxey, 82, Sunday School teacher, elder.
Mrs. Johnnie Preston, 90, grocery store checker.
Harold L. Rhodes, 73, helicopter expert.

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Beautiful Paving Stones...

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Property-poor schools join law-

AUSTIN (AP) — About 60 property-poor school districts in Texas joined a lawsuit against the state Monday, asserting that Texas must spend more money on a public school finance system that is "inadequate and inequitable."

The emphasis "is on the fact that there's just inadequate funds to deliver the kind of education our Supreme Court said needs to be delivered," said Buck Wood, an Austin attorney representing the growing list of property-poor districts involved in the lawsuit.

Wood said he expected the list of plaintiffs to grow to at least 100.

The suit did not list the districts joining and Wood would not name the schools he represents.

They join forces with a handful of property wealthy districts already suing the state over its share-the-wealth system of financing public schools.

The plan, nicknamed Robin Hood, has survived several legal challenges since its inception a decade ago. It sends money from property-rich dis-

tricts to poorer and smaller ones in an attempt to give all students an equal chance for a basic education.

Many schools have already raised property taxes to the \$1.50 cap per \$100 property valuation. In the suit, plaintiffs allege that sharing the local property tax is equivalent to a statewide property tax, which is banned by the state constitution.

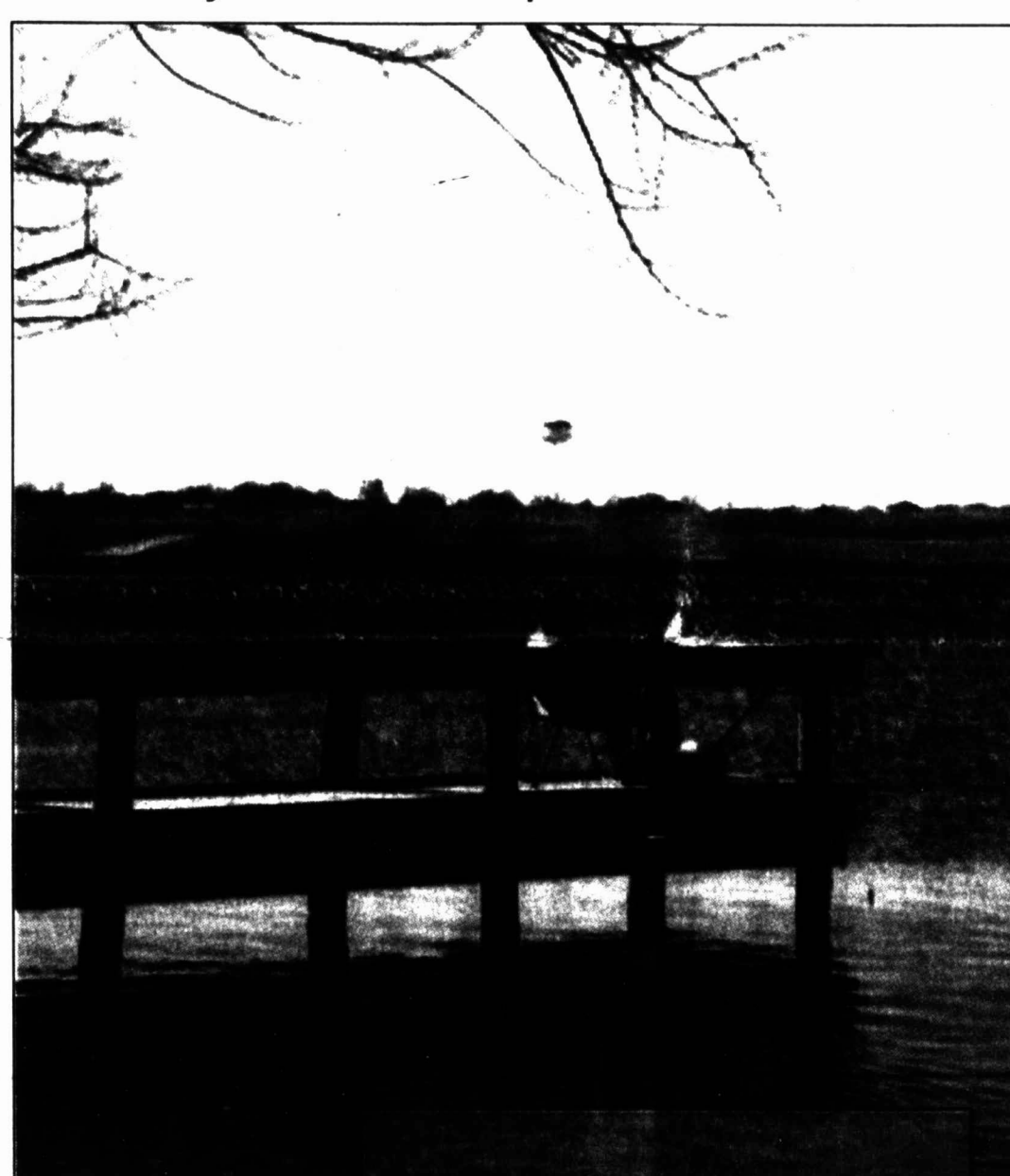
The Austin American-Statesman first reported Monday morning that the additional school districts were joining the lawsuit.

Gov. Rick Perry has said he will call a special legislative session next spring to take up school finance.

"Any lawsuit will not affect the governor's intention to find a resolution to the school finance issue," said Perry spokesman Robert Black. "He would like to see consensus ... before he calls a special session and he's very optimistic that that will happen."

A select committee of House and Senate members is set to meet Thursday and Friday to listen to invitees. (See **SCHOOLS**, Page 10)

Honk if you like Pampa



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

A lone angler fishes off the pier at City Lake Monday afternoon, surrounded by flocks of wild geese. The geese chose Recreation Park as a resting spot Monday during the annual migration south from the northern United States and Canada to the Gulf Coast and beyond.



Two of the many wild geese taking a break on City Lake are brave enough to venture close to shore Monday afternoon. Two more flocks arrived while the photographer was at the park.

Area educators to hear more on school finance

Scott McCown, executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, will be special guest speaker at an area school finance meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

State Representatives Warren Chisum and Scott Hochberg will also speak at the meeting. Public school finances will be discussed, including current issues and actions taken by the state legislature and courts.

McCown, a former state district judge, presided over Edgewood II-IV finance cases. Chisum represents Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lamb, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Parmer, Roberts, Swisher and Wheeler counties in the state legislature. Hochberg is a member of the legislature's public education committee and a recognized school finance expert.

Pantex officials report on state of environment

AMARILLO (AP) — Environmental monitoring is continuing at the Pantex plant, say officials who are also updating cleanup plans at the nuclear weapons facility.

Pantex residents were briefed Monday on well monitoring and environmental remediation plans in a quarterly update. Pantex is the nation's primary assembly and disassembly plant for nuclear warheads.

Plant officials are analyzing data and writing reports, said Dennis Huddleston, manager of environmental remediation for BWXT Pantex. Huddleston presented information on the risk-based end state vision, a plan to standardize cleanups across all sites.

"It will bring consistency

and a common-sense approach to cleanup," he told the Amarillo Globe-News in Tuesday's online edition.

Included in the plan are corrective measures to reduce risk at all sites beginning by May 2005.

Information on an airborne geophysics progress report was presented by Jeff Paine, an investigator for Pantex from the economic geology division of University of Texas at Austin. The report measures conductivity on sites around the plant to detect changes in the sediment type and water saturation.

Jeri Osborne, a Pantex neighbor, said information on an airborne electromagnetic survey was of interest because those planes fly directly over her home.

did not acquit Tom of all the charges. We're going to analyze the jury's verdict."

The jury of nine men and three women found Butler guilty of mislabeling a FedEx package that contained plague samples he sent to Tanzania and their unauthorized export to the African country. Butler had marked the package "laboratory materials" and did not tell a FedEx employee that plague samples were enclosed.

(See **PLAGUE**, Page 10)

Jury convicts professor on 47 of 69 charges

By BETSY BLANEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LUBBOCK (AP) — A world-renowned researcher convicted of most of 69 charges stemming from his work with the potentially deadly plague bacteria probably won't be sentenced until February.

Thomas Butler, 62, was convicted Monday of 47 charges in the case that began when his report of missing plague vials sparked a bioterrorism

scare in this West Texas city. He was acquitted of 22 charges, including the most serious charges of smuggling and illegally transporting the potentially deadly germ and charges of lying to federal agents.

Federal authorities need 45 working days for their pre-sentencing investigation of the Texas Tech University professor. No sentencing date has been set.

Texas Tech has begun steps to dismiss Butler, who was convicted after two days of deliberations.

The charges stem from Butler's Jan. 14 report to police that 30 vials of plague bacteria were missing from his lab. In a statement written later, Butler said he accidentally destroyed the samples. However, during his trial he testified that he had no clear memory of destroying the vials but that they could have been destroyed during his cleanup of an accident.

Butler declined to comment after the verdict. His attorney, Chuck Meadows, said: "We are disappointed that the jury

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OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

ORR, Estelle — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

RHODES, Harold L. — 11 a.m., Schooler-Gordon Funeral Directors Bell Avenue Chapel, Amarillo.

HELEN PURDY MAXEY
1921-2003

Helen Purdy Maxey, 82, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 1, 2003, in Amarillo. Services are pending.

Mrs. Maxey was born on Nov. 15, 1921, at Breckenridge, Texas, and was a graduate of Pampa High School. She married Glenn Maxey on Feb. 10, 1943, in Columbia, S.C. He preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 1990.

She was a Pampa resident most of her life and was a member of First Christian Church for over 50 years where she served as a Sunday school teacher and elder. Matthew 25:21 truly applies to Helen Maxey. She gave of herself unselfishly for her family and friends, putting their needs before hers. "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Survivors include a son, Rick Maxey and wife Mary of Corpus Christi; two daughters,

Sue Atkinson and Joan Hasenauer and husband Leonard, all of Amarillo; six grandchildren, Jarrett Atkinson, Grant Atkinson, Julie Seemann, Mandy Johnson and Linsey Johnson; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX or BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79176.

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



HAROLD L. RHODES
1930-2003

Services for Harold L. Rhodes, 73, of Pampa, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, in Amarillo. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003, at Schooler-Gordon Funeral Directors Bell Avenue Chapel in Amarillo with Pastor Rusty Dickerson, of St. Paul United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery in Amarillo.

Mr. Rhodes was born on May 14, 1930. He married Wilma Cupell. She preceded him in death in 1997. He served four years in the Air Force. He graduated from West Texas State University.

Mr. Rhodes retired after 30 years of service with the Bureau of Mines, Helium Operations. He joined Helium Operations June 18, 1962. He attended Amarillo College and Texas Tech

before graduating from West Texas State University in 1958. He has received three special achievement awards and a quality increase of research investigations and technical assistance in solving complex problems associated with the production and liquefaction of helium.

Rhodes also has written several papers on phase equilibria, hydrogen sulfide sampling procedures, moisture measurement and chromatographic procedures which have appeared in professional journals and Bureau of Mines publications.

Mr. Rhodes is survived by his wife, San; one son, Brent Talley and wife, Keana; a very special grandson, Quinton Talley of Amarillo; and two sisters, Dorothy Rhodes of Houston and Joyce Funderburk and husband, Don, of Houston.

MRS. JOHNNIE PRESTON
1913-2003

Mrs. Johnnie Preston, 90, of Pampa, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, at Shamrock, Texas. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003, at Fairview Cemetery, Pampa, Texas. The Rev. Thacker Haynes of McLean, Texas, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home of McLean.

Mrs. Preston was born Feb. 5, 1913, to John and Gertrude Routt in Hastings, Okla. She married David Preston on Sept. 17, 1932, in Hastings, Okla.

She worked as a checker at several grocery

stores in Pampa for many years. She was also a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Pampa. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Preston, in November, 1968.

Survivors include two sons, Robert Preston and wife, Lenora, of McLean, Texas, and H.J. Preston and wife, Sharon, of Pampa, Texas; three grandchildren, Dana Jackson, Donna Elkins, and Ronald Preston; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to McLean Care Center, P.O. Box 780, McLean, TX 79057.

City Briefs

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

BOBBIE CHANGED her mind! Quilting available by Christmas. Kriss Kross. 665-8410.

BRIGHTEN YOUR Smile for the holidays! Dr. Greg Kelly's dental office is offering their yearly Winter White Sale with discounts on in-office & take-home teeth whitening! Call for information 665-1625.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS: Christmas yard decorations (lighted & unlighted), assortment of craft gift ideas. See at 1212 S. Osborne. Ernie

LETTERS TO Santa! Bring letters by The Pampa News office, 403 W. Atchison, 8-5 p.m., or mail to Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066. Letters will not be accepted after 12 noon, Mon. Dec. 22nd.

COME SEE our "Classic Christmas" models, magic and arts & craft kits! Hobby Shop, open til 7 p.m. Thurs.

'TIS THE Season To Relax With A Massage.....To make an appointment call Zane Walters 665-2629. Gift Certificates are Available.

TRIVIA CONTEST (in The Pampa News 11-18-03). Winner is Kathy Hammer. Congratulations!

Hallandale Beach vet gets World War II dog tag back

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Herman Rosenblatt lost his dog tag during a battle in the Pacific jungles of

Guadalcanal 61 years ago, never knowing exactly how or when they vanished.

He doesn't have to wonder where they are anymore.

Rosenblatt, 81, has one of his original tags back, after a Texas missionary family — who had moved to an island chain near Guadalcanal 45 years after the war ended — were given the tag and managed to find the Hallandale

Beach man on the Internet. "Who would have thought?" mused Rosenblatt, a retired salesman.

The reuniting of Rosenblatt with one of his tags (the other remains lost) began with a letter sent by Roxanne Gebauer, whose family spent 11 years in the Solomon Islands translating the Bible from English into indigenous languages.

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

An information report was taken at the police department. The report concerned disorderly conduct/sexual conduct in the 400 block of West Street.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Theft and assault were reported in the 1100 block of East Harvester. A cell phone was taken. Estimated loss was \$150. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, Nov. 30

Criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 900 block of Denver. A door handle and latch were damaged. Estimated damage was \$200.

Monday, Dec. 1

A two-vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Randy Matson Avenue and Hobart Street. The driver of the suspect vehicle was suspected to be under the influence of drugs at the time of the accident.

A gas drive-off was reported by Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. Value of gas taken was \$10.27.

Disorderly conduct/language was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 N. Charles.

Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the 500 block of Montague. Minor injuries were reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace. A window was broken out of the vehicle. Taken were a black bag containing clothing, a pair of pliers, a satchel containing office supplies, and half a carton of cigarettes. Estimated loss was \$80.

Kimberly Rose, 34, 325 N. Dwight, was arrested on a capias pro fine for no driver's license.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department received no emergency calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

SHERIFF

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

Monday, Dec. 1

Jennifer F. Hogan, 26, Shamrock, was arrested on a bond surrender concerning a charge of manufacture of a controlled substance.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle accidents.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

5:55 p.m. — A 1973 Ford Maxium, driven by Lucille Malosh Eads, 86, 411 Hill St., and a 1999 Dodge Caravan, driven by John Henry McGuire, 72, 1820 N. Zimmers, collided in the 1400 block of Duncan. Eads was cited failure to control speed. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Saturday, Nov. 29

12:05 p.m. — A 1983 Ford LTD, driven by Ernestine Throckmorton, 73, 745 Wilks, and a 1990 white four-door Buick LeSabre, driven by Chuck Eugene Mercer, 31, 416 N. Nelson, collided in the 300 block of West Francis. No citations were issued. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Monday, Dec. 1

3:25 p.m. — A 1997 Dodge Stratus, driven by Sarah Elizabeth Baston, 16, 825 N. Christy, and a 1999 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Aaron Micah Hunt, 16, 711 Bradley, collided in the 200 block of West Harvester. Baston was cited for failure to control speed and violation of driver's license restriction. No injuries were reported at the scene.

7:49 p.m. — A 1994 Dodge van, driven by Mark Anthony Johnson, 50, 909 Beryl, and a 1999 Ford Explorer, driven by Heather Nicole Ponce, 19, 615 E. Albert, collided in the 1500 block of North Hobart. Johnson was cited for no insurance and was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Rural/Metro Ambulance for treatment of a possible injury.

STOCKS

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

Kerr McGee	55.79	+0.05
Wheat	16.97	-0.18
Milo	42.53	+0.09
Corn	17.87	-0.27
Soybeans	9.79	+0.03
Wheat	26.44	+0.09
Milo	36.43	+0.04
Corn	24.81	+0.05
Soybeans	28.81	+0.21

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

JCP	25.77	NC
COP	58.39	+0.42
SLB	46.83	+0.09
Tenneco	5.59	+0.05
CVX	75.92	+0.22
Wal-Mart	53.99	-0.51
OKE	19.98	+0.03
NS Grp	7.76	+0.13

Other quotes: New York Gold 403.25, Silver 5.47, West Texas Crude 29.97.

AMBULANCE

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

Monday, Dec. 1

11:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of North Starkweather and transported a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

1:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to BSAW.

2:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSAW.

7:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Randy Matson and Hobart streets and transported a patient to PRMC.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for mostly cloudy skies, a 30 percent chance of rain showers, highs in the mid 50s and south winds 20 to 30 mph. Caution is advised on area lakes. Tonight should fall on partly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of rain showers, lows around 40 and southwest winds 15 to 20 mph, shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight with gusts up to 20 mph. Wednesday should see partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the south after midnight. Gusts up to 20

mph. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 25 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs around 60. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Monday, mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s.

STATEWIDE

By The Associated Press

Warm temperatures for December will continue over the state this week: 50s and 60s in the north and 60s and 70s in the south.

Northern parts of Texas may see some showers today. On Wednesday the eastern part of the state may see some showers and storms. No severe weather or any big rains are expected.

Monday's high was recorded at Laredo with 84 degrees. Marfa recorded the overnight low: 30 degrees. Alice recorded

a quarter-inch of rain Monday to lead the state.

The West Texas forecast calls for temperatures in the 50s and 60s early this week, with cooler temperatures Thursday and Friday. Friday highs in the Panhandle will only be in the 40s. Temperatures should warm up a little this weekend. Today some showers may fall over the region except in the far west. The rest of the week should be free of rain. Partly cloudy skies will prevail beginning Wednesday.

South Texas will see highs in the 70s today and Wednesday, highs in the 60s beginning Thursday, with slightly warmer overall temperatures in the south. A chance of showers is forecast today and Wednesday in the Hill Country and in south central Texas. Southeast Texas may see rain Wednesday and Thursday, with a few storms possible Wednesday.

A chance of showers is forecast in the Coastal Bend on Wednesday and in the deep south on Thursday. It will be windier on the southern coast beginning Thursday, and small craft advisories may be issued from Thursday through Saturday. Far Southeast Texas may be windy Friday and early Saturday. Skies will be partly to mostly cloudy over the region, clearing on Saturday.

In North Texas it will be mostly cloudy through Wednesday. A chance of light rain is forecast today. Showers and storms will be possible Wednesday, mainly in the east, with slight chances lingering in the east on Thursday.

Highs today and Wednesday will be in the mid and upper 50s in the northwest, 60s elsewhere. Thursday's highs will be in the 50s, a little warmer in the south. Friday's highs will be in the 50s, Saturday's highs in the 60s.

B&

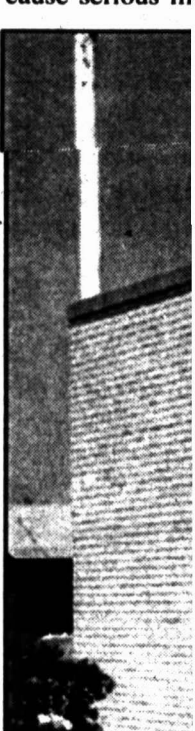
A small town larger pharmacy Home-owner is dedicated to p of its customer Donna have o 1988.

The pharmacist needs, including orders can be c canes, braces a Medical needs also be found.

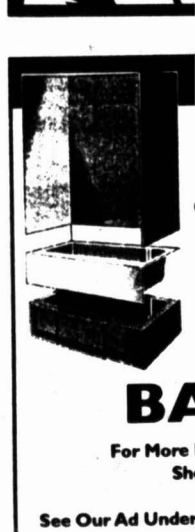
Customers at sional service fr our customers f any questions th

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"We try to st of a big chain y said. "Drugs ha cause serious m



▲ Located in his wife Donna ice from the c



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FOR

BUSINESS REVIEW

B&B Pharmacy offers personal service

A small town pharmacy offers services a larger pharmacy cannot provide.

Home-owned and operated, B&B Pharmacy is dedicated to providing personal service to all of its customers. Dennis Roark and his wife Donna have owned the local pharmacy since 1988.

The pharmacy offers a full line of medical needs, including ostomy supplies. Special orders can be obtained in one day. Crutches, canes, braces and wraps are always in stock. Medical needs for sports-related injuries can also be found.

Customers at B&B Pharmacy receive personal service from the Roarks. "We try to make our customers feel comfortable and free to ask any questions they might have," said Roark.

The staff at B&B Pharmacy strive to provide the personal service a big chain cannot provide.

"We try to stay away from the personalities of a big chain where you are just a number," he said. "Drugs have some interactions that can cause serious medical problems. We welcome

our customers to come to us with any concerns about interactions with their medications. It is important to us to know them and their needs."

"If any person has questions about the over-the-counter medications and possible reactions with their prescriptions, I would be more than happy to assist them."

Long time customers know that the staff at B&B Pharmacy will do all they can to meet the needs of their customers. New customers will find the personal service appealing to them.

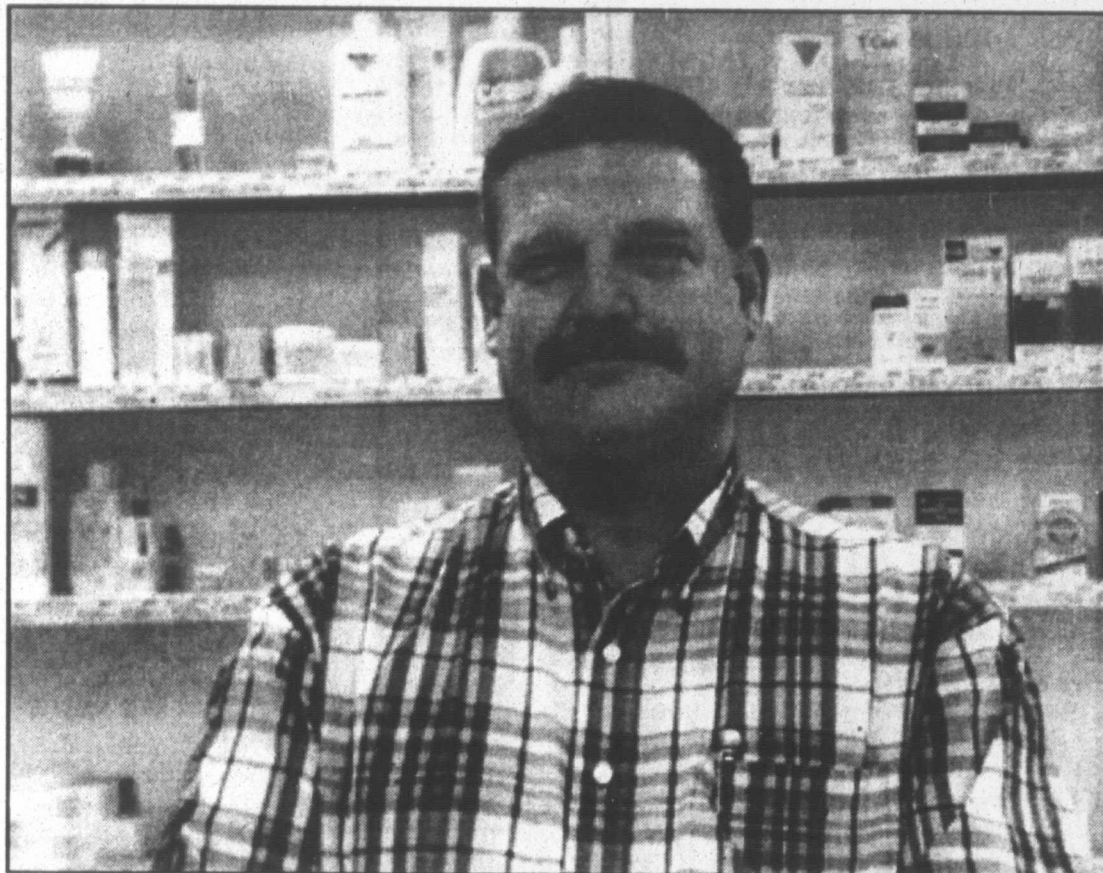
"We want to provide our customers with their needs," said Roark. "New customers are always welcome."

The store covers almost all insurance plans.

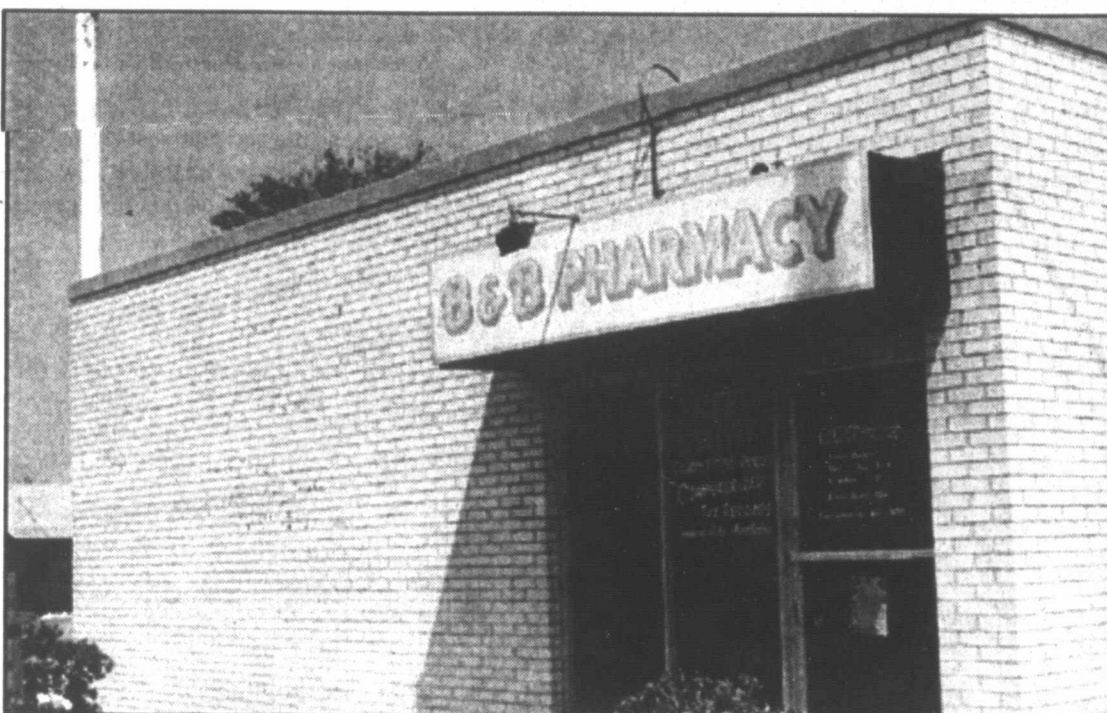
B&B also provides free prescription delivery service.

The pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturdays. The business is closed on Sundays and holidays.

B&B Pharmacy is located at 300 N. Ballard, and their phone number is 665-5788.



▲ Pharmacist Dennis Roark provides friendly service to customers at the local B&B Pharmacy at 300 N. Ballard. Business phone for the pharmacy is 665-5788.



▲ Located at 300 N. Ballard, B&B Pharmacy has been owned by Roark and his wife Donna since 1988. Customers at B&B Pharmacy receive personal service from the couple and their staff that a large company cannot provide.

► B & B Pharmacy provides its customers a full line of medical needs and free prescription delivery service.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By Jove, I think I've got it

To the editor;

I was the only person against the proposed Wal-Mart rezoning request to build the new supercenter at today's commissioner's public meeting. I wasn't surprised; in fact, the new supercenter will bring shoppers here rather than driving through to Amarillo. That's not a bad thing, for Pampa's restaurants will benefit from these folk. This writer cannot think of any other business that supercenter shopper's will visit; but hey, we'll keep 'em from going to Amarillo, won't we.

Here's the thing, Pampa. You're comparing Wal-Mart with economic development, which is not the case. The new employees that will work at the supercenter are minimum wage earners for the most part, with few management positions coming in. These people will not be buying homes, putting their kids in our schools, adding to the tax rolls. And, I could not agree more that competition will be good for businesses that are here in Pampa. We will see lower prices in order to compete; but, we will see decline as well, which is not good for Pampa. Wal-Mart's profits go to banks in Bentonville, Ark., not local banks. Why did the Oakland, Calif., city commission pass an ordinance banning supercenter type stores like Wal-Mart? Loss of citizenry and urban blight, just to mention a couple reasons.

Okay, we're gonna get the supercenter, Pampa and the state will get a little more tax revenue from Wal-Mart, and Pampa citizens will get what they pay for. And, a few months down the corporate road, Wal-Mart will build a store in Perryton, and Pampa's restaurants will lose that business. My question is still this: What good is a Wal-Mart supercenter for Pampa? Oh! I've got it, by Jove! Are our city commissioner's hoping Wal-Mart will deed the old building and property to Pampa as Wal-Mart did for Canyon? Our school district administration does need a newer more up-to-date building...

Dennis Palmitier
Pampa

Lessons last a lifetime

To the editor

I want to commend Coach Parker and his 2003 Harvesters for a memorable year. Time after time on Friday night they were put in adverse situations and the Harvesters responded valiantly. Being a former player, I was overwhelmed by the "El Norma" spirit that was displayed by the young men. This is a testament to the excellent job that Coach Parker and his staff did all year long. I've maintained that the Harvester football program is the "Pride of the Panhandle" and that again was my feeling after the game. To the players, remember, "The sting of the scoreboard lasts but a moment, the lessons learned a lifetime."

Thank you 2003 Green for a great year!!!!

Jared White
Paris, Texas

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

Thanksgiving went to the dogs

Everybody and their dog came to our Thanksgiving celebration this year.

For the past 11 years, Vic and I have hosted the Laramore family Thanksgiving at our home. Most families make Christmas their central holiday. For the Laramores, Thanksgiving evolved into the time when the four Laramore sons brought their families home.

Phyllis Laramore, the matriarch, now lives at the Abraham Memorial Home in Canadian. This year, Vic decided that we should all meet in Canadian for Thanksgiving.

We are now the proud owners of a new-to-us travel trailer. Vic's older brother Larry and his wife Sharon go everywhere in a great big motor home. Our daughter Angel and son-in-law Chad recently bought a travel trailer, too.

So Vic thought we should bring our RVs to a nice little park on the outskirts of Canadian, close to Phyllis. That's where we would have Thanksgiving this year.

I've never been camping on Thanksgiving. I had never heard of anyone going camping on Thanksgiving. I'm sure it's been done many times - in Florida and southern California. There's probably a reason it's not a common practice in the Panhandle of Texas in November - like sub-zero temperatures

DEE DEE
LARAMORE
EDITOR

and blizzards.

Nevertheless, we began to make plans for our adventure Thanksgiving and pray for good weather.

We had a ball! It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable Thanksgivings I've ever experienced.

And everyone and their dog (or dogs) came.

I'm not kidding. Larry and Sharon always travel with their three dogs - Abby and two tiny apricot poodles, Zeek and Zack. Larry calls them "puppies," a cross between the words "people" and "puppy." They're seasoned travelers. Abby's older than the Zeek and Zack. She mothers them and also lets them know when they get out of line with a growl and snap.

We thought we'd bring our Labrador "Daisy" just for fun. We're teaching her proper traveling manners.

Vic's brother Doug, his wife Patty, and their son Brian arrived with their Dalmatian "Dixie." Dixie is the sweetest

dog in the world. She's also quite portly. One of the cousins commented that she's about the right size to make a nice coffee table.

Usually Doug and Patty leave Dixie with a dog sitter, but this year they couldn't find a sitter, so Dixie came along.

Wouldn't it be funny if Angel and Chad brought their dogs, I thought.

Guess what! They didn't bring their travel trailer, but they brought one of their dogs, my grandpuppy Grace.

Dogs were everywhere, on chains, on leashes, and occasionally running loose.

For the most part they were all well behaved, barking at each other at times, but mostly getting along quite well. Daisy seemed a bit overwhelmed by all the people, but loved the attention of my grandchildren Kaitlyn and Brendan.

Kaitlyn spilled part of a sweet potato casserole right beside Daisy which she quickly gobbled up. (Pardon the expression.)

Dixie snatched part of the leftover ham and took off just as Doug and Patty were giving everyone a good-bye hug.

But overall, our adventure Thanksgiving turned out just great. The weather was cold, but bearable. The food was wonderful. And we all had a great time.

Even the dogs.

HIGH
SUNDAY
TELEGRAMPROTESTING SUICIDE
BOMBINGS IN TURKEY

We can offer thanks plus giving

On Thanksgiving two years ago, after an autumn of terrorism and rumors of terrorism, most Americans understood that every day not dated Sept. 11 was a good day. Frustration at work? Dispute at home? Both sad, but not fatal. Many thanked God that we were able to go about our business, although with increased vigilance; that we were able to live our lives, but with increased appreciation of simple pleasures; that we were free to pray and worship, with praise for His everyday, tender mercies.

Now, we see a lot of grumbling against those who protect us against terrorism. Instead of seeing that our military efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq have put terrorists on the defensive, we grumble. Instead of thinking that the vigorous work of John Ashcroft and others may have something to do with our safety during the past two years, pundits condemn the Patriot Act. How quickly we forget.

Many Americans also grumble against God and are suckers for anything that tears down the Bible. Exhibit A: "The DaVinci Code," No. 1 on at least four best-seller lists (Publisher's Weekly, USA Today, American Booksellers Association, Barnes & Noble). The novel, given huge publicity by an ABC News special early this month, posits the existence of a 2,000-year-old cover-up of the purported marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. The

MARVIN OLASKY
COLUMNIST

credulity of skeptics is enormous: The conspiracy supposedly has been headed up by French kings, Sandro Botticelli, Leonard da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo and others.

Back in the 1600s, Pilgrims and Puritans liked to tell dramatic shipwreck stories concerning thanksgiving and forgetting. One vivid tale described John Avery and Thomas Thacher clinging to a rock when their boat was shipwrecked. With the next wave likely to sweep them away, Avery, according to Thacher, said, "We know not what the pleasure of God is; I fear we have been too unmindful of former deliverances." He then spoke of his faith that God would "bring us safe to heaven, through the all-sufficient satisfaction of Jesus Christ."

Many of us pray for the faith of Avery and also pray that another wave of terrorism will not come to these shores. We should thank God for the protection He has given us, and we should then give to others -- people in Iraq and Afghanistan who want freedom, people here in this blessed country who want to change their lives so as to share in the bounty.

On my University of Texas office door a few years ago sat a cartoon (until someone ripped it away) depicting two Pilgrims sitting across from two Indians. One of the Indians is saying, "Rumor has it you're from the religious right." That cartoon was (might as well acknowledge this) an in-your-face reminder to hostile colleagues who think that Christians who gain a place at a state university should be thankful enough to be silent about God.

The cartoon, though, also reminded me of mutuality: Friendly natives showed needy settlers how to grow food for the body, and Christians offered fresh food for the soul. These days, volunteers at Thanksgiving meals for the homeless often pass out food without really talking with the eaters, but true interaction can often help both sets of individuals: Men and women in the gutter can learn to step heavenward, and the helpers can see with their own eyes how God changes people.

After all, affluent people with changed hearts often remain the same in outward appearance, but it's a pleasure at Christian missions to see men who used to sit in vomit-soaked stupor now dressing cleanly and singing hymns. And that's a reason for deep thanksgiving: All of us were in a stupor at one time, and God has changed the hearts of many of us.

May He change many more.

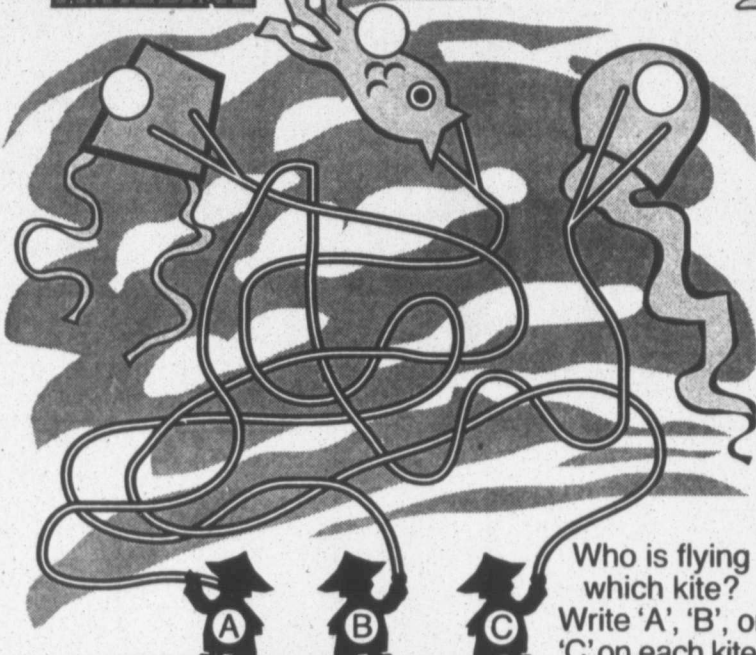
A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

KidScoop.com

This Week: History of Flight, Part 1

© 2003 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 19 No. 49

THE FLIGHT TIMELINE



Who is flying which kite? Write 'A', 'B', or 'C' on each kite.

CHINA 400 B.C.

The Chinese created a kite that could fly in the air. They were able to tie people to large kites and send them aloft.

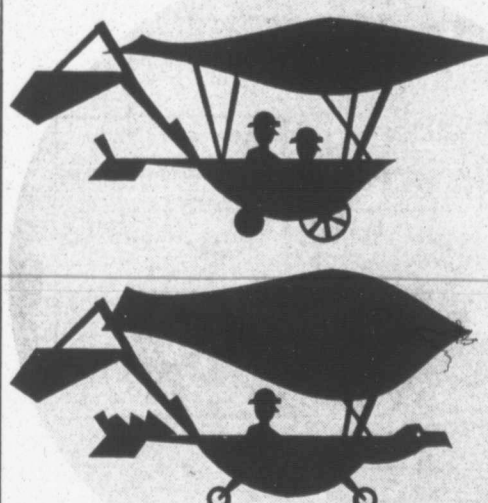
1783

The First Hot Air Balloon

Flight Fact: Farm animals were the first to ride in the Montgolfier's balloon!

Brothers Joseph Michel and Jacques Etienne Montgolfier were inventors of the first hot air balloon. They used the smoke from a fire to blow hot air into a silk bag they called a balloon. The hot air caused the balloon to rise. They discovered that bigger balloons could carry heavier objects, and eventually they created a balloon big enough to carry people.

1799-1850s Controlled Gliding



Find at least 5 differences between these two Cayley gliders.

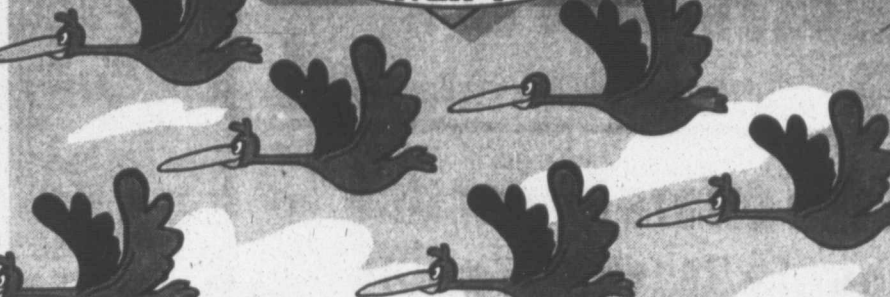
Sir George Cayley thought that wings as well as balloons could carry people into the air. He did hundreds of experiments to find out how wings work. The design of modern airplanes is based on the model glider he built in 1804.

After many years of study, Cayley had learned all that was needed to make an aircraft capable of flight. But he did not have an engine that was light enough and could generate enough power. The steam engine of the time was not usable because of its great weight and low horsepower.

Standards Link: History: Students understand how the contributions of the past have made a difference in our lives today.

A Brief History of FLIGHT

PART 1



For thousands of years, people have watched birds and dreamed of flying. Myths and legends from around the world tell of "bird people" who can fly.

Find the bird above that is different from all the others.

Flying Too High

One ancient Greek legend tells of a man named Daedalus who made wings of feathers and wax to help him and his son escape King Minos, who was holding them as prisoners.

On their flight over the Mediterranean Sea, Daedalus's excited son, flew higher and higher. He flew so high that the sun melted the wax and he fell into the sea!

Use the code to learn the son's name.

□ = A □ = I □ = S □ = W
□ = C □ = R □ = U

Extra! Extra! Up in the Air

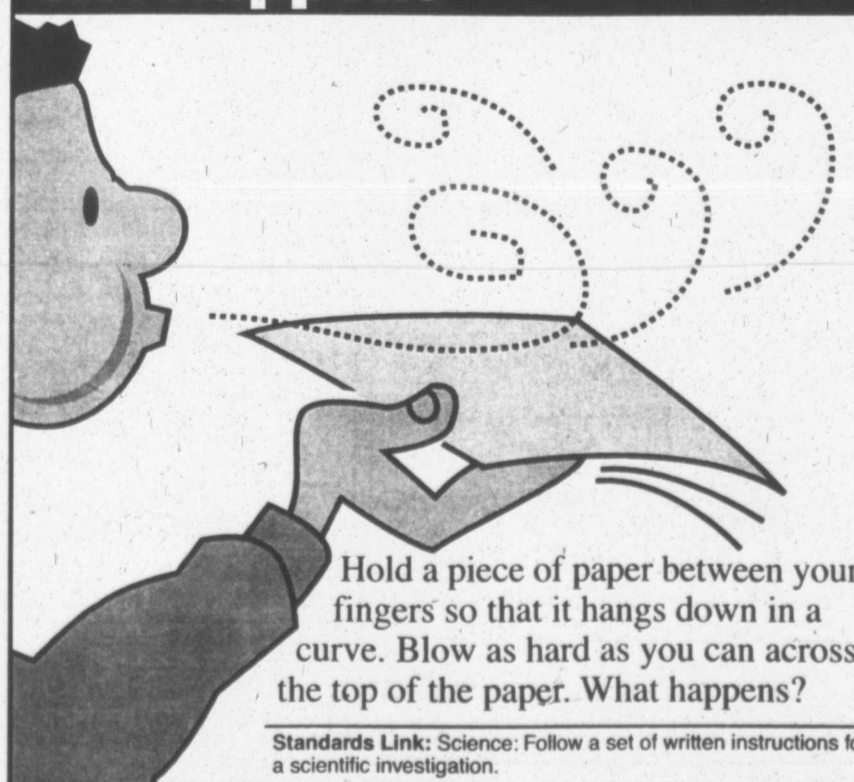
Look through the newspaper to find:

- 3 things that fly
- 3 words that describe flying
- 3 things you would pack for a long trip

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Next Week: 1903 - The Wright Brothers and the First Engine-Powered Flight!

Lift Happens



Hold a piece of paper between your fingers so that it hangs down in a curve. Blow as hard as you can across the top of the paper. What happens?

Standards Link: Science: Follow a set of written instructions for a scientific investigation.

Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

FLIGHT
DAEDALUS
ETIENNE
HISTORY
BALLOON
GLIDER
KITES
WINGS
SMOKE
WEIGHT
ALOFT
GEORGE
MINOS
HOT
LOW

H W R E G R O E G R
N O O L L A B S I E
G T T W L O U K T D
S H H O I L W I H I
O E F G A N E T G L
N T K D I N G E I G
I T E O N L B S E R
M A O E M T F H W E
D Y R O T S I H R S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

If Pigs Could Fly

If pigs could fly, chickens would rule the earth.

Ariana,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, it would be bacon on the go.

Jaryd,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, why can't I?

Kristen,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, I would not be able to stop laughing!

Laura,
3rd Grade

If pigs could fly, anything would be possible. Birds could have gills, fish could walk on earth with no water, horses would have wings and cats would have wheels.

Katelyn,
5th Grade

If pigs could fly, they might fly to space and die.

Jerica,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, I would stay inside my house all the time and it would be noisy.

Brescia,
3rd Grade

Wouldn't it be weird if pigs could fly? If pigs could fly, the sky would be as pink as a colorful flamingo flying in the sky.

Elsa,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, I'd never eat them again. The population of pigs would grow like money on a tree. Airline tickets would be cheaper if pigs could fly.

Trevor,
6th Grade

If pigs could fly, the price of bacon would go way up!

Ethan,
4th Grade

Mom said that Dad would buy her a new car when pigs fly!

Angelica,
3rd Grade

If pigs could fly I would buy one and have it as a pet. We could fly to the moon and the stars and get home in time for dinner. Having a flying pig would be fun!

Helen,
4th Grade

If pigs could fly I would always take an umbrella with me if I were going outside.

Esmeralda,
4th Grade

Write On!

Winter Poem

Write a poem about winter where you live.

Deadline: Dec. 28, 2003
Published: Week of Jan. 25, 2004
Send your story to:

THE PAMPA NEWS
PO Box 2198 • Pampa, TX 79066-2198
Attention: Weekly Writing Corner

Please include your school and grade.

BEYOND KidScoop

How Much to Travel?

Find a place in the newspaper that is within driving distance. Find out how many miles it is from your town to this place. Use the price of gas in your area to determine the cost of driving to this place.

Standards Link: Math: Problem solving using multiple steps.

Who invented the first airplane that didn't fly?

ANSWER: The Wright Brothers.

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TUESDAY • December 2, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Marriage Offers Protection For Couple Starting Family

DEAR ABBY: Our 32-year-old daughter was raised in a home with traditional values. She was excited when she got engaged last February to the fellow she was living with. We began making wedding plans.

Her interest in the wedding began to wane. On a recent visit she stated that a marriage certificate was just a piece of paper, and they don't need to be married to be committed to each other or to have children. Her fiancé told us that giving their children love would be enough.

We don't understand why she changed her mind about marriage in such a short period of time. They are talking about having children, so please answer soon. What can we say to make her see the importance of traditional family life?

WORRIED MOM,
ROSWELL, GA.

DEAR WORRIED: You are overdue for a frank talk with your daughter. Why on earth is she planning to have children with someone she wouldn't want to marry?

A marriage certificate is far more than a "piece of paper." Your letter brings to mind one that appeared in this column in 1996. Its message bears repeating. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Many couples who live together without marriage say, "We don't need a piece of paper to make our commitment to each other binding. A piece of paper doesn't mean a thing!"

Wrong! May I point out that when a person buys an automobile he had better have that "piece of paper" or he could be in a lot of trouble.

Also, a driver's license may be "just a piece of paper," but you'd better not be caught driving without it.

When a person buys a home or any other piece of property, he makes sure that he has that "piece of paper."

And when a person graduates from high school, college or trade school, that "piece of paper" can make the difference between getting a job or not getting one.

We live our lives with pieces of paper, beginning with a birth certificate and ending with a death certificate. And let's not forget the will — another very important

piece of paper. So, when I hear people say, "A piece of paper doesn't mean a thing," I'm reminded of the classic adage, "Ignorance is bliss."

PAPER IS PROOF

The signature says it well. A marriage certificate is written proof that a couple is officially one unit, with legal protections and benefits for spouses that single people do not enjoy. These include rights of inheritance, the ability to hold title to community property, health insurance benefits, and later in life, Social Security benefits. There is also the psychological benefit for all concerned.

If something were to happen to the father of her children, with no marriage certificate, your daughter and the children would be left with nothing — no voice regarding his medical treatment, no claim to his body.

I'm all for "romance," but when children are being considered, it's time for a dose of practicality. Please urge your daughter to rethink her position.

DEAR ABBY: I am director of client relations at Genelex, an accredited DNA testing lab. In your Amber Alert column, you recommended that parents "keep a sample of DNA, such as several strands of hair" for identification purposes in case the child is kidnapped.

Strands of hair are good for DNA testing only if the root is intact. Chances are that if it were needed, no DNA could be recovered from several "strands" of hair. A more effective way to collect DNA is to utilize a cheek swab, using a kit that is available through many police stations. A full DNA profile can also be run in advance through a DNA testing lab.

KRISTINE ASHCRAFT, SEATTLE

DEAR KRISTINE: Thank you for enlightening me. Parents, please take note.

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



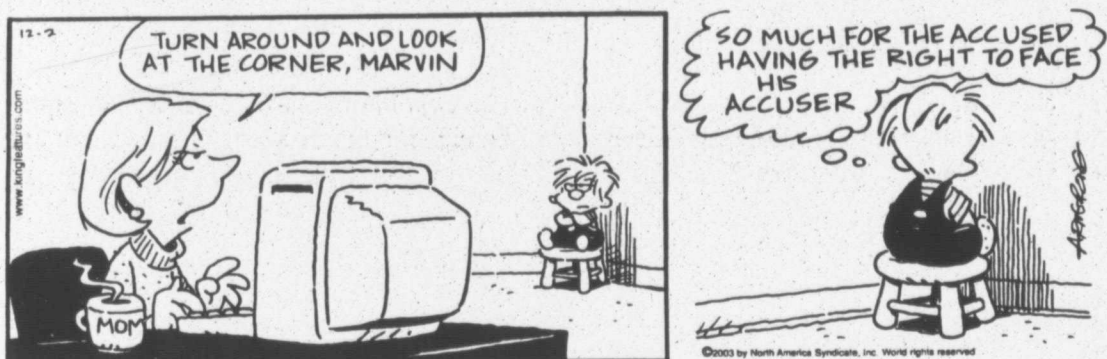
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Plateau's

1 Attire kin

5 Clean

with effort

DOWN

10 Cima 1 Chess

12 Lustrous and

velvet checkers

13 Legendary

blues 2 Mistreats

singer for one

15 Language

ending 4 Future

16 Sxndie 5 Bridge

17 Golf need 6 Manx, for

18 Burglar alarm part 7 Boxing

20 Graceful bird 8 Fantastic

21 Bar seat 9 Take

22 Stable 10 offense at

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23 Conductor

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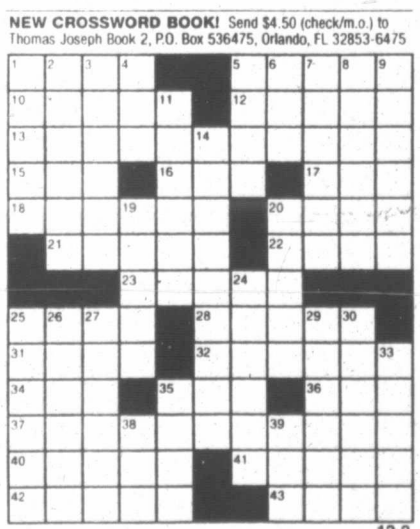
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Yesterday's answer



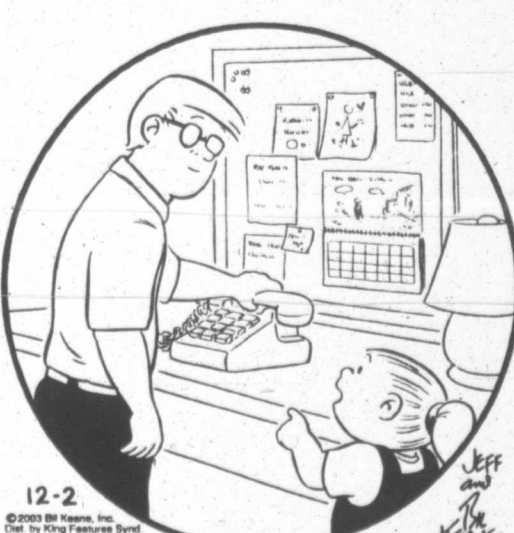
NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Marmaduke



"Hang on with both hands. Here comes Super Slurp."

The Family Circus



"When you're playin' phone tag, how do you know who's 'it'?"

Flo & Friends



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SPORTS

TCU is staying home for bowl

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — TCU is staying home to play its bowl game.

The 19th-ranked Horned Frogs (11-1), who turned down an invitation from the GMAC Bowl because it conflicts with final exams at the school, accepted an invitation Monday night to play in the inaugural Fort Worth Bowl against an undetermined opponent.

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

TCU athletic director Eric Hyman said that about three weeks before the Southern Miss game, the school's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, William Koehler, had approached him and said the team couldn't play a bowl during exams.

Hyman said he expressed those concerns to Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky, who then told bowl officials about the potential conflict.

Two of the five bowls with C-USA ties, New Orleans (Dec. 16) and GMAC (Dec. 18), fell during TCU's exams from Dec. 15-19.

Despite its preference, TCU was formally invited to the GMAC Bowl on Saturday night after winning its regular season finale 20-13 at SMU. Hyman declined the offer the next day.

"It was probably the toughest five days in my professional career," Hyman said. "Our athletes were in harm's way and caught in the politics that were going on."

Hyman said Banowsky and Koehler even discussed the matter with GMAC officials during a conference call Friday, a day before the invitation was extended. TCU officials offered a compromise, saying it would come to Mobile, Ala., the day before the game, but bowl officials wanted them there Dec. 13.

"It was an institutional decision, and I supported the decision," Hyman said. "There was no maneuvering. This was not Eric Hyman or (coach) Gary Patterson trying to get out of the game. It was a pure academic issue."

GMAC got the second pick from C-USA. League champion Southern Mississippi is going to the Liberty Bowl.

After TCU turned them down, GMAC officials considered going outside C-USA before Louisville was invited and accepted to play No. 14 Miami of Ohio of the Mid-American Conference.

9 Harvesters are first-team, all-district



Foster



Curtis



Curry



Tarango



Bolin



Cobb



East



Lewis



Moore

PAMPA — Nine players from Pampa's regional semi-finalist team were named to the 2003 All-District 3-4A Football Team.

Five of the nine first-team picks were seniors, including quarterback Johnny Moore, wide receiver Jesse Tarango, offensive guard Alan Curry, defensive back Andrew Curtis and defensive end Derek Lewis. The others were kicker Seth Foster, linebacker Q.B. Cobb, defensive tackle Tyrel Bolin and tight end Brittin East, all juniors.

Moore and Tarango were a potent combo in leading the Harvesters to a share of the district title with Palo Duro and Plainview. The quick, slippery Moore compiled over a 1,000 yards in both rushing (1,549) and passing (1,440). He rushed for 20 touchdowns and passed for 11 more.

Tarango, who was also second-team all-district punter, made 62 receptions for 841 yards and seven TDs. Tarango was used a lot on end sweeps because of his speed and picked up another 175 yards on the ground and a touchdown.

Curtis, who was also a second-team all-district running back, will be remembered for his dazzling all-around performance in 42-21 bi-district win over El Paso Chapin. Curtis ran for a 91-yard TD for the game's first score and picked off a pass for a 101-yard TD return for the game's final score. On the night, he rushed for 194 yards and scored four touchdowns.

At 200 pounds, Curry was small for a lineman, but made up for it with smarts and strength.

The hard-hitting Lewis led the Harvesters in quarterback sacks with 11 and recovered four fumbles.

Foster booted seven field goals, including three in Pampa's 37-0 win over Perryton in the season opener. He became known for his booming kicks out of the end zone on kickoffs.

Cobb and Bolin made life difficult for

opposing running backs. Cobb led the team in tackles and Bolin was No. 1 in throwing runners for losses.

East had few equals as a blocker on end sweeps. He also had 20 catches for 183 yards and a touchdown.

The Harvesters started off the season with seven consecutive wins and finished with an impressive 11-2 record in reaching the third round of the playoffs for the second straight year.

All-District 3-4A Football Team

Offense

First Team

Running back: Tabber Miner, 5-11, 184, sr.; Keil Anderson, Randall, 6-0, 200, sr.; **Fullback:** Jamar Wall, Plainview, 5-11, 184, soph.; **Quarterback:** Johnny Moore, Pampa, 5-9, 170, sr.; **Wide Receiver:** Jesse Tarango, Pampa, 5-11, 175, sr.; Jake Butler, Randall, 6-0, 182, sr.; Joe Michael Urbina, Plainview, 6-0, 155, sr.; **Tight end:** Brittin East, Pampa, 6-2, 200, jr.; **Tackle:** Matt Schilmoeller, Randall, 6-3, 241, sr.; Jeremy Carruthers, Palo Duro, 6-4, 250, sr.; **Center:** Ty Parker, Randall, 6-0, 232, sr.; **Guard:** Alan Curry, Pampa, 5-11, 200, sr.; Jose Guerrero, Palo Duro, 5-11, 210, sr.; Kyle McGuire, Randall, 6-2, 170, sr.; **Punter:** Cort Johnson, Randall, 6-0, 170, sr.

Offensive player of the year: Keil Anderson, Randall.

Coach of the year: Steve Parr, Palo Duro.

Defense

First Team

End: Derek Lewis, Pampa, 5-10, 185, sr.; Evander Hood, Palo Duro, 6-4, 220, jr.; **Tackle:** Tyrel Bolin, Pampa, 5-9, 195, jr.; T.J. Nickelberry, Palo Duro, 6-0, 265, sr.; Dominic Jackson, Plainview, 6-1, 215, sr.; **Linebacker:** Q.B. Cobb, Pampa, 5-10, 180, jr.; Elijah Demerson, Palo Duro, 5-10, 180, jr.; Phillip Mason, Palo Duro, 6-2, 190, sr.; **Secondary:**

Andrew Curtis, Pampa, 5-10, 180, sr.; Ernie Mims, Palo Duro, 5-10, 165, sr.; Keenan Oages, Palo Duro, 5-9, 150, jr.; Josh Young, Palo Duro, 5-10, 160, jr.; Jonathan Jordan, Plainview, 5-11, 155, sr.; Shaunacy Ray, Plainview, 6-1, 167, sr.; Keeton Walden, Hereford, 6-0, 160, jr.; **Kicker:** Seth Foster, Pampa, 5-10, 170, jr.

Defensive player of the year: T.J. Nickelberry, Palo Duro, 6-0, 265, sr.

Offense

Second Team

Running back: Andrew Curtis, Pampa, 5-10, 225, sr.; Ryan Artho, Hereford, 5-8, 170, sr.; **Fullback:** Nick Jones, Caprock, 5-11, 225, soph.; **Quarterback:** Diamond Hughes, Palo Duro, 200, sr.; **Wide receiver:** Corey Gindratt, Palo Duro, 6-0, 165, jr.; Adrian Alejandre, Hereford, 6-1, 165, sr.; Junior Jimenez, Dumas, 5-7, 175, sr.; **Tight end:** Tyler Sledge, Randall, 6-2, 193, sr.; **Tackle:** Tony Shuster, Palo Duro, 6-4, 230, sr.; Taylor Tice, Hereford, 5-11, 210, sr.; **Center:** Jerrod Carruth, Pampa, 6-0, 225, sr.; **Guard:** Jacob Brown, Plainview, 5-11, 201, sr.; Scott Murphey, Hereford, 6-0, 230, sr.; **Punter:** Jesse Tarango, Pampa, 5-11, 175, sr.

Defense

Second Team

End: Cody Ames, Dumas, 6-0, 195, sr.; Tanner Hagerman, Plainview, 6-2, 235, sr.; **Tackle:** Andrew Wilkowski, Hereford, 5-11, 240, jr.; Edward Carrera, Plainview, 6-2, 258, jr.; Jerimiah Smith, Caprock, 6-0, 198, sr.; **Linebacker:** Mac Smith, Pampa, 5-9, 175, sr.; Kyle Cambern, Dumas, 5-11, 180, jr.; Blaine Walling, Plainview, 5-11, 210, sr.; Alex Bravo, Hereford, 5-8, 180, sr.; Matt McKee, Randall, 5-11, 190, sr.; **Secondary:** Shea Brown, Pampa, 5-9, 165, jr.; Corey Gindratt, Palo Duro, 6-0, 165, jr.; Bradley Bynum, Dumas, 5-10, 165, jr.; Edward Silva, Hereford, 5-10, 170, sr.; John Harris, Randall, 5-8, 165, sr.; **Kicker:** Spencer Bryson, Plainview, 5-5, 117, soph.

Parcells, Cowboys going from 'showtime' to 'home stretch'

IRVING, Texas (AP) — All season, no matter how things were going for the Dallas Cowboys, coach Bill Parcells refused to give his big-picture view of the team and the season. His response was always to check back after Thanksgiving.

Well, the holiday came and went with the Cowboys losing badly to the Miami Dolphins. The loss left Dallas at 8-4, one game out of first place in the NFC East yet in good position to earn a wild-card spot.

Starting from the perspective of three straight 5-11 seasons, it's a tremendous improvement. Yet after having expectations raised following a 5-1 start, then 7-2, the turnaround seems to be slowing down.

So, what's Parcells' take? "I think the team has already improved somewhat from what it was, but once you have an opportunity in front of

you like this, you'd like to take advantage of it," Parcells said Monday. "Now, are we mature enough right now to do that? I don't know. But we'll see."

After calling November "showtime," Parcells referred to the final month as "the home stretch." It starts Sunday in Philadelphia. The division-leading Eagles have won seven straight since losing to the Cowboys.

If Dallas wins, the teams would be tied but the Cowboys would own the tiebreaker by having beaten Philadelphia twice. If the Eagles win, their lead would jump to two games and they would be ahead on the other tiebreakers after head-to-head matchups.

Dallas is in pretty good shape for a wild card. The Cowboys and Seattle both own a two-game lead over New Orleans and Green Bay.

After Philadelphia, Dallas plays at Washington, home

against the New York Giants and closes on the road against the Saints.

"We've got three out of four on the road, but we've already beaten three of these teams," Parcells said. "That has to give you some hope."

Parcells also noted that the victories over the Eagles, Redskins and Giants weren't very convincing. He didn't mention that the Cowboys have been shut out in their last two road games, but you can be sure he's well aware of that fact.

While trying to make the playoffs is foremost on Parcells' mind, he also said he'll be using the last month to take a look at some unproven players. There also could be some additions.

"That's still under consideration," he said. "Pretty strong consideration."

Parcells said he wants to have a "pretty strong opinion

about every player on the team" so that he can help advise owner Jerry Jones about who should return next season. The auditions could start as soon as this week.

"I'm just going to see if there's some minor roles you can fit them in to try to figure out how they are in an actual game," Parcells said. "I think we need to do a little more of that so at the end of the year you have a lot better idea of who's what."

Parcells used rookie offensive lineman Torin Tucker as an example.

Tucker has been active for four games. He was forced into extended action because of an injury two games ago, then started against the Dolphins. Now Parcells has a better idea of how he handles the pressures of a game and whether

his conditioning can withstand four quarters of pounding.

Parcells didn't give any names, saying he hadn't discussed specific players with his coaches yet.

The running game seems in dire need of change. It's been a non-factor the last two weeks, quite a change for a team that until then was two carries shy of having the most rushing attempts in the league.

Parcells said Troy Hambrick, who had only three carries against Miami, is healthy, and he said Adrian Murrell won't be brought back this week. He refused to speculate on whether undrafted rookie Erik Bickerstaff would be activated from the practice squad. Then again, Bickerstaff was a fullback at Wisconsin and didn't play

last season. He had only a few carries in his college career.

Another glaring weakness is punting. Parcells isn't happy with Toby Gowin, but isn't ready to replace him because he hasn't found anyone better. Gowin's status is helped by the fact he's also the holder and handles kickoffs.

"Changing for change's sake is not something that I would like to do," Parcells said. "Hopefully this rest here might have helped him a little bit and he can come back and he can do a decent job."

"But this punting is just like any other position. You have to perform reasonably consistently. If you don't, people seek recourse. It's as simple as that."

Registration this week in Jr. VB

PAMPA — Signups continue through Friday in the Junior Volleyball League.

The league is for fifth and sixth grade girls.

Signups are taking place in the middle school girls gym from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$35, which includes a t-shirt, volleyball basics, games and awards. Cash only please, no personal checks.

For questions, call Deanna Polasek at 669-4900 (ext. 37, daytime number).

Hoops Spot-light

PAMPA — Starting Sunday, Dec. 7, the Pampa News will be profiling players on the Pampa High basketball teams.

The series is entitled "Harvester Hoops Spot-light."

HiddenHills Golf

Hidden Hills Senior Regular Scramble

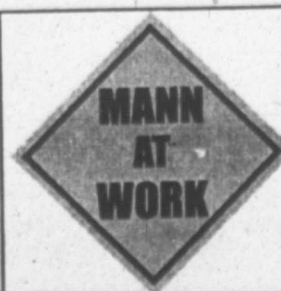
1. Pat Montoya, Ralph Wilson, Buddy Epperson, Jack Davis and J.B. Holt, 64.

2. Bill Hammer, Reece Field, James Lee and John McGuire, 64.

3. Jim Cantrell, Howard Wells, B.F. Dorman and Carroll Pettit, 65.

Closest to pin: Carroll Pettit, No. 6.

The three most improved players at Hidden Hills this year were John Bailey (17.8 hcp to 12.3 hcp), Clint Miller (12.0 hcp to 8.2 hcp) and Weston Teichmann (9.4 hcp to 6.5 hcp).



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Jets deliver loud, clear message in 24-17 victory over Titans

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New York Jets know they almost certainly will head home in four weeks, while the Tennessee Titans go to the playoffs. So a prime-time meeting with one of the NFL's best teams was the perfect opportunity for the Jets to deliver a message.

That message came through loud and clear Monday night in New York's 24-17 victory.

"We wanted to come out on Monday night and show we could play with the best teams in the league and show what we are made of," said Sam Barnes, who had an interception in the Jets' impressive win.

"We've been clicking lately and we wanted to come in and prove what type of team we are," added Curtis Conway, whose best game as a Jet included a superb touchdown catch for the winning points. "We're not looking beyond anything or anyone. You can't look at what-ifs and what happened. We just want

to keep winning games and win out if we can.

"This was Monday night against Tennessee, which is having a great year, and we rallied together."

While the Jets (5-7) showed offensive balance and made big plays defensively, they also prevented the Titans (9-3) from taking over first place alone in the AFC South. Tennessee is tied with Indianapolis, which visits Nashville on Sunday.

The Titans need a much better performance than if they hope to move in front of the Colts. They can't afford two first-half interceptions or silly penalties such as for a simulated throat slash by Samari Rolle on his end-zone pickoff that wound up being reversed after a video review.

"It wasn't what the Jets were doing," insisted Steve McNair, who went the whole way despite coming off a calf injury. "It was more what we did to ourselves. The first half, we had too many turnovers. We stopped our-

selves in a lot of drives."

Give New York's beleaguered defense some credit for that against the league's top-rated passer. In addition to interceptions by Barnes and Tyrone Carter, the Jets had three sacks and were making their hits count.

"They tackled better than we've seen," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "I thought their tackling was the difference tonight."

So was the accuracy of Chad Pennington, the running of Curtis Martin that loosened up the defense, and some clutch catches by Conway, Santana Moss and Kevin Swayne.

Conway had five receptions for 78 yards, Moss made three for 76 and Swayne caught his first career TD pass — also his first catch of the year. Each had a reception of at least 27 yards, with Conway's coming on a flea-flicker.

Martin rushed for a touchdown — his first of the year — one play after Rolle's

interception was overruled and his penalty placed the ball at the 6. Moss had a 31-yard gain after Pennington's pass to Chris Baker deflected off Baker as he hit the ground and went directly to Moss.

Pennington was perfect in the second half, going 8-for-8 for 134 yards with the two scores.

"Chad is a winner," Conway said. "I love his attitude. He goes out every practice and every game to get better and it showed today."

The way Pennington (18-for-23 for 231 yards) picked apart Tennessee in the second half was a bad sign for the Titans, safety Lance Schulters said. It was Schulters who was beaten for Swayne's touchdown.

Schulters is worried, even if the Titans are a virtual lock for the postseason.

"I'm being realistic. We haven't beat any teams with a quarterback yet," he said. "I don't know if we're fooling ourselves thinking we're good on defense, because

right now we ain't. We beat mediocre teams with below-average quarterbacks. Until we beat a team with a good quarterback and we all play well, we're going to be out the door quick."

The Jets would love to kick that door open and march into the playoffs, but that's a long shot. Instead, they must be satisfied with the continued progress of Pennington, and, finally, some solid signs

defensively. After looking like a sieve in so many games, the Jets have surrendered just 27 points in the last two weeks, and Tennessee's final touchdown came in the closing minutes.

"It was a playoff game for us," Jets coach Herman Edwards said. "If we can play like this against a good football team, it brings a lot of life back. I felt this week we were going to win this game."

Canadian falls in playoffs

CANYON

Shallowater rallied past Canadian 48-41 in a Class 2A state quarterfinals game last weekend in Kimbrough Stadium.

Quarterback Eric Morris sneaked across from the one-yard line with 28 seconds left for Shallowater's winning touchdown. Canadian had held a 28-7 lead at the end of the first

quarter.

For Canadian, tailback Auston English rushed for three touchdowns and 169 yards on 36 carries.

Quarterback Riley Morris threw two TD passes and completed 18 of 28 passes for 379 yards.

The other Morris (Eric) threw four TD passes in passing for 229 yards on 9 of 20 attempts.

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	5	7	0	.417	234	238

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	9	3	0	.750	343	254
Tennessee	9	3	0	.750	320	232
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

East

	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

N.Y. Jets 24, Tennessee 17

Tuesday, 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.

Sunday's Games

Sacramento 105, New Jersey 92

L.A. Lakers 99, Indiana 77

Monday's Games

Memphis 96, Boston 89

Detroit 79, New York 78, OT

Chicago 97, Milwaukee 87

Utah 91, New Jersey 84

Indiana 89, Phoenix 82

L.A. Clippers 91, San Antonio 83

Tuesday's Games

Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

New Orleans at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Washington at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Miami at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Memphis at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.

Orlando at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Utah at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

New York at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Indiana at Portland, 10 p.m.

Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

Yankees reach deal with reliever

NEW YORK (AP) —

Free agent reliever Tom Gordon and the New York Yankees reached agreement Monday night on a two-year, \$7.25 million contract, The Associated Press learned.

The deal was finalized after Gordon passed a physical earlier in the day, a baseball source familiar with the negotiations said on the condition of anonymity.

The Yankees scoured the majors last season, trying to find a dependable right-hander to set up for closer Mariano Rivera. Steve Karsay held that spot in 2002, but missed the entire year because of an injured right shoulder and his return is not 100 percent certain.

Jeff Nelson, Armando Benitez, Dan Miceli, Antonio Osuna and Juan Acevedo were among the righty relievers the Yankees brought into New York for last season in an attempt to fill the role.

General manager Brian

Cashman was busy all year shuffling his bullpen. Lefties Gabe White, Felix Heredia and Jesse Orosco also were acquired in midseason.

After losing to the Florida Marlins in six games in the World Series, the Yankees again turned their attention to the bullpen. Gordon, 36, and fellow right-handed free agents Paul Quantrill and Shigetoshi Hasegawa had attracted their interest.

Gordon was 7-6 with a team-high 12 saves and a 3.16 ERA for the Chicago White Sox last season. He pitched in 66 games, striking out 91 in 74 innings.

Known for a knee-buckling curveball, "Flash" Gordon has made a nifty comeback from injuries that threatened to end his career. He had Tommy John surgery on his right elbow in December 1999 and spent the next 16 months rehabilitating.

Even after he recovered,

Gordon was beset by injuries to his triceps and shoulder.

Gordon signed with the White Sox after pitching for the Chicago Cubs and Houston in 2002.

Gordon is 113-107 with 110 saves and a 4.07 ERA in a 15-year career that started with Kansas City. He was an All-Star in 1998, when he led the AL with 46 saves for Boston.

Tampa Bay, Oakland and the New York Mets were among the other teams that were interested in Gordon last month.

Gordon had thought about returning to a closer's role for next season, though he left open the possibility of being a setup man for two teams — the Philadelphia Phillies, with recently acquired Billy Wagner, and the Yankees.

Gordon reached the postseason twice in his career, with Boston in 1998 and 1999. He has never made it to the World Series.

Top-ranked Kansas rolls by TCU

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Neil Dougherty got to see Kansas from the other side.

Keith Langford, one of the players Dougherty recruited as a Jayhawks assistant before becoming TCU's coach last season, scored 24 points on 9-of-10 shooting to lead No. 1 Kansas to an 85-66 win over the Horned Frogs on Monday night.

"I've never seen things from this perspective," said Dougherty, who was on Kansas' staff for seven straight NCAA tournaments. "I think I learned a couple of things for our team."

Langford, playing in his hometown, put Kansas (3-0) ahead to stay with a short jumper in traffic that broke a 43-all tie with 17:33 left.

That was part of a 19-8 run during which Langford had 11 points and two assists — one on a horrible shot that J.R. Giddens grabbed off the rim and slammed back home.

"This was a big deal for him," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "Keith likes the stage, and the brighter the stage, the more he likes it."

The Jayhawks became the No. 1 team in The Associated Press' poll earlier in the day with a jump from sixth — the biggest to the top in the poll in almost 40 years.

In other games involving ranked teams on Monday, it was: No. 3 Connecticut 75, Lehigh 55; No. 9 Kentucky 89, Marshall 76; and No. 23 Notre Dame 58.

Langford played at North Crowley High in Fort Worth, where his jersey was being retired Tuesday. Self said the junior guard would stay for that and return to Kansas on Wednesday morning.

Even though he played just 24 minutes, missing most of the first half after two early fouls, Langford gave his family and friends quite a show.

"It was great. I've been saying all week, 'It's not about me,'" Langford said. "But it's always good to see family members, and I got to see my brother play his first high school varsity game ... and see a lot of old and familiar faces."

TCU (1-2) had its only lead after Corey Santee's 3-pointer in the first minute of the second half made it 41-39.

The Jayhawks, after 13 first-half turnovers, had two more on their first two possessions of the second half, including Langford stepping on the baseline. But they had just five turnovers the last 19 minutes.

When Langford took an inbounds pass and was fouled hard going up for a shot, he

made both free throws. That started the game-turning spurt and tied it at 41.

By the time Langford had a rebound and putback with about 10 minutes left, Kansas had a 60-49 lead.

"Some of the shots Keith made in the second half, those were big-time plays individually," Dougherty said.

Jeff Hawkins, another player Dougherty helped recruit, added 19 points for the Jayhawks, including consecutive 3-pointers that pushed the lead to 71-55. Giddens had 12 points.

Santee had 19 points and Nucleus Smith had 13 for TCU, which played a No. 1 team at home for the first time.

Langford played just six minutes in the first half because of the early fouls, but made all three of his shots for seven points while Kansas built a 21-11 lead.

"He made some tough shots with our hands up and with his hang time," Santee said. "He's a good player, and good players make tough shots."

His 3-pointer was the first basket of the game, and after his steal and layup, the Jayhawks led 10-4. Another layup gave Kansas its largest lead just before he got his second foul and sat the final 12 minutes of the half.

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LOST beloved family pet. We are lost without him, Black Schnauzer / Poodle mix, male. Reward if found. Please bring our baby home! 665-0949, 664-0111, 664-0131.

FOUND playful puppy Small breed dog Must ID to claim. Call 665-0789

11 Financial

NEED Cash? I buy seller-financed notes. Convert the notes to cash. Free evaluation. Free call 1-866-295-3714.

13 Bus. Opp.

ABSOLUTE GOLDMINE! 60 vending machines with exc. locations. All for \$10,995. 800-234-6982.

14b Appli. Repair

GET your oven fixed for the Holidays, now! Williams Appliance 665-8894

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR

Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...it pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo, Tx.

♦ Taylor Ceramic Tile Works♦

Handicap Conversions Shower Installation Floor Tile & Regrouting. Keith 665-0328 or Iv. msg 665-4840.

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HUSBAND for Hire. Will do most household repairs. References. Milton Brown, 664-0171 (cell#).

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Jerry's Floor Installation Service. Carpet restretching, ceramics, hardwood, laminates, vinyl, carpet. Over 25 yrs. exp. 664-7959 (c) 868-2016, Miami

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

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JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

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



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 *Or other mechanical experience.
 *Need immediately.

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***Never A Fee To Applicant**

Antiques-AUCTION-Collectibles

SAT. Dec. 6, 9:03 A.M.

Location: Pampa, Tx., 701 West Brown (Hwy. 60/152) from Inter. of Hwy. 70 & Hwy. 60/152 (Brown st.-Stop light) take Hwy. 60/152 East approx. three or four blocks.

KAREN KEYES OWNER

Will start 2nd team at 1:00 p.m.

Coins, Tools & Primitives

Preview 2 p.m. til 5 p.m. Friday

ANTIQUE GLASS- Fenton, Fostoria-

POTTERTY-Roseville, McCoy, Redwing, Delft,

Frankoma-PORCELAIN & CHINA-Old Ivory

Syracuse, Roberts, Haviland, Franciscan,

Wedgewood-FIGURINES-Lefton, O.T.,

COLLECTIBLES-TOOLS-PRIMITIVES-

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Web: www.loydsauktion.com

Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers (7119)

806-826-5850 or 806-898-5248

21 Help Wanted

WANTED

I need one person to help me with my business in Pampa. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 669-0672.

MCLEAN Care Center has the following immediate openings: L.V.N., Charge Nurse Position, 2-10, full time & weekend R.N.'s. Benefits include paid vacation, 401K & health insurance available. Contact Billy Ray Johnston or Kim Ray @ 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th St. for more information.

NEED Cashier / Deli Worker. Apply in person, 1020 E. Frederic.

SANTA Clause is needed for Downtown area. Hours vary Call 665-2831 ask for Ken.

TEXAS Rose is now taking applications for kitchen help. No Phone Calls Please!

CARPENTER needed F/T Needs transportation and hand tools, drug test may be required 665-4274

Garage Sale: Sat. Dec. 6th, 8-7 808 W. Francis. Christmas items only!!

TO Give Away 3yr. old orange male tabby cat, neutered and declawed. Call 665-0030.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty. QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkged, warr. list \$550, sell \$236. Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkged, warr. List \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180. \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkged, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkged, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

STEREO/CONSOLE Plays 8 track tapes, cass. 33 1/3 RPM records & radio-tapes, records included. Exc. cond. 665-0806

69a Garage Sales

GIFTS, Deco, Unique One of a Kind: Nursing Hm Family, Boss or Best Friend. 300 W. Foster #11, 1431 N. Hobart #37.

NEW Owners! Check us out! Furni., piano, microwave, tools, dishes, more. Another Man's Treasures. 2214 Alcock

Garage Sale: Sat. Dec. 6th, 8-7 808 W. Francis. Christmas items only!!

80 Pets & Suppl.

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EFFI apt \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221

EXTRA clean 1 bdr. with appliances. Quiet neighborhood. Mature Renters Only! 665-8525

96 Unfurn. Apts.

2 bdr. Deposit & references required. Tenant pays electric. Dogwood Apts. 669-9817, 669-2981.

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

NEW Mgmt! N&L Investments, 1, 2 & 3 bdr., apts., duplexes, homes & comm. prop. 665-4274.

3 bdr. for rent or sale 1113 Huff Rd. And 2, 3 bdr w/ central heat & air, 704 Somerville & 400 N. Nelson. Call 669-2080.

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3 bdr. 1113 Huff, c. h/a, 313 N. Faulkner, 1141 Juniper, 637 N. Dwight 2 bdr. HUD avail. 669-2080

2 bdr., garage, fence, central heat, \$325 1815 Hamilton. 665-8925, 665-6604, 886-0146 cell

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841

LOWEST Rents in City! Downtown locations-stores, warehouses, rec. facilities. Call 665-4274!!

103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

LAKEVIEW Apts. 1+2-3 bedrooms \$99 -first month rent 669-7682

FOR rent 1 bedroom apartment, 412 W. Browning. Call 665-2218

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3.6 mo-1yr. lease 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875 1/2 Off Deposit Special

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FOR rent 1 bedroom apartment, 412 W. Browning. Call 665-2218

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

12-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

JHPFCD FJ HAA FC HAA, F

SFCN FJ WXQG JQXORAG

JX VHJTM HSIJGQ WXCGL

IMHC JX DGJ FJ, —

WFTMHGA WXCJHFD CG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MEN COUNT UP THE

FAULTS OF THOSE WHO KEEP THEM WAITING.

— FRENCH PROVERB

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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003:

Investigate the many different options that are put on your plate this year. You will fall from one opportunity to another. However, don't think that a project is a done deal until it is. You walk around this year with a pair of rose-colored glasses on. You often feel that a partner is overly serious, especially as you are generally in such a happy, fun mood this year. Help this person loosen up by understanding where he or she is coming from. If attached, you will want to spend time with your sweetie to help him or her through this period. If single, romance happens without you looking for it. You might find yourself seriously considering changing your status in the late fall. You gain because of your creativity and luck this year. Concentrate on what you want. Mix yourself with ARIES, and great wildness will happen.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You wake up inspired to conquer the world, or maybe just your world, and you go on to do just that. Others respond to your imaginative streak and find you ingenious. Do adequate research on a key project before you go with it. Tonight: Accept the role of king or queen for the evening.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You will be a lot happier if you go along with others' expectations. Keep your opinions to yourself for now. The right time to express your feelings will come. A partner might say something disturbing, or you might be a bit sensitive today. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** What you have been mulling over can now become a reality if you want it to. Enlist the support of those around you, verbalizing more of this desire. Someone who might have played devil's advocate reverses his or her opinion. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** The boss rules, whether you like it or not. So toss opinions away and do your work. A boss appreciates the lack of flak and your willingness to trust his or her judgment. You do make a difference and will be rewarded accordingly. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Spontaneity is the way to go right now. Use your fire and do what comes naturally. Though you might turn some heads, ultimately everyone responds very well. A key person in your life cares enormously about you. Tonight: Opt for something different and exotic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Others dominate the scene, though they certainly have innovative ideas. More and more, you might be thinking about working from home. Think about what this really would mean to you and what a lifestyle change it would be. Tonight: Join your favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Review decisions with an eye to progress and change. It could take time to convince another that what you think is a great idea, but you will ultimately, if not today. Just express that Libra charm, and others' defenses will soften. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Review what those around you consider a great idea. Questions that come forward right now might help you

see the financial implications of a decision very soon. Pace yourself carefully; even you have limited energy. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** "Playful" describes your mood, though not everyone can respond. You have a way of looking at things that others don't. You might even decide not to share your logic. Follow your sixth sense, as it will guide you properly. Tonight: Show your spunk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** You will tend to give others the benefit of the doubt in your present mood. Your instincts are excellent with finances. You might want to check in with an authority figure or an expert, but you're on the right course. Tonight: Put your feet up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Your imagination delights many around you. You seem to hit the bull's-eye no matter what you do. Flow with the money and be your impulsive self right now. A friend could be instrumental in a change. Tonight: Happy out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** You could feel cramped by a money matter. There might not be a way around this problem that you can see right now. Use your intuition and imagination, topped with a brainstorming session with a trusted friend or adviser. Tonight: Start your holiday shopping, if you haven't already.

BORN TODAY

Director Jean-Luc Godard (1930), singer Ozzy Osbourne (1948), actor Brian Bonsall (1981)

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

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BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS
 Deadline 12 Noon, December 17th
 Published December 24th

•Photos need to be of baby only
 •Releases needed for copyright photos
 •Payment in advance

\$25⁰⁰

Autumn Macy Woods
 September 6, 2003
 Parents... Keith & ReDonn Woods
 Grandparents... Dwayne & Cindy Hall,
 Monty Elkins, Regina Woods, Mike Woods

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U.S. military denies report of capture of top Saddam aide

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops conducted a big raid near the northern city of Kirkuk on Tuesday, but a military spokesman denied that a top former deputy of Saddam Hussein was captured during the operation.

A member of Iraq's Governing Council said Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri — the top Iraqi fugitive after Saddam — was the target of the raid.

"We get our information from the 173rd (Airborne Brigade), and the 173rd is saying they don't have him," said Sgt. Robert Cargie, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division.

The Americans have pointed to al-Douri as a coordinator of the insurgency against U.S. forces, and last week offered a \$10 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

The U.S. raid took place in Hawija, 30 miles west of Kirkuk, and witnesses said American soldiers had arrested dozens of people.

In other violence Tuesday, a U.S. soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was killed near Samarra, the site of weekend fighting between American troops and guerrillas, the military said.

Mowaffak al-Rubaie, a member of the U.S.-picked Iraqi Governing Council, told the Arabic television station Al-Jazeera that those killed or captured in the Kirkuk operation included a "big fish."

A senior Kurdish official in Kirkuk said, speaking on condition of anonymity, said earlier Tuesday that he heard al-Douri had been "killed or captured," citing sources in his political party.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in Belgium and White House spokesman Scott McClellan both said they could not confirm the reports on al-Douri. Later, Cargie, in Iraq, denied al-Douri had been netted.

For months, U.S. officials have pointed to al-Douri as a coordinator of incessant attacks on American forces in Iraq — and that he could be working with the al-Qaida-linked militant group Ansar al-Islam.

U.S. commanders claimed that up to 54 guerrillas were killed in the clash in Samarra on Sunday, but this has been disputed by residents and hospital officials who say less than 10 people died.

U.S. forces said Samarra

attacks demonstrated a greater level of coordination in the Iraqi insurgency, although U.S. forces said they had anticipated the attacks and blunted them with superior firepower.

In Tuesday's attack outside Samarra, an Associated Press photographer who arrived at the scene Tuesday saw American soldiers using a stretcher to carry a body covered in plastic to a military truck.

Witnesses told the photographer that a roadside explosive was detonated under a U.S. military Humvee, which then collided with an Iraqi civilian vehicle. The incident occurred on the highway just south of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

No. 6 on the American military list of most-wanted Iraqis, al-Douri was vice chairman of Saddam's Revolutionary Command Council. U.S. troops last week arrested a wife and a daughter of al-Douri in an apparent attempt to pressure him into surrendering.

In Baghdad, workers on Tuesday began dismantling four giant bronze busts of Saddam Hussein that have

long been a landmark in the Iraqi capital.

The workers used a construction crane to take down the busts in the Republican Palace, in yet another move aimed at eradicating the former leader's influence. The U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority announced last month that it would dismantle the 13-foot-high busts. It was not clear how long the operation would last.

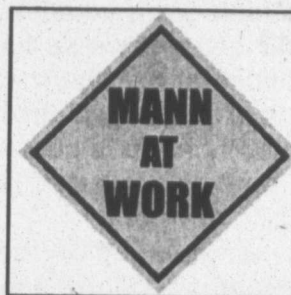
Rebels in recent days have killed a number of nonmilitary personnel, including two Japanese diplomats, two South Korean electrical workers and a Colombian contractor.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's chief representative in Iraq, warned that insurgents are now turning to softer targets and urged foreigners to increase security levels.

"People have to be very careful. The Spaniards and the Japanese who were killed this week were not following the strictest possible protection

rules," Greenstock told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Greenstock said he was confident coalition troops would retain a grip on events and said the coalition backed the aggressive approach to tackling security problems being taken by Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top U.S. commander in Iraq.



John Mann
Lawyer

115 W. Foster
"Across From The Coney"
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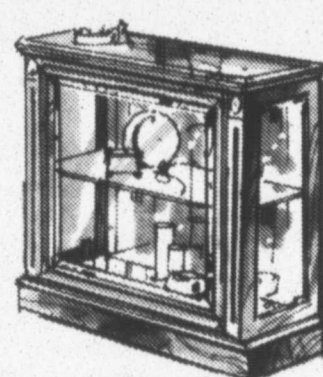


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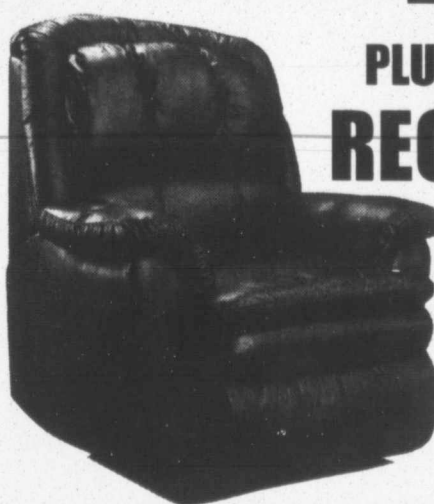


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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PLAGUE

The jury also found Butler guilty of 44 less serious charges that were unrelated to the bioterrorism scare. Butler was convicted of theft, embezzlement, fraud, and mail and wire fraud charges pertaining to shadow contracts prosecutors claimed he had illegally negotiated with pharmaceutical companies with which he also had clinical studies contracts.

However, he was acquitted on charges of making a false statement to a Texas Tech safety officer about Butler's possessing of plague samples.

"We are pleased that Tom was found not guilty of lying to the FBI. We are particularly pleased the jury found him not guilty of perpetuating a hoax

regarding his report of the missing plague vials," Meadows said.

Butler faces up to 240 years in prison, though he faces fewer years under federal sentencing guidelines. He also faces fines up to \$11.7 million.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dick Baker, one of the prosecutors in the case, said he was pleased with the outcome despite an acquittal on the count that Butler lied to the FBI.

"I think it was a very complicated case and the jury deliberated conscientiously and found him guilty of 47 counts," he said.

Another prosecutor, Bob Webster, said he was mystified by Butler's wrongdoing.

"It remains a real tragedy

that a researcher who had so much to give to this country could get so far off the track," prosecutor Bob Webster said. "There was lots of evidence in this trial but it remains a mystery how Thomas Butler could do so much wrong."

A Butler family friend who was in the courtroom for most of the trial was visibly shaken by the verdicts.

"It's an injustice," Janis Blackwell said.

In the weeks before the trial, Butler turned down a plea agreement that would have sent him to prison for six months and pay an \$800,000 fine, said Dr. William Greenough, a longtime colleague of Butler's who is a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SCHOOLS

ed testimony about taxation. Some experts have suggested instituting a statewide income tax to help fund public education. But the state constitution prohibits an income tax.

Wood said he's doubtful a special legislative session would ease budget pangs in public schools.

"I have no hope that a special session will have any impact on this litigation," Wood said Monday. "They don't have the money to do the kinds of things that need to be done. They're going to have to raise taxes. The governor just wants to move money around, but this lawsuit is about real money, not just property tax relief."

Allocating more state money to public school systems while offering property tax relief would be a "zero sum game," Wood said.

Scott McCown, executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a nonprofit group that studies issues affecting low-income

Texans, said the money is available to adequately fund education.

"You can't say the money just isn't there. Texas is a wealthy state and we have an economy of about \$800 billion a year," McCown said. "The question is, how are we going to tax ourselves and that's what the Legislature can't get answered."

Until a special session is called, the state has invested \$1 million in a research effort to engineer a new school-finance system before the session. The project will be anchored by a team from the University of Texas Charles A. Dana Center, an education-

research unit to be housed in the Capitol.

"Previous lawsuits were about whether the pie was divided fairly, this lawsuit's about whether the pie is big enough to meet our educational goals," McCown said.

McCown said the momentary harmony between property rich and poor districts is not likely to put pressure on lawmakers.

"I think the Legislature already understands that there's very broad dissatisfaction in Texas about school finance," he said. "The lawsuit is a good concrete example of that, but it doesn't come as news to the Legislature."

TOYS 2003



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