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THE Pampa

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2003

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Pampa, Texas
 Sunday \$1

WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH 42 **LOW** 25

STATE

Six shot to death in home invasion

EDINBURG (AP) — Police in this border town searched the site of two ramshackle homes for details in a home invasion that left six young men dead and the mother of two of them bound in electrical cord.

Aside from a rental car that had been ransacked at the scene and a missing pickup truck that belonged to one of the victims, investigators reported little in the way of leads in the 1 a.m. Sunday killing.

Police tape surrounded the property, which includes a small white frame house and a smaller structure where most of the victims were found.

"It was a horrific crime scene," Sgt. Rey Ramirez said, describing how bodies, some bullet-ridden beyond recognition, were found in different rooms of the smaller house. He summarized the killing style as "overkill."

"A mess ... like maybe some had tried to get away," he said.

The mother, who wrestled herself free within 10 minutes of the massacre, told police at least one assailant was wearing garb with "police" written on it.

DEATHS

Norma Mae Duncan, 95, homemaker.

Jerry Mignon Elsheimer, 61, Pampa native.

Elwood Lee "Woodie" Leonard, 54, safety man.

INSIDE...

Classified 7
Comics 4
Sports 5

West Texas LANDSCAPE

Nurseries
 "Our Grass Is Always Greener"

120 S. Hobart
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County compliant with election law

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Gray County officials don't have to worry about being ousted from office for the reason the Potter County Treasurer was removed on Thursday.

County Judge Richard Peet said this morning that newly sworn-in County Treasurer Lee Cornelison doesn't have to worry about the same fate Potter County Treasurer Judy Messer experienced Thursday

when that county's County Judge Arthur Ware declared her position vacant after Messer failed to take the oath of office within the time prescribed by Texas law.

According to a story in the Amarillo Globe-News, Judge Ware said the commission had no choice but to declare the office of treasurer vacant because Messer did not take her official oath of office within 20 days after she received her certificate of election from the canvassing board. He said

she was nine days late when she took it on Dec. 11.

The Secretary of State's office in Austin told Gray County Judge Peet late this morning that elected officials cannot be sworn in until Jan. 1 and that the certificates of election cannot be issued until the officials are sworn in.

The judge placed a call on Friday to the Secretary of State's office to verify the correct procedure. The Secretary of State governs election matters in Texas.

Peet said the Gray County officials elected in November 2002 will be issued their certificates of election by him as chairman of the canvassing board today. All Gray County officials were sworn in on Jan. 1.

Officials around the Texas Panhandle learned last week that county treasurers are the only county officers bound by the obscure requirement.

Peet said the Local Government Code provides that the chairman of the elec-

tion canvassing board shall issue the person elected as county treasurer, and other candidates elected, a certificate of election. The canvassing board locally, and in many counties, consists of the county judge and four county commissioners.

He said that upon receipt of the certificate the newly elected official must obtain a bond and be sworn in within 20 days.

There is no specified dead- (See LAW, Page 3)

Making music with friends ...

Pampan's guitar-playing spans 70 years

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Paul Appleton remembers when Buddy Holly and the Crickets were still a garage band in Lubbock. Bob Wills was touring the country with his Texas Playboys, and Jimmy Dean and Roger Miller at different times were performing at the Hilton Hotel in Plainview, one of Conrad Hilton's first hotels.

Appleton, 84, was born Aug. 29, 1918, in Frederick, Okla.

"I graduated from high school in Lone Wolf, Okla.," he said, "in 1936."

He said he developed his musical ability at home.

"My mother was a fiddle player and my dad was mandolin and a guitar player," Appleton said. "That's where I first started."

He was 14 when his mother bought him his first guitar.

"The Depression was on and there wasn't anything to do," Appleton said, "so Saturday nights all the boys in the neighborhood that could make music would play music and the rest of them

played dominoes and 42."

They lived on a rented farm near Lone Wolf at the time.

"We grew our own garden and butchered our own hogs, and we killed our own beef," he said.

His father traded wheat for flour.

"We didn't have any money," Appleton said.

He started playing with a band in Oklahoma during election year, playing for a local politician.

"I remember playing a radio show at KASA in the old Casa Grande Hotel in Elk City," he said.

He and his family moved to Plainview in 1939.

"We farmed northwest of there," Appleton said. "Dad and I farmed two and a half sections of land, and we farmed a section of irrigated land west of town."

Appleton's music career almost came to an end because of his agricultural interests.

"I'd been a good guitar player if it hadn't been for farming," he said.

Appleton was cutting maize at (See MUSIC, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)
 Paul Appleton, 84, strums a few chords on an old Fender guitar that he has played for the better part of a half century in various bands in the Texas Panhandle.

Saddam accuses inspectors of spying in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein accused U.N. inspectors of engaging in "intelligence work" instead of searching for suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

The inspectors were interested in collecting names of Iraqi scientists, putting questions to them that indicate "hidden agendas" and gathering information about military facilities, the Iraqi president said in a televised speech Monday marking Iraq's Army Day.

"All or most" of such activities "constitute purely intelligence work," Saddam said.

In Vienna, Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, denied the charges and said that if inspectors are gathering intelligence, "it's intelligence for the United Nations."

"We certainly flatly reject any accusation that we work for any government or provide direct information

to any single government," Fleming said Monday. Experts from the Austria-based U.N. nuclear watchdog are on the inspection team.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer rejected Saddam's claims, saying the United Nations had sanctioned the mission of the inspectors.

"These are unfortunate remarks and the work of the inspectors needs to continue," Fleischer said.

In reference to Sunday's Palestinian

suicide bombings in Israel that killed 22 bystanders, Saddam saluted "the champions of self-sacrifice who confront the Zionist aggression with their lives."

Fleischer criticized these remarks as well, saying: "There's no excuse for suicide bombers, and for Saddam Hussein to publicly praise those who take innocent life is horrific."

Under a Security Council resolution passed in November, weapons inspec- (See IRAQ, Page 3)

Stunning sunset



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)
 Railroad tracks reflect a brilliant sunset Friday evening that also silhouettes the tall spires of the Cabot Carbon Black Plant west of Pampa.

Sen. Duncan: Judges need to be appointed

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Rural Texans are talking to Austin.

Five newspaper representatives from Austin to Pampa with Amarillo, Sweetwater, and Midland in-between, were on the phone line in a conference call with Sen. Robert Duncan this morning as he said the upcoming legislative session will be a tough one.

Duncan, representing Texas Senatorial District 28, said that the priorities of the upcoming session are funding of judicial selection reform, higher education, water, and insurance reforms.

He said the current method of the voters selecting the judges has put the state of Texas in a "bad light" with the rest of the United States. He referred to

a network television special "Justice for Sale," which he said focused on Texas' method of selecting judges.

Duncan said that part of the medical malpractice problems in the Valley of South Texas should be attributed to the method of selecting judges.

"In South Texas, the judges are funded by people appearing in their courts," he said.

Duncan advocates a vote of the people to change the method to a merit selection which he said would not only affect statewide judges but also state district judges and county court-at-law judges.

223rd Judge Lee Waters and 31st District Judge Steven Emmert are both currently elected by the voters, if Duncan's measure is passed, the positions would be appointed by Gov. Rick Perry.

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OBITUARIES

NORA MAE DUNCAN
1907-2003

FRITCH — Nora Mae Duncan, 95, died Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2003, at Panhandle. Graveside services were at 4 p.m., Saturday in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with Alvin Ward officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Fritch.

Mrs. Duncan was born April 9, 1907, in Oregon. She was a homemaker.

JERRY MIGNON ELSHEIMER
1941-2003

AUSTIN — Jerry Mignon Elsheimer, 61, died Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003, at Taylor, Texas. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday in Fairview Cemetery at Pampa with Dr. Randy White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Elsheimer was born Sept. 6, 1941, at Pampa. She made her home in Austin from 1946 until moving to Taylor in 2001. She was a Baptist.

ELWOOD LEE "WOODIE" LEONARD
1948-2002

ODESSA — Elwood Lee "Woodie" Leonard, 54, died Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. A memorial service was held recently at the Veterans of American Wars Post 4382 in Odessa.

Mr. Leonard was born March 9, 1948, at Oklahoma. A member of the Harvester football team, he graduated from Pampa High School in 1966 and was an avid Harley motorcycle rider. A safety man for Midland Safety Company, he also served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

He was preceded in death by his mother and

Survivors include five sons, Larry Frost of San Marcos, Bill Frost of Roswell, N.M., Hubert Ward of Fritch, Norman Frost of Eldorado, Kan., and Alvin Ward of Riverton, Wyo.; two daughters, Betty Kindle of Fritch and Norma Jean Ellis of Pampa; a sister, Ruth Burgess of Cleveland, Okla.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Maxine Rutherford, on Feb. 21, 2000.

Survivors include her father and stepmother, Gerald "Jerry" and Elma Elsheimer of Pampa; two brothers, Richard Elsheimer of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Mike Savine of Pinole, Calif.; and a sister, Linda Keahey of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to Lone Star Hospice, 1212 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78664.

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

SERVICES TOMORROW

ELSHEIMER, Jerry Mignon — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for cloudy and colder with highs in the lower 40s and north winds 10 to 20 mph. Tonight should be partly cloudy, lows in the mid 20s, and light winds. Tuesday should be mostly sunny, warmer, highs in the lower 60s, and southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Tuesday night, mostly clear, lows in the lower 30s, west winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday should be mostly sunny, highs in the mid 60s, southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Friday, partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the lower 40s. Friday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. Saturday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. Saturday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

STATEWIDE

A large area of high pressure drifting east toward the Gulf of Mexico brought mild and sunny conditions to much of Texas over the weekend.

Forecasters said more seasonable weather should move in as winds shift to the north and bring scattered clouds to parts of the state.

Statewide, skies were mostly clear early Monday, although some high clouds drifted into Central and North

Texas. Meanwhile, dense fog shrouded much of the southern part of South Texas. Predawn temperatures ranged from about 30 degrees in the northern Panhandle to near 60 along the lower Gulf Coast. Low temperatures will tumble into the 30s across North Texas on Monday night under partly cloudy skies. Look for highs in the lower 50s on Tuesday, with sunny skies.

It will be partly to mostly cloudy tonight in South Texas, with lows from near 30 degrees north to the lower 40s south. Partly cloudy skies and highs in the 50s are on tap Tuesday.

It will be partly cloudy and cold Monday night in West Texas, with lows in the middle 20s. Sunny and warmer conditions are forecast Tuesday, with highs hitting the upper 50s.

Morales' brother subject of extortion claim

DALLAS (AP) — An attorney for the brother of former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales continues to meet with federal prosecutors amid allegations his client tried to extort between \$200,000 and \$300,000 from Laredo millionaire Tony Sanchez.

Citing anonymous sources, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday that federal agents have identified Michael Morales as the person who called Sanchez's gubernatorial campaign and threatened to make public an allegation that Sanchez committed a felony more than 30 years ago.

"I have been meeting and cooperating with the U.S. attorney's office on the matter. I will meet with them again later this week and believe that this matter will

be completely resolved at that time," Michael Morales' attorney John Pinckney said. "I feel that my statement speaks for itself."

Sanchez lost to Gov. Rick Perry in the November election. Dan Morales lost to Sanchez in the Democratic primary and ended up endorsing Perry's bid.

Dan Morales said his brother and Pinckney disclosed to him Sunday the existence of the federal investigation and that there were discussions under way with prosecutors.

"I've had no discussion regarding any of the facts," Dan Morales said. "I believe that if the allegations are accurate, they are serious. I think Mike recognizes in that instance he will have to deal with those."

"Hopefully the matter can

be resolved as soon as possible for all individuals involved," he said.

Michael Morales, 40, lives in San Antonio and along with brother Ron Morales has won numerous Grammys for producing recordings, including Freddie Fender's 2002 album "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" and Flaco Jimenez's "Said and Done" in 1998.

Michael and Ron Morales also developed campaign ads for their brother's bid against Sanchez in the gubernatorial Democratic primary last year. They worked previously on Dan Morales' races for the Legislature and attorney general.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents:

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Food was reported stolen from Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks.

About \$400 in stereo and office equipment was reported stolen in the 1300 block of North Russell.

Thursday, Jan. 2

A screen door was damaged by vandals in the 1500 block of Faulkner.

The Pampa News reported a newspaper rack broken into in the 1900 block of North Hobart.

About \$160 in vehicle parts were reported stolen in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Friday, Jan. 3

A street sign was damaged in the 1700 block of North Russell.

A forgery was reported to the police department.

Two emergency triangle signs were reported stolen in the 1400 block of East Browning.

About \$150 in cash and a money clip were reported stolen from a home in the 2900 block of North Rosewood.

A bicycle and a scooter were found in the 2200 block of North Williston.

Breaking and entering were reported in the 1000 block of Prairie.

A money order was reported stolen in the 1100 block of Sierra.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 1800 block of Dogwood.

Merchandise was reported stolen and later returned to Beall's Department Store.

Liquor was reported stolen and later returned to Onie's Discount Liquor Store, 1222 N. Price Road.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Credit card fraud was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks.

About \$58 in cash was stolen from a home in the 400 block of Hughes.

A bicycle was found in the 1200 block of Charles.

Prescription drugs were reported stolen in the 600 block of East Foster.

An aggravated assault was reported in the 1800 block of North Hobart.

A street sign was found in the 1900 block of Grape.

Phone harassment was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Appliances, electronic gear and jewelry were reported taken from a house in the 2200 block of North Wells.

A theft was reported in the 900 block of East Frederic.

Aggravated sexual assault involving minors was reported.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 100 block of North Sumner.

Sunday, Jan. 5

A purse was reported stolen from a vehicle in the 300 block of East Brown.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 1600 block of West Sumnerville.

FIRE

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

Saturday, Jan. 4

11:35 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a reported vehicle fire at Foster and Hobart streets. There was no fire, the smoke was caused by hot brakes smoking, according to fire reports.

8:20 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to 102 W. 19th. The false alarm was triggered by someone changing the battery in the alarm system.

11:38 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a nursing home at 1504 W. Kentucky. The call was cancelled after it was determined the alarm had malfunctioned.

Sunday, Jan. 5

5:40 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to 1504 W. Kentucky. The alarm had malfunctioned again.

11:05 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a gas odor at 1229 N. Hobart. No source of the odor was found.

8:42 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 300 block of Jean. None was found.

SHERIFF

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

Sunday, Jan. 5

Jennifer Barnes, no age given, 805 Lefors, was arrested on charges of issuance of bad checks.

Melford Hanks, Sr., 47, 457 Hughes, was arrested on charges of manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance.

Jesus Rodriguez, 23, 117 N. Faulkner, was arrested on charges of running a stop sign, having expired vehicle registration, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility and possession of drug paraphernalia.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 4

9:35 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of Grape; no patient was transported.

10:16 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1700 block of Dogwood; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) for treatment.

11:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC; one patient was transported to Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital West in Amarillo.

1:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Lea; one patient was transported to PRMC.

5:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC; one patient was transported to the 2200 block of Lea.

6:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Lynn; one patient was transported to PRMC.

7:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Nursing Center; one patient was transported to PRMC.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa:		Halliburton		18.91		-0.07	
Wheat	3.46	Trade Hospitals	30.60			+0.04	
Milo	3.91	NOI	23.28			-0.04	
Corn	4.39	KMI	22.03			+0.28	
Soybeans	4.98	NCL	11.94			+0.40	
Sunflowers	9.00	Kerr McGee	44.40			+0.54	
		Limited	13.50			+0.10	
		Williams	2.75			+0.01	
		McDonalds	16.29			+0.17	
		Exxon Mobil	36.09			+0.59	
		Atmos	23.79			+0.29	
		Pioneer Nat	26.50			+0.56	
		Penney's	23.49			+0.01	
		COP	49.89			+0.49	
		Schlumberger	42.40			-0.40	
		Tenneco	3.88			-0.15	
		CVX	69.36			+1.02	
		Wal-Mart	50.42			+0.42	
		OKE	19.73			+0.26	
		NS Group	6.63			NC	
		BP	41.33			+0.19	
		Celanese	22.80			+0.57	
		Cabot Corp	26.38			+0.03	
		Cabot Oil Gas	25.70			+0.38	
		Coca Cola	44.38			-0.36	
		VLO	37.86			+0.29	
		New York Gold	351.25				
		Silver	4.89				
		West Texas Crude	32.90				

CORRECTION

Clarendon College will offer a Quick TASP test at 1 p.m., Jan. 8 at Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky. The date was incorrectly pub-

lished under "Upcoming Events" in Sunday's paper. For more information or to register for one of the exams, contact CCPC at 665-8801.

Arlington police probe possible stun gun suicide link

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — An internal police investigation is underway after an officer fired a stun gun at a distraught man just before he jumped from a highway overpass and fell to his death on New Year's Eve.

Officials with the Arlington

Police Department said they are looking into the three hours of negotiations as well as the use of the stun gun on Ronald W. Wright.

Photos by The Dallas Morning News and an amateur video show a police officer pointing a stun gun at Wright, 35, of Grand Prairie. One picture shows electrical wires extending from the stun gun's barrel and draped across the 10-foot expanse between the officer and Wright.

Seconds later, Wright climbed over a waist-high concrete retaining wall and fell 65 feet to his death.

An Arlington police spokesman defended the use of the stun gun, which works by sending a jolt of electricity through wires shot from the gun.

"Based on the current information, we believe that all the decisions made and resources deployed at the scene were appropriate," Sgt.

Will Johnson said in Sunday editions of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "However, they are currently being evaluated internally."

Johnson declined to provide further details.

Earlier, police had said Wright became agitated when he saw a television news truck pull up near the overpass, and jumped shortly afterward. No mention of the stun gun was made in the brief police report made publicly available.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said Wright committed suicide and died from injuries sustained in the fall.

No injuries from a stun gun were noted in the medical examiner's preliminary report, a spokeswoman said. A final autopsy report will take several weeks to complete.

Johnson said it was not known how long the investigation will take.

City Briefs

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

CLAY POTS 1/2 price; Christmas items 75% off. Last week of Holiday Sale. Lazy S Feed & Garden, 516 S. Russell

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN School, Enrollment for Spring Semester, Jan. 6-10. Enrollment for Fall 2003, opens Feb. 3, 2003. Grades Pre-K thru 7th grade. 665-3393, 220 N. Ballard St.

CHANEY'S, 716 W. Foster, 5-8 p.m. All You Can Eat \$8, stuffed cabbage rolls, chicken fr. steak, fried pork chops, Polish & kraut.

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RUG RATS Prof. Carpet Cleaning. Free est. 665-1976



Happy Birthday Sweet 16!
We Love You! Mom
MiMi & PamPa

Prairie

By J. ASSOCIATE

CRAWFORD has spent a la remote, ramb House operati

The 1,600-a Bush so loves to and soupe duties to conti Texas. The res alerted presie when it's on v.

"We carry chief of staff Crawford regu ness to be don

Aides go to president is n occupying the comes comple seals slapped b

There's a gc spent all or pa four months — idency at his tally. He retur from a 10-day

White Hou: stress the value

IRAQ

tors are in the whether Iraq stil cal or nuclear w deliver them. Ira weapons, but t Britain have acc arms.

President Bushials have threat topple Saddam's eliminate all we tion as required adopted after Kuwait in 1990.

British Foreign on Monday said become less like why he thought diminished.

"I've repeat inevitable and th international con ation) to be reso said in an inter Broadcasting Co

In his speech United States of inspectors to go objective of the S ically mentioni persuade the insp aggressive about tists about the co

Saddam did no cions about the Iraq to stop coop

MUSIC

Plainview and hac work on his con an eight-pound s mer slipped and finger on his left l hospital they amputate it, bui said no.

Maize at the tr cent a hundredwe was supplementir income by playi down at the Ameri Hall every Saturd.

"I was makin night down at the Legion," he said. imagine how I c wanted to take it wouldn't let them.

He didn't play anymore, but he d to play rhythm gu

It's the good tir music in Plainvi remembers the l other band mem talents and their q

"They called u Jacks." Appleton played a Saturday gram on KVOP Plainview."

The piano pla Mitchell, was County Justice of Appleton said, and pistol when he pla

Plainview nati Dean, who went recording artist an and movie actor come down and the band.

Appleton sa remembers an Er boy who was w

Prairie Chapel Ranch becomes White House West

By JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CRAWFORD (AP) — President Bush has spent a large chunk of his term at his remote, rambling ranch here. But White House operations hardly come to a halt.

The 1,600-acre Prairie Chapel Ranch that Bush so loves has been reconfigured, added to and souped up to allow presidential duties to continue, just relocated to Central Texas. The result: a modern-age, terrorism-alerted presidency that never stops, even when it's on vacation.

"We carry on," said deputy White House chief of staff Joe Hagin, one of Bush's Crawford regulars. "There is a lot of business to be done."

Aides go to great lengths to ensure the president is not viewed as loafing while occupying the Western White House, which comes complete with oval blue-and-white seals slapped behind podiums for events.

There's a good reason for that. Bush has spent all or part of 141 days — more than four months — of his nearly two-year presidency at his ranch, according to a CBS tally. He returned Sunday to Washington from a 10-day stay.

White House staff and Bush himself stress the value of the less-intense schedule

and additional freedoms he enjoys while in Crawford.

During a hike around his property last week, Bush described a typical ranch day: "Pop out of the sack" around 5:30 a.m., run along some of the six miles of trails, buckle down to work until about 10 a.m., then "cut cedar or fool around — you know, repair something" on the grounds until lunch. After eating comes time for calls and mail, an appointment with his fishing rod around 4 p.m. and an early bedtime.

The intense security that comes along with the presidency doesn't stay behind. There's a large Secret Service compound near his home, though hidden by a clump of trees. Small huts are scattered all over and color-coded trails feature numbered markers to help agents keep track of their charges.

"It's not exactly walking alone in the wilderness," Bush joked as he led reporters past limestone canyons and live oaks, noting the mini-motorcade of agents, nuclear code-bearing military aide and doctor.

Official business goes on as well. That requires staff, who require facilities in which to work and live.

The skeleton crew that always accompanies Bush here includes the White House chief of staff or one of his two deputies, usually Hagin; staff secretary Harriet Miers

or someone from her office; and a national security aide, frequently the National Security Council head and Bush close confidant Condoleezza Rice. Also along are Bush's personal aide, a minimally staffed press office and an advance team that plots presidential comings and goings.

Others only rotate in for meetings, visits from foreign leaders or travel.

For most regulars, home and office is the "senior staff trailer" — a much-joked-about doublewide — "with very thin walls," Hagin noted — on leased property across from the ranch's entrance. With four bedrooms and a combination living room, office and kitchen — as well as secure desktop computers and one-touch access to colleagues back at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. — it serves as the White House command center.

Another doublewide houses the military communications operation, a conference room for meetings with the president or among staff, a couple of overflow offices and a state-of-the-art secure videoconferencing system.

"We feel comfortable doing everything here we would do at the White House," Hagin said.

It is the videoconferencing that most brings Washington to Crawford. Most days,

Bush drives his white pickup from his home to the trailers to get intelligence briefings. He also confers with top aides or Vice President Dick Cheney. Soon, he said, the sophisticated capability will be on Air Force One.

"It really changes, will change the nature of how people live in many ways," Bush said.

Aides tried unsuccessfully to run the Western White House from 30 miles away in Waco.

Now, they are closer, but still officially off-property. About the only staff that stay in one of the nine guest rooms scattered around houses inside the ranch boundaries are Rice and White House chief of staff Andrew Card.

The regular crew thus is left mostly on its own to rustle up meals — without. Hagin admitted, a particularly good cook in their midst.

But he said there's no grumbling about the doublewide housing or the chained-down, remote existence (top staff no longer feel free after Sept. 11 to venture into Waco for dinner.)

It's all part of the once-in-a-lifetime experience of working for a president, Hagin said. "No one views this as a hardship."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

IRAQ

tors are in the country to establish whether Iraq still has chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or the means to deliver them. Iraq has denied it has such weapons, but the United States and Britain have accused it of hiding banned arms.

President Bush and other U.S. officials have threatened to attack Iraq and topple Saddam's regime if it does not eliminate all weapons of mass destruction as required by U.N. resolutions adopted after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Monday said that war with Iraq had become less likely. But he wouldn't say why he thought the chances of war had diminished.

"I've repeated that war is not inevitable and that the preference of the international community is for (the situation) to be resolved peacefully," Straw said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

In his speech, Saddam accused the United States of trying to push the U.N. inspectors to go beyond the declared objective of the Security Council, specifically mentioning American efforts to persuade the inspection teams to be more aggressive about questioning Iraqi scientists about the country's arms programs.

Saddam did not say whether his suspicions about the inspectors would lead Iraq to stop cooperating with them. Other

Iraqi officials have expressed concerns about the manner in which the inspectors were carrying out their work, but said Iraq would continue to cooperate to prove it has no banned weapons and to avoid war.

In 1998, a previous U.N. monitoring regime collapsed amid disputes between Iraq and the United Nations over alleged U.S. spying from within the U.N. operation and inspectors' access to sensitive sites.

In early December, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan accused the new inspectors of gathering intelligence for Washington and Israel, saying "their work is to spy to serve the CIA and Mossad."

Ramadan's accusations followed a surprise search of one of Saddam's palaces, and were quickly denied by Ewen Buchanan, a spokesman for chief inspector Hans Blix. Buchanan said Blix has made clear that anyone found working for individual governments rather than the U.N. Security Council would be fired.

On Monday, U.N. experts continued inspections as usual in Iraq. A day earlier, they blocked off a huge complex on the edge of Baghdad while visiting a facility inside.

Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammed al-Douri, who by chance was among an angry crowd of men, women and children kept from leaving the area during the inspection, said it was "unacceptable" for the inspectors to restrict ordinary Iraqis'

freedom of movement while they worked.

The "freezing" of facilities during inspections has become routine, but never before have so many people been affected.

In his speech, Saddam declared his people and his army would prevail if attacked by the United States because truth and justice were on their side.

"We are in our country and whoever is in his own homeland ... and is forced to face an enemy that stands on the side of falsehood and comes as an aggressor from beyond seas and oceans will no doubt emerge triumphant," he said in the taped, televised speech.

Saddam opened the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis, saying "we shall thank the almighty if he guides the enemies to the right path." But he added he also would be grateful if God "destroys them (the enemies) and brings shame to their arrogance."

He said he knew his military would stand by its oath to protect the nation. The Iraqi army collapsed quickly under the onslaught of a U.S.-led coalition during the 1991 Gulf War that forced Saddam to retreat from Kuwait.

"We are confident ... that you will be with every dawn for a new day, better and better until you attain the best state ... to the disappointment of your desperate enemies, the friends and wicked assistants of Satan, the inhabitants of night and the dark," Saddam said. "Their arrows will go astray while your arrows will hit them."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MUSIC

Plainview and had stopped to work on his combine when an eight-pound sledge hammer slipped and smashed a finger on his left hand. At the hospital they wanted to amputate it, but Appleton said no.

Maize at the time was 30 cent a hundredweight, but he was supplementing his farm income by playing guitar down at the American Legion Hall every Saturday night.

"I was making a \$100 a night down at the American Legion," he said. "You can imagine how I cried. They wanted to take it off, and I wouldn't let them."

He didn't play lead guitar anymore, but he did continue to play rhythm guitar.

It's the good times playing music in Plainview that he remembers the best — the other band members, their talents and their quirks.

"They called us the Jolly Jacks," Appleton said. "We played a Saturday night program on KVOP radio in Plainview."

The piano player, Banjo Mitchell, was the Hale County Justice of the Peace, Appleton said, and he wore a pistol when he played.

Plainview native Jimmy Dean, who went on to be a recording artist and television and movie actor, used to come down and sit in with the band.

Appleton said he also remembers an Erick, Okla., boy who was working in

Amarillo as a firefighter and radio announcer by the name of Roger Miller would also stop by and sit in with the band at the American Legion Hall.

"In those days," Appleton said, "there weren't many air conditioners."

He said one summer, they opened all the windows on the southside of the hall, next to the swimming pool, and put fans up to help cool the place.

"Right above our bandstand was a single-bladed fans that made about 10,000 rpm," Appleton said. "You could hear it all over the building."

Things got a little out of hand when one of the fiddlers, who had a glass eye and difficulty seeing out of his other eye, started to hit a hot lick and ran his fiddle bow up into the fan.

"That glass eye turned over in his head," Appleton said.

He moved to Pampa in 1948, with the Soil Conservation Service.

"I didn't play anymore until after I'd been here for five or six years," Appleton said.

There was an old club out on the Borger Highway by the name of Belvedere, and the guitar player in the band, Don Childress, lived three doors down from Appleton.

"Don was one of the finest guitar players in the world," Appleton said.

Childress came by to get Appleton to fill in one night for another guitar player. That one night stand lasted about six or seven years.

He also played at the McLean County Club with R.T. Wood, who now lives in Amarillo.

"We played five or six years at the County Club in

McLean," Appleton said. "We opened it up down there."

One of the fiddle players was a Gray County Commissioner. The other was a local rancher.

"We had two fiddles, a guitar, a bass and drums," Appleton said.

When the Pampa Senior Citizen's Center opened up, Appleton joined some friends like fiddle players Richard Brantley and Joe Barkley and Junior Gage on the steel guitar and began playing down there on Saturday nights.

"I doubt if I ever made over \$25 a night there," Appleton laughed. "A lot of times, we didn't make enough to pay for our guitar strings."

But he said it was a lot of fun.

PETA targets fried-chicken chain

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said Monday it is launching a campaign against KFC to highlight alleged animal-rights abuses by the fried-chicken chain.

The Norfolk-based animal rights group said it has tried for nearly two years to persuade KFC's parent company, Yum Brands Inc. of Louisville, Ky., to change the way it raises and slaughters chickens.

PETA said that because those negotiations failed, it will launch a campaign to put public pressure on the company.

Yum denied PETA's allegations. "We require all of our suppliers to follow welfare guidelines, developed by us with leading experts on our animal welfare advisory council," the company said. "Our suppliers are receiving unannounced audits at their poultry facilities throughout the year. Failure to comply with our strict guidelines would result in termination of our supplier agreement, if remedial action is not taken."

PETA said it wants an end to "crude and ineffective electric stunning and throat-slitting" of chickens, and called for improvements in the conditions under which the chickens are raised. The organization said the birds should be allowed more space.

Yum, which was created in 1997 as a spinoff of food businesses formerly owned by PepsiCo, also owns the Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Long John Silver restaurant chains.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

LAW

line binding the canvassing board chairman to a specific date to have the certificate of election to the elected candidates.

Peet said he talked with Potter County Judge Arthur Ware Friday about the situation and he placed calls to several other county judges across the Panhandle.

"I learned that not all of them have followed this procedure that Potter County has," said Peet.

Peet said he has researched both the Local Government Code and the Election Code, and cannot find any similar requirement except regarding the County Treasurer.

According to the Amarillo Globe-News, Ware said

Messer was nine days late in taking her oath. The story also said Potter County Commissioners raised her bond from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Gray County Treasurer Cornelison's bond is \$10,000.

Messer has served as county treasurer eight years. She handily defeated an opponent in the 2002 election.

Her ex-husband, Danny Messer, has been accused of felony criminal charges in connection with his tenure as Potter County Tax Collector. He has not gone to trial. Judy Messer said in the Amarillo newspaper article that she thinks the action by the Potter County Commissioners Court may be linked to the allegations against her ex-husband.



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Monday, January 6, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Watchful Dad Keeps Daughter Under Virtual House Arrest

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Becky," is a sophomore in high school. She's an honor roll student, well-mannered and a good girl. My problem is her father. He's too strict with her.

Becky has always been open and honest with me. This year she's discovered boys, and I know that's the reason her dad is being so overprotective. He rarely allows our daughter to talk on the phone, and when she does, it must be in our presence. He won't let her go anywhere without us. She's not allowed to go to supervised parties or attend any group activity other than cheerleading practice. My poor daughter has no social life.

Becky's lifelong friends no longer call her to invite her to go places with them, because they know her dad won't allow it. They've stopped coming over because they know that the limit of their activity is going to be sitting on the couch watching TV with my husband and me.

I think Becky deserves some privacy and a social life that does not include us. After she told us a 17-year-old senior boy had a crush on her, my husband refused to allow her to go to the movies with him and his parents. My husband won't even let the boy ride to the store with us. How can I get him to ease up, Abby?

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE, SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS

DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: Start by telling your husband that you love him and know he is trying to be a protective parent, but he has gone

off the deep end. In the name of love, he is crippling his daughter — and if it continues, she will eventually withdraw from both of you.

By preventing Becky from having normal social relationships that are appropriate for a girl her age, her father is preventing her from learning to make wise decisions and develop healthy relationships.

If your husband is not willing to listen to you, please schedule some sessions for the two of you with a psychotherapist who can explain it to him.

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Felt Up in Philly," who attended a friend's wedding and was hit on by the groom who now refuses to stop e-mailing her, I thought I'd share my experience. (By the way, your advice to forward his e-mails to his wife was on target.)

A few years ago, a friend of mine was engaged. Her fiancé called me one night "just to talk." During the conversation he said he had feelings for me. Mind you, I was supposed to be a bridesmaid in their wedding and had met him only once.

I told him he was crazy and the feeling was not mutual. Then I said if he didn't tell my friend, I would time went on, he never told her. One day, my friend called me to talk about the wedding plans, and I told her I couldn't be in her wedding. When she asked why, I told her what her fiancé had told

me (at the risk of possibly losing a good friend). She said she'd call me back but she never did.

That was almost three years ago. About a month ago, she called me out of the blue. She had broken off the engagement shortly after our last conversation, and we've become good friends again.

It's unfortunate that "Felt Up's" experience happened at the wedding, but I hope she follows your advice. Her friend needs to know what kind of person she married.

JACKIE IN COLUMBIA, MD

DEAR JACKIE: I agree. Unless a cheater comes to terms with his (or her) behavior and sincerely wants to change, it will happen again and again.

DEAR ABBY: For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

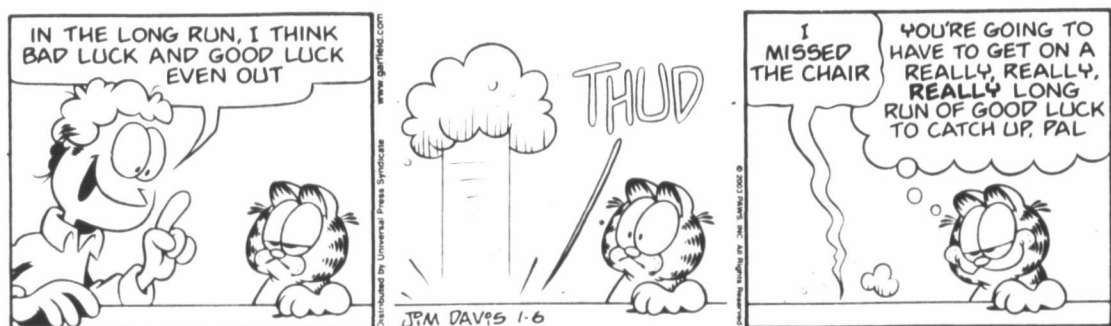
For Better or For Worse



ZITS



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



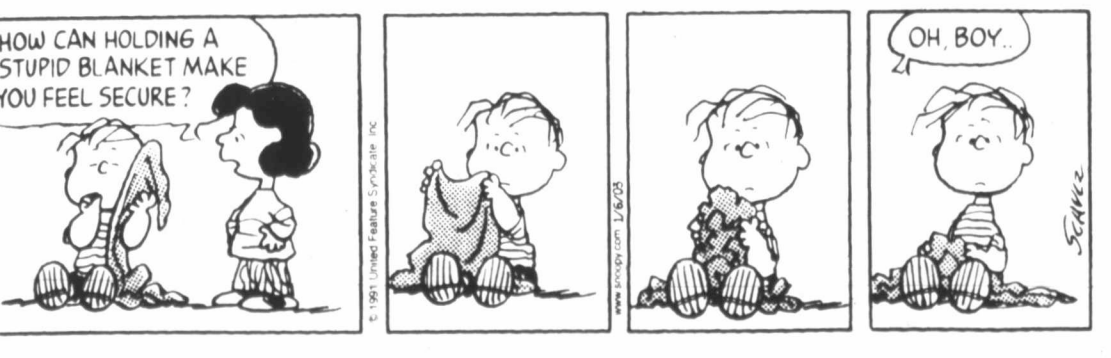
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

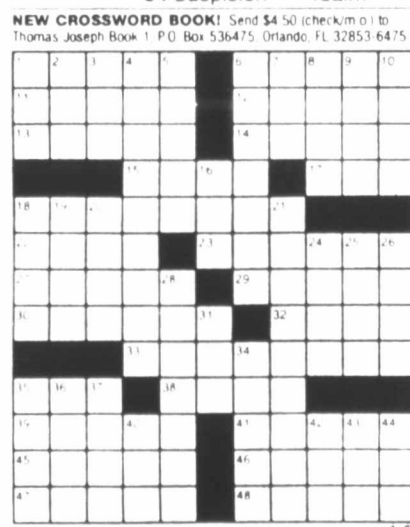
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
 1 Incline
 6 Titled
 11 Marsh bird
 12 Cast out
 13 Give up
 14 Detect
 15 White counter-part
 17 Lar
 18 Like
 Shake-speare's
 Kate
 22 Florida extension
 23 Pestered
 27 Fuming
 29 Boxer's dream
 30 Copier
 32 Yard tool
 33 Open car
 35 Young fellow
 38 Halt
 39 Suspect's story
 41 Russian range
 45 Tenor
 Lanza
 46 Count of jazz
 47 Writer
 Chekhov
 48 Hardly laid-back
- DOWN**
 1 Bashful
 2 Island garland



Saturday's answer

- 24 ERA or RBI
 25 Sommer of the screen
 26 Fawn, for example
 19 Day saver
 20 Meg of movies
 21 John Waters film
 34 Suspicion
 35 Tibetan monk
 36 Shepard in space
 37 Grime
 40 Life story
 42 Nile serpent
 43 Whopper
 44 Neptune's realm



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"He likes the business channel because he thinks they talk about Dow-Bones and Nas-Dog."

The Family Circus



This week little Billy gives his capsulized view of the comics. Today: "BABY BLUES."

Flo & Friends



NOTE

BOWLING

PAMPA — son bowling now forming Lanes. The Celar League, a four-member meet at 6:30 organize. Star Jan. 13.

The Seni League, a bowlers 50 y and older, wi at 6:30 p.m Starting date The senior lea made up of th teams.

SOCCER

PAMPA — be a Harves Booster Club Tuesday nig Ready Room school athle house.

FOOTBALL

PAMPA Harvester Bo will meet toni the high scho building to fir for the annu banquet.

The banqu the 2002 Harv be Wednesday 6:30 p.m. in M Auditorium.

Tickets, at person, can be Monday Wednesday fr Clark at the at during regul hours. No tickets after Jan. 8.

BASKETBALL

MIAMI Meadows a Hathaway co 47 points as rolled to a 77- Miami in Di basketball a weekend.

Meadows points and H as the Cougar district opene Jeff Brow Miami's scor with 15 po Spearman add

Fort Elliot the girls' gam Tamara H Fort Elliott with 23 po McCurley fol 18.

Miriam Ha points and Tat for Miami. **SILVERTON** Groom defeat 52-41 in Di girls action Fr Brin Bu Groom's top 15 points. Homen follow The Tigere 11 (29-17) at

Laurie G points led Silv Silvertown contest 95-33 Red Ivory points to Silvertown offe Cody Babo Tigers in scor points. Ke added 8.

SPORTS

It was a wild, wild-card weekend in NFL

By BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

So this is why they call it wild-card weekend. It can't get much wilder than this.

One of the great comebacks in NFL history, followed by an even greater one. A 41-point rout. And, perhaps most difficult to believe, the Packers losing a playoff game at home.

If the rest of the NFL's post-season is anything like the last two days, well, get it on.

Of course, with all the weird stuff that happened during the regular season, did anyone expect a normal postseason?

"As long as you live, you might never see a game better than that," said 49ers coach Steve Mariucci after his team staged the second-biggest comeback in playoff history, rallying from 24 points down in the second half to

beat the New York Giants 39-38 Sunday.

Hours earlier, in Pittsburgh, the Steelers came from 17 points down and scored four touchdowns in the final 19 minutes for a stunning 36-33 victory over archrival Cleveland in the greatest playoff comeback in team history.

"It's one of those wins you can't see happening, but you just keep hoping it will keep going the way it's going," coach Bill Cowher said.

Those two incredible comebacks followed two lopsided games on Saturday. The New York Jets, playing perfectly on offense, defense and special teams, romped past the Indianapolis Colts 41-0 in their first playoff meeting since the Jets beat the Baltimore Colts in the 1969 Super Bowl.

"This is more than what we could ask for," said linebacker

Marvin Jones, whose team was 1-4 and 2-5 before starting its turnaround. "I didn't imagine we could win it like this."

And hardly anyone imagined what would happen that night, in the cold and the snow of Lambeau Field. Michael Vick looked like a seasoned pro and Brett Favre was ordinary. Vick guided the Atlanta Falcons to a 27-7 victory that was Green Bay's first home defeat in the playoffs. Ever.

"I think we all believed in our hearts that we were going to go in and accomplish what we did," linebacker Keith Brooking said.

"A lot of teams go into Lambeau beat before they even step on the field. I think 90 percent of it is going in with belief and without any doubt. We had that."

What was beyond belief were Sunday's comebacks.

Only the Buffalo Bills surpassed the rally San Francisco

staged. The Bills were down 35-3 in the third quarter against Houston and won 41-38 in overtime in 1993.

The Niners didn't even need the extra period to dig out of a 38-14 hole and win. While the Giants suddenly stopped moving the ball and lost their composure on defense, Jeff Garcia and Terrell Owens brought to mind Joe Montana, Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

San Francisco scored 25 straight points, with Garcia throwing for two scores and running for one. He hit Owens with a TD pass and a pair of 2-point conversions during the surge.

Garcia's 13-yard touchdown pass to Tai Streets with a minute left won it, but not before a bad snap with 6 seconds to go messed up a 41-yard field-goal attempt for the Giants.

The game also got ugly toward the end, with Owens, 49ers center Jeremy Newberry

and Giants safety Shaun Williams pushing and shoving, leading to Williams' ejection.

"This is about the worst loss I have ever felt in my entire life," said Giants coach Jim Fassel, whose team won its final four games, including the last one of the season on an overtime field goal by Matt Bryant. "I am not going to get over this one for a while."

Nor will the Browns get over their loss, which was engineered by Pittsburgh quarterback Tommy Maddox — appropriately, the NFL Comeback Player of the Year. Cleveland self-destructed in the fourth period, particularly on the Steelers' 77-yard drive to a touchdown that made it 33-28. The Browns had three key penalties on the drive.

"Don't anybody write the Steelers won it," Cleveland's Corey Fuller said. "We gave it to them."

Harvesters down Dumas, pick up second district win

DUMAS — Pampa broke away from Dumas in the second half for a 60-54 District 3-4A win Saturday night.

The Harvesters improved to 2-1 in district action and 6-10 for the season. Dumas falls to 0-2 and 9-12.

There were six ties and six lead changes in the first half with Pampa coming away with a slim two-point edge (29-27) at halftime. The Harvesters stayed in front the entire second half, thanks to a 5-0 run early in the third quarter and 6-0 run early in the fourth quarter.

Pampa twins Chance and Collin Bowers made some strong moves inside to help lead Pampa to victory. They each finished the night with 15 points.

Jake Robinson led Dumas with 15 points.

Ryan Zemanek chipped in 13 for Pampa, including three 3-point goals.

Pampa — Chance Bowers 15, Collin Bowers 15, Zemanek 13, Simon 4, Silva 4, Hall 4, Martin 3, East 2, 3-point goals — Zemanek 3, Martin 1.
Dumas — Robinson 15, Hammonds 10, Nies 9, Coll 8, Catherall 4, Payne 4, Washington 2.

Johnson 2, three-point goals Robinson 1.

In girls' action, Dumas held off a third-quarter rally to defeat Pampa 54-38 Saturday night.

The Lady Harvesters found themselves in early foul trouble, enabling Dumas to take an 11-point lead (27-16) at halftime.

Pampa scored the first 10 points for the first third quarter to cut the gap to one (27-26). Dumas went on a 7-0 run to stay on top by nine (37-28) after three quarters. Pampa wasn't able to get closer than seven points in the final period.

Karli Denning topped Dumas in scoring with 17 points. Valerie Velez led Pampa with 11.

The Lady Harvesters are 0-5 in district and 4-14 overall. Dumas is 1-3, 12-7.

Dumas — Karl Denning 17, French 13, Miller 6, Paredes 5, Davis 4, Katy Denning 3, Godfrey 3, Schmuucker 2, Braxton 1. Three-point goals: French 2.
Pampa — Velez 11, Covalt 9, Johnson 6, Waggoner 4, Fisher 4, Cobb 2, Gerber 2. Three-point goals: Velez 2, Covalt 1.



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Pampa's Jed Martin (23) takes a charge from a Dumas player in Saturday night's District 3-4A boys' game. Max Simon goes up to block a possible shot attempt.

Seventh-ranked Longhorns use defense to defeat Mount St. Mary's

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The defense says yes. The offense, at times, suggests no way.

Either way, No. 7 Texas believes it's ready for the Big 12 after yet another poor shooting day in an 80-64 victory Sunday over Mount St. Mary's.

The Longhorns shot under 38 percent for the third straight time on their home floor but used another stellar defensive effort to get their fourth straight victory.

Texas (9-2) turned 24 Mount St. Mary's turnovers into 22 points and dominated the rebounding 52-35.

Sydmill Harris and Brian Boddicker each scored 14 for the Longhorns, combining to hit 7 of 8 3-pointers.

Bring on the Big 12, Harris said afterward. The Longhorns host Iowa State on Saturday in the league opener.

"We're ready for the Big 12," Harris said. "It's all a matter of putting it together."

Texas has looked ragged offensively in its last three outings, which coach Rick Barnes blames on too much time off for the winter break and the holidays. Texas has played just three games in two weeks.

"I would never do what we've done again, the way this has worked out, have this much time off," Barnes said.

"This has been a tough two weeks. Hopefully what we have done is prepare for con-

ference play."

Led by Jamion Christian's 12 points, Mount St. Mary's stayed close throughout the first half as the Longhorns were 14-of-36 from the field. Texas forward

Jason Klotz got his first start of the season but missed all five of his shots in the first half.

The Mountaineers tied it at 27 on Charles Cook's 3-pointer before Texas closed the half with a 10-3 run in which Boddicker had half of the points on a short hook and a 3-pointer.

"We played them pretty well early on," said Mount St. Mary's coach Jim Phelan. "They stepped up the defensive intensity in the second half."

That's how they're going to win the bulk of their games."

Texas led 43-36 with 16:26 to play when the Longhorns defense shut down the Mountaineers. Mount St. Mary's hit just one field goal over the next nine minutes as Texas opened a 74-49 lead.

Harris hit two 3-pointers and scored eight points in the run.

"That's the way we should have been playing from the start," Harris said.

Texas held Mount St. Mary's to 9-of-29 shooting after halftime.

"This week we stressed defense and rebounding," said Texas freshman forward Brad Buckman, who recorded his first double-double

with 11 points and 13 rebounds.

"We need to a lot more on offense now. I'm sure everyone will work on their shooting so that we can be on the top of our game in the Big 12," Buckman said.

Barnes and his veteran players know how rugged opposing defenses can be in the Big 12 and that a poor shooting night can lead to a loss.

"I do truly believe we can shoot the ball," said Barnes, who has been frustrated by misses from near the basket.

"We need to make more of those little shots," Barnes said. "When you miss those, it adds more pressure and that is unnecessary."

Optimists offer internet registration

PAMPA — Persons interested in Pampa Optimist Youth Club Boys' Basketball for third through the sixth grades will meet at 7 Tuesday night in the Optimist Club, Optimist Vice-President Ron Carr announced today.

"We are starting registration now," Carr said. "People can register now through the Internet at www.Optimist.Pampa.com. We are looking for coaches to help us. We will have a league for third and fourth grades and one for the fifth and sixth graders."

Carr explained that the traditional registration will take place at the Optimist Club on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We are experimenting with on-line registration," Carr said. "The computer program will help us with registration, balancing the teams

and making out schedules. If the experiment is successful, we may use on-line registration in other Optimist sports programs."

No. 3 Duke wins ACC opener

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Duke's J.J. Redick was not a typical freshman — until he took the court at Clemson for his first Atlantic Coast Conference game.

"It's funny because on one of our first possessions, they were getting ready to shoot free throws and I was getting ready to box out and I was like, 'Oh, my goodness, my legs are shaking,'" Redick said. "Then, I settled down."

Did he ever, scoring 22 points as the third-ranked Blue Devils took a likely step to No. 1 with an 89-71 victory over Clemson on Sunday night in a

matchup of unbeaten teams.

Redick had four of Duke's season-high 11 3-pointers as the Blue Devils opened 9-0 for the third straight season and won their 14th in a row over the Tigers (9-1) in the ACC opener for both teams.

One of Redick's 3s came in a 15-4 run between halves that gave Duke a 53-40 lead.

"We went on that little run there at the end of the half and played a little defense," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I don't proud of our effort. ... I don't think Clemson played a team like us that has the combination of an inside game and a perimeter one."

THE Pampa NEWS

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NOTEBOOK

BOWLING

PAMPA — Short season bowling leagues are now forming at Harvester Lanes.

The Celanese Mixed League, consisting of four-member teams, will meet at 6:30 tonight to organize. Starting date is Jan. 13.

The Senior Mixed League, consisting of bowlers 50 years of age and older, will also meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 6. Starting date is Jan. 13. The senior league will be made up of three-member teams.

SOCCER

PAMPA — There will be a Harvester Soccer Booster Club meeting at 7 Tuesday night in the Ready Room at the high school athletic field-house.

FOOTBALL

PAMPA — The Harvester Booster Club will meet tonight at 7 in the high school athletic building to finalize plans for the annual football banquet.

The banquet to honor the 2002 Harvesters will be Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Tickets, at \$8.50 per person, can be purchased Monday through Wednesday from Sandy Clark at the athletic office during regular school hours.

No tickets will be sold after Jan. 8.

BASKETBALL

MIAMI — Seth Meadows and Jason Hathaway combined for 47 points as Fort Elliott rolled to a 77-40 win over Miami in District 2-1A basketball action last weekend.

Meadows scored 24 points and Hathaway 23 as the Cougars won their district opener.

Jeff Browning was Miami's scoring leader with 15 points. Reid Spearman added 11.

Fort Elliott also won the girls' game, 64-30.

Tamara Hartline led Fort Elliott in scoring with 23 points. Holly McCurley followed with 18.

Miriam Hannon had 10 points and Tatum Butler 7 for Miami.

SILVERTON — Groom defeated Silverton 52-41 in District 3-4A girls action Friday night.

Brin Burgin was Groom's top scorer with 15 points. Mallory Homen followed with 12. The Tigerettes led by 11 (29-17) at halftime.

Laurie Griffin's 15 points led Silverton.

Silverton won the boys contest 95-33.

Red Ivory tossed in 26 points to lead the Silverton offense.

Cody Babcock led the Tigers in scoring with 16 points. Kelby Noack added 8.

Spurs down last-place Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Turns out the Lakers don't have a hold on mediocrity among NBA teams in Los Angeles.

The Clippers are stuck in last place in the Pacific Division, just percentage points below the struggling Lakers.

The latest indignity was a 94-86 loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday, in which the Clippers shot 33 percent and went three minutes without a basket in the fourth quarter to lose their sixth straight.

Center Michael Olowokandi called the Clippers' shooting "dismal" and said it's critical they turn things around before the All-Star break.

"In the past, we were successful with not really having a structure per se, and we've often gotten away with that. It's not working this time around," Olowokandi said.

"I know we're an exciting team, a fast-breaking team, but sometimes you have to be smart about what we do, and think about running more set plays now."

Corey Maggette, who had 19 points, including all eight of his free throws, said coach Alvin Gentry isn't to blame for the eight losses in nine games.

"We're really trying to get better, but things aren't happening for us. We really have to play a lot better," he said. "We're a very talented team and we're not getting it done. It's our fault. We're not hitting the shots."

Injuries have plagued the Clippers this season. Olowokandi is playing with a sore left knee. Quentin Richardson missed

the game with a sprained left ankle and regulars Eric Piatkowski and Marko Jaric are on the injured list.

Maggette came off the injured list Dec. 26 after missing a month because of torn cartilage in his right knee. Lamar Odom, who had 22 points and 11 rebounds, was activated two days after Maggette.

Olowokandi said the Clippers don't need to be shaken up through trades, rather each player needs to focus on his role.

"It's just about having the right pieces work together," he said. "At the moment, we have players who are not quite sure what they're supposed to be doing, given the rotation and given what positions they're playing. I don't think that's anybody's fault, but as a team, we have to play better."

The Spurs used an effective mix of young and older players to give Gregg Popovich his 300th career win as coach.

Tony Parker scored 26 points and Tim Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds for his 25th double-double of the season.

"I concentrate on playing good defense and I'm always looking for the open man. We have scorers, but sometimes it falls on my head and I feel confident I can score, too," said Parker, who made 11 of 13 free throws.

"He was really special," Popovich said of the 20-year-old Parker. "He gets us into situations we want to be in. He tells people where they should go if they're in the wrong spot."

Bruce Bowen scored all

of his 13 points in the second half for the Spurs.

Elton Brand had 15 points and 16 rebounds. Olowokandi had 12 points after sitting out Friday's loss to Memphis, and Andre Miller scored 12 points for the Clippers, who were booed when they missed their first five shots of the game.

"Right now we're not giving a good effort and we're not winning," Miller said, citing the team's 7-12 record at Staples Center. "Teams are coming and beating us like it's their home court."

Odom's driving layup put the Clippers within three on their first basket of the fourth.

Minutes later, Bowen sandwiched baskets around a hook shot by David Robinson and the Spurs led 75-66 with 7:09 remaining.

Parker hit two free throws for a 79-70 lead, the Spurs' largest of the quarter. After the Clippers scored two straight baskets, Parker made a 3-pointer for an 82-74 lead.

Twice the Clippers got within five points in the final two minutes, but San Antonio answered with baskets each time.

"It's very simple. We can't win the game shooting 33 percent," Gentry said. "It's not the turnovers, it's not the rebounds, it's not any of that. We're getting good shots and we can't get them in the basket."

Notes: The Spurs lead the season series 2-1. ... The Clippers fell to 4-3 in day games this season. ... Popovich is 300-176 in seven seasons with the Spurs, the only NBA team he's ever coached.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NFL Playoff Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4

AFC
N.Y. Jets 41, Indianapolis 0

NFC
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7

AFC
Pittsburgh 36, Cleveland 33

NFC
San Francisco 39, N.Y. Giants 38

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11

AFC
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

AFC
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 8 p.m. (FOX)

NFC
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)

AFC
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19

AFC Championship and NFC Championship
3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26

At San Diego
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:18 p.m.

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2

At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC, TBA (ABC)

PRO BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	25	9	.735	—
Boston	19	13	.594	5
Philadelphia	19	14	.576	5 1/2
Orlando	18	17	.514	7 1/2
Washington	16	17	.485	8 1/2
New York	12	18	.400	11
Miami	12	21	.364	12 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	23	10	.697	—
Detroit	21	10	.677	1
New Orleans	20	15	.571	4
Milwaukee	13	19	.406	9 1/2
Atlanta	12	20	.375	10 1/2
Chicago	12	21	.364	11
Toronto	8	26	.235	15 1/2
Cleveland	7	28	.200	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	27	5	.844	—
San Antonio	21	13	.618	7
Utah	19	13	.594	8
Houston	17	14	.548	9 1/2
Minnesota	17	15	.531	10
Memphis	10	22	.313	17
Denver	7	25	.219	20

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	25	9	.735	—
Portland	20	12	.625	4
Phoenix	21	13	.618	4

Seattle	16	16	.500	8
L.A. Lakers	14	20	.412	11
Golden State	13	19	.406	11
L.A. Clippers	12	22	.353	13

Saturday's Games

Dallas 102, Philadelphia 83

Detroit 90, Atlanta 86

Washington 107, Indiana 104, 2OT

New Jersey 88, Orlando 83

Utah 105, Minnesota 97

Chicago 85, Cleveland 79

Golden State 86, Houston 84

Sacramento 87, Denver 76

Phoenix 107, L.A. Lakers 93

Sunday's Games

New Orleans 99, Toronto 84

San Antonio 94, L.A. Clippers 86

Portland 92, New York 89

Sacramento 96, Miami 70

L.A. Lakers 109, Phoenix 97

Monday's Games

Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.

Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Indiana at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

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

Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Memphis, 8 p.m.

Utah at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday's Games

Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Minnesota at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.

Seattle at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

By The Associated Press

1. Alabama (10-1) lost to Utah 51-49, beat No. 19 Xavier 65-58.

2. Pittsburgh (10-1) lost to Georgia 79-67, beat Robert Morris 85-49.

3. Duke (9-0) beat Fairfield 86-58, beat Clemson 89-71.

4. Arizona (9-1) beat Boston University 85-71, beat No. 9 Oregon 81-72, beat Oregon State 80-65.

5. Connecticut (9-0) beat St. Bonaventure 95-78.

6. Notre Dame (12-1) beat Vanderbilt 76-63, beat Valparaiso 55-53.

7. Texas (9-2) beat Louisiana Tech 58-50, beat Mount St. Mary's, Md. 80-64.

8. Mississippi State (10-1) beat South Alabama 85-74, beat Alabama-Birmingham 68-52.

9. Oregon (10-2) lost to No. 4 Arizona 81-72, beat Arizona State 94-73.

10. Oklahoma (8-2) beat North Carolina-Asheville 100-64, beat No. 14 Michigan State 60-58.

11. Illinois (10-1) beat Coppin State 63-37, beat Oakland, Mich. 88-53.

12. Florida (11-2) beat Florida A&M 91-58.

13. Marquette (8-3) lost to East Carolina 73-70, lost to Dayton 92-85, OT.

14. Michigan State (8-4) lost to Toledo 81-76, lost to No. 10 Oklahoma 60-58.

15. Creighton (11-1) lost to No. 19 Xavier 75-73, beat Drake 84-63.

16. Missouri (8-1) beat Valparaiso 65-47, beat Iowa 88-82.

17. Indiana (10-2) beat Ball State 76-62, beat Charlotte 70-60.

18. Kansas (9-3) beat North Carolina-Asheville 102-50, beat Missouri-Kansas City 100-46.

19. Xavier (9-3) beat No. 15 Creighton 75-73, lost to No. 1 Alabama 65-58.

20. Kentucky (9-3) beat Tennessee State 115-87, beat Alcorn State 94-63, beat Ohio 83-75.

21. LSU (9-2) beat New Orleans 69-57, lost to Georgia 89-63.

22. Maryland (7-3) beat Wagner 79-57.

23. Wake Forest (9-0) beat Bethune-Cookman 96-54, beat Richmond 68-62.

24. Louisville (8-1) beat Ohio State 72-64, OT.

25. Texas Tech (9-1) beat Houston 62-48.

USC rejoins football's elite group

MIAMI (AP) — Carson Palmer and Pete Carroll sat side by side, basking in the big finish to a season of resurgence for Southern California. The subject turned to the future.

"You want to come back?" Carroll asked Palmer.

"I'd love to," the senior replied.

Alas, 45 starts at USC is all Palmer will get. He departs as the Heisman Trophy winner, the Orange Bowl MVP and the quarterback who helped revive one of college football's most tradition-rich programs.

Palmer capped his career by throwing for 303 yards and a touchdown Thursday night to help the Trojans rout Iowa 38-17 in the Orange Bowl.

"That dude has an arm, man," Trojans running back Sultan McCullough said. "I came to Tailback U. Why are we throwing the ball? But, hey, we're winning."

That they are. Playing the toughest schedule in the nation, the Trojans (11-2) won their final eight games. They finished with victories over UCLA, Notre Dame and Iowa by a combined score of 134-51.

The romp past the Hawkeyes was the Trojans' first bowl win in seven seasons.

"We've been at the bottom for a long time," McCullough

said. "It was time to change things and restore the tradition. People think we're Hollywood, but we showed we can play with the best of them."

Added receiver Kareem Kelly: "I wish there was a playoff system. I'd like to play the winner of the Miami-Ohio State game."

Plenty of fans probably would love to see that, too.

Losses at Kansas State and at Washington State during the first half of the season cost the Trojans a berth in the title game, but they'll likely be a contender again next season — even without Palmer. Carroll needed just two seasons to take Southern California to the elite level, and he doesn't envision turning back.

"We head into the offseason, the recruiting season, with a lot of momentum," Carroll said. "USC is a powerful place to recruit. That's why we're just getting started."

The long flight home Friday gave the Trojans at least a little time to savor their impressive win over Iowa (11-2). The game was 10-all at halftime, and USC blew it open with touchdown drives of 80, 99 and 85 yards on their first three possessions of the second half.

USC totaled 550 yards, including 247 on the ground

against the nation's second-ranked rushing defense. And they put the clamps on Heisman runner-up Brad Banks, who was limited to 204 yards passing and failed to lead the Hawkeyes into the end zone until the final minute.

"Embarrassing," Banks said. "It's tough to lose a game like this when you don't play your best."

Palmer, meanwhile, more than lived up to the hype in his first game as the Heisman winner. His first pass was negated by a penalty, but his second was a 65-yard strike to Kelly. He directed a diverse attack that converted 11 of 16 third-down situations, rolled up 30 first downs and kept the ball for 38 minutes.

In short, he looked more than ready for his next game — in the NFL.

That doesn't mean Palmer is eager to leave USC. He soaked up the atmosphere in the first moments after Thursday's victory as teammates celebrated, the crowd chanted and the Trojan marching band played "Fight On."

"I was trying to realize that it was the last time I was going to be a part of the fight song leaving the field," Palmer said. "I don't think anything that's really happened this year has hit me. It's just such a whirlwind."

my heart."

Leak, the two-time Associated Press player of the year in North Carolina and three-time state champion, said Rex Grossman's decision to leave the Gators for the NFL didn't affect his decision.

Grossman "would have been a great tutor for me," he said, but "my brother (Tennessee quarterback C.J. Leak) told me to follow my heart and that's what I did."

Leak said Friday he had narrowed his choices to Florida, Florida State, Iowa, Southern California and

Stars, Mighty Ducks battle to 1-1 tie

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Pierre Turgeon scored the tying goal and Marty Turco made 32 saves Sunday night as the Dallas Stars tied the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 1-1 Sunday night.

The Stars killed off a four-minute power play in the third period to extend their unbeaten streak to six games (4-0-2) with their league-leading 10th tie. After missing the playoffs last year, Dallas has a 15-point advantage in the Pacific Division over second-place Anaheim.

Petr Sykora scored for the Ducks, who are winless in six straight after losing their previous five. They have not scored a power-play goal in a season-high four straight games (0-for-17).

Jean-Sebastien Giguere missed his second straight game because of a sore neck, but rookie backup Martin Gerber made 26 saves after stopping 25 shots Friday night in a 1-0 loss to Philadelphia.

It was the second time he has made consecutive starts, and the first time since October. Four of his eight starts have gone into overtime.

Gerber preserved the tie by stopping Scott Young on a breakaway with 18 seconds left in regulation, after Dallas captain Derian Hatcher found Young at the Anaheim blue line with a pass from the Stars zone.

Texas.

He said he made his choice this past week.

Leak was named player of the year for North Carolina by the AP after throwing for 5,193 yards and 64 touchdowns — both state records — with just 12 interceptions. He led Independence to a 16-0 record and the Class 4-AA North Carolina High School Athletic Association championship.

The season-ending 41-20 win against New Bern in the final was Independence's 46th straight win dating back to

Shortly after thwarting Dallas' power play, the Ducks took a 1-0 lead at 5:26 of the first period with Sykora's 13th goal. He got a perfect feed pass from Paul Kariya as he crossed the blue line and cranked a 45-foot slap shot past Turco's glove.

The Stars tied it at 7:04 of the second with Turgeon's 10th goal. Gerber, who stopped 14 shots in the first, went behind the net to clear the puck around the boards. But Young intercepted it and took a quick wrist shot that Turgeon redirected with his 2,900th NHL shot.

Dallas defenseman Sergei Zubov received a double-minor for cutting Steve Rucchin in the face with an inadvertent high stick with 13:05 left in regulation. But Turco, who entered

East wins All-American Bowl

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Chris Leak threw for three touchdowns as the East defeated the West 47-3 Sunday in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Leak, of Charlotte, N.C., passed for TDs of 70, 30 and 7 yards in the all-star game featuring some of the country's top high school players. He got 148 of his 165 yards in the first half.

Leak set a national high-school record with 185 career touchdown passes.

The East led 19-3 at the half,

with a league-leading 1.72 goals-against average and the second-best save percentage, stopped all three shots during Anaheim's power play.

Notes: Dallas RW Ulf Dahlen returned to the lineup after missing 13 games with a high ankle sprain. The Stars were 5-5-3 during his absence. ... Dallas has 10 players who have played every game this season, tying San Jose for the most in the league. ... Anaheim C Marc Chouinard was sidelined because of a broken nose and a strained neck he sustained Friday. RW Mike Leclerc and LW Mike Brown were placed on the injured list Saturday. Leclerc because of swelling in his surgically repaired left knee and Brown due to a lower back strain.

Tight end Louis Irizarry of Youngstown, Ohio, blocked a punt to set up a 31-yard field goal by Garrett Rivas of Tampa, Fla., and tackled West punter Cody Freeby for a safety.

Andre Caldwell of Tampa returned the free kick 53 yards and Leak combined with Adarius Bowman of Chattanooga, Tenn., for a 30-yard TD pass on the next play as the East scored 12 unanswered points late in the second quarter.

Nation's top high school quarterback verbally commits to Florida

By The Associated Press

Chris Leak, widely regarded as the nation's top prep quarterback and college prospect, made a verbal commitment Sunday night to play at Florida, saying he wanted to play where he could win a national title and get a solid education.



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3 Personal

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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2003:
You create many of the events in your life because you put yourself out there. Network. Be more in touch with your desires, as the chance to make them happen will appear. In many ways, when you renew your perspective, you renew your possibilities. Open up, thus making what you want happen. You will gain through hard work and efforts to extend your horizons. You might easily see a pay raise or promotion before fall 2003. Your popularity soars in September 2003, opening the door to a veritable social whirlwind. You are likely to meet Mr. or Ms. Right. If attached, your bond will grow as long as you don't internalize your issues. PISCES helps you out.

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)
**** A close associate stretches and reaches out for you. Can you say "no"? Do you want to say "no"? You probably won't need to do any heavy soul-searching to come up with your answer. Spontaneity adds adventure, to say the least. Tonight: Vanish, if you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** Friends seek you out, but one special person has you on his or her mind. Ditto — you, too, have this person on your mind. Take action to make a relationship happen. If you're attached, schedule a date for the near future, if not right now. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** Someone clearly smiles upon you. You can do no wrong. Reach out for your goals. Touch base with an adviser or boss. You could be delighted by what

you hear. Review recent decisions with someone in the know. By opening up and exploring, good will increase. Tonight: Make a must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** If you approach work with the concept that someone always has a better idea, you cannot go wrong. Incorporate different concepts, and you will tighten up a project. Seek out experts. Keep looking for others. Tonight: Try something different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** A partner or key colleague brags about you, which actually might be a bit uncomfortable, even for the big Lion. Let your imagination and creativity come forward. You feel as if nothing can stop you. That's true. The only obstacle is you. Tonight: Let romance happen. You don't need to orchestrate it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** If you're the smart Virgo, you'll allow others to come to you, rather than vice versa. You'll find you get what you want that way, especially on the emotional front. You can afford to be generous and forgiving. You find out a lot quickly. Tonight: Use care with a grumpy family member.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** You reach out for others. Indeed, you could be quite complimented by what someone shares. Though you might want to socialize the next few days away, you really need to buckle down and get the job done. Screen calls if needed. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Your imagination could go haywire. No one knows as well as you how much trouble you can get yourself into. Loosen up and try to direct this high energy where it might improve your work or life. Be cautious with spending.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Could you be the source of your own problems? Heaven forbid! All indicators point to self-sabotage right now, so you cannot be too careful. Consider your options more carefully. Tame that wildness. (Is that possible?) Tonight: Put your feet up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Communication could become your specialty. Knowing when to put a conversation on the back burner can make the difference between success and failure. Don't be overly sensitive about a comment. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Indulge yourself, but remember that there is a tomorrow. Friends have a way of stirring up the pot and causing problems, which ultimately falls on you. Consider your options carefully, especially those surrounding an investment. Tonight: Pay bills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Your personality could push an associate or friend away. You might be remorseful about this event, though not exactly sure how to handle it. Perhaps opening up and telling it like it is would work. Others respond to openness. Tonight: Clear out of work.

BORN TODAY
Actor Nichel* (1964), singer Kenny Loggins (1948), cartoonist Charles Addams (1912)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Tonight: OK, be naughty for an hour or so!

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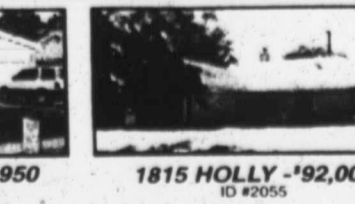
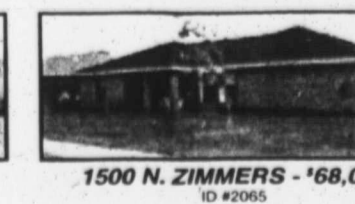
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JAN 6 2003

U.N. nuclear arm to give North Korea one more chance

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The U.N. nuclear agency convened an emergency meeting Monday on the North Korea crisis, and an official said the organization would give the communist country a final chance to abandon its covert weapons program and readmit inspectors.

There had been pressure on the International Atomic Energy Agency to turn immediately to the U.N. Security Council for action — possibly including punitive sanctions against North Korea, which last month threw out IAEA inspectors and began reviving a dormant nuclear program.

But instead, amid a new diplomatic push by South Korea for a compromise solution to the crisis, the IAEA head said Monday that the agency's board was considering a draft resolution once again urging North Korea to comply with its obligations under global nuclear accords.

In a statement released as the meeting got under way, IAEA Director-

General Mohamed ElBaradei said he was "encouraged by the readiness of the board as reflected in the draft resolution ... to afford (North Korea) another opportunity to come into compliance."

ElBaradei said the agency was taking a "zero tolerance" approach toward the North and said "the latest events further aggravate the situation."

If the North does not comply, the agency will report its defiance to the Security Council, an IAEA official said on condition of anonymity. The official said there was broad support for the resolution and that it was "very unlikely" that the board would turn to the council right away.

A senior agency official had told AP earlier that the IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, was running out of options and soon would have little choice but to turn the matter over to the Security Council.

The council could decide punitive

sanctions or other actions against North Korea's regime its moves to reactivate its main nuclear complex, idled since 1994, which experts say could be used to produce nuclear weapons within months.

Monday's closed-door meeting of the IAEA board came amid new diplomatic efforts to ease the standoff.

South Korea said it would present a compromise plan to the United States within days and send a top envoy to Washington later in the week. South Korea also pressed Russia to help persuade the North to back down, and Moscow agreed Sunday to step up its contacts with Pyongyang.

North Korea lashed out at the United States on Sunday, accusing it of trying to "disarm" the North by pressuring it to scrap its nuclear programs. The isolated country, stung by an energy crisis, insists it needs the power; Washington says the 5-megawatt reactor in question would produce a mere trickle of electricity

and could be used to produce nuclear weapons.

North Korea alarmed the world in October by admitting to a U.S. envoy that it had a secret uranium-based nuclear weapons program, in violation of a 1994 accord.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday that Washington has no intention of negotiating with Pyongyang until it freezes its atomic programs in respect of the 1994 agreement.

Caught in the middle is the Vienna-based IAEA, which maintained two inspectors in North Korea until New Year's Eve, when they left after the North said they were no longer welcome. The agency has monitored a nuclear "safeguards agreement" with North Korea since 1992, when inspections and analysis suggested the North was concealing undeclared plutonium.

The agency has never had the complete picture regarding (North Korean) nuclear activities and has

never been able to provide assurances regarding the peaceful character of its nuclear program," an IAEA fact sheet on North Korea contends.

Last week's expulsions came after the North removed IAEA seals and surveillance cameras from its nuclear complex at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, the capital.

Although he denounced North Korea for its "nuclear brinkmanship," IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei said the country should be given one more chance to pull back before the crisis mushrooms into a full-blown standoff with the West.

ElBaradei, whose agency also leads the hunt for nuclear weaponry in Iraq, said last week its board had held out hope that North Korea would relent and readmit the inspectors. Instead, the country snubbed the agency by failing to respond to a letter of protest sent by ElBaradei.

Venezuela: Chavez supporters demand probe into slayings

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Supporters of President Hugo Chavez protested outside the attorney-general's office Monday to demand an investigation into two slayings the government blamed on leaders of a month-old strike.

Dozens of protesters shouted for justice, some bearing placards blaming the Caracas city police for the killings at a political rally Friday.

Chavez promised justice for the men, who were shot in a melee of Chavez followers, opposition marchers and security forces. It was unclear who was responsible for the deaths of the two government supporters, but Chavez blamed the violence on the strike leaders and the opposition-aligned news media.

"Venezuelans cannot keep dying with impunity," Chavez said in a televised address Sunday night. "We are obligated to impart justice. The country demands it. The fatherland clamors for it."

As the two sides traded charges, Chavez claimed oil exports were recovering and had reached 1.5 million barrels a day — about half Venezuela's normal level. Striking oil executives say production is only a fraction of normal output. Venezuela is the world's fifth largest oil exporter and a major U.S. supplier.

Oil production came to a near halt because the strike, which began Dec. 2, includes some 35,000 employees of the state monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, or PDVSA.

Chavez called leaders of the strike "traitors" and insisted they should be punished. He stopped short of announcing new measures to force and end to the strike.

The president has already fired dozens of striking workers from the state oil monopoly and ordered troops to guard oil installations.

Thousands of Chavez supporters attended the funerals Sunday of the men killed in the melee — Oscar Gomez Aponte, 24, and Jairo Gregorio Moran, 23. Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel and several Cabinet ministers helped carry the flag-draped coffins through Caracas.

The violence erupted Friday when several hundred presidential supporters threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at thousands of opposition marchers outside military headquarters in Caracas. At least 78 people were injured.

Police fought to keep the two sides apart, firing rubber bullets and tear gas, when gunfire rang out. Opposition

protesters insisted the shots came from Chavez supporters. But the government said it came from police who report to an opposition mayor.

"How long will metropolitan police officers continue being used to repress the people?" Chavez said in his speech. "We will find the assassins of Oscar Gomez and Jairo Gregorio Moran wherever they are hiding."

Chavez tried to take over the city police force last fall but the Supreme Court ordered the president to restore the force's autonomy.

He lashed out at owners of Venezuelan newspapers and television stations, accusing them of hailing strike leaders as "heroes when they are really traitors."

Strike leader Alfredo Gomez said Sunday that Chavez fired 251 more striking oil workers but government officials were not immediately available to confirm the claim. Chavez did not mention the dismissals during his television address.

Opposition leaders blame Chavez's leftist policies for a deep recession and accuse him of trying to accumulate too much power. They want him to resign or hold a non-binding referendum on his rule, which he says would be unconstitutional.

Two police officers also were wounded Saturday when gunfire broke out during Gomez Aponte's wake. Chavez supporters fired on police after the government blamed the Caracas police for the Friday deaths, police chief Henry Vivas said.

Officers returned fire using rubber bullets and tear gas. The state news agency, Venpres, reported Sunday that a woman who the government had earlier claimed died from tear gas asphyxiation in fact survived.

Leaders of the Democratic Coordinator opposition movement called on Venezuelans to donate between \$1.80 and \$3.50 to hold the referendum on Feb. 2 as planned.

The opposition presented a petition with more than 1.5 million signatures to election authorities Nov. 6 to call for the referendum, but the National Elections Council says the Chavez-controlled Parliament hasn't authorized \$22 million needed to pay for it.

Chavez, a former paratrooper who was elected in 1998 and re-elected two years later, has challenged the legality of the referendum at the Supreme Court.

The president has also said he might consider imposing martial law to defeat a general strike that has paralyzed the economy and the oil industry in the world's fifth-largest petroleum exporting country.

German authorities question plane thief

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Officials urged a security review for small airports Monday after a man stole a plane and threatened to crash it into Frankfurt's financial center, sowing fear of a terror attack.

Police said the man was a 31-year-old German who is apparently mentally disturbed. The man circled the city's skyscrapers Sunday for about two hours before landing safely at Frankfurt's international airport.

He said he wanted to draw attention to Judith Resnik, a U.S. astronaut killed in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986.

During his flight and attack threat, military jets chased after him and authorities ordered thousands of people to leave the main rail station, two opera houses and several skyscrapers.

The incident also forced the brief closure of runways at the Frankfurt airport, continental Europe's busiest.

German media identified the man as Franz-Stephan Strambach. Police were questioning him, and he was to be brought before a judge later Monday to be formally served with an arrest warrant.

"We believe he is mentally disturbed," police spokesman Juergen Linker said, adding that prosecutors would weigh his mental state in deciding what charges he will face.

In a rambling radio dialogue with air traffic controllers during the drama, officials said, the man threatened to crash into the European Central Bank headquarters unless he was

allowed a TV interview as well as a call to Resnik's family in Baltimore.

"I want to make my great idol Judith Resnik famous with this," the pilot said in a call from the plane to news channel n-tv. "She deserves more attention, she was the first Jewish astronaut, and maybe that's why she isn't really considered."

Axel Raab, a spokesman for German air traffic control, said police psychologists helped persuade the pilot to land by promising him contact with the Resnik family.

It was unclear whether contact was established. Police were investigating reports that the pilot called Resnik's brother while in the air, Linker said.

Charles Resnik is listed as a radiologist at the University of Maryland in Baltimore and has helped run an organization that commemorates the Challenger crew.

Judith Resnik was among seven astronauts killed when the Challenger exploded seconds after take off on Jan. 28, 1986 from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Strambach's name appears as the webmaster of an Internet site devoted to Resnik. German media reported that he lives with his mother in Darmstadt, a city about 25 miles south of Frankfurt.

He is believed to be the man who stole the plane from an airfield at Babenhausen, southeast of Frankfurt, threatening the plane's pilot with what turned out to be an unloaded gas pistol. The man then seized the controls and took off.

The incident raised jitters with its echoes of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Roland Koch, the governor of the state of Hesse where Frankfurt is located, said there would be a review of security

at small airports like the one at Babenhausen.

Wilhelm Bender, head of Frankfurt airport, also said security needed to be tightened.

"Apparently it was possible for someone with a pistol simply to walk in with pistol and take an airplane," he was quoted by the Bild newspaper as saying. He added that it was "sad that a crazy person succeeded in paralyzing an entire city for hours."

In Berlin, Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Col. Hannes Wendroth said a panel set up after Sept. 11 to review how to respond to rogue aircraft has yet to reach conclusions.

Asked whether the military would have been allowed to shoot down the plane, Wendroth said, "You would need to take special care in deciding to do that over a built-up area."

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