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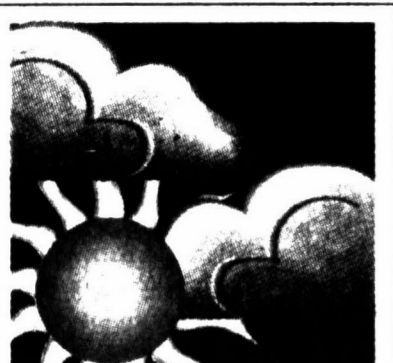
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Pampa

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High today 22, then dropping. Low tonight 7. For weather details see Page 2.

No winner in Lotto Texas

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket would have been worth an estimated \$4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 3-4-12-42-47-54.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$6 million.

UT frat house burns after party

AUSTIN (AP) — An early-morning blaze at a University of Texas fraternity house that caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damage might have been prevented if students had honored an agreement with the Austin Fire Department, firefighters say.

Flames started in the basement of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house on Sunday when a discarded cigarette ignited shredded paper that had been strewn on the floor to create the illusion of snow.

Members of UT's interfraternity council had recently agreed to notify the Fire Department and undergo a fire safety inspection before parties, said spokeswoman Carmen Maguire.

But Maguire said SAE did not contact fire officials about the Christmas party.

- **Mary E. Cantrell, 79**, former assistant manager at Pampa's Sears store.
- **Katie Finsterwald, 85**, traveled by covered wagon as a child.
- **Ruby Irene Williams Isom, 86**, homemaker.
- **Ben McIntyre, 73**, farmer, rancher.
- **Loraine Watson, 71**, dietitian at Abraham Memorial Home.

Classified9
 Comics6
 Medical4
 Sports7

Report: Sales tax up overall, down in Oct.

By KATE B. DICKSON
 Associate Publisher

Although Pampa's sales tax receipts for October are lower than at the same time last year, City Finance Director John Horst remains optimistic because the amounts to date this fiscal year are ahead of last year's.

The December report, which reflect October's sales, put the receipts at \$150,689, which is a drop of 12 percent from last year's amount of \$171,024.

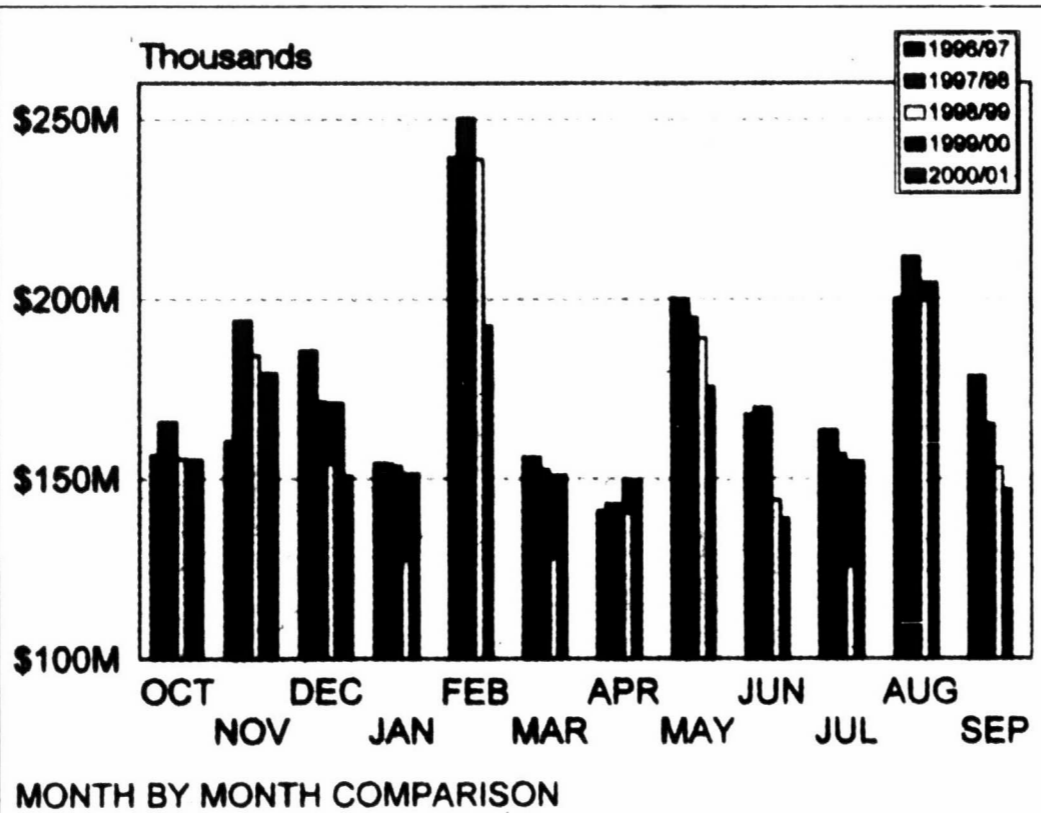
But, Horst noted, the seven-year average for October's receipts is \$156,905 — a number that is only slightly higher than the October 2000 amount.

"Even with October's receipts coming in under last year and under budget, the sales tax for the (fiscal) year is over the amount this time last year by \$16,145," Horst said.

"The sales tax receipts for the first quarter are encouraging as they produced revenue in excess of last year and what was budgeted for this year," he said. "Also, this first quarter is only slightly below the seven-year average."

On a different front, Horst said he's "encouraged" by the fact there were 11 new connections for city utilities during the past month.

"Last year we had a net loss of utility connections," he said.



Gore faces uphill court battle today

Justices hear oral arguments

By LAURIE ASSEO
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for George W. Bush and Al Gore argued their cases in the solemnity of the Supreme Court on Monday, urgently pressing rival claims about the suspended manual recount in Florida and the nation's overtime presidential election.

Gore was at the vice president's residence, pinning his hopes on attorney David Boies and his ability to persuade a majority of the court to resume the recount. Three of Gore's children — Kareena, Kristin and Albert III — were among the spectators given seats to the historic arguments.

The court allotted 90 minutes for the oral arguments, which unfolded only two days after a 5-4 majority voted to stop the recount at least temporarily.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in a concurring opinion, said at the time it "suffices to say...that a majority of the court" believes that Bush had a substantial probability of success on the final ruling.

That meant that Gore faced an uphill struggle as the black-robed justices settled in their seats for the formal arguments. Boies said on Sunday that defeat at the high court could mean the end of the road for the vice president's 2000 quest for the White House.

The atmosphere inside the courtroom stood in contrast to the noisy scene outside the building — where demonstrators protested beneath the chiseled marble inscription "Equal Justice Under Law."

(See COURT, Page 5)

Police probe assaults

City police continue to develop leads in two weekend assaults — one involving a shot fired at a pickup and the other, the beating of a 36-year-old Pampa woman.

Justin Warren Cross, 28, 1821 N. Dwight, reported that someone had fired a shot at his pickup truck while he was driving down the 2700 block of North Rosewood early Saturday morning. The bullet, from an unknown weapon, struck the truck's fender, causing approximately \$500 damage, according to police reports.

Cross told investigating officers that he had been asked to leave a Christmas party about an hour prior to the shooting because he had been arguing with another party-goer.

Later on Saturday, police were called to a gas station in the 2100 block of North Hobart to investigate an assault with injury report.

When they arrived, officers found Rebecca Coker, 36, 1917 N. Banks, suffering from scratches, bruises, a possible broken nose and sore ribs. According to police reports, the assault victim was taken by Rural Metro Ambulance Service to Pampa Regional Medical Center emergency room for treatment.

Police records indicate Coker was attacked by "someone known to her." The assault occurred in "several places," the report stated, before the woman took refuge at the gas station and police were called.

Officers are seeking the suspect, a white male, 36-years-old, 5-foot, 11-inches tall, and weighing approximately 180 pounds.



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Cinda Jennings, right, new board member for the Gray County Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, samples goodies at the local Red Cross's recent open house with Director Jana Gregory, second from right, and Disaster Chair Heidi Phelps.

More training classes part of Red Cross goal

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

Members of the community had the opportunity to meet Jana Gregory, new director of the Gray County Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, at the agency's recent open house.

Gregory, a Red Cross volunteer for more than 15 years, took over as director in July. Before becoming head of the organization, she served as a Red Cross CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) trainer and Aquatics instructor, teaching swimming lessons and lifeguard certification courses.

"I love doing this," she said. "I'm almost ashamed to get paid for doing what I love to do."

As the new director, Gregory said she is working to schedule more training classes for the coming year, including more CPR and first aid classes in the area.

"We're also putting together a new workplace program focusing on workplace safety," she said.

Gregory said she's also excited about the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training that will soon be offered by the Red Cross.

(See RED CROSS, Page 2)



Remember Our Retail Stores That Are Open Late
 On Thursday For Your Christmas Shopping

Apples for Students Plus!



(Community Camera photo)

Terrell Johnson, a second-grader at Lamar Elementary School, participates in Homeland's "Apples for the Students Plus!" program at Lamar. This school-community partnership awards educational equipment to schools that accumulate store register tapes. During the past several years, "Apples for the Students Plus!" has awarded more than \$250 million in needed classroom learning tools free to participating schools.

Mary Ellen and Harvester gearing up for annual Foy's Toy Giveaway

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ will host its third annual Foy's Toys Giveaway to benefit unfortunate children in Pampa and the surrounding area. The giveaway will get under way at 9 a.m. and will end at 4 p.m. or when all the toys have been handed out.

The clothing room, which is usually only open the first and third Tuesday of each month, will also be open for anyone needing winter clothes. The only requirement is need.

Church members and ministry leaders work all year collecting and fixing bicycles and other toys, games, trucks and stuffed animals to give away. Each year the project has grown and this will be the biggest year yet.

Last year Mary Ellen helped over 150 children have a happier Christmas.

This year the giveaway will be at the corner of Mary Ellen and Harvester at the youth building directly across from the church. The clothing room, which is usually only open the first and third Tuesday of each month, will also be open for anyone needing winter clothes. The only requirement is need.

For more information contact the office between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday at 665-0031.



(Community Camera photo by Kurt Curtman)

Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ will hold its third annual Foy's Toy Giveaway from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (or until all the toys have been distributed) in the youth building directly across from the church. Above: Foy Barrett and Ashley Stark looking at toys.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON
Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. For more information, call 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is changing its hours. It is now open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A, in Pampa. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR
Lovett Memorial Library will sponsor a pre-school story hour at 10 a.m. every Tuesday this fall beginning Sept. 5. The free program is open to children 18 months to 5 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION
Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building.

MIP CLASSES
Clarendon College will offer ABC Computer Class from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 14 and from 8:30 a.m.-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Dec. 15. Minor in Possession classes are scheduled from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Dec. 11-12 in Clarendon. For more information, call Clarendon College-Pampa Center or Eddie Hankins, (806) 874-5074.

PHS SCHOLARSHIPS
Pampa High School is seeking clubs, organizations, individuals or groups interested in establishing scholarships for high school seniors. The scholarships can be for any amount. The high school will make the scholarships available to senior students at the end of February. For more information, contact Starla Kindle or Billie Lowrey at 669-4800.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM
White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, will feature an extensive around-the-world Nativity collection by Jan Ragsdale as well as a gallery exhibit by artist John Darby, both of Pampa. A Victorian Christmas tree will also be on display and complete tours of the museum will be conducted throughout the Christmas and New Year's holidays. To schedule a tour, call 669-8041. WDLM is open from 1-4 p.m., Monday-Sunday. Free donations are accepted.

AMERICAN FAMILY RADIO
KAXH/American Family Radio, 90.9 FM, will host a variety of Christmas specials throughout December beginning nightly at 7:05 p.m. for the entire family to enjoy.

HIGH PLAINS FOOD BANK
High Plains Food Bank is seeking donations this holiday season. For more information, call (806) 374-8562.

CMBC HOLIDAY HEROES
Coffee Memorial Blood Center will hold its Holiday Heroes program Dec. 15-30 at the blood center located at 1915 Coulter Drive in Amarillo. During the program, the center will open especially for "heroes" from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15 and from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16. Each participant will receive a Holiday Heroes T-Shirt. Regular hours resume Dec. 18. More than 500 pints of blood are needed weekly by children and adults throughout the panhandle. CMBC takes appointments from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (806) 358-4563.

PPQG
Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild will meet at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 14, in Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. The program will include entertainment by Bill Reeves, cowboy poet from McLean. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish to share in a potluck meal as well as a wrapped sewing-related item for gift exchange. For more information, call (806) 779-2115.

PAS DANCE
Pampa Area Singles will hold a New Year's Eve dance from 8-11 p.m. Dec. 30 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Entertainment will be by Mike Porter. The event will be alcohol and smoke free. For more information, call 665-7059.

Holiday Style Show



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Stephanie Smith took to the "catwalk" recently during Pampa Chamber of Commerce Fashion Avenue Holiday Style Show at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Smith modeled a Benbasset ensemble, pairing a red sparkie rafia sweater and black polyester flared pants with flashy silver-studded trim.

Drilling Intentions

Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & MORROW) Mewbourne Oil Co., #1 Brainard, 4797' from South & 660' from West line, W.W. Langham Survey, PD 12800'. Rule 37

WEST CANADIAN Lower
Morrow) Mewbourne Oil Co., #1 Brainard, 4797' from South & 660' from West line, W.W. Langham Survey, PD 12800'. Rule 37



Holiday Shopping Tip:
Only the strong survive.

Plugged Wells
CARSON (PANHANDLE) Gas Well Operators, Sec. 89,7,1&GN (oil) — Form 1 in Panstar Oil & Gas for the following wells:
#2 Fields, spud 8-4-83, plugged 10-11-00, TD 3325' —
#1 Rosa, spud 8-25-83, plugged 10-12-00, TD 3305' —
HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Anadarko Petroleum, Inc., #1026 Meek 'A', Sec. 26, A-2, H&GN, spud unknown, plugged 10-27-00, TD 10584' (gas) —
ROBERTS (WILDCAT) Alpar Resources, Inc., #1 Courson-Lips 'OTB', O.T. Brown Survey, spud 1-20-00, plugged 11-17-00, TD 9100', FBTD 3270' (oil) —

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Band participates in All-Region Band try-outs

Pampa members recently participated in try-outs for All-Region Band. Students earning places in All-Region Band are as follows:

FRESHMEN ALL-REGION: Shelley Smith, clarinet; Evelyn Jasso and Dennis Shuck, trumpet; Josh Lator, bass trombone; Bart Cathey, euphonium; Carlos Medina, tuba; Jon Stungill, percussion.

ALL-REGION, 10-12: Ashley Hathcoat, Lexi Hill, Holly Myers and Kelley Stowers, flute; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Tiffany Boyd, clarinet; Price Hall, Bradley Stucker, Travis Leever, Leslie McWilliams and Ryan Bradley, saxophone; Matt Dyer and Luke Wilson, trumpet; Chris Owen, French horn; Nathanael Holmes, trombone; Justin Myers, percussion.

ALL-REGION ORCHESTRA: Holly Myers, flute; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Matt Dyer, trumpet; Justin Myers, percussion.

AMARILLO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Holly Myers, flute; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Chris Shaffer, oboe; Matt Dyer, trumpet; Justin Myers, percussion.

Myers and Kelley Stowers, flute; Chris Shaffer, oboe; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Tiffany Boyd, Jamie Clay, Shelley Smith, Kandi Garrison, clarinet; Price Hall, Bradley Stucker, Travis Leever, Leslie McWilliams and Ryan Bradley, saxophone; Matt Dyer, trumpet; Chris Owen, French horn; Nathanael Holmes, trombone; Jonathan Fleming, tuba; Justin Myers, percussion.

ALL-REGION ORCHESTRA: Holly Myers, flute; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Matt Dyer, trumpet; Justin Myers, percussion.

AMARILLO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Holly Myers, flute; Sarah Teague, bassoon; Chris Shaffer, oboe; Matt Dyer, trumpet; Justin Myers, percussion.

Palo Duro to host second annual 'Christmas in the Canyon'

CANYON — Palo Duro Canyon State Park will host its second annual "Christmas in the Canyon" from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16 in the Interpretive Center. Park visitors will enjoy refreshments, fun and holiday cheer.

Children of all ages will be able to make ornaments, bird feeders or hear Christmas stories and Santa Claus will put in a special appearance.

Regular park fees will be waived during the event and non-perishable food items will be collected for the High Plains Food Bank. Admission fees for the park will be one food item per person (regardless of age) which will be collected at the front gate. There will be no additional charge for the event.

For more information contact Heather Lanman at (806) 488-2227, ext. 49.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COURT

Andrew Alexander, 19, of Harrisonburg, Va., dressed as Santa, held up a sign that read, "Ho, ho, ho, Gore's got to go." His brother

Stephen, 11, came along with his poster. "All I want for Christmas is Bush for president."

Nearby, a Gore supporter shouting "Who's afraid of the Florida vote?" stood on the sidewalk with a dark brown mule. About 200 Gore supporters marched with printed signs reading, "This is America. Count every vote."

The court set no timetable for a ruling, but its decision to set oral arguments on such a quick timetable signaled its understanding of the importance of speed. Bush is the certified winner in Florida, by 537 votes, but the recount ordered by the state Supreme Court last Friday presented Gore with an opportunity to overtake his rival.

Failure to settle the issue by Tuesday would expose the state's 25 electors to greater risk of challenge. And finally, the state Legislature is poised to name its own slate.

Hovering in the background are inevitable questions about the ability of the winner to claim legitimacy after an election so close and contested.

Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, a Bush backer, dismissed the idea that winning a narrowly divided court decision on the votes of five conservative justices would cost Bush legitimacy as president.

"That's something that's bestowed by the American people," Racicot told CNN.

The Bush campaign is arguing that a recount won't be fair because Florida counties use varying standards to determine a voter's intent.

The "crazy-quilt ruling" is a "recipe for electoral chaos," Bush's lawyers said in court briefs filed Sunday. "It has created a regime virtually guaranteed to incite controversy, suspicion and lack of confidence, not only in the process but in the result that such a process would produce."

Attorneys for Gore argued in court papers that the Florida court simply placed "the voters whose votes were not tabulated by the machine on the same footing as those whose votes were so tabulated. In the end, all voters are treated equally: Ballots that reflect their intent are counted."

If Gore prevails, the hand counting could continue and possibly help him overtake Bush, who leads by fewer than 200 votes. A ruling for the Texas governor would shut down the recounts.

A CNN/USA Today Gallup Poll conducted Sunday found a nearly even split over whether the court should allow the recount to continue — 47 percent for a recount and 49 percent against, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The survey of 735 adults also found 72 percent believe the Supreme Court will rule fairly in the case. Among people who identified themselves as Bush supporters the figure was 87 percent, while

among Gore supporters it was 54 percent.

The court again agreed to release a full audiotape of Monday's argument for broadcast shortly after its conclusion. But the justices stuck to their long-standing ban on television and still cameras inside the courtroom.

Neither side committed to giving up if the Supreme Court issues an adverse decision, but even Gore's advisers conceded he has fewer options than Bush beyond the high court.

"If no votes are counted, then I think that's the end of the road," said attorney David Boies, who was arguing the case for Gore. But Boies stopped short of saying his client would bow out if the Supreme Court ruled against him, suggesting Gore might await appeals of failed Democratic lawsuits seeking to throw out as many as 25,000 Florida absentee ballots.

The U.S. Supreme Court first heard arguments in the case on Dec. 1. Justices unanimously set aside the Florida court ruling and sent the case back for clarification of why it allowed ballots to be recounted after the Nov. 14 deadline set by the Florida secretary of state.

The Florida Supreme Court issued a 4-3 decision Friday ordering a hand recount of all undervotes statewide. Hours after the tally began Saturday, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to grant Bush's request to halt the recount until the court determines its legality. When the counting stopped Saturday, an unofficial Associated Press survey put Bush's lead over Gore at 177 votes.

The high court split along philosophical lines. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Scalia, Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas voted to grant review. Scalia wrote that the action suggested most justices believed Bush "has a substantial probability of success."

Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer opposed halting the recount. Writing for the four, Stevens said the majority "acted unwisely" in stopping the count.

Bush's lawyers said the state court violated the Constitution and federal law when it ordered the hand recount of ballots. The court changed the rules after the election, allowed votes to be hand-counted by widely varying standards and trounced on the state Legislature's authority to decide how presidential electors are to be chosen, they contended. They also said the Florida Supreme Court lacked authority to act in the case at all.

Gore's lawyers said the Florida court did not violate the Constitution or federal law, nor did it create new law that would conflict with standards set by the state Legislature.

Tuesday is the date for choosing presidential electors under a provision of federal law that shields them from challenge in Congress. Members of the Electoral College will cast their votes for president on Dec. 18.

Coldest weather in years expected to blow through Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Texans braced for the coldest temperatures in years as an Arctic front began to slide through the state and was expected to drop temperatures more than 30 degrees and possibly bring freezing precipitation.

The front already had forced the closure of schools in some portions of Nebraska, and forced American Airlines to cancel about a third of its flights in Chicago.

A blizzard warning was posted across northern Illinois and northern Indiana, with up to a foot of snow forecast Monday in the Chicago area and southeastern Wisconsin, and 20 inches possible by Tuesday morning in northern Indiana, the National Weather Service said.

The leading edge of the front arrived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area just after daybreak, but in areas north of the Metroplex, temperatures dropped as low as freezing from Sunday's unseasonable highs of 60s.

Overnight Monday, Texas temperatures were expected to dip close to 20 degrees, which would rival the coldest temperatures in the last two years.

The mercury fell to 17 degrees in Dallas on Jan. 4, 1999, and 20 degrees in December 1998, said weather service meteorologist Jesse Moore.

National Weather Service forecasters also predicted the possibility of freezing precipitation on Tuesday once the full force of the front arrives.

The front had chilled portions of West Texas to the lower teens and triggered snow flurries, while North Texas temperatures dropped from the 60s to the lower 40s at daybreak. Temperatures in the Dallas-Fort Worth area were expected to drop into the mid 20s by sundown, Moore said.

As the sun rose in West Texas, Borger reported 13 degrees and a wind chill of minus 8, while light snow fell in Amarillo, which reported 13 degrees with a wind chill of minus 14.

More snow is expected in the Panhandle and the South Plains through Tuesday, the National Weather Service said.

As the front pushed through North Texas, Wichita Falls was chilled to 27 degrees and biting 17 mph northwest winds gave the city a wind chill of 2 degrees.

Otherwise the front had yet to grip North Texas and temperatures were mostly in the high 30s, although rising winds lowered wind chills as low as 9 degrees north of Dallas, which had a wind chill of 20 degrees.

Fort Worth had dipped to 35 degrees, while Dallas was 38 degrees. By noon, Dallas was expected to chill to freezing and by evening into the mid 20s.

Weather service forecasters recommended preparing for an extended period of subfreezing temperatures throughout the South Plains and the Panhandle regions.

Lows for the rest of the week will range between 10 and 15 overnight for most of the Lubbock area, for its first major extended cold spell of the season. Daytime highs will not reach above freezing. Later Monday, the front will begin pushing temperatures into the 20s, then to an overnight low of 15.

"There'll be another blast of cold air right behind it," weather service technician Jerry English told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "When it hits, temperatures are just going to start dropping."

Wind gusts should reach 30 mph, according to the weather service.

A 20 percent chance of light snow was forecast Monday, increasing to 50 percent on Tuesday with highs in the 20s.

On Tuesday, an upper-level disturbance expected to move from northern Mexico into the southern High Plains will be stronger than earlier expected. A weather service statement said if the storm system tracks as expected, it will enhance the chance for snow accumulations on the South Plains.

The snow possibility remains in the forecast through Wednesday. Some snow mixed with rain could fall by Tuesday morning in El Paso.

Cold snap strains power supplies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cold weather in the Pacific Northwest continued to strain power supplies across the West Coast but the crunch was eased somewhat Monday morning when a nuclear plant returned to full power.

The Independent System Operator, which manages the power grid that serves 75 percent of California, called off its emergency alerts early Monday but urged residents to continue conservation efforts, including keeping holiday lights off until 7 p.m.

The Northwest Emergency Response Team, comprising utilities and lawmakers from Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho, met Sunday and reissued a Stage Two warning for the region.

Temperatures have been about 15 degrees below normal in the Northwest, and while the cold snap

isn't expected to be as harsh as predicted, forecasters still expect temperatures to remain below normal this week.

"Just about every degree above what was previously expected makes things a little bit better," said forecaster Jay Albrecht of the National Weather Service.

The weather in the Northwest also affects California because natural gas used to generate electricity may be diverted to Washington and Oregon to heat homes and offices.

Stage Two emergencies, indicating power reserves are at less than 5 percent, were issued in California each day last week. An unprecedented Stage Three emergency was issued Thursday, meaning reserves had fallen below 1 1/2 percent and the threat of rolling outages loomed.

Is your church, civic, school or other organization having a holiday event? Take a Community Camera along and let everyone share in the fun. The Pampa News. 669-2525.

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Wife Makes Chilling Discovery Of Husband's Online Child Porn

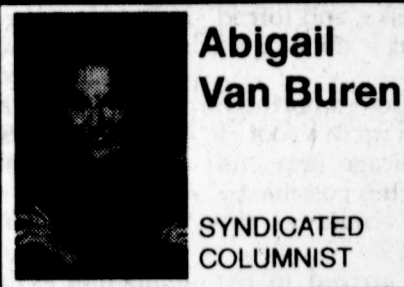
DEAR ABBY: While my husband was in a chat room on the Internet, I caught him asking for pictures of little girls being sexually molested. He had already downloaded several on our computer. In one of those pictures was a little girl 18 to 24 months old — and the most awful thing was being done to her. The rest of them were no better. I cried all evening after seeing those pictures, Abby.

I have five small grandchildren and one on the way. Now I know I can no longer trust my husband around them. I have begged him to get help, but he says he doesn't have a problem, so I am seriously thinking about reporting him. Abby, he even sent out a picture of his own daughter.

Do you think he could possibly be a child molester, too? All the signs are there, and I just can't stand the thought of him touching me if he has hurt a child like that. Please help me. I am so afraid. We have been married 12 years. How could I not have seen this before?

TERRIFIED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TERRIFIED: Please don't blame yourself for not having "seen this before." Child molesters are very clever about hiding their preferences, because they have to be. Your husband is sick — a predator — and if he would post pictures of his own child on the Internet, he wouldn't hesitate to do the same with a grandchild.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Since he refuses to admit he has a problem, you will have to force him into getting help. Tell the police in your community exactly what you have told me. Please don't wait another day to do it.

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to "Sick of Disrespect in Dallas" didn't go far enough. The proper way to handle verbal abuse or unacceptable behavior on an airplane is to immediately complain directly to the flight attendant before the situation escalates. If he or she fails to put the perpetrator in place, inform the attendant that you will file a complaint with the airline citing failure to handle a threatening situation.

No one should have to tolerate or witness profanity, drunken behavior, or any other form of abuse in the air, on land or at sea.

However, I agree that one should never directly confront someone who is out of control.

LOOKING FOR

FRIENDLIER SKIES

DEAR LOOKING: I'm pleased that you do. Although each airline has its own regulations for handling disruptive passengers, it is my understanding that most of them follow a similar scenario. If the flight attendant cannot "calm down" or stop inappropriate behavior, he or she will have the pilot come back and talk to the passenger. The pilot then informs the passenger that if he or she doesn't stop being disruptive, it will be necessary to land the plane at the nearest airport and the police will come on board and arrest the passenger.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please explain how women in high heels can walk with such elegance and grace, as though they are gliding when they walk?

NOT VERY GRACEFUL IN PROVO, UTAH

DEAR NOT VERY GRACEFUL: It's not easy. Stand up straight, balance a book on your head, and practice, practice, practice.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.98 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61064-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



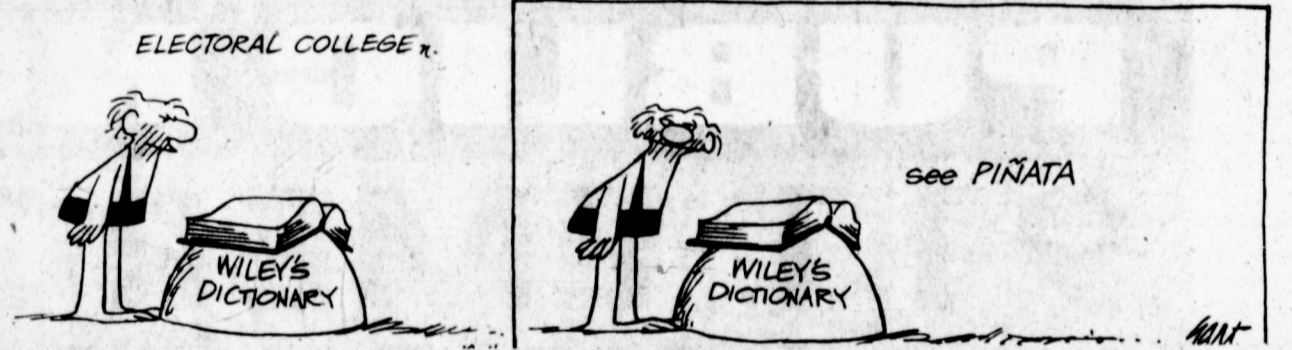
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



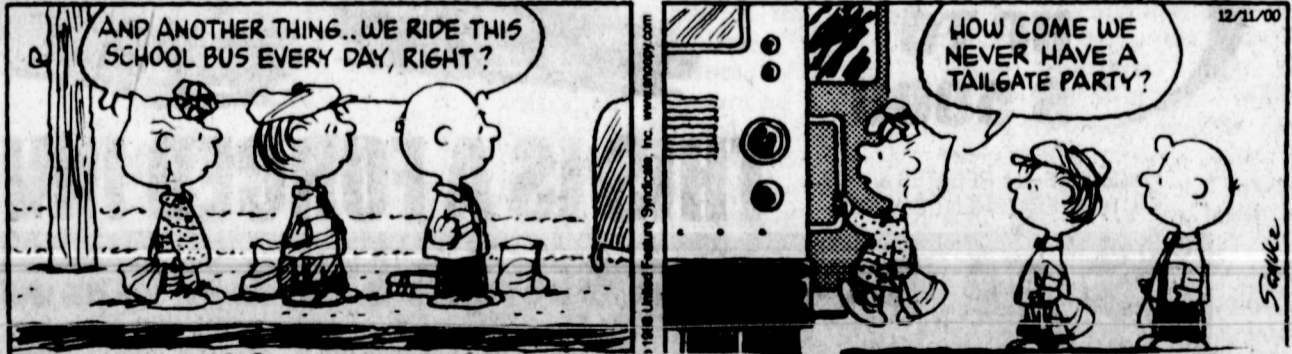
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 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)

**** Encourage yourself to rethink a project or trip. By a change in plans, you aren't saying you made a mistake; rather, you are tightening up the idea. Create stronger connections with those around you, especially a dear friend. Brainstorm with this person. Ideas spew forth. Tonight: Put on some holiday music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Sensitivity toward an associate will ultimately make a big difference. You might not always agree, but understand the stress your ways might cause. Lighten up about your work. See how you could add more cheer to a project. A co-worker or boss lets you know that you are the cat's meow. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Evaluate finances most carefully. A decision you make could change dramatically. Listen to others and their opinions, even if you aren't always comfortable with what comes up. Maintain your sense of humor with a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Your smile wins friends and makes a difference. Listen to your sixth sense with a partner. What this person

offers you is for real, in his mind. Your perspective and his are quite different. Understand the good will behind the offer. Stress efficiency at work. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Mull over feelings and ideas until you are sure about what you want to say and do. Though you're generally impulsive right now, hold yourself back. A child or loved one needs your attention. Creativity finds solutions. If single, an encounter could leave you stary-eyed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Know that you don't need to answer to anyone. Your time has come to manifest a long-term desire. Someone close to you stirs strong but wonderful feelings. Be decisive with bosses and co-workers. Revamp a plan until it is workable. Others find you strong but intense. Tonight: In the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Take charge. Others might be iffy, but you are clear. Creativity and imagination mix. Your vision might not be 100 percent clear, but you are inspired. Carefully check out a child's or loved one's story. You might need to approach a situation totally differently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Make calls. Surf the Net. Find an expert. Do whatever you need to do to get the information you need. Be stern with yourself about a financial matter. Know when enough is enough. A family member gives you testimony as to what he feels. Talk about recent developments. Tonight: Think winter vacation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Build on clear facts. Once you see the big picture, you could reverse direction. Do what you need to do. Honor a strong sense of what is needed. Another touches you on a level that might surprise you. Express your feelings. Drop your defenses. Tonight: One on one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You might not always be sure of yourself and what you need to do. Maintain a sense of humor about your strong feelings. Check out what is going on with you before saying anything or making a decision. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Your sense of humor makes a big difference at work. Allow others to see the many different ways you look at a problem. Others might be surprised by how one set of facts could be construed in many ways. Tonight: Another clearly cares.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Take a spin, and allow others to see your imagination and creativity. You make an important professional decision. A change with your work might be appropriate. Sign up for a course or seminar. Your feelings about a romance are right. Tonight: Play the night away.

BORN TODAY

Entertainer Frank Sinatra (1915), track star Jesse Owens (1913), singer Dionne Warwick (1941)

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

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

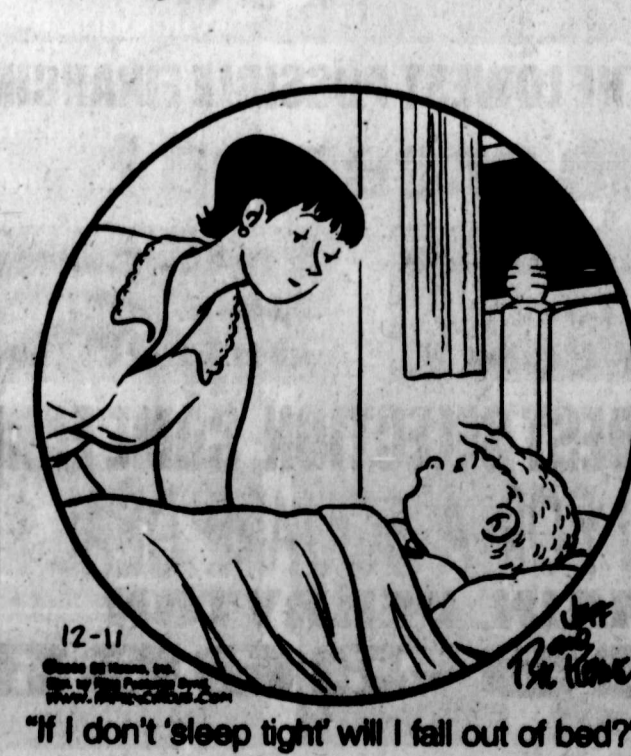
ACROSS					DOWN																					
1 "West Side Story" groups	6 Gambling mecca	11 Removed coffee or stew	12 Kind of nation	17 Depressed	18 Like some brooks	22 Vaccine type	23 Easter event	27 Worth	29 Singer Callas	30 Flag	32 Breath freshener	33 Hodge-podge	35 Permit	38 Authentic	39 Hilo hello	41 Singer Paul	45 Copy	46 Silly	47 Art class	48 Goaded (on)						
2 Zoo creature	3 Pester	4 Curmudgeon's habit	5 Shc. lift	6 Hanoi's nation	7 Blunder	8 Bar orders	9 Largest continent	10 Storage building	16 Sassiness	18 Theatrical flop	19 Region	20 Cow's home	21 Louisiana university	24 Opera solo	25 Bell sound	26 Has dinner	28 Patio's kin	31 "Norma"	34 Count of music	35 Reading aid	36 Lamb's pen name	37 Some turkeys	40 Theatrical success	42 Periodical, for short	43 Low bill	44 Actor Beatty

Marmaduke



"It's true, Marmaduke. A sled dog is supposed to pull the sled."

The Family Circus



"If I don't sleep tight I'll fall out of bed?"

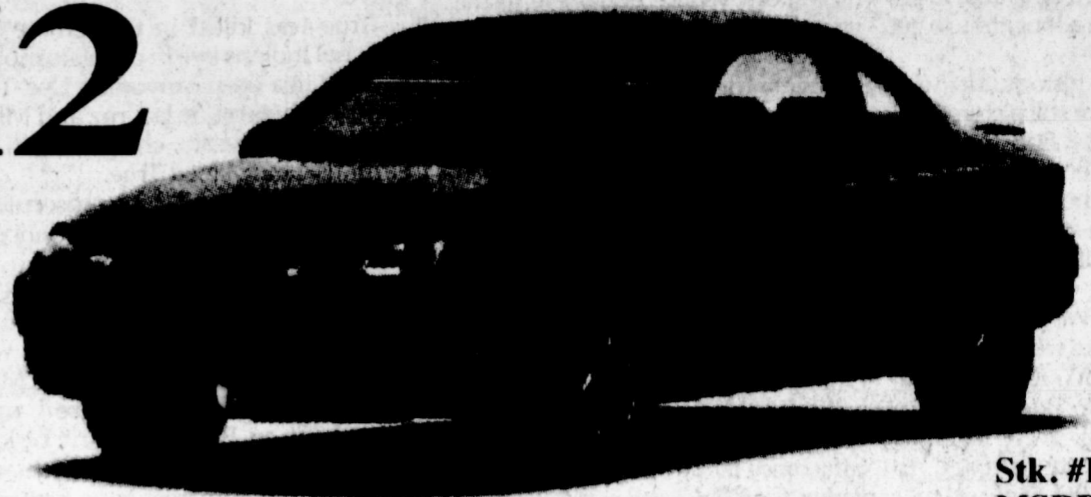
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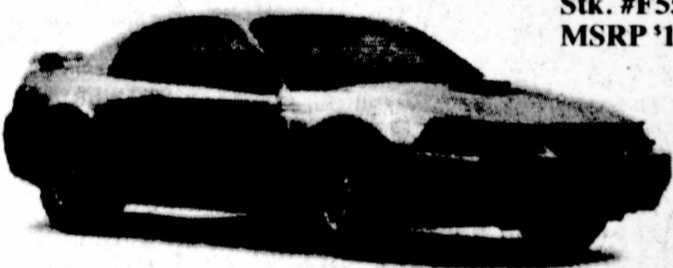
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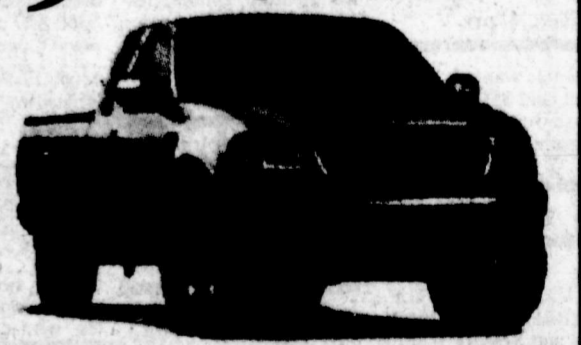
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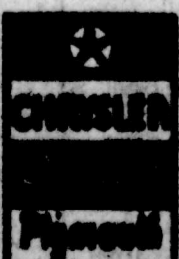
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