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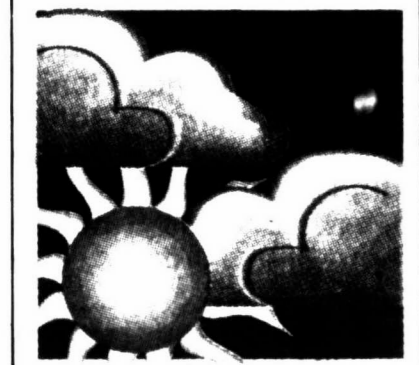
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High today lower 50s
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For weather details see Page 2

Police check weekend mishap
Pampa police were today investigating a one-vehicle roll-over during the weekend.
Steven Stamps, 20, 600 N. Dwight, was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center Saturday evening, police said, with injuries suffered when his pickup rolled in the cul-de-sac at Naida Circle. Hospital officials said Stamps was released following treatment for minor injuries.
Officers said they were called to the scene of the accident shortly before 8:30 p.m. Saturday.
Investigators said the pickup was found upside down. Officers said there appeared to have been several people in the pickup at the time of the accident. Stamps, whom police identified as the driver of the pickup, was the only injury reported.

UT receives \$6 million gift
AUSTIN (AP) — A Dallas investment firm has given the University of Texas at Austin \$6 million to create a center for the study of private equity investing, the school announced Monday.
The new center will be named the Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Center for Private Equity Finance, after the firm that gave the money to the university.
Since its formation in 1989, Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Inc. has completed or currently has pending more than 330 acquisitions with a total capital value of approximately \$44 billion.

• **Bill Frank Blake**, 72, retired co-owner U-Drop Inn Cafe.

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DA-elect meets with law officers

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

31st District Attorney-Elect Rick Roach and law enforcement officers from throughout the Judicial District are getting prepared to work together closely the next four years.
Roach said all leaders of the area law enforcement agencies sat down with him last week to get acquainted while discussing what their expectations are of each department. The meeting was organized by Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland and Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris.
"This was a very productive meeting," said Roach. "I was interested in finding out what I need to do for them to make

their jobs easier when I assume the District Attorney position and they were asking me what they needed to do for me. It was very positive."
Both Chief Morris and Sheriff Copeland also used the word "productive" to describe the meeting.
"It was an attempt as a group, regardless of politics, to see how we could best serve our respective communities," Morris said. "It was to establish lines of communication. (Roach) wanted to know what he could do to help us do our jobs."
"It was a chance to discuss what we need (from the DA) and what he needs (from law enforcement) and what everybody needs for the good of the people," Copeland said.
"It has the potential of being a good

"The area departments are all interested in coordinating efforts as far as drug interdiction. Local and area law enforcement agencies estimate at least 90 percent of their cases are directly, or indirectly, connected to drugs."
— DA-elect Rick Roach

deal for the next four years," the sheriff added. "He's trying to develop a spirit of cooperation."
Roach said the primary concern voiced by all agency department heads is a local drug problem.
"The area departments are all interested in coordinating efforts as far as drug

interdiction," said Roach. Local and area law enforcement agencies estimate at least 90 percent of their cases are directly, or indirectly, connected to drugs," said Roach.
He said the consensus is the need to work closely together with the Panhandle.
(See DA, Page 2)

High-speed chase ends in DWI arrest, marijuana charge

A White Deer man was in Gray County jail today in lieu of bonds totaling \$2,000 following a high-speed chase down U.S. 60 Monday night.
Arthur Ray Short, 39, of 912 Jackson in White Deer, was arrested about 9:30 p.m. Monday and charged with driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana under two ounces.
Pampa police today said Lt. Charlie Love was in the parking lot of a west side convenience store Monday night when a motorist pulled up next to him and complained that she had almost been hit by another motorist driving in the wrong lane. The woman said a brown vehicle, traveling west in the east bound lane of Wilks almost hit her jeep.
Lt. Love drove west on U.S. Highway 60, pulling up behind a vehicle matching the description the woman had given him at the stop light at U.S. 60 and Price Road.
Love said he turned on his emergency lights to pull the driver over when the light changed and the car sped away. Love continued to follow the car, turning on his siren along with the flashing lights.
(See CHASE, Page 2)



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)
Nativity scenes from across the world reflecting the cultural diversity are on exhibit at the local White Deer Land Museum from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, through Jan. 6. The scenes are part of a collection owned by Pam Ragsdale of Pampa.

Tulia ISD to appeal drug testing ruling

By PAM EASTON
Associated Press Writer

TULIA, Texas (AP) — Tulia Independent School District board members voted unanimously Tuesday to appeal a federal judge's ruling that its drug testing policy is unconstitutional.
"We need to appeal," said Tulia Superintendent Mike Vineyard. "It needs to be settled at an appellate level."
Vineyard said U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson, who ruled last week that Tulia ISD's "mandatory random, suspicionless drug testing" violates the Fourth Amendment, used the wrong standard to make her ruling.
"Other circuit court opinion in cases similar to ours have upheld similar drug-testing programs. In our opinion, she (Robinson) used the wrong standard to determine a need for our program," he said.
While not sure of a date, Vineyard said the appeal would be filed soon.
(See TULIA, Page 2)


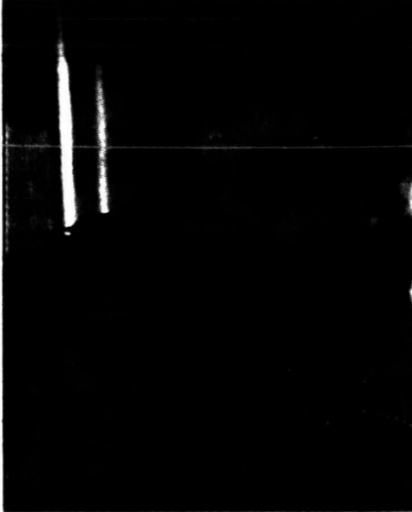



Nativity scenes on display


By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

An extraordinary collection of nativity scenes at the local museum will delight the youngest child while the oldest visitors will fully discern the value.
Scores of nativity scenes from across the world are part of the impressive collection owned by Jan Ragsdale of Pampa. The local woman has between 130 and 140 nativity scenes in her collection.
(See NATIVITY, Page 2)

"This is truly one of the most remarkable exhibits that we've had here," said Anne Davidson, Director of the White Deer Land Museum. She said it is one of the largest collections of museum quality nativity scenes in the Panhandle area.
"We hope all local people will take advantage of the opportunity to see it before the holidays are over," said Davidson. "It will enrich your Christmas experience and you'll be glad that you took the time to see it."
(See NATIVITY, Page 2)

Quite frankly... What do you want for Christmas?

				
"Peace on Earth and goodwill toward men." --Judy Robertson	"Health and happiness for my family." --Cindy and Bill Scully	"For everyone to have a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year." --Edwina Johnson	"For our health to be restored." --Agnes Brumfield	"Everybody to be happy." --Sherry Davis

 Retail Meeting Wednesday, December 6, 2000
At 8:30 A.M. In The Nona Payne Room

D E C 2 0 0 0

VIEWPOINTS

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By The Associated Press
A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:
Longview News-Journal on teen drinking:
The disclosure of Gov. George W. Bush's arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol ought to send a message to teens who hope to have successful futures. Such incidents can come back to haunt you.

White House readies for 'big' move

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — On Inauguration Day, in a frenzied but carefully choreographed four hours, Bill and Hillary Clinton and their household goods down to toothbrushes will be moved out of the White House.
As the inaugural parade rolls by outside, a new presidential family will be moved in, right up to stocking the pantry with their favorite foods and snacks.

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Today in history

By The Associated Press
Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.
In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.
In 1848, President Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

So what do the Palestinians want?

Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist
You're probably wondering what it is these Palestinians over there want. Well, even if you aren't wondering about it, I'll tell you anyway: They want the same thing the Founding Fathers of this country wanted — freedom.
You see, in 1967, Israel fought a war with Syria, Jordan and Egypt and won it right handily in about six days. In the process, Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The West Bank and East Jerusalem had been illegally annexed by Jordan, which never asked the Palestinians what their wishes were. Gaza was controlled by Egypt, which likewise never asked the Palestinians what their wishes were.

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Booklet helps property owners evaluate cost of property taxes

W. Pat Bagley, chief appraiser for Gray County Appraisal District, offers property owners a pamphlet called "Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayer's Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities" to help them save on their property taxes.

Published by the State Comptroller's office, the pamphlet explains how the property tax system in Texas works and tells property owners

about possible tax savings.

Bagley noted that the pamphlet applies to property taxes collected by all types of taxing units: counties, cities, school districts and special districts.

"Homeowners may file for various property tax exemptions offered by taxing units on residence homesteads," Bagley said. In Texas, a homestead is generally the house and yard used as the owner's principal resident. The pamphlet explains each exemption and how to apply for it.

For example, all homeowners who owned and lived in their home on January 1 may file for a \$15,000 general homestead exemption from their principal home's value for school taxes, he said. In addition, certain disabled homeowners and those aged 65 or older may qualify for an additional \$10,000 exemption from the value of their homes.

"A tax freeze, or ceiling, for school taxes is a benefit for homeowners once they become 65 years old," Bagley stated. "State law provides that homeowners who turn 65 may apply

during the year, rather than wait until the next January 1.

"Elderly homeowners' taxes that pay for public schools cannot increase above the total school tax amount on their home in the first year that they receive the 65-or-older homeowner exemption," Bagley continued. "But it may increase if homeowners improve or add to the house, such as adding a room or patio."

The law provides an additional school tax benefit for certain homeowners, he added. If the surviving spouse of a 65-or-older homeowner is at least 55 years old at the time of the older spouse's death, then he or she can keep the school tax ceiling, he said. The tax ceiling, however, does not apply for other taxing units, such as the county and city, he explained.

Bagley pointed out that homeowners age 65 or older do not need to reapply for the exemption this year if they received the exemption and tax ceiling last year. Homeowners turning 65 during the year may file for the 65 or older exemption up to

one year from the date they turned 65, owned the home, and lived in it as their principal residence, he explained. Only those who have never had the exemption must apply in 2000, he said.

Homeowners are also eligible for a \$3,000 general exemption for their county taxes because the county levies a tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, Bagley said.

The taxpayer pamphlet describes other available exemptions, he added, such as those for disabled veterans and other disabled persons.

Productivity appraisal is another type of tax relief available to agricultural property owners, according to the pamphlet. The landowner must file a signed, sworn application with the chief appraiser by May 1. Owners of land receiving 1-d-1 appraisal do not need to reapply, the pamphlet states, unless the chief appraiser requests in writing that they do so.

"Appraisal District staff can offer more information about special land appraisal, tax reductions and exemptions," Bagley said.

He said the "Remedies" pamphlet contains information about protesting to the Appraisal Review Board (ARB), as well. The ARB is a citizen board that hears taxpayer protests to ensure that property values are fair and uniform.

Another section of the pamphlet deals with how voters can petition for an election to reduce the amount of a tax increase adopted by any taxing unit.

"I urge all property owners in the Gray County Appraisal District to read the pamphlet and learn about the property tax system and all possible tax relief," Bagley said. "Remember, taxpayers must file exemption applications with the Appraisal District office by May 1 and any protests by May 31 of this year."

"Taxpayers Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities" pamphlet is available at the Gray County Appraisal District office, 815 N. Sumner, in Pampa, or call (806) 665-0791 for more information.

Published by the State Comptroller's office, the pamphlet explains how the property tax system in Texas works and tells property owners about possible tax savings.



SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

Anyone Can Do It ... And It's This Simple
Just Fill Out The Following Questions (you do not have to answer all the questions to be a Sunday Snapshot) And Bring It To The Pampa News Office. We Can Take Your Picture In The Office Or You Can Bring A Favorite Photo With You.
It's That Easy ... And It's For All Ages!

Name: _____	I stay home to watch: _____
Occupation/Activities: _____	Nobody knows: _____
Birth Date & Place: _____	I drive a: "or" _____
Family: _____	Someday I want to drive a: _____
If I had a different job, I'd be a: "or" _____	My favorite junk food is: _____
When I grow up I want to be: _____	My favorite beverage: _____
My personal hero: _____	My favorite restaurant is: _____
The best advice I ever got was: _____	My favorite pet: _____
People who knew me in High School thought: "or" _____	For my last meal, I would choose: "or" _____
My classmates think of me as: _____	My favorite meal is: _____
The best word or words to describe me: _____	I wish I could sing like: _____
People will remember me as being: _____	I'm happiest when I'm: _____
The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: _____	I regret: _____
My hobbies are: _____	I'm tired of: _____
My favorite sports team is: _____	I have a phobia about: "or" _____
My favorite author is: _____	My biggest fear is: _____
The last book I read was: _____	The electrical device I couldn't live without is: _____
My favorite possession is: _____	My most embarrassing moment: _____
The biggest honor I've ever received is: _____	The biggest waste of time is: _____
My favorite performer is: _____	If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: _____
I wish I knew how to: _____	If I had three wishes they would be: _____
My trademark cliché or expression is: _____	If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: _____
My worst habit is: _____	
I would never: _____	
The last good movie I saw was: _____	

Holiday scams prevalent on 'Net

The Better Business Bureau recently issued an international alert to consumers to beware of websites falsely advertising the availability of popular electronic games and related products.

Many times the items advertised are hard-to-get, much-sought after games or toys such as Sony Playstation2 products which have sold-out in stores across the nation. A number of complaints have been traced to two Canadian-based websites and the Canadian BBB reported receiving more than 20 calls a day concerning this scam.

"What's particularly alarming is the fact that purchasers were asked to fax a photocopy of the front and back of their credit cards to assure speedy delivery of their gifts. No legitimate business will request photocopies of your personal financial information," said Janna Serrano Kiehl, executive director of the BBB serving the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

Sony Entertainment Canada has advised the BBB any commercial website claiming to have "thousands of" Sony Playstation2 products for sale is making a bogus claim and Visa and MasterCard Canada are alerting their U.S. counterparts about the potential for credit card fraud.

During the holiday season, consumers are urged to be extremely cautious when evaluating advertisements for gifts and products known to be in short supply.

The BBB advises Internet shoppers to do business with merchants they know or look for an on-line seal that signifies the merchant is affiliated with a reputable on-line consumer protection program like BBBOnline.

Popular electronic games and products are also being advertised through on-line classifieds and auctions. Consumers are cautioned to exercise similar care when evaluating the sales pitches of private sellers.

"If you are considering purchasing a product from an individual who is selling goods via the Internet, your legal recourse may not be the same as against a business. Be wary of 'too good to be true' prices or deals, and if possible, pay with a credit card, using a secure browser, to ensure the most protection if something goes wrong," Kiehl concluded.

Rural lender exceeds \$5 billion in loan volume

AUSTIN — The Tenth Farm Credit District, the largest rural lending organization in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas, has exceeded \$5 billion in loan volume for the first time in its 83-year history.

The announcement highlighted the third quarter financial results of the Tenth District, which currently is composed of the Austin-based Farm Credit Bank of Texas (FCBT), 16 Federal Land Credit Associations and 12 Production Credit Associations.

Gross loan volume totaled \$5.063 billion at Sept. 30, 2000, a 5.5 percent increase from the \$4.798 billion loan volume reported at Dec. 31, 1999, with increases occurring in both the long-term mortgage portfolio and the short-term agricultural portfolio.

Long-term loan volume increased by \$139.7 million or 3.5 percent from year-end 1999 to the \$4.121 billion reported at Sept. 30, 2000. This increase is attributed primarily to competitive loan pricing, strong demand for real estate and generally strong economic conditions.

The short-term loan portfolio grew by \$125.7 million or 15.4 percent over the same period to total \$942.3 million at Sept. 30, 2000. A stronger cattle sector, expansion in the integrated processing and marketing business, and increases in point-of-sale financing and loan participation volume contributed to the increase in the short-term loan portfolio.

"This spectacular growth in new loan business is partly a reflection of the relatively strong economy and improved livestock industry," said Arnold Henson, FCBT chief executive officer. "But it is also the result of our lending associations' concerted efforts to provide new financing options to meet customers' needs."

The quality of the district's loan portfolio also improved during the third quarter. At Sept. 30, 2000, overall acceptable credit quality was 97.5 percent, compared to 96.6 percent at Dec. 31, 1999.

Total high-risk asset volume decreased by \$16.3 million or 18.2 percent to \$73.3 million at Sept. 30, 2000, from \$89.6 million reported at year-end 1999. This was due largely to a \$15.4 million decrease in nonaccrual loans over the nine-month period.

District net income of \$23 million for the third quarter of 2000 was unchanged from the net income reported for the third quarter of 1999. Net income of \$64.8 million for the nine months ending Sept. 30, 2000, increased 3.5 percent from the \$62.6 million reported for the same period in 1999.

The Farm Credit Bank of Texas and its affiliated lending associations are cooperatively owned by their customers, whose equity in the financing co-ops totaled \$1.044 billion at Sept. 30, 2000.

The combined assets of the bank and associations totaled \$5.548 billion at quarter-end. Together these lending institutions had nearly 56,000 loans outstanding to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and rural home owners and landowners in the Tenth District's five-state region.

The Tenth Farm Credit District is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System. The System reported combined net income of \$388 million and \$1.048 billion for the three and nine months ending Sept. 30, 2000, respectively. This compares with combined net income of \$342 million and \$934 million for the same periods last year.

SMC: Good things do come in big packages

MAITLAND, Fla. — Adopt-A-Manatee for someone special this holiday season and you'll see that good things do come in big packages. You can't bring the manatee home for the holidays, but Save the Manatee Club (SMC) will send an adoption certificate, a photo and biography of a manatee, and a personalized holiday gift card — all for a \$20 annual individual membership.

In addition, adoptive "parents" receive a newsletter that features updates on their manatee throughout the year, and a membership handbook featuring manatee photos and information. Proceeds from the Adopt-A-Manatee program go toward conservation efforts to protect endangered manatees and their habitat.

It's hard to resist the charm of these huge, slow-moving marine mammals with the whiskered snouts. Although they average about 10-feet in length and weigh about 1,000 pounds, manatees are gentle animals. Avid eaters of aquatic plants, they spend much of their time traveling, exploring and basking in warm waters.

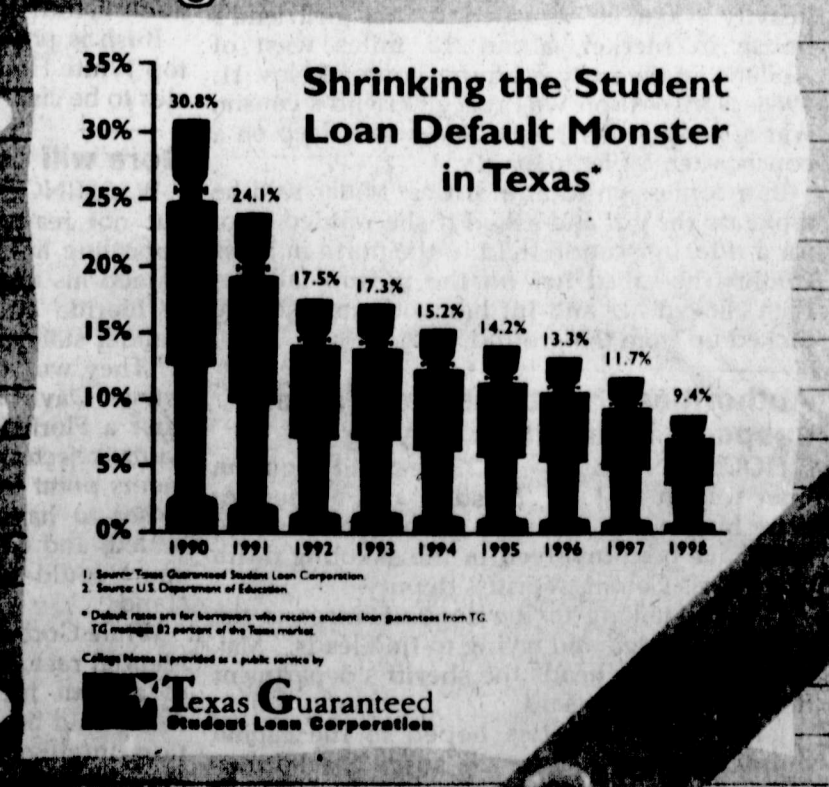
Manatees can be found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals and coastal areas. A migrating species, manatees are concentrated primarily in Florida in the winter, but they can be found as far west as Louisiana and as far north as Virginia in the summer months. Unfortunately, manatees are listed as endangered and only about 2,600 remain in the U. S. today. Many manatee mortalities are human-related, and most human-related manatee mortalities occur from collisions with watercraft.

The Adopt-A-Manatee program is the primary source of funding for SMC, a nonprofit organization established in 1981 by U.S. Sen. Bob Graham and singer Jimmy Buffett. Funds from the Adopt-A-Manatee program go toward education and public awareness programs, manatee research, rescue and rehabilitation efforts and lobbying and legal efforts to help protect manatees and their habitat. Historically, 88 percent of funds from the Adopt-A-Manatee program have gone directly to manatee programs, with only 12 percent going to SMC administrative and fund-raising costs.

SMC has three manatee adoption programs located in Florida. Twenty manatees who regularly winter at Blue Spring State Park in Orange City, Fla., have been chosen as adoptees. Blue Spring maintains a year-round temperature of 72 degrees and is a winter refuge for manatees who need warm water to survive.

For more information on manatees, the Adopt-A-Manatee program, or for a free manatee protection tips packet for boaters, write Save the Manatee Club at: 500 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751 or call 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). You can also visit the SMC website on the Internet at: <http://www.savethemanatee.org>.

College Notes



~ Business Review ~

Pampa Nursing Center: 'One big family'

Pampa Nursing Center is home to residents from Pampa and the surrounding area.

ical care to the patients who cannot provide home care for themselves. Some are patients on a long term basis while others are at the

facility temporarily. Private rooms as well as semi-private rooms are available for the patients at the nursing home which

has a 82-bed capacity. Also housed at the Pampa Nursing Center is an Alzheimer's Unit. Twenty patients are currently living at the 26 patient capacity facility which is separate from patients in the nursing home. The Alzheimer Unit has a separate area for activities. Patients from both programs join together at times for special activities.

Charlotte Willett, LVN, is Admissions Coordinator at the local facility. She said the local facility has Medicare beds and has the distinction that any beds at the facility are certified as Medicare beds.

The local facility has a qualified physical therapy team to provide therapy for the patients at the facility. An occupational therapist and speech therapist are also on staff.

Willett said the current Activities Director Kristie Fuller has been with the nursing home for five

years. "She organizes many activities for the patients," said Willett.

"Once a week a local country and western band plays at the nursing home for the patients. They really enjoy it." The dining area doubles as an activity area for the home residents. As Christmas music plays throughout the nursing center, patients enjoy visiting in the dining/activity area in the afternoons.

Patients enjoy playing Bingo twice a week, said Willett. She said they also enjoy dominoes and the penny game.

Each year the patients ride on a float in the rodeo parade. While they aren't in the annual Christmas Parade, many enjoy going to the parade to watch it. The residents also traveled to Groom to view the cross recently.

State Representative Warren Chisum joined the residents for a patriotic cel-

ebration this past Fourth of July.

She said there are many experienced professionals on the staff. Administrator Dorothy Westbrook has 30-plus years on staff in long term care while Tava Porter, RN-DON, has 15 years in long term care. Dietary Manager Sharon Brown has been with the facility for 13 years.

Medical directors are Dr. Craig Shaffer and Dr. Simoneta Soriano. Both are local physicians.

Approximately 75 employees assist the patients with medical care and their everyday needs. Registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and certified nurses aides are among those who provide medical care.

Department employees, who focus on housekeeping, laundry, dietary and maintenance also provide needed services for the patients.

Willett said, "We're one big happy family here."



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Casual Fun of Rustic Cabin Is Spoiled by Formal Dining

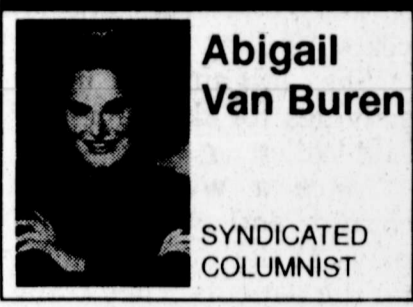
DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were thrilled when his 80-year-old parents decided to transfer ownership of their rustic family cabin to us. We have made many repairs and are responsible for its upkeep. We love it, and because we are teachers, we have the entire summer to enjoy it.

The problem is, my in-laws expect me to be the "perfect hostess" when they visit — even if they don't let us know in advance they are coming.

I am an excellent cook, but my mother-in-law expects me to serve full meals — meat, vegetable, salad, rolls and dessert. In addition, she expects me to put out butter knives, salad plates and linen napkins. She seems obsessed with the table setting and makes nasty remarks if I don't set the table to suit her. (She doesn't utter a peep when her daughter omits the butter knives and extra plates!)

The unannounced visits and fixation with meals have seriously damaged my relationship with my in-laws. This is not something I can discuss with them, because they are both elderly and set in their ways. I should add that the cottage has no dishwasher, so everything must be washed by hand in lake water, which we pump in.

Abby, I don't think formality should be the rule in a casual summer cottage. Sometimes a sandwich on a paper plate on the deck is just the ticket. I don't want to be a slave to the kitchen. I have serious pro-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

jects to work on and have only the summer to accomplish them.

My husband supports me in this, but he knows his parents are too old to change. Even if we tried discussing it with them, my mother-in-law is hard of hearing, and they both seem to have memory problems. Any suggestions?

PAPER CUPS ON CRYSTAL LAKE

DEAR PAPER CUPS: Since your in-laws have memory problems, make up a calendar showing the weeks you will be using the cabin. With a bright pen, circle the dates you would like them to visit. Consider posting your "lazy days" menu so there will be no surprises.

There are nice paper products on the market these days. Select the fanciest, most substantial paper plates and cups you can find, and use them when your in-laws visit. Then say to your mother-in-law, "Darling, I'll cook, but because you set such a lovely table, we'd like

you to be the official table-setter, please." If she refuses, then it's time to ignore their comments, regain control, and make the cabin your own rustic hideaway.

DEAR ABBY: I love the "random acts of kindness" letters that appear in your column from time to time. Here's mine:

My husband died at work five years ago, leaving me with two teen-age daughters. It was the week before Thanksgiving.

My whole neighborhood took up a collection for us — not just the immediate neighbors; I mean the entire neighborhood. In the ensuing weeks before Christmas, all the neighbor kids came to my home, raked the leaves, and even cleared away the dog droppings!

If that wasn't enough, we opened our front door at Christmas to find that gifts, plants, and cards with prayers had been left on our doorstep. I barely knew some of these neighbors, yet they were there for us when we needed them the most — right down to the littlest toddler. Needless to say, I'm never moving from here.

MARY IN SMITHTOWN, LONG ISLAND

DEAR MARY: The caring spirit of your neighbors is inspiring. However, I know the secret to having good neighbors is being one, and I suspect the outpouring of support you received was deserved.

with what you hear from a family member. Another's unexpected actions bring a different financial perspective. Brainstorm to find money answers. Tonight: Be nice. Don't push another's buttons.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Get another perspective. Whether you ask or not, others will give you one. Though you could become frustrated with communication, stay focused. Understand limits with a loved one. Opportunity knocks in a most unexpected way. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Work with others. You could be discussing a joint gift. Someone might be making too many demands of you. Career demands exceed your available time. You feel pressured. Discuss options. Don't back off from a most unusual solution. Tonight: Talk to your best friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You have high energy, and you need to direct it. If you are not careful, you could have a quarrel where you least expect it. Use your imagination and creativity. You come up with new ideas. Defer to another, and listen. Opportunity strikes when you least expect it. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Channel your energy and frustrations into your work. By establishing what you need to do, you accomplish a lot. A partner might not agree with your logic, but you can trust that he will come through. Curb a tendency to be self-destructive. Tonight: Buy a special dinner on the way home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Let your imagination meet your day's demands. Is there any way to streamline your work so you have more time to enjoy yourself? Respond to another's ideas as well. You might need to think before you leap into an agreement. Tonight: Relax by indulging in a favorite sport.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Don't let the speed of another's impulsiveness affect you. Stop and make your own decisions. Listen carefully to your sixth sense about finances and emotions. Dig into work and get the job done. Don't forget an important family member. Tonight: Screen calls.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Reach out for another. Share your ideas, as wild and creative as you can be. Keep communication flowing, with an eye to drawing out solutions. Seek out experts to find workable solutions. Be clear. A misunderstanding bubbles up from out of nowhere. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Be realistic about spending. Naiveté can only cause problems. Be realistic about bottom lines and long-term directions. Pressure builds with a partner who has a different set of expectations. Be as clear as possible with bosses and co-workers. Leave nothing to chance. Tonight: Indulge yourself.

BORN TODAY

Cabinet member Andrew Cuomo (1957), musician Peter Buck (1956), comedian Steven Wright (1955)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. © 2000 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 2000

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)

**** Experience life through another's perspective. Extremes punctuate, but opportunities bloom. You could easily become overloaded. Screen calls, rather than losing your temper because of frustration over too many distractions. Tonight: You're in control, remember?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** You could easily see only the negatives. Give up this kind of thinking and consider other ways to handle a problem. You see money going through your checkbook as fast as a train leaves the station. Stop the flow. Take your time. Revamp your budget using creativity. Tonight: Take time off to think and relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** No one questions the strength of your ideas. Instead, others wonder what your limits are. Push easily comes to shove with unexpected news. What you thought was locked down proves to be chaotic. You are optimistic and positive. Know that anything is possible. Tonight: Seek out friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Take charge again, but also know when to establish boundaries. Pressure builds, and you might not be comfortable

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 42 Ferber and Best
- 5 Not match, color-wise
- 10 Flared dress
- 12 Phone greeting
- 13 Large sum
- 15 Actress Gabor
- 16 Butter bit
- 17 Historic time
- 18 Catch anew
- 20 Batt's reminder
- 21 Peter or Paul
- 22 Addition column
- 23 Pasta topper
- 25 Com-manded
- 28 Comes down
- 31 Press
- 32 Fancy
- 34 Jakob Dylan, to Bob
- 35 Rouen reply
- 36 Boring life
- 37 British court
- 40 Bring together
- 41 Pizza serving

DOWN

- 1 Shaquille, for one
- 2 Martini garnishes
- 3 Target at a party
- 4 Major lang.
- 5 Talk
- 6 Actor
- 7 Region in eastern France
- 8 Catch-phrase
- 9 Big hits
- 11 Sevilla's nation
- 14 Ecstatic
- 19 Out of bed
- 20 Oktober-fest
- 24 Antilles natives
- 25 Thick soup
- 26 In the area of
- 27 Murdered
- 29 C.S. Lewis land
- 30 Plaster style
- 33 Lucy's chum
- 35 Small bills
- 36 Greek vowel
- 39 Actress Taina

Yesterday's answer

- 14 Ecstatic
- 19 Out of bed
- 20 Oktober-fest
- 24 Antilles natives
- 25 Thick soup
- 26 In the area of
- 27 Murdered
- 29 C.S. Lewis land
- 30 Plaster style
- 33 Lucy's chum
- 35 Small bills
- 36 Greek vowel
- 39 Actress Taina

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



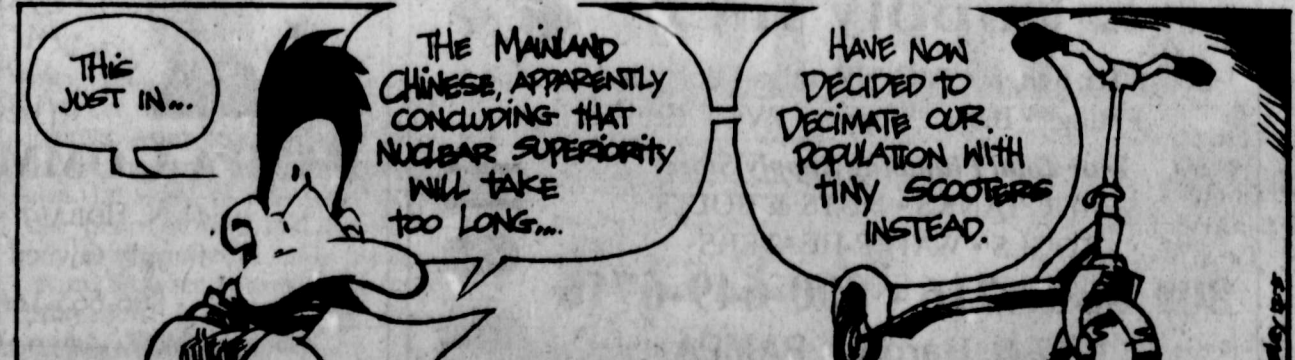
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Mistakes dooming the Dallas defense

Notebook

BASKETBALL

AMARILLO — Pampa improved its unbeaten record to 5-0 with a 72-27 win over Amarillo Tascosa in a 9th grade girls' basketball game Monday night.

Jennie Waggoner led Pampa scoring with 23 points while Stacey Johnson added 12.

Pampa, leading 32-21 at halftime, held Tascosa to only two points in the third quarter. On the offensive end, Pampa scored 20 third-quarter points.

Others in the Pampa scoring column were Abbi Covalt 9, Denise Solis 8, Tara Jordan 8, Jera Skinner 4, Nerissa Perry 4, K'Lee Ratzlaff 2 and Erika Skinner 2.

Pampa made good on 10 of 22 free throw attempts.

The Pampa freshmen are entered in the Dumas Sub-Varsity Tournament Thursday through Friday. Their first game is at 11 a.m. Thursday against Clovis Gattis. The finals are Saturday at 3:30.

The next home game is Dec. 11 against Amarillo High, beginning at 6 p.m.

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Plenette Pierson had 24 points and seven rebounds to lead No. 8 Texas Tech to a 80-56 victory over New Mexico on Monday night.

Tech (5-0) struggled through the first half and led by just seven points at halftime, 31-24.

The Lady Raiders took control of the game with 15:17 left in the second half on a 3-pointer by Candi White. Amber Tarr hit a 3-pointer a few seconds later.

Pierson then added another six points and White followed with another 3-pointer. A basket by Jia Perkins put Tech ahead 57-37.

Molly McKinnon scored 16 points to lead New Mexico (5-3) and Jordan Adams added 14.

Tarr had 11 points for Tech, and White and Dionne Brown each had 10.

FOOTBALL

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama Crimson Tide are closing one of the most painful chapters in the football program's history.

A new coaching regime, led by Dennis Franchione, stressed trust and a new attitude in its first meeting with the players Monday.

"Everyone has a clean slate," is the first thing he said, receiver Antonio Carter said. "He said they're going to bring this team together, and that was kind of a problem last year."

The team unraveled this year, with infighting on the coaching staff, injuries and lack of consistency. Franchione, who turned around a struggling Texas Christian program in the last three seasons, is charged with restoring confidence and order to an Alabama team that finished 3-8.

Franchione, who signed a seven-year deal expected to be worth \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million, understands the two musts that go with coaching at Alabama: "Winning lots of games and beating Auburn." He also understands the Tide tradition, though he's only the second Alabama coach hired since the Bear Bryant era ended in 1982 without ties to the school.

"Anybody that knows me very well knows that I have a very deep love and passion for college football and the traditions that have carried on for so many years," said Franchione, 49, who led TCU to a 10-1 record this season. "Any time you talk about tradition in college football, you're going to talk about the University of Alabama."

That tradition was driven home by the luminaries in attendance at his press conference Monday, including alums Bart Starr and Lee Roy Jordan and former coach Gene Stallings.

Franchione was accompanied by seven assistants who plan to come with him.

IRVING, Texas (AP) — In analyzing the Dallas Cowboys' latest defensive bomb, cornerback Ryan McNeil may have come up with the title for this season's highlight film:

"Miscues, missed assignments and missed alignments."

The entire quote was about how that disastrous trio can doom a team. These Cowboys (4-9) are proof.

Dallas has allowed at least 250 yards rushing in five games this season. Three times, a single rusher has gone over 200.

The Cowboys had only allowed two 200-yard rushers in the previous 40 years. This squad is the first in NFL history to allow three in one season.

By giving up 2,300 yards rushing this season, Dallas already has set a franchise record — with three games to go. Continued — mistakes

against Washington, the New York Giants and Tennessee could make the Cowboys the fourth team in NFL history to give up 3,000 yards.

And, if things don't turn around, Dallas may allow more yards on the ground than in the air, which would be another franchise first.

"I'm not as much embarrassed as I am disappointed," said coach Dave Campo, who was the defensive coordinator the previous five seasons.

Team owner Jerry Jones was so fed up following a 27-7 loss Sunday to Tampa Bay that he talked about "significant changes" among the defensive coaching staff.

Campo met with Jones for about 30 minutes Monday, then said he expects there will be more tweaking than overhauling.

"What he really meant was that there may be some role

changes," Campo said. "That sometimes means how you look at things. It means what your philosophy is. It means different players. It means a lot of things."

When Campo was promoted, he replaced himself with secondary coach Mike Zimmer, one of his closest friends. In the reshuffling of the staff, several inexperienced coaches were promoted and outsiders were hired. Linebackers coach George Edwards was the only one who remained intact.

A change to an aggressive, attacking style on the line was scrapped after Staley and Garner romped. The unit was better for several weeks, then started collapsing again. Injuries have been part of the problem, but definitely not all of it.

"The continuity of things did change," Campo said. "But it's

our responsibility that whoever we have on the field has to be able to play the techniques the way we want them played.

"I really feel that the plan we had going in was the right plan. It just hasn't worked out."

Groom's Weinheimer is finalist

Groom quarterback Grant Weinheimer is one of the finalists for the Texas High School Football Player of the Year award.

With Weinheimer at quarterback, the Tigers have logged a 25-3 record the past two seasons. Groom advanced to the six-man state finals in 1999 and the state quarterfinals this season.

The 6-2, 195-pound senior threw 37 touchdown passes to go with the 30 he threw last season. His completion rate was right around 57 percent.

The Player of the Year awards will be selected by a panel of statewide media, then announced live on Fox Sports Net during halftime of the Class 5A, Division 1 Texas Bowl on

Dec. 16. Other six-man finalists include running back James Stocks, Grandfalls-Royalty; running back Jared Bowen, Highland; linebacker Dustin Speckles, Panther Creek and running back Albert Booker, Trent.

Hereford quarterback Cody Hodges is one of the finalists in Class 4A.

Since 1972, Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine has presented the Player of the Year award, and since 1985, Fox Sports Net and Texas Football have recognized the state's top senior student in each classification. Finalists this season were chosen from nearly 1,200 high schools that field a football program.

PHS swim teams split with AHS

PAMPA — Pampa split a swim dual with Amarillo High last weekend at the Pampa Youth and Community Center.

Pampa boys, led by Michael Eskridge (200 individual medley), Willie Griffin (500 freestyle) and Doug Warren (100 backstroke), beat AHS 52-41. Eskridge, Griffin and Warren all won their individual events for the Harvesters. Eskridge and Warren teamed with Matt Schoenrock and Clay David to win the 200 freestyle relay.

Misty Moman (100 butterfly) and Andrea

Branchetti (100 freestyle) were individual winners in Pampa's 57-34 loss in the girls' meet. Moman and Branchetti were also on the 400 freestyle relay team with Kelley Stowers and Tamra Henthorn which placed first.

"All the Pampa swimmers did a great job," said Pampa head coach Amy Howard.

Pampa also brought in 15 second-place finishes and 11 third-place finishes in the dual.

The Pampa teams are entered in a meet Friday and Saturday in Seminole.



Foreign exchange student Andrea Branchetti of Italy won the 100 freestyle for the Pampa girls' team in the swim dual last weekend with Amarillo High.

Patroits hang on

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Drew Bledsoe and the New England Patriots won't soon forget one of the season's least meaningful Monday night matchups.

They got a rare victory, beating the Kansas City Chiefs, another team going nowhere, 30-24. Bledsoe threw for a season-high 282 yards and Adam Vinatieri kicked three field goals in New England's highest-scoring game of the year.

For a change, the Patriots held on at the end after the Chiefs cut the lead to 30-24 on Elvis Grbac's 19-yard pass to Kevin Lockett with 3:58 left.

Kansas City drove down to the Patriots' 11-yard line but had no timeouts and time expired when Tony Gonzalez was tackled in the middle of the field after a 3-yard completion.

In their other Monday night game this season, the Patriots gave up two touchdowns in the last 6:25 and lost to the New York Jets 20-19 in Week 2.

Two of the previous six Monday night games were decided on last-play field goals, but the Chiefs (5-8) fell short of ending a four-game losing streak with a last-play touchdown.

They gave up two fumbles after losing just four all season and wasted Grbac's 81-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Alexander, who has three career catches of over 80 yards in his career plus an 82-yard TD pass.

Just eight days after the Chiefs' first victory of the season, they lost their game with the Patriots. It was their first

Pampa Takedown Club competes in Amarillo meet

Brandon Slay will be here Dec. 16 for clinic, banquet

Recently, the Pampa Takedown Club competed in the Panhandle Nationals. Wrestlers from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas met in Amarillo for the tournament.

The Takedown Club had approximately 25 wrestlers entered in the tournament.

"These kids did a great job," said Pampa coach Rick Urquhart.

Zack Bradley in Division One took first place in his weight. Also competing were Stephen Botello, Trent Carter, Trevor Collins, Michael DeArman, Austin Farrar, Ryan Goldsmith, Shane Goldsmith, Christian Hinkle, David Jimenez, Richard Leal, Joel Palmateer, Dallan Poole, Carlos "Chunk" Regalado, Farmer Schaeffer, Hondo Schaeffer, Cody Schiffman, Dakota Schiffman, Kyle Turner, Kasey Urquhart, Cameron Wall, Dylan Whitten, Matt Woodruff and Riley Woodruff.

Competing as Pampa's only high school wrestler was Joe Wilson, who placed fourth in the high school division.

"We are very proud of the program that these young men and women have built. Every wrestler that competed placed in the top 10," Urquhart said. "Some of the brackets had as many as 30 wrestlers in them. We

have a great foundation to build a stellar wrestling program on. We are ready to see our kids compete at the middle school and high school level."

Urquhart said the young wrestlers are getting ready to welcome Olympic champion Brandon Slay, who is coming to Pampa for a clinic and banquet.

"The kids are all excited. Brandon was in New York

City to receive Sports Illustrated's Male Athlete of the Year award and he cut his trip short so he would be able to come to Pampa. I think that tells what kind of person he is," Urquhart said.

Slay will be conducting his "More Than Gold" Wrestling Clinic Dec. 16 in the Pampa Middle School gymnasium.

"The kids have earned their way by selling cookie dough. For those who supported these kids, we coaches want to thank you," Urquhart said.

Urquhart pointed out that the Takedown Club is trying to teach the value of hard work as well as wrestling.

Following the clinic, there will be a banquet at Calvary Baptist Church where Slay will expound on his "More Than Gold" philosophy.

"We (the banquet) are limited to the first 150 people," added Urquhart. "All the wrestlers will be selling tickets. Thanks Pampa for the great show of support."



Joe Wilson of the Pampa Takedown Club placed fourth in the high school division.

Jones: Miles resigns from Dallas to be OSU coach

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Les Miles has resigned his assistant coaching position with the Dallas Cowboys and has accepted the head football coaching position at Oklahoma State, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has confirmed.

An announcement on Miles, who was OSU's offensive coordinator in 1997, when the Cowboys went 8-4 and reached the Alamo Bowl, could be made on Wednesday, various print and Oklahoma City-area broadcast outlets have reported.

Jones told The Daily Oklahoman for Tuesday's editions that Miles had "everything and will be a successful coach."

"We're sorry to lose him, but he made a top contribution while he was here," Jones said. "He's extremely well-qualified to be a college head coach, and I know he had a very serious (passion) for Oklahoma State."

Oklahoma City TV station KFOR reported that Miles told Jones of his intention to resign and accept the OSU job. KWTV and radio station WWLS, also reported on Monday that Miles was the choice, but a news conference announcing his selection has not been set.

In a teleconference with reporters who cover OSU football on Monday, Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips would not confirm the move.

Asked if a decision was imminent, Phillips said, "close."

Last week, Boise State coach Dirk Koetter accepted the OSU job but rescinded his acceptance a day later and took an offer from Arizona State.

Phillips said he doesn't think the coach's reversal will reflect negatively on OSU.

"Dirk Koetter is an outstanding coach and he's got an impeccable record regarding his honesty and integrity," Phillips said. "Our research confirmed he is an outstanding man and he's going to do an outstanding job at Arizona State University."

Phillips said Koetter was always up-front about his fondness for Pacific 10 Conference schools. In meetings with OSU officials, Koetter cited Oregon and Arizona State as schools that were very attractive to him. OSU made an offer before Koetter visited Arizona State.

"But last week, he did tell us that he was coming," Phillips said in the Tulsa World. "It was my understanding that there were no conditions on coming. It was just an issue of working out the contract with his attorney."

Koetter got a five-year, \$3.5 million deal to coach the Sun Devils. His selection was announced on Saturday.

Efforts to reach Miles for confirmation were unsuccessful on Monday. Miles would replace Bob Simmons, who was fired in November after six seasons.

The 47-year-old would be a popular choice among some players. Last week, five Cowboys met with Phillips to describe the kind of coach they hoped he'd hire and used Miles as a model.

Senior quarterback Tony Lindsay, one of five players who met with Phillips, lit up when told Miles was the apparent choice.

"That'll work," said Lindsay, whose best year at OSU was the '97 season spent under Miles' tutelage. "Coach Miles can bring a lot to the team."

Phillips said he doesn't think the coach's reversal will reflect negatively on OSU.

"Dirk Koetter is an outstanding coach and he's got an impeccable record regarding his honesty and integrity," Phillips said. "Our research confirmed he is an outstanding man and he's going to do an outstanding job at Arizona State University."

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Alabama back among Top 25

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

The way last season went for Alabama, being ranked in the Top 25 wasn't even a consideration.

Just three games into this season, the Crimson Tide pulled into the Associated Press college basketball poll for the first time in nearly three years.

Alabama went 13-16 last season, coach Mark Gottfried's second in Tuscaloosa. Four starters returned from that team, and Gerald Wallace, one of the nation's most highly sought-after recruits, has starred in a sixth-man role.

On Monday, the Crimson Tide were back in the rankings for the first time since Dec. 24, 1997, at No. 23.

"I think it's good from the standpoint that our team gets some national exposure," Gottfried said. "When we're building a program things like this are always good, but we feel like we have a long way to go and a lot to accomplish."

Alabama (4-0) celebrated the return to the rankings with a 107-61 victory over Grambling State on Monday night, the third straight game the Crimson Tide have reached 100 points. The last time they did that was the 1957-58 season.

This week's other newcomer

was Iowa State (5-0), which came in at No. 25. The Cyclones were ranked sixth in last season's final poll.

Duke, which beat two ranked teams last week, held the top spot for the second straight week, while Michigan State moved up one spot to No. 2.

The Blue Devils (7-0), who beat Illinois and Temple last week, received 59 first-place votes and 1,715 points from the national media panel, 107 more than Michigan State.

The Spartans (5-0), who received nine No. 1 votes, moved up one spot after beating North Carolina and Illinois-Chicago last week.

Kansas (7-0) dropped from second to third despite easily beating Middle Tennessee State and Illinois State in its only games last week. The Jayhawks received one first-place vote.

Stanford and Arizona remained fourth and fifth in the rankings, while Tennessee and Seton Hall each moved up one place to sixth and seventh, respectively.

Florida moved up two places to eighth, while Illinois held ninth and Notre Dame jumped one spot to No. 10, the Fighting Irish's first Top Ten appearance since the final poll of the 1985-86 season.

Wake Forest led the Second Ten and was followed by Southern California, Syracuse,

North Carolina, Connecticut, Virginia, Wisconsin, Cincinnati, Maryland and Oklahoma.

Arkansas, Utah, Alabama, St. John's and Iowa State rounded out the Top 25.

Atlantic 10 members Temple and Dayton, 17th and 24th last week, fell out of the rankings after losing two games each.

The Owls (4-3) lost 66-58 to Miami (Ohio) and 93-68 to Duke, extending their losing streak to three games. The first loss in the streak was also to Duke, 63-61 in the championship game of the Preseason NIT.

Dayton (2-3) returned to the Top 25 last week for the first time since 1974, but losses to Cincinnati and Marshall kept it out of the Top 25.

Marshall, which beat the Flyers 67-65, is the only non-ranked team Dayton has played this season.

There are four games this week between ranked teams.

Michigan State plays host to No. 8 Florida on Wednesday in a rematch of last season's national championship game. Third-ranked Kansas is at No. 11 Wake Forest on Thursday. On Saturday, No. 5 Arizona — playing for the first time with suspended preseason All-American Loren Woods — is at No. 15 Connecticut, and No. 7 Seton Hall is at No. 9 Illinois.

Former Texas coach hired by ASU

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — In hiring John Mackovic, Arizona gambled that the competitive fires are still burning in a 57-year-old man who has been away from coaching for three years.

It was a move in stark contrast of the Wildcats' arrivals at Arizona State, where the Sun Devils opted last weekend for 41-year-old Dirk Koetter, a head coach for just three seasons at Boise State.

Mackovic has coached at three

or colleges — Texas, Illinois and Wake Forest, as well as a four-year stint with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

He was conference coach of the year in all three collegiate jobs.

"No one else offered the impeccable credentials that John offered for the well-being of student-athletes, football knowledge — not just X's and O's, although he certainly knows about that," Arizona athletic director Jim Livengood said. "John has a ton of passion

and a burning desire to be back in college football and coaching young people."

At the news conference Monday to announce his hiring, Mackovic said that as he watched 20 to 30 games a week on the big bank of televisions at ESPN, the urge to get back to coaching grew stronger.

He said he thought the Arizona job was the best opening of the many that were created in the last few weeks.

Players blame themselves, each other for Turner's demise

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Even as Norv Turner was taking the fall for the Washington Redskins' disappointing season, the players were pointing fingers at each other.

Turner was fired Monday and replaced by passing game coordinator Terry Robiskie. While the players agreed Robiskie will provide the motivational fire Turner lacked, they questioned why their teammates couldn't motivate themselves.

"Players make coaches look good, and players make coaches look bad," cornerback Deion Sanders said. "I wish they could show the films publicly to show what I'm stressing. We need different players. It's talent, in certain areas, especially on special teams."

Sanders said he took responsibility when he had a bad game against Detroit this year, but others aren't willing to do the same.

"I wish other players would come out and say, 'It's not Norv's fault. I got my butt kicked,'" Sanders said.

Guard Keith Sims said Turner was the kind of the coach who expected every player to have a professional work ethic — without having to scream about it. It was an assumption that can't be made in the NFL.

"Norv did not threaten players," Sims said. "Some guys took advantage of him."

Others players admitted their contribution to Turner's demise in a season that began with Super Bowl aspirations. The Redskins, despite an NFL-record \$100 million roster, are 7-6 and have lost four of their last five. They probably need to win

their last three to make the playoffs.

"It's a somber moment," kicker Eddie Murray said. "Players feel like they've let a coach down. I feel bad for the coach. I didn't hold my end of it up."

Kickers were the first thing on Turner's mind when he gave his farewell speech. In each of the last three losses, a kicker has missed a vital field goal in the closing minutes.

"We came up short in each of those situations," Turner said. "The difference between winning and losing is not very big in this league."

The inability to find a regular kicker has hurt Turner's teams since he cut Chip Lohmiller during the 1995 training camp. Turner has used five kickers this season. The latest, the 44-year-old Murray, didn't have the leg to reach the goalpost

from 44 and 49 yards in the last two games.

The loss of three offensive starters to knee injuries was also a setback this year, but the deeper problem was the players' lack of focus. Several veterans admitted last week that the team had been too caught up in its own Super Bowl expectations and was not concentrating on one game at a time.

It showed in unforced errors such as bad snaps, missed blocks and tackles and dropped balls. It seemed to be a different player every week, and the only thing they had in common was the coach.

"We just really needed to make a change," owner Dan Snyder said. "Driven with what I call some serious leadership." Robiskie can provide that. His motivational speeches are a highlight of the team meetings on Saturday night.

"Terry is a catalyst," guard Tre Johnson said. "Terry's going to get things done. He's not going to take any trash from anybody. He's going to be a lot more aggressive with how he coaches each individual on the team. He's a motivational guy."

A running back at LSU in the mid-1970s, Robiskie played three seasons with Oakland and two with Miami. He was an assistant with the Raiders from 1982-93 and was one of Turner's first hires with the Redskins in 1994.

"I don't want to compare my motivational skills to Norv Turner's, but I think depending on what the event is, I could motivate you if I had to," Robiskie said. "Everything I've ever done, I've done it through motivation."

Robiskie, 46, said he will call the plays on game day, as Turner did, and will shuffle the

coaching staff so he won't have to spend as much time with the receivers. In his first move, he fired special teams coach LeCharles McDaniel. He also said Jeff George will start as quarterback in Sunday's game at Dallas.

"Everybody is going to be under the microscope," Robiskie said. "My receivers know there are some things Terry Robiskie won't stand for. That won't change."

Turner leaves with a 49-59-1 record and only one playoff appearance in seven seasons.

"I've obviously been put in a good position to have an opportunity to win," Turner said. "This team has a chance to be 10-6. That's a disappointment to me. There's part of me that would like to be a part of it. There's part of me that understands why it's necessary to make a change right now."

Orphan Miners happy to get a berth in the Humanitarian Bowl

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Better to play in the cold than to be left out in the cold.

That was the philosophy of Miners officials and fans Monday, the day after they received the news that Texas-El Paso (8-3) will play against Boise State (9-2) in the Dec. 28th Crucial.com/Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

Miners Head Coach Gary Nord said he is "tickled to death" to play in the Humanitarian Bowl.

"When it's your second bowl in 40 years, you're not going to be disappointed in anything," he said.

Miners officials would have preferred a berth in the Las Vegas Bowl in Nevada because it is relatively close. UNLV, attractive to bowl officials as a true home team, clinched a spot in the Las Vegas Bowl by beating Hawaii and will face Arkansas.

"In Las Vegas, we could get 10,000 plus fans to travel to the game," said Bob Stull, UTEP Athletic Director. "I still think that we'll have a good following. We have some good, strong, loyal fans."

Both teams have boasting rights. The Miners are co-champions with Texas Christian of the Western Athletic Conference. Boise State won its second straight Big West Conference last month.

The last time UTEP appeared in a bowl was the 1988 Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., when Stull was head coach.

"I think people are going to get really turned on in the day or two because we haven't been to a bowl in so long," said Lou Moreno, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the UTEP Alumni

Association. "Now is the time to really just get positive."

Moreno said he plans to explore the possibility of reserving a train car that would pick up UTEP fans along the way to Boise. "We want to get a car and load it with people and just label it the 'Miners Express,'" he said.

And Stull said he likes the matchup with Boise State, which joins the WAC next year. "You have two of the most exciting offenses in the nation," he said.

Boise State has the country's top scoring offense with an average 44.91 points per game. UTEP averages 32.27 points each game to rank 22nd in the nation. The Broncos are second in the United States for total offense, averaging 496.27 points per game, while the Miners averaged 407.45 yards per game and rank 36th.

Boise State's Bart Hendricks is the NCAA's

top-rated quarterback in passing efficiency (170.63), touchdown passes (35) and points responsible for with a 23.01 per-game average.

The University of Texas-El Paso's Rocky Perez holds the country's eighth-best pass efficiency rating at 147.14, 26 touchdown passes and is third in points responsible for with a 17.64 per-game mark.

"It looks like, on paper, it's going to be a high-scoring affair," Nord said.

He said the Miners will have to block out the distractions of a bowl game so far from home and then they will have to stop Boise State's passing game.

Nord, whose only losses this year came at the hands of Top 25 teams, believes his team can match up with any in the nation. And he's not worried about cold or snow.

"I think our kids are mature enough and tough enough not to let any conditions bother them," Nord said. "I think it's all in your mind."

Canyon sweeps Pampa Middle School girls' teams

CANYON — Pampa played Jerrica Timmons and Deidrea Warden 2 each.

Pampa A has a 2-1 record and Pampa B is 1-2.

The Patriot 7th grade girls did not fare any better against the talented Lady Eagles. Canyon ended up on top by a score of 68-12.

Scoring for the Lady Patriots were Morgan Meharg, Jackie Gerber and Kylie Winegeart with 4 points each.

Also in the 7th grade B game, Pampa lost by a score of 71-8. Scoring for Pampa were Amy Youree with 3, Staci Novian 2, Ragan Meeks 2 and Ashlee Lucas 1.

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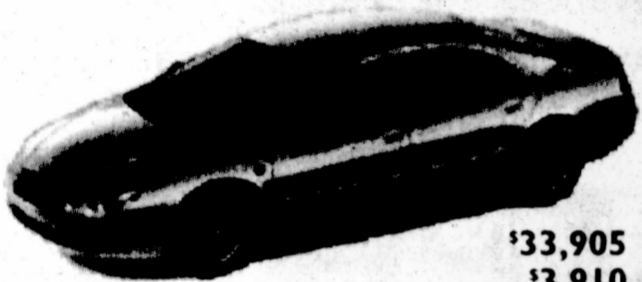
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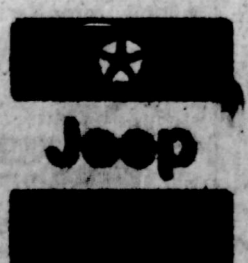
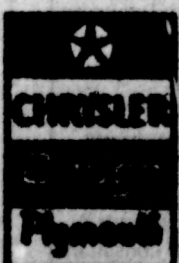


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