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High today 42
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For weather details see Page 2.

COLLEGE STATION (AP)

— Just-released photographs of the Texas A&M bonfire stack — taken 36 hours before and 60 hours before it collapsed on Nov. 18 — suggest it was leaning at the time of the accident that killed 12 young people and injured 27.

A&M student Doug Keegan, a senior applied mathematics major who worked on the bonfire this year, used a computer photo program to lay a grid over two images of the stack that he found on the university's local computer network.

Keegan said Texas A&M released those photos on Monday through its Cushing Library, where evidence related to the bonfire is being compiled for review by a five-member commission seeking the cause of the accident.

With grids superimposed over photos shot from a fixed camera atop a building, it appears the lines tied from the center pole to perimeter poles had too much slack on one side and that the center pole was bowed slightly, Keegan said.

Some students at the bonfire site said the stack appeared to be unbalanced in the moments before the collapse.

"I was asking a lot of questions: Why did this happen? I wanted to see if I could figure anything out," Keegan said.

The photos were stills taken from a live feed from the bonfire building site, Keegan said.

- Elva Jo Gore, 83, worked in clothing sales.
- Jack Robert 'Bob' Miller, 81, retired owner Bob Miller Refrigeration.
- William D. 'Bill' Stockstill, 76, farmer, rancher.

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Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season

Sheila Webb Agent
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Tralee Crisis Center staff and volunteers wrap presents for victims of domestic abuse. From left, Ann Hamilton, Claire Edwards, Kim Bichsel, Nita Mize, Barbara Peras, and Linda Duncan. Forty-five angel tags still need "adopting."

Carson County rejects truck bids

Two bids — the only bids — for a new truck/tractor were rejected Monday by the Carson County Commissioners Court.

"Both bids were from the same company, for two different vehicles. They [the vehicles] were too nice," County Judge Lewis Powers said.

Powers said that a Precinct 1 vehicle had been wrecked, and that new bids would be considered.

The election of Frank Simms to the Appraisal District Board was also discussed. Simms will represent Panhandle ISD, the city of Panhandle, and the county of Carson.

The Appraisal District Board sets property valuations which determine tax rates.

The good news of the meeting was that Carson County has already collected 79.51 percent of taxes for the Oct. 1, 1999 - Sept. 30, 2000 county fiscal year. Powers said that taxes become delinquent February 1; that is, residents of Carson County have to pay extra charges if they don't pay by Feb. 1.

The Commissioners were unable to comply with the request from the Texas state government of a letter of intent. The letter of intent was a promise of support for the consolidation of mental health and mental retardation agencies. Powers said the commissioners were still waiting on the form from the state government.

Also discussed at the 10 a.m. Monday meeting were the following: right of way and easements; check claims and invoices for payment; indigent care; roads, labor, and machinery; Christmas advertising; and personnel changes at the Carson County Sheriff's Department.

Help wrap gifts for children

Bank One's "The Spirit of Christmas" invites the public to join Girl Scout Troop 163 at 4 p.m. today at the bank, 600 S. Tyler, in wrapping and sorting

gifts to be delivered to needy children.

The Girl Scouts will be joined by a group of Boy Scouts in this special holiday effort.

Chief warns holiday shoppers, travelers to exercise caution

By KEITH ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris warns Pampans today of some of the dangers of the holiday season.

"The holidays are traditionally a time when people are shopping. Because of that, those who would victimize take advantage," Morris said.

Morris identified several ways to protect one's self and property.

"Be aware of your surroundings. You don't want to be going to a darkened parking area without an escort," Morris said.

"Avoid shopping with large amounts of cash. Use checks and credit cards," Morris said. He

Wiring repairs county priority experts report

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

"If we don't get the electric wiring fixed in the courthouse, we aren't going to have to worry about the rest of the restoration plan," said Gray County Commissioner Gerald Wright after restoration specialists addressed the commission regarding courthouse restoration during the County Commission meeting Monday afternoon.

The wiring in the structure was installed when the county courthouse was built in 1929, and has not been replaced since construction, say preservation architects Jay Firshing and Larry Irisk of Architexas. The firm was hired to develop a master plan for the county to follow in the

preservation of the structure, and apply for a portion of the \$50 million the Texas legislature allocated for courthouses to make needed repairs.

The architects said the 70-year-old wiring needs to be completely replaced, as the building was wired in an incompatible way with current needs. County officials along with Ameritexas representatives referred to the fire which destroyed the Ellis County Courthouse in the early 1990s which was attributed to faulty wiring. The destruction of the building was the beginning of a statewide project to protect and restore the courthouses across the state.

Wright was responding to a report given by representatives of Architexas regarding the mas-

(See WIRING, Page 2)

Chief Charlie Morris recommends women carry their purses in their hands, close to their bodies, or that they shop with a fanny pack rather than a purse.

also said that people should not overburden themselves carrying too many packages, because they are somewhat helpless to purse-snatchers and pickpockets in such a position.

Morris recommends women carry their purses in their hands, close to their bodies, or that they shop with a fanny pack rather than a purse. He says men should put their wallets in the inside coat pocket or a front pants pocket.

"Put items in the truck of your

car. Lock your car. The biggest thing we've run into is theft from cars," Morris said. He added that if you do leave packages in your vehicle, cover them with a blanket.

"Beware of scam artists posing as couriers or technicians," Morris said. He advised that you should always ask to see identification. "Professionals don't mind being asked for identification," Morris said.

Morris also detailed some

(See HOLIDAY, Page 2)

Personal days on PISD agenda

Pampa school trustees will consider amending personal days criteria for school employees when they meet Thursday in regular session.

An appeal from a student's parents regarding disciplinary action will also be heard.

Other items to be considered include considering submission of nominees for the 2000 state textbook review panel, approval TASB Policy Update 62, sale of tax delinquent property, health benefits plan audit proposal, and process for

2000-2001 school calendar.

The administrative report will include staff development survey, class ranking/academic honors policies, PAASB/grass-roots advocacy meeting in January, high school student leader recognition PHS library reception to be held Jan. 20, and superintendent/board evaluation workshop.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the Carver Center Board Conference Room, 321 W. Albert.

Quite frankly...What was your favorite Christmas present?



"Hot Wheels carrying case I got last year. It opens up and has a track that pulls down."
— Shane White



"My engagement ring which was given to me on the (Nov.) 24th."
— Marcy Horton



"A sapphire and diamond ring. My husband bought it for me two years ago."
— Kimberly Miller



"A dishwasher. It was a present from my mother a long time ago."
— Pat Cochran

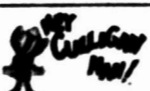


"I would have to say it was my Sony Play Station. I got it in 1998."
— Tommy Janway

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

GORE, Elva Jo - Memorial services, 4 p.m., N.S. Griggs and Sons Funeral Directors Pioneer Chapel, Amarillo.

STOCKSTILL, William D. "Bill" - 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Pampa.

Obituaries

ELVA JO GORE

AMARILLO - Elva Jo Gore, 83, sister of a Pampa resident, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 1999. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday in N.S. Griggs and Sons Funeral Directors Pioneer Chapel with Dale Hoggatt, minister to senior adults of Paramount Terrace Christian Church, officiating. Burial of remains will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Mrs. Gore was born and raised at Tulia. She married F.L. Gore in 1948 at Amarillo; he died in 1995. She had been an Amarillo resident for most of her life. She worked in clothing sales for many years at various stores including The Hub, Colbert's and the Bridal Shop.

She belonged to Paramount Terrace Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Betty Gentry, in 1987, and Susie Roper, in 1998.

Survivors include a son, Albert Gore; two sisters, Elsie Rousseau of Tulia and Marvell Austin of Amarillo; two brothers, Leland Knight of Amarillo and George Knight of Pampa; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 5304 Berget in Amarillo and requests memorials be to Faith City Mission.

JACK ROBERT "BOB" MILLER

JACK ROBERT "BOB" MILLER, 81, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 13, 1999, at Canadian. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Miller was born May 25, 1918, at Electra. He had been a Pampa resident since 1928, moving from Vernon. He married Eva Mae Wooldridge on Jan. 14, 1940, at Panhandle; he died July 19, 1940. He owned-operated Bob Miller Refrigeration for 50 years, retiring in 1994. He belonged to First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jackie Lawson, in 1990; and by a granddaughter, Jayme Howell, in 1977.

Survivors include three daughters, Ann Crossman and Marcia Hoover, both of Pampa, and Judy Curtis of Arlington; two sisters, Pat Ramsey and Mildred Cooper, both of Pampa; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 2011 Mary Ellen and requests memorials be to First Baptist Church of Pampa, Edward Abraham Memorial Home of Canadian or Hemphill County Hospice of Canadian.

WILLIAM D. "BILL" STOCKSTILL

WILLIAM D. "BILL" STOCKSTILL, 76, of Pampa, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 1999, at Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Thacker Haynes, pastor of First United Methodist Church of McLean, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Stockstill was born Dec. 27, 1922, at Amarillo, to C.C. and Belya Stockstill. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1941 and attended Texas Tech University. He owned Heaton Cattle Company and was involved in farming and ranching. He belonged to American Cutting Horse Association and owned quarter horses.

He married Jackie Stockstill in 1991 at Miami. He was a U.S. Army veteran, enlisting in November 1944 and serving with the 98th Headquarter Battery. He was honorably discharged in November 1945.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by a son, David Stockstill, in 1991; and by a grandson, Matt Stockstill.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie, of the home; two daughters, Nancy Cervi of Roggen, Colo., and Mary Ann Gill of Miami; two stepdaughters, Cindy Pruitt and Sherry Robertson, both of Shamrock; a sister, Margaret Barnett of Fort Worth; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Make-A-Wish Foundation, 2324 Lakeview Dr., Amarillo, TX 79109; or to a favorite charity.

Carson Co. sheriff

The Carson County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 6-12. There are currently 13 people in the Carson County Jail and 9 additional prisoners in other jurisdictions.

Caldomero Blanco, 35, was arrested on the charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Eugene R. Shauger, 61, was arrested on the charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.

Kimberly L. Dillard, 34, was arrested on the charge of public intoxication.

Dean G. Dillard, 34, was arrested on the charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following reports for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 13

Harassment by telephone was reported at the 1800 block of North Banks.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported at the 100 block of East Harvester.

Assault/Domestic violence was reported at the 300 block of Canadian.

Theft under \$50 was reported at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 13

Thomas Don Herring, 22, 1013 E. Kingsmill, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for retaliation.

Leslie LeRoy Strahan, 52, Miami, Texas, was sentenced to the Gray County Jail. A spokesman there did not know the charge.

Christopher J. Smith, 21, 1816 N. Zimmers, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for retaliation.

Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents for the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, Dec. 12

A parked 1969 maroon Volkswagen belonging to Melissa Ann Carroll was struck by a "white" vehicle. The unidentified white vehicle fled the scene. The hit-and-run occurred at the 900 block of North Frost.

Monday, Dec. 13

Jessica Verleen Smith, 19, 1116 Varnon, was cited for following too closely and no driver's license after her Lincoln Towncar rear-ended a 1995 Mercury Mystique driven by Patty Worley Elliott, 40, 605 N. Somerville, at the intersection of West Gwendolyn and North Hobart.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 13

9:09 a.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to a faulty carbon monoxide alarm at 316 N. Gray.

Ambulance

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

Monday, Dec. 13

10:53 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Gray; no transport.

12:02 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony West in Amarillo.

4:50 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of Reid and transported one to PRMC.

7:27 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Wells and transported one to PRMC.

8:38 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

10:40 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony West.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

12:20 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one patient to a local nursing facility.

1:52 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

3:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported one to PRMC.

5:35 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa:

| | | |
|----------|------|--|
| Wheat | 1.91 | |
| Milo | 2.51 | |
| Corn | 2.06 | |
| Soybeans | 3.74 | |

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of completion:

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| Occidental | 20 | dn 1/4 |
| Fidelity Magelln | 131.46 | |
| Puritan | 18.87 | |

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

| | | |
|------------------|----------|------------|
| Amoco | 60 3/8 | up 3/8 |
| Arco | 89 3/8 | up 5/16 |
| Cabot | 19 1/8 | dn 1/8 |
| Cabot OMG | 13 11/16 | dn 1/8 |
| Chevron | 89 3/16 | dn 9/32 |
| Coca-Cola | 61 3/16 | dn 207/256 |
| Columbia/HCA | 28 1/16 | up 1/16 |
| Enron | 37 7/8 | up 55/28 |
| Halliburton | 35 1/4 | up 11/16 |
| IRI | 3 3/16 | dn 1/16 |
| KMI | 17 1/4 | dn 3/16 |
| Kerr McGee | 55 3/8 | up 11/16 |
| Limited | 40 13/16 | dn 23/28 |
| McDonald's | 41 13/16 | dn 3/16 |
| Mobil | 104 5/16 | up 13/16 |
| New Atmos | 20 7/8 | NC |
| NCE | 31 | dn 1/16 |
| Phillips | 18 13/16 | up 1/8 |
| Pioneer Nat. | 47 7/16 | dn 5/16 |
| SLB | 54 1/4 | up 1/4 |
| Tenneco | 7 1/2 | up 3/16 |
| Texasco | 53 1/2 | up 3/16 |
| Ultras | 22 15/16 | dn 3/16 |
| Wal-Mart | 67 5/8 | dn 3/8 |
| Williams | 31 1/4 | up 1/4 |
| New York Gold | | 279.75 |
| Silver | | 5.13 |
| West Texas Crude | | 24.90 |

Emergency numbers

Ambulance.....911
Crime Stoppers.....669-2222
Energas.....665-5777

Prosecutors say scientist stole 'centuries of work'

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - As Wen Ho Lee pleaded innocent to charges of mishandling U.S. nuclear weapons secrets, the FBI said the fired scientist had downloaded enough files at the Los Alamos National Laboratory to form a stack of paper 134 he ordered Lee held without bond until trial, saying that to release him would pose "a clear and present danger to the United States."

Lee was indicted Friday on 59 counts of breaching security at the lab, though not with

espionage. A trial date has not been set. If convicted, Lee faces life in prison.

The Taiwan-born scientist showed no reaction as Svet announced that he must remain behind bars until trial. His lawyer said he would appeal the denial of bond.

Lee's friends and relatives packed the federal courtroom to lend him their support. Cecilia Chang, speaking for organizers of a Lee defense fund, decried the ruling.

WIRING

ter plan to be submitted to the Texas Historical Commission to obtain grant monies to implement improvements at the county building.

Cost consideration will be available when the commission holds a special meeting Dec. 23 to review the estimates and make a decision on how to apply for the grant money.

Ameritexas said the electrical wiring replacement project would take at least six months to complete. The firm's representatives recommended at November meetings that all offices vacate the building while electrical wiring, mechanical repairs and plumbing repairs are done.

Wright said during Monday's meeting he did not feel the offices should be moved while the remodeling is underway.

The architects said it would cost more in the long run to leave employees in the building to conduct county business during the electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs and replacements.

Wright said the county may have to do it piecemeal and do it as-could-be.

Recommendations from the historical architects included the county offices which would stay in the courthouse structure and which would be moved out. Wright requested a decision be reached at the Dec. 23 meeting regarding what the county plans to do with the county-owned facility on Hobart known as the Lovett building (the nurses' quarters across from Albertson's).

Several references have been made throughout the past few weeks concerning moving some existing courthouse offices to the Hobart location as not all county offices can be located in the county

building.

Commissioner James Hefley said he would like to see the adult and juvenile probation offices moved to the location over tax assessor-collector's office which has been mentioned several times as an office to be moved.

Judge Richard Peet said he would like to see Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 and the constable of the precinct moved with the probation offices.

Firsching and Irisk recommended the probation offices, tax offices, constables and justice of the peace move to another location. Recommended to remain are county and district clerk, judges, auditor, treasurer, district attorney and county attorney.

The architects noted the adult probation does not want to move.

Returning the veterans service officer to the courthouse was another recommendation. Creating additional small multi-use court spaces, relocating the jury room to its original location, providing new heating and air conditioning, and providing witness protection rooms to separate witnesses on opposing sides were also among the recommendations.

The firm has suggested offices be relocated within the structure also.

Commission members said if there is a need to move offices out of the courthouse they only wanted to move them one time, and suggested if the Hobart location is retained by the county that those offices might be relocated there when wiring replacement begins.

Commissioners Jim Greene and Joe Wheeley were out of town and not at the Monday meeting. Both men participated in both days of the hearings held in November.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

HOLIDAY

home precautions to take for those leaving the area. He recommended automatic timers for interior lights, which can be purchased at local discount and hardware stores.

Morris recommended that if residents are leaving the area, even just for a day, to let a neighbor know. He said to ask the neighbor to watch their home. If you will be gone for an extended period of time, have all newspaper and magazine subscriptions put on hold. Make sure all windows and doors are locked. Close all blinds and curtains. Leave the television on.

Morris said the weather is another danger dur-

ing this season. He says those traveling should keep certain items in their vehicle: peanut butter, crackers, blankets, water, candles (for heat), lighters, flashlights, extra clothes and underwear, and a first aid kit. He said to keep the windows cracked and the vehicle running if you have to pull over because of weather conditions. He said the most important thing to do in blizzard conditions is to keep dry.

Lastly, Morris recommended that everyone should take a photographic inventory of his or her possessions.

"We want all our people to enjoy a happy and good holiday, so stay alert, take precautions, and let's make this a good one," Morris said.

Open meetings law changes discussed at Austin meeting

AUSTIN (AP) - Representatives of local and state government Monday discussed how to apply new open meetings laws when using technology such as the Internet to conduct business.

More than 250 people attended the Statewide Open Government Conference sponsored by the Attorney General's office. The three-day conference that ends Wednesday is designed to help elected and appointed officials understand and follow open government laws.

During one of the sessions Monday, lawyers from the attorney general's office explained how new laws apply to meetings conducted via videoconfer-

encing, conference telephone calls and on the Internet.

Gov. George W. Bush in May signed a bill authorizing governmental bodies to broadcast open meetings on the Internet.

"There's been a lot done in this area in the last two (legislative) sessions," said Kym Oltrodge from the attorney general's office.

Ms. Oltrodge said there is confusion among local and state officials about what kinds of technology are legal and how such meetings should be announced to the public.

"That's where it gets into gray area," she said. "Under the law, the secretary of state must post a notice of an Internet meeting if the body meeting has statewide

jurisdiction."

The secretary of state also must post Internet meetings involving water districts or other political subdivisions that extend into four or more counties.

Local governments are responsible for announcing meetings and posting minutes and agendas online if the body having the meeting has a Web site, Ms. Oltrodge said.

Oltrodge and her colleague, lawyer Scott Joslove, said there are very specific laws regarding the use of technology to conduct open meetings.

For example, conference calls only can be authorized for specific governing boards such as the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

City Briefs

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

BEANIES, BUDDY'S, Hot Wheels, McDonald's and many other collectable toys. 665-4732 or 669-6798.

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EARLY ADVERTISING Deadlines for the Holidays in the Pampa News. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

PAMPA PAWN 15% off guns & ammo, 25% off other merch. Gift cert. avail. Drawing for Beanies- The End & '99 Teddy.

BLOWING SNOW Golf Sale at David's Golf Shop at Hidden Hills!!! Spikeless and reg. golf shoes marked down from \$85 to as low as \$35. Many spikeless shoes \$59.88 for all leather Etonics. Remember gift certificates are a great idea for the golfing Dad or Mom for Christmas. You don't have to drive 60 miles for a great deal!!!!

HONEY GLAZED hams, smoked turkey, party trays & much more. Place your order today! Clint & Sons, 1421 N. Hobart, 665-2825.

REMEMBER WHEN your Pampa News Carrier collects, does the carrier have his/her cards & hole punch? If not, don't pay. Thanks, Circulation Dept.

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RHEAMS DIAMOND Shop Open til 8 p.m. til Christmas. Register for Free Diamond Ring, 6-8 p.m. Only!!!

OLIVE WOOD Christmas ornaments and carvings, made in the Holy Land, available at Celebrations, 125 N. Somerville.

WOW! ALL Its Charm is staying open. New owners take over Jan. 1st.

Weather focus

PAMPA - Blowing snow of up to two inches was to end today under cloudy skies. The high is expected to be 42 and winds from the north at 20-30 mph and gusting. Tonight, clear and cold with a low of 22 and decreasing winds. Tomorrow, sunny with a high in the mid 50s and west winds at 10-20 mph. Yesterday's high was 34.

STATEWIDE - While temperatures remained cool over much of Texas, a ridge of high pressure began making way for clear skies Monday that helped

dry areas drenched by weekend rain.

North Texas skies were mostly clear with temperatures ranging from 52 along the Red River east from Paris to 58 at Abilene. North winds were at 10 to 15 mph.

The forecast for North Texas calls for clear skies with temperatures climbing out of the 30s early Tuesday morning.

In West Texas and the Panhandle temperatures were in the 50s and 60s under clear skies. Temperatures ranged from 50 at Guadalupe Pass to 64 in Wink and Fort Stockton. Wind was

from the South between 15 and 25 mph and gusty.

A slight chance of light snow is possible over the extreme northern part of the Panhandle early Tuesday morning. Skies should be partly cloudy and windy Tuesday with highs around 40.

Over South Texas it was mostly sunny with temperatures in the mid-50s and mid-60s. Temperatures ranged from 54 in Port Arthur to 72 in McAllen. The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies Tuesday with highs reaching the 70s around the deep South and mid-60s elsewhere.



(Community Camera photo by Jennifer Scoggins)

Some Pampa High School Choir members recently competed in auditions for All-Area Choir at Tascosa High School in Amarillo. Above: (back, left-right) Dillon Hill, Cory Bigham, Mike Eskridge; (middle) Meredith Hendricks, Josh Gibson; (front) Tiffany Bruce, Celeste Stowers and Shelby McGahen.

Eight PHS Choir members compete in auditions for All-Area Choir

Eight Pampa High School Choir members recently competed in auditions for All-Area Choir at Tascosa High School in Amarillo. The third in a series of auditions leading to placement in All-State Choir, five students were selected from 15 in each section. Over the course of these auditions, students learn an entire major work, "Vesperae

solennes de confessorie" by Mozart as well as eight shorter pieces. Earning first chair honors in their sections were Meredith Hendricks, first soprano; Tiffany Bruce, second soprano; Josh Gibson, second tenor; and Dillon, first bass. Shelby McGahen made second chair in the first

alto section. Also placing were Cory Bigham and Mike Eskridge in the second bass section. Celeste Stowers was an alternate in the first alto section. These students will travel to Midland in January for the final audition leading to placement in the All-State Choir. At this audition, they will compete with students from Lubbock, Midland-Odessa and

El Paso regions. From 20 students in each section, five will be chosen for All-State Mixed Choir. In addition, five girls will be chosen from each of their sections to sing in the All-State Treble Choir. The All-State clinic and concerts will be in February during the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio.

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS
The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Furr's Cafeteria.

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B. Walker at 669-2266.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their

meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.

SHRINE CLUB

Pampa Shrine Club will meet at 6 p.m. Dec. 17. A Christmas meal will be furnished by the club.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Womens Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling

rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Pampa Area Cancer Support Group for individuals, families and friends who have been touched by cancer will celebrate the holiday season at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 in the cafeteria of the Pampa Regional Medical Center, One Medical Plaza. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited. For more information, call 665-4742 or 665-2654. For a ride, call Betty Whitson after 5 p.m. at 669-2198 or Linda Norris at 665-2654. In case of inclement weather, call ahead in case meeting is canceled.

ST. JUDE'S RANCH FOR CHILDREN

St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a home for abused children, is accepting Christmas cards for recycling. The facility turns old cards into new cards to resell. Proceeds go toward the operation of the ranch. To buy new Christmas cards or to donate old ones, call St. Jude's at 1-800-492-3562.

Holiday giving



(Special photo)

The local Conoco Inc., Production office, Hwy 152 and Western, has been busy this holiday season, contributing to four Pampa groups — helping three with gift-buying and distribution. The agencies are Tralee Crisis Center, Pregnancy Support Center, Pampa Optimist Club and Pampa High School Senior Development Center. Above: Steve Jean, Conoco representative, and Linda Towne of Tralee. The local Conoco office consists of 18 employees and is responsible for the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle as well as North Dakota.

TDI offers consumers tips, helpline to prepare for possible Y2K glitches

AUSTIN — Experts seem to agree that the United States is better prepared than most countries to deal with any potential Y2K problem. To ensure you avoid insurance-related Y2K problems, Texas Department of Insurance recommends:

- Check your insurers.
- Ask your insurer or agent about what is being done to fix potential Y2K problems.
- Ask if they have brochures or reports available discussing the company's Y2K status.
- If your company is publicly traded, check the Y2K statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (www.sec.gov).
- If you are concerned about any information you receive, work with the company to answer your concerns. If the company fails to respond adequately, consider doing business elsewhere.
- If you have a Y2K-related insurance problem, (1) check with insurer's customer service department; (2) if the dispute is not resolved immediately, keep your coverage intact by continuing to pay your premium; (3) check with TDI's Consumer Helpline staff at 1-800-252-3439 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. about filing a complaint or file it online at www.tdi.state.tx.us.

If you suddenly receive notice your policy has

lapsed even though you paid your premiums on time, it may be Y2K related. If you have a history of problems with the company, it may not be Y2K related. In any case, consider filing a complaint with TDI.

- Check your personal financial records.
- Keep copies of all insurance policies, payment records and benefits literature handy in case a dispute about insurance coverage develops at the turn of the millennium.
- If you use personal finance software, make sure it is Y2K compliant. Backup records.
- Check the makers of your computer and operating system to ensure they are ready.
- Check your fire alarm systems.
- Basic functions of fire sprinklers and fire alarm control panels are not date sensitive. Check Y2K concerns with the manufacturer, especially for alarm panels with programmed maintenance notification.
- Most fire alarm systems have battery backup. Check that your automatic battery recharge system has kept your batteries fully charged.
- Regardless of Y2K, check that all your fire detection and suppression systems have been serviced within the manufacturer's recommended schedule.

THIS YEAR, I'M WRITING MY THANK YOU NOTES IN ADVANCE, SO PEOPLE KNOW WHAT TO GET ME.



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CINEMA
*1 Movie Again
Toy Story II (G)
Fri. & Sat. 7:05 & 9:10
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:05
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:50

1st Run
Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:10 & 9:05
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 2:00

4th Week
Sleepy Hollow (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:05 & 9:10
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:05
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:50

4th Week
The World Is Not Enough (PG-13)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:25
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:45

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Texas Editorials

Waco Tribune-Herald on Mexican killing fields:

Now is the perfect time for the United States to put pressure on Mexico to finally crack down on that country's drug lords whose deadly products damage American society.

The occasion is a joint U.S.-Mexican police effort to recover up to 100 bodies from a killing field on the ranch of a Mexican drug lord across the border from El Paso near Ciudad Juarez.

Tipped off by an informant, about 65 FBI agents joined Mexican authorities, many in ski masks to protect their identity from Mexican drug lords, and began the search for bodies reportedly buried on the ranch, one of many well-guarded smuggling havens located along the border.

The United States shares nearly 2,000 miles of border with Mexico.

In addition, the United States and Mexico are bosom-buddy trading partners. Each side depends on the constant cross-border exchange of goods and services.

What's more, the United States and Mexico have many cultural ties, which include many American citizens who trace their heritage to Mexico.

For all these reasons, the United States has a long-standing policy to treat Mexico with kid gloves, more like a relative than just another international face in the crowd.

Regrettably, Mexico has allowed its local, state and federal police forces to be corrupted by drug traffickers who, with the help of the police, have grown fabulously wealthy and powerful.

Several Mexico watchers have said that the drug lords have grown more powerful than the central government by using drug money to corrupt not only police forces but all levels of government.

Due to the heavy international publicity from the search for bodies of hundreds of vanished or kidnapped people, both Mexican and American citizens, the right authorities in Mexico may be persuaded to finally arrest the scores of Mexican citizens already indicted in the United States for drug smuggling and distribution.

Now is the time to remove the kid gloves and pressure the Mexican authorities to gather up the resolve needed to rid their nation of an international scourge in their midst.

President Clinton should pull out the diplomatic stops to encourage Mexican authorities to arrest indicted drug traffickers and ship them to the United States where they will be tried for their crimes against American laws.

Mexican drug lords often travel in motorcades with police escorts. They kill anyone who threatens them or gets in their way. Assistant FBI Director Thomas Pickard said most people buried on the ranch outside of Juarez "were killed for their knowledge or for being witnesses to drug trafficking endeavors."

This incident should be exploited as the break American authorities have been looking for to pressure Mexican authorities to declare war on Mexican drug cartels.

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Texas Gov. George W. Bush

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Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789

Freedom is the right to disagree

Some folks have their hearts in the right places and their heads in the wrong places. The debate over prayer in our nation's schools seems to foster such wrong-headedness.

The English proverb says it best: The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

We Americans look around at the horrific violence committed in our schools and we bend our necks backwards and shout to God, "Save these children, heal them."

But the question of school violence is muddy; the stakes in the debate are unclear, the logic flawed, the conclusions shortsighted.

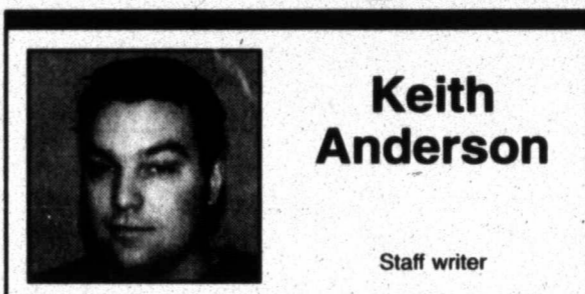
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," Amendment I proclaims.

Can we solve our problems through school prayer?

The reason public schools may not lead prayers is that by doing so they would in-effect be endorsing and enforcing a particular faith.

For example, if Pampa High School were to lead a protestant prayer at a school function or a football game, they would be infringing on the rights of Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Scientologists, Taoists, Cabalists, and Agnostics.

Pampa High School would be telling Jewish students that protestant religions were true, and the Jewish religion false. PHS would be infringing on the rights of parents to raise children in their faith.



Keith Anderson
Staff writer

Organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union fight to keep religion out of our schools to PROTECT religion, not to hinder it, that's the irony. Yet preachers condemn the ACLU as atheists or worse. Shortsightedness.

And prayer isn't the panacea folks think it is. Honestly, you can pray 'till you're blue in the face, but there will always be violence, suffering, and inhumanity. It is childish to believe that prayer in schools is the cure-all to all our social ills.

If history is a guide, once upon a time a Catholic French government rounded up and slaughtered French Protestants, and conversely, a Protestant English government rounded up and slaughtered English Catholics. I could give hundreds more examples.

There is good reason to keep government out of the religion business.

The First Amendment is designed to protect religious freedom. Period. Those that would

abridge it are enemies of faith, enemies of your right to worship in your faith, and enemies of your right to raise your children in your faith.

Likewise, school vouchers are unconstitutional. The United States government cannot fund religious education. Duh.

The Republican Party has aligned itself with the protestant "religious right." The alliance is illogical at best, and at worst against not only against everything America stands for, but also against everything God stands for.

The Republicans are now stumping for school prayer, school vouchers, increased censorship — the abolishment of the First Amendment. Has a more un-American platform ever existed? Would the Republicans establish the sort of Church-run government that terrorizes Iran and Afganistan?

I believe that freedom of religion is a sacred right; I would rather see no America than no freedom of religion.

Some disagree with me. Good. That is what freedom is about: The right to disagree.

If the fires of freedom and civil liberties burn low in other lands, they must be made brighter in our own ... If in other lands the eternal truths of the past are threatened by intolerance, we must provide a safe place for their perpetuation," said former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

"Freedom is the last, best hope of earth," said Abraham Lincoln.

I agree. Do you?

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 1999. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
Two hundred years ago, on Dec. 14, 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon home at age 67.

On this date:
In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died in London.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole, beating out an expedition

led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was dropped from the League of Nations.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish U.N. headquarters in New York.

In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner II approached Venus, transmitting information about the planet.

In 1980, fans around the world paid tribute to John Lennon, six days after he was shot to death in New York City.

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft "Voyager," piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 1988, President Reagan authorized the U.S. to enter into a "substantive dialogue" with the Palestine Liberation Organization, after chairman Yasser Arafat said he was renouncing "all forms of terrorism."

Ten years ago: Nobel Peace laureate Andrei D. Sakharov died in Moscow at age 68.

Five years ago: A federal judge granted a preliminary injunction

blocking almost all of Proposition 187's bans affecting illegal immigrants in California. Former Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus, whose refusal to let nine black students into Little Rock's Central High School in 1957 forced President Eisenhower to send in federal troops, died at age 84.

One year ago: President Clinton stood witness as hundreds of Palestinian leaders renounced a call for the destruction of Israel.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Clark Terry is 79. "60 Minutes" executive producer Don Hewitt is 77. Actor-playwright George Furth is 67. Actor Hal Williams is 61. Actress Patty Duke is 53.

Teachers speak of education woes

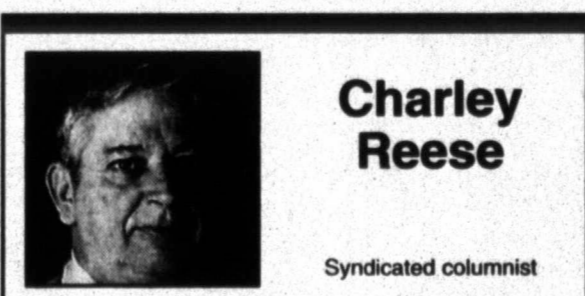
When you talk about public education, there is only one group of people that really knows what's going on — that's the teachers in the classrooms. Unfortunately, they are generally ignored by politicians and journalists who have all the answers.

For that reason, I thought I would share with you some comments by teachers I received as a result of a recent column. I won't use their names, but these are real teachers, and these are their own words:

"I regret to say," wrote a fourth-grade teacher, "I continue to see a decline in the education of our children. ... Generally parents say they want their children to do well ... but they either are not willing to support us ... and/or they are not willing to be firm and demand that their children meet their own responsibilities for achievements."

A principal in West Virginia wrote: "We are tired of students in our poor, rural area being compared with students in wealthier, urban areas. ... We are tired of parents not supporting our efforts and taking us to court."

"The pressures on principals and teachers are unreal," writes a Florida educator. "The standards that they expect these people to be responsible for are, for the most part, unattainable because of the state of readiness that our students have when they come to school. We can't make up for the five years of educational neglect that has gone on before they come to kindergarten."



Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist

A husband wrote that his wife, a second-grade teacher, says there is no more joy in teaching and that she cannot in good conscience advise any young person to pursue a career in education.

Another Florida teacher writes: "Teachers and administrators are depressed as it is and have been for years. Now Jeb Bush (governor of Florida) is killing us in Florida. He keeps raising the bar, changing his mind, and we are frustrated. Good people who have never considered leaving the teaching profession are ready to quit."

"As an eighth-grade teacher I can vouch for the fact that a child's success is tied directly to his self-discipline. Parents give extrinsic discipline until the child matures enough to develop it intrinsically. If the parents aren't around to do this or they simply don't bother, the child remains an animal at the center of his own universe."

One teacher who has left the profession

reluctantly wrote: "I loved to teach ... and I always taught at underprivileged schools and had no problem with it until the last seven or eight years. That's when all the test, test things started, that's when the serious behavior problems started. That's when everything we did became so scrutinized that we were drowning under a sea of paperwork. The old saying 'Johnny can't read because teacher can't teach' is a crock. Johnny can't read because his parents don't give a you-know-what."

"I am also very disturbed to see the moral breakdown which is occurring at an exponential rate," another teacher wrote. "Teachers used to be responsible for teaching children," another writes. "Now we are expected to be mothers, fathers, guidance counselors, therapists, doctors and nutritionists, just to name a few. How can we teach children if they are coming to school dirty and hungry not to mention the emotional baggage they have to carry?"

"I've taught school for 17 years and only see the problems getting worse. I used to think the powers that be were working on solving the issues that impact my ability to teach kids, but have come to learn they are more interested in their own agendas."

Well, that's a sample, but if politicians, conservatives as well as liberals, don't quit using teachers as a punching bag, they'll end up with empty classrooms. Every pol should spend five days in a kindergarten classroom.

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SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

DUMAS — Pampa won the Dumas Junior Varsity Tournament title last weekend. They defeated Vegas, Dumas sophomores and Dumas junior varsity to push their record to 8-3.

"We had strong team play throughout the tournament. I'm looking for these players to have a great season," said Pampa coach Ryan Dykes.

Pampa JVs will play at Amarillo High on Dec. 21.

PAMPA — Pampa defeated Hereford 54-29 in a 7th grade boys' basketball game. Britton East had 16 points and Seth Foster 10 to lead Pampa scorers. Pampa 7th grade improved its record to 2-0.

Pampa B 26, Hereford B 20
P - Ricky Gattis 10, Janssen Eilenberger 6.

Pampa record: 2-0.

8th Grade

Hereford A 59, Pampa A 37

P - Andrew Curtis 16, Johnny Story 9.

Pampa record: 0-2.

Pampa B 32, Hereford B 26

P - Chance Henley 9, Ryan Barnes 5.

Pampa record: 2-0.

FOOTBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — It didn't take Dana Dimel long to get started with his new job as football coach at the University of Houston.

Dimel arrived in town Sunday as the school was issuing a statement announcing the hiring of the former coach at Wyoming two days after Marshall coach Bob Pruett backed out on the Cougars.

Dimel checked into a hotel and immediately went to his new office and started watching film of his new players, particularly quarterback Jason McKinley and his returning wide receiver targets.

By Monday, he'd already chatted with McKinley and introduced him to the wide open offense that Cougars will be running next season.

"Not to sound braggadocious but I don't know anything but winning," Dimel said. "Winning has been natural for me. It comes from grinding it out and we are going to grind it out."

Dimel, 37, posted a 23-12 record in three seasons at Wyoming, including 7-4 this past season.

"The thing that excites me is that he wants to win right now," McKinley said. "He's not talking about a rebuilding program. He's not going to accept anything less than winning now."

Dimel, who was an assistant at Kansas State before moving to Laramie, Wyo., replaces Kim Helton, who compiled a 24-53-1 record in seven seasons at Houston.

Dimel expects to do better. "I think we can very quickly compete with the University of Texas," Dimel said. "So our big thing will be to have athletes who can catch and run and there is no reason we can't compete against Big 12 teams."

Dimel almost didn't get the chance.

Houston apparently had finished its search for a coach last week when it approached Pruett. Then Pruett withdrew from consideration Friday night, choosing to remain at the West Virginia school.

"We were the top two in the picture," Dimel said. "It was just a coin toss. I believe it all ended in the best interest for the future of the program."

Houston finished sixth in Conference USA with a 3-3 league record and 7-4 overall. It dropped from contention for the league title with losses to Alabama-Birmingham and East Carolina.

Two of the coaches on Helton's staff, defensive coordinator Dick Bumpas and offensive coordinator Les Koenning Jr., will remain.

Celeste's Rector is 1A player of the year

Wheeler's Dollar, Goad are first-team selections

By The Associated Press

Celeste's Jamaica Rector was a magnet on the football field this season. On offense, he attracted double and triple coverage. On defense, teams repelled the area he patrolled.

On Monday, Rector was named the Class 1A defensive player of the year and was a first-team selection at receiver and defensive back on the all-state squad chosen by Associated Press Sports Editors.

"An athlete like him in Class 1A has to be on the field at all times," Celeste coach Steve Sumrow said. "Maybe when he gets to college he'll stay on

one side of the ball, but he definitely has the ability to play both ways."

The 10th annual APSE team was chosen by sportswriters around the state, based on players' regular-season performance. Nominees were selected during the season and balloting was conducted during the playoffs.

The offensive player of the year was Ranger running back Sonny Ainsworth. The junior had 2,011 yards and 25 touchdowns on 183 carries.

Two first-team offensive honorees meet in the 1A finals Saturday when Aspermont (14-1) plays Bartlett (14-1). Aspermont running back Zach Hunter and Bartlett

offensive lineman Ramon Fuentes.

Season long No. 1 Wheeler was one of five teams to have two first-teamers. Making it from Wheeler were offensive lineman Bret Goad and linebacker Ben Dollar.

Wortham had offensive lineman Collin Barker, a 6-foot-9, 310-pound junior who reminds many of former Wortham star Leonard Davis, and quarterback Damien Dixon.

Another duo was Dawson running back Isaac Shaw (who ran for 1,894 yards and 26 TDs) and threw for 823 yards and 10 TDs) and defensive lineman Brent Steele.

Sudan filled two of the four defensive back spots with Rocky McAdams and Erik Edwards, while Muenster had kicker Nick Silmon and defensive lineman Craig Hartman. Rounding out the offense

were linemen J.J. Carillo of Baird and Nathan Bishop of Milano, and Lola end Jody Evans.

Other defensive honorees included linemen Trey Tucker of Runge and Robert Dillin of Valley View, linebackers Dustin Gage of Meridian and Jacob Hausenfluke of Jarrell, Carlisle defensive back Michael Fling and Marfa punter Michael Spencer.

Rector caught 56 passes for 1,303 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also had 25 carries for 240 yards and nine touchdowns, plus he returned a punt for a score.

On defense, he made 126 tackles, including 22 for losses, while intercepting eight passes and recovering two fumbles.

Several Division I-A schools are interested in the 6-foot, 175-pound Rector, although he doesn't yet have the grades

to make it.

He retook the ACT last weekend in hopes of boosting his scores.

Rector says he'd rather play receiver in college because of the excitement of scoring. However, he's willing to play wherever he's needed.

"I just like playing the game," he said. That attitude came in handy this season when Sumrow moved Rector from defensive back to linebacker because he was tired of teams avoiding his best defender.

"It would've been nice if he weighed about 30 pounds more, but with his speed and aggressive play he was a good linebacker," Sumrow said.

Rector helped Celeste reach the quarterfinals, where they lost to Detroit. In the regional finals, he scored all five of the team's touchdowns against Dawson.

Four Harvesters named to All-District first team

PAMPA — Four Pampa Harvesters have been named to the first-team 1999 All-District 3-4A Football Team.

Fullback Thomas Long was first-team offense while lineman Tyson Curtis, linebacker Jason Burklow and kicker Justin Barnes were first-team defense.

Barnes also made the second-team offense as a tight end and punter. He was joined on the second team by tackle Cody Shepard.

Lineman Andy Schroeder, linebacker Nathan Arnn and cornerback Russell Robben represented Pampa on the second-team defense.

Selected as player of the year was Hereford running back-defensive back L.J. Vallejo. Hereford's Craig Yenzler was named coach of the year.

Long wait ends; Texas back in women's poll

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
AP Sports Writer

Coach Jody Conratt and the Texas Longhorns have come back home.

Texas, for many years a permanent resident in The Associated Press women's basketball poll, returned Monday after being out for 39 weeks — its longest stretch as an unranked team.

"I miss that neighborhood," Conratt said with a chuckle.

Texas joined the poll at No. 25 as one of two newcomers, Tulane at 24th being the other. The Longhorns last appeared in the rankings the week of Nov. 18, 1997.

Last season was the first time since the poll started in November 1976 that Texas was not ranked for at least one week.

"Obviously, the poll is the most visible thing related to the success of teams, so there is motivation to be recognized," said Conratt, who became the coach at Texas the season the poll started.

"I think our team has flirted with it a number of times, and maybe it's poor scheduling on my part, but every time we were about to get there, we'd have to play somebody, really, really good. We're about to do that again."

Texas has games coming up at No. 16 Rutgers and No. 2 Tennessee.

"It's not going to be easy for us

to stay there," Conratt said. "But I think it's something players take a great deal of pride in and something they pay more attention to than we do as coaches."

Connecticut remained No. 1 for the sixth straight week, and the top five teams were the same as last week.

UConn (7-0) beat Seton Hall 88-45 in its only game during the past week and received 41 of 44 first-place votes cast by a media panel. Tennessee (6-1), Louisiana Tech (5-1), North Carolina State (8-0) and Georgia (11-1) held the next four places.

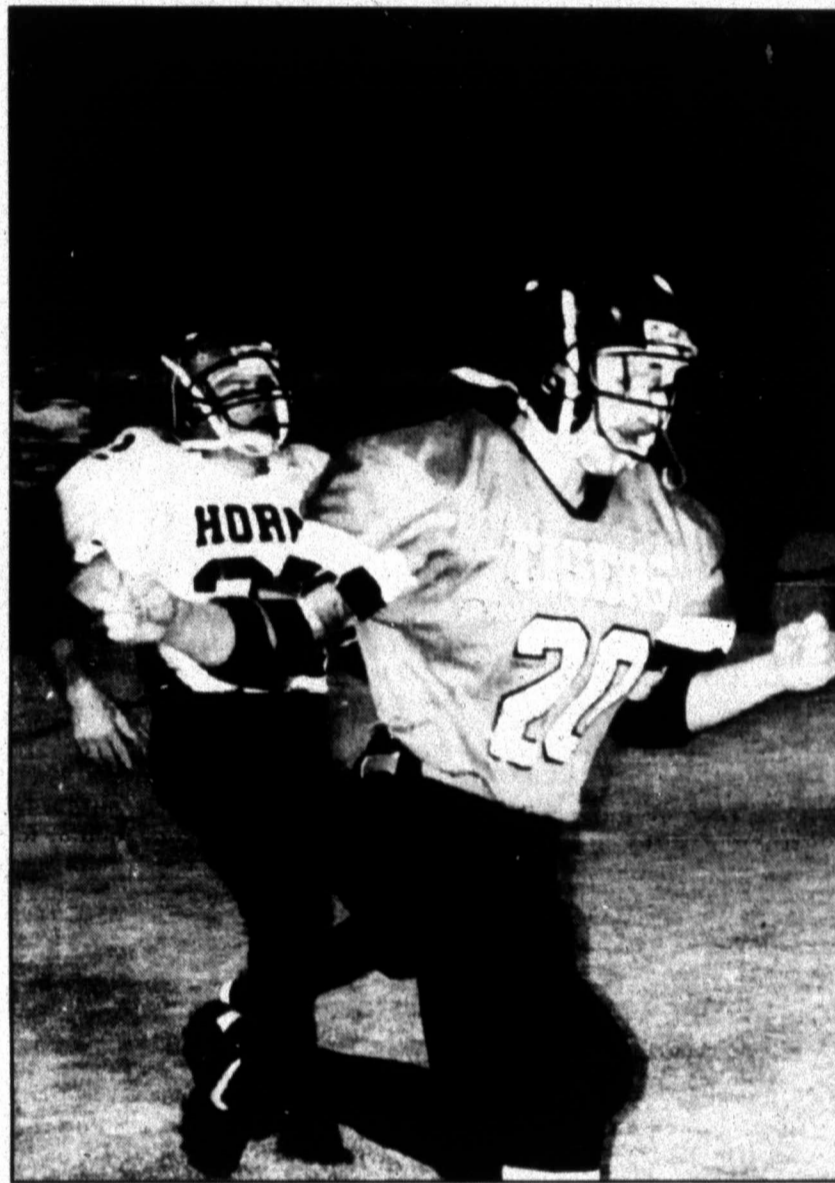
Tennessee received two first-place votes and Louisiana Tech, which has given Tennessee its only loss, had one.

UCLA climbed two places to sixth and was followed by Texas Tech, Auburn, Penn State and North Carolina.

Notre Dame, which lost to Purdue before beating Michigan State, fell four places to 11th and Purdue jumped six places to 12th. Then it was LSU, Iowa State and Oregon, followed by Rutgers, Arizona, Duke, Illinois and Kansas.

Old Dominion, Mississippi State, UC Santa Barbara, Tulane and Texas completed the Top 25.

Tulane (6-0), off to its best start in coach Lisa Stockton's six seasons, went unranked in the first five polls this season after holding down the No. 25 spot in the final poll of 1998-99.



(Photo by Marsha Conratt)

Groom senior Wade Ritter ended his high school career in the state finals.

Cowboys looking to juggle linemen

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Alonzo Spellman's best game at defensive tackle has made it more difficult for the Dallas Cowboys to decide how to replace injured end Greg Ellis.

Spellman, a lifelong end until being moved to tackle during training camp, would be the obvious choice to take Ellis' place — especially with a rapidly re-emerging Leon Lett ready to take Spellman's place at tackle.

But coach Chan Gailey said Monday that rookie Ebenezer Ekuban might replace Ellis rather than setting off the chain reaction that moving Spellman would cause.

"The reason you wouldn't do it is because Alonzo is playing so

well at tackle," Gailey said. "Do you move him where he may be as dominating as he is right now? He might be, he might not be. There might be such a comfort level at tackle now that it changes things."

"There are a lot of factors to consider. We'll look at all of them before we make a decision."

Having a starting lineup of Spellman and Kavika Pittman on the outside and Lett and Chad Hennings inside seems most likely, partly because Spellman plays end in many of Dallas' defensive formations.

"It will come down to getting our best linemen on the field," defensive coordinator Dave Campo said. "I'm not really concerned with who is playing

defensive end or who is playing tackle. I want the best lineup on the field."

Gailey said coaches will have a good idea of their plan in time for their next practice on Wednesday so they can go with it as the Cowboys (7-6) prepare to play the New York Jets (5-8).

Whatever they decide, however, won't necessarily be posted on the Internet.

"You can probably rest assured we won't tell exactly what we're going to do because it's a strategy thing for this ballgame," Gailey said.

Ellis was having a breakout year as a main cog in a defense that has allowed 13 or fewer points in nine games, including the last five.

Yankees send Curtis to Rangers for two minor leaguers

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Chad Curtis knew the video of his game-winning homer in the World Series would outlast his stay at Yankee Stadium. He probably just didn't think he'd be gone this soon.

The World Series hero, who homered twice in Game 3 of the World Series, was traded from the World Series champions to the Texas Rangers on Monday for a pair of minor leaguers.

Curtis, a 31-year-old left fielder, hit 262 with five homers and 24 RBIs last season. But his biggest contribution came in Game 3 of the World Series when his two homers included a game-winning shot in the 10th that made him just the third Yankee player to hit a walk-off home run in the Series.

The following night, he caught the final out of the Yankees' World Series sweep of Atlanta.

"You don't look at one great moment. You look at what he's done over the years," Rangers general manager Doug Melvin said. "He's a gritty type of player."

The Yankees, who have spent a lot of time discussing trading Hideki Irabu, got a pair of young right-handers, Sam Marsonek and Brandon Knight.

The trade was completed at the winter meetings even though the Yankees were the only team that did not attend the session. New York GM Brian Cashman made the deal from Yankee Stadium.

Unless the Yankees make another move, Shane Spencer and Ricky Ledee head to spring training as the leading candidates to play left field. Spencer hit just .234 with eight homers and 20 RBIs, while Ledee hit .276 with nine homers

and 40 RBIs.

"Shane and Ricky are the beneficiaries of this move," Cashman said. "Ricky becomes our automatic backup center fielder, which was Chad's previous role. Chad did a great job for us, but the potential of adding two young arms to the system and the benefit of giving Shane and Ricky more playing time was the right call for our organization."

Melvin, who planned to leave the meetings later Monday, made the trade with the team that eliminated Texas in the first round of the playoffs.

"When we came here, I was trying to get a third baseman and get a fourth outfielder. We got one of them done," said Melvin, who failed in his attempt to re-sign third baseman Todd Zeile. "Chad gives us depth at all three

outfield positions," he said. "With the two young outfielders we have in Ruben Mateo and Gabe Kapler, his experience will be a big asset."

Curtis created a stir in August when he criticized Yankees star Derek Jeter for talking with Mariners shortstop Alex Rodriguez following a brawl with Seattle.

Many of the Yankees thought Curtis' comments were out of place, given his status, but Cashman said they weren't a factor in the deal.

Curtis, who also played for California, Detroit, Los Angeles and Cleveland, has a .264 career average with 90 homers and 403 RBIs.

"He gives us versatility and depth," Melvin said. "He can play all three outfield positions and go into the DH role."

Curtis had finished the first season of a \$6 million, three-year contract.

Irabu, meanwhile, has attracted interest from the Cincinnati Reds. It's not clear if Colorado's acquisition of Rolando Arroyo from Tampa Bay on Monday ended their pursuit of Irabu.

New York would like to find a spot for Ed Yarnall in its rotation.

"We've got a lot of action on Hideki because clubs recognize he's a third or fourth starter for most clubs with a very good price tag," Cashman said. "He's a fifth starter for us only because of our depth."

Knight, 24, was 9-8 with a 4.91 ERA at Triple-A Oklahoma. He led the Pacific Coast League with five complete games.

Marsonek, 21, was 3-9 with a 5.54 ERA for Class A Charlotte.

Vernon MVP



(Pampa News photo)

Pampa senior Jesse Francis was named the tournament's most valuable player at the Vernon Invitational last weekend. Francis helped lead Pampa to the championship finals as the Harvesters won two of three games. He scored 40 points in three games.

Jaguars slip by Broncos

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — After muddling through a rain-soaked second half, the Jacksonville Jaguars suddenly turned explosive Monday night.

The result, a 27-24 victory over the Denver Broncos that kept the Jaguars (12-1) in control of the race for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Mike Hollis made the game-winning 23-yard field goal as time expired.

Fred Taylor, who entered when James Stewart sprained his foot in the third quarter, had runs of 14 and 7 yards to set up the field goal after Dale Carter was hit with a 25-yard pass-interference penalty in single coverage on Jimmy Smith.

Just minutes earlier, Taylor burst through for a 38-yard touchdown run to give the Jaguars a 24-17 lead and the apparent victory.

But Denver (4-9), which had struggled just as mightily as Jacksonville in the driving rain, tied it when Brian Griese hit Byron Chamberlain for a 57-yard touchdown pass against the Jaguars' prevent defense. The tight end caught the ball in front of safety Blaine McElmurry, then bounced off a Fernando Bryant and rambled for the tying score.

Before that, the steady rain was the main story.

Jacksonville's first six drives of the second half resulted in three-and-outs, as Brunell had trouble handling the slippery ball.

Denver and Brian Griese had little more luck, producing just a 40-yard field goal by Jason Elam for a 17-17 tie in the third quarter.

From there, the game turned into a defensive struggle, one in which Jacksonville held the field-position advantage and both teams seemed happy to wait for the other to make a crucial mistake.

Instead, both teams came up with big plays for the exciting finish.

Jacksonville regained its one-game lead over Indianapolis in the race for home-field advantage through the playoffs. It also increased its lead over Tennessee to two games in the AFC Central.

The loss stripped away the final, minuscule chance the Broncos (4-9) had of making the playoffs.

Sanders is let go by Reds

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Deion Sanders was let go Monday by the Cincinnati Reds, who designated the former outfielder for assignment to clear roster space for right-hander Elmer Dessens, signed to a one-year contract.

Sanders, 32, hasn't played in the major leagues since 1997. Cincinnati added him to the major league roster after the World Series to prevent him from being taken in the major league draft.

Once he wasn't picked in Monday's draft, the Reds designated him for assignment. That

means Cincinnati has 10 days to either trade him, send him outright to the minor leagues or place him on unconditional release waivers.

Cincinnati will not offer Sanders a 2000 contract by the Dec. 20, which will automatically make him a free agent the following day.

After several seasons as a two-sport player, Sanders left baseball to become a full-time defensive back with the Dallas Cowboys.

Dessens, 27, played parts of three seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Scoreboard

| PRO FOOTBALL | | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | EASTERN CONFERENCE | |
|---------------|----|---------------------|------|--------------------|-----|
| W | L | T | Pct. | PF | PA |
| Indianapolis | 11 | 2 | 0 | 846 | 364 |
| Buffalo | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 245 |
| Miami | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 273 |
| New England | 7 | 6 | 0 | 538 | 280 |
| N.Y. Jets | 5 | 8 | 0 | 385 | 229 |
| Jacksonville | 12 | 1 | 0 | 823 | 334 |
| Tennessee | 10 | 3 | 0 | 789 | 274 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 7 | 0 | 462 | 288 |
| Pittsburgh | 5 | 8 | 0 | 385 | 232 |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 10 | 0 | 288 | 276 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 12 | 0 | 143 | 175 |
| Seattle | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 276 |
| Kansas City | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 303 |
| Oakland | 6 | 7 | 0 | 462 | 284 |
| San Diego | 6 | 7 | 0 | 462 | 222 |
| Denver | 4 | 9 | 0 | 308 | 255 |
| Washington | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 375 |
| N.Y. Giants | 7 | 6 | 0 | 538 | 254 |
| Dallas | 7 | 6 | 0 | 538 | 281 |
| Arizona | 6 | 7 | 0 | 462 | 186 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 11 | 0 | 214 | 210 |
| Tampa Bay | 9 | 4 | 0 | 582 | 221 |
| Detroit | 8 | 5 | 0 | 615 | 288 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 6 | 0 | 538 | 278 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 6 | 0 | 538 | 317 |
| Chicago | 5 | 8 | 0 | 385 | 228 |
| St. Louis | 11 | 2 | 0 | 846 | 430 |
| Carolina | 6 | 7 | 0 | 462 | 315 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 9 | 0 | 308 | 222 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 10 | 0 | 231 | 197 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 11 | 0 | 154 | 208 |

| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | EASTERN CONFERENCE | |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|------|
| W | L | T | Pct. |
| Washington | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Dallas | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Arizona | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 11 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Detroit | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Chicago | 5 | 8 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Carolina | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 11 | 0 |

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Astros' Everett may be going to Red Sox

HOUSTON (AP) — The Astros and Red Sox are discussing a trade that would send Houston center fielder Carl Everett to Boston in exchange for top shortstop prospect Adam Everett and at least one other player, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday.

The deal, which does not appear imminent, also likely would bring a pitching prospect to the Astros, the Chronicle reported.

Astros general manager Gerry Hunsicker declined comment, which is his policy on trade speculation.

Hunsicker has said any player not under contract beyond 2000 may be traded unless a contract extension can be negotiated.

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OWNER will carry w/ \$1000 down-3 houses to choose from, \$13,500. 665-4270 lv. message.

Used Cars West Texas Ford Lincoln-Mercury 701 W. Brown 665-8404

Bill Allison Auto Sales Your Nearly New Car Store 1200 N. Hobart 665-3992

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103 Homes For Sale

HANDYMAN Special. 317 N. Nelson, 2 bdr. house, needs some work. Priced to sell at \$8900. 669-6881, 669-6973.

1723 Chestnut, Gov't. acquired. Drastically Reduced for Quick Sale! Approx. \$3300 move-in cost, approx. \$640 monthly. Gaut & Co. 806-355-1070, 806-359-3025.

106 Coml. Property

OFFICE or Retail Building for sale or lease, on Hobart st. Action Realty, 669-1221.

114 Recre. Veh.

Bill's Custom Campers 930 S. Hobart Pampa, Tx. 79065 806-665-4315

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres. 1st mo. rent free. Cellars, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

116 Mobile Homes

ROCK-N-ROLL Back Sale on 3/2. Save thousands! payments \$280.48 w/ 10% dn. & 9.9% for 240 mths., W.A.C. Oakwood Homes, 806-372-1491.

4/2 w/ fireplace & appliances stay. Must sell by 12-31-99. 806-372-1491.

120 Autos

CULBERSON-STOWERS Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick GMC-Olds-Cadillac 805 N. Hobart 665-1665

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120 Autos

Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062

onlyusedcars.com Where used car customers and used car dealers get together.

120 Autos

1978 Mercury Marquis. Runs good. \$775. 665-3566.

121 Trucks

88 F-350 Crew Cab 7.3L Diesel 130 K \$6200. 669-2079 H or 898-3692 M.

124 Tires & Access.

OGDEN AND SON Expert Electronic wheel balancing. 501 W. Foster, 665-8444.

120 Autos

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OGDEN AND SON Expert Electronic wheel balancing. 501 W. Foster, 665-8444.

Neighborhood Watch Works!

Baby's First Christmas 1999
The First Christmas Is A Special One
On December 23rd, The Pampa News will have a special space just for babies celebrating their first Christmas. The cost to have a picture and brief information about your little one is \$15 paid in advance. The Pampa News must have picture and information by noon, December 15th.

Justin Tyler Hornback
Born... March 22, 1999

Parents... Robert & Shari Hornback Pensacola, Florida
Big Sister... Rhonda Darlene Hornback
Grandparents... Jim & Jane Farmer Lancaster, Texas Darlene Eads Pampa, Texas

Example

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Senior Living

Friend's Candor Opens Bride's Eyes to Potential Big Mistake

DEAR ABBY: I disagree emphatically with your responses to Father Francesco of Newark and to "Worried About My Friend," who was concerned that her friend was entering into a bad marriage and did not want to be in the wedding.

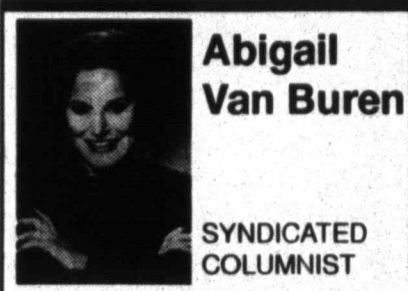
Fifteen years ago last week, I was in that same predicament. Wedding invitations had been sent, the arrangements had been made. Two weeks before the wedding, a friend pulled me aside and told me to think hard about my decision and search my heart to be sure this was right for me. My friend reminded me that I had invited only people I cared about — and who cared about me — to the wedding, and should I realize the wedding would be a mistake, they would support me.

I canceled the wedding. Friends and family who had made non-refundable reservations came anyway and were there to support me on what would have been my wedding day.

The experience made me realize that I lacked the tools to make a good choice for a lifelong mate. I got some help, and have been married 10 years to a wonderful man. If most brides won't listen — so what? The friend just might save one life — and you don't know unless you try.

GRATEFUL FOR MY FRIENDS

DEAR GRATEFUL: I've received quite a scolding from readers who agree with you and Father Francesco and say I've



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

missed the boat. I'm inclined to agree. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I've been down this road, and "Worried About My Friend" should know it's never too late. Not all brides are so hypnotized by wedding bells they don't comprehend their own situation, even as they shove aside inner fears and don a happy face.

When confronted, I had already spent days smiling for the world and nights sobbing alone in a locked bathroom. Thankfully, my sister and father invited me to a pre-wedding lunch and showed me a clipping from your column. The article contained "15 Reasons to Leave Your Lover," signs of an abusive mate. My fiancé exhibited 11 of those red flags. Two weeks before my wedding, and with the support of family, friends and your column, I called it off.

Please tell your readers not to underestimate the power of friendship and love. When we fail to speak out against something we know is wrong, we unwittingly con-

done it. **HAWKEYE GAL IN S.F.**

DEAR HAWKEYE GAL: I know you're right. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: A long time ago, one of my best friends was engaged. Her gown was hanging in the closet when I found out her fiancé had been sleeping with someone else. I knew I could lose a very good friend by speaking up, but I also knew I couldn't live with myself if I said nothing. I told her. The wedding was canceled. Her wedding dress was sold and the invitations were thrown in the trash. However, all the bridesmaids were there to support her through her tears, and she later met a wonderful, faithful man to whom she's been married for more than 10 years.

DEAR I'D DO IT AGAIN: You did the right thing. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm one of your male readers. A friend of mine once went through with the wedding because the hall had been paid for by his fiancée's father, and "if I called it off, he would kill me."

Today he is homeless and his wife is raising three children on her own.

DEAR NEIL: The lesson may be, "When in doubt, say 'I don't think so' instead of 'I do.'"

Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1999

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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)

★ ★ Don't get discouraged. You might be feeling down as you are pushed beyond your limits. Currently, you might be having a difficult time seeing anything realistically. Just relax. Do something just for you, and you will feel better. Tonight: Pull back and indulge in a stress buster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ Avoid unusual negativity. Think about the words you choose; they might convey much more than you think. A partner means well, but he could be touchy. Nevertheless, somehow you encourage him to regroup and change his attitude. Tonight: Join friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★ ★ ★ Responsibilities tumble on you. Think through a decision carefully. News and another's efforts could overwhelm you. You have a tendency to be negative at times. A co-worker has the best intentions — don't misread his efforts. Tonight: Work late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ Friendship draws you in new directions, though you might feel that another is burdening you in some way. Loosen up and stay determined about a goal. A child or new friend could add a

lot of magic to your life. Tonight: Let go of your "musts" and enjoy the season.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★ ★ ★ Others mean well, but they could be a bit hard on you. Be understanding of a family member who might not honor your work needs but who still cares about you. Juggle your different needs; stay centered with a boss. Tonight: Spend time with that special person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ A partner shows his true colors. Think carefully and assess your needs. Sometimes what you think you are saying isn't heard properly, or vice versa. Pressure builds. You look at situations differently than family and friends do. Tonight: Let others decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You bound into work and get the job done. Your assessment of a situation could be considerably different than that of a partner who is generally glum and negative. Take time deciding on an important gift for a loved one. Your thoughtfulness comes through. Tonight: Finish work, then do errands.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★ ★ ★ ★ Your gentleness comes out, no matter who you are dealing with. Allow others to see the real you, even if another has blinders on. Allow your imagination to roam, but be careful when it comes to making money. Steer clear of wild investments. Tonight: Midweek break time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★ ★ Pressure builds at work, tossing you into a tizzy. You could also be quite sensitive when it comes to emotional matters, and you could misread others. You are pushing very hard, and your wear-

iness is affecting your perspective. Tonight: Break away as soon as you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★ ★ ★ Take the initiative and ask key questions. You might be pressured by an emotional situation. Listen to a friend who means well and has only good intentions. Make a must meeting, even if it puts stress on your schedule. Tonight: A force to be reckoned with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★ ★ ★ Finances are a major concern, even though present facts could be a bit distorted by your imagination. Your expectations could go way beyond the call of duty. Be gentler with yourself. Others give you more leeway! Tonight: Take a realistic look at your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ Your personality melts defenses. Others are more willing to explain themselves because of your gentleness. Initially, you might find some to be distant and hard to communicate with. Don't lose track of your work demands. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

BORN TODAY

Actor Don Johnson (1949), musician Dave Clark (1942), former football player Daryl Turner (1961)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sitting room
- 7 Church service
- 11 Respect
- 12 Out of the wind
- 13 TV sci-fi oldie
- 15 Sum
- 16 Hammer part
- 18 Suit part
- 21 Tale teller
- 22 Conifer
- 24 Termite's kin
- 25 Owned
- 26 Work by
- 43-Across
- 27 Actress
- 29 Sharp's counter-part
- 30 Bridge
- 31 Victim
- 32 Actress Parker
- 34 Segment of the old "Muppets Show"
- 40 Buffalo's lake
- 41 Maine park
- 42 Works leather
- 43 Greek poet

DOWN

- 1 Chum
- 2 Fuss

| | |
|----------|--------|
| BARBS | CARIB |
| EMAIL | OLIVE |
| TITLE | REGAN |
| LEAR | ANT |
| SMACKDAB | |
| HILLO | SLIVER |
| ICONS | SLIDE |
| PATTON | LANIA |
| IRONCLAD | |
| ONATRIO | |
| RUSSO | PISHAW |
| ADIEU | ABODE |
| LEANT | TYPED |

Yesterday's answer

- 22 Scrooge cry
- 23 Sopping
- 25 Viet- (for) name's capital
- 17 "Dig in!"
- 19 Fur
- 28 Expires base
- 29 Kitchen need
- 31 Joe of "Goodfellas"
- 33 Cinch
- 34 Favorite
- 35 Writer Levin
- 36 Martini base
- 37 Tack on
- 38 OSS successor
- 39 Canal setting

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | 12 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | 14 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | 23 |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | 26 |
| 27 | | | | | | | | | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | 35 | 36 | | | | | | | 37 |
| 40 | | | | | | | | | 41 |
| 42 | | | | | | | | | 43 |

STUMPED?

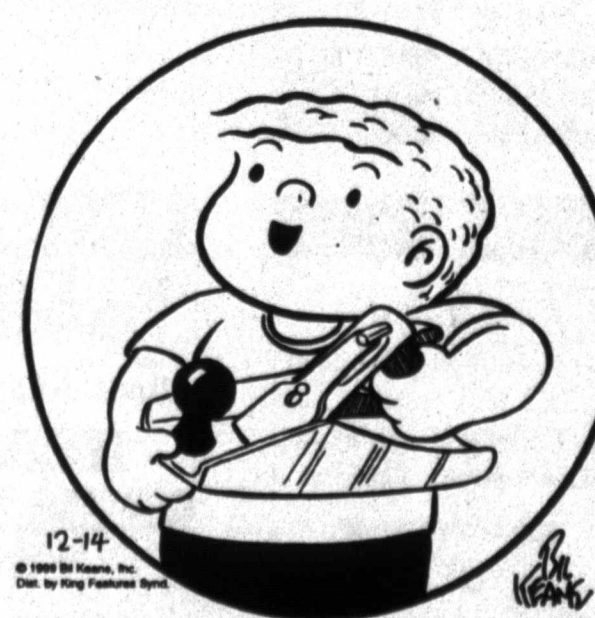
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377, 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Did you have to lick everything?"

The Family Circus



"Quit kiddin', Daddy. This isn't a plane! It doesn't have wings."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



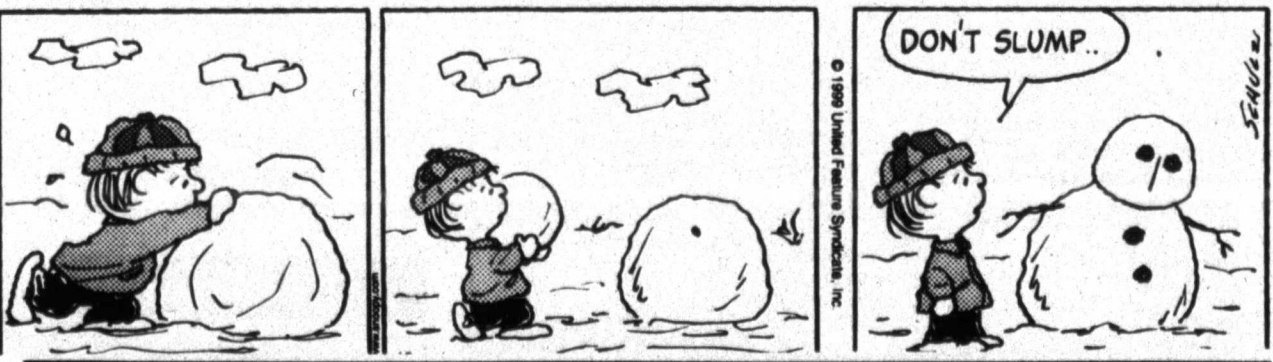
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore

