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Today's weather



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Odds and Ends

MEDINA, Ohio (AP) — A man whose car plunged 30 feet off a highway overpass and landed wheels down in the snow-covered median between lanes of freeway traffic escaped with only minor injuries.

"The front air bag deployed and right after that I felt a floating sensation," Michael Doner said. "I thought, 'I'm either dreaming or I'm falling.'"

Doner, 60, of Medina, was making the three-hour drive to visit his mother on Christmas when a car skidded into his and a second car slammed into him, sending his car over railing of the bridge over Interstate 71 about 30 miles southwest of Cleveland.

Doctors told Doner his Honda's side air bag minimized his injuries. He had a broken collarbone and cracked ribs, and was sent home less than six hours after the fall.

"I'm very lucky," Doner said. "The guy upstairs was looking out for me."

BELMONT, N.C. (AP) — Wade Jones likes Elvis, but he insists he's just a casual fan.

That's why, after watching a grilled cheese sandwich thought to be embedded with the image of the Virgin Mary fetch \$28,000 on eBay, he decided to part with three tablespoons of water from a cup he says Elvis Presley used during a concert.

"It's one thing to be an Elvis fan, but then you tell them you have this cup and water and they think you're a fanatic," he said. "I'm not like the people bidding on this water."

Jones was 13 when he went to see the aging Elvis in February 1977 at the old Charlotte Coliseum, which is now Cricket Arena. He saw the pop icon drink from the cup and, after the show, asked a police officer for it.

As proof of its authenticity, Jones provides photos of Elvis during the concert in which cups can be seen.

The cup stayed in Jones' parent's deep freezer for eight years, until he moved out. He then decided to melt the ice and keep the water in a sealed glass vial.

Jones' latest eBay posting, in which he is auctioning the chance to "exhibit" the cup for one day on Presley's birthday, said the water sold for \$455 on Christmas Day.

Killer wave toll 44,000 and rising

Thousands missing as mourners use bare hands to dig graves

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Mourners in Sri Lanka used their bare hands to dig graves Tuesday while hungry islanders in Indonesia turned to looting in the aftermath of Asia's devastating tsunamis. Thousands more bodies were found in Indonesia,

dramatically increasing the death toll across 11 nations to around 44,000.

Emergency workers found that 10,000 people had been killed in a single town, Meulaboh, in Aceh province at the northern tip of Sumatra island, the hardest hit region in Indonesia, said

Purnomo Sidik, national disaster director at the Social Affairs Ministry.

Another 9,000 were confirmed dead so far in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, and surrounding towns, he said. Along Aceh's hard-hit western coastline, villages were swamped up to

the roofs, still unexplored by soldiers combing the area for survivors and dead. Refugees fleeing the area described surviving for days on little more than coconuts before reaching Banda Aceh.

"The sea was full of bodies," said Sukardi Kasdi, who reached the capital from

his town of Surang.

With aid not arriving quick enough, desperate residents in Meulaboh and other towns in Aceh — a region that was unique in that it was struck both by Sunday's massive quake and

See TOLL Page 3



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Keep on truckin'

Erick Lewis, 12, plays with a remote control Dodge Ram truck that his friend, Channar Clendennen received as a Christmas present.

Iraqis help American troops ready for battle

EDINBURGH, Ind. (AP) — As American soldiers attempted to tow a Humvee hit by a fake roadside bomb, Saleh Thanon, an Iraqi national, taunted them with insults.

"Criminal, get out of my country!" Thanon yelled in Arabic, heckling the troops in a mock Iraqi village. "I don't want you in my country. You're killing people."

Harsh words for someone who professes to love America, but Thanon is just doing his job. He's training troops for Iraq, and he wants them to be ready.

The Army has been using Iraqi nationals to help troops develop language and cultur-

al skills since the invasion of that country in March 2003. They are among about 1,000 Arabic speakers the Army uses for training, said Bob Close, spokesman for U.S. Army Forces Command.

At least eight mobilization stations are using Iraqis to help Guard, reserve and active troops prepare for deployments, Close said. Among them are Camp Atterbury, 30 miles south of Indianapolis; the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Some days, the Iraqis play See TROOPS Page 3

Analysts: Bin Laden, al-Zarqawi both get something from alliance

WASHINGTON (AP) — An audiotape ment is operating on the assumption that by Osama bin Laden suggests the al-Qaida the tape came from bin Laden, chief has accepted Abu-Musab al-Bin Laden could benefit from allying himself with an anti-American fighter who gets daily publicity. Al-Zarqawi may get more financial assistance and support from bin Laden's backers, the experts said.

But for bin Laden, the alliance comes at a price: He is now tied to a man directing bomb attacks against Iraq's majority Shiite Muslims as well as Americans. In an audiotape broadcast Monday by Al-Jazeera satellite television, bin Laden See ALLIANCE Page 3

For bin Laden, the alliance comes at a price: He is now tied to a man directing bomb attacks against Iraq's majority ...

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Unions blame US Airways' poor performance on bad planning

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The nation's top transportation official ordered an investigation of two airlines that canceled hundreds of flights over the holiday weekend because of computer and staffing problems, stranding thousands of travelers.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta asked the agency's inspector general to investigate the difficulties at US Airways and Delta subsidiary Comair, which had to ground 1,100 flights on Saturday because of a computer problem.

Mineta said Monday in a letter to the agency's inspector general that people "must learn from the situations" to make sure they do not happen again.

US Airways Group Inc. was forced to cancel hundreds of flights and strand thousands of passengers between Thursday and Sunday because about triple the usual number of flight attendants called in sick.

Adding to US Airways' woes, an unusually high number of baggage handlers at Philadelphia's airport failed to report to work, the airline said, and the remaining staff became overwhelmed by a mountain of luggage.

Operations at the bankrupt company returned to near-normal on Monday, although workers were still trying to reunite people with

their bags.

Kentucky-based Comair said it would be later this week before operations returned to normal. In a statement, Comair President Randy Rademacher promised cooperation with the DOT probe.

Union leaders at US Airways continued to blame thin staffing, denying that workers had staged a sick-

away from the ... employees who chose to do this," Chiames said.

Alarm bells about a looming staffing crisis in Philadelphia apparently began sounding at least five days before Christmas and two days before snow began causing flight disruptions in Indiana and Ohio.

"I would not fly through (Philadelphia) this weekend," one Internet poster warned on Dec. 20 in a forum frequented by airline employees on the Web site USAviation.com.

The writer warned that a wave of US Airways baggage handlers were likely to skip work over the holidays, either because they were upset with the struggling company's latest proposals to trim pay and benefits, or because they were planning to retire and were using up spare sick days.

US Airways has been trying to cut costs to avoid liquidation.

Reservations and gate agents reluctantly approved a new contract Thursday that will cut their pay by 13 percent. Flight attendants are in the midst of phone balloting to decide whether to accept a contract with a 9 percent pay cut. Balloting is expected to end Jan. 5. The pilots' union previously ratified a new deal.

Two of the airline's employee groups are still negotiating.

out to penalize the company for slashing their pay.

"We are so short staffed, if there is spit on the runway in Philadelphia, it causes a fiasco," said Teddy Xidas, president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Association of Flight Attendants.

Of about 1,675 flight attendants scheduled to work Thursday, Friday and Saturday, about 300 called in sick daily, more than expected based on past holidays, US Airways spokesman Chris Chiames said. The carrier usually plans for about 100 such absences.

"To suggest it was somehow a staffing issue on our part is to shift attention

to penalize the company for slashing their pay.

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'We are so short staffed, if there is spit on the runway in Philadelphia, it causes a fiasco.'

— Teddy Xidas
Union official

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high near 60. Wind chill values between 26 and 31. West southwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 65. Wind chill values between 31 and 36. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 45. Windy, with a south south-

west wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 60. Windy, with a west wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. West wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. West northwest wind around 10 mph.

New Year's Day: Partly cloudy, with a high around 58. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 34.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 46.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday: A slight chance of snow, freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 31. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anthony Grant of Pampa:

Wheat	3.14
Milo	3.29
Corn	3.79
Soybeans	4.87

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

CRX	58.05	+0.51
BP/PLC ADR	58.97	+0.32

Cabot Corp	38.73	+0.34
Cabot Oil Gas	43.83	+0.37
Coca Cola	41.69	+0.04
VLO	44.17	+0.33
HAL	39.25	+0.39
TRJ	35.81	+0.63
NOI	34.76	+0.41
KMI	72.08	-0.38
XCEL	18.30	+0.05
Kerr McGee	57.88	+0.34
XOM	51.38	+0.50
Limited	22.48	-0.28
Williams	16.13	+0.04
MCD	32.41	+0.26
Atmos	27.26	+0.24
Pioneer Nat	34.66	+0.17
JCP	40.82	+0.50
COP	36.48	+0.43
SLB	66.38	+0.52
Tenneco	17.28	+0.53
CVX	52.62	+0.61
Wal-Mart	53.22	+0.43
OKE	28.33	+0.28
NS GP	27.87	+0.29
New York Gold	444.35	
Silver	6.98	
West Texas Crude	41.32	

NASA rolling out improved rocket fuel tank

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a major step toward resuming launches of the space shuttle, NASA officials are poised to roll out an improved rocket fuel tank designed to prevent the problems that helped destroy

space shuttle Columbia and kill seven astronauts.

Design and construction of the improved rocket fuel tank has been completed at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans and it will be shipped within

the next two weeks to the Kennedy Space Center in preparation for the launch of space shuttle Discovery next spring, the space agency announced.

The space shuttle Columbia came apart during its return to Earth on Feb. 1, 2003. Seven astronauts died. An investigation determined that a chunk of foam insulation from Columbia's fuel tank peeled off during launch and tore a hole in the spacecraft's left wing. When the shuttle returned to Earth, the heat of re-entry destroyed the wing and caused Columbia to shatter into flaming pieces of debris over the skies of Texas.

NASA engineers spent about 18 months designing and testing a new insulation system for the external fuel tank to reduce the risk of debris from the tank hitting the space shuttle during launch.

CITY BRIEFS

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

FRI, DEC. 31st New Years Eve, Lonestar Bar Presents: Copperhead & The 3 Kings. Free Texas Style Fajitas & Briskit. Free party favors. Free beer 5-9 p.m. Tickets avail @ Onies or call 662-5206.

LUNCH PLATES: chicken, fish, hb. steak, ch. fr. steak. The Hamburger Station, we deliver! 665-9131.

PAMPA NEWS Office will be closed Mon., Jan. 3rd, but there will be a newspaper for Mon. Happy New Year!!

HOBBY SHOP Bargains Galore! After Christmas Sale, Dec. 27, 28 & 29th.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Saturday, Dec. 25

Two traffic stops were made.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of North Frost and in the 200 block of Tignor, where a juvenile assaulted a parent.

Emergency medical services assistance was rendered in the 1000 block of South Hobart.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported at the intersection of Wilks and Hobart streets. A window valued at \$150 was broken, and a portable radio scanner valued at \$600 was taken.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North Duncan and the 1100 block of East Francis.

Theft was reported in the 1500 block of North Duncan.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of North Purviance.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1300 block of East Francis, the 900 block of East Francis and the 500 block of North Lefors.

A gas drive-off was reported at Taylor Mart, 1340 N. Hobart.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 500 block of Doucette.

Sunday, Dec. 26

Four traffic stops were made, and one residential alarm was reported.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of North Wynne, the intersection of Browning and Starkweather streets, and the 300 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 1000 block of South Hobart, the 1400 block of Dogwood, and the 700 block of North Naida.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of East Foster.

Law enforcement assists were made in the intersection of 23rd and Hobart streets, and the 1300 block of North Starkweather.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1000 block of East Francis Drive.

Public intoxication was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart and the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Found property was reported in the police department lobby.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of East Francis and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Theft was reported at Wal-Mart, 2801 Charles. Miscellaneous merchandise valued at \$164.16 was reported as stolen and later recovered. Two juveniles were identified and charged in connection with the incident.

A narcotics drug law violation was reported in the 700 block of Barnes and the 300 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Sumner.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of North Sumner.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 1000 block of Huff Road.

Burglary was reported in the 1500 block of East Foster and the 500 block of Doucette.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 300 block of East Craven.

An animal complaint was reported from the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan streets.

Gabriel Hernandez, 26, 1149 Starkweather, was arrested at Barnes and Crawford streets for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Thomas Eric Holt, 30, Knoxville, Tenn., was arrested for possession of a controlled substance under one gram, and fugitive warrants out of Tennessee for theft and failure to appear.

Gregory Edmondson, 25, 729 Dean, was arrested in the 1000 block of Wilks for public intoxication.

Monday, Dec. 27

Eight traffic stops were made, and two business alarms were reported.

Telephone harassment was reported in the police department lobby and in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported at Francis and Houston streets, and Harvester and Mary Ellen streets.

A law enforcement assist was completed on County Road 4 and the 900 block of Barnes Street.

A missing person was reported in the 1100 block of South Christy.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 1100 block of Sierra Drive, the 1300 block of East Foster and the 800 block of North Nelson.

Burglary was reported in the 800 block of South Hobart, the 1000 block of Neel Road, the 1100 block of Prairie Drive. A wallet, DVD and other items were taken from the 1100 block of Prairie Drive. In one burglary, two tires valued at \$500 were stolen from the City of Pampa.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby and in the 500 block of Montague, where a purse/wallet and money valued at \$220 were taken.

A traffic complaint was reported at One Medical Plaza.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 2700 block of Navajo Road.

A runaway was reported in the 1900 block of Evergreen. The runaway is a 14-year-old female.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North Cuyler and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of West Francis.

Emergency medical services was assisted in the 1100 block of Neel Road.

Morris Johnson, 57, 1433 Williston, was arrested in the 1400 block of Williston for two counts of issuing a bad check.

Tommy Carver, 48, 901 E. Malone, was arrested in the 900 block of East Brunow for theft under \$50 and failure to appear.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrest today.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Joe Franklin, 43, 1053 Prairie, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Dec. 28

1:58 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a LifeStar medical helicopter standby at One Medical Plaza.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls.

Saturday, Dec. 25

2:52 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to BSA-West, Amarillo.

3:31 p.m. — A MICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

4:37 p.m. — A MICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

Sunday, Dec. 26

2:10 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 1200 block of East Frederic and transported two to PRMC.

5:01 a.m. — A MICU responded to the 300 block of North Nelson and transported one to PRMC.

7:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

9:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Christine and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

1:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1400 block of Hobart and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

7:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of East Foster and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Monday, Dec. 27

1:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Jordan prison unit and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

8:50 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

9:25 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Kingsmill and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

12:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

3:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

7:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

9:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Amarillo.

10:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 900 block of Twiford and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

11:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Coffee and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

11:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1100 block of Neel and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

12:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2300 block of Beech and transported a patient(s) to BSA Hospice.

1:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to NWTH.

4:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.



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Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

In control

Channar Clendemen, 11, takes charge with the remote control for a Dodge Ram truck that he received as a Christmas present this year.

Victims

Continued from Page 1

The Ambrose family was vacationing at a wildlife preserve when the tsunami struck, relatives and family friends said. Their bodies were recovered and had been

brought to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. "Yes, both are dead," said Piyanka Weerasingha, who identified himself as a relative of the Ambrose family at Colombo's Hilton Hotel.

From their hometown of Upper Arlington, Ohio, a Columbus suburb, Muttaiya Sundaralingam and his wife,

Indirani, left several weeks ago to vacation in Sri Lanka with their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

The younger couple and their children weren't injured because they were visiting Colombo, on the western coast of the island nation, when the giant waves hit the eastern coast, said Ranjan

Manoranjan, president of central Ohio's Sri Lankan Tamil Association.

A respected scientist and scholar who retired from Ohio State in 2001, Muttaiya Sundaralingam, 73, was known for his work in determining the structure of nucleic acids and proteins, an area called X-ray crystallography.

Alliance

Continued from Page 1

described al-Zarqawi as the "emir," or prince, of al-Qaida in Iraq and said Muslims there should "listen to him." He also called for a boycott of Iraqi elections

planned for next month.

"Bin Laden gets the benefits of Zarqawi's notoriety," said Vince Cannistraro, former CIA counterterrorism chief. "He (al-Zarqawi) has got the pre-eminent insurgency in Iraq. He's the one who is the bloodiest, who carried out the most dramatic and

public suicide bombings."

The difference between this and other bin Laden alliances, Cannistraro said, is that bin Laden — a Sunni Muslim — "has not been a vocal enemy against the Shiites. By adopting Zarqawi, he's taking that whole package, someone who is virulently anti-Shiite."

Dr. Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at the Rand Corp., said al-Zarqawi also gets an advantage by association with his former rival.

"Zarqawi tried to milk his broader association with bin Laden and al-Qaida to win new sources of support and recruits and finances," Hoffman said.

Troops

Continued from Page 1

welcoming townspeople, friendly mayors or Iraqi police; on others, they portray terrorists or hostile villagers.

The training represents a change in philosophy for the military, said David R. Segal, director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland.

Army troops have long received language help as they prepared for battle, but cultural training was non-existent in such conflicts as the Vietnam War, he said.

Winning over the Iraqi people, who play a key role in this mission, is crucial to success, Segal said. "This is a war where cultural knowledge may be more important than the number of bullets that you have," he said.

Many of the participating Iraqis immigrated to the United States after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to escape oppression under Saddam Hussein's regime. Some are now American citizens.

Their work with U.S. troops is coordinated by

defense contractors such as Goldbelt Eagle, which is paid \$15 million to provide role players at five military bases. President Wayne Smith said applicants typically hear about the jobs through word of mouth or recruiters.

All participants must pass rigorous screenings by a private investigator and the government.

Thanon and his friend Salim Alshimary said they sought the work to help their homeland.

"I love this job, trying to help the U.S. military understand my language and my culture and save lives ..."

— Saleh Thanon
Iraqi trainer

"I love this job, trying to help the U.S. military understand my language and my culture and save lives, both of them, the Iraq and the U.S.," Thanon said.

Alshimary, 36, of Basra, Iraq, said he deserted from the Iraqi Army after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He believes he would have been killed if he had not left the country.

He has been surprised by the postwar violence in his homeland.

"We never thought this bad stuff would happen," he said. "We thought it would be easy and it will be very quick."

It has been neither, which makes understanding the Iraqi culture essential, participants said.

Toll

Continued from Page 1

the killer waves that followed — began to loot.

"It is every person for themselves here," district official Tengku Zulkarnain told el-Shinta radio station from the area.

In Sri Lanka, the toll also mounted significantly. Around 1,000 people were dead or missing from a train that was flung off its tracks when the gigantic waves hit. Rescuers pulled 204 bodies from the train's eight carriages — reduced to twisted metal — and cremated or buried them Tuesday next to the railroad track that runs along the coast.

"Is this the fate that we had planned for? My darling, you were the only hope for me," cried one man for his dead girlfriend — his university sweetheart — as Buddhist monks held prayer nearby.

More than 18,700 people died in Sri Lanka, more than 4,400 in India and more than 1,500 in Thailand, with numbers expected to rise. Scores were also killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives. The giant waves raced nearly 3,000 miles to east Africa, causing deaths in Somalia, Tanzania and Seychelles.

And the toll was expected to continue to mount. A police official said 8,000 people were missing and possibly dead in India's remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located just north of Sumatra. So far, only 90 people were confirmed dead in the archipelago of 30 inhabited islands. The Indonesian vice president estimated that

up to 25,000 could be dead on Aceh's western coastlines, bringing the country's potential toll up to 50,000.

Europeans desperately sought relatives missing from holidays in Southeast Asia — particularly Thailand, where bodies littered the once crowded beach resorts. Near the devastated Similan Beach and Spa Resort, where most German tourists were staying, a naked corpse hung suspended from a tree Tuesday as if crucified.

A blond two-year-old Swedish boy, Hannes Bergstroem, found sitting alone on a road in Thailand was reunited with his uncle, who saw the boy's picture on a Web site.

"This is a miracle, the biggest thing that could happen," said the uncle, who identified himself as Jim, after flying from his home country to Thailand to reach Hannes at the hospital where the boy was being treated. The boy's mother and grandmother were missing, while his father and grandfather were reportedly at another hospital.

The vacationing former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was evacuated by Sri Lankan military helicopter from the hotel he was trapped

by flooding in the south of the country. In Thailand, Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, who appeared on the cover of 2003 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, was injured and her photographer boyfriend Simon Atlee was missing, Atlee's agent said.

So far, more than 80 Westerners have been con-

firmed dead across the region — including 11 Americans. But a British consulate official in Thailand warned that hundreds more foreign tourists were likely killed in the country's resorts.

Sunday's massive quake of 9.0 magnitude off the Indonesian island of Sumatra sent 500-mph waves surging across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal.

'Is this the fate that we had planned for? My darling, you were the only hope for me.'

— Sri Lanka man
Mourning for girlfriend

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Viewpoints

New Year resolutions for eternal optimists

Another year is almost gone, and soon people will be crowding Times Square in New York City to count down the last seconds until 2005 arrives.

They'll be singing "Auld Lang Syne," sharing kisses with their significant others, sipping champagne and in general raising a ruckus with noisemakers.

Why the noisemakers? This seems to be a very ancient tradition handed down to the present day. My research has led me to the fact that ancient peoples used noise to drive evil spirits away.

Everybody celebrates the New Year. Not everyone celebrates it on January first, but it is the only holiday that is universal, according to sev-

eral online sources.

One New Year's tradition is to make a resolution, in this case an expression of one's good intention to do something that will have a positive result.

I know lots of people who make New Year's resolutions. I've even made a few myself.

I just don't know anybody who kept them.

So why do we keep making these resolutions? I think it is an expression of our eternal optimism, and a declaration that we do have some influence in how our lives unfold.

It is also a symptom that we may be out of touch with reality.

People who declare they're going to stop smok-

ing, stop drinking alcoholic beverages, lose all the weight they need to in order to satisfy the recommended poundage for their frames, and in general transform themselves into saints, all within one year, are wearing rose-tinted glasses and setting themselves up for a fall.

When did we start this hare-brained idea of making New Year's resolutions?

I couldn't find an exact date in the course of some online research, only a general reference to the tradition being a "modern" one.

Maybe New Year's resolu-

tions got their start from the tradition of doing a thorough housecleaning at the start of each new year. This tradition is an ancient one and is found in England, Germany, Japan, China and Africa.

In ancient England, chimneys were carefully swept so that good luck could more easily enter the home and stay there.

Ritual cleansing was also practiced by Native Americans. One website said that the Creek Indians celebrated the new year when corn ripened. They burned whatever food remained

from the past year, and extinguished all the household fires in their villages. The fires would then be re-lit from a holy fire ignited by the chief priest of the village.

Other cultures also celebrated the new year at harvest time, and it was not until a famous emperor ruled Rome that the holiday was placed in its current month.

Julius Caesar may be responsible for our attitude about the new year and making resolutions to change. The ancient Romans celebrated the new year on March 1, until Julius Caesar changed the month to January.

He did this because the month of January is named after Janus, the god of gates, doors and beginnings. Janus

is portrayed as having two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward.

Sounds like a resolution-maker, doesn't it? Look backward to see what needs improvement, and look forward to plan how to accomplish the improvements.

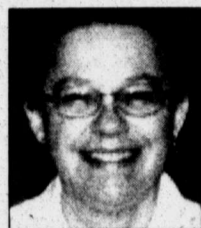
I haven't made any resolutions for the past few years. I finally figured out that they were just a way to make me feel like a failure when I didn't keep them.

Maybe I'll make it official. Maybe this year I'll make a resolution. I think I'll resolve not to make any more resolutions.

I think I can keep that one.

Write to Marilyn Powers at reporter1@thepampanews.com.

Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer



Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 28, the 363rd day of 2004. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

On this date:

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton, Va.

In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published a fac-

tious — as well as fictitious — essay by H.L. Mencken on the history of bathtubs in America.

In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris.

In 1944, the musical "On the Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

In 1982, Nevell Johnson Jr., a black man, was mortally wounded by a police officer in a Miami video arcade, setting off three days of race-related disturbances that left another man dead.

Ten years ago: CIA Director R. James Woolsey resigned, ending a tenure that was shadowed by the Aldrich Ames spy scandal. President Clinton nominated Dan Glickman to be agriculture secretary, succeeding Mike Espy.

Five years ago: Clayton Moore, television's "Lone Ranger," died in West Hills, Calif., at age 85.

One year ago: Libya for the first time allowed U.N. nuclear officials to inspect four sites related to its nuclear weapons program.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lou Jacobi is 91. Bandleader Johnny Otis is 83. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 75. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 70. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 66. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 58. Actor Denzel Washington is 50. Country singer Joe Diffie is 46.

'The masses gladly take revenge for the honors they render us.'

— Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)



Antioch, Ephesus and America

ANTIOCH and EPHESUS, Turkey — When we associate the origins of Christian faith with shepherds in the field, keeping watch over their flocks at night, it's easy to distance ourselves from history's key event. But a visit to these ancient cities makes it clear that Christianity grew up in an affluent urban society not entirely unlike our own.

Antioch was the city where, as the Book of Acts notes, "the disciples were first called Christians." It was also the third largest city of the Roman Empire, after Rome and Alexandria, with a population that topped out probably at half a million. And it was a prosperous city whose residents enjoyed politics, wine and pornography.

Just as American technology is improving and our ethics probably regressing, so Antioch's engineering impressed all, but its morals depressed even pagans. The first century Roman satirist Juvenal wrote that Antioch "has poured its sewage into our native Tiber — its lingo and manners, its flutes, its outlandish harps ... and the whores who hang out round the race-course."

The Romans could bring water from afar by impressive aqueducts and could even move rivers. A tunnel at Antioch's port city, Seleucia,

Pieria (now called Cevlik), shows that this last claim was no exaggeration. With the harbor silting up and winter rains leading to flooding, Emperor Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) succeeded in changing a river's path by constructing a diversion canal almost a mile long.

And yet, early Christian leaders were not overawed by Roman power. Instead of trying to fit in, they turned aside from the marvelously pillared temples that awed visitors. Christianity's first church was probably a natural cave on the western slope of Antioch's Mt. Silpius. Peter, Paul and Luke are all said to have preached in what is now called St. Peter's Church, with its interior of fissured limestone from erosion and dripping water, and nothing else: No organ, no statues and no pew cushions (and not even any pews).

What a contrast between the cave's simplicity and the decadence of Antioch or of Ephesus, the city where Paul

stayed the longest on his missionary trips! The Roman Empire could have had the traditional DuPont Co. slogan, "Better things for better living" — and the Christians

challenged that by asserting that better things without God are idols for destruction.

Ephesus had splendid homes and courtyards. Remnants of aqueducts show how water came from afar, to be heated for baths in big cauldrons made of copper. Ephesus even had a communal latrine where people,

instead of crouching, could sit on slabs of stone with well-situated holes and water running alongside and underneath. But spiritual needs were

supposed to be met by reverence offered to great leaders like the emperor, or offered to the works of human hands, big or little idols.

Rites at the Ephesus arena were all designed to glorify Man, and the gods men created in their own image. A big

day began with the slaughter of wild animals, so that audiences would understand that even beyond the boundaries of the arena, Man was in control. Arena games also included executions, designed to show that the empire is a place of order. Crucify the prisoners. Have animals tear them alive. Burn them.

What could stand up against that affluent cruelty? What could appeal to men and women who had everything that Roman gold could buy, but yearned for something more?

Luke knew: He contrasted a baby born in a manger to the Antiochians, Ephesians, and others wearing elegant robes and living in fine houses. He taught that God came to earth to redeem human beings, which means that we humans cannot save ourselves.

The ruins of Ephesus are a warning to those of us who trust in affluence. These days, the wind roars through ancient arches by which grow thistles the size of a fist. Almost all of the flowers have massive thorns.

Marvin Olasky, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism for the University of Texas at Austin and editor of "World" magazine.

Marvin Olasky
Columnist



The ruins of Ephesus are a warning to those of us who trust in affluence.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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136 TOTAL POINTS

Name _____
Address _____
City, State (zip) _____
Day Phone () _____
Night Phone () _____

HOW TO PLAY
Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at the Pampa News office. Entrants must list name, address and phone number below.

LIMIT: You may enter the contest only once per week.

DEADLINE: 2 PM FRIDAY

TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in TEXANS game.

TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Miami at Baltimore	Pittsburgh at Buffalo
New Orleans at Carolina	Green Bay at Chicago
Cleveland at Houston	San Fran. at New England
Cincinnati at Philadelphia	NY Jets at St. Louis
Detroit at Tennessee	Minnesota at Washington
Tampa Bay at Arizona	Atlanta at Seattle
Indianapolis at Denver	Jacksonville at Oakland
Kansas City at San Diego	Dallas at NY Giants

.... POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

- Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 possible points as you can. Simply review the week's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SUREST of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected winner on the 16-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a toss-up. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If this step fails to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in this game. If a winner still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held among those contestants still tied. Decisions of the judges are final. The weekly South/West regional winner will receive \$1,000.
- Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified.
- Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants of New York and other similar teams.
- No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week.
- Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permission by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge.
- Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.
- Any inquiry about a protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.
- No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container at participating co-sponsors.
- Weekly deadline for entry will be 2 p.m. Fridays except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form.
- Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for legible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.
- Limit one entry per person per week. Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant; group entries, systems or other attempt to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filing out extra forms and putting your friends and relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.
- Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play.

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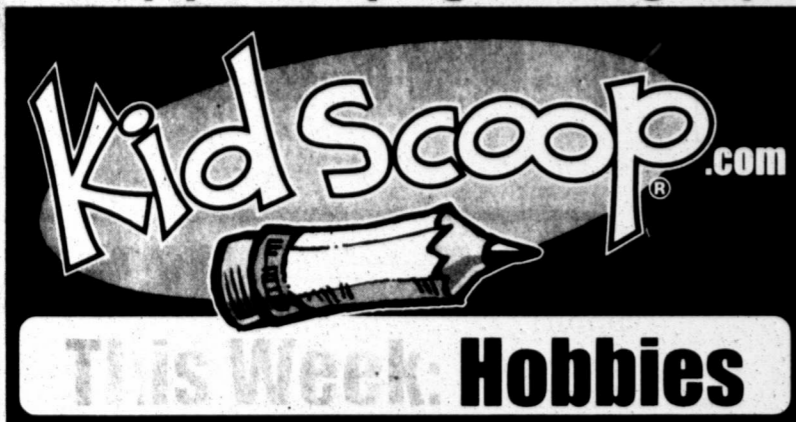
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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



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January is Hobby Month!

Do you have a hobby?
A hobby is something you do just for fun. Some people read for a hobby. Some people build model trains or create scrapbooks. Some people cook and some play basketball. Lots of people have more than one hobby!

Weekly Writing Corner

My Hobby

My favorite hobby in the world is playing the guitar. I've always had an interest in guitars and now I can finally play one. It is fun to play guitar and it gives you pride in what you do.

Michael,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby would have to be basketball. What I like most about it is the sound when it makes a swish.

Mac,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby is playing baseball on Sunday morning. Getting to hit the ball as hard as you want is fun. Plus you get to slide in the dirt and make new friends from different towns all around. I love playing baseball.

Marco,
5th Grade

I like to play the piano. I have only been playing the piano for almost a year and a half, and I'm pretty good. I mostly play classical piano. One of my favorites is "Concerto in A Minor" by Edvard Grieg. Grieg lived a long time ago, from 1843-1907. I have a lot of other hobbies like running and dancing, but I like playing the piano the most.

Mikaylah,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby is break dancing. I like it because you can do cool stunts. There are also cool tournaments.

John,
2nd Grade

I absolutely love the ocean. That's why my favorite hobby is boogie boarding. Most people don't like the ocean because it's cold, but I like it. It's so fun just to run out there and feel the salty wave splash on me. I especially love to go with my friends. That way you can share the fun you're having with a friend. Boogie boarding in the ocean is the best thing ever.

Dorothy,
6th Grade

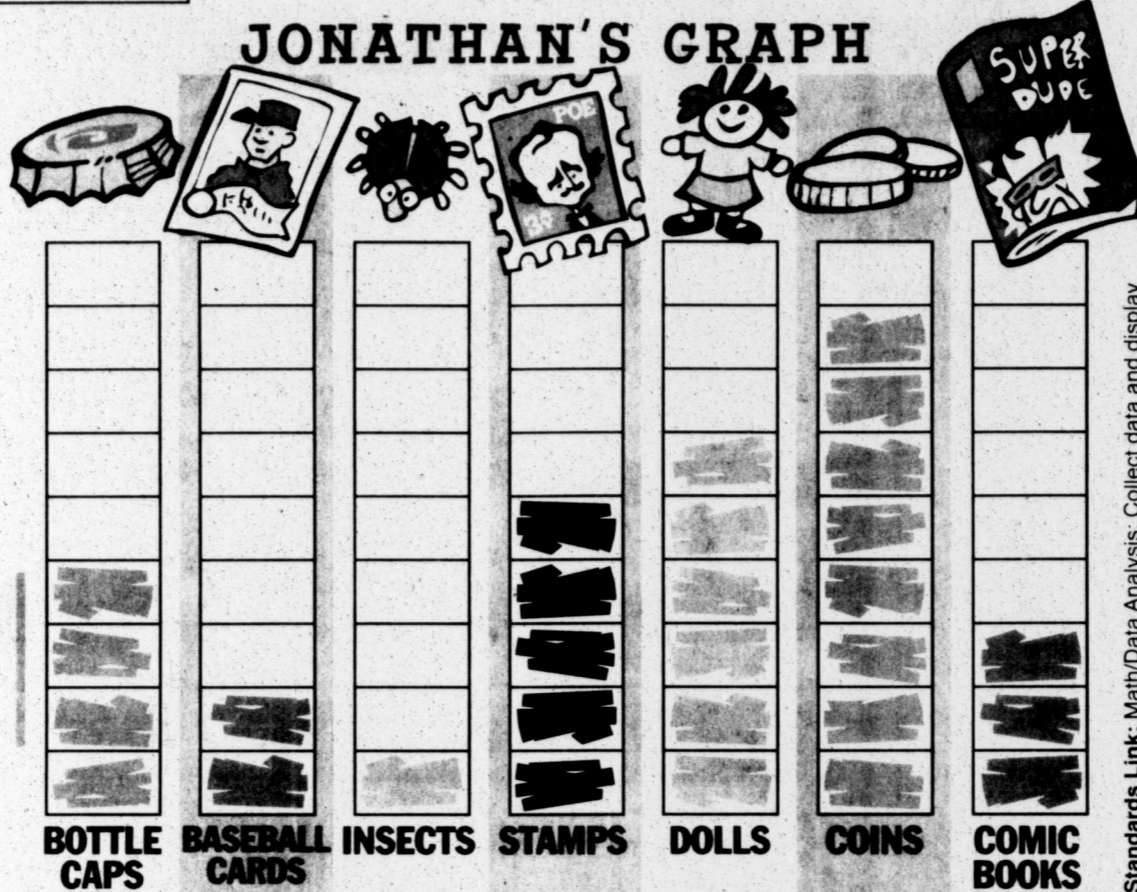
My hobby is not soccer, basketball, or ballet. My hobby is acting on stage! I have no fear of the spotlight or laughter. I am good at acting.

Alexis,
4th Grade

Collect Hobbies

Lots of people collect things for hobbies. Some of the things people collect are stamps, coins, feathers, bottle caps, toys, hats, and more.

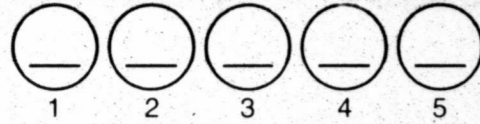
Ask your class about their hobbies. Graph the results!
Jonathan asked everyone in his class about their hobbies and graphed his findings. Look at the graph and answer the questions below. The letters that go in the circled spaces answer the Mystery Question.



Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Collect data and display results in a chart or graph.

MYSTERY QUESTION:

What does a numismatist collect?



1. What is collected by one less person than the number of people that collect stamps?

_____ 2 _____ 1 _____

2. What is collected by three students in Jonathan's class?

_____ 3 _____

3. What is collected by only one person?

_____ 4 _____

4. What is the second-most popular item collected by Jonathan's class?

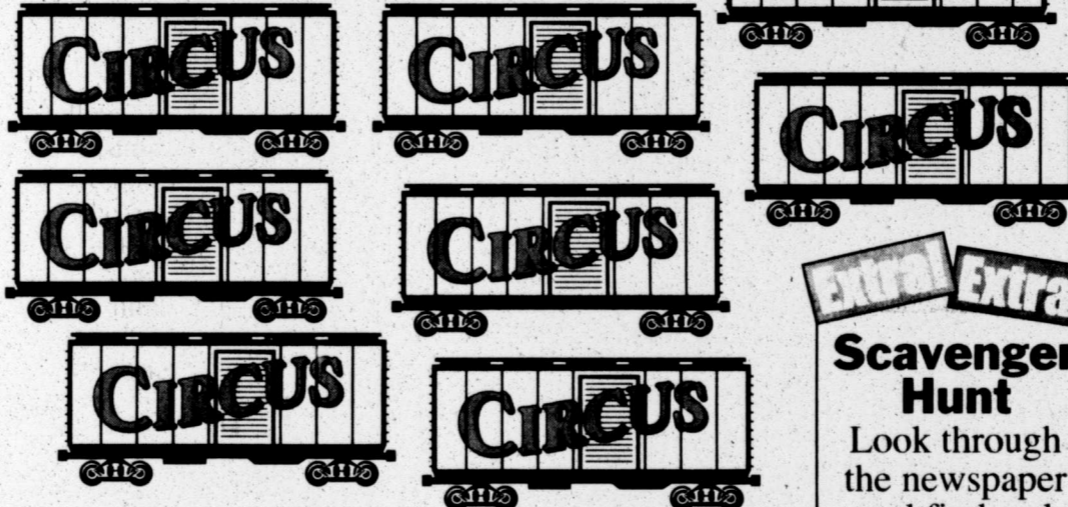
_____ 5 _____

Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Interpret information displayed in graphs and charts.

Baffling Boxcars

Help Uncle Fred complete his model train collection. The boxcar that is different from the rest is the one he needs. Look very carefully!

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper and find and circle:

- 3 words that start with H
- a kind of transportation
- two words that mean the opposite
- 5 five-digit numbers

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify words with same beginning sound; use antonyms. Math: Identify numbers to 10,000; Investigation: Sort objects by common attributes.

Collector Investors

Some people collect things just for fun. Some people collect things for investments. They hope that one day, what they have will be worth more than what they paid for it. Use the code to discover some items that have really grown in value.

CODE
 ◆ = 2 ▼ = 6
 ◇ = 3 ● = 7
 ★ = 0 * = 4 ◆ = 8
 ♣ = 1 ▲ = 5 * = 9

In February 2000, a 1910 "Honus" Wagner T-206 baseball card sold for \$♣◆▼▲ million.

In 1999, the rare 1943 copper penny sold for \$♣◆◇,▲★★.

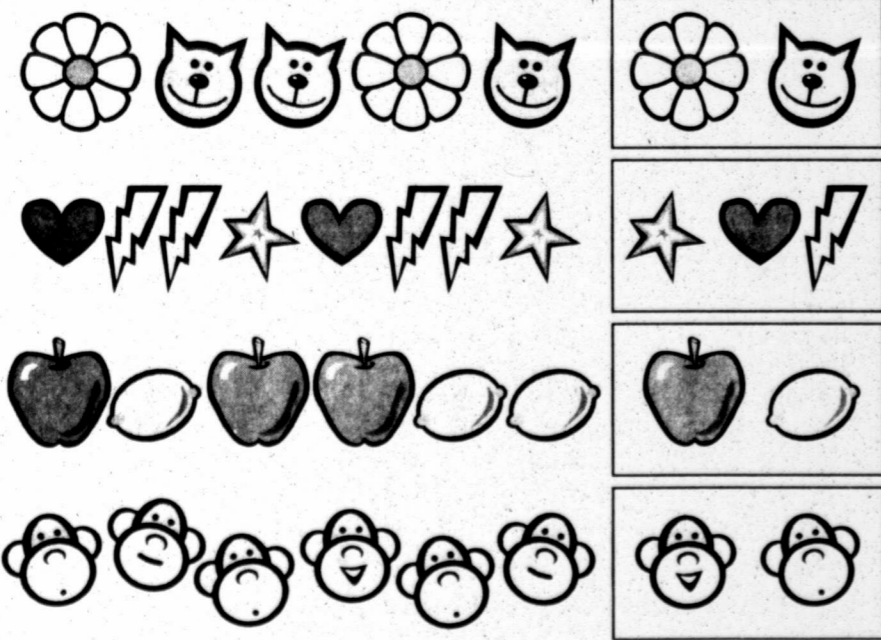
A British Guiana stamp that sold for ♣◆ in 1856, sold for \$*◆▲,★★★ in 1980.

A 1959 Barbie® doll in mint condition has sold for up to \$♣◆,▲★★, while the original value was \$◆★★!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Sticker Patterns

Kala collects colorful stickers. Circle the sticker that comes next in each row of patterns.



Standards Link: Math: Extend simple patterns.

Double Double Word Search

JANUARY HOBBY STICKERS STORY PENNY COLLECTION CREATE TRAIN COMIC STAMPS DOLLS TOYS CAPS CARD VALUE

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Chopped Talk

Find an interesting story in the newspaper and read it through to understand the sequence and details of the story. Now rewrite the story using SUBJECT-VERB sentences only.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Sequence events in a narrative; write sentences with subjects and predicates.



Why couldn't the pirate play cards?

ANSWER: Because he was sitting on the deck.

Write On!

Tooth Fairy

What does the Tooth Fairy do with all those teeth? Tell us your ideas.

Deadline: Jan. 23, 2005
 Published: Week of Feb. 20, 2005
 Send your story to:

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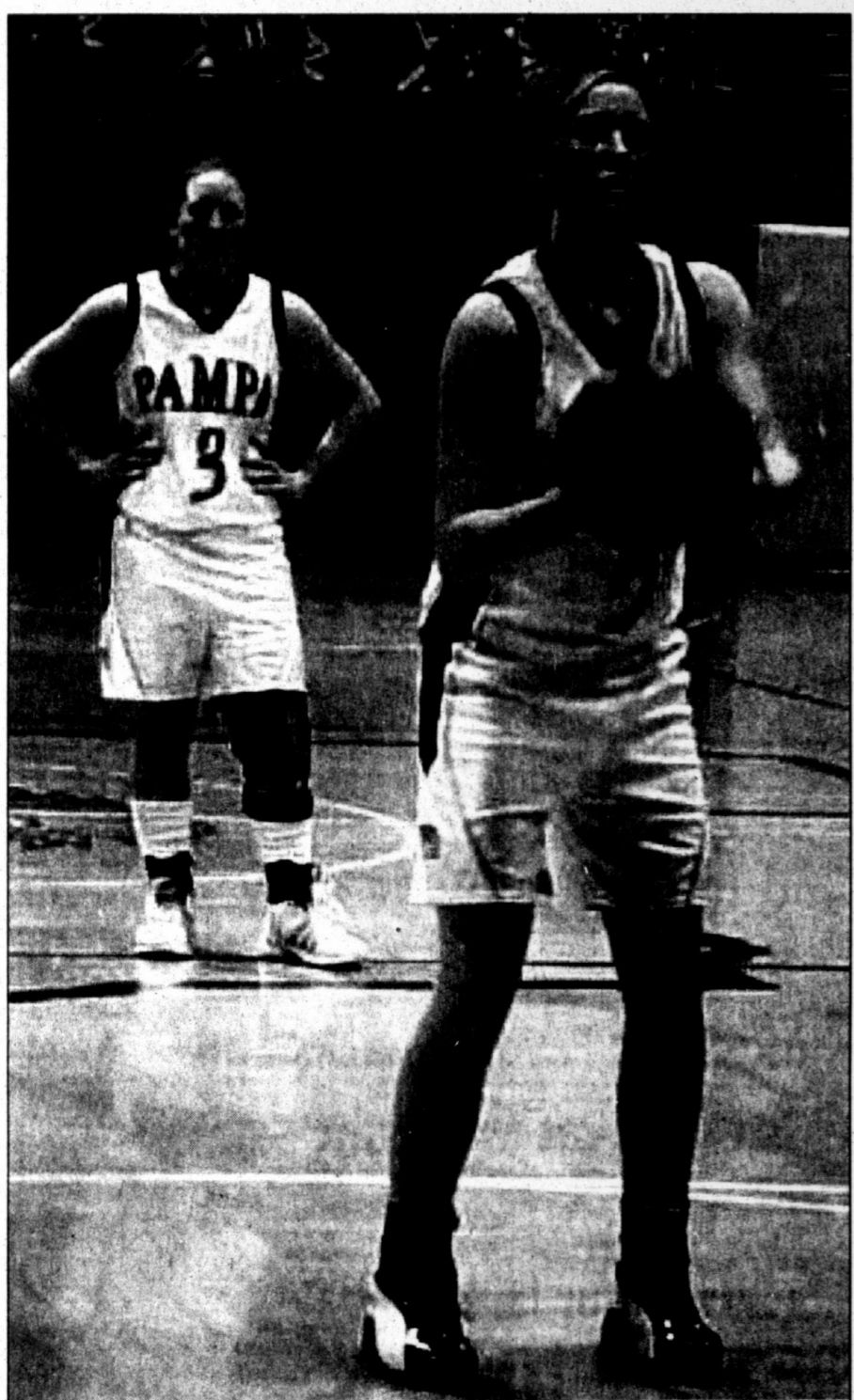
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Sports Day



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester Britteni Rice, #5, prepares to take a shot from the free throw line during Pampa's Dec. 20 meeting with Plainview. Teammate Lindsey Ammons is seen in the background.

Lady Harvesters headed for Caprock tournament

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Lady Harvester head basketball coach Troy Fry had his team busy in the MPAC building this morning, practicing in preparation for the Caprock Tournament that gets underway in Lubbock tomorrow, and lasts through Friday.

Pampa will meet Lubbock

Monterey tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Fry says his team will try to overcome Monterey's size by pressing them on defense. "We will try to force them into poor shots and mistakes."

Like the varsity boys' team, the Lady Harvesters have not played since Dec. 20.

Coach Fry and his team departed Pampa for Lubbock shortly after noon today.

Harvesters get chance at redemption with 48-37 win over Abilene Cooper

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Some say to be careful what you wish for because you just might get it. On occasion, you want it. Such is the case for the Pampa Harvester varsity basketball team.

Harvester head coach Jeff Reed had said entering the opening round of the Milk Cow Classic in Clovis yesterday, he and his team looked forward to the possibility of a rematch with the host Wildcats. Pampa lost to Clovis 60-53 on Dec. 18.

Afterward, Wildcats Head Coach J.D. Isler hinted that it is something of a fluke that Pampa was able to score so many points (the most of the season against the Wildcats to that point) and stay with his team the entire game (Clovis likes to run its opponent into submission and hammer them in the fourth period).

Pampa will get that rematch thanks to a 48-37 opening round

win over the Abilene Cooper Cougars.

Pampa used a solid shooting first half to build a 15 point lead at the break. They would need that lead as the second half was not quite as impressive. The Harvesters only managed a seven point third period while allowing Cooper 11. Both teams posted 11 points in the fourth.

Leading the way for the Harvesters yesterday was Braydon Baker, who scored 12 points. Sharod Young had 10 points for the night. Jarrett Kotara added eight points and Brittin East tossed in seven. Young, Kotara and East each went 2-4 from the charity stripe.

The win improved Pampa's record to 12-4 for the season.

The Harvesters will next play Clovis in a semifinal meeting today. The Wildcats, despite being handcuffed by the Tascosa Rebels most of the game, came to life in the middle of the third period to run away with a 61-45 win.

Clovis is unbeaten so far this season (9-0).

"It will be hot and they will have a big crowd," said Harvester Head Coach Jeff Reed. "I watched the Tascosa game last night and it must have been 110 degrees in their gym." The heat, combined with Clovis' knack for running opponents up and down the court, makes it tough to hang with them all four periods. Add in the fact that, up until yesterday, Pampa has not played since Dec. 20., and it would appear Pampa has a tough challenge ahead tonight. The Wildcats have played or practiced everyday since the last Monday.

"My biggest fear tonight is running out of gas," Reed said. "We showed signs of doing so last night which is why I made the adjustment in the second half against Abilene Cooper to slow the game down."

Pampa and Clovis will tip off at 9 p.m. local time tonight.

UTEP crushes Alabama St. 89-57

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Omar Thomas scored 33 points to lead Texas-El Paso to an 89-57 victory over Alabama State on Monday in the first round of the Sun Bowl Tournament.

Thomas had six rebounds and was 7-of-10 from the free-throw line. He was 13-of-17 from the field.

Filiberto Rivera scored 14 points and had 12 assists for Texas-El Paso (9-2), and John Tofi added 10 points. George Savage had a team-high 18 points for the

Hornets (2-6), who only shot 39 percent from the field. The Miners took a 46-24 lead into halftime. The game was decided in the first 12 minutes of play.

Texas El-Paso, which scored 33 points off 28 Alabama State turnovers, will take on Princeton on Tuesday. The Tigers defeated Tulane 59-51 in the other first-round game. Alabama State will play Tulane for third place.

CALLING IT QUITS

Cowboy's Woodson ready to retire

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are ready to bid farewell to safety Darren Woodson, the last player left from their teams that won three Super Bowls in the mid-1990s.

Woodson hasn't played all year because of injuries and was expected to retire or be released after this season. Team owner Jerry Jones said on his weekly radio show that it's only a question of "when we and he will make it official." Coach Bill Parcells had said Monday that an announcement was coming as soon as this week.

Known as "Woody," the popular safety smiled a lot but also delivered punishing hits. A four-time All-Pro, he'll leave as the team's career leader in tackles with 1,350.

Woodson was a rookie on the 1992 squad that won

Dallas' first Super Bowl of the Jones era. He also was a key player on the 1993 and '95 teams.

The 35-year-old Woodson had back surgery three days before the start of training camp. His recovery was set back by a nerve problem and he was never able to even make it back to practice.

His absence forced Roy Williams to be used differently and made the Cowboys rely on projected backups Tony Dixon and Lynn Scott. While Woodson often counseled secondary players, he acknowledged that it's not the same when you are out of uniform.

Dallas allowed the fewest yards in the NFL last season with Woodson. The Cowboys have plummeted to 21st this season.

"I think you saw the impact on our defense this year," Jones said.

Banged-up Shaq leads Heat to record 12th straight victory

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaquille O'Neal is going to stick with his new look for a while.

Wearing a sleeveless T-shirt and padding underneath his jersey to protect his sore back and ribs, O'Neal scored 31 points to lead the Miami Heat to their franchise-record 12th straight victory — a 116-102 home win over the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

"My back was sore. The flak jacket felt good, so I plan to wear it the rest of my career," O'Neal said.

The Heat, playing for the first time since their overtime win against Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday, eclipsed their mark for consecutive wins set in 1997. Miami also set a franchise record for home attendance with 20,291.

O'Neal said he felt sore after the game against Los Angeles, but couldn't recall when he was injured. Either way, he came out wearing some extra protection in this one.

"I wanted to come out aggressive and take my mind off my sore back," O'Neal said.

It didn't appear there was anything wrong with him. O'Neal made 10 of 14 shots from the floor and was uncharacteristically effective at the foul line, making 11 of 14 attempts in his 32 minutes.

"Maybe he should wear that brace all the time," Hawks center Jason Collier said. "The way he was hitting his free throws, it was a good night for him."

After getting two close wins on the road against the Kings and Lakers, the Heat survived a scare from the Hawks, who have the league's second-worst record.

Vince Carter gave the New Jersey Nets a lift — and a scare — in his first

game since being acquired from Toronto on Dec. 17. He scored 23 points in his debut with New Jersey but left in overtime with a cramp in his left hamstring, and the Nets fell to the Detroit Pistons 100-90.

He had to be helped off the court, and the injury looked far worse than it was.

In other NBA games, it was: Indiana 100, New Orleans 82; New York 119, Orlando 111; Philadelphia 111, Portland 104; Golden State 104, Denver 101; Seattle 98, Utah 88; Washington 106, Charlotte 87; and Memphis 96, the Los Angeles Clippers 76.

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 27 points, grabbed three rebounds and had nine assists for the Heat.

"They have a legitimate shot of coming out of the East and getting to the Finals," Hawks coach Mike Woodson said. "They're a team that's playing with a purpose right now."

Antoine Walker, Tony Delk and Predrag Drobnjak each scored 16 points for the Hawks, who lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell to 2-10 on the road.

Pistons 100, Nets 90, OT

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Carter didn't start, but played 42 minutes and shot 8-of-19 in his first game since straining his Achilles' tendon on Dec. 8, also at the Palace.

"I guess this is twice here, but I'm sure the cramps would have happened anywhere," Carter said.

Richard Hamilton scored a season-best 37 points for Detroit, which overcame an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter. The Nets got the first basket of the extra period, but misfired on their next six possessions as Detroit pulled away.

Richard Jefferson had 27 points for the Nets.

Pacers 100, Hornets 82

At Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 24 points, and Jermaine O'Neal added 16 points and 11 rebounds in his second game after missing 15 for his role in a brawl with Detroit fans on Nov. 19.

Lee Nailon had a season-high 28 points for New Orleans, which lost its sixth straight.

Knicks 119, Magic 111

At Orlando, Fla., Stephon Marbury scored 34 points and helped the Knicks set season highs in points and assists (29) and tie their season high for field goals (46).

Steve Francis scored 25 points for Orlando.

76ers 111, Trail Blazers 104

At Portland, Ore., Allen Iverson went 2-of-12 from the field in the first half, but scored 21 points after the break to lead Philadelphia with 28.

The Blazers got a season-high 28 points from Darius Miles.

Warriors 104, Nuggets 101

At Oakland, Calif., Mickael Pietrus scored a career-high 24 points to help Golden State win three straight for the first time this season.

Andre Miller had 21 points and a season-high 14 assists, but missed two free throws in the final minute for the Nuggets, who have lost six straight.

SuperSonics 98, Jazz 88

At Salt Lake City, Rashard Lewis scored 22 points in Seattle's first win in Utah since Feb. 1, 2000, a span of nine games.

Matt Harpring had 22 points for the Jazz.

Wizards 106, Bobcats 87

At Washington, Larry Hughes had 20 points to lead the Wizards.

Rookie Emeka Okafor had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte, extending his streak of consecutive double-doubles to 16.

Annika Sorenstam chosen AP Female Athlete of the Year

By JIM LITKE
Associated Press

She won early and often, and often by overwhelming margins. She won on four continents — in Australia, Sweden and Japan and in six of the 50 United States. She won a major, the most money and a remarkable 10 times in just 20 starts worldwide.

Small wonder then, that what was an average year for golfer Annika Sorenstam was more than good enough to earn her recognition as The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for the second year running.

Sorenstam received 40 first-place votes and 263 total points.

Diana Taurasi, who led Connecticut to the NCAA women's basketball title and then captured the WNBA's Rookie of the Year award, finished second. She had 15 first-place votes and 154 points, two more than Russian teen tennis sensation Maria Sharapova.

Consistency has been the hallmark of Sorenstam's 11-year career in pro golf. Her performance this season wasn't nearly as eventful as 2003, when she won two majors and 11 times on the

LPGA Tour, became the first woman since 1945 to play on the PGA Tour, did a star turn on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and entered the Hall of Fame. But incredibly, it was every bit as efficient.

Sorenstam began it with a win in the ANZ Ladies Masters on Australia's Gold Coast, making up a four-stroke deficit at the midway point by closing with a pair of scintillating 65s.

She ended it by edging Cristie Kerr in a playoff in the ADT Championship, the final tournament on the LPGA calendar, with her only victory that didn't come by multiple shots.

In between, Sorenstam wrote a book, lifted her profile as an endorser and mixed it up with the boys a second time in the Skins Game.

She also stayed comfortably atop the world rankings, locked up a fourth consecutive LPGA money title — her seventh in the last 10 years — tied her own scoring average record at 68.7 and led the tour in top-10 finishes, rounds under par and greens in regulation.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: In reply to the letter from "Offended in the South," regarding hospital gowns, I understand a person's need for modesty. However, I am a health-care provider, and I see the other side of the picture. As a paramedic, we are constantly disrobing patients (including cutting clothing off) to gain access to areas that need examination and treatment. Hospital gowns give us access to IV lines, EKG monitoring, and defibrillation and other medical equipment.

I am always conscious of my patients' need for privacy and re-cover them after I have examined them. Hospitals do provide robes for patients that will cover their backsides. I encourage all hospital patients to request a robe besides the hospital gown they receive upon admission. -- KHRYSTEN, PORT EDWARDS, WIS.

DEAR KHRYSTEN: I'm sure many readers will be interested to know that such garments are available upon request. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Some years back, I was in a hospital that offered a unique hospital gown. It was extremely large and had three sleeves. The patient put the left sleeve over the left arm, the right sleeve over the right arm, and then the gown was passed around the back, and the third sleeve placed over the left arm again. I remember my entire body was covered and I was very comfortable. I wish I could recall the name of that hospital. -- H.E. IN FLORIDA

DEAR H.E.: It's nice to know that such a garment exists, but how practical can it be for examinations or other emergency procedures?

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, I had the same complaint as "Offended." I am 6 feet tall and weigh 225 pounds. For years I complained to the doctors about the fact that the gowns were so short. Finally, I went to the fabric store and bought two yards of fabric and a pattern for a wrap-around sundress. The total cost was \$12.95. I made it long -- about 8 inches below my knee -- and carried it with me in a tote bag. -- MARCE IN HOUSTON

DEAR MARCE: That's a practical solution for a person who's handy with a needle -- the sewing kind, that is.

DEAR ABBY: Here's what I did the last time I went for my annual check-up. I took along a clean cotton housecoat (duster) and, instead of waiting around in the chilly exam room in a mini-paper outfit, I was warm and cozy in my own garment. My doctor thought it was a great idea. -- COZY IN SCOTTSDALE

DEAR COZY: I think it's a great idea, too.

DEAR ABBY: This may come as a shock, but patients in the hospital are there because they are SICK. Doctors, nurses and other medical staff need access to their sick bodies. Sometimes quick access can make the difference between life and death. So, while the patient's dignity is a priority for health-care professionals, of even greater importance is the patient's life or limb.

I am a nurse on a medical-surgical floor at our local hospital. We are careful to offer patients two gowns -- one over the front, and the other reversed as a robe over the back. If they are bed-bound, we have no shortage of blankets to protect their modesty. Being Southern myself -- like "Offended," the author of that letter -- I know how we love to blow things out of proportion, and frankly, "Offended" has done just that with this gown thing. My advice to her: Build a bridge, sweetie, and get over it! -- RN IN TYLER-TOWN, MISS.

DEAR RN: Not so fast. While I agree in principle with what you're saying, our population is becoming increasingly diverse, and it is important that the medical community adopt culturally appropriate methods to accommodate those whose cultures are averse to "the wide-open spaces."

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.

For Better Or Worse



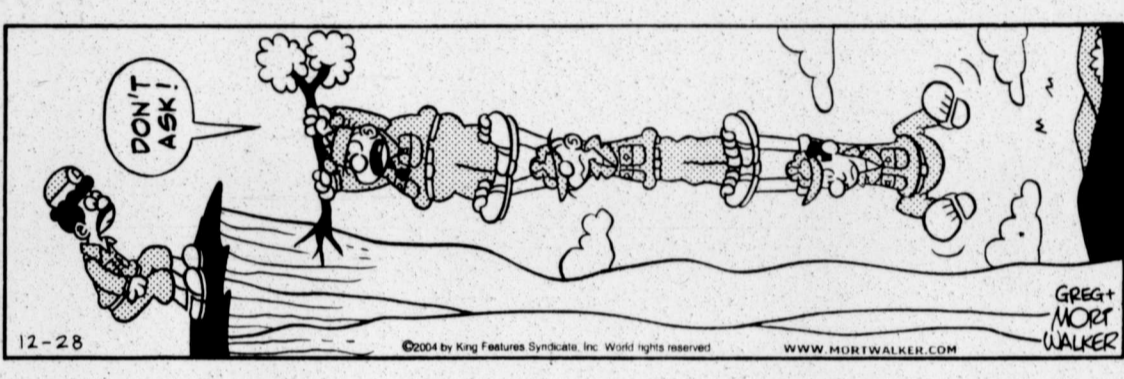
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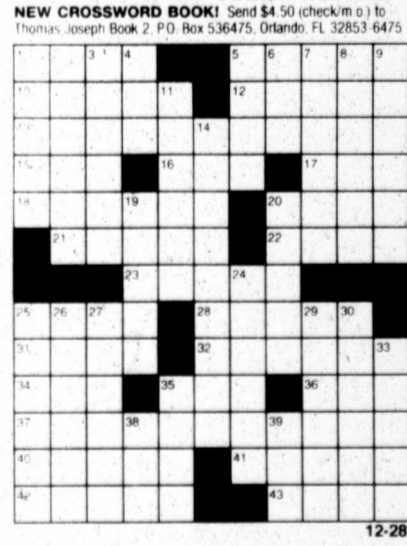


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Small bottle
 - 5 Farm features
 - 10 Gold bar
 - 12 Use block letters
 - 13 Portable warming device
 - 15 Chiding sound
 - 16 Where the IRT runs
 - 17 Binary base
 - 18 Close
 - 20 Applaud
 - 21 Morley of CBS
 - 22 Attention-getting calls
 - 23 Steamed
 - 25 Practice for a bout
 - 28 Russian range
 - 31 Skin hole
 - 32 Left in a hurry
 - 34 It's pressed for cash
 - 35 Baby's mealtime wear
 - 36 Contend
 - 37 Flaky folks
 - 40 He had the golden touch
- DOWN**
- 1 Scenic view
 - 2 Enters
 - 3 Christie of mysteries
 - 4 Rap's tone
 - 5 Blueprint number
 - 6 Writer
 - 7 Wee
 - 8 Words on an arrow-shaped sign
 - 9 Razor data
 - 11 Sawback
 - 14 Operated by water
 - 19 Blazing
 - 20 Break
 - 24 Of the clan
 - 25 Throes
 - 26 Dish with a crust
 - 27 Fleet
 - 29 The Beatles' "Do"
 - 30 Apt
 - 33 Irritable
 - 35 Mrs.
 - 38 Truman
 - 39 "Isn't that obvious?"

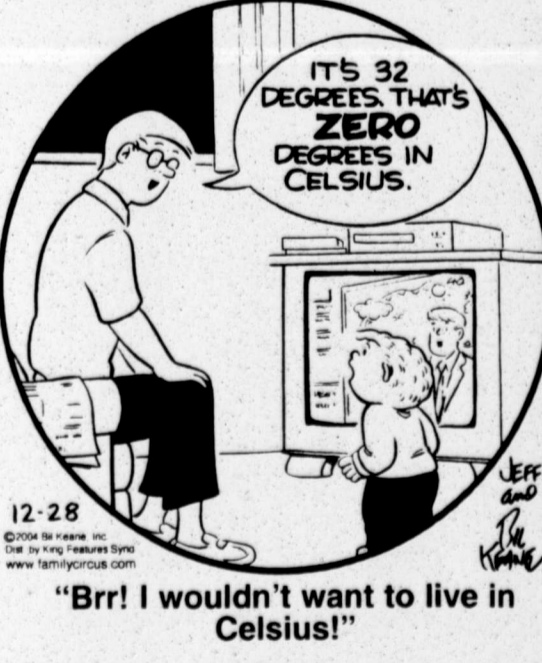


Yesterday's answer

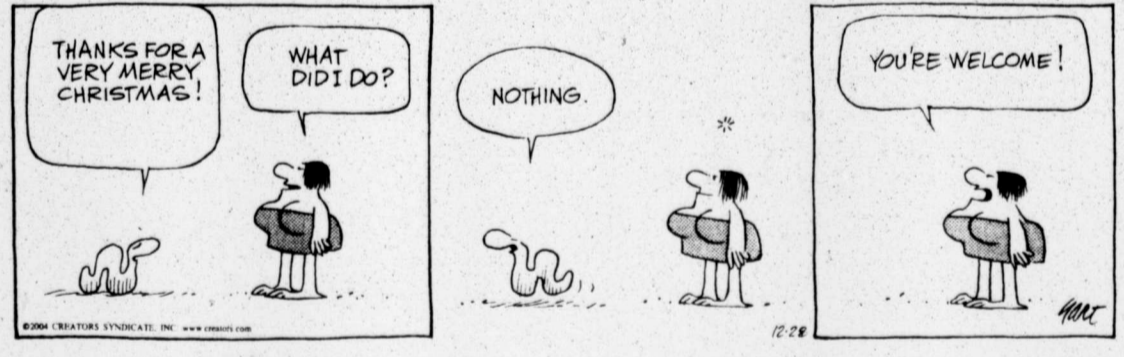
Marmaduke



The Family Circus



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

