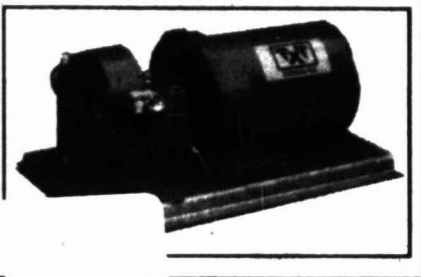


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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2003

NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 824 • Pampa, Texas
50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **58** LOW **30**

LOCAL

Aggie 'Family Night'

AMARILLO — Amarillo Aggie Mothers' Club will be hosting their annual "Family Night" on Monday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Gym, 4100 S. Coulter Road. An optional chicken fried steak dinner, catered by Hoffbrau, will begin at 6:30 p.m. For reservations call Paula Bagwell at (806) 358-1837, Margaret Barnes at (806) 352-2776, or Cindy Skypala at (806) 354-0182 by Jan. 9. Cost for the dinner is \$7.50 per plate.

DEATHS

- Clara Mae Couch, 89, homemaker.
- B.R. Counts, 73, retired welder.
- Florence Weckesser Dodson, 98, teacher.
- Rev. Darrell W. Evans, 63, Disciples of Christ minister.
- Robert Gayle Gulley, 62, construction worker.
- Mary Mae Harvill, 87, services pending.
- Arthur 'Art' Rohde, 89, retired postal worker.
- Billy Joe Stephenson, 71, retired Pantex supervisor.

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PISD to join school finance suit

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

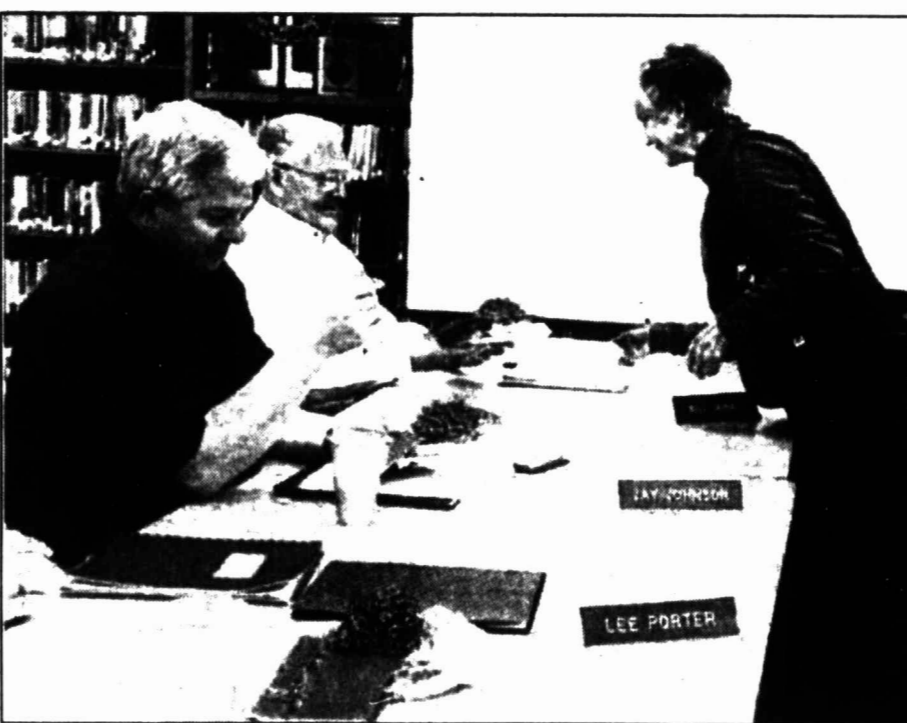
Pampa Independent School District board members Thursday voted to join the Alvarado Intervenors' lawsuit seeking equity in Texas public school funding.

More than 150 school districts have joined in a suit against the state of Texas claiming the present school finance system, as defined by the Legislature, provides insufficient and inadequate financial resources to local school districts, explained Superintendent Barry Haenisch.

This lawsuit is separate from the West Orange-Cove plaintiff school districts' suit filed two years ago which argues that the Edgewood IV decision or "Robin Hood Law" is an illegal state tax, he said. This suit has recently been returned to the original court on appeal.

"Both sides are fighting for equity," the superintendent told board members, adding that he felt the Alvarado lawsuit offers the "easiest liability" for the school district, requiring only that the district pay 30 cents per weighted average daily attendance (WADA).

"My position is it's important to be involved," Haenisch added. "If we



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)
Pampa school board members Jay Johnson, left, and Bill Jones, center, accept a plate of cookies from Helen Burns of the PITStop Mentoring Program at Wilson Elementary School.

depend for equity for 10 percent of our budget we need to be on the side of equity."

The board unanimously passed a motion by Board Member Bill Jones to join the lawsuit at a cost of 30 cents per WADA, approximately \$1,200, to be

paid over a two-year period.

Return of funds from the repealed trailer tax was another legal matter discussed by the board which met in regular session at Pampa Middle School Thursday evening. The matter was not listed on the agenda, but Board

Member Lance DeFever asked about the status of the trailer tax funds during the quarterly financial report.

Business Manager Carol Fields reported that all papers necessary to seek an opinion from the Texas Attorney General's Office were sent to State Rep. Warren Chisum's office in October, but as far as she knew, the request for an opinion had not been filed.

"We've heard their lawyers are looking into it," she said.

Fields said she had also heard that two area school districts have returned the tax money to the trailer owners. She said she believed the boards made the decision to return the funds without the advice of an attorney.

She added that the county attorney's office in Canyon was seeking an AG opinion also.

"All the legal advice we've received is to wait until the Attorney General does something," Haenisch said.

Fields reported the school district's revenues at 23 percent of budget and spending at 21 percent of budget are on track for this point of the school year.

Board members approved second reading of the TASB Policy Update 71 with the exception of a section concerning (See PISD, Page 4)

Santa surprise



(Photo by Wes Martin)
Pampa High School Concert Band members received a surprise visit from Santa Claus who directed one of the songs at the annual Winter Concert Thursday in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Halliburton says it saved Pentagon \$s

WASHINGTON (AP) — Halliburton's own auditors warned of problems with the company's contract to deliver fuel in Iraq even before Pentagon investigators raised similar concerns, a Democratic presidential candidate says.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said a Pentagon official told him Halliburton was refusing to turn over copies of the internal audit, which Defense Department investigators found but did not copy.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall said the internal audit was confidential and a Pentagon auditor may have broken the law by reading it. Hall said the audit neither warned of excessive fuel

charges nor pointed out possible violations of federal regulations.

Halliburton, which is Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, said on Thursday it saved the Pentagon money and did not overcharge for gasoline it bought in Kuwait and distributed in Iraq.

The Houston-based oil services company said in a statement that it expected to be cleared by the Defense Department of the overcharging allegations. Pentagon auditors said last week that they suspected a Halliburton subsidiary, KBR, had overcharged the department by about \$61 million on a no-bid contract to supply gasoline to Iraqi citizens.

AP poll: Most think Iraq war right decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans think the war in Iraq was the right decision by a 2-1 margin and are more inclined to approve of the job done by President Bush in foreign policy and terrorism following the capture of Saddam Hussein, an Associated Press poll found.

They remain wary, however, of the continuing deadly conflict in Iraq.

Saddam's capture appears to have given Bush's re-election prospects a boost: The poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs found that nearly half of respondents, 45 percent, said they would definitely support Bush's re-election, while 31 percent said they would definitely vote against him.

A month ago, people were evenly divided on that question, at 37 percent

definitely for and 37 percent definitely against.

Two-thirds in the poll said they were confident the United States would capture or kill Osama bin Laden, who is believed to have orchestrated the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. That's up from about half who felt that way in a poll in September.

"I'm confident we'll capture Osama bin Laden," said Jill Chiccino, a surgical technician from Wilmington, Del. "I still don't feel that will solve terrorism, but it may help."

More than six in 10 registered voters, 63 percent, said they approved of Bush's handling of foreign policy and terrorism, up from 54 percent who felt that way in early December in an AP-Ipsos poll. Bush's overall job approval

among voters was 59 percent, up from 53 percent in early December but still far below his mid-70s war ratings from earlier this year.

Asked whether they thought Saddam's capture last weekend would cause violence against U.S. troops to increase, decrease or stay about the same, the biggest group, 47 percent, said they expected no change. A third, 33 percent, said violence would decrease and 19 percent said it would increase.

People were evenly divided on whether Saddam would get a fairer trial from an international tribunal or from Iraqi courts.

"Iraqi courts will be controlled and run by the United States," said attorney Adam Allen of Tampa, Fla.

Six in 10 thought the government

was likely to be embarrassed by some of the information disclosed by Saddam in a trial. That was higher than the percentage of people who felt Saddam's disclosures would embarrass the governments of France, Russia, Britain or Germany.

Six in 10 said the capture made it more likely the United States would get help from longtime allies who opposed the Iraq war, but only 12 percent said they felt that was "very likely."

Overall support for Iraq policy was strong in the poll.

Seven in 10 said they believed the Iraq war was an important part of the campaign against terrorism rather than a distraction, as some critics have charged. And by more than a 2-1 margin, people said the war was the right decision and not a mistake.

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OBITUARIES

ARTHUR 'ART' ROHDE 1914-2003

Arthur "Art" Rohde, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at the First Assembly of God with Pastor Leland Lewis and Pastor Lonny Robbins, of Trinity Fellowship Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Rohde was born January 20, 1914, in Yutan, Neb. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1932. He married Johnnie Lee Richey on June 15, 1938, in Pampa. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 33 years, retiring in 1969. He served two terms as City Commissioner.

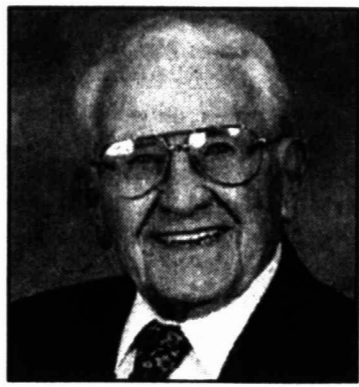
He was a member of the First Assembly of God for 70 years, serving as deacon, church secretary and song leader for 35 years.

Survivors include his wife, Johnnie Lee Rohde, of the home; a daughter, Patricia Farmer of Pampa; a son, Arthur J. Rohde, Jr., and wife Gayle of McLean; a granddaughter, Robin McCracken and husband Ethan of

Amarillo; two grandsons, Jason Farmer and wife Dane of McLean and Jeremy Farmer and wife Sara of Dallas; a great-grandson, Elle McCracken; and three great-granddaughters, Elle McCracken, Kourtney Farmer and Mia McCracken. He was preceded in death by a sister, Emmaline Oxley.

The family requests memorials be to First Assembly of God Church at Cuyler and Highway 60, Pampa, TX 79065; or Trinity Fellowship Harvest House, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



FLORENCE WECKESSER DODSON 1905-2003

Florence Weckesser Dodson, 98, of Miami, Texas, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at McLean, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at the First Christian Church of Miami with Steve Porter, elder of the Primitive Baptist Church of Paducah, and the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor of the First Christian Church of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Dodson was born Sept. 13, 1905, in Miami. She was a 1924 graduate of Miami High School and attended Sul Ross State Teachers College in Alpine, and Northwest State Teachers College in Alva, Okla., receiving a B.A. degree in 1929. She taught school in Hardtner, Kan., Rankin, Texas, and Shamrock, Texas.

She married Glynn Ray Dodson on March 5, 1938. He preceded her in death on July 4, 1984. She was a member and deaconess

emeritus of the First Christian Church where she taught classes for more than 50 years.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the North Plains Club, and the Meet Your Neighbors Club.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Glynda Martin in 2001, and by eight brothers and sisters.

Survivors include a daughter Connie Holland and husband Joe of Pampa; a son, Dr. Jerry Dodson of San Angelo; a sister, Sybil Perry of Hamlin; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church, 201 Tascosa, Miami, TX 79059; or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Mrs. Dodson will lie in state from 12 noon until service time on Saturday at the church.

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

B.R. COUNTS 1930-2003

B.R. Counts, 73, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, at Amarillo. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Capt. Gary Steward, of the Salvation Army, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Counts was born Oct. 4, 1930, in Dill City, Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1955. He worked for Cabot and IRI for 40 years as a welder, retiring in 1997.

He married Mary Matney on Jan. 24, 1960, in Borger.

He was an active member of Moose Lodge #1163 and belonged to Fellowship Baptist Church. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Counts, of the home; two sons, Steven Ray Counts and Gregory Lee Counts, both of Pampa; a sister, Sue Kunkel of Saratoga, Fla.; and a brother, Glen Counts of Point, Calif.

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

CLARA MAE COUCH 1914-2003

Clara Mae Couch, 89, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at Spearman. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Fairview Cemetery with Arvia Willingham, a retired Church of Christ minister, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Couch was born Jan. 23, 1914, at Muskogee, Okla., to John and Lou Glenn Omohundro. She had been a Pampa resident since 1993, moving from Borger.

She married James Andrew Couch in March of 1934 in Alabama; he died in 1972.

She belonged to Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Ray Omohundro; and three sisters, Mable Green, Lela Couch and Estelle Hill.

Survivors include a daughter, Linda Kay Couch of Pampa.

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

REV. DARRELL W. EVANS 1940-2003

The Reverend Darrell W. Evans, 63, of Pampa, Texas, died Thursday, December 18, 2003, at Pampa, Texas.

Memorial services at Port Arthur and Pampa will be announced at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

The Rev. Evans was born October 25, 1940, in Donna, Texas. He was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur. He graduated from Texas Christian University with a B.A. and a B.S. degree and received a masters of divinity degree from Brite Divinity School at TCU.

He was ordained as a pastor in the First Christian Church in Port Arthur. He served churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and served First Christian Church in Pampa, First Christian Church in Miami, and First Christian Church in Amarillo.

He served as a chaplain and board member of Hospice of the Panhandle in Pampa. He was a

former chaplain of the Pampa Regional Medical Center and was a member of the Pampa Ministerial Alliance.

Survivors include his wife; Billie Sue Evans, of the home; two sons: Dr. James Evans, wife Emily and granddaughter Ellie, all of Austin; Erik Evans, wife Beth and grandson Jonah, all of Bellingham, Washington; a daughter: Leigh Malloch, husband Scott and grandchildren Ansley, Colin, and Andrew Malloch, all of Chappell Hill, Texas; mother and father: Ruth and Fred Day of Port Arthur; a sister; Lucy Cody and husband Tom of Shreveport, Louisiana; sister-in-law: Bonnie Evans of Torrance, California; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Vivian and Emil Methvin of Silsbee, Texas; sister-in-law, Judy Lancelos and husband Dr. Kenneth Lancelos of Augusta, Georgia; brother-in-law, George Methvin and wife Marie of Amarillo.

ROBERT GAYLE GULLEY 1941-2003

FORT GIBSON, Okla. — Robert Gayle Gulley, 62, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2003. Services were held Monday, Dec. 15, at Bradley Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Harry Ford officiating. Burial was in Johnson Memorial Cemetery at Munday, Texas, under the direction of Bradley Family Funeral Service of Fort Gibson.

Mr. Gulley was born July 31, 1941, at Knox City, Texas, to Thurman Bedford and Mary Elaine Smith Gulley. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp Reserves for six years and moved to the Muskogee County area in 1984 where he worked for Wilolamb Construction until 2001.

He was preceded in death



Asheville, North Carolina; nieces and nephews, Melissa and Charlie Cook of LaPorte, Texas, Jeff and Shelley Cody of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and his former wife: Kathy Dunagan of Austin.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church (which will be designated to The Christian Church Benevolent Fund for retired ministers), 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

ROBERT GAYLE GULLEY 1941-2003

Survivors include his wife Peggy Lue Hollon Gulley, of the home; a daughter, Paula Johnson of Pampa; four stepsons, Greg Lester of Muskogee, Mark Lester of Amarillo, John Lester of Hot Springs, Ark., and Jerry Lester of North Richland Hills; his mother Mary Elaine Gulley of Munday; a sister, Mary Herring of Breckenridge; a brother, Danny Gulley of Munday; many grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

MARY MAE HARVILL

Mary Mae Harvill, 87, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

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

City Briefs

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

ALL ABOUT Beauty for the Holidays! Hair, nails, tanning. Gift certificates. Katie Kidd, Connie Perkins, Nancy Jacoby, Vanessa Milligan & Christie Wall. 665-1101.

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PARTY TRAYS for the holidays! Hoagies Deli, 665-0292. We deliver!

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PACK-N-MAIL NOW through Christmas 20% off on gift items and jewelry.

PAMPA COUNTRY Club Buffet, Sun., Dec. 21st is Closed to the public.

SANTA WILL be Downtown 10-5 p.m. on Sat. Dec. 6, 13 & 20th! Be sure & stop by!

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More obituaries on Page 4

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OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

BILLY JOE STEPHENSON
1932-2003

SKELLYTOWN — Billy Joe Stephenson, 71, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at Plano. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Stephenson was born Oct. 16, 1932, at Borger. He married Billie Jo Willoughby on Aug. 30, 1952, at Denver, Colo.; she died Sept. 6, 2003.

He moved to Skellytown in 1959 and retired from Pantex as a supervisor after 35

years of service. He was a member of Skellytown Lions Club and Skellytown First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by two sons, David Stephenson and Randy Stephenson; his parents, George Franklin and Julia Augusta Stephenson; three sisters; and three brothers.

Survivors include a daughter, Lynda Truelove of The Colony; a son, Danny Stephenson of Florence, Colo.; a sister, Frances Richardson of Amarillo; a brother, J.E. Stephenson of New Hall, Calif.; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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

SERVICES TOMORROW

COUCH, Clara Mae — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

DODSON, Florence Weckesser — 2 p.m., First Christian Church, Miami.

ROHDE, Arthur "Art" — 10 a.m., First Assembly of God Church, Pampa.

STEPHENSON, Billy Joe — Graveside services, 4 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is calling for mostly sunny skies. Highs in the upper 50s and south winds 5 to 10 mph. Tonight should fall on mostly clear skies with lows

around 30 and south winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday should see mostly sunny skies. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. Saturday

night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Sunday night, mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain and snow after midnight. Breezy. Lows in the mid 30s. Monday, mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Breezy, cooler. Highs in the lower 40s. Monday night, mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the evening. Lows in the mid 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Christmas Day, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

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- Occupational Tree** Includes: Fireman, Policeman, Teacher, Babysitter, Medical

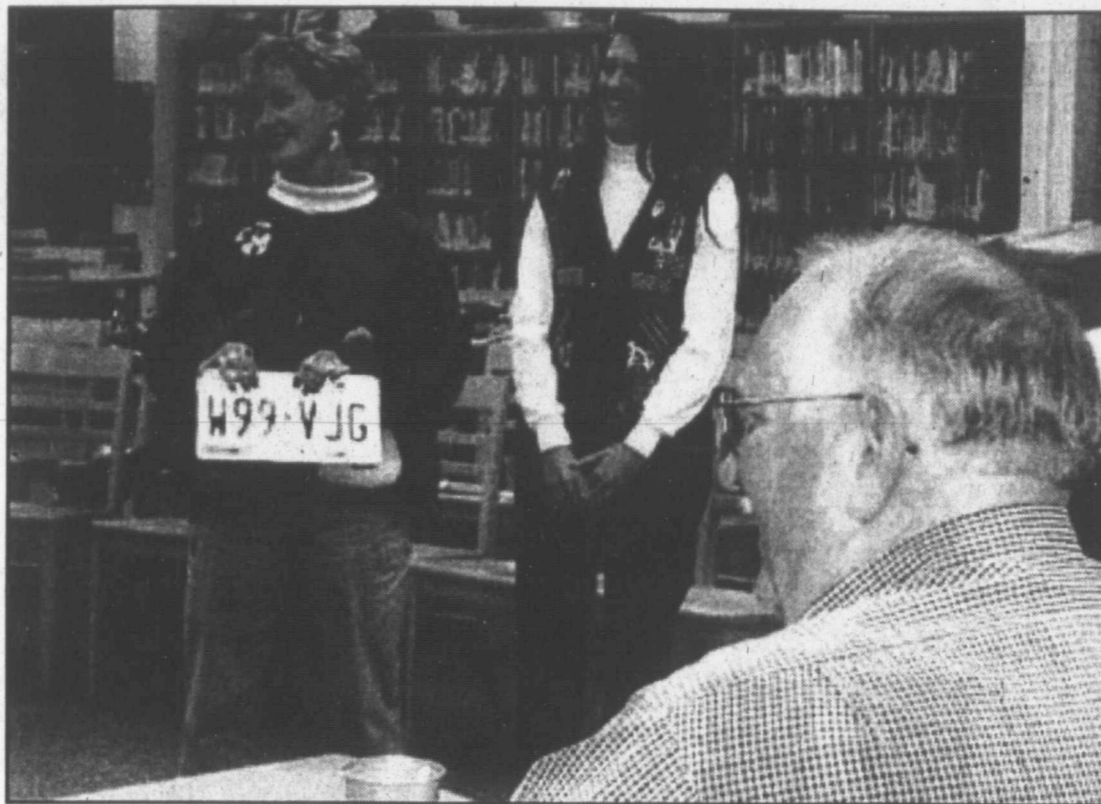
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(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Teachers Teresa Dyson, left, and Heidi Baggerman present a program on the PITSTOP math mentoring program at Wilson Elementary School to members of the school board meeting at Pampa Middle School Thursday evening. Twice a week, community members come to the school to help students prepare for the TAKS math test. Presently the program has 50 mentors and 60 students participating. "They don't just teach math skills," Dyson said. "They are also role models for the students."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PISD

cerning district compensation for military pay. The board is considering setting a policy for the district to pay the difference between employee pay and military pay if an employee is called to active duty. Haenisch said that to his knowledge the district has no National Guard or military Reserve employees on the payroll.

Dr. Jay Johnson, board member, said that he felt a policy should be in place prior to the matter coming up.

A waiver was approved allowing Pampa High School

to count all students as present on TAKS test days when only those taking the test actually attend school.

Michelle Lynn Roberts was hired as Special Education Resource teacher for Pampa Middle School.

The board heard presentations by a representative for Blue Bird bus company and Southwest Student Transportation regarding transportation needs for the district.

Haenisch reported that selling a plot of land next to Bright Beginnings Day Care on Frost Street would not be financially feasible at this time.

In other action, the board

accepted bids for copy paper, approved receipts and disbursements for November, and named Lee Carter, technology coordinator, to the 2004-2005 Textbook Adoption Committee.

They heard reports on Worth the Wait, Adequate Yearly Progress, PISD Highly qualified Professional and Paraprofessional Staff, PISD staff development report, and a plan for a \$110,269 upgrade cafeteria equipment at Pampa Middle School.

School Spotlight for the Thursday meeting centered on Wilson Elementary School's math mentoring program.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests as of 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Dec. 11

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Ripley. The vehicle's doors were locked, and there were no signs of forced entry. A wallet and contents were taken, for an estimated loss of \$80.

Thursday, Dec. 18

Violation of a protective order was reported at One Medical Plaza. The incident occurred in the 2200 block of Lea.

A male juvenile was arrested

in the 600 block of Kingsmill on a directive to apprehend by Texas Youth Commission.

Abraham Hernandez Avila, 18, 1057 Huff, was arrested on a capias pro fine for minor in possession of alcohol.

Friday, Dec. 19

Sidney David Bowers, 40, 1408 S. Barnes, was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Ricky Lynn Marsh, 43, 126 S. Houston, was arrested on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

Timothy Joe Broadbent, 23, 719 Zimmers, was arrested for public intoxication.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.60
Milo	4.13
Corn	4.69
Soybeans	6.84

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

OXY	41.39	-0.06
BP	48.37	+0.20
Celanese	40.21	-0.16
Cabot Corp.	32.08	+0.38
Cabot Oil Gas	29.95	-0.14
Coca Cola	49.97	+0.03
VLO	46.61	+0.05
HAL	26.76	-0.36
Trad	33.12	-0.09
NOI	22.63	+0.12
KMI	57.26	-0.13
XCEL	16.96	-0.04
Kerr McGee	45.19	-0.20
XOM	39.34	-0.07
Limited	17.85	-0.15
Williams	9.92	-0.07
MCD	24.50	-0.31
Atmos	24.32	-0.02
Pioneer Nat.	32.34	-0.10
JCP	24.59	+0.06
COP	63.27	0.08
SLB	52.98	+0.23
Tenneco	7.06	-0.14
CVX	83.22	-0.33
Wal-Mart	52.88	+0.28
OKE	21.33	+0.43
NS Grp	8.29	-0.26

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SHERIFF
Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

Thursday, Dec. 18
Don Ray Howard, 31, Canadian, was arrested for theft by check, issuing a bad check, possession of drug paraphernalia, and Carson County charges of speeding and expired vehicle registration.

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CAIRO, Egypt — An Arab... This is the que... ed in newspa... East and by... faced with the... ed, bedraggle... in the hands... tors.

Many are Saddam's dow... iation to the... not just to the... Others say th... capture, it's t... expectation th... unite the Arab... "A new... Arabs" was t... column this w... Atwan, editor... based Arabic... Arabi.

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But Atwan excuses for S... ing to U.S. fo... being fired aft... a spider-hole... of Tikrit.

"We only h... version of the... drugged him... wanted to surr... would have... offers to leav... wrote.

Instead, he... had chosen... American arro... Apparently... shared Atw...

Afghan

pressing

KABUL, (AP) — De... Afghanistan... Taliban cons... on Friday, Muslim day... sought to kee... over an outbr... lords from e... toric meeting... The meetin... at a Kabul... was aimed at... issues such... power in a c... ethnic divid... more than t... war.

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Saddam capture unleashes debate on Arab humiliation

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Was he an Arab hero or a dictator? This is the question being debated in newspapers in the Middle East and by Arab intellectuals faced with the image of a bearded, bedraggled Saddam Hussein in the hands of American captors.

Many are asking, too, if Saddam's downfall was a humiliation to the entire Arab world, not just to the ousted Iraqi leader. Others say that with Saddam's capture, it's time to drop any expectation that a great hero will unite the Arab world.

"A new humiliation to Arabs" was the headline on a column this week by Abdel Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based Arabic daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

"It was a shock for us, and a humiliation to millions of Arabs who saw the TV shots of the Iraqi president being subjected to the humiliating medical checkup. We hoped that he would have fought until the end, and fallen as a martyr like his two sons and grandson or chose Hitler's end," Atwan wrote, referring to the Nazi leader's suicide.

But Atwan was quick to find excuses for Saddam's succumbing to U.S. forces without a shot being fired after he was found in a spider-hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

"We only heard the American version of the story. Maybe they drugged him because if Saddam wanted to surrender this way, he would have ... accepted the many offers to leave power," Atwan wrote.

Instead, he added, Saddam had chosen "to stand up to American arrogance."

Apparently, many Arabs shared Atwan's view of

Afghan officials pressing onward

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Delegates debating Afghanistan's first post-Taliban constitution pressed on Friday, through the Muslim day of rest, as they sought to keep a controversy over an outburst against warlords from eclipsing the historic meeting.

The meeting in a huge tent at a Kabul college campus was aimed at deciding critical issues such as how to share power in a country riven by ethnic divides enflamed by more than two decades of war.

But the slow-paced proceedings have been overshadowed by a row over a female delegate's outburst against powerful faction leaders who hold key posts at the grand council, or loya jirga.

"Some of us have come from far away and don't want to waste our time," said Fazel-ul Rahman Samkanai, a delegate from the southeastern province of Paktia. "We want to make up for the days we have already lost."

The United Nations granted protection to Malalai Joya, a delegate from western Farah province, amid concern for her safety after she on Wednesday denounced as "criminals" faction leaders like former President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a deeply conservative Islamist.

Saddam's arrest on Saturday as a collective humiliation — and an intentional one.

In a telephone poll, the popular Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera asked viewers if showing Saddam being probed by U.S. military doctors was meant to humiliate Arabs. Al-Jazeera said that of the 1,500 people who called in, 97 percent said it was.

Kuwaiti columnist Ahmed al-Robei expressed anger at such talk of a hurt afflicting all Arabs. He wrote in the pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat that the worst thing on Middle East satellite channels since Saddam's arrest was the idea of "humiliation to Arab dignity."

He added that Arabs were continuing to ignore that the

Iraqi leader was a villain. "The mass graves are not enough to wake the minds of some of us. Are we people who adore despots? It is a sad question," he wrote.

He said he wondered how long Arabs would go on "glorifying oppressors and despots and portraying them as the saviors and leaders of this (Arab) nation,

which is handed over from one executioner to another."

Some writers have described an Arab need for heroes and said it stems from an education that glorifies the past — when Arab armies conquered much of the known world — leaving people today looking with discouragement at a world where the West, and particularly the United

States, has all the power.

Fouad Ajami, director of Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins University, said in his 1998 book "The Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation's Odyssey" that too many Arab intellectuals prefer invoking Arab unity and anti-Western defiance to dealing with real problems in the Middle East.

Taiwan's new SARS case involves familiar mix of virus, airplane travel

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The new emergence of SARS this week includes key elements of the global outbreak last winter and spring, but world and U.S. health authorities say they're not alarmed.

Two people who were exposed to a Taiwanese man with SARS later flew to the United States but have shown no symptoms.

In fact, no SARS has been reported in any known contacts of the 44-year-old military scientist diagnosed in Taiwan, said World Health Organization spokeswoman Maria Cheng.

"It doesn't look like the start of a new outbreak," Cheng said Thursday. "We're very much

hoping that it's an isolated event."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday it does not have any active role in the Taiwanese SARS investigation — even concerning the two scientists who arrived in the United States.

Health safety precautions conducted during the height of SARS last spring — such as handing out notices asking passengers to monitor themselves for SARS symptoms for 10 days — have not been activated, said CDC spokesman Dave Daigle.

The CDC also is working to finalize its prevention plan for

severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Taiwan has put 34 people in home quarantine and Singapore has isolated 75 because they had close contact with the researcher, who attended a conference last week in Singapore.

Meanwhile Taiwanese officials said that five foreigners — three Americans, one Japanese and a Singaporean — who sat near the SARS patient on the Dec. 10 flight back to Taiwan had been located and told to closely monitor their health.

The Japanese traveler lives in Taiwan and is still on the island, while two of the Americans went to Hong Kong and the other is in the United

States, said Shih Wen-yi, a spokesman for Taiwan's Center for Disease Control.

Singapore's Ministry of Health said it has found the Singaporean traveler and that he was in good health.

The scientist — identified only as Lt. Col. Chan — might have become exposed to the virus Dec. 5 while disinfecting equipment in his military laboratory in suburban Taipei, officials have said. Two days later, he flew to Singapore with five colleagues.

After he and his co-workers returned to Taiwan on Dec. 10, two of his colleagues in the Ministry of Defense flew to the United States, said Shih, who

would not specify where the two are staying.

The two colleagues returned to Taiwan on Friday and were being examined at a Taipei hospital, Shih said.

Officials have said the researcher was probably not contagious while traveling because he had no symptoms. He developed a fever only after he got home, and was diagnosed with SARS earlier this week.

In a television interview broadcast Friday, the researcher's father said his son knew he was infected but delayed going to the hospital because he didn't want to bring shame to Taiwan.

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Bill Kasper, Minister.....425 N. Ward

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Leland & Darlene Lewis.....500 S. Cuyler
New Life Assembly of God
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Skellytown Assembly of God Church
Rev. Danny Trussell.....411 Chamberlain
First Assembly of God (McLean)
Pastor Gary Griffin.....420 Main St.

Baptist

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Jim Bible.....3rd Street
Bible Baptist Church
Bob Hudson, Pastor.....500 E. Kingsmill
Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. Richard Bartel.....900 E. 23rd St.
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.....Starkweather & Browning
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Paul Nachtigall, Pastor.....1301 N. Banks
Hobart Baptist Church
Rev. Jim Powell.....1100 W. Crawford
Fellowship Baptist Church
Charles Lowry, Pastor.....217 N. Warren
First Baptist Church
Rev. Randy White.....203 N. West
First Baptist Church (Mobeetie)
Rev. Robert Meller.....Mobeetie Tx.
First Baptist Church (Lefors)
Chris Webb, Pastor.....315 E. 4th

First Baptist Church (Skellytown)

Fines Marchman.....306 Roosevelt
First Baptist Church (Groom)
Byron Williamson.....407 E. 1St.

First Baptist Church (Wheeler)

Rev. Toby Henson.....601 S. Main
First Baptist Church (White Deer)
John Collis, Minister.....411 Omohundro St.
First Baptist Church (McLean)
Pastor Kelly Raymond.....206 E. 1st St.
First Free Will Baptist
.....731 Sloan St.

Grace Baptist Church

Bro. Kyle Ohsfeldt.....824 S. Barnes

Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel

Bilingual.....1021 S. Barnes

Macedonia Baptist Church

Rev. I.L. Patrick.....441 Elm. St.

New Hope Baptist Church

Rev. Thomas J. Patterson.....912 S. Gray

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Rev. Heliodoro Silva.....1541 Hamilton

Progressive Baptist Church

Rev. Bob Davis.....836 S. Gray

Trinity Baptist Church (McLean)

Pastor: Larry Perkins.....603 Commerce St.

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Church of Christ

Rodney Tedford, Minister
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Delton McGuire.....101 Newcome

Church of Christ (McLean)
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Zion Lutheran Church
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Dick Irvine.....Wheeler & 3rd

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Rev. Thacker Haynes.....219 N. Gray

First United Methodist Church (White Deer)
Toni Bailey.....101 W. 8th

Groom United Methodist Church
Rev. Tom Moore.....303 E. 2nd

Lefors United Methodist Church

Rev. John M. Westman.....311 E. 5th. Lefors
St. Marks Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
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Bishop Steven Smith29th & Aspen

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Church of The Nazarene
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Bob Banks.....300 W. Browning

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Pastor Agustin Vasquez500 N. Duncan

Iglesia Nueva Vida - New Life Church -
Bilingual
Pastor Pedro Hernandez ..801 E. Campbell

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Briarwood Full Gospel Church
Rev. Lynn Hancock.....1800 W. Harvester

Pentecostal
Faith Tabernacle
Rev. Ben Corbitt, Pastor610 Naida

First Pentecostal Holiness Church
Rev. Albert Maggard.....1700 Alcock

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Dec. 24th

RELIGION

Service, reception to honor St. Matthew's pastor, wife

On Sunday, Dec. 28, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church members will celebrate 10 years of service with The Rev. Jake and Laura Clemmens as they prepare to retire at the end of December.

The public is invited to join the congregation as they gather to reminisce through the last decade of shared memories and offer a fond

farewell to the Clemmenses beginning with a 10 a.m. service, "Ending Pastoral Relationships," with the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wallis Ohl officiating.

A reception honoring the Clemmenses will follow the service in the Parish Hall at 727 W. Browning.

Inmates graduate from Bible class



(Community Camera photo)

(Seated, left-right) Alan Slates, Alandor Morris, (standing, l-r) James Busby and Steven Harris, all inmates at Rufe Jordan Prison Unit, recently graduated from "Free For Sure" Bible class.

Four inmates at Rufe Jordan Prison Unit recently completed "Free For Sure" Bible class based on the book of John. The four were James Busby, Steven Harris, Alandor Morris and Alan Slates.

Free for Sure, a religious 52-week course of study, has met at the Jordan Unit for the past six years. The purpose of the interactive class is to help inmates attain a full and meaningful life in Christ.

Alumni of the class still present at the unit were on hand to honor the graduates. The Chapel Choir under the direction of inmate Chuck Adair led the group in song, and Joyce Field, prison ministry volunteer, presented a musical selection.

Among volunteers present were Kathy Farrar, Jo Johnson, Margie Moore and Bethel and J.B. Walker. Dorothy Barrett, another regular volunteer, was unable to attend.

First Pentecostal plans special Sunday

Two special services are in the works for Sunday, Dec. 21, at First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock.

The first is a special dramatization scheduled at 10:45 a.m. Sunday with Mary Maggard.

Instead of a conventional sermon, Maggard will present a dramatization of a newspaper reporter's interview with the prophet Isaiah, 800 years before the birth of Christ.

In the evening, the church's annual candlelight service is scheduled at six.

The dramatization will be set in the prison where Isaiah

is being kept just minutes before he is set to be executed on orders from King Manasseh.

The reporter, curious about Isaiah's foretelling of the coming of Christ, questions the prophet about his astounding predictions, pointedly singling out contradictions and seeming impossibilities in Isaiah's vision.

The reporter gives Isaiah an opportunity to retract his predictions and "set the record straight" before he dies. The prophet's responses and statements make for an emotional and inspiring interview.

The theme of the evening service is "The Light of the World is Jesus" and will include brief meditations presented by members of the congregation interspersed with narration and lighting of candles.

A tradition for the church and Pampa, this candlelight service has been conducted each holiday season for many years.

Both services are open to the public.

The church is pastored by Albert and Mary Maggard who cordially invite all to attend.

'Christmas at Calvary'



(Courtesy photo)

Calvary Baptist Church recently presented "Christmas at Calvary," an evening of Christmas music celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Above, left-right: Those appearing in the special holiday presentation included Rick Pearson, Daphne Dildy, Cheryl Shuck, Jon Sturgill, Cara Pryor, Savannah Smith, Hayden Henson, Dennis Boyd, Josh Nunn, Austin Bruner, Tommy Pickering, Josh Nunn, Ronnie Holmes and Sandy Crosswhite.

Calvary Baptist offers candlelight service

Calvary Baptist Church's annual Candlelight and Advent service is this Sunday night, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.

The service will include a time of lighting the five advent

candles and a candlelighting ceremony involving everyone present.

Christmas carols and solos will be interspersed to make the service a meaningful time

of reflection and worship. The one hour service is open to the public and a nursery will be provided.

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 900 E. 23rd.

Singles New Year's Eve dinner-dance set

AMARILLO - The Singles Ministry of Paramount Terrace Christian Church is having an area-wide Singles New Year's Eve dinner and dance at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Room, 7 p.m. to midnight, Dec. 31.

Dress will be church attire to semi-formal. Tickets are \$20 per person which includes a guest speaker, dinner and dance. Deadline for purchasing tickets will be Dec. 29. The dinner and dance will be an

alcohol and smoke-free environment.

More information and tickets may be obtained by calling

Penny Lawlis or Mike Nuthman at Paramount Terrace Christian Church, (806) 353-6615.

Come Worship Jesus our Savior

Saturday "Sabbath"

School • 9:30 a.m.

Church • 11:00 a.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

425 Ward • 665-4492

CHURCH BRIEFS

St. Matthew's sets Christmas services

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 727 W. Browning, plans to celebrate Christmas with three special services.

On Thursday, Christmas Day, the church will celebrate with a 10 a.m. worship service.

Zion Lutheran to hold candlelight service

Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan, will celebrate Christmas Eve with a candlelight service starting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24. A day service will be conducted at 9 a.m. the following day. For more information, call 669-2774.

December 15th to December 24th

Brighton's 10 Days of Christmas!

- Dec. 15th win a Key Fob.
- Dec. 16th win Earrings.
- Dec. 17th win a Night Light.
- Dec. 18th win a Bracelet.
- Dec. 19th win a Clock.
- Dec. 20th win a Necklace.
- Dec. 21st win a Belt.
- Dec. 22nd win Sunglasses.
- Dec. 23rd win a Watch.
- Dec. 24th win a Wallet.



Please join us each day as we take time to celebrate the joy of the holiday season! Register to win a different Brighton Accessory each day in our 10 daily drawings!

iimages

123 N. Cuyler ~ 669-1091
Monday-Saturday 10:00-5:30

Brighton.

Memory Garden Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa

First Annual Christmas Candlelight Service

In Honor and Memory Of Our Loved Ones

You are cordially Invited to Attend a Candlelight Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2003
AT 6:00 P.M.

Service will be held inside the New Chapel of Peace Mausoleum On the West Side of the Cemetery
23rd Street & Price Road

If you have any questions, please call 806-665-8921

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FRIDAY • December 19, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Clues Point to Husband's Addiction to Illegal Drugs

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married almost three years. Like every marriage, we've had our ups and downs. My husband constantly accuses me of having an affair. I've never given him any reason not to trust me, nor have I been with anybody else since we married. He constantly asks, "Where did you go? Who did you go with? What time did you go? How long were you there?" I stay home all day so he won't give me the third degree. On Fridays when he gets paid, he picks a fight so he can leave. He doesn't return until Sunday, and then half his cash is gone. During the week, he stays up until the wee hours of the morning, even though he has to get up at 5 a.m. for work. Also, I have found pieces of burnt foil in his belongings, along with a straw. Once I even found drugs. I pack my husband a good lunch every day. I'm loving and have his dinner ready when he comes home. I don't go anywhere or do anything. Please help me. I don't know what else to do.

PRISONER IN SALINAS

DEAR PRISONER: You are either married to the Energizer Bunny, or your husband is using some kind of stimulant. The fact that you found drug paraphernalia is your first clue. The disappearing act he pulls every payday should be another. Among the side effects of stimulants are a short temper and paranoia. Your husband exhibits both behaviors. Please understand that what is wrong in your marriage has nothing to do with you. If you love your husband, give him an ultimatum: Get off the drugs and get into a rehabilitation program, or his marriage to you is over. (Your doctor can give you a referral for rehab.) For your own mental health, you must be prepared to follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing

because my 12-year-old daughter, "Dorothy," is pregnant for the second time. Due to our religion, we do not believe in birth control or abortion. We kept the first baby, but we're afraid if we keep the second, Dorothy will continue to have premarital sex. Should we abort this one or let her have this baby, too? Please reply soon.

CONCERNED PARENT IN TEXAS

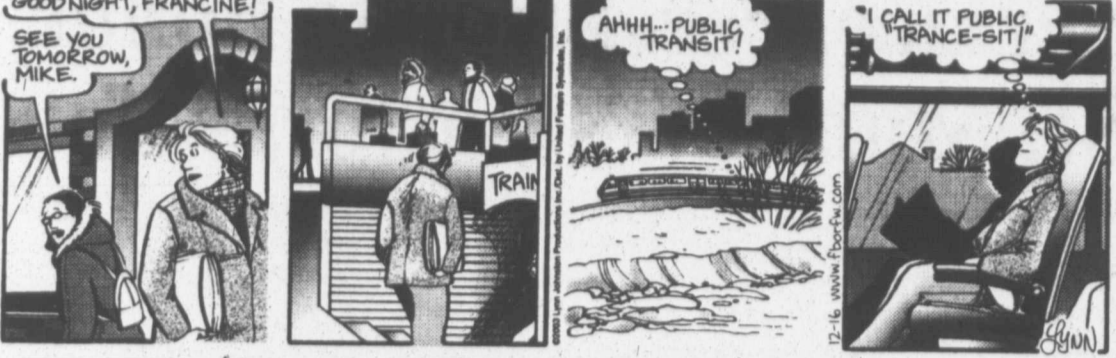
DEAR CONCERNED: Whether your 12-year-old daughter should carry her second child to term is not a decision I can, or should, make for you. Because of her tender age, there could be medical risks involved. Take your cues from her OBGYN.

It should be clear by now that your daughter is, and will continue to be, sexually active. Unless you intend to keep her under lock and key, she must be educated about sexually transmitted diseases and birth control. Since you consider using birth control a sin, please consider that it's a bigger sin to bring children into this world if you cannot educate and support them emotionally and financially. P.S. You haven't mentioned how old the father(s) of these babies are. If they are more than four years older than Dorothy, she could be a victim of statutory rape, and you should notify the police.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



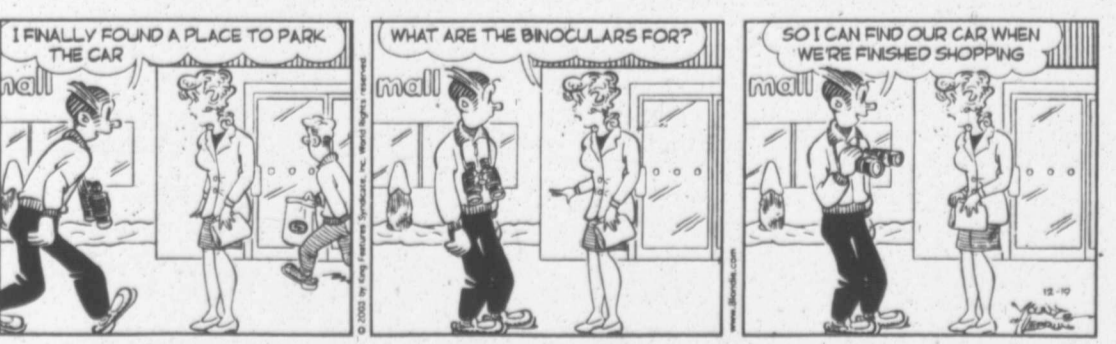
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

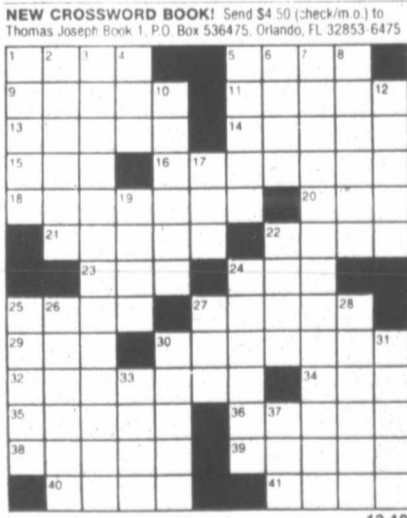
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 40 Invites
- 1 Farm measure
- 5 Prepare for travel
- 9 Dodge
- 11 Distant
- 13 Edible tubes
- 14 Sci-fi, for one
- 15 Formicary resident
- 16 Ghost
- 18 Bill Murray film
- 20 Campaigned
- 21 Wise one
- 22 Great amounts
- 23 Allow
- 24 Costa del
- 25 Butter squares
- 27 Rides the waves
- 29 One for Juan
- 30 Mediterranean island
- 32 Comic Bob
- 34 Canal setting
- 35 Clarifying phrase
- 36 Without in the world
- 38 Greek enchantress
- 39 Big bombs

SLID COLON
TENET OPTINE
AGNEW RANTS
TIE ONALERT
STROBE MAL
FIAT ACE
BUTT OINK
PEP SORT
EDS UNSTOP
ESTONIA ONO
PIANO DITTO
EDGES ONEAL
REESE ASPIS

Yesterday's answer

- 2 History, essential-
- 3 Airport
- 4 Family
- 5 Book
- 6 Actor
- 7 They do every-
- 8 Seoul citizen
- 10 Tyrant
- 12 Forest of
- 13 plants
- 17 Corral
- 19 French keys
- 22 Matador's foe
- 24 Surfer's shade
- 25 Of ancient Carthage
- 26 Lack of vitality
- 27 Polite address
- 28 Alarms
- 30 Lion features
- 31 "Give it —!"
- 33 Cabby
- 37 Recipe amount



NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853 6475

Marmaduke



"What's sweet about it? It's from our door!"

The Family Circus



"Last year I helped to tangle up the lights before we put them away."

Flo & Friends



WASHIN...
— Five-time champion L... says he'll c... more tours b...
OMISSIO...
Lindsay... name was o... Dec. 18 a... Lefors-Groo... ketball game... Lefors w... Duckworth s... for the Lady...
BASKETB...
IOWA... (AP) — Iow... Alford won'... Bob Knigh... playing care... What he'd li... finally beat... coach. Alford wi... for the thir... Iowa plays... Dallas next... He went... Knight's In... losing 78-66... at Southwe... State in the 1... and 74-71 o... Jan. 18, 2000... As a pl... helped Ind... 1987 NCA... onship. He al... Knight on th... Olympic team... the gold m... Angeles. "I just grea... man that has... business this... highly succes... done it the... Alford said... programs hav... and he's d... incredible... integrity." When Knig... met in that... Bloomington... lot of anticipa... ulation abou... would react... Alford said th... things out o... and the two... relationship. Alford sa... game will b... uring stick f... which is 6-... played sinc... Northern low... The teams... styles, he no... staff will anal... closely to the... pare for the... son. "My enth... excitement ab... is that we real... for the things... in his progr... offensive stan... defensive... Alford said. Knight too... Tech job in... being fired at... He had a 62... with the Hoos... three nation... onships and... titles. Alford said... to Knight for... his program... ask for Knigh... at some poin... game. He said... always been s...

SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

CYCLING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong says he'll compete in two more tours before retiring.

OMISSION

Lindsay Duckworth's name was omitted from a Dec. 18 article on the Lefors-Groom girls' basketball game.

Lefors won 58-32 and Duckworth scored 5 points for the Lady Pirates.

BASKETBALL

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Iowa coach Steve Alford won 92 games with Bob Knight during his playing career at Indiana. What he'd like to do now is finally beat his college coach.

Alford will face Knight for the third time when Iowa plays Texas Tech in Dallas next Monday night. He went 0-2 against Knight's Indiana teams, losing 78-66 while he was at Southwest Missouri State in the 1997-98 season and 74-71 with Iowa on Jan. 18, 2000.

As a player, Alford helped Indiana win the 1987 NCAA championship. He also played for Knight on the 1984 U.S. Olympic team, which won the gold medal in Los Angeles.

"I just greatly respect the man that has been in the business this long, has been highly successful and has done it the right way," Alford said Thursday. "His programs haven't cheated and he's done it with incredible ethics and integrity."

When Knight and Alford met in that 2000 game in Bloomington, there was a lot of anticipation and speculation about how they would react to each other. Alford said the media blew things out of proportion and the two have a solid relationship.

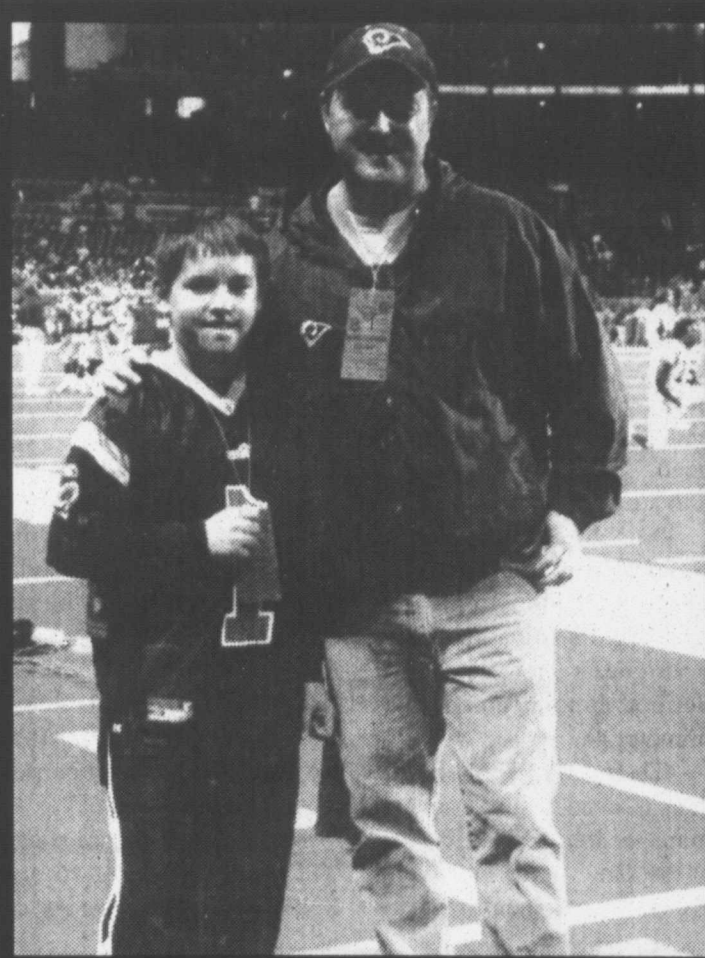
Alford said Monday's game will be a good measuring stick for his team, which is 6-1 and hasn't played since losing at Northern Iowa on Dec. 9. The teams have similar styles, he noted, and his staff will analyze the game closely to help them prepare for the rest of the season.

"My enthusiasm and excitement about his game is that we really try to mirror the things that he does in his program from an offensive standpoint and a defensive standpoint," Alford said.

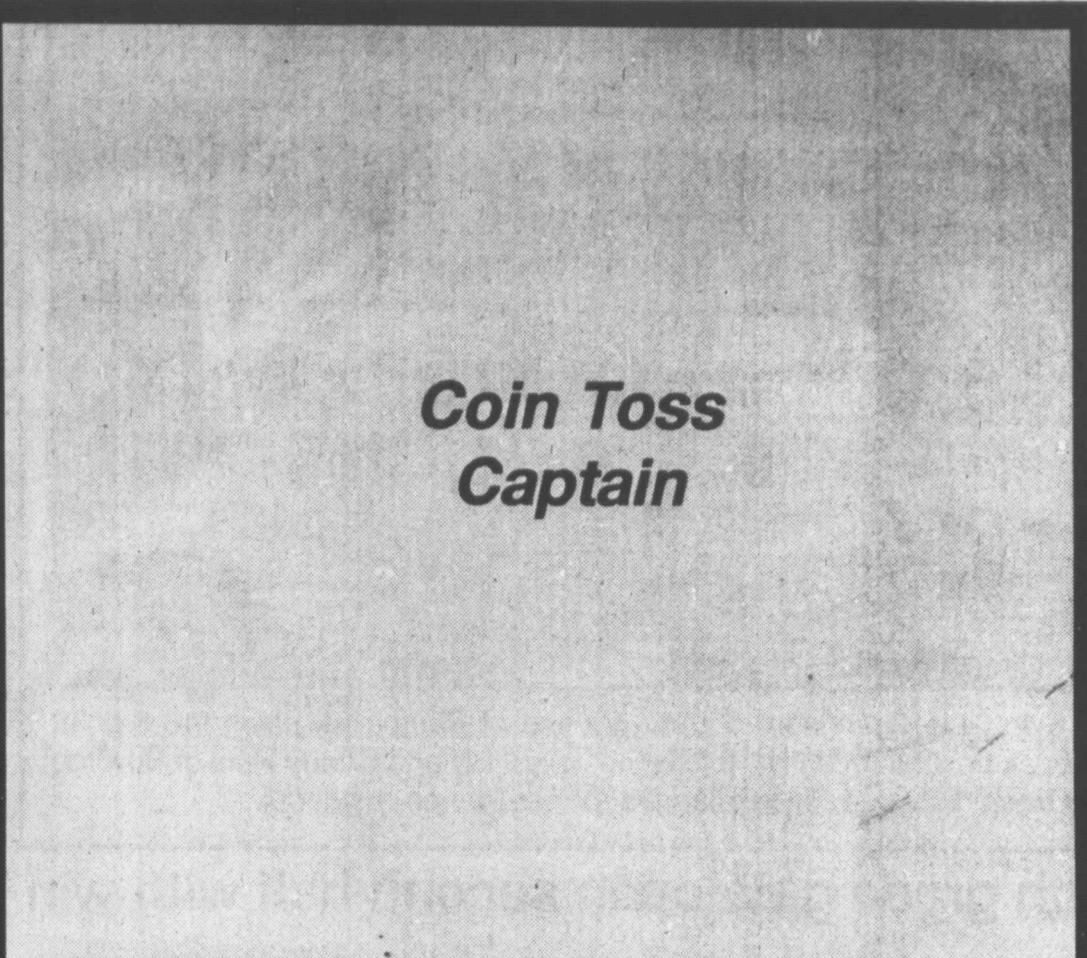
Knight took the Texas Tech job in 2001 after being fired at Indiana.

He had a 622-239 record with the Hoosiers, winning three national championships and 11 Big Ten titles.

Alford said he has gone to Knight for guidance with his program and plans to ask for Knight's assistance at some point after their game. He said Knight has always been supportive.



Michael Bateman, 11, of Trenton, Illinois, got the thrill of his young life when he was selected as Coin Toss Captain before the NFL game Nov. 30 between the St. Louis Rams and Minnesota Vikings at Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Michael, grandson of Otis and Betty White of Pampa, was chosen for the honor after winning punt, pass and kick competition. Miles Bateman (shown with Michael, top photo) is Michael's dad and a Pampa High graduate. Michael (right photo) is making the coin toss call prior to kickoff as the Rams' Jamie Duncan (standing behind Michael), Adam Timmerman, Marshall Faulk, Arenas Williams and Orlando Pace watch the proceedings. Michael got to shake hands with every player, and also received an autographed jersey and free game passes. "It was awesome. It doesn't get better than this," he said.



Coin Toss Captain



A lot is at stake for Kansas City, Minnesota

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

After six losses in eight games, the Minnesota Vikings' 6-0 start is all but forgotten. The Vikings are fighting just to make the playoffs when they host the Kansas City Chiefs on Saturday.

Minnesota fell into a first-place tie in the NFC North with Green Bay by losing last week while the Packers won.

Now the Vikings must face a team that started 9-0 and at 12-2 still hopes to claim home-field advantage for the AFC playoffs.

"It's a shame we made it hard on ourselves, because we certainly have," Vikings coach Mike Tice says.

The Chiefs are favored by three points, indicating how badly Minnesota has slipped in the last two months. The Vikings' dome, with the fast track and the fan noise, usually makes them one of the

most difficult teams to beat at home.

Kansas City has plenty of incentive. If it can win its final two games, and New England loses one, Kansas City will finish with the best record in the AFC.

CHIEFS, 34-30

Detroit (plus 10) at Carolina

Can the Lions avoid their record 24th straight road loss against a team that has seven wins by three points or fewer or in overtime?

PANTHERS, 23-20 (overtime)

Denver (off) at Indianapolis

The Broncos can get a wild card berth with two wins. But neither game will be easy — this one is followed by a trip to Green Bay. It doesn't help Denver that Clinton Portis' status is uncertain because of a knee injury.

COLTS, 24-13

Pro Picks

New England (minus 3) at New York Jets (Saturday)

The Patriots have won 10 straight games, although their road wins have been very close.

PATRIOTS, 22-20

Green Bay (minus 5) at Oakland (Monday night)

Careful. The Raiders knocked off the Ravens last week.

PACKERS, 25-24

Miami (pick 'em) at Buffalo

The Dolphins keep losing in December — even at home.

BILLS, 20-19

Cincinnati (plus 7) at St. Louis

Too tough for the Bengals' shaky secondary.

RAMS, 30-20

New York Giants (plus 10 1/2) at Dallas

Last year at this time, the

playoff-bound Giants beat the Cowboys 37-7.

COWBOYS 37-7

Tennessee (off) at Houston

The Titans are lucky the Texans have QB injuries, too.

TITANS, 11-3

San Francisco (plus 7) at Philadelphia

The 49ers are 0-7 on the road; the Eagles are seeking the top seeding for the NFC playoffs.

EAGLES, 44-6

Baltimore (minus-3) at Cleveland

Despite a 4-10 record, the Browns are playing hard.

RAVENS, 19-18

Atlanta (plus 7) at Tampa Bay (Saturday)

The Bucs finally have two wins in a row.

BUCS, 27-16

Arizona (plus 13) at

Seattle's 38-0 win at Arizona was its only road victory.

SEAHAWKS, 76-0

Washington (plus 4 1/2) at Chicago

Rex Grossman over Tim Hasselbeck.

BEARS, 17-12

New Orleans (plus 1) at Jacksonville

No cell phones in the goal posts.

JAGUARS, 24-21

San Diego (plus 6) at Pittsburgh

Two teams with lost seasons.

STEELERS, 20-16

LAST WEEK: 12-3-1 (spread); 14-2 (straight up)

OVERALL: 127-92-5 (spread); 140-84 (straight up)

7th grade boys beat Hereford

HEREFORD — Pampa defeated Hereford 35-22 in 7th grade boys' basketball action.

The high scorer was Matt Smith with 16 points. Cobran Harris was next with 6.

Pampa's record is 5-3.

Both 7th and 8th graders host Westover Park on Jan. 8 with the A team game beginning at 5, followed by the B team game at 6:30.

7th Grade Pampa B 34, Hereford B

26
P - Heath Skinner 11, Casey Trimble 10.

Pampa record: 6-2

8th Grade Hereford A 55, Pampa A

13
P - Shavious Kelley 6, Adam Anguiano 4.

Pampa record: 1-6.

Pampa B 26, Hereford B

18
P - Josh Humphrey 6, Taylor Smith 6.

Pampa record: 3-5.

MANN AT WORK

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PAMPA

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9-point buck



Kyle Rule, grandson of Ann Malone of Pampa, displays the 9-point buck he shot recently. Rule is the son of Bill and Candy Rule of Bowling Green, Missouri. The Rules are former Pampa residents.

8th grade girls open second half with win

PAMPA — Pampa 8th grade girls opened the second half of district play with a 25-19 win over Hereford.

Jasmine Moore was Pampa's high scorer with 13 points and Sara Foster followed with 8.

Stephanie Polasek had a team-high 9 rebounds, while Trisha Moore had 6 steals and Krishna Henderson 4 steals.

Lacey Beesley, Kayla Mendoza, Kathryn Cree and

Haili Kotara came off the bench to contribute to the victory.

"We played more like a team than we have. Our defense looked much better, we scored more points than we have been," said coach Janyth Bowers.

Pampa lost the B team game 27-22.

Stephanie Jasso with 11 points and Emily Woodruff with 5 were Pampa's high

scorers.

Kristen Dunn, Meagan Crawford, Logan McDonald and Chelsea Cain had 3 rebounds apiece.

Dunn and Jasso had 3 steals each.

"We started out the season a little slow, but we played more like a team with much better defense," coach Bowers said.

7th Grade

Hereford A 47, Pampa A 12

P - Kelby Doughty 4, Lauren Smith 4, April Silva 2, Libby Dyson 2.

Hereford B 28, Pampa B 13

P - Tabby Courter 8, Victoria Campbell 2, Marsha Richardson 2, Kat Alar 1.

Is the A-Rod deal 'dead'?

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Red Sox insist their trade for Alex Rodriguez is "dead." The Texas Rangers and the shortstop aren't so sure.

Just hours after commissioner Bud Selig ended talks to restructure A-Rod's \$252 million contract Thursday, the Red Sox said Manny Ramirez would not be sent to Texas for the AL MVP.

"The proposed trade between the Boston Red Sox and the Texas Rangers is dead," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino proclaimed.

The Rangers, though, believed they could rekindle the swap of the two highest-paid players in baseball, and Rodriguez's agent acted as if Selig's announcement was immaterial.

"There is a likelihood the deal is dead," Texas general manager John Hart said. "But at the same time, we haven't issued a statement that it's

completely dead."

Rodriguez offered to reduce salaries in his contract by \$12 million in exchange for increased marketing and logo use rights, agent Scott Boras said. He also would have had the right to become a free agent after the 2005 season, a baseball source said on the condition of anonymity.

The proposal from the Red Sox that the players' association rejected a day earlier would have cost Rodriguez \$28 million, according to the team's evaluation, and \$30 million, according to the union's analysis, Boras said.

"We're going to be in communication with the Rangers as to their discussions with the Red Sox," Boras said. "Every indication we had was that the parties would continue to talk."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks will probably speak to the Red Sox to try to work out an

agreement after all, Hart said.

Selig had set a 5 p.m. deadline for an agreement. It passed without a deal, and the commissioner ended the talks between Rodriguez and Boston.

"The players' association's intransigence and the arbitrary nature of its action are responsible for the deal's demise today," Lucchino said.

After Rodriguez and Boston reached an agreement Wednesday, the union refused it, saying it reduced the value of the contract, the highest in professional sports history.

"It's unfortunate that the players' association felt it necessary to take a legal position which prevented the player and at least two teams from effectuating an agreement that they felt was beneficial," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

Bowl Glance By The Associated Press	\$750,000
All Times EST Tuesday, Dec. 16 New Orleans Bowl \$750,000 Memphis 27, North Texas 17	Fresno St. (8-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Thursday, Dec. 18 GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala. \$750,000 Miami (Ohio) 49, Louisville 28	Wednesday, Dec. 31 Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. \$950,000 Wisconsin (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-5), Noon (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 22 Tangerine Bowl At Orlando, Fla. \$750,000 North Carolina State (7-5) vs. Kansas (6-6), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas \$1.45 million Minnesota (9-3) vs. Oregon (8-4), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Tuesday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl \$750,000 Texas Christian (11-1) vs. Boise State (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. \$1.35 million Utah (9-2) vs. Southern Mississippi (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 24 Las Vegas Bowl \$800,000 New Mexico (8-4) vs. Oregon State (7-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. \$1.2 million Missouri (8-4) vs. Arkansas (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 25 Blue-Gray Classic At Troy, Ala. Blue vs. Gray, 3 p.m. (ESPN2)	San Francisco Bowl \$825,000 Colorado State (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Friday, Dec. 26 Motor City Bowl At Detroit \$800,000 Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Northwestern (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN)	Thursday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. \$2.65 million Iowa (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 27 Continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. \$750,000 Pittsburgh (8-4) vs. Virginia (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)	Gator Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla. \$1.825 million Maryland (9-3) vs. West Virginia (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Monday, Dec. 29 Alamo Bowl At San Antonio \$1.45 million Michigan State (8-4) vs. Nebraska (9-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN)	Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla. \$5.1 million Purdue (9-3) vs. Georgia (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Tuesday, Dec. 30 Houston Bowl \$1 million Navy (8-4) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. \$14-17 million Michigan (10-2) vs. Southern Cal (11-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Holiday Bowl At San Diego \$2 million Washington State (9-3) vs. Texas (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	Orange Bowl At Miami \$14-17 million Florida State (10-2) vs. Miami (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)
Silicon Valley Classic At San Jose, Calif.	Friday, Jan. 2 Cotton Bowl At Dallas \$3 million Mississippi (9-3) vs. Oklahoma State (9-3), 2 p.m. (FOX)
	Peach Bowl At Atlanta \$2.1 million Clemson (8-4) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
	Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. \$14-17 million Kansas State (11-3) vs. Ohio State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)
	Saturday, Jan. 3 Humanitarian Bowl At Boise, Idaho \$750,000 Tulsa (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN or ESPN2)
	Sunday, Jan. 4 Sugar Bowl At New Orleans \$14-17 million Oklahoma (12-1) vs. LSU (12-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)



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Insertion Date	Deadline
Wed., Dec. 24th.....	Tues., Dec. 23, 10:00am
Fri., Dec. 26th.....	Wed., Dec. 24th, Noon

ROP DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY (Boxed Ads)

Mon., Dec. 22nd.....	Fri., Dec. 19th, 10:00am
Tues., Dec. 23rd.....	Fri., Dec. 19th, 10:00am
Wed., Dec. 24th.....	Fri., Dec. 19th, noon

NO THURSDAY PAPER

Fri., Dec. 26th.....	Mon., Dec. 22nd, 10:00am
Sun., Dec. 28th.....	Tues., Dec. 23rd, noon

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Bowling

HARVESTER LANES
League Results
Harvester Combo (Week 10)

Team	Won	Lost
B & C Twice	27	13
Team One	25	15
JJJ & R	23	17
AT&T Yard Service	22	18
Onie's Regulars	21 1/2	18 1/2
Team Seven	21	19
Reed's Welding	20	20
A-1 Concrete	19	21
Team Eleven	17 1/2	22 1/2
Team Ten	16	24
Black Gold	11	29
Coney Island	10	30

Week's High Scores

Men

High scratch game: Jesse Cannon 253; High scratch series: Pete Long 672; High handicap game: Jesse Cannon 260; High handicap series: Pete Long 720.

Women

High scratch game: Ashleigh Burns 236; High scratch series: Ashleigh Burns 618; High handicap game: Ashleigh Burns 240; High handicap series: Jo Jo Adams 664.

1 Public Notice
NOTICE TO CONTRACTOR PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT
Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the shown below, and publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS
Dist./Div: Amarillo Contract 0904-00-0 THERMOPLASTIC STRIPING in Potter County, etc. will be opened on January 20, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Plans and specifications are available for information, along with bid proposals, and applications for the TxDOT qualified Contractor list, at the appropriate District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date. Eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office below. Plans for above contracts are available from TxDOT web site at www.dot.state.tx.us from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

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The Pampa News

CLASSIFIEDS

1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist / Div: Amarillo Contract 0904-00-091 for THERMOPLASTIC STRIPING in POTTER County, etc will be opened on January 08, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's web site at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

1 Public Notice

NPO: 11704
State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Amarillo District District Engineer
5715 Canyon Dr.
Amarillo, Texas
79105-2708

Phone: 806-356-3283
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
D-67 Dec. 12, 19, 2003

NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER

The unnamed putative father of the child born to Jeannie Towe on November 18, 1997, or the person who claims to be the father of the child born to Jeannie Towe on November 18, 1997, is notified that a petition for adoption of the child was filed in the office of the clerk of the Allen Superior Court, Allen County Courthouse, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

If the unnamed putative father seeks to contest the adoption of the child, the unnamed putative father must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with the IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court or a putative action under IC 31-14 within thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. This notice may be served by publication.

If the unnamed putative father: (1) does not file: (A) a motion to contest the adoption; or (B) a paternity action under IC 31-14, within thirty (30) days after service of this notice; or (2) after filing a paternity action under IC 31-14 fails to establish paternity within a reasonable period as determined by the paternity court under IC 31-14-21-9 through IC 31-14-21-11;

the above named court shall hear and determine the petition for adoption. The unnamed putative father's consent is irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative father loses the right to contest the adoption or the validity of the unnamed putative father's implied consent to the adoption. The unnamed putative father loses the right to establish paternity of the child under IC 31-14.

Nothing Jeannie Towe or any else says to the unnamed putative father of the child relieves the unnamed putative father of his obligations under this notice.

Under Indiana law, a putative father is a person who is named as or claims that he may be the father of a child born out of wedlock but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child's father.
D-66 Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2003

1 Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals for the following insurance policies until 4:00 p.m., February 10, 2004 at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas:

Property and Contents
General Liability
Personal Injury Liability
Employee Benefits Liability
Professional Liability
Automobile
Crime
Boiler and Machinery
Band and Choir
Equipment

Contractors Equipment
Proposals, specifications or additional information may be obtained from Carol Fields, Business Manager, 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, phone (806-669-4700). Proposals may be delivered or mailed to 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065-5661. Attention: Carol Fields, Business Manager. Sealed envelope should be plainly marked "INSURANCE PROPOSALS".

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted and to waive informalities and technicalities.

The Board of Education will consider proposals for award at a scheduled meeting in February, 2004.
D-73 Dec. 19, 21, 2003

5 Special Notices

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

14b Appl. Repair
FREE Service Call (labor only) thru Christmas, to Servicemen's Wives, Williams Appliance 665-8894

14d Carpentry
CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

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

14e Carpet Serv.
NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost. It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

WEEKEND RN needed. 7 a.-3 p. shift Sat. & Sun. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. Apply in person or call Kay 537-3194.

BRANCH Office Administrator-Trainee. You'll support the Investment Representative and contribute to the success of the office. Duties include various customer service, marketing and administrative functions. Applicants must have excellent organizational skills and the ability to work well independently.

50 Building Suppl.
White House Lumber -101 S. Ballard 669-3291
HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

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

96 Unfurn. Apts.
1 bdr. apt., furn. or unfurn. Starting at \$275. All utilities pd. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712.

96 Unfurn. Apts.
Apts for Rent 2 br. New paint, Carpet & Vinyl, 1001 N. Sumner, 669-6292 or 665-8401

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14h Gen. Serv.

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

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

21 Help Wanted

APPLICATIONS are being accepted until January 12, 2004 for temporary fulltime positions with USDA-Farm Service Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC User with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Positions will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own reliable transportation. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at Gray County FSA Office, 12125 E. Frederick, Pampa, TX, or by calling (806)665-6561. Completed application forms must be returned to the Gray County FSA Office and must arrive by January 12, 2004 to be considered. Faxed Applications will not be accepted. USDA is an EEO employer.

DRIVER needed for Pizza Hut Delivery. Apply at 1500 N. Banks. No phone calls please.

TRACTOR trailer driver. Tanker exp. helpful, home often. Good pay & benefits. Rimarc Transportation, 1-800-831-9563.

GIRLING Health Care, Inc. Home Care attendants needed in Pampa and surrounding areas to help with light housekeeping and personal care. For more info, call 1-866-747-0173 toll free or 806-747-0173. EOE.

PETCO Petroleum is hiring an exp. backhoe operator. Holidays, vacation, ins., 401K. Call 806-669-3947 lv. msg. EOE.

NEED Cashier / Deli Worker, 2pm to 10pm. Apply in person, 1020 E. Frederic.

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60 Household

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

NICE roll-top desk, 50 in. long with oak swivel chair, \$295. Chest type deep freeze \$50 running, 18 cu. ft. Cash. 665-6980

27" Color Console TV. Very good condition. Priced reasonable. 1032 N. Dwight. 669-2827

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Halliburton officials say it saved Pentagon money

WASHINGTON (AP) — Halliburton's own auditors warned of problems with the company's contract to deliver fuel in Iraq even before Pentagon investigators raised similar concerns, a Democratic presidential candidate says.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said a Pentagon official told him Halliburton was refusing to turn over copies of the internal audit, which Defense Department investigators found but did not copy. A company spokeswoman said all relevant documents were turned over to the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, Halliburton, which is Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, said on Thursday it saved the Pentagon money and did not overcharge for gasoline it bought in Kuwait and distributed in Iraq.

The Houston-based oil services company said in a statement that it expected to be cleared by the Defense Department of the overcharging allegations. Pentagon auditors said last week

that they suspected a Halliburton subsidiary, KBR, had overcharged the department by about \$61 million on a no-bid contract to supply gasoline to Iraqi citizens.

Pentagon officials said the source of the overcharging was the high price charged by a Kuwaiti company that supplied the gas to Halliburton. Halliburton said the Kuwaiti company was the only one approved as a supplier by the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees the contract.

The Kuwaiti company was the only one approved by the Kuwaiti government to export gasoline from the oil-rich monarchy, according to Pentagon officials. Lieberman identified the firm as the Altanmia Commercial Marketing Co.

The senator said his staff met with Michael Thibault, an official with the Defense Contract Audit Agency, which is investi-

gating the Halliburton contract. Lieberman said Thibault told him DCAA auditors found a Halliburton draft audit warning that the Kuwaiti company was charging excessive prices and the procedures may have violated U.S. contracting regulations.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall said all internal company documents related to internal audits of the contract were given to the Defense Department. She would not con-

firm that Halliburton's auditors warned of possible overcharging.

"We do not intend to debate these issues within the context of a political campaign, for either party," Hall said in an e-mail. "The DCAA has received a full and open report as a response to the (Pentagon) draft audit."

Thibault did not return a telephone message left at his office Thursday.

Halliburton's statement said it

had suggested getting gasoline supplies from Turkey, which charged less. Pentagon auditors said Halliburton charged \$1.09 a gallon more for gasoline from Kuwait than from Turkey.

Turkey is now the source of about two-thirds of the gasoline distributed in Iraq, Halliburton said. Using the Turkish supplier instead of the Kuwaiti company has saved the U.S. government about \$164 million, the company said.

Protection of pallid sturgeon setback for farmers, barge shippers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government-controlled flows along the lower Missouri River, relied upon by farmers and barge operators to get grain to markets, threaten the endangered pallid sturgeon, federal biologists said Thursday.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said flows should be reduced, beginning next July, to 25,000 cubic feet per second or less from the Gavins Point Dam on the South

Dakota-Nebraska border.

Shippers generally need a summer flow of 28,500 cubic feet a second to maintain the depth needed for running huge, grain-laden barges down the river from Nebraska, through Iowa and Kansas to St. Louis, where the Missouri and Mississippi rivers meet.

"Once again, this places the navigation system in the category of unreliability," said Chris Brescia, who heads a

coalition of farmers, barge operators and agribusiness interests.

The specter of sudden flooding during a spring rise also frightens those who live along the lower Missouri.

Conservationists were equally upset with what represents the agency's final word in a 15-year struggle that pits environmentalists allied with tourism, boating and fishing interests upstream in Montana

and the Dakotas against farmers and shippers downstream.

"The service today basically said we will forgo immediately creating hundreds of acres of shallow water habitat that juvenile sturgeon need to survive to adulthood," said Scott Faber, spokesman for the conservation group Environmental Defense.

During the Clinton administration, the Interior Department agency said the summer flow should be reduced to 21,000

cubic feet per second to mimic conditions before the river was dammed and channeled. Those conditions included a spring rise in the river to trigger sturgeon spawning and shallower waters in the summer as a suitable habitat for young sturgeon.

Only then, could the fish be saved from extinction, as well as two bird species, the endangered interior least tern and the threatened piping plover, the service said in 2000.

Just In Time Sale

SATURDAY ONLY!

FREE GIFT
BAUM BROS
CHRISTMAS TREE
ORNAMENT
WITH A \$15 PURCHASE

SATURDAY ONLY!!

**THE FIRST 150 CUSTOMERS
RECEIVE A FREE SHOPPING PASS!**

PASS IS GOOD FOR
\$10 OFF ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE.
SHOPPING PASS MAY BE USED ONCE FROM
SAT., DECEMBER 20TH THROUGH
WED., DECEMBER 24TH!
EXCLUDES COSMETICS & FRAGRANCES.

ALSO SATURDAY ONLY!

25% OFF

RED DOT CLEARANCE!

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 25% OFF
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12.99

**PRESTIGE
EMBELLISHED
FLEECE SETS**

Available in
four holiday colors.
Embroidered top
with easy
pull-on pant.
Orig. 48.00

19.99

**GOLD BOXED
DIAMOND
BRACELETS
AFTER
SATURDAY**

24.99
Boxed 18kt gold
over sterling silver
diamond bracelets.
Garnet and
sapphire available.
Orig. 80.00

19.99

**NEW CONCEPT 230 THREAD
COUNT SHEET SETS**

Full, queen
and king.
Orig.
75.00-95.00

14.99

**8 OPENING FRAME IN
WALNUT FINISH**

Orig. 40.00

SATURDAY ONLY!

50% OFF

**ENTIRE STOCK
MENS & LADIES
FALL OUTERWEAR**

Orig. 40.00-250.00

Leather, suede, wool,
nylon and more.

- Kasper
- Colebrook
- Phase Two
- Harve Benard
- KC Collections
- Misty Harbor
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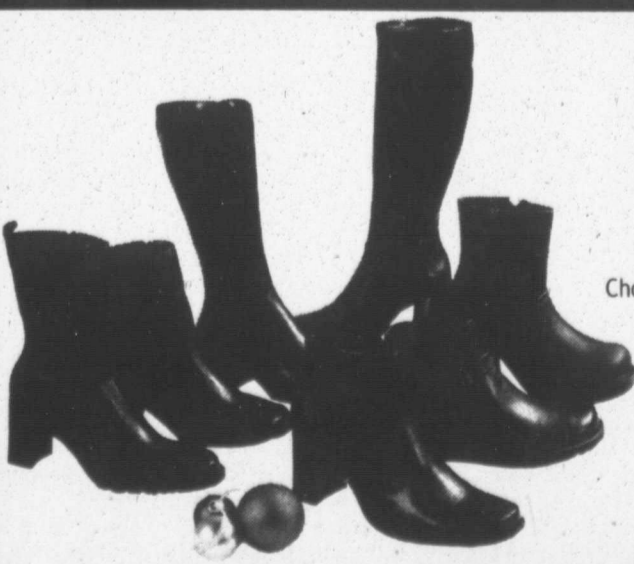


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